

National News & Technology

- **SEMICON India 2026 Inaugurated at Yashobhoomi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 5th edition of SEMICON India 2026 on September 17 at Yashobhoomi (India International Convention and Expo Centre) in Dwarka, New Delhi. Organized jointly by SEMI and the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) under the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), the event runs from September 17 to 19.
 - **Theme:** "Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem".
 - **Key Highlights:** Announcement of **Semicon 2.0** with an outlay of **\$13.5 billion** (expanded from Phase 1's \$8 billion). Target set to train **1,000,000 engineering students** for semiconductor design and fabrication (over 70,000 trained till date).
- **CYBER KUSHTI 2026:** National cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence hackathon launched by the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) to build indigenous AI-driven cybersecurity defenses.

International News & Global Indices

- **WEF Global Gender Gap Index 2026:** The World Economic Forum (WEF) released its Global Gender Gap Index 2026 covering 145 economies.
 - **India's Rank:** India retained the **131st position** with an overall gender parity score of **64.5%**.
 - **Top Ranker:** Iceland ranked 1st for the 17th consecutive year, closing over 93% of its gender gap.
 - **Weakest Pillar for India:** Economic Participation and Opportunity (41.2%).

- **World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF) 2026:** The 10th edition of WCEF commenced in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. This marks the first time India has hosted this global forum on sustainable resource management.

Economics & Banking

- **EPFO Wage Ceiling Hiked to ₹25,000:** The Union Cabinet approved raising the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) monthly wage ceiling from **₹15,000 to ₹25,000**.
 - **Impact:** First revision since September 2014. Adds approximately **51 lakh workers** under mandatory EPF, EPS (Employees' Pension Scheme), and EDLI coverage. Estimated government outlay: ₹11,339 crore annually.
- **NPCI Introduces 0.4% MDR on UPI Above ₹2,000:** National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) introduced a Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) of **0.4%** (capped at ₹300 per transaction) on Person-to-Merchant (P2M) UPI transactions above ₹2,000.
- **RBI Unified Lending Interface (ULI):** RBI expanded the rollout of ULI to enable frictionless credit access to rural and farm borrowers by digitizing land record verification and utility data.

Defense News

- **43rd Indian Coast Guard Commanders' Conference:** Convened at Coast Guard Headquarters, New Delhi, from September 17 to 19, 2026, focusing on coastal security and maritime domain awareness.
- **Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2026:** 22nd edition of the India-US joint military exercise commenced at Auli (Uttarakhand) and Mahajan Field Firing Range (Rajasthan).



- **Chief of Army Staff Russia Visit:** General Dhiraj Seth undertook a 3-day official visit to Russia (September 16–18) to discuss defense co-production and military hardware upgrades.

Government Schemes & MoUs

- **Kishau Multipurpose Project MoU:** A inter-state agreement was finalized among 6 Yamuna-basin States/UTs: **Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Delhi** for the construction of the Kishau Dam on the Tons River (a tributary of the Yamuna).
- **Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PM-JUGA):** Scheme aimed at improving socio-economic outcomes in over 63,000 tribal-majority villages across India through targeted infrastructure and livelihood interventions.

Important Days, Art & Culture, Festivals & Anniversaries

- **World Patient Safety Day (17 September 2026):**
 - **Organized by:** World Health Organization (WHO).
 - **2026 Theme:** "Safe care for noncommunicable diseases".
 - **Slogan:** "Safe care for life!".
- **Vishwakarma Jayanti / Kanya Sankranti (17 September 2026):** Celebrated across India to honor Lord Vishwakarma, the divine architect. Marks the solar transit of the Sun into Virgo (Kanya Rashi). Workers, artisans, and engineers worship industrial equipment, machinery, and tools.

Sports & Appointments

- **FIFA U15 World Cup & Festival Azerbaijan 2026:** India drawn into **Group K** alongside Bahrain, Cameroon, Grenada, Laos, and Senegal for the inaugural tournament in Baku.
- **County Cricket Appointment:** Indian fast bowler **Mukesh Kumar** signed with Nottinghamshire for the County Championship season.
- **Judo Asian Games Exposure Camp:** Sports Authority of India (SAI) sent an 11-member Indian judo contingent to Tsukuba University, Japan, ahead of the 2026 Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games.

Practice MCQs for UPSC / SSC / Banking / Railways

Q1. What is the theme of SEMICON India 2026 inaugurated on 17 September 2026?

