

Highlights of 25 September 2026 Current Affairs

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** is set to host the second edition of **Exercise Tarang Shakti**, India's premier and largest multinational air combat exercise, at Air Force Station **Jodhpur, Rajasthan**.
 - **Dates:** Scheduled to run from **September 26 to October 12, 2026**.
 - **Venue & Airspace:** Headquartered in Jodhpur, the exercise will utilize extensive reserved airspace across the western desert sectors of Rajasthan—spanning Jaisalmer, Barmer, and Phalodi—up to 40,000 feet, with bombing and tactical drills utilizing the Pokhran Field Firing Range.
 - **Strategic Timing:** The mega drill follows closely on the heels of the India-Japan bilateral exercise *Veer Guardian 2026*, cementing Jodhpur's status as a core hub for international military aviation.
- President Droupadi Murmu has promulgated the **Inter-State Council (Amendment) Order, 2026**, introducing key structural updates to the composition and invitation framework of the Inter-State Council. Notified by the Ministry of Home Affairs under **Article 263** of the Constitution, the amendment officially comes into force with immediate effect.
 - **Inclusion of UT Lieutenant Governors:** The updated framework broadens participation rules to ensure representation from Union Territories with legislatures when central rule is imposed.
 - **Substitution of Clause 2 Proviso:** The amendment completely replaces the historical 1990 proviso, creating a clear, four-part criteria detailing precisely when a State Governor or Union Territory Lieutenant Governor must be invited to council meetings.
- External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar** co-chaired the inaugural **Partners for Multilateralism, International Law, Peace and Prosperity (P4M) Summit** at the United Nations headquarters in New York. Held on the margins of the **81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**, India joined as an initial co-sponsor alongside a diverse coalition of global partners.
 - **Founding Co-Sponsors:** The high-level initiative was brought together by an initial group consisting of **India, Australia, Barbados, Brazil, Canada, Kenya, and the European Union**.
 - **Core Objective:** Designed as an open platform for cross-regional dialogue, the P4M coalition aims to build coalitions, bolster international law, and drive practical modernization and reform of stalled multilateral institutions.
- Senior bureaucrat and Whole-Time Member **Jayanti Prasad** has taken on the additional charge as the Chairperson of the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)**.
 - **Effective Date:** Assumed charge on **September 13, 2026**.
 - **Predecessor:** Succeeds former Chairperson **Ravi Mital**, who stepped down upon retirement.
 - **Tenure:** The additional responsibility is slated to run until **November 20, 2026** (the conclusion of his current tenure as a Whole-Time Member), or until a permanent regular chairperson is appointed, or until further orders.
- A comprehensive new botanical assessment has revealed that the **Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve (ABR)**—situated at the southern end of the Western Ghats across

Kerala and Tamil Nadu—harbors an extraordinary **3,261 species of flowering plants**. The extensive checklist, compiled by researchers from the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI) and published in the journal *Plant Science Today*, underscores the region's status as a global biodiversity hotspot.

- Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL), India's specialized maritime lender, is scheduled to launch **India's first-ever blue bond issuance** on **September 28, 2026**.
 - **Fundraising Target:** The company aims to raise **₹600 crore**, backed by an additional **₹500 crore greenshoe option**, bringing the total potential mobilization capacity to ₹1,100 crore.
 - **Tenure & Rating:** The debt instrument carries a **10-year maturity** profile and has secured high-grade **AA+ ratings** from both ICRA and CARE.
 - **Arranger:** **SBI Capital Markets** has been appointed as the lead arranger for the landmark offering, with targeted outreach directed toward major institutional participants including large insurance companies and provident funds.
- State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has made a significant natural gas discovery at a deepwater well in the **Mahanadi Offshore Basin**, located approximately 43 km off the Konark coast in Odisha.
 - **Location & Depth:** The gas strike was recorded at the **MN-DW18-1-H-D** well (drilled to a target depth of 1,623 metres), encountering gas in the **1,441–1,452 metre interval** under a water depth of roughly 770 metres.
 - **Maiden Samudra Manthan Well:** This marks the very first well drilled by ONGC in the Mahanadi Basin under the government's newly launched **Samudra Manthan** national offshore exploration campaign.
 - **Flow Performance:** The well has demonstrated continuous gas flow with encouraging pressure rates during initial testing phases, signaling strong baseline prospectivity.
- The Government of India has officially notified the dissolution of the **Digital Communications Commission (DCC)**, winding up the Department of Telecommunications' (DoT) apex inter-departmental decision-making body after a 37-year run.
 - **Origin & Evolution:** Originally established as the **Telecom Commission in April 1989** to wield executive and financial powers over national telecom policies, the body was renamed the Digital Communications Commission in October 2018 to align with the broader National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP).
 - **Final Action:** The commission held its last meeting on **September 3, 2026**, where it finalized key recommendations regarding satellite communication (satcom) spectrum pricing before the Union Cabinet approved the wind-up on September 16.
 - **Formal Notification:** A gazette notification issued by the Ministry of Communications confirmed the dissolution with immediate effect.
- Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare **Anupriya Patel** officially launched the **7th Edition of the National Formulary of India (NFI) 2026** at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi. The launch took place during the observance of the **6th National Pharmacovigilance Week Campaign** (organized by the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission).

