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E-MAGAZINE

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EXAMS	POST	LAST DATE
SSC CHSL	2,536	7 Oct 2026
SBI Specialist Cadre Officers	207	5 Oct 2026
BOI Specialist Officer	205	5 Oct 2026
PSSSB Clerk (Legal, Accounts, General, IT) & others	70	19 Oct 2026
Supreme Court of India (Junior Court Assistant)	250	28 Oct 2026
Railway RRB NTPC Graduate	3,477	6 Nov 2026
Railway RRB NTPC 10+2 UG	1,688	13 Nov 2026

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Himanshu



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IAS, Rank 19

I came to bharti sir when I was at the crossroads of my career. It was his motivation coupled with guidance that I took the decision to appear for the civil services and finally cracked it in my very first attempt. I owe my success to him a lot. Thank you sir for being the guiding light for me and many others like me. Aditya uppal (civil services exam 2013 AIR 202) (Indian revenue service)

1:54 pm

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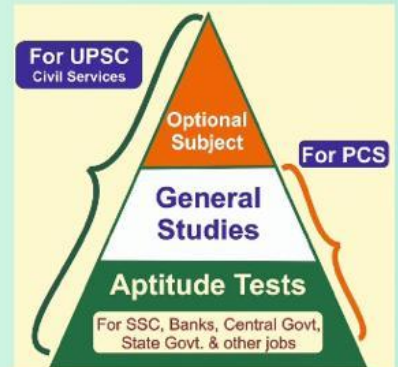
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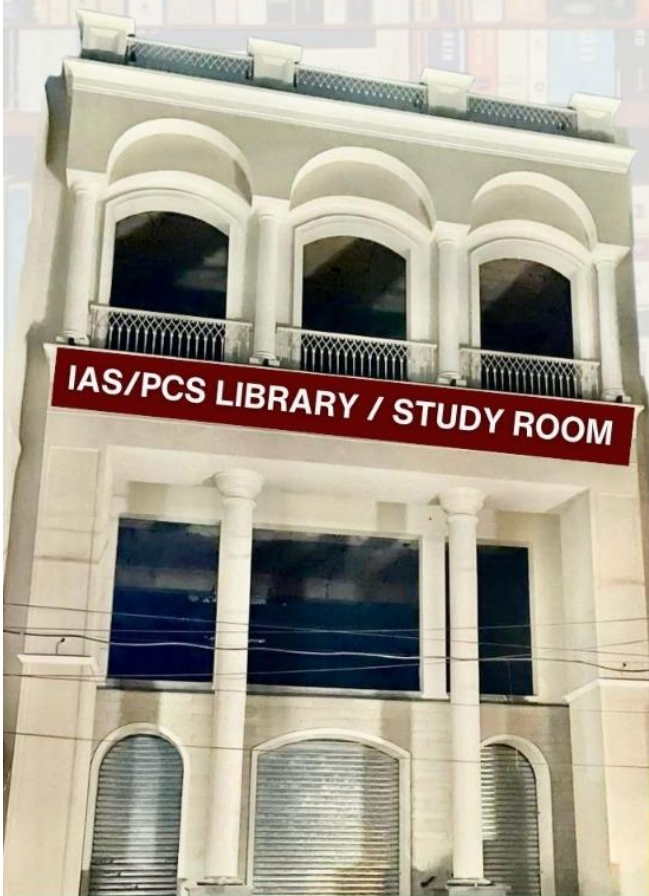
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INDEX

1. NATIONAL NEWS

1. National Mortuary Standards 2026
2. Agni Kawach
3. Hanging Glaciers
4. Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026
5. India's First LNG-Powered Train Flagged Off from Sabarmati
6. PRAMAAN: India Issues First Certificates for Sustainable Forest Plantation and Bamboo Farming
7. Varanasi's Iconic Ganga Aarti in London
8. BADRI Cattle

2. STATE NEWS

9. Swimming National Centre of Excellence (NCoE), Assam
10. Bihar-Jharkhand Sone River Water-Sharing MoU
11. Mission Zero: Depalpur's Legacy Waste Transformation
12. Dal Lake Becomes a Floating Cinema
13. Karnataka Teachers to Get Professional Title "Tr."
14. President's Colour Awarded to Goa Police
15. Mukhyamantri Yuva Bhavishya Nirman Yojana – Uttarakhand
16. Chhatisgarh CM Startup and Nipun Mission
17. Mangrove GIS Portal (MGIS) launched in Gujarat
18. Kerala Develops AI-Based Dengue Early Warning System to Predict District-Level Trends
19. Jharkhand's Traditional Musical Instrument Mandar Gets GI Tag
20. RAINCHENNAI Weather Derivatives
21. Jaipur: The First and Biggest Immersion Event Dome in India

3. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

22. Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP)
23. Larak Island
24. Artemis Accords
25. UN "Correct the Map" Resolution: Equal-Area World Maps
26. Anak Krakatau Eruption Disrupts Air Travel in Indonesia
27. India Joins Global 6G Initiative
28. JCR Upgrades India's Sovereign Credit Rating to A
29. Domsday Plane: Putin's "Flying Kremlin"
30. UN's Loss and Damage Fund
31. 2027- year of INDIA- Vietnam Friendship
32. Fatima Zahra El Mansouri Becomes Morocco's First Woman Prime Minister
33. PM Modi's Uzbekistan Visit

4. BANKING / ECONOMY

34. Kissht – 'Loans Without Any Hiccups' Campaign
35. National Accounts Statistics (NAS) 2026
36. Index of Services Production (ISP)
37. Vodafone Idea Brand Revamp
38. Niyo Secures PSP Licence to Operate from GIFT City
39. LIC Gets RBI Approval to Acquire 9.99% Stake in ICICI Bank
40. RBI Grants Scheduled Bank Status to Coastal Local Area Bank
41. UPI Fee
42. Axis Bank Sparsh Week 2026
43. Global fintech fest 2026 – part 1

5. SUMMIT, RANKS AND REPORTS

44. UNCCD COP17
45. AISHE 2022-23 & 2023-24
46. V-Dem Democracy Report

47. 26th SCO Council of Heads of State Summit 2026 – Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
48. International Space Summit 2026
49. Global Gender GAP Index

6. DEFENCE NEWS

50. FGM-148 Javelin
51. ICGS Meera Behn & Subhadra Kumari Chauhan
52. YJ-18A Missile
53. T-72 & T-90 Tank Overhaul Facility
54. Exercise Super Garuda Shield
55. Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2026
56. Exercise Samudra Laksamana 2026
57. KAZIND-2026: India-Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise Begins in Kazakhstan
58. Exercise Veer Guardian 2026: India-Japan Air Combat Exercise
59. 'RAKSHA' Defence Diplomacy Framework – 10-Year Strategy

7. SCIENCE AND TECH

60. Gnani Artha: India's Sovereign AI Stack
61. Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope
62. Samarthak – India's Indigenous Multi-Purpose Naval Vessel
63. Subsea Cable Infrastructure
64. Mission ShakthiSAT 2026: India's All-Girls Lunar Satellite Initiative
65. GalaxEye Secures US Patent for OptoSAR Technology
66. ISRO Launches EOS-05: India's First Imaging Satellite in Geosynchronous Orbit
67. Bodhan AI Launches Multilingual AI Models for Education
68. JUNPUT – New DRDO Weapon and Missile Testing Range
69. ELIAS 2-24b – Youngest known Exoplanet

8. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS

70. ADC to President

9. SPORTS NEWS

71. FIH Hockey World Cup 2026
72. Keyaa Banerji Wins Silver at IPF World Championships
73. Phiball: IIT Madras Introduces a New Three-Team Sport
74. India Finishes 4th at Pickleball World Cup 2026
75. Satwik-Chirag Win China Masters 2026
76. Archery World Cup 2026
77. Women's ASIA Cup 2026
78. India wins 8th women's T20 Asia cup 2026
79. World Athletics Championships 2029
80. AHF Junior ASIA CUP 2026
81. US Open 2026
82. Chess Olympiad 2026: India Wins Silver Medal in Samarkand
83. Bodhana Sivanandan Becomes Youngest Woman Grandmaster at 11

10. IMPORTANT DAYS

84. National Sports Day 2026
85. National Small Industry Day 2026
86. IPPB Foundation Day 2026
87. National Nutrition Week (NNW)
88. National Teachers' Day 2026 – September 5
89. International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies 2026 – September 7
90. International Day for the preservation of ozone layer
91. ELIAS 2-24b – Youngest known Exoplanet
92. RBI Grants Payment Aggregator Licence to Pluxee INDIA
93. Axis Bank Sparsh Week 2026
94. World Suicide Prevention Day 2026
95. National Engineers' Day 2026
96. Hindi Diwas 2026
97. World Heart Day 2026
98. International Translation Day 2026

11. GOVT. SCHEMES

99. Mission Rangeen Machhli 2031

100. Integrated Fertilizer Management System (iFMS)
101. UIDAI Launches Five New Aadhaar Initiatives at Aadhaar Samvaad Kolkata

12. ENVIRONMENT

102. Gangaichthys indonepalicus
103. India's Cheetah Population
104. India's Transition to a Sustainable Future: Using Renewable Energy
105. New Cat Species: Leopardus Tilcayo
106. Bharat van green initiative
107. GUCHHI Mushroom

13. AWARDS

108. Ramon Magsaysay Award 2026
109. Miss World 2026: Joherry Mola Crowned
110. Karim Maredia Wins 2026 Borlaug CAST Communication Award
111. SANSAD RATNA Awards 2026
112. IOA Announces Memorial Awards
113. Lalit Kala Akademi Awards 2026: 20 Artists Honoured at 65th National Exhibition
114. National Film Awards 2026
115. SANSAD Ratna Awards 2026

14. PERSONALITIES IN NEWS

116. King Haakon VIII
117. King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru IV
118. Suman Ray
119. Advocate Sneha- no caste, no religion Certificate
120. EKNATH Shinde –Maharashtra Deputy CM
121. Runa Khan – Bangladesh
122. Bo Kyi – Myanmar

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- IBPS - RRB PO & Clerk
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- NABARD - Grade A & B
- SEBI - Grade A Officer

Insurance Exams

- LIC AAO & Assistants
- GIC AO & Assistants

State Govt. Exams

- Food & CS Inspectors
- Co-operative Inspectors
- High Court Clerks
- Taxation Inspectors
- Police SI & Constables
- PUDA, GLADA & PSPCL
- Tehsil Welfare Officer etc.
- Revenue Patwari
- Naib Tehsildar
- Municipal Corporation
- Agricultural Devt. Officer
- Labour Inspector
- Section Officer

Central Govt. Exams

- SSC - CGL
- SSC - CHSL for +2
- Intelligence Bureau
- EPF Clerk
- EPF Asstt. Commissioner
- FCI
- PSUs & Railway
- Delhi Police SI/ASI
- Constable/Head Constable
- Assistant Commandant
- Post Office Jobs
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1. NATIONAL NEWS

1. National Mortuary Standards 2026



Why in News?

On 30 August 2026, India introduced its first national minimum standards for mortuary and post-mortem infrastructure, finalised by the National Council for Clinical Establishments (NCCE) under the DGHS. The standards aim to establish a uniform national framework for mortuary facilities and improve hygiene, body

preservation, forensic procedures and the dignified handling of deceased persons.

Key Provisions

- Objective: Replace fragmented state-level practices with uniform standards.
- Coverage: Applies to public and private hospitals in States/UTs adopting the relevant Clinical Establishment Act standards.
- Location: Mortuary blocks must be on the ground floor; basement morgues are prohibited.
- Cold Storage: 4–8°C storage with adequate capacity and unique identification of bodies.
- Medico-Legal Cases: Separate arrangements to maintain evidence integrity and chain of custody.
- Autopsy Facility: Approximately 4,000 sq ft, including a 2,000 sq ft operating area, viscera storage, waiting halls and offices.
- Significance: Ensures consistent standards for mortuary management, post-mortem examinations and forensic investigations.

2. Agni Kawach



Why in News?

In August 2026, Agnikawach Safety Solutions Pvt. Ltd. launched 'Agni Kawach', described as India's first indigenously developed AI-powered industrial safety platform. The platform is designed to use artificial intelligence to strengthen safety monitoring and help industries identify and manage workplace risks more efficiently. Agnikawach Safety Solutions Pvt. Ltd. was incorporated in June 2026 and is

headquartered in New Delhi.

3. Hanging Glaciers

Why in News?

A recent study identified 219 hanging glaciers in the Alaknanda Basin of Uttarakhand, highlighting growing concerns over glacier instability in the Himalayas. Rising temperatures, glacier retreat and permafrost thaw can increase the likelihood of sudden ice break-offs, avalanches and potentially dangerous glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), posing risks to downstream settlements and infrastructure.

What are Hanging Glaciers?

A hanging glacier is a glacier located on a steep mountain slope or valley wall, with its terminus ending abruptly above the main valley. Unlike valley glaciers that extend continuously down a valley, hanging glaciers are often perched at higher elevations. Due to their steep position, they may periodically release ice through calving, icefalls or avalanches.

Formation and Climate Connection

- **Formation:** They develop through the accumulation and compaction of snow at high altitudes. In some cases, the retreat and thinning of a larger trunk glacier can disconnect smaller tributary glaciers, leaving them stranded on steep slopes.
- **Impact of Warming:** Rising temperatures raise the zero-degree isotherm, allowing melting to occur at higher elevations. Thawing of permafrost and subglacial ice can weaken the glacier–bedrock connection and increase instability.
- **Avalanche Risk:** Their steep slopes, elevated termini and high gravitational potential energy make hanging glaciers particularly susceptible to sudden ice break-offs and ice-rock avalanches.

Distribution in India

Hanging glaciers are found particularly across the Garhwal and Kumaon Himalayas, as well as Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh and Sikkim. The discovery of 219 such glaciers in the Alaknanda Basin alone underlines the need for systematic glacier monitoring, early-warning systems and climate-resilient disaster management in Himalayan regions.

4. Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026

Why in News?

The Union Government has notified the Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026, establishing Indian Standard Time (IST) as the single reference time for legal, administrative, commercial and official purposes in India. The Rules are intended to ensure uniformity in timekeeping across critical systems and will come into force 180 days after their publication in the Official Gazette.

Key Provisions

- **Nodal Ministry:** The Rules are implemented by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, with technical support from CSIR-NPL, ISRO and legal metrology laboratories.

- **Single Time Reference:** IST will serve as the mandatory reference time for official, legal, administrative and commercial activities, helping eliminate discrepancies in timestamps across different systems.
- **Indigenous Timing Infrastructure:** The framework promotes the use of NavIC and other approved Indian timing sources for secure dissemination of IST. This is aimed at reducing dependence on foreign satellite-based timing systems.
- **High-Precision Time:** The system incorporates White Rabbit technology, a precision time-transfer technology capable of synchronising clocks with very high accuracy.

Why is it Important?

Accurate and synchronised time is essential for sectors such as banking, telecommunications, power grids, transportation, financial transactions and digital governance. A common national time reference can improve the reliability of timestamps, digital transactions and critical infrastructure.

The move also has a strategic and technological dimension, as greater reliance on indigenous timing sources such as NavIC can strengthen India's timing infrastructure and reduce vulnerabilities associated with dependence on external satellite-navigation and timing systems.

5. India's First LNG-Powered Train Flagged Off from Sabarmati



India's first LNG-powered train flagged off from Sabarmati Railway Station in the Ahmedabad, Gujarat, on September 27th 2026, by Respected Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah. This venture seeks to utilize LNG as an alternative fuel source in the operations of railways through the adoption of a dual-fuel LNG-diesel model. As per the government, the idea behind this project is to reduce diesel consumption, save on fuel costs, and facilitate cleaner railway operations.

