



Weekly **Current Affairs**

13th to 19th Sept. 2026

NATIONAL NEWS



Uttarakhand Launches 'Seva Sankalp' Campaign



- The campaign is based on four key themes: Service, Public Participation, Dialogue and Innovation.
- 11 major programmes have been proposed across the state, involving students, youth, women, beneficiaries, parents, elected representatives, social organisations and citizens.
- It's aligned with vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Government Approves 18.77 Lakh Houses Under PMAY-U 2.0



- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has approved 18.77 lakh houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0).
- These approvals covered Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Telangana, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh.
- Category-wise, 3.25 lakh houses have been sanctioned for SC beneficiaries, 1.02 lakh for ST beneficiaries and 8.22 lakh for OBC beneficiaries.

India to Host World Circular Economy Forum 2026



- India will host the World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF) 2026 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The theme of WCEF 2026 is “Circular Economy: Transition for People and Prosperity.”
- This will be the first time that the World Circular Economy Forum is being held in South Asia.

Tata Steel Commissions India's First COG Injection Project in Odisha



- Tata Steel has commissioned India's first Coke Oven Gas (COG) injection project at its Meramandali plant in Odisha.
- The project has been commissioned at Blast Furnace 1 of the Meramandali steel plant.
- Coke Oven Gas is a hydrogen- and hydrocarbon-rich by-product gas generated during coke production.

PM Modi to Inaugurate SEMICON India 2026 at Yashobhoomi



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate SEMICON India 2026 at Yashobhoomi (India International Convention and Expo Centre), Dwarka, New Delhi.
- It is the 5th edition of SEMICON India.
- The theme of SEMICON India 2026 is “Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem.”

Dr Jitendra Singh launches ‘SPROUT’ Genome Facility



- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the SPROUT facility at BRIC-National Institute of Plant Genome Research (BRIC-NIPGR), New Delhi.
- SPROUT stands for Speed Seed Phenotyping and Resource Optimization for Unified Trait Analysis.
- SPROUT is an indigenous, season-independent, controlled-environment facility with a major focus on chickpea research.

Ashwini Vaishnaw launches India's first salt-container train



- Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw flagged off a salt-loaded freight train from Shivlakhia GCT to Mithapur, Gujarat.
- The train uses lightweight stainless-steel salt containers.
- Shivlakhia Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal (GCT) was inaugurated, while 3 GCTs at Bhimasar, Devaliya & Chandisar were dedicated to nation.

Delhi doubles monthly incentive for ASHA workers



- The Delhi Government approved doubling the fixed monthly incentive for ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) workers from ₹3,000 to ₹6,000.
- ASHA Workers were introduced under NRHM (2005) and serve as a link between the community and the health system, with incentive-based payment.
- An ASHA is a local woman, preferably aged 25–45 years and married/widowed/divorced, with preference to women educated up to Class 10.

DoRD and PFRDA sign MoU, 'Pension Sakhis'



- Department of Rural Development and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority signed an MoU to establish a community-based outreach mechanism of 'Pension Sakhis' across rural India.
- Pension Sakhis are trained women/community resource persons who promote pension awareness, financial literacy and pension enrolment among rural households.

Kumik Declared Ladakh's First Heritage Village



- Kumik village in Zaskar, Ladakh has been declared Ladakh's first designated Heritage Village.
- The declaration was made by Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena, during the Ladakh Zaskar Festival 2026.
- The village preserves important Kanjur/Kangyur Buddhist manuscripts.

Delhi Tops NITI Aayog's Electric Mobility Index



- Delhi topped the index with an overall score of 84.
- Maharashtra secured the second position with 78 points, while Karnataka ranked third with 73 points.
- Delhi improved its score from 77 in the previous edition to 84 in IEMI 2025.

India Launches Net Zero Portal and NAPCC Dashboard



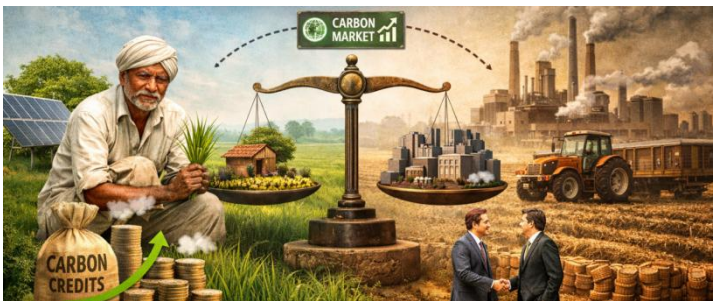
- India's Net Zero Portal and NAPCC Dashboard were launched on the occasion of World Ozone Day 2026.
- The 2026 World Ozone Day theme was "Global Action for a Cooler Planet."
- The NAPCC Dashboard provides information on the progress and implementation of 8 National Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change.

