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Weekly Current Affairs

September 2026 - Week 1

1 - 6 September 2026 | Exam Revision Notes

35+ Topics · 12 Sections · ~30 Min Read

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Dear Aspirants,

Greetings from ReadingRoomz! This week brought PM Modi's Uzbekistan visit and the SCO Summit, major AP developments including the long-awaited Veligonda Project inauguration and the Akshara Andhra literacy milestone, critical polity topics on Article 17 and Article 124(3), and landmark science developments including the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope launch.

Read each topic carefully, note the key facts, and revise before your next practice session. Consistency is your greatest weapon. **Every small step today brings you closer to your dream tomorrow.**

— Team ReadingRoomz | contact@readingroomz.com

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1. International Current Affairs

PM Modi Visits Uzbekistan – Comprehensive Strategic Partnership; 11 MoUs; UPI-UZQR Agreement

PM Narendra Modi visited **Uzbekistan from 29–30 August 2026**, holding talks with President **Shavkat Mirziyoyev** in **Tashkent**. The existing India–Uzbekistan Strategic Partnership was elevated to a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**. **11 MoUs and agreements** concluded.

Area	Key Outcome
Partnership Level	Elevated from Strategic Partnership to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership
Aral Sea	India announced a USD 1 million grant for afforestation in the Aral Sea region
Education	100 Lal Bahadur Shastri Scholarships for Hindi language ICCR Sanskrit Chair at Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies
Cultural Heritage	Cooperation to restore ancient Buddhist sites of Fayaz Tepa and Kara Tepa at Termez
Digital Payments	NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) and Uzbekistan's NIPC concluded a commercial agreement enabling Indian UPI apps to scan Uzbekistan's UZQR national QR codes for merchant payments
Honour	PM Modi conferred Uzbekistan's highest honour — "Oliy Darajali Do'stlik" (Order of Highest Friendship)

Important: The NIPL-NIPC agreement does NOT yet make Uzbekistan the 12th country where UPI is operational. As of 24 August 2026, UPI was live in 11 foreign countries. Uzbekistan: Capital – Tashkent | Currency – Uzbekistani So'um (UZS)

26th SCO Summit – Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; India Highlights Security, Connectivity, Opportunity

PM Modi participated in the **26th SCO Heads of State Meeting** in **Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic (31 August – 1 September 2026)** — also marking the **25th anniversary of the SCO (established 2001)**.

Key Point	Detail
India's Three Pillars	Security, Connectivity and Opportunity India stressed connectivity must respect sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries
Bishkek Declaration	Adopted along with 4 MoUs and 20+ decisions covering climate, nuclear safety, energy conservation and drug addiction
New Initiatives (India Supported)	SCO Civilisation Dialogue Forum Young Scientist Forum Young Author's Conclave English as official SCO language
India to Host	First SCO Civilisation Dialogue Forum in 2026
India's SCO Membership	Full member since 2017
SCO Secretariat	Headquartered in Beijing, China
SCO Members (10)	Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan India (2017) Pakistan (2017) Iran (2023) Belarus (2024)

India-Belgium Strengthen Cooperation; PM Bart De Wever Visits India; 80th Anniversary in 2027

Belgian PM **Bart De Wever** paid an official visit to India from **2-4 September 2026** — his first visit since assuming office in February 2025. Both sides reviewed cooperation in trade, investment, defence, technology, renewable energy, mobility, education and multilateral affairs. India and Belgium mark their **80th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2027**.

2. National Current Affairs

Aranmula Uthrattathi Vallamkali - Kerala's Traditional Boat Festival; Palliyodams; Aranmula Kannadi

Aranmula Uthrattathi Vallamkali is a traditional boat festival held annually at **Aranmula, Pathanamthitta district, Kerala** on the **Pampa River**. Celebrated during the **Onam season**, on the **Uthrattathi day** in the Malayalam month of **Chingam**. Associated with the **Sree Parthasarathy Temple** (Lord Krishna as Parthasarathy). Features sacred **Palliyodam** snake boats. Unlike many Kerala races, the event has a strong **religious and ceremonial** character. Aranmula is also famous for the **GI-tagged Aranmula Kannadi** — a unique handmade metal mirror.

