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Weekly Current Affairs: 21–27 September 2026

57

stories

169

MCQs with answers

Covers 21–25 September 2026; this PDF is updated every day until the week ends.

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India-New Zealand FTA to Enter into Force on 20 October 2026

21 September 2026 · International

The India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement, signed on 27 April 2026, will come into force on 20 October 2026 and make all of India's exports duty-free.

- The India-New Zealand FTA will enter into force on 20 October 2026, the day of Dussehra-Vijayadashami
- It was signed on 27 April 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, by Piyush Goyal and Todd McClay
- All tariff lines covering 100% of India's exports to New Zealand become duty-free from day one
- Dairy, animal meat except sheep, key farm commodities, sugar and edible oils are excluded from tariff concessions
- New Zealand commits to facilitate USD 20 billion of investment; India gets 5,000 Temporary Employment Entry visas and 1,000 Working Holiday visas a year

Agreement	India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement
Signed on	27 April 2026
Venue of signing	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
Enters into force	20 October 2026 (Dussehra-Vijayadashami)
New Zealand Parliament passed law	16 September 2026
India's minister	Piyush Goyal, Commerce and Industry
New Zealand's minister	Todd McClay, Trade and Investment
Duty-free Indian exports	100% of tariff lines

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/india-new-zealand-fta-to-enter-into-force-on-20-october-2026/

Asian Games 2026: India Win Three Medals in Men's 10m Air Rifle

21 September 2026 · Sports

Indian shooters won a team silver and two individual medals in men's 10m air rifle at the Asian Games 2026: Himanshu Dhillon silver and Rudrankksh Patil bronze.

- India won silver in the men's 10m air rifle team event at the Asian Games 2026 through Rudrankksh Balasaheb Patil, Himanshu Dhillon and Parth Rakesh Mane
- Himanshu Dhillon won silver in the individual men's 10m air rifle
- Rudrankksh Balasaheb Patil won bronze in the individual men's 10m air rifle
- The 2026 Asian Games, the 20th edition, are being held in Aichi and Nagoya, Japan

Event	Men's 10m air rifle, Asian Games 2026
Team medal	Silver
Team members	Rudrankksh Balasaheb Patil, Himanshu Dhillon, Parth Rakesh Mane
Individual silver	Himanshu Dhillon
Individual bronze	Rudrankksh Balasaheb Patil
Date	21 September 2026
Host of Asian Games 2026	Aichi and Nagoya, Japan

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/asian-games-2026-india-win-three-medals-in-mens-10m-air-rifle/

Swachh Sagar Surakshit Sagar 5.0: 15 Lakh Take Ocean Pledge

21 September 2026 · Environment

The fifth Swachh Sagar Surakshit Sagar coastal clean-up covered 231 locations in 13 States/UTs, and 15 lakh people took the Ocean Conservation Pledge.

- Swachh Sagar Surakshit Sagar 5.0 was held from 12 to 19 September 2026
- The coastal clean-up covered 231 locations across 13 States/UTs
- 15 lakh people took the Ocean Conservation Pledge during the campaign
- 'Vigyan Ki Baat' is a monthly lecture series of the Department of Science & Technology; its second edition is on 26 September 2026
- CSIR-NIScPR is the nodal institution for the proposed Digital Library of Scientific Achievements

Campaign	Swachh Sagar Surakshit Sagar 5.0
Meaning	Clean Sea, Safe Sea
Held	12 to 19 September 2026
Locations	231
States/UTs covered	13
Ocean Conservation Pledge	15 lakh people
Reviewed by	Dr Jitendra Singh
'Vigyan Ki Baat' run by	Department of Science & Technology

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/swachh-sagar-surakshit-sagar-50-15-lakh-take-ocean-pledge/

PM Mementos e-Auction 2026: Gujarat's Heritage Goes Under the Hammer

21 September 2026 · National

The 8th PM Mementos e-Auction, begun on 17 September 2026, offers 1,498 mementos, with Gujarat's crafts featured; proceeds go to the Namami Gange Programme.

- The 8th edition of the PM Mementos e-Auction began on 17 September 2026 and offers 1,498 mementos
- It is organised by the Ministry of Culture through the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), New Delhi
- Proceeds go to the Namami Gange Programme for the rejuvenation of the River Ganga
- Gujarat items include a Pithora painting of the Rathwa, Bhil and Bhilala communities and India's first solar tile with Modhera Sun Temple glass
- The auction series began in January 2019 and has raised more than ₹50 crore

Edition	8th PM Mementos e-Auction
Began	17 September 2026
Mementos offered	1,498
Organised by	Ministry of Culture through NGMA, New Delhi
Proceeds	Namami Gange Programme
First edition	January 2019
Raised so far	More than ₹50 crore
Portal	pmmementos.gov.in

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/pm-mementos-e-auction-2026-gujarats-heritage-goes-under-the-hammer/

Government Urges PSB and RRB Staff to Call Off Bank Strikes

21 September 2026 · Banking & Finance

The Finance Ministry appealed to employees of public sector banks and RRBs to drop strikes planned for 28–30 September and from 26 October 2026 over five-day banking.

- The Finance Ministry appealed to PSB and RRB employees on 21 September 2026 to refrain from strikes
- The unions' two demands were five-day banking and withdrawal of the Performance Linked Incentive scheme; the PLI scheme has been kept in abeyance
- A three-day strike is scheduled for 28–30 September 2026 and an indefinite strike from 26 October 2026
- The Staff Welfare Fund of PSBs was enhanced by 56% in August 2024
- The 2nd and 4th Saturdays have been bank holidays for PSBs since 2015

Appeal by	Ministry of Finance
Addressed to	Employees of Public Sector Banks and Regional Rural Banks
Umbrella union body	United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU)
Pending demand	Five-day banking
Scheme kept in abeyance	Performance Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme
Strike held	11 September 2026
Strike scheduled	28 to 30 September 2026
Indefinite strike proposed	From 26 October 2026

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/government-urges-psb-and-rrb-staff-to-call-off-bank-strikes/

Mines Ministry Launches Concept Paper on Critical Mineral Recycling

21 September 2026 · Economy

At a national seminar with MRAI, Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy launched a Concept Paper on the Critical Mineral Recycling Ecosystem and urged Jan Bhagidari.

- G. Kishan Reddy inaugurated the National Seminar on India's Critical Minerals Recycling Ecosystem and Circular Economy on 21 September 2026
- The seminar was organised by the Ministry of Mines with the Materials Recycling Association of India (MRAI)
- A Concept Paper on the Critical Mineral Recycling Ecosystem was launched
- E-waste and End-of-Life products were highlighted as secondary sources of critical minerals
- Sessions covered lithium-ion battery metal recovery and the export of black mass

Event	National Seminar on India's Critical Minerals Recycling Ecosystem and Circular Economy
Date	21 September 2026
Organised by	Ministry of Mines with Materials Recycling Association of India (MRAI)
Venue	New Delhi
Inaugurated by	G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister for Coal and Mines
Minister of State	Satish Chandra Dubey
Mines Secretary	Keshav Chandra
Document launched	Concept Paper on Critical Mineral Recycling Ecosystem

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/mines-ministry-launches-concept-paper-on-critical-mineral-recycling/

Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0: Nal Jal Mitra and Sujalam Shakti Push

21 September 2026 · Government Schemes

DDWS held its first virtual conference with States on a skilled rural water workforce under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0, pushing the Nal Jal Mitra and Sujalam Shakti schemes.

- DDWS held its first National Virtual Conference with States/UTs on a skilled rural water workforce under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 on 21 September 2026
- Nal Jal Mitra offers a 510-hour Short-Term Training course and a 120-hour Recognition of Prior Learning pathway
- Sujalam Shakti is a women-led initiative for village-level water quality testing and disinfection, based on an NSQF Level-2 qualification
- More than 13 lakh personnel may be needed to operate and maintain rural water supply systems
- States must decide on adopting the Nal Jal Mitra course by 15 October 2026

Organised by	Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti
Event	First National Virtual Conference with States/UTs
Date	21 September 2026
Mission	Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0
DDWS Secretary	Ashok K.K. Meena
Nal Jal Mitra training	510-hour Short-Term Training; 120-hour RPL
Sujalam Shakti	Women-led water quality surveillance and disinfection
Sujalam Shakti qualification	NSQF Level-2, Fundamentals of Basic Water Quality Testing and Disinfection

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/jal-jeevan-mission-20-nal-jal-mitra-and-sujalam-shakti-push/

Office of PSA Holds First State Nodal Officers Meeting on I-STEM

21 September 2026 · Science & Technology

The Office of the PSA held the first meeting of State nodal officers for I-STEM, a portal listing over 31,000 scientific instruments in about 4,000 institutions.

- The Office of the PSA convened the first State Governments Nodal Officers Meeting for the I-STEM portal on 21 September 2026
- The meeting was chaired by Dr (Mrs) Parvinder Maini, Scientific Secretary, and had nodal officers from 23 States and 4 UTs
- I-STEM, the Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map, was launched by the Prime Minister in January 2020
- It lists more than 31,000 scientific instruments across nearly 4,000 institutions, with over 65,000 registered users
- Publicly funded equipment costing above ₹20 lakh is to be listed on I-STEM

Portal	I-STEM (Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map)
Conceived by	Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser
Launched	January 2020, by the Prime Minister
Meeting	First State Governments Nodal Officers Meeting
Date	21 September 2026
Chaired by	Dr (Mrs) Parvinder Maini, Scientific Secretary, Office of PSA
Participants	Nodal officers from 23 States and 4 UTs
Instruments listed	More than 31,000

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/office-of-psa-holds-first-state-nodal-officers-meeting-on-i-stem/

11th Ayurveda Day on 23 September: Theme, Facts and Schemes

22 September 2026 · Important Days

India marks the 11th Ayurveda Day on 23 September 2026 with the theme 'Ayurveda for a Healthier Tomorrow'. Here are the key facts, schemes and numbers.

- The 11th Ayurveda Day is observed on 23 September 2026, aligned with the autumnal equinox
- The theme is 'Ayurveda for a Healthier Tomorrow'
- 12,260 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (Ayush) were functional as on 19 September 2026, against a target of 12,500
- The Union Budget 2026-27 allocated ₹4,408 crore to the Ministry of Ayush and announced three new All India Institutes of Ayurveda
- The WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre is at Jamnagar, Gujarat; Ayush visas are M-3 for patients and M-4 for attendants

Occasion	11th Ayurveda Day
Date	23 September 2026 (every year on 23 September)
Theme	Ayurveda for a Healthier Tomorrow
Linked to	Autumnal equinox
Nodal ministry	Ministry of Ayush
Ayush budget 2026-27	₹4,408 crore
Functional Ayush AAMs	12,260 (target 12,500)
Ayurveda colleges	593, with 45,245 UG and 5,673 PG seats

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/11th-ayurveda-day-on-23-september-theme-facts-and-schemes/

Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY at 8: 48.51 Crore Cards, ₹2.03 Lakh Crore Care

22 September 2026 · Government Schemes

On its eighth anniversary, Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY covers about 33% of Indians with 48.51 crore cards and has funded 13.25 crore admissions worth ₹2.03 lakh crore.

- AB PM-JAY was launched on 23 September 2018 and completes eight years in 2026
- It provides cashless hospital cover of up to ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care
- Over 48.51 crore Ayushman cards, about 33% of the population, and 13.25 crore admissions worth ₹2.03 lakh crore
- All senior citizens aged 70 and above are covered since 11 September 2024 through the Ayushman Vay Vandana card
- Funding is shared 60:40 between Centre and States, 90:10 for the North-East and Himalayan States and J&K

Scheme	Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)
Launched	23 September 2018
Cover	Up to ₹5 lakh per family per year, cashless
Ayushman cards	Over 48.51 crore (about 33% of the population)
Admissions funded	About 13.25 crore, worth ₹2.03 lakh crore
Empanelled hospitals	Over 38,000
Procedures	1,961 across 27 specialties
Beneficiary identification	Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/ayushman-bharat-pm-jay-completes-8-years-48-51-crore-cards/

SEMICON India 2026: 'Silicon to Systems' Shows India's Chip Ecosystem

22 September 2026 · Science & Technology

SEMICON India 2026 at Yashobhoomi (17–19 September) showcased indigenous chips, RISC-V processors and Semicon 2.0's ₹1,27,500 crore plan under 'Silicon to Systems'.

- SEMICON India 2026, the fifth edition, was held at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi, from 17 to 19 September 2026
- Theme: 'Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem'; more than 600 exhibiting companies
- Semicon 2.0, approved by the Cabinet in July 2026 with ₹1,27,500 crore, rests on six pillars from design to talent
- Under the Semicon India Programme 12 projects are approved across six States with over ₹1.64 lakh crore in commitments; three facilities are in commercial production
- C-DAC displayed the AUM HPC-AI processor, the RUDRA-AUM node and its indigenous 64-bit RISC-V processor

Event	SEMICON India 2026, fifth edition
Venue	Yashobhoomi, New Delhi
Dates	17 to 19 September 2026
Theme	Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem
Exhibitors	More than 600 companies
Semicon 2.0	Approved July 2026; outlay ₹1,27,500 crore; six pillars
Semicon India Programme	12 projects in six States; commitments over ₹1.64 lakh crore; three facilities in production
C-DAC processors	AUM HPC-AI processor, RUDRA-AUM node, 64-bit RISC-V processor

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/semicon-india-2026-silicon-to-systems-shows-indias-chip-ecosystem/

Asian Games: India's First Gold via Women's Cricket, First MMA Medal

22 September 2026 · Sports

India's women's cricket team won the country's first gold of the Asian Games 2026; Suchika Tariyal's MMA bronze is India's first-ever Asian Games medal in the sport.

- India's women's cricket team won gold at the Asian Games 2026, the country's first gold of this edition
- Suchika Tariyal won bronze in mixed martial arts, India's first-ever Asian Games medal in the sport
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated both in separate messages on 22 September 2026
- The 2026 Asian Games, the 20th edition, are being held in Aichi and Nagoya, Japan

Games	Asian Games 2026, 20th edition, Aichi–Nagoya, Japan
India's first gold of the edition	Women's cricket team
Mixed martial arts bronze	Suchika Tariyal
Significance	India's first-ever Asian Games medal in mixed martial arts
Date	22 September 2026
Congratulated by	Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/asian-games-indias-first-gold-via-womens-cricket-first-mma-medal/

Vice-President Opens 9th India International Water Week 2026

22 September 2026 · Summits & Conferences

Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan opened the 9th India International Water Week on the theme 'Climate Resilient Water Management' and launched the SURM Framework.

- The 9th India International Water Week 2026 runs from 22 to 26 September at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, organised by the Ministry of Jal Shakti
- Theme: 'Climate Resilient Water Management'; inaugurated by Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan
- The Sustainable Urban River Management (SURM) Framework and AI/ML-driven Integrated Reservoir Sediment Management were launched
- India has about 2.4% of the world's land and 18% of its population but only about 4% of global freshwater
- 10 inter-State MoUs on water sharing have been signed; the Kishau Multipurpose Project agreement involves six States

Event	9th India International Water Week (IIWW) 2026
Dates	22 to 26 September 2026
Venue	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
Organiser	Ministry of Jal Shakti
Theme	Climate Resilient Water Management
Inaugurated by	Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan
Launched	Sustainable Urban River Management (SURM) Framework; AI/ML-driven Integrated Reservoir Sediment Management
India's share	2.4% of world land, 18% of population, about 4% of freshwater

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/vice-president-opens-9th-india-international-water-week-2026/

TRAI Mandates Voice-and-SMS-Only Recharge Packs of 30 Days or Less

22 September 2026 · National

TRAI's Thirteenth Amendment to the Telecom Consumer Protection Regulations makes operators offer voice-and-SMS-only recharge vouchers for validities of 30 days and less.

- TRAI released the Telecom Consumer Protection (Thirteenth Amendment) Regulations, 2026 on 22 September 2026
- Operators must offer voice-and-SMS-only special tariff vouchers for every validity of 30 days and less that they offer for bundled packs
- A monthly pack must renew on the same date each month; at least one longer-validity voice-SMS pack is also required
- The draft was issued on 7 April 2026, received 1,132 responses and was discussed at an open house on 15 June 2026

Regulator	Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)
Regulation	Telecom Consumer Protection (Thirteenth Amendment) Regulations, 2026
Released	22 September 2026
Mandate	Voice-and-SMS-only STVs for every validity of 30 days and less, plus a monthly-renewing pack and one longer pack
Draft issued	7 April 2026
Responses received	1,132
Open house discussion	15 June 2026
Earlier rule	Twelfth Amendment, 2024, first required voice-and-SMS-only STVs

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/trai-mandates-voice-and-sms-only-recharge-packs-of-30-days-or-less/

National Film Awards to Be Held at India's Best Tourist Destinations

22 September 2026 · Awards & Honours

I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the National Film Awards will move from conference halls to the country's best tourist destinations; States can propose venues.

- The National Film Awards will be held at India's best tourist destinations, I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on 22 September 2026
- States have been invited to propose their best tourism destination, with facilities and a 360-degree development plan; the selected State hosts the next awards
- Ekta Nagar, home to the Statue of Unity, was cited as an example of such a destination
- The move follows the G20 model of taking national events across States and aims to bring film and tourism together

Announcement	National Film Awards to be held at India's best tourist destinations
Announced by	Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting
Date	22 September 2026
Process	States propose their best tourism destination with facilities and a 360-degree development plan
Example cited	Ekta Nagar, Gujarat, home to the Statue of Unity
Model	G20 events held across States
Presented by	President of India

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/national-film-awards-to-be-held-at-indias-best-tourist-destinations/

India Cine Hub: NFDC's Single-Window Portal for Film Shooting Permits

22 September 2026 · National

India Cine Hub, run by the National Film Development Corporation, is a single-window digital portal for film-shooting permits, film visas and co-production applications.

