

Highlights of 30 September 2026 Current Affairs

- India's first "Mega Ports," **Deendayal Port Authority (Kandla)** has commenced development work on India's first port-based **e-methanol production and bunkering facility** in Gujarat. The strategic green energy project is designed to position Kandla as a pioneering bunkering hub for alternative zero-emission marine fuels along the busy international shipping lanes of the western seaboard.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) has officially commenced the operational phase of the second edition of **Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026** at the **Air Force Station in Jodhpur, Rajasthan**. Running from **September 26 to October 12, 2026**, the premier multinational air exercise brings together diverse global air power assets to foster interoperability and tactical coordination.
 - **Active Flying Participants:** Seven friendly foreign countries—**Australia, the United States, the United Arab Emirates, France, Germany, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh**—are actively participating with flying units.
 - **Global Observer Presence:** In addition to active flying contingents, observers and delegations from nearly 40 countries are participating to monitor complex drills and strategic dialogues.
- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)-led **Cool Coalition**, in collaboration with Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL), presented the inaugural **Cool Leaders Awards** during the **Global Cooling Pledge Assembly 2026** held in **Singapore**. The newly established awards recognize pioneering global leadership, strategic policy integration, and technological innovations dedicated to sustainable cooling, heat resilience, and climate mitigation.
 - **Key Winners and Categories**
 - **Singapore:**
 - Recognized for its cutting-edge national urban planning, advanced district cooling systems, and stringent building efficiency standards designed to mitigate the urban heat island effect.
 - **United Arab Emirates (UAE):**
 - Honored for scaling district cooling infrastructure and effectively mainstreaming sustainable cooling targets into broader national climate and development frameworks.
 - **Dong Mingzhu (Chairwoman of Gree Electric Appliances):**
 - Honored in the individual/corporate leadership category for pioneering ultra-efficient, low-carbon cooling technologies and advancing large-scale commercial applications that lower global cooling emissions.
- The ninth edition of the India-Kazakhstan joint military exercise, **KAZIND-2026**, has officially commenced in **Oskemen, Kazakhstan**. Running from **September 28 to October 11, 2026**, the annual bilateral exercise brings together military contingents from both nations to strengthen defense cooperation and tactical coordination.
- The Supreme Court has directed the Central Government to examine introducing statutory rules to strictly regulate social media accounts operated by minors, raising serious legal questions over how children under 18 independently access digital platforms.

- World Heart Day observed annually on **September 29**, **World Heart Day** is a global campaign spearheaded by the World Heart Federation (WHF) to raise public awareness about cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), which remain the leading cause of mortality worldwide. The day unites individuals, medical communities, and policymakers to drive action toward heart health promotion, prevention, and accessible treatment.
 - **Theme: "Don't Miss a Beat"**
 - **Core Focus:** The 2026 campaign centers on recognizing subtle or hidden cardiovascular warning signs, encouraging proactive heart care, and demanding robust systemic and policy action. It emphasizes three key pillars:
 - **See the Signs:** Spotting early, easily dismissed symptoms (such as mild breathlessness, unusual fatigue, or intermittent chest discomfort) before they escalate into emergencies.
 - **Protect Your Heart:** Adopting preventative habits to lower cardiovascular risks.
 - **Demand Action:** Urging healthcare leaders and systems to prioritize national cardiovascular action plans and universal access to treatment.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched a dedicated **Extradition Portal** while reviewing the comprehensive **PRAHAAR counter-terrorism strategy** at a high-level national security conference in New Delhi. The new initiatives aim to institutionalize "zero delay" cross-agency coordination, modernize tracking mechanisms, and aggressively target international fugitive networks.
- The Ministry of Mines has officially notified **two new offshore mineral blocks** located near the **Great Nicobar Island** in the Andaman Sea, marking another major step in India's strategic push toward deep-ocean resource exploration and critical mineral security.
 - **Geographical Scope:** The two blocks cover a combined area of **1,632 square kilometers** within India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
 - **West Sewell Ridge-01:** Spans approximately **1,000 square kilometers** off Great Nicobar Island.
 - **Sewell Rise-01:** Covers around **632 square kilometers** in the southern portion of the Sewell Rise.
- Google has officially initiated a high-stakes move into space-based computing infrastructure through **Project Suncatcher**, an ambitious research moonshot aimed at testing and scaling artificial intelligence data centres in low Earth orbit (LEO). The project addresses mounting terrestrial constraints—such as massive electricity grid demands, localized water usage, and real estate bottlenecks—by looking upward to harness the near-constant power of the sun.
- The **12th International Film Festival of Shimla (IFFS)** successfully concluded its three-day run at the historic **Gaiety Heritage Complex** on The Mall, Shimla. The premier cinematic event brought together independent filmmakers, global artists, and cinema enthusiasts for cross-cultural dialogue and screenings.
- Gautam Adani and his family have officially reclaimed the **top position on the M3M Hurun India Rich List 2026**, overtaking Mukesh Ambani to become India's wealthiest individual.

- **Adani's Valuation:** Gautam Adani's total net worth rose by **13% to reach ₹9.23 lakh crore**, driven by robust performance and portfolio restructuring across green energy, infrastructure, and utilities.
- **Ambani's Position:** Mukesh Ambani and family moved to second place with a recorded net worth of **₹8.63 lakh crore**, marking a 10% decline over the evaluation period. The resulting gap between the top two spots stands at ₹59,400 crore.
- **Top Three Completion:** L.N. Mittal and family surged into the top three, climbing eight spots with a 93% spike in wealth to ₹3.39 lakh crore, buoyed by favorable European steel trade dynamics.