

1. Bank Deposit Growth Surges to 15.4% YoY — Highest Since December 2016

- YoY Growth Surge: bank deposit growth surged to 15.4% Year-on-Year (YoY) — the highest jump recorded since December 2016

2. Ketan Merchant has had his tenure as Interim CEO of Fino Payments Bank extended for another 3 months, effective 27 August

3. UPI Celebrates 10th Anniversary

- Unified Payments Interface (UPI) was launched on 25 August 2016 by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) under the RBI, and celebrated its 10th anniversary on 25 August 2026.
- NPCI Profile: established in 2008 in Mumbai. Its MD & CEO, Dilip Asbe, was recently appointed to the global messaging service SWIFT Board.
- Global Presence: UPI is now active and operational across 11 countries:
 - 1st country — Bhutan
 - 9th country — Cambodia
 - 10th country — Greece (the second European nation after France)
 - 11th (latest) country — Maldives
- Revised UPI Transaction Limits:
 - Capital Markets, IPOs, Insurance, Travel and GeM: ₹5 lakh per transaction, ₹10 lakh per day.
 - Credit Card Bill Payments : ₹5 lakh per transaction, ₹6 lakh per day
 - Jewellery: ₹2 lakh per transaction, ₹6 lakh per day.
 - Peer-to-Peer (P2P): maximum ₹1 lakh per transaction and per day.

4. SEBI Proposes Mandatory Colour-Coded "Credit Risk-o-Meter" for Debt Securities

- Credit ratings of debt securities are currently provided in alphanumeric formats (e.g. AAA, AA+, BBB-)
- Colour-Coded Ratings:
 1. AAA : Lowest credit risk-Irish Green
 2. AA+, AA, AA- : Very low credit risk- Chartreuse
 3. A category: (low credit risk)-(colour not confirmed)
 4. BBB category: (moderate risk)-(colour not confirmed)
 5. BB category: (high risk)-(colour not confirmed)
 6. B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D : High to Very high risk of Default-Red (danger zone)

5. IRDAI Bars Four Insurers from Opening New Branches for 6 Months

- General Insurers — 6-Month Ban: IRDAI barred Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company and Acko General Insurance from establishing any new places of business or branches for 6 months.
- Life Insurer Restrictions: IRDAI similarly barred Pramerica Life Insurance and Edelweiss Life Insurance from opening any new place of business or branches for 6 months.
- Reason: exceeding the specified Expenses of Management (EOM) limits relative to premium income — e.g. spending ₹12 when the set limit was ₹10 on administrative overheads, branch expansions and employee expenses.

6. VinFast India Signs MoU with Federal Bank for Dealer Financing

- Federal Bank Profile: established in 1931, headquartered in Aluva, Ernakulam district, Kerala. Current MD & CEO is KVS Manian.

7. PNB and the Indian Army signed an MoU to offer premium credit cards to defence personnel

8. MeitY (Ministry of Electronics and IT) Notifies ₹62,500 Crore National Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme

- Scheme size: ₹62,500 crore, running for 5 years from 1 April 2026 (FY27 to FY31).

9. India and ADB Sign \$230 Million Loan for Chennai Water Security Project

- ADB Profile: established in 1966, headquartered in Manila, Philippines.
- Current President: Masato Kanda

10. AMRUT 2.0 and the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)

- AMRUT 2.0:
 - AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) was launched in June 2015 (25 June 2015) as India's first focused national water mission, covering 500 cities and towns.

- AMRUT 2.0 (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) is administered by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) for the period FY 2025-26 to FY 2030-31.
- Mission period: FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26 — a 5-year mission.
- Total indicative outlay: ₹2,77,000 crore, including a Central share of ₹76,760 crore.
- Aims: make cities "water secure" and "self-reliant" through a circular economy of water; provide universal coverage of water supply through functional taps in all statutory towns; achieve 100% sewerage and septage management in the 500 AMRUT cities of Phase I; and rejuvenate urban water bodies.
- AMRUT 2.0 Aims: make cities water-secure through universal water tap connections, achieve 100% sewerage and septage management, and rejuvenate urban water bodies under the Amrit Sarovar initiative.
- The Urban Challenge Fund (UCF):
 - Nodal ministry: MoHUA; it is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
 - Period: FY 2025-26 to FY 2030-31, extendable up to FY 2033-34 if projects remain incomplete.
 - Central Assistance (CA): ₹1 lakh crore — designed to catalyse a total investment of ₹4 lakh crore in the urban sector over five years.
 - Budget allocation: ₹10,000 crore was proposed for FY 2025-26.
 - Funding Split: 25% Central Government, 50% raised from market resources, and 25% from State Governments or Urban Local Bodies — often via municipal bonds, colloquially called "Muni Bonds".

11. Karnataka Approves "Sandhya Kiran" Cashless Healthcare Scheme

- Benefit: cashless treatment of up to ₹5 lakh per eligible family per year on a floater basis.
- Target Beneficiaries: retired State Government pensioners (under 70 years of age), family pensioners, and their eligible dependent family members.

12. High-Level Committee Formed to Resolve Gorkha Community Issues

- Chaired by Pankaj Singh — former BSF Director and former Deputy National Security Advisor.

