UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 29-09-2026

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Geography

Typhoon Dujuan

Typhoon Dujuan was a powerful tropical cyclone that struck eastern Japan and the Greater Tokyo Area in September 2026, bringing record-breaking rainfall, destructive winds, and severe flooding.

• **Record Rainfall –** Parts of Japan recorded up to 832 mm of rain within 48 hours over Izu Oshima island, while Tokyo and surrounding prefectures experienced intense downpours that surpassed historical monthly averages.

• **Destructive Winds –** The storm packed sustained winds of up to 144 km/h (90 mph) with stronger gusts, damaging buildings and power infrastructure.

• **Casualties and Evacuations –** The severe weather triggered deadly landslides and floods in Chiba, Kanagawa, and Shizuoka prefectures, resulting in multiple fatalities and injuries. Evacuation advisories affected over 1.6 million residents.

• **Infrastructure Disruption –** Hundreds of flights were canceled at Haneda and Narita airports, and bullet-train and local rail services faced major suspensions.

• Tens of thousands of households suffered power outages, and high-profile public events like the Tokyo Game Show were altered or canceled.

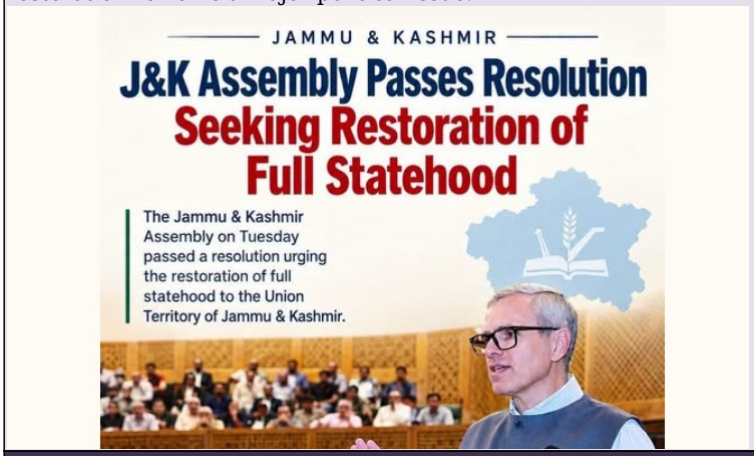
• **Meteorological Factors –** The storm's extreme intensity was fueled by warm ocean waters interacting with Japan's seasonal autumn rain front, leading to prolonged torrential downpours across the Kanto region before the system moved northeast out into the Pacific Ocean.

Polity & Governance

J&K Assembly Passes Statehood Resolution

*On **September 28, 2026**, the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly passed a resolution seeking the **immediate restoration of full statehood**.*

• It was passed by **voice vote** after BJP legislators walked out amid protests.
• **Content of the Resolution –** The resolution calls upon the **Government of India** to restore full statehood.
• It refers to earlier Assembly resolutions of **2000** and **November 2024**.
• Amendments seeking explicit references to **Articles 370 and 35A** were withdrawn before passage.
• **Political Disagreement – NC-led government and other parties** supported the statehood demand.
• **BJP** said it supports statehood but opposed references to **autonomy and the pre-1953 constitutional position**, arguing that these issues should not be combined with the statehood question.
• BJP legislators staged protests and a walkout; the proceedings were marked by significant disruption.
• **Omar Abdullah's Position –** CM **Omar Abdullah** argued that statehood should not be linked to the **end of militancy**.
• He maintained that the demand concerns **statehood alone**, rather than reopening Article 370 or 35A.
• He also raised concerns about the impact of **Union Territory status on the functioning of the elected government**.
• **Constitutional Context –** In **2019**, the erstwhile State of J&K was reorganised into the Union Territories of **Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh**, following changes concerning Article 370.
• The **Supreme Court** had directed that statehood be restored to J&K **"as soon as possible"** after elections; the timing of restoration remains a major political issue.



International Relations and Issues

Chabahar-Zahedan Railway

*Iran completed **track-laying in September 2026**. The railway is expected to become fully operational within **3–4 months**.*

Key Features

• Length: **630–730 km**
• **33 stations, 39 tunnels and 201 bridges**
• Began in **2010**, estimated cost: **$1.5 billion**
• Connects **Chabahar Port** on the Gulf of Oman with Iran's national railway network.

