

1. International News

- **India Signs UN Convention Against Cybercrime:**
 - **Event:** India officially signed the United Nations Convention Against Cybercrime.
 - **Key Detail:** External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar signed the agreement on behalf of India.
 - **Exam Context (UPSC/SSC):** This is the first comprehensive, universal, and legally binding global treaty on cybercrime, adopted by the UN General Assembly. It aims to enhance international cooperation, information sharing, and law enforcement harmonization against transnational cyber threats.
- **11th Annual Meeting of AIIB in Doha, Qatar:**
 - **Event:** Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attended the 11th Annual Meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in Doha, Qatar (27-29 September 2026).
 - **Theme:** "Tomorrow's Infrastructure: Impact and Innovation".
 - **Exam Context (Banking/UPSC):** Sitharaman participated in her capacity as India's Governor on the AIIB Board. India is the **second-largest shareholder** in AIIB after China. Discussions centered on climate finance, digital public infrastructure (DPI), and private capital mobilization.
- **US-India Strategic & Legislative Dialogue:**
 - **Event:** Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri held high-level discussions with a bipartisan US Congressional delegation.
 - **Focus:** Implications of the Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act, energy security,

counterterrorism, and Indo-Pacific maritime freedom of navigation.

2. National News

- **Extension of AFSPA in Northeastern States:**
 - **Event:** Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 for another 6 months, effective from October 1, 2026.
 - **Coverage:** Selected "disturbed areas" across Manipur, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Four Major Ports Classified as 'Mega Ports':**
 - **Event:** Central Government notified four Indian ports as Mega Ports under the Indian
 - **Notified Ports:** Deendayal Port (Kandla, Gujarat), Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT, Maharashtra), Paradip Port (Odisha), and Mundra Port (Gujarat).
- **India's First LNG-Powered Train Flagged Off:**
 - **Event:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah flagged off India's first Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)-powered passenger/freight train from Sabarmati Railway Station in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
 - **Significance (Railways/SSC):** Represents a shift towards lower-emission, dual-fuel rail propulsion technologies to reduce Indian Railways' carbon footprint.
- **Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Project Milestone:**
 - **Event:** National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) launched its first 100-meter-long steel bridge, weighing approximately 1,405 tonnes, in Maharashtra.
- **Drought Declaration in Maharashtra:**



- **Event:** Maharashtra Government declared drought/drought-like conditions in 265 out of 358 talukas (~74%) due to deficient monsoon rainfall during the 2026 Kharif season.
- **West Bengal Rebrands 'Sabuj Sathi' to 'Sarathi Scheme':**
 - **Event:** West Bengal Government announced the rebranding of the bicycle distribution initiative as the **Sarathi Scheme**, targeting distribution to 12.59 lakh students.

3. Economics & Banking News

- **OECD Raises India's FY27 GDP Growth Projection to 7.1%:**
 - **Report:** OECD Economic Outlook, Interim Report September 2026: Weathering Successive Shocks.
 - **Key Metrics:**
- **India FY27 GDP Forecast:** Raised to **7.1%** (higher than ADB/S&P/Moody's at 7.0%, Fitch at 6.9%, and RBI at 6.7%).
- **Inflation Forecast:** Projected at **4.7%** for FY27, easing towards **2.0%** in FY28.
- **Global Growth:** Estimated at **2.9%** for CY2026.
- **Supreme Court Order on Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) for UPI:**
 - **Rulings:** Supreme Court dismissed a petition seeking to stay the Union Government's policy regarding MDR on UPI transactions, maintaining zero-MDR status for retail UPI payments.
- **Interest-Free Working Capital Assistance Scheme for Tobacco Farmers:**
 - **Event:** Union Government approved a one-time interest-free loan of **₹50,000 per barn**

for Flue-Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco growers in Andhra Pradesh.

