

Today in history on 16 SEP

➤ 1908 - 'General Motors Corporation' was founded.

General Motors Company, commonly referred to as General Motors (GM), is an American multinational corporation headquartered in Detroit that designs, manufactures, markets, and distributes vehicles and vehicle parts and sells financial services.

Its global headquarters are at the Renaissance Center in Detroit. It was originally founded as a holding company on September 16, 1908, by William C. Durant. The company is the largest American automobile manufacturer, and one of the largest automobile manufacturers in the world. In 2019, General Motors is ranked 13 on the Fortune 500 rankings of the largest United States corporations by total revenue.



➤ 1795: Britain captured Cape Town, South Africa.

The capture of Cape Town is one of the most important moments in South African history, which brought about significant changes in European and African history. The event occurred on 16 September 1795, when the British Empire took control of Cape Town.

Cape Town, South Africa's major port and territory, had been a center of trade since the earliest times of Holland between British and Dutch colonists in the 17th and 18th centuries. Britain and Holland particularly struggled for control of Cape Town.



➤ 1975 - Papua New Guinea gains independence from Australia.

The Papua New Guinea Independence Act 1975 was an act passed by the Parliament of Australia. It replaced the Papua and New Guinea Act 1949, and changed the status of the Papua and New Guinea Territory to an independent Papua New Guinea.

The act set 16 September 1975 as the date of Papua New Guinea's independence and ended all of Australia's remaining sovereignty and legislative powers over the country.



In 1975, Cape Verde, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe joined the United Nations.

Thus, on November 11, 1975, Angola gained official independence and, while the stage was set for transition, a combination of ethnic tensions and international pressures made Angola's hard-won victory problematic.



➤ 1963: Malaysia is formed from Malaya, Singapore and British Northern Cyprus

On 16 September 1963, Malaya, Singapore, Sabah and Sarawak were formally merged to form Malaysia.

The PAP government realised that Singapore would have difficulty surviving as a nation.

They lacked natural resources and faced a declining re-export trade and an ageing population



➤ 1975 – Cape Verde, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe join the United Nations

NEWS on 16 SEP

➤ MoEFCC Organizes the Dialogue on Montreal Protocol

On the 30th World Ozone Day event, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), organizes a dialogue on the theme of "Montreal Protocol : Advancing Climate Action."

World Ozone Day, held on September 16, celebrates this achievement. It shows that collective decisions and action, guided by science, are the only way to solve major global crises.



when it comes to role-modeling as part of the country's cybersecurity commitments and resulting impacts.

The Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) is a trusted reference that measures the commitment of countries to cybersecurity at a global level to raise awareness of the importance and different dimensions of the issue.



➤ TIME's World's Best Companies 2024, Indian Firms in the Spotlight

TIME magazine's World's Best Companies of 2024 list has brought significant recognition to Indian businesses, highlighting their growing influence on the global stage.

This prestigious ranking, which includes 1000 companies worldwide, features 22 Indian-born enterprises this year, showcasing the country's expanding corporate footprint and economic prowess.



➤ Third Edition of INDUS-X Summit Concludes in California

The third edition of the INDUS-X Summit, held on September 2024 in California, marked significant progress in advancing a joint defence innovation ecosystem between India and the USA. Co-organised by the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) and Stanford University, the event focused on deepening defence collaboration through innovation, joint research, and investment.



➤ India jumps to Tier 1 in Global CyberSecurity Index 2024

India has jumped to Tier 1 in the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2024, released by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU),

➤ Union Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia Launches 'Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav' Website

Union Minister Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia, Hon'ble Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), has officially launched the website for the Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav.

The launch, held at Sanchar Bhawan in New Delhi, highlights the government's dedication to showcasing Northeast India's cultural and economic richness on both national and international platforms.



➤ DRDO Successfully Completes First Phase Trials of Light Tank 'Zorawar'

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the preliminary automotive trials of the Indian Light Tank, Zorawar, on September, 2024.

The versatile platform, developed for high-altitude deployment, demonstrated exceptional performance in desert terrain, meeting all objectives.

The firing performance in this phase achieved the required accuracy on designated targets, showcasing its combat readiness.



➤ UPI Users can now Send 5 Lakh For Some Transactions

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has increased the transaction limits for tax payments using UPI (Unified Payment Interface), by allowing people to send 5 lakh in a single transaction.

Acquiring entities must ensure that the classification of their merchants within MCC-9311 strictly adheres to the tax payments only. Merchants shall ensure UPI as a payment mode is enabled for the increased limit for the tax payments category.



