

Highlights of 16 September 2026 Current Affairs

- The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has launched its official **WhatsApp Channel**, creating a direct digital broadcast avenue to deliver updates, scheme announcements, and notifications to millions of members and pensioners.
- The Government of India has issued a formal clarification and Gazette notification ensuring that **UPI payments up to ₹2,000** and **RuPay debit card transactions up to ₹2,000** will remain completely free of any direct or indirect bank charges.
- According to the 17th Monthly Bulletin of the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), India's labour market exhibited overall strengthening in **August 2026**.
- **World Ozone Day** is observed annually on **September 16** to raise global awareness about the critical importance of protecting the stratospheric ozone layer—Earth's natural shield against harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation. The 2026 observance marks a major milestone: the **10th anniversary of the Kigali Amendment** to the Montreal Protocol, shining a spotlight on global sustainable cooling efforts.
- India's **HDFC Bank** has achieved a monumental milestone by securing the **3rd rank** globally in the prestigious **Forbes and Statista World's Best Performing Banks 2026** report. It stands as the **only Indian bank** to break into the global top 10.
- The **22nd edition** of the India-US joint military exercise **Yudh Abhyas 2026** officially commenced on **September 15, 2026**. The opening ceremony for the two-week bilateral drills was held at the Auli Foreign Training Node in Uttarakhand, with operations taking place concurrently in high-altitude and desert terrains.
- Renowned Bharatanatyam exponent, choreographer, and researcher **Dr. Vasundhara Doraswamy** has been selected for the prestigious **Padmabhushan Guru Dr. Saroja Vaidyanathan Excellence Award 2026**. The honor will be presented by the Nataraj Music & Dance Academy (NMDA) during the annual **Vysakhi Nrithyotsav Indian Dance Festival** in Visakhapatnam, scheduled for September 26–27, 2026.
- The multi-state **Kishau Dam project** has officially cleared a major 8-year roadblock following the signing of a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Centre and six states—Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand—on **September 15, 2026**.
 - Estimated at **₹15,624 crore**, the multipurpose initiative is designed to harness the waters of the Tons River (a major tributary of the Yamuna) to solve long-standing regional water-sharing, irrigation, and power generation needs.
- The Government of Gujarat officially announced and notified the **Gujarat State Child Protection Policy 2026**, establishing a comprehensive framework centered on a **zero-tolerance approach** towards child abuse, exploitation, neglect, and discrimination.
- Senior IPS officer **Sanjukta Parashar** has made history by taking charge as the Inspector General (IG) of the Central Reserve Police Force's (CRPF) elite **CoBRA** (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) unit, becoming the **first-ever woman officer to head the specialized jungle-warfare force**.
- **Kumik village** in Zaskar has officially been declared **Ladakh's first-ever Heritage Village** on September 15, 2026, by Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena during the Ladakh Zaskar Festival. The landmark recognition celebrates the village's

unique traditional architecture, agrarian customs, and invaluable repository of Tibetan Buddhist literature.

- The Government of Karnataka has officially designated **September 15** as an **official State Engineers' Day** and sanctioned the formal use of the professional title '**Er.**' before the names of engineering professionals across the state.
- Scientists at the Quantum Information and Computing (QuIC) laboratory at the **Raman Research Institute (RRI)** in Bengaluru have made a significant breakthrough to address one of the most stubborn challenges in quantum computing: **decoherence** and the premature collapse of quantum states.
 - **The Core Challenge:** Quantum computers rely heavily on fragile quantum properties like **superposition** and **entanglement** to perform complex calculations. However, when these quantum particles interact with their external environment, they quickly lose their quantum state—a disruptive process known as **decoherence**. This often leads to "**entanglement sudden death**," where the linkage between particles vanishes abruptly, compromising calculation integrity.
- The **Ministry of Power, Government of India**, has officially approved the export of up to **654 MW of electricity to Nepal for 18 hours a day** (effective from September 13 through December 31, 2026).
 - **Emergency Power Supply:** The electricity will be supplied to the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) daily **between midnight and 6:00 PM**.
 - **Transmission Corridors:** Up to **600 MW** will be channeled through the Muzaffarpur-Dhalkebar 400 kV double-circuit line, while an additional **54 MW** will be routed through the Tanakpur-Mahendranagar 132 kV single-circuit line.
 - **Review Mechanism:** The volume and terms of power exports post-December 2026 will be evaluated and reviewed in December based on prevailing needs.