- India Cine Hub is a single-window digital portal for film-shooting permits, film visas and co-production applications, run by NFDC
- It integrates State-level permit systems, offers a GIS-based location directory, and now also handles live event permissions with 9 venues onboarded
- India's film, TV and online content sector earned USD 13.1 billion in FY 2024 and may reach USD 17.5–19.7 billion by FY 2029
- NFDC, set up in 1975, absorbed the Films Division, Directorate of Film Festivals, National Film Archive and Children's Film Society after 2020
- Ramoji Film City in Hyderabad is certified by Guinness World Records as the world's largest film studio complex

Portal	India Cine Hub (ICH)
Run by	National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), Ministry of I&B
Purpose	Single window for film-shooting permits, film visas, co-production applications
Also covers	Live event permissions; 9 premier venues onboarded
Content sector revenue	USD 13.1 billion in FY 2024; USD 17.5–19.7 billion expected by FY 2029
NFDC established	1975
Merged into NFDC after 2020	Films Division, Directorate of Film Festivals, National Film Archive of India, Children's Film Society
Film cities	Film City Mumbai (1977), Ramoji Film City Hyderabad (1996), Noida Film City

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/india-cine-hub-nfdcs-single-window-portal-for-film-shooting-permits/

72nd National Film Awards: Anant Nag Gets Dadasaheb Phalke Award

22 September 2026 · Awards & Honours

President Droupadi Murmu conferred the 72nd National Film Awards at Ekta Nagar in Gujarat and gave the Dadasaheb Phalke Award to actor Anant Nag.

- President Droupadi Murmu presented the 72nd National Film Awards at Ekta Nagar, Kevadia, in Gujarat, the first edition of the ceremony to be held outside Delhi.
- The Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2024 went to Kannada actor Anant Nag, who acted in about 50 plays before films and had received the Padma Bhushan a year earlier.
- Best Actor was shared by Mammooty for Bramayugam and Kartik Aaryan for Chandu Champion; Yami Gautam won Best Actress for Article 370, also the Best Feature Film.
- Rajkumar Periasamy won Best Direction for Amaran, Kalki 2898 AD was the Best Popular Film and Captain Miller won for national, social and environmental values.
- Entries numbered 400 feature films in 34 languages and 161 non-feature films in 24 languages; awards went to 22 feature and 23 non-feature categories.

Event	72nd National Film Awards
Date	22 September 2026
Venue	Ekta Nagar, Kevadia, Gujarat (first time outside Delhi)
Awards conferred by	President Droupadi Murmu
Dadasaheb Phalke Award (2024)	Anant Nag, Kannada actor
Best Feature Film	Article 370
Best Actor	Mammooty (Bramayugam) and Kartik Aaryan (Chandu Champion)
Best Actress	Yami Gautam (Article 370)

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/72nd-national-film-awards-anant-nag-gets-dadasaheb-phalke-award/

Veer Guardian 2026: IAF-Japan Air Exercise Ends at Jodhpur

22 September 2026 · Defence

The bilateral air exercise Veer Guardian 2026 between the Indian Air Force and the Japan Air Self Defense Force concluded at Air Force Station Jodhpur.

- Veer Guardian 2026, the bilateral air exercise of the Indian Air Force and the Japan Air Self Defense Force, concluded at Air Force Station Jodhpur on 22 September 2026
- The IAF flew the Su-30 MKI, the Rafale and the indigenous LCA Tejas; the JASDF took part with the F-2A fighter aircraft
- The joint training spanned 14 days and covered within visual range combat and coordinated multi-aircraft missions
- On Distinguished Visitor's Day, JASDF Chief of Staff General Takehiro Morita and Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh flew the indigenous Tejas
- Ground activities included subject matter expert exchanges, mission planning conferences, engineering interactions and aerospace safety briefings

Exercise	Veer Guardian 2026 (bilateral air exercise)
Participants	Indian Air Force and Japan Air Self Defense Force
Venue	Air Force Station Jodhpur, Rajasthan
Concluded on	22 September 2026
Duration	14 days of joint training
IAF aircraft	Su-30 MKI, Rafale, LCA Tejas
JASDF aircraft	F-2A fighter
JASDF Chief of Staff	General Takehiro Morita

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/veer-guardian-2026-iaf-japan-air-exercise-ends-at-jodhpur/

7th OPEC-India Energy Dialogue Held in New Delhi

22 September 2026 · International

The 7th High-Level Meeting of the OPEC-India Energy Dialogue was held in New Delhi, co-chaired by Hardeep Singh Puri and OPEC chief Haitham Al Ghais.

- The Seventh High-Level Meeting of the OPEC-India Energy Dialogue was held on 22 September 2026 in New Delhi
- It was co-chaired by Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al Ghais
- The OPEC-India Energy Dialogue was launched in New Delhi in 2015 and is now eleven years old
- Talks focused on oil market stability, energy security and timely investment across the oil industry
- The Eighth High-Level Meeting will be held in Vienna, Austria, on a mutually convenient date

Event	Seventh High-Level Meeting of the OPEC-India Energy Dialogue
Date and venue	22 September 2026, New Delhi
Co-chair (India)	Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas
Co-chair (OPEC)	Haitham Al Ghais, OPEC Secretary General
Dialogue launched	New Delhi, 2015
Focus areas	Oil market stability, energy security, timely investment
Next meeting	Eighth High-Level Meeting at Vienna, Austria

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/7th-opec-india-energy-dialogue-held-in-new-delhi/

NAMASTE Scheme: 90,186 Sewer Workers Validated in 36 States, UTs

22 September 2026 · Government Schemes

Under the NAMASTE Scheme, 90,186 sewer and septic tank workers have been validated across 36 States and UTs and 2,51,756 waste pickers profiled.

- Under NAMASTE, 90,186 sewer and septic tank workers have been validated across all 36 States and Union Territories as on 22 September
- The validated workforce comprises 86,468 men, 3,713 women and five transgender persons
- 87,008 PPE kits and 753 Emergency Response Sanitation Unit safety equipment sets have been distributed to stakeholders
- Under the Swachhta Udyami Yojana, 983 beneficiaries received capital subsidy support worth Rs 34.16 crore for mechanisation
- 2,51,756 waste pickers have been profiled across 34 States and Union Territories, including 1,35,233 men and 1,16,498 women

Scheme	NAMASTE - National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem
Ministry	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Secretary	Sudhansh Pant
Workers validated	90,186 across 36 States and Union Territories
Composition	86,468 men, 3,713 women, five transgender persons
PPE kits distributed	87,008 (87,037 ordered so far)
ERSU safety equipment sets	753
Swachhta Udyami Yojana	983 beneficiaries supported with Rs 34.16 crore

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/namaste-scheme-90186-sewer-workers-validated-in-36-states-uts/

Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 Campaign: Theme, Dates and Pillars

22 September 2026 · National

Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 runs from 17 September to 2 October on the theme 'Swachhata Mein Sahbhag, Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat' across ministries.

- The theme of Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 is 'Swachhata Mein Sahbhag, Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat'
- The campaign is observed from 17 September to 2 October 2026, ending on Gandhi Jayanti
- It is jointly organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti
- Wellbeing, health and social security of Safai Mitras is one of the six pillars of the campaign; Pillar-2 is 'Swachh Paathshala - Yuva for Swachhata'
- Under the SafaiMitra Suraksha Evam Samman Shivirs component, a preventive health camp was held at the National Media Centre with RML Hospital

Campaign	Swachhata Hi Seva 2026
Theme	Swachhata Mein Sahbhag, Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat
Duration	17 September to 2 October 2026
Organisers	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs with the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti
Pillar-2	Swachh Paathshala - Yuva for Swachhata
Safai Mitra component	SafaiMitra Suraksha Evam Samman Shivirs
DFPD Secretary	Sanjeev Chopra, who administered the Swachhata pledge at Krishi Bhawan

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/swachhata-hi-seva-2026-campaign-theme-dates-and-pillars/

KAVACH 4.0 Goes Live First Time on South Central Railway

23 September 2026 · Science & Technology

Indian Railways commissioned KAVACH Version 4.0 for the first time on South Central Railway, covering 108 route kilometres of the Malkajgiri-Kamareddi section.

- KAVACH Version 4.0 was commissioned for the first time on South Central Railway, over 108 route kilometres of the Malkajgiri-Kamareddi section in Hyderabad Division.
- Version 3.2 already runs on 1,465 route kilometres of South Central Railway, and that experience shaped the newer edition.
- KAVACH is India's own Automatic Train Protection system; it brakes a train by itself if the Loco Pilot crosses a speed limit or is about to pass a signal at danger.
- The equipment must clear Safety Integrity Level-4 (SIL-4), the highest safety grade demanded of such systems.
- Version 4.0 brings sharper location accuracy, better signal information in big yards, station-to-station links over optical fibre and a direct tie-in with electronic interlocking.

System	KAVACH Version 4.0, an Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system
Zone	South Central Railway (SCR)
Division and section	Hyderabad Division, Malkajgiri-Kamareddi
Length upgraded	108 route kilometres, from Version 3.2 to Version 4.0
Version 3.2 spread on SCR	1,465 route kilometres
Safety certification	Safety Integrity Level-4 (SIL-4)
Ministry	Ministry of Railways
Origin	Indigenously developed in India

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/kavach-40-goes-live-first-time-on-south-central-railway/

Ayushman Bharat Completes Eight Years, 60 Crore Beneficiaries

23 September 2026 · Government Schemes

Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked eight years of Ayushman Bharat, which now gives more than 60 crore beneficiaries an annual health cover of Rs 5 lakh.

- Ayushman Bharat completed eight years since its rollout, and the Prime Minister marked the anniversary by listing the initiative's achievements.
- More than 60 crore beneficiaries now have an annual health cover of Rs 5 lakh under the scheme.
- The Prime Minister described it as the largest healthcare scheme in the world, crediting it with record savings on medical expenses for the poor and the middle class.
- Ayushman Arogya Mandirs have recorded over 500 crore visits, strengthening primary healthcare at the grassroots.
- The message was shared on X with the hashtag #8YearsOfAyushmanBharat.

Initiative	Ayushman Bharat
Anniversary	Eight years since rollout
Beneficiaries	More than 60 crore
Annual health cover	Rs 5 lakh
Standing	Largest healthcare scheme in the world
Primary-care centres	Ayushman Arogya Mandirs
Visits recorded	Over 500 crore
Hashtag used	#8YearsOfAyushmanBharat

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/ayushman-bharat-completes-eight-years-60-crore-beneficiaries/

SEMICON India 2026: Whole-of-Industry Push for Semiconductors

23 September 2026 · Economy

SEMICON India 2026 drew over 600 exhibitors and 56 MoUs, as industry bodies pressed for a whole-of-industry approach to India's semiconductor ambitions.

- A panel at SEMICON India 2026 titled 'Industry Associations Advancing India's National Agenda' called for a whole-of-industry approach to the semiconductor and electronics sector.
- The session was moderated by Amitesh Kumar Sinha, Chief Executive Officer of the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM).
- SEMICON India 2026 drew more than 600 exhibitors, of whom nearly 300 were international companies.
- The event recorded 56 MoUs, strategic initiatives and industry announcements across manufacturing, design, packaging, AI, R&D, logistics and skilling.
- The government has approved 12 semiconductor projects under the Semicon India programme, with five commercial units operational as of September 2026.

Event	SEMICON India 2026
Panel discussion	Industry Associations Advancing India's National Agenda
Moderator	Amitesh Kumar Sinha, CEO, India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)
Exhibitors	More than 600, including nearly 300 international companies
MoUs and announcements	56
Vision cited	Silicon to Systems
Projects approved	12 under the Semicon India programme
Units operational	Five commercial semiconductor units, as of September 2026

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/semicon-india-2026-whole-of-industry-push-for-semiconductors/

IMEI Tampering Draws Three-Year Jail Under Telecom Act, 2023

23 September 2026 · National

A PIB backgrounder explains IMEI tampering, the Device Setu-ICDR portal and the Telecommunications Act, 2023, which allows three years in jail or a Rs 50 lakh fine.

- India's active wireless mobile subscriber base reached 1,204.01 million in July 2026, making device identity a growing security concern.
- An IMEI is a 15-digit number; its first eight digits form the Type Allocation Code (TAC), whose global allocation is overseen by the GSMA.
- Users can see an IMEI by dialling *#06# and verify it on the Sanchar Saathi portal or by sending KYM with the IMEI to 14422 by SMS.
- Manufacturers, importers and brand owners must register IMEIs and brands through the Device Setu-Indian Counterfeited Device Restriction (ICDR) portal.
- Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, tampering with telecom identifiers can bring three years in jail, a fine up to Rs 50 lakh, or both, and the offence is cognizable and non-bailable.

IMEI length	15 digits
First eight digits	Type Allocation Code (TAC)
Global allocation of TAC	GSMA (Global System for Mobile Communications Association)
Code to display IMEI	*#06#
SMS verification	KYM with the IMEI, sent to 14422
Verification platform	Sanchar Saathi portal and app; CEIR for blocking
Registration portal	Device Setu-Indian Counterfeited Device Restriction (ICDR)
Law	Telecommunications Act, 2023, Sections 42(3)(c) and 42(3)(e)

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/imei-tampering-draws-three-year-jail-under-telecom-act-2023/

WAVES OTT and MyWAVES Turn Viewers Into Content Creators

23 September 2026 · Science & Technology

Prasar Bharati's WAVES OTT now carries over 24,000 titles and reaches 130 countries, while MyWAVES lets citizens upload their own original content.

- WAVES OTT, Prasar Bharati's public-service streaming platform, was launched on 20 November 2024 at the 55th International Film Festival of India in Goa.
- It carries more than 24,000 titles and 15,000 hours of content, over 140 television channels and 220 radio services, and all 35 Doordarshan satellite channels.
- The platform has 1.2 crore registered users, over 1.5 crore downloads and viewers in more than 130 countries, with content in over 26 languages.
- MyWAVES, launched on 23 March 2026 within WAVES OTT, lets citizens create and upload original short, vertical and episodic content.
- The Gems of India Challenge pilot began on 21 July 2026 in six States and Union Territories, inviting district stories of one to three minutes.

Platform	WAVES OTT, run by Prasar Bharati
Launched	20 November 2024, at the 55th International Film Festival of India, Goa
Library	Over 24,000 titles and 15,000 hours of content
Live carriage	Over 140 television channels and 220 radio services; all 35 Doordarshan satellite channels
Users	1.2 crore registered users, over 1.5 crore downloads
Global reach	More than 130 countries; content in over 26 languages
MyWAVES launched	23 March 2026, within WAVES OTT
Gems of India pilot	21 July 2026, across six pilot States and Union Territories

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/waves-ott-and-mywaves-turn-viewers-into-content-creators/

Special Campaign 6: MHA Targets Pendency and Swachhata

23 September 2026 · National

The Ministry of Home Affairs will join DARPG's Special Campaign 6, whose preparation phase runs to 30 September 2026 and implementation from 2 to 31 October 2026.

- The Ministry of Home Affairs will take part in Special Campaign 6, organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).
- The preparation phase runs from 15 September to 30 September 2026 and the implementation phase from 2 October to 31 October 2026.
- Under the guidance of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, field and outstation offices that deal directly with the public get special attention.
- Between November 2025 and August 2026 the Ministry held 761 Swachhata campaigns and disposed of 52,050 public grievances and 7,410 appeals.
- The Ministry also freed 1,02,084 sq ft of office space and cleared 299 references from MPs, 336 from State Governments and 7 from the PMO.

Campaign	Special Campaign 6
Organised by	Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)
Preparation phase	15 September to 30 September 2026
Implementation phase	2 October to 31 October 2026
Guidance	Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah
Swachhata campaigns held	761, between November 2025 and August 2026
Public grievances disposed of	52,050
Grievance appeals disposed of	7,410

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/special-campaign-6-mha-targets-pendency-and-swachhata/

NRAA Holds REWARD Meeting on Watershed Guidelines for PMKSY

23 September 2026 · Environment

The National Rainfed Area Authority held a National Level Technical Committee meeting under the REWARD programme at the NASC Complex in New Delhi.

- The National Rainfed Area Authority held a National Level Technical Committee meeting under the REWARD programme on 22 September 2026 at the NASC Complex, New Delhi.
- REWARD stands for Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development, and the NRAA works under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- Dr Chandra Shekhar Kumar, IAS, Chief Executive Officer of the NRAA, presided, and about 45 participants took part.
- The Department of Land Resources proposed cutting the time for preparing a Detailed Project Report from six months to three months.
- The National Technical Guidelines being drafted will guide watershed development under the Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana 3.0.

Organiser	National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Meeting	National Level Technical Committee (NLTC) under the REWARD programme
REWARD full form	Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development
Date and venue	22 September 2026, NASC Complex, New Delhi
Presided by	Dr Chandra Shekhar Kumar, IAS, CEO, NRAA
Coordinated by	Dr Susama Sudhishri, Technical Expert (Watershed Development) and PI-REWARD, NRAA
Participants	About 45, including SLNA representatives of Odisha and Karnataka
DPR proposal	Preparation time to be cut from six months to three months

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/nraa-holds-reward-meeting-on-watershed-guidelines-for-pmkSY/

SLINEX-26: India-Sri Lanka Maritime Exercise Ends in Visakhapatnam

23 September 2026 · Defence

The 13th edition of the India-Sri Lanka bilateral naval exercise SLINEX-26 ended at Visakhapatnam on 21 September 2026 after a five-day harbour and sea run.

