THE CAVALIER

SSB Weekly

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Week of 7 – 13 September 2026 · Current affairs for your SSB board

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Quick-fire facts · Lecturette: **India–China Relations** · GD: **Digital payments and fraud**

THE WEEK

Five stories the board may ask about

1 DEFENCE · PROCUREMENT

₹1.10 lakh cr of kit cleared, 98% from Indian industry

On 7 Sep the **Defence Acquisition Council**, chaired by Rajnath Singh, gave **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)** to proposals worth about ₹1.10 lakh cr, about 98% of it from Indian industry. The list includes Sarvatra mobile bridges, mine layers and ALH helicopters for the Army, Arudhra radars for the Navy, and the design of an **Indian marine gas turbine** for warships.

WHY IT MATTERS

AoN is only the first step; a contract follows trials and price talks, often years later. Our warships still run on imported US and Ukrainian gas turbines, a real weak spot.

YOUR BALANCED VIEW

Buying Indian builds a base no one can switch off. The test is speed: an AoN that takes a decade arrives as yesterday's kit.

IO MAY ASK

If Indian-made equipment is slower to come and sometimes costlier, why not just buy the best from abroad?

Source: PIB, MoD, 7 Sep

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2 DEFENCE · AIR FORCE

Tejas and Rafale fly with Japan's F-2s at Jodhpur

Exercise Veer Guardian 2026 between the IAF and the **Japan Air Self-Defense Force** runs at Jodhpur, 9–22 Sep. The IAF fields the Tejas, Su-30MKI and Rafale; Japan brings F-2A fighters. It is the first edition in India (the first was at Hyakuri, Japan, in 2023). Both sides fly **dissimilar air combat**, learning how an unfamiliar fighter turns and fights.

WHY IT MATTERS

Japan is a Quad partner and exercises with all three of our services. Its post-war Constitution (Article 9) is why its military is called a self-defence force.

YOUR BALANCED VIEW

Training with a capable democracy sharpens our pilots and signals intent, without a formal alliance or any promise to fight together.

IO MAY ASK

What does the IAF actually learn by flying against a foreign air force?

Source: PIB, MoD, 8 Sep

3 INTERNATIONAL · CHINA

Modi meets Xi: "differences should not become disputes"

On 12 Sep, on the sidelines of the **18th BRICS Summit** in New Delhi, PM Modi met President Xi Jinping, their first meeting since Aug 2025. He proposed **"three mutuals"**: mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interest. Peace on the border, he said, is the essential basis of ties. Both sides named the **structural trade imbalance** and market access as concerns.

WHY IT MATTERS

The LAC, about 3,488 km, was never jointly marked, and 2020 in eastern Ladakh showed the cost. Our trade deficit with China runs near $100 bn.

YOUR BALANCED VIEW

Talking is not trusting. This is stabilisation, not settlement: keep talking, keep the border strong, and make at home what we now import.

IO MAY ASK

Should India trade more with China, or cut its dependence on it?

Source: Cavalier daily, 12 Sep

4 NATIONAL · CYBER SECURITY

₹5,043 cr of cyber fraud stopped before it happened

The Department of Telecommunications said on 8 Sep that its **Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI)** has blocked suspected fraud worth ₹5,043.73 cr since May 2025. FRI rates a mobile number Medium, High or Very High risk, using citizen reports on **Sanchar Saathi**, police, telecom and bank data. Pay a flagged number and your UPI app can warn, hold or block the payment.

WHY IT MATTERS

Stolen money moves through mule accounts within minutes, so recovery is slow and rare. Reported cyber-fraud losses in 2024 were about ₹22,845 cr. Prevention beats chasing.

YOUR BALANCED VIEW

Technology helps, but the alert citizen is the first line of defence. One report on Chakshu can protect thousands.

IO MAY ASK

Whose job is it to stop online fraud: the bank, the government or the user?

Source: PIB, DoT, 8 Sep

5 SPORT · ASIAN GAMES

503 athletes head to the Asian Games in Japan

India's contingent for the **20th Asian Games** (Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, 19 Sep–4 Oct) was sent off in New Delhi on 8 Sep: 503 members, over 300 of them first-timers, picked through open trials. At Hangzhou (held in 2023) India won **107 medals**, its first time past

100. The Sports Minister tied the Games to India's bid for the **2036 Olympics**.

WHY IT MATTERS

The first Asian Games were held in New Delhi in 1951. Sport builds what the forces want: fitness, teamwork and grace under pressure.