Bihar and Jharkhand Sign Sone River Water-Sharing MoU - Resolves 25-Year Dispute; 4th Major Water Deal in 2026

Bihar and Jharkhand signed an MoU on **31 August 2026** for sharing the waters of the **Sone River**, resolving a dispute pending for nearly **25 years**. Signed in the presence of Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** — presented as an example of **cooperative federalism**. This is the **fourth major inter-State water agreement in 2026** through Centre-facilitated dialogue (others: Kishau Multipurpose Dam, Rajasthan-Haryana Yamuna, Narmada Award payments).

3. Andhra Pradesh Current Affairs

Poola Subbaiah Veligonda Irrigation Project - Phase I Inaugurated; 30 Years After Foundation Stone

AP CM **N. Chandrababu Naidu** inaugurated **Phase I of the Veligonda Irrigation Project** on **31 August 2026**, nearly **30 years** after laying the foundation stone on **5 March 1996**. Diverts **Krishna River water** from **Srisailem Reservoir** through gravity into **Nallamala Sagar Reservoir**.

Detail	Fact
Beneficiary Districts	Markapuram, Prakasam, Nellore and Kadapa (drought-prone areas)
Phase I Cost	~₹7,983 crore Total estimated project cost: ~₹10,200 crore
Water Stored (Phase I)	10.70 TMC ft of Krishna water in Nallamala Sagar
Phase I Benefits	Irrigation: ~1.19 lakh acres Drinking water: ~4 lakh people
Phase I Infrastructure	Twin tunnels: ~18.8 km Feeder canal works: ~21.8 km
Full Project Benefits	30 mandals Irrigation: ~4.47 lakh acres Drinking water: ~23 lakh people
Phase II Target	Completion by 2028

AP Literacy Rate Rises to 82.1% - Crosses National Average (80.9%); Akshara Andhra Programme

AP's literacy rate rose from **72.6% (2024) to 82.1% (2026)**, crossing the national average of **80.9%**. Around **25 lakh people** reportedly became literate through **Akshara Andhra**. Target: **100% literacy by September 2027**.

Akshara Andhra - Key Facts	Detail
Government Order	G.O.Ms.No. 37, School Education Department, 25 November 2025
Aligned With	Gol's ULLAS - Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society (New India Literacy Programme)
Primary Target Group	Non-literate adults aged 15-59 years Special emphasis: women in rural/tribal areas, workers, daily labourers, street vendors, SCs, STs, OBCs, minorities
Original Target	~25 lakh learners/year to achieve 100% adult functional literacy by 2029
Advanced Target (Sep 2026)	100% literacy by September 2027 ~25 lakh by March 2027 + ~27 lakh by September 2027

892 AP Villages Declared Adarsh Grams - PM-AJAY; Score 70/100; Tirupati Leads (221 Villages)

Under the **Adarsh Gram component of PM-AJAY**, since 2018-19, **1,159 AP villages** have been selected; **892 declared Adarsh Grams** (267 still progressing). Threshold: **70 out of 100** on socio-economic development indicators.

District	Selected Villages	Status
Tirupati	221 (highest)	Progressing
Prakasam	111	Progressing
Chittoor	101	Progressing
Eluru	99	Progressing
Krishna	88	All 88 declared Adarsh Grams
Sri Sathya Sai & Vizianagaram	-	All selected villages achieved Adarsh Gram status

PM-AJAY implemented by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment | Three components: Adarsh Gram development, Grants-in-Aid for socio-economic projects, and construction/repair of hostels in higher educational institutions.

Amaravati Sangamam Project - ₹759 Crore; AP State Public Library + Auditorium + Global Institute of Good Governance

The AP Cabinet approved administrative sanction for the **₹759 crore Amaravati Sangamam project at Sakhamuru**. Will include the **AP State Public Library**, an **auditorium**, and the **Global Institute of Good Governance**.

4. Polity & Governance

Indian Statistical Institute Bill, 2026 - Replaces ISI Act 1959; President as Visitor; Referred to Standing Committee

The **ISI Bill, 2026** was introduced in Lok Sabha on **2 August 2026** and referred to the **Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance** (report within 3 months). Seeks to repeal and replace the **Indian Statistical Institute Act, 1959**.

Key Provisions: Incorporates ISI as a "body corporate" | President of India = Visitor | Board of Governors = principal policy and executive body (Chairperson from academia, industry, education, public policy or statistical sciences) | Academic Council = principal academic body (all full-time professors and faculty members).

Untouchability and Article 17 - Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955; Surya Narayan Choudhary Case (1988)

Article 17 abolishes "untouchability", prohibits its practice in any form, and makes its enforcement punishable. The Constitution itself does **not define untouchability**.

