



Weekly **Current Affairs**

27th Sep to 3rd Oct 2026

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NATIONAL NEWS



Tamil Nadu Launches 'Vetri Payanam Thittam' Scheme



- Tamil Nadu launched the expanded Vetri Payanam Scheme on 2 October 2026.
- The scheme provides free bus travel for women and transgender persons.
- The expanded facility covers Deluxe, Express, LSS and Mofussil Ordinary buses.

GOBARDhan Scheme Launched to Boost Compressed Biogas



- The GOBARDhan (Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) Scheme has a total financial outlay of ₹23,731 crore for the period FY 2026–27 to FY 2035–36.
- GOBARDhan is a Central Sector Scheme for the development of India's Compressed Biogas (CBG) sector, with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) as its nodal ministry.
- GOBARDhan was originally launched in 2018 under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) as part of Solid and Liquid Waste Management.

Cabinet Approves MSP for Rabi Crops for Marketing Season 2027-28

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved higher Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all mandated Rabi crops for Marketing Season 2027-28.
- The MSP for Rabi crops for Marketing Season 2027-28 increased as follows: Wheat by ₹25 to ₹2,610 per quintal, Barley by ₹136 to ₹2,286, Gram by ₹83 to ₹5,958, Lentil (Masur) by ₹390 to ₹7,390, Rapeseed & Mustard by ₹413 to ₹6,613, and Safflower by ₹675 to ₹7,215 per quintal, with Safflower receiving the highest increase among all Rabi crops.

Army Conducted 'Operation Drishti' in Kashmir's Border Areas



- The Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) conducted Operation Drishti, a series of mega eye-surgical camps aimed at providing advanced ophthalmic care to people in remote and forward areas of Jammu & Kashmir.
- The Kashmir leg of Operation Drishti was conducted in Tangdhar and Srinagar.
- The next phase of Operation Drishti is scheduled to be conducted in Odisha.

Jharkhand's Traditional Musical Instrument 'Mandar' Gets GI Tag



- Mandar, a traditional folk percussion instrument of Jharkhand, has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Jharkhand received GI registration for Jharkhand Dokra Craft, Tribal Jewellery, Bamboo Crafts, and Tussar Silk Sarees & Fabrics.
- Darjeeling Tea of West Bengal was the first product to receive GI registration in India.

Environment Ministry Issues India's First 'PRAMAAN' Certificates



- India's first PRAMAAN certificates under the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS).
- The first certificates were given to Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation (APFDC) and a bamboo farmer from Odisha.
- Certification bodies are accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) under the Quality Council of India (QCI).

Kolkata to Host India Energy Week



- IEW 2027 will be held from 28–31 January 2027.
- The venue will be the New Town Convention Centre, Kolkata.
- The theme of IEW 2027 is “Unlocking Innovation. Securing Energy. Shaping Tomorrow.”

UIDAI Launches 5 New Aadhaar Initiatives at Samvaad Kolkata



- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) unveiled five new initiatives at Aadhaar Samvaad Kolkata.
- The five initiatives include Face Authentication for e-PDS, SWIK Portal 2.0, Sub-AUA/Sub-KUA (LITE) framework, Token Management System, and a revamped UIDAI website with BHASHINI integration.
- UIDAI functions under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

11th BIMSTEC Counter-Terrorism Meeting Held in New Delhi

- The 11th BIMSTEC Joint Working Group Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime was held in New Delhi.
- The participating countries were Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) was established on 6 June 1997, and its Secretariat is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

CJI Justice Surya Kant Inaugurates First Victim Rights Centre in Patna

- The centre has been established on the premises of the Bihar State Legal Services Authority (BSLSA).
- It will provide legal assistance, psychological support, counselling and other essential services to victims under a single-window mechanism.
- Along with the VRC, a Transgender Helpline was launched and Multi-Utility Vehicles were flagged off to take legal-aid services closer to people.

