

Current Affairs - 27 September 2026

ECINET AND ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION

- ECINET is the Election Commission's centralised digital platform used for various electoral processes and administrative functions.
- The platform provides role-based access to field officers according to their statutory responsibilities and is intended to support the flow of electoral information between different levels of election administration.
- The recent review is significant because electoral processes increasingly depend on digital systems for data management, voter enrolment, verification and communication.

Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls

- A **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** is a detailed exercise for reviewing and updating electoral rolls.
- During the ongoing exercise, some electors have received notices based on categories described by the Election Commission as “**unmapped**” or involving “**logical discrepancies**.”
- **Unmapped Electors**

These are electors whose names did not appear in the rolls of the previous intensive revision and who were unable to provide the names of their parents or grandparents from that earlier revision.

- **Logical Discrepancies**

These refer to discrepancies identified by the Election Commission's centralised software, following which additional documentary evidence may be sought from the elector.

Changes in Hearing Procedure

- The Election Commission has introduced a significant procedural relaxation for electors receiving such notices.
- **Under the revised arrangement:**

Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will visit the elector's residence to collect required documents.

- The documents will be uploaded on ECINET for consideration by the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO).

Current Affairs - 27 September 2026

- The elector will generally not be required to appear personally before the ERO or Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (AERO).
- A hearing may be conducted in exceptional circumstances, preferably online.
- An adult family member may be authorised to attend the hearing on behalf of the elector.
- This approach seeks to reduce the administrative burden on electors while retaining a mechanism for verification.

Form 6 and Voter Enrolment

- **Form 6** is the statutory form used for new voter enrolment under the **Registration of Electors Rules, 1960**.
- During the SIR exercise, an additional declaration was incorporated into the online version of Form 6 concerning whether the applicant, parents or grandparents appeared in the rolls of the previous intensive revision.
- The Election Commission has now clarified that **Form 6 will revert to its original statutory format after the SIR**.
- For the SIR period, the Commission stated that the additional declaration has been upheld by the Supreme Court; outside the SIR exercise, the forms prescribed under the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 will apply.

Technology and Electoral Governance

- The ECINET review highlights a broader issue in contemporary electoral administration: the need to **balance digital efficiency with statutory safeguards**.
- Centralised platforms can improve data management, standardise processes and facilitate faster decision-making.
- However, because electoral rolls directly determine eligibility to participate in elections, digital systems must operate within clearly defined legal authority, access controls, verification procedures and accountability mechanisms.
- The inclusion of an independent technical expert in the ECINET review reflects the need for both legal and technological scrutiny of electoral systems.

Current Affairs - 27 September 2026

E-METHANOL



- It is a **low-carbon fuel** produced with **renewable energy** and **recycled CO₂**.
- E-methanol production typically involves **three key steps**:
 - **Green hydrogen generation**: Renewable energy-powered **water electrolysis** creates the **hydrogen feedstock**. (Here **water (H₂O)** molecules are split into **oxygen and hydrogen**.)
 - **CO₂ capture**: Carbon dioxide is **captured from industrial flue gases** (e.g. steel mills or cement plants) or directly from the air, reducing overall emissions at the source.
 - **Methanol synthesis**: The hydrogen and **CO₂** are **combined in a catalytic reactor** under pressure, **yielding methanol** with minimal byproducts.

Applications: It can be used in **shipping, heavy industry, and chemical manufacturing**.

Benefits of E-methanol

- **Lower Carbon Emissions**: It can significantly **reduce lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions** when produced using renewable electricity and captured carbon dioxide.
- **Reduced Sulfur Emissions**: Compared to many conventional fuels, e-methanol produces little to no sulfur emissions during combustion.
- **Lower Particulate Matter**: Cleaner combustion characteristics can reduce particulate emissions and improve environmental performance.
- **Renewable Production Cycle**: The use of green hydrogen and renewable energy creates a more sustainable production pathway.