- **India's First Satellite with Edge-Computing Processor:**
 - **Company:** TakeMe2Space (Indian space startup).
 - **Satellite Name:** **MOI-1A** (sub-50 kg satellite equipped with Nvidia Orin NX edge processor) flying on SpaceX Transporter-18.
 - **Function:** Enables in-orbit data processing rather than transmitting raw sensor files back to Earth stations.

4. Sports News

- **2026 Asian Games (Aichi-Nagoya, Japan):**
 - **Ancy Sojan Edappilly (Athletics):** Won the **Silver Medal** in Women's Long Jump with a best attempt of **6.53 metres** (Gold: Huang Yingying of China with 6.55m).
 - **Esha Singh (Shooting):** Won the **Silver Medal** in the Women's 25m Pistol event.
- **46th Chess Olympiad 2026:**
 - **India's Tally:** India secured the **Silver Medal** in the Open Section and **Bronze Medal** in the Women's Section.
 - **Trophy:** Retained the prestigious **Nona Gaprindashvili Trophy** awarded for the best combined performance across Open and Women's divisions.
- **India to Host Asian Pencak Silat Championship 2027:**
 - **Event:** Indian Pencak Silat Federation (IPSF) announced India as host for the **4th Junior & 11th Senior Asian Pencak Silat Championship 2027** at Manohar Parrikar Stadium, Goa (April 2027).

5. Appointments & Resignations

- **Mandeep K. Bhandari:** Appointed as the new Chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).
- **Dinesh Pant & Girija Subramanian:** Assumed charge as Whole-Time Members (WTMs) of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
 - Background: Dinesh Pant is the former Managing Director of LIC; Girija Subramanian served as former CMD of New India Assurance (NIACL).

6. Awards & Honors

- **AGU 2026 Awardees (Earth & Space Sciences):**
 - **Recipients:** Indian scientists **Dr. Roxy Mathew Koll** (IITM Pune, climate science) and **Dr. Neelima Satyam** (IIT Indore, geotechnical engineering) honored by the American Geophysical Union (AGU).
- **ABDM Health Management Information Systems (HMIS) Awards:**
 - **Recognized Entities:** Chandigarh (Small State/UT), Assam (Medium State), and Uttar Pradesh (Large State) were awarded for achieving the highest proportion of sub-centers integrated with Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)-enabled HMIS.
- **Oxford Economics Global Cities Index 2026:**
 - **Highlight:** Delhi was ranked **268th** globally among 1,000 cities, emerging as the highest-ranked Indian city.

7. Books & Authors

- **Booker Prize 2026 Shortlist Unveiled:**

- **Event:** The Booker Prize Foundation announced the six-book shortlist for the Booker Prize 2026 at the Southbank Centre, London.

8. Defense News

- **Exercise KAZIND-2026 (9th Edition):**
 - **Type:** India-Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise.
 - **Venue:** Oskemen, Kazakhstan (28 September – 11 October 2026).
 - **Contingent:** 60 personnel, primarily from the Garhwal Rifles and the Indian Air Force.
 - **Focus:** Counter-terrorism, air mobility, unmanned aerial systems (UAS), and counter-UAS operations in semi-urban and mountainous terrain.
- **Exercise VARUNA 2026 (24th Edition):**
 - **Type:** Bilateral Naval Exercise between the Indian Navy and French Navy.
 - **Focus:** Tactical maneuvers, anti-submarine warfare drills, and joint maritime domain awareness.

9. Government Schemes & MoUs

- **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) Marks 12 Years:**
 - **Background:** Relaunched on Antyodaya Diwas (25 September 2014) from Aajeevika Skills under DAY-NRLM by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).
 - **Budgetary Support:** Union Budget 2026-27 allocated **₹750 crore** for DDU-GKY.
- **MoUs for Minority Startup Incubation:**
 - **Signatories:** Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) / NMDFC signed tripartite MoUs with:

1. Foundation for Science Innovation and Development (FSID), IISc Bengaluru
2. NSRCEL, IIM Bangalore
3. IIT Madras
- **Objective:** Skill development, incubation, and research support for startups led by minority communities.
- **TRAI Launches Digital Connectivity Rating (DCR) Platform:**
 - **Initiative:** Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) launched a platform to rate residential and commercial real estate properties on digital infrastructure and connectivity readiness.