- The fund is an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) jointly initiated by Unicorn India Ventures (UIV) and IIT Madras/IIT Madras Research Park.
- The fund has a target corpus of ₹1,000 crore, including a ₹400-crore greenshoe option.

Delhi Ranks Highest Among Indian Cities in Oxford Global Cities Index



- Delhi emerged as the highest-ranked Indian city in the Oxford Economics Global Cities Index 2026, securing 268th position globally.
- New York retained the global first position, followed by London and Paris.
- In the overall Indian ranking, Delhi was followed by Bengaluru (311st), Mumbai (330th), Chennai (381st), Hyderabad (421st) and Pune (427th).

Uttar Pradesh Targets ₹5 Lakh Crore in Annual Exports by 2030



- Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal stated that Uttar Pradesh aims to increase its annual exports from around ₹2 lakh crore to ₹5 lakh crore by 2030.
- Key sectors highlighted include defence, semiconductors, electronics and high-technology industries.
- The Uttar Pradesh Export Promotion Policy 2025–30 separately targets an increase in exports from US\$21 billion in FY2024 to US\$50 billion by FY2030.

Amit Shah Launches Extradition Portal Under PRAHAAR Strategy



- The portal aims to synergise and expedite efforts to bring fugitives back to India from abroad.
- The PRAHAAR strategy was unveiled by the Ministry of Home Affairs on 23 February 2026 as India's first comprehensive National Counter Terrorism Policy & Strategy.
- PRAHAAR is based on seven pillars: Prevention; Response; Aggregating Internal Capacities; Human Rights; Attenuating Conditions for Terrorism; Aligning International Efforts; and Recovery & Resilience.

Finance Minister Launches IIT Madras Unicorn Fund in Bengaluru



- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the IITM Unicorn Frontier Fund-I at the 7th edition of IIT Madras Alumni Association (IITMAA) Sangam 2026 in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Government Launches Digital Livestock Insurance Portal



- The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying launched the Livestock Insurance Portal in New Delhi.
- The portal will be available in 11 regional languages, in addition to Hindi and English.
- It will streamline policy issuance, claim processing, monitoring and reporting under the Livestock Insurance Scheme.

India Ranks 31st in WEF Travel & Tourism Development Index.



- India ranked 31st among 110 economies in the Travel & Tourism Development Index (TTDI) 2026 released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- India recorded a score of 4.42 out of 7.
- Japan topped the 2026 index, followed by the United States and Spain.

India Secures Two Spots in Lonely Planet's Best in Travel 2027



- Gujarat has been selected among the 25 destinations to visit.

- Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (Toy Train), a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is featured as a top travel experience.
- Australia's Red Centre, Italy's Veneto, and New Mexico, USA, were the first three destinations listed in Lonely Planet's Best in Travel 2027.

India Signs UN Convention Against Cybercrime



- India signed the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime in September 2026 in New York during the 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar signed the Convention on behalf of India.
- It is the first comprehensive global treaty on cybercrime adopted under the UN framework.

India–Netherlands Sign MoUs on Gujarat's Kalpasar Project



- India and the Netherlands signed two MoUs for technical cooperation and capacity building on Gujarat's Kalpasar Project.
- The agreements were signed during the 9th India International Water Week (IIWW) 2026 in New Delhi.
- The project envisages creation of a freshwater reservoir using runoff from the Sabarmati, Mahi and Dhadhar rivers, supplemented by water conveyed from the Narmada River.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



California bans child marriage, sets 18 as minimum age



- California became the 18th U.S. state to completely ban child marriage without exceptions, setting the minimum marriage age at 18 years.
- The law will come into effect on 1 January 2027.
- In India, the minimum legal marriage age is 18 years for females and 21 years for males, with Bal Vivah Mukat Bharat aiming to make India child-marriage-free by 2030.