- SLINEX-26, the 13th edition of the India-Sri Lanka bilateral maritime exercise, concluded at Visakhapatnam on 21 September 2026.
- The exercise was conducted from 17 to 21 September 2026 and was held in two stages, a harbour phase and a sea phase.
- The sea phase included coordinated manoeuvres, air operations, night replenishment at sea, slithering and Visit, Board, Search and Seizure drills.
- The Ministry of Defence linked the exercise to India's MAHASAGAR vision and to the Neighbourhood First policy.
- Visakhapatnam, the base of the Eastern Naval Command, was the host port for this edition.

Exercise	SLINEX-26, bilateral maritime exercise
Participants	Indian Navy and Sri Lanka Navy
Edition	13th
Venue	Visakhapatnam
Dates	17 to 21 September 2026
Phases	Harbour phase and sea phase
Special Forces drill	Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) and slithering
Policy frame	MAHASAGAR vision and Neighbourhood First policy

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/slinex-26-india-sri-lanka-maritime-exercise-ends-in-visakhapatnam/

Jay Meena Wins India's First Asian Games Soft Tennis Medal

23 September 2026 · Sports

Jay Meena took bronze in the men's individual soft tennis event to become India's first-ever Asian Games medallist in the sport, the Prime Minister said.

- Jay Meena won bronze in the men's individual soft tennis event and became India's first-ever Asian Games medallist in the sport.
- The Prime Minister called the result a historic achievement that opens a new chapter for soft tennis in India.
- Mirabai Chanu won the silver medal in the women's 49 kg weightlifting event.
- Parinaaz Dhaliwal, Maheshwari Chauhan and Raiza Dhillon won bronze in the women's skeet team event in shooting.
- All three congratulatory messages were issued by the Prime Minister's Office on 23 September 2026.

Historic first	Jay Meena, India's first-ever Asian Games medallist in soft tennis
Jay Meena's medal	Bronze, men's individual event
Mirabai Chanu	Silver, women's 49 kg weightlifting
Women's skeet team	Bronze, in shooting
Skeet team members	Parinaaz Dhaliwal, Maheshwari Chauhan and Raiza Dhillon
Announced by	Prime Minister's Office, on 23 September 2026

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/jay-meena-wins-indias-first-asian-games-soft-tennis-medal/

TDB Clears Rs 285 Crore for Ubifly's Indigenous ePlane e200X

23 September 2026 · Science & Technology

The Technology Development Board approved Rs 285 crore from the RDI Fund for Ubifly Technologies to take its indigenous ePlane from TRL-6 to TRL-9.

- The Technology Development Board under the Department of Science and Technology approved Rs 285 crore for Ubifly Technologies Private Limited, Chennai.
- The support comes from the Research Development and Innovation Fund, a Rs 1 lakh crore pool, and is routed through Optionally Convertible Debentures.
- The total approved project cost is Rs 570 crore and the aim is to take the indigenous ePlane technology from TRL-6 to TRL-9.
- The e200X is a three-seater, zero-emission aircraft for one pilot and two passengers, with a targeted range of 110 km and an ideal speed of 160 kmph.
- TDB Secretary Rajesh Kumar Pathak said the fund enables private-sector participation; the project is classified under Deep Technology with Space Technologies as sub-sector.

Funding body	Technology Development Board (TDB), Department of Science and Technology
Amount approved	Rs 285 crore
Beneficiary	Ubifly Technologies Private Limited, Chennai
Fund	Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund of Rs 1 lakh crore
Total project cost	Rs 570 crore
Instrument	Optionally Convertible Debentures (OCD)
Aircraft	e200X, three-seater, one pilot and two passengers
Range and speed	110 km targeted range, 160 kmph ideal speed

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/tdb-clears-rs-285-crore-for-ubiflys-indigenous-eplane-e200x/

MY Bharat Crosses 3 Crore Registered Youth in Under Three Years

23 September 2026 · Government Schemes

Mera Yuva Bharat, the youth platform of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, has crossed 3 crore registered youth less than three years after its launch.

- MY Bharat, or Mera Yuva Bharat, has crossed 3 crore registered youth in less than three years since its launch.
- It is the national youth engagement platform of the Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the platform on 31 October 2023; registrations crossed 2 crore in October 2025 and 2.46 crore by August 2026.
- By August 2026 over 1.22 lakh youth had enrolled in nearly 25,000 Experiential Learning Programmes, and an AI-enabled CV Builder has been added.
- The national Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue will be held in New Delhi from 10 to 12 January 2027.

Platform	Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)
Ministry	Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
Milestone	3 crore registered youth, in less than three years
Launched by	Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on 31 October 2023
Earlier marks	2 crore in October 2025; over 2.46 crore by August 2026
Experiential Learning	Over 1.22 lakh youth in nearly 25,000 programmes by August 2026
New feature	AI-enabled CV Builder
VBYLD 2027	National dialogue in New Delhi, 10 to 12 January 2027

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/my-bharat-crosses-3-crore-registered-youth-in-under-three-years/

President Murmu Attends 75th MS University Convocation, Vadodara

23 September 2026 · National

President Droupadi Murmu attended the 75th annual convocation of the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda at Vadodara and spoke on multidisciplinary learning.

- President Droupadi Murmu attended the 75th annual convocation of the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda at Vadodara, Gujarat, on 23 September 2026.
- She said education will be meaningful only if the country and society benefit from it.
- The President argued that no major problem can be solved within one discipline and called for a multidisciplinary approach in higher education.
- She asked graduates in every field, from engineering and medicine to teaching and public life, to place national and social interest first.
- She linked the address to the national goal of building a Viksit Bharat by 2047, in which universities and youth have a key role.

Dignitary	President of India, Droupadi Murmu
Occasion	75th annual convocation ceremony
University	Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda
Place	Vadodara, Gujarat
Date	23 September 2026
Central message	Education is meaningful only if the country and society benefit from it
Approach urged	Multidisciplinary learning in higher education
National goal cited	Viksit Bharat by 2047

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/president-murmu-attends-75th-ms-university-convocation-vadodara/

DDU-GKY 2.0 Raises Minimum Placement Period to Six Months

24 September 2026 · Government Schemes

DDU-GKY 2.0 has doubled the minimum placement period to six months, and the rural skilling scheme of 25 September 2014 now runs in 31 States and UTs.

- DDU-GKY was launched on 25 September 2014 under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission, for rural youth aged 15 to 35 years from poor households.
- The DDU-GKY 2.0 guidelines, notified in May 2025, raise the minimum placement period from three months to six months and track a candidate for twelve months.
- A placed candidate gets 7,620 rupees at 1,270 rupees a month for six months, and 5,000 rupees more for staying in work 365 days.
- The scheme runs in 31 States and Union Territories through 749 approved projects, 760 training centres and more than 455 implementing agencies.
- Since 2014-15 it has trained over 18.47 lakh candidates and placed over 12.43 lakh; the Union Budget for 2026-27 allots it 750 crore rupees.

Scheme	Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)
Launched	25 September 2014
Ministry	Ministry of Rural Development
Parent mission	National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)
Age group	15 to 35 years, poor rural households
2.0 guidelines notified	May 2025
Minimum placement	Six months, raised from three months
Course length	576 hours (396 domain, 180 non-domain)

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/ddu-gky-20-raises-minimum-placement-period-to-six-months/

PBSHABD: Prasar Bharati Free News Feed Serves 3,600 Outlets

24 September 2026 · National

PBSHABD, the free news feed that Prasar Bharati launched on 13 March 2024, now serves 3,600 media organisations and stays free of cost up to March 2027.

- PBSHABD is the free news feed service of Prasar Bharati, launched in New Delhi on 13 March 2024 by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- The name expands to Prasar Bharati - Shared Audio-Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination, and the service is free of cost up to March 2027.
- It offers five formats - text, video, audio, photographs and infographics - in 15 Indian languages and nearly 50 news categories.
- The user base has reached 3,600 media organisations in two years, and content carries no Prasar Bharati logo and needs no credit line.
- Prasar Bharati was created by an Act of Parliament of 1990 and came into existence on 23 November 1997, working through Akashvani and Doordarshan.

Service	PBSHABD, free news feed of Prasar Bharati
Full form	Prasar Bharati - Shared Audio-Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination
Launched	13 March 2024, New Delhi, by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Free up to	March 2027
Users	3,600 media organisations
Formats and languages	Five formats, 15 Indian languages, nearly 50 categories
Prasar Bharati Act	1990; corporation came into existence on 23 November 1997
Constituents	Akashvani and Doordarshan

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/pbshabd-prasar-bharati-free-news-feed-serves-3600-outlets/

Special Campaign 6.0 to Run in Offices from 2 to 31 October

24 September 2026 · National

Special Campaign 6.0, the DARPG drive against pendency, runs from 2 to 31 October 2026, with a preparatory phase from 16 to 30 September and a focus on e-waste.

- Special Campaign 6.0, launched by DARPG, has a preparatory phase from 16 to 30 September 2026 and an implementation phase from 2 to 31 October 2026.
- The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities works under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and has nominated a Nodal Officer for the drive.
- This edition gives special emphasis to the collection, segregation and disposal of e-waste alongside cleanliness and disposal of pendency.
- In Special Campaign 5.0, held from 2 to 31 October 2025, DEPwD digitised and weeded out 11,972 files and freed about 15,588 square feet of space.
- That campaign generated revenue of 14,47,619 rupees and saw 64 cleanliness drives; achievements are uploaded on the SCDPM portal.

Campaign	Special Campaign 6.0, on Swachhata and disposal of pendency
Launched by	Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)
Preparatory phase	16 to 30 September 2026
Implementation phase	2 to 31 October 2026
Special emphasis	Collection, segregation and disposal of e-waste
Department in focus	DEPwD, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Campaign 5.0 dates	2 to 31 October 2025
Campaign 5.0 results	11,972 files digitised, 15,588 sq ft freed, 14,47,619 rupees of revenue, 64 cleanliness drives

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/special-campaign-60-to-run-in-offices-from-2-to-31-october/

Roshibina Devi Takes Sanda Silver, Rowers Win Sculls Bronze

24 September 2026 · Sports

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Naorem Roshibina Devi on silver in the women's Sanda 60kg and Satnam Singh and Salman Khan on double sculls bronze.

- Naorem Roshibina Devi won the silver medal in the women's Sanda 60kg event, and the Prime Minister congratulated her on 24 September 2026.
- The Prime Minister noted that she has won medals at three consecutive Asian Games and called her consistency, courage and determination commendable.
- Satnam Singh and Salman Khan won a bronze medal for India in the men's double sculls, a rowing event for a crew of two.
- The Prime Minister said the composure and the coordination of the rowing pair stood out and hoped the result would inspire them further.
- Both messages were issued by the Prime Minister's Office and shared as posts on X on the same day.

Silver medallist	Naorem Roshibina Devi
Event	Women's Sanda 60kg
Sport	Sanda, the combat format of wushu
Record noted	Medals at three consecutive Asian Games
Bronze medallists	Satnam Singh and Salman Khan
Their event	Men's double sculls, rowing
Congratulated by	Prime Minister Narendra Modi
Date of messages	24 September 2026

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/roshibina-devi-takes-sanda-silver-rowers-win-sculls-bronze/

Crude Sunflower Oil Import Duty Cut to Nil, Palm and Soybean to 5%

24 September 2026 · Economy

Basic Customs Duty on crude sunflower oil is now nil and that on crude palm and soybean oil 5%, with the crude-refined duty gap held at 19.25% for refiners.

- The Basic Customs Duty on crude sunflower oil has been reduced from 10% to nil, and the duty on crude soybean oil and crude palm oil from 10% to 5%.
- Duty on the corresponding refined edible oils was also reduced, but the differential between crude and refined edible oils has been kept at 19.25%.
- The differential is meant to keep domestic refining capacity in use and to discourage heavy imports of already refined oil.
- An advisory asks edible oil associations and industry to revise the Price to Distributors and the Maximum Retail Price at once so consumers get the benefit.
- The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution announced the decision on 24 September 2026 as a step against food-price inflation.

Decision	Basic Customs Duty cut on major crude edible oils
Crude sunflower oil	10% reduced to nil
Crude soybean and crude palm oil	10% reduced to 5%
Crude-refined duty differential	19.25%, kept unchanged
Ministry	Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Advisory to industry	Revise Price to Distributors (PTD) and Maximum Retail Price (MRP) immediately
Reason given	Sharp rise in international edible oil prices and inflationary pressure at home
Announced on	24 September 2026

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/crude-sunflower-oil-import-duty-cut-to-nil-palm-and-soybean-to-5percent/

India Showcases UHC Gains at UNGA81, Co-launches OneSCD

24 September 2026 · International

At UNGA81 India cited over 1.8 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, 900 million health IDs and 497 million e-Sanjeevani teleconsultations, and co-launched OneSCD.

- Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava represented India at two health events on the sidelines of the 81st United Nations General Assembly in New York.
- India reported over 1.8 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, more than 900 million citizens with unique health identities and over 497 million teleconsultations on e-Sanjeevani.
- For hepatitis, India restated the 2030 elimination goal for Hepatitis B and C; treatment has reached 1,039 centres and nearly 225 million people have been screened since 2018.
- India co-hosted the launch of OneSCD with the Government of Nigeria, WHO, UNICEF, Africa CDC and other partners to make sickle cell care more equitable.
- The National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission, launched in 2023, targets 2047 and has screened more than 7.29 crore people and issued over 4.93 crore cards.

Occasion	Side events of the 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA81), New York
India represented by	Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava
First meeting	Seventh Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends of UHC and Global Health
Ayushman Arogya Mandirs	Over 1.8 lakh
Unique health identities	Over 900 million citizens
e-Sanjeevani teleconsultations	Over 497 million
Hepatitis goal	Eliminate Hepatitis B and C as public health threats by 2030
Hepatitis treatment centres	1,039; nearly 225 million screened since 2018

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/india-showcases-uhc-gains-at-unga81-co-launches-onescd/

TDB Gives GalaxEye Rs 63.84 Crore for OptoSAR Satellite

24 September 2026 · Science & Technology

TDB under DST signed an agreement with Bengaluru's GalaxEye for Rs 63.84 crore of RDI Fund support to build an OptoSAR multisensor satellite costing Rs 247.69 crore.

- The Technology Development Board under the Department of Science and Technology signed an agreement with GalaxEye Space Solutions Private Limited, Bengaluru.
- The support is Rs 63.84 crore from the Research Development and Innovation Fund, against a total approved project cost of Rs 247.69 crore.
- The project will build a multisensor satellite with OptoSAR, which fuses Synthetic Aperture Radar with electro-optical imaging for sub-half-metre resolution.
- SAR can image at night and through cloud while optical imaging gives fine detail, so combining them yields a more continuous view of the earth.
- The funding takes the technology from TRL-6 to TRL-9; Rajesh Kumar Pathak is Secretary of the Technology Development Board.

Agreement	TDB-DST with GalaxEye Space Solutions Private Limited, Bengaluru
Support	Rs 63.84 crore under the Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund
Total approved project cost	Rs 247.69 crore
Mode of support	Optionally convertible debentures
Technology	OptoSAR, fusing Synthetic Aperture Radar with electro-optical imaging
Resolution	Finer than half a metre
Technology readiness	TRL-6 to TRL-9
TDB Secretary	Rajesh Kumar Pathak

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/tdb-gives-galaxeye-rs-6384-crore-for-optosar-satellite/

INS Trishul Reaches Toulon for 24th Exercise VARUNA

24 September 2026 · Defence

INS Trishul reached Toulon in France on 22 September 2026 for the 24th edition of Exercise VARUNA, the bilateral maritime drill of the Indian and French navies.

- INS Trishul arrived at Toulon in France on 22 September 2026 to take part in Exercise VARUNA, as announced by the Ministry of Defence on 24 September 2026.
- This is the 24th edition of VARUNA, the bilateral maritime exercise conducted by the Indian Navy together with the French Navy.
- The exercise has a harbour phase and a sea phase, with cross-deck visits, operational interactions and sporting engagements between the two crews.
- The stated aims are sharing experience and best practices, improving interoperability and building greater mutual understanding between the two navies.
- Toulon lies on the Mediterranean coast of France and the visit is described as a sign of the enduring India-France maritime partnership.

Exercise	VARUNA, 24th edition
Type	Bilateral maritime exercise
Participants	Indian Navy and French Navy
Indian ship	INS Trishul
Port of arrival	Toulon, France
Date of arrival	22 September 2026
Activities	Cross-deck visits, operational interactions and sporting engagements, in harbour and at sea
Aims	Sharing best practices, interoperability and mutual understanding

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/ins-trishul-reaches-toulon-for-24th-exercise-varuna/

DRDO Signs First High-Value TDF Deep Tech Pact with Quantum Start-up

24 September 2026 · Defence

DRDO signed its first high-value deep tech agreement under the Technology Development Fund with start-up Zero mK India for a 20 mK dilution refrigerator.

