

International News

Türkiye Joins Artemis Accords as 7th West Asian Member

- **Key Event:** Türkiye has officially signed the Artemis Accords, becoming the 7th West Asian country to join the US-led international civil space exploration framework.
- **Background & Signatories:** Launched in 2020 by NASA and the US Department of State, the Artemis Accords build upon the Outer Space Treaty of 1967. They establish a non-binding framework for peaceful, transparent, and sustainable space exploration.
- **West Asian Members:** Türkiye joins the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Jordan, and Israel in the regional cluster.
- **Exam Relevance (UPSC/SSC):** Questions frequently test space treaties, principles of space resource utilization, and bilateral/multilateral space diplomacy partnerships.

India Rejects Hague Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) Ruling on Indus Waters Treaty

- **Key Event:** India formally rejected a decision issued by the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague regarding disputes under the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty (IWT).
- **Key Arguments:** India maintains that the creation of the Court of Arbitration violates the dispute resolution mechanism set out in Annexure F and G of the 1960 treaty signed under the aegis of the World Bank. India advocates for resolving differences through the Neutral Expert process rather than parallel proceedings.

- **Exam Relevance (UPSC GS-II / Railway):** Rivers involved in the treaty (Western: Indus, Jhelum, Chenab; Eastern: Ravi, Beas, Sutlej), jurisdiction of the PCA, and treaty dispute mechanisms.

National News

Government Notifies Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026

- **Key Event:** The Department of Consumer Affairs (Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution) notified the **Legal Metrology (IST) Rules, 2026**.
- **Implementation & Objective:**
 - The rules give Indian Standard Time (IST) statutory backing under the vision of "One Nation, One Time".
 - Takes full effect **180 days** from publication in the Official Gazette.
 - Designates the **CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL)** in New Delhi as the official scientific repository and custodian of IST.
- **Technical Details:**
 - IST is maintained traceable to Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) maintained by BIPM (Sèvres, France).
 - CSIR-NPL's atomic clocks (Caesium/Hydrogen Maser) maintain precision to within nanoseconds, losing/gaining 1 second only in 3 lakh years.
 - Protocols used: Network Time Protocol (NTP), Precision Time Protocol (IEEE 1588), and satellite-based NavIC timing.
- **Exam Relevance:** Prelims questions on atomic clocks, CSIR-NPL functions, BIPM, NavIC, and legal metrology enforcement.

AISHE / Higher Education Enrolment Data Overview Released

Key Findings:

- Total enrolment in higher education in India increased by **31.5%** from 3.42 crore (2014-15) to **4.50 crore**.
- **Female Enrolment:** Grew by **42.2%** from 1.57 crore to **2.24 crore**.
- Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) calculations are tracked for the 18-23 years age cohort.

Economics & Banking

Japan Credit Rating Agency (JCR) Upgrades India's Sovereign Rating to 'A-'

- **Rating Upgrade:** JCR raised India's Long-Term Foreign Currency and Local Currency Issuer Ratings by one notch from BBB+ to A- with a **Stable Outlook**.
- **Key Drivers:** Sustained real GDP growth (7.8% in Q1), fiscal consolidation quality, strong private consumption, and capital expenditure driving economic resilience.
- **Exam Relevance (Banking / Economics):** Sovereign credit rating agencies (S&P, Moody's, Fitch, JCR), credit rating tiers, and foreign capital inflows.

Banking Indicators & Growth Figures

Economic / Financial Indicator	Official Recorded Value / Detail	Exam Takeaway
August GST Revenue Collection	₹1.99 Lakh Crore (14.8% YoY Growth)	Indicates strong domestic consumption

Economic / Financial Indicator	Official Recorded Value / Detail	Exam Takeaway
Q1 Real GDP Growth	7.8%	Strong growth despite global headwinds
Base Year Revisions (Planned)	Base year shifted to 2022-23 for PPI, IIP, and BkSPI	Producer Price Index & Banking Price Index updating

