

International News

- **UN World Cleanup Day 2026:** Formally observed by the United Nations on **20 September 2026** under the global theme **"From Clean Plates to Clean Cities."** Facilitated by UN-Habitat, the primary global observance was hosted in Shaoxing, Zhejiang Province, China, focusing on eliminating urban food waste and developing circular waste management systems.
- **International Conference on "The Future of Environment and Climate Dynamics":** Concluded at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi (19–20 September 2026). Organized by the National Green Tribunal (NGT), the conference convened judges and legal experts from over 17 countries alongside domestic judicial officers to harmonize environmental jurisprudence and climate governance strategies.
- **25th SCO Foreign Trade Ministers Meeting:** Concluded in Tajikistan, where Shanghai Cooperation Organisation member states finalized resolutions on cross-border digital trade procedures, regional supply chain resilience, and non-tariff trade barrier reductions.

National News

- **Rashtriya Sankalp Samaroh Youth Mobilization:** Organized across 1,067 nationwide locations on 20 September 2026 by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports via the MY Bharat platform. The drive forms part of the *"100 Weeks Nasha Mukh Yuva Abhiyan"* targeting substance abuse prevention through community pledges and youth engagement.
- **20th Rozgar Mela:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed out over **51,000 appointment**

letters to newly inducted central government recruits across 45 locations. The total centralized recruitments under this scheme reached approximately 12.75 lakh.

- **Supreme Court Observation on Alcohol Policy:** The Supreme Court declared total prohibition inadequate as a standalone measure against alcoholism, pointing to recent hooch tragedies and urging state governments to balance regulation with public health interventions.
- **NGT Mobile Application Launch:** Launched by the Prime Minister during the Vigyan Bhawan climate conference, enabling real-time case tracking, digital filings, and public accessibility for environmental litigation across India.

Economics & Banking

- **Moody's Upgrades India's FY27 GDP Growth Forecast:** Moody's revised India's real GDP growth forecast for FY27 upward to **7.0%** (up from 6.0%), attributing the upgrade to strong domestic fixed-capital investment and sustained private consumption.
- **NIIF Infrastructure Fund II First Close:** The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) achieved the first closure of its Infrastructure Fund II at **₹19,000 crore (\$2 billion)**, earmarked for clean energy transition, transport corridors, and digital infrastructure assets.
- **India Export Data (April–August 2026):** Combined merchandise and services exports reached **USD 399.27 billion**, representing a 15.55% year-on-year increase according to Ministry of Commerce data.

Indicator / Metric	Updated Value	Strategic Significance
Moody's FY27 Growth	7.0% (Revised from 6.0%)	Reflects strong macroeconomic resilience
NIIF Infra Fund II	₹19,000 Crore (\$2 Billion)	Focuses on renewable energy & digital assets
India Combined Exports	\$399.27 Billion	April–August 2026 (+15.55% YoY)

Defense & Security News

- Keel Laid for 1st Next-Generation Missile Vessel (NGMV):** Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) laid the keel for the first of six Next Generation Missile Vessels for the Indian Navy, accelerating the indigenous production of high-speed stealth warships armed with surface-to-surface missiles.
- Kavach 4.0 Deployment in Lucknow Division:** Indian Railways sanctioned and completed the installation of indigenous Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system **Kavach 4.0** over 607.7 route kilometers (rkm) in the Lucknow Division of North Eastern Railway at a cost of ₹252 crore.
- Operation Sadbhav (Nepal Humanitarian Mission):** The Indian Air Force delivered an additional 11 tonnes of emergency relief materials to flood-hit regions in Nepal via C-130 transport aircraft, taking India's total humanitarian relief footprint beyond 130 tonnes.

