UPSC Daily Current Affairs |One Liners 17-09-2026

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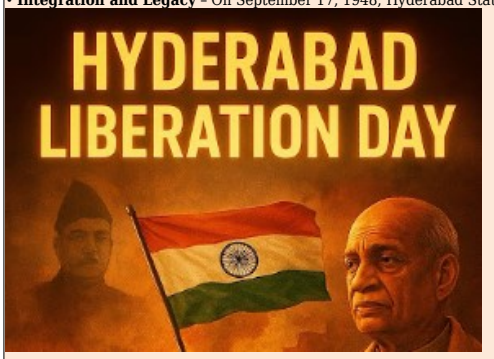
History, Art and Culture

Hyderabad Liberation Day 2026

It is observed annually on September 17 to commemorate the integration of the erstwhile princely state of Hyderabad into the Indian Union in 1948.

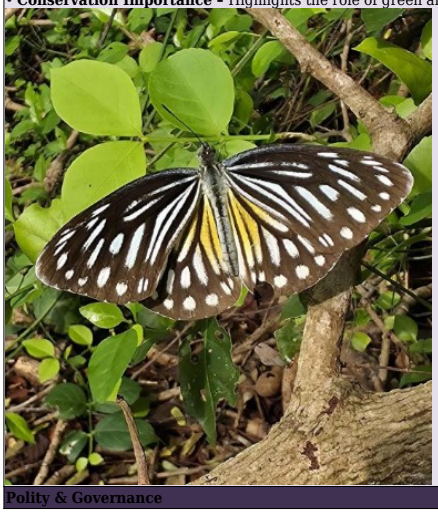
• **Inspirational Origin**
• **Nizam's Rule** – At India's independence in 1947, the princely state of Hyderabad chose not to merge immediately, remaining under the autocratic rule of Mir Osman Ali Khan.
• **People's Resistance** – Local freedom fighters, peasant uprisings, and citizens revolted against oppressive feudal conditions and the militant Razakars.
• **Institutional Foundation**
• **Operation Polo** – When political negotiations failed, the Indian government launched a five-day military intervention known as Operation Polo starting September 13, 1948.
• **Integration and Legacy** – On September 17, 1948, Hyderabad State forces surrendered, paving the way for unification under the leadership of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.



Species

Rare butterfly sighted in Tamil Nadu's Villupuram

• **Rare *Philomela* Form of Common Wanderer – Poothurai**
• **Species –** Common Wanderer butterfly (*Pareronia hippia*).
• **New Record –** Rare **philomela form** documented for the first time at **Poothurai, Villupuram district**, near Puducherry.
• **Distinctive Features –** Pale yellowish wing bases, translucent whitish areas, dark venation and faint yellow suffusion.
• **Distribution –** Historically more associated with **northeastern India and adjoining regions**; records from peninsular India are scarce.
• **Significance –** Expands the known occurrence of this uncommon form in **southern India**, particularly the **Puducherry-Villupuram-Auroville-Cuddalore (PVAC) bioregion**.
• **Conservation Importance –** Highlights the role of green and semi-natural spaces in supporting **butterflies and other pollinators**.



Polity & Governance

EPFO Wage Ceiling Hike – 2026

• **New Ceiling –** Increased from Rs.**15,000 to Rs.25,000 per month** for mandatory EPFO coverage.
• **Effective – 17 September 2026**, coinciding with Vishwakarma Jayanti.
• **Beneficiaries –** Around **51 lakh additional employees** earning Rs.15,000–Rs.25,000 per month.
• **Schemes Covered: EPF, EPS and EDLI**.
• **Financial Outlay –** About Rs.**11,339 crore annually** and Rs.**56,696 crore over five years**.
• **Previous Ceiling - Rs.**15,000, fixed in **September 2014**, up from Rs.6,500.
• **Significance –** Expands formal-sector workers' access to **retirement savings, pension and social-security benefits**.

International Relations and Issues

69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference

The 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference is taking place in Cape Town, South Africa, from September 13 to 19, 2026.

• **Hosts –** Parliament of South Africa and the CPA South Africa Branch.
• **Venue –** Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC).
• **Main Theme:** - "Strengthening International Law and Parliamentary Democracy in a Changing World Order: Commonwealth Leadership".
• **Participants –** Over 800 parliamentarians, speakers, and governance experts from across the Commonwealth's nine geographic regions.

Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)

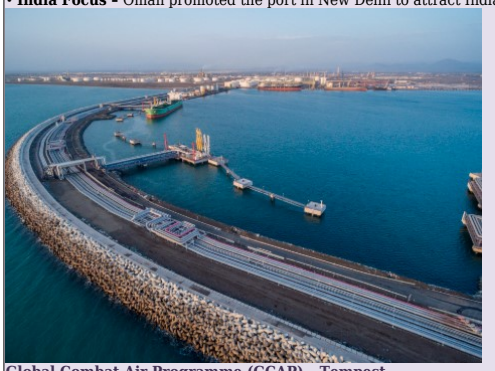
The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) celebrated the 25th anniversary of its designation as an Institution of National Importance on September 15, 2026, at Sapru House in New Delhi.

