

## Current Affairs - 24 September 2026

### PB-SHABD PLATFORM



- **Prasar Bharati-Shared Audio-Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination (PB-SHABD)** was launched in **March, 2024**.

- It is **news feed service from Prasar Bharati**, open to media users round the clock.

- **Features:**

- It gives **registered media organisations** free, ready-to-use news in text, video, audio, photo and infographic formats.
- It supplies timely, authentic and ready-to-use news content **from India and the world**.
- Its users are **registered media organisations, digital publishers and content creators**. Newspapers, news television channels and digital news publishers form the bulk of this base.
- **Format and Languages:** Under this **content is offered in five formats**, namely text, video, audio, photographs and infographics and news is provided in 15 Indian languages and under nearly 50 news categories.
- **Coverage:** Its coverage extends across **national, regional and local developments**.
- The service is free of cost. Registered users **pay no subscription fee** for the content they download. Its free access has been **assured up to March 2027**.

### Key Facts about Prasar Bharti:

- It is the **Public Service Broadcaster of the country**. It is a **statutory autonomous body** established in 1997 under the **Prasar Bharati Act 1990**.
- **Objective:** To conduct public broadcasting services intended to inform and entertain the public.
- The corporation works through two constituents, **Akashvani and Doordarshan**.
- **Headquarter:** New Delhi

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### WHAT IS TRANSFER PRICING?



- Transfer pricing refers to the **prices of goods and services** that are **exchanged between companies under common control**.
- For instance, **when a subsidiary company provides goods or services to its parent company or another subsidiary** within the same group, the price set for these transactions is known as the transfer price.
- They represent a complex and important aspect of business, in **particular for companies operating in different tax jurisdictions**.
- The transfer pricing method is generally **used by multinational companies (MNCs)** and their subsidiaries or sister companies **to allocate income and expenses**.
- Effective but legal transfer pricing **takes advantage of different tax regimes** in different countries by **raising transfer prices for goods and services produced in countries with lower tax rates**.
- In some cases, **companies even lower their expenditure on interrelated transactions by avoiding tariffs** on goods and services exchanged internationally.
- The **benefits** of transfer pricing are **tax savings, profit allocation among subsidiaries, and enhanced financial efficiency**.
- However, transfer pricing **must comply with international regulations to avoid issues** such as **tax evasion**.
- Companies must comply with the transfer pricing rules established by the countries in which they operate, **adhering to the arm's length principle (ALP)** to ensure transactions are priced as if they were between unrelated parties.
  - **ALP: Related parties price transactions as if they were transactions on an open market.**
  - The **Indian transfer pricing regulations (ITPR)** require that income arising from 'international transactions' between 'associated enterprises' be **computed with reference to the ALP**.

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- International transfer pricing disputes arise mainly as countries seek to ensure MNCs are subject to tax on profits attributable to their respective jurisdictions.
- Accordingly, differences in allocation of taxable income among countries can give rise to disputes among taxpayers and tax authorities as well as those in different jurisdictions.

### ROAD ACCIDENT CLAIM PROCESS IN INDIA

- India has the world's largest road network at about 6.7 million kilometres, larger than the US (6.59 million km) and China (5.49 million km). It also records the world's highest road fatalities.
- According to the **Road Accidents in India 2024** report by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, road crashes in 2024 injured 4,71,441 people, about 485 deaths a day or 20 an hour.
- The economic cost is estimated at around 3.14% of India's GDP, falling most heavily on dependants of those killed or permanently disabled.

#### The Legal Framework

- The **Motor Vehicles Act, 1988** is the principal law governing motor accident compensation. It covers the entire chain from regulation and driver duties to insurance, liability and compensation.
- **Motor Accidents Claims Tribunals**
  - Section 165 empowers State governments to constitute Motor Accidents Claims Tribunals (MACTs) for specified areas to determine accident claims.
- **Evidence Considered**
  - The Tribunal typically examines the FIR and chargesheet, site plan, Mechanical Inspection Report, post-mortem or medical records, insurance policy, and depositions of eyewitnesses and the investigating officer.
- **Appeals**
  - Appeals under Section 173 lie before the High Court within 90 days, subject to depositing Rs. 25,000 or 50% of the awarded amount, whichever is less.