Strategic Significance

• Provides India and regional partners a route to **Afghanistan and Central Asia**, potentially extending towards eastern Russia.
• **Bypasses Pakistan**, strengthening alternative regional connectivity.
• Enhances the strategic importance of **Chabahar Port** and Iran in India's connectivity strategy.

Environment

Endemic fish species of the Thamirabarani River

The endemic fish species of the Thamirabarani River in Tamil Nadu face severe population declines due to untreated sewage discharge, industrial pollution, and the destruction of riparian (riverbank) vegetation.

• **Overview of Thamirabarani Endemic Fish**

• **Unique Biodiversity –** The Thamirabarani is the only river in Tamil Nadu that originates and ends in the sea within the state. It hosts around 125 fish species, with **seven species found exclusively** in this river system.

• **Key Endemic Species:**

• *Dawkinsia tambraparniei* (Tamirabharani Seval Kendai) — categorized as endangered on the IUCN Red List.

• *Haludaria kannikattiensis* (Kannikatti Melon Barb) — a steno-endemic species restricted specifically to the Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve area.

• *Mesonoemacheilus tambaraparniensis* (Tamirabharani Zodiac Loach / Ayrimeen) — requires clean, oxygen-rich water to survive.

• *Garra kalakadensis* (Kal Kendai) and *Garra joshuai*.

• *Neolissochilus tamiraparaniensis* (a small cold-water Mahseer).

• *Hypselobarbus tamiraparaniei*.

• **Major Threats**

• **Pollution –** Untreated domestic sewage from hundreds of discharge points, industrial waste, agricultural pesticide runoff, use of soaps/shampoos during bathing, and dumping of religious/pooja materials degrade water quality.

• **Habitat Destruction –** Clearing of riverbank vegetation during structural cleaning removes crucial spaces for native fish to spawn and shelter.

• **Invasive Species –** Aggressive non-native fish—such as African catfish, tilapia, and aquarium tank-cleaner fish—outcompete native species for resources and eat their eggs.

Security

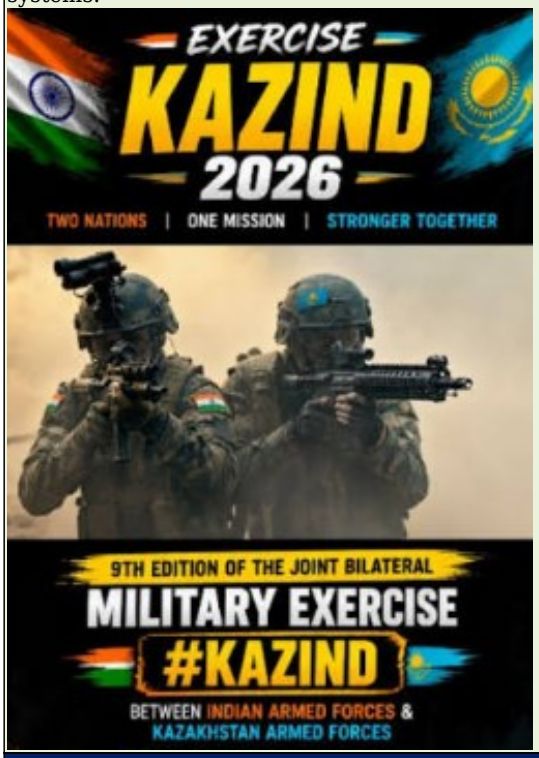
KAZIND-2026

KAZIND-2026 is the 9th edition of the annual India–Kazakhstan joint military exercise, held from September 28 to October 11, 2026, in Oskem en, Kazakhstan.

• **Participants –** A 60-member Indian Armed Forces contingent (mainly from the Garhwal Rifles and Indian Air Force) and an equal-strength Kazakh contingent.

• **Objective –** To improve joint capabilities for counter-terrorism operations in semi-urban and mountainous terrain under a United Nations mandate.

• **Activities –** Training in raids, search-and-destroy missions, special heliborne operations, and using unmanned aerial systems.