Trump Rebrands AI as 'Super Intelligence' in White House Accord



- The Executive Order is titled "Inaugurating the Era of Super Intelligence."
- The agreement is called the "Joint Commitment on Frontier Responsibilities", also referred to as the White House Accord on Super Intelligence.
- Executives from Meta, Nvidia, xAI, OpenAI, Google and Anthropic signed the accord.

UN Adopts First Declaration on Sea-Level Rise and Island Statehood



- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted its first-ever common declaration on sea-level rise at a high-level meeting in New York.
- The declaration addresses the existential threats posed by rising sea levels, particularly for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and low-lying coastal countries.
- It was the first time all UN Member States agreed on a single common text specifically addressing sea-level rise.

Bangladesh Launches Emergency Measles-Rubella Campaign



- The Government of Bangladesh, with support from WHO, UNICEF and Gavi, launched an emergency measles-rubella vaccination campaign.
- The campaign aimed to protect more than 1.2 million children.
- It targeted children aged 6 months to 5 years.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



Smit Machchhar to Receive Vishisht Gujarat Garima Award



- Captain Smit Machchhar, a flydubai pilot, will receive the Vishisht Gujarat Garima Award.
- Machchhar was the captain of flydubai Flight FZ1073, travelling from Dubai to Tel Aviv.
- The aircraft was a Boeing 737 MAX 8 carrying 174 passengers.

Shantanu Moitra to Receive National Lata Mangeshkar Award



- The award is given by the Government of Madhya Pradesh for contribution to music direction.
- The award carries a ₹5 lakh tax-free cash prize and citation.
- In 2014, Shantanu Moitra received the National Film Award for Best Music Direction (Background Score) for the Telugu film Na Bangaru Talli.

NEW APPOINTMENTS



Fatima Zahra El Mansouri Becomes Morocco's 1st Woman P.M.



- She succeeded Aziz Akhannouch as the Head of Government (Prime Minister) of Morocco.
- Mansouri became the second woman to serve as Prime Minister in the Arab world, after Tunisia's Najla Bouden.
- She was appointed by King Mohammed VI of Morocco.

Govt Appoints Dinesh Pant & Girija Subramanian as IRDAI Members



- Dinesh Pant, Managing Director of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), was appointed Whole-Time Member (Actuary).
- Girija Subramanian, Chairman-cum-Managing Director of The New India Assurance Company Ltd., was appointed Whole-Time Member (Distribution).
- Both appointments were made for a five-year term.

Mandeep K. Bhandari Appointed New CBSE Chairperson



- Mandeep K. Bhandari, a 2001-batch IAS officer of the AGMUT cadre, has been appointed Chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).
- He will replace Lokhande Prashant Sitaram, who was holding additional charge of CBSE Chairperson.
- CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Education) Headquarters: New Delhi, India.

BANKING NEWS



Anup Kumar Saha to Become Kotak Mahindra Bank MD & CEO



- Anup Kumar Saha has been approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as the next MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank.
- He will succeed Ashok Vaswani, whose current term ends on 31 December 2026.
- His appointment is for a 3-year term.

Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026 Comes into Force from October 1



- Replaces the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891.
- Covers banking records in physical, electronic, digital, virtual and cloud-based forms as evidence.
- Provides standardised certification of bank records through manual, digital or electronic signatures.

SPORTS



ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2027 Begins on 2 October



- The 14th edition of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup will be jointly hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.
- The tournament will feature 14 teams, 57 matches and 12 venues.
- The tournament begins with a three-team Super Series in Windhoek, Namibia.

Lovlina Borgohain Wins Boxing Gold at Asian Games 2026



- Lovlina Borgohain won the gold medal in women's 75 kg boxing at the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.
- She defeated China's Bao Ziyi by a 5–0 unanimous decision in the final on 2 October 2026.
- She became the second Indian woman boxer to win Asian Games gold, after Mary Kom, who won the 51 kg title at the 2014 Asian Games.

