

November 04, 2025 – Tuesday

Economy

PM Modi rolls out ₹1 trn RDI fund for 'high-risk, high-impact projects'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday unveiled a ₹1 trillion research, development and innovation (RDI) fund aimed at spurring private sector-led research and technological advancement across the country. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) will serve as the nodal ministry for the fund, which will operate through a two-tiered structure. At the first level, a Special Purpose Fund (SPF) under the Anusandhan National Research Foundation will act as the custodian. Rather than investing directly in startups or companies, the SPF will channel capital through a second layer of professional fund managers.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/govt-launches-1-trillion-rdi-fund-to-boost-research-and-innovation-125110301366_1.html

Rise in new orders after GST cuts drove manufacturing PMI to 59.2 in Oct

Manufacturing sector conditions in India continued to strengthen in October, buoyed by goods and services tax (GST) relief, productivity gains and tech investment that led to a faster increase in new orders, boosting output growth and buying levels, showed a private survey on Monday. The headline HSBC purchasing managers index (PMI) figure, compiled by S&P Global, for October rose to 59.2 from 57.7 in September. The figure remained only marginally lower than the record high of 59.3 in August.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-manufacturing-pmi-october-2025-domestic-demand-growth-125110300459_1.html

India's festival spending jumps to $68 bn after GST cuts as demand rises

India’s sweeping consumption tax cut drove shoppers to splurge on items from cars to kitchenware during the month-long festival season, boosting the economy that was slammed with a 50 per cent import levy by the US. Spending between Sept 22 and Oct 21 — the period between the Hindu festivals of Navratri and Diwali — increased 8.5 per cent from the same time last year, according to data from retail intelligence platform Bizom shared with Bloomberg News.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-s-festival-spending-jumps-to-68-bn-after-gst-cuts-as-demand-rises-125110300367_1.html

Govt sees no threat to fiscal deficit target for FY26

Despite a projected tax revenue shortfall and higher subsidy spending in 2025-26, the government is confident that “scheme savings” and robust non-tax revenues will fully offset the gap, keeping the fiscal deficit on track to fall to 4.4% of GDP from 4.8% in FY25, sources told FE. The additional negative fiscal impact is seen at around Rs 1.15 lakh crore, going by the extra subsidies estimated for food and fertiliser, compensation to oil marketing companies (OMCs), and likely net tax revenue shortfall due to income tax relief and goods and services tax (GST) relief announced recently.
https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-govt-sees-no-threat-to-fiscal-deficit-target-for-fy26-4030897/

Finance

RBI likely to meet banks and dealers on Tuesday amid liquidity strain

The Reserve Bank of India will meet select primary dealers and banks on Tuesday, three traders aware of the developments told Reuters, amid concerns that tightening liquidity in the banking system is pressuring the government bond market. The meeting, though without a formal agenda, is expected to focus on current market conditions, the traders said, declining to be named as they are not authorized to speak to the media.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/rbi-to-meet-banks-primary-dealers-amid-liquidity-concerns-in-bond-market-125110300242_1.html

Public sector banks take up tech upgrade to streamline operations

Public sector banks (PSBs) have started undertaking comprehensive technological upgradation in the geographical information system (GIS) and jurisdictional data dictionary (JDD) applications used by banks, according to a government source. This would help streamline workflows, strengthen user management, and provide actionable data insights to enhance efficiency across banking networks.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/banking/public-sector-banks-take-up-tech-upgrade-to-streamline-operations-125110301440_1.html

CASA ratio up a tad as banks aim to protect NIMs

Banks are stepping up efforts to grow current account and savings account (CASA) deposits, in a bid to protect margins amid a competitive deposit environment. Data collated from Capitaline show that the average CASA ratio of 28 banks rose marginally to 36.27% in the July–September quarter, from 36.04% in the previous quarter. In the year-ago period, the ratio stood at 37.45%.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/banking-finance-casa-ratio-up-a-tad-as-banks-aim-to-protect-nims-4030760/

Digital units of public banks to undergo review

The government is gearing up for a comprehensive review of digital banking units with the goal of amplifying financial inclusion and simplifying customer interactions. These innovative units will aid in efforts such as regular customer verification and reclaiming unclaimed assets.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/digital-units-of-public-banks-to-undergo-review/articleshow/125067364.cms

