

Important Days & Anniversaries

- **International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer (World Ozone Day)**
 - **Date:** 16 September
 - **2026 Theme:** "Global Action for a Cooler Planet – Celebrating 10 Years of Sustainable Cooling under the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol."
 - **Key Background:** Commemorates the signing of the **Montreal Protocol** in 1987. The **Vienna Convention** (1985) established the framework, while the **Kigali Amendment** (2016) mandated the phase-down of Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are potent greenhouse gases. Both treaties achieved universal UN ratification in 2009.
- **Birth Anniversary: M.S. Subbulakshmi (16 September 1916)**
 - **Significance:** Renowned Carnatic classical vocalist from Madurai, Tamil Nadu.
 - **Exam Pointers:** First musician ever awarded India's highest civilian honor, the **Bharat Ratna** (1998), and the first Asian musician to receive the **Ramon Magsaysay Award** (1974).

International News

- **18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi**
 - **Host & Chair:** India (Chaired by PM Narendra Modi) at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
 - **Theme:** "Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."
 - **Key Outcome:** Adoption of the consensus **New Delhi Declaration**, focusing on reform of global financial architecture, multilateral governance, trade integration, and sustainable development.

- **Member Nations Present:** Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE, and Indonesia.

National News & Art & Culture

- **Launch of Gyan Portal (GBM Portal) & Delhi Declaration on Manuscripts**
 - **Initiative:** PM Narendra Modi launched the Gyan Portal, a centralized digital repository designed to catalogue and preserve India's manuscript heritage.
 - **Delhi Declaration:** Adopted to facilitate the location, digital archiving, and repatriation of ancient Indian manuscripts stored in international institutions.
- **Infrastructure & Cultural Projects in the Northeast**
 - Inauguration of development projects worth over ₹9,000 crore spanning Mizoram and Manipur.
 - Key projects include the IT Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at Mantripukhri, new "Ima" (Mothers) markets in four districts, and the Leishang Hidden Cultural & Heritage Park in Imphal West.

Economics & Banking

- **NABARD's CDCI Platform for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)**
 - **Objective:** National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) introduced the Centralized Digital Credit Infrastructure (CDCI) to digitize and automate loan processing for RRBs.
 - **Integration:** Connects Core Banking Solutions (CBS) directly with land records databases, CIBIL credit scoring, and Aadhaar-based e-KYC to streamline agricultural and rural credit under the 'One State – One RRB' initiative.

Digital Payment Fee Directives

- Ministry of Finance reaffirmed that banks and payment system providers cannot levy direct or indirect charges on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions, preserving zero-MDR (Merchant Discount Rate) norms.

Defense News

Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2026 (India-US)

- Location & Type:** Joint army exercise conducted near the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- Highlights:** Deployment of the US Mobile Low, Slow, Unmanned Aircraft Integrated Defense System (MLIDS) for advanced counter-drone operations.

Exercise Veer Guardian 2026 (India-Japan)

- Location:** Air Force Station Jodhpur.
- Assets Deployed:** Indian Air Force (Su-30MKI, Rafale, LCA Tejas) and Japan Air Self-Defense Force (F-2A fighters).

Naval Induction: ASW SWC 'Androth'

- Developer:** Built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) for the Indian Navy.
- Role:** Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft designed for coastal surveillance, anti-submarine operations, and mine-laying.

Appointments

Designee	Post / Organization	Predecessor / Context
L. Satya Srinivas	Executive Director (ED), Asian	Replaces Vikas Sheel; 1991-

Designee	Post / Organization	Predecessor / Context
	Development Bank (ADB)	batch IRS officer
Sushila Karki	Interim Prime Minister of Nepal	Former Chief Justice of Nepal; first female PM of Nepal

Sports

Women's T20 Asia Cup 2026

- Winner:** India defeated Sri Lanka by 72 runs in the final held at Dubai.
- Milestones:** 8th Asia Cup title for the Indian Women's team. Shafali Verma recorded the fastest half-century (24 balls) in Women's T20 Asia Cup history. Captained by Harmanpreet Kaur.

