Nandyal Banking Coaching Center - Daily News Dated 20-21 Oct 2026

1. RBI Imposes Restrictions on Puducherry Co-operative Urban Bank

- The RBI issued directions on 19 October 2026 under Section 35A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, effective from close of business 21 October 2026 for 6 months.
- Depositors can withdraw a maximum of ₹5,000.
- eligible depositors can claim up to ₹5 lakh from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).
- DICGC: Established in 1978; wholly owned subsidiary of RBI; HQ: Mumbai.

2. RBI Hosts SAMVAAD 2026 International Central Banking Seminar

3. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC): Founded on 8 December 1985; Secretariat: Kathmandu, Nepal; 8 members – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

4. SBI Named "World's Best Consumer Bank 2026" by Global Finance

- State Bank of India (SBI) was named "World's Best Consumer Bank 2026" by Global Finance magazine (New York) for the 2nd consecutive year; Chairman Challa Sreenivasulu Setty received the award in Bangkok, Thailand during the 2026 IMF–World Bank Annual Meetings.
- Also named Best Bank in India for the 5th consecutive year.
- SBI paid a dividend of ₹8,813 crore to the Government for FY26.

5. HDFC Bank: Anup Bagchi Takes Over as MD & CEO

- Anup Bagchi as MD & CEO of HDFC Bank for 3 years, succeeding Sashidhar Jagdishan.
- HDFC Bank ranked 3rd in Forbes & Statista's "World's Best Performing Banks 2026" (1st: OCBC, 2nd: DBS, both Singapore) – the only Indian bank in the top 10.

6. Axis Bank and Visa launched the campaign "Iss festive season, har khushi ko banao badi" under "Dil Se Open Celebrations 2026", featuring actor Shahid Kapoor, promoting Axis Visa credit cards.

7. HSBC India Commits ₹200 Crore for Financial Literacy

- HSBC India will invest ₹200 crore over 4 years (2026–2030) to expand financial literacy.
- HSBC in India since 1853; HQ: Mumbai; CEO: Hitendra Dave; installed India's first ATM in 1987.
- RBI Financial Literacy Week 2026 (9–13 February): "KYC – Your First Step to Safe Banking".

8. ICICI Prudential Life Renamed ICICI Life Insurance; New Tagline "Har Kal Aasaan"

- Sidharatha Mishra took charge as MD & CEO on 14 October 2026 for 5 years, after Anup Bagchi moved to HDFC Bank.

9. Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Notification 136/2026 (19 October 2026) exempts interest on New Development Bank (NDB) Maharaja bonds from TDS under Section 393(1) (residents) and Section 393(2) (FIIs) of the Income-tax Act, 2025, for bonds issued from tax year 2026-27.

- Masala bonds: rupee-denominated bonds issued offshore; Maharaja bonds: rupee bonds issued in India by foreign entities/multilaterals; both pioneered by the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

10. Mumbai-based advisory firm 1 Finance received SEBI in-principle approval (around 21 October 2026) for a Mutual Fund Lite (MF Lite) AMC for passive products (index funds and ETFs); it could become India's first MF Lite AMC.

11. PhonePe renamed its stock-broking platform Share.Market as PhonePe Invest

12. India and Myanmar signed 5 MoUs for Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) under Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) in Naypyitaw, in the presence of Ambassador Abhay Thakur.

13. World Bank Group President Ajay Banga announced the Group's first comprehensive Digital Strategy in Seoul, South Korea on 20 October 2026.

- World Bank: Established in 1944 (Bretton Woods Conference); HQ: Washington, D.C.; 189 members
- Projects India's FY27 growth at 7.1%; supports Kerala's KERA project (including carbon credits for farmers).
- 5 arms: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD); International Development Association (IDA) (concessional loans); International Finance Corporation (IFC) (private sector); Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) (guarantees); International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)

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14. 153rd IPU (Inter-Parliamentary Union) Assembly Held in Arusha, Tanzania

- Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU): Founded 1889; HQ: Geneva; 184 members (newest: Nauru).
- Milton Dick (Speaker, Australian House of Representatives) elected IPU President on 9 October 2026 for 2026–29, succeeding Tulia Ackson (Tanzania).

15. The Department of Consumer Affairs hosted the 61st International Committee of Legal Metrology (CIML) meeting in New Delhi with OIML

- OIML: Established 1955; HQ: Paris.
- World Metrology Day: 20 May.
- India became the 13th country authorised to issue OIML certificates (2023).

16. Global Hunger Index 2026: India Ranked 100th of 122

- Published by Welthungerhilfe, the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV) and Helvetas; Theme: "No Security Without Food Security".
- Global score: 18.1 (moderate); 645 million people face hunger.
- Alarming category (8): Burundi, Chad, DR Congo, Madagascar, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen.
- Top performers: 24 countries (including Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Chile) share ranks 1–24; bottom: Somalia (122nd), DR Congo (121st), Chad (120th).
- India: 100th of 122, score 24.1 (tied with Ethiopia), "Serious" category.