Detail	Fact
Original Legislation	Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955
Renamed To	Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 — renamed in 1976
Scope of Article 17	Operates against both private individuals and the State
Surya Narayan Choudhary v. State of Rajasthan (1988)	Concerned purification of Dalit devotees at Shrinathji Temple, Nathdwara Rajasthan HC held caste-specific purification violative of Articles 14, 15 and 17

Appointment of 'Distinguished Jurist' as Supreme Court Judge - Article 124(3); Never Used in 76+ Years

Justice **Ujjal Bhuyan** (SC) highlighted that despite **Article 124(3)** permitting a "**distinguished jurist**" to be appointed directly as a Supreme Court judge, **no person has been appointed through this route** in more than 76 years. The Constitution does not define "distinguished jurist" or prescribe minimum professional experience.

Article 124(3) - Three Qualification Routes for SC Judge: (1) Has been a HC judge for at least 5 years (2) Has been an advocate of a HC for at least 10 years (3) Is, in the opinion of the President, a distinguished jurist
H.V. Kamath moved the distinguished-jurist proposal in the Constituent Assembly (1949) | Referenced Felix Frankfurter — Harvard Law professor appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1939 | Similar HC provision: added by 42nd CAA (1976), removed by 44th CAA (1978) — so the distinguished-jurist route now exists only for the Supreme Court, NOT for High Courts.

5. Economy

MoSPI Releases National Accounts Statistics 2026 - New Base Year 2022-23; Real GDP Growth Revised to 7.8%

MoSPI released the **National Accounts Statistics (NAS) - 2026** on **31 August 2026**, using **2022-23 as the new base year**. Incorporates new series of **PPI** (Producer Price Index), **IIP** (Index of Industrial Production), and **BkSPI** (Banking Services Price Index), all with 2022-23 base year.

Indicator	Revised Data
Real GDP Growth (2025-26, constant prices)	Revised upward: 7.7% → 7.8%
Nominal GDP Growth (2025-26, current prices)	Revised: 8.9% → 8.6%
Constant-Price GDP (2025-26)	₹3,24,70,100 crore

6. Science & Technology

Vacuum Birefringence - Observational Evidence from Magnetar; QED Prediction from 1936 (Heisenberg and Euler)

Vacuum birefringence is the predicted phenomenon in which an extremely strong magnetic field changes the optical properties of space, causing light with different polarisation orientations to propagate differently. In simple terms: the **change in propagation and polarisation of light** when it passes through a vacuum exposed to an extremely strong magnetic field.

Predicted in 1936 by Werner Heisenberg and Hans Heinrich Euler | First observational evidence: from magnetar 1E 1547.0–5408 | Published in Nature, 5 August 2026 | In QED, a vacuum is not empty — it is influenced by quantum fluctuations and virtual particle-antiparticle pairs | A magnetar is a type of neutron star with an exceptionally powerful magnetic field.

NASA Launches Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope - SpaceX Falcon Heavy; L2 Lagrange Point; 1,000× Faster than Hubble

NASA launched the **Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope** on **30 August 2026** aboard a **SpaceX Falcon Heavy** rocket from **Kennedy Space Center, Florida**. Cost: ~\$4 billion. Studies **dark energy, dark matter and exoplanets**.

Detail	Fact
Named After	Nancy Grace Roman — NASA's first Chief Astronomer; "mother of the Hubble Space Telescope"
Survey Speed	Can survey the universe ~1,000 times faster than Hubble
Destination	Sun-Earth Lagrange Point 2 (L2) — ~1.6 million km from Earth (~3-month journey)
Relation to Other Telescopes	Complements Hubble and James Webb Space Telescope, but has a much wider field of view

Lagrange Points: Five special locations (L1-L5) in space where the gravitational pull of two large bodies (e.g., Sun and Earth) and the orbital motion of a spacecraft balance, allowing the spacecraft to remain in a relatively stable position with less fuel.

Wakefield Accelerator - Compact Particle Accelerator Using Plasma; Fits on a Laboratory Table

Wakefield accelerators are being studied as a compact alternative to very large particle accelerators. They accelerate charged particles using **strong electric fields created inside plasma** (a state of matter made up of free electrons and positively charged ions).

How It Works: A powerful laser pulse (or charged-particle beam) passes through plasma → pushes electrons away → positive ions pull electrons back → electrons oscillate and create a travelling electric field called a plasma wake → other electrons injected into the wake gain energy (like a surfer riding a wave). Advantages: Very strong electric fields over a short distance | Much smaller than conventional accelerators | Some experimental versions fit on a laboratory table.