How Dual-Fuel LNG-Diesel Train Operates

This train is not fueled by LNG alone. The Driving Power Cars (DPCs) in this train have been modified to run on both LNG and diesel.

In essence, the process enables the engine to alternate fuel usage based on availability. LNG can substitute diesel usage by up to 40%, while the dual-fuel setup ensures that the train runs even in cases of unavailability of LNG. The modified system still maintains the capacity of the conventional diesel engine.

Conversion of Two 1,400 HP Driving Power Cars

This particular conversion project is about two Driving Power Cars, each one having 1,400 HP power, which have been converted for LNG-diesel dual fuel operations.

A total distance of more than 2,000 kilometers has been covered during the field trials conducted prior to the introduction of the technology. The first LNG-diesel DEMU train has reportedly been running on Sabarmati to Mahesana junction.

6. PRAMAAN: India Issues First Certificates for Sustainable Forest Plantation and Bamboo Farming

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav handed over India's first PRAMAAN certificates to APFDC and a bamboo farmer, marking field-level implementation of India's forest and wood certification framework. PRAMAAN certificates have been presented by Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav under the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS), thereby signifying that the Indian certification scheme has moved from policy making stage to practical implementation at ground level. These certificates have been awarded to Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation (APFDC) in view of their plantations on 33,000 hectares of land as well as Govind Mohapatra who is a bamboo farmer of Odisha Bamboo Development Agency. PRAMAAN is an acronym for Programme for Recognition and Accreditation of Sustainable Management Practices for Agroforestry and Natural Forestry Resources. It is the trade name for the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS), which was introduced by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in December 2023. The certification system certifies sustainable management practices and ensures a system whereby forest and tree products can be tracked to certified origins. According to IIFM, PRAMAAN is a tool that may help with responsible sourcing and meeting the requirements of international frameworks like the EUDR.

PRAMAAN certification involves assessment according to set standards rather than mere self-declaration.

PRAMAAN certification procedure entails the following steps,

1. Application filing with an accredited Certification Body
2. Application evaluation by the Certification Body
3. Pre-audit, where it is applicable
4. Main audit to check for the compliance
5. Reporting on audit results and non-compliances
6. Correction of non-compliances by the applicant
7. Decision on certification
8. Certification
9. Approval for use of PRAMAAN logo on certified products

The Certification Bodies carrying out the above assessment should be accredited by NABCB and approved under the IFWCS certification framework.

Three Major Categories of Certification under PRAMAAN

Certifications Criteria covered by the Certifications,

- Forest Management (FM): Forested lands and forest plantations
- Trees Outside Forests (TOF): Management Trees, plantations and agroforestry outside forested lands

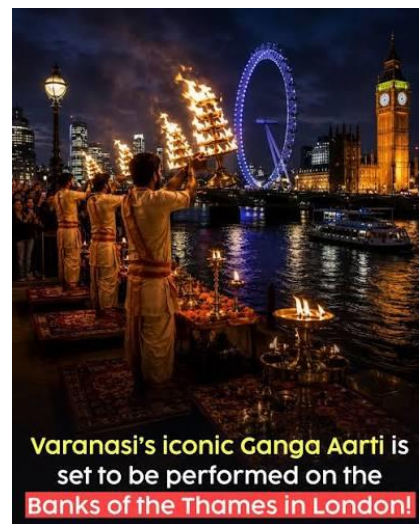
- Chain of Custody (CoC): Tracing wood and non-timber forest products along the supply chain

The Forest Management Certification is issued against the Indian Forest Management Standard (IFMS). This standard is incorporated into the National Working Plan Code 2023. The IFMS includes 8 criteria, 69 indicators, and 253 verifiers. The Trees Outside Forests Management Standard covers 5 criteria, 22 indicators and 76 verifiers.

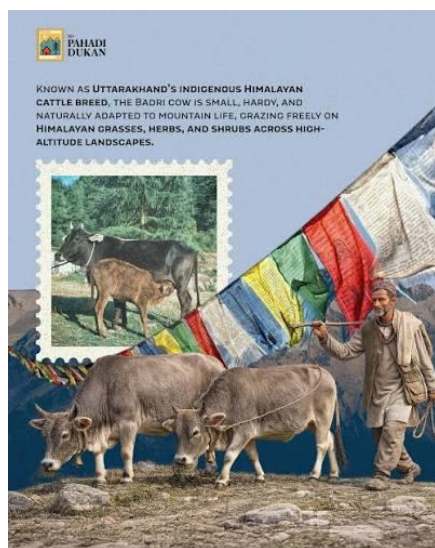
7. Varanasi's Iconic Ganga Aarti in London

On September 13, 2026, a Ganga Aarti in the Varanasi style was performed for the first time on the banks of the River Thames in London. The Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich hosted the "Ganga Aarti on the Thames: A Ceremony of Light" event. As part of the celebrations for Chinmaya Mission's 75th anniversary, it was arranged by Chinmaya Mission UK in association with the Totally Thames festival.

The event recreated the ambiance of India's well-known river aartis with traditional lamps, prayers, Sanskrit chants, and devotional music. Crucially, in order to preserve the Thames, the organizers kept the entire event on land and refrained from releasing any lamps or ceremonial items into the river.



8. BADRI Cattle



In September 2026, Badri cattle made headlines when researchers from G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, and ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal, successfully created a female Badri calf using OPU-IVF technology. The calf was born on September 11, 2026, after a Sahiwal recipient cow received a Badri embryo. The accomplishment is important for the preservation and genetic advancement of the native cattle breed of Uttarakhand.

Badri cattle, also called Pahadi cattle, are a small, resilient native breed that thrives in Uttarakhand's hilly landscape and climate. It is primarily raised for manure, milk, and bullock power.

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2. STATE NEWS

9. Swimming National Centre of Excellence (NCoE), Assam



Why in News?

In August 2026, the Sports Authority of India (SAI), Badminton Association of India (BAI) and Sports Authority of Assam (SAA) signed a tripartite agreement to establish the first Swimming National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) in North-East India.

The centre will provide specialised training and sports infrastructure for swimmers, helping identify and develop talented athletes from the North-Eastern region. It is expected to strengthen India's competitive swimming ecosystem by providing athletes with better coaching, facilities and opportunities to compete at national and international levels.

10. Bihar–Jharkhand Sone River Water-Sharing MoU

Why in News?

In August 2026, Bihar and Jharkhand signed an MoU in New Delhi to resolve their nearly 25-year-old dispute over sharing the waters of the Sone River. The dispute arose after Jharkhand was carved out of Bihar in November 2000, leaving the allocation of Sone waters between the two successor states unresolved.



Key Points

- **Water Allocation:** Undivided Bihar was allocated 7.75 million acre-feet (MAF) of water under the 1973 Bansagar Agreement.
- **Origin of Dispute:** After the creation of Jharkhand, the sharing of the allocated water between the two states remained unsettled.
- **MoU:** The agreement seeks to establish a mutually acceptable framework for water sharing and management.
- **Significance:** It is expected to improve inter-state water cooperation and reduce long-standing disputes over the Sone River.

11. Mission Zero: Depalpur's Legacy Waste Transformation

Why in News?

Depalpur in Madhya Pradesh became the first city under the Swachh Shehar Jodi initiative to achieve Zero Legacy Waste, after successfully remediating 1,250 metric tonnes of waste that had accumulated over five years under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) 2.0. The achievement highlights the importance of scientific legacy-waste management, waste segregation and resource recovery in making urban areas cleaner and more sustainable.



Key Features

- **Zero Legacy Waste:**

Depalpur Nagar Parishad, in collaboration with the Indore Municipal Corporation, completely remediated the 1,250 MT of accumulated waste from its dumpsite.

- **Swachh Shehar Jodi:**

The initiative operates under SBM-U 2.0 and follows an “Each One Teach One” mentor-mentee model, through which experienced urban local bodies share waste-management practices and technical knowledge with other cities.

- **100% Door-to-Door Collection:**

Depalpur achieved complete door-to-door collection of municipal waste, with waste being segregated into four categories for more effective processing and recycling.

- **Resource Recovery:**

Around 4.5 tonnes of plastic, metal and glass were recovered from the waste stream and supplied to authorised recyclers, converting waste into reusable resources.

The Mission Zero approach demonstrates how smaller urban local bodies can address old waste dumps through scientific remediation, segregation and recycling rather than allowing legacy waste to continue accumulating. It also showcases the potential of the mentor-mentee model under SBM-U 2.0 to replicate successful waste-management practices across cities.

12. Dal Lake Becomes a Floating Cinema



During a Kashmir film festival, Srinagar's iconic Dal Lake was transformed into a unique floating cinema. Films were screened on large screens placed on boats, allowing audiences to enjoy movies against the backdrop of the lake and surrounding mountains.

13. Karnataka Teachers to Get Professional Title “Tr.”

The Karnataka government announced that school teachers will be allowed to use the professional title “Tr.” before their names, similar to “Dr.” and “Prof.” The decision was announced by Karnataka Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar during the Praja Seva Abhiyana in Kudligi, Vijayanagara district, with the aim of recognising and honouring the contribution of teachers to society.



14. President's Colour Awarded to Goa Police



Union Home Minister Amit Shah presented the President's Colour to the Goa Police in Panaji in September 2026, recognising more than 80 years of distinguished service. The President's Colour is the highest ceremonial honour awarded to military units, training institutions and State/UT police forces for exceptional service, discipline and bravery. The Goa Police was recognised for its courage, professionalism, coastal protection and internal security efforts. As part of its modernisation efforts, the force has also introduced an AI-based 1930 cybercrime helpline in Konkani, Marathi and Hindi, with plans to expand it to all 22 languages listed in the Eighth Schedule. The force reported reducing its average response time from 18 minutes to 8 minutes, while its conviction rate increased from 23% to 53% within a year.

15. Mukhyamantri Yuva Bhavishya Nirman Yojana – Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami launched the Mukhyamantri Yuva Bhavishya Nirman Yojana in September 2026 to provide free online coaching and study resources to young people preparing for competitive examinations. The scheme covers students from government and government-aided colleges and state universities, along with recent graduates, postgraduate students and eligible scholarship beneficiaries. In the first phase, around 11,000 students will receive free coaching. The programme covers examinations such as UPSC, State PSC, SSC, Railways, Banking and Defence Services, as well as UGC-NET, GATE, CSIR-JRF, CAT and MAT. The initiative aims to improve access to quality competitive-exam preparation, while also supporting employment and higher-education opportunities for the youth of Uttarakhand.



16. Chhattisgarh CM Startup and Nipun Mission

A Chhattisgarh government initiative called the Chief Minister Startup and NIPUN Mission seeks to link young people, startups, skills, emerging technology, and jobs. With a proposed five-year investment of ₹500 crore, it was approved in September 2026.

Consider it as a whole chain:

Youth → Skill training → Industry-required skills → Jobs / Startups → Employment

In addition to supporting individuals who wish to start their own businesses, the mission seeks to guarantee that youth receive training in skills that businesses genuinely require.



Major components

- **NIPUN JOB Engine:** Connects industry skill requirements with youth training and employment opportunities.
- **33 Entrepreneurship Development Centres:** One in each district of Chhattisgarh to support aspiring entrepreneurs.
- **100 Emerging Technology Labs:** Focus on new technologies and practical skill development.
- **5 Industry Excellence Centres:** Promote industry-linked training and advanced skills.
- **Startup support:** Encourages young entrepreneurs and helps develop the startup ecosystem.

17. Mangrove GIS Portal (MGIS) launched in Gujarat



The Mangrove GIS (MGIS) Portal was launched in September 2026 at Bhuj, Kachchh, Gujarat by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav during a workshop on mangrove conservation and restoration. The portal is intended to facilitate mapping, monitoring, and science-based decision-making regarding mangrove habitats throughout Gujarat.

Gujarat's MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes) initiative includes this launch. Gujarat has covered 27,652 hectares for mangrove restoration against its 2023–27 target of 29,250 hectares, including 12,450 hectares in Kori Creek. The MGIS portal will support the management, restoration, and conservation of these significant coastal ecosystems using technology.

18. Kerala Develops AI-Based Dengue Early Warning System to Predict District-Level Trends

The scientists at the Institute of Advanced Virology (IAV) in Kerala have created the Dengue Early Warning System (DEWS). The system works based on machine learning, disease surveillance, and weather data to predict dengue trends. It is based on six years of data from March 2020 to February 2026, creating forecasts on a weekly basis for each district. This system combines dengue incidence cases along with rainfall, temperature, and average humidity. Based on the initial test on Kerala surveillance data from March to July 2026, there was a positive correlation.

How Does the Dengue Early Warning System in Kerala Work?

The DEWS makes use of epidemiological data collected from the State Surveillance Unit of Kerala and meteorological data obtained from the India Meteorological Department. The DEWS model considers four main parameters,

- Number of dengue cases reported
- Rainfall
- Temperature
- Average humidity

Unlike other forecasting systems, which generate a single prediction for the whole state, the DEWS model creates predictions for districts separately, so that local conditions and climatic conditions could be taken into account.

These predictions classify the risk of dengue infection into four levels: very high, high, moderate, and low. Categorization of risks can make the results of modeling easier to interpret for the public health sector.

The DEWS system is still a research project, which requires further improvements, updating, and validation annually.

19. Jharkhand's Traditional Musical Instrument Mandar Gets GI Tag

Mandar, an indigenous musical instrument of Jharkhand, has been accorded a Geographical Indication (GI) label by the Geographical Indications Registry, Chennai. This GI tag emphasizes the unique crafting techniques, traditional manufacturing process, and the cultural association of the Mandar with the tribal and folk traditions of Jharkhand. It is a double-headed percussion instrument that is traditionally used in festivals, religious ceremonies, agricultural celebrations, social get-togethers, and folk performances. The Mandar musical instrument is an indigenous percussion instrument of Jharkhand culture. The instrument has been used in the accompaniment of folk songs and dances by both tribal and non-tribal people.



The body of the instrument is cylindrical and made of red soil. It has a slight bulge on its body. Its body is hollow and has two openings covered by leather. The opening on the right

side is smaller while that of the left side is larger. Leather coverings are tied using braided strings.

Kirman is a coating substance applied on the smaller opening of the instrument.

20. RAINCHENNAI Weather Derivatives

Why in News?

In August 2026, the National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) launched 'RAINCHENNAI', a rainfall-based weather derivatives contract for Chennai to help businesses manage risks arising from variations in Northeast Monsoon rainfall.



Key Points

- What is it? A cash-settled rainfall futures contract covering Chennai's rainfall from September to December.
- Purpose: Helps sectors such as agriculture, logistics and urban infrastructure hedge against rainfall-related risks.
- Significance: The Northeast Monsoon contributes nearly 70% of Chennai's annual rainfall, making rainfall variability economically significant.
- Related Contract: RAINCHENNAI complements NCDEX's earlier RAINMUMBAI weather derivatives contract.

21. Jaipur: The First and Biggest Immersion Event Dome in India



The first and largest permanent immersive event dome in India, according to its developers, SkyDome is scheduled to open in Kukas, Jaipur, in late October 2026. The dome, which will be close to ITC Mementos, will have a diameter of 60 meters, a height of 21 meters, and an interior space of about 30,000 square feet, accommodating over 5,000 people.