Sports News

- 20th Asian Games (Aichi-Nagoya 2026):** Formally under way in Japan (Sept 19 – Oct 4, 2026). Shooter **Manu Bhaker** and Kabaddi captain **Pawan Sehrawat** served as India's joint flag-bearers during the Opening Ceremony. Indian shooter Elavenil Valarivan secured a silver medal in the women's 10m air rifle event.
- Task Force for F1 Revival in India:** Union Sports Ministry constituted a 10-member task force chaired by **Yugal Kishore Joshi** (Adviser, NITI Aayog) to evaluate the economic and infrastructural roadmap for returning Formula 1 racing to India.

Appointments

- Judicial Appointments to High Courts:** President Droupadi Murmu appointed 14 Judicial Officers as High Court Judges and Additional Judges across four High Courts (Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Jharkhand, and Karnataka) under **Article 217** of the Constitution.
- Yugal Kishore Joshi:** Appointed Chairman of the 10-member Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports Task Force evaluating Formula 1's return to India.

Awards & Honors

- Green Judicial Leadership Recognition:** NGT presented institutional commendations to visiting judicial delegations from 17 nations during the New Delhi Climate Conference for advancements in environmental jurisprudence.
- Swachh Sagar Unit Awards:** Indian Coast Guard commended regional units for leading cleanup drives across 8,000+ km of coastline as part of *Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar 5.0*.

Books & Authors

- **"Master Circulars and Vigilance Manual 2026":** Official regulatory manual compiled and released by the Ministry of Steel for southern region vigilance officers.
- **"Climate Dynamics and Judicial Interventions":** Specialized background document authored by environmental scholars and released by the NGT during the New Delhi International Climate Conference.

Government Schemes & MoUs

- **PM Vishwakarma Scheme Completes 3 Years:** Reached a milestone of 30 lakh registered traditional artisans across 18 trades, providing credit linkages, modern tools, and skill upgrades.
- **DDU-GKY 2.0 Rollout:** Ministry of Rural Development announced the nationwide launch of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY 2.0) training batches starting October 2026 across majority states.
- **SEMICON India MoUs:** 56 strategic MoUs signed during SEMICON India 2026, including a ₹15,000+ crore infrastructure expansion deal in Karnataka.

Important Days

- **World Cleanup Day (20 September 2026):** Officially recognized UN observance focused on global waste management. Theme: *"From Clean Plates to Clean Cities."*
- **International Coastal Cleanup Day (19–20 September 2026):** Observed on the third Saturday of September, led in India by the Indian Coast Guard under *Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar 5.0*.

Art, Culture & Festivals

- **"Aashirwad Ka Diya" Cultural Event:** Organised by the Ministry of Culture at Purana Qila, New Delhi, featuring traditional lighting displays and heritage preservation performances.
- **Gondhal Folk Art:** Featured in national heritage drives; *Gondhal* is a traditional devotional folk performance dedicated to Goddess Amba/Bhawani, indigenous to Maharashtra and parts of Karnataka.

Birth & Death Anniversaries

- **Annie Besant (Death Anniversary – 20 September 1933):** Renowned British theosophist, Indian independence campaigner, co-founder of the Home Rule League, and the first female President of the Indian National Congress (1917 session in Calcutta).
- **Kanaklata Barua (Death Anniversary – 20 September 1942):** Assamese freedom fighter and martyr of the Quit India Movement. Known as *Birbala*, she was shot dead by British police at age 17 while attempting to hoist the national flag at Gohpur Police Station.
- **Bhogeswari Phukanani (Death Anniversary – 20 September 1942):** Assamese martyr who laid down her life resisting British rule during the Quit India Movement in Nagaon district.

Practice Questions (Exam-Oriented Options)

Q1. What is the official global theme for UN World Cleanup Day observed on 20 September 2026?

- (a) Clean Oceans, Green Earth
- (b) From Clean Plates to Clean Cities
- (c) Zero Waste for Sustainable Urbanization

(d) Plastic Free Tomorrow

Answer: (b) From Clean Plates to Clean Cities

Explanation: The United Nations observed World Cleanup Day on 20 September 2026 with a global focus on food waste prevention and urban circularity under the theme "From Clean Plates to Clean Cities."

