



Towards Greater Digital Public Good

Foreword

Esteemed Readers,

The global payments landscape is undergoing a significant transformation, shaped by technological advancements, policy shifts, and evolving consumer expectations. As we continue our collective journey **'Towards Greater Digital Public Good'**, what began as a shift from cash to digital modes of payment has now become a broader reimagining of financial systems—making payments real-time, connected, and universally accessible.

India's journey in building digital public infrastructure, particularly through platforms like UPI, stands as a strong example of how payment systems can be made scalable, reliable, and inclusive. Today, digital payments are not merely tools for transactions; they form an essential pillar of economic activity and governance.

As global adoption accelerates, the focus for the payments industry is shifting from enablement to optimisation—creating systems that are secure, efficient, transparent, and deeply user-centric. Innovations such as **UPI Lite on wearable smart glasses** reflect this shift. By enabling users to scan, authenticate, and complete small value transactions through simple voice commands, these glasses offer a hands-free, mobile-free payment experience that blends seamlessly into everyday behaviour.

Foundational infrastructure is evolving as well. **Banking Connect** simplifies online merchant payments through a single,

standardised integration between banks and payment aggregators. Built on the Bharat Connect framework, it streamlines payments and settlements while strengthening transparency, scalability, and dispute resolution—resulting in a smoother experience for customers, banks, and merchants.

Globally, real time payment systems, digital wallets, embedded finance, and increasing interoperability are reshaping competitive dynamics. In this environment, cross border partnerships have become essential to fostering inclusion, efficiency, and innovation at scale. NPCI International remains committed to advancing this vision by building global collaborations for UPI acceptance with networks such as **Payments Network Malaysia** that create bridges, enable innovation, and contribute to a more connected and inclusive financial ecosystem.

As we look ahead, the opportunity lies not only in expanding access but also in elevating the intelligence and quality of payment systems. By innovating responsibly and collaborating widely, we can ensure that digital payments continue to serve as a true public good—driving efficiency, inclusion, and sustainable growth worldwide.



CA Sanjay Khemani
Independent Director,
NPCI International

In this issue ▼



Key Statistics



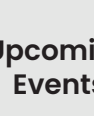
Industry-relevant Innovations



New Products & Services



Collaboration & Partnerships



Upcoming Events



Key Statistics^{1*}



India's digital payments landscape, encouraged by the concept of "digital public good", is truly democratizing payments. With over 750 million daily transactions facilitated, UPI has emerged as the world's number one real-time payments solution

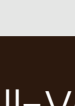
Source:
1. <https://bit.ly/3NHPN9y>
*Data as on 31st March 2026

In the 1st quarter of 2026, about **64.74 billion UPI transactions** were recorded in the country, solidifying India's position as a global leader in digital payments.

64.74
billion

The total **value of funds** settled in the 1st quarter of 2026 soared to **USD 1.02 trillion**.

\$1.02
trillion



Industry-relevant Innovations

Small-Value Transactions Using Wearable Glasses via UPI Lite



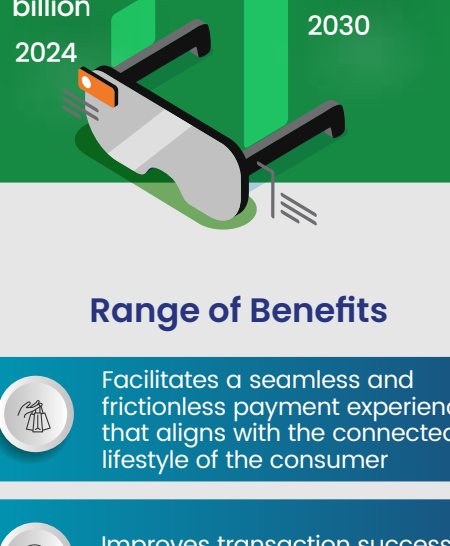
India's digital payments system has moved a step further toward frictionless payments with the launch of small value transactions using wearable glasses via UPI Lite. UPI Lite is designed for small-value, high-frequency payments with enhanced success rates and minimal dependency on core banking infrastructure.

With this integration, by simply scanning a QR code and authenticating via voice, users can complete secure transactions without a phone or PIN — making everyday payments in retail, food, and transit faster and more intuitive.

Extending UPI to wearables marks a step toward truly ambient, frictionless payments that blend seamlessly into an on-the-go digital lifestyle.

Global Insights

The wearable payments devices market is expected to grow from USD 57.98 billion 2024 to USD 148.88 billion by 2030, at a CAGR of about 17%¹. Currently, embedded payments, including wearables and IoT devices, already account for USD 1.1 trillion in global payment volumes.²



Key Features



Facilitates small-value, high-frequency payments via UPI Lite



Facilitates hands-free payments via Smart Glasses



Enables the consumer to scan and authenticate, and make payments via voice, without the need for a mobile phone or PIN



Facilitates off-CBS wallet execution, reducing the load on core banking systems



Optimised for use in small-value payment scenarios such as retail, food chains, and transportation

Source:
1. <https://www.grandviewresearch.com/industry-analysis/wearable-payments-devices-market>
2. <https://www.jpmorgan.com/insights/payments/trends-innovation/payments-are-eating-the-world>

Range of Benefits



Facilitates a seamless and frictionless payment experience that aligns with the connected lifestyle of the consumer



Improves transaction success rates for small-value payments



Reduces the load on core banking systems, benefiting banks and PSPs



Fosters the adoption of digital payments for small-value, routine transactions



Positions UPI as a platform that can support ambient and context-aware payments



New Products & Services



Banking Connect is an interoperable payment system that is aimed at revolutionizing online merchant payments.

