

20th - 21st October 2025

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★ BANKING AND FINANCIAL

- ① SBI raises ₹ 7,500 crore via bond issue.
 - Instrument Type : Non-Convertible, Taxable, Redeemable, subordinated, Unsecured, Fully Paid-up Basel III compliant Tier 2 Bonds.
- ② Canara Bank divests stake in Canara HSBC Life to 36.5%.
 - Company : Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company Limited.
 - Parent Bank : Canara Bank reduced its stake from 51% to 36.5% via IPO.
 - IPO issue size : ₹ 2,517 crore
 - IPO listing Price : ₹ 106 per share (flat debut).
- ③ Lxme Launches India's First UPI for Women 'LxmePay'.
- ④ Gietepay partners with ESAF Small Finance Bank to deploy 'Vega'.
 - Type of Partnership : Strategic partnership for development of Vega, a next-generation payment switch.

★ INTERNATIONAL

- ⑤ Iran's Taftan volcano shows signs of awakening after 710,000 years.
 - Scientists have reclassified Taftan from extinct to dormant.

⑥ 391 million hectares of world's tropical forest at high risk of loss : UN report.

- Report Released By : United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Report Title : "In High-risk forests, high value returns - Co-benefits assessment for decision-makers".
- Out of 1.6 billion hectares globally 391 million hectares of tropical forests are at high risk of loss.

★ NATIONAL

⑦ Centre Launches ₹ 600 crore 'Kapas Kranti' Mission.

- Announced in Hyderabad by Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy.
- High-Density Plantation Success Model - Maharashtra (Akola Region).

⑧ NITI Aayog's We Rise Initiative.

- Initiative Name : 'We Rise - Women Entrepreneurs Reimagining Inclusive and Sustainable Enterprises'.
- Announced by : NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) in collaboration with DP World.
- Statement of Intent (SOI) signed by Ms. Anna Roy.

⑨ Mahindra, Embraer join hands to bring C-390 Millennium to India.

- Promote C-390 Millennium aircraft for the Indian Air Force's Medium Transport Aircraft (MTA) Programme.
- C-390 Millennium also known as 'benevolent brute'.

⑩ GAIL signs concession agreement to set up CBG Plant in Bengaluru.

- ⑪ India Gifts Pousian Blue Capsules to Indonesia for Cesium-137 Contamination Response.
- ⑫ India AI and WHO Partner to Spotlight Real-World AI Health Breakthroughs.
- Selected entries will contribute to the casebook on AI Health Cases Across the Global South.
 - Casebook to be launched at India-AI Impact Summit 2026, New Delhi, 19-20 February 2026.
- ⑬ India has developed its first indigenously discovered antibiotic "Nafithromycin".

★ DEFENCE

- ⑭ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, CM Yogi Flag Off First BrahMos Missile Batch From Lucknow Unit.
- ⑮ India, Brazil Expand Defence Ties with Focus on Aakash Missile.

★ MOUs

- ⑯ Desco Infrotech, KPI Green Hydrogen and Ammonia join hands for hydrogen-natural gas blending.
- Partnership of KPI Green Hydrogen and Ammonia (KP Group), Desco Infrotech Ltd, Naveriya Gas.
 - Objective: Spearhead hydrogen-natural gas blending projects in the city gas distribution sector.

★ STATES

①7 MP Cabinet Approves First Kodo-Kutki Procurement.
↳ (Millet)

- Millet (Kodo and Kutki) Procurement & Initiative
- > First time Kodo and Kutki from Farmers.
- > Targeted districts & Jabalpur, Katni, Mandla and others
- > Procurement & prices - Kutki ₹3,500 / quintal, Kodo Rs 2,500 / quintal.

23rd October 2025

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★ RBI JUNCTION

① India resilient but not immune to global headwinds, says RBI report.

- RBI "State of the Economy" Report.
- Released by : RBI
- Prepared by : RBI staff under the guidance of Deputy Governor Poonam Gupta.
- Classification : Views expressed are those of the authors, not of the RBI.