Defense News

Defence Minister Releases 'RAKSHA' – 10-Year Defence Diplomacy Roadmap

- **Key Event:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled 'RAKSHA', a strategic framework defining India's defence diplomacy vision for the next decade.
- **Four Pillars:**
 1. Strategic Partnerships
 2. Capacity Building (Joint exercises, military training)
 3. Indigenous Defence Exports (Under Make-in-India)
 4. Maritime Security (Role as Net Security Provider & First Responder in IOR)

Annual Defence Production Target Set at ₹3 Lakh Crore

- **Target:** Government set an annual domestic defence production target of **₹3,00,000 Crore** and defence export target of **₹50,000 Crore** by 2029.

Indian Defence News

- **Announcement Platform:** MoS Defence Sanjay Seth during the 2nd Annual Trident

Lecture hosted by the Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS).

- **Current Status:** Indian defence production has crossed ₹1,78,000 Crore.

ISRO Prepares Earth Observation Satellite EOS-05 Launch

- **Mission Overview:** Earth Observation Satellite EOS-05 to be placed into a **Geosynchronous Orbit** using the **GSLV-F17** rocket from Sriharikota.
- **Significance:** EOS-05 is India's first primary imaging satellite deployed in a geosynchronous orbit for real-time monitoring and disaster management.

Government Schemes & MoUs

'Mission Rangeen Machhli 2031' Strategic Action Plan

- **Unveiled By:** Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan during a Fisheries Outreach Programme in Lakshadweep.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MoFAHD).
- **Objective:** Framework for organized growth of ornamental fisheries via scientific breeding, biosecurity protocols, quality standards, and export promotion.

India-Singapore Legal MoU

- **Significance:** Promotes institutional knowledge exchange, professional capacity building, and cross-border cooperation between in-house legal counsel fraternities of India and Singapore.

Mega Shipbuilding Cluster in Kendrapara, Odisha

- **Project Value:** ₹24,700 Crore in-principle approval granted to National Shipbuilding

and Heavy Industries Park Odisha Limited (NSHIPOL).

- **Location:** Northern bank of the Mahanadi River, Kendrapara district, Odisha.

Appointments

- **Suman Ray:** Appointed as Executive Director (ED) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) w.e.f. September 1, 2026. Prior to this, he served as RBI Regional Director for Maharashtra.
- **Retired Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra:** Appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust in Ayodhya.

Awards & Honors

- **AIAA Goddard Astronautics Award:** Conferred internationally recognizing ISRO's Moon landing achievement (Chandrayaan-3).
- **FAO Agricola Medal:** Conferred by FAO in Rome recognizing efforts toward sustainable agriculture and food security.
- **Global Teacher Recognition:** GEMS Education Global Teacher Prize won for establishing over 800 learning centers across underserved Indian regions.

Books & Authors

- **'RAKSHA' Policy Document:** Strategic 10-year Defence Diplomacy Roadmap released by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- **'The Second Orbit: Belief of a Man... Dreams of 1.4 Billion Hearts':** Memoir released by former IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh.
- **'Heart Lamp':** Short story collection by Banu Mushtaq (translated from Kannada by Deepa Bhasthi), winner of International Booker Prize.



Sports

India to Host Inaugural Women's Champions Trophy 2027

- **ICC Announcement:** The International Cricket Council (ICC) approved India as the host nation for the inaugural ICC Women's Champions Trophy scheduled for 2027.

Badminton World Success

- **Lakshya Sen:** Noteworthy performances in the BWF World Badminton Circuit.

Important Days (National & International)

National Skyscraper Day – September 3

- **Theme & Context:** Observed annually on September 3 to celebrate structural engineering and high-rise architectural marvels.
- **Historical Connection:** Marks the birth anniversary of **Louis H. Sullivan** (born September 3, 1856), known as the "Father of Skyscrapers" and originator of the architectural rule "form follows function".

Merchant Navy Day – September 3

- **Context:** Commemorates the vital contributions and wartime sacrifices of merchant seafarers who support global trade logistics and maritime economic supply chains.