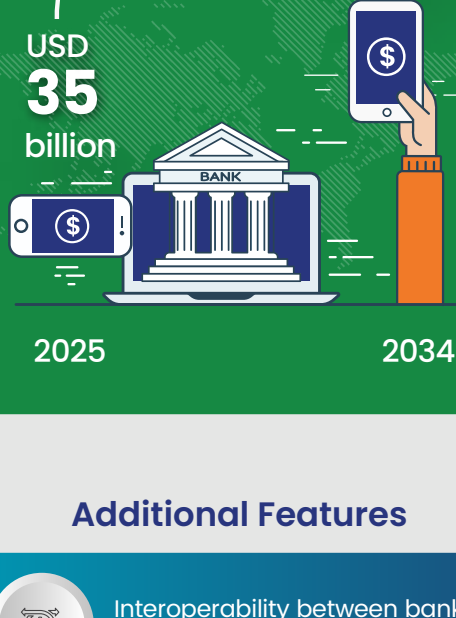
It is designed to simplify fragmented integrations and standardised settlement journeys, and create a unified netbanking experience for the entire ecosystem by enabling a single connection between banks and payment aggregators.

This infrastructure helps in simplifying payment and settlement systems and improving the overall dispute resolution process. It is a unified and interoperable system that enhances the efficiency of the digital payments system by boosting transparency and scalability, thus providing seamless experience to the customers, banks, and merchants.

Global Insights

Open banking adoption has reached **~87%** among global banks, reflecting a strong shift towards interoperable, API-driven financial ecosystems³. The open banking market itself is expected to grow from **~USD 35 billion** in 2025 to **~USD 190 billion** by 2034, highlighting rapid expansion of interoperable banking infrastructure⁴.

Further, the global embedded finance market is projected to grow from ~USD 148 billion in 2025 to over USD 1.7 trillion by 2034, driven by demand for integrated, seamless financial services within digital platforms⁵.



Key Benefits



Simplifies integration by providing a single integration model between banks and PAs



Fast and predictable settlement systems



Improves the overall customer experience by providing seamless and frictionless payments



Improves the overall transparency of the dispute resolution process



Fast and seamless merchant onboarding

Source:
1. <https://www.jmfinancialservices.in/blogs-and-articles/top-fintech-trends-of-2026-or>
3. <https://www.fortunebusinessinsights.com/open-banking-market-112359>
5. <https://www.precedenceresearch.com/embedded-finance-market>

Additional Features



Interoperability between banks and PAs



Same-day settlement



Security and regulatory compliance maintained with standardised error codes



API-driven merchant onboarding



Supports biometric-based authentication for payments flows



Collaborations & Partnerships

NPCI International has collaborated with partners to extend the global reach of India's UPI

Strengthening Cross-Border Payments

NPCI International is expanding UPI's reach by establishing global partnerships, and its collaboration with Payments Network Malaysia (PayNet) is a major step forward for the development of international payments connectivity.

The collaboration aims to facilitate seamless connectivity between India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Malaysia's DuitNow. Once live, this collaboration will enable people from both nations to make seamless, efficient, and secure transactions.



In addition, as both nations will be able to make direct account-to-account payments, such a corridor will enable a benchmark for more such collaborations, thereby strengthening NPCI International's vision for a globally connected, inclusive, and interoperable payments ecosystem.



Upcoming Events

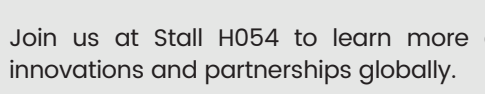
Global Fintech Fest 2026

The Global Fintech Fest (GFF) is one of the world's largest fintech conferences, organised by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the Payments Council of India (PCI), and the Fintech Convergence Council (FCC). It serves as a premier platform for collaboration among fintechs, financial institutions, policymakers, regulators, and technology leaders.

The 7th edition of GFF 2026, themed **'Potential to Impact: Agentic AI | Tokenisation | Quantum'**, will spotlight the next phase of fintech evolution — focused on building **'Trusted, Connected, Global Systems for Inclusive Finance'** and the role of technology in shaping the future of finance.

Block your dates and join us for insightful discussions, networking, and collaboration at GFF 2026, slated from 9 to 11 September 2026 at Jio World Centre, Mumbai, India.

Sibos 2026



NPCI-G exhibit at Sibos 2025 in Frankfurt, Germany

Sibos is the global flagship event for the financial services industry, bringing together banks, fintechs, market infrastructures, and regulators worldwide. Built around the theme **'Digital finance for AI-driven economies'**, the event will explore how the industry is evolving to meet the demands of a rapidly changing digital and interconnected financial ecosystem.

We're pleased to share that NPCI International will be participating as an exhibitor at Sibos 2026 from 28 September to 1 October 2026 at Miami Beach Convention Center.

Join us at Stall H054 to learn more about how we are enabling cross-border payment innovations and partnerships globally.

For more details on our products and partnerships, visit, www.npci.com or write to us at enquiry@npci.com

Follow us on social media

