

October 16, 2025 – Thursday

Economy

Jobless rate inched up to 5.2% in Sep, rural saw sharp rise: PLFS

Labour markets lost momentum in September as the unemployment rate rose marginally to 5.2 per cent from 5.1 per cent in August as the rural areas show a sharper rise in joblessness on account of the sowing season getting over. The headline unemployment rate for people of age 15 years and above in the current weekly status (CWS) terms for rural areas rose to 4.6 per cent in September from 4.3 per cent in August — the highest since June. For urban areas, it went marginally up to 6.8 per cent during the month from 6.7 per cent in August, according to the monthly periodic labour force survey (PLFS) data, released by the National Statistics Office (NSO) on Wednesday.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/jobless-rate-inches-up-to-5-2-in-sep-plfs-125101501355_1.html

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. Experts have said that the dip in August could be due to the uncertainty in the global economic scenario after the US tariffs. The actual ODI outflows during April-August FY26 grew by 29 per cent compared to the same period last year to $10.2 billion, according to the data.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-overseas-investments-decline-august-2025-us-tariffs-impact-125101501028_1.html

Finance

Credit guarantee may be doubled, fee reduced for well-run MSMEs

The government may double the support to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) under the Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme (MCGS) to ₹200 crore for well-run firms and look at other modifications, including reducing the guarantee fee, to expand coverage of the initiative aimed at providing a boost to manufacturing in the country. Preliminary discussions have been held with stakeholders such as banks and industry in the past two months to explore measures to bolster the scheme, said people familiar with the matter.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/credit-guarantee-may-be-doubled-fee-reduced-for-well-run-msmes/articleshow/124588225.cms

ULI 'turning point' in providing affordable credit: RBI deputy governor

The Unified Lending Interface (ULI) marks a "turning point" in providing affordable credit at scale in the country, said Swaminathan J, deputy governor at Reserve Bank of India, on Wednesday, comparing the upcoming platform to the success of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). ULI was launched in August 2024 to connect borrowers, lenders and digital loan service providers to create a digital lending platform that will reduce the time for appraisals, especially for smaller borrowers in rural areas, and simplify multiple technical integrations.

https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/rbi-swaminathan-unified-lending-interface-uli-credit-access-digital-125101500460_1.html

Sebi chief urges public interest directors to strengthen governance at MIIs

Tuhin Kanta Pandey, chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), on Wednesday urged public interest directors (PIDs) at market infrastructure institutions (MIIs) to move from traditional oversight to strategic stewardship. Speaking at the Public Interest Directors Conclave, the Sebi chairman said that the role of PIDs will increase in significance and will also be under increased scrutiny.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/sebi-chief-tuhin-kanta-pandey-pids-governance-market-infrastructure-125101501159_1.html

Industry

Auto industry expects to end FY26 with positive growth despite geopolitical concerns: SIAM

The automobile industry on Wednesday said the sector expected to close the fiscal year in a positive growth trajectory while it remains watchful of geopolitical developments. The rollout of GST 2.0 reforms, coupled with income tax relief to common taxpayers is expected to sustain buying interest across all vehicle segments through the festive and post-festive months, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) said.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/auto-industry-expects-to-end-fy26-with-positive-growth-despite-geopolitical-concerns-siam/article70166712.ece

India's wearables firms venture abroad as local market wears a weary look

Indian wearable companies are looking beyond domestic borders for growth. Facing a slowdown in India, brands like Boat, Noise, and Fire-Boltt are entering markets in Southeast Asia, the UAE, and Europe. They are partnering with local distributors and exporting products. This global push aims to offset declining sales in India.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/electronics/indias-wearables-firms-venture-abroad-as-local-market-wears-a-weary-look/articleshow/124587301.cms

Festive demand, tech push lift India's PE-VC deal value to $26 bn in 2025

Private equity (PE) and venture capital (VC) investments in India have touched a three-year high of $26 billion, underscoring renewed global confidence in the country's economic trajectory. Strong agricultural output, robust monsoon, and a revival in consumer demand during the festival season have created a fertile environment for capital deployment across sectors, according to an Equirus report. The momentum marks a significant turnaround for India’s investment landscape.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-pe-vc-investments-surge-26-billion-2025-equirus-report-125101501072_1.html

