

Highlights of 13 September 2026 Current Affairs

- UPI Tap-to-Pay, MyUPI & Global Fintech Fest 2026 Upgrades unveiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) during the **Global Fintech Fest 2026** in Mumbai. Allows contactless payments at Point of Sale (PoS) terminals using Near Field Communication (NFC) technology for both standard UPI accounts and RuPay credit cards on UPI. Transactions **below ₹5,000** require **no PIN entry**, while transactions above ₹5,000 mandate a PIN on the PoS terminal. NPCI reported massive scaling in alternative authentication, crossing **6.29 billion transactions** utilizing facial recognition and fingerprint biometrics. Introduced a controlled user group (CUG) multi-currency foreign exchange facility interoperable with Clearcorp's FX-Retail, supporting major global currencies (USD, EUR, GBP, CAD, CHF, and AED).
 - **MyUPI (Unified Transaction View):**
 - A centralized portal providing a **single window** to view all UPI transactions and AutoPay mandates across multiple banks and third-party apps.
 - Features a **Safety Switch** to instantly block UPI debits, unlink mobile numbers, access contextual merchant info, and trigger automated real-time chargebacks.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented a newly published Russian translation of the *Thirukkural* to Russian President Vladimir Putin during their bilateral meeting in New Delhi on the sidelines of the **18th BRICS Summit**. Published in 2026 by the Central Institute of Classical Tamil, the specialized volume features the original Tamil verses, Roman script transliteration, and a Russian translation by **Naira Mkrtchyan**. Traditionally credited to the legendary Tamil poet-philosopher **Thiruvalluvar**. Comprises **1,330 couplets (kurals)** divided into 133 chapters (each containing 10 couplets), making it one of the most celebrated masterworks of classical Tamil literature. Beyond cultural diplomacy, the text is revered globally for its secular, universal worldview. Domestically, it forms part of ancient Indian statecraft texts (alongside Kautilya's *Arthashastra* and Kamandaka's *Nitisara*) studied by the Indian Army under **Project Udbhav** for insights into leadership, ethics, and strategic thought.
- The **Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026** officially comes into force on **October 1, 2026**, replacing the colonial-era **1891 Act**. Received Presidential assent on **August 13, 2026**, following notification by the Central Government on September 10, 2026. To establish a **technology-neutral framework** that accommodates modern digital, virtual, electronic, and cloud-based banking infrastructure.
- India's foreign exchange reserves surged by a massive record of **\$44.903 billion** to reach an all-time high of **\$785.706 billion** for the week ended. **Foreign Currency Assets (FCAs)**—the largest component of the reserves—jumped by **\$47.498 billion** to hit **\$648.168 billion**.
- India and the United States are expanding bilateral cooperation on subsea cable security under the **US-India TRUST (Transforming the Relationship Utilizing Strategic Technologies) Initiative**. Experts from government, academia, and industry convened at a joint **Undersea Cables Workshop** to formulate strategies for securing critical international communication arteries. The U.S. has formally designated India as a future

global hub for subsea digital infrastructure, driven by its expanding digital economy, robust cloud footprint, and strategic geographical location.

- The Gujarat Legislative Assembly passed the **Ease of Doing Business Bill, 2026** (proposed by Minister of State for Industries Dr. Jayram Gamit), amending 12 provisions across 5 core state acts to reduce regulatory friction. Permits eligible shops and commercial establishments to operate round-the-clock (reviving and formalizing post-pandemic frameworks initially introduced in 2019). Streamlines business registrations by enabling initial setups via self-certification with minimal upfront verification. Rationalizes fire safety compliance under an amended *Gujarat Fire Prevention Act* based on the risk profile of commercial operations.
- **Southern Railway** has officially achieved **100% electrification** across its entire broad gauge network spanning **5,068 route kilometres**. The milestone was reached following the successful statutory inspection of the **71-km Pattukkottai-Karaikkudi section** in Tamil Nadu (conducted by Shri Ganesh, Principal Chief Electrical Engineer). The entire network now operates on **25 kV AC traction**, eliminating the need for locomotive changes between diesel and electric power. Marks the culmination of an electrification journey that began in the region in **1931** (when Madras became the second Indian city after Bombay to introduce electric lines).
- India has administered over **80 lakh (8 million) doses** of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine within six months of its nationwide launch. Initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on **February 28, 2026**, from Ajmer, Rajasthan, as part of the mission-mode framework targeting preventive women's healthcare (*Swastha Nari*). Focuses on **14-year-old adolescent girls** (an estimated annual cohort of ~1.2 crore girls nationwide), offering a **free, voluntary single-dose** schedule at public health facilities (such as Ayushman Arogya Mandirs and district hospitals).
- Russia has officially proposed its advanced **Izdeliye 177S engine** as a major performance upgrade for the Indian Air Force's (IAF) operational **Su-30MKI** fighter jet fleet. The pitch was delivered during Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to New Delhi alongside high-level discussions concerning bilateral defense cooperation, fifth-generation combat aircraft technologies (**Su-57E**), and broader bilateral economic targets (\$100 billion by 2030).
- The historic **Ramanathaswamy Temple** in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, featured prominently as the visual backdrop at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, during the welcoming ceremonies of the **18th BRICS Summit** on September 12–13, 2026. High-resolution projections of the temple's magnificent pillared corridors framed key diplomatic moments, notably Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcoming global leaders including Chinese President Xi Jinping.
 - **Architectural Marvel:**
 - Home to the **world's longest temple corridor**, stretching approximately 3,850 feet (1.2 km).
 - Features **1,212 intricately carved pillars** displaying classical Dravidian architecture, characterized by strict geometrical symmetry, floral motifs, and detailed stone craftsmanship.
 - Located on Pamban Island, the shrine is dedicated to Lord Shiva and holds dual reverence as one of the **12 sacred Jyotirlinga shrines** and an integral part of the

pan-Indian *Char Dham* pilgrimage. According to tradition, it is the site where Lord Rama worshipped Shiva before crossing over to Lanka.