Govt Schemes & MoUs

- MISHTI Scheme (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes)**
 - Progress Update:** Gujarat completed restoration across 27,652 hectares of mangroves against its target under the scheme.
 - Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- MoU for Rural Women Empowerment in Textiles**
 - Partnership:** Government of Bihar signed an agreement to provide industry-aligned skill training and direct employment for rural women in the textile and apparel sector.



Q1. India and MERCOSUR signed the First Additional Protocol to their Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) to enable electronic Certificates of Origin (e-CoO). Which article of Annex III (Rules of Origin) was amended by this protocol?

- (A) Article 10
- (B) Article 12
- (C) Article 16
- (D) Article 21

Answer: (C) Article 16 Explanation: India and MERCOSUR (Southern Common Market, comprising South American economies) signed the First Additional Protocol to the India-MERCOSUR Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA). The protocol specifically amends Article 16 of Annex III (Rules of Origin) by giving electronic Certificates of Origin (e-CoO) the same legal validity and preferential tariff benefits as paper certificates. This step modernises customs procedures and reduces trade transaction costs.

Q2. During the 19th India-Vietnam Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) held in New Delhi, both nations agreed to observe which year as the "Year of India-Vietnam Friendship"?

- (A) 2025
- (B) 2026
- (C) 2027
- (D) 2028

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Answer: (C) 2027 Explanation: India and Vietnam agreed to designate 2027 as the "Year of India-Vietnam Friendship" to commemorate 55 years of formal diplomatic relations. Co-chaired during the 19th Joint Commission Meeting, both sides reaffirmed commitment to deepen strategic defense ties, cross-border

connectivity, space exploration, and civil nuclear cooperation.

Q3. The inaugural International Space Summit 2026 was hosted at the Grand Palais in Paris under the partnership of which two European nations?

- (A) France and Germany
- (B) France and the United Kingdom
- (C) France and Italy
- (D) France and Spain

Answer: (A) France and Germany Explanation: Hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron in partnership with Germany, the inaugural International Space Summit 2026 convened in Paris. The summit focused on space sustainability, satellite security, joint space exploration frameworks, and international governance of orbit spectrums.

Q4. On World Ozone Day (16th September 2026), the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched two major digital platforms: the Net Zero Portal and which dashboard?

- (A) MISHTI Dashboard
- (B) NAPCC Dashboard
- (C) LiFE Mission Portal
- (D) Amrit Dharohar Portal

Answer: (B) NAPCC Dashboard Explanation: Union MoS Kirti Vardhan Singh launched the Net Zero Portal and the NAPCC (National Action Plan on Climate Change) Dashboard. The Net Zero Portal provides a centralized framework for Indian commercial and public entities to voluntarily report Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions and Net Zero pathways. The NAPCC Dashboard consolidates tracking across India's 8 major climate missions.



Q5. The Mangrove Geographic Information System (MGIS) Portal was launched at Bhuj, Gujarat, under which ministry?

- (A) Ministry of Earth Sciences
- (B) Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
- (C) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- (D) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Answer: (C) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change **Explanation:** Union Minister Bhupender Yadav launched the Mangrove Geographic Information System (MGIS) Portal in Bhuj, Gujarat. The tool uses GIS satellite mapping to enable science-based habitat monitoring, conservation planning, and spatial tracking under the MISHTI scheme.

Q6. Scientists recently reported a new limbless amphibian species of the genus Gegeneophis in the Western Ghats. With this discovery, how many caecilian species are recorded in India?

- (A) 28
- (B) 35
- (C) 41
- (D) 52

Answer: (C) 41 **Explanation:** The discovery of a new caecilian species (Gegeneophis) brings total Gegeneophis species recorded in India to 12 (11 endemic to Western Ghats). Overall, India's amphibian record stands at 458 species, including 41 caecilian species.

Q7. DRDO received approval to establish its third major weapon and missile testing range at Junput in which Indian state?

- (A) Odisha
- (B) West Bengal
- (C) Andhra Pradesh
- (D) Tamil Nadu

Answer: (B) West Bengal **Explanation:** The West Bengal government approved DRDO's proposal to establish a new coastal weapon and missile testing range at Junput in Purba Medinipur district along the Bay of Bengal. This serves as DRDO's third major test range alongside Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur / Abdul Kalam Island (Odisha) and Navdurga Missile Test Range Nagayalanka (Andhra Pradesh).

