

October 26, 2026 – Monday

Economy

Private sector activity hits four month high in October

India's private sector activity accelerated to a four-month high in October, driven by an increase in new orders and improving market conditions, according to a survey released on Friday. The HSBC Flash India Composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose to 56.7 in October from 55.9 in the preceding month. The reading was 60.4 a year ago. A reading above 50 signals expansion and one below indicates contraction. "Private-sector manufacturing activity continued to expand, with growth of output and new orders broadly unchanged at last month's levels," said Pranjul Bhandari, chief India economist at HSBC. Manufacturing PMI declined to 54.9 in October from 55.1 in September, due to a slowdown in job creation. In contrast, services activity increased to 56.2 from 55.2 during this period.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/private-sector-activity-hits-four-month-high-in-october/articleshow/135153950.cms

Private capex pipeline grows fourfold since 2014, but lending risks rise amid sectoral concentration: Report

India's private capital expenditure (capex) pipeline surged 39 per cent year-on-year as of September 2026, but increasing concentration across a few states and sectors, larger project sizes and potential execution delays pose significant risks for lenders, according to a report by Union Bank of India.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/private-capex-pipeline-grows-fourfold-since-2014-but-lending-risks-rise-amid-sectoral-concentration-report/article71622835.ece

Finance

Banks seek relief from sustainable lending norms for FCNR(B) loans

Banks have reached out to the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) to exclude loans extended by international banking units (IBUs) against Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) [FCNR(B)] deposits from the computation of mandatory sustainable lending targets. As per the existing regulations, IBUs are required to deploy an amount equivalent to at least 5% of their aggregate loans disbursed and specified investments made in the preceding financial year towards sustainable lending and investments.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/banks-seek-relief-from-sustainable-lending-norms-for-fcnrb-loans/articleshow/135196528.cms

Industry

MSME business confidence improves despite rising input costs, manufacturing sentiment strongest: SIDBI

India's micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) remain optimistic about business prospects in the coming quarters despite rising input costs, with business sentiment strongest in the manufacturing sector, according to a survey report by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). The SIDBI MSME Outlook Survey Round 8

(July-September 2026) highlighted growing optimism among MSMEs about future business prospects, supported by an improvement in overall business confidence during the quarter.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/msme-business-confidence-improves-despite-rising-input-costs-manufacturing-sentiment-strongest-sidbi/articleshow/135184407.cms

Distribution reforms: IRDAI extends deadline for feedback till October 31

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has extended the deadline for submitting of feedback on the proposed distribution reforms till October 31, 2026. "The consultation has received an encouraging response, with over 650 comments received so far. In view of the significant interest and to facilitate wider participation, the last date for submission of comments has been extended till 31st October 2026, providing additional time to stakeholders and members of the public to submit their feedback and suggestions,'' the regulator said in a statement.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/distribution-reforms-irdai-extends-deadline-for-feedback-till-october-31/article71623228.ece

Agriculture

Cultivation of large cardamom emerges as a lucrative option for higher income from limited land

Farmers can generate additional income through the cultivation of large cardamom, provided they have access to sufficient water, said Deputy Director, Agriculture, Kulbhushan Dhiman on Sunday. This crop is not damaged by wild animals or birds, offering significant relief to farmers. Furthermore, he said, large cardamom fetches good prices in the market.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/cultivation-of-large-cardamom-emerges-as-a-lucrative-option-for-higher-income-from-limited-land/articleshow/135187114.cms

Centre beats March 2027 target, issues 11 crore unique farmer IDs under AgriStack

The Centre has created 11 crore unique 11-digit Farmer IDs, or Kisan Pehchaan Patra, under the AgriStack framework, five months ahead of the March 2027 deadline, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Saturday. These identification numbers are being issued as part of the Digital Agriculture Mission.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/centre-beats-march-2027-target-issues-11-crore-unique-farmer-ids-under-agristack/articleshow/135165033.cms

Energy

Peak power demand falls as cooling needs ease

India's peak power demand has eased to around 234 GW after remaining above 250 GW for much of the first half of October, as cooling and irrigation requirements begin to decline with the onset of cooler weather and rainfall in many parts of the country. The fall comes after an unusually strong power demand in September and October, when consumption remained elevated amid below-normal monsoon rainfall. Peak demand touched 260 GW on October 5, the highest ever recorded for the month, and remained close to summer levels until October 15. This demand had reached 250 GW on October 15, with only a few days in the first half of the month seeing levels below 240 GW.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/peak-power-demand-falls-as-cooling-needs-ease/articleshow/135196403.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

NICDC launches Bihar Integrated Manufacturing City Gaya Limited, signs 12 MoUs worth ₹4,200 crore

