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Exams**

1. The three elephant corridors notified by the Tamil Nadu government are located in which forest division?

- (a) Nilgiri Forest Division
- (b) Hosur Forest Division
- (c) Coimbatore Forest Division
- (d) Madurai Forest Division
- (e) Salem Forest Division

Ans. b

Sol.

- **The Tamil Nadu government has notified three elephant corridors in the Cauvery North Wildlife Sanctuary in Hosur forest division**, which will strengthen habitat connectivity and ensure the safe movement of elephants **between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.**

The three recognised elephant corridors are:

- **Jawalagiri–Panai–Anchetty** is the largest corridor, covering 6,881.47 hectares across 20.90 km.
- **Jawalagiri–Ulibanda–Thaggatti** covers 3,241.53 hectares across 18.50 km.
- **Billikkal–Jawalagiri is the smallest corridor**, extending 2.20 km and covering nearly 196 hectares.
- The three corridors collectively cover **more than 10,300 hectares** of reserve forest and wildlife sanctuary land.

2. Who approved the establishment of a bench of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in the Union Territory of Ladakh?

- (a) Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- (b) Chief Justice of India
- (c) President Droupadi Murmu
- (d) Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh
- (e) Union Home Minister

Ans. c

Sol.

- **President Droupadi Murmu has issued a regulation** that establishes a bench of the **High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in the Union Territory of Ladakh**, paving the way for bringing higher judicial services closer to the people of the region.
- **The regulation, titled 'The Union Territory of Ladakh (Sitting of the Bench of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in Ladakh) Regulation, 2026,' was promulgated by President Murmu on August 27** and published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary on the same day.

3. 'Bihar Vidya Saathi' has been launched to provide 24-hour online learning support to students of which classes?

- (a) Classes 1 to 5
- (b) Classes 6 to 8
- (c) Classes 8 to 10
- (d) Classes 9 to 12
- (e) Classes 11 to 12 only

Ans. d

Sol.

- The **Bihar Government has launched 'Bihar Vidya Saathi'**, a 24-hour one-on-one interactive learning platform for students of **Classes 9 to 12**, providing access to teachers, digital study materials and AI-powered learning tools.
- The platform was launched by Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary through video conferencing for **700 Saraswati Vidya Niketan Model Schools across the state**. Around **75,000 teachers will provide one-on-one academic support** to students round the clock. Students can choose teachers according to their learning requirements.
- **Objective:** To promote quality education, proper guidance and stronger learning outcomes through digital technology.

4. NPCI International Payments Ltd. (NIPL) partnered with which organisation to enable UPI payments across Uzbekistan?

- (a) Uzbekistan Central Bank
- (b) National Interbank Processing Centre JSC (NIPC)
- (c) Uzbekistan Payment Corporation
- (d) Tashkent Digital Bank
- (e) Uzbekistan National Bank

Ans. b

Sol.

- **NPCI International Payments Ltd. (NIPL) has entered into a commercial agreement with Uzbekistan's National Interbank Processing Centre JSC (NIPC)** to enable Indian travellers to make merchant payments across Uzbekistan using UPI-enabled applications.
- **The agreement, signed on August 30, 2026**, integrates UPI with **Uzbekistan's national interoperable QR system, UZQR**, allowing Indian tourists, business travellers and students to scan UZQR codes and make direct payments from their Indian bank accounts.
- The integration is expected to enable broad UPI acceptance **across retail, hospitality and service merchants in** Uzbekistan, reducing reliance on cash and international cards.

Countries Accepting UPI

- **Bhutan** (First foreign country to adopt UPI)
- **Nepal**
- **Singapore**
- **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**
- **France** (First European country to accept UPI)
- **Sri Lanka**
- **Mauritius**
- **Qatar**
- **Cambodia**
- **Greece**
- **Uzbekistan**

5. Which country was the **first foreign country to adopt UPI**, according to the provided current affairs?

- (a) Nepal
- (b) Singapore
- (c) Bhutan

- (d) France
- (e) UAE

Ans. c

Sol. The provided material identifies **Bhutan as the first foreign country to adopt UPI**. France is listed as the first European country to accept UPI.

6. Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador for Kissht for a three-year period?

- (a) Rohit Sharma
- (b) MS Dhoni
- (c) Virat Kohli
- (d) Sachin Tendulkar
- (e) Rahul Dravid

Ans. d

Sol.

- **Kissht has announced the launch of its brand campaign featuring cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar, who has signed on as brand ambassador for a three-year period.**
- The campaign of Kissht, one of India's leading RBI-registered NBFCs, is titled "**Loans Without Any Hiccups**", and brings the partnership to life through a series of films rolling out across digital platforms.
- **The campaign brings Kissht's core promise to life through a lighthearted, comedic premise:** Every time a loan is approved on the Kissht app, Sachin gets the hiccups, a playful nod to how quickly and consistently Kissht approves loans across the country.

7. Who was named **Indian Player of the Year** at the Indian Football Awards 2026?

- (a) Manisha Kalyan
- (b) Phrangki Buam
- (c) Sanan Mohammed K
- (d) Lallianzuala Chhangte
- (e) Owen Coyle

Ans. d

Sol.

- **India midfielder and Mohun Bagan player Lallianzuala Chhangte** was named **Indian Player of the Year at the Football Players' Association of India's Indian Football Awards 2026**, while **Manisha Kalyan took home the Indian Women's Player of the Year honour.**
- The awards celebrated standout performers across the men's and women's game, with East Bengal also earning recognition for a successful 2025-26 campaign.

Awardees

- **Indian Player of the Year:** Lallianzuala Chhangte
- **Indian Women's Player of the Year:** Manisha Kalyan
- **Young Player of the Year:** Sanan Mohammed K
- **Women's Young Player of the Year:** Sanfida Nongrum
- **Foreign Player of the Year:** Miguel Figueira Damasceno
- **I-League Player of the Year:** Phrangki Buam
- **Coach of the Year:** Owen Coyle
- **Women's Coach of the Year:** Anthony Andrews
- **Coach Education Award:** Savio Medeira
- **Player Performance & Development Award:** Rapid Sports & The Right Weigh
- **ISL Champions 2025-26:** East Bengal FC
- **IWL Champions 2025-26:** East Bengal FC Women

8. What is the estimated cost of the facility being established at Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur for overhauling T-72 and T-90 tanks?

- (a) ₹250 crore
- (b) ₹350 crore
- (c) ₹472 crore
- (d) ₹500 crore
- (e) ₹725 crore

Ans. c

Sol.

- **Defence minister Rajnath Singh and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav, performed the Bhoomi Puja** for T-Series Tanks Overhaul Project at Vehicle Factory, **Jabalpur** -- a unit of **Mini Ratna Defence Public Sector Undertaking Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL)**.
- The project involves the creation of overhauling facilities for **T-72 and T-90 Tanks** with an estimated cost of Rs 472 crore, another milestone in the nation's journey towards self-reliance.
- The facilities at Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur have been envisaged to **overhaul 80 tanks annually to ensure timely** availability of overhauled tanks to the Indian Army, further boosting its operational readiness.

9. The Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope has a primary mirror with a width of approximately:

- (a) 1.2 metres
- (b) 1.8 metres
- (c) 2.4 metres
- (d) 3.2 metres
- (e) 4.5 metres

Ans. c

Sol.

- **NASA's Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope has been launched from Florida**, embarking on a mission to explore some of the universe's biggest mysteries.
- **With a 2.4-metre-wide primary mirror, Roman can** capture an area of sky more than 100 times larger than Hubble, allowing astronomers to survey the cosmos on an unprecedented scale.
- **The 4.3 billion dollar observatory is designed** to revolutionise infrared astronomy. It carries a specialised instrument called a coronagraph, which can block the intense glare of stars, making it easier to observe faint objects such as exoplanets and planet-forming disks.
- Over the next five years, Roman could help scientists discover previously unseen galaxies and exoplanets while providing new insights into the nature of dark energy and the evolution of the universe.
- **Named after Nancy Grace Roman, NASA's first chief astronomer** and widely regarded as the "**mother of the Hubble Space Telescope.**"

10. National Small Industry Day 2026 was observed in India on which date?

- (a) August 15
- (b) August 20
- (c) August 25
- (d) August 30
- (e) September 1

Ans. d

Sol.

- **National Small Industry Day 2026** was observed across India on August 30, 2026, to celebrate **small businesses and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**.
- **The observance traces its formal recognition to August 30, 2000**, following the launch of a comprehensive policy package for small scale industries. The day also draws attention to the challenges and opportunities affecting small enterprises.

11. Which of the following statements regarding the Indus Waters Treaty ruling is correct?

- (a) India accepted the Permanent Court of Arbitration ruling
- (b) India rejected the Permanent Court of Arbitration ruling concerning the Indus Waters Treaty
- (c) Pakistan rejected the Indus Waters Treaty
- (d) India suspended the treaty permanently
- (e) The treaty was signed in 1975

Ans. b

Sol.

- **India rejected the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) ruling concerning the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan.**
- The Court of Arbitration, the world's oldest permanent forum for international dispute, further said that India had no justification for ending or suspending the agreement and that the treaty between the two subcontinent arch-rivals remained fully in force.

12. Bihar and Jharkhand recently signed an MoU for sharing the water of which river?

- (a) Ganga
- (b) Kosi
- (c) Sone
- (d) Gandak
- (e) Yamuna

Ans. c

Sol.

- **Bihar and Jharkhand signed a Memorandum of Understanding** for sharing of **Sone river water**. The agreement was signed by **Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary and his Jharkhand counterpart Hemant Soren** in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil.
- This agreement will provide irrigation water to lakhs of farmers in large rural areas of **Bihar and Jharkhand, along with drinking water for the people.**

Recent Water Agreement

- **On July 7, 2026:** 'Narmada Award' (Beneficiary states — Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh)
- **On June 29, 2026:** Yamuna Water Project.(Between Rajasthan and Haryana)
- **On June 16, 2026:** ' Kishau Multipurpose Dam Project' (Between Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand)

13. Where will the 4th Indo-German Environmental Forum be held?

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) Berlin
- (c) New Delhi
- (d) Bengaluru
- (e) Hyderabad

Ans. c

Sol.

- **The 4th Indo-German Environmental Forum will be held in New Delhi** to strengthen bilateral cooperation and facilitate multi-stakeholder exchange on environment and climate change.
- **Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav**, along with **German Minister for Environment, Climate Protection,**

Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety Carsten Schneider, will co-chair the forum.

- Both sides will discuss key issues relating to environmental protection and climate policy to further strengthen **bilateral cooperation, exchange experiences and advance practical collaboration.**

14. Where was the 26th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation held?

- (a) Islamabad, Pakistan
- (b) Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
- (c) New Delhi, India
- (d) Beijing, China
- (e) Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Ans. b

Sol. The 26th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held from August 31 to September 1, 2026, in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

15. Which country received the rotating chairmanship of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation at the conclusion of the 2026 summit?

- (a) India
- (b) China
- (c) Russia
- (d) Pakistan
- (e) Kazakhstan

Ans. d

Sol. At the conclusion of the summit, **Kyrgyzstan handed over the rotating chairmanship to Pakistan.**

16. India's GDP grew by what percentage in the April–June quarter of 2026?

- (a) 6.9%
- (b) 7.2%
- (c) 7.5%
- (d) 7.8%
- (e) 8.2%

Ans. d

Sol.

- **India's gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by 7.8% in the first quarter of the current financial year**, driven by robust expansion in services and manufacturing sector, despite disruptions caused in the global economy due to the West Asia conflict.
- Powered by strong manufacturing and services sector growth, India remained one of the fastest growing major economies, **with China expanding 4.3 per cent and Indonesia growing 5.3 per cent in the June quarter**.
- India's economy had grown **6.9 per cent in the June quarter of last financial year**.
- The gross value added (GVA) growth print at 8.2 per cent for Q1 was higher than real gross domestic product (GDP) growth, signalling subsidies outstripped indirect taxes during the quarter.
- **Nominal GDP grew at 10.3 per cent in the June** quarter against 9.1 per cent in the preceding March quarter of FY26, indicating towards built up in inflationary pressure.

17. What is India's gross GST collections in August 2026

- (a) ₹1.74 lakh crore
- (b) ₹1.83 lakh crore
- (c) ₹1.94 lakh crore
- (d) ₹1.99 lakh crore
- (e) ₹2.42 lakh crore

Ans. d

Sol.

- **India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections witnessed a significant rise to ₹1,99,853 crore**, registering a **14.8% year-on-year increase compared with ₹1,74,116 crore collected in August 2025**.
- GST revenue from domestic transactions rose 9.3% to ₹1.37 lakh crore, while revenue from imports jumped 29% to ₹62,604 crore during the month.
- The Central GST (CGST) collection stood at **₹38,413 crore**, while **State GST (SGST) collections were ₹46,316 crore**. **Integrated GST (IGST) collections stood at over ₹1.15 lakh crore**.

18. Who succeeded Tim Cook as the CEO of Apple on 1 September 2026?

- (a) Jeff Williams
- (b) John Ternus
- (c) Greg Joswiak
- (d) Craig Federighi
- (e) Eddy Cue

Ans. b

Sol. John Ternus officially became Apple's CEO on **1 September 2026**, succeeding Tim Cook after his 15-year tenure. Ternus had been Apple's Senior Vice President of Hardware Engineering since 2021.

19. Which of the following was **NOT** among the recipients of the 68th Ramon Magsaysay Awards 2026?

- (a) Tommy Koh
- (b) Runa Khan
- (c) Bo Kyi
- (d) Muhammad Yunus
- (e) None of the above

Ans. d

Sol. The 2026 Ramon Magsaysay Award recipients listed in the news were **Tommy Koh (Singapore), Runa Khan (Bangladesh), and Bo Kyi (Myanmar)**.

20. Lionel Messi announced his retirement from international football after representing which country?

- (a) Brazil
- (b) Spain
- (c) Argentina
- (d) Portugal
- (e) Uruguay

Ans. c

Sol. Lionel Messi, who captained **Argentina** to the 2022 World Cup victory and the 2026 final, announced his retirement from international football. He will continue playing for Inter Miami at club level.

21. What is the theme of **World Coconut Day 2026**?

- (a) Coconut for Sustainable Agriculture
- (b) Coconut in Times of Uncertainty: Securing Food, Energy and Livelihoods
- (c) Coconut for Global Economic Growth
- (d) Coconut: A Sustainable Future
- (e) Coconut and Climate Change

Ans. b

Sol. World Coconut Day is observed annually on **2 September**. The 2026 theme is **“Coconut in Times of Uncertainty: Securing Food, Energy and Livelihoods.”**

22. The first ozone-based drinking water treatment project in Himachal Pradesh was announced in which district?

- (a) Shimla
- (b) Kangra
- (c) Mandi
- (d) Kullu
- (e) Solan

Ans. b

Sol.

- **Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** announced the **State's first ozone-based drinking water treatment project in Dehra, Kangra district**, to provide clean and safe drinking water to residents.
- The project has been allocated ₹46 crore and is planned to be implemented in other parts of the State as well. **The project will use ozone gas for water disinfection and to improve the taste of drinking water.**
- **Objective:** To ensure the supply of clean and safe drinking water and reduce health risks associated with contaminated water.

23. The Jal Shakti Summit addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was focused on strengthening which concept?

- (a) Digital India
- (b) Team India
- (c) Make in India
- (d) Skill India
- (e) Startup India

Ans. b

Sol.

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the valedictory session of the Departmental Summit of the Ministry of Jal Shakti in New Delhi on September 2.**
- The summit is focused on strengthening the spirit of '**Team India**', **promoting cooperative federalism and improving coordination between the Centre and states on key water-sector priorities.**
- The initiative seeks to provide a structured platform for the Union and state governments to jointly discuss sectoral priorities, share best practices, address implementation challenges and work towards time-bound action plans.
- **Aims:** The Jal Shakti summit is focusing on four major areas related to the water sector. These are the timely implementation of water infrastructure projects, Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari-Catch the Rain, sustainability of drinking water sources, and the operation and maintenance of rural drinking water supply schemes under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0.

24. IIT Madras and UNESCO MGIEP have joined hands to develop next-generation AI and which type of technologies?

- (a) Blockchain technologies
- (b) Quantum computing technologies
- (c) Immersive learning technologies
- (d) Biotechnology solutions
- (e) Green energy technologies

Ans. c

Sol.

- **The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)'s Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) have taken the initiative to produce next-generation Artificial Intelligence (AI) and immersive learning technologies.**
- This initiative to transform the education sphere by incorporating digital learning solutions will be **supported by UNESCO MGIEP's leadership in Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) along with IIT Madras' expertise in AI, Extended Reality (XR), game design and immersive technologies.**

25. Where will the 18th BRICS Summit be hosted by India in September 2026?

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) Bengaluru
- (c) Hyderabad
- (d) New Delhi
- (e) Chennai

Ans. d

Sol.

- **UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will participate in the 18th BRICS Summit later this month in New Delhi.** As the chair this year, India will be hosting the **18th BRICS Summit on September 12-13 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.**
- The theme for India's BRICS chairship is '**Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability**'.
- India, a founding member of BRICS, has previously held its chairship in **2012, 2016 and 2021.** India assumed its fourth BRICS chairship **on January 1, 2026.** **BRICS is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.**

26. What was India's current account deficit in Q1 of FY 2026-27, according to the Reserve Bank data mentioned in the report?

- (a) USD 2.4 billion
- (b) USD 3.4 billion
- (c) USD 4.2 billion
- (d) USD 5.2 billion
- (e) USD 6.1 billion

Ans. c

Sol.

- **India's current account deficit widened to USD 4.2 billion, or 0.5 per cent of GDP, in the first quarter of the current fiscal year from USD 3.4 billion, or 0.4 per cent of GDP, a year ago, according to Reserve Bank data.**
- Merchandise trade deficit at **USD 86.1 billion in the April-June period of 2026-27** was higher than **USD 68.9 billion in the first quarter of 2025-26.**
- Net services receipts **increased to USD 51.6 billion in Q1 2026-27 from USD 47.9 billion a year ago.** "Services exports have risen on a year-on-year

basis in major categories such as computer services, other business services and transportation services

- The data also showed that personal transfer receipts, mainly representing remittances by Indians employed overseas, rose **to USD 42.9 billion in Q1 2026-27 from USD 33.2 billion in Q1 2025-26.**

27. Who was elected President of the Esports Games Federation (ESGF)?

- (a) Sai Giridhar
- (b) Ashish Shelar
- (c) Michel Struthoff
- (d) Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu
- (e) Antonio Guterres

Ans. b

Sol. Maharashtra Minister **Ashish Shelar** was elected President of the Esports Games Federation at its general body meeting attended by representatives from 22 states.

28. Who took over as the 38th President of the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) for 2026–28?

- (a) Ashish Shelar
- (b) Sai Giridhar
- (c) Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu
- (d) Michel Struthoff
- (e) Kavinder Gupta

Ans. b

Sol. The Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA), the apex national body of automobile retail in India, has announced the appointment of **Mr. Sai Giridhar as FADA's 38th President and for the years 2026-28. The decision was made at the 323rd Governing Council Meeting**, which was held immediately after the **62nd Annual General Meeting**.

29. Which country won the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2026?

- (a) Spain
- (b) Argentina
- (c) Netherlands

- (d) Germany
(e) Belgium

Ans. d

Sol.

- **In the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2026, Germany retained the World Cup title with a 1-0 win over Spain** in the final at the **Belfius Hockey Arena in Wavre, Belgium.**
- Michel Struthoff scored the only goal of the tightly contested final late in the third quarter, converting Germany's only opportunity of a match largely controlled by Spain. His goal secured **Germany's fourth men's World Cup title.**

Note:

- **Winner:** Germany (4th World Cup title)
- **Runner-up:** Spain
- **Winning Goal:** Michel Struthoff scored in the third quarter.
- **Hosts:** Belgium and the Netherlands
- **Bronze Medal:** Argentina (defeated the Netherlands 2-1)
- **India Finish:** 8th place

30. Türkiye became the 71st signatory of which international space cooperation agreement?

- (a) Outer Space Treaty
(b) Artemis Accords
(c) Moon Treaty
(d) Space Sustainability Accord
(e) International Space Charter

Ans. b

Sol. Türkiye officially became the **71st signatory of the NASA-led Artemis Accords on August 31, 2026.** The accords establish principles for international cooperation in peaceful space exploration and related activities.

31. World Skyscraper Day is observed annually on which date?

- (a) September 1
(b) September 2

- (c) September 3
- (d) September 4
- (e) September 5

Ans. c

Sol. World Skyscraper Day is observed on September 3, celebrating engineering, architecture and the ambition behind the world's tallest buildings. The date is associated with the birth anniversary of architect Louis H. Sullivan.

32. The 18th Meeting of Heads of IP Offices of BRICS Countries was held in which city from September 1–3, 2026?

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) New Delhi
- (c) Bengaluru
- (d) Hyderabad
- (e) Chennai

Ans. b

Sol. The 18th Meeting of Heads of IP Offices of BRICS Countries was held in New Delhi from September 1 to 3, 2026, hosted by the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (O/o CGPDTM), DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

Details of the Meeting

- **Dates:** September 1–3, 2026
- **Location:** New Delhi, India (with around 35 delegates participating physically and virtually, including online participation from Russia, Iran, and Ethiopia)
- **Theme:** Aligned with India's BRICS Chairship theme, "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability".

33. Which of the following new LIC products was introduced as a pure-risk term life insurance policy?

- (a) Bima Platinum
- (b) Jeevan Anand
- (c) Jeevan Raksha
- (d) Bima Jyoti
- (e) Jeevan Umang

Ans. c

Sol. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) unveiled two new products, namely Bima Platinum and Jeevan Raksha policies. These policies were announced by **LIC CEO and MD R Doraiswamy** on the occasion of the **company's 70th anniversary**.

