

Daily Current Affairs

16 September 2026

World Ozone Day 2026

- World Ozone Day observed on September 16, and the day is being celebrated to sensitize people about the importance of protecting the ozone layer that provides protection against ultraviolet (UV) rays.
- The celebration of the day is of great importance this time since it commemorates the 10th anniversary of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol that signifies sustainable cooling efforts around the globe.
- Theme of the World Ozone Day 2026 is,
- **“Global Action for a Cooler Planet – Celebrating 10 Years of Sustainable Cooling under the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.”**
- **Vienna Convention**
- The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer has been signed in 1985 and came into effect in 1988. It provides a base for international cooperation in research, monitoring and exchange of information on the impact of human activities on the ozone layer.
- **Montreal Protocol**
- The Montreal Protocol was signed on September 15, 1987, to regulate and eventually phase out ozone-depleting substances. The protocol regulates about 100 man-made chemicals that cause ozone depletion.
- The Kigali Amendment was signed in 2016 and became effective in 2019. It includes HFCs in the list of regulated chemicals of the Montreal Protocol.
- Although HFCs do not deplete the ozone layer, their global warming potential is rather high. Thus, their phasedown is connected with both ozone and climate issues.



Vasundhara Doraswamy to Receive Excellence Award 2026

- Prominent Bharatanatyam performer, choreographer, and researcher Dr Vasundhara Doraswamy will receive the Padmabhushan Guru Dr Saroja Vaidyanathan Excellence Award 2026.
- The Nataraj Music & Dance Academy (NMDA) will give the prize at the Vysakhi Nrithyotsav Indian Dance Festival at Visakhapatnam on September 26-27. Dr Doraswamy who is based out of Mysore, has been performing, studying, and teaching Bharatanatyam for over fifty years.
- Doraswamy has choreographed several acclaimed solo performances, such as Panchali, Ganga Lahari and Sama Veda.
- Her contributions in the field of Indian classical dance have been honored with various awards, including,
- Sangeet Natak Akademi Award
- Shantala Award
- Honorary Citizenship of Louisville, Kentucky
- The Nataraj Music & Dance Academy (NMDA) was established by BR Vikram Kumar (Vikram Goud Bathina). This organization has been ISO 9001:2015 certified and is an associate of the International Dance Council, UNESCO.



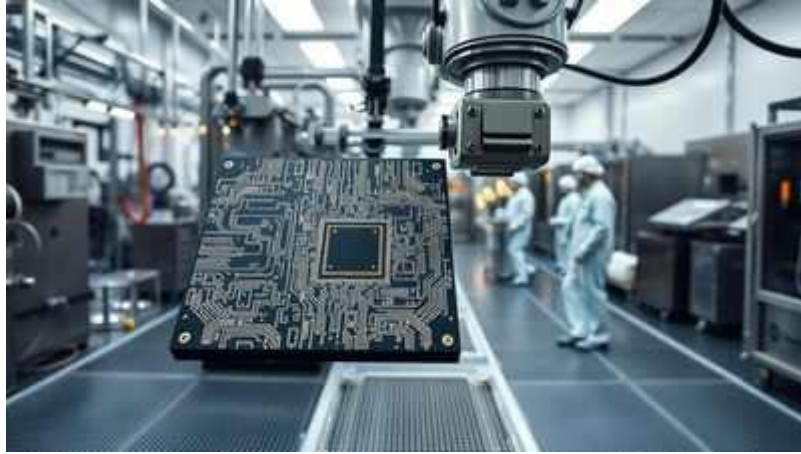
DFS Wins First Rajbhasha Kirti Prize for 2025-26

- The Department of Financial Services (DFS) has received First Prize under Rajbhasha Kirti for the period 2025-26 for its excellent implementation and innovative contributions in Official Language Hindi. This award was given in the category of ministries/departments with less than 300 personnel.
- This prize was awarded during the 6th All India Official Language Conference and Hindi Diwas organized by the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs. The two-day conference held on September 14-15, 2026 at CIDCO Exhibition Centre, Vashi, Navi Mumbai.
- The Rajbhasha Kirti award has been given to the Department of Financial Services for its excellent implementation and application of Official Language Hindi during the year 2025-26.
- The award has been given to the department in particular for its efforts towards encouraging the maximum utilization of Hindi in official work and innovations in the application of the language.
- The Rajbhasha Kirti awards are awarded by the Department of Official Language of Ministry of Home Affairs, for making outstanding contributions to the implementation and promotion of Hindi in official work.



Odisha Gets ₹3,406 Crore SiC Semiconductor Facility

- Odisha has received approval for its second semiconductor unit, a silicon carbide device manufacturing facility by M/s SiCSem Private Limited, on 15 September 2026.
- The project involves an investment of ₹3,406.25 crore and will come up at IDCO Infovalley-II in Arisol Mouza under Jatni tehsil of Khordha district, within the Falta Special Economic Zone.
- Silicon carbide is a wide bandgap semiconductor material used in high-power and high-temperature applications. SiC devices are used in electric vehicles, renewable energy systems, railways, and defence electronics because they can operate at higher voltages and temperatures than many conventional silicon-based devices.
- The facility will manufacture SiC semiconductor devices, including SiC diodes and SiC MOSFETs. It is designed for an annual output of 4.8 million SiC diodes and 91.2 million SiC MOSFETs, and the project area covers 21.889 acres.
- The project received approval in the 217th meeting of the Unit Approval Committee on 29 August 2026. It is projected to create about 1,270 direct jobs and is proposed to be funded through a central capital subsidy of ₹700 crore, an Odisha government subsidy of ₹350 crore, and promoter contribution of ₹1,956.25 crore.



