



CRACKEXAM

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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26 OCTOBER 2026

TODAY'S TOP HIGHLIGHTS

2,400 CRORE+

MONTHLY UPI TRANSACTIONS

New RBI campus to house RTGS and NEFT; institute to build cybersecurity and AI expertise.

Rs 326.49 CR

CONSORTIUM LOSS IN KVPL FRAUD

FM calls UPI the world's largest real-time payment system; over 59 crore Jan Dhan accounts.

38

OPERATION TRIDENT LOCATIONS

NCB's 23 October blitz across Assam, Mizoram and Manipur froze 1,424 bank accounts.

RBI opens a data fortress in Bhubaneswar

Price of the Edition: Complimentary Copy

Designed and prepared by CrackExam.co.in Team

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Monetary Policy Rates

As on 26 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 unchanged since the 7 October MPC resolution.
CRR and SLR re-checked against the RBI homepage on 26 October 2026.

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

News Headlines

- 1. PM inaugurates RBI's new Data Centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute in Bhubaneswar**
(Cover Story)
- 2. PM inaugurates RBI's new Data Centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute in Bhubaneswar** (RBI & Regulatory Updates)
- 3. NABARD revises operational guidelines for short-term refinance to State Cooperative Banks (SAO and ASAO)** (RBI & Regulatory Updates)
- 4. UPI crosses 2,400 crore monthly transactions, world's largest real-time payment system: FM**
(Banking & Financial Industry News)
- 5. IRDAI extends feedback deadline on insurance distribution reforms to 31 October** (Banking & Financial Industry News)
- 6. Sensex sheds 2.15%, Nifty 2.36% in a holiday-shortened week as crude stays elevated and FIIs sell** (Economy & Financial Awareness)
- 7. Government and EEPC India draw up plan to take engineering exports to USD 250 billion by 2030**
(Economy & Financial Awareness)
- 8. ED raids seven Telangana premises in Rs 326.49 crore PNB-consortium bank fraud probe (KVPL)**
(Credit/NPA & Risk Management)
- 9. NCB's Operation Trident: 38 teams strike 38 locations across Assam, Mizoram and Manipur**
(National, International & Appointments)
- 10. Government nominates Mohamed Ashraf J S as Director on UCO Bank board** (National, International & Appointments)

11. Former SBI chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara joins Piramal Finance board; Deepak Reddy named Bajaj General CEO designate (National, International & Appointments)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the RBI's new Data Centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute in Bhubaneswar on 25 October, where Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said UPI has become the world's largest real-time payment system with over 2,400 crore monthly transactions. IRDAI extended the feedback deadline on its insurance distribution reforms to 31 October after 650-plus comments. Markets fell over 2% in a holiday-shortened week, the ED raided seven Telangana premises in a Rs 326.49 crore PNB-consortium fraud probe, NCB's Operation Trident hit 38 locations across three north-eastern states, and Mohamed Ashraf J S joined the UCO Bank board while former SBI chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara joined Piramal Finance.

Cover Story

PM inaugurates RBI's new Data Centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute in Bhubaneswar

25 October 2026 | PM India press release, 25 October 2026 (read in full); Finance Minister's remarks at the event as reported by ET Now

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Reserve Bank of India's newly established Data Centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute in

Bhubaneswar, Odisha, on 25 October 2026. He said the past decade focused on banking the unbanked, while the coming decade is dedicated to making banking more efficient and reliable with the support of Odisha's new data centre and robust computing systems.

"Nowadays, wars are not fought with weapons alone; a nation can also be weakened by attacking its economy. And as India grows economically stronger, we must protect our banking system from cyber looters and cyber terrorists," the Prime Minister said, stressing the need to replace outdated training tools with modern infrastructure and skilled human resources.