- DRDO has signed its first high-value deep tech project agreement with a start-up under the Technology Development Fund scheme.
- The partner is Zero mK India Private Limited of Alwar, Rajasthan, and the signing took place in New Delhi with the Director, TDF.
- It is the first big agreement under the Rs 500 crore corpus cleared by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh for deep tech projects.
- A 20 mK dilution refrigerator creates the ultra-cold millikelvin environment in which quantum computing platforms are run and tested.
- The indigenous effort supports the National Quantum Mission and cuts dependence on imported cryogenic infrastructure.

Organisation	Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
Scheme	Technology Development Fund (TDF)
Industry partner	Zero mK India Private Limited, Alwar, Rajasthan
Product	20 mK dilution refrigerator for quantum applications
Corpus	Rs 500 crore for deep tech and cutting-edge projects
Corpus approved by	Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh
Mentoring laboratory	Solid State Physics Laboratory (SSPL)
Mission supported	National Quantum Mission

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/drdo-signs-first-high-value-tdf-deep-tech-pact-with-quantum-start-up/

Bio-based Biodegradable PLA Plastic Launched Under BioE3 Framework

24 September 2026 · Science & Technology

Dr Jitendra Singh launched commercial use of PLA-based biodegradable plastic under BioE3, with a BIRAC grant backing a 100 TPA pilot plant in Uttar Pradesh.

- Dr Jitendra Singh formally launched the commercial use of bio-based biodegradable plastic made from Polylactic Acid under the BioE3 framework.
- BioE3 stands for Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment, and the venture is being run by Balrampur Chini Mills Limited.
- A Rs 75 crore BIRAC grant supports the 100 TPA pilot scale research facility for PLA and co-polymers at Kumbhi in Uttar Pradesh.
- India's bioeconomy has grown from about US\$10 billion in 2014 to nearly US\$195 billion, the Minister said at the launch in New Delhi.
- DBT Secretary and BIRAC Chairman Dr Rajesh Sudhir Gokhale said the project builds a value chain beyond ethanol using sugar and biomass.

Launched by	Dr Jitendra Singh, MoS (IC) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences
Framework	BioE3 - Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment
Material	Bio-based biodegradable plastic from Polylactic Acid (PLA)
Company	Balrampur Chini Mills Limited (BCML)
Grant	Rs 75 crore from BIRAC, under the Department of Biotechnology
Facility	100 TPA pilot scale R&D facility for PLA and co-polymers
Site	BCML integrated complex, Kumbhi, Uttar Pradesh
Bioeconomy	About US\$10 billion in 2014 to nearly US\$195 billion now

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/bio-based-biodegradable-pla-plastic-launched-under-bioe3-framework/

India Joins 14th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers Meeting in Manila

24 September 2026 · International

India took part in the 14th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers Meeting and the 23rd ASEAN-India consultation at Manila, with trade at USD 128.38 billion.

- India joined the 14th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers Meeting and the 23rd ASEAN-India Economic Ministers Consultation at Manila, Philippines.
- The Indian delegation was led by Shri Nitin Kumar Yadav, Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce.
- All eleven ASEAN members took part along with East Asia Summit partners such as Australia, China, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Russia and the United States.
- India-ASEAN two way trade reached USD 128.38 billion in 2025-26, with ASEAN forming 10.55 per cent of India's global trade.
- Talks focused on the ongoing review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement, meant to raise trade flows and fix trade asymmetries.

Meetings	14th EAS Economic Ministers Meeting and 23rd ASEAN-India Economic Ministers Consultation
Venue	Manila, Philippines
Indian delegation led by	Shri Nitin Kumar Yadav, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce
ASEAN members present	All eleven, including Timor-Leste
Agreement under review	ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA)
India-ASEAN trade	USD 128.38 billion in 2025-26
Share in India's global trade	10.55 per cent
Research paper	Presented by ERIA on energy security and industrial clusters

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/india-joins-14th-east-asia-summit-economic-ministers-meeting-in-manila/

Asian Games: Seema, Skeet Pair and Badminton Team Take Bronze

24 September 2026 · Sports

India added three bronze medals at the Asian Games through Seema in the women's 10,000m, the skeet mixed team pair and the men's badminton team.

- Seema won the bronze medal in the women's 10,000m at the Asian Games, bringing India a medal in the event after many years.
- Parinaaz Dhaliwal and Anantjeet Singh Naruka won bronze in the skeet mixed team event, India's first ever medal in that event at the Asian Games.
- The Indian men's badminton team also claimed a bronze medal at the same Games.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulated all three sets of winners in messages shared by the Prime Minister's Office.
- The three medals span athletics, shooting and badminton, and each of them was a bronze.

Games	Asian Games
Athletics	Seema, bronze in the women's 10,000m
Significance of that medal	India's medal in the event after many years
Shooting	Parinaaz Dhaliwal and Anantjeet Singh Naruka, bronze in skeet mixed team
Significance	India's first ever medal in the skeet mixed team event at the Asian Games
Badminton	Men's team, bronze
Congratulated by	Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/asian-games-seema-skeet-pair-and-badminton-team-take-bronze/

Mixed 4x400m Relay Team Wins Asian Games Silver for India

25 September 2026 · Sports

Manu TS, Poovamma MR, Vishal TK and Vithya Ramraj took the silver medal in the mixed 4x400m relay at the Asian Games, the Prime Minister said.

- India won the silver medal in the mixed 4x400m relay at the Asian Games
- The Indian quartet was made up of Manu TS, Poovamma MR, Vishal TK and Vithya Ramraj
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the four runners and praised their pace, understanding and resolve
- The congratulatory message was carried by the Prime Minister's Office in a post on the platform X
- In a mixed 4x400m relay four athletes, two men and two women, each run a lap of 400 metres

Event	Mixed 4x400m Relay
Competition	Asian Games
Medal won by India	Silver
Indian team	Manu TS, Poovamma MR, Vishal TK, Vithya Ramraj
Lap run by each athlete	400 metres
Team composition	Two men and two women
Congratulated by	Prime Minister Narendra Modi
Date of the message	25 September 2026

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/mixed-4x400m-relay-team-wins-asian-games-silver-for-india/

DDU-GKY 2.0 to Train 70,000 Rural Youth from October 2026

25 September 2026 · Government Schemes

The Ministry of Rural Development will open DDU-GKY 2.0 training for about 70,000 rural youth in 2,015 batches across 24 States and UTs from October 2026.

- DDU-GKY 2.0 training batches will open across most States and UTs from October 2026
- About 70,000 rural youth in 2,015 batches across 24 States and UTs are expected to begin training
- Targets of 5.6 lakh over more than 1,200 projects have already gone to Project Implementation Agencies
- All 31 participating States and UTs share targets of more than 9 lakh for the two-year cycle of 2026-28
- States must allot targets to implementing agencies by 31 October 2026 so that training can start

Scheme	Deen Dayal Upadhyaya - Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) 2.0
Ministry	Ministry of Rural Development
Type of scheme	Centrally Sponsored Scheme
Training begins	October 2026
Trainees in the first wave	About 70,000 rural youth
Batches	2,015
States and UTs starting batches	24
Targets already given to PIAs	5.6 lakh over more than 1,200 projects

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/ddu-gky-20-to-train-70000-rural-youth-from-october-2026/

TRAI Launches Digital Connectivity Rating Platform for Properties

25 September 2026 · Science & Technology

TRAI launched the Digital Connectivity Rating Platform, an online window where buildings are rated for digital connectivity and buyers can verify the certificate.

- TRAI, under the Ministry of Communications, launched the Digital Connectivity Rating (DCR) Platform along with a mobile app for testing connectivity inside buildings
- It carries out the regulator's rules of 2024 on rating properties, as amended by a notification of 13 May 2026, and the Rating Manual of 2026 issued on 9 June 2026
- Property managers, registered Digital Connectivity Rating Agencies and consumers use one common interface; properties are enrolled as public, government, commercial or private
- Consumers search a rated property by name, certificate number or location and verify the digitally signed certificate through a QR code
- Ratings weigh fibre readiness, mobile network availability, in-building solutions and Wi-Fi; TRAI Chairman is Anil Kumar Lahoti

Platform	Digital Connectivity Rating (DCR) Platform
Launched by	Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)
Ministry	Ministry of Communications
TRAI Chairman	Anil Kumar Lahoti
Parent regulations	Rating of Properties for Digital Connectivity Regulations, 2024
Amendment notified	13 May 2026
Rating Manual	Issued on 9 June 2026
Rating parameters	Fibre readiness, mobile network availability, in-building solutions, Wi-Fi

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/trai-launches-digital-connectivity-rating-platform-for-properties/

Pharma PLI Draws Rs 46,744 Crore Investment, 57 Devices Made

25 September 2026 · Government Schemes

The Department of Pharmaceuticals said its three PLI schemes drew Rs 46,744 crore in pharma investment and started production of 57 medical devices in India.

- The PLI scheme for bulk drugs was approved in 2020 with an outlay of Rs 6,940 crore for 41 critical products; 48 projects were approved and 39 commissioned for 28 ingredients
- Bulk drug investment reached Rs 5,210.74 crore against a committed Rs 4,330 crore, with sales of Rs 3,792.49 crore including exports of Rs 560.16 crore and about 5,127 jobs
- The PLI scheme for pharmaceuticals, approved in 2021 with an outlay of Rs 15,000 crore, selected 55 applicants including 20 MSMEs and drew Rs 46,744 crore against a target of Rs 17,275 crore
- Pharma PLI beneficiaries reported sales of Rs 4,02,869 crore, exports of Rs 2,57,370 crore and 1,21,294 jobs up to June 2026
- The medical devices PLI, approved in 2020 with Rs 3,420 crore, gives a 5 per cent incentive for five years; 57 devices including MRI machines and linear accelerators are now made in India

Implementing body	Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Bulk drugs PLI	Approved 2020, outlay Rs 6,940 crore, 41 critical products
Bulk drugs progress	48 projects approved, 39 commissioned, 28 ingredients made
Bulk drugs investment	Rs 5,210.74 crore against a committed Rs 4,330 crore
Pharmaceuticals PLI	Approved 2021, outlay Rs 15,000 crore, 55 applicants including 20 MSMEs
Pharma investment	Rs 46,744 crore against a target of Rs 17,275 crore
Pharma jobs and sales	1,21,294 jobs; sales Rs 4,02,869 crore including exports of Rs 2,57,370 crore
Medical devices PLI	Approved 2020, outlay Rs 3,420 crore, 5 per cent incentive for five years

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/pharma-pli-draws-rs-46744-crore-investment-57-devices-made/

Vice-President Opens 4th IN-STEP with 22 Nations Taking Part

25 September 2026 · International

Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan addressed the fourth International Strategic Engagement Programme, which has 38 delegates, of whom 25 are from 22 countries.

- Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan addressed the fourth edition of the International Strategic Engagement Programme (IN-STEP) at Uprashtrapati Bhawan
- IN-STEP is organised jointly by the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Defence and the National Security Council Secretariat with the National Defence College, and runs for two weeks
- The edition has 38 delegates in all, including 25 international delegates drawn from 22 countries such as Sri Lanka, Nepal, Mauritius, Maldives, Chile, Brazil and Uzbekistan
- Earlier editions were held in March 2024, October 2024 and October-November 2025
- His three-part message was to think globally, engage strategically and act in cohesion, and he asked Global South countries to build corruption-free systems

Event	4th International Strategic Engagement Programme (IN-STEP)
Addressed by	Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan
Venue	Uprashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi
Organisers	Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Defence and National Security Council Secretariat
Host institution	National Defence College
Duration	Two weeks
Participation	38 delegates, including 25 international delegates from 22 countries
Earlier editions	March 2024, October 2024 and October-November 2025

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/vice-president-opens-4th-in-step-with-22-nations-taking-part/

RRI Study Shows Black Hole Jets Choke Star Birth in Galaxies

25 September 2026 · Science & Technology

Raman Research Institute and Arizona State University found that jets from black holes heat gas along their path and stop new stars from forming in galaxies.

- Researchers from the Raman Research Institute, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology, and Arizona State University made the finding
- The circumgalactic medium (CGM) is the faint gas envelope around a galaxy, spreading 10 to 20 times the size of the galaxy, and it is the fuel for star formation
- A jet of hot plasma from the supermassive black hole energises gas only along its own direction, not equally in all directions around the galaxy
- The signal is strongest at the edge of the stellar disc and again at the outer boundary of the CGM, where energy is deposited and star formation is suppressed
- Namrata Roy of RRI is the lead author and the paper is published in The Astrophysical Journal Letters

Indian institute	Raman Research Institute (RRI), Bengaluru
Parent department	Department of Science and Technology
Partner university	Arizona State University, United States
Lead author	Namrata Roy, assistant professor, astronomy and astrophysics division, RRI
Co-author quoted	Sanchayeeta Borthakur, Arizona State University
Journal	The Astrophysical Journal Letters
Key term	Circumgalactic medium (CGM), the gas envelope around a galaxy
Extent of CGM	10 to 20 times the size of the galaxy

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/rri-study-shows-black-hole-jets-choke-star-birth-in-galaxies/

New Bhuj-Barauni Amrit Bharat Express to Cover 2,532 km

25 September 2026 · National

Indian Railways cleared a tri-weekly Amrit Bharat Express between Bhuj and Barauni covering 2,532 km through Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

- Indian Railways approved a new tri-weekly Amrit Bharat Express between Bhuj in Gujarat and Barauni in Bihar, running 2,532 km through four states
- Train 19427 leaves Bhuj at 17:30 and reaches Barauni at 04:05 on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday; train 19428 leaves Barauni at 23:55 and reaches Bhuj at 13:15 on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
- Halts include Samakhiali, Ahmedabad, Ratlam, Kota, Sawai Madhopur, Bharatpur, Mathura, Bareilly, Gonda, Gorakhpur, Chhapra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur and Samastipur
- The Virangana Lakshmibai Jhansi to Agra Cantt Express, trains 11901 and 11902, was extended up to Mathura, taking its run from 217 km to 270 km
- On the extended stretch the train will halt at Raja ki Mandi, Runkuta, Deen Dayal Dham and Baad

New service	Tri-weekly Amrit Bharat Express, Bhuj to Barauni
Distance	2,532 km
States covered	Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar
Train numbers	19427 (Bhuj-Barauni) and 19428 (Barauni-Bhuj)
Running days	Monday, Wednesday, Saturday from Bhuj; Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday from Barauni
Second approval	Virangana Lakshmibai Jhansi-Agra Cantt Express extended to Mathura
Extended train numbers	11901 and 11902
Revised distance	From 217 km to 270 km

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/new-bhuj-barauni-amrit-bharat-express-to-cover-2532-km/

11th National Traders Welfare Board Meeting Held in New Delhi

25 September 2026 · Economy

The 11th meeting of the National Traders' Welfare Board was held at Vanijya Bhawan in New Delhi and reviewed GST, credit, digital and export issues of traders.

- The 11th meeting of the National Traders' Welfare Board was held at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi, in hybrid mode and was chaired by Sunil J. Singhi
- The board reviewed GST rationalisation, refund delays, lengthy audits, input tax credit mismatches, a centralised loan portal with a 30-day timeline and credit score reforms
- DigiDukaan, an initiative of the Open Network for Digital Commerce, has over 19,000 retailers live in Hyderabad and Jaipur
- The Jan Vishwas Act has eased 40,000 compliances, and state traders' welfare boards exist in Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, with Goa and Telangana confirming in writing
- Members were briefed on the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill 2026, proposed to take effect from 1 January 2027, and on the trade agreement being negotiated with the United Kingdom

Meeting	11th meeting of the National Traders' Welfare Board (NTWB)
Venue	Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi, in hybrid mode
Chairman	Sunil J. Singhi
Ministry	Ministry of Commerce and Industry, through DPIIT
DPIIT Director	Yuvraj Ravindra Patil
Jan Vishwas Act	Eased 40,000 compliances
State boards	Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu
DigiDukaan	Over 19,000 retailers live in Hyderabad and Jaipur

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/11th-national-traders-welfare-board-meeting-held-in-new-delhi/

Centre to Borrow Rs 7,86,000 Crore in H2 of FY 2026-27

25 September 2026 · Economy

The Centre will raise Rs 7,86,000 crore from the market in the second half of FY 2026-27 through 23 weekly auctions, with Rs 15,000 crore from green bonds.

- The Centre will borrow Rs 7,86,000 crore from the market in the second half of FY 2026-27, the October to March period.
- The borrowing is to be completed through 23 weekly auctions of dated securities, spread over tenors of three to fifty years.
- Sovereign Green Bonds worth Rs 15,000 crore form part of this half-yearly borrowing programme.
- Dated-security borrowing for the full year is now put at Rs 15,99,506 crore against a Budget Estimate of Rs 17,20,000 crore.
- The RBI has fixed the Ways and Means Advances ceiling for the half-year at Rs 50,000 crore.

Gross H2 borrowing	Rs 7,86,000 crore
Period covered	Second half of FY 2026-27 (October to March)
Auctions	23 weekly auctions of dated securities
Sovereign Green Bonds	Rs 15,000 crore
Tenors on offer	Three, five, seven, ten, fifteen, thirty, forty and fifty years
Largest maturity share	Ten-year paper, 26.3 per cent
Full-year dated borrowing	Rs 15,99,506 crore
Budget Estimate for the year	Rs 17,20,000 crore

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/centre-to-borrow-rs-786000-crore-in-h2-of-fy-2026-27/

ICG Ship Shaunak Sails for Perth on QUAD-at-Sea Observer Mission

25 September 2026 · Defence

Indian Coast Guard Ship Shaunak left Chennai for Perth in Australia on 25 September 2026 for the QUAD-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission, carrying six Sea Riders.