Kumik Declared Ladakh's First Heritage Village

- Kumik village in Zaskar was declared Ladakh's first designated Heritage Village on 15 September 2026. The declaration was made by the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena, during the launch of the Ladakh Zaskar Festival 2026.
- A Heritage Village is a settlement recognised for its cultural, architectural, religious, and traditional value. Such recognition is used in India for places with preserved built heritage, living traditions, and local knowledge systems.
- Kumik is known for its traditional mud houses, sacred spaces, agricultural practices, and long-preserved Buddhist traditions. The village is part of Zaskar, a high-altitude region in Ladakh with a strong Tibetan Buddhist cultural presence.
- The village also contains textual heritage in the form of Kanjur manuscripts and other Tibetan Buddhist materials. Kanjur refers to a canonical collection of Buddhist texts in the Tibetan tradition.
- Zaskar has historically functioned as a centre of faith and scholarship in the western Himalayas. Buddhist monasteries, manuscripts, and oral traditions form an important part of the region's cultural landscape.
- The Heritage Village status is linked with heritage tourism, which is a form of tourism based on cultural sites, traditions, and historic settlements. In India, heritage tourism is often associated with conservation of architecture, crafts, rituals, and manuscripts.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

Q1. World Ozone Day is observed every year on:

- A. 14 September
- B. 15 September
- C. 16 September
- D. 17 September

Answer: C. 16 September

Explanation: World Ozone Day is observed on **16 September** to spread awareness about the importance of protecting the ozone layer.

Q2. What is the theme of World Ozone Day 2026?

- A. Ozone for a Sustainable Future
- B. Global Action for a Cooler Planet – Celebrating 10 Years of Sustainable Cooling under the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol
- C. Montreal Protocol: Protecting Our Atmosphere
- D. Save Ozone, Save Earth

Answer: B. Global Action for a Cooler Planet – Celebrating 10 Years of Sustainable Cooling under the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol

Explanation: The 2026 theme highlights the **10th anniversary of the Kigali Amendment** and global efforts towards sustainable cooling.

Q3. The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer was signed in:

- A. 1983
- B. 1985
- C. 1987
- D. 1990

Answer: B. 1985

Explanation: The **Vienna Convention** was adopted in 1985 and entered into force in 1988.

Q4. Who will receive the Padmabhushan Guru Dr Saroja Vaidyanathan Excellence Award 2026?

- A. Mallika Sarabhai
- B. Sonal Mansingh
- C. Dr Vasundhara Doraswamy
- D. Alarmel Valli

Answer: C. Dr Vasundhara Doraswamy

Explanation: Renowned Bharatanatyam performer, choreographer and researcher **Dr Vasundhara Doraswamy** has been selected for the award.

Q5. The First Prize under the Rajbhasha Kirti Awards for 2025–26 was awarded to:

- A. Department of Financial Services
- B. Ministry of Culture
- C. Ministry of Education
- D. Department of Revenue

Answer: A. Department of Financial Services

Explanation: The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** received the First Prize in the category of ministries/departments with fewer than 300 personnel.

Q6. The silicon carbide semiconductor facility approved in Odisha involves an investment of approximately:

- A. ₹1,406.25 crore
- B. ₹2,406.25 crore
- C. ₹3,406.25 crore
- D. ₹4,306.25 crore

Answer: C. ₹3,406.25 crore

Explanation: The SiCSem Private Limited facility has a proposed investment of ₹3,406.25 crore.

Q7. Which of the following is a major application area of silicon carbide semiconductor devices?

- A. Electric vehicles
- B. Traditional textiles
- C. Food processing
- D. Tourism management

Answer: A. Electric vehicles

Explanation: Silicon carbide is a **wide-bandgap semiconductor material** used in areas such as electric vehicles, renewable energy, railways and defence electronics.

Q8. Kumik village, recently declared Ladakh's first designated Heritage Village, is located in:

- A. Nubra
- B. Zaskar
- C. Leh
- D. Kargil

Answer: B. Zaskar

Explanation: Kumik village is located in the Zaskar region of Ladakh and is known for its traditional architecture, Buddhist heritage and cultural traditions.

Q9. Who declared Kumik as Ladakh's first designated Heritage Village?

- A. Manoj Sinha
- B. Vinai Kumar Saxena
- C. Radha Krishna Mathur
- D. B. D. Mishra

Answer: B. Vinai Kumar Saxena

Explanation: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Vinai Kumar Saxena made the declaration on 15 September 2026 during the Ladakh Zaskar Festival.

Q10. The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol primarily addresses the phasedown of:

- A. Carbon dioxide
- B. Sulphur dioxide

C. Hydrofluorocarbons

D. Nitrogen

Answer: C. Hydrofluorocarbons

Explanation: The **Kigali Amendment**, adopted in 2016 and effective from 2019, brought HFCs under the Montreal Protocol's control because of their high global warming potential.