SEBI's new norms to reshape Bank Nifty, impact ETFs and derivatives trading

The Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) new eligibility framework for derivatives on non-benchmark indices is set to reshape the Nifty Bank index, long dominated by large private lenders. The move is expected to broaden sector representation, cut concentration risk and realign passive fund flows, but may disrupt liquidity in the short term.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/stock-markets/sebis-new-norms-to-reshape-bank-nifty-impact-etfs-and-derivatives-trading/article70236959.ece

NFRA rolls out audit toolkit to aid small and medium practitioners

The National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) has issued an audit practice toolkit with a focus on supporting small and medium practitioners of audits. NFRA said that the development and documentation of the audit strategy must be commensurate with the risk profile of the auditee entity. "This toolkit is intended to be a sample document that is scalable and adaptable to different sizes and industry categories of the auditee companies," the regulatory body said in a press statement.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/nfra-rolls-out-audit-toolkit-to-aid-small-and-medium-practitioners-125110301433_1.html

Health, motor insurance policy sales jump on GST exemption, festival cheer

The abolition of the goods and services tax (GST) on insurance products, coupled with the festival season, has lifted sales of health and motor insurance policies in recent months, insurers said. While general insurers expect the impact

of the withdrawal of input tax credit (ITC) to be minimal and are exploring ways to mitigate it, health insurance companies are passing on the cost to distributors.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/insurance/gst-cut-festive-season-health-motor-insurance-growth-125110301324_1.html

Industry

India's bioeconomy sector to reach USD 300 bn by 2030: NITI Aayog report

India's bioeconomy is set to reach USD 300 billion by 2030. Agricultural transformation is key to India becoming a developed nation by 2047. Frontier technologies like climate-resilient seeds and AI will boost productivity and sustainability. Solutions will be tailored for different farmer types. This approach aims for agricultural resilience, rural prosperity, and global competitiveness in agri-tech.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/indias-bioeconomy-sector-to-reach-usd-300-bn-by-2030-niti-aayog-report/articleshow/125057378.cms

'Bumper' October as two-wheeler retail sales top 2.8 million units

Two-wheeler manufacturers had a 'bumper' October ride on festival demand and positive sentiment after reforms in goods and services tax (GST). Together the top five players retailed more than 2.8 million in the month, according to initial estimates from Vahan registration trends. As for electric vehicles (EVs), more than 120,000 units were sold during the month.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/auto/bumper-october-as-two-wheeler-retail-sales-top-2-8-million-units-125110301221_1.html

White collar hiring dips 9% in October amid festive slowdown: Report

The white-collar hiring activity in October declined 9 per cent year-on-year as the Diwali-Dussehra festive holidays temporarily impacted recruitment momentum, a report said on Monday. India's white-collar hiring activity eased in October as the Diwali-Dussehra festive cluster temporarily slowed recruitment momentum, according to the Naukri JobSpeak Index report.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/white-collar-hiring-dips-9-in-october-amid-festive-slowdown-report-125110300883_1.html

Agriculture

Early start to Rabi sowing helps increase area by 15% till Oct end

Total sowing area under all rabi crops has reached 75.8 lakh hectares (lh) as of October 31, against 65.9 lh in the year-ago period, up by 15 per cent. Barring maize, paddy and jowar, the acreage of all other winter-grown crops is higher as per preliminary reports received from States.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/early-start-to-rabi-sowing-helps-increase-area-by-15-till-oct-end/article70236930.ece

India's urea imports jumps 2x to 5.8 million tonnes in April-Oct: Govt

India's urea import has more than doubled to 58.62 lakh tonnes during April-October this year to meet domestic demand, the government on Monday said, while asserting that it has ensured adequate supply of fertilizers to farmers in the summer sowing season. "Between April and October 2025, India imported 58.62 lakh tonnes of agricultural-grade urea, compared to 24.76 lakh tonnes during the same period in the previous year," the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers said in a statement.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/agriculture/india-s-urea-imports-jumps-2x-to-5-8-million-tonnes-in-april-oct-govt-125110301310_1.html

Industry bats for long-term deals; govt aid for DAP under recoveries

The central government has increased the subsidy on phosphatic fertilisers for the second half of 2025-26 to offset the rise in prices. Despite this, companies importing diammonium phosphate (DAP) could still face losses of around ₹900 per bag, as the landed price remains higher than the subsidy announced. The industry, however, remains

hopeful that the Centre's assurance to cover all underrecoveries through a special package, coupled with long-term import agreements, will ensure steady supplies during the peak demand season.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/dap-subsidy-under-recoveries-centre-support-long-term-import-deals-125103101109_1.html

