

1. International News

- **65th Anniversary of India-Paraguay Diplomatic Relations**
 - **Context:** India and Paraguay commemorated 65 years of formal diplomatic relations.
 - **Key Details:** Paraguay is a landlocked South American nation surrounded by Argentina, Brazil, and Bolivia. Two-thirds of its territory comprises the **Chaco Boreal** region.
 - **Exam Point:** Paraguay is a core member of MERCOSUR.
- **India-MERCOSUR Trade Expansion**
 - **Context:** India signed the First Additional Protocol to its Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with MERCOSUR to expand product coverage and streamline customs procedures.
- **New Development Bank (NDB) EPFO Qualification**
 - **Context:** The Ministry of Finance approved select NDB rupee-denominated bonds to qualify for investment by exempted establishments under the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) framework.

2. National News

- **World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF) 2026**
 - **Venue:** Gandhinagar, Gujarat (15-18 September 2026).
 - **Theme:** "Circular Economy: Transition for People and Prosperity".
 - **Organizers:** Co-hosted by India and the Finnish Innovation Fund (**Sitra**). This

marks WCEF's 10th milestone edition and its debut in South Asia.

- **Kishau Multi-Purpose Hydroelectric Project Agreement**
 - **Context:** A historic inter-state agreement was signed by 6 beneficiary states (Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan).
 - **Details:** Located on the **Tons River** (a major tributary of the Yamuna River), the project provides water storage and 660 MW of hydroelectric power generation.
- **Supreme Court Launches 'Jan Soochna Seva'**
 - **Context:** Launched to facilitate public access to legal updates and case statuses in regional languages, starting with Hindi.
 - **Constitutional Link:** Article 348 specifies English as the official language of Supreme Court proceedings unless modified by parliamentary legislation.

3. Economics & Banking

- **India Becomes 4th Largest Forex Reserve Holder Globally**
 - **Context:** India's Foreign Exchange Reserves touched a record **\$785.7 Billion**.
 - **Global Ranking:** India surpassed Russia to secure the **4th position**, trailing only China, Japan, and Switzerland.
- **RBI Monetary & Debt Management Operations**
 - **Open Market Operations (OMO):** The Reserve Bank of India announced OMO sale auctions worth **₹1,00,000 Crore** to absorb durable liquidity.
 - **Treasury Bills:** Issued routine auctions for 91-day, 182-day, and 364-day T-Bills.



Key Financial Regulatory Actions

Entity	Action / Update	Exam Significance
Cochin Shipyard (CSL) & Drydocks World	Signed 50:50 Joint Venture worth ₹1,800 Crore	Expansion of International Ship Repair Facility in Kochi.
Asset Care & Reconstruction Enterprise (ACRE)	₹27.30 Lakh penalty by RBI	Non-compliance with Asset Reconstruction Company guidelines.
PhonePe	International expansion in UAE	First local cross-border entity operations in Middle East.

4. Sports News

- Women's Asia Cup 2026 Champions**
 - Winner:** India (Defeated Sri Lanka by 72 runs in Dubai).
 - Record:** India won its **record-extending 8th Women's Asia Cup title**. Player of the Match: Shafali Verma (68 runs).
- Historic Gold at Archery World Cup Final**
 - Athlete:** Dhiraj Bommadevara.
 - Achievement:** Became the **first Indian male recurve archer** to win Gold at the World Cup Final in Saltillo, Mexico, defeating Japan's Junya Nakanishi.
- Junior Asia Cup Hockey Sweep**
 - Venue:** Moqi, China.

- Result:** India won **both Men's and Women's Junior Asia Cup titles**. Indian Men's team defeated South Korea 4–1 in the final.

5. Appointments & Resignations

- Lindy Cameron:** Appointed as the new Permanent Under-Secretary of the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). She previously served as the British High Commissioner to India.

6. Awards & Honors

- 16th Sansad Ratna Awards 2026**
 - Presented in New Delhi to top-performing Parliamentarians based on attendance, questions raised, private member bills, and debate participation.
- Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar (2025–26)**
 - Conferred by the Ministry of Home Affairs to Central Government Ministries and PSUs for outstanding implementation of the Official Language Policy.

