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Ramon Magsaysay Awards

September 2026



NATIONAL

WATER SHARING MOU

The state governments of **Bihar** and **Jharkhand** have signed an **MoU** for **sharing the water** of **Sone River**. The agreement was finalized in the presence of **Union Minister Amit Shah**.

This settlement resolves a **long-standing water dispute** in eastern India. It is expected to facilitate the **provision of irrigation water to millions of farmers** across rural regions of Bihar and Jharkhand.

MISSION SAMRIDDH GAON

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has launched ‘**Mission Samriddh Gaon**’ at Krishi Bhawan in New Delhi to **establish a framework for rural transformation**.

The initiative, under the **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)**, aims to **create poverty-free and employment-rich villages** while **ensuring universal access to basic amenities**. A **pilot implementation** of the mission will be conducted in **Madhya Pradesh**. The successful models from the pilot phase will be **replicated across the country**.

NEW SITES IN UNESCO TENTATIVE LIST

The **Permanent Delegation of India to the UNESCO** has announced the inclusion of **4 new cultural heritage sites** in the **Tentative List** of the **World Heritage Convention (WHC)**.

The newly added sites are the **Rangpur-Sivasagar Historic Ensemble (Assam)**, the **Colonial Penal Settlement (Andaman Islands)**, the **Nicobarese Cultural Continuity in the Central Group of Nicobar Islands**, and the **Painted Haveli Towns of Shekhawati (Rajasthan)**. With this, the total number of sites from India on the **UNESCO tentative list** has increased to **73**.

KISHAU MULTIPURPOSE PROJECT

The Chief Ministers of **Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, and Haryana** have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for the **₹15,000 crore Kishau Multipurpose Project**.

The agreement, signed during a meeting chaired by **Union Minister Amit Shah** and **Union Minister CR Patil** in **New Delhi**, has resolved an **eight-year deadlock** over cost-sharing and resource allocation among the basin states.

INDIA HOSTS BRICS SUMMIT

India has hosted the **18th edition** of the **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) Summit** at **Bharat Mandapam** in **New Delhi**, under the theme “**Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability**”. The summit was organized around these **four primary pillars**.

The event witnessed the launch of the **BRICS Integrated Early Warning System (EWS)** for infectious diseases, a **Logistics Supply Chain Cooperation framework**, a **Startup Innovation Fund**, and the **BRICS Incubator Network**. Other initiatives include a **MSME portal**, a **Digital Centre for Smart Grids and Energy Storage**, the **Urban Mobility Hub (UMH)**, and **CoEs for Agro-Ecology and Regenerative Agriculture**.

INDIA NEW ZEALAND FTA

Union Minister Piyush Goyal has announced that the **India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** will come into force on **October 20, 2026**, following the completion of ratification and domestic processes in both countries.

From the date of implementation, **100% of exports from India to New Zealand** will receive **duty-free access**, benefiting key sectors such as **textiles and apparel, leather and footwear, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, and processed foods**.

FIRST PRAMAAN CERTIFICATES

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav has distributed the first PRAMAAN certificates under the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS) in New Delhi.

The certificates were awarded to the Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation (APFDC) for its plantations covering 33,000 hectares, and to Govind Mohapatra, a farmer associated with the Odisha Bamboo Development Agency (OBDA).

ECONOMY

GDP GROWTH AT 7.8%

According to the Quarterly Estimates of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the Real GDP of India grew by 7.8% in Q1 FY27 (April-June 2026), compared to 6.9% in Q1 FY26.

This is the first release to use the revised base year of 2022-23 for the National Accounts Statistics (NAS). The GDP at Constant Prices (2022-23) for Q1 FY27 is estimated at ₹81.36 lakh crore, while it stood at ₹75.46 lakh crore in Q1 FY26. The GDP at Current Prices is estimated at ₹88.27 lakh crore (against ₹80 lakh crore in Q1 FY26), reflecting a growth rate of 10.3%.

GDP FORECAST

According to the report “Economic Outlook Asia-Pacific Q4 2026: Exports, Domestic Demand Will Shore Up Growth” released by S&P Global Ratings, the GDP growth of India for FY27 is revised upwards to 7% from 6.6%.

The growth for FY28, FY29, and FY30 is projected at 7.2%, 7%, and 6.8% respectively.

GDP FORECAST BY OECD

According to the “OECD Economic Outlook, Interim Report September 2026: Weathering Successive Shocks” released by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of India for FY27 is revised upwards by 80 basis points (bps) to 7.1% from the earlier 6.3%.

