

1. International News

UK Royal Air Force Launches Dedicated Space Defence Unit

- **Why in News?** The United Kingdom's Royal Air Force (RAF) officially launched **No. III Space Effects Squadron**, its first dedicated military unit focused on space defence and orbital counter-operations.
- **Key Details:**
 - **Objective:** Protect UK military and commercial satellite infrastructure supporting positioning, navigation, missile warning, and secure communication networks.
 - **Functionality:** The unit is designed to monitor, mitigate, and counter hostile space activities such as satellite jamming, directed energy interference, and close-approach rendezvous operations by foreign spacecraft.
 - **Integration:** Operates alongside No. I Space Operations Squadron and No. II Space Warning Squadron under the UK Space Command.
 - **Investment:** Part of the UK's broader £880 million 4-year capital allocation for Space-based Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR).
- **Exam Takeaway (UPSC/SSC):**
 - UK Space Command Headquarters: **RAF High Wycombe**.
 - Related Concept: Kessler Syndrome (orbital space debris cascading effect) and Outer Space Treaty (1967).

NASA Announces "PRIMA" Far-Infrared Space Telescope Mission

- **Why in News?** NASA unveiled **PRIMA** (P**R**obe F**A**r-Infrared M**I**ssion for

Astrophysics), a next-generation far-infrared space observatory managed by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL).

- **Key Details:**
 - **Cost Cap & Category:** First selected mission under NASA's new **Probe Explorers** class, with a \$1.2 billion cost cap (excluding launch).
 - **Target Launch:** Scheduled for **2033** with a baseline 5-year science operation.
 - **Technical Specs:** Features a **1.8-metre telescope** cooled to ultra-low temperatures to bridge observational gaps between the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) and ground-based radio observatories (ALMA).
 - **Scientific Goal:** Unravel the formation of heavy elements, cosmic dust evolution, growth of supermassive black holes, and planet-forming protostellar disks.

2. National News

13th PAFI Annual Forum 2026: Roadmap to \$30 Trillion Economy

- **Why in News?** Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal delivered the keynote address at the **13th Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI) Annual Forum** in New Delhi.

• 13th PAFI FORUM 2026 HIGHLIGHTS		
•	Current Nominal GDP largest in PPP at ~\$20T	~\$4 Trillion (3rd)
•	Long-Term Vision by 2047 (Viksit Bharat)	\$30 Trillion Economy
•	Startup Ecosystem Rank	World's 3rd Largest (> 120 Unicorns)
•	Semiconductor Demand	Projected to exceed \$150 Billion by 2031

Key Takeaways:

- **Semiconductor Surge:** India's annual semiconductor consumption demand is

projected to cross **\$150 billion** over the next 5 years.

- **Deep-Tech Thrust:** Special emphasis placed on transition from consumer-tech startups to Deep-Tech AI ecosystem (Large Language Models & Agentic AI).

President Launches "Youth for Viksit Bharat" Campaign

- **Why in News?** President Droupadi Murmu virtually launched the **"Youth for Viksit Bharat: Awakening Inner Strength for Nation Building"** campaign.
- **Key Details:**
 - Integrated directly with the **MY Bharat (Mindsets for Youth Bharat)** platform, which registered over **2.46 crore** youth by August 2026.
 - Focuses on experiential learning, civic volunteering, leadership incubators, and value-based nation-building.

3. Economics & Banking News

BRICS Heads of Tax Authorities Meeting 2026

- **Why in News?** The **BRICS Heads of Tax Authorities Meeting 2026** was convened in **BRICS TAX HEADS MEETING (NEW DELHI)**

Inauguration: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sharaman

Participants: 10 Member Nations

- Working Groups:
1. International Taxation
 2. Transfer Pricing
 3. Revenue Statistics

Key Details:

- Hosted tax representatives from all 10 BRICS nations: **Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, and UAE.**
- India proposed establishing dedicated working groups on **Transfer Pricing,**

International Taxation, and Revenue Statistics to counter global tax evasion and profit shifting (BEPS).