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### Criminal and Civil Proceedings Are Separate

- The same accident may generate two distinct proceedings, a criminal case for rash or negligent driving, and a separate MACT claim for compensation.

### Who Is Liable to Pay?

- Liability initially attaches to the negligent driver and, vicariously, to the owner of the offending vehicle. Where the vehicle is insured, the insurer generally satisfies the award.
- Section 146 mandates compulsory third-party insurance, while Section 150 requires insurers to satisfy third-party awards.

### Limited Defences for Insurers

- Under Section 150(2), insurers may raise limited defences including specified policy breaches, unauthorised use, driving without a valid licence, and non-disclosure or misrepresentation in obtaining the policy.
- **Pay and Recover**
  - Even where a defence is established, courts may apply the "pay and recover" principle, directing the insurer to pay the victim or legal representatives first, and recover the amount from the owner or driver afterwards.
  - This ensures victims are not left without compensation due to a dispute between insurer and insured.
- **No-Fault Liability**
  - A separate no-fault liability route dispenses with proof of negligence and provides:
    - 5 lakh for death
    - 2.5 lakh for grievous hurt
  - These amounts, revised in the 2019 amendment, are payable by the owner or authorised insurer without proof of negligence.

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### INDIA AND THE PLAUSIBLE MULTILATERALISM OF BRICS

- BRICS gatherings always trigger heated debate in India. Optimists see BRICS as an institution capable of multipolarising the global order. Sceptics highlight internal divisions and fear domination by Russia and China.
- A third group dismisses it entirely as strategic noise, arguing India should instead focus on deepening ties with the United States.
- The **18th BRICS Summit**, held in New Delhi on September 12–13, 2026, drew special attention because of its timing and location.
- It was the first BRICS summit since the US and Israel launched war against Iran on February 28, 2026, in India's extended neighbourhood. India — a close strategic partner of both the US and Israel — hosted the Presidents of Iran, Russia and China at the same table.

### A Difficult Consensus in Delhi

- Building agreement among 11 member countries — including the UAE and Iran, who remain locked in an undeclared conflict — was itself an achievement.
- The Delhi Declaration shows that despite disputes, members continue to find value in a BRICS worldview built around a more representative global order.
- This consensus required compromise from every side, including India.

### India's Balancing Act on West Asia

- India's position had grown awkward in the run-up to the summit.
  - PM Modi visited Israel just **two days before** the Israel-US bombing of Iran began.
  - India initially avoided condemning the attacks or the **assassination of Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei** — creating an impression of tilting towards Washington and Tel Aviv.
  - India also watched from the sidelines as **Pakistan** stepped in as a mediator between the US and Iran, seizing the diplomatic opening.

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- India then repositioned itself as West Asia's traditional balancer, using multilateral platforms to do so without damaging bilateral ties:
  - India **endorsed the Bishkek resolution** of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in September, condemning the strikes on Iran and expressing condolences over Khamenei's killing.
  - India **hosted Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian** at the Delhi summit even as the West Asia war continued.

### Managing the China Relationship

- The India-China border dispute remains unresolved and continues to simmer. But there is momentum toward resetting ties, and multilateral forums like BRICS let India and China stay engaged even without high-level bilateral visits.
- The underlying logic: a lack of engagement between competing major powers deepens mistrust, and mistrust combined with a security dilemma can turn dangerous.
- Staying engaged — bilaterally and multilaterally — creates **guardrails for competitive coexistence**.

### Convergence Despite Divergence

- On major global issues — AI regulation, global trade and finance rules, climate change, border conflicts, and the status of multilateral bodies — BRICS members hold different approaches and priorities.
- Yet they converge on one point: unilateralism by any bloc or power harms their interests and the planet.

### Conclusion

- BRICS works for India not by resolving disagreement, but by managing it. The Delhi summit showed India balancing Tehran, Washington, and Beijing simultaneously — without abandoning any relationship.
- Strategic autonomy is not neutrality; it is the deliberate refusal to become anyone's frontline.

