

A photograph of a newspaper with a cup of tea on a saucer. The newspaper is the main focus, with the title 'ਕੇਸਰ ਸਾਖੀ ਵਾਰਿਕਾ' (Kesar Sakhai Warikha) visible at the top. The text on the newspaper is in Gurmukhi script. A cup of tea on a saucer is in the foreground on the right. The background is a blurred desk with a pen and other items.

News Summary - September 30, 2025

National News

Industrial Output Growth Slows to 4%

India's industrial activity growth slowed to **4%** in August, down from a six-month high of **4.3%** in July. The slowdown was attributed to weaker performance in consumer durables, non-durables, manufacturing, and capital goods sectors. However, mining, primary goods, and electricity output showed a positive turnaround. Experts note this data does not yet capture the effects of recent U.S. tariffs or GST reforms.

Ladakh Groups Reject Talks with Centre

The Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) have called off talks with the Ministry of Home Affairs. The groups cited "baseless allegations" of being anti-national and the government's failure to order a judicial inquiry into the deaths of four protesters as primary reasons for their decision. A senior journalist, who was injured by a bullet, is still recovering at AIIMS.

Kerala Assembly Passes Resolution Against Electoral Roll Revision: The Kerala Assembly unanimously passed a resolution urging the Election Commission of India to halt the proposed Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. They expressed concerns that using the 2002 rolls as a base document could harm the voting rights of certain groups.

U.P. Violence Update: Police have detained a close associate of cleric Tauqeer Raza Khan in connection with the recent violence in Bareilly. Internet services in the area have been suspended for another day to prevent further unrest.

Karur Stampede Aftermath

01

Death Toll Rises

The death toll from the stampede at the TVK political rally has risen to 41.

02

FIR Filed

An FIR registered by the police alleges that TVK organisers deliberately delayed actor Vijay's arrival to showcase political strength, which led to overcrowding and the subsequent stampede. The FIR names TVK General Secretary 'Bussyt' Anand and other officials.

03

Government Response

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced that the government will frame new rules and guidelines for holding public events after consultations with all political parties, following the submission of the Justice Aruna Jagadeesan Commission's report.

International Relations

EU Envoys Raise "Russia Question" with India

European envoys have urged India to "square" its strategic partnership with Russia with its goal of deepening ties with the EU. The EU Ambassador expressed concern over India's purchase of Russian oil and its participation in the Zapad-2025 military exercise, calling for "sensitivity" to European concerns regarding the conflict in Ukraine. The Ministry of External Affairs has previously rejected such criticism.

Canada Lists Bishnoi Gang as Terrorist Entity

Canada has officially listed the Bishnoi Gang, led by Lawrence Bishnoi, as a terrorist entity, citing its role in creating a "climate of fear and intimidation". The move targets the Canadian government for new powers to counter terrorism. The gang is a transnational criminal organisation operating from India with a presence in Canada.

India-Bhutan Rail Connectivity

The Indian government has announced two new railway links to Bhutan: Kokrajhar-Gelephu (Assam) and Banarhat-Samtse (West Bengal). The projects, totalling 89 km, will be developed at a cost of ₹4,033 crore and aim to boost trade, tourism, and economic growth for Bhutan.



Economy & Business

U.S. Tariffs to Have Long-Term Impact

Officials from the Union Commerce Ministry informed the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) that the high tariffs imposed by the U.S. will have a significant long-term negative impact on Indian trade, particularly on marine exports like shrimp. India is working on market diversification, including pursuing FTAs with the EFTA bloc and the U.S., to counter the effects.

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) May Hold Rates

The RBI's MPC, which began its meeting on Monday, is widely expected to maintain the status quo on the repo rate. Analysts believe the positive impact of recent GST cuts on GDP growth and moderating inflation will lead the panel to hold rates, but some economists are pushing for a rate cut.

Challenges in E-waste Collection: Despite a government push for electronics manufacturing, India faces significant gaps in e-waste recycling. The informal sector's dominance in repairing and harvesting parts from used goods frustrates formal recycling efforts. Issues like "paper trading" within the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework and a lack of proper inventorying further hamper the creation of a circular economy for electronics.

Tata Capital to Launch ₹5,512 Crore IPO: Non-banking financial products company Tata Capital is set to raise up to ₹5,512 Crore through an Initial Public Offering (IPO). The price band is set between ₹1,200 and ₹1,300 per share.

World News

- **White House** Releases **Gaza Peace Plan**: The **U.S.** has released a **20-point peace plan** for **Gaza**, which **President Trump** claims has the support of **Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu**. The plan calls for an **immediate ceasefire**, followed by the **disarmament of Hamas** and a **withdrawal of Israeli forces**. Key elements include deploying an **international stabilisation force** and creating a **transitional authority headed by Trump**.
- **Pressure Mounts on Germany Over Israel Stance**: **Germany** is facing increasing domestic and international pressure to reconsider its steadfast support for **Israel** as the **EU** discusses potential sanctions over the **Gaza conflict**. Recent polls show a majority of the **German public** believes **Israel's military actions** are unjustified, with many considering them to be "**genocide**".
- **Nepal Panel Recommends Travel Ban for Former PM**: A **judicial commission** investigating the deadly "**Gen Z**" protests in **Nepal** has recommended withholding the passports of **former Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli** and other former top officials. The measure is intended to prevent them from travelling abroad as they may be summoned for questioning during the investigation.
- **China's Communist Party** to Hold **Key Meeting in October**: The **Central Committee** of **China's ruling Communist Party** will convene from **October 20-23** to map out the **country's social and economic goals** for the **next five-year plan (2026-30)**.

Science & Technology.