Economic Growth Projections (S&P & ADB)

- **S&P Global Ratings:** Revised India's **FY27 (2026-27) GDP growth forecast upwards to 7.0%** (citing resilient domestic private consumption and capital expenditure).
- **Asian Development Bank (ADB):** Retained strong growth prospects driven by manufacturing and services, while projecting FY28 growth at **7.1%.**

Maruti Suzuki Commissions First Green Hydrogen Plant

- **Why in News?** Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL) commissioned its maiden **300 kW Green Hydrogen electrolyser plant** at its manufacturing facility in **Manesar, Haryana.**
- **Key Details:**
 - Utilizes surplus captive solar energy to split water into green hydrogen via electrolysis.
 - Hydrogen produced is blended with natural gas for industrial process heating, directly decarbonizing factory operations.

4. Defense News

Defense Minister Outlines Modern Warfare Paradigm & "Operation Sindoor"

- **Why in News?** Speaking at a national defense conclave in New Delhi, Union Minister Rajnath Singh outlined India's evolving national security doctrines.
- **Key Declarations:**
 - **The Three Ts of Modern War:** Defined **Terrain, Technology, and Thinking** as the core pillars of modern warfare.

- **Operation Sindoor Doctrine:** Re-emphasized that any state-sponsored or non-state terror attack originating from foreign soil will be officially categorized as an **"Act of War"**, removing distinctions between terrorists and state sponsors.
- **Indigenous UAV Highlights:** Showcased operational deployment of indigenous platforms including **Rustom**, **Ghatak** (stealth UCAV), and **Nagastra** (loitering munition).

DRDO Approves TDF Project for 20 Millikelvin Dilution Refrigerator

- **Why in News?** Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) awarded its first high-value Deep-Tech grant under the **Technology Development Fund (TDF) Scheme** to an Indian startup to build a **20 mK (Millikelvin) Dilution Refrigerator**.
- **Significance:** Essential infrastructure for quantum computing, cryogenic sensor calibration, and quantum key distribution (QKD) defense applications.

ISRO Advanced Radar Research Centre in Assam

- **Why in News?** Foundation stone laid for ISRO's **Advanced Radar Research Centre** at **Chandrapur, Assam**, under **Project NETRA**.
- **Objective:** Boost India's **Space Situational Awareness (SSA)** by tracking space debris, near-Earth objects, and foreign satellite maneuvers in low Earth orbit (LEO).

5. Government Schemes & Initiatives

Ayushman Bharat (AB-PMJAY) Completes 8 Years

- **Why in News?** The flagship health coverage scheme **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)** completed **8 years** of implementation.

AYUSHMAN BHARAT (AB-PMJAY) FACTS

- 1) Launch Date | 23 September 2018 (Ranchi, Jharkhand)
- 2) Beneficiaries Covered | Over 60 Crore citizens |
- 3) Health Cover | ₹5 Lakh per family per year |
- 4) Level of Care | Secondary and Tertiary Hospitalisation
- 5) Nodal Implementation Agency | National Health Authority (NHA) |

South Central Railway Commissions KAVACH 4.0

- **Why in News?** Indian Railways commissioned **KAVACH Version 4.0** for the first time on **South Central Railway (SCR)**.
- **Key Details:**
 - **Section:** Deployed over **108 route km** between **Malkajgiri** and **Kamareddi** (Hyderabad Division).
 - **Upgrades in 4.0:** Enhanced train-location positioning accuracy, station-to-station communication via **Optical Fibre Cable (OFC)**, direct electronic interlocking integration, and automated speed regulation in complex yards.

6. MoUs, Agreements & Partnerships

1. **ISRO & European Space Agency (ESA) Partnership:** Extended joint space cooperation agreement **until 2032**, focusing on space weather monitoring, planetary robotic missions, and lunar surface exploration.
2. **IIT Madras & Bechtel India:** Partnered to set up a **₹3.3-Crore Construction Robotics Laboratory** at IIT Madras to foster AI-driven automation in infrastructure engineering.

7. Important Days & Anniversaries

World Maritime Day 2026 (Observed 24 September 2026)

- **Date:** 24 September 2026 (Observed globally on the last Thursday of September).
- **Organizing Body:** International Maritime Organization (IMO).
- **Theme (2026–2027):** "From Policy to Practice: Powering Maritime Excellence".
- **Focus:** Bridging the gap between global maritime regulations (safety, seafarer welfare, decarbonization) and active enforcement at sea.

