

Daily Current Affairs

23 September 2026

International Day of Sign Languages 2026

- The **International Day of Sign Languages** is celebrated every year on **23 September** to highlight the importance of sign languages in ensuring the full realization of the human rights of deaf people.
- The theme for **2026** is:
- **“Declaring Deaf People’s Human Rights.”**
- The theme emphasizes the connection between access to sign languages and:
 - Inclusive education
 - Healthcare and public services
 - Workplace and information
 - Social and political participation
 - Deaf culture and language
- **Indian Sign Language (ISL)** is a visual-manual language used by the Deaf community in India. According to the **Indian Sign Language Research & Training Centre (ISLRTC)**, ISL has its own vocabulary and grammatical system.



India At Asian Games 2026

- India began its campaign at the **Asian Games 2026 in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan**, on 23 September.
- India won its **first gold medal through the women's cricket team** on Day 3. At the beginning of Day 4, India's medal tally stood at:
 - **Gold: 1**
 - **Silver: 4**
 - **Bronze: 2**
- India subsequently won three more medals during the day.
- Indian weightlifter **Mirabai Chanu** won a **silver medal in the women's 49 kg category**, securing her first-ever Asian Games medal.
- Chanu lifted a total of **198 kg**, comprising:
 - **Snatch: 87 kg**
 - **Clean & Jerk: 111 kg**
- North Korea's **Ri Song Gum** won gold after lifting a world-record **215 kg**, while Indonesia's **Luluk Diana Wijayana** won bronze with a total of **191 kg**.
- Mirabai Chanu's silver also marked India's **first weightlifting medal since 1998**.



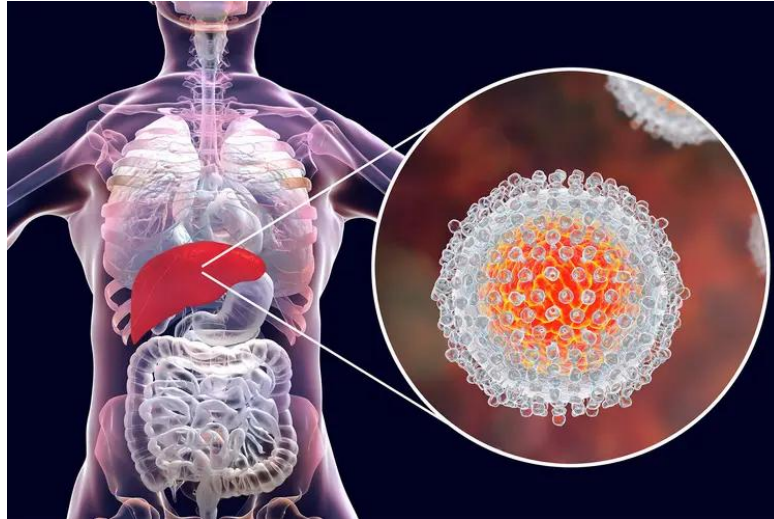
US, Denmark and Greenland Sign New Arctic Defense Agreement

- The **United States, Denmark and Greenland** have reached an agreement to amend and enhance the **1951 Defense Agreement on Greenland**.
- The agreement provides for a substantial revision of the framework governing **US military operations in Greenland**.
- It was signed in **New York on 22 September 2026** and covers:
 - Arctic security
 - Military access
 - Defence infrastructure
 - Cooperation among the three parties
- One provision allows the parties to take necessary actions to defend **NATO, Greenland and the American continent**, while taking Greenland's interests into account.
- Another important provision permits the **United States to improve and increase its military presence at Pituffik Space Base**, located in northwest Greenland.
- The agreement also provides the US military with freedom of transit and movement between Defence Areas throughout Greenland, including its territorial waters.
- US aircraft will be allowed to fly and land in Greenland, while US civilian ships will have access to and movement within Greenland's territorial waters as specified in the treaty.
- The agreement also states that Greenlandic entities and sources should receive US contracts for establishing, maintaining and servicing Defence Areas to the greatest extent possible, based on competence and practicality.
- Foreign states that are neither NATO nor EU members and are not NATO partners will generally not be allowed to exercise control, influence or access sensitive non-public information relating to particularly sensitive sectors and activities where such access could harm national security or public order.



