UPSC Daily Current Affairs | One Liners 09-09-2026

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History, Art and Culture

Pallava-Era Lingam and Pandya Coin

13th-century Pandya copper coin and ancient Sivalingam discovered near Budalur, Thanjavur.

• **Coin –**
• Belongs to Emperor Jatavarman Sundara Pandiyan I (AD 1250–1284),
• An issue from the king's first regnal year, corresponding to AD 1251.
• Weighs – 3.30 gm;
• Tamil legend 'Ellanthalaiyanan' runs around the rim along with numeral '1' marking first regnal year.
• **Design –** Obverse– human figure; Reverse– fish between two lamps.
• **Lingam –** Large 3-ft Sivalingam in nearby grove, dated to Pallava period.
• **Context –** Region historically ruled by Cholas, Pallavas, Mutharaiyars, Pandiyas, Nayaks, Marathas.

International Relations and Issues

79th Session of WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia

• **Location –** Dili, Timor-Leste.
• **Participants –** Health ministers and senior officials from *South-East Asia Region (SEARO) member states* to address regional public health priorities.
• **(SEARO) member states** – ***Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Timor-Leste.***
• **Core Theme –** *Human Resources for Health– Equity in Specialized Care.*
• **Major Outcome –** Adoption of the **Dili Declaration on Human Resources for Health– Equity in Specialised Care**
• To improve regional access to specialized care, digital health, and teleconsultations.
• **WHO Awards –** India received two awards for eliminating maternal/neonatal tetanus and managing noncommunicable diseases like diabetes and hypertension.

Environment

‘JSJB 3.0’ – Catch the Rain Campaign 2026

Chhattisgarh leads nation with 77,719 water conservation structures completed in JSJB 3.0.

• **Presentation –** Chhattisgarh CM showcased model at Ministry of Jal Shakti Summit in New Delhi.

• **Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) –** A community-led programme that promotes water conservation and groundwater recharge.

• **Process –** Building low-cost structures under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan– Catch the Rain initiative.

• **Four Measures for Strengthening Water Conservation** –

- State-specific ‘Catch the Rain’ plans.
- State Water Awards for high-performing states.
- Mapping of water conservation structures through BISAG-N (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics).
- Quarterly reviews chaired by chief secretaries.

• **Innovation –** 5% Model in Koriya district – farmers dedicate land for groundwater recharge.

• **Impact –** 5 Five districts *“Surajpur, Mahasamund, Balod, Baloda Bazar-Bhatapara and Kabirdha”* have secured places among the country’s top 10 districts in water conservation efforts.

• Groundwater-stressed blocks classified as ‘critical’ and ‘semi-critical’ in Chhattisgarh has declined from 26 to 19.

Wildfire Crisis in Kalimantan

Wildfires impacted 60% (25.8M hectares) of Bornean orangutan habitat in 2026, driven by climate change and severe El Niño.

• **Hotspot Intensity –** 17,865 hotspots (78.5% of region's total) were detected in orangutan territories.

• **Severe Extinction Threat –** Population fell by 80% in <50 years to 57,350.

• **Ecosystem Risks –** Loss of forest canopy, food sources, nesting trees, and habitat connectivity.

• **Emergency Response–** Immediate post-fire damage surveys to reset Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA) baselines.

• **Policy Action –** Formulate an Emergency Action Plan focusing on habitat corridors, fire prevention, law enforcement, and ecosystem restoration.

Science

New Type of 'Leather' – Coffee Husk Innovation

Scientists at CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai, developed leather-like material from coffee husk.

• **Process –** A multi-stage process that converts the husk into a matrix using plant-derived materials.

• The matrix is then coloured, coated, and embossed to give it different textures and a leather-like finish.

• **Eco Concept –** Zero-liquid and zero-solid waste discharge; alternative to PU (polyurethane) and PVC (polyvinyl chloride) synthetics, not real leather.

• **Output –** Used for bags, wallets, footwear, notebook covers; transferred patent to Bengaluru-based company.

• **Scale –** India produces 3.5 lakh tonnes coffee annually to 1 lakh tonnes husk waste.

• **Past Work –** CLRI earlier created mango pulp leather-like material; developed technologies with around 24 varieties of waste materials.