LIC Bima Platinum (Plan 770):

- This is a limited-premium savings-and-protection plan designed for individuals looking for reliable wealth accumulation paired with life coverage.
- **Guaranteed Additions:** Policyholders accrue fixed additions at a high rate of ₹70 per ₹1,000 of annual premium paid at the end of each year during the premium-paying term (PPT).
- **Income Benefits:** Provides a regular income benefit equivalent to 10% of the basic sum assured annually during the payout period, alongside periodic booster benefits.
- **Term Options:** Offers flexible premium paying terms of 7, 10, 12, 15, or 18 years
- **Sum Assured Limits:** The entry-level minimum basic sum assured is ₹3 lakh, and it advances in multiples of ₹10,000.
- **Age Criteria:** Eligible for entry from 30 days old up to 55 years (subject to the selected premium term)

LIC's Jeevan Raksha (Plan 894)

- This is a pure-risk term life insurance policy strictly focused on **delivering guaranteed financial security to the policyholder's family** in the event of an untimely death.
- **Fixed Death Benefit:** The payouts are predetermined and entirely guaranteed, without being subject to the performance or surplus profits of the insurer.
- **Sum Assured Limits:** Features a minimum basic sum assured of ₹5 lakh and caps out at a maximum of ₹24 lakh.
- **Age Criteria:** Open to individuals aged between 18 and 45 years, with a maximum maturity age capped at 60 years.

34. Under the proposed UDAN push, how many new airports does India plan to build over the next 10 years?

- (a) 50
- (b) 75

- (c) 100
- (d) 125
- (e) 150

Ans. c

Sol.

- **India will build 100 new airports in the next 10 years under** the Centre's regional connectivity **scheme UDAN with an outlay of Rs 30,000 crore.**
- Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu has said, "**While there were 74 airports in 2014, we can proudly say that India's map features 166 airports. Going from 74 to 166 set a record for the country.**
- The Scheme launch and implementation of the **Regional Connectivity Scheme - Modified UDAN - for a period of 10 years from FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36 with a total outlay of Rs 28,840 crore with the budgetary support of the Centre.**

35. The Gollala Gudi Temple, recently declared a monument of national importance, is located in which state?

- (a) Karnataka
- (b) Andhra Pradesh
- (c) Telangana
- (d) Tamil Nadu
- (e) Odisha

Ans. c

Sol.

- **The Archaeological Survey of India has notified Gollala Gudi Temple at Palampet in the Mulugu district of Telangana** as a monument of national importance.
- Temple is situated near the **UNESCO listed Ramappa Temple and is renowned for its exquisite carvings and architectural heritage.**
- The temple is a Trikotalaya and consists of a mandapa facing East and surrounded by three garbhagriha.
- A monument of national importance in the country is protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. The

Archaeological Survey of India takes charge of such sites for conservation, maintenance, and regulated public access

36. The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed an MoU related to which area?

- (a) Coastal tourism development
- (b) Tiger landscape conservation and nature-positive financing
- (c) Marine biodiversity research
- (d) Renewable energy financing
- (e) Forest-based industrial development

Ans. b

Sol.

- **Union Minister Bhupender Yadav inaugurated a two-day international workshop on September 2, 2026, on "Tiger Landscapes: Conservation, Bioeconomy and Ecotourism."** The event was jointly organised by the **International Big Cat Alliance, Asian Development Bank, and NTCA**, with an MoU signed for landscape conservation and nature-positive financing.
- The workshop explores the link between conservation and livelihoods. **Tiger landscapes are viewed as natural capital.** They provide ecosystem services that benefit local communities.
- **Theme:** The workshop was held under the theme 'Tiger Landscapes: Conservation, Bioeconomy and Ecotourism as Pillars for Livelihood and Income Generation'

37. Which state announced the establishment of a Coconut Park to promote value addition and export growth in the coconut sector?

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Andhra Pradesh
- (e) Goa

Ans. b

Sol. Kerala announced the establishment of a Coconut Park with the support of the Coconut Development Board. The park aims to promote modern processing, value addition and production of export-quality processed coconut products.

38. Who has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of Hexaware Technologies?

- (a) Vivek Jetley
- (b) R Doraiswamy
- (c) K Rammohan Naidu
- (d) Bhupender Yadav
- (e) Shah Rukh Khan

Ans. b

Sol. Vivek Jetley was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Hexaware Technologies. Before joining Hexaware, he served as President and Head of Insurance, Healthcare and Life Sciences at EXL.

39. Shakti Sharma became the first woman officer from the non-medical stream in the Indian Defence Forces to attain which rank?

- (a) Lieutenant General
- (b) Air Marshal
- (c) Air Vice Marshal
- (d) Major General
- (e) Rear Admiral

Ans. c

Sol. Shakti Sharma became the first woman officer from the non-medical stream in the Indian Defence Forces to attain the rank of **Air Vice Marshal or equivalent**. Air Vice Marshal is a two-star rank.

40. Who was appointed as the brand ambassador by Vodafone Idea as part of its new brand identity campaign?

- (a) Amitabh Bachchan
- (b) Salman Khan
- (c) Shah Rukh Khan
- (d) Ranveer Singh
- (e) Akshay Kumar

Ans. c

Sol. Vodafone Idea (Vi) onboarded Bollywood superstar **Shah Rukh Khan** as its brand ambassador for its new brand identity campaign and also unveiled a new logo.

41. Which Indian city will host the Hyundai World Archery Para Series for the first time in September 2026?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Ahmedabad
- (d) Jaipur
- (e) Bengaluru

Ans. c

Sol.

- **India will host the Hyundai World Archery Para Series for the first time, when more than 100 athletes from 20 countries** compete at the Sabarmati Riverfront in **Ahmedabad from September 5 to 9**, bringing a major international para-archery event to the city.
- **The Ahmedabad event will be the third stage of the 2026 Hyundai World Archery Para Series, following the opening stage in Bangkok in April and the second stage in Nove Mesto, Czechia, from June 30 to July 4. The fourth and final stage is scheduled to be held in Santiago, Chile, in October.**
- **The participating countries are India**, the People's Republic of China, Great Britain, France, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Slovakia, the United States of America, Uzbekistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cyprus, Czechia, Iraq, the Russian Federation and Sri Lanka.

42. Which country was approved by the ICC as the new host of the inaugural Women's Champions Trophy 2027?

- (a) Australia
- (b) India
- (c) England
- (d) South Africa
- (e) New Zealand

Ans. b

Sol. The ICC moved the inaugural **Women's Champions Trophy 2027** from **Sri Lanka to India**. The six-team tournament will be played in **Mumbai and Vadodara from February 14 to 28, 2027**.

43. From which launch centre was ISRO's Earth observation satellite EOS-05 successfully launched?

- (a) Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre
- (b) Satish Dhawan Space Centre
- (c) U R Rao Space Centre
- (d) Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station
- (e) Abdul Kalam Island

Ans. b

Sol.

- **India's first imaging satellite in geosynchronous orbit was successfully launched** by a **GSLV rocket from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota** on 4 September 2026.
- ISRO said that the state-of-the-art **Earth observation spacecraft EOS-05** was successfully placed into sub-geosynchronous orbit about 18 minutes after it lifted off from the spaceport.
- **Aims:** The imaging satellite will provide real-time imagery and help the nation in areas including agriculture and disaster management.

44. What is the plan number of LIC's newly introduced Bima Platinum policy?

- (a) Plan 770
- (b) Plan 894
- (c) Plan 871
- (d) Plan 915
- (e) Plan 936

Ans. a

Sol. **LIC Bima Platinum is Plan 770**, a limited-premium savings-and-protection plan. It provides guaranteed additions of ₹70 per ₹1,000 of annual premium during the premium-paying term.

45. Who hosted the Quad Sherpas' Meeting held in New Delhi?

- (a) S. Jaishankar
- (b) Vikram Misri
- (c) Narendra Modi
- (d) Ajit Doval
- (e) Rajnath Singh

Ans. b

Sol.

- **Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri hosted a Quad Sherpas' Meeting in New Delhi.**
- The Quad Sherpas reaffirmed the importance of **focusing on concrete, action-orientated initiatives**. They also looked forward to continued consultations in the lead-up to the next Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting.
- **The Quad Sherpas' Meeting** was convened to take forward the outcomes of the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in New Delhi on 26th May this year.

46. Which agency upgraded India's sovereign credit rating from 'BBB+' to 'A-' with a Stable Outlook?

- (a) Moody's
- (b) Fitch Ratings
- (c) S&P Global Ratings
- (d) Japan Credit Rating Agency
- (e) CRISIL

Ans. d

Sol.

- **Japan Credit Rating Agency (JCR) has upgraded India's** Long-Term Foreign Currency and Local Currency Issuer Ratings by one **notch from 'BBB+' to 'A-',** while maintaining the Stable Outlook. JCR has also raised India's **country ceiling by one notch to 'A'.**
- India's solid economic growth, the effectiveness of economic policies in strengthening the foundations for growth, and the improved soundness of the financial system.

47. Axis Bank and Scapia launched which of the following products for Indian travellers?

- (a) Axis-Scapia Travel Debit Card
- (b) Scapia Axis Bank Credit Card
- (c) Axis Global Traveller Card
- (d) Scapia Forex Card
- (e) Axis International Travel Card

Ans. b

Sol.

- **Axis Bank and travel fintech Scapia have launched a co-branded credit card aimed** at digitally **native Indian travellers**.
- Available on Mastercard and RuPay networks, the card offers zero forex markup, airport privileges and rewards of up to **20 per cent on eligible travel bookings through the Scapia app**.
- The partnership combines Axis Bank's payments capabilities with Scapia's travel-focused platform.
- **Benefits:** The card has zero joining and annual fees, offers zero forex mark-up on international transactions, and includes a Smart Forex feature for overseas spending.

48. Who has been appointed as the next President and Chief Executive Officer of Adobe?

- (a) Shantanu Narayen
- (b) Satya Nadella
- (c) Anil Chakravarthy
- (d) Arvind Krishna
- (e) Sundar Pichai

Ans. c

Sol. Anil Chakravarthy has been appointed as Adobe's next President and CEO. He will take over the position on **December 1**, succeeding **Shantanu Narayen**, who announced his decision to step down after 18 years as CEO.

49. Who was elected as the new President of Estonia for a five-year term?

- (a) Alar Karis
- (b) Kaja Kallas
- (c) Ule Madise

- (d) Kersti Kaljulaid
- (e) Kadri Simson

Ans. c

Sol. Ulle Madise was elected as the new President of Estonia for a **five-year term**. Members of Estonia's Riigikogu parliament elected her through a secret ballot. She was the lone candidate in the election.

50. Keyaa Kunal Banerji won a silver medal in which event at the 2026 IPF World Sub-Junior & Junior Classic Powerlifting Championships?

- (a) Squat
- (b) Bench Press
- (c) Deadlift
- (d) Clean and Jerk
- (e) Snatch

Ans. c

Sol. Indian powerlifter **Keyaa Kunal Banerji** won the **silver medal in the deadlift event** in the Junior Women's 47 kg category. She successfully lifted **140 kg** at a bodyweight of 45.70 kg.

51. India and Belgium agreed to double their bilateral trade within what period?

- (a) Three years
- (b) Four years
- (c) Five years
- (d) Seven years
- (e) Ten years

Ans. c

Sol.

- **India and Belgium signed a new defense** letter of intent and set a **goal to double bilateral trade** over the next five years during **Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever's official visit to India in September 2026**.

Areas of Cooperation

- **Defense and Security:** Signed a defense cooperation letter of intent and appointed a resident defense attaché in Brussels.

- **Trade Target:** Agreed to double bilateral trade within five years, moving beyond traditional diamond trade.
- **Technology & Semiconductors:** Partnered Indian institutions with Belgian research center imec for micro-electronics.
- **Clean Energy:** Renewed an MoU on renewable energy, focusing on green hydrogen and solar energy.

52. National Wildlife Day is commonly observed on which date every year?

- (a) 2 September
- (b) 3 September
- (c) 4 September
- (d) 5 September
- (e) 6 September

Ans. c

Sol. **National Wildlife Day** is commonly observed on **September 4** every year. It focuses on wildlife protection, endangered species, habitat conservation and respect for the natural world.

53. The International Day of Charity is observed every year on which date?

- (a) 2 September
- (b) 3 September
- (c) 4 September
- (d) 5 September
- (e) 10 September

Ans. d

Sol. The **International Day of Charity** is observed on **September 5** every year. The United Nations established it in **2012 through Resolution A/RES/67/105**. The date also commemorates the death anniversary of **Mother Teresa**, who died on September 5, 1997.

54. Teachers' Day in India is celebrated on September 5 to commemorate the birthday of:

- (a) Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
- (b) Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

- (c) Dr. Rajendra Prasad
- (d) Swami Vivekananda
- (e) Jawaharlal Nehru

Ans. b

Sol. India celebrates **Teachers' Day on September 5**, marking the birthday of **Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan**. He was a distinguished philosopher, scholar, educator and the **second President of India**, serving from 1962.

55. Cassandra Wilson, who recently passed away, was best known as a:

- (a) Classical dancer
- (b) Jazz singer
- (c) Film director
- (d) Opera composer
- (e) Theatre actress

Ans. b

Sol. **Cassandra Wilson** was a celebrated **American jazz singer** and a two-time Grammy Award winner. She won Grammy Awards in **1997 and 2009** and was recognised as a **Jazz Master by the National Endowment for the Arts in 2022**.

56. In which city was the BRICS Chief Justices' Forum 2026 hosted by India?

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) New Delhi
- (c) Bengaluru
- (d) Hyderabad
- (e) Chennai

Ans. b

Sol.

- India is hosting the **three-day BRICS Chief Justices' Forum 2026 in New Delhi from September 4 to 6, 2026**.
- **Aims: Discuss contemporary issues concerning justice delivery, international dispute resolution, technology and sustainable development**, while facilitating an exchange of views among judicial leaders.

- The forum has brought together Chief Justices, Presidents of Supreme Courts and senior judicial leaders from BRICS Member States and Partner Countries.

57. The inaugural iBRICS Global Sovereign Capital Summit 2026 is scheduled to be held in which city?

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) Bengaluru
- (c) New Delhi
- (d) Hyderabad
- (e) Gurugram

Ans. c

Sol.

- **The inaugural iBRICS Summit 2026 will take place on September 12–13, 2026, at The Oberoi in New Delhi, convening on the sidelines of the 18th BRICS Leaders' Summit to connect over \$1 trillion in sovereign and private capital with major infrastructure, energy, and digital projects.**

Focus Areas

- **Direct Deal-Making:** Matching global allocators and project owners from 21 BRICS member states and partner nations.
- **Sectors:** Infrastructure, energy, and digital-capacity expansion.
- **Financial Infrastructure:** Discussions on non-dollar settlement corridors, linking fast-payment networks (such as India's UPI and Brazil's Pix), and Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) interoperability.

58. Who launched "Mission Rangeen Machhli 2031" for Ornamental Fisheries Development?

- (a) Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- (b) Union Minister for Fisheries
- (c) Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan
- (d) President of India
- (e) Governor of Lakshadweep

Ans. c

Sol.

- **Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan** attended the **Fisheries Outreach Programme at Agatti, Lakshadweep**, and released "**Mission Rangeen Machhli 2031**", the Strategic Action Plan for Ornamental Fisheries Development.
- He also distributed various government **benefits and assistance to beneficiaries from the fisheries sector**.
- The Vice President described the event as a historic milestone for Lakshadweep and a new milestone in India's Blue Revolution.

59. Which monarch's portrait is featured on Canada's newly unveiled \$20 banknote?

- (a) King George VI
- (b) King Charles III
- (c) King William III
- (d) King Edward VIII
- (e) King George V

Ans. b

Sol. The **Bank of Canada** unveiled a new \$20 banknote featuring **King Charles III**. It marks the first time his portrait has appeared on a Canadian banknote and the first change of monarch on the country's notes in more than seven decades.

60. Nvidia is set to acquire Hugging Face in a deal valued at approximately:

- (a) \$5.92 billion
- (b) \$8.75 billion
- (c) \$10.50 billion
- (d) \$12.93 billion
- (e) \$15.25 billion

Ans. d

Sol.

- **Nvidia is moving to acquire artificial intelligence software platform Hugging Face in a deal valued at roughly \$13 billion**, giving the chipmaker a much larger position in the open-source AI ecosystem it already supplies with computing hardware.
- The acquisition comes **as Nvidia looks beyond the processors that have powered much of the AI boom and builds** deeper ties with the developers, researchers and companies creating and deploying AI models.

61. What is the name of the AI-powered account manager launched by Razorpay and IndusInd Bank on WhatsApp?

- (a) RIA
- (b) RAY
- (c) RAVI
- (d) RISE
- (e) RENO

Ans. b

Sol.

- **Razorpay on September 2 launched an AI-powered** account manager on **WhatsApp that allows businesses to access payment information, seek support** and carry out certain payment-related actions through messages or voice notes.
- **Businesses can ask RAY for information such as payment summaries and transaction analysis.** The AI assistant can also perform certain actions, including generating payment links and initiating refunds, without requiring users to access Razorpay's dashboard.

62. Who assumed the appointment of Director General Armed Forces Medical Services?

- (a) Vice Admiral Sanjay Mahajan
- (b) Vice Admiral Dilip Raghavan
- (c) Rear Admiral Rajesh Kumar
- (d) Air Marshal Vivek Singh
- (e) Lieutenant General Anil Mehta

Ans. b

Sol. Surgeon Vice Admiral Dilip Raghavan assumed the appointment of Director General Armed Forces Medical Services. He joined AFMC Pune in 1985 and was commissioned into the Indian Navy in December 1989.

63. Where was the 36th annual Ig Nobel Prize ceremony 2026 held?

- (a) New York, USA
- (b) London, UK
- (c) Paris, France

- (d) Zurich, Switzerland
- (e) Geneva, Switzerland

Ans. d

Sol.

- **The 36th annual Ig Nobel Prize ceremony on September 3, 2026**, honored quirky and imaginative scientific achievements that **first make people laugh and then make them think**.

Notable 2026 Winners

- **Chemistry Prize:** Awarded to an international team including Indian researchers from InStem Bengaluru for discovering that protein crystals in Pacific beetle cockroach milk contain over three times the energy of cow's milk.
- **Medicine Prize:** Awarded posthumously to Dr. Tokuji Unno for a 1977 aerodynamic study on how humans blow their noses.
- **Biology Prize:** Went to researchers who gently stepped on venomous pit vipers wearing boots to see what triggers a bite.
- **Economics Prize:** Honored a study revealing that upper-class individuals are more prone to taking candy meant for children.
- **Soil Science Prize:** Awarded for the "Underwear as Evidence" project using buried cotton underpants to measure soil health.
- **Other Honors:** Included research on the evolutionary history of kissing, which you can read more about in this report from Nature.

Note:

- **New Location:** Hosted in Zurich, Switzerland, marking the first time the ceremony moved outside the United States due to travel and visa concerns.
- **Prizes:** Winners received a custom trophy shaped like a mushroom and a human foot, plus a 10 trillion Zimbabwean dollar symbolic banknote.

64. Which organisation announced the winners of the Green Highways Excellence Awards 2026?

- (a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- (b) National Highways Authority of India

- (c) National Green Tribunal
- (d) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- (e) NITI Aayog

Ans. b

Sol.

- In September 2026, the **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** **announced the winners of the 'Green Highways Excellence Awards 2026'**, instituted to recognise and promote best practices in National Highway (NH) landscaping and plantation management.
- **Category I:** Avenue Plantations: Chilakaluripet Bypass (NH-16, Vijayawada) – 1st, Vadodara–Kim Expressway (Gandhinagar) – 2nd, NH-925/925A sections (Jaipur) – 3rd, and Trichy–Karaikudi maintenance project (Madurai) – Consolation.
- **Category II:** Median Plantations: Hyderabad–Yadgiri (NH-163, Hyderabad) – 1st, Vadodara–Kim Expressway (Gandhinagar) – 2nd, Varanasi Ring Road (NH-31, UP East) – 3rd.
- **Category III:** Plantation in Land Parcels: Jamtha Clover Leaf, NH-44 (Nagpur) – 1st, ToT Bundle-7 land parcels, Duhai (Delhi) – 2nd, Lucknow–Ayodhya & Outer Ring Road (UP West) – 3rd.

65. Khagantak-243, recently tested by the Indian Air Force, is a:

- (a) Short-range ballistic missile
- (b) Long-range glide bomb
- (c) Air-to-air missile
- (d) Naval cruise missile
- (e) Anti-tank guided missile

Ans. b

Sol.

- **The Indian Air Force has recorded a notable advance in home-grown precision-strike technology** after a successful drop trial of the **Long Range Glide Bomb (LRGB) Khagantak-243**, a weapon designed and built entirely within the country.
- The exercise was carried out on 2 September and is being read as a landmark for both the air force and the domestic defence manufacturing sector.

66. Which country won the 2026 Women's FIH Hockey World Cup?

- (a) Netherlands
- (b) Germany
- (c) Argentina
- (d) Australia
- (e) England

Ans. c

Sol. Argentina won the 2026 Women's FIH Hockey World Cup by defeating host nation **Netherlands** in a penalty shootout at the Wagener Stadium in Amsterdam. It was Argentina's **third women's World Cup title**.