A 360° immersive projection system with 17 powerful Christie laser projectors will be its main draw, enabling the ceiling and walls to be included in the visual experience. Destination weddings, concerts, conferences, exhibitions, cultural events, business gatherings, and brand launches are all possible at this location. It is anticipated that SkyDome will give Jaipur's already robust tourism, hospitality, and destination-wedding industries a technologically advanced aspect.

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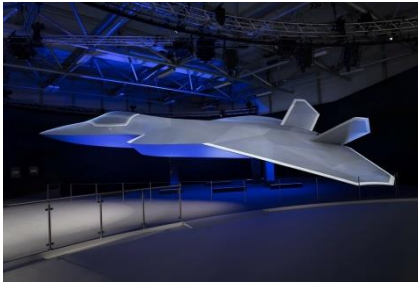
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3. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

22. Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP)



Why in News?

In August 2026, India secured Dialogue Partner status in the Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP), giving it an opportunity to engage with the programme's three founding countries—UK, Italy and Japan—on the development of next-generation combat aircraft technologies.

What is GCAP?

GCAP is a multinational programme aimed at developing a 6th-generation fighter aircraft, popularly associated with the name “Tempest.” The programme was formally launched in 2022 by the UK, Italy and Japan to develop an advanced combat aircraft with next-generation capabilities.

What does India's Dialogue Partner status mean?

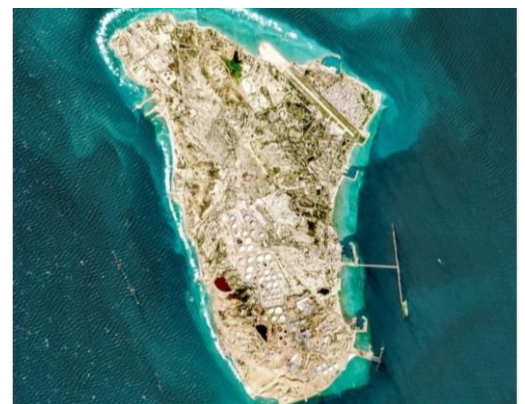
As a Dialogue Partner, India can participate in discussions and gain insights into GCAP's technology, progress and future capabilities. It provides India with an opportunity to engage with the three partner countries and understand developments in advanced aerospace and combat-air technologies.

Important: Dialogue Partner status does not make India a co-developer of the GCAP fighter. India is not automatically a buyer, builder or co-developer under this status. However, the partnership can provide scope for strategic engagement, technological learning and future cooperation in the aerospace and defence sector.

23. Larak Island

Why in News?

Larak Island came into focus after reports of US military precision strikes on the Iranian island in the Strait of Hormuz, amid heightened tensions in the region. The island's location near one of the world's most strategically important maritime chokepoints makes it significant from the perspectives of energy security, international shipping and maritime security.



Key Points

- **Location:** Larak is a small Iranian island in the Strait of Hormuz, located off Bandar Abbas, east of Qeshm Island and south of Hormuz Island.
- **Strategic Importance:** The island lies close to the narrow international shipping lanes of the Strait of Hormuz, which connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman. The strait is

crucial for the movement of global energy supplies, making nearby islands strategically important.

- **Geological Feature:** Larak is characterised by a salt plug or salt diapir, formed through halokinesis. In this process, buoyant underground salt deposits slowly rise through overlying sedimentary layers.
- **Physical Features:** The island has an arid and rugged landscape, reaching an elevation of around 138 metres. Its geology includes rock salt, sandstone and iron oxide. The principal settlement is Larak Shahri.
- **Biodiversity:** The waters surrounding Larak support coral reef ecosystems, contributing to the marine biodiversity of the Strait of Hormuz region.
- **Culture and Language:** The local population includes speakers of Laraki, a dialect associated with the endangered Kumzari language, giving the island cultural and linguistic significance in addition to its strategic importance.

24. Artemis Accords



Why in News?

In September 2026, Türkiye became the 71st country to join the US-led Artemis Accords, aimed at promoting safe, peaceful and sustainable exploration of the Moon, Mars and beyond. Türkiye's Industry and Technology Minister Mehmet Fatih Kacır signed the framework at NASA headquarters in Washington, D.C.

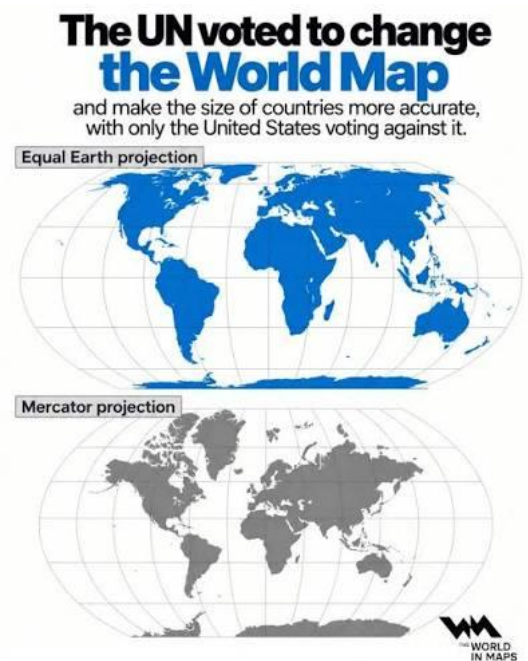
Key Points

- **7th West Asian Signatory:** Türkiye joined after the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Jordan and Israel.
- **Launched:** Initiated in 2020 by NASA and the US Department of State.
- **Nature:** A set of non-binding principles for peaceful, safe and sustainable civil space exploration.
- **Legal Basis:** Supports implementation of key obligations under the 1967 Outer Space Treaty.
- **Objective:** Promote international cooperation, transparency and responsible behaviour in space exploration.

25. UN “Correct the Map” Resolution: Equal-Area World Maps

The UN General Assembly adopted the “Correct the Map” resolution on 4 September 2026, encouraging wider use of equal-area map projections that represent the relative sizes of continents more accurately, particularly Africa. The resolution was led by Togo with support from the African Union and passed 164–1, with 6 abstentions.

- Mercator Projection: Developed by Gerardus Mercator in 1569; useful for navigation but increasingly exaggerates the size of landmasses toward the poles.
- Africa vs Greenland: Africa is about 14 times larger than Greenland, although Mercator maps can make them appear much closer in size.
- Equal Earth Projection: Developed in 2018; an equal-area projection that gives a more accurate visual comparison of landmass sizes.
- India's Position: India voted in favour, but clarified that it supports equal-area representation in general, not the mandatory adoption of Equal Earth or any single projection.
- Important: The resolution does not ban the Mercator projection and does not legally mandate a replacement.



26. Anak Krakatau Eruption Disrupts Air Travel in Indonesia



Mount Anak Krakatau erupted in Indonesia in September 2026, sending volcanic ash into the atmosphere and severely disrupting air travel across parts of the country. The volcano, located in the Sunda Strait between Java and Sumatra, produced ash plumes that spread toward Jakarta and surrounding regions, creating a serious hazard for aircraft. Authorities temporarily closed eight airports, including Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in Jakarta, leading to the cancellation, delay and diversion of hundreds of flights. Initially, around 170,000 passengers were affected, while the disruption later grew to approximately 2,300 flights and 270,337 passengers as the ash spread.

The eruption also highlighted the importance of volcanic-ash monitoring for aviation, as ash particles can damage aircraft engines and reduce visibility. Satellite imagery and monitoring agencies tracked ash clouds reaching as high as 50,000 feet (about 15 km). Indonesian authorities coordinated with the Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysical Agency (BMKG) and the Volcanic Ash Advisory Center (VAAC) to assess the movement of the ash and determine when airports could safely reopen. The affected airports subsequently resumed operations as conditions improved.

27. India Joins Global 6G Initiative



In September 2026, India joined the “Call to Action for 6G Leadership and Security”, along with the United States and 24 other countries, to promote secure, interoperable and next-generation telecommunications networks. Led by the US National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the initiative aims to strengthen international cooperation in 6G technology, network security, interoperability and innovation, with India becoming the 26th participating country. India’s participation aligns with its ambition to become a global hub for 6G intellectual property, telecom products and affordable 6G solutions by 2030. The decision followed discussions between Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada and US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick at the G20 Innovation Ministerial in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

28. JCR Upgrades India’s Sovereign Credit Rating to A-

In September 2026, Japan Credit Rating Agency (JCR) upgraded India’s sovereign credit rating to A-, reflecting the country’s strong economic growth, rising consumption and investment, and supportive government policies. JCR also highlighted improvements in India’s banking and financial system, supported by measures such as the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and stronger RBI supervision. India’s gross NPA ratio fell to 1.8% by March 2026, indicating improved asset quality in the banking sector. The agency also noted that India’s GDP growth was expected to remain above 6% in FY2026–27, while the government’s fiscal deficit improved from 4.7% to 4.4% of GDP.

29. Doomsday Plane: Putin's "Flying Kremlin"



In media reports, Russian President Vladimir Putin's specially modified Ilyushin IL-96-300PU is referred to as the "Doomsday Plane" and the "Flying Kremlin." In the event of a serious emergency, the aircraft is built to serve as a secure airborne command and communication center, enabling Russia's leadership to stay in touch with government, military, and intelligence networks. It has defensive electronic systems, satellite links, and encrypted communications.

Operated by Russia's Special Flight Squadron, the aircraft is said to have a range of approximately 11,000 kilometers. Two identical aircraft flew simultaneously during Putin's September 2026 visit to India for the BRICS Summit, with one acting as a decoy to make it more difficult to determine which aircraft was carrying the President.

"Doomsday Plane"—why? Its name alludes to its capacity to act as an aerial command center in times of severe national emergency, when regular ground-based communication and command facilities might not be accessible.

30. UN's Loss and Damage Fund

An international climate fund called the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) was established to give financial assistance to developing nations that are especially susceptible to the effects of climate change, including droughts, floods, cyclones, sea level rise, and other climate-related disasters.

Established: 2022 at COP27, Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

Purpose: Help vulnerable developing countries deal with climate-related loss and damage that cannot be adequately avoided through mitigation or adaptation.

Operationalised: COP28 in Dubai (2023).

First funding phase: The Barbados Implementation Modalities (BIM).

Amount: US\$250 million allocated for the initial 2025–26 interventions.

First funding requests: Countries could submit requests from 15 December 2025 to 15 June 2026.

2026 update: The FRLD Board is now preparing for its first funding decisions and continuing resource mobilisation.

What makes it significant?

Despite contributing relatively little to global emissions, climate-vulnerable developing nations frequently suffer significant economic and social losses as a result of climate disasters. The Fund's goal is to address losses and damages brought on by climate change and offer grants and other forms of assistance for recovery.



31. 2027- year of INDIA- Vietnam Friendship



To commemorate the 55th anniversary of the two nations' diplomatic relations being established, India and Vietnam have decided to designate 2027 as the "Year of India–Vietnam Friendship." Vietnam's Foreign Minister Le Hoai Trung and India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar co-chaired the 19th India-Vietnam Joint Commission Meeting, which took place in New Delhi on September 14, 2026.

In the areas of defense and security, trade and investment, connectivity, space, nuclear energy, culture, heritage, yoga, and people-to-people relations, the initiative seeks to improve bilateral cooperation. Under its Act East Policy, Vietnam is a significant ally of India.

32. Fatima Zahra El Mansouri Becomes Morocco's First Woman Prime Minister



King Mohammed VI of Morocco appointed Fatima Zahra El Mansouri as the Prime Minister on 29 September 2026, thus becoming the first woman to serve in this capacity. This happened following the elections of 23 September 2026 in which her party, the Authenticity and Modernity Party (PAM), got the most votes getting 97 out of 395 seats in the House of Representatives. She will be required to

form a government and form a parliamentary alliance. The appointee is 50 years of age and previously was Morocco's Minister of National Planning, Urban Planning, Housing and City Policy and mayor of Marrakech.

She is a senior member of the Authenticity and Modernity Party (PAM).

This happened because the PAM got the most number of seats in the parliamentary elections in 2026. According to the Moroccan constitution, the king appoints the leader of the party that wins the election as the head of government. The PAM got 97 seats in the 395 seat house of representatives.

33. PM Modi's Uzbekistan Visit

Why in News?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi undertook a two-day state visit to Uzbekistan from 29–30 August 2026, at the invitation of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. It was his fourth visit to Uzbekistan and coincided with the 15th anniversary of the India–Uzbekistan Strategic Partnership.

Key Highlights

- **Highest Honour:** PM Modi was conferred Uzbekistan's highest state honour, the "Oliy Darajali Do'stlik" (Order of Highest Friendship).
- **Significance:** The honour marked Modi's 36th international honour.
- **India–Uzbekistan Relations:** The visit focused on strengthening strategic, economic and diplomatic cooperation between the two countries.



4. BANKING / ECONOMY

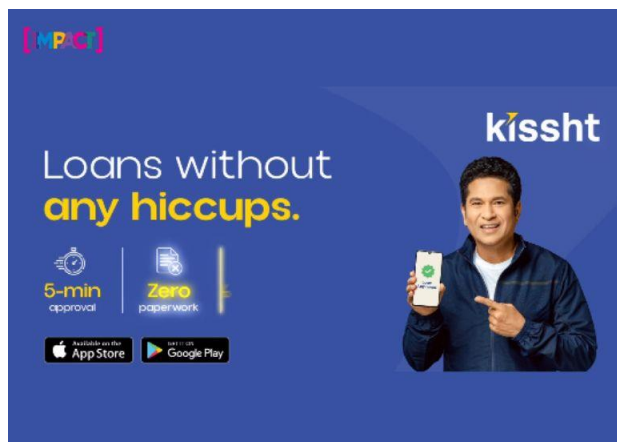
34. Kissht – ‘Loans Without Any Hiccups’ Campaign

Why in News?

In August 2026, RBI-registered NBFC Kissht launched its ‘Loans Without Any Hiccups’ campaign featuring former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar as its brand ambassador. The campaign promotes fast, simple and paperless digital lending through the Kissht app.

Key Highlights

- Concept: Tendulkar humorously experiences “hiccups” whenever a loan is approved through the app.
- Focus: Quick loan approval, paperless applications and a user-friendly digital process.
- Outreach: The campaign will run across Instagram, YouTube and other digital platforms.
- About Kissht: Founded in 2015, the company is headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra.



35. National Accounts Statistics (NAS) 2026

Why in News?

In August 2026, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the National Accounts Statistics (NAS) 2026, adopting 2022–23 as the new base year for national account estimates. The publication contains 60 statements, including Final Estimates for FY23 and FY24 and the First Revised Estimate for FY25. It covers key indicators such as GDP, national income, production and value added, consumption and expenditure, savings, capital formation, public-sector transactions and external transactions. The new series also incorporates revised Producer Price Index (PPI), Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and Banking Services Price Index (BkSPI), with 2022–23 adopted as the base year for these indices.



**NATIONAL STATISTICAL
COMMISSION**

36. Index of Services Production (ISP)

Why in News?

In August 2026, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the trial Index of Services Production (ISP) for June 2026, covering 19 sub-sectors with 2024–25 as the base year. It is India’s first monthly indicator designed to track short-term activity in the formal services sector.

Key Points

- Purpose: Measures monthly changes in services-sector activity.
- Development: Prepared under the Technical Advisory Committee on ISP (TAC-ISP), chaired by Debjani Ghosh, Distinguished Fellow, NITI Aayog.
- Data Sources: GST data, administrative records from railways, air transport, banking and insurance, and ASISSE data.
- June 2026: 18 of 19 sub-sectors recorded positive YoY growth; 8 recorded double-digit growth.
- Fastest Growth: Real Estate – 24.7%, followed by Retail Trade (18.0%) and Wholesale Trade (15.1%).
- Other High Growth: Administrative & Support Services (14.4%) and IT & Computer-related Services (13.5%).
- Only Contraction: Air Transport declined by 6% YoY.

