

1. NS Vishwanathan Reappointed as Non-Executive Chairman of Axis Bank

- Amitabh Chaudhry continues to serve as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Axis Bank.

2. RBI Imposes Monetary Penalties on Bank of Baroda and GIC Housing Finance

- Bank of Baroda (BoB): Fined ₹63.6 lakh for violating provisions of the “Fair Practices Code for Lenders” and “Know Your Customer (KYC)” guidelines.
- GIC Housing Finance Limited: Fined ₹3.1 lakh following a National Housing Bank (NHB) inspection, for non-compliance with KYC risk categorization guidelines.
- Bank of Baroda Profile: Headquartered in Vadodra, Gujarat; MD & CEO – Debadatta Chand; corporate tagline – “India’s International Bank”.
- GIC Housing Finance Profile: Headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra; MD & CEO – Sachin Salvi; established in 1989.

3. Private Sector Banks Write Off 49.7% % of Gross NPAs in FY26

- Write-Off Volume: Entire domestic banks (including public sector, private sector, and foreign banks) wrote off ₹1.28 lakh crore in bad loans during FY26.
- As a result, Gross NPA ratio for scheduled commercial banks reduced to 1.8%.

4. SEBI's New Investor Protection Fund (IPF) Rules for Demat Depositories

- SEBI proposed that demat depositories can utilize up to 5% of the annual interest/income earned from their Investor Protection Fund (IPF) to cover daily administrative and operational expenses – such as salaries of IPF employees, taxes, audits, and charity.
- Effective Date: September 1, 2026.
- Core Corpus Maintenance: At least 95% of the annual income generated from IPF investments must be returned/ploughed back directly into the core IPF corpus.
- MITRA Initiative: SEBI’s specific program designed to address assets stuck in Mutual Funds.
- The 7-Year Rule: Any unpaid/unclaimed dividend money in a company’s unpaid dividend account is transferred to the IEPF (• Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority) after 7 consecutive years.

5. SEBI's New Share Buyback Execution Rules

- Effective August 1, 2026, listed companies in India can execute open market share buybacks during normal stock exchange working hours – from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM.
- Buyback Limit: A company’s buyback must be less than 15% of its aggregate paid-up capital and free reserves (calculated from standalone or consolidated financial statements).
- Timeline Limits:
 - The buyback offer must formally launch within 4 working days of the public announcement.
 - The entire buyback process must be completed within 66 working days – a sharp reduction from the previous limit of 6 months.

6. Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0

- ECLGS is a central government scheme providing a 100% guarantee assurance to banks so that credit flows comfortably to MSMEs and small businesses facing crises, without fear of defaults.
- ECLGS 5.0 was launched in response to the West Asia crisis (comprising the Iran–Israel conflict and the subsequent closure of the Strait of Hormuz), which resulted in high international shipping costs, expensive crude oil, and import-export logistical challenges.

7. National Pension System (NPS) Upgrades for Central Autonomous Body (CAB) Employees

- National Pension System (NPS): A voluntary, long-term retirement savings scheme launched in 2004 for Indian citizens aged 18 to 70.

8. India's External Debt Reaches \$762 Billion

- India’s total external debt reached \$762 billion at the end of March 2026 – an increase of \$26.3 billion within a single year.
- External Debt-to-GDP Ratio: 20.8% in March 2026, rising from 19.8% in March 2025

9. LOKOS and “She Leaps” Portals Under DAY-NRLM

- LOKOS Portal (Acronym: LOK = People, OS = Operating System): A web and mobile digital platform launched under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM).
- It replaces manual bookkeeping, allowing Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to digitally manage records, member profiles, group savings, loan histories, financial transactions, and government scheme utilization.
- “She Leaps” Portal (Acronym: Self-Help Entrepreneurs – Livelihood and Enterprise Application for Prosperity and Sustainability):
- Launched on 29th June 2026.

10. PM SETU Nation-wide Rollout

- PM SETU stands for Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs – a centrally sponsored scheme focusing on vocational education and training.
- Originally approved in 2025 with a ₹60,000 crore funding allocation.
- Targets upgrading 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) into state-of-the-art skill development institutes.
- Funding Outlay: ₹60 crore from the Central Government, ₹300 crore from State Governments, and ₹10,000 crore from participating industries (alternatively, ₹600 crore has been sanctioned for a 5-year period).

11. SEED Scheme Updates for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic

- The Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED) is implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the welfare of De-notified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Communities (DNTs).
- Originally launched in 2022 with an outlay of ₹200 crore.
- 4 Core Components of SEED:
 - Free coaching for competitive exams.
 - Health insurance (₹5 lakh per family under PM-JAY).
 - Livelihood support.
 - Housing assistance under PM Awas Yojana.

12. Pragati Initiative for Agricultural Entrepreneurs

- Impact: Designed to benefit 26,000 agricultural entrepreneurs and 20 lakh (2 million) farmers.