10. Important Days (National & International)

- **World Heart Day 2026:**
 - **Date:** 29 September
 - **Theme:** "Don't Miss a Beat"
 - **Lead Body:** World Heart Federation (WHF)
 - **Key Focus:** Raising awareness about cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), blood pressure monitoring, early warning signs, and lifestyle interventions.
- **World Pharmacists Day 2026:**
 - **Date:** 25 September
 - **Theme:** "Empowering Pharmacists for Healthier Futures"
- **Antyodaya Diwas:**
 - **Date:** 25 September (Marks the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya).
- **International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI):**

- **Date:** 28 September.

11. Art, Culture & Festivals

• Arogya Manthan 2026:

- **Event:** Inaugurated by Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- **Context:** Annual event celebrating anniversary milestones of Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY and Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

12. Birth & Death Anniversaries

- **Shaheed Bhagat Singh (Birth Anniversary - 28 September):**
 - Born 28 September 1907 in Banga, Punjab (now Pakistan). Prominent freedom fighter and revolutionary co-founder of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA).
- **Lata Mangeshkar (Birth Anniversary - 28 September):**
 - Born 28 September 1929. Legendary playback singer and recipient of Bharat Ratna (2001), Dadasaheb Phalke Award (1989), and Legion of Honour (France).
- **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya (Birth Anniversary - 25 September):**
 - Born 25 September 1916. Proponent of the philosophy of Integral Humanism (Ekatma Manavavad).

Section 1: National News

Q1. Union Home Minister Amit Shah flagged off India's first Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)-powered passenger/freight train from which railway station in September 2026?

- (A) Anand Railway Station, Gujarat
(B) Sabarmati Railway Station, Gujarat

- (C) Surat Railway Station, Gujarat
(D) Vadodara Railway Station, Gujarat

Answer: (B) Sabarmati Railway Station, Gujarat

Detailed Explanation: In September 2026, Union Minister of Home Affairs Amit Shah flagged off India's first Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)-powered train from Sabarmati Railway Station in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. This project forms a core component of Indian Railways' green mobility initiative aimed at reducing carbon emissions and replacing traditional diesel locomotives. LNG serves as a cleaner alternative fuel, delivering higher energy density and substantial reductions in particulate matter and greenhouse gas emissions compared to standard diesel fuel. Additional rail development projects inaugurated during the event included the deployment of WAG-12 locomotives and the installation of the indigenous 'Kavach' automatic train protection system.

Q2. Which organization launched the first 100-metre-long steel bridge, weighing approximately 1,405 tonnes, for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (Bullet Train) project in Maharashtra?

- (A) National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL)
(B) Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL)
(C) Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India (DFCCIL)
(D) Iacon International Limited (IRCON)

Answer: (A) National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL)

Detailed Explanation: The National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) successfully launched the first 100-metre-long steel bridge weighing around 1,405 tonnes for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail

(MAHSR) project in Maharashtra. High-speed rail corridors utilize heavy steel bridges engineered to withstand extreme dynamic loads and high-velocity train movements. NHSRCL is a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013, with equity participation from the Government of India (Ministry of Railways) and participating state governments (Gujarat and Maharashtra) to execute India's flagship bullet train project with Japanese technical and financial assistance.

Q3. Indian space startup TakeMe2Space is set to launch which satellite, recognized as India's first-ever edge-computing satellite carrying Nvidia processors?

