



Weekly **Current Affairs**

20th to 26th Sept. 2026

NATIONAL NEWS



Sikkim Launches AI-FunZone in Government Schools



- The Government of Sikkim, in collaboration with the EkStep Foundation, has begun implementing the AI-FunZone project in government schools.
- The programme focuses on foundational literacy and numeracy in English, Nepali and Mathematics.
- The programme includes a 60-minute AI-FunZone class within the regular school day.

Delhi Launches PM Surya Ghar Portal



- The portal has been launched under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana to facilitate the installation of rooftop solar systems for households in Delhi.
- Under Delhi's PM Surya Ghar / Delhi Solar initiative, eligible households can receive combined Central and Delhi Government subsidy of up to ₹1.56 lakh for rooftop solar systems up to 3 kW.

- The Central Government subsidy under PM Surya Ghar is ₹30,000 per kW for the first 2 kW and ₹18,000 per kW for additional capacity up to 3 kW, with the total Central subsidy capped at ₹78,000.

Punjab Government Notifies 8% DA Hike for Employees and Pensioners



- The Punjab Government has formally notified an 8% increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) for state government employees.
- The existing DA rate has increased from 42% to 50%.
- The enhanced DA is effective from 1 Sept. 2026.

Delhi Launches DURGA Scheme for 1,300 Pink E-Autos



- The Delhi Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, approved the DURGA e-auto scheme.
- DURGA stands for Driving Upliftment and Rozgar for Women/Transgender Green E-Auto.
- The scheme aims to provide safe, clean and dignified employment opportunities to women and transgender persons.

WEF Survey Places India at Top of Global Growth Outlook



- The World Economic Forum (WEF) published its Chief Economists' Outlook – September 2026.
- India was marginally ahead of South-East Asia, where 73% of economists expected strong or very strong growth.
- The World Economic Forum (WEF), headquartered in Cologny, Geneva, Switzerland.

Ministry of Ayush to host 11th Ayurveda Day in Nagpur

- The 11th Ayurveda Day will be hosted by the Ministry of Ayush in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- The theme of 11th Ayurveda Day is “Ayurveda for a Healthier Tomorrow.”
- Safety Dossiers on Gokshura (*Tribulus terrestris*) and Chandrasura (*Lepidium sativum*) will be launched during the celebrations.

7th OPEC–India Energy Dialogue Held in New Delhi



- The meeting was co-chaired by Hardeep Singh Puri, India's Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and Haitham Al Ghais, Secretary General of OPEC.
- OPEC was established at the Baghdad Conference in Iraq in September 1960 by five founding members—Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela—with its headquarters in Vienna, Austria.

- 8th High-Level Meeting of the OPEC–India Energy Dialogue will be held at a mutually convenient date in Vienna, Austria.

Ministry of health launches 7th National Formulary of India



- Union Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers, Anupriya Patel, launched the 7th Edition of the National Formulary of India (NFI) 2026.
- The launch was organised by the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.
- The National Formulary of India (NFI) is a guidance document for healthcare professionals that promotes the rational and safe use of medicines.

NHAI signs pact with SSNNL to fast-track infra projects in Gujarat



- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited (SSNNL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The MoU establishes a simplified and time-bound approval framework for National Highway, canal and pipeline crossings in Gujarat.
- The headquarters of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is located in New Delhi.

Delhi's Chandni Chowk Town Hall to Become Global Heritage Centre



- Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation (DTTDC) and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to redevelop the historic Chandni Chowk Town Hall as a Global Heritage Centre.
- The project covers the historic Town Hall, Press Building and adjoining Park.
- The Town Hall is classified as a Grade-I heritage property.

Jharkhand Celebrates Karam Festival with Cultural Programme



- The festival symbolises crop protection, respect for nature and the bond between brothers and sisters.
- On the occasion, sisters traditionally observe a Nirjala fast and pray for the well-being and long life of their brothers.
- A sacred branch of the Karam tree is installed at the akhara during the festival.

Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan Inaugurates 38th Pune Festival

- Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan inaugurated the 38th Pune Festival at Shri Ganesh Kala KridaRangmanch, Pune.
- The festival was dedicated to the memory of its founder, Suresh Kalmadi.

- Veteran actor Mohan Joshi received the newly instituted Founder Suresh Kalmadi Pune Festival Lifetime Achievement Award.

