

Industry Matters

Weekly Updates

October 17, 2025



Economy, Industry and Policy

MPC Minutes-Members see scope for more rate cuts, await full impact: Even if the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee decided to hold interest rates in the October meeting, it acknowledged the scope for further rate cuts while waiting for the impact of the past steps to play out. All the members of the panel voted to keep the policy repo rate at 5.5 per cent while two members — Ram Singh and Nagesh Kumar — said the stance should be changed to "neutral". *[Business Standard]*

Self-harm-America's H-1B visa fee hike signals the triumph of ideology over market forces: The US has made its H-1B visas the world's most expensive on the claim that the scheme was being abused. But this new barrier was driven by ideology and will eventually hurt US enterprise. America isn't unique in scoring such self-goals, though. *[Mint]*

India must seize strategic geopolitical opening US-China face-off offers: Amid US-China trade tensions and economic vulnerabilities, India must seize the "China +1" opportunity, deepen reforms, secure FTAs, and globalise its firms for long-term growth. *[Business Standard]*

RBI eases rules to facilitate cross-border trade and export payments: Authorised Dealer banks in India and their overseas branches can now lend in Indian Rupees to individuals and institutions in Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. *[Business Line]*

Growth has many sparks but tariff can dim glow: Central bank governor Sanjay Malhotra indicated robust September-quarter growth, citing agricultural prospects and services sector strength. However, he expressed caution about the second half of FY26 due to US tariffs, despite GST rationalization. The RBI maintained its repo rate at 5.50% and a neutral stance. *[The Economic Times]*

Unemployment rate rises marginally to 5.2% in September: Unemployment rate (UR) rose marginally to 5.2 per cent in September after two successive months of decline, Statistics Ministry reported on Wednesday. UR is defined as the percentage of individuals unemployed among persons in the labour force. *[Business Line]*

India's overseas investments decline in August as US tariffs kicked in: India's overseas direct investment (ODI) declined by almost 50 per cent in August this year to \$1 billion compared to previous month as well as in the corresponding month last year, according to the finance ministry data. *[Business Standard]*

National Household Income Survey to seek info on income sources, govt schemes, others: The National Household Income Survey (NHIS) will seek information about income from the Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, sovereign gold bonds, ESOP, etc, besides other avenues. *[Business Line]*

India's growth cycle may be bottoming out, domestic fundamentals strong for pick-up in growth-HSBC MF: On the global front, the report said the macroeconomic environment remains challenging amid heightened geopolitical and economic uncertainties. *[Business Line]*

Union Cabinet may take up proposal for export promotion mission next week: Inter-ministerial consultations are over; tricky matters such as fate of the interest equalisation scheme to be sorted out by the Cabinet, sources said. *[Business Line]*

RBI's liquidity boost falters amid FX market intervention, analysts say: The Reserve Bank of India's liquidity infusion through CRR cuts has been less effective than anticipated, with dollar sales and maturing FX forwards absorbing funds. Analysts suggest this will likely lead to a rise in short-term rates, as net liquidity injection has been significantly lower than planned. *[The Economic Times]*

Four technologies to reshape global labour markets-WEF: New technologies like AI and robotics will transform jobs across agriculture, manufacturing, and healthcare. These advancements promise increased productivity and new opportunities. *[The Economic Times]*

High-voltage reforms-Draft power law could be a game changer for sector: The power sector was among the first to be opened up to private investment and structural reform in the early nineties. Since then, however, it has remained an underperformer relative to India's economic growth, requiring consistent government intervention. *[Business Standard]*

India's rise as a top economy hinges on channelising household savings into productive assets: India's aspiration to become one of the largest and fastest-growing economies in the world depends on how effectively it channels household savings into productive assets, according to a report by Elara Securities. *[The Economic Times]*



Foreign Investment

India most attractive infrastructure market,' Actis to double \$2 billion investment: London-based infrastructure investor Actis, which has already deployed over \$2 billion in India, is now exploring ways to double its investments in the country in the next three to four years. *[Financial Express]*

DPIIT top brass huddles with etail, retail firms for inputs on FDI policy: The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) recently held consultations with industry leaders — including executives from Reliance, Amazon, Walmart-owned Flipkart and industry bodies like the Confederation of Indian Industry and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry — to gather feedback on sectoral norms. *[The Economic Times]*

Indian banking sector sees wave of foreign investments-experts: India's robust long-term growth outlook, along with the increasingly accommodative approach to foreign investment in banking on the part of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the government, is fuelling a wave of deal making aimed at creating larger and stronger banks, according to industry experts. *[Business Standard]*

