

October 23, 2026 – Friday

Finance

GST return forms likely to be tweaked to curb mismatches

The government plans to revamp goods and services tax (GST) return forms to curb mismatches between sales reported by businesses and the tax they pay, a key trigger for notices from tax authorities. Draft forms will be uploaded on the MyGov portal on November 1 for public feedback until November 30, a senior official said on Thursday. The revised forms will take effect from April 1, 2027. "Based on the industry responses, we are modifying GSTR-1 form, we are improving the IMS so that the need for editing 3B does not arise," said Gaurav Singh, commissioner in the GST Policy Wing of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/gst-return-forms-likely-to-be-tweaked-to-curb-mismatches/articleshow/135125817.cms

GST reforms from November 1 to simplify e-commerce seller registration, fast-track refunds

Simplified Goods and Services Tax (GST) registration for small e-commerce sellers, faster refunds and streamlined documentation are among a series of process reforms likely to take effect from November 1, as the government moves to reduce compliance burdens for businesses. The changes were approved at the 57th GST Council meeting on October 8 and will be rolled out in phases, an official said on Thursday. Reforms that can be implemented through administrative measures are expected to come into force from November 1, 2026, while those requiring amendments to GST law are slated for April 1, 2027.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/gst-reforms-from-november-1-to-simplify-e-commerce-seller-registration-fast-track-refunds/articleshow/135117652.cms

India's interest rate gap with G7 in focus as RBI weighs inflation risks: Report

India's interest rate gap with major developed economies has emerged as an important consideration for monetary policy as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) faces rising inflation risks, according to a report by YES Bank. The report highlighted the importance of maintaining a certain difference between Indian and G7 interest rates to attract foreign debt capital, particularly as the US Federal Reserve is expected to continue its rate-hiking cycle.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/indias-interest-rate-gap-with-g7-in-focus-as-rbi-weighs-inflation-risks-report/articleshow/135113382.cms

Banks make a beeline at the VRR auction to draw liquidity

With liquidity surplus in the banking system shrinking substantially, the RBI's 1-day Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auction on Thursday saw banks placing bids to draw liquidity, aggregating ₹1,62,354 crore against the notified amount of ₹50,000 crore. Liquidity surplus in the banking system has shrunk to ₹542 crore as of October 21, 2026, down from ₹4,86,904 crore as of September 30, 2026.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/banks-make-a-beeline-at-the-vrr-auction-to-draw-liquidity/article71612631.ece

Two more interest rate hikes on cards, maybe even a third

India's repo rate could climb to as high as 6.25% amid stubborn motor-fuel prices, with a high probability of quarter-percent increases during each of the next two reviews and likely another in April in the current hardening cycle, as analysts said the minutes of the October meeting reflected mounting policymaker concerns over broadening inflation risks. The RBI increased the repo rate for the first time in four years by 25-basis-point to 5.50% in October.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/mpc-minutes-two-more-interest-rate-hikes-on-cards-maybe-even-a-third/articleshow/135126768.cms

Industry

NSDC raises Rs 4 crore through Social Stock Exchange for global skilling initiative

The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has raised Rs 4 crore from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) through its maiden issuance of Zero Coupon Zero Principal (ZCZP) instruments on the National Stock Exchange's (NSE) Social Stock Exchange (SSE). The funds raised will be used to provide skilling and employment opportunities to 600 youth from economically weaker other backward classes (OBC) households in Madhya Pradesh.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/nsdc-raises-rs-4-crore-through-social-stock-exchange-for-global-skilling-initiative/articleshow/135121447.cms

Agriculture

India extends duty-free raw sugar import deadline to December 31

India has extended the deadline for allowing duty-free imports of 1 million metric tonnes of raw sugar to December 31 from October 31, an official notification showed on Thursday, giving importers more time to bring in the commodity to the world's biggest sugar-consuming country.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/india-extends-duty-free-raw-sugar-import-deadline-to-december-31/article71613173.ece

Chana sowing holds key to pulses inflation

India's winter chana, or chickpea, acreage could set the direction for inflation in pulses next year, as water shortages and the threat of strengthening El Nino cloud planting prospects. Any fall in planting may prompt exporting countries to step up their efforts to capture a larger share of India's market for the protein-rich food. Chana, India's most consumed pulse, which is central to making everything from salty snacks to nutritious meals, needs adequate soil moisture and cool weather for a good crop. Sowing has started in some regions, but the progress is slow. State advisories to conserve water and shift to less water-intensive crops have added to concerns over winter sowing.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/chana-sowing-holds-key-to-pulses-inflation/articleshow/135125963.cms

Infrastructure

Centre flags land, green tape hurdles in infra projects

The Centre, last month, red flagged to states how delays in land acquisition, green clearances, state permissions and utility shifting are seriously impacting the pace of national linear infrastructure projects besides inflicting heavy cost overruns, ET has learnt. The concerns were shared with states ahead of the Sixth National Conference of Chief Secretaries, which will deliberate on 'Accelerating Linear Infrastructure projects'.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/centre-flags-land-green-tape-hurdles-in-infra-projects/articleshow/135126737.cms