YOUR BALANCED VIEW

Medals follow systems, not slogans. Fair trials and a deep junior pipeline matter more than one star.

IO MAY ASK

Why does a country of our size win so few Olympic medals?

Source: Cavalier daily, 8 Sep

QUICK-FIRE

Know these cold

Samudra Laksamana (4th)	India–Malaysia navies · Lumut, from 9 Sep · INS Mysore · on the Strait of Malacca
BRICS Summit (18th)	New Delhi, 12–13 Sep · India's 4th chairship · 11 members · 20 years of BRICS
Modi–Putin	Met 11 Sep on the BRICS sidelines · PM accepts invitation to the 24th Annual Summit in Russia
Space Summit	First International Space Summit, Paris, 10 Sep · PM by video: “cooperation over confrontation”
ORV Sagar Manthan	Launched 9 Sep at GRSE, Kolkata · India's first home-built ocean research ship · delivery 2028

President's Colour	Presented to Goa Police, Panaji, 7 Sep · the Navy was the first recipient, 1951
HPV vaccine	80 lakh+ single doses to 14-year-old girls · Gujarat, UP, MP and Mizoram at 100%
6G	India endorses the Call to Action for 6G Leadership and Security, 9 Sep
Moirang	VP visits the INA Museum, 8 Sep · INA first hoisted the Tricolour on the mainland here, 14 Apr 1944
Dates	9 Sep 9th Rashtriya Poshan Maah opens · 13 Sep one year of rail to Aizawl · 14 Sep Hindi Diwas

TALKING POINT

Talk to China at BRICS, fly with Japan at Jodhpur, sail with Malaysia at Lumut, and build the kit at home: **diplomacy works best from a position of strength**.

PRACTICE

Speak it

LECTURETTE OF THE WEEK

India–China Relations

Why now: This week Modi and Xi met at the BRICS Summit in New Delhi and put a new formula on record: “three mutuals”, and “differences should not become disputes”.

OPEN · 30S

"We share a border of about 3,488 km with China, and still no agreed line on the map." Today I will speak on India–China relations.

POINT 1 · 40S

The history. Panchsheel in 1954, war in 1962, normalisation from 1988, informal summits at Wuhan (2018) and Mamallapuram (2019), then the 2020 clashes in eastern Ladakh and phased disengagement by late 2024.

POINT 2 · 40S

The friction. An undelimited LAC; a trade deficit near $100 bn built on Chinese electronics, machinery and pharma ingredients; rivers like the Brahmaputra that rise in Tibet; and China's ties with Pakistan, including CPEC through PoK.

POINT 3 · 40S

The way ahead. Engage where interests meet, as in BRICS and the SCO; stay firm on the border; and cut dependence by making more at home through PLI schemes and the semiconductor push.

CLOSE · 30S

With China, India must be able to talk and to stand firm at the same time. Peace on the border is the price of normal ties, not a favour.

Learn the three mutuals in order: respect, sensitivity, interest. Keep the tone calm and factual; no chest-thumping.

How to give a lecturette → 110 lecturette topics →

GROUP DISCUSSION OF THE WEEK

“Digital payments have made Indians more vulnerable to fraud”

UPI now handles over **250 billion transactions a year**, more than half the world's by volume. On 8 Sep the telecom department said its fraud-risk check had stopped over ₹5,000 cr of suspected fraud in 15 months, more than ₹2,000 cr of it since April 2026 alone, as more banks and apps joined in.

FOR

- Fraud now moves at UPI speed, hopping through mule accounts in minutes.
- New and elderly users fall easily for fake KYC, lottery and impersonation calls.
- Cash had to be stolen in person; a scam call can reach anyone, anywhere.
- Recovery is slow: complaint, FIR, freeze, then months of follow-up.

AGAINST

- Every digital payment leaves a trail; stolen cash leaves none.
- The locks keep improving: risk scores, RBI's MuleHunter.AI and the 1930 helpline.
- Blocked fraud has grown from ₹660 cr in the first six months to over ₹5,000 cr.
- The weak link is awareness, not the technology. A user who verifies before paying is safe.

HOW TO CONCLUDE

Digital payments opened a wider door for fraudsters, but also built better locks. The answer is not going back to cash; it is a careful user: verify, report, call 1930.

GD guide for the SSB →

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Col Manoj Batra (Retd)



Col Vijayant Thakur (Retd)

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Facts from PIB press releases of the week. Views are framed for discussion practice.