Q8. The 22nd edition of the India-US joint military exercise 'Yudh Abhyas 2026' was conducted concurrently at which locations?

- (A) Ranikhet and Jaisalmer
- (B) Auli and Mahajan Field Firing Range
- (C) Umroi and Pokhran
- (D) Bakloh and Sirsa

Answer: (B) Auli and Mahajan Field Firing Range **Explanation:** Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2026 (22nd edition) took place across Auli (Uttarakhand) and Mahajan Field Firing Range (Rajasthan). The exercise emphasized high-altitude and desert warfare operations, counter-drone mechanisms (including US MLIDS deployment), and integrated battle group tactical drills.

Q9. The 4th edition of the bilateral naval exercise 'Samudra Laksamana 2026' was conducted between India and which country?

- (A) Indonesia
- (B) Malaysia
- (C) Sri Lanka
- (D) Singapore

Answer: (B) Malaysia **Explanation:** The 4th edition of 'Samudra Laksamana' was conducted between the Indian Navy and the Royal Malaysian Navy at Lumut, Malaysia. The exercise aims to improve inter-navy communication, surface warfare drills, and

tactical maritime security in the Strait of Malacca and Indian Ocean Region.

Q10. Where was the 3-day Table Top Exercise (TTX) under the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) hosted in September 2026?

- (A) Kochi, Kerala
- (B) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- (C) Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar
- (D) Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Answer: (B) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

Explanation: The Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam hosted the 3-day Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) Table Top Exercise. Maritime security agencies from member and observer nations simulated tactical responses against maritime piracy, narcotics trafficking, illegal fishing, and search-and-rescue operations.

Q11. The bilateral air defense exercise 'Veer Guardian-2026' between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) was hosted at which airbase?

- (A) Air Force Station Ambala
- (B) Air Force Station Jodhpur
- (C) Air Force Station Jamnagar
- (D) Air Force Station Kalaikunda

Answer: (B) Air Force Station Jodhpur

Explanation: IAF and JASDF conducted Exercise Veer Guardian-2026 at Air Force Station Jodhpur. The IAF deployed indigenous Su-30 MKI, LCA Tejas, and Rafale fighters alongside JASDF F-2A multirole fighters.

Q12. The Ministry of Finance notified that no surcharge or transaction fees can be levied on UPI payments up to what threshold?

- (A) ₹1,000
- (B) ₹2,000

(C) ₹5,000

(D) ₹10,000

Answer: (B) ₹2,000 **Explanation:** The Ministry of Finance issued a clarification barring banks and payment aggregators from levying direct or indirect transaction fees on UPI merchant payments up to ₹2,000 as well as debit card payments processed via the RuPay network.

Q13. What was India's gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection recorded for the month of August 2026?

- (A) ₹1,74,116 crore
- (B) ₹1,87,300 crore
- (C) ₹1,99,853 crore
- (D) ₹2,11,205 crore

Answer: (C) ₹1,99,853 crore **Explanation:** India's gross GST collection for August 2026 reached ₹1,99,853 crore, reflecting a 14.8% year-on-year growth over August 2025 (₹1,74,116 crore). Domestic transaction GST grew by 9.3%, while import GST surged by 29%.

Q14. The Ministry of Finance notified the implementation of which updated banking evidence law effective from October 1, 2026?

- (A) Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026
- (B) Digital Financial Records Act, 2026
- (C) Reserve Bank Evidence Code, 2026
- (D) Negotiable Instruments Evidence Act, 2026

Answer: (A) Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026

Explanation: The Ministry of Finance notified October 1, 2026, as the effective date for the implementation of the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026. The new law updates legal standards for accepting digital printouts, cloud database extracts, and electronic ledger entries as admissible primary evidence in court proceedings.

Q15. PhonePe partnered with Visa to launch three new payment capabilities, including Tap-to-Pay, Cross Border Scan to Pay, and which tool?

