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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.



➤ 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.



➤ 1795: Britain captured Cape Town, South Africa.

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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.



➤ 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

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.



Important NEWS on 16 SEP

➤ India Hits 250 GW Non-Fossil Fuel Power Capacity

India has officially achieved 250 GW of non-fossil fuel electricity generation capacity, marking a key milestone in the country's push for a low-carbon, sustainable energy future. Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi made the announcement during the State Review Meeting on



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Renewable Energy held in New Delhi on September 2025. This development positions India among the top nations in clean energy capacity and accelerates progress toward the 500 GW renewable energy goal set for 2030 under its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement.



➤ PM Modi To Launch ₹71,000 Cr Projects in 5 States

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on a three-day visit on September, 2025, covering Mizoram, Manipur, Assam, West Bengal, and Bihar. During this tour, he will inaugurate and lay foundation stones for development projects worth over ₹71,000 crore, spanning railways, roadways, energy, healthcare, education, and infrastructure. The projects highlight the government's push for regional connectivity, industrial growth, and inclusive development.



➤ Great Nicobar Island Project: Transforming India's Southernmost Island

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has hailed the Great Nicobar Island Project as a landmark initiative that will transform the island into a major maritime and air connectivity hub in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Calling it a project of "strategic, defence, and national importance," he shared Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav's article that detailed the integrated development plan and its ecological safeguards.



➤ India-Mauritius Special Economic Package 2025

India and Mauritius have once again reinforced their close ties of friendship and cooperation. During the State Visit of the Prime Minister of Mauritius, Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, to India on the invitation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, both leaders held wide-ranging discussions on bilateral cooperation. Following these talks, India announced a Special Economic Package for Mauritius, covering critical infrastructure, healthcare, education, and strategic cooperation projects.



➤ Nepal to Get First Woman Prime Minister as Sushila Karki as Interim Leader

In a historic political shift, Sushila Karki, Nepal's first female Chief Justice, is set to become the country's first woman Prime Minister after being chosen as the interim leader by Gen-Z protest groups. The decision follows a youth-led uprising that forced the

resignation of former PM KP Sharma Oli and dismantled Nepal's entrenched political order.



➤ PM Modi Launches 'Gyan Bharatam Portal' to Boost Manuscript Digitisation

In a landmark step towards preserving India's ancient knowledge systems, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 2025 launched the 'Gyan Bharatam Portal', a dedicated digital platform for manuscript digitisation, preservation, and public access. The launch took place at the International Conference on Gyan Bharatam, held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, underscoring the government's commitment to reclaiming and safeguarding India's rich manuscript heritage.





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➤ Old Tamil Manuscripts for Preservation

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister handed over old manuscripts from the University of Cologne, Germany, to the trustees of the Roja Muthiah Research Library (RMRL), Chennai. The manuscripts were given to the Chief Minister during his recent official visit to Germany. The Tamil Nadu government had earlier granted ₹1.25 crore to the University of Cologne in July 2021.



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Current affairs MCQS on 16 SEP

Q.1. Which award was recently conferred posthumously on Dr. Manmohan Singh, which recognises his contribution to the 1991 economic reforms?

- (a) Bharat Ratna
- (b) Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award
- (c) P. V. Narasimha Rao Memorial Award (Economics)
- (d) Padma Vibhushan

Answer: (c) P. V. Narasimha Rao Memorial Award (Economics)

Late former Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh, one of the most distinguished economists of the country and considered the architect of the 1991 economic liberalisation, has been posthumously awarded the P.V. Narasimha Rao Memorial Award (Economics). The award recognises his invaluable

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contribution to India's economic reform journey and his lifelong dedication to nation building through economic policies. Dr. Singh's wife Gursharan Kaur received the award at a ceremony held in New Delhi. The award was presented by Montek Singh Ahluwalia, the chief architect of India's economic policies and former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission.

Q.2. How many Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed between Mauritius and India during his visit to India in September 2025?

- (a) 7
- (b) 5
- (c) 6
- (d) 8

Answer: (a) 7

The Prime Minister of Mauritius visited India, leading to a significant expansion in bilateral relations through the signing of seven Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and key announcements in the fields of science, space, education, renewable energy and governance. The visit reflects India's growing engagement with the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and its commitment to strategic partnership with small island developing states like Mauritius.

Q.3. Recently, the Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a loan agreement of how much amount for "Sustainable, Inclusive and Climate-Resilient Tourism Development at Tehri Lake Area Project"?

