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National Forest Martyrs Day 2025: 11 September

- National Forest Martyrs Day is observed each year on September 11 to remember the sacrifices made to protect India's rich natural heritage.
- This day also aims to increase awareness about the importance of conserving our forests, wildlife, and natural resources.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change officially announced September 11th as National Forest Martyrs Day in 2013.
- The Khejarli tragedy is remembered with the establishment of National Forest Martyrs Day.
- Forest Martyrs' Day dates back to 1730, when 363 people of the Bishnoi community were massacred in Khejarli while protecting the forest and animals.
- They opposed Maharaja Abhay Singh's orders, which required his workers to fell trees in order to build his palace.
- This year, National Forest Martyrs' Day has been hosted at the Palamu Tiger Reserve on September 11 for the first time to commemorate forest personnel and officers who died in the line of duty.



On September 7, 2025, Max Verstappen won at the Italian Grand Prix

- This victory marked his first since May and his third overall this season.
- He outpaced key title contenders and McLaren teammates Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri.
- Lando Norris finished in second place, narrowing the championship points gap to Oscar Piastri to 31.
- Before the race, Norris was trailing Oscar Piastri by 34 points.
- Ferrari's Charles Leclerc put in a strong performance, finishing fourth.
- Lewis Hamilton made significant progress from the start and ended the race in sixth place.
- Italian Grand Prix is the fifth oldest national motor racing Grand Prix.



The Indian Armed Forces participated in ZAPAD 2025 in Russia



- A 65-member contingent of the Indian Armed Forces began its participation in Exercise ZAPAD 2025 in Russia.
- The exercise is being held at the Mulino Training Ground, Nizhniy, from 10 to 16 September 2025.
- The contingent includes 57 Army personnel, 7 Air Force personnel, and 1 Navy officer.
- The Indian Army's Kumaon Regiment is leading the contingent.
- ZAPAD 2025 is being conducted as a multilateral exercise focused on conventional warfare and counter-terrorism.
- It is featuring company-level joint operations in open terrain.
- Activities include joint planning, tactical drills, and special arms skills.
- The exercise is aiming to enhance interoperability, share tactics, and integrate emerging technologies.
- Participation in Exercise Zapad 2025 will further strengthen defence cooperation and enhance cordiality between India and Russia, thereby reinforcing the spirit of cooperation and mutual trust.

EXERCISE IN NEWS 2025

- The 21st edition of the India-US joint military exercise Yudh Abhyas is being held at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, USA.
- Indonesia and the United States recently launched the annual joint military exercise, Super Garuda Shield 2025.
- The 14th edition of Exercise Maitree, a joint military exercise between India and Thailand, is scheduled to be held in Umroi, Meghalaya, from September 1 to 14, 2025
- The 14th India-Singapore bilateral military exercise, code-named “Bold Kurukshetra”, commenced at Jodhpur Military Station of the Indian Army in Rajasthan, on 27 December 2025.
- Indian Navy will participate in the 32nd edition of the Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX), earlier known as Exercise Lion King.

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NCEL-APEDA signed MoU for cooperatively led agricultural exports

- On 9 September, an MoU to boost cooperative-led agricultural exports was signed by National Co-operative Exports Limited (NCEL) and Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).
- It aims to take India's cooperative based agricultural exports to new heights.
- The MoU was signed by Shri Abhishek Deo, Chairman on behalf of APEDA and Shri Anupom Kaushik, Managing Director on behalf of NCEL.
- The MoU aims to align NCEL's network with APEDA's facilitation for better farmer income and rural livelihoods.
- It is aligned with the objectives of the newly launched National Cooperation Policy.
- Joint focus areas include training, quality compliance, infrastructure revival, branding, and international market positioning.
- Cooperative societies will gain knowledge on global quality standards, food safety, and documentation.
- APEDA's support will streamline exports of fruits, vegetables, spices, cereals, processed foods, and animal products.
- The MoU will integrate NCEL's outreach with APEDA's infrastructure to strengthen India's export competitiveness.



Over 8,000 biostimulant products lost their temporary approval



- Only 146 biostimulant products have received formal approval under the Fertilizer Control Order (FCO), 1985.
- The central government has brought biostimulants fully under FCO regulation.
- This move aims to ensure quality standards and protect the interests of farmers.
- Earlier, the Indian market had nearly 30,000 biostimulant products.
- Most of these operated without any proper regulatory oversight.
- In February 2021, the government amended the FCO to include Clause 20C.
- This clause introduced clear rules for regulating biostimulants.
- Biostimulants are substances or microorganisms that aid plant growth and development.
- They help improve crop yield, nutrient absorption, and stress tolerance.
- Under the FCO, biostimulants are grouped into several categories.

