



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

 **23 SEPTEMBER 2025**

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Government of India Unveils Logo and Flagship Initiatives for India-AI Impact Summit 2026.



The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) recently unveiled the official logo and flagship initiatives for the India-AI Impact Summit 2026, scheduled on 19–20 February 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The launch was led by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

- The Summit marks the first time a Global South country will host a global AI event, emphasizing India's leadership in responsible and inclusive AI development.
- India has expanded its AI infrastructure from 10,000 GPUs to 38,000 GPUs under the IndiaAI Mission. Additionally, 570 AI Data Labs are planned nationwide, with 30 already dedicated in collaboration with Intel.
- Key initiatives include UDAAN – Global AI Pitch Fest, YuvaAI Innovation Challenge, AI by HER, Global Innovation Challenge, Research Symposium, and an AI Expo with 300+ exhibitors from India and 30+ countries.

Key Points:-

- (i) Eight indigenous AI foundational model

projects were announced, including Bharat Gen (IIT Bombay), Fractal Analytics Reasoning Model, Tech Mahindra Indic Model, GenLoop's 22-language model, and Intellihealth's EEG AI model, targeting multilingual AI, healthcare, and research.

(ii) The IndiaAI Fellowship Program has been expanded to support 13,500 scholars (8,000 UG, 5,000 PG, 500 PhD), covering disciplines like engineering, medicine, and law, with new skilling modules on data annotation and curation.

(iii) The Summit's framework is built on three Sutras – People, Planet, and Progress – and seven Chakras, focusing on human capital, social empowerment, trusted AI, resilience, science, democratization of resources, and AI for social good.

2. DEPWD and Ministry of AYUSH Launch Rs. 5.26 Crore Integrative Rehabilitation Projects for PwDs.



In September 2025, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD) under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) partnered with the Ministry of AYUSH to introduce integrative rehabilitation initiatives for persons with disabilities (PwDs). The projects

were sanctioned during the 19th Governing Body Meeting of the National Fund for PwDs, chaired by Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary, DEPWD, in New Delhi.

- A total of Rs. 5.26 crore has been sanctioned under the National Fund for PwDs for implementing rehabilitation projects that combine AYUSH therapies with modern interventions.

- The initiatives will be carried out through four national institutes: NIEPID (Secunderabad, Telangana); SVNIRTAR (Odisha); AYJNISHD (Mumbai, Maharashtra); and PDUNIPPD (New Delhi).

- At NIEPID, an AYUSH Centre for Research in Neurodiversity will be set up. At SVNIRTAR, studies will test Raktamrut Vati (Ayurvedic formulation) for managing blood disorders.

Key Points:-

(i) AYJNISHD will conduct Yoga-based studies on the mental and emotional well-being of hearing-impaired students and their families.

(ii) PDUNIPPD will compare Panchakarma vs physiotherapy for knee osteoarthritis, evaluate herbal treatments vs insulin for diabetic adhesive capsulitis, and integrate Yoga with occupational therapy for older adults.

(iii) The collaboration is aligned with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) Act, 2016 and the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030), reinforcing India's commitment to inclusive and integrative healthcare.

3. Piyush Goyal Launches IPRS 3.0 to Benchmark Industrial Parks and Boost Make in India.



In September 2025, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal launched the Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS) 3.0 in New Delhi during the decade-long celebrations of Make in India. Developed by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) with support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the initiative aims to benchmark industrial parks and strengthen India's industrial ecosystem.

- IPRS 3.0 will assess and benchmark facilities, infrastructure, and competitiveness of industrial parks across India, providing stakeholders with reliable data to improve infrastructure and support the Make in India programme.

- Building on the pilot phase in 2018 and IPRS 2.0 in 2021, the new edition introduces parameters such as sustainability, green infrastructure, logistics connectivity, digitalization, skill linkages, and tenant feedback for more holistic evaluation.

Key Points:-

(i) Under IPRS 3.0, industrial parks will be categorized as Leaders, Challengers, and Aspirers, ensuring transparency for investors, fostering competition among States/UTs, and guiding policymakers in

targeted interventions.

(ii) The initiative will help States and Union Territories showcase top-performing parks, attract investments, create jobs, and strengthen their industrial ecosystem, making India a sustainable, inclusive, and globally competitive investment hub.

INTERNATIONAL

1. Piyush Goyal Leads Indian Delegation to UAE to Boost Trade, Investment & Sectoral Cooperation.



From September 18–19, 2025, Union Minister Piyush Goyal, Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoC&I), visited the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to strengthen trade and investment relations. He was accompanied by a large Indian business delegation representing CII, FICCI, and ASSOCHAM, focusing on expanding cooperation in education, technology, and emerging sectors.