- Indian Coast Guard Ship Shaunak sailed from Chennai for Perth, Australia, on 25 September 2026 under the QUAD-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission.
- The QUAD grouping is made up of India, Australia, Japan and the United States.
- Six Sea Riders embarked on Shaunak: two officers each from India and Japan, and one each from Australia and the United States.
- The mission flows from the Quad Foreign Ministers' Joint Statement of 26 May 2026 on a free, open, inclusive and rules-based maritime order.
- It also reflects MAHASAGAR, India's maritime vision, short for Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions.

Mission	QUAD-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission
Ship	Indian Coast Guard Ship Shaunak
Sailed from	Chennai
Destination	Perth, Australia
Date of sailing	25 September 2026
QUAD members	India, Australia, Japan and the United States
Sea Riders embarked	Six - two each from India and Japan, one each from Australia and the United States
Guiding document	Quad Foreign Ministers' Joint Statement of 26 May 2026

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/icg-ship-shaunak-sails-for-perth-on-quad-at-sea-observer-mission/

Operation Drishti: AFMS Does 220 Eye Surgeries at Tangdhar

25 September 2026 · Defence

Armed Forces Medical Services surgeons performed 220 sight-restoring surgeries at a two-day mega eye camp at Tangdhar in Kupwara along the LoC under Operation Drishti.

- AFMS surgeons performed 220 sight-restoring surgeries at Tangdhar in Kupwara, Jammu and Kashmir, on 24 and 25 September 2026.
- This was the tenth edition of the mega eye surgical camp series held under Operation Drishti, run from an underground operation theatre near the Line of Control.
- The team was led by Brigadier Sanjay Kumar Mishra, Head of Ophthalmology at the Army Hospital (Research and Referral), Delhi Cantonment.
- Chief of the Army Staff General Dhiraj Seth and DG AFMS Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja visited the camp during the two days.
- The series, envisaged by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh, has screened over 1.50 lakh patients and done over 3,500 surgeries across 10 cities.

Operation	Operation Drishti
Conducted by	Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS)
Surgeries performed	220 sight-restoring surgeries
Place	Tangdhar, Kupwara district, Jammu and Kashmir, along the Line of Control
Dates	24 and 25 September 2026
Edition	Tenth camp of the series
Team led by	Brigadier Sanjay Kumar Mishra, Army Hospital (Research and Referral), Delhi Cantonment
Visited by	Chief of the Army Staff General Dhiraj Seth and DG AFMS Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/operation-drishti-afms-does-220-eye-surgeries-at-tangdhar/

14 Women in India's 70-Member Team at WorldSkills Shanghai 2026

25 September 2026 · International

Fourteen young women are part of India's 70-member contingent competing across 63 skills at the 48th WorldSkills Competition in Shanghai from 22 to 27 September 2026.

- Fourteen young women are part of Team India at WorldSkills Shanghai 2026, more than a fifth of the competitor contingent.
- India has fielded a 70-member contingent competing across 63 skills at the event.
- The 48th WorldSkills Competition is being held in Shanghai from 22 to 27 September 2026.
- The women are competing in trades such as Chemical Laboratory Technology, Logistics and Freight Forwarding, Visual Merchandising, Fashion Technology and Beauty Therapy.
- Manisha Sensarma, Official Delegate of WorldSkills India, is Senior Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

Event	48th WorldSkills Competition, WorldSkills Shanghai 2026
Host city	Shanghai, China
Dates	22 to 27 September 2026
India's contingent	70 competitors
Skills contested	63
Women competitors from India	14, more than a fifth of the contingent
Ministry	Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
Official Delegate, WorldSkills India	Manisha Sensarma, Senior Economic Adviser

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/14-women-in-indias-70-member-team-at-worldskills-shanghai-2026/

Practice MCQs

Answers and short explanations follow the questions.

1. The India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement will enter into force on which date?

- (A) 27 April 2026
- (B) 16 September 2026
- (C) 20 October 2026
- (D) 1 January 2027

2. Under the India–New Zealand FTA, New Zealand has committed to facilitate investment of how much into India?

- (A) USD 10 billion
- (B) USD 15 billion
- (C) USD 20 billion
- (D) USD 25 billion

3. How many Temporary Employment Entry visas for skilled Indians does the India–New Zealand FTA provide?

- (A) 1,000
- (B) 3,000
- (C) 5,000
- (D) 10,000

4. At the Asian Games 2026, which medal did India's men's 10m air rifle team of Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil, Himanshu Dhillon and Parth Rakesh Mane win?

- (A) Gold
- (B) Silver
- (C) Bronze
- (D) Finished fourth

5. Who won India's individual silver medal in men's 10m air rifle at the Asian Games 2026?

- (A) Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil
- (B) Parth Rakesh Mane
- (C) Himanshu Dhillon
- (D) Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar

6. The Asian Games 2026, where India won medals in men's 10m air rifle, are being hosted by which country?

- (A) China
- (B) South Korea
- (C) Japan
- (D) Qatar

7. The coastal clean-up under 'Swachh Sagar Surakshit Sagar' 5.0 covered how many locations?

- (A) 131
- (B) 231
- (C) 331
- (D) 431

8. 'Vigyan Ki Baat', a monthly lecture series showcasing India's autonomous scientific institutions, was launched by which body?

- (A) Department of Biotechnology
- (B) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
- (C) Department of Science & Technology
- (D) Ministry of Earth Sciences

9. How many people took the Ocean Conservation Pledge during 'Swachh Sagar Surakshit Sagar' 5.0?

- (A) 5 lakh
- (B) 10 lakh
- (C) 15 lakh
- (D) 25 lakh

10. The proceeds of the PM Mementos e-Auction go to which programme?

- (A) Swachh Bharat Kosh
- (B) Namami Gange Programme
- (C) PM CARES Fund
- (D) National Defence Fund

11. The PM Mementos e-Auction is organised by the Ministry of Culture through which institution?

- (A) Lalit Kala Akademi
- (B) National Museum, New Delhi
- (C) National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi
- (D) Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

12. The Pithora painting featured in the PM Mementos e-Auction 2026 is associated with which communities of central Gujarat?

- (A) Rathwa, Bhil and Bhilala
- (B) Warli and Kokna
- (C) Gond and Baiga
- (D) Santhal and Munda

13. Bank unions have called strikes in September–October 2026 mainly over which demand that remains pending?

- (A) Withdrawal of the Performance Linked Incentive scheme
- (B) Implementation of five-day banking
- (C) Restoration of the Old Pension Scheme
- (D) Merger of Regional Rural Banks

14. In which year were the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of every month declared holidays for Public Sector Banks?

- (A) 2012
- (B) 2015
- (C) 2019
- (D) 2020

15. By how much was the Staff Welfare Fund of Public Sector Banks enhanced in August 2024?

- (A) 25%
- (B) 40%
- (C) 56%
- (D) 75%

16. What did the Ministry of Mines launch at the National Seminar on India's Critical Minerals Recycling Ecosystem and Circular Economy on 21 September 2026?

- (A) A critical minerals trading exchange
- (B) Concept Paper on Critical Mineral Recycling Ecosystem
- (C) New E-Waste (Management) Rules
- (D) A list of new critical mineral blocks for auction

17. The Ministry of Mines organised the national seminar on critical minerals recycling in collaboration with which body?

- (A) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry
- (B) Materials Recycling Association of India
- (C) Confederation of Indian Industry
- (D) Indian Bureau of Mines

18. The term 'black mass', discussed at the critical minerals recycling seminar, refers to what?

- (A) Coal dust left after washing coal
- (B) Residue from crude oil refining
- (C) Silt removed from river beds
- (D) Material recovered from spent lithium-ion batteries

19. Under the Nal Jal Mitra programme of Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0, how long is the Short-Term Training course for new entrants?

- (A) 120 hours
- (B) 240 hours
- (C) 360 hours
- (D) 510 hours

20. 'Sujalam Shakti', discussed under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0, is a women-led initiative for what purpose?

- (A) Village-level water quality testing and disinfection
- (B) Building rainwater harvesting structures
- (C) Running village solar pumps
- (D) Collecting water tariffs

21. Which department organised the first National Virtual Conference with States/UTs on a skilled rural water workforce under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0?

- (A) Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
- (B) Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation
- (C) Department of Rural Development
- (D) Department of Land Resources

22. The I-STEM portal for sharing scientific research facilities was launched by the Prime Minister in which month and year?

- (A) January 2018
- (B) January 2020
- (C) August 2021
- (D) January 2023

23. The I-STEM portal was conceived and is supported by which office?

- (A) NITI Aayog
- (B) Department of Science & Technology
- (C) Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser
- (D) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

24. According to the Office of the PSA, the I-STEM portal lists more than how many scientific instruments?

- (A) 11,000
- (B) 21,000
- (C) 31,000
- (D) 41,000

25. Ayurveda Day is now observed in India every year on which date?

- (A) 21 June
- (B) 23 September
- (C) 7 April
- (D) 1 July

26. What is the theme of the 11th Ayurveda Day, observed on 23 September 2026?

- (A) Ayurveda for People and Planet
- (B) Ayurveda for One Health
- (C) Ayurveda for a Healthier Tomorrow
- (D) Ayurveda for Every Home

27. How much did the Union Budget 2026-27 allocate to the Ministry of Ayush?

- (A) ₹2,408 crore
- (B) ₹3,208 crore
- (C) ₹3,808 crore
- (D) ₹4,408 crore

28. Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) was launched on which date?

- (A) 15 August 2018
- (B) 23 September 2018
- (C) 2 October 2018
- (D) 1 April 2019

29. What is the maximum annual cashless hospitalisation cover per family under AB PM-JAY?

- (A) ₹1 lakh
- (B) ₹2 lakh
- (C) ₹5 lakh
- (D) ₹10 lakh

30. Beneficiary families under AB PM-JAY are identified on the basis of which database?

- (A) Census 2011
- (B) Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011
- (C) National Family Health Survey
- (D) Aadhaar database

31. SEMICON India 2026 was held at which venue?

- (A) Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
- (B) Yashobhoomi, New Delhi
- (C) Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar
- (D) BIEC, Bengaluru

32. Semicon 2.0, approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2026, has an outlay of how much?

- (A) ₹76,000 crore
- (B) ₹1,00,000 crore
- (C) ₹1,27,500 crore
- (D) ₹1,64,000 crore

33. The AUM HPC-AI processor and the RUDRA-AUM compute node showcased at SEMICON India 2026 were developed by which organisation?

- (A) ISRO
- (B) C-DAC
- (C) DRDO
- (D) BEL

34. Which team won India's first gold medal of the Asian Games 2026?

- (A) Men's hockey team
- (B) Women's cricket team
- (C) Men's cricket team
- (D) Women's kabaddi team

35. Suchika Tariyal won India's first-ever Asian Games medal in which sport?

- (A) Judo
- (B) Mixed martial arts
- (C) Taekwondo
- (D) Wushu

36. The Asian Games 2026, at which India won its first gold in women's cricket, are being hosted in which country?

- (A) China
- (B) Japan
- (C) South Korea
- (D) Indonesia

37. What is the theme of the 9th India International Water Week 2026?

- (A) Water for Sustainable Development
- (B) Climate Resilient Water Management
- (C) Water Security for Peace
- (D) Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari

38. Which framework did Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan launch at the inauguration of India International Water Week 2026?

- (A) National Water Policy 2026
- (B) Sustainable Urban River Management (SURM) Framework
- (C) Atal Bhujal Framework
- (D) Namami Gange 3.0

39. According to the Vice-President, India has about 18% of the world's population but only about what share of global freshwater resources?

- (A) 2.4%
- (B) 4%
- (C) 10%
- (D) 18%

40. Which body released the Telecom Consumer Protection (Thirteenth Amendment) Regulations, 2026 on 22 September 2026?

- (A) Department of Telecommunications
- (B) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
- (C) Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal
- (D) Ministry of Electronics and IT

41. TRAI's Thirteenth Amendment of 2026 mandates special tariff vouchers of what kind?

- (A) Data-only vouchers with unlimited validity
- (B) Voice-and-SMS-only vouchers for validities of 30 days and less
- (C) Free roaming vouchers for all users
- (D) International calling vouchers

42. On 22 September 2026, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said which awards will be held at the country's best tourist destinations?

- (A) Padma Awards
- (B) National Film Awards
- (C) Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards
- (D) National Sports Awards

43. Ekta Nagar, cited by the Minister as a destination for the National Film Awards, is home to which landmark?

- (A) Sabarmati Ashram
- (B) Statue of Unity
- (C) Rani ki Vav
- (D) Somnath Temple

44. The India Cine Hub, a single-window portal for film-shooting permits, is managed by which organisation?

- (A) Central Board of Film Certification
- (B) National Film Development Corporation
- (C) Film and Television Institute of India
- (D) Prasar Bharati

45. Which film city is certified by Guinness World Records as the world's largest film studio complex?

- (A) Film City, Mumbai
- (B) Ramoji Film City, Hyderabad
- (C) Noida Film City
- (D) Prayag Film City, Kolkata

46. India's film, television and online content sector generated revenue of about how much in the financial year 2024, according to the backgrounder?

- (A) USD 5.2 billion
- (B) USD 13.1 billion
- (C) USD 19.7 billion
- (D) USD 25 billion

47. Who received the Dadasaheb Phalke Award at the 72nd National Film Awards?

- (A) Mammooty
- (B) Anant Nag
- (C) Sanjay Mishra
- (D) Randeep Hooda

48. Where was the 72nd National Film Awards ceremony held?

- (A) New Delhi
- (B) Mumbai
- (C) Ekta Nagar, Kevadia
- (D) Gandhinagar

49. Which film was named Best Feature Film at the 72nd National Film Awards?

- (A) Chandu Champion
- (B) Kalki 2898 AD
- (C) Amaran
- (D) Article 370

50. Exercise Veer Guardian 2026 concluded at which Indian Air Force station?

- (A) Air Force Station Gwalior
- (B) Air Force Station Jodhpur
- (C) Air Force Station Kalaikunda
- (D) Air Force Station Sulur

51. The Indian Air Force conducted Exercise Veer Guardian 2026 with the air force of which country?

- (A) Republic of Korea
- (B) Australia
- (C) Japan
- (D) France

52. Which fighter aircraft did the Japan Air Self Defense Force fly during Veer Guardian 2026?

- (A) F-15J
- (B) F-2A
- (C) F-35A
- (D) Mitsubishi F-1

53. Who co-chaired the Seventh High-Level Meeting of the OPEC-India Energy Dialogue along with OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al Ghais?

- (A) Piyush Goyal
- (B) Hardeep Singh Puri
- (C) Nirmala Sitharaman
- (D) Pralhad Joshi

54. The Eighth High-Level Meeting of the OPEC-India Energy Dialogue will be held in which city?

- (A) New Delhi
- (B) Riyadh
- (C) Vienna
- (D) Abu Dhabi

55. In which year was the OPEC-India Energy Dialogue launched?

- (A) 2010
- (B) 2015
- (C) 2018
- (D) 2021

56. What does NAMASTE stand for in the context of the sanitation workers scheme?

- | | |
|--|--|
| (A) National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem | (B) National Mission for Advanced Sanitation and Technology |
| (C) National Agency for Municipal Sanitation and Training Enterprise | (D) National Authority for Mechanized Sewerage and Treatment |

57. How many sewer and septic tank workers have been validated under the NAMASTE Scheme?

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| (A) 58,412 | (B) 90,186 |
| (C) 1,24,530 | (D) 2,51,756 |

58. Under the Swachhta Udyami Yojana capital subsidy, how much support has been given to 983 beneficiaries?

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| (A) Rs 12.40 crore | (B) Rs 21.75 crore |
| (C) Rs 34.16 crore | (D) Rs 48.90 crore |

59. What is the theme of the Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 campaign?

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| (A) Swachhata Mein Sahbhag, Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat | (B) Sampoorna Swachhata |
| (C) Swabhav Swachhata, Sanskaar Swachhata | (D) Swachh Bharat, Swasth Bharat |

60. Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 is jointly organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and which other body?

