UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 23-09-2026

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History, Art and Culture

Chandni Chowk's Town Hall

Chandni Chowk's Town Hall to be developed as 'Global Heritage Centre'

• The Delhi Town Hall in Chandni Chowk is a historic 160-year-old Victorian-era landmark that originally served as the Lawrence Institute and later as the headquarters for Delhi's municipal corporation.

• **History and Architecture**

• **Construction –** Built between **1860 and 1863** as the Lawrence Institute, which housed a library, a museum, and a reading room.

• **Civic Seat –** Purchased by the Delhi municipality in 1866 and used as the headquarters of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) until 2010.

• **Design –** A two-storey, Grade-I heritage building featuring yellow-painted brick, stone, and carved white stone trim, surrounded by Mughal-influenced gardens.

ANGH Wins TIFF Platform Prize 2026

Historic Achievement

• **'ANGH'**, directed by **Naga filmmaker Theja Rio**, has won the prestigious **Platform Prize 2026** at the **Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF)**.

• It is a significant milestone for **Naga cinema, Northeast India and Indian regional cinema** on the global stage.

TIFF Platform Programme

• *ANGH* was among **12 films** selected for the **2026 Platform programme**.

• The Platform is **TIFF's only competitive section** and focuses on films showcasing **bold directorial vision and distinctive storytelling**.

Oscar Pathway

• From **2026**, winning the **TIFF Platform Prize** provides a **direct pathway to eligibility for consideration for the Academy Award for Best International Feature Film** for a non-English-language film.

• Thus, *ANGH*'s victory opens an important potential route towards the **Oscars**.

Representation of Naga & Tribal Culture

• Theja Rio highlighted the significance of the award as *ANGH* represents:
  - An **Indigenous region**
  - A **tribal language**
  - The people and stories of **Northeast India**

• He dedicated the award to the people back home and described the achievement as **"just the beginning.**

Nagaland film 'Angh' wins Toronto Platform Award, opening a direct path to the 2027 Oscars race

The film follows a Konyak chief clinging to ancestral beliefs in 1960s Nagaland. Most of its cast comes from Indigenous Naga communities, joined by BAFTA winner Douglas Henshall. India's official Oscar pick this year is 'Goedhaf', a separate film.

Environment

World Rhino Day 2026

World Rhino Day 2026 was observed globally on September 22, 2026.

• **Theme for 2026** – "Keep the Five Alive" to raise awareness for the protection and survival of the five remaining rhinoceros species.

• **The Five Remaining Rhino Species**

• The global population stands at fewer than 27,000 rhinos in the wild.

• **African Species**

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- **White Rhino** – Found primarily in southern and eastern Africa; population numbers approximately 15,752 (Near Threatened).
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- **Black Rhino** – Distributed across eastern and southern Africa; population numbers around 6,788 (Critically Endangered).

• **Asian Species**

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- **Greater One-Horned (Indian) Rhino** – Found in India and Nepal, with a population near 4,075 (Vulnerable), bolstered by strong conservation wins in Assam and other reserves.
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- **Javan Rhino** – Restricted to Ujung Kulon National Park in Indonesia, with an extremely vulnerable population of about 50 individuals (Critically Endangered).
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- **Sumatran Rhino** – Found in Indonesia, numbering roughly 34 to 47 individuals (Critically Endangered).

• **Key Conservation Challenges & Focus Areas**

• **Poaching** – Driven by the illegal black market demand for rhino horns used in traditional ornaments and unverified medicines.

• **Habitat Loss** – Encroachment, human-wildlife conflict, and forest fragmentation threaten isolated Asian and African populations.

• **Positive Milestones** – Regions like Assam in India highlighted major strides, noting strong anti-poaching frameworks and robust local conservation efforts supporting nearly 80% of the world's greater one-horned rhino population.

India International Water Week (IIWW)

The 9th edition of the India International Water Week (IIWW) is a major global conference held from September 22 to 26, 2026, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

• **Organized by** – The Ministry of Jal Shakti.
• **Significance** – The event brings together international water leaders, policymakers, scientists, and young professionals to address critical water security and sustainability challenges.
• Focuses on adapting to climate change pressures on water supplies.
• Explores advanced digital tools and smart systems for equitable resource distribution.
• Highlights fair water governance and risk management strategies
• **Core Theme** – The official theme for the 9th edition is **"Climate-Resilient Water Management."**
• **Key Events**
• **Global Participation** – Features delegations from around 150 countries, with Germany and the Netherlands serving as key partner countries.
• **Concurrent Programs** – Includes the Second International WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) Conference from September 22 to 24.
• **Specialized Forums** – Hosts Ministerial plenaries, youth and start-up forums, and industry-specific discussions.
• **Technology Exhibition** – Features a large-scale exhibition displaying modern water technologies, conservation strategies, and infrastructure innovations.