Q2. Which rating agency upgraded India's FY27 real GDP growth forecast to 7.0% in September 2026?

- (a) Fitch Ratings
- (b) S&P Global
- (c) Moody's
- (d) World Bank

Answer: (c) Moody's

Explanation: Moody's raised India's FY27 growth estimate from 6.0% to 7.0%, citing robust domestic capital expenditure and private consumption momentum.

Q3. Freedom fighter Kanaklata Barua, whose death anniversary was observed on 20 September, was associated with which historic movement?

- (a) Non-Cooperation Movement
- (b) Civil Disobedience Movement
- (c) Swadeshi Movement
- (d) Quit India Movement

Answer: (d) Quit India Movement

Explanation: Kanaklata Barua (Birbala) was martyred on 20 September 1942 at the age of 17 while leading an unarmed procession to hoist the Tiranga at Gohpur police station in Assam during the Quit India Movement.

Q4. Where was the International Conference on "The Future of Environment and Climate

Dynamics" organized by the NGT held on 19-20 September 2026?

- (a) Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
- (b) Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi
- (c) Yashobhoomi, Dwarka
- (d) GIFT City, Gandhinagar

Answer: (b) Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

Explanation: The National Green Tribunal organized the two-day international conference at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, bringing together judicial dignitaries from 17 nations.

Q5. Indian Railways approved ₹252 crore to install Kavach 4.0 across 607.7 route kilometers in which railway division?

- (a) Lucknow Division (North Eastern Railway)
- (b) Prayagraj Division (North Central Railway)
- (c) Varanasi Division (Northern Railway)
- (d) Ambala Division (Northern Railway)

Answer: (a) Lucknow Division (North Eastern Railway)

Explanation: Indian Railways sanctioned ₹252 crore for implementing Kavach 4.0 ATP system over 607.7 rkm in the Lucknow Division of North Eastern Railway.

International News

Q1. On 20 September 2026, the United States and Denmark finalized a strategic bilateral agreement regarding Greenland. What is the core objective of this agreement?

- A) Direct territorial transfer of Greenland to the United States
- B) Granting the US permanent security access while preserving Danish sovereignty and preventing adversary investments
- C) Establishing a joint commercial deep-sea mining venture in Arctic waters

D) Replacing the Danish Krone with the US Dollar in Greenland

Answer: B) Granting the US permanent security access while preserving Danish sovereignty and preventing adversary investments

Explanation: The United States and Denmark announced a security agreement concerning Greenland. The pact grants the US long-term/permanent security access—particularly around Pituffik Space Base (formerly Thule Air Base)—to monitor Arctic airspace and track ballistic missiles. Critically, the deal leaves Danish sovereignty over Greenland intact while establishing protocols to restrict geopolitical adversaries (such as China and Russia) from investing in or building dual-use strategic infrastructure on the island.

Q2. Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei published a widely discussed essay on AI safety on 20 September 2026. Which of the following was a primary recommendation made in the report to prevent competitive risks in AI development?

- A) Complete moratorium on GPU manufacturing worldwide
- B) Banning open-source AI models globally
- C) Independent evaluators inside AI companies and state-enabled coordination mechanisms on safety standards
- D) Mandating that all AI training datasets be managed by the United Nations

Answer: C) Independent evaluators inside AI companies and state-enabled coordination mechanisms on safety standards

Explanation: In an essay and accompanying threat intelligence report published on 20 September 2026, Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei called for frontier AI developers to slow down the unsafe race toward increasingly powerful models. He proposed a three-part framework: (1) giving independent safety evaluators

ongoing, employee-like access inside AI firms, (2) creating government-supported legal mechanisms so competing companies can cooperate on safety standards without violating antitrust laws, and

(3) international democratic coordination to enforce safeguards.

Q3. The 13th World Tamil Conference was hosted in September 2026 in which nation?

