

Highlights of 27 September 2026 Current Affairs

- The **European Union** and the **Philippines** have officially reached a "**substantial agreement**" on a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA), following a breakthrough announcement by EU Trade Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič and Philippine Trade and Industry Secretary Maria Cristina Aldeguer-Roque. The milestone pact brings an end to a decade of stop-start negotiations that originally commenced in 2015.
- The **Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)**—India's wealthiest municipal body—is gearing up to launch its debut municipal bond issuance in **early 2027**, aiming to tap domestic capital markets to fund major urban infrastructure projects.
- The Government of India has officially brought smartphone screen protectors and tempered glass under the **Compulsory Registration Scheme (CRS)** of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) issued a formal gazette notification amending the Electronics and Information Technology Goods Order to enforce strict quality benchmarks.
- According to the **Oxford Economics 2026 Global Cities Index**, an unprecedented **55 Indian cities** have secured a place among the world's **top 100 fastest-growing city economies**. The comprehensive index evaluates 1,000 cities worldwide across core pillars including economics, human capital, quality of life, environment, and governance.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has revised its economic growth projection for India upward, raising its real GDP growth forecast for the fiscal year 2026–27 (FY27) to **7.0%** (a 40-basis-point increase from its earlier 6.6% estimate). The upgrade was unveiled in the September update of the *Asian Development Outlook (ADO)*.
- Global travel authority **Lonely Planet** has officially released its highly anticipated **Best in Travel 2027** list, with **two prominent Indian entries** securing spots among the world's top recommendations. The annual compilation features 50 global recommendations split evenly between **25 top destinations** and **25 must-try travel experiences**, curated by Lonely Planet's international network of travel experts and writers.
 - Gujarat
 - Darjeeling Himalayan Railway
- Cooperative-based mobility service **Bharat Taxi** has been formally launched across five major cities in Uttar Pradesh: **Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Kanpur, and Prayagraj**. The rollout was jointly flagged off by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Union Minister of State for Cooperation Murlidhar Mohol during a special program held in Lucknow.
- The Government of Punjab has officially issued a formal notification announcing an **8% increase in Dearness Allowance (DA)** for state government employees and **Dearness Relief (DR)** for pensioners and family pensioners. The administrative move follows discussions between Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and employee union representatives.
 - **Revised Rates:** The hike raises the existing DA/DR rate from **42% to 50%**.
 - **Effective Date:** The enhanced allowance is officially effective from **September 1, 2026**, and is payable directly alongside the September salary and pension disbursements.
 - **Target Beneficiaries:** The revision benefits approximately **8 lakh active state government employees and pensioners** across Punjab.

- **Financial Outlay:** The administrative decision entails an estimated annual financial commitment of roughly **₹3,000 crore** to cushion household expenditures against rising consumer inflation.
- The United Kingdom has officially established its first dedicated military space unit—**No. III Space Effects Squadron**—under the umbrella of UK Space Command to protect critical space assets and counter hostile orbital activities. The new squadron was formally unveiled by Air Chief Marshal Sir Harv Smyth at the UK Space Power Conference in London.
- The Delhi Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, has officially approved the **Driving Upliftment and Rozgar for Women/Transgender Green E-Auto (DURGA)** scheme. The initiative aims to drive economic self-sufficiency while simultaneously addressing safety and last-mile connectivity gaps across the capital.
- Over the past several years, **19 U.S. states** have passed legislation or ballot initiatives providing for year-round (permanent) Daylight Saving Time (DST). However, under the federal **Uniform Time Act of 1966**, individual states are legally prohibited from adopting permanent Daylight Saving Time on their own. Consequently, all state-level laws are **contingent** and will only take effect if the U.S. Congress amends federal law (such as by passing the proposed *Sunshine Protection Act*) to explicitly allow year-round DST.
- NASA has officially advanced the **PRobe far-Infrared Mission for Astrophysics (PRIMA)** into **Phase B**, marking a major milestone for the next-generation space telescope. The transition initiates the preliminary design and core technology development phase for the observatory, which is designed to fill a critical observational gap in astronomy.
- ZT Lalrithangi (popularly known as Pi Mari-i), a 35-year-old teacher-turned-strawberry-farmer from Mizoram, has been selected among the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) "**100 Women Heroes in Agrifood Systems and Rural Development**". The prestigious honor is being conferred as part of the **International Year of Women Farmers 2026**.
- An international research team led by Indian astronomers has identified an extraordinary stellar system—**eRASSU J060839.5–704014** (referred to as **eRASSU J0608**)—as one of the fastest-evolving ultracompact double white dwarf binaries known. The findings, published in *The Astrophysical Journal Letters*, shed new light on late-stage stellar evolution and gravitational wave physics.
- Renowned music composer and director **Shantanu Moitra** has been selected to receive the Madhya Pradesh government's prestigious **National Lata Mangeshkar Award 2026** for his outstanding contributions to music direction.
 - **Date & Venue:** The award will be formally conferred on **September 28, 2026**—marking the birth anniversary of the legendary Lata Mangeshkar—at the Lata Mangeshkar Auditorium in **Indore**, Madhya Pradesh.
 - **Prize Details:** The honor carries a cash prize of **₹5 lakh** and a formal citation.
 - **Celebrations:** The presentation ceremony anchors a two-day cultural festival. It follows the "Amar Lata Hamari Lata" musical showcase and leads into a live performance by the popular singing duo Sachet-Parampara.