67. Which tennis legend was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame Class of 2026?

- (a) Rafael Nadal
- (b) Novak Djokovic
- (c) Andy Murray
- (d) Roger Federer
- (e) Stan Wawrinka

Ans. d

Sol. Swiss tennis legend **Roger Federer** was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame Class of 2026 on **August 29, 2026**, in Newport, Rhode Island. He is a 20-time Grand Slam champion and retired from professional tennis in 2022.

68. Who launched the Nasha Mukta Bharat 2029 (Drug-Free India 2029) roadmap on 7 September 2026?

- (a) Rajnath Singh
- (b) Amit Shah
- (c) Piyush Goyal
- (d) J. P. Nadda
- (e) Dharmendra Pradhan

Ans. b

Sol.

- **Union home minister Amit Shah** on 7 September pledged that not a single gram of narcotics would either enter or leave India through its borders as he launched a **roadmap for Nasha Mukh Bharat 2029 (Drug-Free India 2029)**, focused on **supply reduction, demand reduction and harm reduction**.
- The roadmap provides a **three-year national anti-narcotics framework for 2026–2029**.
- **Its four pillars** are intelligence-led enforcement, precursor and synthetic drug control, demand and harm reduction, and capacity building.

69. Who released the commemorative postage stamp marking 75 years of Dinamalar in Chennai?

- (a) President Droupadi Murmu
- (b) Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- (c) Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan
- (d) Home Minister Amit Shah
- (e) Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

Ans. c

Sol.

- **The Vice President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan** said that Dinamalar has earned the trust of **the people over the past 75 years by upholding the values of truth, patriotism and public service**, and called upon the newspaper to continue serving the nation for many more years.
- Addressing the function held in Chennai to mark the 75th year of publication of Dinamalar and the release of a commemorative postage stamp, the Vice President noted that **Dinamalar, founded in 1951 with the resolve to serve as a touchstone of truth and Recalled the contribution of Dinamalar founder Shri T. V. Ramasubbaier.**

70. Where was the 55th Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders' Meeting held?

- (a) Suva, Fiji
- (b) Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
- (c) Koror, Palau
- (d) Apia, Samoa
- (e) Wellington, New Zealand

Ans. c

Sol.

- India reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening relations with Pacific Island countries at the **55th Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders' Meeting held in Koror, Palau.**
- India's cooperation with the **Pacific Island countries focuses on key areas such as climate resilience, healthcare, education, digital technology and disaster management.**
- **Pabitra Margherita, Minister of State for External Affairs**, highlighted India's Act East Policy, bilateral relations, Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIIC) and India's engagement with the Pacific Islands Forum.
- **Theme** "Building Economies: Life. Action. Unity".

71. Which volcanic eruption caused major aviation disruption across Indonesia in early September 2026?

- (a) Mount Merapi
- (b) Mount Semeru
- (c) Mount Anak Krakatau
- (d) Mount Agung
- (e) Mount Bromo

Ans. c

Sol.

- **Airports across Indonesia—including Jakarta's primary hub, Soekarno-Hatta International Airport—have reopened following a massive aviation disruption triggered by the eruption of Mount Anak Krakatau.**
- The volcano, located in the **Sunda Strait**, began erupting violently in early September 2026, launching a volcanic ash cloud up to 50,000 feet into the atmosphere.
- Because abrasive volcanic ash poses severe hazards to aircraft engines and significantly reduces visibility, the Indonesian Ministry of Transportation temporarily grounded operations at eight regional airports.

72. The United Nations General Assembly declared which date as the International Day for the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage?

- (a) 8 March
- (b) 27 November
- (c) 10 December

- (d) 4 September
(e) 20 November

Ans. b

Sol.

- **The United Nations General Assembly has declared November 27 as the International Day for the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage,** giving a global platform to efforts to end child marriage. The resolution was adopted by consensus on **September 4, with Sierra Leone leading the initiative and India among the co-sponsors.**
- The date has particular significance for India as it marks the launch of the Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat (Child Marriage Free India) campaign in 2024. The campaign has since become part of a wider international push to eliminate child, early and forced marriage.

73. Who was appointed Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on 5 September 2026?

- (a) Gulab Chand Kataria
(b) Vinai Kumar Saxena
(c) Dinesh Sharma
(d) Praful Khoda Patel
(e) Kuniyil Kailashnathan

Ans. c

Sol. BJP MP Dinesh Sharma was appointed Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands by President Droupadi Murmu on 5 September 2026.

74. Who was appointed Chief Justice of the Patna High Court among the eight newly appointed High Court Chief Justices?

- (a) Justice Ravindra V. Ghuge
(b) Justice Sanjay Kumar Agrawal
(c) Justice Valluri Kameswar Rao
(d) Justice Mahesh Chandra Tripathi
(e) Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra

Ans. c

Sol. Justice Valluri Kameswar Rao was appointed Chief Justice of the Patna High Court. Eight High Court Chief Justices were appointed on 6 September 2026.

- **Eight high court chief justices** were appointed on 6 September, days after their names were recommended by the **Supreme Court Collegium**.

Newly Appointed Chief Justices

- **Justice Valluri Kameswar Rao:** Appointed as Chief Justice of the **Patna High Court**.
- **Justice Ravindra V. Ghuge:** Appointed as Chief Justice of the **Calcutta High Court**.
- **Justice Sanjay Kumar Agrawal:** Appointed as Chief Justice of the **Rajasthan High Court**.
- **Justice Mahesh Chandra Tripathi:** Appointed as Chief Justice of the **Bombay High Court**.
- **Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra:** Appointed as Chief Justice of the **Punjab & Haryana High Court**.
- **Justice Krishna Ram Mohapatra:** Appointed as Chief Justice of the **Chhattisgarh High Court**.
- **Justice Alpesh Yeshwant Kogje:** Appointed as Chief Justice of the **Madhya Pradesh High Court**.
- **Justice Dr. Pushpendra Singh Bhati:** Appointed as Chief Justice of the **Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court**.

75. Up to what percentage stake in ICICI Bank has RBI approved LIC to acquire?

- (a) 5.00%
- (b) 7.50%
- (c) 9.99%
- (d) 10.50%
- (e) 12.00%

Ans. c

Sol.

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has 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, the private lender.**
- The approval is subject to certain conditions, including compliance with applicable statutory and regulatory provisions.
- The stake acquisition comes almost a month after **state-owned insurer amassed more than Rs 21,000 crore in mark-to-market gains in just 35 days** from three software exporters, delivering a rapid payoff on a contrarian wager made while artificial intelligence disruption fears were clouding the outlook for India's technology industry.

76. Who was crowned Miss World 2026 at the grand finale held in Nha Trang, Vietnam?

- (a) Elisabeth Reynés
- (b) Taanusiya Chetty
- (c) Joheirry Mola Dominguez
- (d) Manushi Chhillar
- (e) Opal Suchata Chuangsri

Ans. c

Sol. Joheirry Mola Dominguez of the Dominican Republic was crowned Miss World 2026 at the grand finale in Nha Trang, Vietnam, on 5 September 2026. Elisabeth Reynés was the first runner-up and Taanusiya Chetty the second runner-up.

77. India and Japan will conduct the second edition of Veer Guardian 2026 at which location?

- (a) Jodhpur
- (b) Pune
- (c) Visakhapatnam
- (d) Chennai
- (e) Leh

Ans. a

Sol.

- **The Indian Air Force and Japan Air Self-Defense Force will conduct a bilateral air exercise at Jodhpur Air Force Station** from September 9 to 22,

with the drills **aimed at enhancing operational coordination and strengthening defence ties between the two countries.**

- The exercise, titled Veer Guardian 2026, will bring together fighter aircraft and air personnel from both sides for advanced operational training and professional exchanges.

List of Defence Exercises between India and Japan

- Dharma Guardian (Indian Army)
- JIMEX (Japan-India Maritime Exercise)
- Exercise Malabar (Including USA and Australia)

78. Adani Defence & Aerospace signed a five-year agreement to supply which ammunition for the AK-203 assault rifle programme?

- (a) 5.56×45 mm
- (b) 7.62×39 mm
- (c) 7.62×51 mm
- (d) 9×19 mm
- (e) 12.7×108 mm

Ans. b

Sol. **Adani Defence & Aerospace has signed a five-year agreement with Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL)** to supply indigenously produced **7.62x39 mm small-calibre ammunition for the AK-203 assault rifle program.**

Key Details of the Agreement

- **Partnership:** Signed between Adani Defence & Aerospace and Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL), an India-Russia joint venture.
- **Scope:** Supply of 7.62x39 mm small-calibre ammunition over a period of five years.
- **Manufacturing:** The AK-203 rifles are produced at IRRPL's facility in Korwa, Uttar Pradesh, while the ammunition is supported by Adani's domestic manufacturing capabilities, such as its facility in Kanpur.
- **Objective:** Creates an integrated domestic supply chain and boosts Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliance) by localizing both the weapon and ammunition ecosystem in India

79. Who won the 2026 Italian Grand Prix at Monza?

- (a) George Russell
- (b) Max Verstappen
- (c) Charles Leclerc
- (d) Kimi Antonelli
- (e) Lando Norris

Ans. d

Sol. **Kimi Antonelli won the 2026 Italian Grand Prix at Monza** on September 6, 2026, executing a historic drive from 19th on the grid to become the first Italian driver to win his home race since Ludovico Scarfiotti in 1966. **George Russell finished second and Max Verstappen third.**

80. When is International Literacy Day observed annually?

- (a) 5 September
- (b) 8 September
- (c) 14 September
- (d) 21 September
- (e) 24 January

Ans. b

Sol.

- **International Literacy Day is an international observance** celebrated each year on 8 September. It was declared by **UNESCO on 26 October 1966** at the 14th session of UNESCO's General Conference and celebrated for the **first time in 1967.**
- **Purpose:** Highlights literacy as a fundamental human right and a tool for building a more sustainable, inclusive, and peaceful society.
- **Theme 2026:** "Literacy for people, the planet and prosperity".

81. S. R. Janakiraman, who passed away at the age of 98, was associated primarily with which field?

- (a) Hindustani classical music
- (b) Carnatic music
- (c) Indian classical dance
- (d) Theatre
- (e) Literature

Ans. b

Sol. S. R. Janakiraman was an influential Carnatic musician who passed away at 98 in Chennai on 6 September 2026. He was respected for his knowledge and lectures on Carnatic music.

82. Birkbeck, University of London has received the Letter of Approval (LoA) from which organisation to establish and operate its Bengaluru campus?

- (a) AICTE
- (b) UGC
- (c) NITI Aayog
- (d) Ministry of Education
- (e) NAAC

Ans. b

Sol. The University Grants Commission (UGC), Government of India, granted the Letter of Approval to Birkbeck for its Bengaluru campus. The approval follows the Letter of Intent and completes the regulatory process under the UGC's 2023 regulations for Foreign Higher Educational Institutions.

83. Which city topped the million-plus population category in the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2026?

- (a) Indore
- (b) Jabalpur
- (c) Lucknow
- (d) Delhi
- (e) Mumbai

Ans. c

Sol.

- **Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh, topped the million-plus population category in the 2026 'Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan'** for its efforts to **improve air quality**. The city's measures included adding electric vehicles to its waste collection fleet, deploying mechanised sweepers to control road dust, and managing legacy waste.
- **Indore, India's cleanest city**, secured the **second spot**, while **Jabalpur finished third** in the million-plus cities category. Meanwhile, **Chennai**,

Jamshedpur, Kota, Kolkata, and Madurai ranked in the bottom five in this category, while **Delhi and Mumbai ranked 30th and 37th, respectively.**

- The survey evaluates measures related to solid waste, road and construction dust, vehicular emissions, industrial emissions and particulate matter reduction.
- **Rourkela topped the 3–10 lakh population category, while Kalinga Nagar led cities with populations below 3 lakh.**

84. Coastal Local Area Bank Limited became the first Local Area Bank in India to achieve which status?

- (a) Small Finance Bank status
- (b) Payment Bank status
- (c) Scheduled Bank status
- (d) Universal Bank status
- (e) Regional Rural Bank status

Ans. c

Sol. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has officially granted **Scheduled Bank status** to **Coastal Local Area Bank Limited** by including it in the **Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934.**

This milestone makes the Vijayawada-headquartered institution the **first Local Area Bank (LAB) in India** to achieve this status, making it **Andhra Pradesh's only scheduled bank.**

85. Who has been appointed as the next Chairman of Asian Paints, effective January 23, 2027?

- (a) R. Seshasayee
- (b) Leo Puri
- (c) Sanjeev Mehta
- (d) Amitabh Chaudhry
- (e) N. Chandrasekaran

Ans. b

Sol. Asian Paints appointed financial services veteran Leo Puri as an additional independent director and designated him Chairman of the Board, effective January 23, 2027. He will succeed R. Seshasayee.

86. Where will the 72nd National Film Awards 2026 ceremony be held?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Ahmedabad
- (d) Ekta Nagar, Gujarat
- (e) Gandhinagar

Ans. d

Sol. The 72nd National Film Awards ceremony will be held at Ekta Nagar in Gujarat on September 22, 2026. It will be the first time the National Film Awards ceremony is held outside New Delhi since its inception.

87. Which Indian-American agricultural scientist has been named for the Borlaug CAST Communication Award?

- (a) Raghunath Mashelkar
- (b) Karim Maredia
- (c) Venkatraman Ramakrishnan
- (d) Subhash Kak
- (e) Ramesh Reddy

Ans. b

Sol.

- **Indian-American agricultural scientist Karim Maredia has been named for the Borlaug CAST Communication Award**, given in honour of **Nobel laureate Norman Borlaug**, who pioneered the **Green Revolution**.
- The award, given by the **Iowa-based Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST)**, will be conferred on Maredia, professor, associate dean and director of the World Agriculture Centre at Michigan State University's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, at the Library of Congress here on December 10.

88. India qualified for the AFC U-20 Asian Cup China 2027 after defeating which team?

- (a) Nepal
- (b) Pakistan
- (c) Bangladesh

- (d) Sri Lanka
(e) Myanmar

Ans. c

Sol.

- **India's return to the AFC U-20 Asian Cup after a 20-year absence offers the country's emerging footballers a chance to compete against Asia's leading youth teams and potentially move closer to the FIFA U20 World Cup.**
- **India secured qualification for the AFC U20 Asian Cup China 2027 with a 3-0 win over Bangladesh in Tashkent** on September 6. The victory took India to six points in Group B and secured their place as one of the seven best runners-up from the eight qualifying groups.
- **India last featured in the continental U20 championship in 2006.** Their qualification for the 2027 edition marks a return to the competition **after 21 years and ends a prolonged** period in which the country's youth teams struggled to reach the finals consistently.

89. Which Indian badminton pair won the men's doubles title at the China Masters 2026?

- (a) Lakshya Sen and HS Prannoy
(b) Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty
(c) Arjun Madathil and Dhruv Kapila
(d) Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto
(e) Manu Attri and Sumit Reddy

Ans. b

Sol.

- **Indian badminton pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won the China Masters 2026 men's doubles** title in Shenzhen on September 6, 2026, staging a strong comeback in the **final to clinch the crown.**
- **Satwik and Chirag, ranked fifth in the world, defeated China's He Jiting and Ren Xiangyu** 11-21, 21-13, 21-17 in a match lasting an hour and ten minutes, to lift the BWF Super 750 title. This win made them the first Indian pair to win the **China Masters since the tournament began in 2005**, a huge milestone in Indian badminton history.

90. Which company's Spectrum rocket became the first commercial rocket to reach orbit from continental Europe?

- (a) SpaceX
- (b) Arianespace
- (c) Isar Aerospace
- (d) Rocket Lab
- (e) Blue Origin

Ans. c

Sol.

- **German startup Isar Aerospace** on 6 September said it would rapidly expand satellite deployments after the **first orbital launch of its Spectrum rocket from Arctic Norway, a milestone for Europe's efforts to secure independent access to space.**
- The uncrewed Spectrum became the **first commercial rocket to reach orbit from continental Europe**, marking a breakthrough for a region where several countries are seeking a foothold in the fast-growing market for satellite launches.

91. R. Sarath, who passed away at the age of 65 in September 2026, was associated with which field?

- (a) Sports
- (b) Politics
- (c) Malayalam cinema
- (d) Classical music
- (e) Journalism

Ans. c

Sol. R. Sarath was an award-winning Malayalam filmmaker and cultural researcher. He made feature films, short films and documentaries and contributed to Kerala's social and cultural sphere.

92. What was the theme of World Physiotherapy Day 2026?

- (a) Physiotherapy for Global Health
- (b) Healthy Ageing Through Movement
- (c) Role of physiotherapy and physical activity in the prevention, management and

rehabilitation of cardiovascular disease and stroke

(d) Rehabilitation for All

(e) Physiotherapy and Mental Wellness

Ans. c

Sol. World Physiotherapy Day 2026 was observed on September 8. The theme highlighted the role of physiotherapy and physical activity in preventing, managing and rehabilitating cardiovascular disease and stroke.

93. Vivek Raghavan, Co-founder of Sarvam AI, was named among TIME's 2026 list of the world's 100 most influential leaders in which field?

(a) Artificial Intelligence

(b) Space Technology

(c) Biotechnology

(d) Renewable Energy

(e) Cyber Law

Ans. a

Sol.

- **The Co-founder of Sarvam AI, Vivek Raghavan, has been named to TIME magazine's TIME100 AI 2026 list of the world's 100 most influential leaders in artificial intelligence.**
- Vivek Raghavan was involved in **building Aadhaar, a biometric identification system that consists of a 12-digit unique identity number** which residents of India can obtain voluntarily based on their place of residence, biometric and demographic data.

94. The 62nd APNIC Conference (APNIC 62) is being held in which Indian city in September 2026?

(a) Bengaluru

(b) New Delhi

(c) Mumbai

(d) Hyderabad

(e) Chennai

Ans. c

Sol.

- **The 62nd APNIC Conference (APNIC 62) is being held in Mumbai in September 2026 to discuss AI, cybersecurity and future-ready Internet infrastructure.**
- **Hosted by the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) and the Internet Service Providers Association of India (ISPAI)** with the support of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Government of Maharashtra, APNIC 62 is organized by the Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC), the region's not-for-profit Internet number registry.
- **The event will bring together technical** experts, network operators, policymakers and leaders from the Internet community to examine some of the most significant challenges and opportunities shaping the Internet's future. This includes AI-powered services, network automation, cybersecurity, routing security and Internet governance issues.

95. How many nations, including India, are part of the global coalition spearheaded by the United States to advance 6G technology?

- (a) 15
- (b) 20
- (c) 22
- (d) 25
- (e) 30

Ans. d

Sol.

- India has joined a global coalition spearheaded by the United States to advance the development of 6G wireless technology.
- The partnership, which includes 25 nations, aims to align national strategies for 6G and ensure that next-generation networks reflect shared security interests.
- The initiative was discussed during the G20 Innovation Ministerial, while India has set an ambitious goal of becoming a leading contributor to 6G design, development and deployment by 2030.

96. The 27th World Knowledge Forum commenced in which city?

- (a) Tokyo
- (b) Seoul
- (c) Singapore
- (d) Bangkok
- (e) Beijing

Ans. b

Sol.

- The **27th World Knowledge Forum commenced in Seoul**, uniting international **political figures, scientists, technology innovators, and business executives to explore how artificial intelligence (AI)** is shaping the future of humanity.
- This three-day event is being held at The Shilla Seoul and Jangchung Arena, revolving around the **theme, "The Promethean Moment: Architecting the Co-Intelligence Order."**
- Political leaders, business executives, academics and technology experts are discussing AI, human-machine collaboration and cybersecurity.

97. SBI launched the India–UK CETA Facilitation Desk primarily to help businesses benefit from:

- (a) Higher import tariffs
- (b) Lower tariffs and new market access
- (c) Cryptocurrency trading
- (d) Domestic agricultural subsidies
- (e) Gold monetisation

Ans. b

Sol.

- The **State Bank of India (SBI) launched the India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)** Facilitation Desk through its UK operations and London Branch in late August 2026.
- **Purpose:** Help businesses in India and the UK maximize the benefits of lower tariffs and new market access from the India–UK CETA, which came into force on July 15, 2026.
- **Services Offered:** Tailored banking solutions, export finance, bill discounting, market-entry support, and buyer-industry connectivity.

- **Broader Goal:** Support the bilateral goal of doubling the current annual trade between India and the UK by FY2030.

98. The Asian Development Bank signed its first Transaction Advisory Services mandate in India with which state government?

- (a) Gujarat
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Rajasthan
- (e) Karnataka

Ans. c

Sol.

- **The Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signed its **first Transaction Advisory Services (TAS) mandate in India** with the **Madhya Pradesh Government on 7 September 2026**.
- **The objective** is to develop renewable-energy projects through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs).
- The projects could attract up to **US\$1 billion in private investment**.
- ADB will assist in project preparation, **financial structuring, procurement and tender development**.
- A solar power facility with Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Shajapur is among the projects being developed.

99. Bandhan Bank launched its new credit card range in partnership with which company?

- (a) Visa
- (b) Mastercard
- (c) American Express
- (d) RuPay
- (e) Discover

Ans. b

Sol.

- **Bandhan Bank has entered the credit card** segment with the launch of four card variants in partnership **with Mastercard**. The portfolio includes **Sparks**,

Ignite, Flare and Lumina, aimed at different spending and customer segments.

- The cards offer rewards and benefits across categories such as grocery, apparel, travel, dining, entertainment and international spending. The bank said customers can apply for the cards through a digital-first process and access card servicing online.

