

1. Government Notifies Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on High-Value UPI Payments from 15 October 2026

- Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) is the fee a merchant pays for accepting a digital payment; the customer does not pay it.
- A Ministry of Finance gazette notification dated 14 September 2026 kept RuPay debit cards and Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments up to ₹2,000 free of charges.
- Person-to-Person (P2P) UPI transfers: free at any amount.
- Person-to-Merchant (P2M) payments up to ₹2,000: zero MDR.
- P2M payments above ₹2,000: 0.4% MDR.
- P2M payments of ₹75,000 and above: MDR capped at ₹300 per transaction.
- Railways, telecom, insurance, fuel, utilities and agri-inputs: flat ₹5 above ₹2,000.
- Capital markets (mutual funds, securities, stockbrokers, dealers): 0.02%, capped at ₹300.
- Small merchants with monthly UPI receipts below ₹1 lakh: exempt.

2. RBI Expands Retail Forex Services on Bharat Connect to Six Currencies at Global Fintech Fest 2026

- FX-Retail is RBI's web-based retail forex platform, launched in 2019.
- With the existing US Dollar (USD), total supported currencies: six.
- Japanese Yen is not in this batch; it is planned later with the Australian, Singapore, Hong Kong and New Zealand dollars.

3. Fixed Deposit Booking Enabled at Hitachi Money Spot White Label ATMs

- White Label ATMs are owned and run by non-bank entities licensed by RBI.
- Hitachi Payment Services runs them under the Money Spot brand, mainly in smaller towns.
- Partners: Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SSFB), fintech SprintMoney, and Hitachi Payment Services.

4. NABARD Experience Centre Inaugurated at Head Office, Mumbai

- Inaugurated on 9 September 2026 by Sanjay Lohiya, Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS).
- Present: NABARD Chairman Dr Shaji Krishnan V.
- Location: NABARD Head Office, Mumbai.

5. Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2026 Campaign Launched on 17 September

- Launched on 17 September 2026; runs to 2 October 2026 (Swachh Bharat Diwas)
- Theme: "Swachhata Mein Sahbhag; Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat".
- Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) was launched on 2 October 2014 with the motto "Ek Kadam Swachhata Ki Ore".
- National Open Defecation Free (ODF) status was declared on 2 October 2019.
- Swachhata Hi Seva has been held every year since 2017.

6. Operational Guidelines Launched for Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP) 3.0

- DILRMP modernises and integrates land records.
- Outlay: ₹565.50 crore, 100% Central funding.
- Period: 2026-27 to 2030-31.
- Implementing department: Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development.

7. Prime Minister Inaugurates 5th Edition of SEMICON India 2026 in New Delhi

- The Semicon India Programme, run by the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), had a Phase 1 outlay of ₹76,000 crore, approved by the Union Cabinet in December 2021.
- Semicon 2.0 was approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2026 with an outlay of ₹1,27,500 crore.
- Theme: "Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem".
- The PM cited the mission budget rising from USD 8 billion (Semicon 1.0) to USD 13.5 billion (Semicon 2.0).

8. First International Space Summit Held in Paris; ISRO Chairman Leads Indian Delegation

- Indian delegation led by Dr V. Narayanan, Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Secretary, Department of Space.

- On 11 September, the delegation visited the CNES Toulouse Space Centre(Paris) and reviewed the payload for the joint ISRO–CNES satellite mission TRISHNA.
- 9. Indian Composer Joi Barua Joins “Cosmic Rhapsody”, an Arts Project Linked to NASA's COSI Mission**
- Assam-born singer-composer Joi Barua composed for “Cosmic Rhapsody”, an international orchestral and multimedia project connected with COSI.
- 10. India and MERCOSUR Sign First Additional Protocol to Their Preferential Trade Agreement**
- MERCOSUR (Southern Common Market) members: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay; headquarters Montevideo.
- 11. United States–India TRUST Initiative**
- TRUST = Transforming the Relationship Utilizing Strategic Technology.
 - it replaced the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET).
- 12. Three IIMs in Top 100 of QS Global Full-Time MBA Rankings 2027; MIT Sloan Ranked First**
- Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) released the Global MBA and Business Master's Rankings 2027
 - Global top four, all from the United States: 1. MIT Sloan (first time ever), 2. Harvard Business School, 3. Stanford Graduate School of Business, 4. Penn (Wharton).
 - No Indian business school is in the top tier.
 - Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) in the top 100: IIM Bangalore — joint 64th, IIM Ahmedabad — joint 70th, IIM Calcutta — 95th.
 - IIM Bangalore is ranked 8th in Asia.
- 13. GIFT City Rises to 37th in Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI 40)**
- FinTech rank: 26th
- 14. Delhi Tops NITI Aayog's India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI) 2025**
- Top five: Delhi (84), Maharashtra (78), Karnataka (73), Chandigarh (71), Goa (65).
 - Karnataka leads charging infrastructure readiness; Manipur (46) leads hilly and north-eastern states.
- 15. India Ranked 131st in World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2026**
- India: 131st of 145 economies, parity score 64.5%.
 - Top three: 1. Iceland, 2. Finland, 3. Norway.
- 16. Sethuraman Panchanathan Wins the Arthur M. Bueche Award 2026**
- 17. N. Chandrasekaran Re-appointed Tata Sons Chairman for a Third Term**
- Noel Tata, Chairman of Tata Trusts
- 18. IFFCO Chairman Dileep Sanghani Elected to the Global Board of the International Cooperative Alliance**
- 19. East Zone Wins Duleep Trophy 2026–27**
- Final: East Zone v South Zone, 6–10 September 2026, MA Chidambaram Stadium (Chepauk), Chennai.
 - Player of the Match: East Zone captain Ishan Kishan
- 20. Dhiraj Bommadevara Wins Gold at the Archery World Cup Final 2026 (Venue: Saltillo, Mexico)**
- Only one Indian had won an individual title there before: Dola Banerjee (2007).
 - He is the first Indian male recurve archer to win gold at the World Cup Final.
 - Second Indian individual champion at the World Cup Final, after Dola Banerjee.
- 21. India Wins the Men's Junior Asia Cup Hockey 2026**
- Final on 13 September 2026 at Moqi, China: India beat South Korea 4–1.
 - India's sixth title, the most by any team (earlier: 2004, 2008, 2015, 2023, 2024).
 - Captain: Anmol Ekka; coach: Frederic Soyeyz.
- 22. Konkani Scholar Narayana Purushothama Mallaya Passes Away**
- 23. International Equal Pay Day Observed on 18 September**