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### SATELLITE SMART ANTI AIRFIELD WEAPON



- It is an air-to-ground precision guided glide bomb which can be launched from platforms like Jaguar, Hawk & Su-30 MKI.
- **Developed by:** It is indigenously designed and developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- **Features:**
  - It has the capability to neutralise enemy airfields from a **long stand-off range**.
  - The system will **have an indigenous content of 60%** along with indigenisation of sub-systems like Initial Measurement Unit, Long Impact Delay Fuse and Twin Store Carrier to further boost Aatmanirbharta in defence.
  - It has the **capability to destroy infrastructure**, including runways, taxiways, aircraft hangars, reinforced bunkers, and radar installations.
  - The SAT variant **uses satellite navigation** (GPS/NavIC) integrated with an onboard Inertial Navigation System (INS) to hit **stationary targets with high accuracy** (typically within 7 meters) in **all weather conditions, day or night**.
  - The SAT-SAAW will be **delivered between 2027-2028 and 2028-2029**.

### WHAT IS THE ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION (OIC)?



- It is the **second largest intergovernmental organisation** after the United Nations.
- It has a **membership of 57 states** spread over **four continents**.
- OIC **aims to preserve Islamic values**, safeguard and **defend the national sovereignty and independence of member states**, and contribute to international peace and security.
- The OIC considers itself as the **“collective voice of the Muslim world”** and endeavors to safeguard and protect the interests of its member states in economic, social, and political areas.

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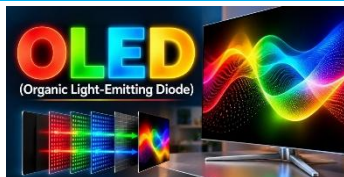
- **Headquarters:** Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- Its **official languages** are Arabic, English, and French.

The OIC is composed of the following **main bodies**:

- **Islamic Summit Conference (ISC):** It is the **supreme authority** of the OIC, which **meets every three years** to lay down the Organization's policy.
- **Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM):** It **meets once a year** to examine the implementation of its decisions taken within the framework of the policy defined by the ISC.
- **General Secretariat:** It is the **executive organ** of the OIC entrusted with the implementation of the decisions of the two preceding bodies.
- **Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC),** established in 2011.
- **Core agenda items** have historically centred on the **Palestinian question** and the **status of Jerusalem**, **solidarity among Muslim states**, **countering Islamophobia**, and economic and scientific cooperation.
- **India and OIC:**
  - **The 1969 Snub:** India was invited to the inaugural OIC summit in Rabat, Morocco, in 1969, but was **disinvited at the last minute** due to pressure from **Pakistan**.
  - **Guest of Honour (2019):** In 2019, India participated for the first time in an OIC CFM meeting.
  - **India** has **strategically bypassed the OIC as a collective bloc**, instead building massive economic and security ties directly with the Gulf and Arab nations.
  - **Kashmir Issue:** India **consistently rejects the OIC's locus standi on its internal affairs**, stating that the organisation has no mandate to comment on matters regarding sovereign Indian territories.

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### WHAT IS AN OLED (ORGANIC LIGHT-EMITTING DIODE)?



- It refers to a class of **light-emitting devices** where the **emissive layer is composed of carbon-based organic molecules** that glow when excited by an electric current.
- The OLED structure consists of a **multilayer array of thin organic films sandwiched between two electrodes**, at least one of which is transparent, allowing light emission. When electrical current is applied, a bright light is emitted.
- OLEDs **differ from** both traditional LEDs (**inorganic diodes that emit light at specific points**) and LCDs (which rely on **liquid crystals and a backlight**).
- Instead, OLEDs are **self-emissive surfaces** which means **every pixel generates its own light**.
- OLED displays provide the **best image quality**, and they can also be made **transparent, flexible, foldable**, and even rollable and stretchable.
- An OLED display have the **following advantages over an LCD display**:
  - **Improved image quality**: Better contrast, higher brightness, fuller viewing angle, a wider color range, and much faster refresh rates.
  - **Lower power consumption**.
  - **Simpler design** that enables ultra-thin, flexible, foldable, and transparent displays
  - **Better durability**: OLEDs are very **durable** and can **operate** in a **broader temperature range**.

Advanced OLED configurations include **PHOLED (Phosphorescent OLED)** variants, which use phosphorescent phosphors to increase light efficiency, and **WOLED (White OLED)**, used in lighting technology to generate white light with a wide colour spectrum.