- These include botanical extracts, amino acids, vitamins, humic and fulvic acids, antioxidants, protein hydrolysates, microbial products, anti-transpirants, and live microbes.
- To ease the transition, the government issued provisional (G3) registrations to over 8,000 products.
- These temporary approvals allowed companies to continue production and import.
- They were required to submit data on bioefficacy, chemical composition, and toxicity.
- Initially, the provisional licenses were valid until February 2023.
- Multiple extensions were later granted, with the final deadline set for June 16, 2025.
- The government has now decided not to allow further extensions.
- All temporary registrations have been cancelled beyond the deadline.
- The Department of Agriculture has published a list of the de-registered products on its website.
- Only 146 biostimulant products have completed the full approval process.
- These have been officially notified in the Gazette of India. They are now listed in Schedule VI of the FCO.

Coal India–NSTFDC MoU to Strengthen EMRS Education for Tribal Students



- On September 9, 2025, Coal India Limited (CIL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC).
- The agreement aims to improve infrastructure and build educational capacity in 76 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS).
- These schools are located in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha.
- The MoU was signed in New Delhi. Union Tribal Affairs Minister Shri Jual Oram and Union Coal & Mines Minister Shri G. Kishan Reddy were present at the event.
- NSTFDC is a not-for-profit entity under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- The project will benefit around 30,000 tribal students. It will enhance digital education, provide mentorship, and upgrade school infrastructure.

- Currently, there are 479 functional EMRS schools across India.
- These schools offer tribal children quality education, nutrition, healthcare, and overall development.
- EMRS institutions are a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- Their goal is to prepare tribal students for higher education and future employment.
- Coal India is supporting this initiative through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program.
- CIL has approved ₹10 crore in funding for the project.
- The initiative reflects a joint effort to bridge educational gaps in tribal communities.

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Dr. Geetha Vani Rayasam took charge as Director of CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research

- She emphasized the need for innovative approaches in science communication.
- Dr. Rayasam urged National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research to move beyond traditional frameworks.
- The institute should address current national and global policy needs.
- Under the theme “Connecting the Unconnected,” she envisioned National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research as a benchmark for the Global South and beyond.
- She stressed the importance of linking science communication with Sustainable Development Goals.
- She recommended closer cooperation between National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research’s initiatives like the Science Media Communication Cell (SMCC) and SVASTIK with ministries such as AYUSH and Education.
- She proposed joint projects with global organizations like WHO, World Bank, UN, OECD, IIMs, and industry groups.
- These partnerships aim to expand National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research’s international influence.
- National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research is located at New Delhi.



Union Minister Shri Bhupender Yadav presented the 2025 Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan and Wetland Cities Recognition Awards in New Delhi



- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change hosted the ceremony to honor leading cities under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).
- Eleven cities were recognized for their outstanding performance in improving air quality.
- Among cities with populations above 10 lakh, Indore, Jabalpur, Agra, and Surat were declared top achievers.
- Indore secured the top rank with a perfect score of 200 and received ₹1.5 crore for its environmental efforts.
- The city set a Guinness World Record by planting over 16 lakh trees and operates a fleet of electric and CNG buses.
- Jabalpur claimed the second position with 199 points and was awarded ₹1 crore, credited for its waste-to-energy plant and urban greenery.
- Agra and Surat shared the third spot with 196 points each, earning ₹25 lakh per city.

- In the 3 to 10 lakh population bracket, Amravati topped the list with 200 points, earning ₹75 lakh. Jhansi and Moradabad followed closely with 198.5 points.
- Alwar stood third in the same category with a score of 197.6.
- Among smaller cities (under 3 lakh), Dewas ranked first with 193 points and was awarded ₹37.5 lakh.
- Parwanoo and Angul came second and third respectively.
- Alwar was recognized as a first-time awardee under the survey.
- The ministry introduced new guidelines to expand Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan to the ward level to enhance community involvement.
- The government plans to plant 75 crore trees during the Seva Parv (September 17 to October 2, 2025) as part of the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign.
- Seventy-five urban forests are also planned under the Nagar Van Yojana to boost green cover.
- Indore and Udaipur were honored as Wetland Cities under the Ramsar Convention for their exceptional conservation of urban wetlands.
- India now has 91 Ramsar-recognized wetlands covering 1.36 million hectares, the largest in Asia and third globally.
- The minister praised the expansion of Ramsar sites from 25 in 2014 to 91 in 2025.