Hepatitis Elimination by 2030

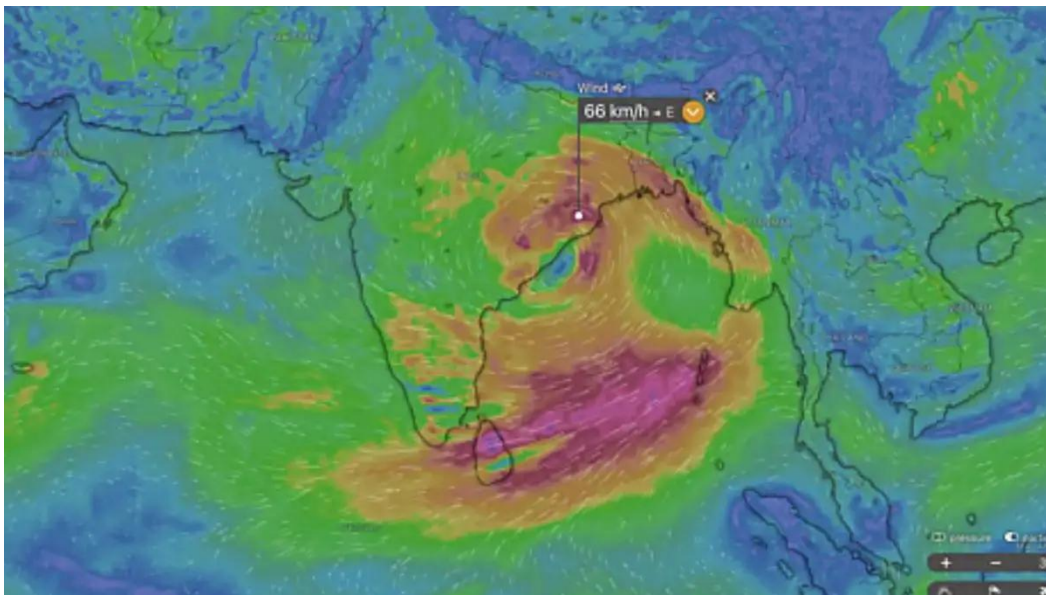
- India has reiterated its commitment to achieving the goal of **eliminating Hepatitis B and C as public health threats by 2030**.
- The approach focuses on a comprehensive, people-centric strategy covering:
 - Prevention
 - Screening
 - Diagnosis
 - Treatment
 - Care
- The issue was discussed at the **81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 81)** during the side event titled:
 - **“Advancing Global Action to Eliminate Hepatitis.”**
- At the UNGA 81 side event, **Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava** emphasized India's comprehensive approach to combating Hepatitis.
- The strategy aims to provide effective public health measures throughout the entire process, from prevention and screening to treatment and care.
- According to the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, India remains committed to the **2030 Sustainable Development Goals related to Hepatitis** and the elimination of Hepatitis B and C as public health threats by 2030.
- The article also notes provisions under the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**, and the Drug Rules concerning medicines. Several medicines, including **NSAIDs and antibiotics**, are categorized under **Schedules G, H, H1 and X**, depending on their classification and risks under the Drug Rules, 1945.



Cyclone Arnab

- A weather system that developed over the **Bay of Bengal** intensified into a **deep depression** and was approaching the **north Andhra Pradesh–south Odisha coast**.
- According to the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**, the system was likely to cross the coast between **Visakhapatnam and Gopalpur**, near **Kalingapatnam**, by the night of **23 September**.
- Late on 22 September, the system was located near **18.0°N and 85.0°E**, approximately:
 - 100 km east-southeast of Kalingapatnam
 - 150 km south of Gopalpur
- It was moving westwards at approximately **7 kmph**, although it was forecast to subsequently turn west-northwestwards.
- **Arnab** is the next name assigned to a regional cyclone in the **North Indian Ocean**. The name was provided by **Bangladesh**.
- However, according to the current IMD forecast, the system was expected to pass as a **deep depression rather than a cyclonic storm**.
- As per IMD categorization:
 - **Deep Depression:** sustained winds of **52–61 kmph**
 - **Cyclonic Storm:** sustained winds of **63 kmph or more**