Parliamentary panel selects 25 subjects for review of urban development, Delhi projects

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs has selected 25 subjects for detailed examination during 2026-27, including the PM-eBus Sewa scheme, implementation of the Real Estate (Regulation

and Development) Act and regularisation of unauthorised colonies in Delhi. The subjects selected by the panel cover the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' departments of Urban Development and Capital Development.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/parliamentary-panel-selects-25-subjects-for-review-of-urban-development-delhi-projects/articleshow/135121382.cms

Private equity invests $6.1 billion in real estate in nine months

Private equity firms invested $6.1 billion across 55 real estate transactions in India in the first nine months of CY 2026, consultancy Anarock and FICCI said in a report on Thursday. Data centres overtook offices, attracting 40 per cent of the private equity capital during this period. While data centres garnered $2.5 billion in private equity investments, office spaces secured $1.7 billion infusion.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/real-estate/private-equity-invests-61-billion-in-indian-real-estate-in-nine-months/article71611515.ece

Energy

LNG imports up 9% in Mar-Sep; US, Oman & Nigeria bridge supply gap

A surge in liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipments from the US, Oman and Nigeria helped India more than offset the loss of deliveries from Qatar and the UAE, its top two suppliers before the Iran war, lifting overall imports 9% year-on-year during March-September. The US, Oman and Nigeria accounted for about 68% of India's LNG imports in the seven months to September, up from 25% a year earlier, according to commodity analytics firm Kpler.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/indias-lng-imports-surge-9-amid-supply-gap-from-qatar-and-uae-with-us-oman-and-nigeria-leading-the-charge/articleshow/135125222.cms

India set to meet 2030 green goals, but UN issues a global warning

India's aggressive renewable energy programme has helped the country break its emissions growth trend even as the world is set to miss its goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, an United Nations report said on Wednesday. India is one of only six G20 countries that are likely to achieve their 2030 climate commitments, or nationally determined contributions (NDCs), with existing policies, according to the UN Environment Programme's Emissions Gap Report 2026, an annual assessment of progress in reducing emissions.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/india-set-to-meet-2030-green-goals-but-un-issues-a-global-warning/articleshow/135100051.cms

Telecom

India notifies new telecom rules that allow time-bound exemptions to test emerging technologies

The Indian government has notified new rules that allows certain telecommunication technologies, services, products and business models to be tested in a controlled environment and exempt from certain regulatory requirements, a move that is expected to improve innovation and development in the sector. Under the Telecommunications (Regulatory Sandbox) Rules, 2026, the government can now create regulatory sandboxes on its own initiative or approve certain proposals that have been submitted. The rules provide certain exemptions from requirements and provitions of the 2023 Telecommunications Act and the 1997 Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-policy/india-notifies-new-telecom-rules-that-allow-time-bound-exemptions-to-test-emerging-technologies/articleshow/135107077.cms

States

Maharashtra to unveil dedicated chemicals policy by first week of November

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday said that Maharashtra is in the final stage of formulating a separate policy for the chemicals sector and will unveil the same by the first week of November. The state is also aiming to acquire up to 5,000 acres of land in the vicinity of the greenfield Wadhavan port on the outskirts of Mumbai and develop it as a hub for the chemicals sector, Fadnavis said at an industry event organised by FICCI here.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/maharashtra-to-unveil-dedicated-chemicals-policy-by-first-week-of-november/article71613245.ece

External

India-Germany trade can surge 10-fold, says Piyush Goyal

India-Germany bilateral trade can increase to 310 billion from around 31 billion at present if they focused on co-creating and leveraging complementary strengths, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday, while German economic affairs and energy minister Katherina Reiche called for cutting red tape and working on joint projects. Reiche said the bilateral trade could be doubled. Addressing India-Germany Business Roundtable here, Goyal said the India-EU free trade agreement (FTA) is expected to be signed by the end of this year and should become operational within the next 4-5 months.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-germany-trade-can-surge-10-fold-says-piyush-goyal/articleshow/135125958.cms

India-EU trade deal could become operational in early-2027, Piyush Goyal says

India's proposed free-trade agreement with the European Union could become operational within four to five months after it is signed, trade minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday. The agreement is expected to be signed before the end of the year, he said during a visit to Germany, potentially accelerating market-access opportunities and investment flows between India and the 27-member EU bloc.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-eu-free-trade-agreement-operational-four-five-months-after-signing-piyush-goyal/articleshow/135118473.cms

Domestic cos need strategic approach to tap India-Europe FTA gains: FICCI

Indian companies need to adopt a more strategic approach to the European market to fully benefit from the free trade agreement, as tariff concessions alone will not lead to higher exports, industry chamber FICCI said on Thursday. FICCI Secretary General Anant Swarup said the real challenge would be to convert improved market access into sustained market penetration.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/domestic-cos-need-strategic-approach-to-tap-india-europe-fta-gains-ficci/articleshow/135110995.cms