FMCG industry value growth pegged at 6.2% in September quarter: Bizom

The FMCG industry garnered value growth of 6.2 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) in the July-September quarter led by dairy products, staples and chocolates & confectionery categories, according to data sourced from retail intelligence platform Bizom. Urban India continued to lag behind with value growth of 5.4 per cent y-o-y during the September quarter, while value growth of non-urban regions was pegged at 6.7 per cent.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/fmcg-industry-value-growth-pegged-at-62-per-cent-in-september-quarter-bizom/article70167860.ece

GCC hiring in India rose 5-7% in July-September quarter: Report

India's Global Capability Centres witnessed a sequential hiring growth of 5-7 per cent during the July-September quarter, with most demand stemming from AI and data, platform engineering, cloud and FinOps and cybersecurity roles, says a report. According to the Quess Corp's India's GCC Tech Talent Landscape: Q2 FY26 report, sectors like BFSI, Manufacturing, Automotive, Energy, Technology and Hardware have become the main pillars of GCC growth. "India's GCC evolution is entering its most strategic phase yet, one defined by precision, not proliferation. The second quarter reflected a measured 5-7 per cent quarter-on-quarter hiring growth, highlighting a shift from scale to

capability-led maturity, with AI, FinOps, and platform reliability emerging as core priorities," Quess Corp CEO - IT Staffing Kapil Joshi said.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/gcc-hiring-in-india-rises-5-7-in-july-september-quarter-report-125101500859_1.html

India's EV ambitions may hit regulatory bump as draft building code curbs basement charging

Proposed National Building Code amendments restricting EV charging in basements could significantly hinder India's ambitious 30% EV adoption target by 2030. Experts warn these provisions, citing fire safety, ignore global evidence of EV safety and urban realities, potentially deterring buyers and developers.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/indias-ev-ambitions-may-hit-regulatory-bump-as-draft-building-code-curbs-basement-charging/articleshow/124579880.cms

Agriculture

Centre released ₹3,700 crore under PM-FME scheme; over 1 lakh entrepreneurs trained, says Nirmala Sitharaman

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the release of over ₹3,700 crore under the PM-FME scheme, supporting over one lakh entrepreneurs with training and ₹11,000 crore in loans for micro food processing units. She also launched the PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana, aiming to empower farmers through value addition and market access.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/centre-released-3700-crore-under-pm-fme-scheme-over-1-lakh-entrepreneurs-trained-says-nirmala-sitharaman/articleshow/124587586.cms

India launches global AgXelerate platform to connect agri-innovators with global markets

Launching from the vibrant heart of New Delhi, the innovative platform Global AgXelerate is set to transform the agricultural landscape in India. This new initiative is designed to seamlessly connect local agricultural pioneers with international markets, engaging a network of startups, incubators, and investors from around the world.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/india-launches-global-agxelerate-platform-to-connect-agri-innovators-with-global-markets/articleshow/124582304.cms

India's coffee carry forward stocks for 2025-26 likely to be higher

India's carry-forward stocks of coffee for the year 2025-26, starting October, are likely to be higher than normal as export volumes have slowed down due to high prices, while a section of growers have held back their produce anticipating higher prices. Coffee prices have been volatile in the recent months and stakeholders said a section of growers are not in a hurry to sell waiting for prices to move up further. India, the seventh largest producer of the coffees, exports over two thirds of its annual output of around 3.6 lakh tonnes.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/indias-coffee-carry-forward-stocks-for-2025-26-likely-to-be-higher/article70167318.ece

Infrastructure

India's housing market gets 'premium', with surging value despite sales dip

India's housing sales momentum is increasingly moving towards premium residences, with transactions rising despite a fall in absolute sales, according to a report by digital real estate platform PropTiger. The report stated that sales across India's top residential markets saw a 1 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) decline in Q3 CY2025 (July to September), with over 95,547 units sold during the quarter, compared to 96,544 a year earlier. Despite this drop in sales, the total value of transactions has surged 14 per cent on-year to Rs 1.52 lakh crore, indicating a strong luxury housing demand.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-s-housing-market-gets-premium-with-surging-value-despite-sales-dip-125101501337_1.html

Housing sentiment index rebounds despite the prices staying high

India's real estate sector is bouncing back with vigor, highlighted by an increasing positive sentiment among potential buyers. Despite high price tags, the spotlight is on Chennai, where eclectic and budget-friendly locales are drawing

attention. Mid-range residential options are witnessing a surge in demand, particularly among those looking for builder floors and smaller, semi-furnished homes.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/property-/-cstruction/housing-sentiment-index-rebounds-despite-the-prices-staying-high/articleshow/124586948.cms