- During the visit, Piyush Goyal co-chaired the 13th India-UAE High-Level Joint Task Force on Investments (HLJTFI) with Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Managing Director of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), held in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

- The HLJTFI reviewed the progress on key frameworks, including the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which came into effect in May 2022, the Double Taxation Treaty (DTT), and ongoing cooperation between the Central Banks of both nations.

Key Points:-

(i) Piyush Goyal also co-chaired the UAE-India Business Council (UIBC) roundtable with Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of Foreign Trade, in Abu Dhabi.

(ii) Both nations agreed to target USD 100 billion in non-oil, non-precious metals bilateral trade within the next three years, underlining the growing importance of diversifying trade beyond traditional sectors.

(iii) India and UAE identified new areas of cooperation, including maritime, space, defense, aerospace, data centers, pharmaceuticals, food processing, fisheries, textiles, leather, and home décor, to further deepen economic and technological ties.

2. India Elected as Member of INTERPOL Asian Committee for 2025-29 During 25th Asian Regional Conference in Singapore.



In September 2025, India secured election as a member of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) Asian Committee for the 2025-29 term. This development, formalized during the 25th INTERPOL Asian Regional Conference held on September 18–19, 2025, at the INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation (IGCI) in Singapore, strengthens India's role in regional and international law enforcement collaboration.

- India was represented by a delegation from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) under the National Central Bureau-India (NCB-India).

- India's membership on the INTERPOL Asian Committee spans from 2025 to 2029. As a member, India will actively participate in advising, reviewing, and coordinating law enforcement priorities across Asia, shaping both strategic and operational initiatives within the region.

- The Committee prioritizes combating pressing transnational threats including organized crime, cybercrime, human trafficking, terrorism, and drug trafficking. India's involvement is expected to enhance collaborative frameworks and operational coordination to tackle these challenges effectively.

Key Points:-

(i) The Committee serves as a consultative body to the Asian Regional Conference, facilitating discussions and providing expert insights into regional law enforcement issues. It identifies strategic priorities for the 53 member countries in Asia and guides coordinated actions to improve police cooperation.

(ii) India's election strengthens its international law enforcement presence, enabling greater influence in shaping

regional policies, sharing intelligence, and driving collaborative initiatives.

(iii) This membership will also bolster India's efforts to respond to evolving transnational crime challenges and reinforce global security networks.

3. WTO Releases World Trade Report 2025 Highlighting AI's Potential to Boost Global Trade by 2040.



In September 2025, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) released its annual World Trade Report 2025 (WTR) titled “Making Trade and AI Work Together to the Benefit of All” during the WTO Public Forum in Switzerland. The report examines the transformative role of artificial intelligence (AI) in global trade, projecting up to a 40% increase in trade by 2040 and significant economic benefits.

- The WTR 2025 projects that AI could increase global trade by 34–37% by 2040, with the largest growth expected in digitally deliverable services. AI adoption is also expected to generate global GDP gains of 12–13%, while nearly 90% of firms using AI report direct trade benefits and 56% report improved trade risk management.

- AI is estimated to boost annual growth in Total Factor Productivity (TFP) by approximately 0.68 percentage points. TFP measures how efficiently an economy utilizes inputs such as labour and capital, highlighting AI's potential to improve economic efficiency and competitiveness.

- WTO economists modeled multiple AI adoption scenarios to assess impacts on different economies. In the benchmark scenario, Low-Income Economies (LIE) lag behind High-Income Economies (HIE) with projected income gains of 8% for LIE, 11% for Middle-Income Economies (MIE), and 14% for HIE. Improvements in digital infrastructure in LIE or broader AI adoption could raise GDP gains to 11–15% for low- and middle-income economies.

Key Points:-

(i) In 2023, global trade in AI-enabling goods—including raw materials, semiconductors, and intermediate inputs—was valued at USD 2.3 trillion. The report also finds that a 10% increase in digital services trade is associated with a 2.6% rise in AI patent citations across countries, underlining the link between digital trade and innovation.

(ii) Uneven adoption of AI persists, with only 41% of small firms reporting AI use compared to over 60% of large firms. Fewer than one-third of firms in low- and lower-middle-income economies utilize AI, highlighting disparities in access to technology and its economic benefits.

(iii) Global subsidies for AI-related products have exceeded 15%, with over 98% coming from high- and upper-middle-income countries, raising the risk of concentrated AI capabilities. The number of quantitative restrictions on AI-related goods has increased sharply, from 130 in 2012 to

nearly 500 in 2024, and bound tariffs on AI-enabling goods in some LIE reach up to 45%, emphasizing the need for open and predictable trade policies.