- A) Shaping the Digital Future
- B) Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem
- C) Innovation in Microelectronics
- D) Atmanirbhar Semiconductor Mission

• **Answer: B) Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem**

• **Explanation:** The 5th edition was inaugurated at Yashobhoomi by PM Modi under this official theme to highlight end-to-end chip design and manufacturing capabilities.

Q2. What is the revised monthly EPFO wage ceiling approved by the Union Cabinet?

- A) ₹18,000
- B) ₹20,000
- C) ₹25,000

D) ₹30,000

• **Answer: C) ₹25,000**

- **Explanation:** The wage ceiling was increased from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000 per month, expanding social security coverage to an estimated 51 lakh additional workers.

Q3. Which river hosts the proposed Kishau Multipurpose Project for which 6 Yamuna basin states signed an MoU?

A) Giri River

B) Tons River

C) Hindon River

D) Chambal River

• **Answer: B) Tons River**

- **Explanation:** The Kishau Project is situated on the Tons River (a major tributary of the Yamuna) along the boundary of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Q4. What is the official theme for World Patient Safety Day 2026 observed on 17 September?

A) Medication Without Harm

B) Engaging Patients for Patient Safety

C) Safe Care for Noncommunicable Diseases

D) Diagnostic Safety First

• **Answer: C) Safe Care for Noncommunicable Diseases**

- **Explanation:** WHO designated NCD management as the focal area under the global slogan "Safe care for life!"

National & International Affairs

Q1. During the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, which Indian institute was designated as the coordinating centre for the proposed network of training hubs and Centres of Excellence (CoEs) for mental health wellness?

(A) AIIMS, New Delhi

(B) NIMHANS, Bengaluru

(C) PGIMER, Chandigarh

(D) JIPMER, Puducherry

• **Correct Answer: (B) NIMHANS, Bengaluru**

- **Explanation:** Under the "New Delhi Declaration" unanimously adopted at the 18th BRICS Summit on September 17, 2026, member states agreed to establish a network of training hubs and CoEs for mental health. The Bengaluru-based National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) was officially appointed as the central coordinating facility.

Q2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 5th edition of SEMICON India 2026 at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi on September 17, 2026. What was the official theme of this 3-day global conference?

(A) Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem

(B) Global Semiconductor Resilience and Design

(C) Empowering India's Microelectronics Future

(D) Next-Gen Chips: From Fabrication to Assembly

• **Correct Answer: (A) Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem**

- **Explanation:** The 5th edition of SEMICON India 2026 was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi, focusing on establishing India as a global hub for semiconductor manufacturing, chip design, supply chain integration, and talent development.

Q3. The US Congress cleared the "Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act" in September 2026. What key provision in this bill directly impacts countries purchasing oil from Russia?



- (A) Immediate ban on all SWIFT international financial transfers
- (B) Primary sanctions on energy shipping vessels
- (C) Authority for the US President to levy up to 100% tariffs on importing nations
- (D) Secondary sanctions on central bank reserves

- **Correct Answer: (C) Authority for the US President to levy up to 100% tariffs on importing nations**
- **Explanation:** Passed by the US House of Representatives, the Russia Sanctions Bill grants the US President unprecedented executive powers to levy tariffs up to 100% on nations (including India and China) that continue importing crude oil and natural gas from Moscow.

Q4. India formally rejected the "Pakistan-China Boundary Joint Commission" on September 17, 2026. Which historic agreement does India consistently maintain as illegal and invalid regarding territories under illegal occupation?

- (A) 1954 Sino-Indian Panchsheel Accord
- (B) 1963 China-Pakistan Boundary Agreement
- (C) 1972 Simla Agreement
- (D) 1999 Lahore Declaration

- **Correct Answer: (B) 1963 China-Pakistan Boundary Agreement**
- **Explanation:** MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal reiterated that Pakistan has no locus standi to enter into territorial arrangements on Indian land under its illegal occupation, refusing recognition to the 1963 China-Pakistan Boundary Agreement.

Q5. Why did India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) summon Pakistan's Chargé d'Affaires on September 17, 2026?