World Pharmacist Day 2026 (25 September)

- **Theme 2026:** "Empowering Pharmacists for Healthier Futures".
- **India Sub-Mission (PCI):** Pharmacy Council of India aligned the day with "Swastha Bharat: Combating Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)".

8. Sports, Art & Culture

- **Asian Games (Aichi-Nagoya):** Indian Shooting Contingent secured podium finishes in Men's and Women's Skeet Team events.
- **Culture Ministry E-Auction 2026:** PM Mementos auction featured rare cultural items from Kerala to support public welfare campaigns.
- **NCERT Grade 9 Mathematics Textbook:** Released updated 2026–27 edition aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 frameworks.

Daily Practice Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. Which railway division became the first to commission the upgraded KAVACH 4.0

Automatic Train Protection System over a 108 km section?

- A) Ambala Division (Northern Railway)
- B) Hyderabad Division (South Central Railway)
- C) Jhansi Division (North Central Railway)
- D) Asansol Division (Eastern Railway)

Q2. What is the theme of World Maritime Day 2026 observed by the International Maritime Organization (IMO)?

- A) MARPOL at 50 – Our commitment goes on
- B) Seafarers: At the core of shipping's future
- C) From Policy to Practice: Powering Maritime Excellence
- D) New technologies for greener shipping

Q3. Which space agency has announced the "PRIMA" Far-Infrared Space Telescope under its \$1.2 Billion Probe Explorers Class?

- A) ISRO
- B) ESA
- C) NASA
- D) JAXA

Q4. The BRICS Heads of Tax Authorities Meeting 2026 was hosted under India's Chairship in which city?

- A) Mumbai
- B) New Delhi
- C) Bengaluru
- D) Gandhinagar

Q5. Project NETRA, under which ISRO is establishing an Advanced Radar Research Centre in Chandrapur (Assam), primarily deals with which domain?

- A) Deep Sea Mineral Exploration
- B) Space Situational Awareness (SSA)

C) 6G Telecommunication Infrastructure

D) High-Altitude Drone Interception

Answer Key & Detailed Explanations

1. **Answer: B) Hyderabad Division (South Central Railway)**

- Explanation: Indian Railways commissioned KAVACH 4.0 for the first time on SCR between Malkajgiri and Kamareddi (108 route km) in the Hyderabad Division.

2. **Answer: C) From Policy to Practice: Powering Maritime Excellence**

- Explanation: World Maritime Day 2026 (24 September) focuses on turning international IMO regulations into concrete operational practices across global shipping.

3. **Answer: C) NASA**

- Explanation: NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory manages the PRIMA mission, targeted for 2033 to study cosmic dust and black hole development using a 1.8m telescope.

4. **Answer: B) New Delhi**

- Explanation: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the 10-nation BRICS tax heads meeting in New Delhi on 23-24 September 2026.

5. **Answer: B) Space Situational Awareness (SSA)**

- Explanation: Project NETRA is ISRO's initiative to safeguard Indian space assets by tracking orbital debris and space threats.

1. Defense News

Q1. The Ministry of Defence recently signed an ₹810.79 crore contract with Bharat Dynamics

Limited (BDL) for the supply of 160 SAT-SAAW units. What type of weapon system is SAT-SAAW?

- (A) Surface-to-Air Missile System
- (B) Precision-guided air-to-ground glide bomb
- (C) Heavyweight Anti-Submarine Torpedo
- (D) Main Battle Tank Ammunition

• **Answer: (B) Precision-guided air-to-ground glide bomb**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- Context: The Ministry of Defence (MoD) inked a contract valued at ₹810.79 crore with public sector enterprise Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) for procuring 160 Satellite Smart Anti-Airfield Weapons (SAT-SAAW) for the Indian Air Force (IAF).

- Key Features: SAT-SAAW is an indigenously designed, long-range, precision-guided air-to-ground glide bomb. Developed by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad, it is engineered to disable enemy runway infrastructure, bunkers, radar installations, and hardened aircraft shelters from stand-off ranges (up to 100 km).

