DAILY NEWS DIGEST BY BFSI BOARD

27 October 2025

ECONOMY

India–US trade deal inches closer, language being finalised: India and the US are "very near" to concluding the proposed bilateral trade agreement as both the sides are converging on most of the issues, an official said on Friday. The official said that the two countries are sorting out the language of the agreement. "We are very near as far as deal is concerned," the official said, adding that not much differences are there now for resolution. Talks are progressing on the agreement and no new issues are acting as hurdle in the negotiations. "We are converging on most of the issues," the official added. Five rounds of talks have been completed so far for the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement between the US and India.

(Business Line)

Private sector capex led the way in H1FY26 with manufacturing boost: Signalling a rebound in private investments, the second quarter of 2025-26 (FY26) witnessed a near doubling in the value of new investment plans from private promoters, with fresh outlays of ₹10.55 trillion in about 1,800 projects, compared to ₹5.69 trillion a year ago. The total value of new investment projects surged 62 per cent in Q2 to cross ₹15 trillion, taking overall investments in the first half (H1) of FY26 to ₹34 trillion, 22.3 per cent higher than the previous six months, according to data from investment monitoring firm Projects Today.

(Business Standard)

PM Modi declares 2026 as Asean-India year of Maritime cooperation: The India-ASEAN Comprehensive Strategic Partnership is emerging as a powerful foundation for global stability and growth, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday. In a virtual address at the India-ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) annual summit, Modi also said that the grouping is a key pillar of New Delhi's Act East Policy. "India has always fully supported 'ASEAN centrality' and ASEAN's outlook on the Indo-Pacific," he said. "Even in these times of uncertainty, the India-ASEAN Comprehensive Strategic Partnership has made steady progress. Our strong partnership is emerging as a powerful foundation for global stability and growth," Modi said.

(Business Standard)

BANKING & FINANCE

American insurers double down on Adani assets as LIC faces heat over investment ties: While India's state insurer faced political heat over its Adani bets, deep-pocketed US insurers quietly poured hundreds of millions into the conglomerate's crown jewels — including the country's busiest airport. In June 2025, just weeks after Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) invested ₹5,000 crore ($570 million) in Adani Ports & SEZ, US-based Athene Insurance led a ₹6,650 crore ($750 million) debt financing round for Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MAIL). The deal, confirmed by Athene's parent Apollo Global Management on June 23, drew participation from several other international insurers, as per a PTI report.

(Business Today)

Relief for lenders as unsecured loan stress abates: Banks have reported a marked improvement in their unsecured personal, micro and credit card loan segment asset quality in Q2FY26, a pain point over the last fiscal, as focus was to underwrite better quality loans to disciplined borrowers. Lenders are now focusing on gradually building back their unsecured loan business as repayment trends improve, senior bankers say.

(Business Line)

HC order gives hope to bank retirees on GST relief on health insurance: A High Court decision granting interim relief on the applicability of GST for group insurance policies of bank retirees is likely to ease the burden on senior citizens. While the GST Council has not exempted GST on group health insurance policies, a Kerala High

Court has passed an interim stay order last week to exempt GST on group policies of retired bankers. The relief granted is not yet permanent and is subject to further Court hearings. Experts note that if upheld permanently and replicated by courts nationwide, it will be a big relief to retired bankers who opt for such group policies. The writ petition was filed by the All India Bank Pensioners & Retirees Confederation and other individuals in relation to the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) group health insurance policy jointly managed by IBA and National Insurance Co.
(Business Line)

SBI to hire 3,500 officers in next 5 months to drive business growth: State Bank of India is set to recruit approximately 3,500 officers to strengthen its operations. The bank is also focusing on increasing its women workforce to 30 percent within the next five years. This initiative aims to enhance gender diversity across all levels of the organization. SBI is implementing various programs to support women employees and foster leadership opportunities.
(Economic Times)

RBI likely to increase the number of NBFCs under upper layer list: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to increase the number of non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) classified under the upper layer, which are subject to enhanced regulatory requirements, sources said. This comes as some of these entities have grown in size and their interconnectedness with the broader financial sector has increased. The sources added that some of big public-sector NBFCs may be added to the upper layer list. Some of them have a loan book of over ₹5 trillion. Though much less in number, such entities had a substantial share in NBFC sector's total assets.
(Business Standard)

INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

CBIC merges 31 customs duty notifications into one consolidated notification: Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) has said that 31 notifications related with Custom Duty have been merged into one to promote ease of doing business. "31 Customs Duty Notifications merged into ONE consolidated Notification viz Notification No 45/2025 dated 24th October 2025. It will be effective from 1st November 2025. A step towards simplification, transparency and ease of doing business," the indirect tax body said in a social media post. This will be effective from November 1, 2025."

