

1. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Releases E-Mandate Framework 2026

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released a master framework consolidating all guidelines for recurring digital payments (e-mandates) via **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**, **National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT)**, and **Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)**.
- Customers must complete a one-time registration using an **Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA)**, such as an **One Time Password (OTP)**, when setting up an e-mandate.
- Banks are directed to automatically map existing recurring e-mandates to newly reissued debit or credit cards upon expiry.
- The transaction threshold without requiring an AFA is retained at **₹15,000** for standard mandates.
- The transaction limit is raised up to **₹1 lakh** per transaction specifically for mutual fund subscriptions, insurance premium payments, and credit card bills.

2. PayPoint India Becomes First Fintech to Join Centralised Payment System

- **PayPoint India** became the first private sector fintech company to join the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**'s **Centralised Payment System (NEFT and RTGS)**.

3. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Trade, and Textile Export Data Released

- India received a total **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** of **\$47.87 billion** between **April–December 2025**.
- **Singapore** was the top investing country, contributing **\$17.6 billion** (around **37%**), followed by the **United States of America (USA)** and **Mauritius**.
- **Maharashtra** received the maximum FDI inflow at **\$15.38 billion**, followed by **Karnataka**.
- India's textile sector exports registered a growth of **2.1%** in the financial year **2025-26**, reaching **₹3.16 lakh crore**.
- Notably, **China** has overtaken the **US** to become India's largest overall trading partner.

4. Major Agencies Revise India's GDP and Inflation Forecasts

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** predicts India's GDP growth rate at **6.8% -7.1%** for **FY 2026-27** and **7.6%** for **FY 2025-26**.
- **Moody's** downgraded India's **FY27** GDP growth forecast from **6.8%** to **6%**.
- The **United Nations (UN)** projected India's economy to expand by **6.4%** in **Calendar Year (CY) 2025** and **6.6%** in **CY 2026**.
- **State Bank of India (SBI)** projects inflation to remain at **4.5%** and the fiscal deficit to stand between **4.5%** to **4.6%**.
- The **World Bank** revised its **FY26** forecast upward to **7.2%**, with a slower **6.5%** expected in **FY27**.
- The **Economic Survey 2025-26** projects **FY27** growth in the range of **6.8%–7.2%**

5. National Stock Exchange (NSE) Reports Decline in Active Investors

- The **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** reported a **7%** decline in active investors, dropping to **4.57 crore** in **2026**.

6. State Bank of India (SBI) Announces Major Expansion Goals by 2030

- Currently, **State Bank of India (SBI)** holds a **22%** market share in deposits and **20%** in advances, serving **53 crore** customers, meaning every third Indian is a customer.
- The bank aims to expand its balance sheet to **25%** of India's GDP by **2030**, up from its current standing of around **20%**.
- It is adopting a "bottom-up" approach, targeting a **1%** market share increase across **800 districts**.
- Plans to deploy **10,000 "Seva Saarthis"** (apprentices) in high-footfall branches to assist customers.
- The bank aims to jump from its **27th** global ranking into the top **10**.
- The overarching strategy is focused on the **"ABCD" Strategy**: Acquire, Build, Convert, and Deepen.

7. Department of Posts Achieves Record Revenue in FY26

- The department achieved a record revenue of **₹15,296 crore** for **FY26**, registering a **16%** growth.
- India Post introduced **"Speed Post 24"** for same-day delivery and **"Speed Post 48"** for next-day delivery.

8. New Banking Integrations, Reporting Solutions, and International Loans

- **Aahana** launched a new **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** reporting solution specifically designed for **Cooperative Banks** using a proprietary data model.
- The **BHIM** app, supported by **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** and partnered with **TransUnion CIBIL**, launched a feature allowing users to check their credit scores directly.
- Credit platform **CheQ** collaborated with **AU Small Finance Bank** to launch a battery-free LED credit card that lights up during "tap-to-pay" NFC transactions.
- **Karnataka Bank** partnered with **Pine Labs** to enhance the domestic digital payment ecosystem utilizing advanced point-of-sale solutions.
- India's **Export-Import Bank (EXIM Bank)** provided a **\$100 million (₹830 crore)** loan to the **Africa Finance Corporation** to support critical infrastructure.
- There are four major credit information companies: **TransUnion CIBIL**, **CRIF High Mark**, **Experian**, and **Equifax**.
- **CIBIL** scores range from **300 to 900** and are bracketed as: Above **750** (Excellent), **700-749** (Good), **650-699** (Fair), **600-649** (Doubtful), and below **600** (Poor).