13. Tribex Digital Learning Platform for Tribal Arts and Culture

- Launched by Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- Purpose: An online portal hosting over 20 free certificate courses to promote, preserve, and teach Indian tribal arts, culture, and traditional knowledge.

14. Government Hikes Onion Procurement Price by 13%

- The government increased the procurement price of onions by 13% (specifically a 12.70% increase over the season's starting rate), raising it from ₹1,875 per quintal to ₹2,125 per quintal.

15. UPI Global Reach: UPI is currently active in 10 countries (excluding Indonesia, which is in the deployment phase).

- Greece is the latest country to adopt UPI and is the 2nd European country.
- France was the 1st European nation to deploy UPI (launched at the Eiffel Tower, Paris); Nice is the second French city to adopt it.

16. India's GIFT City (Gandhinagar, Gujarat) signed an MoU with the Da Nang International Financial Center (Vietnam) for financial knowledge-sharing and cross-border investment cooperation.

17. 36th NATO Summit Hosted in Ankara, Turkey

- The 36th NATO Summit (2026) was hosted in Ankara, Turkey.
- This is the second time Turkey has hosted the summit, the first being the 2004 Istanbul Summit.
- Established in 1949 under the North Atlantic Treaty (also known as the Washington Treaty).
- Headquartered in Brussels, Belgium.
- Currently has 32 members – the 31st member was Finland and the 32nd member is Sweden.
- The 14th Secretary General is Mark Rutte (former PM of the Netherlands).

18. Delhi Government Approves “Clean Air Healthy Delhi” Project

- Approved Budget: ₹8,300 crore; greenlit by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta.
- Funding Sources: World Bank (65%) and Delhi Government (35%).
- Timeline: Implementation set between September 2026 and August 2033.

19. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change designated the Natural History Museum (NHM) of Mizoram University as India's 21st Designated Repository under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

20. Inflatable Air-Filled Rubber Dams in Gujarat

- Two dams will be constructed to improve irrigation and recharge groundwater tables:
 - Rajvasna Rubber Dam: On the Hiran River in the Chhota Udepur district of Gujarat (currently 75% complete).
 - Pathakwadi Rubber Dam: On the Ambika River in the Tapi district of Gujarat.
- Kerala remains India's largest producer of rubber

21. ADB Approves \$320 Million Loan for Greater Chennai Water Infrastructure

22. Kamarajar Port in North Chennai, Tamil Nadu, became India's second major port (after Visakhapatnam) to offer an 18-meter operational draft.

23. The town of Jalalabad, located in the Shahjahanpur district of Uttar Pradesh, has been officially renamed Parshuram Puri.

24. Delhi Government Launches Mission Kayakalp for Government Schools to modernize, renovate, and secure government schools in Delhi.

25. The West Bengal Government approved a financial package for tea garden workers under the Pradhan Mantri Cha Shramik Protsahan Yojana with a total budget of ₹313 crore (with ₹33.3 crore targeted for North Bengal/Darjeeling workers).

26. Geographical Indication (GI) Tags Update: Rankings, Rewa Sundarja Mango and Sirsa Kinu

- Highest new GI tags in FY 25-26 (1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026): Madhya Pradesh (MP) topped with 26 new tags, followed by West Bengal (WB) with 24 new tags.
- Overall highest GI tags: Uttar Pradesh (UP) holds the highest overall number, followed by Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.
- National Statistics: After adding 125 new GI tags in FY 25-26, India's total registered GI product count stands at 822.
- Madhya Pradesh's famous Rewa Sundarja Mangoes officially received the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.
- Sirsa Kinu became the first fruit from Haryana to receive a GI Tag – sourced from an application filed in 2023

27. Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) Milestones

- Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) was launched by the Government of India in 2021 to build a citizen-centric digital health ecosystem and support universal health coverage.
- Over 104 crore health records have been linked.
- Over 93 crore ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) accounts have been created.
- ABHA Details: A 14-digit unique digital health ID; it safely digitizes a patient's medical records (prescriptions, lab results, history) and shares them with medical professionals only after the patient's explicit consent.

28. 29th National e-Governance Conference in Jaipur

29. ICMR MINDS won the Gold Award (Category II: AI used for Citizen-Centric Services), presented by DARPG

- ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) Profile: Headquartered in New Delhi; Director General – Dr. Rajiv Bahl

30. India secured 41 medals at the Under-15 and Under-20 Asian Wrestling Championship held in Pattaya, Thailand.

31. Nepal's Jestha Varna Mahavihar Wins UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Award

32. SCUD Day is observed on July 8th; it stands for "Savor the Comic, Unplug the Drama".

33. Obituaries: Shapoor Zadran and Girish Bharadwaj

- Shapoor Zadran: Former Afghanistan national team pace bowler passed away
- Girish Bhardwaj ("Bridge Man of India"): Padmashri awardee (2017) passed away