- (A) INSAT-3DS
(B) MOI-1A
(C) Pixxel-TD
(D) EOS-08

Answer: (B) MOI-1A

Detailed Explanation: TakeMe2Space, an Indian private space startup, announced the launch of its MOI-1A spacecraft. It is a sub-50 kg satellite equipped with Nvidia Orin NX edge-computing processors, flying aboard SpaceX's Transporter-18 rideshare mission. MOI-1A is India's first computing satellite designed to process satellite data directly in orbit using artificial intelligence (AI) and edge computing, rather than transmitting raw, uncompressed imagery back to ground stations. This capability significantly reduces bandwidth requirements, latency, and ground processing bottlenecks for Earth observation and remote sensing applications.

Q4. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) launched which platform in September 2026 to evaluate and enhance the quality of indoor telecom signal coverage across commercial and residential buildings?

- (A) BharatNet Portal

- (B) Digital Connectivity Rating (DCR) Platform
- (C) Sanchar Saathi Portal
- (D) PM-WANI Monitoring Rating System

Answer: (B) Digital Connectivity Rating (DCR) Platform

Detailed Explanation: The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) launched the Digital Connectivity Rating (DCR) Platform. The platform is designed to encourage property developers, real estate managers, and infrastructure providers to implement robust digital communication infrastructure inside buildings and residential complexes. Similar to star ratings for energy efficiency, the DCR system rates buildings based on indoor mobile network strength, fiber accessibility, and overall digital infrastructure preparedness, addressing the persistent issue of call drops and weak indoor network coverage.

Section 2: International News

Q5. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attended the 11th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in September 2026. Where was this meeting held?

- (A) Beijing, China
- (B) Doha, Qatar
- (C) Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- (D) Jakarta, Indonesia

Answer: (B) Doha, Qatar

Detailed Explanation: Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman participated as India's Governor in the 11th Annual Meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) held in Doha, Qatar, from September 27 to 29, 2026. The official theme of the 2026 Annual Meeting was "Tomorrow's Infrastructure: Impact and

Innovation". Discussions focused on sustainable infrastructure financing, climate resilience, digital public infrastructure (DPI), and mobilizing private sector capital for developing economies. India is a founding member and the second-largest shareholder in AIIB after China, holding the largest project portfolio financed by the multilateral development bank.

Q6. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri held high-level discussions with a bipartisan US Congressional delegation led by Representative Brian Mast in September 2026. Which of the following key topics was discussed?

- (A) Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act, India-US energy security, and counter-terrorism
- (B) Quad Maritime Domain Awareness Expansion in South America
- (C) WTO Agricultural Subsidy Agreement amendments
- (D) AUKUS Submarine Procurement Agreement

Answer: (A) Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act, India-US energy security, and counter-terrorism

Detailed Explanation: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met a high-level bipartisan US Congressional delegation led by US Representative Brian Mast. The strategic interactions focused on bilateral cooperation under the India-US Comprehensive Global and Strategic Partnership, discussions surrounding legislative measures like the Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act, energy security diversification, freedom of navigation in the Indo-Pacific, and joint counter-terrorism efforts.

Q7. The 24th edition of the bilateral naval exercise 'VARUNA' was conducted between the navies of India and which foreign nation?

- (A) United States Navy
- (B) Royal Navy (United Kingdom)
- (C) French Navy



(D) Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force

Answer: (C) French Navy

Detailed Explanation: The Indian Navy participated in the 24th edition of Exercise VARUNA, a major bilateral naval exercise conducted with the French Navy. Initiated in 1993 and officially named 'VARUNA' in 2001, the exercise serves as a pillar of the India-France strategic partnership. The 24th edition involved advanced naval maneuvers, tactical anti-submarine warfare exercises, air defense operations, surface firings, and joint maritime patrol exercises aimed at deepening tactical interoperability and maritime security in strategic international waters.

Section 3: Defense News

Q8. Where did the 9th edition of the India-Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise 'KAZIND-2026' commence in September 2026?