The growth for FY28 is projected at 6.5%. The report also estimated the inflation of India for FY27 and FY28 at 4.7% and 4.2% respectively.

DEFENCE

GSL DELIVERS ICGS AJIT

Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) has handed over the Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Ajit (Yard 1277) to the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). The vessel is the 7th in a series of 8 Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) being constructed for the ICG.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) had awarded the ₹473 crore contract to GSL in 2022 under the Buy-Indian Designed, Developed, and Manufactured (Buy-IDDM) scheme.

INDIAN NAVY COMMISSIONS INS NIPUN

The Indian Navy (IN) has commissioned 'INS Nipun', the second Diving Support Vessel (DSV) of the Nistar Class, at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai.

The vessel is indigenously designed and built by the Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL) in Visakhapatnam. It aims to enhance the deep-sea diving, underwater intervention, and submarine rescue capabilities of the IN.

INDIA JOINS GCAP AS DIALOGUE PARTNER

India has formally secured dialogue partner status in the Global Combat Air Program (GCAP), a 6th-generation fighter jet project popularly known as “Tempest”.

Launched in 2022, the GCAP is a trilateral initiative between the UK, Italy, and Japan to collaborate on military and industrial objectives for 6th-generation combat air capabilities.

EXERCISE SAMUDRA LAKSAMANA

The 4th edition of the bilateral maritime exercise between India and Malaysia named “Samudra Laksamana” has commenced in Lumut Naval Base, Malaysia.

The Indian Navy is participating in the exercise with INS Mysore (a Delhi-class guided-missile destroyer), while the Royal Malaysian Navy is represented by the vessels KD Lekir and KD Gagah Samudera.

SLINEX-26

The 13th edition of the bilateral maritime exercise between India and Sri Lanka named “SLINEX-26” is held in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

INS Kavaratti (an indigenous Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette) and **INS Jyoti** (a Fleet Tanker) of the **Indian Navy (IN)** and **SLNS Sindurala** of the **Sri Lanka Navy (SLN)** participated in the exercise to enhance maritime cooperation and interoperability.

MATANGI COMPLETES AUTONOMOUS VOYAGE

Matangi, an indigenous **Autonomous Surface Vessel (USV)** developed by **Sagar Defence Engineering**, has successfully completed a **1,500 km** (850 nautical miles) open-ocean voyage from **Mumbai to Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu**.

The voyage, which was completed with **zero human intervention** (no captain or crew on board), was flagged off by **Union Minister Rajnath Singh**. The mission was conducted under the ‘**Swavlamban**’ initiative of the Indian Navy to foster self-reliance. The vessel is controlled by an indigenously developed AI-driven operating suite named ‘**Genesis**’.

EXERCISE TARANG SHAKTI

The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has commenced the operational phase of the multilateral air exercise named “**Tarang Shakti 2026**” at **Air Force Station Jodhpur, Rajasthan**.

The exercise, themed “**Power in Partnership**”, witnessed the participation of **seven Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs): Australia, the USA, the UAE, France, Germany, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh**. It builds upon the **successful inaugural edition of the exercise held in 2024**.

EXERCISE NOMADIC ELEPHANT

The **18th edition** of the annual **joint military exercise** between **India** and **Mongolia** named “**Nomadic Elephant 2026**” is held at the **Foreign Training Node (FTN)** in **Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand**.

The exercise involves **45 personnel each** from the **Indian Army** (representing a battalion of the **Arunachal Scouts**) and the **Mongolian Armed Forces**.

BUSINESS

PORT-BASED E-METHANOL PLANT

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has laid the foundation stone for the **first port-based e-methanol production facility in India** at the **Deendayal Port Authority (DPA)** in **Kandla, Gujarat**.

The project is being developed as a **Joint Venture** between the DPA and the **Assam-based Assam Petro-Chemicals Ltd (APCL)** with a total investment of **₹2,300 crore**. The facility is designed to produce **150 tonnes of e-methanol per day** to support **maritime decarbonisation** and establish India as a **global green energy exporter**.

SCIENCE

ISRO LAUNCHES EOS-05

The **ISRO** has successfully launched the “**EOS-05**” **Earth Observation Satellite (EOS)** onboard the **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)-F17** from the Second Launch Pad of the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC)** in **Sriharikota**. It is to be noted that the **EOS-05** is the **first Indian imaging satellite deployed from a geosynchronous orbit**.