National Nutrition Week (NNW) – September 1 to 7

- **Organizing Body:** Celebrated since 1982 by the Food and Nutrition Board under the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD).
- **Objective:** Raise awareness about balanced diet, community health, and eradication of malnutrition.

Art, Culture & Festivals

- **Shitala Satam / Randhan Chhath:** Observed during Krishna Paksha Saptami in Western India (Gujarat/Rajasthan) dedicated to Goddess Shitala for health and disease prevention.
- **Bhawaiya Folk Tradition:** Traditional folk music genre of Northern Bengal and Assam, highlighting agricultural life and rural folklore.

Birth & Death Anniversaries

Louis Henry Sullivan (Born 3 September 1856)

- **Identity:** Iconic American architect, member of the Chicago School of Architecture.
- **Key Legacy:** Recognized as the creator of the modern skyscraper and mentor to Frank Lloyd Wright. Coined the phrase "form follows function."

Practice MCQs for Competitive Exams

Q1. Which body has been designated as the official custodian and reference standard for Indian Standard Time (IST) under the Legal Metrology (IST) Rules, 2026?

- (a) ISRO Telemetry Tracking Network
- (b) CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL)
- (c) Indian Institute of Astrophysics
- (d) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

Answer: (b) CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL)

Q2. Which country became the 7th West Asian nation to sign the Artemis Accords in September 2026?

- (a) Egypt
- (b) Türkiye
- (c) Qatar



(d) Kuwait

Answer: (b) Türkiye

Q3. 'Mission Rangeen Machhli 2031', recently launched in Lakshadweep, is related to which sector?

(a) Deep Sea Coral Conservation

(b) Ornamental Fisheries Development

(c) Mangrove Restoration

(d) Marine Plastic Waste Clean-up

Answer: (b) Ornamental Fisheries Development

Q4. What annual defence production target has the Indian Government set to achieve by 2029?

(a) ₹1,50,000 Crore

(b) ₹2,00,000 Crore

(c) ₹3,00,000 Crore

(d) ₹5,00,000 Crore

Answer: (c) ₹3,00,000 Crore

International News

Q1. The 26th Summit of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic. Which city was officially designated as the "SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital" for 2026–2027?

(A) Samarkand

(B) Tashkent

(C) Lahore

(D) Bishkek

Answer: (C) Lahore

Explanation: The 26th SCO Summit took place in Bishkek under the motto "25 Years of SCO: Together for Sustainable Peace, Development and Prosperity". During the summit, the chairmanship for 2026–2027 was transferred to

Pakistan, and Lahore was officially nominated as the SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital for 2026–2027. A total of 28 key policy documents, including the Bishkek Declaration, were adopted to reinforce regional security and multilateral trade cooperation.

Q2. During the official bilateral engagements on September 3, 2026, India and Belgium issued a Joint Statement to strengthen bilateral ties. Which sector formed a prime pillar of mutual interest in the discussions?

(A) Port infrastructure, green hydrogen, and trade facilitation

(B) Arctic mineral exploration

(C) Deep sea military bases

(D) Cross-border highway corridors

Answer: (A) Port infrastructure, green hydrogen, and trade facilitation

Explanation: India and Belgium enjoy longstanding economic relations, with Belgium being one of India's key trading partners in the European Union (particularly in diamonds and port infrastructure). The September 3, 2026 Joint Statement focused on scaling bilateral trade, expanding port-led logistics cooperation (such as between Port of Antwerp-Bruges and Indian ports), green energy, and finalizing the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) framework.

Q3. The India–Afghanistan Joint Working Group (JWG) on Trade held its virtual meeting on September 2, 2026. Which Indian ministry represented the delegation to review bilateral trade and transit mechanisms?

(A) Ministry of External Affairs

(B) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

(C) Ministry of Finance

(D) Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

Answer: (B) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Explanation: The Department of Commerce under the Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry led the virtual session of the India-Afghanistan JWG on Trade. The discussion focused on streamlining air freight corridors, trade clearances, land transit issues, and smooth movement of essential commodities to enhance economic linkages between the two nations.

