



CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE

FOR ALL GOVERNMENT EXAMINATIONS

UPSC | SSC | CDS | CAPF | BANKING | RAILWAYS | STATE PCS | AND MORE

14 SEP 2026

DAILY EDITION

1. National Affairs & Governance

1. ARAVALLI RANGE: SUPREME COURT DEADLINE FOR HIGH-POWERED COMMITTEE

Context

The Supreme Court has fixed 30 November 2026 as the non-extendable deadline for the Aravalli High-Powered Committee to submit its final report on defining and protecting the Aravalli range. The issue has implications for mining, ecology, groundwater and urban development across northern India.

About the Topic

The Aravallis are among the world's oldest fold mountain systems and form an important ecological barrier across north-western India. The court-monitored exercise seeks a clearer scientific and administrative basis for identifying and protecting the range.

Key Facts

- The High-Powered Committee has been given 30 November 2026 as a non-extendable deadline.
- The Aravalli system extends across Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi.
- The range is important for groundwater recharge, soil stability, biodiversity and regional climate.
- Unregulated mining and land-use change are major pressures on the Aravalli ecosystem.

Relevant Background

The Aravalli landscape is fragmented across several administrative jurisdictions, making conservation dependent on coordination between Union, state and local authorities. Scientific mapping is important because geological and ecological boundaries do not always match administrative boundaries.

Historical Background

- The Aravalli range is a very ancient geological formation associated with the Aravalli–Delhi Fold Belt.
- Guru Shikhar in Rajasthan's Mount Abu region is the highest point of the Aravalli system.
- The range historically influenced drainage patterns and the spread of arid conditions in north-western India.
- Mining and urbanisation have altered parts of the landscape, especially around rapidly growing urban centres.
- Conservation debates increasingly combine geological mapping, forest protection, groundwater security and sustainable land use.

2. UPSC EPFO APFC RECRUITMENT 2026

Context

The application window for recruitment to Assistant Provident Fund Commissioner posts under the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation closes on 14 September 2026. The recruitment is being conducted through the Union Public Service Commission.

About the Topic

The APFC is a Group A-level post in EPFO, an organisation under the Ministry of Labour and Employment responsible for administering major social-security provisions for organised-sector workers and related beneficiaries.

Key Facts

- The 2026 recruitment includes 80 Assistant Provident Fund Commissioner vacancies.





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- The application deadline is 14 September 2026.
- The selection process includes a recruitment test followed by an interview.
- EPFO administers the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and associated schemes.

Relevant Background

Social-security administration in India combines mandatory contributory schemes with broader labour-welfare measures. EPFO plays a major role in provident-fund accumulation, pension-related benefits and insurance-linked protection for eligible employees.

Historical Background

- The Employees' Provident Funds legislation was enacted in 1952.
- EPFO operates under the administrative control of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- The Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, Employees' Pension Scheme and Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme form the core statutory framework.
- The organisation's coverage has expanded alongside formal employment and payroll-linked digital systems.
- Provident-fund administration is important for retirement savings and social-security portability.

2. Art & Culture

3. HINDI DIWAS 2026

Context

Hindi Diwas is observed on 14 September every year to commemorate the adoption of Hindi in Devanagari script as the official language of the Union by the Constituent Assembly in 1949. The day also provides an opportunity to discuss India's multilingual constitutional framework.

About the Topic

Article 343 of the Constitution provides that the official language of the Union shall be Hindi in Devanagari script, while English continues to be used for official purposes under the constitutional and statutory framework. Hindi is also one of the languages listed in the Eighth Schedule.

Key Facts

- Hindi Diwas is observed on 14 September.
- The Constituent Assembly adopted Hindi in Devanagari script as the official language of the Union on 14 September 1949.
- Article 343 deals with the official language of the Union.
- Hindi is included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Relevant Background

India does not have a constitutionally declared 'national language'. The distinction between an official language of the Union and a national language is important for competitive examinations.