- (A) SoundBox Pay
- (B) Smart Accept
- (C) OmniFlex Pay
- (D) BharatCard Seamless

Answer: (B) Smart Accept Explanation: PhonePe and Visa announced a joint integration offering three cardless payment capabilities: Tap-to-Pay, Cross Border Scan to Pay, and Smart Accept. These tools streamline online merchant checkouts, physical POS tap payments, and international outward remittance payment acceptance for travelers.

Q16. The 7th edition of the Global Fintech Fest (GFF 2026) took place at which venue?

- (A) Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
- (B) Jio World Centre, Mumbai
- (C) Yashobhoomi, Dwarka
- (D) HITEK Exhibition Centre, Hyderabad

Answer: (B) Jio World Centre, Mumbai Explanation: GFF 2026 was hosted at Jio World Centre, BKC, Mumbai. The event brought together international central bankers, fintech innovators, and regulators under themes focused on cross-border payments, digital public infrastructure (DPI), and responsible AI implementation in finance.

Q17. Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) signed a 50:50 joint venture agreement with UAE-based Drydocks World to expand the International Ship Repair Facility (ISRF) in which city?

- (A) Mangaluru
- (B) Kochi
- (C) Visakhapatnam

(D) Mumbai

Answer: (B) Kochi Explanation: Public sector shipyard CSL teamed up with UAE's Drydocks World (a DP World entity) in a 50:50 JV to expand and operate the International Ship Repair Facility (ISRF) located at Kochi, Kerala. The venture will boost India's commercial vessel maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) capabilities.

Q18. National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) signed an MoU to enhance internet security, routing stability, and technical capacity building with which international body?

- (A) ICANN
- (B) APNIC
- (C) ITU
- (D) IEEE

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Answer: (B) APNIC Explanation: NIXI signed a multi-year MoU with the Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC) during the 62nd APNIC Conference held in Mumbai. The pact focuses on IPv6 adoption, Internet Exchange Point (IXP) expansion, and regional cybersecurity intelligence.

Q19. Which steel manufacturer commissioned India's first Coke Oven Gas (COG) injection project at Blast Furnace 1 in Meramandali, Odisha?

- (A) JSW Steel
- (B) SAIL
- (C) Tata Steel
- (D) Jindal Steel & Power

Answer: (C) Tata Steel Explanation: Tata Steel commissioned India's first COG (Coke Oven Gas) injection project at Blast Furnace 1 of its Meramandali plant in Odisha. By injecting hydrogen-rich COG, the plant reduces fossil fuel



consumption and carbon footprint, supporting Tata Steel's target of Net Zero by 2045.

Q20. Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojana (PM-KMY), what is the maximum landholding eligibility limit for small and marginal farmers?

- (A) Up to 1 hectare
- (B) Up to 2 hectares
- (C) Up to 3 hectares
- (D) Up to 5 hectares

Answer: (B) Up to 2 hectares **Explanation:** PM-KMY is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme for Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs) aged 18 to 40 years holding cultivable land up to 2 hectares. Beneficiaries receive a fixed minimum monthly pension of ₹3,000 upon reaching 60 years of age.

Q21. The 'Pension Sakhi' initiative is primarily targeted towards which objective?

- (A) Micro-financing female entrepreneurs
- (B) Pension awareness, digital literacy, and enrolment in rural areas
- (C) Providing healthcare insurance to widow pensioners
- (D) Managing urban pension disbursements

Answer: (B) Pension awareness, digital literacy, and enrolment in rural areas **Explanation:** 'Pension Sakhi' engages trained female community cadres (Self Help Group members) to drive awareness, door-to-door enrolment, and digital identity verification for social security pension schemes like PM-KMY and APY among unorganized rural workers.

Q22. Which apex regulatory body recently imposed a ₹10 lakh financial penalty on aggregator Rapido for employing 'dark patterns'?

- (A) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

(B) Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)

(C) Competition Commission of India (CCI)

(D) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)

Answer: (B) Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) **Explanation:** The CCPA penalized Rapido ₹10 lakh for using deceptive user interface tactics ("dark patterns"), such as automatically adding non-consensual add-on tip charges and misleading cancellation fee representations during booking flows.