Science

UN Women's Digital, Innovation & AI Hub

UN Women launched a global hub to place gender equality at the centre of digital transformation and AI governance.

• **Key Concerns**

• Women hold only ~1 in 5 AI jobs and ~1 in 10 senior technology leadership roles.

• 44% of 133 AI systems analysed showed gender bias.

• Nearly 1 in 4 women human-rights defenders, activists and journalists reported AI-assisted online violence.

• **Objectives**

• Bring together governments, tech firms, researchers and women's rights groups.

• Promote gender-responsive AI policies and technology design.

• Counter algorithmic bias and online violence.

• Strengthen women's participation in AI governance and decision-making.

• **Significance**

• The initiative seeks to ensure AI advances inclusive development, women's empowerment and human rights, rather than reproducing existing inequalities.

Global Automotive Research Centre (GARC)

GARC Upgrades Automotive Testing Infrastructure Under PM E-DRIVE Scheme

GARC – Key Role

• **Location –** Oragadam, Chennai.
• Functions under the **National Automotive Board (NAB), Ministry of Heavy Industries**.
• Authorised testing agency under **Rule 126 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules**.
• Provides:
  - Vehicle & component testing
  - Research & Development
  - Homologation and certification
  - Powertrain and emissions testing
  - Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC)
  - Fatigue and vehicle-safety testing
  - Electric vehicle (EV) testing

PM E-DRIVE Support

• **PM E-DRIVE total outlay – Rs.**10,900 crore.
• **Testing-agency upgradation – Rs.**780 crore.
• **Scheme validity –** Up to **31 March 2028**.
• **GARC allocation – Rs.221.13 crore** for testing-infrastructure modernisation.
• Purchase orders have been issued for almost all proposed equipment and **installation has begun**.

Major Facilities Being Upgraded

EV & Battery Testing

• Testing facilities according to **AIS-156**.
• EV **EMI/EMC testing** under **AIS-004 Part 3 Rev.1**.

Heavy Vehicles & Powertrain

• New **Heavy Commercial Vehicle Testing Facility**.
• Upgradation of the **Powertrain Laboratory**.

Vehicle Safety

• Advanced **Passive Safety Testing** facilities.
• Advanced crash-test dummies and **dummy calibration equipment**.

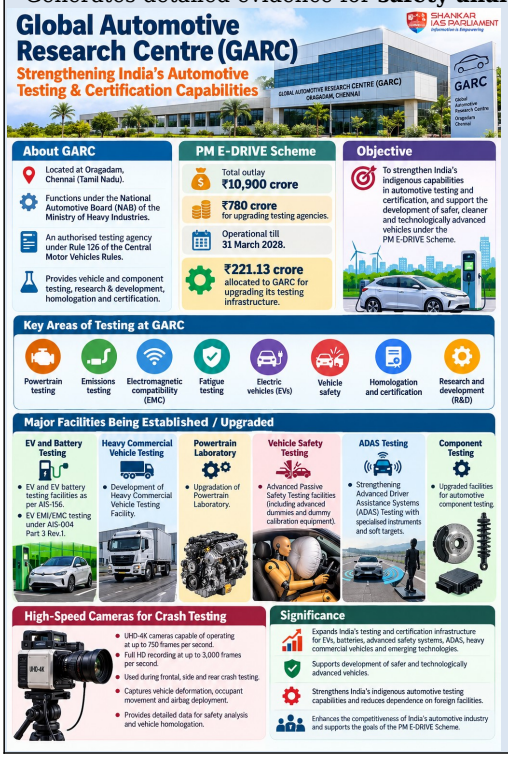
ADAS & Components

• Strengthening **Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS)** testing.
• Specialised instruments and **soft targets** for ADAS assessment.
• Expanded **automotive component testing** facilities.

High-Speed Crash Testing Technology

GARC is introducing advanced high-speed imaging systems:

• **UHD-4K cameras –** Up to **750 frames/second**.
• **Full HD recording –** Up to **3,000 frames/second**.
• Applicable to **frontal, side and rear crash tests**.
• Captures:
  - Vehicle deformation
  - Occupant movement
  - Airbag deployment
• Generates detailed evidence for **safety analysis and vehicle homologation**.