- Integration & Content: It features over 60% indigenous content and can be integrated into fighter jets including the Su-30 MKI, SEPECAT Jaguar, and Hawk trainer aircraft.

2. Constitutional & National Affairs

Q2. On 24 September 2026, a Supreme Court Bench issued a split verdict regarding the constitutional validity of the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Act, 2023. Which Constitutional Article grants powers regarding the appointment of the Election Commission of India?

- (A) Article 312



(B) Article 324

(C) Article 280

(D) Article 356

• **Answer: (B) Article 324**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

○ **Context:** A two-judge bench comprising Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Satish Chandra Sharma delivered a split verdict on petitions challenging the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023.

○ **Core Dispute:** The 2023 Act replaced the Chief Justice of India on the selection panel with a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister (making the committee: PM, Union Minister, and Leader of Opposition).

○ **Constitutional Provision:** Article 324(2) of the Indian Constitution vests the appointment of the CEC and ECs in the President, subject to any law made by Parliament. Following the split verdict, the matter was referred to the Chief Justice of India to constitute a larger bench.

3. Civil Aviation & Government Schemes

Q3. Under the newly launched next phase of the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) regional connectivity scheme in September 2026, how many Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation with States/UTs?

(A) 15 MoUs

(B) 18 MoUs

(C) 22 MoUs

(D) 28 MoUs

• **Answer: (C) 22 MoUs**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

○ **Context:** The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) launched the next iteration of the UDAN scheme by signing 22 MoUs with various States and Union Territories to enhance regional air infrastructure and remote air connectivity.

○ **Key Features:** Along with the MoUs, MoCA introduced the Challenge Mode Portal for Aerodrome Development, allowing states to nominate unserved or underserved airstrips and helipads for federal funding and fast-track development.

○ **Exam Relevance:** UDAN was launched in 2016 under the National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP) to make air travel affordable via Viability Gap Funding (VGF) capped airfares.

4. International Security & Geopolitics

Q4. Under a landmark trilateral agreement finalized in September 2026, the United States was granted expanded operating rights to establish military facilities in Greenland in partnership with which nation?

(A) Norway

(B) Denmark

(C) Canada

(D) Iceland

• **Answer: (B) Denmark**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

○ **Context:** The United States, Denmark, and the autonomous territory of Greenland signed a defense cooperation framework updating the historic 1951 US-Danish Defense Agreement.

○ **Strategic Significance:** The agreement grants the US military expanded operational rights in Greenland to



construct defense installations without violating Danish sovereignty. Capital of Denmark: Copenhagen; Currency: Danish Krone.

5. Environment & Wildlife Conservation

Q5. In September 2026, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized 86 live Tokay Geckos in Assam. Under which Schedule of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, are Tokay Geckos protected in India?

- (A) Schedule I
- (B) Schedule II
- (C) Schedule III
- (D) Schedule IV

• **Answer: (A) Schedule I**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** DRI intercepted a major wildlife trafficking racket at Mariani, Assam, rescuing 86 live Tokay Geckos (Gekko gecko).
- **Species Profile:** Tokay Geckos are nocturnal, arboreal reptiles native to South and Southeast Asia. They are heavily poached for illegal traditional medicine markets due to false claims of medicinal properties.
- **Legal Status:** Listed under Schedule I of India's Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (highest legal protection level), Appendix-II of CITES, and "Least Concern" on the IUCN Red List.

6. Sports

Q6. Indian weightlifter Saikhom Mirabai Chanu won a silver medal at the Asian Games 2026. She became India's first Asian Games weightlifting medallist since which iconic athlete won silver in 1998?

- (A) Nameirakpam Kunjarani Devi
- (B) Karnam Malleswari
- (C) Sanjita Chanu
- (D) Neelam Setti Laxmi

• **Answer: (B) Karnam Malleswari**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** Olympic medallist Saikhom Mirabai Chanu secured a silver medal in the women's 49 kg weightlifting event at the Asian Games 2026.
- **Historical Context:** This feat ended India's 28-year medal drought in Asian Games weightlifting. The last Indian weightlifter to win an Asian Games medal was Olympic bronze medallist Karnam Malleswari, who won silver at the 1998 Bangkok Asian Games.

