

RADIUS EDUCATION

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TODAY NEWS HIGHLIGHT

- **India's impressive performance at the Asian Games 2026: Double gold in Kabaddi, significant medals in athletics and shooting**
- **Mandeep K Bhandari appointed as new CBSE Chairman, important appointment at senior level in education administration**
- **AFSPA extended for six months in Northeast India; special law to continue in some areas of Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh**
- **Delhi tops Indian city in Oxford Economics Global Cities Index 2026, performs strongly in human capital**
- **Four ports get 'Mega Port' status under the Indian Ports Act 2025**
- **India signs UN Cybercrime Convention, providing new foundation for global digital cooperation**
- **Drought declared in 265 talukas of Maharashtra, relief package for farmers and crop damage assessment process started**
- **World Heart Day 2026 – Global awareness of heart health and prevention of heart diseases**

1. India's Stellar Performance at the 2026 Asian Games: Double Gold in Kabaddi, Key Medals in Athletics and Shooting

On September 26, 2026, India won 7 medals—2 gold, 3 silver, and 2 bronze—at the Asian Games, bringing its total medal tally to 30. India secured two gold medals by defeating Iran in both men's and women's kabaddi. Sawan Barwal won silver in the marathon with a national record, and Tajinderpal Singh Toor won silver in the shot put. The women's 50m rifle 3P team won silver, while India also made significant strides in hockey, badminton, and squash.



2. Mandeep K. Bhandari Appointed New CBSE Chairman; Key Senior-Level Appointment in Education Administration

The Central Government has appointed Mandeep K. Bhandari, a 2001-batch IAS officer of the AGMUT cadre, as the new Chairman of the CBSE. He has been appointed to a post and pay scale equivalent to that of an Additional Secretary in the Central Government. The CBSE oversees functions such as board examinations, school affiliation, curriculum development, and teacher training for affiliated schools in India and abroad. This appointment is significant in the context of NEP 2020, digital evaluation, e-governance, and examination reforms.



3. AFSPA Extended by Six Months in Northeast India; Special Law to Remain in Force in Parts of Manipur, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh

The Central Government has extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) for six months—from October 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027—in specific areas of Manipur, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh. While 13 police station areas across five districts in Manipur have been excluded from the ambit of AFSPA, the Act remains in force in select areas of Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. Under Section 3 of AFSPA, an area can be declared a 'disturbed area,' while Section 4 grants special powers to the armed forces. This legislation is significant for the UPSC examination in the context of internal security, insurgency, federalism, human rights, and peace and security in the Northeast.



4. Delhi Tops Indian Cities in Oxford Economics Global Cities Index 2026; Strong Performance in Human Capital

The Oxford Economics Global Cities Index 2026 evaluated 1,000 cities worldwide, with New York ranking first, London second, and Paris third. Among Indian cities, Delhi secured the top spot at rank 268, while Bengaluru ranked 311th and Mumbai 330th. Delhi performed strongly in human capital (13th) and the economy (116th) but ranked relatively low in quality of life and environment. The index highlights the importance of economy, human capital, quality of life, environment, and governance in urban development.



5. Four Ports Granted 'Mega Port' Status Under the Indian Ports Act, 2025

The Central Government has declared Deendayal, Jawaharlal Nehru, Paradip, and Mundra ports as 'Mega Ports' under Section 73 of the Indian Ports Act, 2025. 'Mega Port' is an additional classification; it does not alter a port's original status as either a 'Major Port' or a 'Non-Major Port'. Section 73 empowers the Central Government to designate Major Ports and other eligible ports as Mega Ports based on prescribed criteria. This move is significant for strengthening EXIM trade, logistics, coastal shipping, port infrastructure, and India's maritime economy.



6. India Signs UN Cybercrime Convention; Global Digital Cooperation to Gain New Foundation

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar signed the UN Cybercrime Convention on behalf of India on September 25, 2026, aiming to enhance international cooperation against cybercrime. The convention provides for the collection, preservation, and exchange of electronic evidence, as well as a 24/7 cooperation network for investigating cross-border cybercrimes. It was adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 24, 2024, via Resolution 79/243, following a negotiation process that spanned approximately five years. According to Article 65, it will enter into force 90 days after the 40th ratification, acceptance, approval, or accession; as of September 26, 2026, it had not yet come into effect.



7. Drought declared in 265 talukas of Maharashtra; relief package for farmers and crop damage assessment process initiated

The Maharashtra government has declared 265 out of 358 talukas—approximately 74% of the state's talukas—as drought-affected due to insufficient monsoon rainfall. Several measures have been implemented for farmers in these areas, including land revenue waivers, agricultural loan rescheduling, relief on electricity charges, and arrangements for drinking water. *Panchanamas* (official inspection reports), GPS coordinates, and geo-tagged photographs will be used to assess crop damage. This announcement has been made under the 'Trigger-1' criteria of the Drought Management Code, 2016, and is significant for agriculture, water resources, and disaster management.