- (A) Violations of ceasefire agreements along the Line of Control
- (B) Unprofessional and unsafe maneuver leading to a naval ship collision in international waters
- (C) Cross-border cyber intrusions targeting defense servers
- (D) Diplomatic espionage at the High Commission in New Delhi

- **Correct Answer: (B) Unprofessional and unsafe maneuver leading to a naval ship collision in international waters**
- **Explanation:** India called in the Pakistani diplomat to lodge a strong protest over an "unacceptable and unprofessional" collision caused by a Pakistani naval vessel in international waters, which risked maritime safety.

Economics & Banking

Q6. The Union Cabinet approved raising the statutory wage ceiling for mandatory coverage under the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) on September 17, 2026. What is the new wage limit?

- (A) ₹18,000 per month
- (B) ₹20,000 per month
- (C) ₹25,000 per month
- (D) ₹30,000 per month

- **Correct Answer: (C) ₹25,000 per month**
- **Explanation:** The statutory monthly wage threshold under the EPF & MP Act was enhanced from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000. This decision significantly expands formal social security coverage to millions of additional workers across organized sectors in India.

Q7. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data released for August 2026,



what was the Unemployment Rate (UR) for persons aged 15 years and above in India?

- (A) 4.8%
- (B) 5.0%
- (C) 5.2%
- (D) 5.5%

• **Correct Answer: (B) 5.0%**

• **Explanation:** India's unemployment rate dropped to 5.0% in August 2026 (down from 5.1% in July). The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) rose to 55.6%, driven by increased rural employment participation.

Q8. Which IT technology giant was selected to deploy its market infrastructure platform (TCS BaNCS & Quartz) for the Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX)?

- (A) Infosys
- (B) Wipro
- (C) Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)
- (D) HCLTech

• **Correct Answer: (C) Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)**

• **Explanation:** TCS was chosen to upgrade key market infrastructure systems using TCS BaNCS and Quartz software, covering currencies, equities, energy commodities, bullion, and tokenized financial assets.

Government Schemes & MoUs

Q9. On September 17, 2026, the PM Vishwakarma Scheme completed how many years since its inception, achieving 30 lakh beneficiary registrations?

- (A) 2 Years
- (B) 3 Years
- (C) 4 Years

(D) 5 Years

• **Correct Answer: (B) 3 Years**

• **Explanation:** Launched on September 17, 2023, by PM Narendra Modi, the scheme provides end-to-end support to traditional artisans and craftspeople (Vishwakarmas). It completed 3 successful years with 30 lakh registered artisans.

Q10. The Department of Rural Development (DoRD) signed an MoU with which body to launch the 'Pension Sakhis' network under DAY-NRLM?

- (A) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)
- (B) Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)
- (C) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- (D) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

• **Correct Answer: (B) Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**

• **Explanation:** The MoU leverages women-led SHGs, Lakhpati Didis, and Business Correspondent Sakhis as 'Pension Sakhis' to enhance financial literacy and drive enrolment in micro-pension schemes across rural India.

Q11. Under the Mukhyamantri Krishak Samridhhi Yojana (UP updates), small and marginal farmers can avail loans up to what limit at a concessional interest rate of 6%?

- (A) ₹3 Lakh
- (B) ₹4 Lakh
- (C) ₹6 Lakh
- (D) ₹8 Lakh

• **Correct Answer: (C) ₹6 Lakh**

- **Explanation:** The state initiative offers small and marginal farmers collateral-friendly credit facilities up to ₹6 lakh at a reduced 6% annual interest rate to boost agricultural productivity.

Environment & Agriculture

Q12. As per the report "Four Years of Cheetahs in India – A Status Review" released on September 17, 2026, what is India's total cheetah population?

- (A) 42
- (B) 49
- (C) 52
- (D) 60

• **Correct Answer: (C) 52**

- **Explanation:** Exactly 4 years after the launch of Project Cheetah on Sept 17, 2022, India's cheetah count reached 52. This includes 32 cubs born on Indian soil (49 residing in Kuno National Park and 3 in Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary).

Q13. The 3-day Dryland Congress 2026 held in New Delhi concluded with the adoption of which landmark agreement?

- (A) Global Dryland Agricultural Accord
- (B) Delhi Declaration on Drylands (3D)
- (C) UNCCD Arid Zone Compact
- (D) South-South Agriculture Treaty

• **Correct Answer: (B) Delhi Declaration on Drylands (3D)**

- **Explanation:** The congress concluded with the adoption of the 'Delhi Declaration on Drylands (3D)' to foster South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable farming and climate resilience in dry regions.