BANKING & FINANCE

1. PayRupy Partners with BRISKPE to Launch Integrated Cross-Border Payments Platform.



In September 2025, PayRupy, a leading software development company, partnered with BRISKPE, a licensed Cross-Border Payment Aggregator (PA-CB), to enhance cross-border payment services and provide an integrated global payments platform connecting India's digital economy with international markets.

- - The PayRupy-BRISKPE partnership aims to offer a one-stop solution for both domestic and cross-border payments.

- This collaboration links Indian businesses, freelancers, exporters, and individuals with global markets, enabling seamless international financial transactions.

Key Points:-

(i) Using the PA-CB (Payment Aggregator – Cross Border) model, the platform ensures scalable and efficient cross-border money

transfers. It is designed to serve Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), large enterprises, exporters, and freelancers, providing reliable, fast, and user-friendly global payment solutions.

(ii) By combining PayRupy's domestic payments expertise with BRISKPE's international network, the partnership establishes a unified ecosystem.

2. PhonePe Secures RBI Approval to Operate as Online Payment Aggregator.



In September 2025, Walmart-backed PhonePe Limited (formerly PhonePe Private Limited), one of India's leading fintech companies, received the final approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an online Payment Aggregator (PA) under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007. This regulatory milestone enables PhonePe to expand its merchant network, with a focus on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

- With RBI approval as a Payment Aggregator, PhonePe can now onboard a larger number of merchants, particularly targeting SMEs. This will enhance the reach of digital payment solutions

across businesses that were previously underserved, bridging gaps in financial inclusion.

- The regulatory nod positions PhonePe to actively promote digital financial inclusion in India. By providing accessible, efficient, and secure payment solutions, the company will empower smaller businesses to participate in the digital economy.

Key Points:-

(i) The approval allows PhonePe to expand its payment gateway services, offering features like instant merchant onboarding, developer-friendly integrations, and a smooth checkout experience.

(ii) A Payment Aggregator acts as an intermediary enabling merchants to accept digital payments without requiring separate individual payment gateway setups.

(iii) The RBI framework ensures consumer protection, secure processing, and operational transparency for all digital payment intermediaries.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

1. HCL and OIL Sign MoU for Collaboration in Exploration and Development of Critical and Strategic Minerals.



In a significant step towards strengthening India's self-reliance in critical and strategic mineral sourcing, Oil India Limited and Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on September 19, 2025, to co-operate and collaborate for exploration and development of critical and strategic minerals including Copper and associated minerals.

- **Hindustan Copper Limited, a Miniratna PSU under the Ministry of Mines, is engaged in mining, production, processing, and marketing of copper and related products. The company is currently focused on mining and beneficiation of copper ore and the sale of copper concentrate.**
- **Oil India, a Maharatna PSU under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, is a premier integrated oil and gas company with proven expertise in exploration, development, production, and transportation of crude oil and natural gas.**
- **Recognizing the growing importance of critical minerals, OIL has diversified into this sector to complement its core energy portfolio.**

Key Points:-

- (i) The MoU was signed and exchanged in the presence of Mr Sanjiv Kumar Singh, Chairman and Managing Director of HCL and Dr Ranjit Rath, Chairman & Managing Director of Oil India and senior officials of both the companies.
- (ii) The collaboration between HCL and OIL represents a crucial milestone in India's pursuit of mineral security.
- (iii) Aligned with the objectives of the Government of India's National Critical Mineral Mission, this partnership will play a pivotal role in securing strategic mineral resources essential for the nation's energy

security, industrial growth, and technological advancement.

MOUs and Agreement

1. IIM Udaipur Signs Strategic Collaborations with MoSPI, NITI Aayog & Bhashini to Boost India's Data and AI Ecosystem.



In September 2025, the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Udaipur, Rajasthan signed strategic collaborations with the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI), NITI Aayog, and Bhashini. The partnerships aim to strengthen India's capabilities in data analytics, monitoring & evaluation, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) ecosystem, with IIM Udaipur serving as a key academic and knowledge partner.

- **IIM Udaipur signed a MoU with MoSPI to address statistical challenges and promote advanced data analytics. As part of the collaboration, IIM Udaipur will act as a knowledge partner for MoSPI's Data Innovation Lab, supporting evidence-based policymaking.**
- **The institute entered into a Statement of Intent (SoI) with NITI Aayog's Development Monitoring & Evaluation Office (DMEO) to design evaluation studies, training programs, and toolkits. Through its Centre for**

Development Policy and Management (CDPM), IIM Udaipur will strengthen India's monitoring and evaluation ecosystem.