7. Books & Authors

- Book Title:** "Defence Systems for Resilient Bharat – Advancing Aatmanirbharta in Defence"
 - Released By:** Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
 - Content:** Documents major indigenous defence technological breakthroughs developed by DRDO clusters between 2014 and 2026.

8. Defense News

- DRDO-Industry Synergy Meet 'VIMARSH 2026'**
 - Theme:** "Varta se Vikas" (Dialogue to Development).



- **Key Milestone:** Over **2,300 Technology Transfers (ToTs)** executed with 1,100+ private defense industries. Technologies for ~50 missile systems made available to private defense manufacturing units.
- **MoUs Signed:** DRDO exchanged MoUs with the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) and Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB).
- **Dhruva Space & Safran Space Deal**
 - Indian space startup **Dhruva Space** signed contracts worth over **€5 million** with France's Safran Space for satellite deployment systems.

9. Govt Schemes & MoUs

- **PRAHAAR Strategy Formalized**
 - **Scheme:** India's first comprehensive **National Counter-Terrorism Policy and Strategy (PRAHAAR)**.
 - **Mechanism:** Implements a whole-of-government approach integrating the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) and an AI-enabled Multi-Agency Centre (MAC).
- **Amended BharatNet Partnership**
 - **MoU:** Digital Bharat Nidhi signed an agreement with the Government of Jharkhand to execute the Amended BharatNet Project under the State-Led model.

10. Important Days (National & International)

- **National Engineers' Day (India) – 15 September**
 - **Official Theme 2026:** "Smart engineering for a sustainable future through innovation and digitalization."

- **Significance:** Marks the **165th birth anniversary** of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya. Officially celebrated by the Institution of Engineers India (IEI) since 1968.

• International Day of Democracy – 15 September

- **Official Theme 2026:** "Raising Hands and Voices – Fostering Agency and Ownership through Deliberative Democracy."
- **History:** Instituted by the UN General Assembly in 2007 (Resolution 62/7) to promote open governance and human rights.

11. Art & Culture / Festivals

- **Ramanathaswamy Temple Architecture Highlight**
 - **Context:** Highlighted during international diplomatic exchanges as a benchmark of Indian temple architecture.
 - **Features:** Located in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu. Built in the **Dravidian Style**, it houses the world's longest temple corridor (1,212 pillars).

12. Birth & Death Anniversaries

- **Sir M. Visvesvaraya (15 September 1861 – 14 April 1962)**
 - **Profile:** Civil engineer, administrator, and Diwan of Mysore (1912–1918).
 - **Key Contributions:**
 - Designed automatic floodgates installed at the Khadakwasla Reservoir (Pune) and Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) Dam (Mysuru).
 - Chief Architect of the flood protection system for Hyderabad.
 - Honored with the **Bharat Ratna** in 1955.

Exam-Oriented Practice MCQs

Q1. What is the official theme of National Engineers' Day 2026 observed in India?

- (a) Engineering for a Greener Tomorrow
- Vedantu
- (b) Smart engineering for a sustainable future through innovation and digitalization
- (c) Digital Transformation in Modern Infrastructure
- (d) Indigenous Engineering for Atmanirbhar Bharat

Answer: (b)

Explanation: National Engineers' Day 2026 (15 September) marks the 165th birth anniversary of Sir M. Visvesvaraya under the official theme "Smart engineering for a sustainable future through innovation and digitalization."

Q2. Which host city and theme were selected for the 10th World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF) 2026?

- (a) New Delhi; "Zero Waste for Net Zero"
- (b) Bengaluru; "Innovating Sustainable Supply Chains"
- (c) Gandhinagar; "Circular Economy: Transition for People and Prosperity"
- (d) Mumbai; "Financing Green Tomorrow"

Answer: (c)

Explanation: The 10th WCEF 2026 is hosted in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, under the theme "Circular Economy: Transition for People and Prosperity," marking its first edition in South Asia.

Q3. As of September 2026, what is India's global position in Foreign Exchange Reserves after crossing \$785.7 Billion?

- (a) 3rd

- (b) 4th

- (c) 5th

- (d) 6th

Answer: (b)

Explanation: India's foreign exchange reserves rose to \$785.7 billion, making India the 4th largest forex reserve holder globally after China, Japan, and Switzerland.

