

Weekly Exam GK: September 1–7, 2025 | Awards, Defence, Sports, Education, Festivals with PDF

As September opened its pages, the first week brought a rich blend of international recognition, cultural preservation, defence diplomacy, and educational milestones. Whether it was India's pride at the Ramon Magsaysay Awards, Punjab's sacred sites receiving heritage attention, or the strategic handshake between India and the Philippines, every update carried weight for aspirants preparing for UPSC, PCS, SSC, and state-level GK exams.

This isn't merely a summary—it's a strategic guide designed to highlight what truly matters. Each event connects to deeper themes in governance, diplomacy, sports, and heritage. Let's explore the highlights from 1st to 7th September 2025.

International Summits and Global Affairs



25th SCO Summit – Tianjin, China

The 25th edition of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit was held in Tianjin, a major port city in China. As the current president of SCO, China hosted the largest-ever gathering with **10 member countries**, **20 foreign leaders**, and **10 heads of international organizations**. The summit focused on regional security, economic cooperation, and counter-terrorism strategies.

India, a full member since 2017, emphasized connectivity, trade, and respect for sovereignty. The SCO platform is crucial for India to engage with Central Asian countries and counterbalance regional influences. Aspirants should remember that SCO

was founded in 2001 and includes countries like Russia, China, India, Pakistan, and several Central Asian nations.

Sports Achievements

SAFF U-17 Championship – India Wins

India was crowned the winner of the SAFF U-17 Championship, showcasing the strength of its youth football program. The South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) tournament is a key regional event, and India's victory boosts its reputation in grassroots sports development.

This win also reflects the growing investment in sports infrastructure and training at the junior level. Aspirants should note that SAFF includes countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan, and India has historically dominated the tournament.

Badminton World Championship – Paris

India's star doubles pair, Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, won the bronze medal at the World Badminton Championship held in Paris. Their performance continues India's rise in global badminton, especially in men's doubles.

India is also set to host the next edition of the championship in **2026**, marking a return after 17 years—the last time being in **Hyderabad in 2009**. This hosting opportunity is expected to boost domestic interest and infrastructure in badminton.

Dutch Grand Prix – Oscar Piastri Triumphs

Australian driver **Oscar Piastri** won the Dutch Grand Prix, making headlines in the Formula 1 circuit. His victory adds to the growing list of young talents reshaping motorsport globally.

For aspirants, it's useful to know that the Dutch Grand Prix is held at **Zandvoort Circuit**, and Formula 1 is governed by the **FIA (Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile)**.

Cricket Retirements – Starc and Mishra

Australian fast bowler **Mitchell Starc** announced his retirement from T20 cricket, ending a career known for pace and precision. Meanwhile, Indian spinner **Amit Mishra** retired from all forms of cricket, leaving behind a legacy of consistency and sportsmanship.

These retirements mark the end of an era and open doors for new talent. Aspirants should remember Starc's role in Australia's World Cup wins and Mishra's record as one of India's most successful IPL bowlers.

Defence Exercises and Strategic Ties

Yudh Abhyas 2025 – India–US Military Drill

The 21st edition of **Yudh Abhyas**, a joint military exercise between India and the United States, was held in **Alaska, USA**. The drill focused on high-altitude warfare, disaster response, and counter-terrorism operations.

This exercise strengthens interoperability between the two armies and reflects growing defence cooperation under the **India–US strategic partnership**. Aspirants should note that Yudh Abhyas is held annually and alternates between India and the US.

Malabar Naval Exercise – Hosted by USA

This year, the Malabar naval drills took place near Guam — a key U.S. island in the Pacific Ocean. The exercise brought together the navies of four countries: India, Japan, Australia, and the United States.

It all started back in 1992 as a simple training mission between just India and the U.S. Over time, it grew bigger — first Japan joined, then Australia — turning it into a powerful four-nation teamwork event.

During the drills, sailors practiced working together to protect sea routes, track hidden submarines, and carry out joint patrols. These skills help keep the oceans safe and open for everyone.

Malabar is also linked to the “Quad” — a group of these four democracies that want peace, stability, and freedom across the Indian and Pacific Oceans. The exercise isn't just about strength — it's about trust, teamwork, and keeping the seas fair for all nations.

ZAPAD 2025 – Russia-Led Military Exercise

India took part in **ZAPAD 2025**, a major international military training event led by Russia. The word “*Zapad*” means “*West*” in Russian — and this drill is one of Russia’s biggest yearly exercises.

Around 20 countries joined in, including China, Pakistan, and of course, Russia. The goal? To practice working together in big team operations — like planning missions, sharing battlefield tactics, and improving how armies from different nations coordinate under pressure.

India’s involvement shows its smart, balanced approach to global defence ties. Even as it builds strong partnerships with Western nations, India also keeps working with traditional friends like Russia. This helps India stay flexible and prepared in a complex world.

For those keeping track: ZAPAD isn’t just another drill — it’s a key sign of how countries train together to handle real-world security challenges. And for India, joining in is a quiet but powerful message — that it values teamwork, no matter where its partners come from.