Vande Bharat 4.0 to be ready in 18 months: Railways Minister

India will soon see next-generation Vande Bharat trains. These advanced trains are expected within 18 months. Indian Railways also plans to build 7,000 kilometers of Dedicated Passenger Corridors by 2047. These corridors will allow trains to run at speeds up to 350 km per hour. The new Vande Bharat versions will focus on improved passenger comfort and overall coach quality.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/railways/vande-bharat-4-0-to-be-ready-in-18-months-railways-minister/articleshow/124587923.cms

Energy

Centre plans tighter rules for green power to safeguard grid stability

India plans to tighten rules on renewable energy to protect its grid stability, requiring solar and wind power producers to stick more closely to their supply schedules or face penalties and loss of revenue. The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission is considering further changes to how the gap between scheduled and actual power generation is calculated, according to a document posted on its website. The move follows last year's decision to narrow the allowed limits for such deviations.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/centre-plans-tighter-rules-for-green-power-to-safeguard-grid-stability-125101500257_1.html

Power network sharing proposal needs to address legacy PPAs: Former secy

The ambitious proposal by the power ministry to allow network sharing between distribution licensees operating in the same geographical area will face three key challenges, said a former bureaucrat. According to him, they include sharing of fixed cost of legacy power purchase agreements (PPAs), cross-subsidy burden and discom losses above normative levels. The proposal is part of the new Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025 floated by the ministry for public consultation. This provision for network sharing among distribution licensees was there in the last Electricity (Amendment) Bill too. That Bill lapsed in 2024.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/govt-s-network-sharing-proposal-will-have-to-address-legacy-ppas-issues-125101500965_1.html

States

TN government presents first supplementary estimates for 2025-26

Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu on Wednesday presented the first supplementary estimates for ₹2,914.99 crore for 2025-26 in the Assembly. The Supplementary Estimates are presented mainly to obtain the approval for expenditure on items that have been sanctioned since the presentation of Budget Estimates 2025-26 and to enable recoupment for advances made from the Contingency Fund.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/tn-government-presents-first-supplementary-estimates-for-2025-26/article70166735.ece

Telangana Govt begins exercise on new mining policy

Telangana Government will be framing a new mining policy to optimise the use of minerals for development of the State and also to augment non-tax revenue. The Government is now roping in consultancies to hammer out and suggest key policy frameworks and has also called for Requests For Proposals (RFP) from them to take up the task.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/telangana-govt-begins-exercise-on-new-mining-policy/article70167574.ece

Proud moment for Gujarat and India, Chief Minister Patel on Ahmedabad as proposed CWG host

The recommendation of Ahmedabad as the host city for the 2030 Commonwealth Games (CWG) was a proud moment for Gujarat as well as India, said Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Wednesday. Ahmedabad, Gujarat's commercial hub, was recommended as the proposed host of the 2030 CWG by Commonwealth Sport's Executive Board. A final decision will be taken on November 26 at the body's General Assembly after the recommendation is sent to the full membership of Commonwealth Sport.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/sports/proud-moment-for-gujarat-and-india-chief-minister-patel-on-ahmedabad-as-proposed-cwg-host/article70168531.ece

Healthcare

Govt to bring law for strict quality checks, monitoring of drugs, cosmetics

Amid growing demand for stricter compliance with safety and quality control norms for medical products, the Centre is framing a law to strengthen the legal framework for drug quality testing and market surveillance, along with regulation of medical devices and cosmetics. One of the major reasons behind the drafting of the law is the repeated complaints and concerns flagged by health regulators across the globe, including the WHO, over serious quality lapses by Indian drug manufacturers. The draft of the 'Drugs, Medical Devices and Cosmetics Act 2025', which the government aims to introduce in the upcoming Winter session of Parliament, was presented by Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) Dr Rajeev Raghuvanshi at a high-level meeting of the Union health ministry held on Tuesday, the sources said.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/govt-to-bring-law-for-strict-quality-checks-monitoring-of-drugs-cosmetics-125101500666_1.html

