

Weekly Current Affairs 13th September to 19th September 2026

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IMPORTANT ONE LINERS

NATIONAL

UCC in all 21 NDA-ruled States by 2029: Amit Shah

In the News: Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on 13 September 2026 that the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) would be implemented in all 21 BJP-led NDA-ruled States before 2029. Speaking in Mumbai, he referred to UCC implementation in some States and expressed confidence that the remaining NDA-ruled States would follow.

Key Points:

- **Constitutional Basis:** Article 44 of the Constitution directs the State to endeavour to secure a Uniform Civil Code for citizens throughout India. It forms part of the Directive Principles of State Policy under Part IV of the Constitution.
- **What UCC Covers:** A UCC seeks greater uniformity in personal civil matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance and succession. Many of these subjects fall under Entry 5 of the Concurrent List, allowing both Parliament and State Legislatures to legislate.
- **Uttarakhand's UCC:** Uttarakhand became the first State in independent India to implement a UCC, with the law taking effect on 27 January 2025. Its framework covers matters including marriage, divorce, inheritance, succession and live-in relationships.
- **Directive Principle:** Article 44 is a Directive Principle rather than a Fundamental Right. Directive Principles guide governments in law and policymaking but are not directly enforceable by courts.

Supreme Court Launches Jan Soochna Seva in Hindi on Hindi Diwas

In the News: The Supreme Court launched Jan Soochna Seva on the occasion of Hindi Diwas. The initiative aims to provide simplified information about important Supreme Court judgments and orders in Hindi through text, audio and video formats.

Key Points:

- **Jan Soochna Seva:** The service will provide concise Hindi summaries of selected important Supreme Court judgments and orders. It aims to make judicial information easier for ordinary citizens and litigants to understand.
- **Audio and Video Format:** Important judicial developments will also be presented through Hindi audio and video bulletins. This will improve access for people who may find lengthy legal documents difficult to read.
- **Expansion to Other Languages:** Hindi is the first language under the initiative, but the service is expected to be extended gradually to other Indian languages. This will widen access to judicial information across linguistic groups.
- **Constitutional Provision:** Article 343 declares Hindi in Devanagari script as the official language of the Union. Article 348 provides for the use of English in proceedings of the Supreme Court and High Courts.
- **Hindi Diwas Connection:** Hindi Diwas is observed every year on 14 September. It marks the Constituent Assembly's adoption of Hindi in the Devanagari script as the official language of the Union in 1949.

SEMICON India 2026

In the News: SEMICON India 2026 is scheduled to be held from 17–19 September 2026 at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi. The fifth edition of the event will focus on strengthening India's semiconductor manufacturing, design and supply-chain ecosystem.

Key Points:

- **Theme and Venue:** The 2026 edition carries the theme "Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem." It will be organised at Yashobhoomi, India International Convention and Expo Centre, New Delhi.

- **Organising Bodies:** SEMICON India is jointly organised by the India Semiconductor Mission and SEMI, a global semiconductor industry association. It brings together governments, companies, investors, researchers and start-ups.
- **India Semiconductor Mission:** The mission functions under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. It supports semiconductor fabrication, packaging, design, research and development in India.
- **Semicon 2.0:** The next phase of India's semiconductor programme seeks to expand domestic manufacturing and strengthen the complete semiconductor value chain. It also focuses on innovation, skilling and supply-chain resilience.
- **Global Participation:** The event is expected to host companies and delegations from several countries. Sessions will cover chip manufacturing, artificial intelligence, materials, product design, start-ups and workforce development.

Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) (Amendment) Rules, 2026

In the News: The Department of Consumer Affairs notified amendments to the Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020 in September 2026. The changes introduce stricter requirements relating to pricing, search results, sponsored listings, grievance redressal and dark patterns.

Key Points:

- **Legal Basis:** The E-Commerce Rules were originally framed under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. The 2026 amendments strengthen the responsibilities of online marketplaces and other e-commerce entities. The Rules come into force on 1 January 2027.
- **National Consumer Helpline:** E-commerce entities will be required to participate in the convergence process of the National Consumer Helpline. The measure is intended to improve grievance handling and consumer complaint resolution.
- **Sponsored Listings:** Online platforms must clearly identify sponsored or paid listings. Search results cannot be manipulated in a manner that misleads users or unfairly affects the relevance of displayed products.
- **Price Reduction Rule:** When a discount is advertised, platforms must display the reduced price along with the prior price. The prior price generally refers to the lowest price offered during the preceding 30-day period.
- **Dark Patterns:** E-commerce entities must comply with the Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns, 2023. They are also required to ensure clearer information on refunds, warranties, delivery and product origin.

Government Bars Charges on UPI, RuPay Payments

In the New: The Ministry of Finance notified that banks and payment-system providers cannot impose direct or indirect charges on RuPay-powered debit-card transactions or UPI transactions up to ₹2,000. The notification was issued under Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007. Person-to-person UPI transfers continue to remain free irrespective of the amount.

Key Points:

- **Legal Basis:** The notification, S.O. 5067(E), was issued by the Department of Financial Services under Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007. It specifies RuPay debit cards and UPI transactions up to ₹2,000 as protected electronic payment modes on which users cannot be charged.
- **UPI Transaction Rules:** All person-to-person UPI transactions remain free regardless of their value. Merchant payments up to ₹2,000 and transactions covered by the zero-MDR framework for small merchants also remain free, leaving about 96% of person-to-merchant UPI transactions unaffected.
- **Merchant Discount Rate:** MDR is the fee paid by a merchant for processing a digital payment and is shared among payment ecosystem participants such as banks and payment application providers. The government clarified that MDR is neither a tax nor a charge collected by the government or NPCI.
- **UPI and RuPay:** Unified Payments Interface is operated by the National Payments Corporation of India, while RuPay is India's domestic card-payment network. Both form major components of India's digital public payment infrastructure and are designed to reduce dependence on cash-based transactions.