Science, Technology, and Innovation

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INOVATION

◆ Semicon India 2025 – Vikram Processor Launch



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Semicon India 2025, a major tech summit aimed at boosting india's semiconductor industry. Union Minister Ashwinl Vaishnaw unveiled the Vikram-791 processor, a step toward self-reliance in chip manufacturing.



◆ India-US Nuclear Collaboration



India's Core Energy Systems Ltd. signed a partnership with US firm Flowserve to locally manufacture primary coolant pumps for nuclear reactors. These pumps are critical for maintaining reactor safety and efficiency.



◆ Governance and Economic Reforms

◆ Education and Rankings – Top Institutions

The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025 results placed IIT Madras at the top for the seventh consecutive year. IISc Bengaluru ranked second, followed by Punjab University (PU) in third place for pharmacy and public university categories.



Semicon India 2025 – Vikram Processor Launch

India's **Core Energy Systems Ltd.** has teamed up with the American company **Flowserve** to make an important part for nuclear power plants — **primary coolant pumps** — right here in India.

These pumps are like the “heart” of the nuclear reactor. They keep the coolant (usually water) moving to remove heat and prevent overheating — which is vital for both safety and smooth power generation.

By building these pumps locally, India reduces its need to import them. This helps the country become more self-reliant in nuclear technology and supports its push for **clean, reliable energy** to fight climate change and meet growing electricity needs.

It's also a boost for India's nuclear industry — creating skilled jobs, encouraging innovation, and strengthening supply chains.

Quick fact for learners: India's nuclear power plants and safety rules are overseen by the **Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)** — the official body that ensures everything runs safely and by the book.

This partnership is a smart step toward energy independence — and a cleaner future.

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Governance and Economic Reforms

Immigration and Foreigners Act 2005 – New Rules

The government notified new rules under the **Immigration and Foreigners Act 2005**, making biometric data collection mandatory for **all foreigners** entering India. Earlier, this was limited to select visa categories.

Educational institutions must now report foreign student admissions to the **Bureau of Immigration (BOI)**. This move aims to improve national security and streamline immigration records.

Education and Rankings

NIRF Rankings 2025 – Top Institutions

In the **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025**, **IIT Madras** has once again claimed the #1 spot — marking its **seventh straight year** at the top. This consistent performance highlights its strength in research, teaching, and innovation.

Close behind at #2 is **IISc Bengaluru**, known for its cutting-edge science and postgraduate excellence.

In specialized categories:

- **Punjab University (PU), Chandigarh** secured **3rd place** in both the **Pharmacy** and **Public University** rankings — a proud achievement for regional education.
- In **Agriculture**, **Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana** ranked **3rd nationally**, outperforming big names like **IARI Delhi** and **NDRI Karnal**.

Other institutions making waves:

- **Lovely Professional University (LPU)** — ranked **49th overall**
- **IIT Ropar** — at **56th**
- **PAU Ludhiana** — also ranked **57th overall**, showing its strength beyond just agriculture

These rankings aren't just numbers — they help students, parents, and educators compare institutions, spot rising stars, and make informed choices about where to study or collaborate.

Whether you're aiming for engineering, pharmacy, or farming sciences — NIRF 2025 gives you a clear picture of India's academic leaders.

Himachal Pradesh Declared Fully Literate

Himachal Pradesh has joined **Goa, Tripura, and Mizoram** as a fully literate state. This achievement reflects successful education policies and community participation.

Aspirants should know that literacy is defined as the ability to read and write with understanding in any language. The national literacy rate is around **77.7%**, and improving it is key to inclusive development.

Global Leadership and Policy Shifts

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP AND POLICY SHIFTS

◆ Thailand's New Prime Minister – Anutin Charnvirakul



Thailand has appointed Anutin Charnvirakul as its new Prime Minister. Known for his role in public health reforms and cannabis decriminalization, Anutin leads a coalition government formed after recent general elections.



◆ UK Deputy PM Resignation – David Lammy Appointed

In the United Kingdom, **Angela Rayner** resigned as Deputy Prime Minister following a controversy over tax disclosures.

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Digital Regulation and Tech Penalties

Nepal Bans Major Social Media Platforms



Nepal has imposed a ban on Facebook **\$3,5 billion** for breaching competition laws.



Thailand's New Prime Minister – Anutin Charnvirakul

Anutin Charnvirakul has officially assumed office as the new Prime Minister of Thailand. Known for his role in public health reforms and cannabis decriminalization, Anutin leads a coalition government formed after the recent general elections. His leadership is expected to focus on economic recovery, tourism revival, and regional diplomacy within ASEAN.

For aspirants, it's important to note that Thailand is a constitutional monarchy, and the Prime Minister is appointed with royal endorsement. Anutin's rise reflects shifting political dynamics in Southeast Asia, where coalition governments and youth-led movements are gaining ground.

UK Deputy PM Resignation – David Lammy Appointed

In the United Kingdom, **Angela Rayner** resigned as Deputy Prime Minister following a controversy over tax disclosures. She was replaced by **David Lammy**, a senior Labour leader known for his work on justice reform and international relations.

