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17 OCTOBER 2026

TODAY'S TOP HIGHLIGHTS

1 DEC

RBL AMALGAMATION

RBI approved Emirates NBD Indian-branch amalgamation; effective 1 December 2026.

14,614

SGB RUPEES PER UNIT

Series VII premature redemption due 19 October; tranche-specific price.

726.027

RESERVES (USD BILLION)

Stock as on 9 October; published 16 October. Weekly fall: USD 8.578 billion.

Merger approved, start date ahead

Price of the Edition: Complimentary Copy

Designed and prepared by CrackExam.co.in Team

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Monetary Policy Rates

As on 17 October 2026

RATE	CURRENT	EFFECTIVE FROM
Policy Repo Rate	5.50%	w.e.f. 7 October 2026
Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)	5.25%	w.e.f. 7 October 2026
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)	5.75%	w.e.f. 7 October 2026
Bank Rate	5.75%	w.e.f. 7 October 2026
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	3.00%	fortnight from 29 Nov 2025
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18.00%	RBI CRR & SLR Directions, 2025

Repo, SDF, MSF and Bank Rate checked against the RBI homepage and 7 October MPC resolution.
CRR and SLR checked against the RBI homepage and official reserve-ratio requirements.

Sources: [RBI current rates](#) | [RBI MPC resolution](#) | [RBI CRR change](#) | [RBI reserve ratios](#)

News Headlines

1. A bank merger approval with a future start date (Cover Story)
2. Government-stock auction raises Rs 34,000 crore without devolvement (RBI & Regulatory Updates)
3. Treasury-bill auction of Rs 23,000 crore scheduled for 21 October (RBI & Regulatory Updates)
4. SGB premature-redemption price set at Rs 14,614 per unit (RBI & Regulatory Updates)
5. RBI approves Emirates NBD Indian-branch merger into RBL Bank (Banking & Financial Industry News)
6. DFS workshop focuses on uniform reservation-policy implementation (Banking & Financial Industry News)
7. Foreign exchange reserves stand at USD 726.027 billion (Economy & Financial Awareness)
8. PAIMANA infrastructure dashboard expands to 184 indicators (Economy & Financial Awareness)
9. Telangana recap: two districts recognised under PM-DDKY (Government Schemes)
10. World Food Day 2026 calls for inclusive agrifood innovation (National, International & Appointments)
11. Telangana recap: Assembly-passed Parental Support Bill (National, International & Appointments)

Fresh RBI banking and market announcements, infrastructure monitoring, financial-sector policy implementation and World Food Day lead this edition. Two separately dated Telangana recaps support regional revision.

Cover Story

A bank merger approval with a future start date

16 October 2026; effective 1 December 2026 | Reserve Bank of India

The RBI sanctioned the amalgamation of the Indian branches of Emirates NBD Bank P.J.S.C. into RBL Bank Limited. Emirates NBD is the transferor and RBL Bank is the transferee in this scheme.

The effective date is 1 December 2026. From that date, all Indian branches of Emirates NBD will function as RBL Bank branches. The 16 October approval is not evidence that the branches have already changed over.

The RBI exercised its powers under Section 44A(4) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. The announcement concerns Indian branches, not a worldwide merger of the two banking groups.

Key facts

Transferor: Indian branches of Emirates NBD Bank P.J.S.C.

Transferee: RBL Bank Limited

Effective date: 1 December 2026

Exam takeaway: Separate regulatory approval, the effective date and the entities actually covered.

One-minute recall: RBL merger approval: Indian branches, effective 1 December.

[Reserve Bank of India](#)

RBI & Regulatory Updates

Government-stock auction raises Rs 34,000 crore without devolvement

16 October 2026 | Reserve Bank of India

The reissue auction of 6.94% GS 2036 had a notified amount of Rs 34,000 crore. Competitive bids accepted were Rs 33,960.709 crore and non-competitive bids accepted were Rs 39.291 crore, together Rs 34,000 crore.

The cut-off price was Rs 96.91 per Rs 100 face value, corresponding to a yield to maturity of 7.3955%. The weighted average price was Rs 96.93, with a weighted average yield of 7.3925%.

Devolvement on primary dealers was NIL. The 6.94% in the security name is the coupon, not this auction's cut-off yield.