Historical Background

- The Constituent Assembly debated language questions extensively because of India's linguistic diversity.
- The Constitution came into force on 26 January 1950 with detailed provisions on official languages.
- The Official Languages Act, 1963 provided for the continued use of English for specified official purposes.
- The Eighth Schedule originally contained 14 languages and has since expanded to 22.
- Language policy in India attempts to balance national-level communication with linguistic diversity and federal concerns.





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3. Economy, Banking & Finance

4. RBI OPEN MARKET SALE TO ABSORB EXCESS LIQUIDITY

Context

The Reserve Bank of India has announced an open-market sale of government securities worth ₹1 lakh crore in three tranches beginning 16 September 2026. The move comes amid exceptionally high banking-system liquidity and the need to keep short-term market rates aligned with the monetary-policy framework.

About the Topic

An open-market sale involves the central bank selling government securities to financial-market participants. Payment for the securities withdraws liquidity from the banking system, helping the central bank manage money-market conditions.

Key Facts

- The announced open-market sale totals ₹1 lakh crore.
- The operation is scheduled to begin on 16 September 2026 in three tranches.
- Excess liquidity can push overnight market rates below the desired policy corridor.
- Government-securities operations are among the RBI's instruments for liquidity management.

Relevant Background

Liquidity management is distinct from changing the policy repo rate. The RBI can influence financial conditions through open-market operations, variable-rate reverse repo or other instruments while keeping the policy stance unchanged.

Historical Background

- Open-market operations became an important central-bank tool as financial markets developed.
- The RBI uses government-securities transactions to inject or absorb durable liquidity.
- Liquidity conditions affect overnight interest rates and the transmission of monetary policy.
- Excess liquidity can weaken the transmission of policy signals if market rates fall substantially below the intended corridor.
- Open-market operations must be distinguished from government borrowing, although both involve government securities.

5. INDIA-EU STEEL QUOTA AND TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

Context

India's trade engagement with the European Union has gained attention around the treatment of steel imports under the evolving India-EU trade framework. A country-specific quota of about 1.64 million tonnes has been highlighted in current discussions.

About the Topic

The issue is relevant to India's manufacturing and export competitiveness because steel is a major intermediate input and an important export category. Trade arrangements increasingly combine tariff commitments with safeguard and quota mechanisms.

Key Facts

- A country-specific steel quota of about 1.64 million tonnes has been reported in the India-EU trade framework.
- Steel trade is affected by tariff rates, quotas and safeguard measures.
- Out-of-quota imports can face substantially higher tariff treatment under the new European regime.





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- India–EU trade negotiations are strategically important for manufacturing, services and investment.

Relevant Background

Trade agreements are not limited to tariff reduction. Rules of origin, safeguards, standards, carbon-related measures, market-access commitments and sectoral quotas can materially affect the final commercial outcome.

Historical Background

- The European Union operates as a customs union with a common external trade policy.
- India and the EU have long negotiated a broad trade and investment relationship.
- Steel is considered a strategic industrial sector because it supports construction, infrastructure, automobiles and machinery.
- Trade safeguards are designed to respond to sudden import surges that may harm domestic industries.
- Modern trade agreements increasingly address regulatory standards and non-tariff barriers in addition to customs duties.

6. CRITICAL MINERAL BLOCK AUCTIONS: EIGHTH TRANCHE

Context

The deadline for purchasing tender documents for India's eighth tranche of critical and strategic mineral block auctions falls on 14 September 2026. The auction programme is part of the effort to strengthen domestic access to minerals essential for energy transition, electronics and defence.

About the Topic

The eighth tranche offers 20 mineral blocks across nine states, including minerals and mineral-bearing deposits associated with graphite, vanadium, titanium, rare earth elements, tungsten and other strategic materials.

Key Facts

- The eighth tranche covers 20 critical and strategic mineral blocks across nine states.
- The tender-document sale closes on 14 September 2026.
- The initial bid submission deadline is 21 September 2026.
- Critical minerals are important for electric vehicles, renewable-energy systems, electronics, aerospace and defence.