Kumik Becomes Ladakh's First Heritage Village: Why Zaskar's Living Heritage Matters

In the News: Kumik village in Zaskar was declared Ladakh's first Heritage Village by Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena during the Ladakh Zaskar Festival 2026. The recognition highlights the settlement's traditional architecture, Buddhist textual heritage, sacred spaces and community traditions. The announcement came in the first year of Zaskar functioning as a separate district.

Key Points:

- **First Heritage Village:** Kumik is a remote settlement in the Zaskar Valley known for traditional houses, sacred spaces, agricultural practices and long-preserved Buddhist customs. Its heritage is described as "living" because cultural practices and knowledge remain part of everyday community life rather than surviving only as monuments.
- **Buddhist Manuscript Heritage:** Kumik preserves valuable Kanjur or Kangyur manuscripts and other Tibetan Buddhist textual material. Kangyur broadly refers to the Tibetan Buddhist canonical collection regarded as containing translations of teachings attributed to the Buddha, making Kumik important for the study of Himalayan Buddhist traditions.
- **Zaskar as a New District:** In April 2026, Ladakh created five new districts, namely Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra and Changthang, increasing its total number of districts from two to seven. The 2026 Zaskar Festival was the first major festival after Zaskar attained district status.
- **Ladakh's Administrative Status:** Ladakh was constituted as a Union Territory without a legislature under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. The Act separated the former State into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.
- **Ladakh Zaskar Festival:** The 2026 festival was scheduled for 15–16 September at Sani in Zaskar and showcased folk music, dance and other cultural traditions. Heritage recognition such as Kumik's can connect conservation with cultural tourism and local livelihoods.

Academic Freedom Index 2026: India in Severely Restricted Category

In the News: India has been placed in the "severely restricted" category for academic freedom in the Academic Freedom Index 2026. The index evaluates the state of academic freedom across countries based on institutional autonomy, research freedom, campus integrity and academic expression.

Key Points:

- **India's Position:** India's AFI score declined from 0.38 in 2022 to 0.14 in 2025 (scale 0 to 1). The classification reflects concerns regarding institutional autonomy and freedom of academic expression.
- **Academic Freedom Index:** The AFI is developed by researchers associated with Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg and the V-Dem Institute. It measures academic freedom across a large number of countries and territories.
- **Major Indicators:** The index assesses freedom to research and teach, academic exchange and dissemination, institutional autonomy, campus integrity, and freedom of academic and cultural expression.
- **Global Assessment:** The 2026 edition found that academic freedom had deteriorated significantly in 50 of 179 countries and territories, while only nine improved. The index is useful for exams as an important international governance and education-related indicator.

SEMICON India 2026 Unveils Semicon 2.0 Roadmap

In the News: SEMICON India 2026, held in New Delhi, highlighted the government's Semicon 2.0 roadmap for building a complete semiconductor ecosystem in India. Approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2026 with an outlay of ₹1,27,500 crore, Semicon 2.0 seeks to expand domestic capabilities across chip design, fabrication, advanced packaging, equipment and materials, research and skilled manpower.

Key Points:

- **Semicon 2.0:** The second phase of India's semiconductor programme builds on the progress achieved under Semicon 1.0. It seeks to establish an end-to-end semiconductor value chain in India and strengthen the country's position in the global semiconductor industry.

- **Six Focus Areas:** Semicon 2.0 is structured around six major pillars: chip design, semiconductor equipment and materials, new fabrication plants, advanced packaging, research and development, and talent development.
- **India Semiconductor Mission:** The semiconductor programme is implemented through the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). ISM supports the development of semiconductor fabrication, packaging and chip-design capabilities in India.
- **Approved Semiconductor Projects:** Under Semicon 1.0, the government has approved 12 semiconductor manufacturing projects. Among the major projects approved earlier are:
 - **Tata Electronics-PSMC Semiconductor Fab, Dholera, Gujarat:** A semiconductor fabrication plant involving an investment of over ₹91,000 crore, with a planned capacity of about 50,000 wafer starts per month.
 - **Tata Electronics OSAT Facility, Morigaon, Assam:** An assembly, testing, marking and packaging facility involving an investment of about ₹27,000 crore.
 - **CG Power OSAT Facility, Sanand, Gujarat:** A semiconductor assembly and testing facility established with technology partners including Japan's Renesas Electronics and Thailand's Stars Microelectronics, involving an investment of about ₹7,500 crore.
- **Progress under Semicon 1.0:** India has approved projects covering silicon fabrication, compound semiconductors and ATMP/OSAT facilities. Commercial production has also commenced at multiple semiconductor facilities, demonstrating the transition from policy support to domestic production.
- **SEMICON India 2026:** The fifth edition of SEMICON India was held from 17 to 19 September 2026 at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi, bringing together global semiconductor companies, policymakers, researchers, start-ups, industry experts and students. The event's theme was "Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem."

Dedicated Freight Corridors

In the News: The Prime Minister dedicated the final three sections of the Western DFC, making the entire 2,843 km Eastern and Western DFC network operational. These railway corridors are designed exclusively for freight movement and are expected to reduce logistics costs while freeing capacity on conventional railway routes.

Key Points:

- **Two Major Corridors:** The Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor runs largely between Ludhiana and Son Nagar, while the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor connects the Dadri region with Jawaharlal Nehru Port on the western coast.
- **Implementing Agency:** The project is implemented by the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited. DFCCIL is a Public Sector Undertaking functioning under the Ministry of Railways.
- **Purpose of DFCs:** Dedicated freight tracks enable faster and heavier goods trains without interference from passenger services. They help improve freight speed, reduce transit time and increase overall railway network capacity.
- **International Assistance:** Japan International Cooperation Agency has played an important role in financing the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor. The World Bank has supported significant sections of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor.

Odisha Orangutan Case Explained: CITES, Law and Smuggling

In the News: Five juvenile orangutans were rescued on September 8, 2026, from a forested area in Balasore district, Odisha, and shifted to Nandankanan Zoological Park for quarantine and medical care. Since orangutans are not native to India, the Odisha Police Special Task Force, Forest Department and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau are investigating possible international wildlife trafficking.