② RBI sold net \$7.7 billion in August to arrest rupee's fall.

- Rupee fell sharply to an all-time low of ₹ 88.89 per US dollar on September 23.
- Year-to-date depreciation : Around 4.61%.

★ BANKING AND FINANCIAL

③ UPI transactions surge to Rs 94,000 crore daily in October.

- On Diwali eve, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) hit its highest-ever single-day record.
- Transaction volume : 754 million
- Transaction value : ₹ 1.02 lakh crore.
- Monthly Averages (October 2025)
 - > ₹ 94,000 crore, up 13% from ₹ 82,991 crore in September : Average daily value.
 - > Average daily volume : 695 million transactions, up from 654 million in September.



★ INTERNATIONAL

④ Tuvalu joins IUCN as 90th Member state.

★ NATIONAL

⑤ India rises to ninth position globally in forest area, retains third spot in annual forest gain.

- India's Rise in Global Forest Rankings - FAO report.
- Total global forest area : 4.14 billion hectares (32% of Earth's land surface).

⑥ SOAR : India's new push for AI-driven education and skilling.

↓
Skilling for AI Readiness (SOAR).

- Launched by : Ministry of Skill development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) in July 2025.
- Union Budget 2025-26 allocation : ₹ 500 crore to set up a centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence for Education.

⑦ PSA Launches AI paybooks for Agriculture, SMEs & White Papers to Boost Responsible AI Adoption.

- Launch of 'AI paybooks for Agriculture and SMEs' & 'AI Sandbox white Papers.'
- Released by : Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India.

⑧ India's Renewable Energy Capacity Surges Over Fivefold to 197 GW Since 2014.

- Govt Target : Ambitious goal of 500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030.

⑨ UDAN Scheme Completes 9 Years, Facilitates 1.56 crore Passengers Across India.

- Launch Date : 21st October 2016
- Viability Gap Funding (VGF) : ₹ 4,300+ crore to support airlines and regional infrastructure.

⑩ India's supportive policies, funding drive rapid green energy transition in subcontinent : S & P.

- India added 35 GW of renewable capacity in the first nine months of 2025.

⑪ Tribal Business Conclave 2025 to Empower Tribal Entrepreneurs and Drive Inclusive Growth.

⑫ India Upgrades Kabul Mission to Full Embassy Status.

- India has upgraded its Technical Mission in Kabul to a full Embassy of India in Afghanistan.

⑬ India, UK Launch Ramanujan Fellowship for Young Scientists.

⑭ India Surpasses \$20 Billion in AI Investments, Poised for Global Leadership.

★ DEFENCE

⑮ INS Sahyadri Joins India-Japan Maritime Exercise JAIMEX 25.

- Location : West of Kyushu, Japan.

⑯ Indian Navy's Commanders' Conference 2025 to Begin in New Delhi.

★ MoUs

- (17) Indian Army Signs MoU with Delhi Technological University.
- (18) Naval Group, Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders extend MoU to strengthen Submarine Export Cooperation.
- (19) IUCN and IRENA sign MoU to promote Renewable Energy while Protecting Biodiversity.
- (20) IIT-BHU signs MoU with 39 Gorakha Training Centre to boost defence research & Innovation.

★ STATES

- (21) Gujaratis Across the World Celebrate 'Bestu Varsh'.
 - Gujarati New Year - Bestu Varsh 2025.
- (22) Goa CM Pramod Sawant Unveils Official Logo and Anthem for FIDE Chess World Cup 2025 in Goa.
 - Significance : First FIDE Chess World Cup held in India in 23 years.
- (23) Goa CM Dr. Pramod Sawant Introduces Chess in School and College Curricula.
- (24) Six New Odonate Species Discovered in Silent Valley National Park, Kerala.

★ APPOINTMENTS

- (25) Shantha Rangaswamy Elected as First Woman President of Indian Cricketers' Association (ICA).

