



September - 28

TNPSC BITS

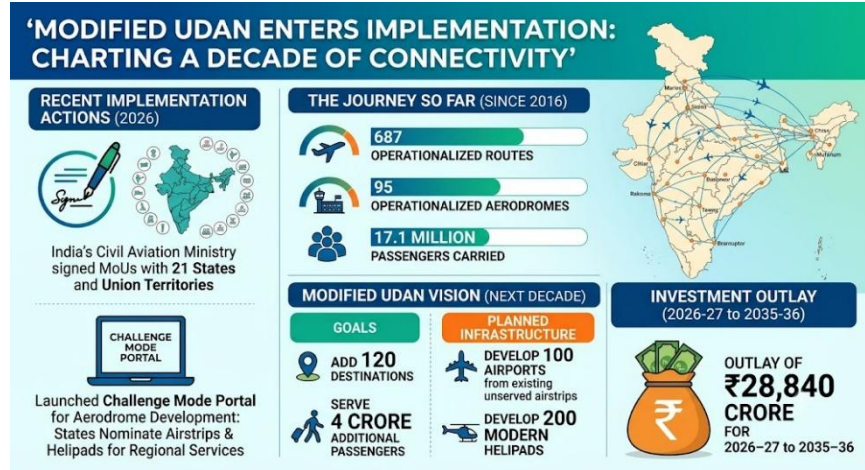
- ❖ Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) discovered natural gas in the Mahanadi Offshore Basin off Odisha under the Samudra Manthan initiative, marking its first exploration drill in the basin.
- ❖ India won its first-ever Asian Games medal in soft tennis after Jay Meena reached the men's singles semi-finals at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games 2026, held in Japan.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister announced a ₹50 lakh cash reward each for athletes Vithya Ramraj and Vishal T.K. after they won silver at the 2026 Asian Games held in Nagoya, Japan.
- ❖ Mirabai Chanu won the silver medal in women's 49 kg weightlifting at the Asian Games 2026 in Nagoya, Japan.
- ❖ Microsoft opened its India South Central data centre region in Telangana, its fourth cloud region in India.
- ❖ National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar is set to become the first NIT in India with a dedicated campus-based observatory.
- ❖ India's Baranica Elangovan won a bronze medal in the women's pole vault at the 2026 Asian Games in Nagoya, Japan.
- ❖ Tesla opened its sixth Experience Centre in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, on September 25, 2026, joining its existing centres in Mumbai, Gurugram, Delhi, Hyderabad and Bengaluru.

NATIONAL NEWS

Modified UDAN 2026

- ❖ India's Civil Aviation Ministry signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with 21 States and Union Territories and launched the Challenge Mode Portal for Aerodrome Development under the modified UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme.
- ❖ The portal allows States and Union Territories to nominate airstrips and helipads for regional air services.
- ❖ Since 2016, UDAN has operationalised 687 routes and 95 aerodromes, carrying about 17.1 million passengers.
- ❖ Modified UDAN aims to add 120 destinations and serve 4 crore additional passengers over the next decade.

- ❖ The scheme plans to develop 100 airports from existing unserved airstrips and 200 modern helipads, with an outlay of ₹28,840 crore for 2026–27 to 2035–36.



India-PIF Strategic Partnership



- ❖ India has been placed on the Strategic Partner Stream of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF).
- ❖ The announcement was made during the India-FIPIC (Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation) Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New York.
- ❖ The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) was founded in 1971 and has 18 members.
- ❖ India discussed development projects in healthcare, renewable energy, connectivity, technology and capacity building with Pacific island countries.
- ❖ India has completed the solarisation of 2,800 households across 14 Pacific Island countries and trained 70 women solar engineers.

- ❖ India is also working on a 100-bed super-speciality hospital in Fiji and plans to provide 20 sea ambulances to 12 PIF member states.

India-ASEAN Trade Partnership

- ❖ India participated in the 14th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers' Meeting (EAS-EMM) and the 23rd ASEAN-India Economic Ministers Consultation in Manila, Philippines.
- ❖ The meetings included 11 ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries and other East Asia Summit partners.
- ❖ India and ASEAN bilateral trade reached USD 128.38 billion in 2025–26, accounting for 10.55% of India's total global trade.
- ❖ Discussions focused on the review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) to improve and facilitate trade.
- ❖ India also participated in the ASEAN-India Business Forum 2026 in Manila, Philippines.

**ASEAN PHILIPPINES
2026**

**Joint Media Statement
of the 14th EAS Economic
Ministers' Meeting**

India-CARICOM Foreign Ministers Meeting

- ❖ The India-CARICOM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM) was held in New York, on the sidelines of the 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- ❖ The meeting followed the 2nd India-CARICOM (Caribbean Community) Summit, held in Guyana in November 2024.
- ❖ Foreign Ministers from 12 CARICOM countries, along with representatives from Belize and the CARICOM Secretary-General, attended the meeting.
- ❖ Discussions covered trade and investment, agriculture and food security, digital governance, climate resilience and energy cooperation.
- ❖ India and CARICOM agreed to cooperate on United Nations (UN) reforms, climate change, counter-terrorism and transnational crimes.

