

1. Cancellation of Paytm Payments Bank License & RBI Penalties

- India currently has **5** operational payment banks, which will soon drop to **4** after **Fino Payments Bank** converts into a Small Finance Bank.
- Regulatory rules dictate that payment banks cannot issue loans or credit cards and are restricted to a maximum balance limit of **₹2 Lakh** per depositor.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** officially revoked the banking license of **Paytm Payments Bank Limited** under **Section 22 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
- The RBI imposed several other penalties: **Bandhan Bank (₹41.8 Lakh)**, **Hardoi Zila Sahakari Bank (₹1 Lakh)**, **Ebix Payment Services Ltd (₹80,000** for failing to correctly categorize customers into low, medium, and high-risk tiers), **Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Nagari Sahakari Bank (₹80,000** for violating the **Supervisory Action Framework (SAF)**, acting as a **Prompt Corrective Action (PCA)**), and **Muthoot Housing Finance (₹80000)**.

2. PayPoint India Joins RBI's Centralized Payment System

- **PayPoint India Network Private Limited** is headquartered in [Mumbai, Maharashtra](#).
- **PayPoint India** gained **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approval to directly join the **Centralized Payment System (CPS)**.
- **PayPoint India** made history as the very first **NBFC/fintech** company to achieve this direct approval.

3. SEBI 38th Foundation Day & Digital Coal Trading Launch

- The **Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd (MCX)** received **SEBI** approval to invest **₹100 crore** and establish **MCX Coal Exchange Limited** to trade coal digitally, following a similar approval granted to the **NSE** previously.

4. Bank Partnerships for Digital Payments and POS Terminals

- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** partnered with the fintech firm **Kiwi** to launch a co-branded **RuPay** credit card that natively integrates onto the **UPI** network.
- **Karnataka Bank** partnered with **Pine Labs** to distribute advanced, user-friendly **Point of Sale (POS)** terminals.

5. Economic Growth Projections for India

- The **United Nations' Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)** projects India's GDP to grow at **6.4%** in **2026** and **6.6%** in **2027**.
- Other notable forecasts include: **World Bank (6.6%)**, **International Monetary Fund (IMF) (6.5%)**, **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and **Asian Development Bank (ADB) (6.9% for FY25)**, **Morgan Stanley (6.2%)**, and **Moody's (6% for FY27)**.

6. Atal Pension Yojana (APY) Crosses 9 Crore Enrolments

- Launched on **May 9, 2015** (operational **June 1, 2015**) and regulated by the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**, the scheme offers universal social security for the unorganized sector.
- It accepts citizens aged **18 to 40**, who must contribute for at least **20 years**.
- The scheme crossed **9 crore** total enrolments by **April 21, 2026**, adding a record **1.35 crore** new subscribers in **FY 2025-26** alone.
- The combined **Assets Under Management (AUM)** for **APY** and the **National Pension System (NPS)** has crossed **₹16.46 lakh crore**, with the current pension corpus standing at **₹45,974.67 crore**.
- At age **60**, subscribers receive a guaranteed monthly pension of **₹1,000 to ₹5,000**.
- Female participation in the scheme stands at **48%**.
- Since **October 1, 2022**, income taxpayers are officially barred from joining the scheme.

7. Reconstitution of NITI Aayog Panel

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** reconstituted the panel, acting as its Chairperson.
- **Dr. Ashok Kumar Lahiri** (former Chief Economic Advisor and West Bengal MLA) was appointed Vice Chairperson, replacing **Suman K. Bery**.

8. Government Forms High-Level AI Cyber Threat Panel

- The banking sector is facing severe cybersecurity threats from advanced AI platforms like Anthropic's "**Mythos**", which have the capability to execute cyber attacks and detect system vulnerabilities.

- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** formed a high-level government panel to evaluate these threats.
- The panel is headed by **State Bank of India (SBI) Chairman C.S. Setty**.

9. Technology Development and Investment Promotion (TDIP)

- Minister of Communications **Jyotiraditya Scindia** launched the **Technology Development and Investment Promotion (TDIP)**.
- The policy features a financial outlay of **₹203 crore** over a 5-year period (2026-2031).
- The policy targets securing **10%** of global **6G patents** by the year **2030**.

