

Highlights of 26 September 2026 Current Affairs

- India has outlined robust, multi-pronged strategies under its **National Viral Hepatitis Control Program (NVHCP)** to meet the World Health Organization (WHO) goal of eliminating viral hepatitis as a public health threat by **2030**.
 - **Mass Screening and Treatment Scale-Up:** India has ramped up nationwide testing and care. The NVHCP has successfully screened over **210.6 million (21 crore) people** and provided free treatment to more than **612,000 patients** across over 1,100 designated treatment sites.
 - **Universal Immunization & Birth Doses:** To prevent mother-to-child transmission, India implements universal screening of pregnant women for Hepatitis B. Newborns receive the critical **Hepatitis B birth dose within 24 hours of birth**, followed by subsequent doses under the Universal Immunization Programme.
- **Mirabai Chanu** delivered a historic performance at the **Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games 2026**, winning the **silver medal** in the women's 49kg weightlifting category.
 - **Ending the 28-Year Drought:** Chanu's podium finish officially ended India's 28-year wait for an Asian Games weightlifting medal. The last time an Indian won a weightlifting medal at the continental event was back in **1998**, when the legendary Karnam Malleswari claimed silver in Bangkok.
- **S&P Global Ratings** has upgraded India's real GDP growth forecast for the fiscal year 2026-27 (FY27) to **7%**, moving it up from its previous projection of 6.6%.
 - **Strong June Quarter Performance:** The upward revision is primarily driven by India's stronger-than-expected economic growth of **7.8% in the June quarter**, propelled by robust domestic activity.
- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) tracked a potent weather system over the Bay of Bengal that moved toward the **north Andhra Pradesh and south Odisha coast**. While widely discussed under the prospective storm name "*Cyclone Arnab*" (contributed by Bangladesh, meaning "ocean"), the system maintained its classification as a deep depression rather than officially intensifying into a full cyclonic storm prior to its landfall near Kalingapatnam.
- According to the World Economic Forum's (WEF) *September 2026 Chief Economists' Outlook*, **India has secured the top position globally** for economic growth prospects.
 - **Surging Confidence:** **74% of chief economists** surveyed expect "strong or very strong growth" for India over the next 12 months—a massive jump from 52% in May, placing it marginally ahead of South-East Asia.
- The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) includes a dedicated category for **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, assessing higher education institutions on environmental responsibility, eco-friendly campus practices, social inclusion, and research aligned with the UN's 17 SDGs.
 - **1st Place:** Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, Chennai (recognized for green technology initiatives and sustainable technical research).
 - **2nd Place:** Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI / Pusa Institute), New Delhi (pioneering food security, agricultural research, and sustainable farming).
 - **3rd Place:** Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi (noted for community outreach, social inclusivity, and environmental studies).

- Bangladesh has appointed its serving Foreign Secretary, **Asad Alam Siam**, as the country's next High Commissioner to India, with New Delhi officially issuing the formal diplomatic clearance (*agrément*).
- India TV Chairman and Editor-in-Chief **Rajat Sharma** has been unanimously re-elected as the President of the **News Broadcasters and Digital Association (NBDA)** for the 2026–27 term.
 - The apex media body, which represents 29 leading news and current affairs broadcasters running over 130 news channels and digital platforms, expressed full confidence in his continued leadership.
 - During its 19th Annual General Meeting and board meetings, the NBDA also inducted Jayant Mammen Mathew (MM TV) to the board and appointed Rachna Burman (The Times Group) and Kshipra Jatana (Network18) as Permanent Directors.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued amendment directions updating the investment portfolio valuation framework for All-India Financial Institutions (AIFIs) and banks regarding **Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)** and **Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)**.
 - **Quoted vs. Unquoted Units:** Quoted units will continue to follow standard market valuation rules, while unquoted units must be valued based on the Net Asset Value (NAV) disclosed by the respective trust.
- The Government of Assam has announced that all state secretariat departments will transition to a **completely paperless workflow** starting **January 1, 2027**.
 - The ambitious administrative overhaul will be executed through the nationwide **e-Office system**, aimed at enhancing transparency, fastening file tracking, and cutting down administrative bureaucratic delays.
- State Director General of Police (DGP) Harish Kumar Gupta launched the **Centralised Drone Monitoring Portal (CDMP)** and the **SafeStay AP app** in Guntur to modernize policing, surveillance, and crime prevention.
 - **CDMP Features:** Integrates live feeds from police drones across the state into a single dashboard powered by AI analytics and Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) for secure field situational awareness.
- The flagship **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)** marked its **8th anniversary** on September 23, 2026, having been launched on the same date in 2018.
 - **Massive Reach:** The scheme provides a health cover of **₹5 lakh per family per year** to over **60 crore beneficiaries** (spanning more than 12 crore vulnerable and eligible families), making it the world's largest public health assurance program.
- The Booker Prize judging panel announced the **shortlist of six novels** selected from 163 submissions published in the UK and Ireland. The winner will be revealed at a ceremony in London on **November 9, 2026**.
 - **The Shortlisted Books & Authors:**
 - *The End of Everything* by **M. John Harrison** (England) – A dystopian, post-apocalyptic narrative set on the Kent coast. At age 81, Harrison is the oldest author on the shortlist.

- *The Disappearers* by **Marlon James** (Jamaica) – Set in late-1980s Kingston, exploring the aftermath of a violent attack on gay actors. James is a past Booker winner (*A Brief History of Seven Killings*).
- *Black Bag* by **Luke Kennard** (England) – A surreal campus satire and social observation inspired by a 1960s psychology experiment.
- *May We Feed the King* by **Rebecca Perry** (England) – The sole **debut novel** on the list, intertwining a modern palace curator's life with a forgotten medieval court.
- *The Things We Never Say* by **Elizabeth Strout** (USA) – A quiet, human exploration of family silences and contemporary American life set in coastal Massachusetts. Strout is a Pulitzer Prize winner and previous Booker nominee.
- *John of John* by **Douglas Stuart** (Scotland) – A poignant look at family friction, isolation, and a reluctant return to a Hebridean island. Stuart won the Booker Prize in 2020 for *Shuggie Bain*.