Q4. Who became the first Indian male recurve archer to win Gold at the Archery World Cup Final in 2026?

- (a) Atanu Das
- (b) Tarundeep Rai
- (c) Dhiraj Bommadevara
- (d) Pravin Jadhav

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Dhiraj Bommadevara created history by becoming the first Indian male recurve archer to win Gold at the World Cup Final in Saltillo, Mexico.

Q5. The Kishau Multi-Purpose Hydroelectric Project agreement was signed among 6 states. On which river is this project being developed?

- (a) Sutlej River
- (b) Tons River
- (c) Alaknanda River
- (d) Beas River

Answer: (b)

Explanation: The Kishau Multi-Purpose Hydroelectric Project (660 MW) is located on the Tons River, a primary tributary of the Yamuna River.

Important Days & Anniversaries

Q1. National Engineers' Day is observed in India on 15th September every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sir M. Visvesvaraya. What is the official theme for National Engineers' Day 2026?

- (A) Engineering for a Change and Digital Innovation
- (B) Smart engineering for a sustainable future through innovation and digitalization
- (C) Engineering Solutions for a Resilient World
- (D) Building Infrastructure for Atmanirbhar Bharat

Answer: (B) Smart engineering for a sustainable future through innovation and digitalization

Explanation: India observes National Engineers' Day on September 15 to mark the 165th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Sir M. Visvesvaraya (born 15 September 1861 in Muddenahalli, Karnataka). Known as the "Father of Modern Indian Engineering," he designed the Krishna Raja Sagara Dam in Mysuru and flood protection systems in Hyderabad. The 2026 theme emphasizes leverage of modern digital technologies and smart engineering practices for global sustainability.

Q2. What is the theme designated for the UN International Day of Democracy observed on 15th September 2026?

- (A) Empowering the Next Generation
- (B) Democracy Under Strain: Solutions for Governance
- (C) Raising Hands and Voices – Fostering Agency and Ownership through Deliberative Democracy
- (D) Protecting Press Freedom for Democratic Resilience

Answer: (C) Raising Hands and Voices – Fostering Agency and Ownership through Deliberative Democracy

Explanation: Established by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2007, the International Day of Democracy is observed annually on September 15. The 2026 theme focuses on deliberative democracy, encouraging meaningful civic participation, youth engagement, and public dialogue in policy decisions to foster deeper institutional trust.

Q3. On 15th September 2026, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia released a commemorative postage stamp honoring which prominent 16th–17th-century Bhakti movement saint and poet?

- (A) Sant Ravidas
- (B) Sant Malukdas
- (C) Sant Dnyaneshwar
- (D) Sant Eknath

Answer: (B) Sant Malukdas

Explanation: The Department of Posts (India Post), under the Ministry of Communications, issued a special commemorative postage stamp dedicated to Sant Malukdas. Born in Kada (Uttar Pradesh), Sant Malukdas was a respected saint-poet of the Nirguna Bhakti stream, renowned for promoting social harmony, self-reliance, and humanitarian service.

National News & Polity

Q4. The 6th All India Official Language Conference and Hindi Diwas 2026 celebration was organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs in September 2026 in which city?

- (A) New Delhi
- (B) Gandhinagar
- (C) Navi Mumbai

(D) Varanasi

Answer: (C) Navi Mumbai

Explanation: Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the 6th All India Official Language Conference and Hindi Diwas 2026 in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra. Initiated in 2021, this annual flagship conference rotates across major Indian cities (previously held in Varanasi, Surat, Pune, New Delhi, and Gandhinagar) to strengthen Official Language Implementation Committees (TOLICs/NARAKAS) across central government offices.

Q5. Six basin states signed a landmark agreement on 15th September 2026 for the construction of the Kishau Multipurpose Project. On which river is this project located?

- (A) Yamuna River
- (B) Tons River
- (C) Bhagirathi River
- (D) Giri River

Answer: (B) Tons River

Explanation: The Kishau Multipurpose Project involves constructing a 232.6-meter-high concrete gravity dam across the Tons River (a major tributary of the Yamuna) on the border of Dehradun (Uttarakhand) and Sirmaur (Himachal Pradesh). The agreement was signed by 6 partner states: Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, and Rajasthan. It provides 1,562 million cubic meters of water storage and 660 MW of hydroelectric capacity.