Speaking at the event, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the campus will house mission-critical payment systems including the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) and National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) systems, and that the training institute and research wing will build expertise in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence and data centre technologies. The Prime Minister noted that nearly 60 crore Jan Dhan accounts have been opened, 13 crore people became first-time entrepreneurs under the Mudra Yojana, the Atal Pension Yojana covers 9 crore citizens including 38 lakh in Odisha, and over Rs 25,000 crore in claims under the social security schemes have been disbursed.

Key facts

RBI Data Centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute inaugurated in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, on 25 October 2026

Campus will house mission-critical payment systems including RTGS and NEFT

Institute and research wing to focus on cybersecurity, AI and data centre technologies

PM: protect the banking system from 'cyber looters and cyber terrorists'; nearly 60 crore Jan Dhan accounts opened

Exam takeaway: Link the event to payment-system infrastructure: RTGS and NEFT are RBI-operated systems, and a dedicated data centre plus a cybersecurity institute signals the regulator's focus on operational resilience and cyber defence. Note the PM's framing of cyber attack as economic warfare.

One-minute recall: 25 Oct: PM inaugurates RBI data centre + Cybersecurity Training Institute,

Bhubaneswar; campus to house RTGS and NEFT; institute focus on cybersecurity, AI, data centre tech.

PM India press release, 25 October 2026 (read in full); Finance Minister's remarks at the event as reported by ET Now

RBI & Regulatory Updates

PM inaugurates RBI's new Data Centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute in Bhubaneswar

25 October 2026 | PM India press release, 25 October 2026 (read in full); Finance Minister's remarks at the event as reported by ET Now

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Reserve Bank of India's newly established Data Centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, on 25 October 2026. He said the past decade focused on banking the unbanked, while the coming decade is dedicated to making banking more efficient and reliable with the support of Odisha's new data centre and robust computing systems.

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PM India press release, 25 October 2026 (read in full); Finance Minister's remarks at the event as reported by ET Now

NABARD revises operational guidelines for short-term refinance to State Cooperative Banks (SAO and ASAO)

8 October 2026 (circular); noted in this edition as a regulatory document | NABARD Circular No. 217/DoR-59/2026 (Department of Refinance), corroborated independently by Indian Banking Radar, 16 October 2026

NABARD's Department of Refinance issued Circular No. 217/DoR-59/2026 on 8 October 2026, revising the operational guidelines for short-term (ST) refinance to State Cooperative Banks (StCBs) for financing Seasonal Agricultural Operations (SAO) and Additional Seasonal Agricultural Operations (ASAO).

The revision consolidates the earlier ST-SAO and ASAO guidelines into a single operational guideline, according to Indian Banking Radar's coverage. Per NABARD's Department of Refinance page,

short-term refinance provides cooperative banks and regional rural banks funds for production, marketing and procurement activities, to supplement their resources and improve credit flow at the ground level.

Key facts

Circular No. 217/DoR-59/2026, dated 8 October 2026, Department of Refinance

Revises ST refinance guidelines for StCBs covering SAO and ASAO

Earlier ST-SAO and ASAO guidelines consolidated into one operational guideline

ST refinance supplements banks' resources for production, marketing and procurement credit (nabard.org)

Exam takeaway: Know the expansions: SAO is Seasonal Agricultural Operations and ASAO is Additional SAO. NABARD refinances State Cooperative Banks for short-term rural lending; it does not lend to farmers directly.

One-minute recall: NABARD circular 217/DoR-59/2026 (8 Oct): revised, consolidated ST refinance guidelines for State Cooperative Banks covering SAO and ASAO.

NABARD Circular No. 217/DoR-59/2026 (Department of Refinance), corroborated independently by Indian Banking Radar, 16 October 2026 | TeamLease RegTech summary | NABARD Department of Refinance page

Banking & Financial Industry News

UPI crosses 2,400 crore monthly transactions, world's largest real-time payment system: FM

25 October 2026 | Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's remarks at the RBI Bhubaneswar event, reported by ET Now (25 October 2026); NDTV Profit, CNBC-TV18 and Moneycontrol carried matching reports

The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has become the world's largest real-time payment system, with monthly transactions crossing 2,400 crore, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on 25 October 2026. She was speaking after the Prime Minister inaugurated the RBI's data centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute in Bhubaneswar.