100. Dr. Vinaya Prakash Singh was re-elected as Secretary-General of which organization?

- (a) Universal Postal Union
- (b) Asian-Pacific Postal Union
- (c) World Postal Council
- (d) Asia-Pacific Telecom Union
- (e) International Postal Federation

Ans. b

Sol. Dr. Vinaya Prakash Singh was re-elected unopposed as **Secretary-General of the Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU)** for a second term running from January 2027 to December 2030.

101. Who will receive the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Jan Seva Puraskar 2026?

- (a) Vivek Raghavan
- (b) Sergio Gor
- (c) Kishor Makwana
- (d) Vinaya Prakash Singh
- (e) Ulf Kristersson

Ans. c

Sol. **NCSC Chairman Shri Kishor Makwana** will receive the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Jan Seva Puraskar 2026 in recognition of the Commission's work in social justice and protection of the rights and interests of Scheduled Caste communities.

102. What does the acronym "TRUST" stand for in the US-India TRUST Fellowship?

- (a) Technology Research and United Science Transfer
- (b) Transforming the Relationship Utilizing Strategic Technology
- (c) Technology Research for Universal Scientific Transformation

- (d) Transnational Research Using Scientific Technology
(e) Transforming Research Under Strategic Technology

Ans. b

Sol. TRUST stands for **Transforming the Relationship Utilizing Strategic Technology**. The fellowship supports collaborative research projects between U.S. researchers and premier Indian institutions.

- **The US-India TRUST Fellowship was officially launched in Bengaluru by U.S.** Ambassador to India Sergio Gor to deepen technology and research cooperation between the two countries.
- **Full Name:** Transforming the Relationship Utilizing Strategic Technology (TRUST)
- **Objective:** Support up to 20 U.S. postdoctoral researchers and early-career faculty for 12-month collaborative research projects at premier Indian institutions.
- **Core Research Areas:** Artificial Intelligence, semiconductors, quantum computing, biotechnology, energy, space, and defense.
- **Host Institutions:** Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) and Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE)

103. The bilateral dialogue between India and Sweden was held under which initiative?

- (a) India-Europe Digital Partnership
(b) Sweden-India Technology and AI Corridor
(c) India-Nordic Innovation Mission
(d) Sweden-India Digital Bridge
(e) Nordic AI Partnership

Ans. b

Sol.

- **India and Sweden aim to leverage AI and emerging technologies to strengthen innovation, enterprise adoption and technology-led growth, while fostering responsible and trusted AI ecosystems.**

- Sweden brings deep industrial, research, and advanced manufacturing expertise, while India offers unmatched scale, digital public infrastructure, and a vast pool of AI talent and testing environments.
- The IndiaAI Mission held a bilateral dialogue here with a delegation from Sweden under the **Sweden-India Technology and AI Corridor (SITAC)**.

104. National Forest Martyrs Day is observed annually in India on:

- (a) September 5
- (b) September 8
- (c) September 10
- (d) September 11
- (e) September 15

Ans. d

Sol. **National Forest Martyrs Day** is observed on **September 11** to honor forest guards, rangers and community members who sacrificed their lives to protect forests, wildlife and the environment. The 2026 theme is "**Remembering Martyrs, Protecting Forests.**"

105. Under which sustainability programme are SBI and Bisleri International collaborating to promote plastic waste recycling?

- (a) Green India Mission
- (b) Bottles for Change
- (c) Swachh Bharat Mission
- (d) Mission LiFE
- (e) Plastic Free India

Ans. b

Sol. SBI and Bisleri International are collaborating under Bisleri's flagship sustainability programme, **Bottles for Change**, which focuses on source segregation, collection and recycling of plastic waste. The partnership also supports SBI's Net Zero emissions target for 2055.

106. Who inaugurated the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2026 in Mumbai on September 8, 2026?

- (a) Amit Shah
- (b) Nirmala Sitharaman

- (c) Narendra Modi
- (d) Piyush Goyal
- (e) Ashwini Vaishnaw

Ans. c

Sol. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2026 in Mumbai on September 8, 2026, emphasizing India's rise as a global fintech powerhouse.

Highlights Point

- **Theme:** Potential to Impact - Agentic AI | Tokenisation | Quantum
- **Economic Growth:** Noted India's 7.8% GDP growth in the April–June quarter.
- **UPI Milestones:** Highlighted UPI's expansion to 11 countries and record volumes exceeding 24 billion transactions in August 2026.
- **PM SVANidhi Extension:** Noted the formal credit integration of street vendors, with the scheme extended up to 2030.

107. What is the financial outlay approved by the Chhattisgarh government for the Chief Minister Startup and NIPUN Mission?

- (a) ₹100 crore
- (b) ₹250 crore
- (c) ₹500 crore
- (d) ₹750 crore
- (e) ₹1,000 crore

Ans. c

Sol.

- **The Chhattisgarh government** approved the **Chief Minister Startup and NIPUN Mission with a ₹500 crore financial outlay over five years to transform youth into job creators.**
- Entrepreneurship Development Centres will be established in **all 33 districts**, along with **100 Emerging Technology Labs** to provide youth with hands-on exposure to new and emerging technologies.
- The labs will enable young people to work on modern technologies, undertake practical experiments and develop technology-based solutions rather than limiting learning to theoretical knowledge.

About NIPUN

- **Budget & Duration:** ₹500 crore allocated for five years (approved September 2026).
- **Full Form:** New-age industry preparedness through upskilling of youth (NIPUN).
- **Core Goal:** Shift youth focus from job-seekers to job-creators.

108. What is the theme of the Global Dryland Congress 2026 held in New Delhi?

- (a) Sustainable Agriculture for Global Growth
- (b) Transforming Dryland Agriculture with South-South Cooperation
- (c) Climate Change and Food Security
- (d) Agriculture for Viksit Bharat 2047
- (e) Global Cooperation for Green Agriculture

Ans. b

Sol.

- The **three-day Global Dryland Congress 2026** is underway in New Delhi. The programme is being held on the theme, **"Transforming Dryland Agriculture with South-South Cooperation."**
- Panel discussions are being held on various themes, including **"Breeding for Tomorrow: Accelerating Genetic Gains"** and **"Climate-Resilient Dryland Landscapes."**
- Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, will address the Congress in the post lunch session.

109. Jio Payment Solutions Limited received authorization from which institution to operate as a Payment Aggregator for Cross-Border (PA-CB) transactions?

- (a) SEBI
- (b) IRDAI
- (c) NABARD
- (d) Reserve Bank of India
- (e) Ministry of Finance

Ans. d

Sol.

- **Jio Payment Solutions Limited (JPSL)**, a wholly owned subsidiary of Jio Financial Services Limited, announced the launch of **cross-border payments**,

empowering Indian exporters to seamlessly accept **international payments - via virtual accounts, international cards, and local payment rails - from customers worldwide** and boost their global competitiveness.

- The launch follows the receipt of authorization from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a Payment Aggregator for Cross-Border (PA-CB)** transactions, covering both exports and imports.
- Including online sellers, digital businesses, freelancers, creators, and SaaS companies – scale globally, collecting international payments remains a fragmented and complex process.

110. Former Chief Justice of India Justice Dipak Misra was conferred with which award?

- (a) Kalinga Ratna Award
- (b) Odisha Ratna Award
- (c) Bharat Gaurav Award
- (d) Utkal Ratna Award
- (e) Kalinga Samman Award

Ans. a

Sol.

- **Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice Dipak Misra** has been conferred with the **Kalinga Ratna Award by Sarala Sahitya Sansad in Cuttack**. The award **comprises a silver idol of Goddess Saraswati and a citation**.
- Dipak Misra a state-level civilian honor given annually to recognize iconic figures from **Odisha for lifetime achievements in fields like jurisprudence, public service, and literature**.

111. Where was the inaugural meeting of the India–Morocco Joint Defence Committee held in September 2026?

- (a) Rabat
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) New Delhi
- (d) Casablanca
- (e) Bengaluru

Ans. c

Sol. India and Morocco held the **first session of their Joint Defence Committee in New Delhi on September 8, 2026**. The meeting focused on bilateral military and industrial cooperation, including joint exercises, training and technology collaboration.

112. Which organization designed and constructed the Ocean Research Vessel 'Sagar Manthan'?

- (a) Cochin Shipyard Limited
- (b) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
- (c) Hindustan Shipyard Limited
- (d) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
- (e) Goa Shipyard Limited

Ans. d

Sol.

- **India launched the advanced Ocean Research Vessel (ORV) 'Sagar Manthan' at Rishi Bankim Shipyard, Kolkata**, on 9 September 2026. The vessel has been designed and constructed by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)** for the National Centre for **Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)** under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**.
- **Indigenous Ocean Research:** ORV Sagar Manthan represents a major step towards Atmanirbhar Bharat in oceanographic research and maritime technology. It is the first advanced Ocean Research Vessel built by GRSE.
- **Deep Ocean Mission:** The vessel is being constructed under Vertical-4 (Deep Ocean Survey and Exploration) of the Government's Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) at an estimated cost of around ₹840 crore.

113. India and Sri Lanka signed an MoU for the upgradation of which guns for the Sri Lankan Air Force?

- (a) L40 Guns
- (b) L50 Guns
- (c) L60 Guns
- (d) L70 Guns
- (e) L80 Guns

Ans. d

Sol. India and Sri Lanka exchanged an MoU concerning the **upgradation of L70 Guns** for the Sri Lankan Air Force. The upgrade is intended to strengthen the air-defence architecture protecting critical assets in Sri Lanka

114. How many new space-industry partnerships were announced between India and Australia at Bengaluru Space Expo 2026?

- (a) Two
- (b) Three
- (c) Four
- (d) Five
- (e) Six

Ans. d

Sol. India and Australia announced **five new space-industry partnerships** at the 9th Bengaluru Space Expo 2026. The partnerships cover areas such as satellite ground infrastructure, spacecraft recovery, spaceport testing and commercial space missions

115. What is the name of the new plant species discovered by the Botanical Survey of India in the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve?

- (a) *Osbeckia indica*
- (b) *Osbeckia ulotricha*
- (c) *Osbeckia keralaensis*
- (d) *Osbeckia agasthyamala*
- (e) *Osbeckia occidentalis*

Ans. b

Sol. The **Botanical Survey of India (BSI)** discovered and described ***Osbeckia ulotricha***, a new woolly-haired flowering plant species found in the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve across Kerala and Tamil Nadu. It belongs to the **Melastomataceae** family and ***Osbeckia*** genus.

116. Tung Chee-hwa, who passed away at the age of 89, was the first Chief Executive of which region?

- (a) Macau Special Administrative Region
- (b) Taiwan
- (c) Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

- (d) Singapore
(e) Shanghai

Ans. c

Sol. Tung Chee-hwa was the **first Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**. He died on September 8 at the age of 89

117. Who launched the 'Mukhyamantri Yuva Bhavishya Nirman Yojana' for competitive examination preparation?

- (a) Pushkar Singh Dhami
(b) Gurmit Singh
(c) Yogi Adityanath
(d) Bhupendra Patel
(e) Hemant Soren

Ans. a

Sol.

- **Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami** launched the **Mukhyamantri Yuva Bhavishya Nirman Yojana** on September 7, 2026, to provide **free online coaching and quality study material for various competitive examinations**.
- **First Phase Beneficiaries:** 11,000 eligible students will receive free online coaching in the initial phase.
- **Target Group:** Students studying in government and government-aided colleges, as well as state universities in Uttarakhand.
- **Eligibility Focus:** Final-year graduation or post-graduation students, along with recipients of the Mukhyamantri Uchch Shiksha Shodh Protsahan Chhatravritti Yojana.
- **Aims:** Helps talented youth from low-income families pursue careers without financial strain.

118. Where was France's first traditional Hindu mandir, the BAPS Swaminarayan Hindu Mandir, consecrated?

- (a) Marseille
(b) Lyon
(c) Bussy-Saint-Georges

- (d) Nice
- (e) Toulouse

Ans. c

Sol. BAPS spiritual leader Mahant Swami Maharaj performed the Vedic consecration of the BAPS Swaminarayan Hindu Mandir in Bussy-Saint-Georges, near Paris. It is described in the source as France's first traditional Hindu mandir.

The mandir realises a **vision first articulated in 1970** by BAPS's third spiritual head, Yogiji Maharaj, and carried forward by his successor Pramukh Swami Maharaj before being completed under Mahant Swami Maharaj.

119. Which authority granted Niyo a Payment Service Provider (PSP) licence to operate from GIFT City?

- (a) Reserve Bank of India
- (b) SEBI
- (c) IFSCA
- (d) IRDAI
- (e) PFRDA

Ans. c

Sol.

- **Fintech platform Niyo has secured a Payment Service Provider (PSP) licence from the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) to operate from GIFT City**, as the company looks to expand its cross-border financial services beyond travel forex.
- The licence will allow Niyo to build and offer international financial solutions from GIFT City.
- Niyo currently operates in the travel forex segment and plans to broaden its offerings to cover other cross-border requirements, including international education, employment, spending and money transfers.

120. Which of the following received RBI regulatory approval for acquiring up to 9.95% stake in certain banks?

- (a) RNFI Services Ltd.
- (b) PB Pay Private Limited
- (c) ICICI Prudential AMC

- (d) PB Fintech
(e) Niyo

Ans. c

Sol. RBI granted regulatory clearance to ICICI Prudential AMC to acquire up to 9.95% in Kotak Mahindra Bank, CSB Bank, DCB Bank and AU Small Finance Bank, subject to specified conditions.

121. Who received the Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement Award at the 62nd Maharashtra State Film Awards?

- (a) Rani Mukerji
(b) Salim Khan
(c) Prasad Oak
(d) Hridaynath Mangeshkar
(e) Amitabh Bachchan

Ans. b

Sol. Salim Khan was honoured with the Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement Award at the 62nd Maharashtra State Film Awards held on September 9, 2026, at Ravindra Natya Mandir in Prabhadevi, Mumbai.

The Maharashtra State Film Awards also honoured several prominent names from the Hindi and Marathi film industries with special awards:

- Salim Khan — Raj Kapoor Award
- Rani Mukerji — Raj Kapoor Special Contribution Award
- Hridaynath Mangeshkar — V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award
- Prasad Oak — V. Shantaram Special Contribution Award

122. The SHIELD programme launched by DRDO is related to which technology?

- (a) High-Power Microwave technology
(b) Quantum computing
(c) Satellite navigation
(d) Artificial intelligence in agriculture
(e) Underwater robotics

Ans. a

Sol. DRDO launched the SHIELD programme, described as an advanced S-band High-Power Microwave Integrated Evaluation System, under the Technology Development Fund (TDF). It is designed to evaluate the effects of intense microwave energy on sensitive military electronics and communication systems.

123. Exercise Samudra Laksamana is conducted between the Indian Navy and which country's navy?

- (a) Indonesian Navy
- (b) Malaysian Navy
- (c) Singaporean Navy
- (d) Thai Navy
- (e) Vietnamese Navy

Ans. b

Sol.

- **Indian Naval Ship Mysore participated in the 4th edition of Exercise Samudra Laksamana with the Royal Malaysian Navy at Lumut, Malaysia, from 09 to 12 Sep 2026.**
- **The exercise provided an opportunity for the Indian Navy and the Royal Malaysian Navy to engage across a broad spectrum of professional and operational activities.**
- **The harbour phase featured professional exchanges and interactions between personnel of the two Navies, facilitating the sharing of experiences and fostering greater mutual understanding.**

124. The 22nd edition of the India-US joint military exercise Yudh Abhyas 2026 adopted which format?

- (a) Three-theatre format
- (b) Maritime-only format
- (c) Two-theatre format
- (d) Air-only format
- (e) Cyber-only format

Ans. c

Sol. Yudh Abhyas 2026 adopted a first-of-its-kind two-theatre training format. Phase 1 was conducted at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges near Bikaner, Rajasthan, while Phase 2 was held at Auli, Uttarakhand.

125. Which formation of the Indian Army conducted the 'Rudra Raptors' joint exercise in Jaisalmer?

- (a) Trishakti Corps
- (b) Konark Corps
- (c) Sudarshan Chakra Corps
- (d) Vajra Corps
- (e) Fire and Fury Corps

Ans. b

Sol.

- In a significant display of operational readiness, **the Konark Corps** of the Indian Army held a high-intensity joint military exercise, '**Rudra Raptors**' under the theme 'one team, one purpose, absolute battlefield dominance' in the forward areas of the desert sector **in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.**
- The exercise witnessed joint integrated training and active participation from the elite helicopters of 'Thar Raptors' such as AH-64E Apaches and tanks of 'Black Mace' Brigade.
- **Exercise was aimed** at establishing seamless synergy between aerial and ground combat capabilities, as well as to validate integrated battle strategies for realistic battlefield conditions.

126. Which team won the Duleep Trophy 2026–27?

- (a) South Zone
- (b) North Zone
- (c) West Zone
- (d) East Zone
- (e) Central Zone

Ans. d

Sol. East Zone won the Duleep Trophy 2026–27 after a 13-year gap. It was East Zone's **third Duleep Trophy title**, with South Zone finishing as runners-up.

Duleep Trophy 2026-27

- **Champions:** East Zone (3rd title)
- **Runners-up:** South Zone
- **Player of the series:** Tilak Varma (South Zone)

- **Most runs:** Ishan Kishan (East Zone) (409)
- **Most wickets:** Mukesh Kumar (East Zone) (12), Abid Mushtaq (North Zone) (12)

127. The CE20 cryogenic engine was successfully tested for the upcoming mission of which launch vehicle?

- (a) PSLV-C60
- (b) SSLV-D5
- (c) LVM3-M7
- (d) GSLV-F16
- (e) PSLV-C62

Ans. c

Sol. ISRO successfully completed a flight acceptance hot test of its indigenous CE20 cryogenic engine at an uprated thrust level of 22 tonnes (220 kN) for the upcoming LVM3-M7 mission.

128. Hindi Diwas is observed every year on which date in India?

- (a) September 5
- (b) September 14
- (c) September 15
- (d) August 15
- (e) January 26

Ans. b

Sol. Hindi Diwas is celebrated every year on September 14 to commemorate the adoption of Hindi in the Devanagari script by the Constituent Assembly in 1949 as the official language of the Union. The first official Hindi Diwas was observed on September 14, 1953.

129. Southern Railway has achieved 100% electrification of its Broad Gauge (BG) network covering how many route kilometres (RKM)?

- (a) 4,568 RKM
- (b) 5,068 RKM
- (c) 5,568 RKM
- (d) 6,068 RKM
- (e) 6,568 RKM

Ans. b

Sol. Southern Railway has achieved 100% electrification of its Broad Gauge network, covering **5,068 route kilometres (RKM)**. The milestone was achieved after electrification of the 71-km Pattukkottai–Karaikkudi section.

130. The Bihar Industries Department signed an MoU with which organisation to promote a dedicated food processing park in Bihar?

- (a) UAE Investment Authority
- (b) Dubai Chamber of Commerce
- (c) AIM Global Foundation
- (d) Gulf Food Council
- (e) UAE Food Processing Corporation

Ans. c

Sol. The Bihar Industries Department signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the AIM Global Foundation** to promote a dedicated food processing park and attract investment from the UAE and wider Gulf region.

The partnership aims to develop an integrated agri-food and food processing cluster in Bihar. The proposed food processing park is expected to strengthen connections **between farmers, industries and global supply chains.**

131. What was the theme of Axis Bank's 4th edition of Sparsh Week 2026?

- (a) Banking for Everyone
- (b) Connect with Customers
- (c) Act with Speed
- (d) Digital Banking for All
- (e) Customer First

Ans. c

Sol.

- **Axis Bank** Limited launched **4th** edition of the **Sparsh Week**, its flagship nationwide customer engagement initiative themed **"Act with Speed,"** held from **September 7 to 11, 2026** across India, with over 90 leaders participating from Kashmir (Jammu and Kashmir, J&K) to Kanyakumari (Tamil, Nadu, TN) and Kutch (Gujarat) to Kohima (Nagaland).

- **The initiative aims to** conduct more than 2.5 lakh customer interactions across diverse touchpoints, accelerating feedback into faster action through digital innovation and enhanced engagement platforms.

132. The 16th Sansad Ratna Awards 2026 ceremony was held at which location?

- (a) Parliament House, New Delhi
- (b) Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi
- (c) Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi
- (d) Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi
- (e) India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

Ans. c

Sol.

- The **16th Sansad Ratna Awards 2026 ceremony** was held on September 9, 2026, at **the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi**, honoring **12 outstanding Members of Parliament** and **4 Parliamentary Standing Committees**.
- Presented by the **Prime Point Foundation**, these awards recognize **excellence based on performance metrics like attendance, debates, questions raised, and committee contributions**.
- **Individual MPs (12 Total):** Includes prominent leaders such as Jagdambika Pal, P.P. Chaudhary, Nishikant Dubey, Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde, Medha Kulkarni, and Smita Uday Wagh. Maharashtra secured a strong representation with 5 awards.

Parliamentary Committees (4 Total):

- **Agriculture:** Chaired by Dr. Charanjit Singh Channi
- **Finance:** Chaired by Bhartruhari Mahtab
- **Rural Development and Panchayati Raj:** Chaired by Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka
- **Coal and Mines:** Chaired by Anurag Thakur

133. How many outstanding literacy programmes received the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes 2026?

- (a) Four
- (b) Five
- (c) Six

- (d) Seven
(e) Eight

Ans. c

Sol.

- **Six outstanding literacy programmes from Colombia, Lebanon, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria and Thailand** have **been awarded the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes** for their **exceptional contributions to advancing literacy across the globe.**
- These awards were presented during the International Literacy Day global celebration, organised by UNESCO in collaboration with the government of Mexico on September 8 and 9 in the State of Chiapas, Mexico.
- **Since 1967, UNESCO's International Literacy Prizes** have rewarded more than 600 individuals, organisations and institutions for the excellence, innovation and impact of their field initiatives to advance literacy worldwide.