37. Vodafone Idea Brand Revamp

VI is now Vi

On 1 September 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointed Suman Ray as an Executive Director (ED) with immediate effect. Before his elevation, he served as Regional Director, Maharashtra, and also worked as Secretary to the Western Area Local Board of the RBI. With over 30 years of experience, Ray has worked across key areas including currency management, financial inclusion, payment systems, consumer protection and human resources. As Executive Director, he will oversee the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) and the Premises Department. The appointment comes as part of the RBI's senior-level administrative structure and highlights the importance of experienced leadership in areas related to banking regulation, financial inclusion and deposit protection. The RBI, India's central bank, was established on 1 April 1935 under the RBI Act, 1934, and is headquartered in Mumbai.

38. Niyo Secures PSP Licence to Operate from GIFT City

In September 2026, fintech platform Niyo secured a Payment Service Provider (PSP) licence from the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) to operate from GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The licence will enable Niyo to expand its cross-border financial services and strengthen its presence in the international financial ecosystem. Niyo was founded in 2015 by Vinay Bagri (CEO) and Virender Bisht and is headquartered in Bengaluru, Karnataka. GIFT City (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City) is India's first operational greenfield smart city and hosts the country's only International Financial Services Centre (IFSC). Located near Gandhinagar and Ahmedabad on the banks of the Sabarmati River, GIFT City was conceived in 2007 as an international financial hub and houses activities such as offshore banking, capital markets, insurance, IT/ITeS and fintech services.



39. LIC Gets RBI Approval to Acquire 9.99% Stake in ICICI Bank

In September 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to acquire an aggregate holding of up to 9.99% of the paid-up share capital or voting rights in ICICI Bank, subject to applicable regulatory conditions. LIC must complete the acquisition within one year of the RBI's approval letter dated 4 September 2026, failing which the approval will lapse. As of Q1 FY27, LIC already held 4.35% in ICICI Bank. Other major institutional holdings included mutual funds at 29.60% and insurance companies at 8.24%. LIC, established on 1 September 1956 under the LIC Act, 1956, is headquartered in Mumbai and is India's largest state-owned life insurer.



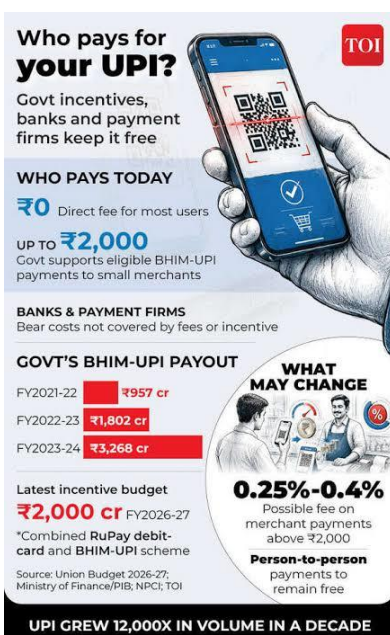
40. RBI Grants Scheduled Bank Status to Coastal Local Area Bank



In September 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) included Coastal Local Area Bank Ltd., Vijayawada, in the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934, granting it scheduled bank status. Coastal LAB, which was India's first Local Area Bank (LAB), consequently became the only scheduled bank headquartered in Andhra Pradesh. Scheduled status enables the bank to access RBI liquidity facilities and participate more effectively in money-market operations, strengthening its institutional position, liquidity access and scope for future expansion. Importantly,

despite becoming a scheduled bank, Coastal LAB continues to be classified as a Local Area Bank.

41. UPI FEE



The Center's new UPI Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) framework, which imposes a 0.4% fee on certain merchant transactions over ₹2,000 starting on October 15, 2026, has drawn criticism from BSP chief Mayawati. She urged the government to put public welfare first, claiming that the action might make life more expensive for regular people.

However, the Center made it clear that the MDR is not a consumer tax. Both merchant payments up to ₹2,000 and person-to-person UPI transactions will continue to be free. According to the government, 96% of merchant transactions will not be impacted, and retailers are not allowed to pass the MDR on to consumers.

The problem has spurred a broader discussion about consumer protection, digital payment costs, and the sustainability of India's UPI ecosystem.

42. Axis Bank Sparsh Week 2026

In September 2026, Axis Bank made headlines when it launched Sparsh Week, its flagship national customer engagement program, which took place from September 7–11. This year's Sparsh Week theme was "Act with Speed," emphasizing the importance of listening to consumers and turning their input into quicker decisions and improved banking experiences.

Axis Bank sought to engage over 2.5 lakh customers during the initiative, with over 90 senior executives interacting with clients nationwide. Additionally, a fully digital auto and two-wheeler loan process was implemented, enabling qualified clients to receive loan disbursement in approximately half an hour.



43. Global fintech fest 2026 – part 1

The 7th Global FinTech Fest (GFF) 2026, which brought together policymakers, regulators, financial institutions, fintech companies, startups, and investors from all over the world, made headlines because it took place in Mumbai from September 8–11, 2026. The occasion brought attention to India's expanding participation in international fintech and digital finance, especially with regard to technologies like Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and UPI.

Key highlights

- Theme: “Potential to Impact: Agentic AI | Tokenisation | Quantum – Trusted, Connected, Global Systems for Inclusive Finance.”
- Organisers: Payments Council of India (PCI), NPCI and Fintech Convergence Council (FCC).
- Major focus: Agentic AI, tokenisation, quantum technology, UPI, cybersecurity and financial inclusion.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to expand UPI globally and use fintech for purposes other than payments, such as credit, insurance, savings, and investments, while bolstering cybersecurity and consumer protection, was another reason the event attracted attention.

5. SUMMIT, RANKS AND REPORTS

44. UNCCD COP17



Why in News?

The 17th session of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP17) was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 17–28 August 2026. The conference focused on tackling desertification, land degradation and drought, with the theme “Restoring Land. Restoring Hope.” It brought together countries to discuss sustainable land management, land restoration and measures to strengthen

resilience against drought and climate-related challenges.

45. AISHE 2022–23 & 2023–24

Why in News?

The Ministry of Education (MoE) released the 13th and 14th editions of the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) for 2022–23 and 2023–24, highlighting the expansion of India’s higher education sector over the past decade. The number of universities increased from 760 in 2014–15 to 1,289 in 2023–24, while colleges rose from 38,498 to 48,246 and standalone institutions from 12,276 to 15,221. Total higher-education enrolment increased by 31.5%, from 3.42 crore to 4.50 crore, while female enrolment grew by 42.2%, from 1.57 crore to 2.24 crore. The Gender Parity Index (GPI) stood at 1.08 in 2023–24, remaining above 1.0 for the seventh consecutive year, indicating higher female participation. AISHE also provides important data for tracking reforms and developments in higher education, including those aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

46. V-Dem Democracy Report

Why in News?

The latest V-Dem Democracy Report has placed India’s Electoral Democracy Index (EDI) score at its lowest level since 1975, continuing a decline observed since 2009. The report evaluates the quality of democracy across multiple dimensions, including elections, civil liberties, institutional autonomy, judicial accountability and freedom of expression.

Key Pointers

- **V-Dem Index:** The Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Index measures democracy through a multidimensional approach, going beyond elections alone.
- **Key Dimensions:** It assesses electoral integrity, civil liberties, institutional autonomy, judicial accountability, freedom of expression and public administration.
- **Published By:** The report is published by the V-Dem Institute, based at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden.
- **India's Finding:** India's Electoral Democracy Index score is reportedly at its lowest since 1975, with the decline continuing since 2009.
- **Institutional Indicators:** The report highlights concerns regarding judicial accountability, corruption, election-management body autonomy and impartial public administration.
- **Autocratisation:** V-Dem identifies India among countries experiencing slow autocratisation, referring to a gradual weakening of democratic institutions and practices.
- **Freedom & Expression:** The report also notes deterioration in academic freedom, cultural expression and media freedom.

47. 26th SCO Council of Heads of State Summit 2026 – Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

The 26th SCO Council of Heads of State Summit was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, from 31 August to 1 September 2026, marking the 25th anniversary of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). The summit was chaired by Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov under the theme “25 Years of the SCO: Together for Sustainable Peace, Development and Prosperity,” with Prime Minister Narendra Modi representing India. A



special SCO Plus session was held on “The UN as a Key Element of a Just World Order,” focusing on the role of SCO Plus states in shaping a multipolar international order. Pakistan assumed the SCO presidency for 2026–27 under the theme “Turning Vision into Action: Connectivity, Innovation and Shared Prosperity,” while Lahore was designated the SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital for 2026–27. The summit concluded with the adoption of the Bishkek Declaration and 28 other documents covering areas such as climate change, nuclear safety, energy conservation, drug control and emergency assistance. India-backed outcomes included recognition of English as an official/working language of the SCO, along with initiatives such as the SCO Young Scientists Forum, SCO Young Authors Conference and SCO Civilisation Dialogue Forum.

48. International Space Summit 2026



Governments, space agencies, scientists, and private space companies convened for the first International Space Summit on September 9–10, 2026, in Paris, France, to discuss the future of space exploration, space technology, and the global space economy.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's virtual speech at the summit, which emphasized India's expanding space role, made it significant for the country. According to him, India wants to send an Indian astronaut to the moon by 2040 and build an Indian Space Station by 2035. Additionally, the next phase of the next phase of the next phase of the next phase of the next phase.

India's participation also strengthened India–France and India–Europe space cooperation. During the summit, ISRO and ESA extended their cooperation agreement until 2032, adding areas such as human and robotic exploration, space weather and sustainability of space activities.

49. GLOBAL GENDER GAP INDEX

The World Economic Forum (WEF) publishes the Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI) every year to assess how far men and women have come toward gender parity. Released on September 16, 2026, the 2026 report assesses four areas: Political Empowerment, Health and Survival, Educational Attainment, and Economic Participation and Opportunity. It covers 145 economies.



In 2026, 69.2% of the gender gap was eliminated worldwide. However, the WEF predicts that full gender parity may still take 120 years at the current rate of advancement. Health and educational attainment are much closer to parity, but the biggest disparities still exist in political empowerment and economic participation.

India is ranked 131st in 2026, having closed the gender gap by 64.5%. India does especially well in terms of health and survival (95.6%) and educational attainment (96.6%). Political empowerment is at 24.5%, and economic participation is at 41.2%.

UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION PROGRAMME OF EXAMINATIONS/RECRUITMENT TESTS (RTs) -2026					
Sl. No.	Name of Examination	Date of Notification	Last Date for receipt of Applications	Date of commencement of Exam	Duration of Exam
1.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			10.01.2026 (Saturday)	2 Days
2.	Reserved for UPSC Examination			17.01.2026 (Saturday)	2 Days
3.	Combined Geo-Scientist (Preliminary) Examination, 2026	03.09.2025	23.09.2025	08.02.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
4.	Engineering Services (Preliminary) Examination, 2026	17.09.2025	07.10.2025	08.02.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
5.	CBI (DSP) LDCE	24.12.2025	13.01.2026	28.02.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAY
6.	CISF AC(EXE) LDCE-2026	03.12.2025	23.12.2025	08.03.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
7.	N.D.A. & N.A. Examination (I), 2026	10.12.2025	30.12.2025	12.04.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
8.	C.D.S. Examination (I), 2026				
9.	Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination, 2026	14.01.2026	03.02.2026	24.05.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
10.	Indian Forest Service (Preliminary) Examination, 2026 through CS(P) Examination 2026				
11.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			06.06.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
12.	I.E.S./I.S.S. Examination, 2026	11.02.2026	03.03.2026	19.06.2026 (Friday)	3 DAYS
13.	Combined Geo-Scientist (Main) Examination, 2026			20.06.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
14.	Engineering Services (Main) Examination, 2026			21.06.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
15.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			04.07.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
16.	Central Armed Police Forces (ACs) Examination, 2026	18.02.2026	10.03.2026	19.07.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
17.	Combined Medical Services Examination, 2026	11.03.2026	31.03.2026	02.08.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
18.	Reserved for UPSC Examination			08.08.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
19.	Civil Services (Main) Examination, 2026			21.08.2026 (Friday)	5 DAYS
20.	N.D.A. & N.A. Examination (II), 2026	20.05.2026	09.06.2026	13.09.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
21.	C.D.S. Examination (II), 2026				
22.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			26.09.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
23.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			10.10.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
24.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			31.10.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
25.	Indian Forest Service (Main) Examination, 2026			22.11.2026 (Sunday)	7 DAYS
26.	S.O./Steno (GD-B/GD-I) LDCE	16.09.2026	06.10.2026	12.12.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
27.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			19.12.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
Note: The dates of notification, commencement and duration of Examinations/ RTs are liable to alteration, if the circumstances so warrant.					

TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF EXAMINATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2026-2027

S.No.	Name of Examination	Tier/Phase	Date of Advertisement	Closing Date	Month of Exam
1.	JSA / LDC Grade Limited Departmental Competitive Examination, 2025 (for DoPT only)	Paper-I (CBE)*	16 March 2026	07 April 2026	May 2026
2.	SSA / UDC Grade Limited Departmental Competitive Examination, 2025 (for DoPT only)	Paper-I (CBE)*	16 March 2026	07 April 2026	May 2026
3.	ASO Grade Limited Departmental Competitive Examination, 2025	Paper-I (CBE)*	16 March 2026	07 April 2026	May 2026
4.	Combined Graduate Level Examination, 2026	Tier-I (CBE)*	March 2026	April 2026	May – June 2026
5.	Junior Engineer (Civil, Mechanical & Electrical) Examination, 2026	Paper-I (CBE)*	March 2026	April 2026	May – June 2026
6.	Selection Post Examination, Phase-XIV, 2026	CBE*	March 2026	April 2026	May – July 2026
7.	Combined Higher Secondary (10+2) Level Examination, 2026	Tier-I (CBE)*	April 2026	May 2026	July – September 2026
8.	Stenographer Grade 'C' & 'D' Examination, 2026	CBE*	April 2026	May 2026	August – September 2026
9.	Combined Hindi Translators Examination, 2026	Paper-I (CBE)*	April 2026	May 2026	August – September 2026
10.	Multi-Tasking (Non-Technical) Staff & Havaladar (CBIC & CBN) Examination, 2026	CBE*	June 2026	July 2026	September – November 2026
11.	Sub-Inspector in Delhi Police & Central Armed Police Forces Examination, 2026	Paper-I (CBE)*	May 2026	June 2026	October – November 2026
12.	Constables (GD) in Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), NIA, SSF and Rifleman (GD) in Assam Rifles Examination, 2027	CBE*	September 2026	October 2026	January – March 2027

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6. DEFENCE NEWS

50. FGM-148 Javelin

Why in News?

The Indian Army has signed a USD 93 million Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) with the US to procure nearly 100 FGM-148 Javelin Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs) through the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) route.



What is the Javelin?

The FGM-148 Javelin is a medium-range, fire-and-forget anti-tank missile designed to engage armoured and fortified targets. It uses infrared (IR) guidance, allowing the missile to track its target after launch without requiring continuous guidance from the operator.

Why is it significant for India?

The acquisition will strengthen the Indian Army's anti-armour capability, particularly against modern armoured vehicles. The Javelin is produced by the Javelin Joint Venture of RTX and Lockheed Martin in the US. India is also exploring greater defence-industrial cooperation, with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) having signed an agreement in 2025 with the Javelin JV for potential co-production in India.

