



## RBI & Banking sector

### RBI-Related News

**New Savings Account Rules:** Effective from September 1, the RBI has implemented new, more transparent rules for savings accounts. Key changes include a uniform daily end-of-day balance calculation for interest across all banks and a standardized, reasonable penalty structure for not maintaining a minimum balance. The new rules also mandate that banks cannot charge hidden fees for digital transactions and that the first passbook/statement of the quarter must be provided for free.

**Bond Market & Monetary Policy:** A Bank of Baroda report anticipates that India's benchmark 10-year government bond yield will remain in the 6.50-6.60% range for the month. This expectation is driven by the RBI's decision to maintain its current policy stance (a prolonged status quo on rates), even as the U.S. Federal Reserve has begun its rate-cutting cycle. This divergence in policy, along with strong domestic GDP growth, reinforces the view that the RBI will hold its rates steady in the near term.

**Financial Inclusion:** The Governor of the RBI has lauded the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana for its pivotal role in strengthening financial inclusion in India. The scheme has led to the opening of over 55 crore accounts and is continuing its nationwide financial inclusion campaign through the end of September.

### Banking Sector Developments

**Bank Holidays:** Banks in Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram are closed today for First Onam. All other banks in the country are operating as usual. However, it's important to note that many other states have regional holidays scheduled throughout the month of September.

**Private Capex Outlook:** An article in the RBI's August bulletin projects that private sector capital investment (capex) is expected to surge by 21.5% to ₹2.67 lakh crore in the fiscal year 2025-26. This optimistic forecast is supported by strong macroeconomic fundamentals, lower interest rates, and improved corporate balance sheets. The infrastructure and power sectors are expected to be the main drivers of this investment.

**Digital Banking:** Even on bank holidays, most routine banking transactions are accessible through digital platforms like mobile banking apps, internet banking, and UPI. Services such as fund transfers, bill payments, and ATM withdrawals remain fully operational, showcasing the increasing shift towards a digital-first banking ecosystem.

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**2. According to a Bank of Baroda report, why is the RBI expected to hold its rates steady?**

- a) The U.S. Federal Reserve is increasing its rates.
- b) There has been a significant fall in domestic GDP growth.
- c) There is a divergence in policy with the U.S., along with strong domestic GDP growth.
- d) The government has requested a rate increase.

**Answer:** c) There is a divergence in policy with the U.S., along with strong domestic GDP growth.

The text indicates that the expectation is "driven by the RBI's decision to maintain its current policy stance... even as the U.S. Federal Reserve has begun its rate-cutting cycle. This divergence in policy, along with strong domestic GDP growth, reinforces the view..."

**3. The RBI Governor has praised the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana for its role in which of the following?**

- a) Promoting cashless transactions.
- b) Strengthening financial inclusion.
- c) Funding rural infrastructure projects.
- d) Providing loans to small businesses.

**Answer:** b) Strengthening financial inclusion. The passage states that the RBI Governor "has lauded the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana for its pivotal role in strengthening financial inclusion in India."

**4. Based on the provided information, which cities have a bank holiday today for First Onam?**

- a) Bengaluru and Chennai
- b) Mumbai and Delhi
- c) Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram
- d) Kolkata and Hyderabad

**Answer:** c) Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram.

### MCQS

**1. What is a key change introduced by the RBI's new savings account rules effective from September 1?**

- a) Mandatory provision of free checks.
- b) A uniform daily end-of-day balance calculation for interest.
- c) A new fee for all digital transactions.
- d) Prohibition of all bank penalties.

**Answer:** b) A uniform daily end-of-day balance calculation for interest.

The text states, "Key changes include a uniform daily end-of-day balance calculation for interest across all banks and a standardized, reasonable penalty structure for not maintaining a minimum balance."







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The text explicitly mentions, "Banks in Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram are closed today for First Onam."

**5.What two sectors are expected to be the main drivers of the projected surge in private sector capital investment (capex)?**

- a) Information Technology and Real Estate.
- b) Infrastructure and Power.
- c) Agriculture and Textiles.
- d) Automotive and Pharmaceuticals.

**Answer:** b) Infrastructure and Power.

The passage states that "The infrastructure and power sectors are expected to be the main drivers of this investment."

**6.What banking services are mentioned as being accessible on bank holidays due to digital banking?**

- a) Opening new accounts and applying for loans.
- b) Fund transfers, bill payments, and ATM withdrawals.
- c) Cash deposits and check clearances.
- d) All of the above.

**Answer:** b) Fund transfers, bill payments, and ATM withdrawals.

The text specifies that "Services such as fund transfers, bill payments, and ATM withdrawals remain fully operational" through digital platforms even on holidays.

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