- A) Singapore
- B) Sri Lanka
- C) Mauritius
- D) Malaysia

Answer: C) Mauritius

Explanation: The 13th World Tamil Conference was held in Mauritius, gathering international scholars, cultural representatives, and diaspora leaders. During the event, the prestigious title *Uлага Thamizhar Maamani* was conferred upon industrialist and philanthropist Shekhar Visvanathan for his contributions to preserving Tamil literature and heritage across the global Indian diaspora.

National News

Q4. Speaking on India's long-term economic trajectory on 19–20 September 2026, National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval projected India's GDP to reach what level over the next 20 years?

- A) \$10 Trillion
- B) \$20 Trillion
- C) \$38 Trillion
- D) \$50 Trillion

Answer: C) \$38 Trillion

Explanation: National Security Advisor Ajit Doval stated that India's economy—currently standing at approximately \$4.015 trillion—is

projected to grow nearly ten-fold to \$38 trillion over the next 20 years. He emphasized that sustained economic growth, technological self-reliance, and robust domestic manufacturing form the core pillars of national security in the 21st century.

Q5. In a significant legal observation reported on 20 September 2026, the Supreme Court of India made which declaration regarding state-level alcohol prohibition laws?

- A) Prohibition is mandatory across all Union Territories under Article 47
- B) Prohibition is no permanent solution to alcoholism and leads to unregulated illicit trade
- C) States must replace liquor taxes with GST immediately
- D) Complete prohibition must be enforced in all ecologically sensitive zones

Answer: B) Prohibition is no permanent solution to alcoholism and leads to unregulated illicit trade

Explanation: Reviewing petitions connected to hooch tragedies and illicit liquor syndicates, the Supreme Court observed that total statutory prohibition does not solve alcoholism and often drives trade underground, endangering public safety. The apex court urged state governments to focus on public health awareness, strict regulatory enforcement, and rehabilitation rather than blanket bans.

Q6. The Election Commission of India (ECI) informed the Supreme Court on 20 September 2026 regarding 38.31 lakh voter roll revision appeals in West Bengal. What administrative solution did the ECI propose to clear the massive backlog?

- A) Canceling all pending appeals automatically after 90 days

B) Increasing the number of tribunals to match parliamentary constituencies and utilizing location-agnostic videoconferencing

C) Delegating all tribunal powers to local Gram Panchayats

D) Suspending electoral roll revisions until the next Census

Answer: B) Increasing the number of tribunals to match parliamentary constituencies and utilizing location-agnostic videoconferencing

Explanation: Out of 38.31 lakh appeals filed during West Bengal's voter roll revision, over 22.2 lakh were filed by excluded voters challenging their removal. To resolve the remaining 37+ lakh pending cases swiftly without judicial delay, the ECI proposed setting up tribunal benches mapped directly to parliamentary constituencies and enabling remote hearings via location-agnostic software.

Economics & Banking

Q7. Climatologists and agricultural economists warned on 20 September 2026 about a impending "Super El Niño" event. What oceanographic threshold defines this phenomenon?

- A) Sea surface temperature rise of 0.1°C in the North Atlantic
- B) Equatorial Pacific Ocean surface temperature rising 0.5°C or more above normal, with extreme events exceeding 2.5°C
- C) Indian Ocean Dipole dropping below -2.0°C
- D) Cooling of coastal waters off the South American Pacific coast by 3°C

Answer: B) Equatorial Pacific Ocean surface temperature rising 0.5°C or more above normal, with extreme events exceeding 2.5°C

Explanation: El Niño is defined by an unusual warming of surface waters in the central and



eastern equatorial Pacific by at least 0.5°C above normal. Scientists warned that current Pacific temperature anomalies have reached +2.6°C (with projections up to +4.0°C), triggering a "Super El Niño." This phenomenon shifts rain-bearing air belts away from South Asia, threatening the Indian monsoon, agricultural output, and food inflation from late 2026 onward.