7. Defence

India Signs Javelin Anti-Tank Missile Deal with USA - FMS Route; LOA Signed 28 August 2026

India signed a **Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA)** with the United States to procure **Javelin anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) systems** through the **Foreign Military Sales (FMS) route** on **28 August 2026**.

About the Javelin: Medium-range, fire-and-forget ATGM | Designed to destroy armoured vehicles and fortified positions | Fire-and-forget: the operator launches and immediately relocates without continuously guiding the missile to the target.

8. Schemes

Mission Rangeen Machhli 2031 – Strategic Action Plan for Ornamental Fisheries; Launched at Agatti, Lakshadweep

The **Department of Fisheries** (Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying) released the **"Mission Rangeen Machhli 2031" Strategic Action Plan for Ornamental Fisheries Development** at **Agatti, Lakshadweep** on **31 August 2026**. Released by the Vice President of India.

Mission Aims: Uniform national framework for sustainable development of ornamental fisheries | Standardises: broodstock management, breeding, hatcheries, production systems, quarantine, fish health, traceability, aquarium operations, handling, transport and trade. Lakshadweep: Identified as an important location for marine fisheries development | Also notified as a dedicated Seaweed Cluster under the Government's cluster-based approach.

9. Awards & Honours

PM Modi Conferred Uzbekistan's Highest Honour – "Oliy Darajali Do'stlik" (Order of Highest Friendship)

PM Narendra Modi was conferred with the **"Oliy Darajali Do'stlik" Order (Order of Highest Friendship)** — Uzbekistan's highest honour for foreign leaders — by President **Shavkat Mirziyoyev** on **30 August 2026** during the State Visit to Uzbekistan.

Ramon Magsaysay Awards 2026 – Tommy Koh (Singapore), Runa Khan (Bangladesh), Bo Kyi (Myanmar)

The **Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation** announced the **2026 awardees** on **31 August 2026**: **Tommy Koh** (Singapore), **Runa Khan** (Bangladesh), and **Bo Kyi** (Myanmar). Regarded as **Asia's premier prize** for selfless public service and transformative leadership.

First presented: 1958 | Named after former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay.

10. Ranks & Reports

UNEP Report - "Limiting Overshoot": 1.5°C Breach Now Unavoidable; Peak Warming ~1.8°C Even if Commitments Met

UNEP's 2026 report "Limiting Overshoot: Navigating Exceedance of 1.5°C and Pathways Towards Return" warns that temporarily exceeding the **1.5°C global warming threshold** is now **widely assessed as unavoidable**. The 1.5°C target is pursued under the **Paris Agreement**.

Key Finding	Detail
Overshoot Pathway	"Overshoot, peak and decline" pathway: temperature first exceeds 1.5°C → reaches lowest possible peak → declines towards below 1.5°C through deep emission reductions and net-negative emissions Not a preferred pathway, but best remaining option
Peak Warming	Even if all current commitments and net-zero targets are fully implemented, peak warming could still reach ~1.8°C
Risks of Higher Overshoot	Sea-level rise, glacier and coral-reef loss, irreversible climate tipping points Global food production could decline by as much as 14% by 2050
UNEP's Call	Immediate and sustained reductions in GHG emissions (especially methane) + adaptation + carefully governed Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR)
Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR)	Removing CO ₂ from the atmosphere through afforestation and other natural or technological approaches and storing it

11. Committees & Conferences

NCLT Constitutes First-Ever Five-Member Bench - Subhash Chandra Insolvency Case; IBC 2016; ₹22,000+ Crore Claims

The **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** constituted a **five-member Bench for the first time in its history** to adjudicate the personal insolvency case involving **Essel Group Chairman Subhash Chandra**. Creditor claims exceed **₹22,000 crore**; proposed repayment plan: **~₹6.5 crore**. Raises important questions regarding approval of repayment plans under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016**.

12. Person in News

Gloria Steinem - American Feminist Activist; Co-founder of Ms. Magazine; Passes Away at Age 92

Gloria Steinem, pioneering American feminist activist, journalist and author, died on **2 September 2026** at the age of **92** in New York. One of the most influential figures of the **second-wave feminist movement**. Spent more than six decades campaigning for gender equality, reproductive rights and women's political participation. **Co-founder of Ms. magazine**, launched in the early 1970s as an influential platform for feminist journalism.