National News

Q4. Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the valedictory session of the first National Departmental Summit on Water on September 2, 2026. Where was this national summit held?

- (A) Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
- (B) Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi
- (C) Yashobhoomi, Dwarka
- (D) Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

Answer: (B) Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi

Explanation: The Ministry of Jal Shakti organized the first-of-its-kind National Departmental Summit on Water at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi. The summit brought together water management departments across states and Union Ministries to outline national strategies for water conservation, inter-departmental convergence, river rejuvenation, and sustainable rural-urban water supply infrastructure.

Q5. Who was appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust in September 2026?

- (A) Nripendra Misra
- (B) Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra (Retd)
- (C) Champat Rai
- (D) K. Parasaran

Answer: (B) Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra (Retd)

Explanation: Retired Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra was appointed as the first CEO of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust. His appointment aims to bring administrative precision, security coordination, and structured management to the operational, infrastructural, and pilgrim-facility frameworks surrounding the Ayodhya Ram Temple complex.

Q6. Under the updated India Semiconductor Mission Phase 2 (Semicon 2.0) guidelines, what percentage of capital support is offered by the Central Government for advanced semiconductor packaging (OSAT/ATMP) facilities?

- (A) Up to 25%
- (B) Up to 35%
- (C) Uniform 50%
- (D) Up to 75%

Answer: (B) Up to 35%

Explanation: Semicon 2.0 introduced nuanced financial incentives: up to 35% capital support for advanced packaging (OSAT/ATMP), up to 25% for conventional packaging, and up to 75% project cost subsidies for advanced process technology R&D and silicon photonics. This contrasts with ISM 1.0, which applied a uniform 50% capital subsidy across all categories.

Economics & Banking

Q7. On September 2, 2026, Japan Credit Rating Agency (JCR) upgraded India's Sovereign Issuer Rating from 'BBB+' to which grade?

- (A) AA-
- (B) A-
- (C) A+
- (D) BBB

Answer: (B) A-

Explanation: JCR upgraded India's Foreign Currency and Local Currency Long-Term Issuer Ratings by one notch to 'A-' with a **Stable** outlook, while raising the country ceiling to 'A'. The rating agency cited India's strong Q1 FY27 real GDP growth (7.8%), disciplined fiscal management (fiscal deficit reduced to 4.4% in FY26), robust banking asset quality, and expanding foreign exchange reserves as key factors.

Q8. India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) celebrated its 9th Foundation Day on September 1, 2026. Which new digital device was launched specifically for merchant payment audio confirmations?

- (A) PostPay Speaker
- (B) DakPay Sound Box
- (C) IPPB Merchant Pod
- (D) Digital Dak Sound Box

Answer: (B) DakPay Sound Box

Explanation: IPPB introduced the **DakPay Sound Box** to assist small merchants in rural and semi-urban markets with real-time voice confirmations for digital UPI transactions. Established on September 1, 2018 under the Department of Posts (Ministry of Communications), IPPB serves over 13.25 crore customers (77% in rural areas, 49% women) with deposits totaling ₹29,104 crore.

Q9. During the High-Level Committee meeting on Aircraft Leasing and Financing chaired by Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu, how many aircraft were reported to be leased through GIFT City IFSC?

- (A) 100
- (B) 175
- (C) 250

(D) 320

Answer: (C) 250

Explanation: Union Civil Aviation Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu chaired the inaugural meeting of the aircraft leasing panel to positioning India as a global aviation financing hub. Over **250 aircraft** have been leased through Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) IFSC, and the committee discussed automated NOC issuance and double-taxation avoidance agreements (DTAA) with key global jurisdictions like Ireland.

Sports

Q10. The International Cricket Council (ICC) reallocated the hosting rights of the inaugural Women's Champions Trophy 2027 to which country?

- (A) Sri Lanka
- (B) Australia
- (C) India
- (D) England

Answer: (C) India

Explanation: The ICC confirmed that India will host the six-team inaugural ICC Women's Champions Trophy from February 14 to 28, 2027. The tournament was originally scheduled to take place in Sri Lanka. Matches will be held at the Cricket Club of India (CCI) in Mumbai and Vadodara, Gujarat.