Current Affairs - 27 September 2026

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CYBERCRIME



- It is the **first comprehensive, legally binding global treaty** adopted by consensus by **193 UN member states**.
- It was adopted by member states of the **UN General Assembly (UNGA)** in **December 2024** to strengthen **global cooperation in combating cybercrime**. It is the **first universal legally binding** instrument to strengthen collective defences against cybercrime.
- **Purpose:** To promote **international cooperation**, strengthen measures to prevent and combat cybercrime, and support **capacity-building, particularly for developing countries**.
- It **entered into force last year** after securing the required threshold of 40 member-state signatures. By the end of 2025, **93 countries had signed the convention**.
- **India has signed this treaty**.
- The convention was developed by the **UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**.

Key Provisions of United Nations Convention Against Cybercrime:

- It **sets legal standards for addressing** offenses such as illegal access, cyber fraud, and online child exploitation, while ensuring human rights and data privacy.
- It provides States with a range of measures to be undertaken to prevent and combat cybercrime.
- It facilitates the **sharing of electronic evidence across borders** and establishes a 24/7 cooperation network among States.
- It recognises the **non-consensual dissemination of intimate images** as an offence.
- It covers crimes **such as hacking, ransomware, online financial fraud, illegal interception, money laundering,**
- It applies **not only to cyber offences** but also to the **collection and sharing of electronic evidence in serious crimes**.

Current Affairs - 27 September 2026

GULBARGA TUR DAL



- Gulbarga Tur Dal, associated with the **Kalaburagi region of Karnataka**.

- It has received the **Geographical Indication (GI) registration** in 2019.

- The product is recognised for its distinctive taste and quality and forms an important part of the agricultural economy of the region.

Key Facts about Tur Dal:

- It is one of India's **most important pulse crops** and a major source of dietary protein.
- It is a **legume crop** and **protein-rich food** which is primarily consumed as dal in India.
- **Required Climatic conditions:**
 - **Rain:** It requires **600-650mm of annual rainfall** along with moist conditions for the initial eight weeks and dry conditions during its flowering and pod development phase.
 - **Temperature:** It can be grown with a temperature ranging from 26 to 30 degree Celsius in the rainy **season** and **17 to 22 degree Celsius** in the post rainy (November to March) season.
 - **Soil:** It can be **grown on all types of soil**, however, **sandy loam or loam soil** is most suitable for its cultivation.
 - It is **very sensitive to low radiation** at pod development, therefore flowering during the monsoon and cloudy weather, leads to poor pod formation.
 - It is commonly **intercropped with a wide range of crops**.
- **Health benefits:** It has **low glycaemic index** and is rich in thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, vitamin B-6, folate, vitamin A, calcium, zinc, iron and magnesium
- **Major Pigeon pea producing states:** Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand.

Current Affairs - 27 September 2026

COOL LEADERS AWARD



- It is a global recognition initiative **launched by the UNEP Cool Coalition.**

- It recognizes **outstanding leadership in advancing sustainable cooling and protecting people from extreme heat.**
- The **first Cool Leaders are:**
 - **Singapore:** For leadership in passive cooling and heat resilience.
 - **United Arab Emirates:** For leadership in district cooling and advancing cooling in global climate and development policy.
 - **Dong Mingzhu:** Chairwoman of **Gree Electric Appliances**, for spearheading of the development ultra-efficient, low-carbon cooling technologies, including the Zero Carbon Source air-conditioning system.

What is UNEP Cool Coalition?

- It is a global platform driving **system-level change on sustainable cooling.**
- It was **launched in 2019** as a **flagship initiative of the UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit.**
- It brings **together over 250 actors**—including governments, businesses, cities, and financial institutions—to deliver efficient, climate-friendly cooling solutions aligned with the **Paris Agreement, the Kigali Amendment, and the 2030 Agenda.**

FORUM FOR INDIA-PACIFIC ISLANDS COOPERATION



- It is a **multilateral platform** established by India to enhance cooperation **with the Pacific Island countries.**
- It was **established in 2014** during the Prime Minister of India's visit to Fiji.