Q8. Credit rating agency Moody's raised India's real GDP growth projection for FY 2026-27 to 7.0%. What primary factor drove this upward revision?

- A) Record surge in foreign agricultural imports
- B) Strong manufacturing output, robust domestic private consumption, and sustained government capital expenditure
- C) A sudden drop in global oil consumption
- D) Sharp decline in bank credit lending

Answer: B) Strong manufacturing output, robust domestic private consumption, and sustained government capital expenditure

Explanation: Moody's raised India's economic growth forecast to 7.0% for FY 2026-27 following strong first-half GDP growth (8.2% year-on-year). Key growth drivers identified included robust urban and rural consumption, expansion in domestic manufacturing under PLI schemes, and heavy central/state capital expenditure in railways, highways, and renewable energy.

Q9. Under the RBI's Scale Based Regulation (SBR) framework, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) placed in the 'Upper Layer' (NBFC-UL) are subject to mandatory listing requirements. What asset size threshold triggers this placement?

- A) ₹10,000 Crore
- B) ₹25,000 Crore

C) ₹50,000 Crore

D) ₹1,000,000 Crore (₹1 Lakh Crore)

Answer: D) ₹1,000,000 Crore (₹1 Lakh Crore)

Explanation: Under the RBI's Scale Based Regulation framework introduced to strengthen shadow banking oversight, top NBFCs holding assets of ₹1,00,000 crore (\$12+ billion) or more are categorized as NBFC Upper Layer (NBFC-UL). This classification subjects them to bank-like regulatory capital norms, mandatory public listing, and strict disclosure standards.

Sports

Q10. The 20th Asian Games (2026) officially opened in Japan. Which venue hosted the opening ceremony, and who served as India's flagbearers?

- A) Tokyo National Stadium; Neeraj Chopra and PV Sindhu
- B) Paloma Mizuho Stadium in Nagoya; Manu Bhaker and Pawan Sehrawat
- C) Saitama Super Arena; Harmanpreet Singh and Nikhat Zareen
- D) Yokohama International Stadium; Rohan Bopanna and Mirabai Chanu

Answer: B) Paloma Mizuho Stadium in Nagoya; Manu Bhaker and Pawan Sehrawat

Explanation: The 20th Asian Games were officially declared open by Emperor Naruhito at the Paloma Mizuho Stadium in Nagoya (Aichi-Nagoya, Japan). Olympic medalist shooter Manu Bhaker and Asian Games gold medalist kabaddi captain Pawan Sehrawat led the Indian contingent as official flagbearers during the parade of nations.

Q11. At the Asian Games 2026 Women's T20 Cricket Tournament on 20 September 2026, India secured a spot in the final by defeating

Bangladesh by 114 runs. Who was the top scorer for India?

- A) Smriti Mandhana
- B) Harmanpreet Kaur
- C) Shafali Verma
- D) Richa Ghosh

Answer: C) Shafali Verma

Explanation: In the semifinal match played at Korogi Sports Park in Nisshin, Japan, Indian opener Shafali Verma scored a blistering century to power India to 195/4 in 20 overs. Indian bowlers then bowled out Bangladesh for 81 runs, securing a 114-run victory and advancing to the gold medal match against Sri Lanka.

Q12. In which emerging sport did Indian athletes Quimcy Joaquim Dsouza and Mohamed Anas Beg compete in the bronze medal matches at the 2026 Asian Games?

- A) Pickleball
- B) Teqball
- C) Padel
- D) Sepak Takraw

Answer: B) Teqball

Explanation: Teqball—a ball sport played on a curved table combining elements of football and table tennis—featured Indian athletes Quimcy Joaquim Dsouza (Women's Singles) and the duo Quimcy Dsouza / Mohamed Anas Beg (Mixed Doubles) competing in bronze medal playoff matches on 20 September 2026 at the Nagoya Asian Games.

Appointments

Q13. Judicial appointments to Indian High Courts are made by the President of India in consultation with the Chief Justice of India under which Constitutional Article?