Q11. The Ministry of Defence announced the schedule for the 16th edition of 'Aero India'. In which city will it take place in February 2027?

- (A) Gandhinagar
- (B) Bengaluru
- (C) Hyderabad
- (D) Pune

Answer: (B) Bengaluru



Explanation: The 16th edition of Aero India—Asia's premier air show—will take place at Yelahanka Air Force Station in **Bengaluru** from February 8 to 12, 2027. The biennial event showcases aerospace technological advancements, defense equipment manufacturing, and domestic flight demonstrations under the 'Make in India' initiative.

Q12. What percentage weightage is allocated to an athlete's medal performance in international events (Olympics, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games) over a four-year period for the National Sports Awards?

- (A) 50%
- (B) 60%
- (C) 75%
- (D) 80%

Answer: (D) 80%

Explanation: The nomination guidelines for the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna and Arjuna Awards allocate **80% weightage** to medal performances in Olympic Games, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, and World Championships across a four-year cycle. The remaining 20% weightage is evaluated based on profile, sportsmanship, and consistency.

Appointments

Q13. Who assumed charge as the Director General Medical Services (Air) [DGMS (Air)] in the Indian Air Force on September 1, 2026?

- (A) Air Marshal Vivek Hande
- (B) Air Marshal Sanjeeb
- (C) Surgeon Vice Admiral Dilip Raghavan
- (D) Air Vice Marshal Shakti Sharma

Answer: (A) Air Marshal Vivek Hande

Explanation: Air Marshal Vivek Hande took over as DGMS (Air) on September 1, 2026. He leads medical services and health administration within the Indian Air Force, overseeing high-altitude operational medicine, aviation physiology, and military hospital management.

Q14. Surgeon Vice Admiral Dilip Raghavan took charge of which key military healthcare office in September 2026?

- (A) Director General Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAfMS)
- (B) Armed Forces Hospital Chief
- (C) Chief of Naval Medical Cadre
- (D) Command Medical Officer (Western Command)

Answer: (B) Armed Forces Hospital Chief

Explanation: Surgeon Vice Admiral Dilip Raghavan assumed charge as the Armed Forces Hospital Chief in early September 2026. His role involves managing tri-service medical logistics, hospital upgrades, and advanced combat casualty care systems across Armed Forces tertiary medical institutions.

Q15. Air Vice Marshal Shakti Sharma achieved a historic milestone in September 2026. What was her distinction?

- (A) First woman pilot to command a Fighter Squadron
- (B) First woman non-medical officer to reach the rank of Air Vice Marshal
- (C) First female head of the Maintenance Command
- (D) First female officer in the Garud Commando Force

Answer: (B) First woman non-medical officer to reach the rank of Air Vice Marshal

Explanation: Air Vice Marshal Shakti Sharma became the first woman non-medical officer in



the Indian Air Force to achieve the 2-star rank of Air Vice Marshal. Historically, female officers in the Air Force reached flag ranks primarily in the Medical Branch; her elevation marks a significant step for female representation in administrative, logistics, and combat-support branches.

Awards & Honors

Q16. The National Coconut Awards 2026 were presented on World Coconut Day (September 2) by which Union Minister of State?

- (A) Ram Nath Thakur
- (B) Bhagirath Choudhary
- (C) Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- (D) Rajiv Ranjan Singh

Answer: (A) Ram Nath Thakur

Explanation: Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ram Nath Thakur, conferred the National Coconut Awards 2026 on September 2, 2026 (World Coconut Day). The awards recognize excellence in coconut farming, innovative product processing, export growth, and scientific research under the Coconut Development Board (CDB).

Q17. The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) imposed a ₹10 lakh penalty on which online B2B platform for illegally listing and selling hazardous explosive chemicals?

