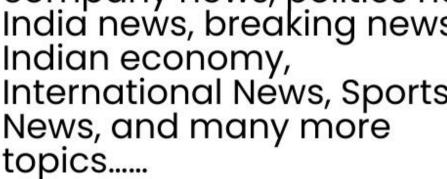


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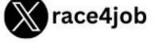


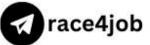


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NEWS





Union Minister Jitendra Singh launches India's first-of-its-kind anti-pesticide bodysuit Kisan Kavach

- Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister for Science and Technology, launched India's first anti-pesticide bodysuit, Kisan Kavach, in New Delhi.
- Purpose: The bodysuit aims to protect farmers from harmful pesticide exposure, which often leads to severe health issues such as breathing disorders and vision loss.
- Technology:
- Made from cotton fabric treated with a nucleophile covalent attachment, the suit deactivates pesticides upon contact.
- It employs nucleophilic-mediated hydrolysis to neutralize harmful chemicals, ensuring safety for farmers during manual pesticide spraying.
- The suit is washable, reusable up to 150 times, and can last for approximately one year.
- Cost: Priced at ₹4,000 per unit, making accessible for a broad spectrum of farmers.
- Q. Which Union Minister launched India's first antipesticide bodysuit, Kisan Kavach? Dr. Jitendra Singh















Government's Six-Point Strategy Boost to **Farmers' Income**

- Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan outlined a six-point strategy to enhance farmers' income while addressing the Lok Sabha.
- Income Growth: Farmers' monthly income increased from ₹2,115 in 2002-03 to ₹10,218 in 2018-19.

Six-Point Strategy:

- Increasing Production: Adoption of advanced farming techniques to maximize yields.
- Reducing Production Costs: Subsidies for fertilizers, mechanized farming, and low-interest loans to reduce input expenses.
- Ensuring Fair Minimum Prices: Record purchases under Support Price (MSP) by the Central Minimum government.
- Compensation for Natural Disasters: Financial relief for losses due to unforeseen calamities.
- Diversification of Agriculture: Promotion of mixed farming and allied activities to reduce risk.
- Encouraging Natural and Organic Farming: Improving health and reducing dependence on chemical fertilizers.
- Q. What is the government's six-point strategy to enhance farmers' income? Increasing production, reducing costs, prices, disaster fair ensuring compensation, diversification, and promoting organic farming.















CBIC Chairperson Launches Four Key **Initiatives to Enhance Taxpayer Services**

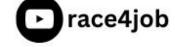
Shri Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, Chairperson of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), launched four new initiatives to improve taxpayer experience, ensure transparency, and promote ease of doing business.

Initiatives Launched:

- Revised Citizen's Charter:
- Updated timelines and service standards for key taxpayer services like Drawback, Import/Export, and CPGRAMS.
- Focuses on transparency, accountability, and tailored Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) measures to meet taxpayer needs.

Ease of Doing Business Tab:

- A dedicated platform for taxpayers to provide suggestions for improving tax procedures and policies.
- Derived from insights at Chintan Shivir 2023, this initiative promotes collaborative policymaking.
- Q. Who launched four new taxpayer service initiatives under CBIC? Shri Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, Chairperson, CBIC.













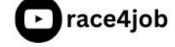


Riya Shirish Thatte Wins Gold in Women's 25m Pistol Final at 67th National Shooting Championship

- Women's 25m Pistol Final, 67th National Shooting Championship.
- Riya Shirish Thatte Winner: Aurangabad secured the gold medal in New Delhi.
- The shotgun and pistol competitions of the National Shooting Championship are being held in New Delhi, while Bhopal is holding the rifle nationals.

Highlights:

- Riya defeated Punjab's Simranpreet Kaur Brar 7-2 in a shoot-off after tying with 31 hits in the decider.
- This marks Riya's first senior national title.
- Olympian Rahi Sarnobat finished third with 25 hits.
- Q. Who won the gold medal in the Women's 25m Pistol Final at the 67th National Shooting Championship? Riya Shirish Thatte.















Papua New Guinea and ADB Sign \$100 Million Loan for Public Sector Governance

- The Government of Papua New Guinea has entered into a policy-based loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for \$100 million. This loan aims to enhance governance and accountability across the country's public sector. The program, known as the Strengthening Public Sector Management Program, will focus improving fiscal management, governance state-owned enterprises, and accountability institutions.
- The ADB highlighted that the program would support Papua New Guinea in strengthening legal, regulatory, and institutional frameworks improve governance. It also aims to integrate climate change considerations into public sector management. According to Said Zaidansyah, ADB Country Director for Papua New Guinea, the program's goal is to foster better governance and accountability in the country.
- Q. Which country has signed a \$100 million loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) improve public sector governance and to accountability? Papua New Guinea

















Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme 2024: Updated **FAQs Released by Income Tax Department**

The Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas (DTVSV) Scheme, 2024, was announced in the Union Budget 2024-25 to resolve income tax disputes.