- (A) Umroi, Meghalaya
- (B) Oskemen, Kazakhstan
- (C) Almaty, Kazakhstan
- (D) Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand

Answer: (B) Oskemen, Kazakhstan

Detailed Explanation: The 9th edition of the India-Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise, 'KAZIND-2026', commenced at Oskemen, Kazakhstan, running from September 28 to October 11, 2026. KAZIND is an annual bilateral military exercise designed to foster defense cooperation and tactical synergy between India and Central Asia. The exercise focuses on tactical drills in semi-urban and mountainous terrain, joint counter-terrorism operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations mandate, joint air-mobility operations, and the employment of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) alongside counter-drone technologies.

Q9. The Indian Army contingent participating in the 9th edition of Exercise KAZIND-2026 was primarily drawn from which infantry regiment?

- (A) Rajputana Rifles
- (B) Garhwal Rifles
- (C) Kumaon Regiment
- (D) Gorkha Rifles

Answer: (B) Garhwal Rifles

Detailed Explanation: The Indian Army contingent for Exercise KAZIND-2026 comprised 60 personnel, primarily drawn from a battalion of the Garhwal Rifles, supported by specialists from other combat arms, services, and the Indian Air Force. The Garhwal Rifles is one of the premier infantry regiments of the Indian Army, renowned for its extensive experience in high-altitude, mountainous, and counter-insurgency warfare operations.

Q10. What was the core operational focus of the 9th edition of Exercise KAZIND-2026 held between India and Kazakhstan?

- (A) Deep-sea amphibious warfare and mine clearance
- (B) Interoperability in counter-terrorism operations, air mobility, and counter-UAS capabilities
- (C) Desert armored combat maneuvers
- (D) Strategic nuclear defense readiness

Answer: (B) Interoperability in counter-terrorism operations, air mobility, and counter-UAS capabilities

Detailed Explanation: Exercise KAZIND-2026 emphasizes tactical interoperability, joint operational planning, air-mobility insertion, tactical counter-terrorism drills in semi-urban and mountainous regions, and practical integration of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and counter-drone (counter-UAS) systems.

Section 4: Economics and Banking

Q11. Under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY), what percentage of insurance premium incentive is provided by the Union Government for one crop cycle of aquaculture?

- (A) Up to 25%
- (B) Up to 40%
- (C) Up to 50%
- (D) Up to 75%

Answer: (B) Up to 40%

Detailed Explanation: The Union Government is actively promoting aquaculture insurance under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY), a sub-scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). The scheme offers an incentive of up to 40% of the insurance premium for one crop cycle to aquaculture farmers. To promote social inclusion and women's empowerment, an additional 10% premium incentive is extended to SC, ST, and women beneficiaries. Implementation is facilitated digitally via the National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP), with financial benefits disbursed through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

Q12. The Supreme Court of India recently refused to entertain a petition challenging the zero-charge framework of Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) for which digital payment mode?

- (A) Credit Card POS Transactions
- (B) Unified Payments Interface (UPI)
- (C) NEFT / RTGS transfers
- (D) Commercial Cheque Truncation System

Answer: (B) Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

Detailed Explanation: The Supreme Court of India refused to stay or strike down the zero-MDR (Merchant Discount Rate) regime applicable to Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and RuPay debit card transactions. Under Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, no bank or system provider can levy charges on payments made through prescribed electronic modes like UPI. The framework aims to promote a cashless economy, enhance digital payment inclusion, and protect small merchants from transaction fees.

Q13. Which institution launched the 'IITM Unicorn Frontier Fund-I' in Bengaluru in September 2026 to back early-stage deep-tech and hardware startups?

- (A) Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru
- (B) IIT Madras (IITM)
- (C) IIT Bombay
- (D) IIT Delhi

Answer: (B) IIT Madras (IITM)

Detailed Explanation: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the IITM Unicorn Frontier Fund-I in Bengaluru. Initiated by the IIT Madras ecosystem (Incubation Cell/IITM), the fund aims to finance early-stage deep-tech, artificial intelligence, hardware, and frontier technology startups. The fund addresses capital deficits in high-gestation research-backed ventures, helping translate academic research into commercial technologies.