9. Insurance Sector Expansion and NSSO Coverage Data Released

- According to **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)** data from **April 2026**, rural health insurance coverage spiked to **47.4%** (up from **14.1%** eight years prior).
- Urban health insurance coverage currently stands at **44.3%**.
- **NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL)** onboarded **Postal Life Insurance (PLI)** as an insurance biller on the **Bharat Connect** platform.
- The **Abu Dhabi National Insurance Company (ADNIC)** received regulatory approval to establish a reinsurance branch in India's **GIFT City** located in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

10. Government Details Expansions in Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme

- The **Production Linked Incentive (PLI)** scheme was designed to reduce India's foreign dependence by providing incentives to companies for producing and selling goods domestically.
- It was originally launched in **2020** for three sectors and was expanded to **14** sectors in **2021**.
- The **PLI for Food Processing** is implemented by the **Ministry of Food Processing** from **2021-22** to **2026-27** with an outlay of **₹10,900 crore**.
- A major emphasis is placed on millets, featuring an **₹800 crore** specific allocation for millet-based products.

11. Overview of MSME Classification and Major Capacity-Building Schemes

- **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** Classification is defined as:
 - **Micro:** Investment up to **₹2.5 cr**, Turnover **₹10 cr**.
 - **Small:** Investment **₹25 cr**, Turnover **₹100 cr**.
 - **Medium:** Investment **₹125 cr**, Turnover **₹500 cr**.
- Major MSME Schemes highlighted include: **Prime Minister Employment Generation Program (2008)**, **Credit Guarantee Fund Trust** (collateral-free loans), **ZED Certification (2016)**, **SFURTI** (for traditional industries), and **ASPIRE** (for rural entrepreneurship).
- Heavy financial allocation is provided to Major Textile Schemes: **PM MITRA** (**₹4,445 cr** for mega parks), **SAMARTH** (**₹1,300 cr** for capacity building), and **ATUFS** (**₹17,882 cr** for technology upgradation).

12. Atal Pension Yojana (APY) Crosses 9 Crore Subscribers

- The **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** crossed **9 crore** total subscribers.
- The scheme set a record with **1.35 crore** enrolments in **FY 2025-26** alone.
- Administered by the **PFRDA**, the APY is designed to provide social security to workers in the unorganised sector
- **Guaranteed Pension:** Provides a fixed monthly pension of ₹1,000 to ₹5,000 after age 60, depending on contributions.
- **Eligibility:** Open to Indian citizens aged 18 to 40 years.

13. Government Inaugurates Major Infrastructure and Development Projects Nationwide

- The **Union Cabinet** extended **Phase 3** of the **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)** till **March 2028**, and till **March 2029** for bridges located in hilly regions.
- **PMGSY Phase 3** budget was increased from **₹80,000 crore** to **₹83,977 crore** to upgrade **1.25 lakh km** of existing rural routes.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated India's first greenfield integrated refinery and petrochemical complex in **Pachpadra, Rajasthan** (built jointly by **HPCL** and **Rajasthan Government** costing **₹1,79,450 crore**).
- **President Droupadi Murmu** inaugurated infrastructure projects worth over **₹1,200 crores** in **Rourkela, Odisha**, including a planetarium, science center, **Nirmal Munda Parivesh Path**, and a tribal museum.

14. Ministry of Textiles Launches Vishwasutra Initiative

- The initiative was developed by **DC Handloom** and the **National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)**.
- The **Ministry of Textiles** launched the "**Vishwasutra - Waves of India for the World**" (also documented as '**Viswasutra: Weaves of India for the World**') initiative.
- It features **30** distinct weaves from **30** states.
- Featured weaves include Odisha's **ikat**, Tamil Nadu's **Kanjeevaram**, Gujarat's **Patola**, and Assam's **Muga Silk**.
- The initiative operates using the "**5F**" vision: Farm, Fibre, Factory, Fashion, and Foreign.
- The initiative was heavily promoted at the **61st Femina Miss India** pageant event held in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.