MCQs on Current affairs 16 SEP

Q.1. Recently, which state government has decided to celebrate 17 September as 'Praja Palan Diwas'?

- (a) Telangana
- (b) Haryana
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Gujarat

Answer: (a) Telangana

The Telangana government will observe September 17 as Telangana Praja Palan Diwas, which marks the merger of Hyderabad with India in 1948. Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari issued orders to hoist the national flag at government offices, urban local bodies and gram panchayats. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy will hoist the flag in Hyderabad, while ministers will do the same at district headquarters. In 2023, the BRS government marked it as National Unity Day. The central government observes it as Hyderabad Liberation Day, which commemorates the police action under Operation Polo in 1948, which merged Hyderabad with India.

Q.2. Recently 'Avio' has been launched by whom?

- (a) Adani
- (b) Jio
- (c) Tata
- (d) Indigo

Answer: (a) Adani

Adani Airports Holdings Limited (AAHL) has launched an app, Avio, to serve passengers and other stakeholders using the seven airports operated by the company in India, including Mangaluru International Airport. It provides access to real-time

data to all your shareholder stakeholders. Passengers can expect easy access to airport information in the form of updates related to security checks, waiting times, gate changes and bags on belts, among other guidelines.

Q.3. Recently, IMF (International Monitoring Fund) has estimated India's GDP growth rate to be 7.5% in the financial year 2024-25?

- (a) 07%
- (b) 6.4%
- (c) 7.9%
- (d) 6.9%

Answer: (a) 07%

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has revised its forecast for India's GDP growth in FY2024-25 to 7%, up 20 basis points from the previous estimate of 6.8%. The revision reflects the IMF's updated World Economic Outlook report, driven by better consumption prospects, especially in rural areas. India's economic growth is projected to remain strong, reinforcing its position as the fastest-growing major economy among emerging markets.

Q.4. Recently, which bank is the first major Indian bank to join PCAF (Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials)?

- (a) Union Bank of India
- (b) Axis Bank
- (c) Central Bank of India
- (d) HDFC Bank

Answer: (a) Union Bank of India

Union Bank of India has become the first major Indian bank to join the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF), signifying its

commitment to manage and reduce its indirect emissions. The decision reflects the growing global focus on climate risk management and is in line with the recently released draft guidelines on climate risk disclosures issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Q.5. Recently, 'R Ravindra' has been appointed as the next ambassador of India to which country?

- (a) Germany
- (b) France
- (c) Finland
- (d) Iceland

Answer: (d) Iceland

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has appointed Shri R Ravindran as the next Ambassador to Iceland. He was a bureaucrat and has served in several organisations and places. R Ravindran was a 1999 batch Indian Foreign Service Officer and is currently serving as India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations. He is expected to take charge shortly, the Ministry of External Affairs said. He will replace Shri B Shyam as Ambassador to Iceland.

Q.6. Defense Minister Rajnath Singh has recently inaugurated the 'Defense Aviation Expo' in which state?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Jaipur
- (c) Shimla
- (d) Jodhpur

Answer: (d) Jodhpur

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh officially inaugurated the India Defence Aviation Exhibition

(IDAX-24) in Jodhpur. This major event coincides with Exercise Tarang Shakti-24, one of the largest multinational air exercises conducted by the Indian Air Force (IAF). IDAX-24 highlights the significant progress and contribution of the Indian aviation industry. "Some time back, India was seen as an arms importing country but now we export to over 90 countries. India has become self-reliant to a large extent in the field of sensors, radars, electronic warfare," Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said during a press conference at the event.

Q.7. Recently, the endangered Myristica swamp forest has been discovered in which state?

- (a) West Bengal
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Maharashtra

Answer: (d) Maharashtra

Researchers have recently discovered a sacred Myristica swamp forest in Kumbral, Maharashtra, near the Goa-Maharashtra border. The discovery highlights the importance of local communities in preserving rare ecosystems. Such sacred forests are often preserved due to cultural beliefs, in this case, linked to reverence for Lord Shiva, locally known as Bhalandeshwar.

Q.8. Recently, which country has become the first country to allow voters to elect judges at all levels?

- (a) Finland
- (b) Mexico
- (c) Sweden
- (d) Canada

Answer: (b) Mexico

Mexico became the first country to allow voters to elect judges at all levels. The decision was taken after protests that disrupted debate in the upper house. The reform was approved with 86 votes in favor and 41 against. A two-thirds majority was required to amend the constitution, and the reform achieved this threshold.