Odisha Plans 870-Acre Silicon Valley Hub in Cuttack



- Odisha signed an LoI with QuadQuantum for a facility to manufacture silicon carbide (SiC) substrate wafers.
- The site has access to Paradip and Dhamra ports, major national highways and the Cuttack–Bhubaneswar corridor.
- Odisha received proposals worth about ₹23,600 crore, with potential to create around 6,100 jobs, during SEMICON India 2026.

Andhra Pradesh Police Launches AI Drone Portal, SafeStay App



- Andhra Pradesh Police has introduced two technology-based initiatives are the AI-based Centralised Drone Monitoring Portal (CDMP) and the SafeStay AP application.
- The initiatives were launched in Guntur by Andhra Pradesh DGP Harish Kumar Gupta.
- The SafeStay AP application provides police with real-time information about people staying in hotels and paying guest (PG) accommodations.

Tamil Nadu to Launch One-Gram Gold Ring Scheme



- Inspired by the Tamil tradition of “Thaai Maaman Seer”, where the maternal uncle welcomes a newborn with gifts.
- Joyalukkas and Kalyan Jewellers, in a 70:30 ratio for the initial procurement.
- The scheme has also been extended to certain babies abandoned in government facilities under the Thottil Kuzhanthai Thittam.

India Ranks First in Business Climate Among 41 Global Markets



- India has been ranked 1st globally for business climate among 41 markets in the Global Business Climate Survey 2026.
- The survey is conducted by Business Sweden, in collaboration with Swedish Chambers of Commerce and Swedish embassies/consulates.
- India and Ireland emerged as the top-ranked markets for a favourable business climate, followed by Vietnam, Poland and Denmark.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



US to Build Two Military Bases in Greenland Under Denmark Deal



- The United States, Denmark and Greenland signed a new security/defence agreement concerning Greenland.
- Under the agreement, the United States will be allowed to establish additional defence areas at Narsarsuaq in southern Greenland and Mestersvig in eastern Greenland.
- The United States already operates the Pituffik Space Base in Greenland.

UK Launches First Space Squadron to Defend Satellites



- The United Kingdom (UK) launched the No. III Space Effects Squadron, its first dedicated military unit for defending British satellites against hostile space activities.
- The squadron was established by the Royal Air Force (RAF).
- The unit complements No. I Space Operations Squadron and No. II Space Warning Squadron, strengthening UK space defence.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



Mizoram Farmer Z.T. Lalrithangi to Receive FAO Award

- Z.T. Lalrithangi, also known as Pi Mari-i, from Sangau village in Lawngtlai district, Mizoram, has been selected for an FAO recognition.
- She has been selected among the “FAO 100 Women Heroes in Agrifood Systems and Rural Development” by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.
- She has been invited to receive the recognition at the World Food Forum, to be held at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy.

Jagruti Rehabilitation Centre Wins National Clinical Excellence Award



- Jagruti Rehabilitation Centre received the “Excellence in Clinical Services – Mental Health & Wellness” award.
- The award was given in the National category at the ET Healthcare Awards 2026.
- Jagruti Rehabilitation Centre is headquartered in Pune, Maharashtra, and operates rehabilitation centres across multiple cities in India.

‘Angh’ Wins Platform Prize 2026 at TIFF

- ‘Angh’, directed by Naga filmmaker Theja Rio, won the Platform Prize 2026 at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).
- Angh was the only Indian film among the 12 films selected for TIFF’s Platform competition.



- The film is set in 1960s Nagaland and focuses on the Konyak community and cultural change.

Marathi movie Gondhal is India’s official entry for Oscars 2027

- Gondhal, a Marathi thriller directed by Santosh Davakhar, has been selected as India’s official entry for the 99th Academy Awards (Oscars 2027).
- It will compete in the Best International Feature Film category.
- It was selected from 33 Indian film submissions and is the fourth Marathi film chosen as India’s Oscar entry.

Sethuraman Panchanathan Wins 2026 Arthur M. Bueche Award



- Sethuraman Panchanathan has been named the 2026 recipient of the Arthur M. Bueche Award by the U.S. National Academy of Engineering (NAE).
- The award recognises leadership in science and technology policy, technological development.
- He becomes the first Indian American to receive the Arthur M. Bueche Award in its more than 40-year history.