Neeru Dhanda Wins Asian Games Gold in Women's Trap



- Neeru Dhanda, a 26-year-old shooter from Haryana, won the gold medal in the women's individual trap event at the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.
- She became the first Indian woman to win an individual Asian Games gold medal in trap shooting.
- China's Sun Yunong won silver with 26, while Kuwait's Abdulmalik Hajar won bronze with 21.

Bodhana Sivanandan Becomes Youngest Woman Grandmaster



- Bodhana Sivanandan, an 11-year-old Indian-origin chess prodigy representing England, has become the youngest-ever player to fulfil the requirements for the Woman Grandmaster (WGM) title.
- She achieved her third and final WGM norm at the 46th FIDE Chess Olympiad 2026, held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.
- Bodhana played all 11 rounds on England's top board & finished the tournament with 8 points.

India to Host Asian Pencak Silat Championships 2027 in Goa



- The venue will be the Manohar Parrikar Stadium, Goa.
- The event will be hosted by the Indian Pencak Silat Federation (IPSF).
- The event will bring together leading Junior and Senior Pencak Silat athletes from across Asia.

Esha Singh Wins Silver in Women's 25m Pistol at Asian Games

- Indian shooter Esha Singh won the silver medal in the women's 25-metre pistol individual event at the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.
- Esha Singh, a 21-year-old Indian sport shooter from Hyderabad, Telangana, specializing in pistol events, won the silver medal with 38 points.
- Xiao Jiaruixuan (China) won the gold medal and Kim Hyon Suk (Republic of Korea) won the bronze medal with 34 hits in the Women's 25m Pistol event.

India Ranks 10th at WorldSkills Shanghai 2026



- India secured 10th position at the 48th WorldSkills Competition, held in Shanghai, China.

- Team India won 6 Silver Medals and 20 Medals for Excellence.
- India improved from its previous 13th-place finish at WorldSkills Lyon 2024 to 10th position in Shanghai.

India Wins Men's and Women's Kabaddi Gold at Asian Games 2026



- India won gold medals in both men's and women's Kabaddi at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games 2026 in Japan.
- India defeated Iran in both Kabaddi finals, with the men's team winning 40–34 and the women's team winning 37–34.
- Sunil Kumar captained the Indian men's team, while Pushpa Rana captained the women's team.

India Clinches Double Medal at Chess Olympiad



- India won two medals at the 46th FIDE Chess Olympiad 2026 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, with the men's team winning Silver in the Open section and the women's team securing Bronze.
- In the Open (men's) section, Uzbekistan won Gold, India won Silver, and Germany secured Bronze.
- In the Women's section of the 46th FIDE Chess Olympiad 2026, China won the Gold medal, Kazakhstan secured Silver, and India won the Bronze medal.

Sawan Barwal Wins Silver in Asian Games 2026 Marathon



- Himachal Pradesh-born Indian Army athlete Sawan Barwal won the silver medal in the men's marathon at the 2026 Asian Games in Nagoya, Japan.
- He clocked 2:11:37, setting a new national record and personal best.
- Japan's Ichitaka Yamashita won gold with 2:10:49, while China's Peiyu Feng won bronze with 2:12:13.

