

Digital Payments growing in India at 12.7% compound annual growth rate (CAGR)

According to KPMG's report 'Fintech in India – Powering Mobile Payments, Digital payments are seeing a thriving growth and gaining traction with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 12.7% in the number of non-cash transactions (forecast, 2016-21). **The global digital payments market size is expected to touch \$10.07 trillion by 2026.**

The mobile wallet market is expected to continue its expansion at a CAGR of nearly 52.2 per cent by volume during 2019-23. The volume of UPI transactions have increased at a CAGR of 246 per cent during the period from 2016-17 to 2018-19. The Reserve Bank of India has forecast an outcome of 50 per cent increase in mobile-based payment transactions as per its '2021 vision document'

Tamil Nadu's Dindigul locks and Kandangi sarees get GI tag

Tamil Nadu's **Dindigul locks** and **Kandangi sarees** have received Geographical Indication (GI) tags. **The products were given the GI tag by the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai.** The famous Dindigul locks are known throughout the world for their superior quality and durability, so much so that even the city is called Lock City. The abundance of iron in this region is the reason for the growth of the lock-making industry. The Kandangi sarees are usually around 5.10 meters – 5.60 meters in length. It exude brilliant colours like bright yellow, orange, red and a minimal black in the traditional pattern of stripes or checks with broad borders woven in coarse cotton.

Eric Cantona to be honoured with 2019 UEFA President's Award

Former Manchester United and France legend Eric Cantona has been presented with the 2019 UEFA President's Award. The UEFA President's Award recognises outstanding achievements, professional excellence and exemplary personal qualities. Cantona is the third Manchester United player to receive the award after Bobby Charlton in 2008 and David Beckham last year.

Virgil van Dijk wins 2018/19 UEFA Men's Player of the Year award

Virgil Van Dijk beats Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo to win 2018/19 UEFA Player Of The Year Award. Virgil van Dijk, has become the first defender, the first Premier League player, and the first Dutchman to win the prestigious Award. England's Lucy Bronze named 2018/19 UEFA women's player of the year. Messi won the award in 2011 and 2015 and Ronaldo in 2014, 2016, and 2017. The UEFA Club Footballer of the Year award was established all the way back in the 1997-98 season. The prize's format changed for the 2010-11 season and became the UEFA Men's Player of the Year instead.

Indian documentary 'I'm Jeeja' wins top award at We Care Film Festival

Indian documentary film "I'm Jeeja" bags the top award in the 'Under 30 minute' category at the 14th edition of the 'We Care Film Festival on Disability Issues'. The festival, touted to be one-of-its-kind international travelling film festival on disabilities, awarded a total of 10 films from nine countries. The awards were given in categories based on the duration of the films—under five minutes, 30 minutes, and 90 minutes. "I'm Jeeja" directed by Swati Chakraborty tells the story of disability activist Jeeja Ghosh who suffers from cerebral palsy. **The film attempts to explore the lives and battles of people living with the disability.**

National Urban Livelihoods Mission Conferred The Prestigious SKOCH Governance Gold Award

Deendayan Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) has been conferred the prestigious SKOCH Governance Gold Award for its **Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access (PAiSA)**. DAY-NULM a flagship mission under the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**. PAiSA is, a centralized IT platform which simplifies and streamlines release of interest subvention under the Mission, was launched in November 2018.

As of now, **28 States/UTs and 74 Banks including 21 Public Sector, 18 Private and 35 Regional Rural Banks** have been on boarded on the portal.

Mumbai ranked 45th, Delhi 52nd on world's safe cities Index

Mumbai has been ranked as the 45th, while Delhi stood at the 52nd safest city on the Safe Cities Index (SCI) a report by **Economist Intelligence Unit**. **Tokyo** crowned world's safest city. Cities in the Asia-Pacific (Apac) region made up six of the top-10 safest cities, APAC cities such as **Tokyo, Singapore and Osaka continue to rank within the top-three cities in the Index.**

Sri Lanka spinner Ajantha Mendis retires from all forms of cricket

Sri Lanka spinner Ajantha Mendis has announced his retirement from all forms of the game. He was best known for his deceptive "carrom balls", played 19 Tests, 87 ODIs and 39 T20Is for his country and picked up 288 wickets in the process.