Q14. What is India's position in terms of voting power and shareholding in the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)?

- (A) First largest shareholder
- (B) Second largest shareholder
- (C) Third largest shareholder

(D) Fifth largest shareholder

Answer: (B) Second largest shareholder

Detailed Explanation: India is the second-largest shareholder in the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) after China. China holds the largest shareholding (26.6% voting power), followed by India (around 7.6% voting power). AIIB is a multilateral development bank headquartered in Beijing that focuses on financing sustainable infrastructure, energy transition, cross-border connectivity, and environmental protection projects across Asia and beyond.

Section 5: Appointments

Q15. Who among the following assumed charge as Whole-Time Members (WTMs) of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) in September 2026?

- (A) Dinesh Pant and Girija Subramanian
- (B) T. S. Ramakrishnan and K. Sanath Kumar
- (C) Siddhartha Mohanty and Sucheta Gupta
- (D) Debasish Panda and V. Anantha Nageswaran

Answer: (A) Dinesh Pant and Girija Subramanian

Detailed Explanation: Dinesh Pant, former Managing Director (MD) of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), and Girija Subramanian, former Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of The New India Assurance Company Limited (NIACL), assumed charge as Whole-Time Members (WTMs) of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). IRDAI is the statutory regulatory body created under the IRDA Act, 1999, headquartered in Hyderabad, Telangana, responsible for regulating, licensing, and promoting the insurance and re-insurance industries in India.

Q16. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) functions under the administrative jurisdiction of which Union Ministry?

- (A) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- (B) Ministry of Finance
- (C) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- (D) Cabinet Secretariat

Answer: (B) Ministry of Finance

Detailed Explanation: IRDAI functions under the jurisdiction of the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, Government of India. It is a 10-member body consisting of a Chairman, five whole-time members, and four part-time members, all appointed by the Government of India.

Section 6: Government Schemes and MoUs

Q17. The Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), a placement-linked skill development scheme under DAY-NRLM, completed how many years of implementation in September 2026?

- (A) 8 years
- (B) 10 years
- (C) 12 years
- (D) 15 years

Answer: (C) 12 years

Detailed Explanation: The Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) completed 12 years of implementation in September 2026. Launched originally as Aajeevika Skills in 2012/2013 and relaunched under its present name on Antyodaya Diwas (25 September 2014), DDU-GKY operates under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM),

administered by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD). It caters to rural youth aged 15 to 35 years from poor families, providing market-linked skill training and placement support.

Q18. The Union Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment launched a dedicated Mobile App and Portal for which scheme to ensure expedited and transparent implementation?

- (A) PM-CARES
- (B) PM-AJAY (Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojna)
- (C) PM-DAKSH
- (D) PM-VISHWAKARMA

Answer: (B) PM-AJAY (Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojna)

Detailed Explanation: The Government launched the 'PM-AJAY' Mobile App and Portal to monitor and accelerate the quality implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojna (PM-AJAY). PM-AJAY is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Merged Scheme implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. It merged three former schemes: (1) Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY), (2) Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP), and (3) Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY). It focuses on socio-economic development through income generation, skill training, infrastructure development in SC-majority villages, and hostel construction.

Q19. National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) signed tripartite MoUs with which premiere institutions to foster entrepreneurship, skilling, and startup incubation?

- (A) IISc Bengaluru, IIM Bangalore (NSRCEL), and IIT Madras

(B) IIT Bombay, IIM Ahmedabad, and IISER Pune

(C) IIT Delhi, XLRI Jamshedpur, and TISS Mumbai

(D) BITS Pilani, IIM Calcutta, and NIT Trichy

Answer: (A) IISc Bengaluru, IIM Bangalore (NSRCEL), and IIT Madras

Detailed Explanation: The National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC), operating under the Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA), signed tripartite MoUs with the Foundation for Science Innovation and Development (FSID) at IISc Bengaluru, NSRCEL at IIM Bangalore, and IIT Madras. The collaboration aims to mentor, incubate, skill, and provide financial credit support to tech startups and innovative micro-enterprises led by target minority communities.