134. Who won the Men's Singles title at the 2026 US Open?

- (a) Ben Shelton
(b) Alexander Zverev
(c) Kevin Krawietz
(d) Tim Pütz
(e) Neal Skupski

Ans. b

Sol.

Event	Winner	Runner-up
Men's Singles	Alexander Zverev (Germany)	Ben Shelton (USA)
Women's Singles	Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan)	Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)
Men's Doubles	Christian Harrison (USA) & Neal Skupski (Britain)	Kevin Krawietz (Germany) & Tim Pütz (Germany)

Women's Doubles	Taylor Townsend (USA) & Kateřina Siniaková (Czechia)	Ashlyn Krueger (USA)& Robin Montgomery (USA)
Mixed Doubles	Karolína Muchová (Czechia)& Jakub Menšík (Czechia)	Belinda Bencic (Switzerland)& Flavio Cobolli (Italy)

135. Himalaya Diwas is observed annually in India on which date?

- (a) September 5
- (b) September 7
- (c) September 9
- (d) September 11
- (e) September 12

Ans. c

Sol. Himalaya Diwas, or Himalaya Day, is observed annually on September 9 to raise awareness about the importance of the Himalayan mountain range and the need to protect its fragile ecosystem. It was first observed in Uttarakhand in 2010.

136. What was the theme of World EV Day 2026?

- (a) Drive Green, Drive Electric
- (b) Electric Mobility for Everyone
- (c) Switching Electric: driving down the cost of motoring
- (d) Clean Energy, Clean Transport
- (e) Accelerating the Electric Future

Ans. c

Sol.

- **World Electric Vehicle (EV) Day**, observed annually on 9 September, is a global campaign that promotes electric mobility, sustainable transport and the transition to cleaner energy solutions.
- The first edition of the **World EV Day** was observed on September 9, 2020.
- **Theme 2026:** "Switching Electric: driving down the cost of motoring"

137. What was the theme of World First Aid Day 2026?

- (a) First Aid for All
- (b) First Aid in Migration Contexts
- (c) First Aid Saves Lives
- (d) First Aid in Emergencies
- (e) First Aid for Safer Communities

Ans. b

Sol. World First Aid Day 2026 was observed on **September 12**, with the theme **"First Aid in Migration Contexts."** The day highlights the importance of first aid and is held on the second Saturday of September.

138. Solomon Pappaiah, who passed away on September 12, 2026, was best known for his contribution to which traditional art form?

- (a) Yakshagana
- (b) Kathakali
- (c) Pattimandram
- (d) Bharatanatyam
- (e) Koodiyattam

Ans. c

Sol. Solomon Pappaiah, a veteran Tamil scholar, orator, actor and television personality, was known for transforming the centuries-old art of **Pattimandram** into a popular living-room tradition. He was also a recipient of the **Padma Shri**.

139. Where was the 18th BRICS Summit 2026 held?

- (a) Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi
- (b) Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
- (c) Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi
- (d) Bharat Mandapam, Mumbai
- (e) Hyderabad International Convention Centre

Ans. b

Sol. The 18th BRICS Summit was held at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, from September 12 to 13, 2026**, under India's fourth chairship.

140. The University of Bristol opened its first international campus in which Indian city?

- (a) Bengaluru
- (b) Hyderabad
- (c) Mumbai
- (d) Pune
- (e) Chennai

Ans. c

Sol. The University of Bristol opened its **Mumbai Enterprise Campus** on September 11, 2026. It is the university's first international campus and is located in Powai, opposite IIT Bombay.

141. India is scheduled to host the World Circular Economy Forum 2026 in which city?

- (a) Ahmedabad
- (b) Gandhinagar
- (c) Surat
- (d) Vadodara
- (e) New Delhi

Ans. b

Sol. India will host the **World Circular Economy Forum 2026 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, from September 15 to 18, 2026.** Its theme is "**Circular Economy: Transition for People and Prosperity.**"

142. The Inaugural International Space Summit 2026 was held in which city?

- (a) London
- (b) Geneva
- (c) Paris
- (d) Berlin
- (e) Rome

Ans. c

Sol.

- **The Inaugural International Space Summit 2026 was held on September 9–10, 2026, at the Grand Palais in Paris, France.** Championed by **French**

President Emmanuel Macron and co-led with special envoys astronaut Thomas Pesquet and entrepreneur H  l  ne Huby.

- Brought together nearly 120 foreign delegations representing around 90 countries, including heads of state, ministers, space agencies, and private sector leaders. Notable addresses included an appearance via **video conference by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.

143. According to the provided current affairs material, what Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) will NPCI introduce on UPI merchant payments exceeding ₹2,000 from October 15, 2026?

- (a) 0.02%
(b) 0.20%
(c) 0.40%
(d) 0.50%
(e) 1.00%

Ans. c

Sol.

- Starting October 15, 2026, the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** will introduce a **0.4% Merchant Discount Rate (MDR)** on UPI merchant payments exceeding ₹2,000.
- **Details on UPI Merchant Charges Customer Fee:** Zero. Customers sending money or paying merchants will not pay any extra fees or hidden charges.
- **Small Vendors Exempt:** Small merchants with monthly UPI receipts up to ₹1,00,000 remain completely exempt from MDR charges. Rural and semi-urban QR code transactions are also exempt.
- **Transaction Threshold:** Transactions of ₹2,000 or less—and all person-to-person (P2P) transfers—continue to be entirely free.
- **Sector Caps:** Essential and high-volume sectors like railways, telecom, insurance, and fuel will incur a flat MDR fee of ₹5 for transactions over ₹2,000. For other categories, high-value transactions above ₹75,000 are capped at ₹300. Capital market investments (like mutual funds and stocks) are charged at a lower rate of 0.02% (capped at ₹300).

144. What was India's WPI-based inflation rate in August 2026, according to the provided data?

- (a) 8.30%
- (b) 9.78%
- (c) 9.88%
- (d) 9.92%
- (e) 9.97%

Ans. d

Sol. India's WPI-based inflation rose to **9.92% in August 2026**, compared with 9.78% in July 2026.

Recent 5-Month WPI Inflation Rates (YoY)

- **April 2026:** 8.30% inflation rate
- **May 2026:** 9.88% inflation rate
- **June 2026:** 9.97% inflation rate
- **July 2026:** 9.78% inflation rate
- **August 2026:** 9.92% inflation rate

145. NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) partnered with which Singapore-based company to enable UPI QR acceptance for merchants in Singapore?

- (a) GrabPay
- (b) FOMO Pay
- (c) PayNow
- (d) DBS Pay
- (e) Singapore Pay

Ans. b

Sol.

- **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)** partnered with **Singapore-based FOMO Pay** to enable **UPI QR acceptance for merchants in Singapore.**
- Indian tourists can pay in **Indian Rupees through UPI applications.**
- Singapore merchants will receive settlement in **Singapore Dollars, supporting seamless cross-border payments.**
- Resorts World Sentosa is among the **first merchant partners under the initiative.**

146. Pluxee India received RBI authorisation to operate as a Payment Aggregator for which two categories?

- (a) PA-O and PA-P
- (b) PA-C and PA-D
- (c) PPI-O and PPI-P
- (d) PA-I and PA-II
- (e) PPI-A and PA-A

Ans. a

Sol.

- **Pluxee India, a leading provider of employee benefits** and engagement solutions, has received authorisation from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to **operate as a Payment Aggregator (PA) for both online (PA-O) & physical point-of-sale (PA-P).**
- This marks another significant milestone in **Pluxee's evolution as a technology-led employee benefits and payments platform in India.**
- The PA authorisation, received on 3 August 2026, complements Pluxee India's existing Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) authorisation, which the company received in 2009 and subsequently expanded in 2020 to enable the issuance of General Purpose PPIs beyond Meal PPIs.

147. What is the proposed ownership ratio of the JSW Group and Volkswagen Group joint venture mentioned in the current affairs?

- (a) 50:50
- (b) 49:51
- (c) 51:49
- (d) 60:40
- (e) 55:45

Ans. c

Sol.

- **JSW Group and Volkswagen Group have signed a non-binding memorandum of understanding (MoU)** to take **forward their proposed 51:49 joint venture for Volkswagen's passenger vehicle operations in India.** The agreement starts exclusive talks on the valuation and other terms of the **proposed deal, with a binding agreement targeted by December 2026.**

- The final transaction value is yet to be determined, although market estimates have put the venture's project investment **and capital commitments at more than €1 billion, or around ₹10,000 crore.**

148. The 4th edition of the India-Malaysia maritime exercise 'Samudra Laksamana' was held at which location?

- (a) Port Klang, Malaysia
- (b) Lumut, Malaysia
- (c) Mumbai, India
- (d) Kochi, India
- (e) Visakhapatnam, India

Ans. b

Sol. The 4th edition of the bilateral naval exercise **Samudra Laksamana** was conducted at **Lumut, Malaysia, from September 9 to 12, 2026**, with INS Mysore participating alongside the Royal Malaysian Navy.

149. How many times did India win the Women's Asia Cup after defeating Sri Lanka in the 2026 final?

- (a) Fifth time
- (b) Sixth time
- (c) Seventh time
- (d) Eighth time
- (e) Ninth time

Ans. d

Sol.

- **The Indian women's cricket team defeated Sri Lanka by 72 runs** in the final of the **Women's Asia Cup 2026 at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium** on 13 September 2026, winning the tournament for a record eighth time.
- With this victory, **India won the Women's Asia Cup for the eighth time**, extending its record as the most successful team in the tournament.

150. International Chocolate Day is observed every year on which date, according to the provided material?

- (a) July 7
- (b) August 13
- (c) September 13
- (d) September 15
- (e) October 13

Ans. c

Sol. The provided material states that **International Chocolate Day is celebrated on September 13**. The date is associated with the birthday of Milton S. Hershey, born on September 13, 1857.

151. What was the theme of National Engineers' Day 2026 mentioned in the current affairs material?

- (a) Engineering for Digital India
- (b) Smart Engineering for a Sustainable Future through Innovation and Digitalization
- (c) Engineers for Green Growth
- (d) Innovation for a Developed India
- (e) Digital Engineering for New India

Ans. b

Sol. National Engineers' Day is observed on **September 15** to mark the birth anniversary of Sir M. Visvesvaraya. The **2026 theme** given in the material is "**Smart engineering for a sustainable future through innovation and digitalization.**"

152. Which of the following is **NOT** one of the three primary pillars of the expanded BRICS grouping?

- (a) Political and Security Cooperation
- (b) Economic and Financial Cooperation
- (c) Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges
- (d) Defence and Military Alliance
- (e) None of the above

Ans. d

Sol. The **18th BRICS Summit** marks the institutionalization of the expanded grouping, consolidating cooperation across its three primary pillars:

- Political and Security Cooperation

- Economic and Financial Cooperation
- Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges

153. Which country is scheduled to hold the BRICS chairship in 2027, according to the given content?

- (a) India
- (b) China
- (c) Brazil
- (d) Russia
- (e) South Africa

Ans. b

Sol. According to the given content, **China will hold the BRICS chairship in 2027**, following India's 2026 chairship.

154. How many partner countries participated in the 18th BRICS Summit 2026, according to the given content?

- (a) 8
- (b) 9
- (c) 10
- (d) 11
- (e) 12

Ans. c

Sol. The summit included delegations from **11 BRICS member states and 10 partner states**, along with international organizations.

Participants Members

- Brazil
- China
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Russia
- South Africa

- United Arab Emirates

10 partner countries: Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

155. What was the theme of the 18th BRICS Summit 2026?

- (a) Strengthening Global South Cooperation
- (b) Building a Sustainable and Inclusive Future
- (c) Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability
- (d) One Earth, One Family, One Future
- (e) Reforming Global Governance for Peace

Ans. c

Sol. The theme of the **18th BRICS Summit 2026** was **"Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."**

Summit Overview

- **Theme:** "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability"
- **Participants:** Delegations from 11 member states, 10 partner states, and international organizations.
- **Key Focus:** Strengthening intra-BRICS cooperation, supply chain stability, and reform of global governance
- **Chair:** Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India
- **BRICS 2027**-China

156. Which of the following was one of the key focuses of the 18th BRICS Summit 2026?

- (a) Establishing a common BRICS currency
- (b) Strengthening intra-BRICS cooperation and supply chain stability
- (c) Creating a joint BRICS military force
- (d) Expanding BRICS membership to 50 countries
- (e) Establishing a common immigration policy

Ans. b

Sol. The key focus of the summit included **strengthening intra-BRICS cooperation, ensuring supply chain stability, and reforming global governance.**

Key Highlights of the New Delhi Declaration:

- Reforming Global Multilateral Institutions & the UN
- Bretton Woods & International Trade Reforms
- Counter-Terrorism & Security Priorities
- Middle East & Regional Peace Mandates
- Major Economic, Financial & Technological Initiatives
- Green Energy, Grid Modernization & Critical Minerals
- Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) & Artificial Intelligence
- Space Sustainability & The Gagarin Jubilee
- Public Health & Social Sector Outcomes
- Environmental & Climate Commitments

157. Where was the 10th World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF) 2026 held?

- (a) New Delhi, India
- (b) Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- (c) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- (d) Bengaluru, Karnataka
- (e) Hyderabad, Telangana

Ans. b

Sol.

- **The 10th World Circular Economy Forum 2026 (WCEF 2026)** was held from September 15–18, 2026, at the **Mahatma Mandir Convention Centre in Gandhinagar, Gujarat**, marking the first time this global event took place in South Asia.
- **Theme:** "Circular Economy: Transition for People and Prosperity"
- **Organizers:** Jointly organized by India's Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the Government of Gujarat, and the Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra.
- **Participation:** Witnessed over 3,600 cross-sectoral stakeholders from more than 60 countries, including policymakers, business leaders, and innovators.
- **Exhibition:** Featured 135 national and international exhibitors showcasing grassroots implementation of circular solutions.
- **India's Vision:** Highlighted traditional circularity ethos ("Repair before Replace, Reuse before Discard, Recover before Waste") alongside modern initiatives like Mission LiFE.

- **Releases:** Dignitaries released two key publications during the event: Best Practices for Reuse of Treated Sewage and Driving Sustainability - A Guide to India's Circular Economy and EPR Initiatives
- **Next Host:** The baton for organizing WCEF 2027 was handed over to Columbia University, United States.

158. The Odisha Government signed an MoU involving IHC and the Adani Group to explore projects involving an estimated investment of:

- (a) ₹1,20,500 crore
- (b) ₹1,50,000 crore
- (c) ₹2,10,500 crore
- (d) ₹2,50,000 crore
- (e) ₹3,10,500 crore

Ans. c

Sol.

- **Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi** is on a **visit to UAE**, with an objective to attract investment into the state and expand **Odisha's trade and business links with the UAE**. On 15 September he held a series of meetings with UAE-based investors and business groups in Abu Dhabi.
- A key outcome was an **MoU between the Odisha government, UAE-based International Holding Company (IHC) and the Adani Group** to explore 14 new projects involving an estimated **investment of Rs. 2,10,500 crore (\$2.105 Trillion)**. The projects have the potential to create around **8,68,200 jobs**.

159. Which Indian fintech company is launching its first local international operations in the UAE?

- (a) Paytm
- (b) BharatPe
- (c) PhonePe
- (d) Mobikwik
- (e) Razorpay

Ans. c

Sol. PhonePe is entering international markets through its first local operations in the United Arab Emirates. It has acquired two licences there for consumer payment instruments and merchant e-payment acceptance infrastructure.

160. What was India's retail inflation rate in August 2026, according to the data mentioned in the document?

- (a) 3.93%
- (b) 4.38%
- (c) 4.45%
- (d) 4.82%
- (e) 5.95%

Ans. d

Sol. India's retail inflation increased to **4.82% in August 2026**, compared with 4.45% in July 2026. Food inflation stood at 5.95%.

India's Monthly Retail Inflation

- **May 2026:** 3.93%
- **June 2026:** 4.38%
- **July 2026:** 4.45%

161. What is the primary purpose of SBI Mutual Fund's 'Aarambh' service?

- (a) Providing agricultural loans
- (b) Assisting first-time mutual fund investors with onboarding
- (c) Providing insurance to investors
- (d) Offering stock trading services
- (e) Providing pension products

Ans. b

Sol.

- **SBI Mutual Fund on September 10 launched Aarambh**, an assisted digital onboarding service **aimed at helping first-time investors complete their mutual fund onboarding and make their first investment through a single digital session.**
- Aarambh allows an SBI branch official **or authorised representative**, SBI MF relationship manager or mutual fund distribution partner to assist a

prospective investor through the onboarding process, from the initial interaction to completing the first investment.

- The process **is paperless and is designed to make investors investment-ready within a few minutes.**

162. Which series won the Outstanding Drama Series award at the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards 2026?

- (a) Widow's Bay
- (b) The Diplomat
- (c) Pluribus
- (d) The Pitt
- (e) Task

Ans. d

Sol. **The Pitt (HBO Max)** won the Outstanding Drama Series award at the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards 2026.

163. Which team won the fourth season of the Tech Mahindra Global Chess League?

- (a) Alpine APL Pipers
- (b) PBG Alaskan Knights
- (c) Ganges Grandmasters
- (d) Triveni Continental Kings
- (e) American Gambits

Ans. c

Sol. The **Ganges Grandmasters** won the fourth season by defeating defending champions Alpine APL Pipers **4–2** in the final in Bengaluru

164. Which country won both the men's and women's Junior Asia Cup Hockey titles in 2026?

- (a) China
- (b) India
- (c) South Korea
- (d) Japan
- (e) Malaysia

Ans. b

Sol. India completed a golden double at the AHF Junior Asia Cup 2026 in China. The women defeated China 1–0, while the men defeated South Korea 4–1.

165. International Day of Democracy is observed annually on which date?

- (a) September 10
- (b) September 12
- (c) September 15
- (d) September 16
- (e) September 17

Ans. c

Sol.

- **The International Day of Democracy** is observed **annually on September 15** to review the **state of democracy globally and promote democratic principles, human rights, and public participation.**
- Emphasizing the role of parliaments in **delivering justice, peace, development, and human rights**, alongside promoting deliberative democracy and inclusive decision-making.
- **2026 Theme:** "Bring human rights into focus" (highlighted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union).

166. What is the theme of World Ozone Day 2026 mentioned in the document?

- (a) Ozone for Life
- (b) Global Action for a Cooler Planet
- (c) Protect the Ozone, Protect Life
- (d) Montreal Protocol for a Better Future
- (e) Restore Our Atmosphere

Ans. b

Sol. The 2026 theme is **"Global Action for a Cooler Planet"**, with a focus on celebrating 10 years of sustainable cooling under the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.

World Ozone Day 2026 is observed every year on 16 September to raise awareness about the **importance of the ozone layer and the need to protect it.** The ozone layer acts as a natural shield by **absorbing most of the Sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation.**

167. When is World Patient Safety Day observed in 2026?

- (a) September 15
- (b) September 16
- (c) September 17
- (d) September 18
- (e) September 20

Ans. c

Sol.

- **World Patient Safety Day 2026** will be observed on **17 September 2026** to spread awareness about **the importance of patient safety and quality healthcare**.
- The day highlights the need to prevent avoidable harm, improve healthcare practices and strengthen coordination among patients, healthcare workers and health systems. It also encourages global efforts to make healthcare safer, more accessible and patient-centred.
- **Theme 2026:** "Safe care for noncommunicable diseases"

168. Who won the Lead Actor in a Limited/Anthology Series or Movie award for *The Beast in Me*?

- (a) Noah Wyle
- (b) Matthew Rhys
- (c) Tom Pelphrey
- (d) Stephen Root
- (e) Ian McShane

Ans. b

Sol. **Matthew Rhys** won the **Lead Actor in a Limited/Anthology Series or Movie** award for *The Beast in Me*. According to the provided content, he became the first actor to win two lead acting Emmys in the same season.

169. Who won the Outstanding Comedy Series award at the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards 2026?

- (a) The Pitt
- (b) Hacks
- (c) Widow's Bay

- (d) The Diplomat
(e) Pluribus

Ans. c

Sol. Widow's Bay (Apple TV+) won the **Outstanding Comedy Series** award at the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards 2026.

Emmy Awards 2026 Winners

- **Outstanding Comedy Series:** Widow's Bay (Apple TV+)
- **Outstanding Drama Series:** The Pitt (HBO Max)
- **Outstanding Limited or Anthology Series:** DTF St. Louis (HBO)
- **Lead Actor, Comedy:** Matthew Rhys (Widow's Bay)
- **Lead Actress in a Comedy Series:** Jean Smart (Hacks)
- **Lead Actor in a Drama Series:** Noah Wyle (The Pitt)
- **Lead Actress in a Drama Series:** Rhea Seehorn (Pluribus)
- **Lead Actor in a Limited/Anthology Series or Movie:** Matthew Rhys (The Beast in Me) (making him the first actor to win two lead acting Emmys in the same season)
- **Lead Actress in a Limited/Anthology Series or Movie:** Sally Field (Remarkably Bright Creatures)
- **Supporting Actor Comedy:** Stephen Root (Widow's Bay)
- **Supporting Actress Comedy:** Kate O'Flynn (Widow's Bay)
- **Supporting Actor Drama:** Tom Pelphrey (Task)
- **Supporting Actress Drama:** Allison Janney (The Diplomat)

170. Which village in Zaskar has become Ladakh's first Heritage Village?

- (a) Padum
(b) Kumik
(c) Rangdum
(d) Lamayuru
(e) Diskit

Ans. b

Sol.