★ AWARDS

- (26) Neeraj Chopra Conferred Honorary Rank of Lieutenant Colonel in Indian Army.

24th October 2025

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* RBI JUNCTION

① RBI gold holdings surpass 880 tonnes amid global price surge.

- Total Gold Reserves : 880.18 metric tonnes (as of 26 September 2025).
- Six - Month Trend : Total 0.6 metric tonnes purchased in H1 2025-26.
- Central banks added 166 tonnes of gold to official reserves globally.

② RBI announces premature redemption price and date for sovereign gold bond series.

- Premature Redemption : Date 23 October 2025.
- Redemption Price : Rs 12,704 per unit.
- About Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) :
 - > Invest in gold without holding physical metal.
 - > Tenure : 8 years, with premature redemption allowed after 5 years
 - > Interest : 2.5% per annum, credit semi-annually.

③ SEBI Panel led by RS Gandhi Proposes Higher Transaction Fees for Clearing Corporations.

- Proposals Under Consideration :
 - Transaction charges of clearing corporations to be scientifically designed and linked to total stock volumes settled.
 - Clearing members to contribute to settlement guarantee Fund (SGIF) via :
 - Bank guarantees or Lien on fixed deposits.

★ BANKING AND FINANCIAL

④ India's GDP to grow 6.7-6.9 pc in FY26 :
Deloitte India.

- Projected growth (FY26) : 6.7-6.9% , averaging 6.8% .
- Previous Forecast Revision : Up by 0.3 percentage points.
- Q1 FY26 Performance : Economy grew 7.8% (April-June 2025).

⑤ Customers can opt for up to four nominees in their bank accounts starting November 1.

- Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025 - Nomination Provisions -
Effective from : 1 November 2025
- Key feature : Bank customers can name up to four nominees for accounts or lockers.
- Simultaneous nomination : Specify share/percentage for each nominee (total = 100%).
- Successive nomination : Next nominee becomes operative only after death of the higher nominee.

★ INTERNATIONAL

⑥ India re-elected as Vice-Chair of COP10 Bureau.

- Event : 10th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP10) to the International Convention against Doping in Sports.
- Elected Chairperson : Azerbaijan
- Other Vice-Chairs : Brazil, Zambia, Saudi Arabia
- Venue : UNESCO Headquarters, Paris.

⑦ PM Narendra Modi to join 47th ASEAN Summit virtually from Kuala Lumpur.

- ASEAN Membership : 10 member countries.
- ASEAN Chairman : Anwar Ibrahim (PM of Malaysia)

⑧ Saudi Arabia ends Kafala System.

- Saudi Arabia Abolishes Kafala System - June 2025.

⑨ Mosquitoes found in Iceland for first time as climate crisis warms country.

★ NATIONAL

⑩ Centre Notifies Amendments to IT Rules, 2025 to Boost Content Moderation Transparency.

- Effective from : 1st November 2025.

⑪ Govt Amends VOPPA Order to Tighten Edible Oil Regulations.

- Amended Vegetable Oil Products, Production and Availability (Regulation) Order, 2025.
- Strengthen regulatory oversight and transparency in the edible oil sector.

⑫ India's Smartphone market rings 3% growth in July - September.

- India Smartphone Market - Q3 2025 Growth : 3% YoY, 48.4 million units shipped.

- Top Vendors (Q3 2025) :
 - > vivo (excluding IQOO) : 9.7 million units.
 - > Samsung : 6.8 million units.
 - > Xiaomi : 6.5 million units.

(13) NHAH Launches AI - Based Highway Monitoring Using 3D Survey.

- NHAH Deploys 3D Laser - Based Network Survey Vehicles (NSVs) for Road Monitoring.
- Scope : 20,933 Km of National Highways across 23 states.

(14) India Launched "Online National Drug Licensing System" (ONDLS).

- Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) Launches Digital Monitoring for High-risk Pharma Solvents.