Security

India’s first indigenous long-range One-Way Attack (OWA) drone

India’s first indigenous long-range One-Way Attack (OWA) drone is named KAL, developed by the Noida-based defense company IG Defence.

• **Key Details and Specifications**
• **Test Location** – Successfully flight-tested at the Pokhran Field Firing Range in Rajasthan.
• **Strike Range** – Stated maximum range of up to 1,000 km.
• **Endurance** – Remains airborne for 7 to 8 hours.
• **Payload Capacity** – Can carry explosives or payload up to 50 kg.
• **Operating Altitude** – Capable of operating at altitudes up to 5,000 meters above mean sea level.
• **Launch Mechanism** – Deployed via a vehicle-mounted launch platform.
• **Navigation** – Combines satellite-based navigation (Multi-band GNSS) with an Inertial Navigation System (INS) for autonomous flight.

Science

ONGC Strikes Natural Gas in Mahanadi Deepwater Basin

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has discovered natural gas in a deepwater exploratory well in the Mahanadi offshore basin, about 43 km off the Konark coast of Odisha.

• **Samudra Manthan Initiative** – The well was drilled under the government's Samudra Manthan initiative, aimed at expanding exploration and production in India's offshore hydrocarbon resources.

• The discovery is being seen as a boost to domestic hydrocarbon production and energy security.

• **Potential for Early Monetisation** – Its proximity to the Odisha coast could facilitate early monetisation, subject to:

- Further appraisal
- Commercial evaluation
- Assessment of the size and viability of the discovery
- Shared-Facility Development

• The discovery may be developed along with other nearby finds through shared facilities.

• This framework has been enabled by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 2025.

• **Strategic Significance** – Strengthens ONGC's deepwater and ultra-deepwater exploration programme.

• Helps expand India's indigenous hydrocarbon resource base.

• Supports the broader objective of energy security and reduced dependence on imported hydrocarbons.

Health

International Snakebite Awareness Day

International Snakebite Awareness Day was observed on September 19, 2026, to highlight snakebite envenoming as a critical global public health crisis and a neglected tropical disease.

• **Key Facts & Global Impact**

• **Annual Burden –** The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 5.4 million people are bitten by snakes each year.

• **Envenomings & Deaths –** These bites result in roughly 2 million envenomings and over 100,000 deaths annually, heavily impacting rural communities, agricultural workers, and children in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

• **Long-term Disabilities –** Many survivors suffer permanent physical impairments (amputations, tissue damage), neurological consequences, or psychological trauma like PTSD.

Sowa Rigpa

First meeting held to advance development of Sowa-Rigpa Pharmacopoeias.

• **Sowa Rigpa** – It means **"science of healing"** or **"knowledge of healing"** and translates poetically to the "nourishment of awareness" in the Bhoti language.

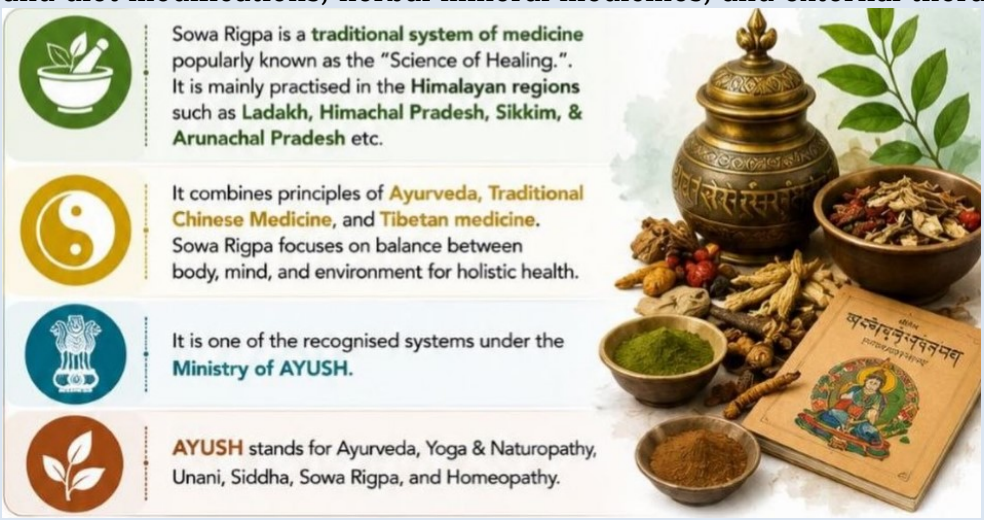
• It is also widely known as **Traditional Tibetan Medicine** or the Amchi system of medicine.