Key facts

Security: 6.94% GS 2036; notified amount: Rs 34,000 crore

Cut-off price: Rs 96.91; YTM: 7.3955%

Accepted competitive + non-competitive bids: Rs 34,000 crore; NIL devolvement

Exam takeaway: A bond coupon, auction price and yield to maturity are different measures.

One-minute recall: 6.94% GS 2036: cut-off yield 7.3955%; no devolvement.

Reserve Bank of India

Treasury-bill auction of Rs 23,000 crore scheduled for 21 October

16 October 2026; auction scheduled for 21 October | Reserve Bank of India

The RBI announced Rs 8,000 crore of 91-day bills, Rs 8,000 crore of 182-day bills and Rs 7,000 crore of 364-day bills. The aggregate notified amount is Rs 23,000 crore.

The price-based, multiple-price auction is scheduled for Wednesday, 21 October 2026. Successful

bidders must pay on Thursday, 22 October. Results are to be announced on the auction day; no result is inferred here.

Competitive bids on E-Kuber are accepted from 10:30 to 11:30 AM, and non-competitive bids from 10:30 to 11:00 AM. Individual retail investors may use the Retail Direct portal under the non-competitive scheme; their allocation is restricted to a maximum of 5% of the notified amount.

Key facts

91-day: Rs 8,000 crore; 182-day: Rs 8,000 crore; 364-day: Rs 7,000 crore

Auction: 21 October; settlement: 22 October 2026

Multiple-price method; maximum retail non-competitive allocation: 5%

Exam takeaway: Do not carry the 10% state-securities allocation rule into this Treasury-bill notice.

One-minute recall: T-bills: Rs 23,000 crore scheduled, not yet raised.

Reserve Bank of India

SGB premature-redemption price set at Rs 14,614 per unit

16 October 2026; redemption due 19 October | Reserve Bank of India

The RBI fixed Rs 14,614 per unit for the premature redemption of SGB 2020-21 Series VII due on 19 October 2026. The original 20 October date is a holiday. This price is specific to the named tranche and date.

The tranche was issued on 20 October 2020. Premature redemption may be permitted after the fifth year, on the date interest is payable; it is not an unrestricted daily withdrawal facility.

The price uses the simple average of closing prices of gold of 999 purity for the preceding three business days, published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA). The identified price dates are 14, 15 and 16 October 2026.

Key facts

SGB 2020-21 Series VII: Rs 14,614 per unit

Premature-redemption due date: 19 October 2026

Reference: three-business-day simple average, IBJA 999-purity gold

Exam takeaway: A tranche-specific redemption price is not a fresh SGB issue price or a universal market gold rate.

One-minute recall: SGB Series VII: Rs 14,614; due 19 October.

Reserve Bank of India

Banking & Financial Industry News

RBI approves Emirates NBD Indian-branch merger into RBL Bank

16 October 2026; effective 1 December 2026 | Reserve Bank of India

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Reserve Bank of India

DFS workshop focuses on uniform reservation-policy implementation

15-16 October 2026; release 16 October | PIB, Department of Financial Services

The Department of Financial Services held a two-day workshop at Punjab National Bank Staff Training College, Panchkula. It was organised with PNB to strengthen consistent implementation of government reservation policies and welfare measures in public financial institutions.

Over 100 participants attended, including senior human-resource functionaries and liaison officers from public sector banks, public sector insurers and public financial institutions. RBI, PFRDA and IRDAI representatives also participated.

The release reports discussion of practical implementation issues and an interactive question-and-answer session. It does not announce a changed reservation percentage or a new recruitment quota.

Key facts

Venue: PNB Staff Training College, Panchkula

Organiser: DFS with Punjab National Bank

Focus: uniform implementation, not a newly announced quota

Exam takeaway: Distinguish a capacity-building workshop from a change in recruitment law or policy.

One-minute recall: DFS-PNB workshop: reservation-policy implementation.

PIB, Department of Financial Services

Economy & Financial Awareness

Foreign exchange reserves stand at USD 726.027 billion

16 October 2026 release; data as on 9 October | Reserve Bank of India, Weekly Statistical Supplement

India's foreign exchange reserves were USD 726.027 billion as on 9 October 2026, down USD

8.578 billion over the week. The publication date is 16 October; it is not the date of the reserve stock.

Foreign currency assets were USD 597.605 billion, gold USD 105.094 billion, SDR holdings USD 18.548 billion and the reserve position in the IMF USD 4.780 billion. These four published components sum to USD 726.027 billion.

