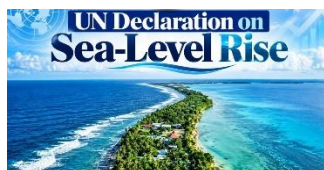


Current Affairs - 29 September 2026

UN DECLARATION ON SEA-LEVEL RISE



- It was adopted by the **United Nations General Assembly** during a high-level plenary meeting on September 24, 2026.

- It is the **UN's first declaration on sea level rise**.
- The declaration establishes a **common international position** on the legal and practical challenges posed by rising seas.
- **Global mean sea level** reached a **record high in 2024**, and its **rate of rise has doubled**, from **1 millimeters per year in 1993-2002** to **4.7 millimeters per year in 2015-2024**.

Major Highlights of the Declaration:

- It affirms that **countries** threatened by rising oceans **do not automatically lose their statehood if their territory becomes submerged**.
 - This means that the continued existence of a country under international law would not necessarily depend on its territory remaining above water.
 - It supported the **continued existence** of such states's **sovereignty, rights, responsibilities, and UN membership**.
 - The issue is particularly **relevant to small island developing States (SIDS)**, where rising seas can reduce habitable land and, in extreme cases, lead to the submergence of territory.
- It calls for **stability in maritime zones despite physical changes to coastlines**.
 - It states that **countries can maintain maritime zones established under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) as sea levels rise, while retaining the right to update them**.
 - The issue arises because **maritime zones** are generally **measured from coastal baselines**.

Current Affairs - 29 September 2026

- This is particularly important for island nations because **maritime zones determine rights over ocean resources** and activities.
 - The declaration also addresses the wider threat that rising seas pose to coastal populations, infrastructure, and livelihoods.
 - **Without significant efforts** to reduce emissions and adapt to rising seas, the **risks facing coastal cities** and communities could **increase tenfold by 2100**.
 - The declaration **calls for stronger anticipatory action**, including **multi-hazard early warning systems**, and for **climate-related risk assessments** to be incorporated into planning and decision-making.
 - It also urges **greater international cooperation** to provide **financial, technical and policy support** to developing countries, particularly SIDS and least developed countries.
 - It **identifies nature-based measures**, including the protection and **restoration of mangroves, kelp forests, and seagrass meadows**, as ways to help coastal communities adapt.
 - The declaration also calls for **sea level rise projections to be taken into account when planning, constructing, and maintaining critical coastal infrastructure**.

NATIONAL DIGITAL TOURISM STACK



- It is an **open digital public infrastructure** initiative aimed at making tourism offerings more discoverable, accessible and trustworthy.
- **Developed by:** It is being developed in collaboration with **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)** and the support of **International Centre for DPI Innovation and Advancement (ICDIA)**.
- **Features:**
 - It will enable **tourism providers** to make **their offerings available across participating platforms**, supported by capabilities such as verified identities and

Current Affairs - 29 September 2026

supplier credentials, search and discovery, payments, ratings and grievance redressal.

- It is envisaged as a collaborative effort involving the **Ministry, States, Union Territories** and industry, the programme will be **implemented in phases** with a pilot planned for January 2027.

Key Facts about National Mission for Alternative Destinations:

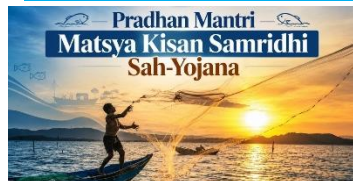
- It is a mission for **distribution of tourism** demand and **promotion of lesser-known destinations** under **Dekho Apna Desh Campaign 2.0**.
- It seeks to **promote tourism-ready, lesser-known destinations across India** to diversify domestic tourist flows, improve visitor experience and create opportunities for local communities and tourism enterprises.

Four pillars of the Mission:

- **Selection of destinations:** **States and Union Territories** will nominate **tourism-ready** destinations with a distinct appeal, adequate infrastructure and accommodation capacity to receive additional visitors, and willingness to share tourism data.
 - **The pilot themes:** Mountain alternatives, coastal and waterfront alternatives, heritage and cultural destinations, and regional pilgrimage alternatives.
- **Packaging of tourism products:** Selected destinations will be **developed into bookable tourism products and themed** itineraries integrating accommodation, transport, food, experiences and local activities.
- **Joint promotion:** Destinations will be promoted through coordinated campaigns with States, Union Territories and **industry partners**.
- **Data-driven management:** A **national tourism monitoring dashboard** or framework will support destination management by tracking tourist footfall, carrying capacity and visitor feedback.

