

Highlights of 29 September 2026 Current Affairs

- India has climbed nine spots to rank **31st globally** out of 110 economies in the World Economic Forum's (WEF) **Travel & Tourism Development Index (TTDI) 2026**. The index, developed in collaboration with the Zurich Insurance Group, evaluates the policies and enablers that ensure sustainable and resilient growth of the tourism sector worldwide.
- The central government, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has announced its market borrowing calendar for the second half (H2) of the financial year 2026–27, outlining plans to raise **₹7.86 trillion** (\$7.86 lakh crore) through dated securities.
- Senior bureaucrat and medical doctor-turned-IAS officer **Mandeep K. Bhandari** has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). The appointment was cleared by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) under a broader bureaucratic reshuffle announced by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar** officially signed the **United Nations Convention against Cybercrime** on September 25, 2026, during the sidelines of the **81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** in New York. The landmark signature positions India among the growing list of nations committed to the world's first comprehensive global treaty dedicated to tackling borderless digital offences.
- Delhi has emerged as the highest-ranked Indian city in the **Oxford Economics Global Cities Index 2026**, securing the **268th position globally** out of 1,000 major urban centers across 163 countries. The index evaluates cities across **five core categories**: Economics, Human Capital, Quality of Life, Environment, and Governance.
- President **Droupadi Murmu** has returned the **West Bengal Public Safety and Control of Anti-Social Activities Bill, 2026** (commonly known as the anti-goonda bill) to the state legislature for reconsideration. The legislation, passed by the state assembly to ramp up actions against organized crime and public disorder, was sent back following observations regarding potential legal overlaps with existing central legislation.
- The Central Government has approved the premature retirement of **Dinesh Pant** as the Managing Director of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). Pant opted for voluntary retirement from the public sector insurance giant ahead of his scheduled superannuation in May 2027.
- The Maharashtra government has officially declared drought conditions in **265 out of the state's 358 talukas**, spanning 32 districts and covering roughly 74% of the state. The declaration comes in the wake of significant monsoon rainfall deficits and prolonged dry spells during the kharif crop season.
- The Central Government has officially extended the **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), 1958**, in specified "disturbed areas" across parts of **Manipur, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh** for another six months. The extension takes effect from **October 1, 2026, and will remain in force until March 31, 2027**, unless withdrawn earlier.
- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has officially designated four major maritime gateways—**Deendayal Port (Kandla), Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPA), Paradip Port, and Mundra Port**—as **Mega Ports**. The formal notification was issued under **Section 73 of the Indian Ports Act, 2025**, marking a strategic milestone in the

governance, capacity scaling, and competitive categorization of India's maritime infrastructure.

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah flagged off India's first **Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)-powered train** from the Sabarmati Railway Station in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The launch marks a major milestone in Indian Railways' green transition and its broader push toward alternative, lower-emission traction technologies.
- India secured the **silver medal** in the Open section at the **46th FIDE Chess Olympiad 2026** held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, capping off a highly competitive 11-round campaign.
 - **Gold Medal: Uzbekistan** claimed the championship title on home soil, finishing in first place with **20 match points** after defeating Ukraine 2.5–1.5 in the final round.
 - **Silver Medal (India):** India concluded its campaign with **18 match points** and **28.5 game points**. In the final round, India played out a hard-fought 2–2 draw against Hungary.
 - **Bronze Medal (Germany):** Germany also finished with 18 match points, but India secured the silver ahead of them on superior tiebreaks.
- The **Lalit Kala Akademi** (National Academy of Art) has announced the recipients of its prestigious annual awards for the **65th National Exhibition of Art (2026)**, recognizing exceptional creative talent across contemporary Indian visual arts.
- India delivered a historic performance at the **48th WorldSkills Competition** in Shanghai, China, breaking into the global top tier by finishing **10th overall**. The six-day premier vocational skill event concluded on September 27, 2026, drawing over 1,400 young competitors from approximately 70 countries and regions.
- The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, officially launched the **Livestock Insurance Portal** in New Delhi. The new digital platform is designed to transform the implementation, tracking, and administration of the government's flagship Livestock Insurance Scheme across the country.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay officially launched the flagship **Thaaimaman Thanga Mothiram Thittam** (Maternal Uncle's Gold Ring Scheme) at the Government Rajaji Hospital in Madurai. The welfare initiative is designed to celebrate childbirth, honor motherhood, and build deeper public trust in the state's healthcare infrastructure.
 - **The Core Incentive:** Under the scheme, every newborn baby delivered in a **government hospital or primary health centre (PHC)** across Tamil Nadu receives a **1-gram, 22-carat gold ring**.
 - **Cultural Symbolism:** The title draws from traditional Tamil culture, where the *Thai Maman* (maternal uncle) traditionally presents gifts to a newborn. Through this scheme, the state symbolically steps into that familial role to welcome the child.
 - **Budgetary Outlay:** The government has allocated an annual expenditure of **₹755.83 crore** to sustain the program, targeting an estimated 4.41 million (4.41 lakh) eligible births annually.

- **Retrospective Coverage:** While formally inaugurated in late September 2026, the scheme applies **retrospectively to eligible babies born on or after June 22, 2026.**