

Daily Current Affairs

09 September 2026

Himalaya Diwas 2026

- The Himalaya Diwas is marked annually on September 9th to focus on the significance of the region ecologically, culturally and economically and the necessity of preserving its delicate ecological environment.
- In 2026, the observance has become more significant because of some scientific reports about the continuing melting of glaciers and lessening of the seasonal snow in the **Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH)**.
- The Himalaya Diwas was first declared in Uttarakhand in 2015 to spread information about Himalaya conservation, sustainable development and involvement of communities into these processes.
- The 2026 survey of ICIMOD indicates that glaciers in the Hindu Kush Himalaya have lost 12 percent of their glacier coverage and 9 percent of their estimated ice mass between 1990 and 2020.
- The rate of loss of ice in glaciers has doubled since 2000. The loss of ice in some glaciers amounts to up to 27 metres since 1975.
- ICIMOD Snow Update 2026 reports that there is 27.8 percent less persistence of snow in the Hindu Kush Himalaya compared to the average, and it is the fourth consecutive year of below-normal snow persistence in the region.



27th World Knowledge Forum Begins in Seoul

- The 27th edition of the World Knowledge Forum (WKF) was held in Seoul, South Korea, starting on September 8, 2026, where political figures, business leaders, academics, and technology specialists convened to discuss global shifts.
- Sponsored by the Maekyung Media Group, the conference that lasts for three days will run till September 10.
- The focus of the current discussion includes artificial intelligence, collaboration between man and machine, as well as the future of the world economy. The World Knowledge Forum 2026 takes place at Jangchung Arena and The Shilla Seoul.
- World Knowledge Forum 2026 will take place from September 8 to 10, 2026, in Seoul.
- Theme of the 27th World Knowledge Forum is **“The Promethean Moment: Architecting the Co-Intelligence Order.”**



PM Modi Inaugurates Global Fintech Fest 2026

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Global Fintech Fest 2026 in Mumbai on September 8, making next generation technology, financial inclusion, and consumer trust the focus of India's fintech policy.
- While addressing the leaders and investors of global fintech industry, PM Modi made an emphatic call to go beyond payments into credit, insurance, savings, and pensions and spoke about the impact of UPI on the digital payments system.
- Prime Minister Modi has talked about India's fintech system being one of the driving factors of financial and technological development. He drew attention to economic progress amid global uncertainties with India's 7.8% economic growth in the April-June period.
- India's rise as a fintech powerhouse has been possible due to the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), comprising of Aadhaar, UPI, mobile connectivity and the JAM Trinity.
- As of August 26, 2026, Jan Dhan accounts opened had exceeded 59.15 crore, whereas Aadhaar registrations had surpassed 144 crore till March 2026.



Shekhawati Havelis Added to UNESCO Tentative List

- Shekhawati havelis of Rajasthan have made a great leap forward towards potential heritage recognition at the international level through being listed on the UNESCO Tentative List.
- Characterized by colorful façade, ornate frescoes, extensive courtyards, and grand architecture, these historic mansions offer visual documentation of the lifestyle of northeastern Rajasthan.
- Tentative listing of the Shekhawati havelis does not mean that they are already on the World Heritage List. Tentative listing is just one of the important preliminary stages before a country can propose a heritage site as the World Heritage Site to UNESCO.



Tung Chee-hwa, Hong Kong's First Post-Colonial Leader, Dies

- Tung Chee-hwa, the first Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), died in Hong Kong at the age of 89. He served from 1 July 1997, when Britain transferred sovereignty over Hong Kong to China, until 12 March 2005.
- Tung was born in Shanghai on 29 May 1937. He was the eldest son of shipowner C.Y. Tung and took control of the family shipping group, Orient Overseas, in 1982. Orient Overseas International later became part of Cosco Shipping Holdings after a 2018 sale.
- Tung became the first Chief Executive of the HKSAR under the post-1997 constitutional arrangement. The office of Chief Executive is the head of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Basic Law, which came into force on 1 July 1997. Tung resigned in March 2005 before the end of his second term.
- Forbes listed Tung's net worth at \$3.2 billion at the time of his death. The wealth was linked mainly to the family's shipping business and the 2018 sale of Orient Overseas International to Cosco Shipping Holdings.



India Launches Advanced Ocean Research Vessel ORV Sagar Manthan

- India launched the Ocean Research Vessel ORV Sagar Manthan (Yard 3041) on 09 September 2026 at the Rishi Bankim Shipyard in Kolkata. The vessel was designed, engineered and constructed by GRSE for the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- An ocean research vessel is a specialised ship used for marine scientific surveys, oceanographic observations and deep-sea operations. ORV Sagar Manthan is 89.5 metres long and has been built for operation in extreme environments, including the Southern Ocean.
- The vessel has been constructed under Vertical-4, titled Deep Ocean Survey and Exploration, of the Government of India's Deep Ocean Mission. The project cost is about Rs. 840 crore, and the vessel has a projected service life of 30 years.
- ORV Sagar Manthan is equipped for deep-sea mineral exploration, subsea oil and gas seismic surveys, seabed sampling, and deployment of autonomous underwater vehicles and remotely operated vehicles.
- These functions place it in the category of multidisciplinary oceanographic research platforms used for marine geology, resource assessment and underwater operations.
- ORV Sagar Manthan will gradually replace ORV Sagar Kanya, India's multidisciplinary oceanographic research vessel. ORV Sagar Kanya was originally procured from Germany in 1983 and served for 43 years.