• **Established** – 1943 by eminent intellectuals led by Sir T.B. Sapru and Dr. H.N. Kunzru to develop an Indian perspective on international relations and foreign policy.
• **Nature** – Non-official, non-political and non-profit organisation registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
• **National Importance** – Declared an institution of national importance by an Act of Parliament in 2001.
• **Leadership** – Vice-President of India is its ex-officio President.
• **Funding** – Funded by the Ministry of External Affairs while enjoying institutional autonomy.
• **Functions** – Exclusively devoted to the study of international relations and foreign affairs.

Sohar Port, Oman

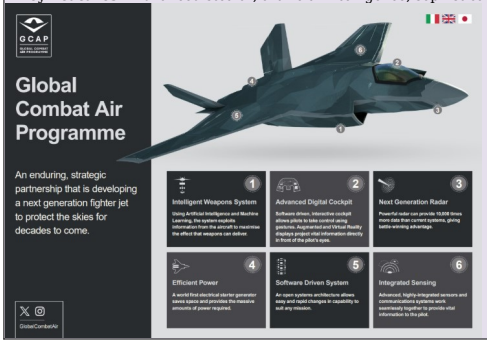
A high-level representative of the Sohar Port of Oman welcomed Indian investments into the port and said it would serve as a platform to connect businesses in regional and global markets

• **Location –** Northern Oman, on the **Gulf of Oman**, outside the **Strait of Hormuz**.
• **Strategic Importance –** Promoted as an alternative access point for India's **energy and trade flows** from the Persian Gulf.
• **Connectivity –** Linked to energy infrastructure in the **UAE and eastern Saudi Arabia**.
• **Facilities –** Deep-water port supporting **cargo handling, trans-shipment and industrial activities**; includes **Sohar Freezone** for manufacturing, logistics and exports.
• **Investment –** Has attracted **over US$30 billion** in investments.
• **Cargo Capacity – 72 million tonnes annually**.
• **India Focus –** Oman promoted the port in New Delhi to attract Indian businesses, manufacturers and exporters.



Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP) – Tempest

• **India's Status** – Secured dialogue partner status in the sixth-generation fighter aircraft programme.
• **Core Partners** – United Kingdom, Japan and Italy.
• **Nature of Status** – Provides diplomatic engagement but does not confer full membership, financial contribution, manufacturing or development rights.
• **Significance** – Enables India to gain insights into advanced aerospace technologies and support its indigenous aerospace programmes.
• **Timeline** – Targeted service entry around 2034–2035.
• **Key Features** – Advanced stealth, artificial intelligence, sophisticated sensors and uncrewed teaming capabilities.



Environment

National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)

• **Launched** – 2008 by the Government of India.
• **Comprises** – Eight National Missions.

Eight National Missions

1. National Solar Mission
2. National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency
3. National Mission on Sustainable Habitat
4. National Water Mission
5. National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem
6. National Mission for a Green India
7. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
8. National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change

India Net Zero Portal & NAPCC Dashboard – 2026

• **Launched** – 16 September 2026, Mumbai, on World Ozone Day.
• **Ministry** – Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
• **Launched by** – Union Minister of State Kirti Vardhan Singh.
• **India Net Zero Portal –** Centralised platform for Indian entities to voluntarily register Net Zero commitments and report progress.
• Encourages reporting of Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions; Scope 3 reporting is voluntary.
• Provides ministry acknowledgement and a publicly accessible repository of climate commitments.
• **NAPCC Dashboard –** Provides a unified digital platform to monitor the implementation and progress of National Missions under the NAPCC.
• Helps ministries identify implementation gaps and track mission-level progress.

World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF) 2026

• **Inauguration** – 15 September 2026, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
• **Edition** – 10th edition; first time held in South Asia.
• **Venue** – Mahatma Mandir Convention Centre, Gandhinagar.
• **Duration** – 15–18 September 2026.
• **Theme** – "Circular Economy: Transition for People and Prosperity".
• **Participation** – Over 2,000 stakeholders from 66 countries.
• **Sessions** – 4 plenaries and 16 parallel sessions on 15–16 September; accelerator sessions on 17–18 September.
• **Objective** – Promote circular economy policies, sustainable business models and innovation.
• **Circular Economy** – An economic model that emphasises reuse, repair, remanufacturing, recycling and resource efficiency to reduce waste and promote sustainable production.

Index

Global Gender Gap Index 2026

• **Released by** – World Economic Forum (WEF).
• **India's Rank** – 131st out of 145 countries, unchanged from the previous edition.
• **Top Performers**: - Iceland (1st), Finland (2nd), Norway (3rd) and Namibia (4th).
• **Lowest-ranked** – Chad, followed by Iran and Pakistan among the bottom three.
• **Global Progress** – 69.2% of the global gender gap has been closed.
• **Gender Parity Timeline** – Full gender parity is projected to take another 120 years.

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