

November 17, 2026 – Tuesday

Economy

At 4.9%, India's October jobless rate lowest since February

India's unemployment rate fell to 4.9% in October, its lowest level since February, supported by a decline in the female jobless rate, according to official data released Monday. The unemployment rate stood at 5% in September and 5.2% in October 2025. The female jobless rate eased to 5% in October from 5.2% in the previous month, while male unemployment rate remained unchanged at 4.9% for the third consecutive month.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/at-4-9-indias-october-jobless-rate-lowest-since-february/articleshow/135900236.cms

India's consumption story has a missing middle: The widening gap between growth and purchasing power

Latest MoSPI data released last week shows food inflation has risen to 8.94% in October, compared with 7.74% in September. Headline inflation consequently moved above RBI's upper tolerance limit of 6%. Rural headline inflation reached 6.63%, compared with 5.41% in urban areas, while rural food inflation was 9.09%.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/opinion/et-commentary/indias-consumption-story-has-a-missing-middle-the-widening-gap-between-growth-and-purchasing-power/articleshow/135898538.cms

India's economic strength underpins attractive investment climate: Nirmala Sitharaman

India's resilient economic momentum and positive outlook underscore the strength of its investment environment, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday. She was speaking in a meeting with the visiting Board Delegation of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum USISPF here.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/indias-economic-strength-underpins-attractive-investment-climate-nirmala-sitharaman/articleshow/135898862.cms

India's wholesale inflation jumps to 12.3% in October on rising energy prices

India's wholesale inflation surged to a record 12.3% year-on-year in October, from 11.4% in September, driven by rise in fuel prices and higher costs across primary articles, official data published Monday showed. The base effect should show moderate prints in the coming months, economists said.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/indias-wholesale-inflation-jumps-to-12-3-in-october-on-rising-energy-prices/articleshow/135900388.cms

Finance

SEBI sets up sub-group to review IPO, fundraising regulations

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has constituted a 10-member sub-group of its Primary Market Advisory Committee (PMAC) to review key provisions of the Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements (ICDR) Regulations, 2018, covering initial public offerings (IPOs), follow-on public offerings (FPOs), preferential issues and qualified institutional placements (QIPs).

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/sebi-sets-up-sub-group-to-review-ipo-fundraising-regulations/article71708635.ece

FinMin examining suggestions for changes in equity capital gains tax: CBDT

Pointing out that India witnessed strong FPI inflows with the same capital gains tax structure in 2023-24, she said capital markets thrive on strong fundamentals, not necessarily on tax sops. She, however, acknowledged that circumstances had since changed and challenges had grown, and referred to the net FPI outflows over the past few quarters, even as flows may have turned around only recently. “The stakeholders are voicing their concerns louder. I will consider all this,” she said.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/any-decision-on-ltcg-rationalisation-not-expected-before-the-budget-says-cbdt-chairman/article71707483.ece

Gen Z to be roped in for pre-budget talks

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman kicked off consultations for the Union budget for 2027-28 on Monday, with economists suggesting that the government stick to its debt-reduction path despite a rise in expenditure pressures. The customary pre-budget consultations will also feature a special session with youth representatives, experts and bureaucrats. Monday's discussions with economists centred on the current challenges faced by the economy in the aftermath of the West Asia conflict, including the oil price shock.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/gen-z-to-be-roped-in-for-pre-budget-talks/articleshow/135901045.cms

Industry

EU imposes up to 9.5% anti-dumping duties on Indian steelmakers

The EU is imposing tariffs of up to 27.9% on cold-rolled flat steel products from India, Japan, Taiwan, Turkey and Vietnam after finding they were being sold at unfairly low prices in the European Union. The anti-dumping duties on steel widely used for cars, planes, home appliances and construction will apply from Tuesday, the European Commission, the EU’s executive, said on Monday.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/commodities/eu-imposes-up-to-95-anti-dumping-duties-on-indian-steelmakers/article71709244.ece

Agriculture

Sugar prices stay firm as UP mills delay operations

Sugar prices continue to remain firm, as mills only in Maharashtra began production last month in compliance with a government directive to all sugar-producing states to advance crushing to meet festival demand. The government also further tightened measures to regulate sugar sales by mills - an unusual move in the middle of a crushing season when prices normally begin to decline.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/sugar-prices-stay-firm-as-up-mills-delay-operations/articleshow/135901230.cms

