

Highlights of 23 September 2026 Current Affairs

- 11th Ayurveda Day 2026 observed annually on **Dhanvantari Trayodashi (Dhanteras)**, the **11th Ayurveda Day** is being celebrated on **September 23, 2026**, with nationwide events anchored in **Nagpur, Maharashtra**.
 - **Theme: “Ayurveda for a Healthier Tomorrow”** (*Swasth Bhavishya ke liye Ayurveda*)
 - **Core Focus:** The 2026 campaign bridges ancient traditional knowledge with contemporary healthcare requirements. It emphasizes **preventive healthcare**, evidence-based research, integrative medicine, and sustainable living to counter modern lifestyle disorders.
- Presley Gerber, a model and the son of supermodel Cindy Crawford and businessman Rande Gerber, has passed away at the age of 27. Gerber passed away on September 20, 2026, at a rehabilitation facility in the Los Angeles area.
- The European Union’s data privacy watchdog has penalized Google with a **€403 million (approx. \$463 million) fine** for breaching strict regional privacy regulations regarding the handling of users' location data. The enforcement was handed down by **Ireland’s Data Protection Commission (DPC)**, which acts as the lead privacy regulator for Google within the European Union due to the tech giant housing its European headquarters in Dublin.
- The Himachal Pradesh government has announced an expansion of its welfare framework, extending the **₹1,000 monthly pocket money allowance** under the **Indira Gandhi Sukh Shiksha Yojana** to cover young adults aged **19 to 27**. Previously, the monthly financial assistance was strictly capped at children up to 18 years of age. The updated mandate ensures continuous support for young adults from widowed, single, and destitute mothers while they pursue higher education. Alongside the monthly allowance, the state government fully covers the entire cost of higher education for eligible children to ensure that financial hardship never prevents a student from pursuing advanced studies.
 - **Subsidized Education Loans:** Under the **Dr. Y.S. Parmar Vidyarthi Rin Yojana**, meritorious students across the state can access higher education loans of up to **₹20 lakh at a subsidized 1% interest rate**.
- **Gaurav**, one of the original Namibian cheetahs brought to India under Project Cheetah in September 2022, has passed away at Madhya Pradesh's **Kuno National Park** at the age of 10. Originally named *Elton* before being rechristened in India, Gaurav was rescued from the wild on September 12 after field monitors observed him looking unusually weak and dull.
- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and New Zealand's Minister for Trade and Investment Todd McClay jointly announced that the historic **India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** will officially come into force on **October 20, 2026**, coinciding with the auspicious occasion of Dussehra.
 - **Complete Duty-Free Access for Indian Exports:** New Zealand will provide **100% duty-free access** to all Indian goods starting from day one of implementation. This eliminates peak tariffs of up to 10% on major labor-intensive and industrial sectors, including textiles and apparel, leather and footwear, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, and processed foods.

- **Critical Raw Material Imports:** Indian manufacturers will secure tariff-free access to key industrial inputs from New Zealand, such as **wooden logs, coking coal, and metal scrap**.
- **Protection of Sensitive Domestic Sectors:** India has implemented strict protective measures—including Tariff-Rate Quotas (TRQs), minimum import prices, and seasonal windows—for New Zealand agricultural imports like apples, kiwifruit, and Manuka honey. Crucially, sensitive domestic sectors such as **dairy, sugar, most animal meats, and major agricultural commodities remain entirely excluded** from tariff concessions.
- J.P. Morgan hosted its landmark **11th annual India Conference** at The St. Regis in Mumbai, convening top global institutional investors, corporate executives, and policymakers.
 - **Record Engagement:** Marking J.P. Morgan's largest-ever India conference to date, the two-day summit attracted **nearly 1,200 delegates**.
 - **Corporate Footprint:** The event brought together representatives from **over 100 leading companies and global institutional investors**, boasting a combined market capitalization exceeding **\$1.5 trillion**.
 - **Leadership Presence:** Senior leadership, including J.P. Morgan Asia Pacific CEO Sjoerd Leenart, attended to underscore the firm's long-term commitment to bridging international capital with India's expanding economic landscape.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) successfully accepted bids worth **₹25,000 crore** in the second tranche of its ongoing Open Market Operation (OMO) sale programme, effectively mopping up excess cash from the domestic banking system.
 - **Strong Investor Demand:** The auction witnessed robust participation, drawing total bids amounting to **₹84,982 crore**—more than three times the notified ₹25,000 crore threshold—reflecting sustained appetite for government securities among market participants.
- India's eight core infrastructure industries registered a year-on-year growth of **4.8% in August 2026**, easing slightly from the revised 5.0% expansion recorded in July.
 - **Strong Performers (Double-Digit Growth):**
 - **Cement Production:** Surged by **12.5%**, reflecting robust continuing demand from construction and infrastructure projects.
 - **Electricity Generation:** Rose by **11.6%**, driven by steady industrial and domestic power demand.
- Microsoft officially inaugurated its fourth Indian cloud region—designated as **India South Central**—in **Hyderabad**, marking a major milestone in the tech giant's multi-billion-dollar digital and AI infrastructure roadmap for the country.
 - **Fourth Indian Hub:** The new Hyderabad facility joins Microsoft's existing established cloud regions in **Pune, Mumbai, and Chennai**, expanding its footprint as a leading hyperscale cloud provider in the region.
- Norfund, the development finance institution of the Norwegian Government, has made an equity investment of **up to \$100 million (approx. ₹950 crore)** in **AMPIN Energy Transition**.
 - **Funding Source:** The capital infusion is channeled through the **Norwegian Climate Investment Fund**, which is managed by Norfund to drive renewable energy expansion in developing countries.

- **Boosting Equity Capital:** This round takes AMPIN's total equity capital raised to nearly **\$1 billion**, enabling a broader capital deployment pipeline exceeding **\$4 billion**.
- **Capacity Expansion Goals:** The funding will directly support the development of an additional **2.0 GWp of renewable energy capacity** (focusing on solar, wind, and hybrid projects) by 2028, keeping AMPIN firmly on track toward its target of **10 GWp of installed capacity by 2030**.
- International Day of Sign Languages 2026 observed worldwide on **September 23**, the **International Day of Sign Languages** highlights the linguistic identity and cultural diversity of all deaf people and sign language users.
 - **Theme: “Declaring Deaf People’s Human Rights”**
 - **Core Focus:** The 2026 campaign underscores that communication rights are fundamental human rights. It emphasizes that true inclusion requires legal recognition, accessible public services, and full access to quality education and healthcare in national sign languages.