The Finance Minister said the new RBI campus will house mission-critical payment systems including RTGS and NEFT, and that its training institute and research wing will build expertise in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence and data centre technologies.

On financial inclusion, she said banking facilities have been provided to the last man in the line, with over 59 crore Jan Dhan accounts opened.

Key facts

UPI monthly transactions crossed 2,400 crore; world's largest real-time payment system (FM, 25 Oct)

Over 59 crore Jan Dhan accounts opened (FM)

New RBI campus to house RTGS and NEFT

Exam takeaway: Remember the milestone phrasing: UPI is described as the world's largest real-time payment system by volume, operated by NPCI. Distinguish the FM's figure of over 59 crore Jan Dhan accounts from the PM's 'nearly 60 crore' at the same event.

One-minute recall: FM at RBI Bhubaneswar event (25 Oct): UPI crosses 2,400 crore monthly transactions; world's largest real-time payment system; over 59 crore Jan Dhan accounts.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's remarks at the RBI Bhubaneswar event, reported by ET Now (25 October 2026); NDTV Profit, CNBC-TV18 and Moneycontrol carried matching reports

IRDAI extends feedback deadline on insurance distribution reforms to 31 October

25 October 2026 | IRDAI press release (24 October 2026), reported by Business Standard, 25 October 2026

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has extended the deadline for submitting feedback on its consultation paper on distribution reforms to 31 October 2026 from 25 October 2026, the regulator said in a press release.

In September, IRDAI released a consultation paper proposing an overhaul of insurance distribution, including revised expense limits and commission structures for insurers and distributors. It has received over 650 comments 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," IRDAI said.

The Insurance Brokers Association of India (IBAI) had earlier requested an extension until the end of December 2026. Business Standard notes that despite premium income growing from Rs 1 trillion in FY05 to more than Rs 6.7 trillion in FY24, the sector has yet to fully realise its potential in broader penetration.

Key facts

Feedback deadline extended from 25 October to 31 October 2026

September 2026 consultation paper proposes overhauled expense limits and commission structures

Over 650 comments received so far; IBAI had sought time till end-December 2026

Sector premiums grew from Rs 1 trillion (FY05) to over Rs 6.7 trillion (FY24)

Exam takeaway: Track the consultation-paper route to regulation: discussion paper, public comments, then final norms. The current exercise is about distribution costs - expense limits and commission structures - not solvency.

One-minute recall: IRDAI: distribution-reforms feedback extended to 31 Oct 2026; 650+ comments on September consultation paper covering expense limits and commissions.

IRDAI press release (24 October 2026), reported by Business Standard, 25 October 2026

Economy & Financial Awareness

Sensex sheds 2.15%, Nifty 2.36% in a holiday-shortened week as crude stays elevated and FIIs sell

Week ended 24 October 2026 | mid-day weekly market wrap (PTI-derived), 24 October 2026

Domestic equity benchmarks slumped in the week ended 24 October 2026 amid elevated crude oil prices linked to geopolitical tensions in West Asia and persistent foreign institutional investor (FII)

outflows.

During the holiday-shortened week, the Sensex shed 1,605.44 points or 2.15%, while the Nifty lost 546.15 points or 2.36%. The stock market was closed on Tuesday, 20 October 2026, on account of Dussehra.

Key facts

Sensex -1,605.44 points (-2.15%); Nifty -546.15 points (-2.36%) for the week

Market closed on 20 October 2026 for Dussehra (holiday-shortened week)

Drivers: elevated crude prices on West Asia tensions; persistent FII outflows

Exam takeaway: Read index moves as percentages and points separately. Note the drivers: crude above comfort levels hurts India as a major importer, and sustained FII selling adds pressure on large-cap indices.