(15) MoWCD Awarded for Outstanding Contribution to Implementation of PMJANMAN.

- PMJANMAN Award - Ministry of Women & Child Development.
- Occasion : National Conclave on 'Adi-Karmayogi Abhiyan', Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- Organised by : Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

★ DEFENCE

- (16) Indian Army to operationalise 25 Bhairav light combat battalions in six months.

★ MOUs

- ⑰ Coal India, IIT Madras Sign MOU to Set Up Centre for Sustainable Energy.
- ⑱ DPIIT signs MOU with Kotak Mahindra Bank and Primus Partners.

★ STATES

⑲ Manipur Celebrates Ningol Chakouba.

• Ningol Chakouba Festival - Manipur.

↓
 Married daughters or women Festing together.

➤ Observed on : 2nd day of Hiyangei month (Meitei Lunar calendar).

⑳ Chennai gets India's first real-time flood forecast system.

• Chennai - India's First City with Real-Time Flood Forecasting & Spatial Decision Support system (RTFF & SDSS).

• Developed by : SECON Pvt. Ltd and JBA Consulting (UK)

㉑ Kerala to be Declared India's First Extreme Poverty-Free State.

• Declaration : Kerala to be officially "free of extreme poverty" on 1 November 2025 by CM Pinarayi Vijayan at central stadium, Thiruvananthapuram.

★ IMPORTANT DAYS

②② World Iodine Deficiency Day 2025 : 21 October

★ APPOINTMENTS

②③ Indian - American Paul Kapur Takes Charge as US Assistant Secretary of state for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs in the Trump administration.

②④ Delhi High Court Judge Pratibha M. Singh appointed as chair of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)'s advisory board.

②⑤ Veteran space scientist Eknath Vasant Chitnis dies at 100.

★ AWARDS AND BOOKS

②⑥ Indian-origin historian Sunil Amrith wins British Academy Book Prize.

②⑦ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Releases Book on Civil - Military Fusion by Lt Gen Raj Shukla.

★ SCIENCE & TECH

②⑧ NASA confirms Earth has a second moon, and it will stay with us until 2083.

★ SPORTS

②⑨ Rohit Sharma surpasses Ganguly to become India's third-highest run-getter in ODIs.

③⑩ 4th South Asian Athletics Championship 2025 to kick off in Ranchi from October 24.

③⑪ 11th edition of the world Para Powerlifting Championship 2025 was held at Cairo, Egypt.

③⑫ Sultan of Johar Cup 2025 : India clinched Silver.

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★ RBI JUNCTION

① UPI leads in Payments volume, RTGs in Value; debit card transactions decline : RBI Report

- RBI Payment System Report - June 2025.
- Digital Dominance : Digital Payment transactions formed 99.7% of total volume and 97.5% of total value in 2024.
- Paper-based instruments (cheques) now just 2.3% of total transaction value.
- UPI : 85% of total transaction volume in H1 2025.
- RTGs : 69% of total transaction value, only 0.1% of volume.
- Credit Cards Volume : 447.2 crore (2024).
- Value : ₹20.41akh crore (2024)

② RBI releases Draft circular on Unique Transaction Identifier for Derivative Transactions in India.

- RBI Draft Circular : Unique Transaction Identifier (UTI) Framework October 2025.
- Purpose : To introduce Unique Transaction Identifier (UTI) for all Over-the-Counter (OTC) derivative transactions in India.
- Effective : from April 1, 2026.
- LEI : Identifies who involved in a transaction (the counterparties)
- UTI : Identifies which transaction is being reported.

③ RBI consolidates regulatory norms into 238 master circulars, repeals 9,000.

- These circulars will cover 11 types of regulated entities across 30 regulatory areas.

④ Reserve Bank of India launches its Fourth Global Hackathon - HaRBInger 2025.