Key Points:-

- (i) Under the Anusandhan Mitra program, IIM Udaipur partnered with Bhashini, India's National Language Translation Mission, to build regional hubs and enrich datasets for under-represented languages.
- (ii) This collaboration will also focus on advancing Indian language technologies and making digital platforms more inclusive.
- (iii) The Bhashini partnership will additionally enable IIM Udaipur to upskill students in AI and language technologies, fostering innovation in multilingual applications and supporting the growth of India's AI ecosystem across social, governance, and technological domains.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1. ACC Approves Appointment of Praveen Kumar as DG of ITBP and Praveer Ranjan as DG of CISF.



In September 2025, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) proposal for appointing senior IPS officers Praveen

Kumar as the Director General (DG) of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Praveer Ranjan as the DG of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

- Praveen Kumar, a 1993-batch West Bengal cadre IPS officer, was appointed as DG of ITBP. He will assume charge on 30 September 2025 upon the superannuation of Rahul Rasgotra (IPS), and his tenure will continue until 30 September 2030.
- Praveer Ranjan, a 1993-batch IPS officer of the AGMUT cadre (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, and Union Territories), was appointed as DG of CISF. Currently serving as Special Director General (SDG) in CISF, he will take over from Rajwinder Singh Bhatti (IPS) on 30 September 2025, with a tenure until 31 July 2029.
- Praveen Kumar is presently serving as Special Director, Intelligence Bureau (IB), while Praveer Ranjan is serving as Special Director General (SDG) in CISF, reflecting their senior-level expertise in law enforcement and security management.

Key Points:-

- (i) The appointments align with the government's strategy to strengthen India's internal security apparatus. ITBP plays a critical role in guarding the Indo-China border, while CISF is vital for protecting critical infrastructure, industries, and sensitive installations.
- (ii) On the occasion of India's 79th Independence Day (August 15, 2025), CISF received 32 medals, including 3 President's Medals for Distinguished Service and 26 medals for Meritorious Service. ITBP was awarded 13 medals, including 3 President's Medals for Distinguished Service and 10

Medals for Meritorious Service.

(iii) With these leadership changes, both ITBP and CISF are expected to gain strategic direction in enhancing border security, critical infrastructure safety, and operational efficiency, contributing significantly to national security.

SPORTS

1. Archery Association of India Launches Archery Premier League with Ram Charan as Brand Ambassador.



In September 2025, the Archery Association of India (AAI) launched the Archery Premier League (APL), with the inaugural season scheduled from October 2–12, 2025, at the Yamuna Sports Complex, New Delhi. The league aims to boost archery's popularity in India and serve as preparation for future Olympic Games.

- During the launch event, AAI unveiled the official anthem and promotional video, while appointing actor and filmmaker Ram Charan as the brand ambassador of the Archery Premier League.

- The APL is supported by World Archery (WA) and the Asian Archery Federation (AAF), and aligns with the Government of India's talent

hunt initiatives and the Sports Authority of India (SAI), strengthening grassroots to elite-level engagement.

- The inaugural season will feature six franchise teams with a total of 48 archers (36 Indians and 12 internationals). Each team will include 8 members (4 men and 4 women), with a maximum of 2 foreign players per team.

Key Points:-

(i) The six participating teams are: Chola Chiefs (Tamil Nadu), Prithviraj Yodhas (Delhi), Mighty Marathas (Maharashtra), Kakatiya Knights (Telangana), Rajputana Royals (Rajasthan), and Chero Archers (Jharkhand).

(ii) The APL will follow a double round-robin format with matches at Olympic-standard distances — 70 metres for recurve and 50 metres for compound. A unique feature is the inclusion of combined mixed teams of recurve and compound archers competing together.

(iii) APL seeks to provide international exposure to Indian archers, enhance the global visibility of Indian archery, and act as preparation for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics (USA) and the 2032 Brisbane Olympics (Australia).

AWARDS

1. Hindi Drama 'Homebound' Selected as India's Official Entry for 98th Oscars.



In September 2025, the Hindi-language drama *Homebound*, directed by Neeraj Ghaywan and produced by Karan Johar, was officially selected as India's entry for the Best International Feature category at the 98th Academy Awards (Oscars).

- The Film Federation of India (FFI) announced the selection in Kolkata, West Bengal, with a 14-member jury chaired by filmmaker N. Chandra.
- *Homebound* is inspired by Basharat Peer's 2020 New York Times essay "Taking Amrit Home". The film narrates the journey of two friends from rural North India seeking police jobs to overcome caste and communal barriers.
- It depicts their foot journey from Surat, Gujarat to Uttar Pradesh during the early COVID-19 lockdown, highlighting resilience amid adversity.