8. World Heart Day 2026 — Global Awareness Regarding Heart Health and Prevention of Heart Diseases

World Heart Day is observed annually on September 29 under the leadership of the World Heart Federation to raise awareness about heart diseases and stroke. Cardiovascular diseases are among the leading causes of death globally; key risk factors include unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, tobacco use, obesity, and high blood pressure. In the context of rising Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in India, regular exercise, a balanced diet, avoiding tobacco, and monitoring blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol levels are crucial. World Heart Day underscores the importance of SDG-3, Universal Health Coverage, and a prevention-oriented healthcare system.



1. How many medals in total did India win at the Asian Games on September 26, 2026?

- A - 5
B - 6
C - 7
D - 8

On September 26, 2026, India won a total of 7 medals—comprising 2 gold, 3 silver, and 2 bronze—at the Asian Games, bringing its total medal tally to 30. In addition to gold medals in men's and women's kabaddi, Sawan Barwal, Tajinderpal Singh Toor, and the women's 50m rifle 3P team won silver medals.



2. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of CBSE?

- A - Sanjay Kumar
B - Mandeep K. Bhandari
C - Rajesh Kumar
D - Amit Verma

On September 25, 2026, the Central Government appointed Mandeep K. Bhandari, a 2001-batch IAS officer of the AGMUT cadre, as the new Chairman of CBSE; he has been granted the rank and pay scale of Additional Secretary. CBSE handles significant tasks related to board examinations, school affiliation, curriculum development, and teacher training, alongside NEP 2020 implementation, digital evaluation, and examination reforms.



3. Under which section of AFSPA can an area be declared a 'disturbed area'?

- A - Section 2
B - Section 3
C - Section 4
D - Section 6

The Central Government has extended AFSPA for six months—from October 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027—in certain areas of Manipur, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh, while excluding 13 police station areas across five districts of Manipur from its ambit. Under Section 3 of AFSPA, an area is declared a 'disturbed area,' and Section 4 grants special powers to the armed forces, making the Act significant in the context of internal security and human rights.



4. Which city ranked first in the Global Cities Index 2026?

- A - London
B - Paris
C - New York
D - Tokyo

In the Oxford Economics Global Cities Index 2026, New York ranked first, London second, and Paris third among 1,000 cities, while Delhi was the highest-ranked Indian city at the 268th position. The cities were evaluated based on economy, human capital, quality of life, environment, and governance.



5. Which ports have been declared as mega ports?

A - Mumbai, Chennai, Kochi and Visakhapatnam

C - Kandla, Kochi, Tuticorin and Haldia

B - Deendayal, Jawaharlal Nehru, Paradeep and Mundra

D - Chennai, Paradip, Kolkata and Mumbai

Under Section 73 of the Indian Ports Act, 2025, Deendayal, Jawaharlal Nehru, Paradip and Mundra Ports have been declared Mega Ports, while their original Major or Non-Major Port status will remain. This classification is important for promoting EXIM trade, logistics, coastal shipping, port infrastructure and maritime economy of India.



6. Who signed the United Nations Cyber Crime Convention on behalf of India?

A - Amit Shah

C - Rajnath Singh

B - S. Jaishankar

D - Piyush Goyal

Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar signed the United Nations Cybercrime Convention on behalf of India on 25 September 2026, which aims to strengthen international cooperation and exchange of electronic evidence to combat cybercrime. This convention was adopted by UNGA resolution 79/243 on 24 December 2024 and will enter into force 90 days after the 40th ratification in accordance with Article 65.



7. How many taluks have been declared drought affected in Maharashtra?

A - 235

C - 265

B - 245

D - 285

Maharashtra government has declared 265 out of 358 taluks as drought-hit due to inadequate monsoon rainfall, which is about 74% of the taluks in the state. The affected farmers will be given facilities like exemption in land revenue, agricultural loan rescheduling, relief in electricity charges and drinking water. The drought declaration has been made under the Trigger-1 criteria of the Drought Management Code, 2016 and crop damage assessment will be done from Panchnama, GPS coordinates and geotagged photographs.



8. Who leads World Heart Day?

A - WHO

C - UNICEF

B - World Heart Federation

D - UNESCO

World Heart Day is celebrated every year on 29 September under the leadership of World Heart Federation to raise awareness about heart diseases and stroke. Unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, tobacco, obesity and high blood pressure are major risk factors, so emphasis is placed on regular exercise, balanced diet and health checkups.



WORLD HEART DAY
SEPTEMBER 29

One Liner

1. Which 2001-batch IAS officer of the AGMUT cadre was appointed as the new Chairman of the CBSE? - **Mandeep K. Bhandari**
2. Under which section of the Indian Ports Act, 2025, were four ports declared 'mega ports'? - **Section 73**
3. On which date did India sign the United Nations Cybercrime Convention? - **September 25, 2026**
4. Which was the highest-ranked Indian city in the Oxford Economics Global Cities Index 2026? - **Delhi**
5. Under the leadership of which organization is World Heart Day organized globally? - **World Heart Federation (WHF)**
6. Under which section of the AFSPA is an area declared a 'disturbed area'? - **Section 3**
7. How many total medals did India win at the 2026 Asian Games up to September 26? - **7 medals**
8. On which date is World Heart Day observed every year? - **September 29**
9. How many talukas in Maharashtra were declared drought-affected in 2026? - **265 talukas**
10. Which country did the men's and women's kabaddi teams defeat to win gold medals at the 2026 Asian Games? - **Iran**