EPFO Wage Ceiling Increased from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000



- Employees drawing wages between ₹15,000 and ₹25,000 per month will become eligible for mandatory EPFO coverage, subject to applicable provisions.
- The estimated annual Government outgo is around ₹11,339 crore, compared with existing annual budgetary support of around ₹10,250 crore.
- EPFO functions under the Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India.

India Begins First Soil Carbon Payments for Farmers



- India has made its first soil-carbon payments to farmers, marking a shift from agricultural carbon-market policy to actual farm-level payments.
- More than 2,500 smallholder farmers from Punjab and Haryana are set to receive over ₹2.9 crore through digital payments.
- The first payments were initiated at Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana, making Ludhiana an important location associated with this initiative.

Ladakh Unveils World's Highest Flower Fields at 10,600 Feet



- Ladakh Administration inaugurated the world's highest-altitude twin flower fields at Choglamsar and Stakna in Leh.
- The flower fields are located at an altitude of approximately 10,600 feet (3,230 metres).
- The twin fields cover a combined area of around 40 acres.

India Ranks 131st in Global Gender Gap Index 2026



- The World Economic Forum (WEF) released the Global Gender Gap Report 2026, marking the 20th edition of the index.
- Iceland ranked 1st, Finland ranked 2nd, and Norway ranked 3rd in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index 2026.
- India ranked 131st out of 145 economies, with a gender-parity score of 64.5%.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



World's First Artificial Energy Island – Belgium



- Belgium is developing the world's first artificial energy island, named Princess Elisabeth Island.
- It is being developed by Belgian electricity transmission system operator Elia.
- The island will be located approximately 40 km off the coast of Ostend in the North Sea.

Inaugural International Space Summit 2026 Held in Paris



- The first International Space Summit was held in Paris, France, at the Grand Palais.
- The event was held at the invitation of the President of France, with astronaut Thomas Pesquet and entrepreneur Hélène Huby serving as special envoys.
- The summit was co-organised with Germany and had a strong focus on strengthening European cooperation and European space autonomy.

Nairobi to Host 2029 World Athletics Championships in Africa



- The decision was taken by the World Athletics Council during its 242nd Council Meeting held in Budapest, Hungary, in 2026.
- Nairobi, Kenya, will host the 2029 World Athletics Championships—the first edition to be held in Africa—while Munich, Germany, has been selected to host the 2031 edition.
- Before Nairobi 2029, the championships will be held in Beijing, China, in 2027.

GIFT City Advances to 37th Spot in Global Financial Centres Index



- GIFT City, Gujarat, has climbed nine places to 37th globally in the 40th edition of the Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI 40), rising from 46th in GFCI 39.
- Mumbai also improved its position, rising to 49th globally in GFCI 40.
- 1st Rank is New York, USA, in the Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI 40), with a rating of 761

NEW APPOINTMENTS



Michael Kremer Appointed as World Bank Group Chief Economist



- He will succeed Indermit Gill as World Bank Group Chief Economist.
- The appointment was announced by World Bank Group President Ajay Banga.
- The World Bank Group (WBG) is headquartered in Washington, D.C., United States.

Tavengwa Mukuhalani Appointed ICC Deputy Chairperson



- Tavengwa Mukuhalani, Chairman of Zimbabwe Cricket, has been appointed as the Deputy Chairperson of the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- He succeeds Imran Khwaja of Singapore.
- The appointment comes ahead of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2027, which will be hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Sanjukta Parashar Becomes First Woman to Head CRPF CoBRA



- She has been appointed as Inspector General (IG) of the CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) Sector of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
- CoBRA is a specialised commando force of the CRPF, primarily trained for jungle warfare and counter-insurgency operations.
- Sanjukta Parashar is an IPS officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre and is from Assam, India.

Luke Lindberg Appointed New World Food Programme Chief



- He previously served as Under Secretary at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).
- He succeeded Cindy McCain as executive director.
- WFP is a United Nations agency that works to fight global hunger and provide food assistance.

BANKING NEWS



Axis Bank Launches Sparsh Week



- Axis Bank launched Sparsh Week 2026, its flagship customer-engagement initiative.
- The theme of Sparsh Week 2026 is “Act with Speed.”
- The programme aims to strengthen customer-centricity by directly engaging with customers and understanding their needs.

UPI Payments Up to ₹2,000 to Remain Free of MDR



- The new UPI framework keeps all person-to-person (P2P) UPI transactions completely free, irrespective of the amount.
- Person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions up to ₹2,000 will remain free of MDR.
- Small merchants receiving up to ₹1 lakh per month through UPI QR codes under the P2PM category continue to enjoy zero MDR.

Bankers' Books Evidence Act 2026



- The Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026 will come into force from 1 October 2026.
- The new Act replaces the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891.
- The main objective is to modernise the legal framework for using banking records as evidence in legal proceedings.