Current Affairs - 29 September 2026

PRADHAN MANTRI MATSYA KISAN SAMRIDHI SAH-YOJANA



- It is a Central Sector Sub-scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana.
- It focuses on formalization of the fisheries sector and supporting fisheries micro and small enterprises.
- **Time Period:** It is implemented for 4 years from FY 2023-24 to FY 2026-27 across all the States and UTs.
- **Objectives:**
 - Gradual Formalization of the unorganized fisheries sector
 - Facilitating access to institutional financing fisheries sector micro and small enterprises
 - Providing one-time incentive to beneficiaries for purchasing aquaculture insurance.
 - Incentivizing fisheries and aquaculture microenterprises through performance grants
 - Incentivising adoption and expansion of fish and fishery product safety and quality assurance systems

Intended Beneficiaries:

- Fishers, Fish (Aquaculture) Farmers, Fish workers, Fish Vendors or such other person directly engaged in fisheries value chain.
- Micro and Small enterprises Cooperatives, Federations Self Help Groups (SHGs), Fish Farmers Producer Organizations (FFPOs) etc.
- FFPOs also include Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs).
- Any other beneficiaries that may be included by the Department of Fisheries as targeted beneficiaries.

Current Affairs - 29 September 2026

ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT IN DEFENCE - BALANCING SELF-RELIANCE WITH STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC REALITIES

- India's pursuit of Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence aims to **reduce dependence** on foreign weapons and strengthen **strategic autonomy**. However, complete self-reliance can be prohibitively expensive.
- The challenge is to **balance** indigenous technological capabilities with cost-effectiveness, timely procurement and integration into global defence supply chains.

India's Defence Indigenisation Drive:

- The government has promoted defence self-reliance through initiatives such as Make in India (2014), **Vocal for Local (2020)** and Atmanirbhar Bharat (2020).
- Indigenous defence capabilities are considered essential for reducing dependence on foreign suppliers, strengthening strategic autonomy and protecting **national security**.
- Recently, the Defence Minister of India also reiterated the **vision** of designing, developing and manufacturing in India - a country which is world's **5th**-largest defence spender, and the **2nd**-largest importer of weaponry after war-torn Ukraine.
- India's indigenous defence and aerospace production increased from ₹46,000 crore in 2014 to **₹1.78 lakh crore** in 2025–26.
- Defence **exports** also rose significantly, from ₹600 crore in 2014 to ₹38,434 crore in 2024–25. The government has set a target of ₹50,000 crore in defence exports by 2028–29.

The Economic Cost of Complete Self-Reliance:

- Defence acquisition follows a broad cost hierarchy -
 - **Leasing:** Generally the most cost-effective and timely option when equipment is required for a limited period.
 - **Direct procurement:** Buying an existing platform is generally more expensive than leasing it.

Current Affairs - 29 September 2026

- **Technology transfer:** Acquiring manufacturing technology and establishing domestic production facilities involves higher costs.
- **Indigenous development:** Designing, developing, testing and manufacturing an entire platform is generally the most expensive approach.
- Thus, complete self-reliance may impose substantial financial and technological costs, particularly when domestic alternatives are still under development.

Limitations of India's Defence Indigenisation:

- Several indigenous platforms, including the Tejas fighter, naval warships and tactical missile systems, continue to depend on **imported components**, subsystems and materials.
- In some cases, overseas inputs account for nearly **40%** of a platform's cost.
- Developing every component domestically can lead to **duplication of effort**, increased expenditure and delays.
- Even technologically advanced defence economies rely on international suppliers for specialised components.
- **For example**, a significant proportion of the world's combat aircraft use ejection seats manufactured by British company **Martin-Baker**.
- Even Lockheed Martin's F-35 Lightning II and China's F-7 Guizhou, went for Martin-Baker.

Way Forward:

- **Adopt** selective self-reliance, prioritising critical technologies over complete indigenisation.
- **Promote** domestic research and development while leveraging international partnerships.
- **Strengthen** project management, technological assessment and accountability.
- **Integrate** Indian defence industries into global supply chains to enhance exports and create mutual dependencies.
- **Balance** indigenous production with leasing and imports wherever they are more economical and operationally necessary.

