

CRACK WITH KHITIJ

CURRENT AFFAIRS

19 SEPTEMBER 2026

IBPS CLERK	SBI CLERK	BANKING
SSC	RAILWAY	DEFENCE
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National • International • Banking • Economy • Defence • Science & Technology •
Government Schemes • Railways • Awards • Appointments • Sports

STAY UPDATED • STAY AHEAD

CONTENTS

No.	Topic
1	EPFO Wage Ceiling Increased from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000
2	India's Semiconductor Mission Moves Towards Semicon 2.0
3	Applied Materials Announces \$5 Billion India Investment
4	20th Rozgar Mela to Provide More Than 51,000 Appointment Letters
5	International Conference on Environment and Climate Dynamics
6	Government Relaxes Sugar Stockholding Limit for Bulk Consumers
7	District-Level Labour Market Indicators Released for the First Time
8	16th Round of Commercial Coal Mine Auction Launched
9	₹493 Crore Railway Line Approved Between Mukutban and Gadchandur
10	Chouk-Karjat Railway Section to be Doubled
11	20th Asian Games Begin in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan
12	India Performs Strongly at 46th Chess Olympiad
13	Tavengwa Mukuhani Appointed ICC Deputy Chair
14	Marathi Film 'Gondhal' Selected as India's Oscar Entry
15	India-Nepal Discuss Trade and Connectivity

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. EPFO Wage Ceiling Increased from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000

The Union Cabinet approved an increase in the wage ceiling for mandatory coverage under the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000 per month.

The revised ceiling came into effect from 17 September 2026. Employees earning between ₹15,000 and ₹25,000 per month will now come within the statutory social security framework, subject to applicable provisions.

The decision is expected to bring more than 51 lakh additional employees under mandatory EPFO coverage.

□ **Exam Point: New EPFO wage ceiling = ₹25,000 per month.**

2. India's Semiconductor Mission Moves Towards Semicon 2.0

At SEMICON India 2026, the government highlighted the next phase of India's semiconductor ecosystem under Semicon 2.0.

Semicon 2.0 has a total outlay of ₹1,27,500 crore and focuses on six major pillars including chip design, machines and materials, additional fabs, ATMP units, R&D; and talent development.

The government said India is moving from building the foundation of the semiconductor ecosystem towards scaling up the industry.

□ **Exam Point: Semicon 2.0 outlay = ₹1,27,500 crore.**

3. Applied Materials Announces \$5 Billion India Investment

US semiconductor equipment company Applied Materials announced plans to invest around US\$5 billion in India over the next decade.

The investment is aimed at expanding research and development, supply-chain capabilities and talent development related to the semiconductor ecosystem.

The announcement was made during SEMICON India 2026 in New Delhi.

□ **Exam Point: Applied Materials India investment plan = US\$5 billion.**

4. 20th Rozgar Mela to Provide More Than 51,000 Appointment Letters

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to distribute more than 51,000 appointment letters to newly recruited youth under the 20th Rozgar Mela on 19 September 2026.

The programme is being conducted at 45 locations across the country. With this edition, around 12.75 lakh youth will have received appointment letters through various Rozgar Melas.

The recruits will join different Union Government ministries and departments.

□ **Exam Point: 20th Rozgar Mela = 51,000+ appointment letters.**

5. International Conference on Environment and Climate Dynamics

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) is organising a two-day international conference titled “The Future of Environment and Climate Dynamics” on 19–20 September 2026 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

The conference brings together environmental experts, judges, government officials and representatives from 17 countries.

It focuses on environmental governance, climate challenges, policy implementation and judicial approaches.

□ **Exam Point: Organiser = National Green Tribunal (NGT).**

6. Government Relaxes Sugar Stockholding Limit for Bulk Consumers

The Government has increased the permissible sugar stockholding limit for bulk consumers from 15 days to 30 days.

However, the quantity held beyond the existing 15-day limit must be sourced exclusively from sugar imported under the Advance Authorisation Scheme (AAS) and Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ).

The open-market purchase limit remains restricted to 15 days' consumption.

□ **Exam Point: New bulk-consumer stockholding limit = 30 days.**

7. District-Level Labour Market Indicators Released for the First Time

The National Statistical Office (NSO) released district-level labour market indicators in a new Labour Market Snapshot of Selected Districts.

Among the 100 most populous districts, Surat, Gujarat recorded the highest Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) at 68.6%.

Surat also recorded the highest Worker Population Ratio (WPR) at 67.8% among the 100 most populous districts.

□ **Exam Point: Highest LFPR among 100 most populous districts = Surat, Gujarat.**

8. 16th Round of Commercial Coal Mine Auction Launched

The Ministry of Coal launched the 16th Round of Commercial Coal Mine Auctions.

At the same time, Coal Mine Development and Production Agreements (CMDPAs) were executed for six coal mines.

The initiative is aimed at increasing domestic coal production and strengthening the country's energy security.

