1. RBI Issues Leverage Ratio Directions under Basel III

- Minimum leverage ratio: 4% for Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs); 3.5% for other commercial banks (Indian branches of G-SIBs: 3.5% plus G-SIB buffer).
- Leverage Ratio = Tier-1 Capital ÷ Total Exposure – a non-risk-based backstop to risk-based capital requirements.
- BCBS (Basel Committee on Banking Supervision) is hosted by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), Basel, Switzerland.

2. RBI Notifies Basel III Standardised Approach for Operational Risk

- The Standardised Approach (SA) for operational risk applies from 1 April 2027 to all commercial banks except Small Finance Banks (SFBs), Payments Banks (PBs) and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).
- Provides indicative mapping of Business Indicator (BI) components; Loss Component = 15 × average annual operational risk losses (net of recoveries); capital charge = BIC × ILM.
- Requires 10 years of loss data (minimum 5 years for banks newly subject to the Internal Loss Multiplier (ILM)).

3. NABKISAN Finance Ltd (NABARD subsidiary) listed India's first Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Social Bond of ₹180 crore on NSE on 2 October 2026.

- 5 All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs) regulated by RBI: NABARD, SIDBI, EXIM Bank, NaBFID and National Housing Bank (NHB).

4. PFRDA Launches "NPS Central"; Bank of Baroda Sponsors Pension Fund

- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) launched "NPS Central" on NPS Diwas (1 October 2026)
- Bank of Baroda became the 2nd public sector bank (after SBI) to sponsor a pension fund – BoB Pension Fund Management Co. Ltd (BoB 80.10%, Baroda BNP Paribas AMC 19.90%).
- Accounts are identified by a 12-digit Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN).
- PFRDA: HQ – New Delhi; Chairperson – Sivasubramanian Ramann; under the Ministry of Finance; regulates NPS, Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY).
- NPS entry age: 18–70 years (can remain invested up to 85); APY entry age: 18–40 years.

5. The National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) launched two equity indices on 22 October 2026 in New Delhi:

– NDEX: 20 large, liquid stocks from the top 60 NSE-listed companies.
– FINNDEX: 15 financial sector stocks from the top 40 eligible financial companies (insurance companies excluded).

6. 9 sectors: Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilisers, Steel, Cement, Electricity and Iron Ore (newly added).

7. Top producing States: iron ore – Odisha (Keonjhar); coal – Odisha; crude oil – Rajasthan; natural gas – Assam [Unverified]; cement – Rajasthan; steel – Odisha; fertilisers – Gujarat.

8. Gujarat has the most refining capacity, including Reliance's Jamnagar complex (world's largest); India has 24 refineries (267.1 MMTPA, as of 1 April 2026).

9. Safflower received the highest MSP increase (₹675/quintal) for Rabi 2027-28.

10. BS-VII Emission Norms: Implementation Schedule

- Passenger cars & SUVs (M1): from 1 April 2029.
- Light Commercial Vehicles (N1, up to 3.5 t): phases from 1 April 2030, 1 April 2032 and 1 April 2035.
- Trucks and buses (N2/N3/M2/M3): phases from 1 April 2031, 1 April 2033 and 1 April 2035.
- PARIVARTAN Scheme (Delhi-NCR): replaces BS-IV or older commercial vehicles (goods vehicles and buses) with BS-VI or electric vehicles; outlay ₹9,585 crore (Centre ₹5,041 crore); approved by the Union Cabinet on 3 June 2026 and the Delhi Cabinet on 20 July 2026; benefits include 100% motor vehicle tax exemption for 10 years and a 5% interest subsidy.

11. The FASTag Annual Pass crossed 1 crore users on 28 September 2026; fee revised from ₹3,000 to ₹3,075 (from 1 April 2026), valid for 200 trips or one year.

- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) added a toll plaza feedback module to its Rajmargyatra app

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12. PM-DAKSH Integrated with PMKVY

- Pradhan Mantri Dakshata Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana – a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (launched 2020-21) – was integrated with PMKVY from FY 2024-25.
- Provides skill training and self-employment support to SC, OBC, EWS, De-notified Tribes, sanitation workers and waste pickers.
- 1,87,305 trained and 96,162 placed (FY21–FY24); expenditure ₹309.5 crore.

13. 33rd SIMBEX: India–Singapore Maritime Bilateral Exercise was held between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy

- Ships: INS Nilgiri (first stealth frigate of Project 17A), INS Kamorta (ASW corvette), submarine INS Sindhukirti, and RSS Supreme (Singapore).
- Harbour phase: Visakhapatnam (21–23 October); Sea phase: Bay of Bengal (24–26 October).