Miscellaneous

World Heart Day 2026

World Heart Day 2026 is observed on September 29, 2026.

• **Official Theme** – "Don't Miss a Beat," highlighting symptom recognition, overlooked warning signs, and government action for cardiovascular health.

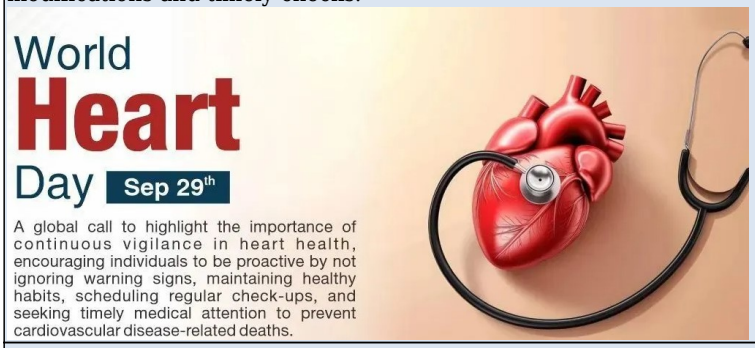
• **Organizer** – Led by the World Heart Federation to tackle cardiovascular disease (CVD), which remains the world's leading cause of death.

• **Key Focus Areas** – Promoting early diagnosis of conditions, encouraging healthy habits, and addressing neglected cardiac diseases.

• Why It Matters?

• **Global Impact** – Cardiovascular disease claims nearly 20 million lives globally each year.

• **Prevention** – Up to 80% of premature deaths from heart disease and stroke are preventable through lifestyle modifications and timely checks.



International Translation Day 2026

It is observed on September 30 under the theme "Linguistic Diversity and Language Rights" with the subtitle "The Power of Being Understood".

• **Overview and Significance**

• **Date** – Celebrated annually on September 30, marking the feast day of St. Jerome, the Bible translator and patron saint of translators.

• **Origin** – Launched in 1953 by the International Federation of Translators (FIT) and officially recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in May 2017 via Resolution 71/288.

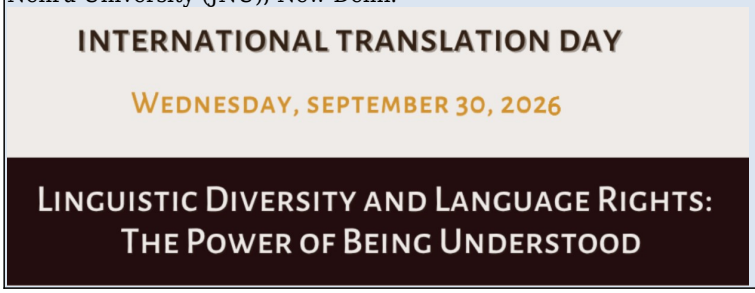
• **Purpose** – Honors the vital work of language professionals, translators, interpreters, and terminologists in bridging cultural gaps, fostering global dialogue, and strengthening peace and security.

• **2026 Events and Programs**

• **UNESCO & Translation Commons Online Event** – A global virtual celebration focusing on linguistic diversity, language rights, indigenous and minoritized languages, and the impact of AI on translation (scheduled for September 30, 7:00–9:30 a.m. PDT).

• **English PEN Programme** – In-person and online conversations, panels, and workshops hosted at Brixton Library in London on September 30.

• **Sahitya Akademi Forum (India)** – A special literary forum and seminar on translation and literature held at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi.



Starship Reaches Orbit

On September 28, 2026, SpaceX's Starship reached orbit for the first time during its 14th test flight.

• The 120+ metre rocket's upper stage separated from the Super Heavy booster and reached orbit about 26 minutes after launch.

• **Mission Objectives**

• Target orbit: ~275 km altitude at about 28,000 km/h.

• Deploy 26 next-generation Starlink satellites.

• Planned six Earth orbits before splashdown in the Pacific.

• **Significance**

• The test advances SpaceX's goal of a fully reusable launch system, with future applications including commercial flights, orbital refuelling, Moon and Mars missions, and space-based infrastructure. Significant technical challenges remain.

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