

RADIUS EDUCATION

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TODAY NEWS HIGHLIGHT

- **England fast bowler Mark Wood retires from international cricket**
- **Jayanti Prasad given additional charge as IBBI Chairman, ensuring continuity of leadership in the insolvency regime**
- **RBI releases revised capital requirements for market risk, new framework to be in line with Basel III standards**
- **Four key consensuses reached at G20 Energy Abundance Ministerial Conference; India supports cooperation on energy security and critical minerals**
- **Starbucks to set up India's first Global Capability Center in Chennai, creating 800 high-value tech jobs**
- **ISRO-ESA cooperation agreement extended until 2032, increasing cooperation on human space exploration and space sustainability**
- **3,261 flowering plants identified in Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve, highlighting the biodiversity and endemism of the Western Ghats**
- **India-New Zealand FTA to come into effect from October 20, 2026, giving zero-duty market access to 100% Indian exports**

1. England fast bowler Mark Wood retires from international cricket

England fast bowler Mark Wood announced his retirement from international cricket on September 22, 2026, at the age of 36. Over an 11-year career, he claimed 253 wickets in 146 international matches and represented England across all three formats: Test, ODI, and T20I. Wood was a member of the England squads that won the 2019 ODI World Cup and the 2022 T20 World Cup; however, recurring knee injuries were the primary reason for his retirement. Despite retiring from international cricket, he plans to continue playing for Durham and in franchise cricket.



2. Jayanti Prasad Given Additional Charge of IBBI Chairperson; Ensuring Leadership Continuity in the Insolvency Regime

Jayanti Prasad, a Whole-Time Member of the IBBI, has been assigned the additional charge of IBBI Chairperson, effective from September 13, 2026, following the conclusion of former Chairperson Ravi Mittal's tenure. This responsibility will continue until November 20, 2026, or until a new Chairperson is appointed, whichever is earlier. The IBBI is the key regulator of India's insolvency regime under the IBC, 2016, and regulates insolvency professionals, agencies, and information utilities. Effective insolvency resolution strengthens NPA recovery, credit discipline, asset value preservation, and financial sector stability.



3. RBI issues revised capital requirements for market risk; new framework aligns with Basel III standards

The RBI has issued the 'Minimum Capital Requirements for Market Risk Directions, 2026' for commercial banks, aligning them with revised Basel III standards. The new framework will come into effect on April 1, 2027, and will make the calculation of regulatory capital against market risk more risk-sensitive. The guidelines introduce changes to the capital treatment of the trading book, net open position, foreign exchange risk, interest rate risk, debt mutual funds, and ETFs. Additionally, the treatment of credit derivatives and total return swaps (TRS) has been revised, aiming to ensure adequate capital, improved risk management, and financial stability within the banking system.



4. Four Key Agreements Reached at G20 Energy Abundance Ministerial Meeting; India Supports Cooperation on Energy Security and Critical Minerals

Issues related to energy security, affordability, and supply-chain resilience were discussed at the G20 Energy Abundance Ministerial Meeting held in Houston from September 14–16, 2026. Consensus was reached on domestic energy access and clean cooking, improved permitting processes for energy infrastructure, and regulatory efficiency. Emphasis was placed on promoting the safe reuse of treated water and alleviating pressure on water resources under the G20 Water Reuse Initiative.



5. Starbucks to Set Up India's First Global Capability Centre in Chennai; Potential for 800 High-Value Tech Jobs

US-based coffee company Starbucks has signed an MoU with the Tamil Nadu government to establish its first Global Capability Centre (GCC) in India, located in Chennai. The first phase of the GCC is expected to create approximately 800 high-skilled technical jobs, boosting sectors such as IT, digital services, and software development. The center will focus on high-value global services including AI, software development, data analytics, cybersecurity, finance, and R&D. This Starbucks GCC will operate independently of its Indian coffeehouse joint venture with Tata Consumer Products and will strengthen the expansion of Chennai's GCC and knowledge-based economy.



6. ISRO-ESA Cooperation Agreement Extended to 2032; Collaboration to Expand on Human Space Exploration and Space Sustainability

ISRO and the European Space Agency (ESA) have extended their long-standing cooperation agreement until January 8, 2032; the extension was formalized in Paris on September 10, 2026. The collaboration encompasses areas such as Earth observation, satellite navigation, space science, human and robotic exploration, and mission operations. Both agencies are also collaborating on space weather studies and the calibration-validation of satellite data, which will help enhance the security of communication and navigation systems.



7. 3,261 Flowering Plant Species Identified in Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve; Western Ghats' Biodiversity and Endemism Highlighted

A new checklist by researchers from JNTBGRI records 3,261 flowering plant species in the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve, spanning 1,139 genera and 190 families. The study identified 1,018 endemic and 245 steno-endemic taxa, underscoring the region's unique biodiversity and conservation significance. Fabaceae emerged as the most species-rich family, and 347 plant species found in Agasthyamalai are also present in Sri Lanka.



8. India-New Zealand FTA to come into effect on October 20, 2026; 100% of Indian exports to get zero-duty market access

The India-New Zealand FTA will come into force on October 20, 2026, under which New Zealand will grant zero-duty access on 100% of tariff lines for Indian exports. This is expected to benefit MSMEs and labor-intensive sectors, including textiles, leather, footwear, engineering, and processed agricultural products. India has secured protection for sensitive sectors such as dairy, certain agricultural products, sugar, and edible oils, while New Zealand has committed to investing \$20 billion in India over 15 years.