VK Vismaya wins gold In 400m at Josef Seckr Memorial

Indian sprinter V K Vismaya clinched the gold medal in the women 400m run at the International Athletic Meeting -- Josef Seckr Memorial (MJS) in Brno, Czech Republic. She produced a personal best timing of 52.12s at the women 400m run. She had earlier scored a personal best of 52.48 at Nov Mesto nad Metuj (CZE) last month.

Air India to ban single-use plastic from October 2

Air India announced that the usage of single-use plastic on the flights of its subsidiaries -- Air India Express and Alliance Air -- will stop from October 2. In first phase it will implement in all

flights of Air India Express and Alliance Air flights. In 2nd phase, it will be implemented in Air India flights.



Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurates Aqua Aquaria India 2019 in Hyderabad

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the Aqua Aquaria India 2019 in Hyderabad. The three-day expo is being organised by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA).

India, the second largest fish producer in the world with a production of 13.70 million tonnes during 2018- 19, earns 10 per cent of its total exports from fisheries. The contribution of fisheries to the Gross Domestic Product is about one per cent and about 5.37 per cent to the Agricultural GDP. "This year's theme - 'taking blue revolution to India's hinterland'.

Rajnath Singh inaugurates Ladakhi-Kisan-Jawan-Vigyan Mela in Leh

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 26th Mela of Ladakhi-Kisan-Jawan-Vigyan Mela in Leh. The mela was organised by the Leh-based Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR) of DRDO. Through the technologies developed by the institute, the Army is getting locally grown fresh organic farm produce. DIHAR is now working to develop newer technologies to make fresh food available even in the remotest locations in the Himalayas.

Government announces mega merger of public sector banks

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced amalgamation of 10 public sector banks into four big banks. **After the amalgamation, total number of Public Sector Banks in the country will come down to 12 from 27 banks in 2017 .**

Merger of **Punjab National Bank (PNB), Oriental Bank of Commerce(OBC) and United Bank with business of ₹7.95 trillion to make India's second-largest bank & and 2nd largest branch network in India .**

The other merger will be between **Canara Bank and Syndicate Bank, which will make the fourth-largest bank, with ₹15.2 trillion business.** Also, **Union Bank will be merged with Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank to build India's fifth-largest public sector bank with ₹14.59 trillion in business.** **Indian Bank will be merged with Allahabad Bank to make India's seventh-largest PSB** with a business of ₹8.08 trillion. Apart from this the government announced Rs 55,250 crore upfront capital infusion in the PSBs.

Punjab National Bank -- Rs 16,000 crore, Union Bank of India -- Rs 11,700 crore
Bank of Baroda -- Rs 7,000 crore , Canara Bank -- Rs 6,500 crore , Indian Bank -- Rs 2,500 crore, Indian Overseas Bank -- Rs 3,800 crore, Central Bank of India -- 3,300 crore, UCO Bank -
- Rs 2,100 crore, United Bank of India -- Rs 1,600 crore , Punjab & Sind Bank -- Rs 750 crore.

Nomura cuts India growth forecast to 6.9% in 2020

Global research and brokerage firm Nomura has lowered its growth projections for India for the year 2020 to 6.9 per cent from the earlier projected 7.1 per cent, The global GDP growth rate for 2020 has been predicted at 3.3%.

Nripendra Misra quits as Principal Secretary to PM Modi

Nripendra Misra, principal secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has stepped down and he will be relieved of his post from the second week of the next month. Former cabinet secretary P K Sinha, who has been appointed Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the PMO, is expected to be named additional principal secretary to the PM.

India ranks 9th on happiness index

According to "Global Happiness Survey" from market research firm Ipsos, Indian has been ranked 9th on the happiness index among 28 global markets. There has been a six per cent drop (from 83 per cent in 2018 to 77 per cent in 2019).

Australia and Canada at the top spot (at 86 per cent) have emerged as the happiest nations of the world

China has been ranked as the second most happy nation at 83 per cent. Argentina (34 per cent), Spain (46 per cent) and Russia (47 per cent) emerged at the bottom of the heap, among the 28 markets.

Abhishek Verma wins gold in 10m Air Pistol in Rio World Cup

Abhishek Verma won the gold medal and Saurabh Chaudhary the bronze, in the men's 10m air pistol event of the World Cup in Rio. Verma shot 244.2 in the eight-man finals, while Chaudhary's 221.9 was good enough to get him the bronze.

Aswatha Narayana wins first gold for India at WorldSkills event in Russia

Aswatha Narayana, a 25-year-old electronics engineer from Odisha became the first-ever gold medallist from India in the prestigious World Skill Competition at Kazan, Russia.