Relevant Background

India is seeking to reduce import vulnerability by expanding domestic exploration, auctioning mineral blocks and promoting processing and recycling. Mineral security requires more than mining; refining, separation, processing and technology capabilities are equally important.

Historical Background

- Critical minerals are identified on the basis of economic importance and supply-risk considerations.
- Rare earth elements are important for magnets, electronics, defence systems and clean-energy technologies.
- Graphite is important for battery anodes and several industrial applications.
- Tungsten has important applications in hard materials, engineering and defence.
- India established a dedicated National Critical Mineral Mission framework to strengthen the domestic critical-mineral ecosystem.





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4. Defence, Science, Technology & Space

7. DRONATHON 2026: DRONE AND COUNTER-DRONE TECHNOLOGIES

Context

The Indian Air Force is conducting Dronathon-2026 from 14 to 16 September at the Pokhran range in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. The event brings together defence manufacturers, startups and innovators to demonstrate unmanned aerial systems and counter-unmanned aerial systems.

About the Topic

The exercise focuses on operationally relevant drone technologies, including surveillance, autonomous operations, swarm capabilities and counter-drone measures. It provides an interface between military users and domestic technology developers.

Key Facts

- Dronathon-2026 is scheduled for 14–16 September 2026.
- The venue is the Pokhran range in Jaisalmer district, Rajasthan.
- The event covers UAS and CUAS technologies.
- Static displays and live demonstrations are intended to support operational assessment and industry–military learning.

Relevant Background

Unmanned systems are changing modern warfare by providing relatively low-cost surveillance, precision effects and persistent situational awareness. Counter-UAS systems seek to detect, track and neutralise hostile drones using kinetic and non-kinetic methods.

Historical Background

- India's Pokhran range is associated with major milestones in the country's nuclear programme.
- Pokhran-I was conducted in 1974 and Pokhran-II in 1998.
- Modern military drones can perform intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance as well as strike roles.
- Counter-drone technology includes radar, radio-frequency detection, jamming, directed-energy and interceptor systems.
- India has increasingly promoted domestic defence manufacturing and indigenous unmanned-system development.

8. WEAPONISATION OF TECHNOLOGY AND CRITICAL MINERALS

Context

At the conclusion of the BRICS Summit, India highlighted concerns that technology and control over critical minerals could be used as instruments of strategic pressure. The issue links technological sovereignty with supply-chain resilience.

About the Topic

Critical minerals and advanced technologies increasingly overlap. Rare earth processing, semiconductor inputs, battery materials and specialised industrial components can become strategic dependencies when supply is concentrated in a small number of countries.

Key Facts

- Critical minerals are essential inputs for advanced manufacturing and clean-energy technologies.
- Supply-chain concentration can create strategic vulnerabilities for importing economies.
- Technology restrictions can affect access to advanced computing, semiconductors and specialised equipment.
- India is pursuing diversification, domestic exploration and international partnerships to strengthen resilience.





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Relevant Background

Technological sovereignty does not require complete self-sufficiency. It generally means having sufficient domestic capability, diversified international partnerships and strategic reserves or alternatives to withstand supply disruptions.

Historical Background

- Rare earth elements became increasingly important with the growth of high-performance permanent magnets and electronics.
- Semiconductors have become central to telecommunications, computing, automobiles and defence systems.
- Global supply chains expanded rapidly after the 1990s as production became geographically specialised.
- Recent geopolitical tensions have highlighted the risks of concentrated processing and manufacturing capacity.
- India's strategy combines domestic capability-building with cooperation through plurilateral and bilateral partnerships.

5. International Affairs

9. INDIA–RUSSIA TRADE TARGET OF \$100 BILLION BY 2030

Context

India and Russia are working toward a bilateral trade target of \$100 billion by 2030. The agenda includes energy, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, technology, investment and payment mechanisms.

About the Topic

The target reflects efforts to broaden the relationship beyond traditional defence and energy links. Increasing trade in national currencies and improving payment channels are also relevant to the expansion of bilateral commerce.