- (A) IndiaMART
- (B) Dial4Trade
- (C) TradeIndia
- (D) ExportersIndia

Answer: (B) Dial4Trade

Explanation: The CCPA imposed a ₹10 lakh fine on **Dial4Trade** for enabling the online listing and open sale of restricted substances like

Ammonium Nitrate without mandatory statutory verification and safeguards, violating the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 and the Explosives Act, 1884.

Books, Authors & Anniversaries

Q18. Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to 'Mahanayak' Uttam Kumar on September 3, 2026. His birth centenary commemorates his legacy in which Indian regional cinema?

- (A) Bengali Cinema
- (B) Marathi Cinema
- (C) Odia Cinema
- (D) Assamese Cinema

Answer: (A) Bengali Cinema

Explanation: September 3, 2026 marks the 100th birth anniversary (birth centenary) of **Uttam Kumar** (born Arun Kumar Chatterjee), widely hailed as 'Mahanayak' of Bengali cinema. Over a career spanning three decades, his contributions to films like Saptapadi, Nayak, and Chhadmabeshi shaped the modern cultural history of Bengali performance arts.

Q19. Renowned personality Shri Gaurang Vyas, who passed away in September 2026, was an eminent composer associated with which music industry?

- (A) Gujarati
- (B) Marathi
- (C) Konkani
- (D) Bhojpuri

Answer: (A) Gujarati

Explanation: Prime Minister Modi offered condolences on the demise of Shri Gaurang Vyas, a legendary Gujarati music composer and director. He contributed significantly to Gujarati

folk music, theatre score, and iconic cinema soundtracks across several decades.

Q20. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla paid floral tributes to former Lok Sabha Speaker P.A. Sangma on September 1, 2026. P.A. Sangma previously served as the Chief Minister of which state?

- (A) Meghalaya
- (B) Manipur
- (C) Nagaland
- (D) Assam

Answer: (A) Meghalaya

Explanation: P.A. Sangma (Purno Agitok Sangma) was a central figure in Indian politics who served as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha from 1996 to 1998 and as the Chief Minister of **Meghalaya** from 1988 to 1990. He was also a co-founder of the National People's Party (NPP).

Defense News

Q21. The Indian Navy's sail training vessel INS Sudarshini arrived at Barcelona, Spain on September 1, 2026 as part of which transoceanic voyage?

- SP's Naval Forces
- (A) Samudra Manthan 2026
 - (B) Lokayan 2026
 - (C) Sagar Parikrama III
 - (D) Navika Sagar Parikrama

Answer: (B) Lokayan 2026

Explanation: INS Sudarshini, a three-masted sail training barque of the Indian Navy, docked at Barcelona, Spain as part of its 10-month transoceanic expedition **Lokayan 2026**. The expedition aims to build maritime diplomacy, foster cultural links, and provide hands-on seamanship training to naval cadets across international ports.

Q22. What is the name of the Indian Navy's Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) launched recently to boost coastal surveillance and maritime security?

- (A) INS Shruti
- (B) INS Nirdeshak
- (C) INS Ikshak
- (D) INS Arnala

Answer: (A) INS Shruti

Explanation: The Indian Navy launched **INS Shruti**, its next-generation offshore patrol vessel (NGOPV) built by domestic shipyards. Designed for extended coastal/offshore patrolling, anti-piracy operations, maritime interception, and search-and-rescue (SAR) missions, the vessel features reduced radar cross-section stealth features and high indigenization.

Q23. Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia laid the foundation stone for India's 7th Postal Training Centre (PTC) on September 2, 2026. Where is this facility located?

- (A) Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh
- (B) Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
- (C) Nagpur, Maharashtra
- (D) Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh

Answer: (A) Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh

Explanation: Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya M. Scindia laid the foundation stone for the country's 7th Postal Training Centre at **Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh**. The center will train Department of Posts personnel and Gramin Dak Sevaks (GDS) in digital banking services, logistics tech, and modern postal operations.

Government Schemes & MoUs

Q24. Which Department under the Union Government announced the 2nd Call for

Applications under the Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma-MedTech (PRIP) Scheme in September 2026?