(Business Line)

₹13,000 crore mega plan taking shape to make India a global toy hub: The government is developing a mega scheme to support toy manufacturers with financial assistance for new employees they hire, aiming to boost job creation in the sector. Spearheaded by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), a broad ₹13,000 crore scheme aimed at transforming India into a global toy manufacturing hub, while addressing the challenges of India's high reliance on imports and cost disadvantage compared to global behemoths in China and Vietnam. The scheme, if approved by the Union Cabinet, will see targeted financial incentives for domestic manufacturing of toys.

(Business Standard)

FinMin calls meet to spur gold and silver transactions through IIBX: The Ministry of Finance (FinMin) has called a high-level meeting on November 4 to explore measures for enhancing the volume of gold and silver transactions through the India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX) at GIFT City in Gujarat's Gandhinagar, a senior government official told Business Standard. "The upcoming deliberations will focus on the status of bullion trading on IIBX. The exchange will give a presentation on the latest position of bank onboarding, and trading volumes achieved so far.

(Financial Express)

REGULATION & DEVELOPMENT

Municipal Bond now eligible security for repo, reverse repo transactions: The Finance Ministry has permitted using municipal bonds as a security for repo and reverse repo transactions, paving the way for municipal bodies to raise funds for infrastructure projects. By making these bonds acceptable collateral for short-term borrowing, the government has opened the door for banks, mutual funds, insurers, and companies to invest in them, creating a new asset class. Experts say this will expand the investor base for such securities, creating more demand and liquidity. So far, municipal bonds have remained largely illiquid, held by a narrow pool of long-term investors such as pension or ESG funds.

(Business Line)

Madras HC recognises cryptocurrency as 'property' under Indian law: In a significant ruling the Madras High Court has recognised cryptocurrency as a "property" under Indian law that is capable of being possessed and and held in trust, pavign the way for Indian courts to intervene in crypto disputes, according to experts. "There can be no doubt that "crypto currency" is a property. It is not a tangible property nor is it a currency. However, it is a property, which is capable of being enjoyed and possessed (in a beneficial form). It is capable of being held in trust," said Justice N. Anand Venkatesh in ruling.

(Business Line)

Department of Legal Affairs is achieving a major milestone in procedural simplification by successfully integrating Legal Information Management and Briefing System (LIMBS) with Public Financial Management System (PFMS): In line with the Government of India's focus on efficiency, transparency, and digital governance under Special Campaign 5.0, the Department of Legal Affairs (DLA), Ministry of Law & Justice, is successfully achieving a major milestone in procedural simplification by integrating the Legal Information Management and Briefing System (LIMBS) with the Public Financial Management System (PFMS). This reform is enabling digitisation of the entire process of advocate fee disbursal and forms an important component of the Government's broader initiatives of Ease of Doing Business and Digital India.

(PiB)

FINANCIAL TERMINOLOGY

OCEAN BILL OF LADING

- An ocean bill of lading is a document required for the transportation of goods overseas across international waters.
- An ocean bill of lading serves as the carrier's receipt to the shipper as well as a collection document or an invoice. The contract is a legally binding document between both the shipper and the carrier of the shipment.
- The shipper receives the contract when the goods are picked up. The document must be signed by both the shipper and the carrier. Once the shipment is complete, the document is given to the receiver. The receiver must also sign the contract upon delivery and receipt.

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THE INSTITUTE OF COST ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA
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Statutory Body under an Act of Parliament
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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 : 87.7058
INR / 1 GBP : 116.8498
INR / 1 EUR : 101.7890
INR /100 JPY: 57.3300

EQUITY MARKET

Sensex: 84211.88 (-344.52)
NIFTY: 25795.15 (-96.25)
Bnk NIFTY: 57699.60 (-378.45)

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

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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

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