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## Today in History on 22 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.



### ➤ 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

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.





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#### ➤ 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.



#### Important NEWS on 22 SEP

#### ➤ aShankar, the only African elephant at the Delhi Zoo, dies after 13 years

Shankar, India's only African elephant and the longest-serving resident of the National Zoological Park in Delhi, died in September 2025 after 13 years of solitary confinement. The approximately 30-year-old male elephant had been isolated from other elephants since 2012 and was reportedly showing obvious signs of stress, especially in the days before his death.



#### ➤ 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.







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#### ➤ Yatri Sewa Diwas 2025

Yatri Sewa Diwas 2025, launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, marks a major shift in how India views airport services—not just as infrastructure, but as experiences centered around the dignity, comfort, and well-being of travelers. Inaugurated by Union Minister Rammohan Naidu at Hindon Airport, the initiative aims to ensure that passenger-first care becomes the norm, not the exception. This launch is part of a broader transformation in Indian aviation, where the focus is expanding from runway length and flight volume to traveler experience, inclusivity, and service equity.



#### ➤ First Hilsa Consignment from Bangladesh Reaches India

Bangladesh has resumed seasonal exports of Hilsa fish to India, but at the lowest volume since 2019. In September 2025, the first shipment of approximately 32 tons arrived in West Bengal via the Petrapole border, marking the beginning of a restricted trade period approved by the Bangladesh government. Hilsa, often called the "Queen of

Fishes," holds not only culinary but also cultural significance during Bengal's biggest festival.



#### ➤ Australia Ups Emissions Target to 62% by 2035

In a major climate policy update, Australia has raised its national emissions reduction target to 62% by 2035, based on 2005 levels. The announcement, made by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, marks a substantial increase from the country's previous commitment of a 43% cut by 2030. The decision aligns with Australia's obligations under the Paris Climate Agreement and comes amid growing concerns over the country's vulnerability to extreme weather events driven by climate change.



#### ➤ Marium Fatima Becomes Bihar's First Woman FIDE Master

Marium Fatima, a talented young chess player from Muzaffarpur, Bihar, has etched her name in history by becoming the first Woman FIDE Master (WFM) from the state. This prestigious title, awarded by the Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE), marks a new high not just in her career but also for Bihar's representation on the national and international chess stage.



#### ➤ Road Accidents in Tamil Nadu 2023

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) released the Road Accidents in India 2023 report. Tamil Nadu recorded 67,213 road accidents in 2023, accounting for 14% of the national total. Road accidents in Tamil Nadu increased by 4.6% from 64,105 in 2022. Tamil Nadu reported 18,347 road accident deaths in 2023, a 2.5% rise from 17,884 in 2022.

#### ➤ Gourangalal Das Appointed as India's New Ambassador to South Korea

In a significant diplomatic move, senior Indian Foreign Service officer Gourangalal Das has been appointed as India's next ambassador to South Korea, a key strategic partner in East Asia. The appointment comes at a crucial time when India is strengthening its ties across the Indo-Pacific, and South Korea holds growing importance in trade, technology, defense, and regional stability.







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## Current affairs MCQS on 22 SEP

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**Q.1. According to a recent Sensor Tower report, which banking app became the world's third most downloaded in the first half of 2025?**

- (a) SBI Yono
- (b) Kotak811
- (c) NuBank
- (d) Revolut

**Answer: (b) Kotak811**

In a significant leap for Indian digital banking, Kotak Mahindra Bank's Kotak811 app has ranked third globally in banking app downloads during the first half of 2025. According to app analytics platform Sensor Tower, Kotak811 recorded over 16 million downloads, surpassing the SBI YONO app, which ranked fourth with 14 million downloads.

**Q.2. Which AI startup recently launched its open-source Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) network, which received early access for 2 million users?**

- (a) Sentient
- (b) OpenAI
- (c) Amazon Web Services
- (d) DeepMind

**Answer: (a) Sentient**

In a landmark move in the global artificial intelligence (AI) space, AI startup Sentient has launched its open-source Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) network. The launch is expected to reach 2 million (20 lakh) waiting users. This initiative positions India among the leading countries in open AI innovation, putting it in direct competition with global giants like OpenAI and Amazon Web Services (AWS).

**Q.3. According to a recent report by Standard & Poor's (S&P), India's economy is projected to grow at what percentage rate in FY 2025?**

- (a) 5.8%
- (b) 6.0%
- (c) 6.5%
- (d) 7.0%





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**Answer:(c) 6.5%**

India is once again projecting a strong GDP growth rate of 6.5% in the current fiscal year (FY2025), outpacing major global economies. India will remain the fastest-growing major economy globally, according to a recent report by US credit rating agency Standard & Poor's (S&P).

**Q.4. What rank has India recently reached in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025, published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)?**

- (a) 38th
- (b) 42nd
- (c) 40th
- (d) 48th

**Answer:(a) 38th**

India has improved significantly to 38th place in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025, published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). India was ranked 48th in 2020, a jump of 10 places in five years. India also ranks first among low-middle income countries and the Central and South Asia region.

**Q.5. Where did Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurate the PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM Mitra) Park?**

- (a) Surat, Gujarat
- (b) Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Dhar, Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu

**Answer:(c) Dhar, Madhya Pradesh**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Park in Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh. This initiative is a major step towards reviving India's textile sector. At the inauguration, the Prime Minister also paid tribute to the heritage of Maheshwari sarees inspired by Devi Ahilyabai Holkar. The event reiterated the government's commitment to the empowerment of artisans, weavers, and rural women.