It aims to **strengthen domestic Earth observation and imaging capabilities**. The **GSLV-F17** is a **51.7 m tall 3-stage rocket** with a total liftoff mass of **420.5 tonnes**. The launch vehicle successfully injected the **2,367 kg** satellite into a **Sub-Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (Sub-GTO)**.

SAGAR MANTHAN LAUNCHED

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) has launched “**Sagar Manthan**”, the **first indigenous advanced Ocean Research Vessel (ORV)** of India. The vessel was launched at the **Rishi Bankim Shipyard in Kolkata** for the **National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)** under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**.

It is to be noted that the project, having a total valuation of **₹840 crore**, is being implemented under the “**Deep Ocean Mission**”. The ORV, which has a gross tonnage of 5,900 tonnes and a maximum speed of 14 knots, is expected to be fully operational by **early 2028**.

STATE

MIZORAM PROTECTS MONUMENTS

The **Mizoram** government has designated **79 monuments and archaeological sites** as “**State Protected Monuments**” to **preserve the cultural and historical legacy** of the region.

Two sites in the **Champhai district**, namely **Kawtchhuah Ropui** and **Ralven Puk**, have been recognized as “**Monuments of National Importance**” under the **Archaeological Survey of India**. Furthermore, the state has proposed **four additional heritage sites** **Reng Puk, Lung Milem, Pipute Lungdawh**, and **Ruhro Puk** for designation as protected monuments.

FIRST HERITAGE VILLAGE

Vinai Kumar Saxena, the **Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh**, has designated **Kumik village** as the **first Heritage Village** of the region during the **11th Ladakh Zaskar Festival 2026** held in **Zaskar Valley**.

The heritage status was conferred in recognition of the historical and cultural assets of the village, including **Buddhist manuscripts, traditional architecture**, and **preserved cultural practices**.

APPOINTMENTS

FIRST WOMAN OFFICER

Shakti Sharma becomes the **first woman officer from a non-medical branch** in the Indian Defence Forces to attain the rank of **Air Vice Marshal (AVM)**. Upon her promotion, she has taken charge as the **Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Education) (ACAS (Edn))** at the **Air Headquarters**.

FIRST WOMAN TO LEAD COBRA UNIT

Sanjukta Parashar has been appointed as the **Inspector General (IG)** of the **Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA)**, an elite jungle warfare unit of the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**.

She becomes the **first woman officer** to lead the 10-battalion CoBRA sector and succeeds **Danesh Rana**. It is to be noted that the CoBRA sector is **headquartered in New Delhi**.

AWARDS

RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARDS

The **Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF)** has announced the winners of the **68th edition** of the **Ramon Magsaysay Awards 2026**, which is frequently referred to as the “**Nobel Prize of Asia**”. The recipients include **Tommy Koh** from **Singapore**, **Runa Khan** from **Bangladesh**, and **Bo Kyi** from **Myanmar**.

The announcement was made on the occasion of the **119th birth anniversary of Ramon Magsaysay**, the **7th President of Philippines**. Each recipient of the award will receive a **cash prize of \$50,000**.

DADASAHEB PHALKE AWARD

Anant Nag, a **veteran actor**, has been selected for the **Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2024** by the **Government of India**.

KALAM JAN SEVA PURASKAR

Kishor Makwana, the **Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)**, has been conferred the “**Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Jan Seva Puraskar 2026**”.

NEW TROPHIES FOR ATHLETES

The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** has established **two new memorial awards** to honor the **best male and female athletes of the Asian Games**. The awards are named the ‘**Raja Randhir Singh Trophy**’ (for the **best male athlete**) and the ‘**Jaspal Rana Trophy**’ (for the **best female athlete**).

PT Usha, **IOA President**, announced the trophies during the launch of the book ‘**Maverick Jaspal**’, co-authored by sports journalists **S Kannan** and **G Rajaraman**.

ARTHUR M BUECHE AWARD

Sethuraman Panchanathan, an **Indian-origin computer scientist**, has been named the recipient of the **Arthur M Bueche Award 2026** by the **National Academy of Engineering (NAE)**. He is the **first Indian-American** and the first individual from **Arizona(USA)**, to receive the honour.

The award is given recognising his leadership in advancing **science and technology policy**. It is to be noted that he was previously conferred with the **Padma Shri** in **2025**.

FAO HONOUR FOR PI MARI-I

Z T Lalrithangi, popularly known as **Pi Mari-i**, from **Mizoram** has been selected by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** for the “**FAO 100 Women Heroes in Agrifood Systems and Rural Development**” recognition.