Awards, Honors & Science

Q14. Veteran cinema personality Anant Nag was selected for the Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2024. He is primarily celebrated for his five-decade contribution to which film industry?

- (A) Malayalam Cinema
- (B) Kannada Cinema
- (C) Marathi Cinema
- (D) Bengali Cinema

• **Correct Answer: (B) Kannada Cinema**

- **Explanation:** Renowned actor Anant Nag was conferred the Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2024, India's highest cinematic honor, recognizing his legendary career in Kannada and Indian parallel and mainstream cinema.

Q15. Who won the National James Dyson Award 2026 in India for designing a voice-enabled Braille printer?

- (A) Ananya Sharma
- (B) Himaja Lingampally
- (C) Sneha Kulkarni
- (D) Ritu Verma

• **Correct Answer: (B) Himaja Lingampally**

- **Explanation:** Himaja Lingampally, a 4th-year engineering student from Andhra Pradesh, won the Indian edition of the James Dyson Award 2026 for developing an affordable voice-enabled Braille printing machine.

Defense & Space Technology

Q16. Defense Minister Rajnath Singh launched dedicated startup/MSME testing access frameworks and direct funding mechanisms at which defense event on September 17, 2026?

- (A) DEFEXPO 2026
- (B) VIMARSH 2026



(C) SHAKTI 2026

(D) RAKSHA INNOVATION 2026

- **Correct Answer: (B) VIMARSH 2026**
- **Explanation:** At 'VIMARSH 2026', policy initiatives were unveiled to remove financial and technical entry barriers for deep-tech startups and MSMEs, providing them direct incubation and DRDO lab access.

Q17. Which launch vehicle put India's geo-orbit imaging satellite EOS-05 (GISAT-1A) successfully into space?

(A) PSLV-C58

(B) GSLV-F17

(C) LVM3-M4

(D) SSLV-D3

- **Correct Answer: (B) GSLV-F17**
- **Explanation:** EOS-05 (GISAT-1A) is India's real-time continuous observation imaging satellite in geostationary orbit, launched using ISRO's GSLV-F17 rocket.

Q18. Indian and French space companies signed three milestone agreements worth over 5 million Euros in Paris covering all of the following EXCEPT:

(A) Satellite launches

(B) Deep-sea ocean bed mapping

(C) Space surveillance

(D) Microsatellite technology

- **Correct Answer: (B) Deep-sea ocean bed mapping**
- **Explanation:** Signed during the International Space Summit in Paris, the agreements covered commercial satellite launches, space situational awareness/surveillance, and microsatellite joint manufacturing—not ocean bed mapping.

Appointments & Reshuffles

Q19. The Government of India reconstituted the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) on September 17, 2026, for a tenure of how many years?

(A) 2 Years

(B) 3 Years

(C) 4 Years

(D) 5 Years

- **Correct Answer: (B) 3 Years**
- **Explanation:** The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting formally reconstituted the CBFC board with immediate effect for a 3-year term.

Q20. N. Chandrasekaran was re-appointed to which executive post on September 17, 2026?

(A) Chairman of SEBI

(B) Executive Chairman of Tata Sons

(C) Managing Director of LIC

(D) President of CII

- **Correct Answer: (B) Executive Chairman of Tata Sons**
- **Explanation:** N. Chandrasekaran acceded to the board's request and accepted another term as the Executive Chairman of Tata Sons Private Limited.

Books, Authors & Culture

Q21. Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan released the book "A Century of Service – The RSS in 100 Acts of Seva". Who is the author of this book?

(A) Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan

(B) Ram Madhav

(C) Rakesh Sinha

(D) S. Gurumurthy

- **Correct Answer:** (A) Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan

- **Explanation:** Authored by Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan (former Governor of Telangana), the book documents historical social service initiatives and was launched at Uprashtrapati Bhavan.

Q22. The sports biography "Maverick Jaspal" details the journey of shooting legend Jaspal Rana. Who co-authored this book?

- (A) Boria Majumdar and Rajdeep Sardesai
- (B) S. Kannan and G. Rajaraman
- (C) Rohit Brijnath and Kadambari Murali
- (D) Vijay Lokapally and Sunandan Lele

- **Correct Answer:** (B) S. Kannan and G. Rajaraman

- **Explanation:** Written by veteran sports journalists S. Kannan and G. Rajaraman, the book chronicles the career and coaching achievements of pistol shooter Jaspal Rana.