• **Core Meaning and Overview**

- **Etymology** – Derived from the Bhoti words Sowa (healing/nourishment) and Rigpa (science/knowledge/awareness).
- **Nature** – One of the oldest surviving and well-documented traditional medical systems in the world, with a history spanning over 2,000 years.
- **Practitioners** – Known traditionally as Amchis.

• **Key Concepts and Principles**

- **Foundational Text** – Based primarily on the Gyud-Zi (The Four Tantras), which integrates medical wisdom from Ayurveda, Chinese medicine, and Buddhist philosophy.
- **Philosophy** – Combines physical health care with Buddhist principles like altruism, karma, and overcoming ignorance as the root cause of suffering.
- **Diagnosis & Treatment** – Relies on techniques like pulse and urine analysis, lifestyle and diet modifications, herbal-mineral medicines, and external therapies.



Miscellaneous

WorldSkills Competition

*India is sending **70 skilled competitors** to the **48th WorldSkills Competition** in Shanghai, China, scheduled from **22–27 September 2026**.*

• The team will compete in **63 of 64 skill categories**.

• **About WorldSkills Competition**

• The WorldSkills Competition is an international event for **young professionals and trainees**, covering trades and technologies across sectors such as **construction, manufacturing, information technology, and services**.

• **New Skill Categories**

• India will make its debut in **11 skill categories**, including:

- Dental Prosthetics
- Digital Interactive Media Design
- Intelligent Security Technology
- Landscape Gardening
- Optoelectronic Technology
- Retail Sales
- Unmanned Aerial Systems
- Industrial Mechanics
- Software Testing
- Heavy Vehicle Technology
- Aircraft Maintenance

• **Representation and Support –** The contingent represents **16 states**, with **Karnataka, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu** having the largest representation.

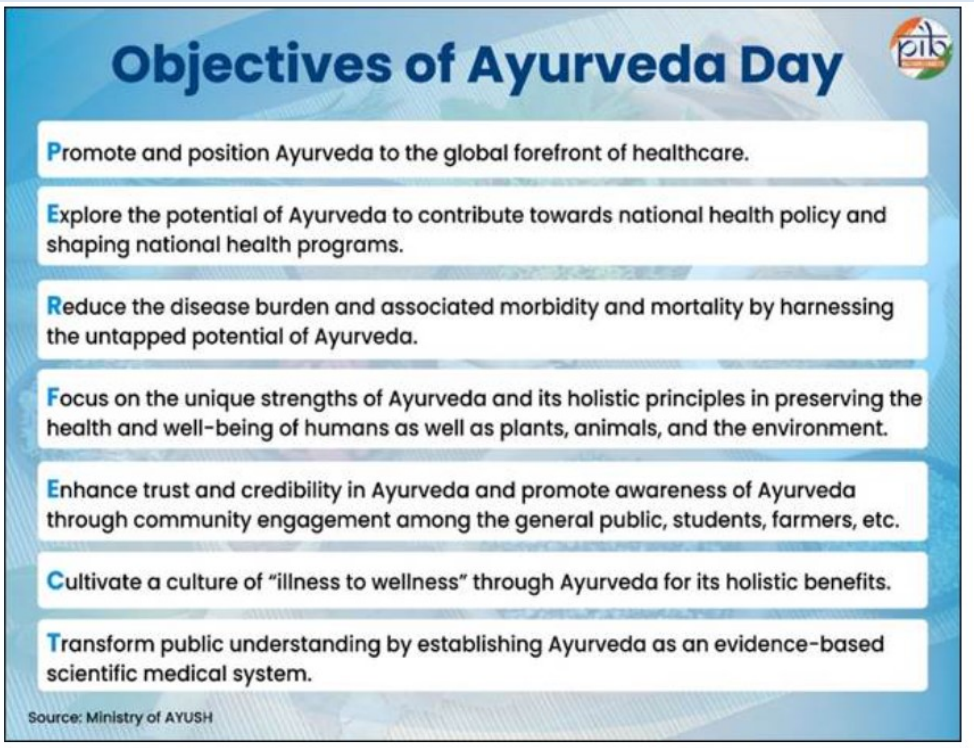
• The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** and **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** are leading India's participation and preparations.

• **Send-Off Ceremony –** A send-off ceremony was held in **New Delhi on 15 September 2026**.

11th Ayurveda Day

The 11th Ayurveda Day is observed on September 23, 2026, focusing on evidence-based practices, innovation, and holistic health.

• **Theme** – "Ayurveda for a Healthier Tomorrow"
• **National Venue** – Nagpur, Maharashtra
• **Organized By** – Ministry of Ayush, Government of India
• **Highlights and Participation**
• **Mass Engagement** – Millions of citizens registered and pledged support through the official Ayurveda Day portal.
• **Activities** – Nationwide wellness camps, public outreach programs, and educational seminars.
• **Core Focus** – Promoting preventive healthcare and integrating traditional knowledge with modern science



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