NEW APPOINTMENTS



Kamlesh Chandra Varshney Reappointed as SEBI Member



- His reappointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).
- He is a 1990-batch Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax) officer.
- SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey heads the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), whose headquarters is located in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Rajat Sharma Re-Elected as NBDA President for 2026-27



- Rajat Sharma, Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of India TV, was unanimously re-elected as President of the News Broadcasters & Digital Association (NBDA) for 2026–27.
- Sharma is the Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of India TV.
- The NBDA is the apex association representing news and current-affairs broadcasters and digital news platforms in India.

UN Appoints Luke Lindberg to Head World Food Programme



- Luke J. Lindberg (United States) has been appointed as the Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP).
- He succeeds Cindy McCain (United States) as WFP Executive Director.
- The World Food Programme (WFP) is headquartered in Rome, Italy.

Jayanti Prasad Takes Additional Charge as IBBI Chairperson



- Jayanti Prasad, a Whole-Time Member of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), has taken additional charge as IBBI Chairperson.
- He succeeded Ravi Mital, who completed his tenure as IBBI Chairperson.
- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), a statutory body established on 1 October 2016 under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016, is headquartered in New Delhi.

Hansraj Singh Verma Appointed India's Next Ambassador to Cuba



- He has also served in Indian missions in Chittagong, Paris, Accra, Frankfurt, Maputo, Lisbon and Buenos Aires.
- Hansraj Singh Verma has been appointed as India's next Ambassador to Cuba by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- T. Armstrong Changsan, the outgoing Ambassador to Cuba, has been appointed India's next Ambassador to Armenia.

BANKING NEWS



ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Renamed ICICI Life Insurance



- The name change became effective following approval from the Registrar of Companies (RoC), Central Processing Centre, Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- The change is connected with the reclassification of Prudential Corporation Holdings from "Promoter" to "Investor."
- The headquarters of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is located in Hyderabad, Telangana.



- The revised framework will come into effect from 1 April 2027.

NSE Enables India's First Tokenised Corporate Bond Issuances



- National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) enabled India's first tokenised corporate bond issuances on its Electronic Bidding Platform (NSE EBP).
- REC Limited and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) raised a combined ₹1,000 crore.
- The tokenisation technology was unveiled by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra and SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey.

RBI Issues Basel III Market Risk Capital Directions 2026

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued the RBI (Commercial Banks – Minimum Capital Requirements for Market Risk) Directions, 2026.
- The Directions apply to commercial banks, excluding Small Finance Banks, Payments Banks and Local Area Banks.

SPORTS



India to Host First UCI Road World Championships in Pune



- The Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) has awarded the 2032 UCI Road World Championships to Pune, Maharashtra, India.
- Pune will become the host city, making it the first Indian city to stage the UCI Road World Championships.
- The decision was announced at the 195th UCI Congress in Montréal, Canada.

Traditional Heikru Hidongba Boat Race Held in Manipur



- It is a traditional socio-religious boat race festival associated with the Meitei community.
- The festival is observed on the 11th day of Langban, a month in the Manipuri calendar.
- The main celebration was held at Bijoy Govinda Moat at Sagolband in Imphal West.

India Wins Shooting Gold at Asian Games 2026



- Indian shooters Suruchi Singh and Kamaljeet won the gold medal in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event at the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.
- The Indian duo scored 484.6 points in the final, setting a new Asian Games record.
- South Korea won the silver medal with 478.0 points, while Iran won bronze with 415.8 points.

Jay Meena Wins India's First Asian Games Soft Tennis Medal



- Jay Meena won the bronze medal in the Men's Individual event of Soft Tennis at the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.
- This was India's first-ever Asian Games medal in Soft Tennis, making Jay Meena the first Indian Asian Games medallist in the sport.
- Jay Meena was defeated by Japan's Takuya Kurosaka in the men's singles semi-final, 2–4, and won the bronze medal.

Indian Women's Team Wins First Asian Games Gold



- India defeated Sri Lanka by 147 runs in the gold-medal match.
- India scored 216/3 in 20 overs.
- The Indian team was led by Harmanpreet Kaur, with Smriti Mandhana scoring 79 runs off 45 balls and Shafali Verma contributing 48 runs off 29 balls.

Mark Wood Retires from International Cricket After 11 Years



- He made his England international debut against New Zealand at Lord's in 2015.
- Wood played 38 Tests, 70 ODIs and 38 T20Is for England.
- In the 2022 T20 World Cup, Wood took 9 wickets in 4 matches.