Key Points:-

- (i) The film stars Ishaan Khatter, Vishal Jethwa, and Janhvi Kapoor in pivotal roles. The actors' performances were critically acclaimed for their authenticity and emotional depth, contributing to the film's strong festival reception.
- (ii) *Homebound* premiered at Cannes 2025 in the Un Certain Regard section, receiving a nine-minute standing ovation. It also

secured second runner-up in the People's Choice category at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF 2025), marking significant global appreciation.

(iii) The film won both Best Film and Best Director at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM 2025). These recognitions underscore its artistic excellence and the growing prominence of Hindi-language cinema on international platforms.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Water Monitoring Day 2025 Observed Globally on September 18.



World Water Monitoring Day (WWMD) 2025 was observed across the globe on 18 September to raise awareness on water quality issues, encourage public participation in protecting water resources, and highlight the importance of sustainable water management.

- WWMD was established in 2003 by the American Clean Water Foundation (ACWF) as a global educational initiative. The first observance took place on 18 October 2003, aligning with the United States Clean Water Act of 1972.

- Initially observed on 18 October, the date of WWMD was officially changed in 2007 to 18 September to engage wider global participation, especially among students, before schools closed in October.

- The program was later renamed the EarthEcho Water Challenge (EEWC), earlier known as the World Water Monitoring Challenge (WWMC), to promote public engagement and global awareness in water conservation and sustainable use.

Key Points:-

(i) In 2006, the coordination of WWMD shifted from ACWF to the Water Environment Federation (WEF) and the International Water Association (IWA). Later in 2015, EarthEcho International, an environmental non-profit, took over coordination.

(ii) The EarthEcho Water Challenge is held annually from March 22 (World Water Day) to December 31. It enables youth and community scientists to test water quality, share results globally, and advocate protective measures.

(iii) Through the Water Challenge Ambassador Program, EarthEcho International trains and supports young leaders aged 14–22 to safeguard local water resources. In 2025, 43 new Ambassadors were selected, joining 11 returning youth leaders, continuing their impact for another year.

2. United Nations (UN) Observes World Cleanup Day on September 20, 2025.



The United Nations (UN) annually observes World Cleanup Day on September 20 to raise awareness about global clean-up efforts and promote sustainable waste management. The 2025 observance emphasizes tackling the rapidly growing issue of textile and fashion waste.

- On 8 December 2024, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted resolution A/RES/78/122, officially designating 20 September as World Cleanup Day. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) facilitates the observance. The first celebration occurred on 18 September 2024, following a recommendation from the United Nations Habitat Assembly in resolution 2/3 on 9 June 2023.

- The 2025 observance targets textile and fashion waste, a major environmental challenge. Globally, the fashion industry generates around 92 million tonnes (MT) of textile waste annually, much of which ends up in landfills or is incinerated, contributing to pollution and climate change.

- The Plastic Free Rivers and Seas for South Asia (PLEASE) initiative, led by the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) with World Bank (WB) support, works to reduce marine plastic pollution and promote

sustainable production and innovation in material use.

Key Points:-

(i) India actively participates through campaigns like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA or Clean India Mission) launched in 2014 to eliminate open defecation and promote cleanliness.

(ii) India actively participates through campaigns like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA or Clean India Mission) launched in 2014 to eliminate open defecation and promote cleanliness. The International Coastal Cleanup Day, supported by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), engages citizens in keeping beaches and marine environments clean.

(iii) The Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar (Clean Coast, Safe Sea) campaign, launched in 2022, covers 75 Indian beaches, while global events like UN dialogues and community cleanups in Nairobi highlight international efforts against pollution and textile waste.

Static GK

Ministry of AYUSH	Minister : Shri Jadhav Prataprao Ganpatrao	Headquarters: New Delhi
UAE	Capital: Abu Dhabi	Prime minister: Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)	Secretary General : Valdecy Urquiza (Brazil)	President : Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi (United Arab Emirates, UAE)
World Trade Organisation (WTO)	Director-General (DG) : Ngozi Okonjo- Iweala	Headquarters : Geneva, Switzerland
Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)	Union Minister : Amit Shah	Headquarters: New Delhi
Archery Association of India(AAI)	President : Arjun Munda	Headquarters: New Delhi
EarthEcho International	President : Philippe Cousteau	Headquarters : Washington, DC, the United States of America (USA)
United Nations	Executive Director(ED)	Headquarters :

Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)	: Anacláudia Rossbach	Nairobi, Kenya
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