

Weekly Current Affairs 6th September to 12th September 2026

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IMPORTANT ONE LINERS

NATIONAL

Exercise Veer Guardian 2026 Begins in Jodhpur

In the News: Exercise Veer Guardian 2026, the second edition of the bilateral air exercise between the Indian Air Force and the Japan Air Self-Defense Force, is scheduled to be conducted at Air Force Station Jodhpur, Rajasthan, from September 9 to 22, 2026. The Japanese contingent has arrived in Jodhpur ahead of the exercise.

Key Points:

- **Participating Air Forces:** The exercise brings together the Indian Air Force and the Japan Air Self-Defense Force. It is intended to strengthen interoperability, operational coordination, tactical proficiency and mutual understanding between the two air forces.
- **Aircraft Participation:** Japanese Mitsubishi F-2 fighter aircraft are expected to train alongside the Indian Air Force's Su-30MKI fighter aircraft. The deployment is significant as it marks the operation of JASDF F-2 fighters from Indian soil.
- **Japanese Contingent:** JASDF C-2 military transport aircraft have arrived at Air Force Station Jodhpur as part of the Japanese contingent. The Kawasaki C-2 is an indigenous Japanese transport aircraft designed primarily for strategic and tactical airlift operations.
- **Previous Edition:** The inaugural Veer Guardian exercise was conducted in Japan in January 2023. It was the first bilateral fighter-aircraft exercise between India and Japan and marked an expansion of defence cooperation between the two countries.
- **India-Japan Defence Cooperation:** Veer Guardian complements other bilateral military engagements between India and Japan across the air, maritime and land domains. The exercise supports closer defence coordination under the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership.

Tamil Nadu Launches Third Phase of Poompuhar Underwater Exploration

In the News: The Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology commenced the third phase of underwater archaeological exploration off the Poompuhar coast in Mayiladuthurai district in September 2026. The project seeks further evidence relating to the submerged remains of ancient Kaveripoompattinam.

Key Points:

- **Ancient Poompuhar:** Poompuhar, historically known as Kaveripoompattinam, was located near the mouth of the River Kaveri on the Tamil Nadu coast. It developed as an important maritime and commercial centre and finds mention in ancient Tamil literary traditions.
- **Exploration Area:** The latest investigation covers an extensive offshore region near Poompuhar and involves exploration at varying depths. Researchers are examining underwater formations that may provide evidence about the ancient settlement and its maritime infrastructure.
- **Technology Used:** Archaeologists are using technologies such as side-scan sonar and echo sounders to identify unusual formations on the seabed. Professional divers and archaeologist-divers can subsequently inspect locations identified during the geophysical surveys.
- **Institutional Collaboration:** The Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology is undertaking the exploration with technical support from the Indian Maritime University. Underwater archaeological work seeks to combine archaeological methods with modern marine-survey technologies.
- **Earlier Discoveries:** Previous investigations in and around Poompuhar have yielded pottery, ring wells, structural remains and evidence of overseas contacts. Discoveries such as amphorae, rouletted ware and foreign pottery indicate the settlement's historic connections with maritime trade networks.

Article 142 of the Constitution

In the News: In the News: Article 142 of the Constitution came into focus on September 1, 2026, when a three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant invoked the provision in cases arising from the NEET-UG 2026 protests. The Court quashed FIRs connected with protests held between July 20 and 25, 2026, while issuing additional directions under its power to ensure “complete justice.”

Key Points:

- **Constitutional Provision:** Article 142 is contained in Part V of the Constitution of India and deals with the enforcement of decrees and orders of the Supreme Court. Article 142(1) empowers the Court to pass any decree or order necessary for doing complete justice in a cause or matter pending before it.
- **NEET-UG 2026 Protest Cases:** On September 1, 2026, a three-judge Bench headed by CJI Surya Kant invoked Article 142 to quash FIRs linked to the NEET-UG 2026 protests held between July 20 and 25. The Bench also comprised Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana.
- **Compensation Policy:** The Supreme Court directed the Union Government to frame a compensation policy within three months. The direction formed part of the broader relief granted by the Court while exercising its extraordinary constitutional powers under Article 142.
- **Fresh FIR Permitted:** While quashing the existing protest-related FIRs, the Court permitted the registration of a fresh and specific FIR against 2,873 individuals identified through facial-recognition technology in connection with the protest at Jantar Mantar, Delhi.
- **Scope of Article 142:** Orders passed under Article 142 are enforceable throughout the territory of India. Article 142(2) additionally empowers the Supreme Court in matters relating to attendance of persons, discovery and production of documents, and investigation or punishment for contempt of itself, subject to laws made by Parliament.

Amit Shah Presents President's Colour to Goa Police

In the News: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah presented the President's Colour to Goa Police in Panaji on September 7, 2026. The honour recognises the force's eight decades of distinguished service, professional excellence, courage and discipline.

Key Points:

- **President's Colour:** The President's Colour is a prestigious distinction conferred on military, paramilitary and police organisations in recognition of distinguished service. Goa Police received the honour for its record of courage, discipline and dedication.
- **Role of Goa Police:** Goa Police is responsible for maintaining law and order, internal security and public safety in the state. Its responsibilities are particularly significant because Goa is a major tourism destination with an extensive coastline.
- **Improvement in Policing:** According to the Union Home Minister, Goa Police increased its conviction rate from 23% to 53% within a year. Its response time under the 112 emergency service also fell from around 18 minutes to 8 minutes.
- **Cybercrime Initiative:** Goa Police has introduced an AI-based call agent for the 1930 cybercrime helpline. It can register complaints in languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution and route them to appropriate authorities.
- **Anti-Narcotics Focus:** The occasion also highlighted the 2026–2029 roadmap for Nasha Mukta Bharat. Goa Police has an important role in tackling narcotics because of the state's tourism profile and coastal location.