17. Action Against Hunger: Pakistan among 10 Worst Food Crises

18. BS-VII Emission Norms: Phased Rollout from April 2029

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) issued draft BS-VII norms (aligned with Euro 7), to be rolled out in 3 phases – 1 April 2029, 1 April 2031 and 1 April 2035.
- Particle measurement size lowered from 23 nm to 10 nm.

19. NITI Aayog Releases Data Centre Evaluation Framework

- 5 pillars: Power and Energy; Water and Cooling; Siting and Environmental Sustainability; Economic and Strategic Value; Policy, Governance and Implementation.

20. The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) targets 73.93 GW of storage by FY32 – 26.69 GW Pumped Storage Hydro (PSH) and 47.24 GW Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).

- India's non-fossil capacity reached 300.50 GW as of 31 July 2026, towards the 500 GW by 2030 target.
- India ranks 4th globally in installed pumped-storage capacity (7.18 GW, end-2025).

21. 7th AgriVoltaics World Conference Held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

- Theme: "Powering the Global South".
- PM-KUSUM scheme launched in 2019 by MNRE (Ministry of New and Renewable Energy).

22. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the upgraded Agri Welfare Portal – a single window for PM-KISAN, AgriStack and Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), connecting FPOs, PACS, scientists and startups; Krishi Vigyan Kendras will run the training campaign.

- PMFBY farmer premium: 2% (Kharif), 1.5% (Rabi), 5% (commercial/horticultural crops).
- Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixed at least 1.5 times the cost of production for 22 mandated crops; safflower got the highest increase (₹675/quintal) in the Rabi 2027-28 MSP.

23. Kufri Jamunia, developed by the Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI), Shimla (ICAR) and released in 2024, is India's first potato with purple flesh.

- ICAR Director General: Dr. Mangi Lal Jat.

24. India Begins National Red List Assessment of 1,211 Bird Species

- Kerala is the first State with an ecosystem-level Red List.
- West Bengal recorded the highest species count (543) in the Great Backyard Bird Count 2025.

25. UNESCO Adds 3 Indian Sites to World Heritage Tentative List

– Sirpur Cultural and Archaeological Landscape (Mahasamund, Chhattisgarh) – Cultural.
– Karst-Mud-Volcano Complex of Baratang (Andaman & Nicobar Islands) – Natural.
– Andaman Subduction Volcanoes (Barren and Narcondam Islands) – Natural.

- India's Tentative List now has 81 sites.

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- India has 45 World Heritage Sites (37 cultural, 7 natural, 1 mixed); 45th: Sarnath (July 2026); ranked 6th globally.
- 13 Biosphere Reserves in UNESCO's network; 16 Intangible Cultural Heritage elements (16th: Deepavali, December 2025); 9 Creative Cities.
- UNESCO Director-General: Khaled El-Enany (Egypt; first Arab DG); HQ: Paris.

26. Indian Army Conducts Exercise Akhand Prahar-II in Jaisalmer), Rajasthan.

- Chief of the Army Staff: General Dhiraj Seth; Army Day: 15 January.

27. India's Space Economy Projected to Reach $40–45 Billion

28. NASA awarded $20 million under its Astrophysics Pioneers programme to PUFFINS (Polarimetry in the Ultraviolet to Find Features in INterStellar dust), planned for launch in April 2030.

29. JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency) Launches Martian Moons eXploration (MMX) Mission

30. University of Kerala Identifies Martian Analogue Sites in Tamil Nadu and Chile

31. CJI Inaugurates India's Highest-Altitude High Court Bench at Leh

- India has 25 High Courts.
- Chief Justice of India: Justice Surya Kant (53rd CJI, first from Haryana; since 24 November 2025).

32. Dhal Singh Bisen Sworn In as Governor of Uttarakhand

- Dhal Singh Bisen took oath as Governor of Uttarakhand on 19 October 2026 at Lok Bhavan, Dehradun, administered by Acting Chief Justice Manoj Kumar Tiwari; succeeds Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh (Retd.).

33. Shilp Samagam Mela 2026 Inaugurated in Guwahati

34. Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY): ₹15,000 for First-Time Employees

- Implemented by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) for jobs created between 1 August 2025 and 31 July 2027, for employees with gross salary up to ₹1 lakh per month.
- First-time employees get up to ₹15,000 (one month's EPF wage): first instalment of up to ₹7,500 after 6 months; balance after 12 months and completion of a financial literacy course.
- Employers get up to ₹3,000 per month per additional employee for 2 years (up to 4 years for manufacturing).
- Outlay: ₹99,446 crore (approved by the Cabinet on 1 July 2025); target: 3.5 crore jobs.

35. PM-AJAY: 18,093 Villages Declared Adarsh Gram

- Under Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY), 18,093 villages had been declared Adarsh Gram as of 8 September 2026, out of over 47,200 villages covered; 785 hostels completed.
- Eligible villages: SC population of 40% or more and total population of at least 500; declared Adarsh Gram on scoring 70/100 and being open-defecation free.
- 100% centrally sponsored scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Minister: Dr. Virendra Kumar).