- A) Article 124
- B) Article 217
- C) Article 243
- D) Article 356

Answer: B) Article 217

Explanation: Article 217 of the Indian Constitution governs the appointment and conditions of the office of a Judge of a High Court. The President appoints High Court judges after consultation with the CJI, the Governor of the state, and the Chief Justice of the respective High Court. (Article 224 governs Additional and Acting Judges).

Q14. Former Prasara Bharati CEO Shashi Shekhar Vempati was appointed in September 2026 as the Chairperson of which statutory cultural body?

- A) National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)
- B) Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)
- C) Sangeet Natak Akademi
- D) Sahitya Akademi

Answer: B) Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)

Explanation: The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting reconstituted the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) board for a three-year term, naming former Prasara Bharati Chief Executive Officer Shashi Shekhar Vempati as CBFC Chairperson alongside prominent film and cultural personalities.

Awards & Honors

Q15. Veteran actor Anant Nag was announced as the recipient of the 56th Dadasaheb Phalke Award. Which regional film industry does he primarily represent?

- A) Malayalam Cinema

- B) Kannada Cinema
- C) Telugu Cinema
- D) Bengali Cinema

Answer: B) Kannada Cinema

Explanation: Renowned actor Anant Nag, recipient of the Padma Bhushan, was named the 56th recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award—India's highest award in cinema. He becomes the second icon from Kannada cinema to receive this honor after the legendary Dr. Rajkumar (who received it in 1995).

Q16. The title *Uлага Thamizhar Maamani* was conferred upon industrialist Shekhar Visvanathan during which global event held in September 2026?

- A) World Tamil Economic Conference, Dubai
- B) 13th World Tamil Conference, Mauritius
- C) International Sangam Literature Meet, Chennai
- D) Global Tamil Heritage Summit, Kuala Lumpur

Answer: B) 13th World Tamil Conference, Mauritius

Explanation: During the 13th World Tamil Conference in Mauritius, Shekhar Visvanathan was honored with the *Uлага Thamizhar Maamani* award for outstanding services toward Tamil language preservation, global cultural integration, and educational philanthropy.

Books, Science & Discoveries

Q17. A global medical study published in mid-September 2026 highlighted a major health concern regarding organ transplant recipients. What key finding was reported?

- A) Complete immunity to fungal infections via mRNA vaccines

B) Environmental fungi developing genetic resistance to the human immunosuppressive drug Mycophenolic Acid (MPA)

C) Artificial kidney transplants achieving 100% success without medication

D) Total eradication of hospital-acquired bacterial pathogens

Answer: B) Environmental fungi developing genetic resistance to the human immunosuppressive drug Mycophenolic Acid (MPA)

Explanation: Scientists uncovered that widespread environmental exposure to fungicide compounds has led pathogenic fungi to evolve genetic resistance against Mycophenolic Acid (MPA)—a standard immunosuppressive drug used to prevent organ rejection in transplant patients. The finding poses new challenges for clinical infection control in hospitals worldwide.

Q18. Under the national circular economy initiative highlighted in September 2026, advanced catalytic pyrolysis technologies are being deployed in India to convert plastic waste into:

- A) Agricultural fertilizers and pesticides
- B) Liquid synthetic fuel, green hydrogen, and electricity
- C) Single-use medical packaging
- D) Heavy industrial lubricants only

Answer: B) Liquid synthetic fuel, green hydrogen, and electricity

Explanation: To tackle India's 4 million annual tonnes of plastic waste, Indian research institutes (CSIR-IIP) and private clean-tech firms scaled up thermochemical conversion processes. Catalytic pyrolysis and plasma gasification break down non-recyclable multi-layered plastics into high-octane drop-in

synthetic fuels, clean hydrogen, and syngas for thermal power generation.

Defense News

Q19. On International Coastal Clean-up Day (19–20 September 2026), the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) organized clean-up drives across 17 beaches in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry under which national campaign?