15. New Skill Development and Technology Education Schemes Launched

- The **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** launched the **3rd edition** of the **VAANI (Vibrant Advocacy for Advancement and Nurturing of Indian Languages)** scheme.
- The **Ministry of Minority Affairs** partnered with **IIT Patna** under the **PM VIKAS (Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan)** scheme to train around **600** minority youths from **Bihar** in Artificial Intelligence and Business Analytics.
- The government launched the **Telecom Technology Development and Investment Promotion (TDIP)** scheme with an outlay of **₹203 crore**.
- The **VAANI** scheme aims to promote the use of **22** Indian languages in technical education fields such as AI, Quantum Technology, Cyber Security, Space, Defense, and Agrotech.
- The **VAANI** scheme operates on an annual budget of **₹4 crore** to fund **200** conferences and workshops, offering grants of up to **₹2 lakh** per event.

16. Environmental and Geographical Discoveries and Conservation Updates

- The **Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary** in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, was officially designated as India's **99th Ramsar site** on **22 April 2026**, coinciding with World Earth Day.
- **State Leadership**: With this addition, Uttar Pradesh now hosts 12 Ramsar sites, the second-highest in India after Tamil Nadu (20 sites).
- **National Tally**: India currently has 99 Ramsar sites, the highest in Asia and the third-highest globally after the United Kingdom and Mexico.
- **Recent 2026 Additions**: Other sites added in early 2026 include Patna Bird Sanctuary (Uttar Pradesh) and Chhari-Dhand Wetland Conservation Reserve (Gujarat).
- The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** declared the area around Uttar Pradesh's **Barasingha Wildlife Sanctuary** as an eco-sensitive zone.
- Researchers from the **Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences** identified that the **Jamun** fruit originated in India around **55 million years** ago.
- The foundation stone was laid at **Sindhu Ghat** in **Ladakh** to develop India's first park dedicated to conserving ancient rock carvings (petroglyphs).
- India currently has **496** protected areas and **353** notified **Eco-Sensitive Zones**.

17. Meghalaya Grants Full Official Status to Local Languages

- The **Meghalaya** government passed an ordinance granting full official language status to the **Khasi** and **Garo** languages.
- This move replaces the **2005 Language Act** which only gave them associate status.
- It fundamentally elevates the indigenous languages within state administration, while **English** will continue to serve as an additional official language.
- **Meghalaya** state's Chief Minister is **Conrad Sangma** and the Governor is **Vijay Shankar**.

18. India Engages in Key Diplomatic Pacts and Bilateral Visits

- **India** and **South Korea** set a target to increase their bilateral trade from the current **\$27 billion** to **\$50 billion** by **2030**.
- Vice President **C.P. Radhakrishnan** completed the first bilateral visit by an Indian Vice President to **Sri Lanka** from **April 19 to 20**.
- The **Austrian Chancellor** visited India, marking the first such visit in **40 years**, signing Letters of Intent with **PM Narendra Modi** regarding a defense policy dialogue and a fast-track resolution process for business disputes.
- **India** and **Bhutan** held the **7th** joint group of customs meeting in **Munnar, Kerala**.

19. Major Defense Procurements and Military Exercises Announced

- The **Ministry of Defense** signed a contract worth **₹975 crore** with **BEML** and **EHP** for a **TRAWL** assembly line developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** for **T-72** and **T-90** tanks.
- The diving support vessel **INS Nireekshak** reached **Colombo, Sri Lanka**, for a diving exercise.
- The **Indian Navy** and **DRDO** successfully tested the **Air Dropable Container (ADC-150)** (dropped via parachutes from US-origin **P-8I Boeing** aircraft) off the **Goa** coast.
- The **Indian Army** flagged off a blue water sailing expedition named '**Samudra Sahas**', traveling **520 nautical miles** on a 21-foot Seabird class boat from **Mumbai** to **Vijaydurg, Goa**, and back.