7. Economics & Banking

Q7. Global rating agency Fitch Ratings revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY27 (2026-27) upward to what percentage?

- (A) 6.5%
- (B) 6.7%
- (C) 6.9%
- (D) 7.2%

• **Answer: (C) 6.9%**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** Credit rating agency Fitch Ratings upgraded India's Real GDP growth projection for Financial Year 2026-27 (FY27) from 6.4% to **6.9%**.
- **Key Drivers:** The upgrade was driven by sustained domestic consumer demand, robust investment in public infrastructure, and strong performance in the manufacturing and services sectors. S&P

Global Ratings also upgraded its outlook citing economic resilience.

8. Appointments & Media Bodies

Q8. Who was unanimously re-elected as the President of the News Broadcasters and Digital Association (NBDA) for the 2026-27 term?

- (A) M.V. Shreyams Kumar
- (B) Rajat Sharma
- (C) Anuradha Prasad Shukla
- (D) Avinash Pandey

• **Answer: (B) Rajat Sharma**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** Senior journalist and Chairman of India TV, Rajat Sharma, was unanimously re-elected as President of the News Broadcasters and Digital Association (NBDA) for 2026-27.
- **About NBDA:** NBDA is the premier body representing private television news and digital broadcasters in India, comprising 29 news broadcasters operating 136 channels and digital platforms.

9. Important Days & International Observances

Q9. World Maritime Day 2026 was observed on 24 September 2026. What was the official theme declared by the International Maritime Organization (IMO)?

- (A) Seafarers: At the Core of Shipping's Future
- (B) New Technologies for Greener Shipping
- (C) From Policy to Practice: Powering Maritime Excellence
- (D) MARPOL at 50 – Our Commitment Goes On

• **Answer: (C) From Policy to Practice: Powering Maritime Excellence**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

◦ **Context:** World Maritime Day is celebrated globally on the last Thursday of September (falling on September 24 in 2026).

◦ **Theme:** The IMO selected the theme "From Policy to Practice: Powering Maritime Excellence" to focus on enforcing decarbonization mandates, maritime safety protocols, and digital transition in global shipping. Headquartered in London, UK, IMO is a specialized UN agency.

10. Space Science & Technology

Q10. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma laid the foundation stone for ISRO's Advanced Radar Research Facility (IARRF) under which space tracking programme?

- (A) NAVIC
- (B) NETRA
- (C) ASTROSAT
- (D) GAGANYAAN

• **Answer: (B) NETRA**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, along with ISRO leadership, laid the foundation stone for the ISTRAC Advanced Radar Research Facility at Chandrapur, Kamrup Metropolitan district.
- **Program Details:** Established under the NETRA (Network for Space Object Tracking and Analysis) programme, this radar facility will monitor space debris, safeguard operational Indian satellites, and boost Space Situational Awareness (SSA) capabilities. The Assam government provided 200 bighas (~70 acres) of land free of cost.

11. State Government Schemes

Q11. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the 'Bharat Taxi' initiative



in September 2026. What is the primary operational feature of this taxi platform?

- (A) Fixed 20% commission on fares
- (B) Zero-commission cooperative-based model
- (C) Government-owned fleet of electric vehicles
- (D) Mandatory dynamic surge pricing

• **Answer: (B) Zero-commission cooperative-based model**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** The UP state government launched 'Bharat Taxi' alongside 'Mukhyamantri Krishak Samridhi Yojana'.
- **Key Features:** Bharat Taxi operates as a cooperative mobility app for auto-rickshaw, cab, and two-wheeler drivers. It eliminates third-party platform commissions (Zero-Commission model) and provides registered driver-partners with a ₹5 lakh social security insurance cover. Initially launched in Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Varanasi, and Prayagraj.

12. Gender Empowerment & Urban Mobility

Q12. Which Union Territory/State Cabinet approved the 'DURGA' scheme in September 2026 to promote female electric auto-rickshaw drivers?