Foreign currency assets fell USD 7.142 billion over the week, while gold fell USD 1.319 billion. A weekly movement in the dollar value of reserves must not be described as an equal amount of RBI intervention without separate evidence.

Key facts

Reserves as on 9 October: USD 726.027 billion

Weekly decline: USD 8.578 billion

Components: foreign currency assets, gold, SDRs, IMF reserve position

Exam takeaway: Keep stock date, release date, total reserves and foreign currency assets distinct.

One-minute recall: Reserves: USD 726.027 billion on 9 October.

Reserve Bank of India, Weekly Statistical Supplement

PAIMANA infrastructure dashboard expands to 184 indicators

16 October 2026 | Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

MoSPI released the quarterly update of its PAIMANA Performance Monitoring Dashboard. It now has 184 indicators, including 21 newly added indicators, while quarterly data for 41 indicators were updated.

National Highway projects awarded reached 2,236.3 km in April-September 2026-27, up 62.9% year on year. Awards describe the future project pipeline, not kilometres already constructed.

Air cargo handled rose 12.0% to 18.6 lakh tonnes in April-August. Major-port cargo rose 7.2% to 390.4 million tonnes in the same period. Cumulative optical fibre cable laid reached 7,52,113 km by August, with 29,256 km added during April-August.

The dashboard tracks Access, Quality, Fiscal Cost and Revenue, Utilization, and Affordability. The next quarterly update is scheduled for 15 January 2027. Reporting periods differ by indicator and must

remain attached to the figures.

Key facts

184 indicators: 21 new; 41 updated quarterly

Highway awards: 2,236.3 km, April-September; growth 62.9%

Air cargo: 18.6 lakh tonnes, April-August; growth 12.0%

Exam takeaway: Infrastructure capacity, project awards and utilisation are not interchangeable.

One-minute recall: PAIMANA: 184 indicators; compare like reporting periods.

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

Government Schemes

Telangana recap: two districts recognised under PM-DDKY

12 October 2026; dated recap | The Hindu, 12 October 2026; scheme context: official PM-DDKY portal

The Hindu reported on 12 October that Narayanpet and Nagarkurnool districts received national recognition for their work under the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PM-DDKY). Their Collectors, Ch. Priyanka and Hemanta Keshav Patil respectively, received the awards at a Union Agriculture Ministry programme in New Delhi.

The report credited agricultural development, farmer welfare and scheme implementation. The four Telangana districts in the scheme are Narayanpet, Jogulamba Gadwal, Jangaon and Nagarkurnool. The official scheme dashboard independently lists these four districts.

This is a dated Telangana revision item from 12 October, not a new award announced on 16 October. See Today's Scheme for the programme's current official design.

Key facts

Recognised pair: Narayanpet and Nagarkurnool

Narayanpet Collector: Ch. Priyanka

Telangana scheme districts: Narayanpet, Jogulamba Gadwal, Jangaon, Nagarkurnool

Exam takeaway: Do not confuse PM-DDKY's selected agriculture districts with all districts in the

wider Aspirational Districts Programme.

One-minute recall: 12 October recap: Narayanpet + Nagarkurnool recognised.

Dated recap from 12 October 2026, included for Telangana exam revision.

The Hindu, 12 October 2026; scheme context: official PM-DDKY portal | PM-DDKY official dashboard

Credit/NPA & Risk Management

No verified update for this section today.

National, International & Appointments

World Food Day 2026 calls for inclusive agrifood innovation

16 October 2026 | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FAO commemorated World Food Day at its Rome headquarters under the theme "Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow." World Food Day is observed annually on 16 October.

FAO Director-General QU Dongyu stressed that innovation should improve people's lives and reach the farmers, fishers, pastoralists and rural communities who use it. Solutions should fit local conditions and be supported by investment and partnerships.

The ceremony took place on the final day of FAO's World Food Forum. The forum brings together Global Youth Action, the Science and Innovation Forum and the Hand-in-Hand Initiative Investment Forum. The theme is an international awareness message, not a newly launched Indian lending scheme.

Key facts

World Food Day: 16 October

2026 theme: Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow.

Global ceremony: FAO headquarters, Rome

Exam takeaway: Know the day, theme and organising institution; do not attribute an FAO theme to the RBI or an Indian ministry.