Q20. Which State Government announced the rebranding of its bicycle distribution scheme 'Sabuj Sathi' to the 'Sarathi Scheme' in September 2026?

(A) Assam

(B) West Bengal

(C) Tripura

(D) Odisha

Answer: (B) West Bengal

Detailed Explanation: West Bengal announced the rebranding of the state's flagship student bicycle distribution program, previously known as the Sabuj Sathi Scheme, as the 'Sarathi Scheme'. Under the scheme, over 12.59 lakh students enrolled in government and government-aided schools across higher primary and secondary classes receive free bicycles to reduce school dropout rates and promote mobility.



Section 7: Sports News

Q21. India won the Silver medal in the Open section and Bronze in the Women's section at the 46th FIDE Chess Olympiad 2026. Where was this tournament hosted?

- (A) Budapest, Hungary
- (B) Samarkand, Uzbekistan
- (C) Chennai, India
- (D) Astana, Kazakhstan

Answer: (B) Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Detailed Explanation: The 46th Chess Olympiad 2026 was organized by the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. The Indian contingent delivered an exceptional performance by capturing the Silver medal in the Open section and the Bronze medal in the Women's section. Furthermore, India retained the overall trophy — the Nona Gaprindashvili Trophy — awarded to the nation with the best combined performance across the Open and Women's divisions.

Q22. Indian track and field athlete Ancy Sojan Edappilly won a Silver medal at the 2026 Asian Games held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. Which sporting event did she achieve this medal in?

- (A) Women's High Jump
- (B) Women's Long Jump
- (C) Women's Triple Jump
- (D) Women's 400m Hurdles

Answer: (B) Women's Long Jump

Detailed Explanation: Indian athlete Ancy Sojan Edappilly won the Silver medal in the Women's Long Jump final at the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. She registered a best effort of 6.53 metres, narrowly finishing behind China's Huang Yingying, who secured the Gold medal with a jump of 6.55 metres.

Q23. Which Indian state has been selected to host the 4th Junior & 11th Senior Asian Pencak Silat Championship in April 2027?

- (A) Kerala
- (B) Goa
- (C) Uttarakhand
- (D) Manipur

Answer: (B) Goa

Detailed Explanation: The Indian Pencak Silat Federation (IPSF) announced that India will host the 4th Junior and 11th Senior Asian Pencak Silat Championship 2027 at the Manohar Parrikar Stadium in Goa from April 19 to 23, 2027. Pencak Silat is an Indonesian martial art form that includes full-body fighting, strikes, grappling, and weapon usage, gaining significant popularity across Asian multi-sporting events like the Asian Games.

Section 8: Awards and Honors

Q24. Indian climate scientist Roxy Mathew Koll and geotechnical researcher Neelima Satyam were named among the prestigious recipients of the 2026 awards by which international scientific body?

- (A) American Geophysical Union (AGU)
- (B) Royal Meteorological Society
- (C) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- (D) World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Answer: (A) American Geophysical Union (AGU)

Detailed Explanation: Indian scientists Dr. Roxy Mathew Koll (Executive Council Member / Senior Scientist at IITM Pune) and Dr. Neelima Satyam (IIT Indore) were honored among the American Geophysical Union (AGU) 2026 Awardees. The AGU awards recognize



outstanding contributions, groundbreaking research, and international leadership in Earth, ocean, atmospheric, planetary, and space sciences.

Q25. As per the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2027 released in late September 2026, which institution emerged as the highest-ranked Indian university?

- (A) IIT Bombay
- (B) Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru
- (C) IIT Delhi
- (D) Anna University

Answer: (B) Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru

Detailed Explanation: The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, retained its position as the top-ranked Indian institution in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2027, placed at rank 254 globally. THE World University Rankings evaluate universities across core indicators: teaching environment, research environment, research quality, international outlook, and industry income and patents.