36. Hillary Rodham Clinton Award 2026 Conferred at Georgetown University

- Recipients:
  - Reema Nanavaty (Director, Self-Employed Women's Association – SEWA, India) – for the Hariyali green energy initiative.
  - Muhammad Yunus (founder, Grameen Bank; former Chief Adviser of Bangladesh).
  - Tory Burch (US designer and philanthropist).
- Muna Sukhtian (Microfund for Women, Jordan) received the inaugural Georgetown Ambassadors Award.

37. Police Commemoration Day (21 October)

38. National targets: 2028 – piped drinking water to every rural household (Har Ghar Jal); 2029 – drug-free India; 2025 – India's TB elimination goal (5 years ahead of the SDG target of 2030); 2047 – elimination of sickle cell anaemia.

39. Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan released Dancing with Joy, a memoir by classical dancer Dr. Ananda Shankar Jayant about her life with cancer

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- Other books released by the Vice-President in 2026:
– The Sage Who Reimagined Hinduism (on Sree Narayana Guru) – Shashi Tharoor.
– Tides of Time – Sudha Murty.
– The Library Man of India (on P. N. Panicker) – P. P. Sathyan.
– A Century of Service: The RSS in 100 Acts of Seva – Tamilisai Soundararajan.

40. Jeweller Vummidi Ethiraj, Associated with the Sengol, Passes Away

- Vummidi Ethiraj, patriarch of the Vummidi Bangaru Jewellers family, died in Chennai
- Associated with crafting the Sengol (gold-plated silver sceptre) presented to Jawaharlal Nehru in 1947 by Thiruvavaduthurai Adheenam priests; installed in the new Parliament on 28 May 2023.

41. Asian Para Games 2026: Key Indian Performances

- Held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan (18–24 October 2026); India finished with a record 114 medals, including 30 gold.
- Deepthi Jeevanji: Gold, women's 400 m T20 – 56.36 s (Games record).
- Simran Sharma: Gold, women's 200 m T12 – 24.80 s (Games record), and Gold, 100 m T12 – 12.02 s (Games record).
- Pranav Soorma: Gold, men's discus F51/52/53 – 11.66 m (Asian record); Ram Ratan Singh – Silver.
- Devender Kumar: Gold, men's discus F44/64 – 49.71 m, in an Indian sweep with Rakesh (Silver) and Pradeep Kumar (Bronze).
- Sachin Khilari: Gold, men's shot put F46 – 15.87 m (Games record), with Mohd Yasser (Silver) and Parveen (Bronze) completing an Indian podium sweep.
- Sheetal Devi (para archery): scored 704/720 in women's compound qualification, equalling the world record and setting an Asian record; with Toman Kumar set a mixed team qualification world record of 1,402.
- Shooting (10 m Air Rifle SH1): Mona Agarwal – Gold (final 250.0, Games record; qualification 629.1, Games record); Avani Lekhara – Silver (qualification 626.4; final 249.6).
- Other gold medallists: Rinku (javelin F46) and Nishad Kumar (long jump T47).
- Kapil Parmar: Bronze, men's judo J1 -70 kg.

42. U-23 World Wrestling Championships: Amruta Pujari Silver, Komal Bronze

43. World Skate Games 2026: Junior Medals for India

- At the World Skate Games in Asunción, Paraguay:
– Anirudh Vinod won Gold (30.394 s) and Lohnath Arun Prasad Silver (30.419 s) in the junior men's 1-lap road race [Unverified].
– The junior girls' team (Lakshita, Pragathi, Rutva, Charita) won Bronze in the 3,000 m relay – India's first relay medal at this level.

44. Pragyan Ojha Appointed Chairman of BCCI Senior Men's Selection Committee

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) appointed Pragyan Ojha as Chairman of the senior men's selection committee on 19 October 2026, succeeding Ajit Agarkar

Important Questions and Answers

1. **Up to what amount can depositors claim from DICGC?**
   ₹5 lakh
2. **Where is the SAARC Secretariat?**
   Kathmandu, Nepal
3. **Which bank was named "World's Best Consumer Bank 2026" by Global Finance?**
   State Bank of India (SBI)
4. **Who took over as MD & CEO of HDFC Bank?**
   Anup Bagchi
5. **What is the new name of ICICI Prudential Life?**
   ICICI Life Insurance

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6. **Where was the 153rd IPU Assembly held?**
   Arusha, Tanzania
7. **Who was elected President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union for 2026–29?**
   Milton Dick (Australia)
8. **From when will the BS-VII emission norms be rolled out?**
   1 April 2029
9. **What is the name of India's first purple-flesh potato?**
   Kufri Jamunia
10. **How many World Heritage Sites does India have?**
    45
11. **Which was India's 45th World Heritage Site?**
    Sarnath
12. **Where is India's highest-altitude High Court bench?**
    Leh
13. **Who was sworn in as Governor of Uttarakhand on 19 October 2026?**
    Dhal Singh Bisen
14. **How much does a first-time employee get under PM-VBRY?**
    Up to ₹15,000
15. **Who was appointed Chairman of the BCCI senior men's selection committee?**
    Pragyan Ojha

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