- ❖ CARICOM decided to support India's candidature for the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) term 2028–29.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

OneSCD Global Partnership



- ❖ India co-hosted the launch of OneSCD (Global Partnership to Advance Equity and Transform Sickle Cell Care) during the 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.
- ❖ Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is an inherited blood disorder in which red blood cells become rigid and sickle-shaped, affecting blood flow and oxygen supply.



- ❖ India's National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission (NSCAEM) was launched in 2023 to eliminate Sickle Cell Disease as a public health problem by 2047.
- ❖ The mission focuses on population-scale screening, early diagnosis, counselling, treatment and follow-up.
- ❖ India reaffirmed its commitment to an equitable, coordinated and sustainable global response to Sickle Cell Disease.

Enemy State Clauses in UN Charter

- ❖ Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi called for the removal of the "enemy State" clauses from the United Nations (UN) Charter during the 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- ❖ The term "enemy State" refers to countries that were enemies of a UN Charter signatory during World War II, mainly Germany, Italy and Japan.
- ❖ Articles 53, 107 and 77 contain provisions related to enemy States, created in the post-World War II period.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) recognised these clauses as obsolete in 1995, but they remain part of the UN Charter.
- ❖ Under Article 108, removing them requires a two-thirds General Assembly majority and ratification by two-thirds of UN member states, including all five permanent Security Council members.

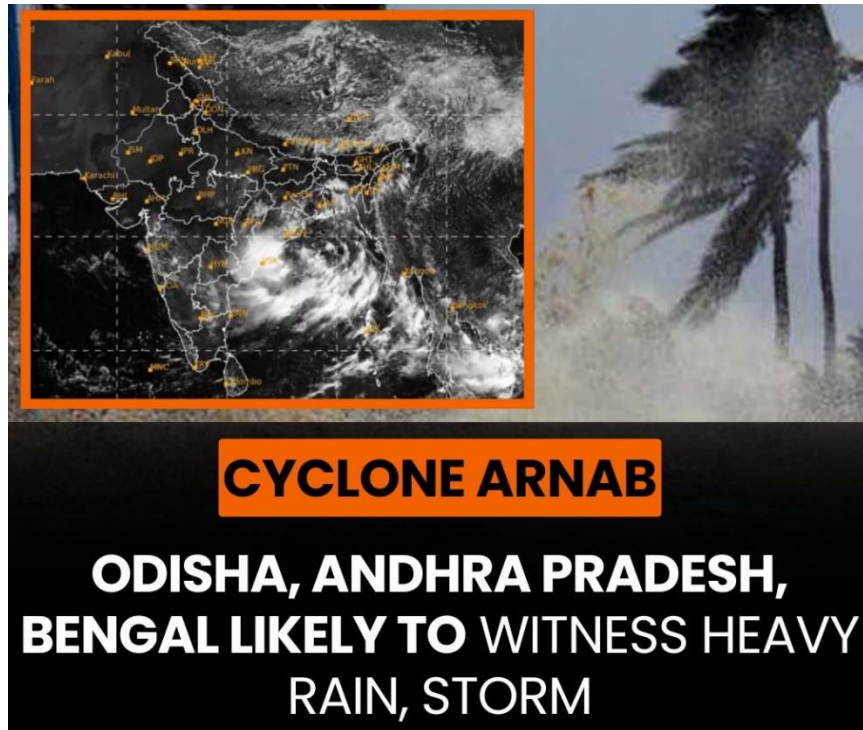
**JAPAN DEMANDS UN
CHARTER SCRAP WARTIME
'ENEMY STATE' CLAUSES
EXPLOITED BY CHINA**

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Cyclone Arnab 2026

- ❖ A deep depression over the Bay of Bengal crossed the coast near Kalingapatnam, between Visakhapatnam and Gopalpur, and later weakened into a depression over Odisha and adjoining Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ The system was near Nuapada, Odisha, and moving north-northwestward.

- ❖ It was not classified as a cyclonic storm and was expected to weaken into a well-marked low-pressure area.
- ❖ “Arnab” means ocean in Bengali, and the name was contributed by Bangladesh to the regional cyclone naming system.
- ❖ Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and parts of West Bengal experienced heavy rainfall, strong winds, rough seas and local flood/landslide risks.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Cool Leaders Award 2026

- ❖ The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)-led Cool Coalition launched the first Cool Leaders Award during the Global Cooling Pledge Assembly 2026 in Singapore.
- ❖ The award recognises leadership, policy innovation, technology and practical actions in sustainable cooling and climate resilience.
- ❖ It is administered by the Cool Coalition with Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL).
- ❖ The award supports the Global Cooling Pledge, promoting passive cooling, nature-based solutions and energy-efficient cooling systems.

- ❖ 2026 winners: Singapore, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Dong Mingzhu of Gree Electric Appliances, recognised for passive cooling, urban greenery, district cooling and ultra-efficient cooling technologies.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day for the Total Elimination of nuclear weapons 2026 - September 26



- ❖ The day was declared by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in 2013 and has been observed since 2014.
- ❖ It aims to increase public awareness about the threat posed by nuclear weapons and promote their total elimination.



- ❖ The UN General Assembly's first resolution in 1946 identified nuclear disarmament as a major UN goal.
- ❖ In 2026, the high-level plenary meeting will be held on 29 September in New York.
- ❖ An estimated 12,187 nuclear weapons remained worldwide in 2026, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