DEFENCE & TECHNOLOGY



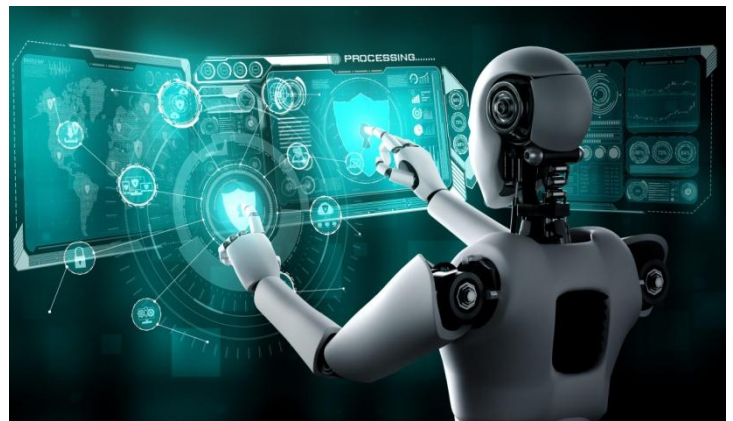
NASA and SpaceX Launch Crew-13 Mission



- NASA and SpaceX launched the Crew-13 mission to the International Space Station (ISS).
- The launch vehicle was a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket carrying a Dragon spacecraft.
- The four-member crew includes Jessica Watkins (NASA, Commander), Luke Delaney (NASA, Pilot), Joshua Kutryk (CSA, Mission Specialist) and Sergey Teteryatnikov (Roscosmos, Mission Specialist).

- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) had identified 13 high-risk glacial lakes in Uttarakhand, with five placed in the highest-risk Category A; Vasundhara Tal is among these identified lakes.

CAG Launches AI Translation Platform for Official Documents



- The Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD), under the Digital India Corporation (DIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), in collaboration with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), launched "CAG-BHASHINI Anuvaad."
- The platform was launched at the CAG Office, New Delhi, during the closing ceremony of the 74th Hindi Diwas and Hindi Pakhwada 2026.
- CAG-BHASHINI Anuvaad is an AI-enabled document translation solution developed using BHASHINI's Language AI technology.

Uttarakhand Installs First Glacial Lake Early-Warning System

- Uttarakhand is installing its first Glacial Lake Early-Warning System (GLEWS) at Vasundhara Tal in Chamoli district to monitor the lake in real time and detect conditions that could lead to a Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF).
- Vasundhara Tal was selected because it is among the glacial lakes considered vulnerable to GLOF-related hazards.

US Launches FORTRESS America Defence Security Initiative

- The United States Department of War announced FORTRESS America on 30 September 2026 as a new programme focused on strengthening the resilience, readiness and self-sufficiency of U.S. military installations.
- FORTRESS stands for “Federal Operations for Resilience, Troop Resources, Energy, Supply, and Survivability.”
- FORTRESS America is described by the Department of War as a “national insurance policy” for the American homeland.

TakeMe2Space to Launch India’s First Orbital Data Centre Mission



- TakeMe2Space, a Hyderabad-based space-tech startup, plans to launch India’s first networked orbital data centre mission in late 2028.
- The mission will use two 100-kg MOI satellites, each equipped with NVIDIA Thor GPUs and 100 TB of storage.
- The satellites are planned to launch aboard SpaceX’s Falcon 9 under the Waymaker-2 rideshare mission.

Kandla to Develop India’s 1st Port-Based E-Methanol Facility

- The foundation stone for India’s first port-based e-methanol production facility was laid at Deendayal Port Authority (DPA), Kandla, Gandhidham, Gujarat.
- The facility will have a total production capacity of 150 tonnes per day (TPD) of e-methanol.

- The project is a joint initiative of Deendayal Port Authority (DPA) and Assam Petro-Chemicals Ltd. (APCL), based in Namrup, Assam.

India–Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise KAZIND-2026 Begins



- The 9th edition of the India–Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise KAZIND-2026 is being conducted at Oskemen, Kazakhstan.
- The Indian contingent consists of 60 personnel, drawn mainly from a battalion of the GARHWAL RIFLES, along with personnel from other arms, services and the Indian Air Force.
- The exercise focuses on joint counter-terrorism operations in semi-urban and mountainous terrain under a UN mandate.

India’s First LNG-Powered Train Flagged Off from Sabarmati



- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah flagged off India’s first LNG-powered train from Sabarmati Railway Station, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- The train uses a dual-fuel system of Diesel and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG).
- The LNG system has been introduced in the train’s Driving Power Cars (DPCs) as an alternative to conventional diesel fuel.