- (a) US \$ 100 million
- (b) US \$ 126.42 million
- (c) US \$ 150 million
- (d) US \$ 175 million

Answer: (b) US \$ 126.42 million

To promote sustainable tourism and rural development, the Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$126.42 million loan agreement. The funds will promote sustainable, inclusive and climate-friendly tourism development

at the Tehri Lake Area Project in the Tehri Garhwal district of Uttarakhand. The agreement was signed by Juhi Mukherjee, Joint Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs, and Kai Wei Yeo, Charge d'Affaires of ADB's India Resident Mission.

Q.4. Recently, Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the Fast Track Immigration - Trusted Traveler Program (FTI-TTP) at which 5 new airports?

- (a) Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru
- (b) Lucknow, Thiruvananthapuram, Trichy, Kozhikode, Amritsar
- (c) Hyderabad, Pune, Nagpur, Bhubaneswar, Jaipur
- (d) Patna, Guwahati, Ranchi, Indore, Jammu

Answer: (b) Lucknow, Thiruvananthapuram, Trichy, Kozhikode, Amritsar

Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme at Lucknow, Thiruvananthapuram, Trichy, Calicut and Amritsar airports through video conferencing. The programme aims to facilitate international movement with faster, smoother and safer immigration clearance. It will provide more facilities for Indian citizens and Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) arriving from other countries. The programme will run at e-gates or automated border gates, minimising human intervention in the immigration clearance process.

Q.5. Which two major surveys will the National Statistical Office (NSO) conduct between July 2026 and June 2027?

- (a) Consumer Expenditure Survey & Labour Force Survey
- (b) Health & Family Survey & Education Survey
- (c) All India Debt & Investment Survey (AIDIS) and Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural Households
- (d) Industrial Production Survey & Trade Survey

Answer: (c) All India Debt & Investment Survey (AIDIS) and Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural Households





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The National Statistical Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) will conduct two major national surveys – All India Debt and Investment Survey (AIDIS) and Agricultural Family Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) between July 2026 and June 2027. Both these surveys are part of the National Sample Survey (NSS), which has been the main tool for understanding the socio-economic structure of India since 1950.

Q.6. Where was the All India Army Camp 2025, one of the most prestigious events of the National Cadet Corps (NCC), held recently?

- (a) DG NCC Camp, Delhi Cantt
- (b) Chennai Cantt, Tamil Nadu
- (c) Secunderabad Cantt, Telangana
- (d) Lucknow Cantt, Uttar Pradesh

Answer: (a) DG NCC Camp, Delhi Cantt

One of the most prestigious events of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) in India, the All India Army Camp 2025, concluded successfully at the DGNCC camp in Delhi Cantt. 1,547 cadets from 17 NCC directorates across the country participated in this 12-day camp. During the camp, the physical ability, mental alertness and leadership skills of the cadets were rigorously tested.

Q.7. Recently, Union Minister Prahlad Joshi announced that India has achieved how many gigawatts of non-fossil fuel based power generation capacity?

- (a) 250 GW
- (b) 200 GW
- (c) 300 GW
- (d) 500 GW

Answer: (a) 250 GW

India has achieved a significant milestone towards a clean and sustainable energy future. During the State Level Review Meeting on Renewable Energy held in New Delhi, Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Prahlad Joshi announced that the country has achieved 250 GW of non-fossil fuel based power

generation capacity. This achievement puts India among the top countries with clean energy capacity and moves it fast towards the 500 GW renewable energy target by 2030 under the Paris Agreement.

Q.8. Where was the Saudi Arabia Jewellery Exposition (SAJEX) 2025 organized recently by the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) of India?

- (a) Jeddah Superdome, Saudi Arabia
- (b) Riyadh International Convention Centre
- (c) Dubai World Trade Centre
- (d) Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre

Answer: (a) Jeddah Superdome, Saudi Arabia

In a landmark move to deepen bilateral trade and expand India's global presence in the jewellery sector, the Gems & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) has launched the Saudi Arabia Jewellery Exhibition (SAJEX) 2025 in Jeddah. Organised in collaboration with the Consulate General of India in Jeddah, the Embassy of India in Riyadh and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the event is a major initiative to strengthen India's jewellery exports to Saudi Arabia and the wider Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Q.9. Recently, which Indian research institute has developed a multifunctional wound healing pad using red ivy plant (Strobilanthes Alternata)?