India Develops BrahMos Belt Strategy

- The term “BrahMos Belt” refers to a proposed network of coastal supersonic cruise missile deployments by Southeast Asian states around the South China Sea.
- The BrahMos missile is a joint India-Russia weapon system, and its shore-based variant has been supplied to the Philippines under a contract valued at \$375 million.
- BrahMos is a supersonic cruise missile developed jointly by India and Russia through BrahMos Aerospace. The missile is named after the Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers, and it is known for sea-skimming flight and high-speed terminal attack profiles.
- The Philippines has received BrahMos shore-based missile deliveries for coastal batteries. Vietnam and Indonesia have also been linked to BrahMos procurement discussions, although the status of these engagements has varied across defence publications.
- Russia and India have planned upgrades to the BrahMos missile to improve its operational performance and export competitiveness. The missile remains one of the most prominent examples of India-Russia defence co-development.
- India has also expanded defence diplomacy support for weapon exports through embassy defence wings. The defence-diplomacy budget has been raised to ₹400 crore for 2025–26, with a target of 85 to 90 defence wings by 2030.



Akasa Air Operates First Commercial Flight Using 1% SAF

- Akasa Air operated its first commercial flight with conventional aviation turbine fuel blended with 1% Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) on 8 September 2026. The SAF blend was supplied by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), a public sector undertaking in India. The flight operated between Mumbai and Goa on the same day.
- Sustainable Aviation Fuel is an aviation fuel produced from non-fossil feedstocks such as used cooking oil, agricultural residues, municipal waste, and other renewable raw materials. SAF can be blended with conventional aviation turbine fuel and used in existing aircraft and airport fuel systems, subject to certification and blending limits.
- Aviation turbine fuel is the standard fuel used in jet aircraft, and SAF blending is one method used to reduce lifecycle carbon emissions in aviation. The 1% blend used in this flight was a commercial demonstration under operational conditions, which is a common method for testing fuel handling, refuelling, and flight performance.
- BPCL and Akasa Air signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 14 July 2026 to create a framework for SAF supply and offtake across India. The arrangement covers supply-chain planning, fuel availability, and commercial deployment for future SAF use in Indian aviation.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Himalaya Diwas is observed annually on which date?

- A. September 5
- B. September 7
- C. September 9
- D. September 11

Answer: C. September 9

2. According to the 2026 assessment, glaciers in the Hindu Kush Himalaya lost approximately what percentage of their glacier coverage between 1990 and 2020?

- A. 8%
- B. 12%
- C. 15%
- D. 20%

Answer: B. 12%

3. What is the theme of the 27th World Knowledge Forum 2026?

- A. Technology for a Sustainable World
- B. The Future of Global Innovation
- C. The Promethean Moment: Architecting the Co-Intelligence Order
- D. Artificial Intelligence for Humanity

Answer: C. The Promethean Moment: Architecting the Co-Intelligence Order

4. Where was the Global Fintech Fest 2026 inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi?

- A. Bengaluru
- B. Hyderabad
- C. Mumbai
- D. New Delhi

Answer: C. Mumbai

5. Which of the following is a major component of India's Digital Public Infrastructure mentioned in the context of fintech?

- A. Aadhaar
- B. UPI

- C. JAM Trinity
- D. All of the above

Answer: D. All of the above

6. The Shekhawati Havelis of Rajasthan have been added to which UNESCO category?

- A. World Heritage List
- B. Intangible Cultural Heritage List
- C. Tentative List
- D. Memory of the World Register

Answer: C. Tentative List

7. ORV Sagar Manthan has been developed under which mission?

- A. National Mission for Clean Ganga
- B. Deep Ocean Mission
- C. Sagarmala Programme
- D. National Water Mission

Answer: B. Deep Ocean Mission

8. Which company has developed ORV Sagar Manthan for the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research?

- A. Cochin Shipyard Limited
- B. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
- C. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
- D. Hindustan Shipyard Limited

Answer: C. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers

9. BrahMos is a joint development between India and which country?

- A. France
- B. Israel
- C. Russia
- D. United States

Answer: C. Russia

10. Akasa Air's first commercial flight using a 1% SAF blend operated between which two cities?

- A. Delhi and Mumbai
- B. Mumbai and Goa
- C. Bengaluru and Chennai
- D. Mumbai and Ahmedabad

Answer: B. Mumbai and Goa