- | | |
|--|---|
| (A) Department of Rural Development | (B) Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti |
| (C) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change | (D) Department of Health and Family Welfare |

61. Over which period is the Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 campaign being observed?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (A) 1 September to 30 September | (B) 15 August to 15 September |
| (C) 17 September to 2 October | (D) 2 October to 31 October |

62. On which zone of Indian Railways was KAVACH Version 4.0 commissioned for the first time?

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| (A) Northern Railway | (B) South Central Railway |
| (C) Western Railway | (D) East Coast Railway |

63. How many route kilometres of the Malkajgiri-Kamareddi section were upgraded from KAVACH Version 3.2 to Version 4.0?

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| (A) 108 route kilometres | (B) 208 route kilometres |
| (C) 1,465 route kilometres | (D) 512 route kilometres |

64. Which safety certification level is required for the KAVACH system?

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| (A) Safety Integrity Level-2 | (B) Safety Integrity Level-3 |
| (C) Safety Integrity Level-4 | (D) Safety Integrity Level-5 |

- 65. What is the annual health cover available to a beneficiary under Ayushman Bharat, as cited by the Prime Minister on its eighth anniversary?**
- (A) Rs 1 lakh (B) Rs 3 lakh
(C) Rs 5 lakh (D) Rs 10 lakh
- 66. How many visits have Ayushman Arogya Mandirs recorded, according to the Prime Minister's message?**
- (A) Over 100 crore (B) Over 300 crore
(C) Over 500 crore (D) Over 700 crore
- 67. Which of the following statements about Ayushman Bharat was made by the Prime Minister on its eighth anniversary?**
- (A) It is the largest healthcare scheme in the world (B) It is being wound up and merged into a new programme
(C) It covers only government employees (D) It offers cover only for outpatient consultations
- 68. Who moderated the panel discussion 'Industry Associations Advancing India's National Agenda' at SEMICON India 2026?**
- (A) The Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog (B) Amitesh Kumar Sinha, CEO of the India Semiconductor Mission
(C) The Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (D) The Chairman of ISRO
- 69. How many exhibitors took part in SEMICON India 2026?**
- (A) More than 400 (B) More than 600
(C) More than 800 (D) More than 1,000
- 70. How many semiconductor projects have been approved under the Semicon India programme, and how many commercial units were operational as of September 2026?**
- (A) Ten approved, three operational (B) Twelve approved, five operational
(C) Fifteen approved, six operational (D) Twenty approved, eight operational
- 71. How many digits does an IMEI number contain?**
- (A) Ten digits (B) Twelve digits
(C) Fifteen digits (D) Eighteen digits
- 72. Which body oversees the global allocation of the Type Allocation Code used in IMEI numbers?**
- (A) GSMA (B) TRAI
(C) Department of Telecommunications (D) International Telecommunication Union
- 73. Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, what punishment can tampering with a telecommunication identifier attract?**
- (A) Imprisonment up to one year or a fine up to Rs 10 lakh (B) Imprisonment up to three years or a fine up to Rs 50 lakh, or both
(C) Only a fine, with no provision for imprisonment (D) Imprisonment up to seven years with no fine

74. At which event was Prasara Bharati's WAVES OTT platform launched?

- (A) The 55th International Film Festival of India in Goa
(B) The first WAVES Summit in Mumbai
(C) The India International Trade Fair in New Delhi
(D) The Kolkata International Film Festival

75. When was MyWAVES launched within the WAVES OTT platform?

- (A) 20 November 2024
(B) 1 May 2025
(C) 23 March 2026
(D) 21 July 2026

76. How many countries adopted the WAVES Declaration at the first WAVES Summit?

- (A) 47 countries
(B) 60 countries
(C) 77 countries
(D) 100 countries

77. Which department organises the Special Campaign in which the Ministry of Home Affairs is taking part?

- (A) Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances
(B) Department of Personnel and Training
(C) Cabinet Secretariat
(D) Ministry of Panchayati Raj

78. When does the implementation phase of Special Campaign 6 run?

- (A) 15 September to 30 September 2026
(B) 1 October to 15 October 2026
(C) 2 October to 31 October 2026
(D) 1 November to 30 November 2026

79. How many public grievances did the Ministry of Home Affairs dispose of between November 2025 and August 2026?

- (A) 7,410
(B) 25,500
(C) 52,050
(D) 1,02,084

80. What is the full form of the REWARD programme under which the NRAA held its technical committee meeting?

- (A) Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development
(B) Renewing Water Resources for Agriculture and Rural Development
(C) Restoring Ecology, Water and Rainfed Drylands
(D) Rural Employment through Watershed and Rainfed Development

81. Who presided over the National Level Technical Committee meeting held under the REWARD programme?

- (A) The Deputy Director General (NRM) of ICAR
(B) Dr Chandra Shekhar Kumar, CEO of the NRAA
(C) The Joint Secretary (Watershed Management), Department of Land Resources
(D) The Commissioner of the Watershed Development Department, Karnataka

82. Under which scheme component will the National Technical Guidelines being prepared by the NRAA be used?

- (A) Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana 3.0
- (B) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana
- (C) National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
- (D) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana

83. SLINEX-26, which concluded at Visakhapatnam, is a bilateral maritime exercise between India and which country?

- (A) Bangladesh
- (B) Sri Lanka
- (C) Maldives
- (D) Indonesia

84. Which edition of SLINEX was held in September 2026?

- (A) 11th
- (B) 12th
- (C) 13th
- (D) 14th

85. In the context of SLINEX-26, what does the abbreviation VBSS stand for?

- (A) Visit, Board, Search and Seizure
- (B) Vessel Berthing and Safety Standards
- (C) Visual Beacon Signalling System
- (D) Vertical Boarding and Sea Survey

86. Who became India's first-ever Asian Games medallist in soft tennis?

- (A) Jay Meena
- (B) Mirabai Chanu
- (C) Raiza Dhillon
- (D) Maheshwari Chauhan

87. Mirabai Chanu won a silver medal in which event?

- (A) Women's 45 kg weightlifting
- (B) Women's 49 kg weightlifting
- (C) Women's 55 kg weightlifting
- (D) Women's skeet individual

88. Parinaaz Dhaliwal, Maheshwari Chauhan and Raiza Dhillon won a bronze medal in which event?

- (A) Women's archery team
- (B) Women's trap team
- (C) Women's skeet team
- (D) Women's air rifle team

89. How much support has the Technology Development Board approved for Ubifly Technologies under the RDI Fund?

- (A) Rs 150 crore
- (B) Rs 285 crore
- (C) Rs 570 crore
- (D) Rs 1,000 crore

90. The e200X being developed by Ubifly Technologies is which kind of aircraft?

- (A) A two-seater trainer aircraft powered by a piston engine
- (B) A three-seater zero-emission advanced air mobility aircraft
- (C) An unmanned cargo drone with no pilot on board
- (D) A regional turboprop airliner for sixty passengers

91. The TDB support to Ubifly Technologies is being provided through which financial instrument?

- (A) An interest-free outright grant
- (B) Sovereign green bonds
- (C) Optionally Convertible Debentures
- (D) A viability gap funding subsidy

92. MY Bharat, which has crossed 3 crore registered youth, is a platform of which ministry?

- (A) Ministry of Education
- (B) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- (C) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- (D) Ministry of Women and Child Development

93. On which date was the MY Bharat platform launched by the Prime Minister?

- (A) 12 January 2023
- (B) 15 August 2023
- (C) 31 October 2023
- (D) 26 January 2024

94. Where will the national Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue be held in January 2027?

- (A) Mumbai
- (B) New Delhi
- (C) Bengaluru
- (D) Varanasi

95. Who graced the 75th annual convocation ceremony of the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda?

- (A) The Prime Minister
- (B) The President of India
- (C) The Vice-President
- (D) The Union Education Minister

96. The Maharaja Sayajirao University, whose 75th convocation was held in September 2026, is located in which city?

- (A) Ahmedabad
- (B) Surat
- (C) Vadodara
- (D) Rajkot

97. In her convocation address, the President referred to the national goal of building a Viksit Bharat by which year?

- (A) 2030
- (B) 2035
- (C) 2040
- (D) 2047

98. Under the DDU-GKY 2.0 framework, what is the minimum placement duration for a trained candidate?

- (A) Three months
- (B) Six months
- (C) Nine months
- (D) Twelve months

99. DDU-GKY was launched on which date and under which mission?

- (A) 25 September 2014, under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission
- (B) 25 September 2015, under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana
- (C) 2 October 2014, under MGNREGA
- (D) 15 August 2016, under the Skill India Mission

100. What financial assistance is given to a candidate placed under DDU-GKY 2.0?

- (A) 10,000 rupees paid as a single grant on joining
- (B) 7,620 rupees, at 1,270 rupees a month for six months
- (C) 15,000 rupees, at 2,500 rupees a month for six months
- (D) No assistance is given after placement

101. PBSHABD, the free news feed service in the news, belongs to which organisation?

- (A) Press Trust of India
- (B) Prasar Bharati
- (C) Press Information Bureau
- (D) Indian Institute of Mass Communication

102. Up to which date has free access to PBSHABD been assured?

- (A) March 2025
- (B) March 2026
- (C) March 2027
- (D) March 2030

103. Which statement about PBSHABD is correct?

- (A) Its content must carry the Prasar Bharati logo and a credit line
- (B) Its content carries no logo and needs no credit line
- (C) It is available only in Hindi and English
- (D) It is open only to television channels

104. Special Campaign 6.0, the drive on cleanliness and disposal of pendency, has been launched by which department?

- (A) Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances
- (B) Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
- (C) Department of Personnel and Training
- (D) Department of Expenditure

105. What are the dates of the implementation phase of Special Campaign 6.0?

- (A) 16 to 30 September 2026
- (B) 2 to 31 October 2026
- (C) 1 to 30 November 2026
- (D) 2 to 31 October 2025

106. How much revenue did DEPwD and its organisations generate during Special Campaign 5.0?

- (A) 11,972 rupees
- (B) 15,588 rupees
- (C) 14,47,619 rupees
- (D) 64,00,000 rupees

107. Naorem Roshibina Devi, congratulated by the Prime Minister, won a silver medal in which event?

- (A) Women's Sanda 60kg
- (B) Women's boxing 60kg
- (C) Women's judo 63kg
- (D) Women's double sculls

108. According to the Prime Minister's message, Naorem Roshibina Devi has won medals at how many consecutive Asian Games?

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

109. Satnam Singh and Salman Khan won a bronze medal for India in which event?

- (A) Men's single sculls
- (B) Men's coxless pair
- (C) Men's double sculls
- (D) Men's quadruple sculls

110. The Basic Customs Duty on crude sunflower oil has been reduced to which level?

- (A) 5%
- (B) Nil
- (C) 7.5%
- (D) 10%

111. What import duty differential between crude and refined edible oils has the government maintained?

- (A) 8.25%
- (B) 13.75%
- (C) 19.25%
- (D) 22.50%

112. Which ministry announced the reduction in import duty on major edible oils?

- (A) Ministry of Finance
- (B) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- (C) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- (D) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

113. India's two global health engagements were held on the sidelines of which session of the United Nations General Assembly?

- (A) 79th
- (B) 80th
- (C) 81st
- (D) 82nd

114. How many teleconsultations has e-Sanjeevani facilitated, according to India's statement at UNGA81?

- (A) 297 million
- (B) 397 million
- (C) 497 million
- (D) 597 million

115. By which year does the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission aim to end the disease as a public health problem?

- (A) 2030
- (B) 2035
- (C) 2040
- (D) 2047

116. How much support has the Technology Development Board agreed to give GalaxEye under the RDI Fund?

- (A) Rs 36.48 crore
- (B) Rs 63.84 crore
- (C) Rs 84.63 crore
- (D) Rs 127.50 crore

117. What is the total approved cost of the GalaxEye multisensor satellite project?

- (A) Rs 147.69 crore
- (B) Rs 247.69 crore
- (C) Rs 347.69 crore
- (D) Rs 447.69 crore

118. The OptoSAR technology of GalaxEye brings together which two kinds of imaging?

- (A) Synthetic Aperture Radar and electro-optical imaging
- (B) LiDAR and thermal infrared imaging
- (C) Hyperspectral imaging and radar altimetry
- (D) Satellite navigation signals and sonar imaging

119. INS Trishul has arrived at Toulon for which edition of Exercise VARUNA?

- (A) 22nd
- (B) 23rd
- (C) 24th
- (D) 25th

120. Exercise VARUNA is a bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the navy of which country?

- (A) France
- (B) United Kingdom
- (C) United States of America
- (D) Russia

121. Which of the following is NOT listed among the activities planned during this edition of Exercise VARUNA?

- (A) Cross-deck visits
- (B) Operational interactions
- (C) Sporting engagements
- (D) Submarine rescue certification

122. Under which DRDO scheme was the first high-value deep tech project agreement with a start-up signed for a 20 mK dilution refrigerator?

- (A) Technology Development Fund
- (B) Innovations for Defence Excellence
- (C) Make-II Procedure
- (D) Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme

123. Zero mK India Private Limited, the start-up that will develop the dilution refrigerator with DRDO, is based in which state?

- (A) Gujarat
- (B) Rajasthan
- (C) Telangana
- (D) Kerala

124. The indigenous development of the 20 mK dilution refrigerator is aligned with which national mission?

- (A) National Supercomputing Mission
- (B) National Quantum Mission
- (C) National Green Hydrogen Mission
- (D) Deep Ocean Mission

125. What does the E3 in the BioE3 framework, under which the PLA biodegradable plastic venture was launched, stand for?

- (A) Energy, Ecology and Efficiency
- (B) Economy, Environment and Employment
- (C) Education, Enterprise and Export
- (D) Ethanol, Enzymes and Engineering

126. The BioE3-supported pilot scale facility for PLA and co-polymers will be set up at Kumbhi in which state?

- (A) Uttar Pradesh
- (B) Maharashtra
- (C) Karnataka
- (D) Bihar

127. Which body gave the Rs 75 crore grant that supports the pilot facility for PLA and co-polymers?

- (A) NITI Aayog
- (B) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
- (C) Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council
- (D) Technology Development Board

128. Where were the 14th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers Meeting and the 23rd ASEAN-India Economic Ministers Consultation held?

- (A) Jakarta, Indonesia
- (B) Manila, Philippines
- (C) Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- (D) Hanoi, Vietnam

129. What was the value of India-ASEAN bilateral trade in 2025-26, as stated at the consultation?

- (A) USD 98.24 billion
- (B) USD 110.60 billion
- (C) USD 128.38 billion
- (D) USD 152.75 billion

130. Which agreement between India and ASEAN is currently under review, as discussed at the Manila consultation?

- (A) ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement
- (B) Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
- (C) Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement with Singapore
- (D) India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement

131. Seema won a bronze medal for India at the Asian Games in which event?

- (A) Women's marathon
- (B) Women's 10,000m
- (C) Women's 3000m steeplechase
- (D) Women's 800m

132. Parinaaz Dhaliwal and Anantjeet Singh Naruka won a bronze medal in which event, described as India's first ever medal in it at the Asian Games?

- (A) Trap mixed team
- (B) Air rifle mixed team
- (C) Skeet mixed team
- (D) Air pistol mixed team

133. Which of the following statements about India's medals at the Asian Games, as congratulated by the Prime Minister, is correct?

- (A) The men's badminton team won a bronze medal
- (B) The men's badminton team won a silver medal
- (C) The women's badminton team won a gold medal
- (D) The mixed badminton team won a bronze medal

134. Which medal did India's mixed 4x400m relay team win at the Asian Games, as noted in the Prime Minister's message of 25 September 2026?

- (A) Gold
- (B) Silver
- (C) Bronze
- (D) The team finished fourth and missed the podium

135. How many athletes make up a team in the mixed 4x400m relay, and how is the team composed?

- (A) Two athletes, one man and one woman
- (B) Three athletes, two men and one woman
- (C) Four athletes, two men and two women
- (D) Six athletes, three men and three women

136. Who conveyed the congratulations to India's mixed 4x400m relay team after its silver-medal run, in a message shared on the platform X?

- (A) The President of India
- (B) The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi
- (C) The Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports
- (D) The President of the Indian Olympic Association

137. How many rural youth are expected to begin skill training under DDU-GKY 2.0 in October 2026?

- (A) About 45,000
- (B) About 70,000
- (C) About 1.2 lakh
- (D) About 5.6 lakh

138. Which ministry implements the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya - Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)?

- (A) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- (B) Ministry of Labour and Employment
- (C) Ministry of Rural Development
- (D) Ministry of Education

139. By which date must States and Union Territories allot targets to Project Implementation Agencies so that DDU-GKY 2.0 training can commence?

- (A) 30 September 2026
- (B) 31 October 2026
- (C) 31 December 2026
- (D) 31 March 2027

140. Which body launched the Digital Connectivity Rating (DCR) Platform?

- (A) Department of Telecommunications
- (B) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
- (C) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
- (D) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

141. The Digital Connectivity Rating Platform gives effect to the regulations on rating of properties for digital connectivity framed in which year?

- (A) 2018
- (B) 2020
- (C) 2022
- (D) 2024

142. Which of the following is not a parameter assessed under the Digital Connectivity Rating framework?

- (A) Fibre readiness of the property
- (B) Availability of mobile network
- (C) Carpet area and the number of parking slots
- (D) Wi-Fi infrastructure in the building

143. What is the total financial outlay of the PLI scheme for bulk drugs?

- (A) Rs 3,420 crore
- (B) Rs 6,940 crore
- (C) Rs 15,000 crore
- (D) Rs 17,275 crore

144. How many unique medical devices have gone into production under the PLI scheme for medical devices?

- (A) 28
- (B) 39
- (C) 48
- (D) 57

145. Which ministry's department implements the production linked incentive schemes for pharmaceuticals and medical devices?

- (A) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- (B) Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
- (C) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- (D) Ministry of Science and Technology

146. How many countries are represented among the international delegates at the fourth edition of IN-STEP?

- (A) 16
- (B) 22
- (C) 25
- (D) 38

147. IN-STEP is organised jointly by the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Defence and which other body?

- (A) NITI Aayog
- (B) National Security Council Secretariat
- (C) Indian Council of World Affairs
- (D) Ministry of Home Affairs

148. Which three-part message did the Vice-President give to the IN-STEP delegates?

- (A) Reform, perform and transform
- (B) Think globally, engage strategically, act in cohesion
- (C) Learn, unlearn and relearn
- (D) Plan, produce and prosper

149. The circumgalactic medium (CGM) referred to in the study is best described as

- (A) The dense core of a galaxy where stars are packed together
- (B) The faint envelope of gas surrounding a galaxy beyond its disc
- (C) The ring of dust that forms the spiral arms of a galaxy
- (D) The region inside the event horizon of a black hole

150. Which Indian institute, along with Arizona State University, carried out the study on black hole jets and star formation?