51. ICGS Meera Behn & Subhadra Kumari Chauhan

Why in News?

In August 2026, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) decommissioned two Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) — ICGS Meera Behn and ICGS Subhadra Kumari Chauhan — after nearly two decades of service in maritime security and coastal surveillance.



About the Vessels:

Both vessels served as Fast Patrol Vessels, designed for rapid coastal operations such as surveillance, patrolling, interception and protection of India's maritime interests. Their long operational service contributed to strengthening the Coast Guard's presence along India's coastline and supporting maritime law enforcement.

52. YJ-18A Missile

Why in News?

In August 2026, China reportedly tested a new stealth-coated variant of the YJ-18A anti-ship cruise missile. The missile uses a radar-absorbing



coating, designed to reduce radar reflections and make the missile more difficult to detect, thereby improving its survivability.

What is the YJ-18A?

The YJ-18A is a Chinese anti-ship cruise missile designed primarily to target naval vessels. It forms part of China's broader anti-access/area-denial (A2/AD) capabilities and can be deployed from naval platforms. The missile is intended to threaten surface ships from considerable distances while making interception more difficult.

What is the significance of the new variant?

The reported stealth coating is meant to lower the missile's radar cross-section (RCS) by absorbing or reducing electromagnetic waves reflected back toward enemy radar. This can shorten the time available for an adversary to detect, track and intercept the missile, potentially increasing its effectiveness against naval targets.

53. T-72 & T-90 Tank Overhaul Facility

Why in News?

In August 2026, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone for a ₹472-crore Tank Overhaul Facility at Vehicle Factory Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. The facility will undertake the overhaul and maintenance of T-72 and T-90 tanks, strengthening the Indian Army's operational readiness and India's indigenous defence maintenance capabilities.



Key Features

- Location: Vehicle Factory Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.
- Investment: ₹472 crore.
- Annual Capacity: The facility will be capable of overhauling 80 tanks every year.
- Army Requirement: The Indian Army requires around 230 tanks to be overhauled annually, making additional capacity important.
- Existing Facility: Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF), Avadi, Chennai currently has the capacity to overhaul around 150 tanks annually.
- Organisation: Vehicle Factory Jabalpur is a production unit of Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL).

Significance

The new facility will expand India's domestic Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) capacity for its main battle tanks. It will help ensure timely maintenance and availability of armoured platforms while supporting self-reliance (Aatmanirbharta) in defence and reducing dependence on overseas maintenance support.

54. Exercise Super Garuda Shield

Why in News?

The United States and Indonesia launched the annual Super Garuda Shield military exercise, being conducted across multiple regions of Indonesia until 11 September 2026. The exercise has evolved into a major multinational, joint-service and multi-domain military engagement, reflecting growing defence cooperation and interoperability among participating countries in the Indo-Pacific.



Key Points

- **Nature of Exercise:** Super Garuda Shield is a flagship multilateral military exercise hosted by the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) and co-led by USINDOPACOM.
- **Origin:** It began in 2006 as a bilateral Garuda Shield exercise between Indonesia and the United States. Over time, it expanded into a joint-service, multilateral and multi-domain exercise.
- **Participants:** Along with Indonesia and the US, 13 additional partner countries participate, including Japan, South Korea, Australia, Canada, the UK, France and Singapore.

Multi-Domain Training

The exercise covers multiple operational domains, including:

- **Land:** Ground combat and joint manoeuvres.
- **Air:** Airborne and other air operations.
- **Maritime:** Naval and amphibious activities.
- **Cyber:** Cyber-defence and information-domain scenarios.
- **Live-fire & Amphibious Drills:** Designed to improve coordination and operational interoperability among participating forces.

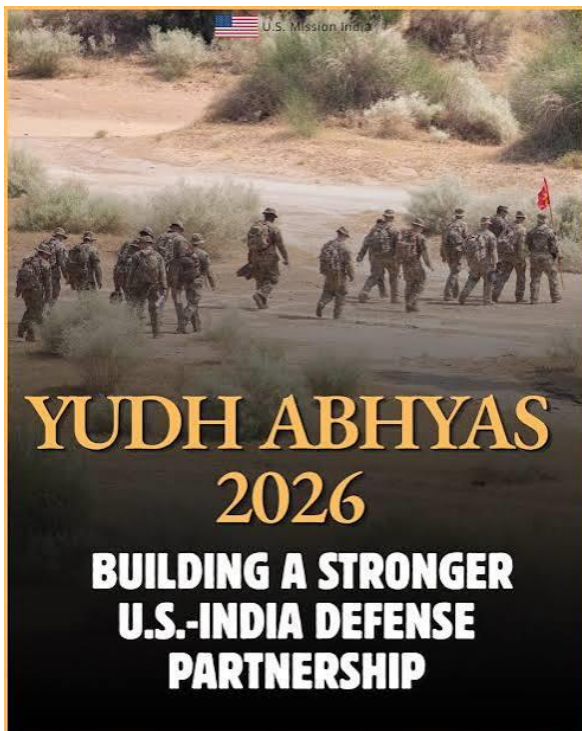
Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief

An important component of Super Garuda Shield is Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) training. The participating forces practise coordinated responses to natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions and wildfires.

Strategic Significance

The exercise strengthens US–Indonesia defence cooperation, enhances military interoperability and contributes to regional deterrence. Its maritime dimension is particularly relevant because Indonesia lies near several strategically important Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs), including the Malacca, Sunda and Lombok Straits, which are vital routes for international trade and maritime connectivity.

55. EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS 2026



The 22nd iteration of the India-US joint military exercise, known as Yudh Abhyas 2026, is carried out by the Indian Army and the US Army. Training took place at Auli, Uttarakhand, and Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan, between September 15, 2026, and September 27, 2026.

Each nation sent about 600 personnel to participate. Enhancing interoperability, cooperative planning, and combat readiness—especially for operations in mountainous and semi-mountainous terrain—were the main goals of the exercise. Mountain warfare, cold-weather operations, autonomous systems and drones, counter-drone operations, and live-fire drills were all part of the training.

Combining air-assault and live-fire training with Pinaka, M777, Dhanush artillery, Apache helicopters, and other systems was a key component.

56. Exercise Samudra Laksamana 2026

The Indian Navy and the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) are participating in a bilateral maritime exercise called Exercise Samudra Laksamana 2026. The fourth edition took place from September 9–12, 2026, in Lumut, Malaysia. Malaysia sent KD Lekir and KD Gagah Samudera, while India sent INS Mysore to participate.

Professional interactions and cross-deck exercises during the harbor phase were part of the exercise, which was followed by coordinated maritime maneuvers at sea. It aimed to improve interoperability, operational coordination and mutual understanding between the two navies. The ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation 2026 and India's MAHASAGAR vision are also connected to the exercise.



57. KAZIND-2026: India-Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise Begins in Kazakhstan



The Indian Armed Forces have sent a team of 60 members to Oskemen, Kazakhstan, for participation in the India-Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise KAZIND, scheduled from September 28 to October 11, 2026. It is the ninth edition of the India-Kazakhstan

Joint Military Exercise that aims at improving the interoperability and joint counter-terrorism abilities. The Indian team comprises mostly members of one battalion of the Garhwal Rifles, as well as members of other arms and services of the army and Indian Air Force. The main aim of KAZIND-2026 is to enhance the capacity of both forces to undertake joint counter-terrorism operations in a sub-conventional setting, under a UN mandate. The exercises will concentrate especially on semi-urban and mountainous areas. Such terrains call for joint planning, movements, collection of intelligence and fast reaction by various branches of the military force.

58. Exercise Veer Guardian 2026: India-Japan Air Combat Exercise



The Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Japan Air Self-Defence Force (JASDF) are conducting the 2nd edition of Exercise Veer Guardian 2026 at Jodhpur, Rajasthan, from 9–22 September 2026. It is a bilateral air combat exercise aimed at enhancing interoperability, tactical proficiency and operational synergy between the two air forces. The exercise follows the first edition held in Japan in 2023. India is participating with LCA Tejas, Su-

30MKI and Rafale fighter aircraft, while Japan has deployed three F-2A fighter aircraft from the 8th Air Wing at Tsuiki Air Base, Fukuoka, along with around 110 personnel. The exercise provides an opportunity for both forces to practise joint air-combat operations and exchange operational experience.

59. 'RAKSHA' Defence Diplomacy Framework – 10-Year Strategy

In September 2026, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released the 'RAKSHA' Defence Diplomacy Framework in New Delhi, outlining India's vision for strengthening global defence partnerships over the next 10 years. The framework aims to strengthen bilateral and multilateral defence relations, establish India as a reliable global security partner, and promote defence cooperation and technology sharing.

Its key pillars include Strategic Partnerships, Capacity Building, Indigenous Expertise and Maritime Security. A major focus is the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), where the framework seeks to strengthen India's role as a Net Security Provider and First Responder. It also supports indigenous defence manufacturing and exports under the Make in India initiative, thereby contributing to greater self-reliance in defence.



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7. SCIENCE AND TECH

60. Gnani Artha: India's Sovereign AI Stack



Why in News?

In August 2026, Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan launched 'Gnani Artha', a sovereign AI stack developed by Bengaluru-based Indian startup GNANI AI, at Uprashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. The initiative is part of India's broader effort to develop indigenous AI capabilities and reduce dependence on foreign AI technologies.

What is Gnani Artha?

Gnani Artha is a sovereign AI ecosystem built around Evon 3.3 and Plexus. A sovereign AI stack essentially means that the underlying AI technologies, infrastructure and applications can be developed and operated within the country, giving organisations greater control over their data, security and AI systems. It supports self-hosting, allowing organisations to run AI on their own computers or servers rather than sending sensitive information to external cloud platforms.

Key Components

Evon 3.3: An AI model with around 30 billion parameters, designed to support 11+ Indian languages, making it relevant for multilingual AI applications.

Plexus: An AI platform capable of carrying out tasks based on user instructions and automating certain processes. For example, it can retrieve information such as PAN card details through a single prompt.

GNANI AI: A Bengaluru-based company founded in 2016, selected as one of 12 Indian organisations under the IndiaAI Mission to develop India's own sovereign Large Language Models (LLMs).

Why is it important?

Gnani Artha strengthens India's push towards AI sovereignty, data security and technological self-reliance. By enabling organisations to keep sensitive data within their own systems, it can be particularly useful for sectors handling confidential information, while its support for multiple Indian languages can help make AI more accessible across India.

61. Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope

Why in News?

In August 2026, NASA launched the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope aboard SpaceX's Falcon Heavy from Kennedy Space Center, Florida, to study major mysteries of the universe.



Key Facts

- **Cost:** Estimated development cost of USD 4.3 billion.
- **Named After:** Nancy Grace Roman, NASA's first Chief of Astronomy, known as the "Mother of Hubble."
- **Orbit:** It will operate near Lagrange Point 2 (L2), about 1.6 million km from Earth.
- **Mission Life:** Designed for a 5-year primary mission, with a goal of operating for 10 years.
- **Management:** Managed by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC).
- **Significance:** It will conduct wide-field astronomical observations and help study dark energy, dark matter, galaxies and exoplanets, complementing the capabilities of the Hubble and James Webb Space Telescopes.

62. Samarthak – India's Indigenous Multi-Purpose Naval Vessel



Why in News?

Samarthak, the first indigenously designed and constructed Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV) of the Indian Navy, has been formally delivered by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) from its Kattupalli shipyard near Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The vessel is being described as a new naval testing and support platform, designed to support a wide range of operational, training and technology-

development requirements.

Key Features and Capabilities

- **Indigenous Design:** Built by L&T at Kattupalli, the vessel has more than 75% indigenous content, supporting the objectives of Aatmanirbhar Bharat in defence manufacturing.
- **Naval Testing Platform:** *Samarthak* will function as a sea-based testbed for indigenous defence technologies, allowing systems such as radars, sonars, missiles and gun systems to be evaluated under realistic maritime conditions.
- **Training Role:** The vessel can support gunnery and Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) training, strengthening the operational preparedness of naval personnel.
- **Unmanned Systems:** It is capable of operating and supporting UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles), USVs (Unmanned Surface Vehicles) and UUVs (Unmanned Underwater Vehicles), making it relevant to the Navy's growing use of unmanned maritime technologies.
- **Logistics & Towing:** *Samarthak* provides fleet logistics support, including heavy-lift operations through cranes and specialised towing equipment.

Strategic Significance

The vessel has significance beyond conventional naval operations. By providing an indigenous platform for testing, validation and training of defence systems at sea, *Samarthak* can help reduce dependence on foreign testing infrastructure and accelerate the induction of Indian-developed technologies.

It can also contribute to Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), including medical assistance, disaster-response operations and oil-spill response across the Indian Ocean Region. Thus, Samarthak combines defence testing, training, logistics, unmanned-system support and maritime humanitarian capabilities in a single platform.

63. Subsea Cable Infrastructure



Why in News?

Andhra Pradesh, particularly Visakhapatnam, is emerging as India's third major international subsea cable landing hub, after Mumbai and Chennai. The growing importance of Visakhapatnam is linked to increasing AI adoption, cloud computing and data-centre investments, which are driving demand for high-

capacity and reliable international data connectivity.

Subsea cables form the backbone of the global digital economy. These fibre-optic cables laid on the ocean floor carry around 95–99% of global international internet and data traffic, connecting countries and continents. At coastal Cable Landing Stations (CLS), the undersea cables connect with terrestrial fibre networks, cloud infrastructure and data centres, allowing international data to enter and leave a country.

How Subsea Cables Work

- **Fibre-Optic Transmission:** Digital information is transmitted as light pulses through optical fibres using the principle of Total Internal Reflection (TIR).
- **Optical Repeaters:** Since signals weaken over very long distances, optical repeaters are installed along the cable route, generally at intervals of around 60–80 km, to amplify and maintain the signal.
- **Cable Landing Stations (CLS):** These are coastal facilities where subsea cables come ashore and connect to terrestrial telecommunications networks.
- **Connection to Data Infrastructure:** From the landing station, data is distributed through terrestrial fibre networks to data centres, cloud platforms, telecom networks and other digital infrastructure.

Why Visakhapatnam Matters

- **Third Major Hub:** Visakhapatnam is emerging as an important subsea cable landing location after Mumbai and Chennai.
- **Digital Economy:** Greater subsea connectivity can support AI, cloud computing, data centres, fintech and digital services.
- **Strategic Connectivity:** A geographically diversified cable network can improve the resilience and redundancy of India's international internet infrastructure.

- **Data-Centre Growth:** Proximity to high-capacity international cables makes coastal locations attractive for large-scale data-centre and cloud infrastructure investments.

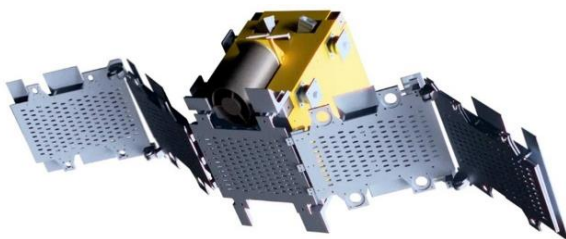
64. Mission ShakthiSAT 2026: India's All-Girls Lunar Satellite Initiative

Mission ShakthiSAT 2026 is a global space-education initiative led by Dr. Srimathy Kesan, Founder and CEO of Space Kidz India, aimed at providing young girls with exposure to satellite technology, space science, STEM education and lunar exploration. Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the initiative in the 137th episode of *Mann Ki Baat* on 30 August 2026.