Moody's Raises India's GDP Growth Forecast to 7%



- Moody's Ratings has raised its forecast for India's real GDP growth in FY 2026–27 to 7%, up from its earlier estimate of 6%.
- Moody's 7% forecast is higher than the IMF's 6.4% forecast for FY27.
- Major global credit rating agencies are S&P Global, Moody's Ratings, Fitch Ratings etc.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



DFS wins 1st Rajbhasha Kirti Prize



- The Department of Financial Services (DFS) won the First Prize under 'Rajbhasha Kirti' for 2025–26.
- The award was given in the category of ministries/departments with fewer than 300 personnel.
- The award recognises outstanding implementation and innovative achievements in Official Language Hindi.

Anant Nag to Receive Dadasaheb Phalke Award



- Veteran actor Anant Nag has been selected for the Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2024 for his contribution to Indian cinema.
- The award will be presented at the 72nd National Film Awards ceremony, which will be held at Ekta Nagar (Kevadia), Gujarat.
- Anant Nag was born in Karnataka and is a veteran Kannada actor.

SPORTS



Tanya Chaudhary Breaks National Hammer Throw Record



- Tanya Chaudhary, representing Uttar Pradesh, created a new Indian national record in women's hammer throw.
- She achieved a throw of 68.35 metres at the Indian Athletics Series Final.
- She surpassed the previous national record of 67.02 metres, set by fellow Uttar Pradesh athlete Anushka Yadav.

India Wins Double Gold at Junior Hockey Asia Cup 2026



- India won both the men's and women's titles at the Junior Hockey Asia Cup 2026, held at the Moqi Training Base in China.
- India's women's team defeated China 1–0, while the men's team defeated South Korea 4–1 in their respective finals.
- The men's victory gave India its record sixth Junior Men's Asia Cup title.

Dhiraj Bommadevara Wins Archery World Cup Final, 1st Indian Man



- Dhiraj Bommadevara won the men's recurve title at the 2026 Hyundai Archery World Cup Final in Saltillo, Mexico.
- He defeated Japan's Junya Nakanishi in the final after the match went to a shoot-off.
- Bommadevara won the shoot-off with a 10-X, while Nakanishi's final arrow went wide.

India wins record eighth Women's Asia Cup



- India won the 2026 Women's Asia Cup by defeating Sri Lanka by 72 runs in the final in Dubai.
- India scored 183/5, while Sri Lanka were bowled out for 111 runs.
- Shafali Verma scored 68 runs off 39 balls, while Smriti Mandhana contributed 59 runs off 39 balls in the final.

Brendan Taylor Breaks Sachin Tendulkar's ODI Career Record



- Zimbabwean cricketer Brendan Taylor has surpassed Sachin Tendulkar's record for the longest career in men's ODI cricket.
- Brendan Taylor's ODI career has spanned 22 years and 148 days, surpassing Sachin Tendulkar's 22-year-and-91-day ODI career.
- He achieved the milestone after taking the field against Australia in the first ODI of their series.

NCC Girl Cadets Complete 'Aparajita-Parang La 2026' Trek



- 20 NCC girl cadets successfully completed the Aparajita-Parang La 2026 High Altitude Long Trek.
- The cadets crossed Parang La Pass at an altitude of 5,578 metres (18,300 feet).
- Parang La Pass connects Spiti Valley in Himachal Pradesh with the Changthang region of Ladakh.

DEFENCE & TECHNOLOGY



India–USA Joint Military Exercise ‘Yudh Abhyas 2026’



- Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2026 is the 22nd edition of the annual India–US bilateral military exercise.
- It involves the Indian Army and United States Army.
- The exercise is designed to strengthen interoperability, military cooperation and mutual understanding between the two armies.

Yudh Abhyas 2026 begins With India-US Armies



- The 22nd edition of the India-US Joint Military Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2026.
- The opening ceremony was held at Auli Foreign Training Node, Uttarakhand.
- Other major joint military and defence exercises between India and the United States include such as Vajra Prahar (Special Forces), Cope India (Air Force), Tiger Triumph (Tri-Service).

PM-SETU Approves ₹735.70 Crore for ITI Clusters



- The National Steering Committee (NSC) of PM-SETU approved investment plans worth ₹735.70 crore for ITI clusters.
- PM-SETU stands for Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs.
- The approved ₹735.70 crore investment covers ITI clusters in Rajasthan (₹241 crore – Bhiwadi), Uttar Pradesh (₹240.40 crore – Meerut), and Telangana (₹254.30 crore – Medchal).

CSIR-NIScPR Adopts SARAL AI



- SARAL AI is an AI-based platform developed under the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) to make scholarly research more accessible.
- CSIR-NIScPR (CSIR–National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research) has promoted the use of SARAL AI for science communication and knowledge dissemination.
- The platform supports content generation in 18 Indian languages, helping make scientific knowledge accessible to a wider audience.