The National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC) has launched Bihar Integrated Manufacturing City Gaya Limited (BIMCGL), signing 12 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) covering approximately 300 acres of land with proposed investments worth ₹4,200 crore at Integrated Manufacturing City (IMC) Gaya, as per a statement by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/nicdc-launches-bihar-integrated-manufacturing-city-gaya-limited-signs-12-mous-worth-4200-crore/article71622528.ece

Keralam govt approves flight services by cooperative sector: CM Satheesan

The Keralam government has granted permission to the Kerala Civil Aviation Development Cooperative Society to launch flight services, Chief Minister V D Satheesan has said. The CM, speaking after inaugurating the silver jubilee celebrations of the Calicut City Service Cooperative Society here on Sunday, said that flight services will be started "for the first time in India" by the cooperative sector.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/keralam-govt-approves-flight-services-by-cooperative-sector-cm-satheesan/article71625587.ece

Healthcare

States urged to enforce ban on reuse of single-use medical devices

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) has directed states to strictly enforce a ban on reuse of single-use medical devices and disposable surgical items, flagging possible violations by some private and corporate hospitals. In a directive dated October 16, the regulator said reusing such devices shall be strictly prohibited in all public and private healthcare facilities under the administrative jurisdiction of the Centre, states and union territories, warning that the practice endangers patient safety and violates medical device regulations.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/healthcare/states-urged-to-enforce-ban-on-reuse-of-single-use-medical-devices/articleshow/135157961.cms

Govt examining high margins beyond cancer drugs

The Centre has told the Supreme Court that while it decided to cap trade margins on anti-cancer drugs at 30 per cent as the most significant cases of high margins are in oncology, it is also actively examining other high margins and malpractices in medicine and hospital consumable pricing.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/science/govt-examining-high-margins-beyond-cancer-drugs/article71623087.ece

External

India brings back duties on specified Chinese titanium dioxide imports

India has reimposed anti-dumping duties of $460-681 per tonne on specified titanium dioxide imports from China, following a fresh investigation that found dumped imports had caused material injury to the domestic industry. The duties will remain in force for five years unless revoked, superseded or amended earlier, the department of revenue said in a notification issued on Saturday.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-brings-back-duties-on-specified-chinese-titanium-dioxide-imports/articleshow/135175778.cms

FICCI seeks Dutch investment in mfg, tech; calls for project-level follow-up

Industry body FICCI has called for greater Dutch investment in India's manufacturing and technology sectors, while pitching for joint ventures, technology partnerships and supplier-development programmes to deepen bilateral economic ties. FICCI Secretary General Anant Swarup said the ongoing visit of Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal to the Netherlands could help translate investment discussions into specific projects by bringing together businesses and government agencies to address issues related to location, technology, infrastructure, suppliers and regulatory approvals.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/ficci-urges-dutch-investment-surge-in-indian-manufacturing-and-tech-amid-growing-trade-relations/articleshow/135169159.cms

India aims to quadruple port capacity by 2047, eyes stronger maritime cooperation with Rotterdam: Piyush Goyal

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has outlined India's ambitious plans to expand its port capacity fourfold by 2047, highlighting significant opportunities for collaboration with the Port of Rotterdam in maritime infrastructure, green energy, carbon capture and sustainable trade.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/shipping-/-transport/india-aims-to-quadruple-port-capacity-by-2047-eyes-stronger-maritime-cooperation-with-rotterdam-piyush-goyal/articleshow/135192950.cms

'Very high' expectations from India-EU FTA, says Rotterdam port chief

The Port of Rotterdam's Chief Executive Officer Boudewijn Siemons said he had "very high" expectations of the India-EU free trade agreement, adding that Europe was looking forward to doing more business with India, PTI reported on Sunday. He said ports and countries must work together in a global economy, adding that these were among the topics he discussed with India's Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, who visited the port on Sunday.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/very-high-expectations-from-india-eu-fta-says-rotterdam-port-chief/articleshow/135193153.cms

German companies plan to double, triple growth in India over 3-5 years: Piyush Goyal

German companies plan to double or triple their growth in India over the next three to five years as they look to cut costs, expand manufacturing and become more competitive in global markets, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday at the conclusion of his visit to Germany. Goyal proposed licensing arrangements under which India and Germany could work as trusted partners on technologies they co-create and help develop the skills of Indian youth. While stressing the need to bring Indian talent back to the country, he ruled out any China-like state-backed programmes to reverse the brain drain.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/german-companies-plan-to-double-triple-growth-in-india-over-3-5-years-piyush-goyal/articleshow/135176061.cms