

## 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

## 79<sup>th</sup> 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.



### **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.



Governance

**First ever global road surface dataset published that mapped and classified more than nine million kilometres of roads worldwide**

## **27<sup>th</sup> World Knowledge Forum**

27<sup>th</sup> 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*.



## 5<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, Jabalpur 3<sup>rd</sup>; Delhi 30<sup>th</sup>, Mumbai 37<sup>th</sup>; 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.