The programme seeks to connect 12,000 girls from 108 countries through online learning, technical training and international collaboration. Selected participants will receive opportunities to learn about satellite technology, space science and innovation, with the broader objective of encouraging and preparing young girls to participate in future space-exploration and technology missions. The initiative is particularly significant for promoting girls' participation in STEM and the space sector.

65. GalaxEye Secures US Patent for OptoSAR Technology



In September 2026, Bengaluru-based space-tech startup GalaxEye became the first Indian startup to secure a US patent for satellite imaging technology, covering its OptoSAR (Optical Synthetic Aperture Radar) system. OptoSAR combines optical and Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) sensors to enable

coordinated satellite imaging, addressing the spatial and temporal differences between the two types of data. The patent covers the system architecture that integrates optical and radar data, representing a significant development in India's private space sector and satellite-imaging capabilities. GalaxEye was established in 2021 and is headquartered in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

66. ISRO Launches EOS-05: India's First Imaging Satellite in Geosynchronous Orbit



The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched EOS-05, an advanced Earth Observation Satellite, aboard the GSLV Mk II F17 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. Weighing around 2,367 kg, EOS-05 was placed in a geosynchronous orbit at approximately 36,000 km altitude, making it India's first dedicated imaging satellite operating in this type of orbit. The satellite is equipped with multi-spectral

and hyperspectral imaging capabilities, enabling near-continuous observation of the Indian landmass. Its applications include weather and cloud monitoring, cyclone and flood assessment, crop and agricultural monitoring, earth-resource management, and strategic and border surveillance. EOS-05 can capture selected field images approximately every 5 minutes and cover the country in about 30 minutes, with an expected mission life of around 7 years. The mission also highlights growing private-sector participation in India's space programme, with hundreds of Indian industries contributing components and systems. Ananth Technologies Pvt. Ltd. supplied avionics, electronics and spacecraft subsystems, while IN-SPACE continues to support private participation through technology transfer, infrastructure access and financial support.

67. Bodhan AI Launches Multilingual AI Models for Education

In September 2026, Bodhan AI, the AI-for-Education Centre of Excellence at IIT Madras, launched four foundational multilingual AI models as part of the Digital Public Goods initiative under AI4Bharat. The four models focus on Speech Recognition, Text-to-Speech (TTS), Machine Translation (MT) and Optical Character Recognition (OCR), with the aim of improving access to AI-powered educational content



across Indian languages. The Speech Recognition model supports 27 languages, while OCR and TTS support 23 languages each, and the Machine Translation model covers 22 languages. The initiative is intended to strengthen multilingual digital education and make educational technology more accessible to India's linguistically diverse population.

68. JUNPUT – New DRDO Weapon and Missile Testing Range

The Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) is building a second weapon and missile testing facility in Junput, a coastal village on the Bay of Bengal in West Bengal's Purba Medinipur district. The project has now been approved by the West Bengal government.

Why is Junput in news?

- Location: Junput, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal
- Organisation: DRDO
- Purpose: Testing of weapons, missiles and radar systems
- It will function as an additional/extension facility to the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha.
- Junput is about 70 km from Chandipur along the Bay of Bengal.
- The facility is expected to reduce the workload on Chandipur and increase India's missile-testing capacity.
- The proposed site covers about 8.73 acres.
- The project was proposed by DRDO in 2024 and has now moved forward after state-level approval.

69. ELIAS 2-24b – Youngest known Exoplanet

Elias 2-24 b, which is thought to be younger than a million years old, has been verified by astronomers as the youngest known exoplanet. This Jupiter-mass planet, which is 450 light-years away from Earth, is still forming inside the gas and dust disk that surrounds its young host star. Combining observations from the W. M. Keck Observatory, ALMA, and the Very Large Telescope (VLT) of the European Southern Observatory allowed for the planet's confirmation.

Its discovery is important because it provides scientists with a unique chance to study a massive planet while it is still actively accumulating material and expanding, which will aid in their understanding of the formation of planetary systems, including our own Solar System.



8. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS

70. ADC to President



The acronym for Aide-de-Camp is ADC. A military officer designated to support the President of India in official, ceremonial, and protocol-related tasks is known as an Aide-de-Camp.

The Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force all have ADCs. During significant official events, ceremonies, state visits, and military operations, they go with the President.

WHY IN NEWS

The ADC (Aide-de-Camp) to the President is in the news primarily because, in September 2026, Major Navya Shekhawat was appointed as President Droupadi Murmu's first female Indian Army officer. She is the second woman in total to serve as the President's ADC; the first was Indian Navy Lieutenant Commander Yashasvi Solanki, who was appointed in 2025. After former ADC Major Rishabh Singh Sambyal publicly discussed his roughly three-year tenure with President Murmu and the duties and demands of the position in September 2026, the issue also attracted attention.

9. SPORTS NEWS

71. FIH Hockey World Cup 2026

Why in News?

The 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup was held from 15–30 August 2026 across Wavre in Belgium and Amsterdam in the Netherlands. The tournament was the 16th edition of both the men's and women's Hockey World Cups and was jointly hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands. Germany successfully defended the men's title by defeating Spain 1–0, securing a record-equalling fourth crown, while Argentina won the women's title after defeating the Netherlands in a shootout.



Key Points

- **Men's Champion:** Germany
- **Women's Champion:** Argentina
- **Teams:** 16 men's and 16 women's teams.
- **Format:** Four pools (A–D), followed by crossover playoffs.
- **Significance:** It was only the third time in FIH history that the men's and women's World Cups were fully integrated into a single co-hosted event.

72. Keyaa Banerji Wins Silver at IPF World Championships

Indian powerlifting athlete Keyaa Banerji won a silver medal in the Junior 47 kg category at the International Powerlifting Federation (IPF) World Championships. Her standout performance came in the deadlift, where she successfully lifted 140 kg, securing the junior silver medal against competitors from around the world.



73. Phiball: IIT Madras Introduces a New Three-Team Sport



IIT Madras introduced Phiball, a new basketball-like three-team invasion sport, on 28 August 2026, coinciding with National Sports Day. Unlike conventional basketball, which involves two teams, Phiball features three teams playing simultaneously, adding a new tactical dimension to the game.

74. India Finishes 4th at Pickleball World Cup 2026

India finished 4th at the Pickleball World Cup 2026 held in Da Nang, Vietnam, winning a total of 41 medals — 7 gold, 17 silver and 17 bronze among 82 participating nations. The tournament was the 4th edition of the Pickleball World Cup, held from 30 August to 6 September 2026 under the World Pickleball Federation (WPF). India showed significant progress, improving from 7th position in the previous edition to 4th in 2026. Vietnam topped the standings, followed by South Korea and the USA. Among Indian performers, Bhushan Akut won three gold medals in the 60+ category, while Purvansh Patel, Favouruz Zaidi and Vivek Reddy also secured gold medals. India's Kids team, led by Veer Shah, won a silver medal, with Shah also receiving the Best Captain award.



75. Satwik–Chirag Win China Masters 2026



Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty created history by becoming the first Indian men's doubles pair to win the China Masters, defeating China's He Jiting and Ren Xiangyu in the final in Shenzhen. The Indian pair won the final 11–21, 21–13, 21–17 at the 19th China Masters, held from 1–6 September 2026. This was their maiden China Masters title, after finishing as runners-up in 2023 and 2025. The victory adds to their major achievements, including gold medals at the 2022 Asian Games and Commonwealth Games, as well as the 2023 Badminton Asia Championships title. They

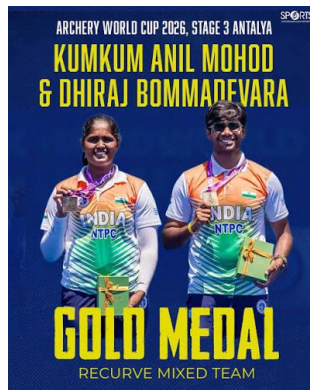
also became the first Indian men's doubles pair to reach World No. 1, achieving the feat in 2023. Both players have been honoured with the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.

76. Archery World Cup 2026

The 20th iteration of World Archery's yearly international archery circuit is the 2026 Hyundai Archery World Cup. The World Cup Final took place in Saltillo, Mexico, on September 12–13, 2026, after four stages in Puebla, Mexico; Shanghai, China; Antalya, Turkey; and Madrid, Spain.

Dhiraj Bommadevara created history by winning the men's recurve title at the 2026 World Cup Final in Saltillo. He became only the second Indian World Cup champion, after Dola Banerjee, who won the women's recurve title in 2007.

Bommadevara defeated Japan's Junya Nakanishi in the final after fighting back from a 5–3 deficit, winning the deciding shoot-off.



77. Women's ASIA Cup 2026



The T20 format of the ACC Women's Asia Cup 2026 took place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from August 28 to September 13, 2026.

At the Dubai International Stadium, India defeated Sri Lanka by 72 runs to win the tournament. Sri Lanka was bowled out for 111, while India scored 183/5.

78. India wins 8th women's T20 Asia cup 2026

On September 13, 2026, at the Dubai International Stadium, the Indian women's cricket team defeated Sri Lanka by 72 runs to win the 2026 Women's T20 Asia Cup. Shafali Verma (68) and Smriti Mandhana (59) helped India reach 183/5 before limiting Sri Lanka to 111 all out.

With this triumph, India concluded an undefeated tournament campaign and won its record-extending eighth Women's Asia Cup title. In the final, Sree Charani scored 4/20 and Deepti Sharma scored 3/19, while Shafali Verma was named both Player of the Match and Player of the Series.

79. World Athletics Championships 2029

On September 15, 2026, the World Athletics Council announced that Nairobi, Kenya, would host the 2029 World Athletics Championships. This will be the first edition. Africa will be the first world athletics.

Nairobi has a long history of hosting important international competitions, such as the World U18 Championships in 2017 and the World U20 Championships in 2021. Renovated Kasarani Stadium will serve as a major venue for the championships, which are anticipated to build on Kenya's solid athletic reputation.

80. AHF JUNIOR ASIA CUP 2026

The Indian junior teams won both the men's and women's titles in the AHF Junior Asia Cup 2026, which was held in Moqi, China. This historic double victory made the event noteworthy for India. The Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) organized the competition, which also functioned as a means of qualifying for the 2027 FIH Junior Hockey World Cup.

In the men's final, India defeated South Korea 4–1 to win the Men's Junior Asia Cup for a record sixth time. With 17 goals, captain Anmol Ekka was the tournament's top scorer and one of the key performers.

Sanika Chandrakant Mane scored the game-winning goal in the 17th minute as India defeated hosts China 1-0 in the women's final. As a result, India won the Women's Junior Asia Cup for the third time in a row and qualified for the 2027 FIH Junior Women's World Cup.

81. US OPEN 2026

The last Grand Slam tennis competition of the year, the US Open, took place in Flushing Meadows, New York, from August 30 to September 13, 2026. New champions in the men's and women's singles events made headlines.

After winning the French Open, German Alexander Zverev defeated American Ben Shelton 6-3, 7-6(2), 5-7, 6-2 in the men's singles to win his first US Open title and second Grand Slam of 2026. He only became the second US US US US US US US US US US Open.

In the women's singles, Elena Rybakina defeated defending champion Aryna Sabalenka 6–4, 5–7, 6–2 to claim her first US Open title and third Grand Slam title. Rybakina's victory also propelled her to the top spot in the world rankings.

82. Chess Olympiad 2026: India Wins Silver Medal in Samarkand



India managed to grab the silver medal in the 2026 Chess Olympiad held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan after the match draw against Hungary in round eleven (which was the last round) of the championship on 27 September. India concluded its campaign in the Chess Olympiad with 18 match points and 28.5 game points which was the same as Germany but managed to beat the latter on tiebreaks.

Uzbekistan emerged victorious to claim the gold medal with 20 match points whereas Germany bagged the bronze medal.

Final Round: India Draws 2-2 with Hungary

India had a possibility of winning the gold medal in the finals of the 2026 Chess Olympiad if they win the match against Hungary and the match result of Uzbekistan vs Ukraine is favorable for them.

India finally drew 2-2 with Hungary where D Gukesh lost to Gleb Dudin, Arjun Erigaisi defeated Peter Leko, and the other two boards resulted in draws: R Praggnanandhaa drew with Richard Rapport and Nihal Sarin drew with Benjamin Gledura.

Arjun's win was extremely important in winning the silver medal as Gukesh lost the match.

83. Bodhana Sivanandan Becomes Youngest Woman Grandmaster at 11

Indian-origin British chess prodigy Bodhana Sivanandan, 11, became the youngest Woman Grandmaster after securing her third and final WGM norm at the 2026 Chess Olympiad. She attained her third and last WGM norm at the 46th Chess Olympiad of FIDE in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. FIDE announced this remarkable feat while the tournament was taking place. Bodhana represented England on the No. 1 Board and scored 8 out of 11 in the Chess Olympiad. Bodhana has another IM norm from the tournament in Samarkand as well. An IM title is an open title, which means it is open to both men and women. For the IM title under the title norms set by FIDE, a player needs to have three IM norms and also a rating of 2400 and above. Thus, with this norm, Bodhana will be able to go ahead towards the more prestigious open International Master title while achieving the title of WGM as well. Previously, FIDE had mentioned Bodhana as one of the rising talents to look out for at the 2026 Olympics. This was in its rating list for April, where it had also recognized her rapid increase in ratings.



10. IMPORTANT DAYS

84. National Sports Day 2026

Why in News?

National Sports Day (Rashtriya Khel Diwas) is observed annually on 29 August to commemorate the birth anniversary of legendary hockey player Major Dhyan Chand, known as the "Wizard of Hockey." The day was officially declared National Sports Day in 2012, with the first observance held on 29 August 2012.



The 2026 celebration marked his 121st birth anniversary and was led by Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi. The theme, “Ek Ghanta Khel Ke Maidan Mein” (One Hour on the Playground), encouraged citizens to devote at least one hour to sports and physical activity, promoting sports participation, physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle.

85. National Small Industry Day 2026



Why in News?

National Small Industry Day (NSID) is observed annually on 30 August to recognise the contribution of Small-Scale Industries (SSIs) and MSMEs to India's economic growth, employment generation and inclusive development. The day commemorates the comprehensive policy package for SSIs announced by then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on 30 August 2000 at the 1st National Conference on SSI. The Government subsequently designated 30

August as National Small Industry Day, with the first observance held in 2001. The day highlights the importance of small industries in strengthening entrepreneurship, creating jobs and promoting balanced economic development. Related: The UN observes MSME Day on 27 June every year.

86. IPPB Foundation Day 2026

Why in News?

On 1 September 2026, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) celebrated its 9th Foundation Day by launching the DakPay Sound Box, a Digital Insurance Technology Platform and a Digital Mutual Fund Platform. These initiatives aim to expand convenient digital financial services, particularly for rural and underserved customers.

Key Highlights

- **DakPay Sound Box:** Designed to simplify and strengthen digital payment acceptance for merchants.
- **Digital Insurance Platform:** Connects customers with life, health and general insurance solutions.
- **Digital Mutual Fund Platform:** Provides a simple and seamless digital investment experience.
- **Customer Base:** As of 31 March 2026, IPPB had 13.25 crore customers, with 77% from rural areas and 49% women.
- **Deposits:** Customer deposits stood at ₹29,104 crore as of 31 March 2026.
- **Ministry:** IPPB operates under the Department of Posts (DoP), Ministry of Communications.

87. National Nutrition Week (NNW)



Why in News?

