

Highlights of 09 October 2026 Current Affairs

- The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the **2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry** to French chemist **Henri B. Kagan** and Japanese chemist **Kenso Soai**.
 - **Official Citation:** *"For the discovery of non-linear effects and autocatalysis in asymmetric organic synthesis."*
 - **Prize Share:** The laureates share the prestigious 12 million Swedish kronor award.
- In a formal notification issued, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) officially removed **Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL)** from the **Second Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.
 - **Exclusion from the Second Schedule:** Following a notification initially processed on July 31 and published in the Gazette of India, PPBL has completely lost its status as a recognized "scheduled bank", stripping it of operational privileges tied to the schedule.
 - The exclusion follows the RBI's earlier decision to cancel PPBL's banking licence over persistent regulatory non-compliance, governance failures, and supervisory concerns deemed detrimental to depositors' interests.
- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has officially unveiled the **Strategy for Environmental Economic Accounts in India (2026–2030)**. This strategic roadmap succeeds the previous 2022–2026 framework and provides a comprehensive, five-year plan to measure the economic value of India's natural assets, ecological capital, and ecosystem services alongside traditional macroeconomic indicators.
- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting officially notified the reconstitution of the **Press Council of India (PCI)** for its **15th term**, introducing **13 new journalist members** under the Press Council Act, 1978. The council continues to be headed by Chairperson **Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai** (former Supreme Court judge). The newly notified members span various regional backgrounds and represent both major editorial leadership and field-level reporting:
 - **Editors Category (6 Members):**
 - Pradeep Kumar Jain
 - Sayed Raza Husain Rizvi
 - Ankur Dua
 - Aparna Shukla
 - Raj Parwana / Narender Singh
 - Vinod Bajpai
 - **Working Journalists — Other Than Editors (7 Members):**
 - Vinod Kohli
 - Geetarth Pathak
 - Prajnananda Chaudhuri
 - Kingshuk Pramanik
 - C.K. Nayak
 - Prasanna Kumar Mohanty
 - Bijoy Kakchingtabam

- India officially joined the United States and 13 other major global economies in signing a landmark **Joint Ministerial Statement** addressing structural excess capacity and non-market policies that distort global trade and manufacturing. The statement was released by the Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) following high-level discussions among G20 Trade Ministers in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- In a major boost to national security and domestic defense manufacturing, India marked two landmark milestones the launch of the country's first indigenous **Fleet Support Ship (FSS)**, 'Surya', and the delivery of **HAL's 2,000th aero-engine**.
- India officially launched its **first national-level pilot project for 3D-printed rural housing** in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The initiative introduces advanced construction-scale technology to the rural housing sector under the central government's flagship **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G 2.0)** scheme. The pilot is being executed in the **Guntur district**, specifically across the villages of **Burripalem and Obulnayudupalem**. It encompasses the construction of **177 homes**.
- The **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)**, in collaboration with the **Zoological Society of London (ZSL)**, published the **Living Planet Report 2026** (subtitled "*The Science of Hope*"). The landmark biennial report tracks the health of global biodiversity using the Living Planet Index (LPI).
 - **The 73% Decline:** Between 1970 and 2022, monitored wildlife populations (covering 5,790 vertebrate species across 35,803 population trends) experienced an average decline of **73%**. (*Note: The index measures relative population trends rather than a headcount of all individual animals on Earth.*)
- Paralympic champions **Pramod Bhagat** and **Bhavina Patel** have been officially announced as India's flagbearers for the opening ceremony of the **5th Asian Para Games (Aichi-Nagoya 2026)**. The prestigious continental event is scheduled to take place from **October 18 to 24, 2026, in Nagoya, Japan**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially inaugurated the **10th edition of the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2026** at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi. Jointly organized by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), Asia's premier digital and technology forum convened under the theme **"Scale Without Boundaries."**
- Anne Carson Awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature
- The Swedish Academy awarded the **2026 Nobel Prize in Literature** to renowned Canadian poet, essayist, classicist, and translator **Anne Carson**.
 - **Official Citation:** "*For her bold and inventive oeuvre that, in playful dialogue with the classical tradition, has created new forms for contemporary literature.*"
 - **Historic Milestone:** Carson becomes the 19th woman to win the literature prize since its inception in 1901, and only the second Canadian author to receive the honor, following Alice Munro in 2013.
- World Post Day 2026 observed globally on **October 9**, **World Post Day** marks the anniversary of the establishment of the **Universal Postal Union (UPU)** in 1874 under the **Treaty of Bern**. The annual observance celebrates the vital role of postal services in everyday global life, commerce, and socio-economic development, serving as the official kickoff for India's **National Postal Week (October 9–15)**.
- At its **57th meeting** chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the **GST Council** approved a sweeping set of enforcement and procedural reforms aimed at

fostering trust-based taxation, reducing litigation, and easing compliance for businesses and MSMEs. The headline decisions mark a fundamental departure from the coercive enforcement mechanisms inherited when the Goods and Services Tax was introduced in 2017.

- **Scrapping Arrest Powers:** The Council approved the complete removal of tax officers' powers to arrest individuals under the GST law (by omitting Section 69 of the CGST Act). Tax authorities will henceforth rely on civil financial measures—such as tax recovery, interest, and proportionate penalties—to resolve disputes rather than resorting to criminal deterrence.
- **Raising the Prosecution Threshold:** The threshold for launching criminal prosecution has been **raised fivefold from ₹1 crore to ₹5 crore**, effectively ensuring that minor or routine compliance friction does not trigger criminal proceedings.
- **Judicial Discretion on Penalties:** The minimum mandatory punishment for offenses has been removed, leaving sentencing (fine, imprisonment, or both) to judicial discretion.
- **Nuance on Fraud:** While general compliance disputes are decoupled from criminal actions, fake-invoice creation and fraudulent Input Tax Credit (ITC) generation remain strictly actionable under specialized clauses.