World Thrift Day (World Savings Day) 2026 – 30 Oct in India; 31 Oct worldwide

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News

World Savings / Thrift Day is observed worldwide on 31 Oct to promote the saving habit; India observes it on 30 Oct, because 31 Oct is the death anniversary of PM Indira Gandhi, assassinated on 31 Oct 1984. The 2026 World Savings Day campaign slogan is 'AI advises, human decides' – run by the Brussels-based World Savings and Retail Banking Institute (WSBI).

Key facts

Origin	31 Oct 1924 – 1st International Savings Bank Congress, Milan (Italy); proclaimed by Italian Prof. Filippo Ravizza
India	30 Oct (31 Oct – Indira Gandhi's death anniversary, 1984)
2026 slogan	'AI advises, human decides'
Body	WSBI – World Savings and Retail Banking Institute, Brussels (Belgium)
Stamp	World Thrift Day stamp – 31 Oct 1971 (20 paise)
NSSF	National Small Savings Fund – 1 Apr 1999; in the Public Account of India; Finance Ministry (DEA)

Background

- Economy: Saving = Income − Consumption. Household savings fund investment through bank deposits and small savings. Small-savings schemes include the Post Office Savings Account, PPF, National Savings Certificate (NSC), Kisan Vikas Patra, Sukanya Samriddhi and the Senior Citizens' Savings Scheme.
- Polity: small-savings collections are credited to the 'National Small Savings Fund' (NSSF), kept in the Public Account of India under Article 266(2) – not the Consolidated Fund. The Union Finance Ministry notifies small-savings interest rates every quarter.
- History: Prof. Filippo Ravizza proclaimed 'International Saving Day' on the last day of the 1924 Milan congress. WSBI, which traces its origin to 1924, runs the World Savings Day campaign every year.

Tamil Nadu link: Thiruvalluvar stresses thrift in the chapter 'Valiyarithal' (Knowing One's Strength) – Kural 478 'Aakaaru alavittithaayinum kedillai pokaaru akalaak kadai': a small income does no harm if spending does not exceed it.

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