National Nutrition Week (NNW) is observed annually from 1–7 September in India to promote awareness about balanced diets, healthy eating habits and proper nutrition. The observance was introduced internationally in 1975 by the American Dietetic Association, now known as the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, and India began observing it in 1982 under the Food and Nutrition Board (FNB). The first Indian observance was held from 1–7 September 1982. The initiative focuses on improving public understanding of nutrition and encouraging healthier dietary practices to address nutritional deficiencies and promote overall well-being. In India, nutrition-related programmes are led by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), with the FNB having earlier served as its technical wing for community nutrition programmes.

88. National Teachers' Day 2026 – September 5

National Teachers' Day was observed across India on 5 September 2026, with President Droupadi Murmu conferring the National Teachers' Awards on outstanding educators. The day is celebrated annually on 5 September, the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, India's first Vice-President and second President. The tradition began in 1962, when Radhakrishnan suggested that his birthday be observed as Teachers' Day instead of being celebrated personally, and India observed its first Teachers' Day on 5 September 1962. In 2026, National Teachers' Awards were presented to 48 school teachers, while 21 teachers/faculty members from Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and polytechnics were also recognised. The awards aim to acknowledge teachers' contributions to education, mentoring, character-building and social development.

89. International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies 2026 – September 7

The International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies was observed on 7 September 2026 with the theme "Clean Air for Climate Action." The day is observed annually to highlight air pollution as a major environmental and public-health risk and to promote international cooperation for cleaner air. It was designated by the UN General Assembly through Resolution 74/212 on 19 December 2019, with the first observance held in 2020. In the Asia-Pacific region, UNESCAP hosted an event on 7 September 2026 at the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand. In India, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) observed the occasion as Swachh Vayu Diwas 2026, focusing on efforts to improve air quality and reduce air pollution.

90. International Day for the preservation of ozone layer

Date: September 16 of each year
Also known as: World Ozone Day

In order to increase awareness about safeguarding the ozone layer from dangerous substances that deplete it, September 16 is designated as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer. The Montreal Protocol, a significant international agreement to phase out substances like CFCs that harm the ozone layer, was signed on this date in 1987. In 1994, the day was declared by the UN.

Theme for 2026

"Global action for a cooler planet" refers to the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, which calls for ten years of sustainable cooling.

Why is it significant?

Earth is shielded from damaging UV radiation by the ozone layer.

UV radiation exposure rises with ozone depletion.

Countries have reduced ozone-depleting substances thanks to the Montreal Protocol.

Reducing HFCs, potent greenhouse gasses used in refrigeration and cooling, is the main goal of the Kigali Amendment (2016).

91. ELIAS 2-24b – YOUNGEST KNOWN EXOPLANET

Elias 2-24 b, which is thought to be younger than a million years old, has been verified by astronomers as the youngest known exoplanet. This Jupiter-mass planet, which is 450 light-years away from Earth, is still forming inside the gas and dust disk that surrounds its young host star. Combining observations from the W. M. Keck Observatory, ALMA, and the Very Large Telescope (VLT) of the European Southern Observatory allowed for the planet's confirmation.

Its discovery is important because it provides scientists with a unique chance to study a massive planet while it is still actively accumulating material and expanding, which will aid in their understanding of the formation of planetary systems, including our own Solar System.

92. RBI Grants Payment Aggregator Licence to Pluxee INDIA

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given Pluxee India permission to function as a Payment Aggregator (PA) for both online and physical point-of-sale (POS) payments. Pluxee can now directly onboard merchants and handle tasks like payment collection, settlement, and refunds thanks to the approval. Pluxee's regulated payments business now extends beyond its current prepaid payment instrument (PPI) operations thanks to the new licence.

Known for employee-benefit solutions like meal and multi-benefit cards, Pluxee, formerly known as Sodexo SVC India, has been in business in India since 1997. More than five million merchants are reportedly covered by its RuPay-based network.

93. Axis Bank Sparsh Week 2026

In September 2026, Axis Bank made headlines when it launched Sparsh Week, its flagship national customer engagement program, which took place from September 7–11. This year's Sparsh Week theme was "Act with Speed," emphasizing the importance of listening to consumers and turning their input into quicker decisions and improved banking experiences.

Axis Bank sought to engage over 2.5 lakh customers during the initiative, with over 90 senior executives interacting with clients nationwide. Additionally, a fully digital auto and two-wheeler loan process was implemented, enabling qualified clients to receive loan disbursement in approximately half an hour.

94. World Suicide Prevention Day 2026

Why in News?

World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD) was observed on 10 September 2026 to raise awareness about suicide prevention, reduce stigma surrounding suicide and mental health, and strengthen prevention efforts globally.



The day is observed annually on 10 September. The theme for the 2024–2026 triennium is “Changing the Narrative on Suicide”, accompanied by the call to action “Start the Conversation.” The theme emphasises encouraging open conversations around suicide and creating supportive environments where people can seek help without fear of stigma.

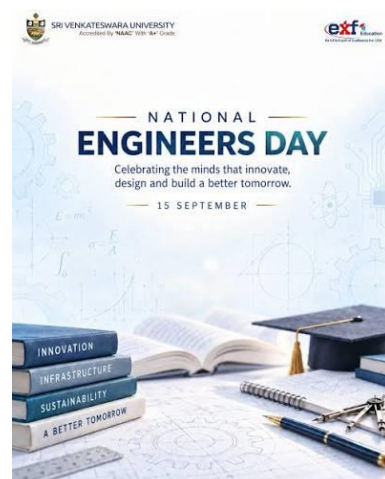
World Suicide Prevention Day was established in 2003 by the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO). Its first observance was held on 10 September 2003 in Stockholm, Sweden. The day seeks to promote awareness, encourage timely intervention and strengthen collective efforts towards suicide prevention.

95. National Engineers' Day 2026

Why in News?

India observed National Engineers' Day on 15 September 2026 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, one of India's most renowned engineers and nation-builders.

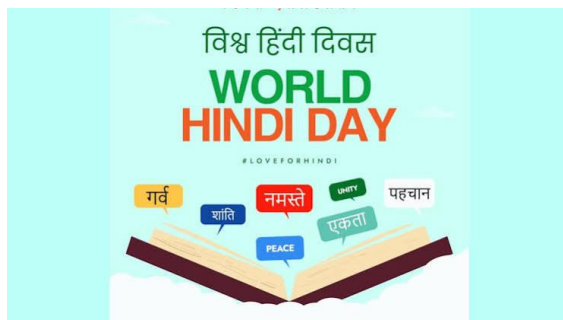
National Engineers' Day is observed annually on 15 September in recognition of Visvesvaraya's contributions to engineering, infrastructure development, education and nation-building. The Government of India designated 15 September as National



Engineers' Day in 1968, with the first observance held in the same year.

The day highlights the contribution of engineers to national development, technological advancement and infrastructure creation. Sir M. Visvesvaraya is particularly remembered for his pioneering work in irrigation, water management and engineering projects, as well as his role in promoting industrial and economic development in India.

96. Hindi Diwas 2026



Why in News?

Hindi Diwas was observed on 14 September 2026, marking the anniversary of the Constituent Assembly's decision on 14 September 1949 to adopt Hindi in the Devanagari script as the official language of the Union.

Hindi Diwas is observed annually on 14 September. The day commemorates the historic decision taken in 1949 and aims to promote the use and development of Hindi in public life and official communication. The annual observance was initiated in 1953.

The day is also associated with Beohar Rajendra Simha, whose birth anniversary falls on 14 September and who played an important role in promoting Hindi. In 2026, Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressed the inaugural session of Hindi Diwas 2026 and the 6th All India Official Language Conference in Mumbai, highlighting the continued importance of Indian languages and official-language initiatives.

97. World Heart Day 2026

World Heart Day 2026 is observed on 29 September with the theme "Don't Miss a Beat". Know its history, significance, cardiovascular disease risk factors and lifestyle measures for better heart health. The campaign stresses the need for people to concentrate on preventing CVD, detecting it in its early stages and leading a healthy life. The WHO has continuously identified tobacco usage, poor diets, physical inactivity, hypertension and other risk factors as significant contributors to cardiovascular diseases.

History of World Heart Day

World Heart Day has evolved into a global campaign aimed at increasing awareness about cardiovascular diseases and is coordinated by the WHF with WHO's assistance. It is marked annually on 29 September and has now become an international forum for promoting awareness about CVDs. Through various campaigns on World Heart Day, WHO has highlighted many issues like physical inactivity, tobacco usage, unhealthy diets, excessive salt intake and cardiovascular health among diverse populations. Observing World Heart Day also helps to complement other public health initiatives to reduce mortality due to NCDs and increase CVD prevention and management.

98. International Translation Day 2026



International Translation Day is observed on 30 September to recognise language professionals and their role in promoting dialogue, cultural understanding and international cooperation. International Translation Day was declared officially by the United Nations General Assembly in the form of Resolution 71/288 in 2017. The date is linked with the feast of Saint Jerome, who is recognized as the patron saint of translators. It celebrates the contribution of language professionals to dialogue, understanding, cooperation, development, peace and security. Translation is more than just translating a word from one language into another. A professional translator needs to convey the message and its context in another language.

11. GOVT. SCHEMES

99. Mission Rangeen Machhli 2031



Why in News?

In September 2026, Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan released 'Mission Rangeen Machhli 2031', a Strategic Action Plan for the development of ornamental fisheries, at Agatti, Lakshadweep. Ornamental fisheries involve the breeding, rearing, culture and

trade of colourful and attractive fish and aquatic organisms kept mainly in aquariums and garden ponds for aesthetic purposes rather than food. The sector has significant potential for employment generation and livelihood diversification, particularly for rural communities and women's self-help groups through small-scale backyard breeding units. Ornamental fish also have high profit margins compared to food fish, while their export can contribute to foreign exchange earnings and international trade.

100. Integrated Fertilizer Management System (iFMS)

Why in News?

The Department of Fertilizers has expanded the Integrated Fertilizer Management System (iFMS) by integrating it with state land records, Meri Fasal Mera Byora (MFMB) and AgriStack. The integration aims to make fertilizer distribution more data-driven, transparent and targeted, while improving monitoring from the point of supply to the final farmer.

What is iFMS?

The Integrated Fertilizer Management System (iFMS) is a national end-to-end digital platform that monitors the fertilizer supply chain, covering production and imports, transportation, retail sale and settlement of DBT subsidies. It is implemented by the Department of Fertilizers under the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.



Major Features

- **Digital Integration:** iFMS links AgriStack, land records and farmer databases to verify farmers' landholdings, crops and fertilizer requirements.
- **Fertilizer Sale:** Under the Framework for Fertilizer Sale (FFS), farmers can pre-book fertilizers through a mobile application using a dynamic QR code linked with verified land allocations.
- **Real-Time Tracking:** The Vehicle Location Tracking System (VLTS) uses GPS telemetry to monitor fertilizer movement and help detect diversion, delays and possible black-marketing.
- **Paperless Subsidy Management:** Integration with PoS systems, biometrics, GPS, PFMS and e-Bill supports digital transactions and more efficient settlement of fertilizer subsidies.

The expanded iFMS is intended to ensure that subsidised fertilizers reach genuine farmers in the required quantity and at the appropriate time. By connecting fertilizer demand with verified agricultural data and tracking movement through the supply chain, the system can help curb diversion and leakages, improve subsidy management and promote balanced fertilizer use and long-term soil health.

101.UIDAI Launches Five New Aadhaar Initiatives at Aadhaar Samvaad Kolkata

Aadhaar Samvaad was held by UIDAI in Kolkata on 29 September 2026, in conjunction with the celebration of the 17th Aadhaar Day. There were over 600 participants, which included policymakers, technocrats, industry experts and professionals, at the stakeholder event. Guest of honour for the event was Minister of State for Commerce and Industry and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Jitin Prasada. UIDAI launched five initiatives that would ensure convenience, authentication, security and good governance to residents, including Face Authentication for ePDS, SWIK Portal 2.0 and a new Sub-AUA/Sub-KUA scheme.

5 New Initiatives by UIDAI

The initiatives announced at Aadhaar Samvaad, Kolkata, touch upon various aspects of the Aadhaar ecosystem relating to authentication and delivery of services.

Initiative and It's Primary Objective

- **Face Authentication for ePDS:** Additional mode of contactless authentication for beneficiaries
- **SWIK Portal 2.0:** Faster approval for permissible usage of Aadhaar authentication
- **Sub-AUA/Sub-KUA (LITE):** Approach Makes it easier for qualified entities with lower volume needs to join
- **Token Management System:** Makes it easier to access UIDAI's services
- **New UIDAI Website:** Better access to services and information

All these initiatives together aim at expanding the scope of Aadhaar usage while ensuring its security and privacy.

Face Authentication for e-Public Distribution System

UIDAI, the Department of Food & Public Distribution (DFPD) and NIC together launched the Face Authentication for Electronic Public Distribution System (ePDS).

This consent-based and touchless authentication system allows beneficiaries another form of authentication especially when fingerprint authentication is not feasible. States and UTs can adopt this Face Authentication for their respective ePDS.

UIDAI's authentication eco-system facilitates biometric, demographic and OTP based authentication via authorised requesting entities.

SWIK Portal 2.0 and Aadhaar Good Governance

UIDAI has introduced the SWIK Portal 2.0 as a facility to process proposals that are required to be approved for Aadhaar authentication under the Aadhaar Authentication for Good Governance (Social Welfare, Innovation, Knowledge) Rules, 2020.

Non-Government eligible entities can file their proposals for permitted use cases via the portal to the concerned Ministry or Department as per the guidelines of the framework. The Aadhaar Authentication for Good Governance Rules are maintained by UIDAI.

Sub-AUA/Sub-KUA (LITE) Framework

The Sub-AUA/Sub-KUA (LITE) Framework has been created for Government as well as eligible non-Government entities which have lower volumes of Aadhaar authentication requirement.

As per the framework, the eligible entity will be able to make use of the authentication infrastructure of another existing AUA/KUA and hence there will be no requirement to create a separate infrastructure for the same.

The UIDAI authentication ecosystem considers Sub-AUAs and Sub-KUAs as entities who provide Aadhaar authentication or e-KYC services through an existing AUA/KUA.

12. ENVIRONMENT

102. Gangaichthys indonepalicus

Why in News?

In August 2026, scientists from institutions including the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and Thackeray Wildlife Foundation reported *Gangaichthys indonepalicus*, a newly recorded subterranean fish species from West Champaran, Bihar, near the Nepal border. It is significant because it



represents the first recorded subterranean fish from the Gangetic Basin and the Indo-Gangetic Plain.

About the Species:

Gangaichthys indonepalicus is an underground, eel-like fish adapted to life in subterranean environments. Its discovery expands our understanding of the largely unexplored aquatic biodiversity beneath the Gangetic and Indo-Gangetic regions. Such subterranean species are particularly important for biodiversity studies because they often possess specialised adaptations to survive in dark, low-light underground habitats.

Why is the discovery important?

- First record: First subterranean fish documented from the Gangetic Basin and Indo-Gangetic Plain.
- Location: West Champaran, Bihar, close to the Nepal border.
- Scientific significance: Highlights the presence of poorly explored subterranean aquatic ecosystems in northern India.
- Biodiversity: Adds to India's known freshwater fish diversity and underlines the need to study and conserve underground aquatic habitats.

103. India's Cheetah Population



In India, cheetahs went extinct in 1952.

On September 17, 2022, Project Cheetah was introduced in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park.

Eight Namibian cheetahs made up the first batch in 2022.

Twelve from South Africa made up the second batch in 2023.

Nine from Botswana made up the third batch in February 2026.

By March 2026, the population had grown to 53, including 33

cheetahs born in India.

