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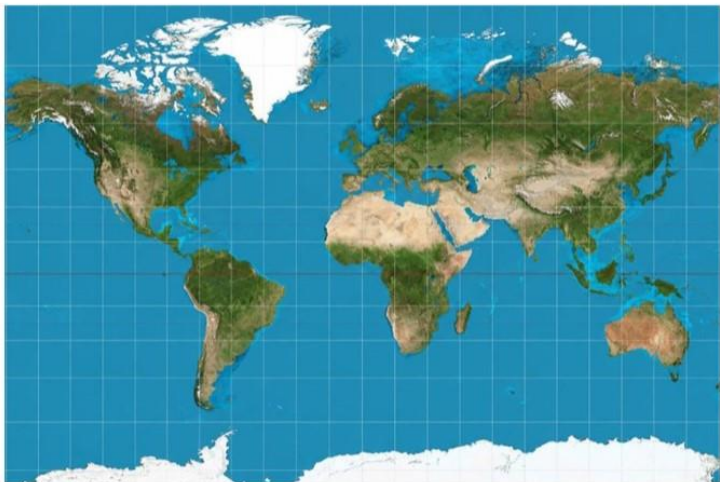
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India Votes in Favour of UN Resolution on Equal-Area World Map

- India voted in favour of a United Nations resolution supporting the use of an equal-area world map, reflecting a move towards more accurate geographical representation of continents and countries. The resolution seeks to address distortions created by commonly used world map projections, particularly the Mercator projection.

Key Highlights

- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution titled “Correct the Map: Rebalancing Global Cartographic Representation and Promoting Equitable Representation of the World’s Regions, Particularly Africa” on 4 September 2026.
- India voted in favour of the resolution. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated that India supports the principle of more accurate and equitable cartographic representation.
- The resolution encourages the use of equal-area map projections, which preserve the relative sizes of continents and landmasses more accurately.
- The Equal Earth projection, developed in 2018, is a major alternative to the traditional Mercator projection.
- The Mercator projection, created by Gerardus Mercator in 1569, is useful for navigation but significantly distorts the relative sizes of landmasses, especially enlarging areas near the poles and making regions around the equator, including Africa, appear comparatively smaller.

Q. Which UN resolution did India vote in favour of in September 2026? “Correct the Map: Rebalancing Global Cartographic Representation and Promoting Equitable Representation of the World’s Regions, Particularly Africa.”



Melghat and Pench Tiger Reserves: Successful Vulture Reintroduction

- The Melghat and Pench Tiger Reserves in Maharashtra have emerged as India's most successful sites for the reintroduction of captive-bred vultures, recording survival rates of up to 78%. According to the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), 29 vultures released across the two reserves between December 2025 and January 2026 showed encouraging survival and dispersal patterns.

Key Highlights

- The initiative involves releasing captive-bred vultures into protected forest habitats to rebuild declining wild populations.
- 29 vultures were released across Melghat and Pench between December 2025 and January 2026, with survival rates reaching 78%.
- The success demonstrates the suitability of prey-rich and relatively undisturbed ("inviolable") tiger habitats for vulture releases.
- The BNHS has played a major role in vulture conservation and captive-breeding efforts.
- Vultures are important scavengers, helping remove animal carcasses and limiting the spread of pathogens and diseases.
- India's vulture populations suffered a severe decline due largely to the veterinary use of diclofenac, an anti-inflammatory drug toxic to vultures.
- The reintroduction programme is therefore an important component of efforts to restore India's vulture populations.

Q. Which two tiger reserves have emerged as India's most successful sites for vulture reintroduction as per Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)? **Melghat and Pench Tiger Reserves.**



Satwiksairaj Rankireddy–Chirag Shetty Win Maiden China Masters Title

- Indian badminton stars Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won their maiden China Masters title in the men's doubles category in Shenzhen, China. They defeated China's He Ji Ting and Ren Xiang Yu in a three-game final. The victory gave India its first-ever China Masters title.
- The pair had previously reached the China Masters final in 2023 and 2025, finishing runners-up on both occasions.
- The title is also their 10th BWF World Tour title overall.
- It is their second title of the 2026 season, after winning the Singapore Open Super 750.
- The victory comes ahead of the Asian Games, where the duo will aim to defend their title.

Additional Key Facts:

- BWF stands for Badminton World Federation, the international governing body for badminton.
- The BWF World Tour includes different tournament levels such as Super 100, Super 300, Super 500, Super 750 and Super 1000.
- China Masters is a BWF Super 750 tournament.
- Satwik and Chirag are among India's leading men's doubles badminton players and have previously held the World No. 1 ranking.
- The pair won the Asian Games men's doubles gold medal in 2023, becoming the first Indian badminton men's doubles pair to win Asian Games gold.

Q. Who won the men's doubles title at the China Masters 2026? **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty of India.**



LIC Gets RBI Approval to Acquire Up to 9.99% Stake in ICICI Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to acquire an aggregate stake of up to 9.99% in ICICI Bank, either through paid-up share capital or voting rights. The RBI approval letter is valid for one year.