- (a) Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru
- (b) Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden & Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram
- (c) National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Lucknow
- (d) Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi

Answer: (b) Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden & Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram

Researchers at Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanical Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI), Palode, Thiruvananthapuram have developed a multipurpose wound healing pad. The pad is based





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on the red ivy plant, locally called Murikooti Pacha, and scientifically called Strobilanthes Alternata of the Acanthaceae family. Scientists at JNTBGRI's Centre of Excellence in Phytochemical Nanotechnology have isolated a new molecule, acteoside, from red ivy for the first time.

Q.10. Who was sworn in as the first woman Prime Minister of Nepal recently?

- (a) Balendra Shah
- (b) Kulman Ghising
- (c) Sushila Karki
- (d) Bidya Devi Bhandari

Answer: (c) Sushila Karki

Nepal President Ram Chandra Paudel has dissolved the lower house of the federal parliament, the House of Representatives, on the recommendation of newly appointed interim Prime Minister Sushila Karki and announced fresh parliamentary elections on March 21 next year. Former Chief Justice Sushila Karki was sworn in as the Prime Minister of Nepal's interim government, becoming the first woman to lead the country.

Q.11. Recently a new species of bent-toed lizard named Cyrtodactylus Vanrakshak has been discovered in which northeastern state?

- (a) Assam
- (b) Manipur
- (c) Tripura
- (d) Nagaland

Answer: (a) Assam

A new species of curved-toed lizard named Cyrtodactylus vanarakshak has been discovered in the montane forests of central Assam. It belongs to the Cyrtodactylus khasiensis group. The species was found on the forest slopes of Jatinga in Dima Hasao, a unique ecological transition zone of the Barail Hills. It is named in honour of the Assam Forest Department. The name "Vanarakshak" is derived from the Sanskrit words "vana" meaning forest and "rakshak" meaning protector. With this discovery, Assam now has five species of Cyrtodactylus recorded.

Q.12. Recently which area of Bengaluru has been declared a biodiversity heritage site?

- (a) Lalbagh Botanical Garden
- (b) Cubbon Park
- (c) Cantonment Railway Colony
- (d) Bannerghatta National Park

Answer: (c) Cantonment Railway Colony

The government has declared 8.6 acres of green cover in Cantonment Railway Colony as a Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS), the second Biodiversity Heritage Site in Bengaluru after Gandhi Krishi Vigyan Kendra (GKVK). The site has 371 trees of 50 species. Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) are rich ecosystems comprising rare, endangered, endemic or culturally important species, notified under Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

Q.13. The fifth Coast Guard Global Summit (CGGS) 2027 will be held in which Indian city?

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) Kolkata
- (c) Visakhapatnam
- (d) Chennai

Answer: (d) Chennai

Chennai will host the 5th Coast Guard Global Summit (CGGS) in 2027, the golden jubilee year of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). The three-day summit will include an International Coast Guard Fleet Review and a World Coast Guard Symposium. It will serve as a global platform to discuss emerging maritime challenges and promote international maritime cooperation. The decision was taken unanimously at the 4th Coast Guard Global Summit (CGGS) held in Rome, which was attended by representatives from 115 countries and organisations.

Q.14. What is the name of the portal launched recently at the Gyan Bharatam International Conference to digitise and preserve India's manuscript heritage?

- (a) Manuscript India Portal





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- (b) Gyan Bharatam Portal
(c) Bharat Gyan Portal
(d) Knowledge Heritage Portal

Answer: (b) Gyan Bharatam Portal

Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Gyan Bharatam portal at the International Conference on Gyan Bharatam in New Delhi. This portal is part of the Gyan Bharatam Mission announced in the Budget Session 2025. The mission aims to digitize, catalog and preserve one crore manuscripts of India and make them accessible globally. It prevents intellectual theft by providing authentic sources of traditional knowledge.

Q.15. Recently a rare red dragonfly was sighted in which part of India?

- (a) Nilgiri Hills, Tamil Nadu
(b) Aravalli Hills, Rajasthan
(c) Munnar, Kerala
(d) Satpura Hills, Madhya Pradesh

Answer: (c) Munnar, Kerala

A rare scarlet dragonfly was recently spotted in the valleys of Munnar in the Western Ghats of Kerala. Its scientific name is *Crocothemis erythraea*. It is also known by common names such as broad scarlet, common scarlet-darter and scarlet darter. This dragonfly belongs to the Libellulidae family. It is found widely across Southern Europe, Africa, Western Asia and Southern China. It prefers to inhabit sunny places near rivers, streams and ponds. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), it is classified as least concern.

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