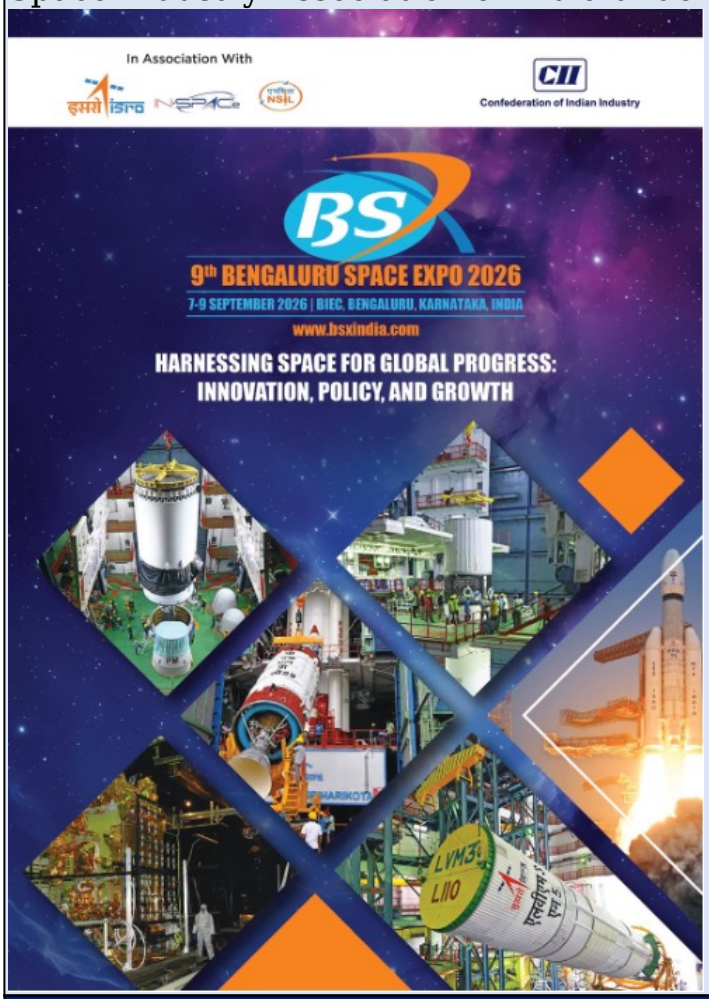
Five New Space Industry Partnerships – Australia and India

Australia and India expand space cooperation with five industry partnerships at 9th Bengaluru Space Expo, Sep 8, 2026.

• **Satellite Infrastructure –** LatConnect 60 partners with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) for SWIRSAT mission using India's ground stations.

• **Reusable Recovery and Spaceports –** Space Angel Group signs MoUs with Andura Expeditions, Inbound Aerospace, Red Balloon Aerospace for spaceport activities, capsule recovery, asteroid resource return.

• **Research and Education –** University of Western Australia collaborates with Space Industry Association of India under *Global Engagement Alliance.*



Miscellaneous

First Ever Global Road Surface Dataset

Heidelberg University and HeiGIT *released first global, multi-temporal road surface dataset.*

• **Multi-temporal road surface dataset** – A dataset tracking road material, width, and passability over time to monitor infrastructure changes.

• **Coverage –** Mapped 9.2 million km arterial roads (2020 and 2024) with 89.2% accuracy using GeoAI and PlanetScope imagery.

• **Findings –** Reveals global infrastructure disparities; Europe/North America 97% paved, Sub-Saharan Africa 63% paved.

• **Urban-Rural Divide –** Urban networks 93% paved; rural pavedness lags, especially in Central Africa and South America.

• **Applications –** Supports planning, logistics, climate resilience, humanitarian operations.

27th World Knowledge Forum

27th World Knowledge Forum opened Sep 8–10, 2026 at Jangchung Arena and The Shilla Seoul.

• **World Knowledge Forum** – Asia's largest business and knowledge-sharing forum, established to promote balanced global growth and prosperity through the exchange of ideas.

• **Theme –** *"The Promethean Moment: Architecting the Co-Intelligence Order".*

• **Focus –** Artificial Intelligence, Co-Intelligence, Global Economic Change.

• **Sessions –** Personal AI, Quantum Computing and Cybersecurity.

• **Awards –** ASEAN Entrepreneurs Award to *Jose Ma. Concepcion III and Don Lam.*

5th Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan Awards

• *MoEFCC organised Swachh Vayu Diwas 2026 on International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies.*

• **Top Rank –** Lucknow secured 1st position among million-plus cities for proactive air pollution control.

• **Measures –** EVs in waste fleet, mechanised sweeping, legacy waste remediation.

• **Other Ranks –** Indore 2nd, Jabalpur 3rd; Delhi 30th, Mumbai 37th; Chennai, Jamshedpur, Kota, Kolkata, Madurai bottom five.

• **Framework –** Awards under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP); 130 cities assessed via self-evaluation, Central Pollution Control Board(CPCB) for review and field verification.

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