Foreign investment in I&B sector falls in June quarter: India's information and broadcasting sector saw a significant 84% year-on-year drop in FDI inflows to Rs 552.45 crore in the June 2025 quarter. This decline reflects a slowdown in cross-border deals, despite several greenfield and brownfield investments in digital media, advertising, and entertainment segments. *[The Economic Times]*

Govt committee on nuclear power bats for up to 49% FDI: A government committee has proposed allowing up to 49% foreign investment in India's nuclear power sector and amending the civil liability Act. These changes aim to shield operators from other liability laws and include equipment suppliers in contractual liability caps, facilitating global participation to meet the 100 GW nuclear capacity target by 2047. *[The Economic Times]*



Trade Policy and Competitiveness

India-EU trade pact talks progressing; steel, auto issues need resolution: Negotiations for the proposed free trade agreement between India and the EU are progressing well, but differences still need to be ironed out in certain areas such as steel, automobiles and non-tariff barriers, a senior official said on Monday. *[Business Standard]*

India, UK trade agreement to help boost exports, investments-Experts: The free trade agreement between India and the UK will help boost the country's exports and attract investments from Britain, according to experts. The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) was signed on July 24 and is likely to come into force next year. *[Business Standard]*

India Inc steps up West Asia push as global trade wars rage: Facing trade and tariff restrictions in developed markets like the US, major Indian companies, including infrastructure giants, jewellery retailers, and consumer brands, are increasingly expanding their presence in West Asia. *[Financial Express]*

A new beginning-Geopolitical shifts drive the reset in Indo-Canadian ties: For all the visible diplomatic affability, hard geopolitical realities have dictated the swiftness with which both sides have worked to revive relations. *[Business Standard]*

India keen to raise energy purchases from US for 'win-win' trade deal: Our negotiating team is already in the US, and (they are) trying to see if we can have a win-win solution between the two sides, which can address some of these tariff issues," he told reporters. *[Business Standard]*



Corporate Governance

Foxconn to invest ₹15,000 cr in Tamil Nadu, create 14,000 engineering jobs: Foxconn's new ₹15,000 crore investment in Tamil Nadu will focus on AI, value-added manufacturing, and R&D, creating 14,000 high-value engineering jobs across locations. *[Business Standard]*

Sapient Finserv merges with Equirus Group to create ₹35,000-crore wealth platform: Sapient's founders Amit Bivalkar and Pallav Bagaria will join Equirus Wealth's leadership team and board as part of the transaction. *[Business Line]*

Tata Electronics acquires India unit from Chinese iPhone supplier Justech-CNBC: Tata Electronics Justech India acquisition: This \$100 million acquisition aims to bolster Tata's iPhone production capacity, aligning with a significant increase in Apple smartphone exports from India. *[The Economic Times]*

Vedanta's Rs 17,000 crore acquisition of Jaiprakash Associates gets CCI nod: Vedanta Limited's acquisition of Jaiprakash Associates Limited has received approval from the Competition Commission of India. This marks a significant step in Vedanta's Rs 17,000 crore bid. *[The Economic Times]*

Don't relax MPS requirements-Easing rules won't aid corporate governance: The Indian capital market's growth has been truly impressive in recent times. Since 2019, the market cap-to-GDP ratio has increased from 81% to 135%. *[Business Standard]*



MSMEs and Start-ups

Finance ministry to review US tariff impact on MSME sector on Monday: The Ministry of Finance is scheduled to hold a review meeting on Monday with public-sector banks (PSBs) to assess the impact of the punitive tariffs by the United States (US) on the micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) sector and evaluate their credit requirements, a senior government official said on condition of anonymity. *[Business Standard]*

Tide to invest ₹6,000 crore in India, create 800 new jobs over five years: UK fintech Tide will invest 500 million euros (₹6,000 crore) in India over five years from 2026, creating 800 jobs as it deepens its commitment to the country's fast-growing SME sector. *[Business Standard]*

New interest subvention scheme soon for MSME exporters: The government is set to unveil a revamped Interest Subvention Scheme, offering a targeted 3% interest subsidy exclusively to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (MSME) exporters. *[Financial Express]*

Startups to add \$1 trn to economy-HSBC India: Indian startups are forecast to contribute \$1 trillion to the domestic economy and generate 50 million new jobs, by 2030, according to HSBC India. India's startup ecosystem, the bank said, is among the most dynamic and fastest growing in the world. *[Financial Express]*