Key Points:

- **Orangutans and Their Natural Range:** Three orangutan species are recognised: Bornean, Sumatran and Tapanuli orangutans. Their natural populations occur on the islands of Borneo and Sumatra in Southeast Asia, making the appearance of five young orangutans in Odisha highly unusual.

- **CITES Appendix I Protection:** Orangutans are covered under Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Commercial international trade in Appendix I specimens is generally prohibited, with movement permitted only under exceptional, tightly regulated circumstances.
- **CITES and India:** CITES entered into force in 1975, and India became a party in 1976. The convention regulates international wildlife trade through three Appendices, with Appendix I providing the highest level of trade restriction among the three.
- **Indian Legal Framework:** The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 was amended in 2022 to strengthen implementation of India's CITES obligations. Schedule IV now deals with species listed under CITES, while the Living Animal Species (Reporting and Registration) Rules, 2024 prescribe reporting and registration requirements for possession of such live specimens.
- **Repatriation of Confiscated Animals:** CITES does not automatically require a seized animal to be released into the wild. Authorities may consult the country of origin regarding repatriation, while animals that cannot safely be returned may be placed in an appropriate rescue centre or recognised facility. Indonesia has offered assistance if tests establish an Indonesian origin for the rescued orangutans.

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

In the News: Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena inaugurated twin high-altitude flower fields at Choglamsar and Stakna in Leh on September 17, 2026. Situated at about 10,600 feet, the project has been described by the Ladakh administration as the world's highest-altitude twin flower fields and is intended to promote commercial floriculture and alternative livelihoods.

Key Points:

- **Location and Scale:** The twin fields are located at Choglamsar and Stakna in Leh and cover about 40 acres. More than 25 lakh flowers have been planted, making the project a major high-altitude floriculture initiative.
- **Major Flower Varieties:** The project includes more than 24 lakh Lilium plants and about one lakh Gladiolus plants. Choglamsar is also intended to serve as a demonstration centre for cultivating high-value ornamental flowers such as tulips and other commercially important species.
- **Livelihood and Training Model:** The initiative seeks to diversify Ladakh's agriculture by training farmers and youth in scientific floriculture, modern cultivation and post-harvest management. Self-help groups and cooperative societies are expected to participate in commercial cultivation, harvesting and marketing.
- **Ladakh as a Union Territory:** Ladakh became a separate Union Territory on October 31, 2019, under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. Section 3 of the Act created Ladakh as a Union Territory without a legislature.
- **High-Altitude Agriculture:** The flower project tests whether Ladakh's cold and arid climatic conditions can support large-scale cultivation of high-value flowers. Its success is intended to provide a model that can be replicated in other parts of the Union Territory.

What led to Karnataka Public Service Commission chairman's ouster: Leaked papers, a job for his daughter

In the News: Karnataka Public Service Commission Chairman Shivashankarappa S. Sahukar was suspended by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on August 25, 2026, on the aid and advice of the State Cabinet. The suspension followed allegations relating to recruitment irregularities involving his daughters and a suspected question-paper leak in the recruitment of veterinary doctors. The matters are under investigation, and Sahukar has not been removed from office.

Key Points:

- **Second Suspension Order:** The August 25 suspension was Sahukar's second suspension. An earlier order issued by the Governor on July 13 was set aside by the Karnataka High Court because it had not been based on the aid and advice of the State Cabinet. The Cabinet subsequently recommended suspension on August 21.
- **Daughters' Recruitment Case:** Sahukar is accused of helping two of his daughters secure selection as Industrial Extension Officers. In one case, a daughter allegedly claimed OBC reservation using an income certificate showing annual family income of ₹40,000, which raised questions over the validity of the benefit claimed.

- **Veterinary Recruitment Investigation:** A separate case concerns recruitment to 400 veterinary doctor posts. The FIR names Sahukar, other KPSC officials and 29 candidates from the selection list, while complainants have alleged question-paper leakage and OMR-sheet tampering. The CID is investigating these allegations, and it has not been established that all 29 candidates received the leaked paper.
- **Further Investigative Action:** The veterinary recruitment case has been handed over to the Criminal Investigation Department. The Enforcement Directorate has also conducted searches at 21 premises in Karnataka and Gujarat in connection with the wider allegations. A relative of Sahukar, who had reportedly failed a degree examination, is also alleged to have cleared the recruitment test.
- **Constitutional Position Under Article 317:** Article 315 provides for Union and State Public Service Commissions, while Article 317 deals with removal and suspension of their members. Under Article 317(1), removal for misbehaviour requires action by the President after a Supreme Court inquiry. Article 317(2) permits suspension in specified circumstances; reports state that the Governor recommended a Supreme Court inquiry through the President, but confirmation that a formal reference has actually been made is not available.

Tulu Gets Second Additional Administrative Language Status in Karnataka

In the News: The Karnataka Cabinet decided to grant Tulu the status of the State's second additional administrative/official language in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts. The decision was announced after a Cabinet meeting held in Mangaluru and applies specifically to these two coastal districts.

Key Points:

- **Administrative Recognition:** Tulu can now be used for specified administrative purposes in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts. The decision gives formal recognition to a language closely associated with the coastal region of Karnataka, particularly the cultural area known as Tulunadu.
- **Eighth Schedule Status:** Tulu is not among the 22 languages currently included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Kannada, Konkani, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu are among the languages included in the Schedule, while Tulu remains outside it.
- **Constitutional Provision:** Article 345 of the Constitution allows a State Legislature to adopt one or more languages in use in the State, or Hindi, for all or any of the official purposes of that State. Article 347 deals with official recognition of a language spoken by a substantial section of a State's population.
- **Geographical Association:** Tulu is predominantly spoken in the coastal districts of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi in Karnataka and in adjoining areas of northern Kerala. The language has a rich oral, literary and cultural tradition associated with the Tulu-speaking region.
- **Scheduled Languages:** The Eighth Schedule currently contains 22 languages. It originally contained 14 languages when the Constitution came into force, while Sindhi, Konkani, Manipuri, Nepali, Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santhali were added through later constitutional amendments.