Eligibility Criteria for Appeals:

- Appeals pending as of July 22, 2024, are covered under the scheme, including:
- Appeals, writ petitions (WP), or special leave petitions (SLP) filed by taxpayers or income tax authorities.
- Objections submitted to the Dispute Resolution Panel (DRP) under Section 144C of the Incometax Act, 1961, with no directions issued by July 22, 2024.
- Cases where DRP directions were issued under Section 144C(5) but assessment under Section 144C(13) remains incomplete by July 22, 2024.
- Revision applications under Section 264 pending as of July 22, 2024. wrace4job.com
- Q. What is the time limit for payment under the Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme after receiving the certificate? 15 days.















Ravichandran Ashwin Announces Retirement from International Cricket

- India's premier off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin announced his retirement from international cricket after a distinguished 13-year career.
- The announcement came after India's draw in the 3rd Gabba Test against Australia in Brisbane.

Test Cricket Achievements:

• Ashwin is India's second-highest wickettaker in Tests with 537 wickets, trailing only Anil Kumble (619).

ODI Career Highlights:

- Played 116 ODIs, taking 156 wickets with best figures of 4/25.
- Scored 707 runs with a highest score of 65.
- Ranked as India's 13th-highest wicket-taker in ODIs.

Q. Who is India's second-highest wicket-taker in Test cricket after Anil Kumble? Ravichandran Ashwin.















Mizoram Signs MoA with Banks to Support Entrepreneurs and Farmers Under 'Bana Kaih' Scheme

The Mizoram government launched the 'Bana Kaih' scheme in September 2024 as a flagship programme to promote economic growth, self-reliance, and inclusive development in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and India's vision of 'Viksit Bharat'.

Partnership with Banks:

- On December 18, 2024, Mizoram signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with three partner banks:
- State Bank of India (SBI)
- Mizoram Rural Bank (MRB)
- Mizoram Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd. (MCAB)
- agreement facilitates collateral-free interest-free loans of up to ₹50 lakh under the scheme.

Key Features of the Scheme:

- Handholding Support:
- Loans provided by partner banks with the state government acting as guarantor.
- Interest subvention of up to 100% for timely repayment.
- Q. What is the name of Mizoram's flagship scheme launched to promote economic growth and selfreliance? 'Bana Kaih' scheme.















Mitchell Santner Appointed New Zealand's White-Ball Captain

Mitchell Santner has been appointed as New Zealand's white-ball captain, succeeding Kane Williamson.

Experience and Leadership Record:

Santner has represented New Zealand in 243 international matches.

He has previously led the team in 24 T20Is and 4 ODIs.

Santner first captained New Zealand in a T20I against West Indies in November 2020 and became the 24th ODI captain during an ODI against Scotland in 2022.

Captaincy Start Date:

His full-time captaincy will commence with a T20 series against Sri Lanka in late December, followed by an ODI series in January.

New Zealand:

Capital Wellington

Monarch: Charles III

Governor-General: Cindy Kiro

Prime Minister: Christopher Luxon

Currency: New Zealand dollar

Q. Who has been appointed as New Zealand's whiteball captain, succeeding Kane Williamson? Mitchell Santner.















Tom Cruise feted with US Navy's highest civilian award

- Tom Cruise Honored by US Navy: Hollywood star Tom Cruise received the Distinguished Public Service Award, the US Navy's highest civilian honor, for his significant contributions to public awareness of the military.
- Sequel Success and Renewed Interest: The 2022 sequel, Top Gun: Maverick, where Cruise reprised his role as Lieutenant Pete Mitchell, reinvigorated interest in the military among younger audiences.
- Celebrated Career Contributions: The Navy also commended Cruise's performances in other action films like Born on the Fourth of July, A Few Good Men, and the Mission: Impossible series for their portrayal of military and national service themes.
- Ceremony Details: The award was presented at Longcross Film Studios in Chertsey, Surrey, with the Navy emphasizing Cruise's role in increasing public appreciation for military service.
- Prestigious Predecessors: The Distinguished Service Award has previously been Public conferred on icons like Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks for Saving Private Ryan.
- Q. Who presented Tom Cruise with the US Navy's highest civilian honor? The US Navy presented Cruise with the Distinguished Public Service Award.



















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