

## Today in history on 21 SEP

### ➤ 1883: Telegraph service started between the United States and Brazil.

Telegraph service started between the United States and Brazil in the year 1883. India's first telegraph line and office was opened between Calcutta and Diamond Harbour in October 1851 on the busy shipping route of Hooghly. The first telegraph line from Calcutta to Agra was opened in 1854, covering a distance of 800 miles.



called the Central People's Government, was proclaimed by Mao at the ceremony, laying the foundation of the People's Republic of China.



### ➤ 1964: Malta gains independence from Britain.

Malta gains independence from Britain in 1964. Malta was a Crown colony of the United Kingdom from 1814 until 1964, when it was granted independence and joined the British Commonwealth. Malta was recognised by the United States the same year it gained independence and became a republic in 1964.



### ➤ 1949: Communist leaders in China declared the 'People's Republic of China' party.

In the year 1949, Communist leaders in China declared the 'People's Republic of China' party. The People's Republic of China was proclaimed by Chinese Communist Party (CCP) chairman Mao Zedong at Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1949. A new state government under the CCP, formally

#### ➤ 1991: Armenia gains independence from the Soviet Union.

Armenia gains independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, when President George H.W. Bush announces the decision to dissolve the Soviet Union in an address to the nation. Armenia was previously a constituent republic of the USSR. The U.S. Embassy in Yerevan opened on February 3, 1992, with Steven Mann appointed interim charge d'affaires.



## NEWS on 21 SEP



#### ➤ Atal Pension Yojana (APY) Subscribers at 69 Million, Corpus at Rs 35,149 Crore

About 7 crore people have subscribed to the Atal Pension Yojana (APY), accumulating a corpus of Rs 35,149 crore, as announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The APY, launched in 2015, is a low-cost pension scheme providing a guaranteed minimum pension ranging from Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000 per month, depending on the contributions made by subscribers. In case of the subscriber's death, the pension is extended to the spouse for life, and upon the demise of both, the nominee receives the entire corpus.

#### ➤ 2008: Mbeki resigns in South Africa

South African President Mbeki resigns in 2008. Thabo Mbeki, who presided over South Africa's longest period of economic growth, told the nation he had resigned as head of state, deepening the country's worst political crisis since apartheid. Mbeki, who took over the presidency from Nelson Mandela in 1999, agreed to a request from the ruling ANC that he resign before his term ends next year.



The Union Cabinet has approved several key proposals with a total outlay exceeding ₹60,000 crore, covering areas from agriculture to space exploration. The much-anticipated 'One Nation, One Poll' policy, enabling simultaneous elections across India, also received approval. Additionally, the PM-AASHA scheme was revamped with a ₹35,000 crore budget to ensure Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for farmers.



### ➤ India is set to become the Third-largest Economy by 2030-31

India is on track to become the third largest economy by fiscal 2030-31, driven by a robust projected annual growth rate of 6.7%, the credit rating agency S&P Global said in its report called India forward Emerging Perspectives. S&P Global's report said that stock markets are expected to remain dynamic and competitive due to strong growth prospects and improved regulations.

### ➤ India's Exports to China Fall Faster Than to Other Partners

India's exports to China contracted by 22.44% to \$1 billion in August, while overall exports declined 9% to \$34.7 billion, driven by muted demand, geopolitical issues, and logistics challenges amid a massive slowdown in China. Despite the contraction, China remains India's fifth-largest export market, although the country continues to heavily rely on imports from China, which increased 15.5% year-on-year to \$10.8 billion in the same period.



### ➤ Cabinet Clears 'One Nation, One Poll' and Major Agriculture-Space Proposals

### ➤ India Becomes 6th Largest Market in MSCI ACWI

India has now become the sixth largest market in the MSCI All Country World Investable Market Index (ACWI IMI), surpassing China and narrowly behind France. As of August 2024, India's weight in the index stands at 2.35%, surpassing China's 2.24%, with France just 3 basis points ahead of India. India is also now the largest emerging market (EM) in the MSCI ACWI IMI for the first time.



### ➤ New Re-usable Low-cost launch vehicle for Bharat

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the development of Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV), that will be a significant step towards the Government's vision of establishing & operating the Bharatiya Antariksh Station and towards developing capability for Indian Crewed Landing on the Moon by 2040.



### ➤ Cabinet gave approval for CHANDRAYAAN-4 Mission

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved a new moon mission 'Chandrayaan-4', to develop and demonstrate the technologies to come back to Earth after successfully landing on the Moon and also collect moon samples and analyze them on Earth.