How Devnagri AI is helping MSMEs overcome their dependency on English to grow their businesses: Once you break the English dependency, MSMEs start operating like digital-native enterprises, says Nakul Kundra (NK), Co-founder, Devnagri AI. *[The Economic Times]*



Employment and Industrial Relations

Wage trends-A complex picture: Global wage growth continues to lag behind GDP growth, but wage inequality seems to have come down, thanks to China. *[Business Line]*

EPFO eases norms, early withdrawal up to 100% allowed: CBT decided to simplify the partial withdrawal provisions of EPF Scheme by merging 13 complex provisions into a single, streamlined rule categorised into three types. *[Business Line]*

AI disruption reshaping jobs in India's USD 245 bn technology, CX sectors-NITI Aayog: Artificial intelligence is poised to disrupt India's tech and CX sectors, potentially displacing routine roles. However, Niti Aayog's roadmap highlights an opportunity to create up to 4 million new AI-first jobs in the next five years. *[The Economic Times]*

EPFO plans new benchmarks for EPF, EPS, and EDLI investment returns: The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), which manages the retirement savings of India's formal workforce, is working on devising a separate benchmark for the yields on investments under the three social security schemes it operates – the employees' provident fund (EPF), pension scheme (EPS) and a deposit-linked insurance cover (EDLI). *[Business Standard]*

States, UTs to be ranked on labour welfare steps: The Ministry of Labour and Employment will launch an annual index in 2026 to evaluate states and union territories on their implementation of labour welfare measures. This index will rank them based on inclusiveness, efficiency, and innovation, aiming to foster competitive federalism and attract investments. *[The Economic Times]*

India's job market likely to grow 4.4% in second half of 2025-26, up from 2.8% in first half-TeamLease Services: India anticipates a 4.4% net job growth in the latter half of 2025-26. Large companies are leading this hiring surge. E-commerce, tech startups, logistics, and retail sectors show strong expansion. Employers prioritize value hiring, focusing on productivity and essential skills like communication and critical thinking. *[The Economic Times]*



Industrial Finance

InCred Capital plans to raise Rs 500 crore, become unicorn: InCred Capital, the investment banking, brokerage, and asset management arm of the InCred Group, is targeting a Rs 500-crore equity fundraising. *[Financial Express]*

Artha India Ventures secures first close of Rs 250 crore for micro-VC fund: This second micro-VC fund of the family office will invest in 36 seed-stage startups across premium consumption, fintech infrastructure, applied AI, and deep tech. *[The Economic Times]*

NBFCs, NBFC-MFIs contribute 86 pc of microfinance client base: NBFCs and NBFC-MFIs are central to India's microfinance sector. They serve most clients and hold the largest loan portfolio. This sector is vital for financial inclusion, helping millions access credit. *[The Economic Times]*

EnerGrid eyes \$500 million fundraise to build greenfield energy projects: EnerGrid is seeking substantial funding to develop new greenfield transmission and battery energy storage projects across India. This initiative aims to strengthen the national grid and support the energy transition. *[The Economic Times]*

Credit growth of PSU banks outperformed private banks-DFS Secretary: Public sector banks are showing renewed strength and resilience. Credit growth now surpasses private banks. This improvement stems from better due diligence and credit standards. Customers are returning due to increased efficiency and transparency. *[The Economic Times]*

Growth rate of digital loans moderates in Q1FY26-FACE report: The share of digital loans by value has grown from 12 per cent in FY23 to 20 per cent in Q1FY26. The volume share, however, has risen from 67 per cent in FY23 to 80 per cent in Q1FY26. *[Business Standard]*



Technology and Innovation

Moglix adopts supply-chain hedging as India eyes chip self-reliance: B2B platform Moglix is securing global suppliers for critical components as it aligns with India's expanding semiconductor and electronics ambitions. *[Business Standard]*

Muse, NPCI join hands for India's first wearable payments ecosystem: The new ecosystem allows users to make instant, secure payments by tapping Muses' smart ring on any NFC-enabled PoS terminal. *[Business Standard]*

'As we move from 5G to 6G, AI will replace lot of functions'-DoT Secretary: Mittal said while AI is being used for good, there is also risk associated with AI for its bad usage and hence there is need to remain vigilant about the use of technology. *[Financial Express]*

LG, Samsung turn to Indian brains to power future chips: South Korean tech giants LG Electronics and Samsung Electronics are significantly increasing their investment in India's engineering talent, recognising the nation's shift from cost-competitiveness to capability superiority. *[The Economic Times]*