Current Affairs - 27 September 2026

- **Member countries:** It includes 14 of the island countries – Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.
- In line with the “Act East Policy”, through FIPIC, India has primarily focused its efforts on the **Pacific Islands**.
- **Economic Cooperation:** At this moment, total annual trade of about \$300 million between the Indian and Pacific Island countries, whereas exports are around \$200 million and imports are around \$100 million.
- **FIPIC Summits held:** Since 2014 three FIPIC summits have been held, **1st 2014** (Suva, Fiji), **2nd 2015** (Jaipur, India), **3rd 2023** (Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea).

CAPTIVE POWER PLANTS (CPPS) - MAXIMISING POWER GENERATION AMID UNUSUAL DEMAND SURGE

- Amid an unusual surge in electricity demand in September 2026, the Centre has invoked emergency provisions under **Section 11** of the Electricity Act 2003.
- It directs around 112 coal-based captive power plants (**CPPs**) to operate at maximum available capacity from October 1 to December 31, 2026.
- The move aims to **maximise electricity generation**, ensure adequate power availability and address the possibility of sustained high demand beyond the usual summer peak.

Electricity Demand:

- **Unprecedented surge:**
 - **Record peak demand:** On September 10, 2026, India's peak electricity demand reached **269 GW**, the highest ever recorded for September.
 - **Near-summer levels:** The demand was close to the year's highest peak of 270 GW, recorded in May 2026.
 - **Unusual trend:** Electricity demand generally declines after the summer months (April–July). However, demand has remained exceptionally high this September.

Current Affairs - 27 September 2026

- **Factors behind the demand surge:**
 - **Persistent heat:** Continued high temperatures have increased electricity consumption for cooling.
 - **Deficient rainfall:** Inadequate rainfall has contributed to higher demand for electricity.
 - **Increased irrigation demand:** Greater dependence on electric pumps for irrigation has added to the demand.
 - **El Niño:** Weather conditions associated with El Niño have potentially intensified heat and rainfall irregularities.

Significance of the Government's Intervention:

- **Ensuring energy security:** Mobilising captive power generation can help bridge the gap between electricity demand and available supply.
- **Improving grid reliability:** Additional electricity from captive plants can strengthen the availability of power during periods of unusually high demand.
- **Efficient utilisation of generating capacity:** Requiring plants to operate at maximum available capacity can help utilise existing infrastructure.
- **Supporting industrial and agricultural demand:** Increased electricity availability can help meet the requirements of industries, households and irrigation.
- **Reducing supply disruptions:** Mobilising surplus power through exchanges can provide additional electricity to the grid when required.

Conclusion:

- The Centre's decision to invoke Section 11 reflects the challenges posed by increasingly unpredictable electricity demand.
- The unusual September demand surge highlights the importance of maintaining adequate generation capacity, fuel reserves and flexible power procurement mechanisms.
- In the longer term, improving demand forecasting, diversifying energy sources and **strengthening grid infrastructure** will be essential for ensuring reliable and affordable electricity supply.

Current Affairs - 27 September 2026

WAYANAD WILDLIFE SANCTUARY



- **Location:** It is located in Wayanad, Kerala, in the southern trenches of the **Western Ghats**.

- It is also known as **Muthanga Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- It forms an integral part of the **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- It is bordered by the protected areas of Nagarhole and Bandipur in Karnataka on the northeastern side and **Mudumalai in Tamil Nadu on the southeastern side**.

Rivers: Rivers like the **Kabini, Cherupuzha, and Bavali** flow through the sanctuary.

Tribes: Tribes living in these forests include some scheduled **adivasis**, such as **Paniyas, Kattunaikkans, Kurumas, Ooralis, Adiyans, and Kurichiyas**.

Vegetation: It is a mosaic of the Western Ghats' significant vegetation types, ranging from moist deciduous to **dry deciduous and semi-evergreen patches**.

Flora: About one-third of the sanctuary is covered by plantations of teak, rosewood, eucalyptus, and silver oak.

Fauna: It boasts one of the largest populations of Asian elephants and tigers, which are considered its flagship species.

- Other mammals include leopards, gaur (Indian bison), sambar deer, wild boars, sloth bears, and jungle cats.