India Joins Global 6G Network Initiative

In the News: India has joined the US-led Call to Action for 6G Leadership and Security, an international initiative aimed at shaping secure, resilient and interoperable sixth-generation telecommunications networks. India's participation expanded the grouping to 26 governments.

Key Points:

- **6G Initiative:** The initiative is officially known as the Call to Action for 6G Leadership and Security. It was launched in July 2026 with the aim of promoting cooperation in the development of future 6G networks.
- **Participating Governments:** The initiative initially involved 25 governments, including the United States, United Kingdom, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Canada, France and Germany. India's entry increased participation to 26 governments.
- **Major Objectives:** The framework emphasises network security, interoperability, resilience and trusted use of artificial intelligence. It also focuses on secure supply chains and international technological cooperation.
- **India-US Cooperation:** India's participation followed discussions between Minister of State Jitin Prasada and US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick. The discussions took place on the sidelines of the G20 Innovation Ministerial.
- **Bharat 6G Mission:** India is also pursuing its domestic 6G ambitions through the Bharat 6G Mission and Bharat 6G Alliance. The country aims to become a major contributor to the design, development and deployment of 6G technologies by 2030.

Rajasthan's Shekhawati Havelis Added to UNESCO Tentative List

In the News: The Painted Haveli Towns of Shekhawati in Rajasthan have been included in India's UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List. UNESCO records the nomination as submitted on June 1, 2026. The serial cultural nomination covers historic ensembles across 14 towns in the Shekhawati region of Rajasthan.

Key Points:

- **Tentative List Status:** The nomination is officially titled "The Painted Haveli Towns of Shekhawati" and has UNESCO reference number 7028. It has been proposed under cultural criteria (iii), (iv) and (v). Inclusion on the Tentative List is an important preliminary stage before a property can be considered for the World Heritage List.
- **Geographical Spread:** The serial nomination comprises historic ensembles from 14 towns located across Jhunjhunu, Churu and Sikar districts of Rajasthan. Important centres include Mandawa, Nawalgarh, Fatehpur, Jhunjhunu, Churu and Sikar. Shekhawati lies in an arid and semi-desert region of northwestern Rajasthan.
- **Architectural Importance:** Shekhawati is especially known for courtyard-based merchant havelis decorated with extensive frescoes. The paintings depict mythology, everyday life, colonial encounters, technological developments, flora, fauna and historical personalities, effectively serving as visual records of social change.
- **Mercantile Heritage:** Much of Shekhawati's architectural development was associated with prosperous Marwari merchant communities between the eighteenth and early twentieth centuries. Forts, bazaars, temples, havelis, stepwells and other water-management structures together created a distinctive form of settlement adapted to the region's dry climate.

India Hosts Global Dryland Congress 2026

In the News: India is hosting the Global Dryland Congress 2026 in New Delhi from September 10 to 12, 2026. The three-day event is being jointly organised by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) at the National Agricultural Science Complex.

Key Points:

- **Theme and Participation:** The Congress is being held under the theme "Transforming Dryland Agriculture with South-South Cooperation." More than 800 scientists, policymakers, farmer representatives and development partners from Asia, Africa and the Americas are expected to participate.
- **Six Major Themes:** Deliberations cover breeding for dryland crops, climate-resilient landscapes, nutrition and markets, resilient farming systems, seed systems, and gender and youth-centred transformation. These themes address food security, water scarcity, climate variability and sustainable agriculture in dry regions.
- **ICAR-ICRISAT Partnership:** The Congress also marks 50 years of collaboration between ICAR and ICRISAT. ICRISAT was established in 1972 and is headquartered in Hyderabad, India, while ICAR functions under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- **Delhi Declaration and South-South Cooperation:** The Congress is expected to culminate in the adoption of the "Delhi Declaration on Dryland (3D)." Its concluding day, September 12, also coincides with the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, with sessions devoted to South-South and Triangular Cooperation in agricultural research.

FATF Report on Underground Banking and Digital Hawala

In the News: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) released a report on September 3, 2026, examining professional money laundering through underground banking, hawala and other similar service providers. The report also highlights the increasing use of technology in what FATF describes as “digital hawala.”

Key Points:

- **Scale of the Problem:** More than 80% of jurisdictions responding to FATF identified underground banking and hawala-type systems among the principal channels or techniques used in professional money laundering. FATF documented cases in which over EUR 500 million was laundered through such schemes within only a few months.
- **Rise of Digital Hawala:** Nearly 70% of respondents identified increasing integration of new technologies into informal value-transfer networks. These include encrypted messaging applications, mobile wallets, fintech platforms, instant payments, virtual assets such as stablecoins and even purpose-built hawala applications.
- **Connection with Formal Finance:** FATF warned that professional money launderers increasingly combine informal systems with bank accounts, payment service providers, virtual IBANs, prepaid cards and virtual-asset wallets. This can create entry and exit points between underground networks and the regulated financial system.
- **FATF Basics:** FATF is an intergovernmental body established by the G7 in 1989 and is based in Paris. It sets global standards against money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing through its 40 Recommendations. Giles Thomson of the United Kingdom became FATF President on July 1, 2026, while India's Vivek Aggarwal became Vice-President.