## MCQs on Current affairs 21 SEP

**Q.1. Which state has recently overtaken Punjab in GDP?**

- (a) Rajasthan
- (b) Uttarakhand
- (c) Bihar
- (d) Haryana

**Answer: (d) Haryana**

According to the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), Haryana's share in the country's gross domestic product (GDP) has now exceeded Punjab and its per capita income has increased to 176.8 percent in 2023-24 compared to 106.7 percent of Punjab. Bengal's share in GDP has been continuously decreasing over the last several decades. While the development of the eastern part of the country remains a matter of concern, other coastal states except Bengal have performed better than other states in the country. As far as Bihar is concerned, its position has remained stagnant in the last two decades and it is far behind other states.

**Q.2. In which state of India has the newly built 'Siddheshwari Temple' been inaugurated recently?**

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Tripura
- (c) Meghalaya
- (d) Assam

**Answer: (b) Tripura**

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Tripura Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha jointly inaugurated the newly built Siddheshwari temple in Barkathal, Tripura. Yogi Adityanath also visited the Veda Vidyalaya located at Chitta Dham in Barkathal, Mohanpur, West Tripura.

**Q.3. In which state has NITI Aayog recently proposed to build 'EduCity' for higher education?**

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Jaipur
- (c) Mumbai
- (d) Bhopal

**Answer: (c) Mumbai**

The concept of education Special Economic Zones (SEZs) may soon see a resurgence as Niti Aayog unveils its plan to boost economic growth in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR). The think tank has proposed the development of 'EduCities,' which would span over 100 hectares and integrate multiple colleges and universities into comprehensive educational hubs.

**Q.4. Who has recently been appointed as the head coach of the 'National Senior Women's Team' by the All India Football Federation?**

- (a) Santosh Kashyap
- (b) Satish Jha
- (c) DK Mishra
- (d) Hema Srivastava

**Answer: (a) Santosh Kashyap**

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) announced that former national player Santosh Kashyap will be

the new head coach of the Indian national women's football team. Kashyap, 58, will take charge of the Indian women's football team immediately as India begin their preparatory camp for the SAFF Women's Championship 2024 in Kathmandu, Nepal next month.

**Q.5. Who has recently been appointed as the CFO (Chief Financial Officer) by Adani Green Energy?**

- (a) Ajit Bansal
- (b) Arvind Badhera
- (c) Amrit Mohan Prasad
- (d) Saurabh Shah

**Answer: (d) Saurabh Shah**

Adani Green Energy Limited has announced the appointment of Saurabh Shah as its new Chief Financial Officer, effective October 1, 2024. The current CFO, Phuntsok Wangyal, will step down on September 30, 2024. Additionally, Shaminder Singh Jamwal will become the head of security from October 1, while Satyajit Ghosal will take up a new role in the CEO office.

**Q.6. Who has been appointed as the CMD of NALCO recently?**

- (a) Ajit Bansal
- (b) Amrit Mohan Prasad
- (c) Saurabh Shah
- (d) Brajendra Pratap Singh

**Answer: (d) Brajendra Pratap Singh**

The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) has selected Brijendra Pratap Singh as the Chairman and Managing Director of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO). He is currently working as the

Director-in-Charge of SAIL's Burnpur and Durgapur steel plants.

**Q.7. Who has been appointed as the new Police Commissioner of Kolkata recently?**

- (a) Santosh Agnihotri
- (b) Amit Mishra
- (c) Manoj Kumar Verma
- (d) Ajit Das

**Answer: (c) Manoj Kumar Verma**

Indian Police Service officer Manoj Kumar Verma has been appointed as the new Commissioner of Kolkata Police. Earlier, he was working as Additional Director General - Law and Order in West Bengal. Current Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Kumar Goyal has been transferred to the Special Task Force of West Bengal Police as Additional Director General and Inspector General of Police. Kolkata North Division Deputy Commissioner of Police IPS Abhishek Gupta has been transferred to the Eastern Frontier Rifles as Commandant. RG Kar Medical College and Hospital comes under the North Division of Kolkata Police. Junior doctors were also demanding his removal.

**Q.8. Which country recently killed 200 elephants due to severe drought?**

- (a) Bangladesh
- (b) Africa
- (c) Zimbabwe
- (d) Maldives

**Answer: (c) Zimbabwe**

Zimbabwe plans to kill 200 elephants to provide food to communities suffering from the worst drought in four decades, wildlife officials said. Drought caused by El Niño has ravaged southern Africa, leading to massive crop failures and leaving 68 million people across the region facing food shortages.