Q23. Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia released a commemorative postage stamp honouring which devotional saint and poet on September 17, 2026?

- (A) Sant Kabir Das
- (B) Sant Malukdas Ji
- (C) Sant Ravidas Ji
- (D) Sant Dadu Dayal

- **Correct Answer:** (B) Sant Malukdas Ji

- **Explanation:** Issued by the Department of Posts, the commemorative stamp pays tribute to medieval devotional saint Sant Malukdas Ji.

Sports News

Q24. Who was appointed head of the 10-member Task Force constituted by the Ministry

of Youth Affairs and Sports to evaluate reviving Formula 1 (F1) in India by 2028?

- (A) Narain Karthikeyan
- (B) Yugal Kishore Joshi
- (C) PT Usha
- (D) Kalyan Chaubey

- **Correct Answer:** (B) Yugal Kishore Joshi

- **Explanation:** Headed by Yugal Kishore Joshi (Programme Director & Adviser, NITI Aayog), the panel will examine infrastructure, logistics, and economic feasibility for bringing F1 Grand Prix racing back to India.

Q25. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) announced two new trophies during the launch of 'Maverick Jaspal'. Which trophy will honor the Best Male Athlete of the Asian Games?

- (A) Jaspal Rana Trophy
- (B) Raja Randhir Singh Trophy
- (C) Major Dhyan Chand Trophy
- (D) Milkha Singh Rolling Shield

- **Correct Answer:** (B) Raja Randhir Singh Trophy

- **Explanation:** IOA President PT Usha announced the Raja Randhir Singh Trophy for the best male athlete and the Jaspal Rana Trophy for the best female athlete at the Asian Games.

Q26. Indian opener Shafali Verma set a new record during India's 8th Women's T20 Asia Cup victory. What record did she achieve?

- (A) Most sixes in a T20 Asia Cup inning
- (B) Fastest 50 in Women's T20 Asia Cup history (24 balls)
- (C) Highest individual score in T20 Asia Cup finals

(D) First player to score back-to-back centuries in T20 Asia Cup

- **Correct Answer: (B) Fastest 50 in Women's T20 Asia Cup history (24 balls)**
- **Explanation:** Shafali Verma hit a 24-ball half-century (scoring 68 off 39), earning the Player of the Match award and marking the fastest 50 in tournament history.

Policies, Important Days & Anniversaries

Q27. The Supreme Court asked CBSE to consider implementing its 3-language formula (including 2 native Indian languages) for Class 6 starting from which academic year?

- (A) 2025-26
- (B) 2026-27
- (C) 2027-28
- (D) 2028-29

- **Correct Answer: (C) 2027-28**
- **Explanation:** The Supreme Court asked CBSE to prepare frameworks to implement the 3-language policy mandating two native Indian languages for Class 6 students starting from the 2027-28 session.

Q28. The nationwide 'Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) Campaign 2026' was launched on September 17, 2026. How many primary pillars form the core structure of this campaign?

- (A) 3 Pillars
- (B) 5 Pillars
- (C) 7 Pillars
- (D) 8 Pillars

- **Correct Answer: (B) 5 Pillars**
- **Explanation:** The campaign revolves around 5 core pillars: Transformation of Cleanliness Target Units, Swachh Paathshala, Safai Mitra

Suraksha Evam Samman Shivar, Jan Bhagidari, and Swachhata Se Samridhi.

Q29. September 17, 2026, marked the exact 4th anniversary of which key ecological conservation program in India?

- (A) Great Indian Bustard Recovery Program
- (B) Project Cheetah
- (C) Project Snow Leopard
- (D) National Clean Air Programme

- **Correct Answer: (B) Project Cheetah**
- **Explanation:** Launched on September 17, 2022, when wild cheetahs from Namibia were released into Kuno National Park, Project Cheetah completed four years of operation on September 17, 2026.

Q30. Former Deputy Chief Minister Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas ('Alla Nani'), who passed away on September 17, 2026, belonged to which political state?

- (A) Telangana
- (B) Andhra Pradesh
- (C) Tamil Nadu
- (D) Karnataka

- **Correct Answer: (B) Andhra Pradesh**
- **Explanation:** Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas (known as 'Alla Nani'), prominent leader and former Deputy Chief Minister & Health Minister of Andhra Pradesh, passed away at the age of 56 in Visakhapatnam.