**Q.6. Which new unit has the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently established to review financial regulations in a phased manner, which will begin operations from October 1, 2025?**

- (a) Regulatory Review Cell (RRC)
- (b) Financial Stability Unit (FSU)
- (c) Monetary Policy Cell (MPC)
- (d) Banking Reform Committee (BRC)

**Answer:(a) Regulatory Review Cell (RRC)**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has established a Regulatory Review Cell (RRC) to ensure India's financial regulatory system remains modern, effective, and stakeholder-friendly. This cell will conduct a systematic and phased review of existing regulations every 5 to 7 years. This initiative will begin on October 1, 2025. Additionally, an independent Advisory Group on Regulation (AGR) consisting of external experts has also been formed.

**Q.7. Where in Maharashtra was the 'Hindubhushan Statue' of Dharmaveer Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, the world's tallest full-length bronze statue, recently unveiled?**

- (a) Raigad Fort
- (b) Satara
- (c) Moshi-Borhade Wadi, Pimpri-Chinchwad
- (d) Aurangabad

**Answer:(c) Moshi-Borhade Wadi, Pimpri-Chinchwad**

Maharashtra witnessed a historic cultural event in Pimpri-Chinchwad, when the 180-foot-tall bronze statue of Dharamveer Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj – the "Hindubhushan Pratima" – was given the largest drum and cymbal salute ever. This thunderous event was a celebration of Sambhaji Maharaj's sacrifice and valor, connecting Maratha heritage and cultural pride with public sentiment and bringing history to the masses.

**Q.8. Which country recently reiterated its commitment to denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula, in collaboration with the United States?**

- (a) Japan







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(b) South Korea

(c) China

(d) Vietnam

**Answer:(b) South Korea**

Amid global tensions and regional security concerns, South Korea and the United States have reiterated their commitment to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. South Korea's National Security Advisor, Wi Sung-lak, clarified that the goal of denuclearization remains unwavering, regardless of North Korea's stance.

**Q.9. India recently launched its first National Geothermal Energy Policy under which ministry?**

(a) Ministry of Power

(b) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

(c) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)

(d) Ministry of Science & Technology

**Answer:(c) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**

In a historic step toward expanding India's clean energy portfolio, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has launched the National Geoenergy Policy. This is India's first policy specifically designed to promote the use of geothermal energy derived from the Earth's internal heat.

**Q.10. Recently, State Bank of India (SBI) sold its 13.18% stake to which bank for ₹8,889 crore?**

(a) Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC), Japan

(b) Mizuho Bank, Japan

(c) Deutsche Bank, Germany

(d) Standard Chartered Bank, UK

**Answer:(a) Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC), Japan**

In a landmark cross-border transaction in the Indian banking sector, State Bank of India (SBI) has sold its 13.18% stake in Yes Bank to Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) for ₹8,889 crore. The deal reflects growing confidence among global

investors in India's banking reforms and lays the foundation for deeper strategic ties between Indian banks and global financial institutions.

**Q.11. To strengthen rural telecommunications connectivity, with whom has the Department of Posts (DoP) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), under which SIM sales and mobile recharge services will be available from over 1.65 lakh post offices?**

(a) Reliance Jio

(b) Airtel

(c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)

(d) Vodafone-Idea

**Answer:(c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)**

In a significant step towards improving rural telecom connectivity, the Department of Posts (DoP) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in New Delhi. The agreement aims to transform India's vast postal network into last-mile service centers for SIM sales and mobile recharge services, in line with the objectives of Digital India and financial inclusion.

**Q. 12. SEBI recently launched a new regulatory framework under what name, aimed at attracting low-risk foreign investors such as sovereign wealth funds and pension funds?**

(a) SWAGAT-FI

(b) INVEST-EZ

(c) GLOBAL-ENTRY

(d) FII-ACCESS

**Answer:(a) SWAGAT-FI**

With an aim to make India a more attractive investment destination for global funds, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has launched a new regulatory framework called "Swagat-FI" – a simplified cover framework to facilitate access to GIFT-IFSC for foreign investors. The initiative aims to lower entry barriers for low-risk foreign investors, such as sovereign wealth





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funds, pension funds and long-term institutional investors.

**Q. 13. Which ancient plant, Lycopodium, has recently been recorded for the first time in Himachal Pradesh?**

- (a) Lycopodium classicum
- (b) Lycopodium hippocraticum
- (c) Lycopodium japonicum
- (d) Lycopodium himalayanum

**Answer:(c) Lycopodium japonicum**

An extremely rare plant has been discovered in the beautiful Barot Valley of Mandi district in Himachal Pradesh. Lycopodium japonica, also known colloquially as 'clubmoss' or 'wolf fat,' has been discovered. The discovery is attributed to Dr. Sunil Kumar Verma, Assistant Professor at DAV College, Hoshiarpur, and a renowned geologist.

**Q.14. Which 2018 FIFA World Cup winning defender recently retired from professional football at the age of just 31?**

- (a) Samuel Umtiti
- (b) Raphael Varane
- (c) Gerard Piqué
- (d) Hugo Lloris

**Answer:(a) Samuel Umtiti**

France's 2018 FIFA World Cup-winning defender Samuel Umtiti has officially announced his retirement from professional football at the age of just 31. Once considered one of Europe's best centre-backs, Umtiti's career was severely affected by persistent knee injuries, which ended his playing career prematurely.

**Q.15. What was India's merchandise trade deficit in August 2025?**

- (a) \$27.35 billion
- (b) \$25.13 billion
- (c) \$26.49 billion
- (d) \$28.10 billion

**Answer:(c) \$26.49 billion**

India's merchandise trade deficit narrowed to \$26.49 billion in August 2025 from \$27.35 billion in July. The decrease was mainly due to a decline in both exports and imports, especially due to the new tariff restrictions imposed by the US.

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