One-minute recall: World Food Day: innovation for resilient agrifood systems.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Telangana recap: Assembly-passed Parental Support Bill

29 March 2026 Assembly passage; dated legislative recap | PRS passed Bill text; The Hindu report, 30 March 2026

The Telangana Assembly passed the Employees Accountability and Monitoring of Parental Support Bill on 29 March 2026, according to The Hindu. This note explains the passed Bill, not a verified commencement notification. Its text requires the State Government to appoint a commencement date by Gazette notification.

Dependent biological or step-parents who lack adequate income may apply to the designated authority, the Collector and District Magistrate, for a portion of an employee's salary. Both sides must be heard, and the claim is to be decided within 60 days.

The authority's ordered monthly payment must not exceed 15% of monthly gross salary or Rs 10,000, whichever is lower. It goes directly to the dependent parents' bank account from the month after the order. An application alone does not trigger an automatic deduction.

The text covers public and private organisations in Telangana, MLAs, MLCs and specified local-body representatives and employees. It provides for a Senior Citizens Commission for appeals. No current officeholder or appointment is asserted here.

Key facts

Assembly passage: 29 March 2026; not presented as fresh October news

Cap: lower of 15% of monthly gross salary and Rs 10,000

Dependent-parent application, hearing and order; 60-day disposal period

Exam takeaway: Passage of a Bill and legal commencement are separate stages. Read the cap and eligibility together.

One-minute recall: Parental Support Bill recap: gross-salary cap, not automatic deduction.

Dated recap of Assembly passage on 29 March 2026. Current assent and commencement are not established by the cited material.

PRS passed Bill text; The Hindu report, 30 March 2026 | The Hindu, 30 March 2026

Knowledge Article

Reading the four components of foreign exchange reserves

Reserve Bank of India, Weekly Statistical Supplement

The RBI's weekly supplement separates total reserves into foreign currency assets, gold, Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) and the reserve position in the IMF. Foreign currency assets are the largest component in the 9 October table, but they are not the total.

For 9 October, the dollar-million figures are $597,605 + 105,094 + 18,548 + 4,780 = 726,027$. Divide by 1,000 to express the same total as USD 726.027 billion.

The table separately reports variation over the week, over end-March and over the year. A fall of USD 8.578 billion is the weekly change, not the level of reserves or the annual change.

Reporting date and stock date also differ. The release appeared on 16 October but reports reserves as on 9 October. Do not attach a later date to the stock or label the change as a proven intervention amount.

Key facts

Four components, not foreign currency assets alone
USD million / 1,000 = USD billion

Keep stock date and comparison period with every number

Reserve Bank of India, Weekly Statistical Supplement

Practical Banking Case Study

CRR and SLR: two separate checks on an assumed balance sheet

Illustrative study, not news. NDTL and holdings below are assumed; ratios checked on 17 October 2026.

Assume a commercial bank has an applicable NDTL base of Rs 6,000 crore. For this simplified illustration, apply the current 3% CRR and 18% SLR

to the same assumed base.

Assume average eligible CRR cash balances are Rs 184 crore. Assume the total eligible SLR assets are Rs 1,065 crore after applying valuation rules and already including any eligible excess cash balance with the RBI. Ignore other adjustments for this example.

Working

CRR benchmark = Rs 6,000 crore x 3% = Rs 180 crore. Assumed CRR balances exceed it by Rs 4 crore.

SLR benchmark = Rs 6,000 crore x 18% = Rs 1,080 crore. Assumed eligible SLR holdings are short by Rs 15 crore.

The RBI rules permit eligible excess RBI cash to count towards SLR. Here it is already included in the assumed Rs 1,065 crore total, so adding the Rs 4 crore again would double-count it. The SLR gap remains Rs 15 crore.

Actual compliance also requires the prescribed liability base, valuation, reporting and maintenance rules. This arithmetic example is not a real bank's regulatory return.

Exam takeaway: Check the eligible-asset total before calculating a shortfall. Excess RBI cash may qualify for SLR, but the same balance cannot be counted twice.

Today's Scheme

Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PM-DDKY)

Official PM-DDKY scheme portal; Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Approved on 16 July 2025 and launched on 11 October 2025, PM-DDKY covers 100 selected districts for six years beginning 2025-26. It focuses on agriculture and allied sectors and draws inspiration from NITI Aayog's Aspirational Districts Programme.

District selection uses three indicators: low agricultural productivity, low cropping intensity and low credit disbursement. State/UT shares reflect net cropped area and operational holdings, with at least one district selected from each State.