SPORTS

LIONEL MESSI RETIRES FROM INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL

Lionel Messi, the **39-year-old** captain of the **Argentina** national football team, has **announced retirement from international football**, concluding an illustrious **21-year career**. He finishes his international tenure as the **all-time leading goal scorer** of Argentina with **125 goals** and the **most-capped player** with **207 appearances**.

He holds the record for participating in **6 Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cups**. His individual achievements include winning the **Ballon d'Or a record 8 times** and receiving the **FIFA World Cup Golden Ball twice (2014 and 2022)**.

INDIAN FOOTBALL AWARDS

The **Football Players’ Association of India (FPAI)** has organized the **Indian Football Awards 2026** in **Kolkata** where former footballer **Bhaichung Bhutia** presented the awards.

Lallianzuala Chhangte (Mizoram) was named the **Indian Footballer of the Year 2026** and **Manisha Kalyan** (Punjab) won the **Indian Women’s Player of the Year** award. **Sanan Mohammed K** (Jamshedpur FC) and **Sanfida Nongrum** (Garhwal FC) were declared the **Young Player of the Year** and **Women’s Young Player of the Year**, respectively.

FIH HOCKEY WORLD CUP 2026

Germany has won the **men’s category title (4th title)** at the **International Hockey Federation (FIH) Hockey World Cup 2026**, defeating **Spain** 1-0 in the final. **Argentina** has won the **women’s category title (3rd title)** after defeating the defending champions **Netherlands**.

The 2026 edition, **co-hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands**, marks the **first time the men and women tournaments are held jointly**. The competition format includes **16 teams each** in the men and women categories, divided into four pools.

SMRITI MANDHANA BREAKS WORLD RECORD

Smriti Mandhana, an **Indian cricketer**, has set a **new world record as the highest run-scorer in women’s international cricket** across all formats. She achieved this milestone during a match against **Hong Kong** at the Dubai International Stadium,UAE, as part of the **Women’s Asia Cup 2026**.

She scored **124 runs off 64 balls** in the match, taking her **total career aggregate to 10,880 runs**. It is to be noted that she surpassed the previous record of 10,868 runs held by the retired Indian cricketer **Mithali Raj**.

DULEEP TROPHY

East Zone has won the **2026-27 Duleep Trophy** title by defeating **South Zone** through a 372-run **first innings lead** at the **MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai**. This victory ended a **13-year championship drought** for the team.

The final match resulted in a draw after East Zone scored 708 runs in the first innings. **Ishan Kishan** (Captain of the East Zone) was named the **Player of the Match** for scoring a total of 350 runs (270 in the first innings and 80 in the second). **Tilak Varma** (Captain of the South Zone) was awarded the **Player of the Tournament**.

TASK FORCE TO REVIVE FI

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has announced the formation of a **10-member Task Force** to evaluate the challenges and feasibility of **reviving Formula 1 (F1) in India**.

The committee is chaired by **Yugal Kishore Joshi (Programme Director and Adviser, NITI Aayog)**. The Task Force will explore the possibility of **hosting an F1 Grand Prix in 2028** and prepare a roadmap for the **sustainable growth of motorsports** in the country.

WORLD ATHLETICS 2029

World Athletics has designated **Nairobi, Kenya**, as the host for the **2029 World Athletics Championships**, marking the **first-ever edition of the competition to be held in Africa**. The decision was taken by the council in **Budapest, Hungary**.

The **Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)** has selected the **Munich Football Arena** in **Germany** to host the **2028 final**. UEFA also designated **Camp Nou** in **Barcelona, Spain**, as a host venue.

WOMEN’S T20 ASIA CUP

India, captained by **Harmanpreet Kaur**, has won the **10th edition** of the **Women’s Asia Cup (6th in T20 format)** by defeating **Sri Lanka** by 72 runs in the final. The tournament was organised by the **Asian Cricket Council (ACC)** at the **Dubai International Cricket Stadium**. This marks a **record-extending 8th title** for India.

Shafali Verma was named both the **‘Player of the Match’** and **‘Player of the Series’**.