One-minute recall: Week ended 24 Oct: Sensex -2.15% (-1,605.44 pts), Nifty -2.36% (-546.15 pts); Dussehra-shortened week; crude and FII outflows weighed.

mid-day weekly market wrap (PTI-derived), 24 October 2026

Government and EEPC India draw up plan to take engineering exports to USD 250 billion by 2030

24 October 2026 | PTI report carried by The Economic Times, 24 October 2026

The Department of Commerce and engineering exports promotion body EEPC India held multiple discussions to chart a strategy to take the country's engineering exports to USD 250 billion by 2030, an official statement said on 24 October 2026.

The discussions were held as part of a Chintan Shivr aimed at deepening market access through better utilisation of free trade agreements and enhancing competitiveness by securing long-term availability of key raw materials. Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal highlighted export resilience and called for greater global competitiveness.

India's engineering exports crossed USD 70 billion in the first half of FY27, registering nearly 20% year-on-year growth. Joint Secretary Vimal Anand called upon EEPC India to revisit its ambition of achieving USD 300 billion in engineering exports by 2030.

Key facts

Target: USD 250 billion engineering exports by 2030 (Commerce Dept-EEPC Chintan Shivr)

H1 FY27 engineering exports crossed USD 70 billion, up nearly 20% YoY

Joint Secretary Vimal Anand urged revisiting a USD 300 billion ambition

Focus: FTA utilisation, raw material availability, resilient supply chains

Exam takeaway: Engineering goods are India's largest export category; EEPC India is the export promotion council for the sector. Keep the two numbers apart: USD 250 billion target for 2030 and USD 70 billion achieved in H1 FY27.

One-minute recall: Commerce Dept + EEPC Chintan Shivr (24 Oct): engineering exports target USD 250 bn by 2030; H1 FY27 exports over USD 70 bn (+20% YoY).

PTI report carried by The Economic Times, 24 October 2026

Government Schemes

No verified update for this section today.

Credit/NPA & Risk Management

ED raids seven Telangana premises in Rs 326.49 crore PNB-consortium bank fraud probe (KVPL)

24 October 2026 | ED statement reported by IANS via Zee News, 24 October 2026

The Enforcement Directorate raided seven premises across Telangana in an investigation into the alleged misutilisation and diversion of credit facilities sanctioned to M/s Kanakadhara Ventures Pvt. Ltd. (KVPL) and its directors. The raids covered the company's registered office, directors' residences and premises of entities alleged to have

acted as conduits for the diversion of bank funds.

The ED case stems from an FIR dated 8 December 2022 registered by the CBI's Bank Securities and Fraud Branch, Bengaluru, on a complaint from Punjab National Bank. A consortium led by PNB - comprising IDBI Bank, Union Bank of India, Andhra Bank (now Union Bank of India) and Bank of Baroda - suffered a loss of Rs 326.49 crore.

According to the agency, Bank Guarantee and Letter of Credit facilities granted to KVPL were misused, and funds were diverted through related and conduit entities on the strength of fabricated steel purchase invoices and transport documents. The company also operated bank accounts outside the consortium arrangement. Officials seized incriminating documents, digital devices and Rs 15 lakh in unaccounted cash, and identified multiple immovable properties and investments linked to the case.

Key facts

Seven premises across Telangana searched; registered office of KVPL, directors' homes and conduit entities

Loss of Rs 326.49 crore to a PNB-led consortium (IDBI Bank, UBI, Andhra Bank now UBI, Bank of Baroda)

CBI FIR of 8 December 2022 (BS&FB, Bengaluru) on PNB's complaint; IPC 120-B, 420, 468, 471 and PC Act provisions

BG and LC facilities misused via fabricated steel purchase invoices; Rs 15 lakh cash seized

Exam takeaway: Classic consortium-lending red flags: fabricated purchase invoices, bogus transport documents, conduit entities, and accounts outside the consortium. Note that the ED case rests on a predicate CBI FIR, and that Andhra Bank merged into Union Bank of India.

One-minute recall: ED raids 7 Telangana premises (24 Oct): KVPL fraud, Rs 326.49 crore loss to PNB-led consortium; BG/LC misused through fabricated steel invoices; FIR by CBI BS&FB Bengaluru (Dec 2022).