- **Kumik village in Zaskar has become Ladakh's first Heritage Village.** Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena made the declaration on 15 September 2026 during the **Ladakh Zaskar Festival**.

- Kumik stands out for its traditional houses, Buddhist heritage, farming practices, community customs and valuable Kanjur manuscripts . At the same time, the village faces a serious challenge. Water scarcity has affected agriculture and encouraged migration.

171. Where did Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurate the fifth edition of SEMICON India 2026?

- (a) Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
- (b) Pragati Maidan, New Delhi
- (c) Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, New Delhi
- (d) India Expo Mart, Greater Noida
- (e) Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

Ans. c

Sol.

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday inaugurated the fifth edition of SEMICON India 2026 at Yashobhoomi Convention Centre in New Delhi, marking the start of a three-day national convention on the country's semiconductor and electronics ecosystem.**
- The event, being held from September 17 to 19, will **focus on industry engagement, policy direction and international partnerships.**

172. Sanjukta Parasor became the first woman officer to head which specialised unit of the CRPF?

- (a) RAF
- (b) CoBRA
- (c) NSG
- (d) BSF Frontier Force
- (e) SSB Special Operations Unit

Ans. b

Sol. Senior IPS officer Sanjukta Parasor became the first woman officer to head the CRPF's elite **CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action)** unit. She is a 2006-batch IPS officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre.

173. Which department won the first prize in the Rajbhasha Kirti Awards 2025-26 in the category of ministries and departments with fewer than 300 personnel?

- (a) Department of Economic Affairs
- (b) Department of Revenue
- (c) Department of Financial Services
- (d) Department of Expenditure
- (e) Department of Commerce

Ans. c

Sol.

- **The Department of Financial Services (DFS) has won the first prize under the Rajbhasha Kirti Awards for 2025-26** in the category of ministries and departments with fewer than 300 personnel.
- The award recognises the department's **outstanding implementation, effective use and innovative achievements in Official Language Hindi** during the year 2025-26.
- The award was presented at the 6th All India Official Language Conference and Hindi Diwas organised by the **Department of Official Language under the Ministry of Home Affairs.**

174. Who will receive the Padmabhushan Guru Dr Saroja Vaidyanathan Excellence Award 2026?

- (a) Alarmel Valli
- (b) Mallika Sarabhai
- (c) Vasundhara Doraswamy
- (d) Sonal Mansingh
- (e) Leela Samson

Ans. c

Sol.

- **Renowned Bharatanatyam dancer, choreographer and researcher Dr Vasundhara Doraswamy** will receive the **Padmabhushan Guru Dr Saroja Vaidyanathan Excellence Award 2026.**
- The **Nataraj Music & Dance Academy (NMDA)** will present the award during the **Vysakhi Nrithyotsav Indian Dance Festival in Visakhapatnam** on September 26–27, 2026.

- Vasundhara Doraswamy has earned recognition for more than five decades of work in Bharatanatyam. Her **work covers performance, choreography, teaching and research.**

175. Dhiraj Bommadevara created history in 2026 by becoming the first Indian male archer to win which title?

- (a) Men's individual title at the Archery World Cup Final
- (b) Men's team title at the Asian Games
- (c) Olympic individual gold medal
- (d) World Archery Championship team title
- (e) Asian Archery Championship individual title

Ans. a

Sol. Dhiraj Bommadevara became the first Indian male archer to win the **men's individual title at the Archery World Cup Final 2026** in Saltillo, Mexico. He defeated Japan's Nakanishi Junya 6–5 in a shoot-off.

176. Whose record for the longest career in men's ODIs was broken by Zimbabwe's Brendan Taylor?

- (a) Virat Kohli
- (b) Rahul Dravid
- (c) Sachin Tendulkar
- (d) Ricky Ponting
- (e) Kumar Sangakkara

Ans. c

Sol. Zimbabwean wicketkeeper-batter **Brendan Taylor set a new world record** for the **longest men's One-Day International (ODI)** career on September 15, 2026.

Record Details

- **New Record:** Taylor's ODI career surpassed 22 years and 146 days.
- **Previous Record:** Indian legend Sachin Tendulkar held the record with a career span of 22 years and 91 days.
- **The Match:** Taylor broke the record during an ODI match against Australia at the Harare Sports Club.
- **Debut Year:** Taylor played his first ODI game for Zimbabwe against Sri Lanka on April 20, 2004.

177. What is the theme of World Bamboo Day 2026?

- (a) Bamboo for Sustainable Future
- (b) Green Bamboo, Green Earth
- (c) Bamboo Beyond Borders
- (d) Bamboo for Global Growth
- (e) Bamboo: A Natural Revolution

Ans. c

Sol. World Bamboo Day is observed annually on 18 September. The theme for 2026 is **"Bamboo Beyond Borders."** The day highlights the environmental, economic, cultural and sustainable-development value of bamboo.

178. What is the current cheetah population in India four years after their reintroduction?

- (a) 42
- (b) 48
- (c) 52
- (d) 56
- (e) 60

Ans. c

Sol. India's cheetah population has increased to **52** four years after their reintroduction from Namibia, South Africa and Botswana. Of these, 49 are in Kuno National Park and 3 in Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary.

179. Which institution secured the top position globally in the QS Global MBA Rankings 2027?

- (a) Harvard Business School
- (b) Stanford Graduate School of Business
- (c) IIM Bangalore
- (d) MIT Sloan School of Management
- (e) INSEAD

Ans. d

Sol.

- The **QS Global MBA Rankings 2027** have been released, with **MIT Sloan School of Management in the United States securing the top position globally**. This year, **19 Indian business schools feature in the rankings, with three Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) making it to the global top 100**. Five Indian institutions have entered the rankings for the first time.
- The **top Indian entries include IIM Bangalore at 64th globally**, followed by **IIM Ahmedabad at 70th** and **IIM Calcutta at 95th**. IIM Bangalore's Executive Post Graduate Programme in Management (EPGP) is the highest-ranked Indian programme in the **QS Global MBA 2027 rankings**.

180. What was India's rank in the Global Gender Gap Index 2026?

- (a) 121st
- (b) 125th
- (c) 131st
- (d) 135th
- (e) 141st

Ans. c

Sol.

- **India has retained its 131st rank out of 145 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index 2026**, released by the **World Economic Forum (WEF) based in Geneva, Switzerland**.
- The 2026 edition marks the 20th anniversary edition of the index (launched in 2006).
- **India achieved an overall gender parity score of 64.5%**, which is **below the global average of 69.2%**.

Four Dimensions for India:

- **Educational Attainment:** India's strongest dimension at 96.6% parity.
- **Political Empowerment:** Closed 24.5% of the gap, ranking 67th globally.
- **Health and Survival:** Reached 95.6% parity.
- **Economic Participation and Opportunity:** A major weakness at 41.2% parity.

Top 5 Performers

- **Iceland** (1st, 93.0% gender gap closed)
- **Finland** (2nd, 87.2% gender gap closed)

- **Norway** (3rd, 85.7% gender gap closed)
- **Namibia** (4th, 84.5% gender gap closed)
- **United Kingdom** (5th, 84.2% gender gap closed)

Bottom 3 Performers (Lowest Ranks)

- **Chad** (145th / Last place, 57.8% gender gap closed)
- **Iran** (144th, 58.5% gender gap closed)
- **Pakistan** (143rd, 59.5% gender gap closed)

181. Which state/UT emerged as the top performer in the India Electric Mobility Index 2025?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Goa
- (d) Delhi
- (e) Chandigarh

Ans. d

Sol.

- **NITI Aayog** released the **India Electric Mobility Index 2025** on **15 September 2026** in collaboration with **WRI India**, making it the second edition of the index after 2024.
- **Delhi** emerged as the top performer with a score of **84**, followed by **Maharashtra (78), Karnataka (73), Chandigarh (71) and Goa (65)**. These five jurisdictions were classified as **Top Performers**.
- The overall scores of the **36 States and Union Territories** ranged from 10 to 84, while the median score increased from **36 in 2024 to 40 in 2025**, indicating broad but uneven improvement.
- **Madhya Pradesh** recorded the most notable improvement in ranking, moving from **23rd to 7th position**, while Delhi increased its score from 77 to 84 and Maharashtra from 68 to 78.

182. How many traditional artisans and craftspeople had registered under the PM Vishwakarma scheme after three years?

- (a) 20 lakh
- (b) 24.50 lakh
- (c) 25 lakh
- (d) 30 lakh
- (e) 35 lakh

Ans. d

Sol.

- The **PM Vishwakarma scheme** has completed three years with **30 lakh traditional artisans and craftspeople** registered across the country, of whom around **24.50 lakh have received basic skill training**, **Union MSME Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi** said at **the scheme's third anniversary celebrations in Kolkata**.
- **Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 17, 2023, PM Vishwakarma** seeks to strengthen **the livelihoods and entrepreneurial capabilities of traditional artisans through skill training, modern toolkits, concessional credit and market support**, to provide end-to-end holistic support to traditional artisans and craftspeople working with their hands and tools.

183. How much penalty did IRDAI impose on Canara HSBC Life Insurance for mis-selling a deferred annuity policy?

- (a) ₹25 lakh
- (b) ₹50 lakh
- (c) ₹75 lakh
- (d) ₹1 crore
- (e) ₹2 crore

Ans. d

Sol. IRDAI imposed a **₹1 crore penalty** on Canara HSBC Life Insurance on September 10, 2026, over the mis-selling of a deferred annuity policy to an 88-year-old customer.

184. How many NBFCs had their Certificates of Registration cancelled by the RBI on September 17, 2026?

- (a) 3
- (b) 5

- (c) 6
- (d) 8
- (e) 10

Ans. b

Sol.

- **The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) fined Canara HSBC Life Insurance ₹1 crore** on September 10, 2026, for **mis-selling a deferred annuity policy to an 88-year-old customer** through Canara Bank. The regulator acted after taking suo-motu notice of a social media post detailing the violation.
- The order offers several lessons for senior citizens and their families when buying annuity or other long-term insurance products, particularly through bank branches.

185. What real GDP growth rate for India in FY2026-27 did Moody's raise its forecast to?

- (a) 6.0%
- (b) 6.4%
- (c) 6.7%
- (d) 6.8%
- (e) 7.0%

Ans. e

Sol. Moody's raised India's FY2026-27 real GDP growth forecast to **7% from 6%**, citing stronger private consumption, investment and infrastructure spending, among other factors.

186. N. Chandrasekaran was reappointed as the Executive Chairman of Tata Sons for what period?

- (a) Three years
- (b) Four years
- (c) Five years
- (d) Six years
- (e) Seven years

Ans. c

Sol. N. Chandrasekaran was reappointed as **Executive Chairman of Tata Sons for a fresh five-year term**, extending his leadership beyond February 20, 2027.

187. Who was named the World Bank Group's Chief Economist, taking charge from October 1, 2026?

- (a) Indermit Gill
- (b) Joseph Stiglitz
- (c) Michael Kremer
- (d) Paul Romer
- (e) Abhijit Banerjee

Ans. c

Sol.

- **Nobel laureate and University of Chicago professor Michael Kremer will take over as the World Bank Group's chief economist on October 1**, heading research for the institution and succeeding Indermit Gill, who retired last month.
- Michael Kremer was awarded the **2019 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences (Nobel Prize in economics)** jointly with Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo **"for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty"**.
- He is the first chief economist to join with a Nobel; other Nobel laureates, including Joseph Stiglitz and Paul Romer, received the honour after serving as the bank's chief economist.

188. Who became the first Indian American to receive the Arthur M. Bueche Award?

- (a) Abhijit Banerjee
- (b) Sethuraman Panchanathan
- (c) Sundar Pichai
- (d) Arvind Krishna
- (e) Raghuram Rajan

Ans. b

Sol.

- **Indian American engineer and technology policy expert Sethuraman Panchanathan** has been named the 2026 recipient of **the Arthur M. Bueche Award by the US National Academy of Engineering (NAE)**, making him the

first Indian American to receive the honour in its more than 40-year history.

- Sethuraman Panchanathan, a University Professor of Technology and Innovation at **Arizona State University (ASU)** and former director of the US National Science Foundation (NSF), will receive the award in October at the NAE's annual meeting in Washington, DC.
- The award **recognises contributions to US science and technology policy, technological development and collaboration between industry, government and universities.**
- The NAE honoured Panchanathan "for leadership in promoting fundamental science, technology and policy that advances translational research and expands opportunities nationwide."

189. Who was named the recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2024?

- (a) Mammootty
- (b) Mohanlal
- (c) Anant Nag
- (d) Naseeruddin Shah
- (e) Kamal Haasan

Ans. c

Sol.

- **Veteran Kannada actor Anant Nag has** been named the recipient of the prestigious **Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2024** for his remarkable **five-decade contribution to Indian cinema.**
- He is only the **second Kannada actor to win this award, following Dr. Rajkumar** in 1995. Over 300 films across Kannada, Hindi, and other languages.
- **72nd National Film Awards ceremony in Kevadia, Gujarat.** India's highest honor in cinema, featuring a Swarna Kamal medallion, a shawl, and a ₹10 lakh cash prize.

190. Which Marathi film was selected as India's official entry for the Oscars 2027?

- (a) Angh
- (b) Dorothy
- (c) Gondhal
- (d) Vettaian
- (e) Chhaava

Ans. c

Sol. Gondhal, a Marathi thriller directed by Santosh Davakhar, was announced as India's official entry for the Oscars 2027 in the Best International Feature category.

191. CISF signed two MoUs with which institution to strengthen cyber security and counter-drone capabilities?

- (a) IIT Delhi
- (b) IIT Bombay
- (c) IIT Kanpur
- (d) IIT Madras
- (e) IIT Hyderabad

Ans. c

Sol. The **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** signed two MoUs with **IIT Kanpur** to enhance cyber security and drone/anti-drone capabilities for protecting critical and strategic infrastructure.

192. Who authored the book *A Century of Service: The RSS in 100 Acts of Seva*?

- (a) C. P. Radhakrishnan
- (b) Tamilisai Soundararajan
- (c) Jitan Ram Manjhi
- (d) Anant Nag
- (e) Michael Kremer

Ans. b

Sol. The book **A Century of Service: The RSS in 100 Acts of Seva** was authored by former Telangana Governor **Tamilisai Soundararajan** and released by Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan.

193. International Red Panda Day 2026 was observed on which date?

- (a) September 17
- (b) September 18
- (c) September 19
- (d) September 20
- (e) September 21

Ans. c

Sol. International Red Panda Day 2026 was observed on **September 19**, which fell on the third Saturday of September. Its 2026 theme/slogan was **"Run for Red Pandas."**

194. What was the theme of International Equal Pay Day 2026?

- (a) Equal Pay for Equal Work
- (b) Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value — For Everyone, Everywhere
- (c) Equality at Every Workplace
- (d) Pay Equality for Women
- (e) Equal Opportunities, Equal Wages

Ans. b

Sol.

- **International Equal Pay Day is observed on September 18, 2026**, as highlighted by the **International Labour Organization**. The **day aims to achieve equal pay for work of equal value and eliminate gender-based wage discrimination.**
- **Women globally earn significantly less than men on average**, highlighting persistent systemic and economic disparities.
- **Theme 2026:** "Equal Pay for work of equal value — For everyone, everywhere".

195. Alla Nani, who recently passed away, had served as the Deputy Chief Minister and Health Minister of which state?

- (a) Telangana
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Tamil Nadu
- (e) Kerala

Ans. c

Sol. **Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas, popularly known as Alla Nani**, was a former Deputy Chief Minister and Health and Family Welfare Minister of **Andhra Pradesh**. He died at the age of 56.

196. What was the theme of the international conference inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 19, 2026, in New Delhi?

- (a) Climate Action for a Sustainable Future
- (b) The Future of Environment and Climate Dynamics
- (c) Environment, Economy and Green Growth
- (d) Global Climate Justice and Development
- (e) Sustainable India 2047

Ans. b

Sol. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the two-day international conference on “**The Future of Environment and Climate Dynamics**”, organised by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Judicial representatives from 17 countries participated in the conference.

197. What is the name of Tamil Nadu's one-gram gold ring scheme for newborns?

- (a) Amma Gold Ring Scheme
- (b) Thanga Kuzhanthai Thittam
- (c) Thaimaaman Thanga Mothiram Thittam
- (d) Pon Kuzhanthai Scheme
- (e) Makkal Gold Gift Scheme

Ans. c

Sol. The scheme is called **Thaimaaman Thanga Mothiram Thittam**, meaning the maternal uncle gold ring scheme. Under the scheme, one-gram, 22-carat gold rings will be distributed to babies born in government hospitals.

198. What position did Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) achieve in the latest Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI 40)?

- (a) 27th
- (b) 32nd
- (c) 37th
- (d) 42nd
- (e) 49th

Ans. c

Sol. GIFT City in Gandhinagar climbed **nine places to 37th** in the latest Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI 40), up from 46th previously. Mumbai ranked 49th, while Delhi ranked 56th.

199. According to the Global Business Climate Survey 2026 by the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in India, what rank did India achieve in business climate among 41 global markets?

- (a) First
- (b) Second
- (c) Fifth
- (d) Seventh
- (e) Tenth

Ans. a

Sol. India ranked **first in business climate among 41 global markets** in the Global Business Climate Survey 2026 conducted by the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in India. The survey examines economic performance, business outlook and operating conditions.

200. Who was appointed as the new Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP) by the United Nations in September 2026?

- (a) Qu Dongyu
- (b) Luke Lindberg
- (c) Cindy McCain
- (d) António Guterres
- (e) David Beasley

Ans. b

Sol. The United Nations appointed **Luke Lindberg**, a U.S. agriculture official, as the new Executive Director of the World Food Programme on September 18, 2026. He replaced Cindy McCain and will serve a five-year term based in Rome, Italy.

201. Who succeeded Warren Buffett as Chairman of Berkshire Hathaway after his step-down in 2026?

- (a) Bill Gates
- (b) Howard Buffett
- (c) Charlie Munger
- (d) Greg Abel
- (e) Ajit Jain

Ans. b

Sol. Warren Buffett stepped down as chairman of Berkshire Hathaway after more than 56 years. His son **Howard Buffett**, who had been on the company's board since 1993, took over as chairman, while Warren Buffett became chairman emeritus and continued as a director.

202. Who were named India's flagbearers for the opening ceremony of the Asian Games 2026 in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan?

- (a) Neeraj Chopra and PV Sindhu
- (b) Manu Bhaker and Tajinderpal Singh Toor
- (c) Mirabai Chanu and Bajrang Punia
- (d) Manu Bhaker and Neeraj Chopra
- (e) Tajinderpal Singh Toor and Lakshya Sen

Ans. b

Sol. **Manu Bhaker and Tajinderpal Singh Toor** were named India's flagbearers for the opening ceremony of the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. Bhaker won two bronze medals at the Paris 2024 Olympics, while Toor will seek his third consecutive Asian Games gold in men's shot put.

203. In which event did Yugan Sakthivel Muthukumaar win the gold medal at the ISSF Junior World Cup Shotgun 2026?

- (a) Men's skeet
- (b) Men's 10m air rifle
- (c) Men's trap
- (d) Men's 25m rapid fire pistol
- (e) Men's air pistol

Ans. c

Sol. India's **15-year-old shooter Yugan Sakthivel Muthukumaar** won gold in the men's trap event at the ISSF Junior World Cup Shotgun 2026 in Porpetto, Italy. He hit 27 of 30 targets in the eight-shooter final.

204. What is the theme of the International Day of Peace 2026?

- (a) Peace Begins With Equality
- (b) Building Peace for Future Generations
- (c) Invest in Peace - For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day

- (d) Together for Global Peace
- (e) Peace, Justice and Sustainable Development

Ans. c

Sol. The International Day of Peace is observed annually on September 21 to strengthen the ideals of peace, non-violence and a 24-hour global ceasefire. The 2026 theme is "Invest in Peace - For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day."

205. What is the theme of World Alzheimer's Day 2026?

- (a) Know Dementia, Know Alzheimer's
- (b) The Earlier You Know, The More You Can Do: A Dementia Diagnosis Matters
- (c) Together Against Dementia
- (d) Prevention Today, Better Memory Tomorrow
- (e) Understanding Dementia for a Healthier Future

Ans. b

Sol. **World Alzheimer's Day** is observed every year on September 21 to raise global awareness about Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. The 2026 theme is "**The Earlier You Know, The More You Can Do: A Dementia Diagnosis Matters.**"

206. Which language was approved as the second additional administrative language for Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts of Karnataka?

- (a) Konkani
- (b) Tulu
- (c) Kodava
- (d) Sanskrit
- (e) Tamil

Ans. b

Sol. The Karnataka Cabinet approved **Tulu** as the second additional administrative language for Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts on September 18, 2026. Kannada continues to remain the primary official state language.

207. Madhya Pradesh became the first state to launch which scheme for free rural property registration in 2026?

- (a) Gram Sampatti Yojana
- (b) Swamitva Adhikar Abhilekh Nispadan Evam Panjiyan Yojana-2026

- (c) PM Gramin Property Scheme
- (d) Rural Land Rights Mission
- (e) Mukhyamantri Sampatti Yojana

Ans. b

Sol.

- **Madhya Pradesh has become the first state in India** to launch the **Swamitva Adhikar Abhilekh Nispadan Evam Panjiyan Yojana-2026** for **free rural property registration**.
- **Launch Date:** September 17, 2026, launched by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav in Indore.
- **Duration:** A month-long special drive running from September 17 to October 17, 2026.
- **Coverage:** Around 50 lakh privately owned rural properties across all 55 districts of Madhya Pradesh.
- **Financial Benefit:** Beneficiaries pay zero stamp duty and zero registration fees; the state government is bearing the entire cost of approximately Rs 4,000 crore.
- **Implementation:** Village and panchayat-level camps are being held, with Patwaris conducting door-to-door visits to facilitate paperwork and hand over registry documents.