- The system was expected to bring rainfall across coastal areas. The IMD issued an advisory for **heavy to very heavy rainfall** in parts of Odisha and north Andhra Pradesh, with **extremely heavy rainfall** expected in some districts.
- Areas mentioned in the advisory included **Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Parvathipuram Manyam and Alluri Sitharama Raju** districts of Andhra Pradesh. **Visakhapatnam** and adjoining areas were also expected to experience heavy to very heavy rainfall.



Ayushman Bharat Completes Eight Years

- The **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)** completed **eight years on 23 September 2026**.
- The scheme was launched on **23 September 2018** by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and provides cashless health coverage to eligible families in India.
- As of 23 September 2026, AB PM-JAY covered **more than 60 crore people**.
- The scheme is described in the PPT as the **world's largest government-funded health insurance programme**.
- It provides:
 - **₹5 lakh** cashless health cover per family per year
 - Coverage for secondary and tertiary hospitalisation
 - **1,961 procedures**
 - **27 medical specialties**
- By 23 September 2026, more than **48.54 crore Ayushman cards** had been created.

- As of **31 August 2026**, the programme had funded:
- More than **13.25 crore hospital admissions**
- Worth approximately **₹2.03 lakh crore**
- Through more than **38,000 empanelled public and private hospitals**
- The **Union Budget 2026–27** allocated **₹9,500 crore** for PM-JAY.
- The scheme continues to operate as a central government health insurance programme through empanelled hospitals and digital beneficiary cards.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the theme of the International Day of Sign Languages 2026?

- A. Sign Language for Inclusive Education
- B. Declaring Deaf People's Human Rights
- C. Empowering the Deaf Community
- D. Sign Languages for a Better World

Answer: B. Declaring Deaf People's Human Rights

2. According to the Indian Sign Language Research & Training Centre (ISLRTC), Indian Sign Language (ISL) has:

- A. Only a standardized vocabulary
- B. Its own vocabulary and grammatical system
- C. Only a regional vocabulary
- D. No independent grammatical structure

Answer: B. Its own vocabulary and grammatical system

3. Which Indian weightlifter won a silver medal in the women's 49 kg category at the Asian Games 2026?

- A. Karnam Malleswari

- B. Mirabai Chanu
- C. Saikhom Mirabai
- D. Jeremy Lalrinnunga

Answer: B. Mirabai Chanu

4. How much total weight did Mirabai Chanu lift to win the silver medal at the Asian Games 2026?

- A. 191 kg
- B. 195 kg
- C. 198 kg
- D. 215 kg

Answer: C. 198 kg

5. The new Arctic Defense Agreement was signed between which three parties?

- A. USA, Canada and Greenland
- B. USA, Denmark and Greenland
- C. USA, Norway and Denmark
- D. Canada, Denmark and Greenland

Answer: B. USA, Denmark and Greenland

6. Which US military facility in Greenland is specifically mentioned in the new Arctic Defense Agreement?

- A. Thule Air Base
- B. Pituffik Space Base
- C. Nuuk Military Base
- D. Kangerlussuaq Air Base

Answer: B. Pituffik Space Base

7. India has committed to eliminating which diseases as public health threats by 2030?

- A. Malaria and Dengue
- B. Tuberculosis and Malaria
- C. Hepatitis B and C
- D. HIV and AIDS

Answer: C. Hepatitis B and C

8. The name "Arnab" for the regional cyclone in the North Indian Ocean was provided by which country?

- A. India
- B. Myanmar

- C. Bangladesh
- D. Sri Lanka

Answer: C. Bangladesh

9. What is the annual cashless health cover provided per family under AB PM-JAY?

- A. ₹2 lakh
- B. ₹3 lakh
- C. ₹5 lakh
- D. ₹10 lakh

Answer: C. ₹5 lakh

10. How many years did Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY complete on 23 September 2026?

- A. 5 years
- B. 6 years
- C. 7 years
- D. 8 years

Answer: D. 8 years