Agri exports up 12 per cent during H1 at $13.93 billion

India's agri exports grew by about 12 per cent during the first half of the current financial year with shipments of products such as non-basmati rice, buffalo meat and pulses among others registering an increase during the period on higher demand. The shipment value of agri products monitored by Apeda grew to $13.936 million during April-Sept 2025-26, up from $12.475 billion in the corresponding previous year.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/agri-exports-up-12-per-cent-during-h1-at-1393-billion/article70236951.ece

Infrastructure

NHAI monetisation plans in fast lane with new offerings

The National Highways Authority of India is accelerating its asset monetisation efforts to meet a ₹40,000-crore target for 2025-26. Following a slow start, NHAI plans to launch its fifth infrastructure investment trust (InvIT-5) and a public InvIT next month, alongside offering six toll-operate-transfer (TOT) bundles to investors.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/roadways/nhai-monetisation-plans-in-fast-lane-with-new-offerings/articleshow/125067741.cms

India flexes to top of APAC's flex office league as GCC demand surges

Driven by rising demand from global capability centres (GCCs) — especially mid-tier global firms entering India for the first time — the country has become the largest market in the Asia-Pacific region for flexible (flex) workspaces. According to a global study by Cushman & Wakefield, India now has over 85 million square feet (msf) of flex office space. Of this, 35 msf has been leased in the past three years — equivalent to more than 500,000 seats.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-flexes-to-top-of-apac-s-flex-office-league-as-gcc-demand-surges-125110301359_1.html

Energy

Power market coupling faces delay, unlikely before December 2027: Report

The proposed power market coupling in the country is unlikely to take effect before December 2027, given the regulatory and procedural challenges involved in the process, according to a report by equity research firm J M Financial. Under market coupling, buy and sell bids from the existing three power exchanges will be aggregated into a single national pool, and a centralised algorithm will determine a uniform market clearing price (MCP) for electricity traded in the spot market. The idea aims to improve market efficiency and ensure optimal price discovery.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/power-market-coupling-delay-report-125110300951_1.html

India trims Russian oil imports by 29% in September, broadens energy sourcing to Nigeria, Angola and Türkiye

India's crude import patterns are undergoing a significant shift as the country diversifies away from Russian barrels under pressure from the US. Petroleum crude imports from Russia dropped sharply by 28.93 per cent, from $4,675 million in September 2024 to $3,322 million in September 2025. This decline follows the additional 25 per cent tariff imposed by the US on purchases of Russian oil, which came into effect on 27th August 2025.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/data-stories/india-trims-russian-oil-imports-by-29-in-september-broadens-energy-sourcing-to-nigeria-angola-and-turkiye/article70235842.ece

States

Chandigarh, Delhi have highest share of services in GVA: NITI Aayog report

The share of services in gross value added (GVA) in 2023-24 was the highest in Chandigarh (88.8 per cent), followed by Delhi (84.1 per cent), said a NITI Aayog report released last week. This indicates that a state or union territory

(UT), while having high per capita income, is also more services oriented. “Richer states/UTs are also more likely to host dynamic, marketable services that drive long-term growth. Moreover, the link between income growth and services sector expansion is mutually reinforcing,” the report titled ‘India's Services Sector: Insights from GVA trends’, which used statistics ministry's data, noted.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/chandigarh-delhi-have-highest-share-of-services-in-gva-niti-aayog-125110301176_1.html

EV makers urge Tamil Nadu to extend 100% road tax waiver beyond 2025 to boost adoption

As the Tamil Nadu Government’s 100 per cent tax exemption for both transport and non-transport Electric Vehicles(EVs) is set to expire by the end of 2025, industry players and experts call for the extension of the critical incentive to spur adoption. Speaking to businessline, EV industry experts suggest that tax exemptions, along with other incentives, have significantly bolstered EV adoption, and a further extension is critical for the continued development of the state’s ecosystem.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/ev-makers-urge-tamil-nadu-to-extend-100-road-tax-waiver-beyond-2025-to-boost-adoption/article70236413.ece

External

India, EU negotiators start talks to resolve outstanding FTA issues

Negotiators of India and the EU on Monday commenced talks to resolve outstanding issues in the proposed free trade agreement, as the deadline to conclude the talks nears, the commerce ministry said. A team of negotiators from the European Union (EU) is here from November 3-7 for negotiations with Indian counterparts on the proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Deliberations during the week will focus on core areas, including trade in goods, trade in services, rules of origin amongst others, along with technical and institutional matters.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-eu-negotiators-start-talks-to-resolve-outstanding-fta-issues-125110301522_1.html