- (A) Department of Pharmaceuticals
- (B) Department of Biotechnology
- (C) Department of Health Research
- (D) Department of Science and Technology

Answer: (A) Department of Pharmaceuticals

Explanation: The Department of Pharmaceuticals (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers) opened the second call for proposals under the PRIP Scheme. PRIP aims to transform Indian pharma from cost-driven manufacturing to innovation-driven R&D, offering financial assistance for high-end research in bulk drugs, complex generics, medical devices, and precision medicine.

Q25. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan reviewed the progress of the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana. What is the strategic goal of this scheme?

- (A) Strengthening post-harvest storage, crop diversification, and soil nutrient efficiency
- (B) Total subsidization of electric tractor purchases
- (C) Waiving short-term crop loans up to ₹5 lakh nationwide
- (D) Free distribution of genetically modified seeds to small farmers

Answer: (A) Strengthening post-harvest storage, crop diversification, and soil nutrient efficiency

Explanation: The Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana focuses on enhancing sustainable farm productivity, bolstering local grain storage infrastructure, promoting balanced chemical fertilizer use, and supporting crop diversification toward pulses and oilseeds.

Q26. In September 2026, the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which financial body to support bioeconomy initiatives?

- (A) Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- (B) World Bank
- (C) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
- (D) New Development Bank (NDB)

Answer: (A) Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Explanation: Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav announced an MoU between the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) alongside the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). The partnership focuses on sustainable forest management, community-based ecotourism, bioeconomy projects, and habitat conservation for seven major big cats (Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, and Cheetah).

Important Days

Q27. World Coconut Day is celebrated annually on September 2. What was the official theme chosen for World Coconut Day 2026?

- (A) Coconuts in Times of Uncertainty: Securing Food, Energy, and Health
- (B) Coconut for a Green Future
- (C) Sustainable Coconut Economy for Small Farmers
- (D) Transformative Power of Coconut Palms

Answer: (A) Coconuts in Times of Uncertainty: Securing Food, Energy, and Health

Explanation: Established in 2009 by the International Coconut Community (ICC, formerly APCC, founded Sept 2, 1969 in Jakarta), World Coconut Day is observed on September 2. The 2026 theme highlighted the

role of coconut farming in food security, biofuel energy, and economic resilience amid climate uncertainties.

Q28. September 3 is observed globally/nationally as which important awareness day recognizing maritime trade seafarers?

- (A) International Seafarers Day
- (B) Merchant Navy Day
- (C) World Coastal Patrol Day
- (D) Maritime Logistics Day

Answer: (B) Merchant Navy Day

Explanation: Merchant Navy Day is commemorated on September 3 each year to honor the civilian merchant mariners and crew members who navigate global supply chains, carry energy resources, and ensure uninterrupted international trade.

Art, Culture & Heritage

Q29. The 18th Meeting of Heads of Intellectual Property (IP) Offices of BRICS Countries took place in New Delhi in September 2026. Which Indian agency hosted the session?

- (A) Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM / DPIIT)
- (B) CSIR-Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)
- (C) NITI Aayog Innovation Cell
- (D) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

Answer: (A) Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM / DPIIT)

Explanation: Hosted by CGPDTM under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), the BRICS IP summit updated operational guidelines and established cross-border legal protections for traditional knowledge, indigenous crafts, and regional

Geographical Indications (GIs) across BRICS economies.

Q30. The documentary heritage of the "Baltic Way" (1989), highlighted on UNESCO's Memory of the World Register, was a historic civilian demonstration directly protesting the secret protocols of which 1939 treaty?

- (A) Treaty of Versailles
- (B) Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact
- (C) Yalta Conference Accord
- (D) Potsdam Agreement

Answer: (B) Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact

Explanation: On August 23, 1989, approximately two million people joined hands across Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania to form the 'Baltic Way'—a 600 km human chain. The protest marked 50 years since the signing of the secret **Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact** (August 23, 1939) between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union, which partitioned Eastern Europe into spheres of influence. Its archival records were inscribed into the UNESCO Memory of the World Register in 2009.