

Monthly Current Affairs

September 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026

India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement to Come into Force

Publication Date: September 21, 2026

India and New Zealand have ratified their Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which is scheduled to enter into force on **20 October 2026**. The agreement provides **zero-duty access for 100% of India's exports to New Zealand from the first day**, covering sectors such as textiles, leather, footwear, engineering goods and agricultural processing.

📌 News Analysis:

The agreement is part of India's broader strategy of expanding market access and diversifying trade partnerships. It could provide opportunities for Indian MSMEs and export-oriented sectors while strengthening bilateral economic relations.

Why It Matters for India

- Expands India's export market.
- Supports diversification of India's trade partnerships.
- Potential opportunities for MSMEs, farmers and labour-intensive industries.
- Strengthens India-New Zealand economic and strategic relations.

📌 UPSC Focus

- **Prelims:** FTA, tariff, rules of origin, India-New Zealand relations.
- **Mains:** GS-II — International Relations; GS-III — Indian Economy and Trade.

Delhi Launches Portal under PM Surya Ghar Scheme

Publication Date: September 22, 2026

The Delhi government has launched a registration portal under the **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana** to facilitate rooftop solar adoption. The Delhi Solar Portal currently provides applications under the scheme and information on subsidies and rooftop-solar models.

📌 News Analysis:

Rooftop solar can reduce dependence on conventional electricity sources and contribute to India's renewable-energy transition. The initiative also highlights the role of states and Union Territories in implementing national clean-energy programmes.

Why It Matters for India

- Promotes decentralised renewable energy.
- Can reduce household electricity expenditure.
- Supports India's climate and clean-energy objectives.
- Encourages greater participation of households in solar generation.

📌 UPSC Focus

- **Prelims:** PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, rooftop solar, distributed generation.
- **Mains:** GS-III — Renewable Energy, Climate Change and Energy Security.