- (A) Maharashtra
- (B) Delhi
- (C) Puducherry
- (D) Karnataka

• **Answer: (B) Delhi**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** The Delhi Cabinet approved the DURGA (Driver Unnati and Employment via Regional Green Auto) scheme.

- **Objective:** The scheme offers capital subsidies and low-interest EV financing to enable women from low-income households to acquire electric three-wheelers (e-autos), fostering financial independence and clean urban transportation.

13. Advanced Aviation Tech

Q13. India's Technology Development Board (TDB) approved ₹285 crore support for the development of 'e200X'. What is e200X?

- (A) Hydrogen-powered passenger train
- (B) Indigenous Electric Vertical Take-Off and Landing (eVTOL) aircraft
- (C) Autonomous deep-sea submarine
- (D) Hypersonic glide test vehicle

• **Answer: (B) Indigenous Electric Vertical Take-Off and Landing (eVTOL) aircraft**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** TDB approved financial backing for Ubifly Technologies (The ePlane Company, Chennai) to build 'e200X'.
- **Key Details:** The e200X is an indigenous 3-seater (1 pilot + 2 passengers), zero-emission eVTOL flying taxi designed for urban air mobility. It takes off vertically using multi-rotor electric propulsion and transitions to fixed-wing cruise flight. Total project cost is estimated at ₹570 crore.

14. Economic Governance & Public Policy

Q14. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) officially dissolved the Digital Communications Commission (DCC) in September 2026. In which year was this body originally established as the Telecom Commission?

- (A) 1980



(B) 1989

(C) 1995

(D) 2000

• **Answer: (B) 1989**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

◦ **Context:** The Government of India formally dissolved the 37-year-old apex decision-making body, the Digital Communications Commission (DCC).

◦ **History:** Created by executive resolution in April 1989 as the Telecom Commission, it was renamed the DCC under the National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) in 2018. Financial and administrative approval powers are now streamlined directly under DoT officials and expenditure finance committees to accelerate decision-making.

15. Books & Authors

Q15. Who is the author of the corporate business novel titled "SAARATHI", launched in September 2026?

(A) Chetan Bhagat

(B) Hirav Shah

(C) Raghuram Rajan

(D) Nandan Nilekani

• **Answer: (B) Hirav Shah**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

◦ **Context:** Business strategist Hirav Shah released his novel titled "SAARATHI" in Gujarat.

◦ **Core Theme:** The novel blends narrative fiction with real-world corporate strategy, focusing on financial management, business growth, risk mitigation, and managing family business dynamics.

16. Heritage & Art & Culture

Q16. The historic Town Hall complex located in Chandni Chowk, Delhi, constructed between 1860 and 1866, is being redeveloped into which institution?

(A) National Film Archives

(B) Global Cultural & Heritage Centre / Museum

(C) Central Crafts Village

(D) National Science Hub

• **Answer: (B) Global Cultural & Heritage Centre / Museum**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

◦ **Context:** Municipal authorities approved the adaptive reuse project for the historic British-era Town Hall in Shahjahanabad (Chandni Chowk), Delhi.

◦ **History:** Built in the Victorian architectural style between 1860–1866, it served as the headquarters of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) until 2010. It is being transformed into a heritage museum and international cultural hub.

17. Defense & Persons in News

Q17. Flight Lieutenant Alfred Tyrone Cooke, who passed away in September 2026, was a recipient of which military gallantry award for his heroic actions in the 1965 India-Pakistan War?

(A) Param Vir Chakra

(B) Maha Vir Chakra

(C) Vir Chakra

(D) Kirti Chakra

• **Answer: (C) Vir Chakra**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** IAF veteran Flight Lieutenant Alfred Tyrone Cooke Vrc passed away at the age of 84.
- **Heroism:** During the 1965 Indo-Pak War, Flt Lt Cooke engaged multiple enemy Sabre jets single-handedly over Kalaikunda air base in his Hawker Hunter aircraft, earning the **Vir Chakra** for exceptional gallantry.

18. Agriculture & International Organizations

Q18. The United Nations designated 2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer. Which Indian farmer from Mizoram was recently selected among the FAO's "100 Women Heroes" for strawberry cultivation?