13. World Entrepreneurs' Day (21 August).

14. National Conference on Tribal Languages and Museums 2026 Held in Mysore

- Tribal Statistics: based on the 2011 Census, there are 705 tribal communities in India, with 75 categorised as PVTGs (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups).
- PM JANMAN: the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan was launched on 15 November 2023, commemorating Birsa Munda's birth anniversary, with his 150th birth anniversary celebrated in 2025.

15. The upcoming 18th BRICS Summit will be hosted by India on 12–13 September 2026. Chinese President Xi Jinping has officially confirmed his travel to India for this meeting

16. US Removes Syria from "State Sponsors of Terrorism" List

- Syria had been on the list since 29 December 1979 — a period of 47 years.
- Remaining Nations on the list: only Cuba, Iran (added in 1984), and North Korea (added in 1988).
- Syria Profile: capital Damascus; currency the Pound.

17. India Targets 2035 for Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS)

- National Space Day (23 August).

18. Sophie Adenot Becomes First French Woman to Complete a Spacewalk

- She spent 6 hours and 23 minutes performing the spacewalk outside the International Space Station (ISS).

19. PM Modi Inaugurates "Param Pragya" Supercomputing Facility at IIT Delhi's Sonapat campus (Haryana)

20. India's first non-genetically modified, high-expansion popcorn maize hybrid seed was formally launched by Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan.

- Developed in Musunuru, Eluru district of Andhra Pradesh.

21. Rare "Himalayan Happy Face Spider" Discovered in Uttarakhand

- Scientific Name: Theridion himalayana
- Common Name: Himalayan Happy Face Spider.

- Features: the species lives at altitudes above 2,200 metres and is capable of displaying 32 distinct colour variations.

22. “Parichha Weir” Designated a World Heritage Irrigation Structure

- Location: situated in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, built across the Betwa River.

23. Nandan Nilekani Committee: formed to study examination reforms for major national administrative and competitive examinations (such as NEET).

24. Kanchana Devi Committee: appointed by the Supreme Court of India to formulate a clear definition of the Aravalli Mountain Range across Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan and the National Capital Region (NCR).

25. Keshav Rao Committee: appointed by the Telangana government, focusing on the modernisation of polytechnic (technical) education in the state to meet modern industrial needs

26. IWG “Work From Anywhere Index” 2026 — Mumbai the Only Indian City in Top 50

- Mumbai is the only Indian city in the Top 50, securing the 50th spot with a score of 77 out of 100.
- Global Leaders:
 - 1st: Bangkok, Thailand (Score 106.5)
 - 2nd: Tokyo, Japan (Score 96.5)
 - 3rd: Barcelona, Spain (Score 95.5)

27. India Tops Global Flexible Workspace Maturity Index with a Perfect Score of 100

- India scores a perfect 100 on Cushman & Wakefield's flex workspace maturity index — the highest in the world.

28. Ahmedabad to Host 2nd Commonwealth Cue Sports Championship

29. Kajal Dhochak Wins Second Consecutive U-20 World Wrestling Title

- Gold: Indian wrestler Kajal Dhochak secured her second consecutive U20 World Wrestling title in the 76 kg category

30. Chess — Pranesh M Wins Kanizsa Open; Carlsen Retains Esports World Cup Title

- Magnus Carlsen has held the World Number One spot for 15 consecutive years.

31. Lando Norris Wins 2026 Dutch Grand Prix; Mitchell Starc Sets WTC Record

- Formula One (Dutch Grand Prix 2026): held in Zandvoort, Lando Norris (McLaren driver) won
- World Test Championship (WTC) Record: Australian bowler Mitchell Starc became the highest wicket-taker in WTC history with 234 wickets, overtaking teammates Pat Cummins and Nathan Lyon (228 wickets each).

32. National Teachers’ Award 2026 Recipients Announced

- Instituted in 1958, the award is eligible for regular teachers with a minimum of 10 years of service.
- 154 candidates were shortlisted for the national jury.
- The award is presented by the President on 5 September (Teachers’ Day).
- Sushma Tamang: Chemistry Post Graduate Teacher (PGT) at PM SHRI Government Senior Secondary School, Dikling, Sikkim, was selected.
- Mohammad Ayaz Raina: Botany lecturer at Government Higher Secondary School, Dalhori, Rajouri district, J&K, selected as the sole recipient representing J&K.

33. Two Indian Doctors Nominated Posthumously for Pakistan’s Nishan-i-Quaid-i-Azam

- Nishan-i-Quaid-i-Azam is Pakistan’s highest civilian honour
- Two Indian medical professionals — Dr Jal Rattanji Patel (physician) and Dr Jal Daeboo (radiologist) — have been nominated posthumously.
- Reason: in 1946, they diagnosed Pakistan’s founder, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, with Tuberculosis (TB), keeping this diagnosis hidden from the public to uphold doctor-patient confidentiality.

34. Important Days

- World Photography Day (19 August)
- World Humanitarian Day (19 August): theme — “Honoring fallen humanitarians and calling for data protection of healthcare”.
- World Senior Citizens Day (21 August): 2026 theme — “Aging with Dignity”.

- National Space Day (23 August): commemorates the success of ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 mission and the historic soft landing of the Vikram Lander and Pragyan Rover on the Moon's South Pole at "Shiv Shakti Point" on 23 August 2023.