NPCI Grants TPAP License to Viyona Fintech to Expand UPI Services Nationwide

- **Viyona Fintech** has received the **Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP)** license from **NPCI** to offer **UPI services nationwide**, strengthening its presence in India's fintech sector.
- Through this license, Viyona will provide secure and scalable UPI solutions by partnering with various banks, with its flagship product **GraamPay** targeting farmers, small merchants, and local communities.
- **GraamPay** aims to enhance financial inclusion by enabling digital collections, payouts, and frictionless transactions for underserved population groups.
- Viyona's strategy focuses on expanding UPI access in Tier II, Tier III cities, and rural areas, bridging gaps in digital payments penetration across India.



Emmanuel Macron appoints Sebastien Lecornu as new French Prime Minister

- **French President Emmanuel Macron** appointed **Sebastien Lecornu (39)**, a loyalist and former conservative protégé, as the new Prime Minister.
- Lecornu's appointment signals Macron's intent to continue his pro-business reform agenda, including tax cuts and raising the retirement age, despite leading a minority government.
- Macron has asked Lecornu to hold talks with all political forces in parliament to build compromises on the budget and policies before forming his cabinet.

Newly Appointed Prime Ministers & Presidents

- Deputy PM of UK – David Lammy (replace Angela Rayner)
- PM of Lithuanian – Inga Ruginiene
- Prime Minister of Ukraine – Yuliia Svyrydenko
- 1st woman President Suriname – Jennifer Simons
- President of Poland – Karol Nawrocki
- President of Ecuador – Daniel Noboa



Ajay Kumar Srivastava's Tenure as MD & CEO of Indian Overseas Bank

- The Central Government has extended Ajay Kumar Srivastava's tenure as MD & CEO of Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) for about 21 months, effective January 1, 2026.
- His extended term will continue up to October 8, 2027, or until further orders, completing his 10-year tenure as Whole-Time Director at IOB.
- Srivastava has been leading IOB since January 1, 2023, and served as Executive Director from 2017 before becoming MD & CEO.

Recent Appointments in Banking & Insurance Sector

- **Chairman of Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)** – Sundeep Sikka
- **Vice Chairman of Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)** -Vishal Kapoor
- **Co-Head of Asia-Pacific Investment Banking (Citibank)** – Kaustubh Kulkarni
- **Non-Executive Chairman of Yes Bank** – R. Gandhi
- **MD & CEO of Aditya Birla Capital** – Vishakha Mulye; for 5 years



Norway PM Jonas Gahr Stoere Secures 2nd Term

- Parliamentary elections were held on **September 8, 2025**.
- The **Labour Party**, led by **Jonas Gahr Stoere**, secured **87 out of 169 seats**, just above the majority threshold of 85.
- Jonas Gahr Stoere (65 years old) was **reelected for a second consecutive term**.
- Despite the win, the Labour Party will need to depend on **five left-leaning coalition partners** to pass key legislation.

Key Policy Challenges:

- Oil & gas investments vs. environmental concerns
- Management of **Norway's \$2 trillion sovereign wealth fund**
- Taxation debates (wealth taxes vs. social spending)
- The **right-wing populist Progress Party**, led by **Sylvi Listhaug (47)**, achieved a **historic result with 48 seats** (more than double its earlier tally).
- Norway's capital is **Oslo**.



BJYM Launches 'Namo Yuva Run' to Promote Fitness and Drug-Free India

- Milind Soman Appointed as Ambassador for BJYM's 'Namo Yuva Run' Campaign Promoting Fitness and Drug-Free India.
- Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) launched the 'Namo Yuva Run' campaign in New Delhi, appointing Indian fitness icon Milind Soman as its brand ambassador.
- The initiative aims to promote fitness and social awareness among India's youth.
- The campaign theme, 'Nasha Mukta Bharat' (Drug-Free India), emphasizes the importance of preventing substance abuse among the youth.
- The initiative supports national efforts to build awareness about the dangers of addiction while promoting physical and mental well-being.
- The campaign is part of the celebrations for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 75th birthday on September 17, 2025.