PM Modi Inaugurates NGT International Environment Conference 2026

In the News: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the National Green Tribunal's International Conference on "The Future of Environment and Climate Dynamics" on September 19, 2026, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The two-day conference focused on environmental governance, climate change, biodiversity, circular economy and sustainable energy.

Key Points:

- **Conference Details:** The conference was organised by the National Green Tribunal on September 19–20, 2026. It brought together environmental experts, judges, government officials and judicial representatives from 17 countries for discussions on environmental and climate challenges.
- **NGT Mobile Application:** During the inaugural programme, Prime Minister Modi released the NGT Mobile Application. The initiative forms part of efforts to improve digital accessibility to information and services associated with the National Green Tribunal.
- **About the NGT:** The National Green Tribunal was established in 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010. It is a specialised statutory body dealing with cases relating to environmental protection, forests, natural resources and environmental compensation.

- **NGT Leadership:** Justice Prakash Shrivastava is the Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal. Its Principal Bench is located in New Delhi, while zonal benches function in other parts of the country, including Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai.
- **Valedictory Session:** President Droupadi Murmu addressed the valedictory session on September 20, 2026. She emphasised people-centric and community-based approaches to climate resilience and highlighted the connections between climate change, biodiversity loss, water stress and land degradation.

INTERNATIONAL

BRICS issues New Delhi Declaration, as UAE and Iran back down from tough positions

In the News: BRICS leaders adopted the New Delhi Declaration during the 18th BRICS Summit held in New Delhi on 12–13 September 2026 under India's chairship. Consensus was reached after Iran and the UAE moderated competing positions concerning the escalating West Asia conflict.

Key Points:

- **New Delhi Declaration:** The declaration was adopted under the summit theme “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability”. It reaffirmed BRICS cooperation in political-security, economic-financial and people-to-people areas.
- **West Asia Conflict:** BRICS expressed deep concern over escalating tensions in West Asia and called for “maximum restraint”. The consensus avoided language directly blaming individual member States despite sharp differences involving Iran and the UAE.
- **Trade and WTO Reforms:** The declaration criticised trade-restrictive measures, excessive tariffs and protectionism while supporting a stronger multilateral trading system. It also backed reform of global governance institutions to increase representation of the Global South.
- **Financial Cooperation:** BRICS supported greater use of local currencies in trade and investment rather than announcing a common BRICS currency. Work on payment-system interoperability and greater local-currency financing by the New Development Bank will continue.
- **India's 2026 Chairship:** India hosted the 18th BRICS Summit and placed resilience, innovation, cooperation and sustainability at the centre of its presidency. China is set to take over the BRICS chairship for the next cycle.

China wants to create a BRICS open-source AI ecosystem. Where does India fit?

In the News: Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed greater BRICS cooperation in artificial intelligence at the 2026 New Delhi Summit, including an open-source AI community. The proposal envisages cooperation on large language models, AI training, digital infrastructure and shared technological capabilities among BRICS countries.

Key Points:

- **China's AI Proposal:** China proposed an open-source and inclusive BRICS AI ecosystem involving cooperation on AI models, computing resources and training. It is aimed partly at expanding technological self-reliance among emerging economies.
- **BRICS Position on AI:** The New Delhi Declaration recognised AI as an important driver of sustainable development while stressing safety, security, inclusiveness and reliability. It also called for equitable access to AI capabilities, particularly for the Global South.
- **IndiaAI Mission:** India launched the IndiaAI Mission in 2024 with an outlay of ₹10,371.92 crore. Its seven pillars cover compute capacity, indigenous models, datasets, applications, skilling, startup financing and Safe & Trusted AI.
- **India's AI Strength:** India's approach focuses on affordable computing, indigenous foundation models and Digital Public Infrastructure. Initiatives such as AIKosh and BharatGen strengthen India's ability to contribute to multilingual and open AI ecosystems.

BRICS 2027: China to Host Next Summit, Says PM Modi

In the News: China will assume the BRICS Chairship in 2027 and host the 19th BRICS Summit. The announcement followed the 18th BRICS Summit hosted by India in New Delhi in September 2026.

Key Points:

- **BRICS 2026 Summit:** India hosted the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi on 12–13 September 2026. Theme is "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability".
- **China's Chairship:** China will succeed India as the BRICS Chair in 2027. As chair, China will host the 19th summit and coordinate major meetings and initiatives of the grouping.
- **Three Pillars:** BRICS cooperation broadly covers political and security cooperation, economic and financial cooperation, and cultural and people-to-people exchanges. These areas form the core framework of BRICS engagement.
- **Origin of BRICS:** The first BRIC leaders' summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia, in 2009. South Africa later joined the grouping and participated in its first summit as a member in 2011.
- **Expanding Grouping:** BRICS has expanded beyond its original five members in recent years. The grouping seeks greater cooperation among emerging economies and stronger representation of developing countries in global institutions.

IAEA Blocks Mohammad Eslami From Vienna Conference

In the News: Iran's nuclear chief Mohammad Eslami was prevented from attending the IAEA General Conference in Vienna in September 2026 because of restrictions arising from restored UN sanctions. Austria sought a travel exemption for Eslami, but the request did not receive approval after the United States objected. Iran criticised the decision, while the US defended its objection in the context of concerns over Iran's nuclear programme.

Key Points:

- **Mohammad Eslami:** Eslami is the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran. His name was restored to the UN sanctions list when earlier Security Council sanctions on Iran were re-applied in September 2025 under the mechanism provided by Resolution 2231.
- **IAEA:** The International Atomic Energy Agency was established in 1957 and is headquartered in Vienna, Austria. It promotes peaceful uses of nuclear technology while applying safeguards intended to verify that nuclear material is not diverted to prohibited military purposes.
- **UN Resolution 2231:** The UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2231 in 2015 to endorse the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action concerning Iran's nuclear programme. In September 2025, provisions of several earlier Iran-related Security Council resolutions were re-applied following the procedure contained in Resolution 2231.
- **JCPOA Background:** The 2015 nuclear agreement involved Iran and the P5+1, comprising China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States and Germany, together with the European Union. It placed restrictions and monitoring requirements on Iran's nuclear programme in return for sanctions relief.