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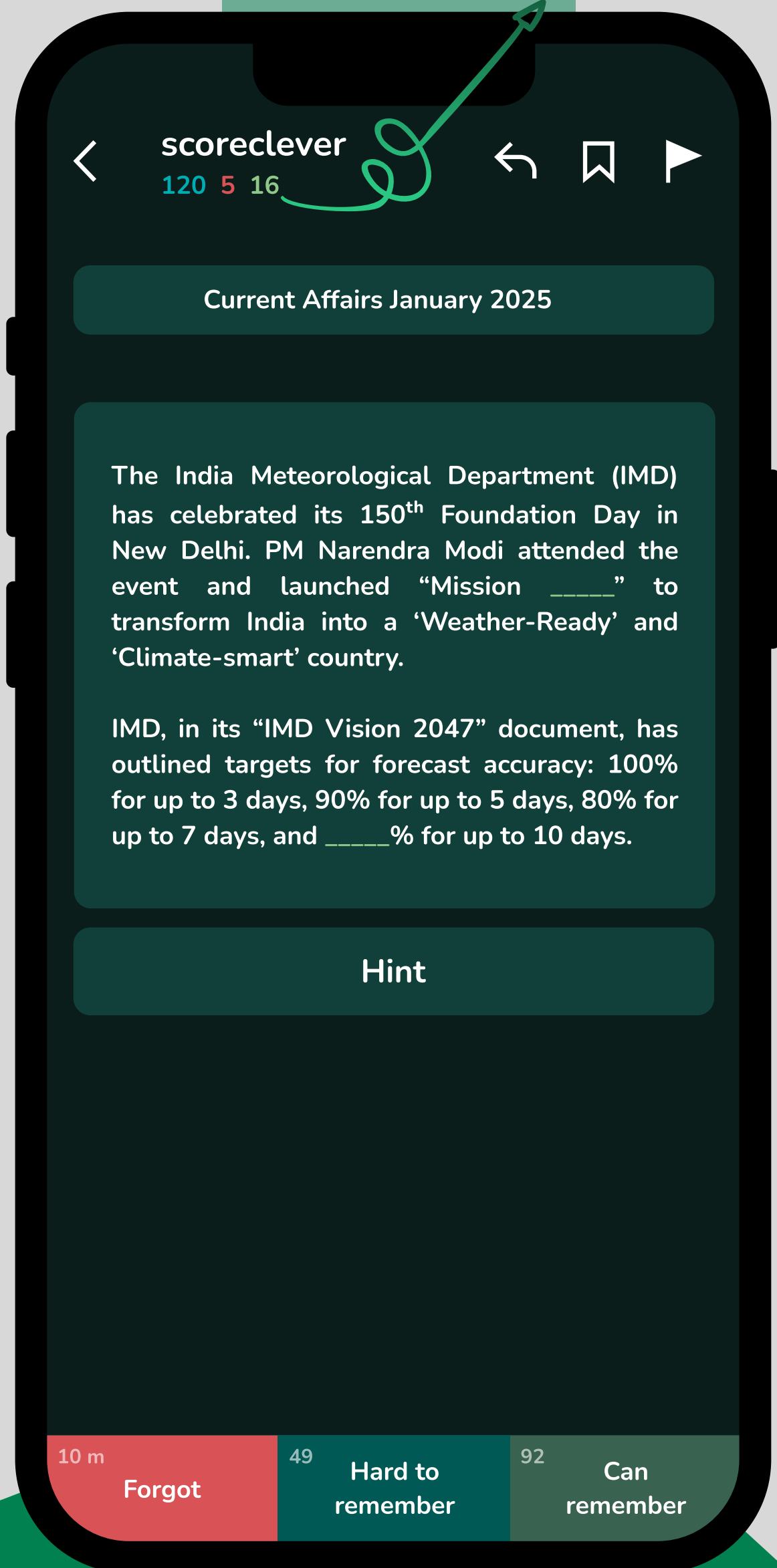
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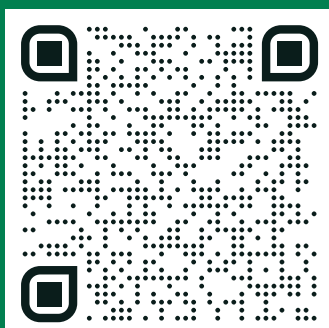
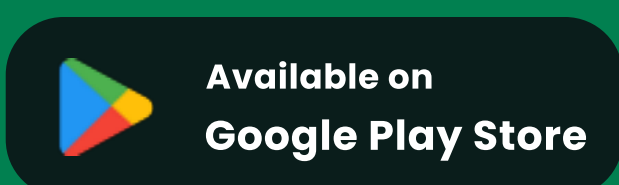
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