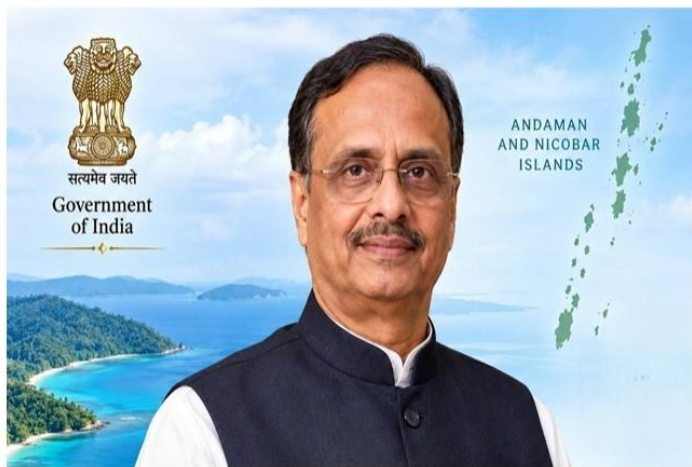
Key Highlights:

- The approval is subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.
- As of 30 June 2026, LIC already held around 4.35% in ICICI Bank. If LIC reaches the approved 9.99% additional holding, its total stake could rise to about 14.34%.
- LIC's assets under management (AUM) stood at approximately ₹59.39 lakh crore at the end of Q1 FY27.
- The move highlights LIC's role as a major institutional investor in India's financial sector.

Additional Key Facts:

- LIC was established on 1 September 1956 under the LIC Act, 1956.
- LIC headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ICICI Bank headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- LIC: CEO & MD: R. Doraiswamy
- ICICI Bank was incorporated in 1994 and commenced operations as a bank in 1994.
- RBI is India's central bank and was established on 1 April 1935 under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

Q. Which organisation received RBI approval to acquire up to 9.99% stake in ICICI Bank? **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).**



Dinesh Sharma Appointed Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

- BJP Rajya Sabha MP Dr. Dinesh Sharma has been appointed Lieutenant Governor (LG) of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands by President Droupadi Murmu.

Key Highlights

- Predecessor: Admiral D. K. Joshi (Retd.).
- D. K. Joshi had served as LG since 8 October 2017.
- Dinesh Sharma previously served as Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh from 2017 to 2022.
- He was also serving as a BJP Rajya Sabha member and Vice-Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha.
- His Rajya Sabha term was scheduled to end on 25 November 2026.
- The appointment becomes effective from the date he assumes charge.

Additional Key Facts:

- Andaman and Nicobar Islands is a Union Territory of India located in the Bay of Bengal.
- Its capital is Sri Vijaya Puram (formerly Port Blair).
- The Union Territory comprises two main island groups—Andaman and Nicobar.
- Article 239 of the Constitution provides for the administration of Union Territories by the President through an Administrator.
- The President may appoint an Administrator/Lieutenant Governor to administer a Union Territory.

Q. Who has been appointed the new Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands? **Dr. Dinesh Sharma.**



IIT Madras–UNESCO MGIEP Partnership for AI-Powered Learning Tools

- The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) has partnered with the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (UNESCO MGIEP) to develop AI-powered and immersive learning technologies. The collaboration aims to transform conventional educational content into more interactive, personalised, gamified and immersive learning experiences.

Key Highlights:

- IIT Madras will contribute expertise in AI, immersive technologies and digital solutions.
- UNESCO MGIEP will contribute its expertise in Social and Emotional Learning (SEL).
- SEL promotes skills such as self-awareness, empathy, communication, teamwork and responsible decision-making.
- The partnership seeks to make education more inclusive, learner-centric and adaptable to different learning needs.
- The initiative supports UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.7, which focuses on education for sustainable development, global citizenship, peace, human rights and related values.
- The collaboration also aims to promote research and knowledge-sharing through workshops and conferences.

Q. Which IIT has partnered with UNESCO MGIEP to develop AI-powered learning tools? **IIT Madras.**



DRDO–University of Hyderabad Secure Patent for Next-Generation Solid Rocket Propellant

- Researchers associated with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the University of Hyderabad (UoH) have secured an Indian patent for a next-generation solid rocket propellant fuel.

Key Highlights:

- Patent holder: Chairman, DRDO and the Advanced Centre of Research in High Energy Materials (ACRHEM) at UoH, now known as the Defence Innovation and Advanced Technology Centre (DIA-CoE).
- Patent application: Filed on 21 December 2022.
- Patent granted: 20 August 2026.
- Patent Number: 599900.
- Innovation: A novel energetic compound named BAM-H24.
- Chemical composition: The compound is rich in boron, hydrogen and nitrogen.
- Inventors: Dr. Muddamarri Hanumantha Rao and Prof. Muralidharan Krishnamurthi.
- The material is designed for applications in solid rocket propulsion.
- BAM-H24 demonstrates chemical and thermal stability and high resistance to impact and friction, improving handling and storage safety.
- It is also expected to offer high specific impulse and reduced ignition delay, potentially improving propulsion efficiency.
- Its non-hygroscopic nature means it does not readily absorb moisture, an important property for energetic materials.

