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RBI & Banking sector

The RBI and the Indian banking sector are seeing several key changes take effect today, with a focus on improving transparency, efficiency, and customer protection. Here are the main highlights:

New Regulations on Savings Accounts

Effective September 1, 2025, the RBI has implemented new rules for savings bank accounts across all scheduled commercial banks. The changes aim to bring more uniformity and transparency to banking operations.

Uniform Interest Calculation: All banks are now mandated to calculate interest on savings accounts based on the daily end-of-day balance, ensuring a standardized method across the sector.

No Hidden Charges: Banks can no longer levy hidden charges on digital transactions. Any service fees or penalties must be clearly and upfront communicated to the customer.

Uniform Penalty Structure: The RBI has introduced a uniform penalty structure for not maintaining a minimum balance, replacing the varying penalty slabs previously used by different banks.

Dormant Account Rules: An account will only be declared inactive after a period of 24 months of no activity.

Market and Economic Insights

Lending Rates Rise Despite Repo Rate Cut: Despite a 50-basis-point repo rate cut by the RBI

in June, the weighted average lending rate (WALR) for new loans increased in July. This is an unusual trend, attributed by bankers to a higher share of high-yielding loans to MSMEs and a rise in demand before the festive season.

Private Corporate Investment Outlook: An article in the RBI's August bulletin projects that private sector capital investment in India is expected to jump by 21.5% to Rs. 2.67 lakh crore in the fiscal year 2025-26. This optimism is fueled by strong macroeconomic fundamentals, lower interest rates, and healthier corporate balance sheets.

Key Deadlines and Other News

Bank Holidays: Banks in various states are observing holidays on September 1 for local festivals, in addition to the second and fourth Saturdays of the month being non-working days nationwide.

SBI Credit Card Changes: From September 1, SBI credit card holders will no longer earn reward points on spending on digital gaming platforms, government transactions, and certain merchants.

National Stock Exchange (NSE): Effective today, the NSE has increased the quantity freeze limit for Bank Nifty derivatives contracts from 600 to 900. This is done to ensure market liquidity and prevent large, unintended trades.





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MCQS

1. According to the new RBI regulations, how is interest on savings accounts now calculated by all banks?

- a) Based on the monthly average balance.
- b) Based on the lowest balance of the month.
- c) Based on the daily end-of-day balance.
- d) Based on the quarterly average balance.

Answer: c) Based on the daily end-of-day balance.

The text states under "New Regulations on Savings Accounts," that "All banks are now mandated to calculate interest on savings accounts based on the daily end-of-day balance, ensuring a standardized method across the sector."

2. After how many months of inactivity will a savings account be declared dormant under the new RBI rules?

- a) 6 months
- b) 12 months
- c) 18 months
- d) 24 months

Answer: d) 24 months

The "Dormant Account Rules" section clearly states, "An account will only be declared inactive after a period of 24 months of no activity."

3. What is the projected jump in private sector capital investment in India for the fiscal year 2025-26, as per the RBI's August bulletin?

- a) 10%
- b) 15.5%
- c) 21.5%
- d) 30%

Answer: c) 21.5%





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The text mentions, "An article in the RBI's August bulletin projects that private sector capital investment in India is expected to jump by 21.5% to Rs. 2.67 lakh crore in the fiscal year 2025-26."

4. Which of the following is an effect of the new changes for SBI credit card holders as of September 1, 2025?

- a) They will earn more reward points on all transactions.
- b) They will no longer earn reward points on digital gaming and government transactions.
- c) They will be charged an extra fee for all online purchases.
- d) They will earn bonus points for all government transactions.

Answer: b) They will no longer earn reward points on digital gaming and government transactions.

The text explicitly states, "From September 1, SBI credit card holders will no longer earn reward points on spending on digital gaming platforms, government transactions, and certain merchants."

5. What change did the National Stock Exchange (NSE) implement for Bank Nifty derivatives contracts on September 1, 2025?

- a) It reduced the quantity freeze limit.
- b) It increased the quantity freeze limit from 600 to 900.
- c) It introduced a new type of contract for Bank Nifty.
- d) It stopped trading in Bank Nifty derivatives.

Answer: b) It increased the quantity freeze limit from 600 to 900.

The text says, "Effective today, the NSE has increased the quantity freeze limit for Bank Nifty derivatives contracts from 600 to 900."

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