The danger of rising US govt bond yields

In the News: US Treasury yields have risen sharply, with the benchmark 10-year Treasury yield moving above 5% in September 2026 amid inflation concerns, higher oil prices, government borrowing and a broad bond-market sell-off. Rising Treasury yields matter globally because US government securities serve as a benchmark for borrowing costs and financial asset valuations around the world.

Key Points:

- **Bond Price-Yield Relationship:** Bond prices and bond yields move in opposite directions. When investors sell existing government bonds, their prices fall and their yields rise, increasing the return required by investors to hold government debt.

- **Benchmark Treasury Yield:** The yield on the 10-year US Treasury note is one of the world's most closely watched interest-rate benchmarks. It influences mortgage rates, corporate borrowing costs, asset valuations and lending conditions across the US economy.
- **Impact on Government Finances:** Higher Treasury yields increase the cost at which the US government must issue and refinance debt. Sustained increases can raise federal interest payments and reduce fiscal space available for other government expenditure.
- **Global Spillover:** Higher US yields can attract international capital towards dollar-denominated assets and support a stronger US dollar. This can place pressure on emerging-market currencies, increase external borrowing costs and tighten financial conditions outside the United States.

Cardiff Pact and UK Federal Challenge

In the News: The Welsh and Scottish Governments signed the Cardiff Agreement, or Cytundeb Caerdydd, on 14 September 2026. Welsh First Minister Rhun ap Iorwerth and Scottish First Minister John Swinney agreed on a framework for closer cooperation, while a separate memorandum signed at the Cardiff gathering raised questions about the constitutional futures of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Key Points:

- **Cardiff Agreement:** The formal Cardiff Agreement is between the Welsh Government and Scottish Government. It covers cooperation on child poverty, living standards, economic growth, fiscal arrangements, climate resilience, international engagement and culture, while leaving each government's existing legal powers unchanged.
- **Separate Constitutional Memorandum:** At the wider Cardiff gathering, political leaders from Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland also backed a separate memorandum concerning the right of their populations to determine their constitutional futures. This should not be confused with the bilateral Wales–Scotland Cardiff Agreement itself.
- **Devolution, Not a Federal System:** The UK operates through devolution, under which statutory powers have been transferred from Westminster to legislatures in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The House of Commons Library notes that this differs from a federal arrangement because UK parliamentary sovereignty remains central to the constitutional system.
- **Scottish Referendum Question:** In its 2022 judgment, the UK Supreme Court held that a proposed Scottish independence referendum related to reserved constitutional matters, including the Union and the UK Parliament. The 2014 referendum had been enabled through a temporary modification under Section 30 of the Scotland Act 1998.
- **Northern Ireland's Distinct Route:** Northern Ireland has a separate statutory mechanism under the Northern Ireland Act 1998. Its Schedule 1 requires the Secretary of State to order a poll if it appears likely that a majority would support Northern Ireland leaving the UK and joining a united Ireland, reflecting the consent principle of the Good Friday Agreement.

US's Russia sanctions Bill: What 100% tariffs on Russian oil buyers can mean for India

In the News: The US Congress advanced and passed the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, aimed at intensifying economic pressure on Russia and actors supporting its energy trade. A major provision authorises tariffs of up to 100% on specified leading importers of Russian oil or gas, creating potential exposure for major buyers such as India.

Key Points:

- **Scope of the Legislation:** The legislation contains primary and secondary sanctions targeting Russian officials, financial institutions, energy interests and the so-called Russian "shadow fleet". It also continues measures relating to Iran's energy and weapons sectors.
- **100% Tariff Provision:** The measure authorises the US President to impose tariffs of **up to 100%** on goods from countries among the largest purchasers of Russian crude oil or natural gas or major facilitators of sanctions evasion. The tariff is therefore an authorised measure rather than an automatic blanket 100% duty on all Indian goods.

- **India Connection:** India is among the major purchasers of Russian energy and therefore falls within the group potentially affected by the secondary-tariff provisions. The legislation is intended to increase the economic cost for countries continuing significant Russian energy purchases.
- **Possible Trade Implications:** If such tariffs were actually imposed on Indian products, they could affect the competitiveness of Indian exports in the US market and interact with wider India-US trade negotiations. The eventual impact would depend on the tariff rate applied, exemptions or waivers and subsequent implementation decisions.
- **Legislative Status:** The measure passed the US House by 262–159 after earlier Senate approval and was sent to the President for signature. For examination purposes, it is important to distinguish congressional passage from the subsequent presidential implementation of particular sanctions or tariff powers.

Where Does India Rank In Global Gender Gap Index 2026? All You Need To Know

In the News: India ranked 131st among 145 economies in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index 2026. The index evaluates gender disparities in economic participation, education, health and political empowerment.

Key Points:

- **India's Ranking:** India was placed 131st in the 2026 index and had closed about 64.5% of its overall gender gap. The index measures gaps between women and men rather than absolute levels of development.
- **Four Dimensions:** The Global Gender Gap Index evaluates Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, and Political Empowerment.
- **Publishing Organisation:** The index is released by the World Economic Forum, headquartered in Cologne near Geneva, Switzerland. The Global Gender Gap Index was first introduced in 2006.
- **Global Leader:** Iceland retained the top position in the 2026 index. Nordic countries have traditionally performed strongly because of relatively high female participation in economic and political institutions.