Significant milestone: In April 2026, a female cheetah born in India gave birth to four cubs in the wild at Kuno, making it the first time this has happened.

Principal habitats: Madhya Pradesh's Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary and Kuno National Park.

Future locations: Banni Grasslands (Gujarat) and Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary (MP) have been designated for growth.

Long-term objective: Create a self-sufficient cheetah metapopulation in several appropriate environments.

104. India's Transition to a Sustainable Future: Using Renewable Energy

India is rapidly moving toward renewable energy as it works to combat climate change, lower pollution, and improve energy security. In India's energy mix, solar, wind, hydropower, and bioenergy are becoming more and more significant. Solar energy accounted for the majority of India's 300.50 GW of installed non-fossil fuel capacity by July 2026. By 2030, India wants to have 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity.

Making the switch to clean energy can lessen reliance on coal and other fossil fuels, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and open up new avenues for sustainable economic growth and green jobs. But there are issues that must be resolved, including energy storage, grid stability, land availability, and investment. Renewable energy has the potential to significantly contribute to the construction of a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable future for India with sustained technological advancement and policy support.



105. New Cat Species: Leopardus Tilcayo



Leopardus tilcayo, a new species of wild cat found in Bolivia's Yungas cloud forests, has been officially identified. It is a member of the South American tiger-cat group and is commonly known as the Tilcayo. Through genetic analysis, which revealed that its lineage split off from other tiger cats approximately 1.4 million years ago, scientists were able to confirm it as a unique species.

Since it is thought to be the first new living cat species to be officially described in over a century, the discovery is especially noteworthy. The animal has spotted, leopard-like markings and is extremely small, measuring only 46 cm in length and 1.4 kg in weight. Conservation is crucial because deforestation, mining, fires, and agriculture are endangering its habitat in the Yungas.

106. Bharat van green initiative

When the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) started a new urban forest project in Lodhi Colony, New Delhi, in September 2026, Bharat Van made headlines. Using the Miyawaki technique, the project intends to create a dense green area with about 10,000 native plants on an acre of land. Infrastructure Infrastructure Infrastructure Company Ltd.



The project aims to promote biodiversity, enhance air quality, expand urban green space, and make public areas healthier. Native fruit-bearing and shade-giving species that are appropriate for Delhi's climate can be found on the plantation. In order to create dense vegetation in a comparatively small area, the Miyawaki technique entails planting native species closely together.

107. GUCHHI Mushroom

The Guchhi mushroom, also called the Morel mushroom, is a highly valued wild edible mushroom that is primarily found in India's Himalayan region. Morchella spp. is its

scientific name. It is especially connected to Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir.

Guchhi mushrooms are well-known for their rich flavor, distinctive honeycomb-like appearance, and high market value. They are hard to grow commercially, which adds to their high cost. They typically grow naturally in forests and mountainous regions. Local communities gather them, and they are regarded as a significant non-timber forest product (NTFP).



13. AWARDS

108. Ramon Magsaysay Award 2026



Why in News?

On the 119th birth anniversary of Ramon Magsaysay, the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF) announced the 68th batch of Ramon Magsaysay Award laureates for 2026. The award is one of Asia's most prestigious recognitions and honours individuals and organisations that demonstrate outstanding leadership, courage, integrity and selfless service in addressing major

social challenges.

The award was established in 1957 in memory of Ramon Magsaysay, the 7th President of the Philippines, who died in a plane crash in the same year. It was created by the trustees of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF) with the concurrence of the Philippine government. Often described as "Asia's Nobel Prize," the award recognises impactful contributions to public service and community development across Asia. Since 2009, the award has largely moved away from fixed categories, allowing the Foundation to recognise diverse forms of social leadership.

2026 Ramon Magsaysay Awardees

Tommy Koh – Singapore: Renowned diplomat and international law expert, recognised for his contribution to diplomacy and international law, including his important role in the negotiations leading to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

109. Miss World 2026: Joherry Mola Crowned

Joherry Mola of the Dominican Republic was crowned Miss World 2026 in Vietnam. Elisabeth Reynés of Spain finished as the 1st Runner-up, while Malaysia's Taunisa Cherty was the 2nd Runner-up. India's Nikita Porwal reached the Top 40 but did not advance to the Top 20.



Key Facts:

- **Winner:** Joherry Mola — Dominican Republic
- **1st Runner-up:** Elisabeth Reynés — Spain
- **2nd Runner-up:** Taunisa Cherty — Malaysia
- **India:** Nikita Porwal — Top 40
- **New Participants:** French Guiana, Eritrea, Mozambique, Pakistan and Maldives
- **Next Edition:** The 74th Miss World is scheduled to be held in Tanzania, East Africa.

110. Karim Maredia Wins 2026 Borlaug CAST Communication Award

The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) has named Dr. Karim Maredia, an Indian-American agricultural scientist, as the recipient of the 2026 Borlaug CAST Communication Award. The award recognises his outstanding contributions to agricultural science and technology, particularly in communicating agricultural research and knowledge. Maredia is an Associate Dean and Director of the World Agriculture Center at Michigan State University (MSU) and has spent over 30 years at MSU. During his career, he established WorldTAP, trained more than 15,000 professionals from 80 countries, hosted around 250 visiting scholars, authored 130 publications, and secured more than US\$55 million in competitive research grants. The award was renamed in 2010 in honour of Nobel Laureate Norman Borlaug and Charles A. Black, CAST's first president. Maredia is scheduled to receive the award on 10 December 2026.

111. SANSAD RATNA Awards 2026**WHAT ARE THE SANSAD RATNA AWARDS?**

- The 16th Sansad Ratna Awards were presented in New Delhi by the Prime Point Foundation
- Inspired by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the awards celebrate outstanding parliamentary performance



The Sansad Ratna Awards honor exceptional work by Parliamentary Standing Committees and Members of Parliament. Parliamentary work, including debates, questions, private members' bills, and committee performance, is the basis for the awards. The award was established in 2010 and was influenced by former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. On September 9, 2026, the 16th Sansad Ratna Awards were given out in New Delhi. Four Parliamentary Standing Committees and twelve Members of Parliament were chosen this year.

Charanjit Singh Channi, the Lok Sabha MP from Jalandhar (R), is a significant Punjabi highlight. He was honored for the exceptional work of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Food Processing, which he chairs.

112. IOA Announces Memorial Awards

In September 2026, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) made headlines when its president, P. T. Usha, unveiled two new memorial trophies to honor the contributions of Jaspal Rana and Raja Randhir Singh to Indian sports. The announcement was made during the launch of the book *Maverick Jaspal – The Man Who Changed Indian Shooting* in New Delhi.



Two Memorial Trophies

1. Raja Randhir Singh Memorial Trophy

Awarded to the best Indian male athlete at the Asian Games.

Olympian Singh Singh Singh Singh Randhir Randhir Randhir Randhir Randhir Randhir Randhir Randhir Randhir Randhir Randhirand.

He was President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) after serving as IOA Secretary-General from 1987 to 2012.

At the age of 79, he died in May 2026.

2. The Jaspal Rana Memorial Award

Awarded to the best Indian female athlete at the Asian Games.

named for Jaspal Rana, a well-known Indian coach and pistol shooter.

After winning numerous medals at the Asian and Commonwealth Games, Rana went on to coach Manu Bhaker, who went on to win two medals at the Olympics in Paris.

At the age of 49, he died in June 2026.

What makes it significant?

These trophies will be given out starting with the 2026 Asian Games, honoring two significant figures in Indian history and establishing a long-lasting recognition of exceptional performances by Indian athletes.

113. Lalit Kala Akademi Awards 2026: 20 Artists Honoured at 65th National Exhibition



The Lalit Kala Akademi, which is the National Academy of Fine Arts of India, has announced 20 Lalit Kala Akademi Awards at the 65th National Exhibition of Art (NEA). Every year, this exhibition features the best in visual arts from around the country. In total, there were 6,175 artworks submitted by 2,495 artists from 27 States and Union Territories for the 2026 NEA. A First-Tier Jury panel selected 270 pieces of artwork to be displayed at the exhibition, while a Second-Tier Jury panel selected 20 artworks to receive the award.

20 Artists Awarded Lalit Kala Akademi Awards

The awards include various art forms such as paintings, sculptures, prints, drawings and others. The list also illustrates the range of mediums employed by Indian artists, which include terracotta, ceramics, teak wood, marble, copper, etching and canvases.

No.	Artist	Awarded Artwork	Medium	Category
1	Chandra Shekhar	Sain My Entire World – I	Terracotta	Sculpture

2	Gopal Chandra Naskar	The Tune of The Srimad Bhagavad Gita	Acrylic on Canvas	Painting
3	Kishor Kumar Narkhadiwala	Paryavaran	Oil on Canvas	Painting
4	Mrinal Dey	Hopeless Settlement	Acrylic on Canvas	Painting
5	Nidhi Chopra	Tangible Dreams	Ceramic	Sculpture
6	Nimai Singh	Sarungbam Mudra – I	Teak Wood	Sculpture
7	Pankaj Kumar Sharma	Haloed Traveler – II	Panel Works	Drawing
8	Pooja Rajpoot	Prakriti Shoshan	White Marble	Sculpture
9	Praveen Kumar	Where The Walls Remember	Mix Medium	Painting
10	Pritam Madhukar	Deuskar Of Time and The City	Etching	Printmaking
11	Rajendra Prasad	Sujata With Buddha	Water Color (Wash)	Painting
12	Ramesh Vithal	Thorat Untitled – II	Oil on Canvas	Painting
13	Raviram Ramakrishnan	Fisherwoman	Copper, Oxidised, Welded	Sculpture
14	Sanjay Kumar	When Memories Come Back – 7	Mix Media	Painting
15	Sanjay Kumar	Sahani Youth	Oil on Canvas	Painting
16	Sanjib Kumar Gogoi	Aakar Nirankar – II	Acrylic & Oil on Canvas	Painting
17	Santa Deb	Attraction of Simplicity	Ceramic	Sculpture
18	Siddharth Shahjirao Shingade	Trees	Mix Media	Painting

19	Usharanjan Mandal	Wheel of A Crowded City	Mix Media	Any Other Medium
20	Vijendra Sharma	Life 2025	Oil on Canvas	Painting

Key Numbers: 65th National Exhibition of Art

It is evident from the numbers involved that the exhibition is a truly national event.

From the total of 6,175 artworks submitted by 2,495 artists, First-Tier Jury has shortlisted 270 artworks for the exhibition. From those 270, the Second-Tier Jury has chosen 20 artworks for the awards.

This implies that the exhibition involved the artworks of 27 States/UTs in the country.

The exhibition also contributes to the development of the larger visual arts ecosystem through connecting the artists with audience, collectors and other cultural organizations.

114. National Film Awards 2026

President Droupadi Murmu presented the 72nd National Film Awards on September 22, 2026, in Ekta Nagar (Kevadia), Gujarat. The awards honored exceptional Indian films that were certified or released in 2024. This was noteworthy because it was the first time the ceremony was held outside of New Delhi, which reflected the government's decision to distribute the National Film Awards throughout the nation.

Best Feature Film: Article 370

Best Non-Feature Film: Bhangaar

Best Documentary: Ram-Nami

Best Actor: Mammooty (Bramayugam) and Kartik Aaryan (Chandu Champion)

Best Actress: Yami Gautam (Article 370)

Best Debut Director: Randeep Hooda (Swatantrya Veer Savarkar)

Dadasaheb Phalke Award (2024): Anant Nag



115. SANSAD Ratna Awards 2026

WHAT ARE THE SANSAD RATNA AWARDS?

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14. PERSONALITIES IN NEWS

116. King Haakon VIII



Why in News?

In August 2026, Crown Prince Haakon became the new monarch of Norway, taking the throne as King Haakon VIII after the death of his father, King Harald V.

Who is King Haakon VIII?

King Haakon VIII is the constitutional monarch of Norway and belongs to the Norwegian royal family. Before becoming king, he served as Crown Prince and represented Norway at various national and international events. His role as monarch is largely ceremonial and constitutional, while executive power rests with Norway's elected government.

117. King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru IV

Why in News?

In August 2026, King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru IV, the traditional king of Uganda's Tooro Kingdom, passed away in the USA at the age of 34.

About King Oyo:

- He became king in 1995 at just 3 years old, after succeeding his father, King Patrick Matthew Kaboyo Olimi III.
- He was among the world's youngest monarchs at the time of his accession.
- The Tooro Kingdom is a traditional kingdom in western Uganda, with its cultural centre at Fort Portal.
- As Uganda is a republic, the king's role is primarily cultural and traditional, rather than political.



118. Suman Ray



Why in News?

On 1 September 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointed Suman Ray as an Executive Director (ED) with immediate effect. Before his elevation, he served as Regional Director, Maharashtra, and also worked

as Secretary to the Western Area Local Board of the RBI. With over 30 years of experience, Ray has worked across key areas including currency management, financial inclusion, payment systems, consumer protection and human resources. As Executive Director, he will oversee the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) and the Premises Department. The appointment comes as part of the RBI's senior-level administrative structure and highlights the importance of experienced leadership in areas related to banking regulation, financial inclusion and deposit protection. The RBI, India's central bank, was established on 1 April 1935 under the RBI Act, 1934, and is headquartered in Mumbai.

119. Advocate Sneha- no caste, no religion Certificate



On February 5, 2019, M.A. Sneha, an advocate from Tirupattur, Tamil Nadu, made history by being granted an official "No Caste, No Religion" certificate. She started working toward the certificate in 2010 and had been pursuing it for roughly nine years. Additionally, the caste and religion columns in her birth and school records were blank.

Sneha wanted her official documents to reflect the identity she had grown up with, which is why she sought the certificate. The Tirupattur Tahsildar issued the certificate after reviewing her records and circumstances. According to media reports, she is the first woman in India to be given this kind of official recognition.

120. EKNATH SHINDE –MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY CM

Eknath Shinde, Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, received three international recognitions during his London visit in September 2026.

THREE AWARDS

Commonwealth Public Leadership Recognition

- Presented at the House of Lords, UK Parliament.
- Recognised his public leadership and governance initiatives.



Statesmanship Award for Transformative Leadership

- Presented at the House of Commons during International Conclave 2026.
- Recognised leadership and administrative initiatives.

Global Pride of Maharashtra Award

- Given by Maharashtra Mandal, London.
- Recognised his contribution to promoting Maharashtra/Marathi identity internationally.

Why in the news?

During his two-day visit to London in September 2026, he was awarded these three international honors and raised awareness of Maharashtra's welfare and governance programs, including Shasan Aaplya Dari and Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana.

121. Runa Khan – Bangladesh

Social entrepreneur and development practitioner, honoured for her work in climate-resilient healthcare, education and disaster relief. Her organisation Friendship has pioneered initiatives such as floating hospitals to serve vulnerable communities affected by climate-related disasters.



122. Bo Kyi – Myanmar



Human-rights activist, recognised for his sustained efforts to defend political prisoners and promote human rights. Through the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), he has helped document human-rights abuses and supported victims through legal, medical and psychological assistance.

Key Facts

- Award: Ramon Magsaysay Award
- 2026 Edition: 68th batch
- Established: 1957
- Named After: Ramon Magsaysay, former President of the Philippines
- Nature: Recognises leadership, integrity, public service and social impact
- Popularly Known As: “Asia’s Nobel Prize”
- Award Categories: Fixed categories largely abolished since 2009
- 2026 Laureates: Tommy Koh, Runa Khan and Bo Kyi

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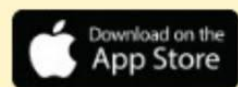
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