- A) Operation Clean Seas
- B) Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar
- C) Sagar Manthan
- D) Puneet Sagar Abhiyan

Answer: B) Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar

Explanation: Indian Coast Guard (ICG), in collaboration with the Ministry of Earth Sciences and local state authorities, organized beach clean-up drives across 17 coastal locations in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry under the *Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar* initiative. The campaign targets marine plastic pollution, ghost fishing nets, and coastal ecosystem restoration.

Q20. Pituffik Space Base, which plays a central role in NATO and US early-warning ballistic missile defense, is located in which Arctic territory?

- A) Svalbard
- B) Greenland
- C) Iceland
- D) Novaya Zemlya

Answer: B) Greenland

Explanation: Pituffik Space Base (formerly known as Thule Air Base) is the US Space Force's northernmost installation, located in northwestern Greenland. Positioned halfway between North America and the North Pole, it houses phased-array radar systems used by US

Northern Command and NATO for tracking ICBM launches and polar satellite communications.

Government Schemes & MoUs

Q21. Under which federal environmental law does the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notify Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs), such as the draft notification covering the Western Ghats?

- A) Forest Conservation Act, 1980
- B) Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- C) Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- D) Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Answer: C) Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

Explanation: Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs) in India are declared under Section 3(2)(v) of the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**. Within notified ESAs (such as the proposed 56,825 sq km contiguous belt in the Western Ghats spanning six states), heavy red-category industries, commercial mining, quarrying, and thermal power plants are strictly prohibited, while organic farming and existing village habitations continue.

Q22. The PM Vishwakarma Scheme completed 3 years of implementation in September 2026. How many traditional trade categories receive end-to-end support under this scheme?

- A) 12
- B) 15
- C) 18
- D) 25

Answer: C) 18

Explanation: Launched on 17 September 2023, the Central Sector Scheme *PM Vishwakarma* provides comprehensive financial, skill training, and market-linkage support to traditional

artisans and craftspeople across **18 designated trades** (including carpenters, boat makers, armorers, blacksmiths, locksmiths, potters, cobblers, and weavers). Beneficiaries receive ₹500/day during basic training, a ₹15,000 toolkit digital voucher, and collateral-free enterprise loans up to ₹3 lakh at 5% interest rate.

Q23. What is the updated financial outlay allocated by the Union Government for 'Semicon 2.0' under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) announced in September 2026?

- A) \$5.0 Billion
- B) \$10.0 Billion
- C) \$13.5 Billion
- D) \$20.0 Billion

Answer: C) \$13.5 Billion

Explanation: Under the expanded *Semicon 2.0* program released during SEMICON India, the Union Government increased the financial assistance pool for the India Semiconductor Mission from \$8 billion to **\$13.5 billion**. The program offers financial subsidies up to 50% of capital costs for semiconductor fabrication plants (fabs), compound semiconductors, ATMP units, raw silicon wafer manufacturing, and chip design startups.

Art, Culture & Festivals

Q24. The 17th Kathakali Festival held at Kalakshetra, Chennai in September 2026 was celebrated under which central theme?

- A) Abhinaya Darpanam
- B) Kadha Rasa Sangama – Confluence of Essence of Stories
- C) Natyasastra Parampara
- D) Mudra & Chuvadu

Answer: B) Kadha Rasa Sangama – Confluence of Essence of Stories

Explanation: The Kalakshetra Foundation hosted the 17th Kathakali Festival in Chennai under the theme "*Kadha Rasa Sangama – Confluence of Essence of Stories*". Kathakali is the classical dance-drama art form native to Kerala, renowned for its elaborate facial makeup (*Aharya Abhinaya*), hand gestures (*Mudras*), and dramatic portrayal of Indian epics.