Marathi Thriller Gondhal Is India's Official Entry for Oscars 2027

In the News: The Marathi film *Gondhal*, written and directed by Santosh Davakhar, has been selected as India's official entry for the Best International Feature Film category at the 99th Academy Awards in 2027. The Film Federation of India selected it from a pool of 33 submissions and the fourth Marathi film chosen as India's official entry

Key Points:

- **About Gondhal:** The film is set in rural Maharashtra and uses the traditional Gondhal ritual and folk-performance tradition as an important narrative setting. Its cast includes Ishita Deshmukh, Yogesh Sohoni, Kishor Kadam, Nishad Bhoir, Anuj Prabhu and others.
- **Director Santosh Davakhar:** Santosh Davakhar received the Silver Peacock for Best Director for *Gondhal* at the 56th International Film Festival of India in 2025. The award included a Silver Peacock trophy, Certificate of Merit and a cash prize of ₹15 lakh.
- **99th Academy Awards:** The 2027 ceremony represents the 99th Academy Awards. General categories require a qualifying theatrical release in 2026, while International Feature submissions must have been first released in their home country between 1 October 2025 and 30 September 2026. The submission deadline is 30 September 2026, and the ceremony is on 14 March 2027.
- **New International Feature Rule:** For the 99th Oscars, a non-English-language film may reach the International Feature Film category either through an Academy-approved national selection committee or by winning specified qualifying awards at designated international film festivals.
- **Change in Nominee Recognition:** Beginning with the 99th Oscars rules, the film itself, rather than the submitting country or region, is credited as the nominee in the International Feature Film category. The director accepts the award on behalf of the film's creative team.

India Ranked No. 1 in Swedish Business Climate Survey

In the News: India emerged as the highest-ranked market in the Global Business Climate Survey 2026 conducted across 41 markets. India, Ireland and Vietnam were identified among the top-ranking markets, reflecting strong confidence

among Swedish companies operating internationally. The global survey was actually released on 11 June 2026. The September peg is Piyush Goyal highlighting the ranking on 18 September.

Key Points:

- **India's Ranking:** India secured the top position among the 41 markets covered by the 2026 survey. Business Sweden identified India, Ireland and Vietnam as the leading markets for business momentum and investor confidence.
- **About the Survey:** The Global Business Climate Survey is jointly produced by Business Sweden, the Swedish Chambers of Commerce and Sweden's embassies and consulates. It was first conducted in 2020 and examines the experiences of Swedish businesses operating abroad.
- **Survey Coverage:** More than 2,250 C-level representatives of Swedish companies participated in the 2026 global survey. Respondents answered standard questions relating to business conditions, profitability, investment plans and expectations in their respective markets.
- **India-specific Findings:** The India survey received responses from 213 Swedish companies. About 73% of the participating firms rated India's business climate as good or very good, reflecting a broadly positive assessment of growth opportunities in the country.
- **Global Business Outlook:** Asia-Pacific emerged as one of the more optimistic regions in the survey. Across markets, Swedish companies continued to highlight profitability, investment plans, local partnerships and cost efficiency as major factors shaping overseas operations.

Trump Signs Russia Sanctions Bill, India Faces Tariff Risk

In the News: US President Donald Trump signed H.R. 5334, the "Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026," into law. The legislation expands statutory sanctions, tariffs and prohibitions relating to Russia and extends existing sanctions provisions concerning Iran.

Key Points:

- **Scope of the Law:** H.R. 5334 strengthens the legal framework available to the United States for imposing sanctions, tariffs and other restrictions connected with Russia. It also extends existing US sanctions authorities relating to Iran.
- **India and Russian Oil:** India's purchases of Russian oil have previously been linked to US tariff measures. In August 2025, the US imposed an additional 25% tariff on certain imports from India after determining that India was directly or indirectly importing Russian oil.
- **February 2026 Change:** The additional 25% India-specific tariff was removed with effect from February 7, 2026, after the US administration stated that India had taken significant steps concerning Russian oil imports and broader bilateral cooperation.
- **Possibility of Further Action:** The February 2026 order also provided for continued monitoring of India's Russian oil imports. It stated that additional measures, including possible reimposition of the earlier tariff, could be considered if India resumed direct or indirect imports of Russian oil.
- **Russia-Iran Link:** The 2026 legislation covers both Russia and Iran. Its Russia-related provisions expand sanction and tariff authorities, while its Iran-related provisions extend existing US sanctions mechanisms, making the law significant beyond the Russia-Ukraine conflict alone.

Trump Announces US Security Deal Over Greenland

In the News: US President Donald Trump announced an arrangement aimed at giving the United States a long-term security role in Greenland. Denmark and Greenland stated that the three governments were expected to formally sign an agreement on strengthened security in the Arctic and North Atlantic, subject to the necessary parliamentary procedures.

Key Points:

- **Security Agreement:** The proposed arrangement seeks to strengthen cooperation among the United States, Denmark and Greenland in Arctic and North Atlantic security. The three governments were expected to sign the agreement in connection with the United Nations General Assembly.

- **Sovereignty and Self-Determination:** Denmark stated that the agreement recognises the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Denmark as well as the Greenlandic people's right to self-determination. Greenland therefore remains part of the Kingdom of Denmark.
- **Strategic Importance of Greenland:** Greenland occupies a strategically important position between North America and Europe and is significant for Arctic and North Atlantic defence. Its location has long made it important for missile warning, space surveillance and broader transatlantic security.
- **Existing US Defence Presence:** US military involvement in Greenland has historical roots in the 1951 defence arrangement between the United States and Denmark. The United States currently operates Pituffik Space Base in north-western Greenland, formerly known as Thule Air Base.
- **Greenland's Political Status:** Greenland is a self-governing territory within the Kingdom of Denmark. It received Home Rule in 1979, followed by a broader Self-Government arrangement in 2009, which expanded Greenlandic authority over domestic affairs while Denmark retained responsibilities in specified areas such as foreign and defence policy.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

'Woman Unknown' wins top prize at Venice Film Festival

In the News: Danish filmmaker May el-Toukhy's *Woman Unknown* won the Golden Lion for Best Film at the 83rd Venice International Film Festival, which concluded on 12 September 2026. The film's lead actor Mathilde Arcel also received the Volpi Cup for Best Actress.

Key Points:

- **Golden Lion Winner:** *Woman Unknown*, directed and co-written by May el-Toukhy, received the Golden Lion, the Venice Film Festival's highest competitive honour. The film is a Denmark-Sweden-Latvia production.
- **83rd Venice Film Festival:** The festival was held from 2–12 September 2026 at Venice's Lido. American filmmaker and actor Maggie Gyllenhaal chaired the international competition jury.
- **Best Actress Award:** Mathilde Arcel won the Coppa Volpi for Best Actress for her performance as Marie in *Woman Unknown*. The film is set against the social aftermath of Denmark's liberation from Nazi occupation.
- **Other Major Awards:** Lee Chang-dong's *Possible Love* received the Grand Jury Prize, while Ilya Khrzhanovsky won the Silver Lion for Best Director for *DAU*. John Malkovich won the Volpi Cup for Best Actor for *Wild Horse Nine*.