Q6. The Supreme Court of India is examining the constitutional validity of Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951. What does Section 8 of the RPA currently prescribe regarding lawmaker disqualification?

(A) Lifetime electoral ban upon indictment for any non-bailable offense

(B) Disqualification during the term of imprisonment plus an additional six years from release

(C) Automatic disqualification for 10 years from the date of conviction

(D) Suspension of voting rights in Parliament without impacting election eligibility

Answer: (B) Disqualification during the term of imprisonment plus an additional six years from release

Explanation: Under Section 8 of the RPA, 1951, a lawmaker convicted of offenses carrying a prison sentence of 2 years or more is disqualified from holding legislative office during imprisonment and for 6 years following release. Public interest petitions before the apex court seek a lifetime electoral ban for convicted politicians to mirror disqualifications applied to civil servants and judiciary members.

Q7. Recent analysis of data from India's Chandrayaan-1 mission by scientists at the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad, revealed evidence of one of the Moon's oldest impact basins located near which region?

- (A) Mare Tranquillitatis
- (B) Shackleton Crater Rim
- (C) Lunar South Pole near Shiv Shakti Point
- (D) Oceanus Procellarum

Answer: (C) Lunar South Pole near Shiv Shakti Point

Explanation: PRL scientists analyzing mineralogical data from Chandrayaan-1 discovered traces of an ancient lunar impact basin in the South Polar region near "Shiv Shakti



Point" (the official landing site of Chandrayaan-3). Out of approximately 300 estimated lunar impact basins, only 74 have been confirmed so far, making this discovery vital for understanding early solar system bombardment history.

International News

Q8. During the 18th BRICS Summit hosted in New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented a Russian translation of which classic Indian literary work to Russian President Vladimir Putin?

- (A) Bhagavad Gita
- (B) Thirukkural
- (C) Ramcharitmanas
- (D) Arthashastra

Answer: (B) Thirukkural

Explanation: PM Narendra Modi presented a Russian translation of the Thirukkural—the ancient Tamil ethical treatise authored by Saint Thiruvalluvar—to Russian President Vladimir Putin at Bharat Mandapam during the 18th BRICS Summit. The venue featured a backdrop depicting the iconic Ramanathaswamy Temple of Rameswaram, highlighting India's cultural heritage.

Q9. India and Paraguay celebrated the 65th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations in September 2026. Which of the following geographic features correctly describes Paraguay?

- (A) An island nation in the Caribbean Sea
- (B) A landlocked country in South America bordered by Argentina, Brazil, and Bolivia
- (C) A coastal country bordering the Pacific Ocean
- (D) A landlocked nation in Central America bordered by Guatemala and Honduras

Answer: (B) A landlocked country in South America bordered by Argentina, Brazil, and Bolivia

Explanation: India and Paraguay marked 65 years of diplomatic ties (established in 1961). Paraguay is one of only two landlocked countries in South America (the other being Bolivia). Capital: Asunción; Currency: Paraguayan Guaraní.

Q10. The World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF) 2026, held for the first time in South Asia from 15–18 September 2026, was hosted in which Indian city?

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

Answer: (B) Gandhinagar

Explanation: Gandhinagar, Gujarat hosted WCEF 2026, marking the forum's South Asian debut. Organized in partnership with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Sitra (Finnish Innovation Fund), the theme was "Circular Economy: Transition for People and Prosperity," attracting over 3,600 delegates from 62 countries to advance resource recovery and circular finance models.

Economics & Banking

Q11. Following notifications by the Ministry of Finance and NPCI in September 2026, what Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) rules apply to UPI person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions?