- **Publishing Authority:** Compiled and published by the **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)** under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- **Comprehensive Scope:** The 2026 edition features **34 chapters, 20 appendices, and 653 drug monographs.**
- **Specialized Formulations:** The updated volume incorporates **42 fixed-dose combinations (FDCs) and 30 immunological products.**
- **Policy Harmonization:** Drug monographs have been systematically revised to align seamlessly with the **National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM)** and ongoing National Health Programmes.
- India has joined other G20 member nations in adopting four major consensus outcomes at the **G20 Energy Abundance Ministerial** held in Houston, Texas. The voluntary, non-binding agreements focus on balancing energy security, affordability, and sustainable development.
- The Indian women's cricket team delivered a dominant performance at the **2026 Asian Games** in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, crushing Sri Lanka by **147 runs** in the final at Nisshin to successfully defend their crown. The victory marked **India's first gold medal** of the 2026 Asian Games campaign.
 - **Record-Breaking Total:** Opting to bat first under captain Harmanpreet Kaur, India posted a mammoth **216/3 in 20 overs**—the highest-ever total in women's cricket history at the Asian Games.
 - **Explosive Openers:** Openers **Smriti Mandhana** and **Shafali Verma** tore into the Sri Lankan bowling attack with a rapid **99-run partnership** off 60 balls.
 - **Key Batting Performances:**
 - **Smriti Mandhana:** Led the charge with a scintillating **79 off 45 balls**, featuring seven massive sixes. During her knock, she also became the first woman cricketer to scale 11,000 international runs.
 - **Shafali Verma:** Contributed a quick-fire **48 off 29 balls.**
 - **Richa Ghosh:** Provided a lethal late-innings flourish, smashing an unbeaten **49 off just 22 deliveries.**
- England's express pace spearhead **Mark Wood** has officially announced his retirement from international cricket, bringing down the curtain on a stellar **11-year career** across all formats. The 36-year-old made the announcement following a prolonged battle with recurring injuries, noting that medical advice had ultimately closed the door on a return to Test and 50-over cricket.
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** and the **European Space Agency (ESA)** have officially extended their long-standing bilateral Cooperative Agreement through **January 8, 2032.** The extension was formalized via an exchange of letters signed in Paris on the margins of the International Space Summit.
 - **Foundational History:** The overarching framework agreement originally entered into force in **January 2002**, marking over two decades of institutional collaboration between India and Europe.
 - **Signatories:** The renewal documents were signed by ISRO Chairman **Dr. V. Narayanan** and ESA Director General **Josef Aschbacher.**
 - **Core Continuity:** The renewed pact preserves foundational areas of cooperation, including **Earth observation, satellite navigation, space science, and mission**

operations support (such as ground station tracking via ESA's ESTRACK and ISRO's ISTRAC networks).

- Fitch Ratings has revised its gross domestic product (GDP) growth projection for India for the fiscal year 2026–27 (FY27) upward to **6.9%**, marking a 50-basis-point increase from its earlier estimate of 6.4%.
- **World Lung Day** is observed globally on **September 25** each year to raise awareness about respiratory health, advocate for better lung care, and highlight the massive global burden of lung diseases.
 - **Theme: "A Lifetime of Lung Health"**
 - **Significance:** This year's theme emphasizes that looking after your lungs is a continuous journey that matters at every stage of life—from infancy and childhood through adulthood to older age. It encourages proactive care, prevention, and early diagnosis rather than waiting for respiratory conditions to manifest.