The programme brings together 36 existing schemes across 11 departments, State schemes and local private-sector partnerships. Its objectives

include productivity, diversification, sustainable farming, post-harvest storage, irrigation and access to short- and long-term credit.

A district committee headed by the Collector prepares an Agriculture and Allied Activities Plan with local stakeholders. State committees headed by Chief Secretaries review district plans quarterly. Progress is monitored monthly on a dashboard.

This is a selected-district convergence programme, not a universal cash grant or automatic bank-loan entitlement. Interventions are incorporated in the action plans of the relevant existing schemes under their own guidelines. A district's inclusion alone does not establish an individual applicant's eligibility for every component.

Key facts

100 districts; six years from 2025-26

36 schemes across 11 departments

Selection: low productivity, cropping intensity and credit disbursement

District plan: Collector-led; State review: quarterly; dashboard monitoring: monthly

Exam takeaway: Distinguish district selection from beneficiary eligibility under each converging scheme. Agriculture credit is one objective, not a promise of automatic sanction.

Official PM-DDKY scheme portal; Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Bank Promotion Exam Corner

Current policy rates: repo 5.50%, SDF 5.25%, MSF/Bank Rate 5.75%, effective 7 October. CRR 3%; SLR 18%.

RBL amalgamation: approval on 16 October does not bring forward its 1 December effective date. Indian branches only.

State-security notice from 15 October schedules Rs 24,400 crore on 19 October; Treasury bills announced 16 October schedule Rs 23,000 crore on 21 October. Do not mix the schedules.

Telangana legislative recap: use monthly gross salary and a lower-of cap; an Assembly-passed Bill is not proof of current commencement.

Daily MCQ Challenge

1. In the 16 October GS 2036 result, competitive acceptance of Rs 33,960.709 crore and non-competitive acceptance of Rs 39.291 crore sum to:

- A. Rs 33,921.418 crore
- B. Rs 34,000 crore
- C. Rs 94,072.116 crore
- D. Rs 34,039.291 crore

Answer: B. Adding the two accepted amounts gives Rs 34,000 crore; do not add all bids received.

2. The SGB price for the 19 October 2026 premature-redemption event averages which IBJA closing-price dates?

- A. 14, 15 and 16 October
- B. 19, 20 and 21 October
- C. 1, 2 and 3 October
- D. 20 October only

Answer: A. The RBI identifies 14, 15 and 16 October as the three business days; 999-purity gold prices are used.

3. In the 16 October T-bill notice, the retail non-competitive allocation is restricted to a maximum of:

- A. 1% of the notified amount
- B. 10% of the notified amount
- C. 20% of the notified amount
- D. 5% of the notified amount

Answer: D. The notice specifies 5% for individual retail investors; other eligible non-competitive categories are treated separately.

4. Under the current official PM-DDKY design, which body reviews district plans at State level each quarter?

- A. The IMF Board
- B. A bank's audit committee
- C. State DDKY Samiti headed by the Chief Secretary
- D. The FAO Secretariat

Answer: C. The official portal specifies a State committee headed by the Chief Secretary and quarterly review.

5. As on 9 October 2026, which was the smallest of the RBI's four published forex-reserve components in USD terms?

- A. Gold
- B. Reserve position in the IMF
- C. Foreign currency assets
- D. SDR holdings

Answer: B. IMF reserve position was USD 4.780 billion, below SDRs 18.548, gold 105.094 and foreign currency assets 597.605 billion.

Revision: recent days

14 October 2026: Earlier edition: provisional September WPI inflation 11.39%; distinguish provisional data from a final revision.

15 October 2026: Earlier edition: IDBI 60.72% strategic-sale approval was not transaction completion.

16 October 2026: Earlier edition: September PLFS unemployment 5.0% for persons aged 15+; FERR user-contract threshold strictly above USD 2 million, subject to all scope conditions.

Sources and publication information

Eight news stories use official releases dated 16 October 2026. Two Telangana recaps are explicitly dated 12 October and 29 March; neither is presented as fresh October 16 news. The award report is attributed to The Hindu; legislative provisions were checked against the PRS-hosted passed Bill. No claim of current legal commencement is made. Public sources are linked by name, not printed as raw URLs. All questions are original practice.

The separate 20-question practice test uses the same verified dataset. Original practice, not an actual previous-year paper.

Designed and prepared by CrackExam.co.in Team