- (A) 0.9% MDR on all UPI merchant transactions regardless of value
- (B) Zero MDR on transactions up to ₹2,000, and a capped 0.4% MDR on eligible P2M transactions above ₹2,000

(C) 1.5% flat MDR on all RuPay debit cards and UPI transactions

(D) Complete zero-charge regime extended to all transactions without price thresholds

Answer: (B) Zero MDR on transactions up to ₹2,000, and a capped 0.4% MDR on eligible P2M transactions above ₹2,000

Explanation: Under updated guidelines, UPI payments up to ₹2,000 and all RuPay debit card transactions remain completely free (zero MDR). For merchant (P2M) transactions above ₹2,000, a capped MDR of 0.4% (maximum fee ₹300) applies starting October 15, 2026. This rule preserves zero-charge benefits for ~96% of small retail transactions while helping acquiring banks recover system infrastructure costs.

Q12. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) extended the optional T+0 (same-day) settlement cycle to how many top listed securities on the BSE and NSE starting 15th September 2026?

- (A) Top 50 securities
- (B) Top 100 securities
- (C) Top 250 securities
- (D) Top 500 securities

Answer: (D) Top 500 securities

Explanation: Moving beyond its initial 25-stock beta phase, SEBI expanded the same-day T+0 settlement cycle option to the top 500 listed companies by market capitalization on 15 September 2026. The move reduces counterparty clearing risks, releases capital faster for investors, and positions Indian stock exchanges among the fastest-settling markets globally.

Q13. In its Asian Development Outlook (ADO) Update released on 15th September 2026, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) revised India's

GDP growth forecast for FY2026–27 upward to what percentage?

- (A) 6.8%
- (B) 7.0%
- (C) 7.4%
- (D) 7.8%

Answer: (C) 7.4%

Explanation: ADB upgraded India's GDP growth forecast for FY2026–27 to 7.4% (up from its previous 7.0% projection), citing robust domestic urban and rural consumption, strong government capital expenditure, and healthy services sector performance.

Q14. According to official Ministry of Finance data released in September 2026, India's Gross GST collection for August 2026 reached which level?

- (A) ₹1.87 Lakh Crore
- (B) ₹2.01 Lakh Crore
- (C) ₹2.32 Lakh Crore
- (D) ₹2.55 Lakh Crore

Answer: (C) ₹2.32 Lakh Crore

Explanation: India logged ₹2.32 lakh crore in gross GST collections for August 2026—the second-highest monthly tax revenue ever recorded (behind April 2024's peak). This reflects economic activity across manufacturing and consumer spending.

Defense News

Q15. The Indian Air Force (IAF) inaugurated its first 'Dronathon-2026' event from 14–16 September 2026 at which operational range?

- (A) Mahajan Field Firing Range, Bikaner
- (B) Pokhran Field Firing Range, Jaisalmer
- (C) Chandipur ITR, Odisha
- (D) Wheeler Island, AP

Answer: (B) Pokhran Field Firing Range, Jaisalmer

Explanation: IAF organized 'Dronathon-2026' at Pokhran, Rajasthan. The event showcased indigenous drone, swarm, surveillance, and counter-UAS platforms. Demonstrations featured the Vayu UTtaM system—an indigenous Unmanned Traffic Management system capable of tracking and mitigating unauthorized or rogue drone threats in real time.

Q16. The 22nd edition of the bilateral military Exercise 'Yudh Abhyas 2026' between India and the United States commenced in September 2026 at which locations?

- (A) Umroi (Meghalaya) and Yuma (Arizona)
- (B) Auli (Uttarakhand) and Mahajan (Rajasthan)
- (C) Bakloh (Himachal Pradesh) and Fort Lewis (Washington)
- (D) Ranikhet (Uttarakhand) and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (Alaska)

Answer: (B) Auli (Uttarakhand) and Mahajan (Rajasthan)

Explanation: Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2026 (22nd edition) brought together ~600 personnel from the Indian Army and the US Army's 11th Airborne Division. The drill focused on Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs), drone warfare, high-altitude tactical operations, and multi-domain combat readiness.

Q17. The 9th edition of the bilateral air exercise 'Garuda-IX' between the Indian Air Force and the French Air and Space Force commenced on 15th September 2026 at which air force station?

- (A) Air Force Station Ambala, Haryana
- (B) Air Force Station Sullur, Tamil Nadu
- (C) Air Force Station Jodhpur, Rajasthan

(D) Air Force Station Hasimara, West Bengal

Answer: (B) Air Force Station Sullur, Tamil Nadu

Explanation: Exercise Garuda-IX commenced at AFS Sullur in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. The exercise features Rafale and Sukhoi Su-30MKI fighter jets practicing complex air combat, aerial refueling, and joint interoperability drills.