1. How many total wickets did Mark Wood take in his international career?

- A - 235
B - 243
C - 253
D - 263

England fast bowler Mark Wood announced his retirement from international cricket on September 22, 2026, at the age of 36; he took 253 wickets in 146 matches. Wood was a member of the 2019 ODI and 2022 T20 World Cup-winning teams and, despite persistent knee injuries, will continue to play for Durham and in franchise cricket.



2. Jayanti Prasad is a Whole-Time Member of which institution?

- A - RBI
B - SEBI
C - IBBI
D - IRDAI

Jayanti Prasad, a Whole-Time Member of IBBI, has been given the additional charge of IBBI Chairperson effective from September 13, 2026; this will continue until November 20, 2026, or until a new Chairperson is appointed, whichever is earlier. IBBI is the apex regulator for India's insolvency regime under the IBC 2016; it regulates insolvency professionals, agencies, and information utilities, and plays a crucial role in credit discipline and NPA recovery.



3. With which international standard do the RBI's Market Risk Directions 2026 align?

- A - Basel I
B - Basel II
C - Basel III
D - Basel IV

The RBI has issued the 'Market Risk—Minimum Capital Requirements Directions, 2026' for commercial banks; these align with the revised Basel III standards and will come into effect on April 1, 2027. Emphasis has been placed on strengthening the banking system's risk management capabilities by introducing changes to the capital treatment of the trading book, foreign exchange and interest rate risks, net open positions, debt mutual funds, ETFs, credit derivatives, and TRS.



4. Where was the G20 Energy Abundance Ministerial Meeting 2026 held?

- A - New York
B - Houston
C - Washington D.C.
D - Chicago

The G20 Energy Abundance Ministerial Meeting, held in Houston from September 14–16, 2026, emphasized energy security, affordable energy, clean cooking, and improved permitting processes for energy infrastructure. Under the G20 Water Reuse Initiative, a consensus was reached to promote the reuse of treated water and to foster cooperation, recycling, investment, and local value addition for resilient critical mineral supply chains.



5. Where will Starbucks establish its first Global Capability Centre (GCC) in India?

- A - Mumbai
C - Chennai

- B - Bengaluru
D - Hyderabad

Starbucks has announced the establishment of its first Global Capability Centre (GCC) in Chennai, India, following an MoU with the Tamil Nadu government; the first phase is expected to create approximately 800 high-skilled technical jobs. This GCC will focus on services such as AI, software development, data analytics, cybersecurity, finance, and R&D, and will operate independently of Starbucks' Indian coffeehouse joint venture with Tata Consumer Products.



6. Until which date has the cooperation agreement between ISRO and ESA been extended?

- A - January 8, 2030
C - January 8, 2032

- B - January 8, 2031
D - January 8, 2033

ISRO and ESA have extended their long-term cooperation agreement until January 8, 2032, covering areas such as Earth observation, satellite navigation, space science, and human and robotic exploration. The collaboration emphasizes the safe and responsible use of space, incorporating areas like space weather, satellite data calibration-validation, space debris, and orbital congestion.



7. How many flowering plant species were recorded in the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve?

- A - 2,961
C - 3,261

- B - 3,161
D - 3,361

A new checklist by JNTBGRI recorded 3,261 flowering plant species in the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve, including 1,018 endemic and 245 steno-endemic taxa. In this Western Ghats region spanning Kerala and Tamil Nadu, Fabaceae has been the most species-rich plant family, and emphasis has been placed on seed banks, *ex-situ* conservation, habitat restoration, and climate adaptation for its preservation.



8. On what percentage of tariff lines for Indian exports will New Zealand offer zero duty?

- A - 75%
C - 90%

- B - 85%
D - 100%

The India-New Zealand FTA will come into effect on October 20, 2026; under this agreement, New Zealand will offer zero duty on 100% of tariff lines for Indian exports, with sectors such as textiles, leather, footwear, engineering, and MSMEs likely to benefit. The agreement includes provisions for a \$20 billion investment commitment by New Zealand over 15 years, work visas for 5,000 Indian professionals, and 1,000 'Working Holiday Visas' annually.



One Liner

1. Under the India-New Zealand FTA, New Zealand committed to investing \$20 billion in India over how many years? - **15 years**
2. Under the India-New Zealand FTA, on what percentage of tariff lines for Indian exports did New Zealand agree to provide zero duty? - **100%**
3. The RBI's Market Risk Directions 2026 align with which international standard? - **Basel III**
4. Across which two Indian states is the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve spread? - **Kerala and Tamil Nadu**
5. Where did Starbucks sign an MoU to set up its first Global Capability Centre in India? - **Chennai**
6. Jayanti Prasad was given the additional charge of chairperson of which organization? - **IBBI**
7. In which year did Mark Wood announce his retirement from international cricket? - **2026**
8. How many flowering plant species were recorded in the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve? - **3,261**
9. Until which date has the cooperation agreement between ISRO and ESA been extended? - **January 8, 2032**
10. Where was the G20 Energy Abundance Ministerial Meeting 2026 held? - **Houston**