Q.9. Recently, which state government has signed an agreement with Caterpillar for equipment manufacturing?

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Chhattisgarh
- (c) Kerala
- (d) Jharkhand

Answer: (a) Tamil Nadu

The Tamil Nadu government led by Chief Minister MK Stalin has signed several MoUs with companies such as Caterpillar, Ford Motors and Autodesk to boost manufacturing and job creation in the state. The investments include Rs 2000 crore in Tiruchirappalli and Rs 666 crore in Kancheepuram. Stalin is currently on a visit to the US to secure further investments.

Q.10. Who has recently been appointed as the non-executive chairman of ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce)?

- (a) Ajit Sharma
- (b) Rajesh Verma
- (c) R S Sharma
- (d) Arvind Wadhwa

Answer: (c) R S Sharma

Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) announced the appointment of RS Sharma as the non-executive chairman of ONDC. In his career in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), he has held several key positions including Director General and Mission Director of UIDAI, Chairman of TRAI and CEO of National Health Authority. He has also been a member of the ONDC Advisory Council and the ONDC Technology and Strategy Review Council.

Q.11. Who has recently become the first state to provide AYUSH facility in urban primary PHC?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Rajasthan

Answer: (b) Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh has become the first state in the country to provide AYUSH facilities in all 328 primary health centers in urban areas. While AYUSH facilities are available in 695 out of 1440 primary health centers in rural areas and this facility is being expanded in the remaining health centers as well. Madhya Pradesh is ranked third in the country with the availability of AYUSH doctors in 228 primary and community health centers in tribal areas. Odisha is ranked first with 296 doctors and Chhattisgarh is ranked second with 279 doctors.

Q.12. The Government of India has approved health insurance of how many lakh rupees for senior citizens?

- (a) 06 lakh
- (b) 10 lakh
- (c) 07 lakh
- (d) 05 lakh

Answer: (d) 05 lakh

Under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, all other senior citizens aged 70 years or above will get a cover of up to Rs 5 lakh per year on a family basis. At the same time, senior citizens aged 70 years or above belonging to already covered families will be given an additional top-up cover of up to Rs 5 lakh per year for themselves. Even if you are taking advantage of other health insurance or private health insurance, you can still avail the benefit of Rs 5 lakh annually under the new card of Ayushman Yojana.

Q.13. Recently, where was the "BRICS National Security Advisors Meeting" held?

- (a) Russia
- (b) China
- (c) India
- (d) Brazil

Answer: (a) Russia

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval met Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the BRICS National Security Advisors' Meeting. Russia is the current Chair of BRICS and will host all related meetings in 2024, including the 16th BRICS Summit scheduled to be held in Kazan from 22-24 October 2024. President Putin invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the Summit. The BRICS National Security Advisors' Conference was held in St. Petersburg, attended by 10 member countries including India, Russia, Brazil, China and others. The meeting was hosted by Russian NSA Sergei Shoigu.

Q.14. Recently, from which country has the Indian Army contingent left to participate in the 'Al Najah V' exercise?

- (a) Mauritius

(b) Italy

(c) Oman

(d) Syria

Answer: (c) Oman

Indian Army contingent has left for Oman to participate in the fifth edition of India-Oman Joint Military Exercise Al Najah. The exercise will be conducted at Rabkoot Training Area in Salalah, Oman. "Exercise Al Najah is conducted every two years on a rotation basis between India and Oman since 2015. The previous edition of the same exercise was conducted at Mahajan in Rajasthan," the Defence Ministry said in a press release.

Q.15. Recently, which Indian Embassy has showcased Punjab tourism and ODOP (One District One Product)?

(a) Canada

(b) America

(c) Australia

(d) Bahrain

Answer: (d) Bahrain

The Indian Embassy in Bahrain unveiled new exhibitions showcasing Punjab's tourist attractions and One District One Product (ODOP) scheme at a vibrant ceremony this week. The event makes Punjab the sixth state to join the embassy's ongoing 'Focus State-Union Territory' initiative. The colourful walls of the Consular Hall now highlight Punjab's rich cultural heritage and diverse products, giving visitors a glimpse of the state's tourist attractions and unique ODOP offerings. The month-long promotion aims to raise awareness about Punjab's cultural and economic significance among the Bahraini public and the Indian diaspora.