**Q.9. Who became the new Chief Minister of NCT Delhi recently?**

- (a) Vijay Singla
- (b) Arvind Kejriwal
- (c) Atishi Marlana
- (d) Raghav Chadha

**Answer: (c) Atishi Marlana**

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) elected Atishi Marlana as the new Chief Minister of Delhi. This followed the resignation of Arvind Kejriwal, who stepped down after facing corruption charges in the Delhi liquor excise case. Kejriwal, a three-time chief minister, submitted his resignation to Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena after getting bail. Atishi Marlana, an MLA from Kalkaji, has become the third woman and eighth person to become the Chief Minister of Delhi. The term of the Delhi Assembly ends on February 11, 2025, with the AAP having 62 seats in the 2020 elections.

**Q.10. Recently, which Indian has won the gold medal in the men's 10 meter air pistol event in the Topgun Cup?**

- (a) Mukesh Sharma
- (b) Rahul Khanna
- (c) Anmol Jain
- (d) Saurabh Chaudhary

**Answer: (c) Anmol Jain**

India's top pistol shooter Anmol Jain won the gold medal in the men's 10m air pistol event at the prestigious Topgun Cup held at the Topgun Shooting Academy in Gurugram. American shooter Jeff Browning won the gold medal in the men's 10m air rifle. The two-day competition showcased the talent of top shooters. Anmol, a former national champion and ISSF World Cup medalist, praised the event for its high standards and competitive spirit.

**Q.11. Recently, the first container school has been opened in a 'remote forest area'?**

- (a) Telangana
- (b) Jharkhand
- (c) Bihar
- (d) Uttarakhand

**Answer: (a) Telangana**

Telangana Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Danasari Anasuya (Seethakka) inaugurated the state's first 'container school' at Bangarupalli, a remote village under Kanthanpalli Gram Panchayat in Kannaigudem mandal of the district. This pioneering move aims to address the infrastructure challenges faced by educational institutions in forest areas and is a significant step towards ensuring access to quality education for tribal children.

**Q.12. Recently, Thierry Breton of which country has resigned from the post of European Union Commissioner?**

- (a) France
- (b) Canada
- (c) Poland
- (d) Spain

**Answer: (a) France**

French European Union (EU) Commissioner Thierry Breton has resigned from the bloc's executive body with immediate effect, publishing a picture of his resignation letter to Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on the social network X. Mr Breton said in the letter that Ms von der Leyen had "a few days ago" asked France to withdraw its name as the country's choice for the Commission "for personal reasons", in return for being given a "reportedly more influential portfolio".

**Q.13. Recently, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has appointed which Olympic medal winning shooter as its brand ambassador?**

- (a) Sarabjot Singh
- (b) Manu Bhaker
- (c) Vijay Kumar
- (d) Swapnil Kusale

**Answer : (b) Manu Bhaker**

The Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has appointed two-time Olympic medal-winning shooter Manu Bhaker as its brand ambassador. This was announced by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal during an event in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The event titled Fourth Harnessing Nari Shakti for the Development of the Nation was aimed at felicitating women achievers. It was jointly organised by the Chennai Port Authority and Kamarajar Port Authority. The event took place at the International Cruise Terminal of Chennai Port.

**Q.14. Recently, the hockey team of which country has won the Asian Champions Trophy title for the fifth time?**

- (a) Singapore
- (b) India

(c) South Korea

(d) China

**Answer: (b) India**

The Indian men's hockey team retained the Asian Champions Trophy title by defeating China. The only goal of the match was scored by Jugraj Singh in the fourth quarter. In the 51st minute of the match, after receiving a brilliant pass from captain Harmanpreet Singh, Jugraj made a great move and put India ahead 1-0 and in the end this score proved to be decisive. India got this title after winning the bronze medal in the Paris 2024 Olympics.

**Q.15. Which country has recently suspended the polio vaccination campaign?**

- (a) Afghanistan
- (b) Pakistan
- (c) Sudan
- (d) Morocco

**Answer: (a) Afghanistan**

The United Nations announced that the Taliban has suspended the polio vaccination campaign in Afghanistan. UN agencies said they were informed about this a few days before the vaccination campaign was to be held this month. However, no official reason was given by the Taliban. Representatives of the Taliban-ruled government have not yet commented on the matter.