10. India's First Digital Census 2027 Announced

- Approved with an **₹11,718 crore** budget, the census will roll out in two phases: Phase 1 (House listing/Housing) from **April to September 2026**, and Phase 2 (Population enumeration) beginning in **February 2027**.
- **Mritunjay Kumar Narayan** serves as the Registrar General and Census Commissioner.
- It will be India's first digital enumeration utilizing a mobile app and self-enumeration portals, fully replacing paper.
- The census will feature caste-based enumeration.
- A dedicated toll-free helpline, **1855**, was launched for the census.

11. Major National Schemes & Budget Allocations Updates

- **PM VIKAS Yojana**: The **Ministry of Minority Affairs** (under **Kiren Rijju**) partnered with **IIT Patna** to train **600** minority youths from **Bihar** in Artificial Intelligence and Business Analytics.
- **PM-AASHA Expansion**: The **Ministry of Consumer Affairs** enhanced operations, scaling up rice and grain procurement in **Chhattisgarh**, and pulses and lentils in **Bihar**.
- **NMBA App 2.0**: The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** introduced an updated centralized real-time monitoring portal for the **Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan** (originally launched **August 15, 2020**).
- Current budget distributions include: Skilling in Architecture (**₹600 crore**), Sports Goods Manufacturing (**₹500 crore**), **Divyangjan Kaushal Yojana** (**₹200 crore**), **Divyangjan Sahara Yojana** (**₹100 crore**), and Maritime Development Fund (**₹1000 crore**).

12. National Infrastructure, Tech & Conservation Initiatives

- **Konark Sun Temple Conservation**: The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** and **IIT Madras** started safely removing sand from the temple's Jagamohan (assembly hall), which British engineers filled between **1901 and 1903**.
- **Gram Charitra Portal**: **ISRO** partnered with the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** to complete **1:10,000** scale high-resolution land and boundary mapping using satellite and drone tech.
- **Bharat Taxi App**: Union Minister **Piyush Goyal** launched a cooperative-led, zero-commission ride-hailing app in **Mumbai, Maharashtra** (initially introduced in **Delhi**).

13. Key State-Level Industrial and Social Initiatives

- **Madhya Pradesh**: **Dhar district** was chosen for the **Safe City Project 2026** (allocated **₹100 crore** over five years by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** for women-friendly infra). Minister **Jyotiraditya Scindia** also inaugurated an **Adani Vikas Kendra** in **Shivpuri** for women's garment training.
- **Meghalaya**: The Chief Minister launched the **CM Inspire Scheme** offering financial aid to youths preparing for the **UPSC Civil Services Examination**.
- **Uttar Pradesh**: The **Environment Ministry** released a draft notification declaring **408.7 sq km** around the **Barasingha Wildlife Sanctuary** as an **Eco-Sensitive Zone**. **Rocklink India Pvt Ltd** opened India's first integrated lithium-ion battery and rare earth magnet recycling factory in **Sikandrabad, Bulandshahr**.
- **Jammu & Kashmir**: **Eveready Industries** opened India's only operating alkaline battery manufacturing plant in **Samba**.
- **West Bengal**: **Himadri Speciality Chemical** commissioned India's first anode material plant targeting the lithium-ion battery market.
- **Guntur Municipal Corporation** in **Andhra Pradesh** received the **4th UNIDO** award for exceptional Gender Equality Mobilization.

14. Education, Economy & National Events

- **Textile Sector:** Grew by **2.1%** in **FY 2025-26** with an export value of **₹3.16 lakh crore** across **120** destinations. Growth included: Handicrafts (**6.1%**), Manmade textiles (**3.6%**), Readymade Garments (**2.9%**), and Cotton products (**0.4%**, impacted by US tariffs).
- **UNESCO Chair Launch:** Union Minister **Jayant Chaudhary** launched India and Asia's first **UNESCO Chair on Gender Inclusion and Skill Development** at **Symbiosis Skill and Professional University** in **Pune, Maharashtra**.
- **NIPER Hajipur Pacts:** Signed two major agreements with the **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)** and **Boehringer Ingelheim India** to control drug pricing, patient safety, and quality protocols.
- Union Minister **C.R. Patil** announced the 9th edition of **India International Water Week** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi (September 22–26, 2026)** with the theme "**Climate Resilient Water Management**".
- **Akashvani** and **MyGov** ran a nationwide contest for Akashvani's 90th anniversary under the theme "**Akashvani 90: The New Rhythm of Bharat**".
- PM Modi released a commemorative postal stamp marking the 100-year milestone (**1926-2026**) of **Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC)**.