Emmys 2026: Full List of Winners and Key Highlights

In the News: The 78th Emmy Awards were held at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles, with the principal ceremony taking place on September 14, 2026. *Widow's Bay* dominated the awards with 14 Emmys across the three ceremonies, while *The Pitt* won Outstanding Drama Series. Matthew Rhys created history by winning two lead-acting Emmys in the same year.

Key Points:

- **Major Series Winners:** *Widow's Bay* won Outstanding Comedy Series and finished with a record 14 Emmys, including six during the main telecast. *The Pitt* won Outstanding Drama Series, while *DTF St. Louis* received the Emmy for Outstanding Limited or Anthology Series.
- **Matthew Rhys' Record:** Matthew Rhys won Lead Actor awards for *Widow's Bay* in comedy and *The Beast in Me* in the limited-series category. He became the first performer to win two lead-performance Emmys in the same year and has now won lead acting awards across drama, comedy and limited-series categories.
- **Individual Honours:** Rhea Seehorn won Lead Actress in a Drama Series for *Pluribus*, while Noah Wyle won Lead Actor in a Drama Series for *The Pitt*. Jean Smart and Allison Janney reached eight acting Emmy wins each, joining the record held by Cloris Leachman and Julia Louis-Dreyfus.
- **Special Recognition:** Michael J. Fox received the Bob Hope Humanitarian Award for his work supporting Parkinson's disease research through the Michael J. Fox Foundation. The award was established in 2002 to recognise humanitarian contributions by individuals in the media industry.

Anant Nag to Get Dadasaheb Phalke Award at 72nd National Film Awards

In the News: The Government of India announced that veteran actor Anant Nag will receive the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2024 for his contribution to Indian cinema. The honour is to be presented at the 72nd National Film Awards ceremony on 22 September 2026 at Kevadia, Gujarat.

Key Points:

- **About Anant Nag:** Born on 4 September 1948, Anant Nag is a prominent Kannada actor whose career spans more than five decades. His first Kannada feature film in a lead role was *Sankalpa*, while *Ankur* marked his entry into Hindi cinema.
- **Career and Recognition:** Nag has acted in more than 300 films across Kannada, Hindi, Telugu, Malayalam, Tamil and Marathi, besides television and theatre. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2025 in the field of Art.
- **Dadasaheb Phalke Award:** Instituted by the Government of India in 1969, it is regarded as the country's highest honour in the field of cinema. It recognises outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema.
- **First Recipient:** Actress Devika Rani became the first recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 1969. The award commemorates filmmaker Dhundiraj Govind Phalke, who directed *Raja Harishchandra* in 1913, recognised as India's first full-length feature film.
- **Award Components:** The MIB's National Film Awards regulations specify a Swarna Kamal, ₹15 lakh and a shawl. The prize was raised from ₹10 lakh to ₹15 lakh.

Who is Sethuraman Panchanathan? Chennai-Born Scientist Wins 2026 Bueche Award

In the News: Chennai-born scientist and engineer Sethuraman Panchanathan was named the recipient of the 2026 Arthur M. Bueche Award. The prestigious honour is presented by the U.S. National Academy of Engineering for major contributions to engineering, science and technology policy.

Key Points:

- **Arthur M. Bueche Award:** The award was established in 1982 by the U.S. National Academy of Engineering. It recognises contributions to science and technology along with leadership in technology policy and cooperation among government, academia and industry.
- **About Panchanathan:** Sethuraman Panchanathan is an Indian-origin computer scientist and engineer known for work in multimedia computing, assistive technologies and science policy. He was born in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. He is the first Indian American and first Arizonan to receive the award, which will be presented on 4 October 2026.
- **Former NSF Director:** He served as the 15th Director of the United States National Science Foundation from 2020 to 2025. NSF is a major U.S. federal agency supporting fundamental research and science education.
- **Indian Recognition:** Panchanathan was also honoured with the Padma Shri for his contributions to science and engineering. His academic journey includes associations with the University of Madras, IISc Bengaluru and IIT Madras.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Hindi Diwas 2026

In the News: Hindi Diwas was observed across India on 14 September 2026. The day commemorates the Constituent Assembly's decision of 14 September 1949 to adopt Hindi in the Devanagari script as the official language of the Union.

Key Points:

- **Historical Background:** On 14 September 1949, the Constituent Assembly adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script as the official language of the Union. The day is therefore observed annually as Hindi Diwas.
- **Article 343:** Article 343(1) of the Constitution states that the official language of the Union shall be Hindi in Devanagari script. It also provides for the international form of Indian numerals for official purposes.
- **Official Language Conference:** The Department of Official Language organised the 6th All India Official Language Conference in Navi Mumbai on 14–15 September 2026. The conference promotes the use and implementation of Hindi in official work.

- **Rajbhasha Awards:** The Rajbhasha Gaurav and Rajbhasha Kirti Awards recognise notable contributions to the promotion and implementation of Official Language Hindi. They are presented to individuals and institutions.
- **Hindi Diwas and World Hindi Day:** Hindi Diwas is observed on 14 September, while World Hindi Day is observed on 10 January. World Hindi Day focuses primarily on promoting Hindi at the international level.

Karnataka Declares September 15 Engineers' Day, Allows 'Er' Prefix

In the News: The Karnataka Government issued an order recognising 15 September as an official Engineers' Day observance and permitting engineers in the State to use the prefix "Er." before their names. The date commemorates the birth anniversary of celebrated engineer and statesman Sir M. Visvesvaraya.