What is Article 371(K), and what could it mean for Ladakh?

In the News: The Centre has proposed the possible creation of a new constitutional provision, Article 371(K), to provide special safeguards for Ladakh. The proposal was discussed between representatives from Ladakh and the Ministry of Home Affairs on September 9, 2026. Article 371(K) has not yet been inserted into the Constitution, and its precise provisions remain under negotiation.

Key Points:

- **Purpose of the Proposal:** The proposed provision is intended to address demands for constitutional protection of Ladakh's land, employment opportunities, culture, language and local interests. Discussions have also considered greater political representation and an elected Union Territory-level institutional arrangement, though its final powers have not yet been settled.
- **Background of Ladakh:** Ladakh became a separate Union Territory without a legislature on October 31, 2019, under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. Since then, local groups have demanded stronger safeguards over land, employment, cultural identity and natural resources, along with greater participation in governance.
- **Article 371 Framework:** Articles 371 to 371J contain special constitutional provisions for different states and regions based on their particular historical, social or administrative circumstances. For example, Article 371J provides special arrangements relating to the Kalyana Karnataka region. A new Article 371(K), if adopted, would extend this special-provision framework to Ladakh.
- **Difference from Sixth Schedule:** Ladakh groups have also sought Sixth Schedule protection, which provides Autonomous District Councils in tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram under Articles 244(2) and 275(1). The proposed Article 371(K) model would be separately tailored for Ladakh and need not replicate the Sixth Schedule structure or its degree of autonomy.

India's Carbon Credit Scheme Gets UK Nod for Exporters

In the News: The United Kingdom has recognised India's Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) as a qualifying carbon-pricing mechanism under its Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). The decision can reduce the carbon-tax burden on eligible Indian exports by giving credit for the carbon price already paid in India, subject to UK verification rules.

Key Points:

- **UK Recognition under CBAM:** The Indian CCTS has been included in the UK's list of qualifying carbon-pricing schemes. This allows the carbon price paid in India to be considered while calculating the UK CBAM liability on eligible imports.
- **Relief for Indian Exporters:** The recognition is particularly important for carbon-intensive exports such as iron and steel, aluminium, cement and fertilisers. It reduces the possibility of the same emissions effectively facing carbon-related charges in both India and the UK.
- **About India's CCTS:** India notified the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme in 2023 under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001, following amendments made in 2022. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Ministry of Power, plays a major role in developing the Indian Carbon Market framework.
- **Two Mechanisms under CCTS:** The Indian carbon market includes a compliance mechanism for obligated energy-intensive industries and an offset mechanism for voluntary greenhouse-gas reduction projects. Carbon Credit Certificates can be issued and traded through the market framework.
- **UK CBAM from 2027:** The UK CBAM will take effect from January 1, 2027. It covers specified goods from the aluminium, cement, fertiliser, hydrogen, and iron and steel sectors, with the broader objective of preventing "carbon leakage."

Who Is Sudhakar Dalela? India's BRICS Sherpa 2026, Role and Key Agenda

In the News: Sudhakar Dalela, Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs, is serving as India's BRICS Sherpa during India's 2026 BRICS Chairship. His role has gained prominence as India hosts the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi on September 12–13, 2026, under the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."

Key Points:

- **India's BRICS Sherpa:** Sudhakar Dalela is the senior official responsible for coordinating and negotiating India's positions within BRICS. He prepares issues for consideration by ministers and leaders and works to build consensus among member countries before major BRICS meetings.
- **Diplomatic Career:** Dalela is a 1993-batch Indian Foreign Service officer and has served in Indian missions in Tel Aviv, Brasilia, Chicago, Dhaka, Geneva, Thimphu and Washington, D.C. He was India's Ambassador to Bhutan from 2022 to 2025 and became Secretary (Economic Relations) on September 1, 2025.
- **Sherpa's Functions:** A BRICS Sherpa coordinates inputs from ministries and working groups, negotiates declarations and outcome documents, and works to resolve disagreements before they reach leaders. Dalela is also India's Sherpa for IBSA and I2U2.
- **India's 2026 Theme:** India's BRICS Chairship is guided by the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability." The agenda stresses economic cooperation, emerging technologies, sustainable development, health, people-centric development and stronger representation of the Global South.
- **BRICS Sherpa Meeting:** The first BRICS Sherpa and Sous-Sherpa meeting under India's 2026 Chairship was held in New Delhi on February 9–10 and chaired by Dalela. Shambhu L. Hakki, Joint Secretary for Multilateral Economic Relations, serves as India's BRICS Sous-Sherpa.

Bankers' Books Evidence Act 2026 Takes Effect From October 1

In the News: The Central Government has notified **October 1, 2026** as the date on which the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026 will come into force. The law modernises the framework governing the use of banking records as evidence and replaces the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891.

Key Points:

- **Effective Date:** The Ministry of Finance issued the commencement notification on September 10, 2026, fixing October 1, 2026 as the date for enforcement of all provisions. The legislation is Act No. 15 of 2026.