Q. Which two institutions secured a patent for a next-generation solid rocket propellant? **DRDO and the University of Hyderabad (UoH).**



Birkbeck, University of London Receives UGC Approval for Bengaluru Campus

- Birkbeck, University of London has received the Letter of Approval (LoA) from the University Grants Commission (UGC) to establish and operate its campus in Whitefield, Bengaluru. The approval is the final regulatory step under the UGC (Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India) Regulations, 2023.

Key Highlights

- Foreign university: Birkbeck, University of London, UK.
- Indian campus: Whitefield, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Regulator: University Grants Commission (UGC).
- Approval: Letter of Approval (LoA).
- The LoA follows the Letter of Intent (LoI) granted earlier in 2026.
- The approval allows Birkbeck Bengaluru to conduct admissions and commence academic operations.
- Students will receive University of London degrees through the Bengaluru campus.
- The initiative supports India's internationalisation of higher education and provides access to international education without initially relocating abroad.
- The campus is located at Sattva Tech Park, Whitefield, a major technology and business hub.

Q. Which foreign university has received UGC approval to establish a campus in Bengaluru? **Birkbeck, University of London.**



- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen regulatory cooperation and information exchange concerning Central Counterparties (CCPs) regulated and supervised by SEBI.

Key Highlights:

- Objective: Enhance cross-border regulatory cooperation, information sharing and supervisory coordination relating to Indian CCPs.
- The MoU replaces the earlier SEBI–ESMA MoU signed on 21 June 2017.
- It provides a framework under the respective laws and regulations of India and the European Union.
- The arrangement will enable ESMA to rely on SEBI’s regulatory and supervisory activities concerning Indian CCPs.
- The agreement is expected to facilitate cross-border clearing activities and contribute to the stability of the European financial system.
- According to ESMA, the MoU allows Indian CCPs supervised by SEBI to re-apply for recognition under EMIR, an important requirement for recognition of third-country CCPs in the EU.
- It follows an ESMA–RBI MoU signed earlier in 2026, further strengthening India–EU financial regulatory cooperation.

SEBI–ESMA Sign MoU on Clearing Houses

Q. Which two regulatory bodies signed an MoU to strengthen cooperation on clearing houses? **SEBI and ESMA.**



India-US Space Cooperation: NASA Invites ISRO to Moon Base Programme

- The United States wants India “by our side” as it returns to the Moon. He revealed that NASA has officially invited ISRO to join its Moon Base programme under the broader Artemis programme. Gor made the remarks at the Bengaluru Space Expo 2026.

Key Highlights:

- NASA-ISRO cooperation: NASA has invited the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to participate in its Moon Base programme.
- Artemis Accords: India is a signatory to the Artemis Accords, which provide principles for peaceful, safe and sustainable exploration of the Moon and beyond.
- Moon Base: The US programme aims to establish a more sustained human presence on the Moon and use lunar exploration as a foundation for future crewed missions to Mars.
- NISAR Mission: Gor highlighted the NASA-ISRO NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) mission as an example of practical cooperation that can support disaster management and save lives.
- The invitation follows the 9th India-US Civil Space Joint Working Group meeting, held in Bengaluru on 5–6 August 2026.
- Gor also encouraged Indian space startups to explore opportunities in the U.S. market, reflecting growing private-sector cooperation in space technology.

Q. Under which broader NASA programme is the US pursuing renewed lunar exploration? **Artemis Programme.**

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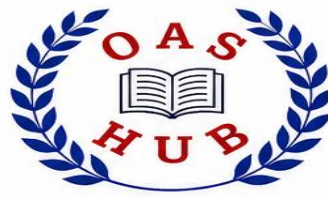
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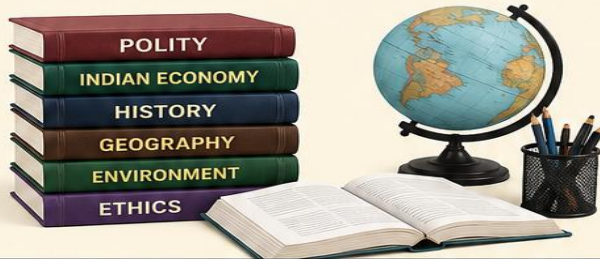
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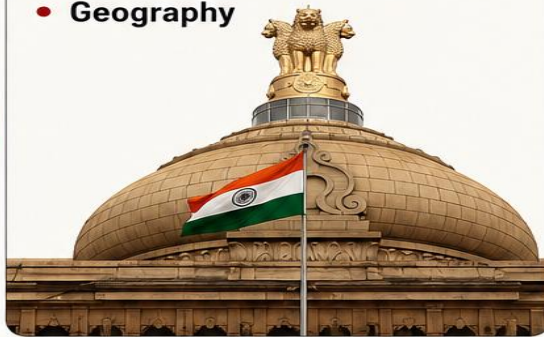
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