Key Facts

- India and Russia have set a bilateral trade ambition of \$100 billion by 2030.
- Energy remains a major component of the economic relationship.
- Potential growth areas include manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, technology and investment.
- Payment mechanisms are important because sanctions and geopolitical risks can complicate conventional cross-border settlement.

Relevant Background

India–Russia economic ties have been shaped by energy, defence and long-standing strategic relations. Recent developments have increased the importance of logistics, insurance, payment systems and trade diversification.

Historical Background

- India and the Soviet Union developed close economic and strategic relations during the Cold War.
- The 1971 Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation strengthened the strategic relationship.
- Defence cooperation became a major pillar of bilateral ties.
- Energy trade has become increasingly important in the contemporary relationship.
- India and Russia continue to engage through bilateral mechanisms as well as platforms such as BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.





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10. INDIA'S ENGAGEMENT WITH MALAYSIA, VIETNAM AND ETHIOPIA

Context

India used the BRICS Summit to deepen bilateral engagement with Malaysia, Vietnam and Ethiopia. Discussions covered defence, semiconductors, critical minerals, clean energy, infrastructure, healthcare, space and trade.

About the Topic

The meetings demonstrate how multilateral summits can be used to advance parallel bilateral diplomacy. For India, Southeast Asia, Africa and the wider Global South are important components of its Act East and broader strategic outreach.

Key Facts

- India and Malaysia discussed defence, semiconductors, critical minerals, clean energy and infrastructure.
- India and Vietnam discussed defence, energy, rare earths and space cooperation.
- India and Ethiopia discussed defence, critical minerals, clean energy, healthcare and investment.
- India's outreach combines economic diplomacy with strategic and development partnerships.

Relevant Background

India's foreign policy increasingly links trade and development with strategic sectors such as semiconductors, critical minerals, digital technologies and clean energy. These partnerships can diversify supply chains while strengthening diplomatic influence.

Historical Background

- India's Look East Policy began in the early 1990s and later evolved into the Act East Policy.
- Vietnam is a key partner in India's Indo-Pacific and ASEAN engagement.
- Ethiopia is one of India's important African partners and a significant regional actor in the Horn of Africa.
- Malaysia is strategically located near major maritime routes connecting the Indian and Pacific Oceans.
- India's development partnerships in Africa and Southeast Asia often include capacity building, training and technology cooperation.

6. Environment, Geography & Disaster Management

11. ARAVALLIS AND GROUNDWATER SECURITY

Context

The ecological condition of the Aravalli landscape is closely linked with groundwater recharge, soil conservation and the protection of natural drainage systems. Current judicial and administrative attention therefore has implications beyond forest conservation.

About the Topic

The Aravallis help interrupt the eastward spread of desert-like conditions and influence local hydrology. Degradation through mining, construction and vegetation loss can increase erosion and reduce the landscape's capacity to retain water.

Key Facts

- The Aravallis influence drainage and groundwater recharge in parts of north-western India.
- Degraded hills can increase soil erosion and reduce natural water retention.
- Groundwater is a major source of water for agriculture and urban settlements in the region.
- Landscape-level conservation requires coordinated action across state boundaries.





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Relevant Background

Groundwater sustainability depends on recharge, extraction and land-use patterns. Protecting hill systems, wetlands and drainage channels can therefore be part of water-security policy rather than a separate environmental concern.

Historical Background

- The Aravalli system is much older than the Himalayas in geological terms.
- The range contains several mineral deposits and has historically supported mining activity.
- Parts of the Aravalli landscape have been classified as forest or protected areas under different legal frameworks.
- Rapid urban growth around Delhi-NCR has intensified pressure on remaining green and recharge zones.
- Environmental litigation has played a major role in regulating mining and protecting ecologically sensitive areas.

7. Education, Social Sector, Health & Schemes

12. ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE AND RESPONSIBLE ANTIMICROBIAL USE

Context

Antimicrobial resistance remains a major public-health concern because inappropriate or excessive use of antimicrobial medicines can reduce their effectiveness against infections. The issue is relevant to human health, veterinary medicine, food systems and environmental management.

About the Topic

Antimicrobial resistance occurs when microorganisms evolve mechanisms that allow them to survive medicines designed to kill or inhibit them. Antibiotic resistance is one important component of the broader AMR problem.

Key Facts

- AMR can make common infections harder to treat and increase healthcare costs.
- Inappropriate antibiotic use is an important driver of antibiotic resistance.
- AMR has human, animal, food-chain and environmental dimensions.
- Antimicrobial stewardship seeks to ensure the right drug, dose, duration and indication.

Relevant Background

AMR is a One Health issue because resistant organisms and antimicrobial residues can move among humans, animals and the environment. Surveillance, infection prevention, vaccination and rational prescribing are therefore complementary strategies.

Historical Background

- Penicillin became a landmark antibiotic after its therapeutic development in the early twentieth century.
- Resistance can arise through genetic mutation and horizontal gene transfer.
- Antibiotics do not treat viral infections such as most common viral respiratory illnesses.
- WHO has identified antimicrobial resistance as a major global health threat.
- National action plans increasingly combine surveillance, stewardship, infection control and public awareness.





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8. Sports

13. INDIA WINS EIGHTH WOMEN'S ASIA CUP TITLE

Context

India won the 2026 Women's Asia Cup after defeating Sri Lanka in the final in Dubai on 13 September. The victory extended India's record as the most successful team in the tournament.

About the Topic

India remained unbeaten during the tournament and secured another continental title in the T20 format. The final also featured a strong batting performance followed by effective bowling to defend the total.

Key Facts

- India defeated Sri Lanka in the 2026 Women's Asia Cup final in Dubai.
- India scored 183/5 in 20 overs before restricting Sri Lanka to 111.
- India won the tournament for a record-extending eighth time.
- Shafali Verma was a leading performer, scoring 68 in the final and contributing with the ball.

Relevant Background

The Women's Asia Cup is a major continental tournament organised under the Asian Cricket Council. India's dominance reflects the depth and development of women's cricket in the country.

Historical Background

- The first Women's Asia Cup was held in 2004 in Sri Lanka in the 50-over format.
- India has been the most successful team in the tournament's history.
- The tournament has included both ODI and T20 formats across different editions.
- Sri Lanka won the 2024 Women's Asia Cup by defeating India in the final.
- Women's cricket has expanded substantially through professional domestic leagues, improved infrastructure and greater international scheduling.





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9. Important One-Liners

Section	Topic	One-Liner
National Affairs	Aravalli Committee	The Supreme Court fixed 30 November 2026 as the non-extendable deadline for the Aravalli High-Powered Committee's final report.
National Affairs	UPSC EPFO APFC	The application deadline for 80 APFC vacancies in EPFO is 14 September 2026.
Art & Culture	Hindi Diwas	Hindi Diwas is observed on 14 September to mark the Constituent Assembly's 1949 adoption of Hindi in Devanagari script as the official language of the Union.
Economy	RBI OMO	The RBI announced an open-market sale of government securities worth ₹1 lakh crore in three tranches.
Economy	India-EU Steel	A country-specific steel quota of about 1.64 million tonnes is part of current India-EU trade arrangements.
Critical Minerals	Auction Tranche VIII	India's eighth tranche offers 20 critical and strategic mineral blocks across nine states.
Defence	Dronathon 2026	The IAF's Dronathon-2026 is being held at the Pokhran range from 14-16 September.
Technology	Dual-Use Technology	Advanced technology and critical minerals are increasingly treated as strategic supply-chain concerns.
International Affairs	India-Russia	India and Russia are working toward bilateral trade of \$100 billion by 2030.
International Affairs	Global South Outreach	India used the BRICS Summit for bilateral engagement with Malaysia, Vietnam and Ethiopia.
Health	AMR	Antimicrobial resistance is a One Health issue involving humans, animals and the environment.
Sports	Women's Asia Cup	India won the 2026 Women's Asia Cup for a record-extending eighth time.