Q25. Gondhal, which forms the cultural backdrop of India's official film entry for the 99th Academy Awards (*Oscars 2027*), is a traditional folk performance art dedicated to deities in which state?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Odisha
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Karnataka

Answer: C) Maharashtra

Explanation: Gondhal is a traditional, dramatic folk performance art and religious ritual prevalent in Maharashtra (and parts of Karnataka), performed by the Gondhali community in praise of deities like Goddess Bhavani and Renuka. The ritual features folk singing, beat instruments (*Sambhal* and *Chuntaka*), and dramatic storytelling.

National & International Important Days

Q26. On which date is 'International Coastal Clean-up Day' observed globally in 2026 (falling on the third Saturday of September)?

- A) 15 September
- B) 19 September
- C) 21 September
- D) 25 September

Answer: B) 19 September

Explanation: International Coastal Clean-up Day is celebrated globally every year on the **third Saturday of September** (which fell on 19 September in 2026, with events continuing into 20 September). Initiated by Ocean Conservancy in 1986, it mobilizes citizens, coast guards, and environmental organizations to clear trash and plastic marine debris from beaches, waterways, and ocean shores.

Q27. What is the designated global theme for World Patient Safety Day observed annually on 17 September by the World Health Organization (WHO)?

- A) Safe maternal and newborn care
- B) Health worker safety: A priority for patient safety
- C) Improving diagnosis for patient safety: Get it right, make it safe!
- D) Medication without harm

Answer: C) Improving diagnosis for patient safety: Get it right, make it safe!

Explanation: World Patient Safety Day is observed every year on **17 September** by the WHO. Diagnostic errors (delayed, incorrect, or missed diagnoses) account for a significant percentage of preventable harm in healthcare. The global campaign emphasizes timely, accurate clinical diagnosis through digital diagnostic tools, trained medical staff, and active patient involvement.

Birth & Death Anniversaries / Prominent Personalities

Q28. Sree Narayana Guru (1856–1928), whose legacy was commemorated in September, was a pioneer social reformer who coined which famous slogan promoting social equality?

- A) "Back to the Vedas"

B) "One Caste, One Religion, One God for Man"

C) "Satyameva Jayate"

D) "Inquilab Zindabad"

Answer: B) "One Caste, One Religion, One God for Man"

Explanation: Sree Narayana Guru was a philosopher, spiritual leader, and social reformer in Kerala who led a transformative movement against caste discrimination, ritual oppression, and social inequality. He consecrated the Shiva idol at Aruvippuram in 1888 and gave the landmark message: *"Oru Jathi, Oru Matham, Oru Daivam Manushyanu"* ("One Caste, One Religion, One God for Man").

Q29. Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, whose birth anniversary is celebrated as National Engineers' Day in India on 15 September, served as the Chief Engineer for which iconic dam across the Kaveri River?

- A) Bhakra Nangal Dam
- B) Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) Dam
- C) Hirakud Dam
- D) Nagarjuna Sagar Dam

Answer: B) Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) Dam

Explanation: Sir M. Visvesvaraya (1861–1962), recipient of the Bharat Ratna (1955), served as the Diwan of Mysore and chief architect of numerous landmark engineering marvels in India. He designed and patented automatic floodgates installed at the Khadakwasla Reservoir and engineered the famous **Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) Dam** near Mysore, Karnataka. His birth anniversary on 15 September is celebrated across India as National Engineers' Day.

Q30. September 2026 marks 4 years of 'Project Cheetah' in India. Which wildlife sanctuary/national park was chosen for the



**initial reintroduction of African cheetahs in
September 2022?**

- A) Ranthambore National Park, Rajasthan
- B) Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh
- C) Pench National Park, Madhya Pradesh
- D) Kaziranga National Park, Assam

Answer: B) Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh

Explanation: 'Project Cheetah' completed 4 years in September 2026. On 17 September 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the first batch of eight wild cheetahs translocated from Namibia into soft-release enclosures at **Kuno National Park** in the Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh. The initiative represents the world's first intercontinental translocation of a large wild carnivore, aiming to restore India's open forest and grassland ecosystems following the species' official extinction in India in 1952.



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