- **Replaces 1891 Law:** The new Act received Presidential assent on August 13, 2026 and replaces the 135-year-old Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891. The reform seeks to align evidence law with present-day digital banking and financial practices.
- **Digital Records Recognised:** The Act follows a technology-neutral approach and recognises banking records maintained in physical, electronic, digital, virtual and cloud-based forms. This provides a clearer legal basis for presenting modern banking records in judicial proceedings.
- **Certification Process:** Certification of banking records has been simplified and standardised. Records may be authenticated using manual, digital or electronic signatures, making their production before courts more compatible with contemporary banking systems.
- **Summoning Bank Officials:** Where a bank is not itself a party to proceedings, a court must record a "special cause" in writing before summoning a bank official. The Central Government may also extend the Act to specified financial-sector entities or classes of entities.

Dhruva Space, Safran Space sign satellite supply deal

In the News: Indian space-tech company Dhruva Space and France's Safran Space have signed contracts worth more than €5 million for technologies linked to India's Space-Based Surveillance Phase-III programme. The agreements were announced at the International Space Summit in Paris in September 2026.

Key Points:

- **Dhruva-Safran Agreement:** Safran Space will supply systems for satellites being developed by Dhruva Space. The contracts cover technologies including satellite communication systems, inertial navigation units, optical payloads and ground-station equipment.
- **SBS-III Programme:** The equipment is intended for India's Space-Based Surveillance-III or SBS-III constellation. The programme envisages a network of **52 surveillance satellites** to strengthen monitoring of strategically important areas.
- **Deployment Timeline:** According to the announcement, the 52-satellite constellation is expected to be deployed between **2027 and 2030**. The system is intended to strengthen India's space-based surveillance and improve persistent monitoring capabilities.
- **Private-Sector Participation:** Of the 52 satellites planned under SBS-III, ISRO is expected to develop 21 while private-sector companies will contribute 31. This represents a significant expansion of private participation in strategic Indian space programmes.
- **India-France Space Cooperation:** The deal formed part of three India-France space agreements announced in Paris covering satellite launches, surveillance and microsatellite technology. India and France have maintained space cooperation for more than five decades, particularly through ISRO and the French space agency CNES.

Gujarat Passes 24×7 Shops Bill to Boost Ease of Doing Business

In the News: The Gujarat Legislative Assembly passed the Gujarat Ease of Doing Business Bill, 2026 in September 2026. The legislation permits shops and commercial establishments across the State to operate 24×7 while simplifying compliance requirements and promoting a business-friendly regulatory environment.

Key Points:

- **24×7 Commercial Operations:** The Bill allows shops, malls, restaurants, hotels, cafés and other commercial establishments to remain open round-the-clock. The reform expands 24-hour operations beyond the locations previously specified under State law.
- **Ease of Doing Business Reforms:** The legislation introduces amendments across multiple State laws to reduce regulatory burdens. It promotes self-declaration, self-certification and risk-based inspections instead of excessive prior approvals.
- **Worker Safeguards:** Continuous operation of establishments does not remove labour protections relating to working hours, overtime and rest periods.

- **Parent Legislation:** The reform modifies provisions of the Gujarat Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2019. The law regulates employment conditions in shops and commercial establishments in Gujarat.

OPU-IVF Calf Born in Badri Cattle in Major Indigenous Breed Conservation Milestone

In the News: A healthy female Badri calf was born in September 2026 using Ovum Pick-Up and In Vitro Fertilisation technology. The breakthrough is significant for the conservation and rapid multiplication of the indigenous Badri cattle breed of Uttarakhand.

Key Points:

- **Institutions Involved:** The project involved ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal and G. B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar. It also received support from the Uttarakhand Biotechnology Council.
- **OPU-IVF Technology:** Oocytes are collected from genetically superior donor cattle and fertilised outside the body. The resulting embryos are transferred to recipient animals to produce offspring with desirable genetic traits.
- **Badri Cattle:** Badri is an indigenous cattle breed associated with the Himalayan regions of Uttarakhand. It is adapted to hilly terrain and was officially registered as a recognised Indian cattle breed in 2016.
- **Conservation Significance:** OPU-IVF enables faster multiplication of genetically valuable animals compared with conventional breeding. It can help conserve indigenous breeds with small or geographically restricted populations.
- **ICAR-NBAGR:** The ICAR-National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources is headquartered at Karnal, Haryana. It is the nodal institution for documentation, registration and conservation of India's indigenous livestock and poultry breeds.

India to Host World Circular Economy Forum 2026 in Gandhinagar

In the News: India is hosting the World Circular Economy Forum 2026 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, in September 2026. The tenth edition of the forum is significant as it is the first WCEF to be organised in South Asia.

Key Points:

- **Venue and Edition:** WCEF2026 is being held at the Mahatma Mandir Convention Centre in Gandhinagar. It marks the tenth edition of the World Circular Economy Forum and its first edition in South Asia.
- **Organisers:** The forum is jointly organised by the Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra and India's Central Pollution Control Board. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Gujarat Government are also associated with the event.
- **Origin of WCEF:** The World Circular Economy Forum was first organised in Helsinki, Finland, in 2017. It brings together governments, businesses and experts to promote practical solutions for a circular economy.
- **Circular Economy Concept:** A circular economy seeks to reduce waste by promoting reuse, repair, recycling and efficient use of resources. It contrasts with the traditional linear economic model of "take, make and dispose".

INTERNATIONAL

Who Is Joheirry Mola? Meet the Dominican Republic Beauty Crowned Miss World 2026

In the News: Joheirry Mola Dominguez of the Dominican Republic was crowned Miss World 2026 at the 73rd Miss World final held in Nha Trang, Vietnam, on September 5, 2026. The 24-year-old educator and community advocate received the crown from Miss World 2025 Opal Suchata Chuangsri of Thailand.