14. Visakhapatnam in 2026: International Fleet Review and MILAN 2026 (February), Colombo Security Conclave TTX, 13th SLINEX (September) and 33rd SIMBEX (October).

15. Indian Navy's 1st Training Squadron Visits Malé, Maldives

- INS Tir, INS Sujata and ICGS Sarathi visited Malé, Maldives (around 22–24 October 2026) for training and goodwill, and held a PASSEX with the Maldives Coast Guard.
- India–Maldives exercises: Ekuverin (bilateral Army) and Dosti (trilateral coast guard – India, Maldives, Sri Lanka).

16. The European Parliament's Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought 2026 was awarded to the International Criminal Court (ICC)

17. Romania's Parliament approved the minority government of independent PM Luca Niculescu

- Romania: Capital – Bucharest; Currency – Romanian Leu (RON).

18. Jaipur Named in National Geographic's "Best of the World 2027"

- Jaipur was included among 25 destinations in National Geographic's "Best of the World 2027" list

19. USPS Issues Diwali Stamp; Deepavali on UNESCO's Intangible Heritage List

- The United States Postal Service (USPS) issued a rangoli-themed Diwali Forever stamp on 21 October 2026 at the Embassy of India, Washington, D.C. – its 2nd Diwali stamp after 2016.
- Rangoli art by Houston-based artist Sangita Bhutada; stamp designed by Jennifer Arnold; attended by Indian Ambassador Vinay Mohan Kwatra.
- Deepavali is India's 16th element on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list (December 2025).
- US Ambassador to India: Sergio Gor.

20. Education Minister Pralhad Joshi launched the registration portal on 22 October 2026 for the 5th Kashi Tamil Sangamam (28 November – 12 December 2026), organised by the Ministry of Education with IIT Madras and Banaras Hindu University (BHU) under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

- Theme: "Thirukkural Payilvom" (Let us learn the Thirukkural).

21. Under the Ministry of Civil Aviation's International Aviation Hub Strategy (hub-and-spoke model with Delhi as the hub), Lal Bahadur Shastri Airport, Varanasi became the 1st spoke (25 June 2026), followed by Amritsar (28 July 2026) and Ahmedabad (September 2026).

22. President Droupadi Murmu attended Bastar Dussehra and the Muria Darbar at Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh

- Lasts about 75 days (began 12 August 2026 with Pat Jatra) – among the world's longest festivals; dedicated to Goddess Danteshwari.

23. Devadas Chimakode (Bidar, Karnataka) was selected (21 October 2026) for the Karnataka Janapada Academy Annual Honorary Award 2026 (₹25,000) for 35 years in folk arts (Suggi Kunitha, Halage).

24. France Reports World's First Human Case of Shamonda Virus

25. International Day of the Snow Leopard (23 October)

26. Inaugural Commonwealth Kabaddi Championship was Held at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

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- 13 countries, 23 squads, 62 matches; motto: "One Breath, One Raid, One Commonwealth".
- India captains: men – Surjeet Singh (VC: Naveen Kumar); women – Nidhi Sharma (VC: Ritu).
- The Commonwealth has 56 members (newest: Togo and Gabon, 2022).

Important Questions and Answers

1. **What is the minimum leverage ratio for Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)?**
   4%
2. **What is the minimum leverage ratio for other commercial banks?**
   3.5%
3. **From when will the Basel III Standardised Approach for operational risk apply?**
   1 April 2027
4. **Which company listed India's first WASH Social Bond?**
   NABKISAN Finance Ltd (a NABARD subsidiary)
5. **Which was the 2nd public sector bank to sponsor a pension fund?**
   Bank of Baroda
6. **What is the entry age for the Atal Pension Yojana?**
   18–40 years
7. **What are the names of the two equity indices launched by NCDEX?**
   NDEX and FINNDEX
8. **What is the new fee for the FASTag Annual Pass?**
   ₹3,075
9. **What is the name of the India–Singapore naval exercise?**
   SIMBEX
10. **Who won the Sakharov Prize 2026?**
    International Criminal Court (ICC)
11. **Which Indian city is in National Geographic's "Best of the World 2027" list?**
    Jaipur
12. **What is the theme of the 5th Kashi Tamil Sangamam?**
    Thirukkural Payilvom (Let us learn the Thirukkural)
13. **Which airport became the 1st spoke under the International Aviation Hub Strategy?**
    Lal Bahadur Shastri Airport, Varanasi
14. **To which goddess is Bastar Dussehra dedicated?**
    Goddess Danteshwari
15. **Where was the inaugural Commonwealth Kabaddi Championship held?**
    Ahmedabad, Gujarat

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