Section 9: Important Days and Anniversaries

Q26. World Heart Day is observed globally on which date every year to spread awareness about cardiovascular diseases (CVDs)?

- (A) 25 September
- (B) 29 September
- (C) 1 October
- (D) 5 October

Answer: (B) 29 September

Detailed Explanation: World Heart Day is observed internationally every year on 29

September. Established by the World Heart Federation (WHF) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), the day aims to raise awareness about cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), including heart attacks and strokes, which remain the leading cause of global mortality. It emphasizes preventive lifestyle measures such as healthy diet, regular physical exercise, tobacco cessation, and early screening for hypertension and diabetes.

Q27. The 119th Birth Anniversary of iconic Indian freedom fighter Shaheed Bhagat Singh was celebrated across the nation on which date?

- (A) 23 March
- (B) 28 September
- (C) 2 October
- (D) 15 August

Answer: (B) 28 September

Detailed Explanation: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the nation paid tributes to freedom fighter Shaheed Bhagat Singh on his 119th birth anniversary on September 28. Born on September 28, 1907, in Banga, Punjab (now in Pakistan), Bhagat Singh was a pivotal figure in India's struggle against British colonial rule, founding the Naujawan Bharat Sabha and playing a leadership role in the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA). He was executed by the British raj along with Shivaram Rajguru and Sukhdev Thapar on March 23, 1931, at the Lahore Central Jail at the age of 23.

Q28. Antyodaya Diwas is celebrated in India every year on September 25 to commemorate the birth anniversary of which eminent philosopher and political leader?

- (A) Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya
- (B) Syama Prasad Mookerjee
- (C) Jayaprakash Narayan

(D) Ram Manohar Lohia

Answer: (A) Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya

Detailed Explanation: Antyodaya Diwas is celebrated in India on September 25 every year to mark the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, co-founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh and proponent of the philosophy of Integral Humanism (Ekatma Manavavad). 'Antyodaya' literally means "uplifting the last person in the queue." The Government of India declared September 25 as Antyodaya Diwas in 2014, linking key poverty alleviation, skill training (DDU-GKY), and rural development schemes to this day.

Section 10: Art, Culture, Environment & Health

Q29. Under India's Green Highways Policy 2015, the environmental monitoring and remote sensing assessment of nearly 30,000 km of National Highways was carried out in collaboration with which ISRO center?

- (A) Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad
- (B) National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad
- (C) Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram
- (D) ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC), Bengaluru

Answer: (B) National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad

Detailed Explanation: Under the Green Highways (Plantation, Transplantation, Beautification and Maintenance) Policy, 2015, the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways partnered with the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of ISRO, Hyderabad. Satellite-based remote sensing and GIS mapping were utilized to monitor over 30,000 km of

National Highways across 24 states during the Operation & Maintenance (O&M) phase to assess tree canopy coverage, soil erosion prevention, and green belt density along highway corridors.

Q30. Spontaneous Coronary Artery Dissection (SCAD), recently highlighted in medical health news, is a non-atherosclerotic condition causing sudden heart attacks in young individuals. Which vascular disorder is most strongly associated with SCAD?

- (A) Atherosclerosis
- (B) Fibromuscular Dysplasia (FMD)
- (C) Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT)
- (D) Pulmonary Embolism

Answer: (B) Fibromuscular Dysplasia (FMD)

Detailed Explanation: Spontaneous Coronary Artery Dissection (SCAD) is an under-diagnosed emergency cause of acute myocardial infarction (heart attack), particularly in women in their 30s to 50s without conventional cardiac risk factors like high cholesterol or smoking. SCAD occurs when an internal tear forms in a coronary artery wall, slowing or blocking blood flow to the heart. Medical studies highlight a strong association between SCAD and Fibromuscular Dysplasia (FMD), a non-atherosclerotic, non-inflammatory vascular disease that causes abnormal cell development in medium-sized arterial walls.