Gravitational Wave Detector on the Moon

Scientists are planning to install a gravitational-wave detector called the Laser Interferometer Lunar Antenna (LILA) on the moon's surface.

The moon offers an ideal environment with low seismic noise and a natural vacuum, allowing for the detection of sub-hertz frequency gravitational waves that are obscured on Earth.

This would open a new window in the gravitational-wave spectrum, complementing earth-based observatories like LIGO and the space-based LISA mission.



Wassenaar Arrangement and Tech Exports

The Wassenaar Arrangement is a multilateral export control regime for conventional arms and dual-use technologies. However, its framework, conceived for physical goods, struggles to regulate modern cloud services and Software-as-a-Service (SaaS), creating grey areas. There is a growing need to reform the arrangement to include controls on services that enable mass surveillance and to redefine 'export' to cover remote access to technology.

Prelims Pointer: News Summary for UPSC Civil Services

This section provides a concise overview of key factual information from the recent news, specifically curated for the **UPSC Civil Services Preliminary Examination**. Focus is placed on specific terms, organizations, geographical locations, and policy details that are frequent topics in the exam.

International Relations & Security

- **India-EU-Russia Dynamics:** **India** maintains **strategic autonomy**, balancing ties with **EU** (deepening relations) and **Russia** (**strategic partnership**, **oil imports**, **Zapad-2025 military exercise**).
- **Zapad-2025:** A major **military exercise** by **Russia**, often involving allied nations. **India's participation** is noted.
- **The Bishnoi Gang:** **Canada** has listed this group, led by **Lawrence Bishnoi**, as a **terrorist entity**. This **transnational criminal organization** operates in both **India** and **Canada**.
- **India-Bhutan Rail Connectivity:** Two new **rail links:** **Kokrajhar-Gelephu** (**Assam**) and **Banarhat-Dantbari** (**West Bengal**). These projects aim to boost **trade, connectivity, and economic growth** for **Bhutan**.
- **Gaza Peace Plan:** **U.S.-backed plan** calls for **immediate ceasefire**, **Hamas disarmament**, **Israeli troop withdrawal**, **international stabilization force**, and a **transitional authority**.
- **Germany's Stance on Israel:** **Germany** faces pressure regarding its support for **Israel** amidst **EU discussions** on potential **sanctions** over the **Gaza conflict**.
- **Nepal's "Gen Z" Protests:** **Judicial commission** investigating protests recommends **legal action** against former **Nepali Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli** and other officials.
- **China's Communist Party Meeting:** **Central Committee meeting** (**Oct 20-23**) to map out the **14th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030)**.

Economy & Trade

- **U.S. Tariffs:** Impacting **Indian trade**, particularly **marine exports**. **India's response** includes **market diversification** and pursuing **Free Trade Agreements (FTA)** with the **EFTA bloc** and the **U.K.**
- **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):** Chaired by the **RBI Governor**, responsible for setting the **benchmark interest rate (repo rate)** to maintain **price stability**.
- **Repo Rate:** The rate at which the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** lends money to **commercial banks**, expected to hold steady due to **moderating inflation**.
- **E-waste Management:** Challenges in **India's e-waste recycling** due to the **informal sector's dominance**, "**paper trading**" within the **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** framework, and **improper inventory management**.
- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):** A **policy approach** where **producers bear significant responsibility** for their products' **post-consumer waste**.
- **Tata Capital IPO:** **Initial Public Offering** for the **non-banking financial company (NBFC) Tata Capital**.

Science & Technology

- **Gravitational Wave Detection:** Proposal for **Laser Interferometer Lunar Antenna (LILA)** on the **Moon** to detect **sub-hertz frequency gravitational waves**. This complements **Earth-based observatories** like **LIGO** and the **space-based LISA mission**.
- **Moon's Environment:** Ideal for **gravitational wave detection** due to **low seismic noise** and **natural vacuum**.
- **Wassenaar Arrangement:** A **multilateral export control regime** for **conventional arms** and **dual-use technologies**. It faces challenges in regulating **modern cloud services** and **Software-as-a-Service (SaaS)**, requiring reform to include controls on **mass surveillance technologies** and redefine '**export**' for **remote access**.

Environment & Ecology

- **Circular Economy:** A concept aimed at **eliminating waste** and maintaining **continuous resource use**. In **India**, its implementation faces obstacles like **informal practices** and issues within the **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** framework.
- **Biodegradable Polymers:** Recent discovery of **bacteria** capable of producing more **affordable and eco-friendly biodegradable polymers**, offering an alternative to **plastics derived from fossil fuels**.
- **Plastic Pollution:** A **global issue** addressed by innovations such as **biodegradable plastics**.

Sports



Asia Cup Final Ends in Controversy

The Asia Cup final, won by India against Pakistan, ended in a "farcical finish". The Indian team was denied the winner's trophy after refusing to accept it from ACC Chairman Mohsin Naqvi, who is also Pakistan's Interior Minister. In response, Naqvi had the trophy removed, and the Indian team celebrated by lifting an "imaginary trophy". The BCCI plans to lodge a strong protest with the ICC.



Women's ODI World Cup Begins

The 13th edition of the Women's ODI World Cup is set to begin in India, with the host nation taking on Sri Lanka in the opening match in Guwahati. India, led by Harmanpreet Kaur, is considered one of the favourites to win its first-ever World Cup title, especially given the strong form of players like Smriti Mandhana.



India Shines at World Para Athletics

Rinku Singh won the gold medal in the men's javelin throw F46 category with a new championship record of 66.37m. Sundar Singh Gurjar secured the silver with a throw of 64.36m, making it a 1-2 finish for India.