Industrial Infrastructure, Clusters and SEZs

Power sector opening up for new players-DG AIDA: Opening of the power distribution sector to more than one player in an area, if accepted, may take India's electricity sector to a more competitive region. *[Business Line]*

DPIIT launches PM GatiShakti Offshore for integrated planning: The digital platform aims to strengthen India's Blue economy and support the nation's transition toward green energy and sustainable coastal growth, says the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). *[Business Line]*

Tata AutoComp Systems seeks to tap opportunities in railways sector: The company has already stitched partnerships with global technology leaders -- Skoda, Compin Fainsa, and Air International Thermal Systems to bring world-class products and technologies to the Indian market. *[Business Line]*

TVS ILP invests ₹250 crore to build world-class logistics park in Visakhapatnam: The facility, located near key transport hubs such as Vizag Airport and Port, is being developed in phases, with 4 lakh sq. ft. already ready to occupy. *[Business Line]*

Google, Adani, Airtel join hands to build India's largest \$15-billion AI data hub in Visakhapatnam: Google, Adani Enterprises, and Bharti Airtel are investing \$15 billion over five years to build India's largest AI hub and data centre campus in Visakhapatnam. This initiative will feature gigawatt-scale data centres powered by clean energy, new subsea cable landings, and a robust fibre network, aiming to bring Google's AI capabilities closer to Indian businesses and developers. *[The Economic Times]*

Three major ports recognised as Green Hydrogen Hubs: Three major Indian port authorities – Deendayal, V.O. Chidambaranar, and Paradip – have been formally recognized as Green Hydrogen Hubs. This initiative aligns with the nation's net-zero goals by 2070, fostering industrial participation and investment in clean fuel technologies through a cluster-based development model. *[The Economic Times]*

India plans new transport authority to fix infrastructure flaws: India is establishing a federal Transport Planning Authority to coordinate infrastructure projects across aviation, highways, shipping, rail, and urban planning. This move aims to curb wasteful spending, improve project viability, and avoid delays, drawing inspiration from international models. *[The Economic Times]*



Sustainable Industrialisation

ACME Group plans ₹5,000 cr investment to set up 1.2 MTPA DRI facility: ACME Group is currently in the process of setting up a green hydrogen facility in Odisha and is already in advanced stages of constructing another green hydrogen facility in Oman. *[Business Standard]*

Serentica Renewables to develop 170 MW hybrid project for MRF: The clean energy will be supplied from a new hybrid renewable energy project with a total installed capacity of around 170 MW, currently under development by Serentica. *[Business Line]*

Delhi's new EV policy may offer higher subsidies, more tax concessions, cheaper loans, and scrappage benefits: Delhi is preparing its second Electric Vehicle policy for early next year. The government plans to boost incentives and improve charging infrastructure. This aims to encourage electric two-wheeler adoption, especially for gig and delivery workers. *[The Economic Times]*

Envision Energy India to supply 152 smart wind turbines to Andhra Pradesh: In an exciting development for renewable energy in India, Envision Energy India is set to provide 152 advanced wind turbines to Evren, facilitating a robust 501.6 MW project in Andhra Pradesh. *[The Economic Times]*



Sectoral News

Telecom infra maker Prose Technologies expects 15-20% growth in 2026: Fakhri noted that Prose Technologies is also aiming to serve neighbouring markets from its India base, with a focus on Southeast Asia and West Asia. *[Business Standard]*

India's growing significance in aviation market attracts Safran: French aerospace major Safran's board is set to visit India, underscoring the country's growing significance as a key aviation market, industry sources told businessline. *[Business Line]*

India to launch National Critical Mineral Stockpile to secure rare earth elements amid global supply chain concerns: India is establishing a National Critical Mineral Stockpile to secure rare earth elements, a response to China's export curbs. This initiative aims for a two-month reserve, encouraging private sector involvement. *[The Economic Times]*

Nelco to tap enterprises, govt sectors to bag next-gen satcom service deals: Nelco, part of the Tata Power family, is setting its sights on the burgeoning market for satellite communication services aimed at businesses and government entities in India. Although the retail sector grapples with high operational costs, the firm expects a significant uptick in B2B and B2G satellite communication by 2030. *[The Economic Times]*

Behind the electronics surprise-India's path to \$500 billion by 2030: It was conceived as a "Make in India" boost to the electronics component industry across sectors — from mobile devices and consumer electronics to auto, industrial electronics, and telecom. *[Business Standard]*

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