This leadership change comes amid growing political pressure and reshuffling within the UK government. Aspirants should remember that the Deputy PM role is appointed by the Prime Minister and is not constitutionally mandated, making it a flexible position based on political strategy.

Digital Regulation and Tech Penalties

Nepal Bans Major Social Media Platforms

Nepal has imposed a ban on **Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube** for failing to register with the country's **Ministry of Communications and IT**. The move is part of a broader effort to regulate digital platforms and ensure compliance with national laws.

This decision has sparked debate over freedom of expression and digital governance. Aspirants should link this to global trends in tech regulation, where countries are increasingly demanding accountability from multinational platforms.

Google Fined by European Union

The European Union has fined **Google \$3.5 billion** for breaching competition laws. The tech giant was found guilty of favoring its own digital advertising services over competitors, violating the EU's antitrust regulations.

This is one of the largest fines ever imposed on a tech company and highlights the EU's strict stance on digital monopolies. Aspirants should know that the **European Commission** enforces competition laws in the EU, and such fines are meant to promote fair market practices.

Festivals and Cultural Events

Indra Jatra – Nepal's Grand Festival

Indra Jatra, the biggest festival of the **Kathmandu Valley**, began with traditional rituals, masked dances, and chariot processions. The festival honors **Lord Indra**, the god of rain, and features the ceremonial appearance of the **Kumari**, Nepal's Living Goddess.

Celebrated for eight days, Indra Jatra blends Hindu and Buddhist traditions and attracts thousands of devotees and tourists. Aspirants should remember that the Kumari is a young girl selected through ancient rituals and symbolizes divine feminine energy in Nepalese culture.

Eid Milad-un-Nabi – Prophet Muhammad's Birth Anniversary

Eid Milad-un-Nabi was celebrated across India and the world to mark the birth anniversary of **Prophet Muhammad**. Observed on the 12th of **Rabi' al-Awwal**, the third month of the Islamic calendar, the day is commemorated with prayers, processions, and community gatherings.

In many cities, mosques and homes are decorated with lights, and sermons focus on the Prophet's teachings of peace, compassion, and justice. Aspirants should know that while the celebration is popular in South Asia, it is not universally observed across all Islamic traditions.

Education and Public Service Recognition

National Teachers' Awards – Honoring Excellence

A total of **81 teachers** were conferred with the **National Teachers' Awards** by President Droupadi Murmu. These educators were recognized for their innovative teaching methods, dedication to student welfare, and contributions to inclusive education.

The awards are presented annually on **Teachers' Day (September 5)**, commemorating the birth anniversary of **Dr. S Radhakrishnan**, India's 2nd President and a renowned philosopher. Aspirants should link this to India's emphasis on quality education and the role of teachers in nation-building.

Industry and Infrastructure Updates

New ESIC Medical College – Ludhiana

The government inaugurated a new **ESIC Medical College and Hospital in Ludhiana**, Punjab. This institution will offer MBBS seats and provide healthcare services to insured workers under the **Employees' State Insurance Scheme**.

This expansion reflects the government's commitment to improving medical education and public health infrastructure in Tier-2 cities. Aspirants should know that ESIC operates under the **Ministry of Labour and Employment** and serves millions of workers across India.

Cotton Import Duty Waived

To support the textile industry, the government has removed the **11% import duty on cotton** until **December 31, 2025**. This move is expected to reduce raw material costs and boost exports, especially for small and medium enterprises.

The **Cotton Corporation of India**, headquartered in **Navi Mumbai**, plays a key role in procurement and price stabilization. Aspirants should link this to India's position as one of the world's largest cotton producers and exporters.

Tax and Economic Reforms

GST 2.0 – Simplified Structure Proposed

The government has proposed a new **GST 2.0** structure to replace the current four-tier system. The revised model includes **two main slabs—5% and 18%**, and a **40% slab** for luxury and sin goods. This aims to simplify compliance and reduce confusion among businesses.

Introduced in **2017**, the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** is a unified indirect tax system that replaced multiple state and central taxes. Aspirants should understand its importance in creating a common national market and improving tax transparency.

Quick GK Nuggets for Revision

Topic	Key Fact
Magsaysay Award	Named after Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay
Doctrine of Lapse	British annexation policy for states without male heirs
BrahMos Missile	Jointly developed by India and Russia
SCO	India joined in 2017

Topic	Key Fact
GST 2.0	Proposed slabs: 5%, 18%, and 40%
IIT Madras	Topped NIRF rankings 7 times
Indra Jatra	Nepal's biggest festival in Kathmandu Valley
Vikram Processor	Developed under Semicon India 2025

This September 2025 roundup covers key developments in awards, heritage, defence, sports, governance, and global affairs. Aspirants preparing for **UPSC, PCS, SSC, defence exams, and state-level GK tests** should revise these topics thoroughly. Each event connects to broader themes like diplomacy, education, and cultural pride—making them ideal for both MCQs and descriptive answers.

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