208. Gwalior is set to host Asia's first Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ) with an estimated investment of approximately:

- (a) ₹2,500 crore
- (b) ₹3,500 crore
- (c) ₹4,000 crore
- (d) ₹5,500 crore
- (e) ₹7,500 crore

Ans. d

Sol.

- **Gwalior is set to emerge as a major telecom manufacturing hub** with the **establishment of Asia's first Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ)**, involving an investment of **approximately ₹5,500 crore and expected to generate more than 18,000 direct employment opportunities**.

- "The project is not about setting up a single industrial unit, but about creating a complete industrial ecosystem comprising **24-25 telecom manufacturing units in Gwalior**.
- These units will manufacture telecom equipment and a range of components, strengthening the city's **position as an emerging telecom manufacturing hub**.

209. Who was appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Indian Super League in September 2026?

- (a) Karan Yadav
- (b) Arun Malhotra
- (c) Rohan Mehta
- (d) Vikram Singh
- (e) Aditya Sharma

Ans. a

Sol.

- The **Indian Super League announced Karan Yadav as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**, weeks ahead of the season opener on October 10.
- According to a statement by the league, which is run **by clubs, Yadav brings a combination of football roots and sports-business expertise**.

210. Which film won the Platform Prize at the 2026 Toronto International Film Festival?

- (a) The Last Village
- (b) Angh
- (c) Northeast
- (d) The Silent River
- (e) Bharat 2026

Ans. b

Sol.

- **The film Angh (2026) directed by Theja Rio won the prestigious Platform Prize at the 2026 Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).**

- Angh (2026) marks a major milestone as the **first major international breakthrough and Oscar pathway entry for Naga cinema** from **Northeast India**.
- Under updated Academy rules, winning **the top Platform Prize (2026)** **grants the non-English-language film direct eligibility** for consideration in the **Best International Feature Film category at the 2027 Academy Awards**.

211. India will host the Asian Senior Wushu Championships for the first time in which year?

- (a) 2026
- (b) 2027
- (c) 2028
- (d) 2029
- (e) 2030

Ans. c

Sol. India will host the **Asian Senior Wushu Championships in 2028** for the first time, with around 500 athletes from 42 Asian countries expected to participate. The decision was approved at the Wushu Federation of Asia Congress in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

212. The 13th edition of the Sri Lanka–India Naval Exercise (SLINEX-26) is being conducted at:

- (a) Kochi, Kerala
- (b) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- (c) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- (e) Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Ans. c

Sol.

- The **13th edition of Sri Lanka–India Naval Exercise (SLINEX-26)** is being **conducted at Visakhapatnam**, Andhra Pradesh from 17th –21st September 2026 under the aegis of the **Eastern Naval Command**.
- SLINEX is a bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the Sri Lanka Navy **Conceptualised in 2005**, it has evolved as an important platform

for enhancing maritime cooperation, **interoperability and mutual understanding between India and Sri Lanka.**

Exercise between India and Sri Lanka

- **SLINEX (Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise)**
- **Exercise Mitra Shakti**

List of Bilateral Exercises (2026)

- **Yudh Abhyas 2026 (India-US):** Conducted in Rajasthan and Uttarakhand
- **IMBAX 2026 (India-Myanmar):** at Umroi, Meghalaya
- **MAITREE-XV (India-Thailand):** at Surat Thani, Thailand
- **Exercise Dharma Guardian (India-Japan):** Hosted at Chaubattia, Uttarakhand
- **'Samudra Laksamana' (India-Malaysia Maritime Exercise):** held in Lumut, Malaysia

213. India's indigenous long-range one-way attack drone KAL successfully completed its initial flight test at which location?

- (a) Pokhran Field Firing Range, Rajasthan
- (b) Chandipur, Odisha
- (c) Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
- (e) Leh, Ladakh

Ans. a

Sol. The indigenous drone **KAL** successfully completed its initial flight test at the **Pokhran Field Firing Range in Rajasthan** on September 20, 2026. It was developed by Noida-based defence technology company IG Defence.

About KAL

- **Developer:** IG Defence, a Noida-based defence technology company.
- **Type:** One-way attack ("kamikaze" or loitering munition) drone designed for precision strikes.
- **Maximum Range:** Up to 1,000 km (stated manufacturer specification; actual distance flown during the specific Pokhran trial was not disclosed).
- **Endurance:** 7 to 8 hours of flight time.
- **Payload Capacity:** Up to 50 kg of explosive payload/warhead.
- **Operating Altitude:** Up to 5,000 metres.

- **Launch Mechanism:** Vehicle-mounted launch platform.
- **Navigation:** Uses global navigation satellite system (GNSS) and inertial navigation systems for autonomous flight

214. Djibouti became the 72nd country overall and which African nation to join the Artemis Accords?

- (a) 5th
- (b) 6th
- (c) 7th
- (d) 8th
- (e) 9th

Ans. d

Sol.

- The **Republic of Djibouti has become the eighth African country to sign the Artemis Accords**, joining a growing coalition of nations committed to advancing a **rules-based framework for peaceful and transparent space exploration**.
- The signing ceremony took place at NASA Headquarters in Washington, with Djibouti's Ambassador to the United States, Mohamed Siad Douale, signing on behalf of the country. **Djibouti is the 72nd nation overall to join the Accords.**

About Artemis Accords

- **The Artemis Accords are a non-binding international agreement** led by the **United States (via NASA and the Department of State)** that set shared principles for the **peaceful exploration and use of the Moon, Mars, and outer space**.
- **Established in 2020 by the U.S.** and seven founding nations, the framework has since expanded to dozens of signatory countries globally.

215. World Rose Day, observed on September 22, 2026, is primarily associated with bringing hope, cheer and support to:

- (a) Children
- (b) Cancer patients and their families
- (c) Senior citizens

- (d) Persons with disabilities
- (e) War veterans

Ans. b

Sol. World Rose Day is observed annually on September 22 to bring hope, cheer and support to **cancer patients and their families**. The 2026 theme mentioned in the source is **"Bring hope and support."**

216. What is the theme of World Rhino Day 2026?

- (a) Save the Rhino
- (b) Protect Our Wildlife
- (c) Keep the Five Alive
- (d) Five Rhinos, One World
- (e) Rhino Conservation for Future

Ans. c

Exp. **World Rhino Day** is observed annually on September 22 to raise awareness about the conservation of the five remaining rhinoceros species. The 2026 theme is **"Keep the Five Alive."**

217. Who will lead the Indian delegation at the High-Level Week of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York?

- (a) Rajnath Singh
- (b) S. Jaishankar
- (c) Amit Shah
- (d) Nirmala Sitharaman
- (e) Piyush Goyal

Ans. b

Sol. External Affairs Minister **Dr. S. Jaishankar** will lead the Indian delegation at the High-Level Week of the 81st UNGA. He is scheduled to address the High-Level Session on **26 September**. The theme of the 81st session is **"Restoring trust, managing transformation: A United Nations that delivers for all."**

218. By which date have commercial banks been directed by RBI to adopt the revised framework for minimum capital requirements for market risk?

- (a) April 1, 2026
- (b) October 1, 2026
- (c) January 1, 2027
- (d) April 1, 2027
- (e) April 1, 2028

Ans. d

Sol.

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has given commercial banks until **April 1, 2027**, to adopt its revised **framework for minimum capital requirements for market risk**. The final directions aim to align **Indian regulations with the revised Basel III standards** while ensuring simplicity and flexibility in implementation.
- The RBI issued the **Reserve Bank of India (Commercial Banks – Minimum Capital Requirements for Market Risk) Directions, 2026**, on 21 September after **examining feedback on the draft guidelines released in February 2023**.
- The **revised framework will come into effect on April 1, 2027**. Intermediate transition scalars have been in effect since April 1, 2024, to facilitate a smooth transition.
- Among the key changes, the **RBI has removed instructions defining the trading book**, as its Investment Directions already identify it under the Held for Trading (HFT) accounting sub-classification. The final directions instead refer to the relevant Investment Directions.
- The framework also incorporates revised instructions on net open positions and foreign exchange risk capital charges, in line with the RBI's Commercial Banks – **Prudential Norms on Capital Adequacy Tenth Amendment Directions, 2026**.

219. Who has taken additional charge as the Chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)?

- (a) Ravi Mital
- (b) Jayanti Prasad
- (c) Sanjay Malhotra
- (d) Shirish Chandra Murmu
- (e) Rohit Jain

Ans. b

Sol. IBBI Whole Time Member **Jayanti Prasad** took additional charge as Chairperson from **September 13, 2026**, succeeding Ravi Mital. He will continue until his tenure as Whole Time Member ends on **November 20, 2026**, or until a new chairperson is appointed and joins.

220. Where will the second edition of Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026 be hosted?

- (a) Air Force Station Jodhpur, Rajasthan
- (b) Air Force Station Hindon, Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Air Force Station Pune, Maharashtra
- (d) Air Force Station Tezpur, Assam
- (e) Air Force Station Bengaluru, Karnataka

Ans. a

Sol.

- The **second edition of Exercise Tarang Shakti** will be **hosted by the Indian Air Force at Air Force Station Jodhpur, Rajasthan**, from September 26 to October 12, 2026.
- The **exercise aims** to expose all participants to **planning and execution of multinational joint combat operations** in a realistic contemporary battlespace and derive tactically viable solutions.
- **Eight Friendly Foreign Countries** such as Australia, Bangladesh, France, Germany, Greece, Sri Lanka, UAE and USA will participate with air assets, while 32 nations will be attending as observers.

221. Exercise Nomadic Elephant 2026 is a joint military exercise between India and which country?

- (a) Japan
- (b) Mongolia
- (c) Thailand
- (d) Myanmar
- (e) Malaysia

Ans. b

Sol. Exercise Nomadic Elephant 2026 is the India–Mongolia joint military exercise. Its 18th edition commenced on **September 21, 2026**, at the Foreign Training Node in **Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand**, and will continue until October 3.

222. What is the theme of the International Day of Sign Languages 2026?

- (a) Sign Language for Inclusive Education
- (b) Building Bridges Through Sign Language
- (c) Declaring Deaf People's Human Rights
- (d) Sign Language for a Better Future
- (e) Empowering Deaf Communities

Ans. c

Sol. The **International Day of Sign Languages** is observed annually on **September 23** to raise awareness about the importance of sign language in protecting the human rights of deaf people. It was established by the United Nations in **2017** and first celebrated in 2018. The **2026 theme** is "**Declaring Deaf People's Human Rights.**"

223. Dr. G. Vijayaraghavan, who passed away recently, was associated with which field?

- (a) Space Science
- (b) Cardiology
- (c) Economics
- (d) Literature
- (e) Environmental Science

Ans. b

Sol. Dr. G. Vijayaraghavan was a renowned **cardiologist** and a **Padma Shri awardee**. He received the Padma Shri in **2009** and conducted pioneering research on **tropical endomyocardial fibrosis**. He also helped establish India's first 2D echocardiography laboratory at Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram.

224. India has reaffirmed its commitment to eliminate Hepatitis B and C as public health threats by which year?

- (a) 2027
- (b) 2028
- (c) 2029

- (d) 2030
- (e) 2035

Ans. d

Sol. India reaffirmed its commitment to the 2030 SDG Agenda and the global goal of eliminating **Hepatitis B and C as public health threats by 2030**. The announcement was highlighted by Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava at a side event of the 81st UN General Assembly.

225. Delhi's historic Town Hall complex in Chandni Chowk is set to be redeveloped as which of the following?

- (a) National Cultural Museum
- (b) Global Heritage Centre
- (c) National History Centre
- (d) International Tourism Centre
- (e) National Art Gallery

Ans. b

Sol. Delhi's historic **Town Hall complex in Chandni Chowk** will be transformed into a **Global Heritage Centre**. The Delhi government and MCD signed an MoU on **20 September 2026** for its conservation and redevelopment.

The project covers the historic Town Hall, Press Building and adjoining park . Together, they cover around 12,180 square metres.

Built between 1860 and 1866 , the Town Hall forms part of Shahjahanabad's historic landscape. MCD used it as its headquarters for decades before shifting to the Dr. S.P. Mukherjee Civic Centre in 2010.

226. The United States will build two military bases in Greenland under a new agreement with which country?

- (a) Norway
- (b) Sweden
- (c) Denmark
- (d) Finland
- (e) Iceland

Ans. c

Sol. According to the document, a trilateral defence and security cooperation agreement modernizes the historic **1951 US-Danish Defense Agreement**, giving the United States expanded permanent military operating rights in Greenland without transferring sovereign territory. Denmark's capital is Copenhagen and its currency is the Danish krone.

227. S&P Global Ratings upgraded India's GDP growth forecast for FY27 to what percentage?

- (a) 6.4%
- (b) 6.6%
- (c) 6.7%
- (d) 6.9%
- (e) 7.0%

Ans. e

Sol. S&P Global Ratings raised India's FY27 growth forecast to **7% from 6.6%**, citing stronger-than-expected industrial activity, consumption, exports and government investment during the June quarter. It forecast growth of 7.2% for FY28 and 7% for FY29.

228. According to the World Economic Forum's Chief Economists' Outlook, India's FY27 growth forecast was raised to:

- (a) 6.2%
- (b) 6.4%
- (c) 6.5%
- (d) 6.7%
- (e) 7.0%

Ans. d

Sol. According to the document, India retained the **strongest growth outlook** among the economies covered by the WEF Chief Economists' survey, with its FY2026-27 growth forecast raised to **6.7%**. The report linked the upgrade to resilient domestic demand while noting higher energy prices as a drag on the outlook.

229. Fitch raised India's FY27 GDP growth forecast from 6.4% to:

- (a) 6.5%
- (b) 6.6%

- (c) 6.7%
- (d) 6.8%
- (e) 6.9%

Ans. e

Sol. Fitch upgraded India's FY27 GDP growth projection to **6.9% from 6.4%**, citing stronger-than-expected June-quarter performance and domestic resilience. The document also states that India's real GDP grew **7.8% year-on-year in Q1 FY27**.

230. Who was unanimously re-elected as President of the News Broadcasters and Digital Association (NBDA) for 2026–27?

- (a) Anuradha Prasad Shukla
- (b) Rajat Sharma
- (c) M.V. Shreyams Kumar
- (d) Punya Salila Srivastava
- (e) Hirav Shah

Ans. b

Sol. Chairman and Editor-in-Chief **Rajat Sharma** was unanimously re-elected as NBDA President for the **2026–27 term** at a board meeting held on September 22, 2026. The document states that NBDA has 29 news and current-affairs broadcasters representing 136 news channels and digital platforms.

231. Mark Wood, who announced his retirement from international cricket at the age of 36, represented which country?

- (a) Australia
- (b) New Zealand
- (c) South Africa
- (d) England
- (e) West Indies

Ans. d

Sol. England fast bowler **Mark Wood** announced his retirement from international cricket at age **36**, ending an 11-year career. According to the document, he won two World Cups and an Ashes series and took 119 Test, 80 ODI and 54 T20I wickets.

232. Who launched the business novel "SAARATHI" in Gujarat in September 2026?

- (a) Rajat Sharma
- (b) Hirav Shah
- (c) M.V. Shreyams Kumar
- (d) Jens-Frederik Nielsen
- (e) Alfred Tyrone Cooke

Ans. b

Sol. Business strategist **Hirav Shah** launched his business novel "**SAARATHI**" in Gujarat on **September 21, 2026**. According to the document, it became an Amazon India bestseller on its launch day. Its themes include financial discipline, strategy, enterprise growth and balancing business with family responsibilities.

233. Flight Lieutenant Alfred Tyrone Cooke, who passed away in September 2026, was a recipient of which gallantry award?

- (a) Param Vir Chakra
- (b) Maha Vir Chakra
- (c) Vir Chakra
- (d) Ashoka Chakra
- (e) Kirti Chakra

Ans. c

Sol. Flight Lieutenant **Alfred Tyrone Cooke**, a 1965 Indo-Pak War veteran, was a **Vir Chakra** awardee. He passed away on **18 September 2026 at the age of 87**. The Vir Chakra is India's **third-highest wartime gallantry award**, after the Param Vir Chakra and Maha Vir Chakra

234. What is the maximum combined Centre and Delhi subsidy available under the Delhi PM Surya Ghar initiative for rooftop solar systems up to 3 kW?

- (a) ₹1.00 lakh
- (b) ₹1.25 lakh
- (c) ₹1.50 lakh
- (d) ₹1.56 lakh
- (e) ₹2.00 lakh

Ans. d

Sol.

- **Chief minister Rekha Gupta launched the 'Delhi PM Surya Ghar' portal to help residents install rooftop solar systems.** The government will provide a combined Centre and Delhi subsidy of up to **₹1.56 lakh for systems up to 3 kW.**
- Launched under the '**Seva Sankalp Abhiyan**', the portal will allow residents to register for **rooftop solar installations** and get information about subsidies, authorised vendors and related services. Registrations will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis.
- **Zero Upfront Cost:** Domestic consumers using up to 400 units of electricity monthly can install systems up to 3 kW with no advance payment.
- **Target Reach:** The first phase aims to provide free rooftop solar panels to over 2.30 lakh families on a first-come, first-served basis.

235. Under the DURGA scheme approved by the Delhi Government, how many pink electric autos will be allotted in the first phase?

- (a) 1,000
- (b) 1,100
- (c) 1,200
- (d) 1,300
- (e) 1,500

Ans. d

Sol. Delhi Government has approved the **DURGA** scheme aimed at providing **safe, clean and dignified employment opportunities to women and transgender** persons in the capital. This decision was taken at a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta in New Delhi.

Under this scheme, 1,300 pink electric autos will be allocated in **the first phase, 1,170** will be **reserved for women and 130 for transgender beneficiaries.**

236. What growth rate has the Asian Development Bank (ADB) projected for India's FY27?

- (a) 6.4%
- (b) 6.6%
- (c) 6.8%
- (d) 7.0%
- (e) 7.3%

Ans. d

Sol. ADB raised India's FY27 growth forecast to **7.0% from 6.6%**, citing stronger-than-expected investment demand and resilience in services exports.

237. According to the OECD's September 2026 Interim Economic Outlook, what is India's projected economic growth for FY27?

- (a) 6.3%
- (b) 6.5%
- (c) 6.8%
- (d) 7.1%
- (e) 7.8%

Ans. d

Sol. The OECD raised India's FY27 growth forecast to **7.1% from 6.3%**, an increase of 80 basis points. It projected growth of 6.5% for FY28.

238. Where did Maruti Suzuki commission its first green hydrogen electrolyser plant?

- (a) Pune, Maharashtra
- (b) Manesar, Haryana
- (c) Sanand, Gujarat
- (d) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- (e) Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Ans. b

Sol.

- **Maruti Suzuki India** on 24 September announced the commissioning of a **300 kW green hydrogen electrolyser plant at its Manesar manufacturing facility** in Haryana, marking the automaker's **first such plant as it looks to reduce fossil-fuel use in manufacturing.**
- **The move is aimed** at improving the utilisation of renewable power that would otherwise remain unused. Maruti Suzuki plans to scale up green hydrogen adoption across its manufacturing facilities in Haryana and Gujarat based on the learnings from the pilot.

239. RNFI Money Pvt Ltd received RBI approval to undertake which activity?

- (a) Insurance underwriting
- (b) Securities trading
- (c) Cross-border trade remittances
- (d) Pension fund management
- (e) Mutual fund distribution

Ans. c

Sol.

- **RNFI Money Pvt Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of RNFI Services Ltd,** has received approval from the **Reserve Bank of India to undertake cross-border trade remittances**, expanding the company's regulated payments and foreign exchange business.
- The approval will allow RNFI Money to **offer regulated foreign exchange, remittance and trade-payment services through RNFI's existing last-mile network across India.**

240. Who will receive the National Lata Mangeskar Samman 2026 for music direction?

- (a) A. R. Rahman
- (b) Shantanu Moitra
- (c) Vishal Bhardwaj
- (d) Pritam Chakraborty
- (e) Amit Trivedi

Ans. b

Sol.

- **Music composer Shantanu Moitra will receive the National Lata Mangeskar Samman 2026** for music direction at a ceremony in Indore on September 28, **Lata Mangeskar's birth anniversary.** The honour, given by the Madhya Pradesh Culture Department, carries ₹5 lakh and a citation.
- Culture Department Director NP Namdev said the award will be presented during a two-day programme commemorating the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeskar at the Lata Mangeskar Auditorium on Sep 27 and 28.

241. Z T Lalrithangi, popularly known as Pi Mari-i, has been selected for which FAO recognition?

- (a) FAO Global Farmer Award
- (b) FAO Women Agriculture Excellence Award
- (c) FAO 100 Women Heroes in Agrifood Systems and Rural Development
- (d) FAO Rural Innovation Award
- (e) FAO Food Security Leadership Award

Ans. c

Sol.

- A 35-year-old teacher-turned-farmer from a remote village in **Mizoram's Lawngtlai district will receive a United Nations award in Rome** for her **contribution to agriculture and rural development, after turning strawberry cultivation into a profitable livelihood.**
- **Z T Lalrithangi, popularly known as Pi Mari-i**, from Sangau in south Mizoram's Lawngtlai district, has been selected among the **"FAO 100 Women Heroes in Agrifood Systems and Rural Development"** by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN as part of the **International Year of Women Farmers 2026.**

242. Which two countries were the co-hosts of the ADMM-Plus Joint Cooperation Activity in which INS Sahyadri and INS Kulish participated?