Government Schemes & MoUs

Q18. The flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) completed six years of implementation in September 2026. Which Ministry implements PMMSY?

- (A) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- (B) Ministry of Rural Development
- (C) Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
- (D) Ministry of Food Processing Industries

Answer: (C) Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

Explanation: PMMSY was launched in September 2020 with an investment outlay of ₹20,050 crore to drive sustainable growth in India's fisheries sector. Implemented by the Department of Fisheries, it has enhanced fish production, post-harvest infrastructure, and fishers' income nationwide.

Q19. The Cabinet of which state approved the 'CM Startup and NIPUN Mission' with an outlay of ₹500 crore over 5 years to establish Entrepreneurship Development Centres across all its 33 districts?

- (A) Odisha
- (B) Chhattisgarh
- (C) Madhya Pradesh
- (D) Jharkhand

Answer: (B) Chhattisgarh

Explanation: The Chhattisgarh State Cabinet approved the CM Startup and New-Age Industry Preparedness through Up-skilling of New Generation Youth (NIPUN) Mission. The ₹500 crore initiative will establish Entrepreneurship Development Centres in all 33 districts, create 5 Centres of Excellence, setup 100 Emerging Technology Labs (covering AI, IoT, and Blockchain), and launch the NIPUN Job Engine.

Q20. Miniratna defense shipyard Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) signed a 50:50 Joint Venture agreement with UAE-based Drydocks World to invest ₹1,800 crore in expanding which facility?

- (A) Garden Reach Shipbuilders, Kolkata
- (B) International Ship Repair Facility (ISRF) in Kochi, Kerala
- (C) Mumbai Port Ship Repair Yard
- (D) Visakhapatnam Naval Dockyard

Answer: (B) International Ship Repair Facility (ISRF) in Kochi, Kerala

Explanation: CSL and UAE-based Drydocks World (DDW) entered a 50:50 joint venture committing ₹900 crore each (total ₹1,800 crore) to scale up Kochi's International Ship Repair Facility (ISRF). The JV targets commercial ship repair, vessel conversions, and offshore EPC projects.

Appointments & Leadership

Q21. A 10-member task force was constituted under NITI Aayog in September 2026 to prepare a roadmap for hosting Formula 1 (F1) races in India by 2028. Who chairs this task force?

- (A) B.V.R. Subrahmanyam
- (B) Yugal Kishore Joshi
- (C) Anurag Thakur
- (D) V. Anantha Nageswaran

Answer: (B) Yugal Kishore Joshi

Explanation: NITI Aayog constituted a 10-member task force chaired by Yugal Kishore Joshi to map out infrastructure, regulatory, and financial steps required to return Formula 1 to India by 2028. Evaluation includes existing tracks like the Buddh International Circuit (Greater Noida) and Madras International Circuit (Chennai) in coordination with FMSCI.

Q22. In diplomatic appointments, India's Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar attended National Voters' Day celebrations on 15th September 2026 as Chief Guest in which neighboring country?

- (A) Nepal
- (B) Bhutan
- (C) Sri Lanka
- (D) Maldives

Answer: (B) Bhutan

Explanation: CEC Gyanesh Kumar visited Bhutan (September 14-16, 2026) and addressed Bhutan's National Voters' Day event at the Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law in Paro as Chief Guest, deepening institutional ties between the Election Commissions of both nations.

Awards & Honors

Q23. Under the Rajbhasha Kirti Awards for 2025-26 presented during Hindi Diwas 2026, which department under the Ministry of Finance bagged the First Prize?

- (A) Department of Expenditure
- (B) Department of Financial Services (DFS)
- (C) Department of Economic Affairs
- (D) Department of Revenue

Answer: (B) Department of Financial Services (DFS)

Explanation: The Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, won First Prize in the Rajbhasha Kirti Award category (2025–26) for institutional implementation of the official language policy. Additionally, the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) was conferred the Rajbhasha Utkrishtata Sammaan.

Q24. Author Helen Marshall was awarded the 2026 Sunburst Award for Excellence in Canadian Literature of the Fantastic on 15th September 2026 for which speculative fiction novel?