India's sugar output more than doubles to 23.59 lakh tonnes by November 15

India's sugar production more than doubled to 23.59 lakh tonnes as of November 15 in the ongoing 2026-27 sugar season, compared to 11.49 lakh tonnes during the corresponding period last year, according to the Indian Sugar & Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA). The sharp increase was primarily driven by the early commencement of crushing operations in Maharashtra, according to the association.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/indias-sugar-output-more-than-doubles-to-23-59-lakh-tonnes-by-november-15/articleshow/135890034.cms

Sugar production reaches 23.59 lakh tonnes, 313 mills start operations: ISMA

The 2026–27 sugar season is progressing steadily, with 313 sugar mills having commenced crushing operations across the country as on 15th November 2026, compared to 311 mills during the corresponding period last year, according to the Indian Sugar & Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA).

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/sugar-production-reaches-23-59-lakh-tonnes-313-mills-start-operations-isma/articleshow/135880767.cms

Energy

Enhancing electrification can reduce India's energy import bill by over 40 pc by FY2035: Report

India could cut its annual fossil fuel import costs by more than 40 per cent by FY2035 if it expedites the transition from fuel-burning to electricity, green hydrogen, and bioenergy, according to a new report. Accelerating electrification would reduce India's expenditure on import of crude oil, natural gas and coal to Rs 7.4 lakh crore by FY2035 from an estimated Rs 12.5 lakh crore in FY2025. On the current trajectory, however, it would rise to Rs 17 lakh crore.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/enhancing-electrification-can-reduce-indias-energy-import-bill-by-over-40-pc-by-fy2035-report/articleshow/135893547.cms

India raises export duty on diesel and aviation turbine fuel

India on Monday raised export levies on diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF), while keeping the duty on petrol exports unchanged. The increase in levies on key fuel exports comes amid elevated inflation in the country. Wholesale inflation rose to 12.3 per cent in October, while retail inflation increased to 6.09 per cent last month.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/commodities/india-raises-export-duty-on-diesel-and-aviation-turbine-fuel/article71709576.ece

External

Egypt, India aim to hit $12 bn bilateral trade target within five years, says Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty

Egypt and India are working to elevate bilateral commerce to USD 12 billion over the next five years while expanding Indian industrial investment in the North African nation, Egypt's Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, and Expatriates Minister Badr Abdelatty said on Monday (local time).
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/egypt-india-aim-to-hit-12-bn-bilateral-trade-target-within-five-years-says-foreign-minister-badr-abdelatty/articleshow/135907406.cms

Cooking oil imports hit 2-year high in October as volumes surge 34%

India's cooking oil imports surged 34% year-on-year and 13% sequentially to 1.78 million tonnes in October, the highest monthly level in over two years. The increase was driven by a cut in import duties in September and concerns over lower domestic oilseed production, according to data from the Solvent Extractors' Association (SEA).
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/cooking-oil-imports-hit-2-year-high-in-october-as-volumes-surge-34/articleshow/135901381.cms

India-EU should ensure maximum utilisation of FTA: Ambassador Jean-Eric Paquet

European Union's Ambassador to India, Jean-Eric Paquet, on Monday said there is a need to ensure that both sides utilise opportunities that the Free Trade Agreement will open up. The agreement will not only ensure that trade flourishes but also will open new opportunities, including those in research and innovation, with Assam poised to benefit from it, he said.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-eu-should-ensure-maximum-utilisation-of-fta-ambassador-jean-eric-paquet/articleshow/135896025.cms

India-ASEAN trade reaches $128.37 billion in FY26; MEA highlights multifaceted partnership

India-ASEAN bilateral trade reached USD 128.37 billion in the financial year 2025-26, while investments from ASEAN countries into India stood at USD 196.96 billion between 2000 and 2025, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Monday, highlighting the multifaceted partnership between the two sides as Prime Minister Narendra Modi departed for Manila to attend the 23rd ASEAN-India Summit and the 21st East Asia Summit.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-asean-trade-surges-to-12837-billion-as-pm-modi-engages-in-key-regional-summits/articleshow/135874363.cms