Key Points

- **Second Dominican Winner:** Joheirry Mola became only the second woman from the Dominican Republic to win the Miss World title. The country's first winner was Mariasela Álvarez, who won the crown in 1982.
- **Final Results:** Elisabeth Reynés of Spain finished as the first runner-up, while Taanusiya Chetty of Malaysia was the second runner-up. A total of 111 national representatives participated in the Miss World Festival.

- **Profile of Joheirry Mola:** Mola holds a degree in Business Management and Administration from Universidad Iberoamericana. She teaches Literature and Social Studies in English and has also worked as a news correspondent and professional model.
- **Voices of Tomorrow:** She founded the initiative Voices of Tomorrow, which seeks to provide English-language education to children and young people from vulnerable communities. Her social initiative is associated with Miss World's Beauty With a Purpose programme.
- **India and Miss World:** India has won the Miss World crown six times. Reita Faria became the first Indian and the first Asian woman to win the title in 1966, followed by winners including Aishwarya Rai, Diana Hayden, Yukta Mookhey, Priyanka Chopra and Manushi Chhillar.

Russia Begins First Oil Flow Through Vostok Oil Pipeline

In the News: Russia commissioned a major part of its Vostok Oil project in September 2026, with the first crude oil flowing through its main pipeline towards the Arctic coast. The oil reached the Bukhta Sever terminal and was loaded onto the Arctic tanker Valentin Pikul during a ceremony involving Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Key Points

- **Vostok Oil Project:** Vostok Oil is a major Arctic hydrocarbon project being developed by Russian energy company Rosneft in the Krasnoyarsk Territory. It combines several major oil assets, including the Vankor and Payakha groups of fields.
- **Main Oil Pipeline:** The Vankor-Payakha-Bukhta Sever trunk pipeline extends for about 790 km and has a design capacity of approximately 100 million tonnes of oil annually. Around 414 km of the route has been developed as a double-line pipeline system.
- **Bukhta Sever Terminal:** The pipeline terminates at the Bukhta Sever oil terminal on Russia's Arctic coast. The terminal has been developed to handle large Arctic tankers and serves as an important export gateway for oil produced under the project.
- **Northern Sea Route:** Vostok Oil is strategically connected with the Northern Sea Route, which passes through Arctic waters along Russia's northern coastline. The route can facilitate energy shipments between Russia and markets in Europe and Asia.
- **Production Potential:** Rosneft has stated that the Vostok Oil project has a resource base exceeding six billion tonnes of high-quality crude oil. The company has targeted annual production of around 100 million tonnes by 2030.

Japan Reinforces Male-Only Imperial Succession Rules

In the News: Japan's male-only imperial succession system returned to focus after Prince Hisahito turned 20 in September 2026. Earlier, in July 2026, Japan revised the Imperial House Law while retaining the principle that only males descended through the paternal imperial line can inherit the Chrysanthemum Throne.

Key Points

- **Imperial House Law:** Japan's Imperial House Law regulates membership and succession within the Imperial Family. Despite the 2026 revision, women remain ineligible to inherit the throne under the existing male-line succession system.
- **Status of Female Royals:** The revised framework allows female members of the Imperial Family to retain their royal status after marrying commoners. Previously, female royals were generally required to leave the Imperial Family after such marriages.
- **Adoption Provision:** The revision also allows eligible male descendants from former imperial branches to be adopted into the present Imperial Family. The measure is aimed at addressing the shrinking number of eligible male members of the royal household.

- **Current Succession Line:** Emperor Naruhito is Japan's reigning monarch. His younger brother Crown Prince Fumihito is first in the line of succession, followed by Fumihito's son Prince Hisahito, while Princess Aiko is not eligible under the current law.
- **Historical Background:** Japan has had eight female emperors in its history, but the Imperial House Law of 1889 institutionalised male-line succession. The post-war Imperial House Law continued the principle of limiting succession to male descendants in the paternal line.

India Clarifies Stand on UN Map Resolution and Kashmir

In the News: India supported a United Nations General Assembly resolution concerning more equitable global cartographic representation while subsequently clarifying its position regarding Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. India stated that its support for the initiative did not amount to acceptance of any inaccurate depiction of its territorial boundaries.

Key Points:

- **UN General Assembly Resolution:** The resolution focused on improving the geographical representation of regions on commonly used world maps. It highlighted concerns that some traditional map projections significantly distort the relative sizes of continents and geographical regions.
- **Purpose of the Initiative:** The initiative seeks greater awareness of cartographic methods that represent the relative surface areas of continents more accurately. Africa has been a major focus because conventional projections often make its land area appear smaller in comparison with regions at higher latitudes.
- **India's Position:** India clarified that its support was for the principle of equitable cartographic representation and not for any particular map depicting political boundaries. It reiterated that maps must respect India's sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- **Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh:** India maintained that any depiction of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh inconsistent with the official map of India is unacceptable. Its position regarding the territorial status of these regions remains unchanged.
- **Map Projection Issue:** The Mercator projection is widely used but enlarges regions located farther from the equator, creating substantial size distortions. Equal-area projections seek to preserve the relative area of landmasses more accurately, although their shapes may appear different.