India, New Zealand begin fourth round of talks on free trade agreement

Officials of India and New Zealand on Monday started the fourth round of negotiations in Auckland for the proposed free trade agreement, the commerce ministry said. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will reach Auckland this week to meet his New Zealand counterpart Todd McClay to review the progress of the negotiations.
"The Fourth Round (November 3-7, 2025) of negotiations for the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) commenced today (Monday) in Auckland, New Zealand," the ministry said in a statement.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-new-zealand-begin-fourth-round-of-talks-on-free-trade-agreement-125110301270_1.html

India, Romania to facilitate annual movement of 30,000 skilled Indian professionals

India and Romania have agreed to create a pathway for the annual movement of about 30,000 skilled Indian professionals in line with Romania's sectoral labour market needs, the commerce ministry said on Monday. Romania needs about 1,00,000 non-EU workers annually. Both sides tasked officials to explore mutual recognition of qualifications.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/india-romania-to-facilitate-annual-movement-of-30000-skilled-indian-professionals/article70237605.ece

India, Bahrain launch FTA talks

India and Bahrain on Monday announced the start of negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the two countries and have decided to explore a Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA). This comes at a time when negotiations on a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) are already in progress. The announcement was made in the joint statement issued after the Fifth High Joint Commission (HJC) between India and Bahrain on Monday.
https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-india-bahrain-launch-fta-talks-4030798/

Northern Ireland offers Indian companies a gateway for global growth

Northern Ireland offers Indian companies a strategic gateway to Great Britain and European markets, boasting a skilled workforce, competitive costs, and unique tariff-free access. With strengths in Fintech, Cybersecurity, Manufacturing, Green Technology, and Life & Health Sciences, it presents significant opportunities for bilateral collaboration and sustainable growth.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/northern-ireland-offers-indian-companies-a-gateway-for-global-growth/articleshow/125048489.cms

India could cut trade costs and boost exports through CPTA: Report

India stands to reduce trade costs and significantly boost export competitiveness by embracing paperless trading systems, with such initiatives expected to cut trade costs of economies in the Asia-Pacific region by about 25 per cent, according to a joint report by policy think tanks ICRIER and RIS. Cross-border paperless trade, which builds on the broader idea of paperless trade and refers to conducting trade through electronic communication, is gaining momentum regionally with the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA) being a key driver.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/analysis/india-can-cut-trade-costs-by-25-boost-exports-via-paperless-trade-report-125110301257_1.html

Non-US markets make up for loss of exports for India

India's export diversification strategy is yielding positive outcomes. Exports of cotton readymade garments are increasing to the UAE, France, and Japan. Marine products and certain gems and jewellery are also finding new markets. This shift helps cushion the impact of US tariffs. India's overall merchandise exports saw growth in September.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/non-us-markets-make-up-for-loss-of-exports-for-india/articleshow/125067786.cms

India set to resume approvals for Chinese imports after five-year freeze

India is set to expedite approvals for importing goods from China and other nations, including electronics and steel, signaling a thaw in relations. This move aims to boost local supply and meet surging consumer demand, especially after recent GST cuts. The government is re-evaluating mandatory certifications for overseas plants to ease supply chain disruptions and support domestic industries facing stockouts.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-set-to-resume-approvals-for-chinese-imports-after-five-year-freeze/articleshow/125067393.cms

India to showcase inclusive growth model at Doha Social Development Summit

Union Minister for Labour & Employment Mansukh Mandaviya will represent India at the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD-2) in Doha, Qatar, from November 4 to 6, where he will share India’s transformative journey toward inclusive, digitally enabled, and equitable growth.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/india-to-showcase-inclusive-growth-model-at-doha-social-development-summit/article70236922.ece

GJEPC charts out $100-billion export vision for India’s gem and jewellery sector

India's gem and jewellery sector is targeting $100 billion in exports by 2047. The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council presented policy reforms to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. These include affordable credit, customs modernisation, and a National Gem & Jewellery Park Policy.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/fashion-/-cosmetics-/-jewellery/gjepc-charts-out-100-billion-export-vision-for-indias-gem-and-jewellery-sector/articleshow/125064553.cms