

1. NPCI introduces 0.4% MDR on UPI merchant payments above ₹2,000 from 15 October 2026

- Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) is a fee paid by merchants to banks and payment service providers for accepting digital payments.
- 0.4% MDR on specified Person-to-Merchant (P2M) transactions above ₹2,000, effective 15 October 2026. (maximum Cap: Rs.300)
- Payments of ₹75,000 and above carry a maximum charge of ₹300 per transaction.
- Person-to-Person (P2P) transactions: free regardless of amount.
- P2M up to ₹2,000: zero MDR.
- Small merchants receiving up to ₹1 lakh per month via UPI QR: 0% MDR.

2. SEBI proposes shorter Disaster Recovery drills for Market Infrastructure Institutions

- Overall drill session of at least 4 hours, including switchover time

3. Bandhan Group launches "Bandhan Kaamyabi Ka" campaign marking 25 years

- Bandhan began as a microfinance institution in 2001 and became a universal bank under the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) 2013 licensing guidelines, with applications screened by the Bimal Jalan committee.
- Bandhan Bank started as a universal bank on August 23, 2015
- Headquarters: Kolkata.
- Bandhan Bank MD & CEO: Partha Pratim Sengupta. Tagline: "Aapka Bhala, Sabki Bhalai".
- Bandhan Group Chairman: Chandra Shekhar Ghosh; Group Managing Director: Arvind Agarwal.

4. EPFO launches official WhatsApp Channel

5. Retail inflation rises to 4.82% in August 2026

- Under Section 45ZA of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, the inflation target is 4.00% ($\pm 2.00\%$).
- Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation: 4.82% in August 2026, up from 4.45% in July 2026.
- CPI base is 2024=100

6. Ernst & Young – Confederation of Indian Industry (EY-CII) report estimates India's space economy at ₹4.22 lakh crore (\$44 billion) by 2033

7. India and MERCOSUR sign First Additional Protocol to their Preferential Trade Agreement

- MERCOSUR (Southern Common Market) members: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay. India's PTA covers the four founding members.

8. Piyush Goyal attends G20 Trade Ministers' Meeting in Milwaukee, USA

- The United States holds the 2026 G20 presidency

9. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojana completes 7 years

- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojana (PM-KMY) was launched in 2019 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare with the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
- Voluntary, guaranteed ₹3,000 monthly pension after age 60 for Small and Marginal Farmers.
- Land eligibility: cultivable land up to 2 hectares.
- Entry age: 18–40 years; monthly contribution ₹55 to ₹200 depending on entry age.

10. Ministry of Jal Shakti releases "Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari – Catch the Rain" anthem

- Anthem released on 15 September 2026 by the Ministry of Jal Shakti (Union Minister C.R. Patil).
- Sung by Shankar Mahadevan.
- Central motto: "Catch the Rain – Where It Falls, When It Falls."

11. Gujarat restores 27,652 hectares of mangroves under MISHTI

- Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI) is a central scheme launched on 5 June 2023.
- Union Minister Bhupender Yadav launched the Mangrove GIS (Geographic Information System) Portal at a workshop in Bhuj, Kachchh (Kutch).

12. On 14 September 2026, the World Health Organization (WHO) validated Chile as the first country in South America to eliminate dog-transmitted rabies as a public health problem.

- On 4 March 2026, Chile became the first country in the Americas, and the second globally, verified as having eliminated leprosy

13. DRDO organises VIMARSH 2026 (Theme: "Varta se Vikas".)

14. Colombo Security Conclave table-top exercise in Visakhapatnam (Theme: Coordinated Response to Illicit Maritime Activities in the Indian Ocean Region)

15. 4th Exercise Samudra Laksamana held in Malaysia

- Bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the Royal Malaysian Navy.
- INS Mysore participated from the Indian side.

16. India's border facts (static)

- Line of Actual Control (LAC): 3,488 km.
- McMahon Line: boundary in the eastern sector (Arunachal Pradesh).
- Longest land border: Bangladesh (4,096 km), followed by China, then Pakistan (3,323 km, Radcliffe Line).

17. 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Cape Town, South Africa

- Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Harivansh (Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha), accompanied by P.C. Mody (Secretary General, Rajya Sabha).

18. Khalilur Rahman of Bangladesh is 81st UNGA President

- Second Bangladeshi to head the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), after Humayun Rashid Choudhury
- First Indian UNGA President: Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit

19. PM inaugurates SEMICON India 2026; Semicon 2.0 outlay ₹1,27,500 crore

- India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 1.0 was launched on 15 December 2021 with ₹76,000 crore.
- ISM 2.0 (Semicon 2.0): enhanced outlay of ₹1,27,500 crore; Cabinet approval July 2026
- Theme: "Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem".

20. Nirmala Sitharaman launches "Laya" Sanskrit AI model in Chennai

- Unveiled by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on 15 September 2026 at Madras Sanskrit College.
- Developed with US-based Articulate AI.

21. SPROUT facility inaugurated at BRIC-NIPGR

- National Institute of Plant Genome Research (BRIC-NIPGR) is in New Delhi
- SPROUT (SpeedSeed Phenotyping and Resource Optimization for Unified Trait Analysis) inaugurated by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh

22. CSIR-NIScPR adopts SARAL AI

- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR).
- NIScPR is using SARAL AI, an initiative of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), to convert research published in its journals into accessible videos.
- NIScPR Director: Dr. Geetha Vani Rayasam; ANRF CEO: Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanaraman.

23. Nuakhai festival celebrated

- Celebrated across Western Odisha and parts of Jharkhand; observed on 15 September 2026.

24. 2,000-year-old terracotta dabber found in Nalgonda, Telangana

25. Postage stamp on Sant Malukdas Ji released

- Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia released the commemorative stamp on 15 September 2026.

26. World Ozone Day – 16 September (2026 theme: Global Action for a Cooler Planet)

- Official name: International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.

27. National Engineers Day – 15 September

- Birth anniversary of Sir M. Visvesvaraya.

28. International Day of Democracy – 15 September (2026 theme: Raising Hands and Voices – Fostering Agency and Ownership through Deliberative Democracy.)

29. Dr. P. Srihari appointed Director, Research Centre Imarat

- Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad, is a DRDO laboratory.

30. Department of Financial Services wins Rajbhasha Kirti Award 2025–26

- Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, won 1st Prize for official language implementation (ministry category, fewer than 300 personnel) for 2025–26.

31. 78th Emmy Awards highlights

- Lead Actor (Drama): Noah Wyle (The Pitt).
- Lead Actress (Drama): Rhea Seehorn (Pluribus).
- Bob Hope Humanitarian Award: Michael J. Fox, for Parkinson's disease research advocacy.

32. Princess Astrid of Norway passes away

- Princess Astrid Maud Ingeborg, daughter of King Olav V

33. India wins Women's T20 Asia Cup 2026

- India beat Sri Lanka by 72 runs in Dubai on 13 September 2026 for its 8th title.
- Player of the Match: Shafali Verma, whose fifty off 24 balls is the fastest in tournament history.
- Shafali Verma was also Player of the Series.

34. Ganges Grandmasters win Global Chess League 2026

- Ganges Grandmasters (coach Adhiban Baskaran) won in Bengaluru, defeating Alpine APL Pipers 7-5 in the two-leg final
- Player of the Tournament: Stavroula Tsolakidou.