ICMAI
THE INSTITUTE OF COST ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA
भारतीय लागत लेखाकार संस्थान
Statutory Body under an Act of Parliament
(Under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Corporate Affairs)
CMA

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DAILY NEWS DIGEST BY BFSI BOARD

31 October 2025

ECONOMY

China opens rare earth exports in big relief to Indian firms: More than six months after it imposed export restrictions on rare earth materials, China has issued licences for exports of rare earth magnets to some Indian companies, the MEA has confirmed. The one-year trade truce between China and the US, which includes an understanding on rare earth supplies to Washington, has eased the situation further as additional export curbs have been put off, sources tracking the matter said. The development comes as a relief for the Indian auto and electronics sector, especially EV manufacturers, facing disruption after Beijing restricted supplies in April this year.
(Business Line)

DBS Bank forecasts India to grow by an average 6.7% between 2025 and 2040: India's economy is expected to grow at an average rate of 6.7 per cent over the 15 year period from 2025 to 2040, outpacing China and Asean countries, a report by DBS Bank has said. "We forecast India's economy to grow by an average 6.7 per cent from 2025 to 2040. This will outpace China's 3 per cent average real GDP expansion in the same period, as well the ASEAN-6 region," said Radhika Rao, Senior Economist at DBS Bank, in a report titled, 'India 2025-40 outlook Pivotal juncture.'
(Business Line)

New retail inflation series to include rural housing data: The Statistics Ministry on Thursday proposed including rural sector in preparing housing index for new Consumer Price Index (CPI) series. It also proposed changes in frequency of collection of rent data. The new CPI series, with 2024 as the base year, will replace the current 2012-based series and is expected to be launched in the first quarter of 2026. The item basket and weights for the revised CPI will be derived from the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2023-24. Housing index is one of the key component of CPI with as it has 21.67 per cent expenditure share for urban areas and 10.07 per cent expenditure share at All India level in the existing CPI series. However, the existing series has only urban sector, but now it will be expanded. “The new series will compile the Housing Index for both rural and urban sectors.

(Business Line)

BANKING & FINANCE

Bank credit grows 11.45%, show RBI data: Loans extended by banks grew 11.45% year-on-year as on October 17, continuing to outpace the growth in deposits, the Reserve Bank of India data released on Thursday showed. Advances stood at Rs 192.12 lakh crore as on October 17. On a fortnightly basis, the credit growth marginally declined. Credit growth, which has been muted for a while, is showing signs of revival after rationalisation of GST rates and an increased demand due to festive season. Deposits grew 9.51% YoY to Rs 238.83 lakh crore as on October 17, down 1% on a fortnightly basis. Investments by banks rose 6% YoY to Rs 68.85 lakh crore during the same period.

(Financial Express)

Canara Bank profit up 19% as asset quality improves in Q2: Canara Bank reported a 19% year-on-year (YoY) rise in net profit to Rs 4,773.96 crore for the quarter ended September 2025, driven by improved asset quality. Sequentially, the profit was up marginally by 0.5%. The bank’s net interest income (NII) declined 2% YoY to Rs 9,141 crore in the reporting quarter, while other income grew 41.6% YoY. The net interest margin (NIM) moderated slightly to 2.52% in Q2, compared with 2.55% in the previous quarter. The bank has guided for NIMs in the range of 2.75%–2.80% by the end of FY26. Asset quality showed steady improvement, with the gross non-performing asset

(NPA) ratio declining to 2.35% as on September 30, from 2.69% a quarter earlier. The net NPA ratio improved to 0.54%, down from 0.63% in the previous quarter.
(Financial Express)

HDFC Bank reappoints Kaizad Bharucha as DMD for 3 yrs: HDFC Bank's board has approved Kaizad Bharucha's reappointment as deputy managing director. This reappointment is for a three-year term and requires approval from the Reserve Bank of India. Bharucha has a long association with the bank, joining in 1995. He plays a key role in strategic direction across various banking segments. Prior to joining HDFC Bank, he worked with SBI Commercial and International Bank Ltd. from 1986 to 1995.
(Economic Times)

Banks told to double micro card rollout for faster MSME credit: The Centre has asked banks to double this year's target for rolling out Micro Enterprise Cards (ME-Cards) to ensure that all eligible micro units get faster access to working capital credit, said people familiar with the matter. The government had initially set a goal for banks to issue one million ME-Cards this fiscal year. A model scheme for micro credit cards has already been finalised. Banks are currently in the process of making assessments of eligible borrowers for extending the facility, the people said.
(Economic Times)

INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

Reliance ties up with Google to offer Gemini Pro plan free to some Jio users for 18 months: Reliance Industries Ltd, through its subsidiary Reliance Intelligence Ltd, has partnered with Google to offer Jio users aged 18–25 free access to Google's Gemini Pro AI service worth up to Rs 35,000 for 18 months. The limited-period offer, part of a broader Reliance–Google partnership to accelerate AI adoption across India, opens on October 30. It is available to Jio customers under 25 years of age on eligible Unlimited 5G plans, without any additional cost to Jio.
(Moneycontrol)

Samsung Wallet to support UPI-linked small transactions by using biometrics on devices: Samsung Wallet will start supporting small-ticket UPI-linked transactions by using the biometrics of users registered on their devices, and thereby eliminating the need to use a PIN for every transaction, a senior company official said. Madhur Chaturvedi, Senior Director, Services & Apps Business, Samsung India, said the facility will be rolled out from December. "Samsung Wallet's authentication experience has been enhanced with the introduction of biometric verification, device fingerprint and facial recognition, eliminating the need for PIN entry for everyday use.

(Economic Times)

REGULATION & DEVELOPMENT

SEBI further extends deadline for T+0 settlement implementation for big brokers: Capital market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has announced a further extension of the deadline for Qualified Stock Brokers (QSBs) to implement systems and processes required for the optional T+0 rolling settlement in the equity cash market. The move comes in response to feedback from QSBs highlighting operational challenges in meeting the previous deadline of November 1, 2025, which itself was an extension from the original May 1, 2025 timeline.

(Moneycontrol)

Insurance sector is currently at unstable equilibrium: Irdai chief: Three of India's biggest financial regulators set the tone for discussions on the second day of the Business Standard BFSI Insight Summit 2025. The day kicked off with a fireside chat with Ajay Seth, chairman of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai), who assured stakeholders that as a regulator he has an open mind. "As a regulator, this being my first appearance, I would like to assure that I have an open mind. Based on data, analysis, and the perspectives I hear, I reach a conclusion. But nothing is done without extensive consultation, generating discussion, and building consensus," said Seth.

(Business Standard)

Sebi permits IAs to offer paid second opinion to client on assets: Markets regulator Sebi on Thursday allowed Investment Advisers (IAs) to give a second opinion on a client's assets that are already under a pre-existing distribution arrangement, like those managed by another distributor. The move is aimed at making business easier for IAs and giving investors more flexibility to seek professional opinions. Earlier, IAs were not allowed to charge fees on such assets. Now, IAs can charge a fee of up to 2.5 per cent annually of the asset value for providing a second opinion, Sebi said in its circular.

(Business Standard)

FINANCIAL TERMINOLOGY

BELL CURVE

- A bell curve is a common type of distribution. Also known as the normal distribution, the term "bell curve" originates from the fact that the graph used to depict a normal distribution consists of a symmetrical bell-shaped curve.
- The highest point on the curve, or the top of the bell, represents the most probable event in a series of data (its mean, mode, and median in this case), while all other possible occurrences are symmetrically distributed around the mean, creating a downward-sloping curve on each side of the peak.

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RBI KEY RATES

Repo Rate: 5.50%
SDF: 5.25%
MSF & Bank Rate: 5.75%
CRR: 3.50%
SLR: 18.00%
Fixed Reverse Repo: 3.35%

FOREX (FBIL 1.30 PM)

INR / 1 USD : 88.6048
INR / 1 GBP : 116.9814
INR / 1 EUR : 102.9753
INR /100 JPY: 57.7600

EQUITY MARKET

Sensex: 84404.46 (-592.67)
NIFTY: 25877.85 (-176.05)
Bnk NIFTY: 58031.10 (-354.15)

Courses conducted by BFSI Board

- Certificate Course on Concurrent Audit of Banks
- Certificate Course on Credit Management of Banks
- Certificate Course on Treasury and International Banking
- Certificate Course on Investment Management
- Certificate Course on General Insurance.
- Advance Certificate Course on FinTech

For details please visit BFSIB portal of the ICMAI

Publications by BFSI Board

- Aide Memoire on Infrastructure Financing.
- Aide Memoire on lending to MSME Sector (including restructuring of MSME Credit).
- Guidance Note on the Internal Audit of General Insurance Companies.
- BFSI Chronicle (quarterly issue of BFSIB)
- Handbook on Stock & Book Debts Audit (Revised and Enlarged 2nd Edition)

TEAM BFSIB

Banking, Financial Services & Insurance Board

The Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI)