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Tuesday, 08 September 2026

1. The United Nations has designated which date as the International Day for the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage?

- (A) 11 October (B) 20 November
(C) 25 October (D) 27 November

2. Which two tiger reserves in Maharashtra have emerged as India's most successful sites for the reintroduction of captive-bred vultures?

- (A) Melghat and Pench
(B) Tadoba and Bor
(C) Bor and Sahyadri
(D) Pench and Tadoba

3. Which dynasty is primarily associated with the Rangpur-Sivasagar Historical Ensemble, which was recently added to UNESCO's World Heritage Tentative List?

- (A) Ahom Dynasty (B) Kachari Dynasty
(C) Koch Dynasty (D) Pala Dynasty

4. International Vulture Awareness Day 2026 was observed on which date?

- (A) 3 September 2026 (B) 4 September 2026
(C) 5 September 2026 (D) 6 September 2026

5. Which country has hosted the three-day BRICS Chief Justices' Forum 2026 in New Delhi from 4 to 6 September 2026?

- (A) Brazil (B) Russia
(C) China (D) India

6. Who has chaired the 28th meeting of the Western Zonal Council held in Panaji on 7 September 2026?

- (A) Rajnath Singh (B) Amit Shah
(C) Piyush Goyal (D) Manohar Lal

7. Which country will play its first-ever men's T20I against India on 22 September 2026?

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

8. Which new flowering plant species has been discovered in Thailand and nicknamed the "devil flower"?

- (A) Thismia limkokthayi
(B) Thismia daemonia
(C) Thismia sumatrana
(D) Thismia clavigera

9. What is the formal title of the inaugural iBRICS Summit 2026?

- (A) Global BRICS Investment Forum
(B) BRICS Sovereign Finance Dialogue
(C) Global Sovereign & Private Deal Room
(D) Global BRICS Capital Conference

10. Which Indian scientist has been associated with the 2026 Ig Nobel Chemistry Prize for research on protein crystals in cockroach milk?

- (A) Sanchari Banerjee
(B) Ramaswamy Subramanian
(C) Jandhyam Srikanth
(D) Nitish Sathyanarayanan

1-{D} - 2-{A} - 3-{A} - 4-{C} - 5-{D} - 6-{B} - 7-{A} - 8-{C} - 9-{C} - 10-{B}

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WESTERN & EASTERN GHATS

(Western & Eastern Ghats)

1 INTRODUCTION

- Western & Eastern Ghats form the western and eastern mountain boundaries of the Peninsular Plateau.
- Western Ghats are higher, continuous and steep, whereas Eastern Ghats are lower, discontinuous and dissected by rivers.
- Both Ghats meet in the Nilgiri Hills in the south.
- As per Bharat 2026, Western Ghats are generally 915–1,220 m high, while Eastern Ghats average about 610 m.



2 WESTERN GHATS (SAHYADRI)

- Runs parallel to the western coast for ~1,600 km and spreads over ~1,40,000 sq km area.
- Passes through 6 States – Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala & Tamil Nadu.
- Highest Peak – Anamudi (2,695 m), Kerala.
- Important Passes – Thal Ghat, Bhor Ghat, Palghat Gap & Shenkotta Gap.
- Important for catchment areas / origin of many peninsular rivers including Godavari, Krishna and Kaveri.
- As per UNESCO, Western Ghats are geologically older than the Himalayas.

ANAMUDI
(2,695 m)

3 EASTERN GHATS

- Extend mainly through Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and parts of Karnataka.
- They are discontinuous as major rivers like Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna and Kaveri cut across them and flow towards the Bay of Bengal.
- Highest Peak – Jindhagada Peak, 1,690 m, Andhra Pradesh.
- Important Hills – Nallamala, Velikonda, Shevaroy, Javadi & Kolli Hills.
- Biligiri Rangan Hills form a crucial forested ecological corridor between Eastern and Western Ghats.

JINDHAGADA PEAK
(1,690 m)

4 COMPARISON – WESTERN & EASTERN GHATS

BASIS	WESTERN GHATS	EASTERN GHATS
Nature	More Continuous	Discontinuous
Height	Higher	Relatively Lower
Highest Peak	Anamudi – 2,695 m	Jindhagada – 1,690 m
Monsoon Impact	Very High	Relatively Less
Rivers	Source / Catchment areas of many rivers	Major rivers cut across and flow to Bay of Bengal
Coastal Plains	Narrow	Relatively Wider

5 MONSOON & CLIMATE IMPORTANCE

- Western Ghats act as a barrier to the Arabian Sea branch of the South-West Monsoon.
- Orographic Rainfall on the western slopes and Rain-Shadow Effect in the interior Deccan Plateau.
- UNESCO considers them extremely important in influencing Indian monsoonal climate.



6 BIODIVERSITY IMPORTANCE

- Western Ghats are one of the 8 "hottest hotspots" of biodiversity in the world.
- At least 325 globally threatened species are recorded here.
- Declared as UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2012.
- UNESCO property includes 39 component parts.
- Endemic / threatened species such as Lion-tailed Macaque, Nilgiri Tahr and Nilgiri Langur highlight its conservation value.



7 2026 CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE



27 July 2026: MoEFCC has issued a new Draft Notification for Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) in the Western Ghats.



Earlier in 2024 draft, about 56,825.7 sq km area in six states was proposed as ESA.



July 2026: Five new lichen-forming fungi species of the Allographa genus discovered from the Western Ghats, highlighting continued scientific and biodiversity significance of this region.



Thus: Western Ghats' conservation vs development remains a crucial policy issue in 2026.

8 CHALLENGES & WAY FORWARD

MAJOR CHALLENGES

- Mining, deforestation & habitat fragmentation
- Pressure from roads, dams, tourism & urbanization
- Landslides, soil erosion & climate-change induced extreme rainfall
- Conversion of natural forests into plantations

WAY FORWARD

- ESA Management
- Landscape-level Conservation
- Sustainable Infrastructure
- Ecological Corridors
- Community Participation



Hence, Western & Eastern Ghats should be viewed as a Monsoon-River-Biodiversity-Water Security Nexus. A balanced integration of conservation and development is essential for the ecological resilience of Peninsular India.





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DAILY GENERAL AWARENESS QUIZ

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Tuesday, 08 September 2026

1. Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty assumes charge as 20th Commander-in-Chief, Andaman & Nicobar Command. In context to the same tell us, which committee recommended the creation of an integrated tri-service command in India?

- (A) Kargil Review Committee
- (B) Naresh Chandra Committee
- (C) DB Shekatkar Committee
- (D) Verma Committee

2. 7th High-Level Meeting between Indian Coast Guard and Vietnam Coast Guard held in Chennai. In context to the same tell us, which committee's recommendation led to the founding of the Indian Coast Guard?

- (A) Naresh Chandra Committee
- (B) DB Shekatkar Committee
- (C) Kargil Review Committee
- (D) K.F. Rustamji Committee

3. INS Nipun commissioned, Navy can now rescue a stricken submarine on either coast. In context to the same tell us, In which year was the first Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) inducted into the Indian Navy?

- (A) 2020
- (B) 2018
- (C) 2015
- (D) 2019

4. CAG report flags lapses in execution of government schemes in Puducherry. In context to the same tell us, who is responsible for submitting the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) report on central government audits?

- (A) The President of India
- (B) The Prime Minister
- (C) Finance Secretary
- (D) The Finance Minister

5. Surrendered Insurgent Outfits Protest in Tripura Demanding Implementation of 2024 Tripartite Peace Accord. In context to the same tell us, which insurgent group was founded by B.K. Hrangkhawal in Tripura?

- (A) SENKRAK
- (B) National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT)
- (C) All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF)
- (D) Tripura National Volunteers (TNV)

6. Recently, the Prime Minister extended greetings on the occasion of Prakash Purab (Illumination Day) of Sri Guru

Granth Sahib.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) The Adi Granth, compiled by Guru Arjan Dev, is the first version of the Guru Granth Sahib and includes writings from 36 Hindu and Muslim authors.
- (2) Guru Gobind Singh added further sacred Shabads to the Granth between 1704 and 1706 and renamed it Sri Guru Granth Sahib in 1708.
- (3) The Adi Granth was declared the eternal Guru in 1708 by Guru Gobind Singh.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3)
- (B) Only (1) and (2)
- (C) Only (2) and (3)
- (D) None of the above

7. Recently, India celebrated Teachers' Day on 5th September 2026 marking the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan (1888-1975).

Consider the following statements regarding Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan -

- (1) He served as the Vice-Chancellor of Andhra University from 1931 to 1936.
- (2) He became the first Vice President of India in 1962 and later the second President of India.
- (3) In 1954, he was awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3)
- (B) Only (1) and (2)
- (C) Only (2) and (3)
- (D) None of the above

8. India recently launched its first reusable hybrid rocket, RHUMI-1.

Consider the following statements regarding India's satellite launch vehicles -

- (1) PSLVs launch the satellites useful for Earth resources monitoring whereas GSLVs are designed mainly to launch communication satellites.
- (2) Satellites launched by PSLV appear to remain permanently fixed in the same position in the sky, as viewed from a particular location on Earth.
- (3) GSLV Mk III is a four-staged launch vehicle with the first and third stages using solid rocket motors, and the second and fourth stages using liquid rocket engines.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1)
- (B) Only (1) and (2)
- (C) Only (3)
- (D) None of the above

1-{C} - 2-{D} - 3-{B} - 4-{A} - 5-{D} - 6-{B} - 7-{A} 8-{A}

TOPIC OF THE DAY

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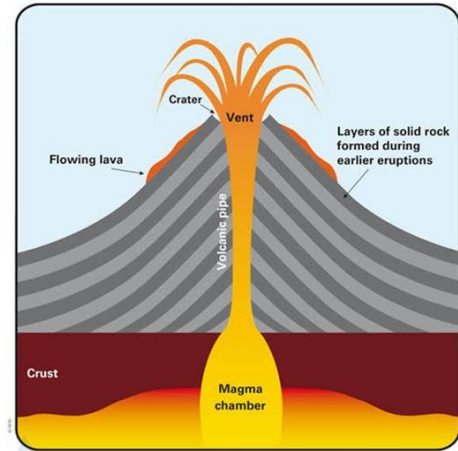
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Volcano

Why in News?

Indonesia's **Mount Anak Krakatau** erupted, releasing **fine volcanic ash particles** into the atmosphere. These particles posed risks to **aircraft engines**, reduced **visibility**, and created **health hazards**. Consequently, operations at several airports were temporarily suspended, affecting numerous **flights and passengers**.



Expository: -

What is Volcanism?-

- **Volcanism** is the geological process through which **magma, volcanic gases, and other materials** originating within the Earth move into the crust or reach the Earth's surface.
- Magma that reaches the surface is called **lava**.
- Volcanism can result in the formation of landforms such as **volcanic mountains, volcanic plateaus, and volcanic islands**.

Process of a Volcanic Eruption-

- The process begins with the **formation of magma** within the Earth.
- Being less dense than the surrounding rocks, magma moves **upward through cracks and weak zones** in the crust.
- As magma accumulates in an underground **magma chamber**, pressure increases.
- When this pressure exceeds the strength of the surrounding rocks, magma may erupt onto the surface as **lava, ash, and gases**.
- The lava eventually cools and solidifies to form **igneous rocks**.

Effect of Magma Viscosity-

- **Magma viscosity** is an important factor determining the nature of a volcanic eruption.
- **Low-viscosity magma** is more fluid and generally produces relatively gentle **lava flows**.
- **High-viscosity magma** can trap gases for longer periods, increasing pressure and thereby enhancing the possibility of an **explosive eruption**.

Major Causes of Volcanic Eruptions-

- **Plate Tectonics:** The movement and interaction of **tectonic plates** are major causes of volcanic activity, particularly at **convergent plate boundaries**, where one plate subducts beneath another and associated processes promote magma generation.
- **Magma Pressure:** Accumulation of magma and gases within an underground **magma chamber** can increase pressure. When this pressure exceeds the resistance of the surrounding rocks, a **volcanic eruption** may occur.

- **Decompression:** As mantle material rises, a **decrease in pressure** can cause partial melting and generate magma. This process is particularly important at **mid-ocean ridges and hotspot regions**.

- **Volcanic Gases:** Volatile substances dissolved in magma, such as **water vapour, carbon dioxide, and sulfur dioxide**, contribute to pressure build-up and play an important role in determining the **explosiveness of eruptions**.

Types of Volcanism

- Based on whether magma solidifies **within the Earth** or erupts onto the **surface**, volcanic processes can broadly be understood as **intrusive** and **extrusive**.

Intrusive Volcanic Structures

- When **magma cools and solidifies within the Earth's crust**, it forms various **intrusive igneous structures**.
- **Batholith:** A **batholith** is an extremely large intrusive igneous body formed when a massive volume of magma cools and solidifies deep within the crust.
- **Laccolith:** A **laccolith** is an intrusive igneous structure in which magma intrudes between rock layers and pushes the overlying strata upward, producing a **dome-shaped structure**.

MAP OF THE DAY - BHARAT

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NATIONAL WATERWAY 1 (NW-1)

Ganga – Bhagirathi – Hooghly River System

Route: From Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh) to Haldia (West Bengal), passing through Bihar (Patna, Bhagalpur) and Jharkhand.



Length

1,620 km

India's longest
waterway



Declared

1986

under the
IWAI Act, 1985

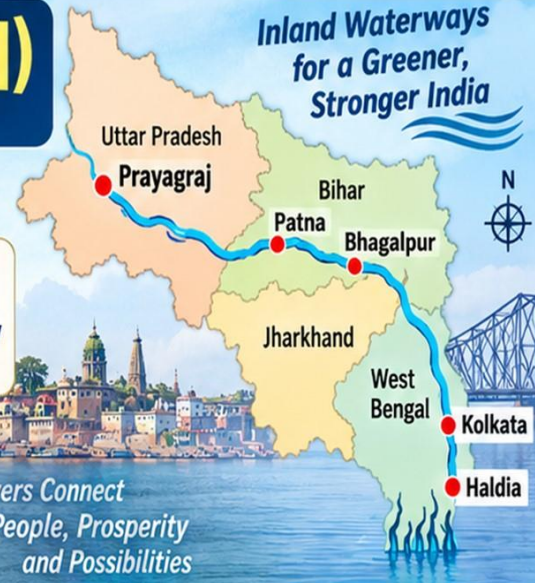


States Covered

Uttar Pradesh,
Bihar, Jharkhand,
West Bengal



Longest
National
Waterway
in India



Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)

A statutory body under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India, for the development, maintenance and regulation of National Waterways.



Established

27 October 1986,
under the IWAI Act, 1985



Headquarters

A-13, Sector-1,
Noida, Uttar Pradesh



Major Functions

- Fairway development (dredging, channel marking, river training works)
- Navigation infrastructure (terminals, jetties, Ro-Ro/Ro-Pax services)
- Night navigation system
- Regulation and safety of inland navigation
- Overall development and maintenance of National Waterways



Regional Offices

Patna, Kolkata, Guwahati,
Varanasi, Bhubaneswar and Kochi



Sub-Offices

Prayagraj, Farrakka, Sahibganj, Swarupganj,
Hemngar, Dibrugarh, Dhubri, Badarpur/Karimganj,
Bhagalpur and Vijayawada

OTHER IMPORTANT NATIONAL WATERWAYS OF INDIA

India has a total of **111** National Waterways (declared under the National Waterways Act, 2016), out of which 32 are operational till March 2026.

Waterway	River / Route	Key Feature / Route Details	States
NW-1	Ganga–Bhagirathi–Hooghly	1,620 km, India's longest waterway	Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal
NW-2	Brahmaputra	Dhubri to Sadiya	Assam
NW-3	West Coast Canal	Kottapuram to Kollam	Kerala
NW-4	Godavari–Krishna river system	Important east coast waterway	Andhra Pradesh, Telangana
NW-5	Brahmani–Kua–Mahanadi delta	In Odisha	Odisha
NW-16	Barak River	In the North-Eastern region	Assam
NW-110	Yamuna River	Delhi – from Sonia Vihar to Jagtapur (MoU for boat tourism, 2025)	Delhi

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Cleaner Rivers



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Sustainable Future

Waterways
Build a Better India

MAP OF THE DAY - WORLD

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Tuesday, 08 September 2026

RUB' AL KHALI

(THE EMPTY QUARTER)

World's Largest Continuous Sand Desert

*"An ocean of sand
in the heart of Arabia"*

**Vast Sands
Timeless Beauty
Strategic Importance**

1. Location and Extent

- Located in the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula.
- World's largest continuous sand desert** (sand sea).
- Spreads across four countries: **Saudi Arabia, Oman, Yemen and United Arab Emirates (UAE).**
- "Rub' al Khali" means **"Empty Quarter"** in Arabic.
- Covers a major part of the southern and south-eastern Arabian Peninsula.



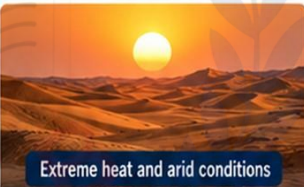
2. Size and Geographical Features

- Area: ~ 650,000 sq. km** (6.5 lakh sq. km).
- World's largest sand sea (erg).**
- Contains some of the highest sand dunes in the world, reaching up to **250 metres** in height.
- Vast undulating dunes, gravel plains, sabkhas (salt flats) and occasional rocky outcrops.
- A part of the larger Arabian Desert.



3. Climate

- One of the **hottest and driest** regions on Earth.
- Annual rainfall is extremely low (< 50 mm).**
- Summer temperatures often exceed **50°C.**
- Large diurnal temperature variation (very hot days and cooler nights).
- Harsh environment with extreme aridity, high evaporation and scarce water resources.



4. Part of the Arabian Desert

- Rub' al Khali is a major part of the **Arabian Desert.**
- The Arabian Desert is one of the largest hot deserts in the world (second only to the Sahara among hot deserts).
- Plays a key role in the geography, climate and cultural history of the Arabian Peninsula.
- Historically, it has been a natural barrier, influencing trade routes, settlements and political control.



5. Economic Importance – Oil and Gas Reserves

- Rich in **petroleum and natural gas** reserves.
- Saudi Arabia's famous **Shaybah Oil Field** is located in this region.
- One of the most important energy resource regions in the world.
- Plays a significant role in global energy security and geopolitics.



6. Environmental Aspects

- Harsh conditions limit vegetation and human habitation.
- Adapted flora and fauna include drought-resistant plants, reptiles and Arabian oryx (in peripheral areas).
- Climate change and human activities pose emerging challenges.

Major Deserts of the World – A Comparison

S. No.	Desert	Type	Location	Key Feature	Area (Approx.)
1	Sahara	Hot (Subtropical)	Northern Africa	World's largest hot desert (total area)	~ 9.2 million sq. km
2	Rub' al Khali	Hot (Subtropical)	Saudi Arabia, Oman, Yemen, UAE	World's largest continuous sand desert	~ 0.65 million sq. km
3	Thar	Hot (Subtropical)	India – Pakistan	World's most densely populated desert	~ 0.2 million sq. km
4	Gobi	Cold (Temperate)	Mongolia – China	World's largest cold desert (in Asia)	~ 1.3 million sq. km
5	Antarctic	Cold (Polar)	Antarctica	World's largest desert (total area, ice-covered)	~ 14 million sq. km

Key Takeaways for UPSC

- World's largest continuous sand desert – strategic and economic importance.
- Located in Saudi Arabia, Oman, Yemen and UAE.
- Rich in oil and gas reserves (Shaybah).
- Important for world geography, desert ecosystems and global energy security.

"Vast deserts shape geopolitics as much as they shape landscapes."



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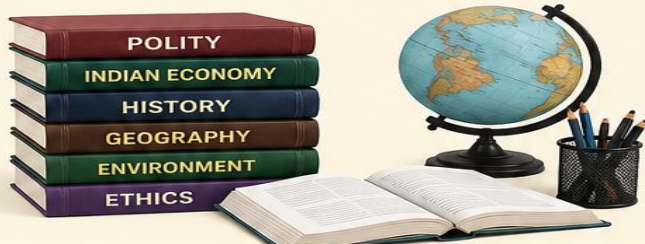
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