20. Technological Advancements Across Sectors Unveiled

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs** was equipped with "**Prajna**" (also known as **PRAZNA**), an AI-enabled satellite imaging system developed by **DRDO's CAIR lab** and handed over by **DRDO Chief Samir V Kamat**.
- **IIT Ropar (Punjab)** launched India's first fully integrated advanced agriculture intelligence ecosystem to facilitate tech-driven, smart farming decision-making.
- **FedEx** partnered with **IIT Madras** to successfully complete India's first intra-city drone delivery between two points within the same city.

21. NASA Announces Space Nuclear Reactors and Roman Space Telescope

- The **United States (NASA)** plans to set up space nuclear power reactor stations in the orbits of the **Moon** and **Mars**.
- **NASA** unveiled the "**Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope**".

22. Key National Appointments and Business Acquisitions

- **Competition Commission of India (CCI): Rakesh Bhanot** was appointed as the Acting Director General and head of the investigation arm, replacing **Anshuman Patnaik**.
- **High Commissioner to Bangladesh: Dinesh Trivedi**, a former Union Minister (Railways, Health & Family Welfare) and MP from Barrackpore, was appointed.
- **BCCI Selection Committee Chairman: Ajit Agarkar** was reappointed for another one-year term.
- **Andhra Pradesh High Court: Justice Lisa Gill** has been appointed as the new Chief Justice, taking over from **Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur**.
- **Amazon** acquired space tech company **Globalstar** for **\$11.57 billion**.

23. Major National and International Awards Distributed

- **2026 Goldman Environmental Prize:** Six women won the prize for their grassroots efforts combating climate change and protecting biodiversity.
- **World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prize 2026:** The **Government of India's "Samridh Gram Initiative"** has been nominated for the prize in **Geneva**.

- **9th MS Swaminathan Award:** Awarded to **Dr. CH Srinivasa Rao** (Director of **Indian Agriculture Research Institute**) for his contributions to agriculture.
- **Femina Miss India 2026:** **Saadvi Satish** from Goa won the **61st** title held in **Bhubaneswar**, while **Rajnandini Pawar** from Maharashtra was the first runner-up.
- **World Economic Forum (WEF):** **Arthur Law**, co-founder of **Storefriendly Asia**, was named a **2026 Young Global Leader** by the institution.
- **Saadvi Satish** will represent India at the global **Miss World** pageant.
- The **Goldman Environmental Prize** is often referred to as the "Green Nobel Prize"; it was established in **1989** with a **\$200,000** reward (the first Indian recipient was **Medha Patkar** in **1992** for saving the **Narmada River**).
- The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** is headquartered in Switzerland.

24. Global and National Sports Updates and Awards

- **India** is among **12** countries selected for the **FIFA Women Development Program**.
- The **Laureus World Sports Awards 2026** was held in **Madrid, Spain**.
- **IIT Madras** introduced "**Omega Ball**", a fast-paced three-team football event format popular in the US and Europe, to the Indian collegiate sports scene.
- **Laureus Awards 2026 Winners:**
 - Sportsman of the Year: **Carlos Alcaraz** (Tennis).
 - Sportswoman of the Year: **Aryna Sabalenka** (Tennis).
 - Team of the Year: **Paris Saint-Germain**.
 - Lifetime Achievement: **Nadia Comaneci** (Gymnastics).

25. Important Days and Events Observed in April 2026

- **World Book and Copyright Day (April 23):** Promotes reading and intellectual property protection.
- **Earth Day (April 22):** The host highlighted the previous theme, "**One Power, One Planet**".
- **World Liver Day (April 19):** Observed with the theme "**Solid Habit, Stronger Liver**".
- **National Civil Services Day (April 21):** The theme for this year was "**Viksit Bharat - Citizen Centric Governance and Development at the Last Mile**".
- **India International Water Week:** Jal Shakti Minister **CR Patil** launched the **9th** edition, set to take place from **September 22 to 26, 2026**, at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**.
- The upcoming **India International Water Week** summit will focus heavily on the theme "**Climate Resilient Water Management**".
- **World Book and Copyright Day** was established by **UNESCO** in **1995** commemorating the **1616** death anniversaries of literary figures like **William Shakespeare** and **Miguel de Cervantes**.
- The designated **World Book Capital** for **2026** is **Rabat, Morocco**.
- **National Civil Services Day** was first celebrated in **2006**.

26. Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nandendra Bhaskara Rao Passes Away