Q23. Which team won the Women's T20 Asia Cup 2026 by defeating Sri Lanka in the final at Dubai?

- (A) India
- (B) Pakistan
- (C) Bangladesh
- (D) Australia

Answer: (A) India **Explanation:** The Indian Women's Cricket team defeated Sri Lanka by 72 runs in the final at Dubai International Stadium to claim their 8th Women's T20 Asia Cup title. Shafali Verma recorded a 24-ball half-century, setting the record for the fastest fifty in tournament history.

Q24. The 20th edition of the Asian Games (2026) is scheduled to be held in which city/region of Japan?

- (A) Tokyo
- (B) Osaka
- (C) Aichi-Nagoya
- (D) Sapporo

Answer: (C) Aichi-Nagoya **Explanation:** The 2026 Asian Games (20th Asian Games) will be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, featuring athlete contingents competing across 37 sports.

Q25. Indian fast bowler Mukesh Kumar signed up with which English county club for the 2026 County Championship season?

- (A) Surrey
- (B) Nottinghamshire
- (C) Lancashire
- (D) Yorkshire

Answer: (B) Nottinghamshire Explanation: Indian international fast bowler Mukesh Kumar joined Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club as an overseas player for the final stretch of the English County Championship season.

Q26. World Ozone Day (International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer) is celebrated on 16 September to commemorate the signing of which historical environmental treaty?

- (A) Kyoto Protocol (1997)
- (B) Montreal Protocol (1987)
- (C) Paris Agreement (2015)
- (D) Ramsar Convention (1971)

Answer: (B) Montreal Protocol (1987) Explanation: World Ozone Day is observed globally on September 16 to commemorate the date in 1987 when nations signed the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The treaty regulates the phase-out of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) and Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under its Kigali Amendment.

Q27. National Engineers' Day in India is celebrated on 15 September to mark the birth anniversary of which legendary engineer?

- (A) E. Sreedharan
- (B) Sir M. Visvesvaraya
- (C) Meghnad Saha
- (D) Satish Dhawan

Answer: (B) Sir M. Visvesvaraya Explanation: India celebrates National Engineers' Day on September 15 honoring Bharat Ratna Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya. Renowned for designing the Krishna Raja Sagara Dam in Mysuru and flood protection systems in Hyderabad, his legacy stands as a benchmark of civil engineering.

Q28. Ophiopogon japonicus Ker Gawl., a newly recorded plant species for India, was discovered in which district of Arunachal Pradesh?

- (A) Tawang
- (B) West Kameng
- (C) Changlang
- (D) Lower Subansiri

Answer: (B) West Kameng Explanation: Botanical researchers recorded Ophiopogon japonicus Ker Gawl. (Asparagaceae family) for the first time in India from the West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh in the Eastern Himalayas.

Q29. The proposed 660 MW Kishau Multipurpose Hydroelectric Project is located on which river along the border of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh?

- (A) Yamuna
- (B) Tons
- (C) Giri
- (D) Sutlej

Answer: (B) Tons Explanation: The 660 MW Kishau Multipurpose Project is planned on the Tons River (a major tributary of the Yamuna) at the border of Dehradun (Uttarakhand) and Sirmaur (Himachal Pradesh). It provides power generation alongside downstream water storage benefits for six states.

Q30. September 16 marks the birth anniversary of iconic Carnatic vocalist M. S. Subbulakshmi

(born 1916). She holds the distinction of being the first musician to receive which prestigious awards?

- (A) Bharat Ratna and Ramon Magsaysay Award
- (B) Padma Vibhushan and Nobel Peace Prize
- (C) Dadasaheb Phalke Award and Grammy
- (D) Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship and Booker Prize

Answer: (A) Bharat Ratna and Ramon Magsaysay Award **Explanation:** Madurai Shanmukhavadiyu Subbulakshmi (16 Sept 1916 – 11 Dec 2004) was the first musician ever to be awarded the Bharat Ratna (India's highest civilian honor, in 1998) and the first Asian musician to receive the Ramon Magsaysay Award (1974).