Key Points:

- **New Karnataka Decision:** The government order dated 15 September 2026 permits engineers to use "Er.", short for Engineer, before their names as a form of professional recognition. The decision accompanied the move to accord official State recognition to Engineers' Day celebrations.
- **Why September 15?** India observes Engineers' Day on 15 September, the birth anniversary of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, born in 1861. The observance honours his contributions to engineering, administration and India's modern infrastructure.
- **Bharat Ratna:** Sir M. Visvesvaraya was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1955 for his outstanding contribution to the country. He is remembered as an engineering pioneer and as one of the most influential figures in the modernisation of the erstwhile Mysore State.
- **Major Engineering Contributions:** Visvesvaraya is associated with projects such as the Krishna Raja Sagara Dam, flood-protection works in Hyderabad and measures connected with Visakhapatnam port. He later served as Chief Engineer and as the Dewan of Mysore.
- **Institution-Building Role:** As Dewan of Mysore, Visvesvaraya promoted industrialisation and was associated with institutions and enterprises such as the Mysore Iron and Steel Works, Mysore Soap Factory and Mysore Chamber of Commerce. The latter later evolved into the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

World Ozone Day 2026: Theme, History and Significance

In the News: The International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, commonly called World Ozone Day, was observed on 16 September 2026 under the theme "Global Action for a Cooler Planet." The 2026 observance also marks ten years since the adoption of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.

Key Points:

- **2026 Theme:** The theme is "Global Action for a Cooler Planet", with emphasis on ten years of sustainable cooling under the Kigali Amendment. It connects ozone protection with the phase-down of high-global-warming-potential refrigerants and more energy-efficient cooling technologies.
- **Montreal Protocol:** The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was concluded on 16 September 1987 and entered into force on 1 January 1989. It regulates nearly 100 ozone-depleting chemicals through agreed phase-out schedules.
- **Origin of World Ozone Day:** In 1994, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 49/114, proclaiming 16 September as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer. The date commemorates the signing of the Montreal Protocol and the observance began in 1995.
- **Kigali Amendment:** Adopted in Kigali, Rwanda, in October 2016, the amendment extends the Montreal Protocol framework to the phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons or HFCs. HFCs do not significantly deplete ozone but are powerful greenhouse gases widely used in refrigeration and air-conditioning.
- **India and the Kigali Amendment:** India ratified the Kigali Amendment on 27 September 2021. Under its agreed schedule, India is to reduce HFC production and consumption by 10% in 2032, 20% in 2037, 30% in 2042 and 85% by 2047 from the applicable baseline.

SPORTS

Ruthless Rybakina dethrones Sabalenka to claim first U.S. Open crown

In the News: In the News: Elena Rybakina, representing Kazakhstan, defeated two-time defending champion Aryna Sabalenka 6-4, 5-7, 6-2 in the 2026 U.S. Open women's singles final. The victory gave Rybakina her maiden U.S. Open title and the third Grand Slam singles title of her career.

Key Points:

- **2026 U.S. Open Champion:** Rybakina defeated Sabalenka in three sets at Flushing Meadows, New York. The victory denied Sabalenka a third consecutive U.S. Open women's singles title.
- **Third Grand Slam Title:** The U.S. Open became Rybakina's third major singles crown after Wimbledon 2022 and the 2026 Australian Open. She had also defeated Sabalenka in the Australian Open final earlier in 2026.
- **World No. 1 Milestone:** Rybakina earned enough ranking points at the tournament to rise to WTA World No. 1. She became the first player representing Kazakhstan to reach the top position in the WTA singles rankings.
- **Sabalenka's Winning Run Ends:** The defeat ended Sabalenka's 20-match winning streak at the U.S. Open. As the two-time defending champion, she had been attempting to complete a rare three-peat at the tournament.

Global Chess League 2026 Final

In the News: Ganges Grandmasters won their maiden Global Chess League title by defeating defending champions Alpine APL Pipers in the Season 4 final in Bengaluru on September 13, 2026. The two-leg final ended 7-5 in favour of the Grandmasters after the first leg finished 3-3. Ian Nepomniachtchi's victory over Magnus Carlsen was one of the decisive results.

Key Points:

- **Champions and Runners-up:** Ganges Grandmasters secured their first Global Chess League title, defeating Alpine APL Pipers in the final. FYERS American Gambits finished third after defeating CheQ Mumba Masters in the third-place play-off.
- **Key Final Result:** Ian Nepomniachtchi defeated world number one Magnus Carlsen on the Icon board during the decisive second leg. Stavroula Tsolakidou's victory against Koneru Humpy further strengthened the Grandmasters' winning position.
- **About the League:** The Global Chess League is a joint initiative of Tech Mahindra and the International Chess Federation, FIDE. It uses a franchise-based team format that brings male and female chess players together in the same teams and competitive matches.

Pawan Sehrawat Named India's Male Flag-Bearer for Asian Games 2026

In the News: Kabaddi player Pawan Sehrawat was named India's male flag-bearer for the opening ceremony of the 2026 Asian Games in Nagoya, replacing shot-putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor. Toor withdrew from the ceremony after his official ceremonial kit did not reach him in time. Shooter Manu Bhaker was named India's female flag-bearer.

Key Points:

- **Change in Male Flag-Bearer:** Tajinderpal Singh Toor had originally been chosen to carry India's flag but was unable to attend the opening ceremony because of the delayed ceremonial kit. The Indian Olympic Association subsequently named Pawan Sehrawat as his replacement.
- **Pawan Sehrawat and Kabaddi:** Sehrawat is one of India's leading kabaddi players and was part of the Indian men's team that won gold at the previous Asian Games. His appointment made kabaddi prominent in India's ceremonial representation at Aichi-Nagoya 2026.

- **Female Flag-Bearer Manu Bhaker:** Shooter Manu Bhaker remained India's female flag-bearer for the opening ceremony. She won two bronze medals at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, becoming one of the prominent members of the Indian contingent.
- **Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games:** The 20th Asian Games are being held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from September 19 to October 4, 2026, over 16 days. The official programme lists 41 sports and participation from 45 Asian countries and regions.
- **Asian Games Organisation:** The Asian Games are the continent's premier multi-sport competition under the Olympic Council of Asia framework. The 2026 edition follows the Hangzhou Asian Games and marks the 20th edition of the continental event.