- (A) The Silence of the Fallen
- (B) The Lady, the Tiger and the Girl Who Loved Death
- (C) City of Glass and Bone
- (D) Fables of the Unforgiven

Answer: (B) The Lady, the Tiger and the Girl Who Loved Death

Explanation: Helen Marshall won the 2026 Sunburst Award—Canada's honor for speculative fiction—for her novel The Lady, the Tiger and the Girl Who Loved Death. The jury praised the work for its literary fantasy, carnivalesque world-building, and exploration of generational recovery.

Books, Authors & Science Communications

Q25. Prime Minister Modi presented a translated copy of Thirukkural to President Putin. How many couplets (Kurals) organized into three books (Aram, Porul, Inbam) comprise this ancient classic?

- (A) 1,080 couplets
- (B) 1,330 couplets
- (C) 1,500 couplets
- (D) 2,000 couplets

Answer: (B) 1,330 couplets

Explanation: The Thirukkural (authored by Thiruvalluvar) contains 1,330 short couplets (Kurals) divided into 133 chapters of 10 couplets each. The work covers three foundational life goals: Aram (Virtue/Ethics), Porul (Wealth/Governance), and Inbam (Love/Pleasure).

Q26. Which research institution under CSIR deployed the AI tool named 'SARAL AI' in September 2026 to simplify complex scientific research papers into regional languages?

- (A) CSIR-CCMB, Hyderabad
- (B) CSIR-NIScPR, New Delhi
- (C) CSIR-NCL, Pune
- (D) CSIR-CFTRI, Mysuru

Answer: (B) CSIR-NIScPR, New Delhi

Explanation: The CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR) introduced SARAL AI. The tool translates complex scientific findings and journal articles into accessible formats and Indian regional languages to enhance science literacy and public communication.

Sports

Q27. India won the Women's Asia Cup 2026 title in September 2026. Which body organizes this biennial continental cricket tournament?

- (A) International Cricket Council (ICC)
- (B) Asian Cricket Council (ACC)
- (C) Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)
- (D) Asian Sports Federation (ASF)

Answer: (B) Asian Cricket Council (ACC)

Explanation: The Women's Asia Cup 2026 was organized by the Asian Cricket Council (ACC). The 2026 edition marked the 6th edition played in the T20 International format and the 10th



edition overall, with India securing the continental title.

Q28. India is sending a 70-competitor contingent to represent the nation across 63 skills at the 48th WorldSkills Competition held in September 2026. Which city hosts WorldSkills 2026?

- (A) Tokyo, Japan
- (B) Shanghai, China
- (C) Seoul, South Korea
- (D) Lyon, France

Answer: (B) Shanghai, China

Explanation: The 48th WorldSkills Competition takes place in Shanghai, China (22–27 September 2026). India's 70-member team, supported by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), competes across 63 categories, including 11 debut skills like Renewable Energy and Industry 4.0.

Art, Culture & Environment

Q29. The innovative eco-friendly craft technique 'Grass Mache', featured in September 2026 news updates, adapts traditional Kashmiri papier-mâché using waste materials harvested from where?

- (A) Chilika Lake, Odisha
- (B) Dal Lake, Jammu & Kashmir
- (C) Loktak Lake, Manipur
- (D) Vembanad Lake, Kerala

Answer: (B) Dal Lake, Jammu & Kashmir

Explanation: 'Grass Mache' is a sustainable craft innovation from Jammu & Kashmir. Artisans harvest invasive aquatic weeds and biomass from Dal Lake, processing them using traditional papier-mâché techniques to produce biodegradable decorative products while assisting in lake clearing efforts.

Q30. The Central Asian Flyway (CAF), highlighted during conservation discussions on migratory birds, covers how many countries including India?

- (A) 15 countries
- (B) 30 countries
- (C) 45 countries
- (D) 54 countries

Answer: (B) 30 countries

Explanation: The Central Asian Flyway (CAF) covers a large swath of Eurasia, encompassing 30 countries from the Arctic Ocean to the Indian Ocean. India acts as a primary wintering habitat for over 182 migratory waterbird species traversing the flyway under the UN Convention on Migratory Species (CMS/Bonn Convention).