Savita Punia Becomes India's Most-Capped Women's Hockey Player



- Indian goalkeeper Savita Punia became the most-capped player in the history of Indian women's hockey.
- She achieved her 321st senior international appearance, surpassing the previous record of 320 caps held by former Indian striker Vandana Katariya.
- Savita reached the milestone during India's Pool B match against Indonesia at the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

Suchika Tariyal Wins India's First Asian Games MMA Medal



- Suchika Tariyal, a native of Rohtak, Haryana, became the first Indian athlete to win an Asian Games medal in Mixed Martial Arts (MMA).
- She won Bronze in the Women's Traditional MMA 60 kg category at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games 2026.
- She defeated Mongolia's Altanchimeg Baigalmaa 2-0 in the quarter-final to enter the semi-final.

India Wins Silver in Men's 10m Air Rifle Team Event



- India won Silver in the Men's 10m Air Rifle Team Event at the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, scoring 1890.1 points; China won Gold with a world-record 1899.0 points, while South Korea won Bronze with 1884.2 points.
- The Indian team comprised Rudranksh Patil, Himanshu Dhillon and Parth Mane, with Rudranksh Patil and Himanshu Dhillon also qualifying for the Men's 10m Air Rifle individual final.

Pawan Sehrawat Named India's Male Flag-Bearer for Asian Games

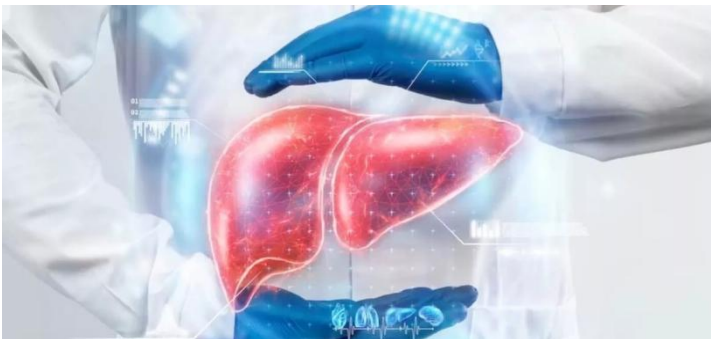


- Pawan Sehrawat has been named India's male flag-bearer for the 2026 Asian Games opening ceremony, which is being hosted by Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.
- Sehrawat is a prominent Indian kabaddi player and a star of the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL).
- He replaces shot-putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor, who was originally selected as India's male flag-bearer.

DEFENCE & TECHNOLOGY



India Aims to Eliminate Hepatitis B, C by 2030



- India has reaffirmed its commitment to eliminate viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030, in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 3.3.
- The National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme (NVHCP) was launched in 2018 under the National Health Mission (NHM) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C are major causes of chronic liver disease.

India–Sri Lanka Conduct SLINEX-26 Maritime Exercise



- SLINEX-26 is the 13th edition of the India–Sri Lanka bilateral maritime exercise.
- It is being conducted at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- The Indian Navy participated with INS Kavaratti, an indigenous Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette, and INS Jyoti, a Fleet Tanker, while the Sri Lanka Navy participated with SLNS Sindurala.

Exercise Veer Guardian 2026 Concludes in Jodhpur



- Exercise Veer Guardian 2026 is a bilateral air exercise between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF).
- The exercise was conducted at Air Force Station Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
- India–Japan conduct several military exercises across the three services, including Dharma Guardian (Army), JIMEX/JAIMEX (Navy), and Veer Guardian and Shinyuu Maitri (Air Force).

India–Mongolia NOMADIC ELEPHANT Exercise Begins



- The 18th edition of the India–Mongolia Joint Military Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT 2026 commenced at Foreign Training Node, Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.
- It is an annual platoon-level military exercise.
- 45 personnel each from the Indian Army and Mongolian Armed Forces are participating.

Gwalior to Get Asia's First Telecom Manufacturing Zone



- The TMZ will be established through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) with 51% equity from the Government of Madhya Pradesh and 49% from the Department of Telecommunications.
- The proposed zone will be established at Shrimant Madhavrao Scindia Counter Magnet City (SADA), Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- The proposed investment from these companies is approximately ₹5,500 crore.

India's 1st Indigenous Long-Range Attack Drone KAL Tested



- KAL, described as India's first indigenous long-range one-way attack drone, was successfully flight-tested at the Pokhran Field Firing Range in Rajasthan.
- The drone has been designed and developed by Noida-based defence technology company IG Defence.
- According to IG Defence, the drone has a claimed range of up to 1,000 km.