External

India keen to raise energy purchases from US for 'win-win' trade deal

India is looking for a “win-win solution” for both sides in its trade talks with the US that would also address the “tariff issue”, with New Delhi keen to make additional energy purchases of up to $15 billion from Washington, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said on Wednesday. He said a team of officials from the department of commerce is currently in Washington for the trade talks and he will be joining the team for negotiations on Thursday, with both sides focusing on an early conclusion of the proposed trade agreement. As announced by US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in February, the official deadline for the first tranche of the Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) continues to remain until the fall of 2025.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-us-125101501389_1.html

India, EU trade pact talks in last leg: Commerce Secy

India and the European Union are on the brink of finalizing their free trade agreement negotiations. Progress has been remarkably smooth, with expectations to wrap up by December. Officials are currently focused on the intricate Rules of Origin. Next month, EU delegates are set to visit New Delhi to further these discussions.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-eu-trade-pact-talks-in-last-leg-commerce-secy/articleshow/124581089.cms

India proposes supplying Akash missile system to Brazil during talks

India is learnt to have pitched for supply of Akash missile system to Brazil as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday held wide ranging talks with Brazilian Vice President Geraldo Alckmin here. During the meeting, the two leaders "identified priority areas" for joint work, including exploring opportunities for co-development and co-production of defence equipment. Defence Minister of Brazil, Jos Mcio Monteiro Filho, was also present during the meeting, the defence ministry said in a statement.
https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/india-proposes-supplying-akash-missile-system-to-brazil-during-talks-125101600005_1.html

Russia to boost banana import from India

In a fresh twist to international trade, Russia is poised to become a major player in the banana market, turning its gaze towards India for imports. The Russian agricultural oversight body, Rosselkhoznadzor, has revealed plans to source anywhere from 300,000 to 500,000 metric tonnes of bananas annually.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/russia-to-boost-banana-import-from-india/articleshow/124586367.cms

India's exports up 6.74% in September, trade deficit stood at $32.1 bn

India's exports grew by 6.74 per cent to $36.38 billion in September despite global headwinds. Imports jumped 16.6 per cent to $68.53 billion. The country's trade deficit stood at $32.1 billion during the month. Imports surged due to the increase in imports of gold, silver, fertiliser and electronics. In April-September this fiscal, exports increased by 3.02 per cent to $ 220.12 billion. Imports rose 4.53 per cent to $375.11 billion, the commerce ministry data showed.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-s-exports-up-at-6-74-in-september-trade-deficit-stood-at-32-1-bn-125101500744_1.html

India bans import of roasted areca nuts below ₹351/kg, exemptions for EOUs and SEZs

The government on Wednesday announced a ban on imports of roasted Areca nuts priced below Rs 351 per Kg. "The import of roasted Areca nut, having CIF value less than Rs 351 per Kg is prohibited," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notification. However, the ban is not applicable to imports by 100 per cent export-oriented units (EOUs) in SEZ and imports under the Advance Authorisation Scheme.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/india-bans-import-of-roasted-areca-nuts-below-351kg-exemptions-for-eous-and-sezs/article70169763.ece

India revises up base import price of gold and vegetable oils

India has increased the base import prices for gold, silver, and all vegetable oils to align with escalating global market rates. This bi-fortnightly revision impacts tax calculations for importers, with gold now at $1327 per 10 grams and silver at $1663 per kg.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-revises-up-base-import-price-of-gold-and-vegetable-oils/articleshow/124594732.cms

Indian govt creates funds to promote carabeef exports, may get ₹30 cr/year

The Commerce Ministry has created a commodity-specific fund for promoting buffalo meat (carabeef) exports from India. Exporters need to pay ₹250/tonne to the official agri export promotion body Apeda from October 29 at the time of applying online for the health certificate, which is mandatory before physical shipments are allowed by the Customs. This may help the government collect over ₹30 crore per year. In a notification on October 14, the Directorate-General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said: “The export of chilled/frozen meat shall be permitted subject to submission of proof of submission of proof of remittance to the Meat Export Development Fund (MEDF), operated by Apeda.”
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/indian-govt-creates-funds-to-promote-carabeef-exports-may-get-30-cryear/article70167605.ece

China files WTO complaint over India EV, battery subsidies

China filed a complaint to the WTO on Wednesday over India's EV and battery subsidies, saying the measures give Indian domestic industries an unfair competitive advantage and undermine China's interests, Chinese commerce ministry said in a statement. China will take "firm measures" to effectively safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of its domestic industries, the ministry added.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/china-files-wto-complaint-over-india-ev-battery-subsidies/article70166324.ece