- (A) Z T Lalrithangi
- (B) Trinity Saioo
- (C) Kamala Pujari
- (D) Rahibai Popere

• **Answer:** (A) Z T Lalrithangi

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) recognized Z T Lalrithangi from Mizoram as one of its Global 100 Women Heroes in Agriculture.
- **Contribution:** She led a rural strawberry revolution in her village, transforming subsistence farming into a commercial agro-enterprise. 2026 is observed globally as the International Year of the Woman Farmer.

19. Banking & Financial Operations

Q19. Why did the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) direct all Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to remain fully operational on Sunday, 27 September 2026?

- (A) Due to half-yearly financial closing requirements
- (B) Ahead of a planned 3-day nationwide bank strike called by UFBU
- (C) For mandatory physical verification of PM-JDY accounts
- (D) To distribute government pension payments

• **Answer:** (B) Ahead of a planned 3-day nationwide bank strike called by UFBU

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** The RBI instructed PSBs and RRBs to keep branches functional on Sunday, September 27.
- **Reasoning:** The decision aimed to prevent public disruption and financial backlogs caused by a announced nationwide strike call by the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU).

20. Sports

Q20. English fast bowler Mark Wood announced his retirement from international cricket in September 2026. How many ICC World Cup titles did he win during his 11-year international career?

- (A) One
- (B) Two
- (C) Three
- (D) Four

• **Answer:** (B) Two

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** England pacer Mark Wood retired from all international cricket format at age 36.
- **Career Achievements:** In an 11-year career, Wood captured over 250

international wickets (119 in Tests) and was part of two World Cup-winning English squads (2019 ODI World Cup and 2022 T20 World Cup).

21. Military Exercises

Q21. Which combat helicopter of the Indian Air Force participated in Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2026 held simultaneously in Uttarakhand and Rajasthan?

- (A) HAL Prachand
- (B) AH-64E Apache
- (C) Mi-35 Hind
- (D) HAL Rudra

• **Answer: (B) AH-64E Apache**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** The 22nd edition of the India-US bilateral military Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2026 was conducted at Auli (Uttarakhand) and Mahajan Field Firing Range (Rajasthan).
- **Asset Deployment:** IAF's Boeing AH-64E Apache attack helicopters took part in combined tactical maneuvers, night operations, and mountain warfare drills alongside US Army personnel.

22. Environment & Sustainable Development

Q22. India hosted the World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF) 2026 in September 2026 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. This marked the first time the forum was held in which region?

- (A) Southeast Asia
- (B) South Asia
- (C) Middle East
- (D) Central Asia

• **Answer: (B) South Asia**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in collaboration with Sitra (Finland) and MoEFCC hosted WCEF 2026 in Gandhinagar.
- **Milestone:** India became the first South Asian country to host this global summit. Theme: "Circular Economy: Transition for People and Prosperity". Two publications on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and treated wastewater reuse were released.

23. Cybersecurity & Telecom Governance

Q23. Under Section 42 of the Telecommunications Act, 2023, what is the maximum prescribed penalty for illegal tampering with IMEI numbers of telecom devices?

- (A) Up to 1 year imprisonment or fine up to ₹10 lakh
- (B) Up to 3 years imprisonment, fine up to ₹50 lakh, or both
- (C) Fine up to ₹1 crore only
- (D) 7 years imprisonment with mandatory asset forfeiture

• **Answer: (B) Up to 3 years imprisonment, fine up to ₹50 lakh, or both**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** DoT issued strict guidelines against handset IMEI alteration, highlighting that changing mobile device identity numbers is a cognizable and non-bailable offense under the Telecommunications Act, 2023.
- **Legal Provision:** Section 42(3)(c) mandates punishment up to 3 years imprisonment, fine up to ₹50 lakh, or both.

DoT manages the Sanchar Saathi portal and CEIR (Central Equipment Identity Register) to block stolen phones.

24. Geography & World History

Q24. The Garamantes civilization, featured in archaeological findings in September 2026, flourished primarily in which geographical region?

- (A) Fezzan region of Libya
- (B) Nile Valley of Egypt
- (C) Atlas Mountains of Morocco
- (D) Horn of Africa

Answer: (A) Fezzan region of Libya

Detailed Explanation: Context: Recent historical discoveries highlighted the water management engineering of the ancient Garamantes kingdom.