- (A) Indian Institute of Astrophysics
- (B) Raman Research Institute
- (C) Physical Research Laboratory
- (D) Tata Institute of Fundamental Research

151. According to the study, how does a black hole jet affect the gas around a galaxy?

- (A) It cools the gas equally in all directions so that stars form faster
- (B) It energises the gas only along its own direction and suppresses star formation
- (C) It pulls the entire gas envelope into the black hole within a few years
- (D) It has no measurable effect beyond the central region of the galaxy

152. What distance will the new tri-weekly Amrit Bharat Express between Bhuj and Barauni cover?

- (A) 1,532 km
- (B) 2,532 km
- (C) 3,252 km
- (D) 2,352 km

153. The Virangana Lakshmibai Jhansi-Agra Cantt Express has been extended up to which station?

- (A) Gwalior
- (B) Mathura
- (C) Bharatpur
- (D) Hathras

154. The new Bhuj-Barauni Amrit Bharat Express will pass through all of the following states except

- (A) Rajasthan
- (B) Uttar Pradesh
- (C) Maharashtra
- (D) Bihar

155. Where was the 11th meeting of the National Traders' Welfare Board held?

- (A) Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi
- (B) Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi
- (C) Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi
- (D) Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi

156. How many compliances has the Jan Vishwas Act rationalised, as stated at the meeting?

- (A) 4,000
- (B) 14,000
- (C) 40,000
- (D) 400,000

157. From which date is the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill 2026 proposed to come into effect?

- (A) 1 April 2027
- (B) 1 January 2027
- (C) 1 October 2026
- (D) 1 January 2028

158. How much does the Government of India plan to borrow from the market in the second half of FY 2026-27?

- (A) Rs 6,86,000 crore
- (B) Rs 7,86,000 crore
- (C) Rs 8,86,000 crore
- (D) Rs 9,86,000 crore

159. Through how many weekly auctions will the second-half market borrowing be completed?

- (A) 13
- (B) 19
- (C) 23
- (D) 26

160. What is the Ways and Means Advances limit fixed by the RBI for the second half of FY 2026-27?

- (A) Rs 30,000 crore
- (B) Rs 40,000 crore
- (C) Rs 60,000 crore
- (D) Rs 50,000 crore

161. Which Indian Coast Guard ship sailed from Chennai to Perth for the QUAD-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission?

- (A) ICGS Samarth
- (B) ICGS Sarthak
- (C) ICGS Shaunak
- (D) ICGS Vikram

162. How many Sea Riders embarked on the Indian Coast Guard ship for the QUAD-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission?

- (A) Four
- (B) Six
- (C) Eight
- (D) Ten

163. MAHASAGAR, the maritime vision reflected in this mission, stands for which of the following?

- | | |
|--|--|
| (A) Maritime Advancement for Harbour, Security and Growth Across Regions | (B) Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions |
| (C) Mutual Assistance for Shipping, Growth and Regional Security | (D) Maritime Harmony and Security Growth Around Regions |

164. How many sight-restoring surgeries were performed at the mega eye camp held at Tangdhar under Operation Drishti?

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| (A) 120 | (B) 180 |
| (C) 220 | (D) 320 |

165. The mega eye surgical camp at Tangdhar under Operation Drishti was held in which district of Jammu and Kashmir?

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| (A) Baramulla | (B) Kupwara |
| (C) Poonch | (D) Rajouri |

166. Who led the surgical team at the Tangdhar mega eye camp?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| (A) Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja | (B) General Dhiraj Seth |
| (C) Brigadier Sanjay Kumar Mishra | (D) Manoj Sinha |

167. WorldSkills Shanghai 2026 is which edition of the WorldSkills Competition?

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| (A) 46th | (B) 47th |
| (C) 48th | (D) 49th |

168. How many competitors are there in India's contingent at WorldSkills Shanghai 2026?

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| (A) 14 | (B) 63 |
| (C) 70 | (D) 84 |

169. Who is the Official Delegate of WorldSkills India quoted on the participation of women at WorldSkills Shanghai 2026?

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| (A) Manisha Sensarma | (B) Sampada Desai |
| (C) Smriti Nambiar | (D) Krishnanjali Sahoo |

Answer key

1. **C** **20 October 2026** – On 21 September 2026, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and New Zealand's Trade and Investment Minister Todd McClay announced that the agreement would come into force on that day, which is Dussehra–Vijayadashami.
2. **C** **USD 20 billion** – The agreement includes New Zealand's commitment to facilitate investment of this amount into India, and the Commerce Ministry says it is expected to benefit Indian agriculture, manufacturing, infrastructure and start-ups.
3. **C** **5,000** – The agreement sets aside a dedicated quota of 5,000 Temporary Employment Entry visas for skilled Indian professionals, giving them a clear route to work in New Zealand.
4. **B** **Silver** – On 21 September 2026 the trio of Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil, Himanshu Dhillon and Parth Rakesh Mane won silver in the men's 10m air rifle team event.
5. **C** **Himanshu Dhillon** – In the individual men's 10m air rifle, Himanshu Dhillon won silver, and the Prime Minister highlighted his calm under pressure and remarkable accuracy.
6. **C** **Japan** – The 2026 Asian Games, the 20th edition of the event, are being hosted by the Japanese cities of Aichi and Nagoya.
7. **B** **231** – Swachh Sagar Surakshit Sagar 5.0 was conducted from 12 to 19 September 2026, and its coastal clean-up covered 231 locations across 13 States/UTs.
8. **C** **Department of Science & Technology** – 'Vigyan Ki Baat' is a monthly lecture series launched by DST to showcase the work of India's autonomous scientific institutions and take their achievements to a wider audience.
9. **C** **15 lakh** – During Swachh Sagar Surakshit Sagar 5.0, held from 12 to 19 September 2026, 15 lakh people took the Ocean Conservation Pledge, a commitment to keep the sea and the coast free of litter.
10. **B** **Namami Gange Programme** – The money raised by the PM Mementos e-Auction supports Namami Gange, the national mission dedicated to the conservation, rejuvenation and protection of the River Ganga and its ecosystem.
11. **C** **National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi** – The Ministry of Culture organises the PM Mementos e-Auction through NGMA, and the auction gives citizens, collectors, institutions and art enthusiasts a chance to acquire mementos presented to the Prime Minister on various occasions.
12. **A** **Rathwa, Bhil and Bhilala** – The Ministry of Culture's note on the auction describes a framed Pithora painting associated with these communities of central Gujarat, featuring horses, deities and motifs that represent the beliefs behind the art.
13. **B** **Implementation of five-day banking** – The United Forum of Bank Unions and some other unions in public sector banks, supported by Regional Rural Banks, raised two principal demands: a five-day working week for banks and withdrawal of the Performance Linked Incentive scheme.
14. **B** **2015** – In its appeal of 21 September 2026, the Ministry of Finance recalled that the Government, in the interest of bank employees, declared the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of every month as holidays for public sector banks in 2015.
15. **C** **56%** – The Staff Welfare Fund is money that public sector banks set aside for the welfare of working and retired staff, covering health expenses, canteen subsidies, sports and cultural activities and educational help.

16.	B	Concept Paper on Critical Mineral Recycling Ecosystem – At the seminar in New Delhi, the Union Ministers launched this paper, which outlines a strategic framework for strengthening critical mineral recycling in India.
17.	B	Materials Recycling Association of India – The day-long National Seminar on "India's Critical Minerals Recycling Ecosystem and Circular Economy" was organised by the Ministry of Mines in collaboration with MRAI, an industry body of recyclers.
18.	D	Material recovered from spent lithium-ion batteries – When used lithium-ion batteries are collected, dismantled and shredded, the result is a dark powder called black mass.
19.	D	510 hours – At its virtual conference on 21 September 2026, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation briefed States on the two pathways of the Nal Jal Mitra programme: a 510-hour Short-Term Training course for new entrants, and a 120-hour Recognition of Prior Lear...
20.	A	Village-level water quality testing and disinfection – Sujalam Shakti aims to create a trained workforce of village women for water quality surveillance, testing and basic disinfection, and to strengthen women's role in rural water governance.
21.	B	Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation – DDWS, which is part of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, organised the conference on 21 September 2026 as a follow-up to its Departmental Summit of 1 to 2 September 2026.
22.	B	January 2020 – I-STEM, the Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map, was conceived and supported by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser and launched by the Prime Minister in January 2020.
23.	C	Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser – The PSA's Office conceived and supports I-STEM, and it was this office that convened the first State Governments Nodal Officers Meeting for the portal on 21 September 2026.
24.	C	31,000 – The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser says I-STEM now lists more than 31,000 scientific instruments across nearly 4,000 institutions, and has over 65,000 registered users.
25.	B	23 September – The Government marks Ayurveda Day every year on 23 September, which is close to the autumnal equinox, when day and night are almost equal; the date was chosen to reflect the idea of natural balance at the heart of Ayurveda.
26.	C	Ayurveda for a Healthier Tomorrow – The PIB backgrounder released on 22 September 2026 says the Government is running a national strategy to revive traditional healthcare under this theme.
27.	D	₹4,408 crore – According to the PIB backgrounder on the 11th Ayurveda Day, the Union Budget 2026-27 allocated ₹4,408 crore to the Ministry of Ayush to strengthen Ayush healthcare, promote evidence-based research and innovation, and build infrastructure and global outreach.
28.	B	23 September 2018 – AB PM-JAY was launched on that date to move India towards universal health coverage, and the PIB backgrounder of 22 September 2026 marks its eighth anniversary.
29.	C	₹5 lakh – AB PM-JAY provides cashless hospitalisation cover of up to ₹5 lakh per family per year, covering 1,961 procedures across 27 medical specialties at public and private empanelled hospitals.
30.	B	Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011 – Rural families qualify under six deprivation criteria of the SECC 2011, such as households with only one kucha room, no adult member between 16 and 59, female-headed households without an adult male, households with a disabled member, SC/ST households and lan...
31.	B	Yashobhoomi, New Delhi – The fifth edition of SEMICON India ran there for three days, from 17 to 19 September 2026, on the theme "Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem", with more than 600

exhibiting companies, a Start-up Pavilion, a Workforce Development Pavilion, country and S...

32. **C** **₹1,27,500 crore** – Semicon 2.0 was approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2026 with this outlay.
33. **B** **C-DAC** – The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing showcased its AUM HPC-AI processor and the RUDRA-AUM compute node, reflecting India's push to build indigenous capability in high-performance computing and AI at the system level, not just the chip level.
34. **B** **Women's cricket team** – On 22 September 2026 India's women won the cricket gold at the Asian Games, and the Prime Minister noted that it was the country's first gold of this edition of the Games.
35. **B** **Mixed martial arts** – Suchika Tariyal won bronze in mixed martial arts at the Asian Games 2026, and the Prime Minister described it as a historic achievement because it is India's first-ever Asian Games medal in that field.
36. **B** **Japan** – The 2026 Asian Games, the 20th edition, are being held in the Japanese cities of Aichi and Nagoya.
37. **B** **Climate Resilient Water Management** – The 9th India International Water Week, organised by the Ministry of Jal Shakti at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, from 22 to 26 September 2026, is centred on this theme.
38. **B** **Sustainable Urban River Management (SURM) Framework** – At the inauguration on 22 September 2026, the Vice-President launched the SURM Framework along with an AI/ML-driven Integrated Reservoir Sediment Management system, described as steps towards technology-enabled and climate-resilient water management.
39. **B** **4%** – Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan noted that India accounts for about 2.4 per cent of the world's land area and 18 per cent of its population, while possessing only about 4 per cent of global freshwater resources.
40. **B** **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India** – TRAI, the sector's regulator, released the Thirteenth Amendment on 22 September 2026 after a draft issued on 7 April 2026 drew 1,132 responses and an open house discussion on 15 June 2026.
41. **B** **Voice-and-SMS-only vouchers for validities of 30 days and less** – The correct answer is Voice-and-SMS-only vouchers for validities of 30 days and less.
42. **B** **National Film Awards** – The Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting said the National Film Awards are being taken to India's best tourist destinations, inspired by the Prime Minister's approach of holding national events beyond conventional venues, much as G20 meetings were...
43. **B** **Statue of Unity** – Ashwini Vaishnaw said Ekta Nagar has gained recognition across the world as a highly attractive destination because it is home to the world's tallest statue, that of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
44. **B** **National Film Development Corporation** – NFDC, which works under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, runs the India Cine Hub as a digital single-window portal where domestic and international creators apply for filming permissions, film visas and co-production approvals.
45. **B** **Ramoji Film City, Hyderabad** – Set up by the Ramoji Group in 1996, it is certified by Guinness World Records as the world's largest film studio complex and is also described as the world's largest integrated film city and India's only thematic holiday destination built around filmmaking.
46. **B** **USD 13.1 billion** – The backgrounder says the film, television and online content sector generated USD 13.1 billion in revenue in the financial year 2024, up 18 per cent since 2019, and is expected to keep growing at 6 to 10 per cent a year to reach about USD 17.5 to 19.7 billion...
47. **B** **Anant Nag** – President Droupadi Murmu presented the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2024 to the veteran Kannada actor at the 72nd National Film Awards at Ekta Nagar, Kevadia, in Gujarat.

48.	C	Ekta Nagar, Kevadia – The 72nd National Film Awards were conferred there, in Gujarat, and it was the first time the ceremony had been taken out of the national capital.
49.	D	Article 370 – The film was judged the Best Feature Film at the 72nd National Film Awards, and Yami Gautam won the Best Actress in a Leading Role award for the same film, which made it the evening's biggest winner.
50.	B	Air Force Station Jodhpur – The Ministry of Defence stated that the bilateral air exercise between the Indian Air Force and the Japan Air Self Defense Force concluded at Air Force Station Jodhpur, and it was also at Jodhpur that the two air chiefs came for Distinguished Visitor's Day an...
51.	C	Japan – Veer Guardian is the bilateral air exercise between the Indian Air Force and the Japan Air Self Defense Force, and the release describes the drill as strengthening the strategic partnership between the two air forces of India and Japan.
52.	B	F-2A – The Ministry of Defence release states that the Japan Air Self Defense Force participated in the exercise with the F-2A fighter aircraft, while the Indian Air Force deployed a mix of the Su-30 MKI, the Rafale and the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft Tejas.
53.	B	Hardeep Singh Puri – The meeting was co-chaired by Hardeep Singh Puri, India's Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and by the OPEC Secretary General.
54.	C	Vienna – The release records that both sides agreed to hold the Eighth High-Level Meeting of the OPEC-India Energy Dialogue in Vienna, Austria, on a mutually convenient date.
55.	B	2015 – At the seventh meeting the OPEC Secretary General said that the OPEC-India Energy Dialogue is eleven years strong, having been launched in New Delhi in 2015.
56.	A	National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem – The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment defines NAMASTE exactly this way, and describes its aim as ensuring the safety and dignity of sanitation workers by creating an enabling ecosystem that recognises their contribution to the operation and mainten...
57.	B	90,186 – The Ministry's Secretary stated that the sewer and septic tank workers component now covers all 36 States and Union Territories, and that this many workers have been validated.
58.	C	Rs 34.16 crore – Under the capital subsidy intervention for mechanisation, routed through the Swachhta Udyami Yojana, the Ministry reported that 983 beneficiaries have been supported with this amount.
59.	A	Swachhata Mein Sahbhag, Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat – Both the Department of Food and Public Distribution and the Ministry of Textiles named this as the theme of the current campaign, and described it as an appeal to treat cleanliness as a collective effort and a festival of community involvement.
60.	B	Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti – The correct answer is the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
61.	C	17 September to 2 October – The Ministry of Textiles stated that the campaign is being celebrated across all its organisations over this period, and the activities reported by other departments, such as the Swachhata pledge taken on the opening day, fit the same window.
62.	B	South Central Railway – The Ministry of Railways said that Version 4.0 of the train protection system was put into service for the first time on this zone, on the Malkajgiri-Kamareddi section of the Hyderabad Division.
63.	A	108 route kilometres – That is the length of the Malkajgiri-Kamareddi section in the Hyderabad Division on which the system was carried up from the older edition to the newer one.
64.	C	Safety Integrity Level-4 – The release describes the train protection system as heavily dependent on technology and therefore obliged to carry safety certification of the highest order, which it identifies as

65. **C** **Rs 5 lakh** – In his anniversary message the Prime Minister said that more than sixty crore beneficiaries now have access to an annual health cover of this amount, and that the reach of the cover is what makes the initiative the largest healthcare scheme in the world.
66. **C** **Over 500 crore** – The Prime Minister used this figure to argue that healthcare is moving closer to every doorstep, since the centres named Ayushman Arogya Mandirs deliver primary care in neighbourhoods and villages rather than in distant hospitals.
67. **A** **It is the largest healthcare scheme in the world** – The correct answer is that it is the largest healthcare scheme in the world.
68. **B** **Amitesh Kumar Sinha, CEO of the India Semiconductor Mission** – The correct answer is Amitesh Kumar Sinha, Chief Executive Officer of the India Semiconductor Mission.
69. **B** **More than 600** – The backgrounder records that the event brought together this many exhibitors, of whom close to three hundred were international companies, and treats that mix as a sign of the global interest now being shown in the country's semiconductor and electronics eco...
70. **B** **Twelve approved, five operational** – The backgrounder states that the government has cleared this many semiconductor projects under the Semicon India programme, and that five commercial semiconductor units were already running by September of that year.
71. **C** **Fifteen digits** – The International Mobile Equipment Identity is described as a unique number of that length which identifies a mobile device on a telecom network, and the first eight of those digits make up the Type Allocation Code that identifies the model or type of the han...
72. **A** **GSMA** – The correct answer is the GSMA, the Global System for Mobile Communications Association.
73. **B** **Imprisonment up to three years or a fine up to Rs 50 lakh, or both** – The correct answer is imprisonment of up to three years or a fine of up to fifty lakh rupees, or both.
74. **A** **The 55th International Film Festival of India in Goa** – The correct answer is the 55th International Film Festival of India in Goa, where the platform was unveiled in November as the public broadcaster's public-service streaming service.
75. **C** **23 March 2026** – MyWAVES was opened inside the existing streaming platform on that date, and it changed the service from something people only watched into something they could contribute to, by letting citizens make, upload and share original short, vertical and episodic con...
76. **C** **77 countries** – The declaration was one of the chief outcomes of the first edition of the World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit, held in Mumbai, and the backgrounder lists it alongside the other results of the event, including the business transactions generated by the...
77. **A** **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances** – The correct answer is the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, usually written as DARPG, which the release names as the organiser of the drive.
78. **C** **2 October to 31 October 2026** – The campaign is split in two, and this is the second and longer part, in which the work actually happens across offices.
79. **C** **52,050** – That is the count of public grievances the Ministry reported as disposed of over the period named in the release, and it is listed alongside the other results of its earlier round of the campaign.
80. **A** **Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development** – The correct answer is Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development, the expansion given in the release for the programme under which the technical committee met at the NASC Complex in New Delhi.