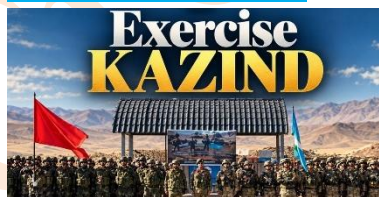
Current Affairs - 29 September 2026

WHAT IS DENGUE?



- Dengue (break-bone fever) is a mosquito-borne viral infection caused by the dengue virus (DENV).
- While many dengue infections are asymptomatic or produce only mild illness, the virus can occasionally cause more severe cases and even death.
- The virus is most common in tropical and subtropical regions, including Central and South America, Africa, parts of Asia, and the Pacific Islands, mostly in urban and semi-urban areas.
- Dengue epidemics tend to have seasonal patterns, with transmission often peaking during and after rainy seasons.
- Transmission:
 - It is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected Aedes mosquitoes carrying one of four types of dengue virus (DENV).
 - It isn't contagious from person to person except when passed from a pregnant person to their child.
 - A person can be infected with dengue multiple times in their life.
- Treatment:
 - There is no specific medicine to treat dengue. The focus is on treating pain
 - It is generally treated with supportive care such as pain relievers, bed rest, and fluids.

EXERCISE KAZIND



- It is a joint military exercise conducted between India–Kazakhstan.
- Participating Contingent: The Indian contingent is drawn mainly from a battalion of the GARHWAL RIFLES, along with

Current Affairs - 29 September 2026

troops from other arms and services, and personnel from the **Indian Air Force**.

- The exercise aims to enhance interoperability and strengthen the joint capability of both forces to undertake **Joint Counter-Terrorism operations** in a sub-conventional environment under a United Nations mandate.
- **KAZIND-2026 will focus on:**
 - **Joint Counter-Terrorism operations in semi-urban and mountainous terrain**, with an emphasis on joint planning and execution, air mobility and the integrated employment of Unmanned Aerial Systems and Counter-UAS capabilities.
- The participating contingents will train together in joint responses to **terrorist actions, raids, search-and-destroy missions**, cordon-and-search operations, the securing of helipads and landing sites, and **Special Heliborne Operations**, among other activities.
- It will further deepen **military-to-military cooperation** between India and Kazakhstan and reinforce the shared commitment of both nations towards regional **peace, stability and collective security**.

TACKLING FOOD LOSS AND WASTE — INDIA'S OPPORTUNITY

- **Food loss and waste** are major global challenges with far-reaching consequences for food security, nutrition, climate change, natural resources and economic productivity.
- India produces enough food to feed its population of 1.4 billion, yet substantial quantities are lost across the agrifood value chain.
- Reducing these losses can generate a **triple win**: improving food security and nutrition, reducing environmental pressures and emissions, and enhancing incomes and productivity.
- The International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste on September 29 underlines the importance of addressing this issue.

India's Evidence Base, a Global First

- India has developed an important foundation for tackling food.

Current Affairs - 29 September 2026

- The Ministry of Food Processing Industries conducted surveys during 2005-07, 2012-14 and 2020-22, covering an increasing number of commodities from farm to retail.
- A fourth survey is now under way.
- This evidence supports India's reporting under the **Food Loss Index** of the Sustainable Development Goals and helps identify areas requiring intervention.
- However, significant data gaps remain. Existing assessments focus mainly on farm and supply-chain losses, while systematic information on food waste in households, retail, hotels and restaurants remains limited.

Key Challenges

- Despite significant progress, several challenges require attention:
 - **Inadequate data** on consumer-level and urban food waste.
 - **Insufficient storage** and cold-chain infrastructure.
 - Limited access to **finance and modern technologies** among small producers and enterprises.
 - Weak **segregation and treatment** of organic waste.
 - Fragmented interventions across agricultural, urban and climate policies.
 - **Limited markets** for compost, biogas and other recovered resources.

The Way Forward

- India now has **data, technology and viable models** to substantially reduce food loss and waste.
- The way forward should focus on:
 - Closing data gaps across the entire food system.
 - Expanding storage, cooling, drying and processing infrastructure.
 - Providing affordable finance and technology to farmers and small businesses.
 - Strengthening digital traceability and supply-chain management.
 - Promoting food redistribution and circular-economy solutions.
 - Developing efficient systems for segregating and treating organic waste.