Background: The Garamantes were an advanced Saharan civilization that thrived in the Fezzan desert region of southwestern Libya (capital: Germa). They pioneered underground tunnel canal systems called foggara (qanats) to extract subterranean water for oasis agriculture.

25. World Physical Geography

Q25. Emi Koussi, recently highlighted in geological studies, is an active shield volcano located in which mountain range?

- (A) Ethiopian Highlands
- (B) Tibesti Mountains in Chad
- (C) Drakensberg Mountains
- (D) Atlas Mountains

Answer: (B) Tibesti Mountains in Chad

Detailed Explanation: Context: Geological mapping of North Africa's volcanic structures featured Emi Koussi.

Geography: Standing at 3,415 meters, Emi Koussi is a pyroclastic shield volcano situated at the southeastern end of the Tibesti Mountains in northern Chad. It is the highest peak in both Chad and the entire Sahara desert.

26. Polity & Governance

Q26. Under the Inter-State Council (Amendment) Order, 2026, issued under Article 263, who represents a State in Inter-State Council meetings when Article 356 (President's Rule) is enforced?

- (A) Chief Secretary of the State
- (B) Governor of the State
- (C) Union Home Minister
- (D) Senior-most High Court Judge

Answer: (B) Governor of the State

Detailed Explanation: Context: The Ministry of Home Affairs notified the Inter-State Council (Amendment) Order, 2026, issued by the President under Article 263 of the Constitution.

Key Amendment: When Article 356 is active in a State, the **Governor** shall be invited to attend council proceedings. For UTs like Delhi under Article 239AB, the Lieutenant Governor represents the administration.

27. Financial Markets & Exchanges

Q27. The shares of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) will now be available for trading on the Metropolitan Stock Exchange (MSE) under which trading category?

- (A) Mainboard IPO
- (B) Permitted to Trade
- (C) Qualified Institutional Placement
- (D) Institutional Equities Segment

Answer: (B) Permitted to Trade

Detailed Explanation: Context: Capital market developments allowed NSE unlisted equity shares to trade on MSE under the "Permitted to Trade" segment.

Details: This structure allows investors liquidity across exchanges without requiring a formal direct listing process, while maintaining regulatory oversight under SEBI guidelines.

28. Asian Games 2026

Q28. Indian athlete Roshibina Devi Naorem secured a silver medal at the Asian Games 2026 in which combat sport category?

- (A) Judo 52kg
- (B) Taekwondo 57kg
- (C) Wushu Sanda 60kg
- (D) Karate Kumite 55kg

Answer: (C) Wushu Sanda 60kg

Detailed Explanation: Context: Roshibina Devi won the silver medal in the Women's 60 kg Sanda final event at the Asian Games 2026 after a close contest against China's Zhang Xiaoyu.

Background: Hailing from Manipur, Roshibina Devi is one of India's most decorated Wushu practitioners, having previously won medals at the Asian Games and World Wushu Championships.

29. International Observances

Q29. What was the theme for the International Day of Sign Languages 2026?

- (A) Sign Languages Unite Us
- (B) Declaring deaf people's human rights
- (C) A World Where Deaf People Can Sign Anywhere
- (D) Building Inclusive Societies Through Sign Language

Answer: (B) Declaring deaf people's human rights

Detailed Explanation: Context: The International Day of Sign Languages is commemorated annually on 23 September (proclaimed by UNGA).

Theme: The 2026 theme "Declaring deaf people's human rights" emphasizes legal recognition of national sign languages and equal access to public services and education for deaf communities globally.

30. e-Governance & State Initiatives

Q30. The Assam State Government set a target to transition to 100% paperless administration across all departments under the e-Office system by which date?

- (A) October 2026
- (B) January 2027
- (C) April 2027
- (D) December 2027

Answer: (B) January 2027

Detailed Explanation: Context: The Assam State Cabinet resolved to completely phase out physical files in state secretariats and district offices.

Target: All government departments will function digitally under the e-Office system effective **1 January 2027**, streamlining file movement, transparency, and administrative speed.