- (a) India and Japan
- (b) Japan and the Philippines
- (c) India and the Philippines
- (d) Singapore and Japan
- (e) Australia and the Philippines

Ans. b

Sol. INS Sahyadri and INS Kulish arrived at **Subic Bay, Philippines**, for the ADMM-Plus Joint Cooperation Activity. The **co-hosts were Japan and the Philippines**, with the theme focusing on maritime security and environmental resilience.

243. Under Project NETRA, where is ISRO establishing an Advanced Radar Research Facility?

- (a) Hanle, Ladakh
- (b) Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
- (c) Chandrapur, Assam

- (d) Bengaluru, Karnataka
(e) Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Ans. c

Sol.

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is establishing an Advanced **Radar Research Facility at Chandrapur in Assam under Project NETRA (Network for Space Objects Tracking and Analysis)** to strengthen India's Space Situational Awareness (SSA) **capabilities and improve monitoring of satellites and other objects in space.**
- The facility is being established at **Chandrapur in Kamrup Metropolitan district, Assam.** The facility comes under ISRO's Indian Space Research Organisation Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC).
- The NETRA project is also **developing an optical telescope at Hanle, Ladakh, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA).**

244. Soorya Krishnamoorthy, who passed away at the age of 78, was associated with which cultural initiative?

- (a) Bharat Rang Mahotsav
(b) Soorya Festival
(c) Surajkund Festival
(d) Khajuraho Festival
(e) Kochi-Muziris Biennale

Ans. b

Sol.

- **Soorya Krishnamoorthy, the renowned performing arts expert, playwright, screenwriter and cultural organiser, has passed away** at the age of 78. He passed away in Thiruvananthapuram while undergoing treatment for a liver-related illness.
- **Soorya Krishnamoorthy continued his work at ISRO for 27 years. In 1999, he took voluntary retirement and devoted himself completely to the arts and cultural activities.**

245. What was the theme of World Pharmacists Day 2026?

- (a) Pharmacists: Your Health Partners
- (b) Empowering Pharmacists for Healthier Futures
- (c) Pharmacy for a Better World
- (d) Pharmacists Leading Healthcare Transformation
- (e) Safe Medicines, Healthy Society

Ans. b

Sol. World Pharmacists Day 2026 was observed on **25 September**, with the theme **"Empowering pharmacists for healthier futures."** The occasion is led by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP).

246. Antyodaya Diwas is observed on 25 September to commemorate the birth anniversary of whom?

- (a) Deendayal Upadhyaya
- (b) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee
- (c) Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- (d) Ram Manohar Lohia
- (e) Lal Bahadur Shastri

Ans. a

Sol. Antyodaya Diwas is observed on **25 September**, marking the birth anniversary of **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya**. It was officially declared by the Government of India in **2014**.

247. India and the Netherlands signed two MoUs to advance which project in Gujarat?

- (a) Ken-Betwa River Linking Project
- (b) Kalpasar Project
- (c) Sagarmala Project
- (d) Damanganga-Pinjal Project
- (e) National River Interlinking Project

Ans. b

Sol. India and the Netherlands strengthened their cooperation in the water sector, focusing on the Kalpasar Project in Gujarat. The project envisages creating a freshwater reservoir using runoff from the Sabarmati, Mahi and Dhadhar rivers, supplemented by water from the Narmada River.

248. What is India's rank in the World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index 2026?

- (a) 25th
- (b) 28th
- (c) 31st
- (d) 35th
- (e) 39th

Ans. c

Sol. India secured 31st rank in the Travel & Tourism Development Index 2026, improving from 39th place in 2024. The report was published by the World Economic Forum and Zurich Insurance Group. Japan secured the first position.

Top 5 Rank

- Japan
- USA
- Spain
- Australia
- France

249. Who topped the M3M Hurun India Rich List 2026?

- (a) Mukesh Ambani and family
- (b) Gautam Adani and family
- (c) Shiv Nadar and family
- (d) Roshni Nadar Malhotra and family
- (e) Cyrus Poonawalla and family

Ans. b

Sol. Gautam Adani and his family reclaimed the top position in the M3M Hurun India Rich List 2026, with a total wealth of ₹9.23 lakh crore, overtaking Mukesh Ambani and family, whose wealth was ₹8.63 lakh crore. The list featured 1,810 individuals with combined wealth of ₹187.5 lakh crore.

Highlights of the 2026 List

- **Top Overall:** Gautam Adani & family (₹9.23 lakh crore), overtaking Mukesh Ambani & family at ₹8.63 lakh crore.

- **Entertainers & Cricketers:** Shah Rukh Khan and family lead this segment with ₹10,000 crore, followed by Amitabh Bachchan at ₹4,000 crore.
- **Richest Woman:** Roshni Nadar Malhotra & family rank fifth overall with ₹2.78 lakh crore, making them India's wealthiest woman.
- **Overall Scale:** The 15th edition features 1,810 individuals with a combined wealth of ₹187.5 lakh crore and a record 391 dollar billionaires.
- **City Hubs:** Mumbai leads with 465 entries, followed by New Delhi (236) and Bengaluru (129).

250. How much gross FDI inflow did India record in FY 2025–26, the highest annual level so far?

- (a) US\$ 74.53 billion
- (b) US\$ 84.53 billion
- (c) US\$ 89.53 billion
- (d) US\$ 94.53 billion
- (e) US\$ 104.53 billion

Ans. d

Sol. India recorded gross Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows of US\$ 94.53 billion in FY 2025–26, the highest annual level recorded so far. Cumulative FDI inflows from FY 2014–15 to FY 2025–26 reached US\$ 843 billion.

251. Which company changed its name from ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited to ICICI Life Insurance Limited, effective 22 September 2026?

- (a) HDFC Life Insurance
- (b) SBI Life Insurance
- (c) ICICI Life Insurance
- (d) Axis Max Life Insurance
- (e) Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance

Ans. c

Sol. ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited changed its name to ICICI Life Insurance Limited, effective 22 September 2026, after receiving approval from the Registrar of Companies, Central Processing Centre. The company will also intimate IRDAI for a revised Certificate of Registration under the applicable regulations.

252. Which of the following public sector general insurance companies were linked to further capital support based on operational improvements and sustained performance?

- (a) New India Assurance, National Insurance and LIC
- (b) National Insurance, Oriental Insurance and United India Insurance
- (c) Oriental Insurance, New India Assurance and GIC Re
- (d) United India Insurance, LIC and Agriculture Insurance Company
- (e) National Insurance, New India Assurance and ECGC

Ans. b

Sol. The Indian government linked further capital support for National Insurance Company, Oriental Insurance Company and United India Insurance Company to operational improvements and sustained performance. These three insurers collectively require an estimated ₹39,000 crore by March 2027 to meet regulatory solvency requirements. New India Assurance remains profitable.

253. Which company was named the new title sponsor for Indian home cricket by the BCCI until March 2028?

- (a) IDFC First Bank
- (b) Dream11
- (c) Muthoot FinCorp
- (d) Paytm
- (e) Tata Group

Ans. c

Sol. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) named Muthoot FinCorp as the title sponsor for Indian home cricket until March 2028. The partnership covers international series and tournaments played in India, along with domestic competitions organised by the BCCI. Muthoot FinCorp replaced IDFC First Bank.

254. Which Indian city will host the UCI Road World Championships in 2032 for the first time in India?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Bengaluru

- (d) Pune
- (e) Hyderabad

Ans. d

Sol. Pune will host the UCI Road World Championships in 2032, marking the first time this prestigious global cycling event will be held in India. The bid was jointly led by the Government of Maharashtra and the Cycling Federation of India, with support from the Government of India.

255. Who released the book Vishwasanchar Hindutva Ka on 24 September 2026?

- (a) Narendra Modi
- (b) Jagdeep Dhankhar
- (c) C. P. Radhakrishnan
- (d) Amit Shah
- (e) Om Birla

Ans. c

Sol. Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan released the book Vishwasanchar Hindutva Ka at Uprashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on 24 September 2026. The book was published by Saptahik Vivek, a publication established in 1948.

256. When is World Contraception Day observed every year?

- (a) 24 September
- (b) 25 September
- (c) 26 September
- (d) 27 September
- (e) 28 September

Ans. c

Sol. World Contraception Day is observed annually on 26 September. First observed in 2007, the day aims to raise awareness about contraception, promote individual health, encourage open discussions and support women's rights and gender equality. The 2026 theme is "No Barriers, Just Choices."

257. What was the theme of World Environmental Health Day 2026?

- (a) One Earth, One Health
- (b) Environmental Health: Standing with Science to Protect Communities

- (c) Healthy Environment, Healthy Future
- (d) Climate Action for Human Health
- (e) Protect Nature, Protect Life

Ans. b

Sol. World Environmental Health Day is observed on 26 September every year. The observance highlights the relationship between the environment and human health and recognises the work of environmental health professionals. The 2026 theme was "Environmental Health: Standing with Science to Protect Communities."

258. What was the theme of World Tourism Day 2026?

- (a) Tourism and Green Investments
- (b) Tourism for Inclusive Growth
- (c) Sustainable Tourism for a Better Future
- (d) Digital Agenda and Artificial Intelligence to Redesign Tourism
- (e) Tourism and Cultural Heritage

Ans. d

Sol. World Tourism Day is celebrated globally on 27 September every year. It aims to raise awareness of tourism's social, cultural, political and economic importance. The theme for 2026 was "Digital Agenda and Artificial Intelligence to Redesign Tourism."

259. Veteran Bollywood actor Mushtaq Khan, who passed away on 24 September 2026, was associated with which of the following films?

- (a) Sholay, Deewar and Don
- (b) Hum Hain Raahi Pyar Ke, Gadar: Ek Prem Katha, Welcome and Bala
- (c) Lagaan, Swades and Dangal
- (d) 3 Idiots, PK and Sanju
- (e) Border, LOC Kargil and Lakshya

Ans. b

Sol. Veteran Bollywood actor Mushtaq Khan passed away at the age of 75 on 24 September 2026. He was known for his roles in films such as Hum Hain Raahi Pyar Ke, Gadar: Ek Prem Katha, Welcome and Bala.

260. According to the Oxford Economics Global Cities Index 2026, which Indian city secured the highest overall ranking?

- (a) Bengaluru
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Delhi
- (d) Chennai
- (e) Hyderabad

Ans. c

Sol. Delhi secured the 268th position among 1,000 cities in the Oxford Economics Global Cities Index 2026, making it the highest-ranked Indian city. The index evaluates cities across five categories: Economics, Human Capital, Quality of Life, Environment and Governance.

261. What was the rank of Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi, in the OAG Megahubs 2026 global airport connectivity ranking?

- (a) 18th
- (b) 28th
- (c) 31st
- (d) 39th
- (e) 42nd

Ans. b

Sol. Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport secured the 28th position among the world's most connected international airports in the OAG Megahubs 2026 report. It improved by 11 places from its 39th position in 2025 and ranked ninth among Asia-Pacific airports.

262. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched which scheme to provide affordable long-term agricultural credit to farmers?

- (a) Kisan Credit Support Scheme
- (b) Mukhyamantri Krishak Samriddhi Yojana
- (c) PM Kisan Sinchai Yojana
- (d) Uttar Pradesh Krishi Vikas Mission
- (e) Mukhyamantri Kisan Bima Yojana

Ans. b

Sol. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the Mukhyamantri Krishak Samriddhi Yojana in Lucknow on 23 September 2026. Under the scheme,

interest rates on long-term agricultural loans provided through the Uttar Pradesh Cooperative Rural Development Bank were reduced from 11% to 6%. The scheme aims to benefit around five lakh small and marginal farmers.

263. Bharat Taxi, launched in Uttar Pradesh, operates under which model?

- (a) Public-private partnership model
- (b) Franchise-based model
- (c) Driver-centric cooperative model
- (d) Government-owned commercial model
- (e) Commission-based aggregator model

Ans. c

Sol. Bharat Taxi operates through Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Limited (STCL) under a driver-centric cooperative model. Drivers become members of the cooperative and retain their fares without commission deductions. The platform initially launched operations in Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Varanasi and Prayagraj.

264. SBI Card has launched a fixed-deposit-backed secured credit card application facility through which platform?

- (a) SBI Internet Banking
- (b) SBI YONO
- (c) SBI Quick
- (d) SBI Pay
- (e) SBI Samadhaan

Ans. b

Sol. SBI Card introduced a digital, paperless application facility for fixed-deposit-backed secured Advantage SBI Cards through the SBI YONO platform. Eligible customers can complete the application process in approximately 10 minutes. The offering includes SBI Card ELITE, SBI Card PRIME, SimplyCLICK SBI Card and SimplySAVE SBI Card.

265. Who was appointed as the new Chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) following the bureaucratic reshuffle in September 2026?

- (a) Sanjay Kumar
- (b) Mandeep K. Bhandari
- (c) Amit Khare

- (d) Anurag Tripathy
- (e) Vineet Joshi

Ans. b

Sol. Senior bureaucrat Mandeep K. Bhandari was appointed as the Chairperson of CBSE following a central government bureaucratic reshuffle on 27 September 2026. He is a 2001-batch IAS officer of the AGMUT cadre and was serving as Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir.

266. The 24th edition of the India-France bilateral naval exercise VARUNA commenced at which location in September 2026?

- (a) Brest Naval Base, France
- (b) Toulon Naval Base, France
- (c) Mumbai Naval Dockyard, India
- (d) Marseille Port, France
- (e) Kochi Naval Base, India

Ans. b

Sol. The 24th edition of the bilateral maritime exercise VARUNA between the Indian Navy and the French Navy commenced in September 2026. Indian guided-missile frigate INS Trishul arrived at Toulon Naval Base, France, on 22 September 2026. The exercise focuses on tactical interoperability, sharing operational best practices and 4 mutual understanding.

267. What was the theme of World Rabies Day 2026, observed on 28 September?

- (a) Rabies: One Health, Zero Deaths
- (b) End Rabies Together
- (c) Stronger Together
- (d) Unite to Eliminate Rabies
- (e) Rabies-Free World by 2030

Ans. c

Sol. World Rabies Day 2026 was observed on 28 September with the theme "Stronger Together". The day aims to raise awareness about rabies prevention and elimination through collaboration among communities, veterinary professionals, healthcare workers, governments and global partners.

268. World Rivers Day 2026 was celebrated on 27 September. What was its theme?

- (a) Save Water, Save Life
- (b) Rivers for Sustainable Development
- (c) Clean Rivers, Green Future
- (d) No Forests, No Rivers, No Water, No Life
- (e) Protect Rivers, Protect Biodiversity

Ans. d

Sol. World Rivers Day 2026 was celebrated on 27 September, the fourth Sunday of the month. Its theme was "No Forests, No Rivers, No Water, No Life". The day highlights the ecological, economic and cultural importance of rivers. It was established in 2005 by Canadian river conservationist Mark Angelo.

269. What was the official theme of World Heart Day 2026, observed on 29 September?

- (a) Use Heart to Beat Cardiovascular Disease
- (b) Don't Miss a Beat
- (c) Every Heart Matters
- (d) Heart for Humanity
- (e) Healthy Heart, Healthy Life

Ans. b

Sol. World Heart Day is observed annually on 29 September to raise awareness about cardiovascular diseases, their prevention and the importance of a healthy lifestyle. The theme for 2026 was "Don't Miss a Beat". The day encourages people to understand cardiovascular health and take preventive measures.

270. Italian football legend and Inter Milan icon Sandro Mazzola, who passed away at the age of 83, played his entire 17-year professional career for which club?

- (a) AC Milan
- (b) Juventus
- (c) AS Roma
- (d) Inter Milan
- (e) Napoli

Ans. d

Sol. Sandro Mazzola was an Italian football legend who spent his entire 17-year professional playing career with Inter Milan. He made 565 appearances and scored 158 goals across all competitions. He was a key figure in the club's legendary "Grande Inter" era and represented Italy in 70 international matches, winning the 1968 European Championship and finishing as runner-up in the 1970 FIFA World Cup.

271. India co-hosted the launch of the OneSCD Global Partnership on the sidelines of which session of the United Nations General Assembly?

- (a) 78th UNGA
- (b) 79th UNGA
- (c) 80th UNGA
- (d) 81st UNGA
- (e) 82nd UNGA

Ans. d

Sol. India co-hosted the launch of the OneSCD Global Partnership on 23 September 2026, on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. The initiative aims to advance equity and transform care for Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) globally. India was represented by Punya Salila Srivastava, Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. India aims to eliminate Sickle Cell Disease as a public health problem by 2047.

272. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), India's electrification rate could increase to what percentage by 2035?

- (a) 25%
- (b) 28%
- (c) 30%
- (d) 32%
- (e) 37%

Ans. d

Sol. According to the IEA's latest Electrification Special Report, India's electrification rate could rise from 19% to 32% by 2035, with transport electrification playing a major role. The report also stated that accelerated electrification could reduce the energy import bills of fuel-importing countries worldwide by more than \$400 billion

by 2035 compared with 2025 levels. For India, the savings could be nearly 30% of its 2025 import bill.

273. Roxy Mathew Koll was selected for which award by the American Geophysical Union (AGU) in 2026?

- (a) UNESCO Science Prize
- (b) Pavel S. Molchanov Climate Communications Prize
- (c) Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement
- (d) Blue Planet Prize
- (e) Nobel Prize in Climate Science

Ans. b

Sol. Indian climate scientist Roxy Mathew Koll, from the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, was selected for the Pavel S. Molchanov Climate Communications Prize by the American Geophysical Union (AGU) in 2026. He was recognised for documenting the warming of the Indian Ocean and its effects on monsoons, marine heatwaves, cyclones, extreme rainfall and livelihoods across South Asia. Neelima Satyam was also among the AGU 2026 awardees.

274. Bhutan was named a 2026 finalist for the Earthshot Prize in which category?

- (a) Clean Our Air
- (b) Fix Our Climate
- (c) Protect & Restore Nature
- (d) Revive Our Oceans
- (e) Build a Waste-Free World

Ans. c

Sol. Bhutan was named one of the 15 finalists for the 2026 Earthshot Prize, in the Protect & Restore Nature category. The other two finalists in this category were Australia's Indigenous Desert Alliance and Canada's Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative. The category focuses on protecting biodiversity, restoring damaged ecosystems and meeting human needs while safeguarding nature.

275. The ninth edition of the India-Kazakhstan joint military exercise KAZIND-2026 commenced in which city of Kazakhstan?

- (a) Astana
- (b) Almaty

- (c) Oskemen
- (d) Shymkent
- (e) Karaganda

Ans. c

Sol. The ninth edition of the India-Kazakhstan joint military exercise KAZIND-2026 began on 28 September 2026 in Oskemen, Kazakhstan. The exercise aims to enhance interoperability and strengthen the joint capabilities of both armed forces to conduct counter-terrorism operations in a sub-conventional environment under a United Nations mandate.

276. Where will the Indian Navy host the second edition of its Commanders' Conference 2026?

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) Kochi
- (c) Visakhapatnam
- (d) New Delhi
- (e) Goa

Ans. d

Sol. The Indian Navy will host the second edition of its Commanders' Conference 2026 in New Delhi. The three-day conference will provide an opportunity for senior naval leadership, including operational and area commanders, to review operational preparedness at the military-strategic level and engage with senior government officials through an institutionalised mechanism.

277. Exercise MAITREE-XV, a bilateral military exercise involving India, was conducted with which country?

- (a) Japan
- (b) Thailand
- (c) Myanmar
- (d) Malaysia
- (e) Mongolia

Ans. b

Sol. MAITREE-XV is a bilateral military exercise between India and Thailand. According to the provided current affairs document, it was conducted at Surat Thani, Thailand.

Other important bilateral exercises mentioned in the document include:

- Yudh Abhyas – India and the US
- IMBAX – India and Myanmar
- Dharma Guardian – India and Japan
- Samudra Laksamana – India and Malaysia
- SLINEX – India and Sri Lanka
- Nomadic Elephant – India and Mongolia
- VARUNA – India and France

278. Which country won the gold medal in the Open section of the 46th Chess Olympiad held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan?

- (a) India
- (b) China
- (c) United States
- (d) Uzbekistan
- (e) Ukraine

Ans. d

Sol. Uzbekistan won the gold medal in the Open section of the 46th Chess Olympiad held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, after defeating Ukraine in the final round. India secured silver in the Open section and bronze in the Women's section. India also defended the prestigious Nona Gaprindashvili Trophy by finishing as the best overall nation.

279. International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI) is observed every year on which date?

- (a) 15 September
- (b) 21 September
- (c) 27 September
- (d) 28 September
- (e) 30 September

Ans. d

Sol. The International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI) is observed annually on 28 September to highlight the importance of public access to transparent and reliable information. The day was proclaimed by the 74th United Nations General Assembly on 15 October 2019. It was initially designated by UNESCO and was first observed on 28 September 2016.

Theme 2026: "Upholding Information Integrity in the Digital Age: The Role of Access to Information in Addressing Information Disorder."

280. What was the theme of International Translation Day 2026?

- (a) Translation and Cultural Diversity
- (b) Languages for Peace and Understanding
- (c) Linguistic Diversity and Language Rights: The Power of Being Understood
- (d) Translation for Global Cooperation
- (e) Building Bridges Through Multilingualism

Ans. c

Sol. International Translation Day is observed annually on 30 September to recognise the important contributions of translators, interpreters and other language professionals in bringing people and cultures closer together. The observance highlights their role in communication, international cooperation and understanding among different communities.

Theme 2026: "Linguistic Diversity and Language Rights: The Power of Being Understood."