15. Geopolitics & Foreign Relations Adjustments

- **India-Africa Summit:** EAM **Dr. S. Jaishankar** introduced the **4th India-Africa Forum Summit's** logo, website, and theme: "**India Africa Strategic Partnership for Innovation, Resilience and Inclusive Transformation**".
- **Maldives Currency Swap:** India approved a **₹30 billion** currency swap framework via **SAARC** for the **Maldives Monetary Authority**.
- **Sri Lanka OCI Rules:** India expanded **Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)** card eligibility for Indian-origin Sri Lankans up to the **6th generation** (previously capped at 4 generations).
- A new **US Congressional bill** proposes a three-year pause on the **H-1B visa** program, reducing the annual cap from **65,000** to **25,000**, enforcing a **\$100,000** minimum salary, banning family dependents, and eliminating the Green Card transition path.
- **Brazil** overtook India as **Bangladesh's** primary corn exporter because Indian corn is being diverted to domestic ethanol programs.

16. Defense Exercises, Honors & Geopolitical Naval Deployments

- **US Honor for Army Chief:** India's Chief of Army Staff, **Gen. Upendra Dwivedi**, was inducted into the **US Army War College International Hall of Fame** in **Pennsylvania** (hosted by Indian Ambassador **Vinay Mohan Kwatra**).
- **Exercise 'Dustlik':** The 7th edition of the India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise commenced in **Namangan, Uzbekistan**.
- **Naval Deployments:** Under **Mission Sagar**, the **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sunayna** reached **Changi Naval Base** in **Singapore**.
- **Exercise 'Dustlik'** focuses on joint tactical planning to counter unlawful armed groups and terrorism.
- **Gen. Upendra Dwivedi** is the third Indian to receive the distinction from the **US Army War College**.

17. Corporate & Institutional Appointments

- **Rajnish Karnatak:** MD & CEO of **Bank of India** (3-year extension till **April 2029**).
- **Devadatta Chand:** MD & CEO of **Bank of Baroda** (till **July 2029**).
- **Ashutosh Choudhury:** Executive Director of **Indian Bank** (till **May 2029**).
- **PN Vasudevan:** CEO of **Equitas Small Finance Bank** (till **2029**).
- **Vibha Padalkar:** MD & CEO of **HDFC Life** (5-year extension till **2031**).
- **V. Ramesh Babu:** MD & CEO of **Karur Vysya Bank** (3rd term extension for 2 years).

18. Awards, Books, Sports & Obituaries

- **Goldman Environmental Prize 2026:** Known as the "Green Nobel" and carrying a **\$200,000** prize, it was exclusively awarded to six women for the first time, including **Iroro Tanshi (Nigeria)**, **Borim Kim (South Korea)**, **Sarah Finch (United Kingdom)**, **Theonila Roka Matbob (Papua New Guinea)**, **Alannah Acaq Hurley (United States)**, **Yuvelis Morales Blanco (Colombia)**

- **Book Release:** Former Army Chief **Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane** released a book titled "**The Curious and the Classified: Unearthing Military Myths and Mysteries**".
- **Marathon Record:** Kenyan runner **Sebastian So** became the first man to officially finish a marathon in under two hours, recording **1:59:30** at the **London Marathon 2026**.
- **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** hosted India's first inter-college "**OmegaBall**" tournament, a high-speed three-team, three-goal sport inspired by Denmark.
- New Zealand cricketer **Suzie Bates** announced her retirement post T20 World Cup, holding records for the most Women's ODI and T20I appearances across her 20-year career.
- Renowned pediatrician and former Rajya Sabha MP **Dr. Gopalrao Patil** passed away.

19. Important Days & Themes (April 2026)

- **April 24: National Panchayati Raj Day** (Local Self Government Day) under the theme "**Empowered Panchayats, Comprehensive Development**". It is also **World Day for Laboratory Animals** (accompanied by **Lab Animal Week** from **April 20-26** to protest animal testing).
- **April 25: World Malaria Day** with the global campaign theme: "**Driven to end malaria now, we can, now we must**".
- **April 26: World Intellectual Property Day** with Theme 2026: "**Intellectual Property and Sports: Ready Set Innovate**".
- **April 27: International Design Day** with Theme 2026: "**The spaces in between**" (Experiential design for global wellbeing; originally World Graphics Day in 1995).
- **Fourth Thursday of April: International Girls in ICT Day** with the theme "**AI for Development: Girls Shaping the Digital Future**".