□ **Exam Point: Latest commercial coal auction round = 16th Round.**

9. ₹493 Crore Railway Line Approved Between Mukutban and Gadchandur

Indian Railways approved a 38.21 km new railway line between Mukutban (Adilabad) and Gadchandur in Maharashtra at a cost of ₹493 crore.

The project will strengthen connectivity to industrial and mining centres, including cement plants, coal mines and limestone mines.

It is expected to improve passenger and freight movement in the region.

□ **Exam Point: Mukutban-Gadchandur railway line = 38.21 km, ₹493 crore.**

10. Chouk-Karjat Railway Section to be Doubled

Indian Railways approved the doubling of the 10.86 km Chouk-Karjat railway section in Maharashtra at a cost of ₹497 crore.

The project is expected to facilitate five additional passenger trains in each direction per day and support additional freight traffic of around 18.35 million tonnes per annum.

□ **Exam Point: Chouk-Karjat doubling project cost = ₹497 crore.**

11. 20th Asian Games Begin in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan

The 20th Asian Games officially begin on 19 September 2026 in the Aichi-Nagoya region of Japan and will continue until 4 October 2026.

The Games feature 43 sports and 469 medal events. India is participating across multiple disciplines.

For the opening ceremony, Manu Bhaker and Pawan Sehrawat are India's flag-bearers.

□ **Exam Point: Asian Games 2026 host region = Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.**

12. India Performs Strongly at 46th Chess Olympiad

The 46th Chess Olympiad is being held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, in September 2026.

India's men's team defeated Italy 3-1, while the women's team defeated Greece 3.5-0.5 in the ongoing competition.

The Indian women's team entered the tournament as defending champions.

□ **Exam Point: 46th Chess Olympiad venue = Samarkand, Uzbekistan.**

13. Tavengwa Mukuhani Appointed ICC Deputy Chair

Zimbabwe Cricket Chairman Tavengwa Mukuhani has been appointed as the Deputy Chairperson of the International Cricket Council (ICC) until November 2027.

He becomes the first Zimbabwean to serve as ICC Deputy Chair.

Mukuhani succeeds Imran Khwaja in the position.

□ **Exam Point: New ICC Deputy Chair = Tavengwa Mukuhani.**

14. Marathi Film 'Gondhal' Selected as India's Oscar Entry

Marathi film Gondhal, directed by Santosh Davakhar, has been selected as India's official entry for the 99th Academy Awards (Oscars 2027) in the Best International Feature Film category.

The Film Federation of India selected the film from 33 films that were in contention.

The 99th Academy Awards are scheduled for 14 March 2027.

□ **Exam Point: India's Oscar 2027 official entry = Gondhal.**

15. India-Nepal Discuss Trade and Connectivity

India and Nepal held a meeting of the India-Nepal Inter-Governmental Sub-Committee (IGSC) on Trade, Transit and Cooperation to Control Unauthorised Trade in New Delhi.

The discussions covered market access, customs and trade facilitation, food safety, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, AYUSH products, Certificates of Origin, rail and road connectivity and land-port infrastructure.

Both sides also discussed measures to facilitate legitimate cross-border trade and address unauthorised trade and commercial fraud.

□ **Exam Point: India-Nepal mechanism discussed = IGSC on Trade, Transit and Cooperation.**

QUICK REVISION — ONE-LINERS

#	Question / Topic	Answer
1	New EPFO wage ceiling	₹25,000/month
2	Additional employees expected under EPFO	51 lakh+
3	Semicon 2.0 outlay	₹1,27,500 crore
4	Applied Materials India investment plan	US\$5 billion
5	20th Rozgar Mela appointment letters	51,000+
6	Rozgar Mela locations	45
7	Total Rozgar Mela beneficiaries	about 12.75 lakh
8	NGT international conference	The Future of Environment and Climate Dynamics
9	Sugar bulk-consumer stockholding limit	30 days
10	Highest LFPR among 100 most populous districts	Surat
11	Commercial Coal Mine Auction	16th Round
12	Mukutban–Gadchandur railway line	38.21 km
13	Mukutban–Gadchandur cost	₹493 crore
14	Chouk–Karjat doubling cost	₹497 crore
15	Asian Games 2026	Aichi-Nagoya, Japan
16	Asian Games 2026 dates	19 September–4 October
17	Asian Games 2026 sports	43
18	Chess Olympiad 2026 venue	Samarkand, Uzbekistan
19	New ICC Deputy Chair	Tavengwa Mukuhlani
20	India's Oscar 2027 entry	Gondhal
21	Gondhal director	Santosh Davakhar
22	India–Nepal trade mechanism	IGSC
23	NGT conference venue	Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi
24	EPFO revised ceiling effective from	17 September 2026
25	SEMICON India 2026 venue	Yashobhoomi, New Delhi

Prepared for competitive examination revision by Crack With Kshitij.