81.	B	Dr Chandra Shekhar Kumar, CEO of the NRAA – The correct answer is Dr Chandra Shekhar Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of the National Rainfed Area Authority.
82.	A	Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana 3.0 – The correct answer is the Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana in its third phase.
83.	B	Sri Lanka – SLINEX is the bilateral maritime exercise held between the Indian Navy and the Sri Lanka Navy, and its name itself is formed from the two countries.
84.	C	13th – The Ministry of Defence described the exercise held from 17 to 21 September 2026 as the 13th edition of the India-Sri Lanka bilateral maritime exercise, and it concluded at Visakhapatnam.
85.	A	Visit, Board, Search and Seizure – The release lists VBSS among the Special Forces drills carried out in the sea phase of SLINEX-26, along with slithering operations.
86.	A	Jay Meena – He won the bronze medal in the men's individual event in soft tennis and thereby became the first Indian ever to win an Asian Games medal in that sport.
87.	B	Women's 49 kg weightlifting – The Prime Minister congratulated Mirabai Chanu on winning the silver medal in that category, saying her determination and consistency continue to inspire the nation and that India is proud of her.
88.	C	Women's skeet team – The Prime Minister congratulated the three shooters on the bronze medal and said their focus, precision and teamwork had brought another proud moment for Indian sport.
89.	B	Rs 285 crore – The Technology Development Board, which functions under the Department of Science and Technology, approved that amount for Ubifly Technologies Private Limited of Chennai out of the Research Development and Innovation Fund, for its indigenous ePlane advanced a...
90.	B	A three-seater zero-emission advanced air mobility aircraft – The release describes the e200X as configured for one pilot and two passengers, with a targeted range of 110 km and an ideal speed of 160 kmph, and with a landing gear built for both conventional and vertical landing so that it can operate out of relatively s...
91.	C	Optionally Convertible Debentures – The Technology Development Board is routing its support to Ubifly Technologies through this instrument, which is a form of debt that the holder has the option of converting into equity shares of the company after an agreed period.
92.	B	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports – Mera Yuva Bharat, or MY Bharat, is the national youth engagement platform of the Department of Youth Affairs within that ministry, and it has now gone past 3 crore registered youth in under three years.
93.	C	31 October 2023 – Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Mera Yuva Bharat on that date, setting it up as a technology-enabled platform through which young Indians could join the country's development journey.
94.	B	New Delhi – Under the Viksit Bharat Challenge, participants climb through an Essay Challenge, District Championships and State or Union Territory level rounds, and the winners reach the national Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue held in the capital from 10 to 12 Janua...
95.	B	The President of India – She attended the 75th annual convocation ceremony of the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda at Vadodara in Gujarat and addressed the graduating students, telling them that education will be meaningful only if the country and society benefit from it.
96.	C	Vadodara – The President attended the 75th annual convocation of the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda in that city, and the university takes its name from the ruler of the former princely state of Baroda, which is the older name of Vadodara itself.

97.	D	2047 – The President said the country is moving ahead with the national goal of building a developed India by that year, a hundred years after independence, and described what such a country would look like: quality education and healthcare reaching everyone, scienc...
98.	B	Six months – Under the earlier design of the scheme a placement counted only when the trained candidate held continuous employment for at least three months, so option A states the old rule and not the present one.
99.	A	25 September 2014, under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission – The correct answer is 25 September 2014, under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission.
100.	B	7,620 rupees, at 1,270 rupees a month for six months – The correct answer is 7,620 rupees, at 1,270 rupees a month for six months.
101.	B	Prasar Bharati – PBSHABD is its free news feed, and the very name carries the parent body in it, since it expands to Prasar Bharati - Shared Audio-Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination.
102.	C	March 2027 – Free access has been stretched in steps rather than granted once and for all, which is exactly what makes this a favourite question.
103.	B	Its content carries no logo and needs no credit line – The correct answer is that the content carries no logo and needs no credit line.
104.	A	Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances – The correct answer is the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, usually written as DARPG.
105.	B	2 to 31 October 2026 – The campaign is run in two clearly separated stages, and a question of this kind usually turns on telling them apart.
106.	C	14,47,619 rupees – The money came from the disposal of files, obsolete material and scrap during the month-long drive held from 2 to 31 October 2025.
107.	A	Women's Sanda 60kg – The correct answer is the women's Sanda 60kg event, in which she took the silver medal.
108.	B	Three – What the Prime Minister called noteworthy was not the single silver alone but the run behind it: medals at three Asian Games one after another, a record of turning up at the top of the sport over many years rather than in one good season.
109.	C	Men's double sculls – The name of a rowing event tells you both the size of the crew and the way the oars are held: sculling means each rower works a pair of oars, and double means the boat carries two of them.
110.	B	Nil – Among the oils covered by this decision, crude sunflower oil is the only one whose Basic Customs Duty was taken all the way down to zero, from the earlier level of 10%.
111.	C	19.25% – While cutting the duty on crude oils, the government also trimmed the duty on the matching refined oils, but it kept the distance between the two rates at this level rather than letting it shrink.
112.	D	Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution – The correct answer is the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, which put out this announcement along with the advisory to the edible oil associations.
113.	C	81st – The correct answer is the 81st session, written in the release as UNGA81 and held in New York.
114.	C	497 million – The Union Health Secretary cited this figure as proof that technology is closing the distance between a patient in a remote area and a doctor, and she placed it beside the other digital health number from the same speech, namely that over 900 million citizens...

115.	D	2047 – The mission was launched in 2023 and its target year is the centenary of independence, which is why that year recurs across so many national goals and why it is the one to remember here.
116.	B	Rs 63.84 crore – The correct answer is Rs 63.84 crore, the financial support agreed under the Research Development and Innovation Fund and routed through optionally convertible debentures rather than paid out as a simple grant.
117.	B	Rs 247.69 crore – This is the approved cost of the whole project, of which the Technology Development Board is supporting a part from the Research Development and Innovation Fund, the rest being borne by the company.
118.	A	Synthetic Aperture Radar and electro-optical imaging – The correct answer is Synthetic Aperture Radar and electro-optical imaging, and the name of the technology is itself the clue, since Opto stands for the optical sensor and SAR for the radar.
119.	C	24th – The Ministry of Defence announcement names the edition explicitly, and it is the single most asked detail about a recurring exercise, because the number records how far back the series goes and distinguishes this year's round from every earlier one.
120.	A	France – VARUNA is the naval exercise that India holds with the French Navy, and the supporting detail in this announcement points the same way, since the Indian ship has berthed at Toulon, a French port on the Mediterranean, for the harbour and sea phases of the exer...
121.	D	Submarine rescue certification – The correct answer is submarine rescue certification, which the announcement does not mention at all.
122.	A	Technology Development Fund – DRDO signed the agreement for an indigenous 20 mK dilution refrigerator with the start-up Zero mK India Private Limited under the TDF scheme, and it is the first high-value deep tech project agreement the scheme has supported.
123.	B	Rajasthan – The release places Zero mK India Private Limited at Alwar in Rajasthan, and the agreement itself was signed in New Delhi between the Director of the Technology Development Fund and the start-up.
124.	B	National Quantum Mission – A dilution refrigerator of the 20 mK class produces the ultra-cold millikelvin environment in which quantum computing platforms and related quantum technologies are operated and tested, so building one in India directly serves the quantum mission and strength...
125.	B	Economy, Environment and Employment – BioE3 is the government framework named Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment, and the commercial launch of bio-based biodegradable plastic from Polylactic Acid by Balrampur Chini Mills has been taken forward under it.
126.	A	Uttar Pradesh – The pilot scale research facility of 100 TPA for Polylactic Acid and co-polymers is to be built inside the integrated manufacturing complex of Balrampur Chini Mills Limited at Kumbhi in Uttar Pradesh, while the launch event itself was held at the Department o...
127.	C	Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council – The correct answer is the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council, known as BIRAC, which functions under the Department of Biotechnology.
128.	B	Manila, Philippines – The Indian delegation, led by Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce Shri Nitin Kumar Yadav, travelled to Manila for both meetings, and it was there that economic ministers or their representatives from every ASEAN member met the East Asia Summit...
129.	C	USD 128.38 billion – The release states that bilateral trade between India and the ASEAN bloc reached this level in 2025-26, and that the bloc made up 10.55 per cent of total Indian trade with the world.

130.	A	ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement – The correct answer is the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement, usually shortened to AITIGA.
131.	B	Women's 10,000m – Seema finished third in this long distance track race, and the Prime Minister said her determined performance had brought India a medal in the event after many years, describing it as a wonderful achievement reflecting endurance, discipline and years of hard...
132.	C	Skeet mixed team – The Prime Minister congratulated Parinaaz Dhaliwal and Anantjeet Singh Naruka on the bronze and said their achievement marks the first ever Indian medal in this event at the Asian Games, adding that he hoped the success would inspire many more milestones.
133.	A	The men's badminton team won a bronze medal – The correct answer is that the men's badminton team won a bronze medal.
134.	B	Silver – The Prime Minister's message congratulated Manu TS, Poovamma MR, Vishal TK and Vithya Ramraj specifically on taking the silver medal in the mixed 4x400m relay at the Asian Games, so option B is the one supported by the release.
135.	C	Four athletes, two men and two women – The name of the discipline itself carries the answer: the figure before the multiplication sign gives the number of runners and the figure after it gives the lap each of them covers, so a mixed 4x400m relay is run by four athletes who each complete a lap of 4...
136.	B	The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi – The release was issued by the Prime Minister's Office and carried his words praising the pace of the team, the understanding between the runners and their determination, which he said had made the race an exciting one and a proud moment for athletics in the C...
137.	B	About 70,000 – The Ministry of Rural Development has said that roughly that many rural young people, organised into 2,015 batches across 24 States and Union Territories, are expected to start their training in the opening month of the rollout.
138.	C	Ministry of Rural Development – The announcement on the rollout of DDU-GKY 2.0 came from that ministry, which is also the body pressing States and Union Territories to allot targets to their implementing agencies and holding review meetings with them in phases.
139.	B	31 October 2026 – The Ministry of Rural Development has fixed that day as the outer limit by which States and Union Territories are to finish allotting targets to their Project Implementation Agencies, so that batches can actually begin.
140.	B	Telecom Regulatory Authority of India – The Digital Connectivity Rating Platform was launched by the telecom regulator, which functions under the Ministry of Communications, and the launch was announced on 25 September 2026.
141.	D	2024 – The platform carries out the framework prescribed by the regulator's rules of 2024 on the rating of properties for digital connectivity.
142.	C	Carpet area and the number of parking slots – The rating framework is about how well a building is wired and covered for communication, so its yardsticks are fibre readiness, whether a mobile network is available inside, the connectivity solutions built into the structure and the Wi-Fi the property offer...
143.	B	Rs 6,940 crore – The bulk drugs scheme, which covers key starting materials, drug intermediates and active pharmaceutical ingredients, was approved in 2020 with that outlay and it works on 41 critical products where imports dominated.
144.	D	57 – Production of 57 unique medical devices has begun under the scheme, and the list runs from magnetic resonance imaging machines, computed tomography scanners, cath labs and linear accelerators to C-arms, mammography machines, ultrasound systems, anaesthesia ma...

145.	B	Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers – The Department of Pharmaceuticals sits in that ministry and runs all three schemes, the one for bulk drugs, the one for pharmaceuticals and the one for medical devices.
146.	B	22 – The fourth edition of the International Strategic Engagement Programme has 38 delegates in all, and of these 25 are international delegates who have come from 22 countries, among them Sri Lanka, Seychelles, Mongolia, Nepal, Mauritius, Maldives, Oman, Guyana,...
147.	B	National Security Council Secretariat – The programme is put together by the two ministries along with that secretariat, and it is conducted in association with the National Defence College, which is where such strategic courses are run.
148.	B	Think globally, engage strategically, act in cohesion – The Vice-President offered these three ideas as the philosophy behind the programme while urging countries of the Global South to respond together to challenges that cut across technology, cyberspace, artificial intelligence, energy and maritime security, cli...
149.	B	The faint envelope of gas surrounding a galaxy beyond its disc – The correct answer is the faint envelope of gas surrounding a galaxy beyond its disc.
150.	B	Raman Research Institute – The correct answer is the Raman Research Institute, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology, whose scientists worked with colleagues at Arizona State University in the United States.
151.	B	It energises the gas only along its own direction and suppresses star formation – The correct answer is that the jet energises the gas only along its own direction and suppresses star formation.
152.	B	2,532 km – The new service approved by Indian Railways connects Bhuj in Gujarat with Barauni in Bihar and covers that distance while passing through Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, which makes it one of the longer runs given to a train of the Amrit Bharat c...
153.	B	Mathura – Indian Railways approved the extension of trains 11901 and 11902 up to Mathura station, which lifts the run of the service from 217 km to 270 km and brings Jhansi, Agra and Mathura together on one train.
154.	C	Maharashtra – The new service links Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, and Maharashtra does not figure on the route at all.
155.	B	Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi – The correct answer is Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi, which houses the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and where the board met in hybrid mode, with some members present and others joining online.
156.	C	40,000 – The chairman of the board cited the Jan Vishwas Act as a reform that has rationalised that many compliances, and placed it alongside the ease of doing business measures and the creation of state level traders' welfare boards as the main steps taken for the tr...
157.	B	1 January 2027 – Members of the board were told about forthcoming reforms, and among them was this bill, which is proposed to take effect from the first day of that year and is aimed at making life easier for consumers and for those who deal with them.
158.	B	Rs 7,86,000 crore – The Finance Ministry, after consulting the Reserve Bank of India, settled on this gross market borrowing figure for the closing half of FY 2026-27, and the whole sum is to be raised through 23 weekly auctions of dated securities.
159.	C	23 – The gross borrowing of Rs 7,86,000 crore planned for the second half of FY 2026-27 will be completed through 23 weekly auctions of dated securities, with the paper spread over eight maturity buckets ranging from three years to fifty years.

160.	D	Rs 50,000 crore – Ways and Means Advances is the facility through which the Reserve Bank of India lets the Centre bridge short-lived mismatches between money received and money paid out, and for the second half of FY 2026-27 the ceiling on this facility has been set at Rs 50,0...
161.	C	ICGS Shaunak – Shaunak is the Indian Coast Guard ship that left Chennai on 25 September 2026 for Perth in Australia as India's contribution to the QUAD-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission, carrying six Sea Riders drawn from the four QUAD countries.
162.	B	Six – The officers who boarded the ship for the passage are called Sea Riders, and the split is worth memorising because a paper setter can ask about it directly: India and Japan contributed two officers each, while Australia and the United States contributed one o...
163.	B	Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions – The correct answer is Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions.
164.	C	220 – Surgeons of the Armed Forces Medical Services completed 220 sight-restoring surgeries during the two-day mega eye surgical camp at Tangdhar in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir, held on 24 and 25 September 2026 under Operation Drishti.
165.	B	Kupwara – Tangdhar lies in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir, a shelling-prone area close to the Line of Control, and the camp there had to be run from an underground operation theatre for that reason.
166.	C	Brigadier Sanjay Kumar Mishra – The correct answer is Brigadier Sanjay Kumar Mishra, Head of Ophthalmology at the Army Hospital (Research and Referral), Delhi Cantonment, whose team carried advanced phacoemulsification, vitreoretinal and glaucoma equipment across mountainous terrain to reac...
167.	C	48th – WorldSkills Shanghai 2026 is the 48th edition of the WorldSkills Competition and is being held in Shanghai from 22 to 27 September 2026.
168.	C	70 – India's competitor contingent at WorldSkills Shanghai 2026 has 70 members.
169.	A	Manisha Sensarma – The correct answer is Manisha Sensarma, who is the Official Delegate of WorldSkills India and also Senior Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

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