Seoul Hosts 27th World Knowledge Forum

In the News: The 27th World Knowledge Forum is being held in Seoul, South Korea, from September 8–10, 2026. The international forum brings together political leaders, economists, academics and business experts to discuss major global economic, technological and geopolitical developments.

Key Points:

- **Venue and Dates:** The 27th World Knowledge Forum is being organised from September 8 to 10, 2026, at the Jangchung Arena and The Shilla Seoul in South Korea.
- **Theme of 2026:** The theme of the 2026 edition is "The Promethean Moment: Architecting the Co-Intelligence Order." It focuses on the emerging relationship between human intelligence and artificial intelligence.
- **Five Knowledge Pillars:** Discussions are organised around five broad areas: Power, Capital, Intelligence, Planet and Humanity. These cover geopolitics, finance, artificial intelligence, sustainability and human development.
- **Origin of the Forum:** The World Knowledge Forum was founded in October 2000 following the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis. It was established to encourage global knowledge sharing and promote balanced economic growth.
- **Prominent Participants:** The 2026 edition includes prominent political, academic and intellectual figures from different countries. Speakers include former UK Prime Minister David Cameron, Richard Dawkins and economist Erik Brynjolfsson.

Why the UK is banning goods from illegal Israeli settlements in West Bank

In the News: The United Kingdom announced on September 8, 2026 that it would introduce a ban on imports from Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories and establish a wider sanctions regime targeting activities facilitating settlement expansion. The proposed legislation is expected to be put in place within six to nine months.

Key Points:

- **Scope of Import Ban:** The UK announced that it would prohibit imports of goods originating from Israeli settlements in the occupied territories. The measure is targeted at settlement-origin goods rather than trade with Israel generally.
- **Restrictions on Services:** British businesses may face restrictions on providing financing, construction, infrastructure, real estate and advertising services that facilitate settlement activity. Export controls may also apply in relevant cases.
- **E1 Settlement Issue:** Particular concern has been expressed over proposed construction in the E1 corridor between East Jerusalem and the Ma'ale Adumim settlement. Development in the area could affect territorial continuity within the West Bank.
- **ICJ Advisory Opinion:** In July 2024, the International Court of Justice issued an advisory opinion concerning Israel's presence and settlement policies in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Article 49(6) of the Fourth Geneva Convention is frequently cited in this context.
- **Two-State Solution:** The UK maintains that continued settlement expansion undermines prospects for a negotiated two-state solution. Several other countries have also supported measures aimed at discouraging further settlement expansion.

BRICS and the dragon in the room: How China's economy dwarfs the rest, in 4 charts

In the News: Ahead of the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi on September 12-13, 2026, an economic comparison has highlighted the enormous gap between China and other BRICS economies. China's economic weight has grown so significantly that its GDP is now more than twice that other four pre-expansion BRICS members.

Key Points:

- **BRICS Summit 2026:** India is hosting the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi on September 12-13, 2026. The grouping currently comprises 11 countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia (listed as a member by the BRICS Chair, though Riyadh has not formally confirmed joining) and Indonesia.
- **China's Economic Dominance:** In 2006, China's economy was smaller than the combined economies of Brazil, Russia, India and South Africa. By 2009, it had overtaken their combined economic size, and by 2026 China's GDP was more than twice as large.
- **Per-Capita Income Gap:** China has also made major gains in GDP per capita. An average Chinese citizen was about 2.6 times richer than an average Indian in 2006; the gap has increased to about five times according to the latest comparison.
- **Evolution of BRICS:** Brazil, Russia, India and China came together as BRIC in 2006 on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. The first summit was held in 2009, while South Africa joined in 2010, giving the grouping its present acronym, BRICS.
- **New Development Bank:** The Agreement establishing the New Development Bank was signed at the 2014 BRICS Summit, and the institution became operational in 2015. Headquartered in Shanghai, it finances infrastructure and sustainable-development projects in emerging economies.

India, US Secure Undersea Cable Networks under TRUST Initiative

In the News: India and the United States have strengthened cooperation to improve the security, resilience and diversification of global undersea cable networks. The two countries brought government and industry experts together for an Undersea Cables Workshop as cooperation expands under the broader India-US strategic technology framework.

Key Points:

- **Undersea Cable Partnership:** India and the US are cooperating to protect subsea communication infrastructure from physical damage, cyber threats and supply-chain vulnerabilities. Undersea cables form the backbone of international internet, cloud and digital communications.

- **TRUST Initiative:** TRUST stands for Transforming the Relationship Utilizing Strategic Technology. It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump on February 13, 2025 to expand cooperation in critical and emerging technologies.
- **Areas of Cooperation:** TRUST covers artificial intelligence, semiconductors, quantum technologies, biotechnology, energy, defence and space. It also encourages the use of verified technology suppliers and aims to strengthen trusted and resilient strategic supply chains.
- **Importance of Subsea Cables:** More than 95% of global digital traffic is carried through undersea cables, making their security important for national economies and digital infrastructure. Damage to these networks can disrupt internet services, international commerce, cloud platforms and critical communications.
- **Indian Ocean Connectivity:** India has earlier committed to invest in the maintenance, repair and financing of undersea cables in the Indian Ocean using trusted vendors. The India-US framework also welcomed Meta's planned 50,000-km undersea cable network connecting five continents and strengthening digital connectivity.

UNESCO International Literacy Prizes 2026: Six Initiatives Honoured for Impact

In the News: UNESCO honoured six initiatives with its 2026 International Literacy Prizes during International Literacy Day celebrations in September 2026. The awardees came from Colombia, Lebanon, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria and Thailand.

Key Points:

- **King Sejong Literacy Prize:** Three initiatives from Colombia, the Netherlands and Nigeria received the UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize. The award particularly promotes mother-tongue literacy and multilingual education.
- **Confucius Prize for Literacy:** Initiatives from Lebanon, Mexico and Thailand received the UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy. The prize focuses on functional literacy, rural populations, technology and out-of-school youth.
- **Two Major UNESCO Literacy Awards:** The King Sejong Literacy Prize was established in 1989 with support from the Republic of Korea. The Confucius Prize for Literacy was established in 2005 with support from China.
- **International Literacy Day:** International Literacy Day is observed every year on 8 September. UNESCO proclaimed the observance in 1966 to promote literacy as a tool for empowerment and sustainable development.
- **Global Literacy Challenge:** Hundreds of millions of youth and adults worldwide still lack basic literacy skills, with women forming a significant proportion. Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia account for a large share of the global literacy gap.

APPOINTMENTS

Dinesh Sharma Appointed Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

In the News: President Droupadi Murmu appointed Dr. Dinesh Sharma as the Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on September 5, 2026. His appointment takes effect from the date he assumes office. He succeeds retired Admiral D. K. Joshi, who had served as Lieutenant Governor since 2017.

Key Points:

- **Constitutional Position:** Article 239 of the Constitution provides that every Union Territory shall be administered by the President through an administrator appointed by the President. In the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the administrator is designated as the Lieutenant Governor.
- **Political Background:** Dinesh Sharma is a Bharatiya Janata Party leader and served as Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh from 2017 to 2022. Before his appointment as Lieutenant Governor, he was serving as a member of the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh.
- **Academic and Public Career:** Sharma holds a doctorate and has worked as a professor at Lucknow University. He has also served as Mayor of Lucknow and handled portfolios including higher education and science and technology in the Uttar Pradesh government.
- **Andaman and Nicobar Islands:** The Andaman and Nicobar Islands form a Union Territory located in the Bay of Bengal and the eastern Indian Ocean. The Andaman and Nicobar island groups are separated by the Ten Degree Channel.

- **Capital and Strategic Importance:** The capital of the Union Territory is Sri Vijaya Puram, formerly known as Port Blair. The islands occupy a strategically important position near major sea routes and also host India's only integrated tri-service command, the Andaman and Nicobar Command.

ENVIRONMENT

Indonesia's Peat Fires Intensify Amid El Niño

In the News: Indonesia witnessed a sharp intensification of forest and peatland fires across Sumatra and Kalimantan during the 2026 dry season. El Niño conditions contributed to unusually hot and dry weather, allowing fires to spread rapidly and resulting in severe haze and increased carbon emissions.

Key Points:

- **Extent of Fires:** Nearly 95,000 hectares were reported to have burned during July 2026, while more than 9,000 hotspots were detected during August. Fires were also reported near Nusantara, Indonesia's planned new capital in eastern Borneo.
- **Peat Fires:** Peatlands contain large quantities of partially decomposed organic matter and store significant amounts of carbon. When peatlands dry and ignite, fires can smoulder beneath the surface for long periods and become extremely difficult to extinguish.
- **Carbon Emissions:** Carbon emissions from Indonesia's fires reached approximately 17.1 million metric tonnes during one week, according to Copernicus data. The emissions were substantially above the seasonal average, highlighting the climate impact of peatland fires.
- **Government Response:** Indonesian authorities deployed aerial water bombing, cloud-seeding operations and ground-based firefighting teams. The government also investigated companies where fires were detected within concession areas and reinforced restrictions on land clearing through burning.
- **ASEAN Haze Agreement:** The ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution was signed in Kuala Lumpur on June 10, 2002, and entered into force on November 25, 2003. It provides a regional framework for preventing and controlling haze pollution arising from land and forest fires.

Orangutans

In the News: Five juvenile orangutans were found near Badapai village in Odisha's Balasore district, far outside their natural habitat. They have been shifted to Nandankanan Zoological Park, while the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and Odisha Police STF are investigating possible links to an organised wildlife-trafficking network.

Key Points:

- **Natural Habitat:** Orangutans occur naturally only in the rainforests of Borneo and Sumatra in Southeast Asia. There is no natural wildlife corridor connecting these islands with India, making natural migration to Odisha extremely unlikely.
- **Three Orangutan Species:** The three recognised species are the Bornean orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*), Sumatran orangutan (*Pongo abelii*), and Tapanuli orangutan (*Pongo tapanuliensis*). The Tapanuli orangutan was formally described as a separate species in 2017.
- **Conservation Status:** All three orangutan species are classified as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List. Habitat destruction, hunting and illegal wildlife trade remain major threats to their survival.
- **Wildlife Crime Investigation:** The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, a central multi-disciplinary agency dealing with organised wildlife crime, has joined the investigation. The Odisha Police Special Task Force is also examining whether an international trafficking network was involved.
- **Importance of Orangutans:** Orangutans are Asia's only living great apes and are the world's largest primarily tree-dwelling mammals. Their highly arboreal lifestyle, intelligence, tool use and slow reproduction make the loss of even small populations a major conservation concern.

SCIENCE AND TECH

TRISHNA Mission: ISRO and France Join Hands to Study Earth

In the News: India's ISRO and France's space agency CNES are jointly developing the TRISHNA Earth-observation satellite. Designed for high-resolution thermal monitoring of Earth's surface, the mission is currently under development and is scheduled for launch in 2027.

Key Points:

- **Full Form and Partners:** TRISHNA stands for Thermal Infra-Red Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural Resource Assessment. It is a joint mission of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and France's Centre National d'Études Spatiales (CNES).
- **Mission Objective:** TRISHNA will measure Earth's surface temperature and emissivity and study water and energy budgets. Its observations will help assess crop water stress, evapotranspiration, water availability and the effects of climate change.
- **Two Major Payloads:** CNES is providing the Thermal Infra-Red (TIR) instrument, while ISRO is developing the Visible-Near Infra-Red-Short Wave Infra-Red (VNIR-SWIR) payload. Together, the instruments will generate detailed thermal and biophysical information.
- **Orbit and Resolution:** The satellite is planned for a 761-km Sun-Synchronous Orbit with a local equatorial crossing time of around 12:30 PM. ISRO states that it will provide a spatial resolution of about 57 metres over land and coastal areas.
- **Major Applications:** The five-year mission will support agriculture, water-resource management, urban heat-island studies, glacier and snow-melt monitoring, and detection of volcanic or geothermal thermal anomalies. Its data will also contribute to international climate and sustainable-development initiatives.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Literacy Day 2026: Theme, History and Significance

In the News: International Literacy Day was observed worldwide on September 8, 2026, marking the 60th anniversary of its proclamation. UNESCO observed the occasion with the theme "Literacy for people, the planet and prosperity," highlighting literacy as an important element of sustainable development.

Key Points:

- **Date and Theme:** International Literacy Day is observed annually on September 8. The 2026 theme, "Literacy for people, the planet and prosperity," links literacy with human development, environmental sustainability and economic well-being.
- **History of the Day:** International Literacy Day was proclaimed by UNESCO in 1966 during its 14th General Conference. The first International Literacy Day was observed in 1967.
- **60th Anniversary:** The year 2026 marks 60 years since UNESCO proclaimed International Literacy Day. The anniversary provides an opportunity to review global progress and persistent challenges in literacy.
- **Global Celebration:** UNESCO organised the 2026 global observance in Chiapas, Mexico, in collaboration with the Government of Mexico. The programme also included the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes.
- **Global Literacy Challenge:** Global Literacy Challenge: According to UNESCO, at least 739 million people worldwide still lack basic literacy skills. Literacy is closely linked with Sustainable Development Goal 4, which seeks inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Digvijay Diwas 2026: Date, History, Significance and Key Points

In the News: Digvijay Diwas was observed on September 11, 2026 to commemorate Swami Vivekananda's historic address at the World's Parliament of Religions in Chicago on September 11, 1893. The observance recalls his message of universal brotherhood, tolerance and harmony and his role in presenting Indian philosophical thought before a global audience.

Key Points:

- **Date of Observance:** Digvijay Diwas is observed annually on September 11. The date commemorates Swami Vivekananda's landmark appearance at the World's Parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1893.
- **Historic Chicago Address:** Vivekananda addressed the Parliament on September 11, 1893 and famously began with the greeting "Sisters and Brothers of America." His address brought international attention to Indian spiritual and philosophical traditions.
- **World's Parliament of Religions:** The first Parliament of the World's Religions was held in Chicago from September 11 to September 27, 1893. Vivekananda participated as an Indian representative and became one of the most prominent speakers associated with the event.
- **Message and Significance:** His speeches stressed tolerance, universal acceptance, harmony among religions and the idea of human brotherhood. Digvijay Diwas therefore commemorates both the Chicago address and the wider global recognition it brought to India's intellectual and cultural traditions.
- **Swami Vivekananda:** Born as Narendranath Datta on January 12, 1863, Vivekananda was a disciple of Ramakrishna Paramahansa and later established the Ramakrishna Mission in 1897. His birth anniversary, January 12, is observed in India as National Youth Day, making both dates important for competitive-exam preparation.

SPORTS**Shree Charani Becomes Fastest Indian to 50 T20I Wickets**

In the News: Indian left-arm spinner Shree Charani became the fastest Indian cricketer, across men's and women's T20Is, to take 50 wickets. She reached the milestone in her 29th T20I during India's Women's Asia Cup 2026 semi-final against Bangladesh in Dubai on September 10.

Key Points:

- **Fastest Indian to 50 Wickets:** Charani completed 50 T20I wickets in only 29 matches, surpassing Kuldeep Yadav, who had reached the landmark in 30 matches. Varun Chakravathy and Arshdeep Singh are among the other leading Indians on the list.
- **Landmark Wicket:** Her 50th T20I wicket came when she dismissed Bangladesh opener Juairiya Ferdous during the Asia Cup semi-final. The milestone added another record to Charani's rapid rise in international women's cricket.
- **Global Women's Record:** China's Mengting Liu holds the women's record for the fastest 50 T20I wickets, achieving the feat in 28 matches. Charani reached the mark in 29 games, placing her among the fastest bowlers in women's T20I history.
- **Rise in International Cricket:** Shree Charani made her international debut in April 2025 and has quickly emerged as a key member of India's spin attack. She also rose to the No. 1 position in the ICC Women's T20I bowling rankings.
- **Women's Asia Cup Context:** India defeated Bangladesh by 40 runs in the semi-final to qualify for the 2026 Women's Asia Cup final. The match was played at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, with India successfully defending a total of 149.