- Theme : "Secure Banking : Powered by Identity, Integrity, and inclusivity".
- Name : HaRBInger 2025 - Innovation for Transformation.
- Registration began : October 23, 2025.
- Problem Statements :
 - > Tokenized KYC
 - > Offline CBDC
 - > Enhancing Trust.

⑤ Sebi mulls uniform process for opening MF folios, first investments.

- Objective : To streamline and standardise the KYC process for opening mutual fund folios and making the first investment.

★ BANKING AND FINANCIAL

⑥ Federal Bank to sell minority stake to Blackstone affiliate for Rs 6,200 crore.

- Transaction Type : Sale of 9.99% stake to an affiliate of U.S. private equity firm Blackstone.
- Investor Entity : Asia II Topco XIII Pte. Ltd.
- Total Deal Value : ₹ 6,196.5 crore.
- Mode : Through preferential issue of equity shares & warrant.

⑦ UPI Introduces "Pay with Mutual Fund" for Instant Transactions.

⑧ CCI Clears Shareholding Acquisition in Edelweiss Asset Management.

- Approved by : Competition Commission of India (CCI).
- Nature of Transaction : Acquisition of up to 15% shareholding in Edelweiss Asset Management Limited (EAML) and Edelweiss Trusteeship Company Limited (ETCL).

⑨ NPCI Launches AI-Powered "UPIHelp" to Assist Users with Digital Payments.

★ INTERNATIONAL

⑩ Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2025.

- Title : "Overlapping Hardships : Poverty and Climate Hazards."
- Published by : United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) & Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative.
- MPI values range from 0 to 1, and higher values imply higher poverty.
- Fastest Reductions in MPI :
 - > Benin
 - > Cambodia
 - > Tanzania.

⑪ China Issues Yellow Alert as Typhoon Fengshen Approaches Southern Coast.

★ NATIONAL

⑫ Two - Minute film on 'Sabki Yojana, Sabka Vikas' to Promote People's role in Grassroots Planning.

- Launched by : Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- Screening Period : From today till 6th November 2025.

⑬ PM-ABHIM : Strengthening India's health infrastructure for a pandemic-ready future.

- Pradhan Mantri - Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM).
- Launch : October 2021.
- Total Outlay : from (2021-26) : ₹ 64,180 crore.

⑭ India's manufacturing PMI hits 2-month high at 58.4 in October.

⑮ 2 Million Deaths in India Linked to Air Pollution in 2023 : State of Global Air (SoGA) 2025 Report.

- Source : State of Global Air (SoGA) 2025 by Health Effects Institute (HEI) and Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), USA.
- Year Assessed : 2023.

★ DEFENCE

⑯ Tsi - Services to get systems, platforms for ₹ 79,000 crore.

⑰ Indian Army signed Rs 2,700 Crore Deal to Procure 4.25 lakh Indigenous Carbines.

⑱ Cochin Shipyard delivers first anti-submarine warfare craft to Indian Navy.

- Indian Navy Inducts 'Mahe' - First Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC).

★ MOUs

- (19) IIM Calcutta and Satyajit Ray film institute sign MoU
- (20) BEML, Italy's Tesmec ink pact to introduce surface miner equipment for mining operations.

★ STATES

- (21) Kerala Launches 'Sushakthi' Self-Help Groups for Persons with Disabilities.
- (22) People in Sikkim celebrate 'Kukur Tihar', worship dogs for loyalty.
- (23) CM Revanth Reddy Presents Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award to Salman Khurshid

★ IMPORTANT DAYS

- (24) International Snow Leopard Day 2025 : 23 October
- (25) World Polio Day 2025 : 24th October
- (26) National Cybersecurity Awareness Month 2025 - October.
- (27) United Nations Day is observed on the 24th of October 2025.
- (28) ITBP Raising Day is observed on 24th October.
- (29) World Development Information Day 2025 : 24th October.

★ APPOINTMENTS

- (30) Piyush Pandey, Padma Shri recipient who revolutionised Indian advertising, passes away at 70.
- (31) Daniel Naroditsky, US chess grandmaster, dies aged 29.