ED statement reported by IANS via Zee News, 24 October 2026

National, International & Appointments

NCB's Operation Trident: 38 teams strike 38 locations across Assam, Mizoram and Manipur

23 October 2026 (crackdown); announced 25 October 2026 | PIB press release, 25 October 2026 (read in full)

The Narcotics Control Bureau launched 'Operation Trident', with 38 teams striking 38 locations simultaneously across Assam, Mizoram and Manipur on 23 October 2026, against transnational narco-financial syndicates, the Press Information Bureau reported.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the operation revealed Rs 100 crore worth of hawala transactions, froze 1,424 bank accounts, attached properties worth Rs 17.82 crore, and led to the seizure of 500 detonators and Rs 12 lakh in cash and the arrest of 18 people. The network trafficked narcotics across the borders of India, Myanmar and Bangladesh through the 'Death Triangle Corridor'.

In line with the Vision Document on Narcotics Control (2026-2029), the operation marks a shift from a seizure-centric to a network-centric and financial disruption approach. The mission is to eradicate every drug network by 31 December 2029.

Key facts

38 teams struck 38 locations simultaneously across Assam, Mizoram and Manipur (23 Oct)

Rs 100 crore hawala transactions revealed; 1,424 bank accounts frozen; properties worth Rs 17.82 crore attached; 18 arrested

'Death Triangle Corridor': India-Myanmar-Bangladesh trafficking route

Vision Document on Narcotics Control (2026-2029); mission to eradicate drug networks by 31 December 2029

Exam takeaway: Note the financial-disruption angle for banking exams: freezing 1,424 bank accounts and attaching properties targets the money trail, not just the drugs. NCB works under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

One-minute recall: Operation Trident (23 Oct, PIB 25 Oct): NCB's 38-location blitz across Assam, Mizoram, Manipur; Rs 100 crore hawala; 1,424 accounts frozen; 18 arrested; target to end drug networks by 31 Dec 2029.

PIB press release, 25 October 2026 (read in full)

Government nominates Mohamed Ashraf J S as Director on UCO Bank board

23 October 2026 | UCO Bank's stock exchange filing, reported by PSU Connect, 24 October 2026

The Central Government has nominated Shri Mohamed Ashraf J S as Director on the Board of UCO Bank with immediate effect from 23 October 2026 and until further orders, vide Notification eF.No.6/2/2022-BO.I/3 dated 23 October 2026, the bank informed the stock exchanges.

He is a Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Department of Financial Services. Consequently, Shri Hari Har Mishra has ceased to be a Director on the Board of the Bank with effect from 23 October 2026.

Key facts

Mohamed Ashraf J S nominated Director on UCO Bank board w.e.f. 23 October 2026

He is Deputy Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance

Replaces Hari Har Mishra; notification eF.No.6/2/2022-BO.I/3

Exam takeaway: Government-nominated directors on public sector bank boards are appointed by the Department of Financial Services. Track who replaces whom - a frequent exam question pattern.

One-minute recall: Mohamed Ashraf J S (Deputy Secretary, DFS) nominated Director, UCO Bank, w.e.f. 23 Oct 2026, vice Hari Har Mishra.

UCO Bank's stock exchange filing, reported by PSU Connect, 24 October 2026

Former SBI chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara joins Piramal Finance board; Deepak Reddy named Bajaj General CEO designate

19 October 2026 (Khara effective date); reported 24 October 2026 | ETBFSI BFSI leadership roundup, 24 October 2026

Piramal Finance has named Dinesh Kumar Khara as an Additional Director designated as Independent Director. Khara headed the State Bank of India from October 2020 to August 2024. His five-year term is effective 19 October 2026, subject to shareholder approval.

Bajaj General Insurance has named Deepak Reddy as its CEO designate; he will take charge as Managing Director and CEO from 1 April 2027, subject to IRDAI approval. Tapan Singhel will continue in the role until 31 March 2027.

The ETBFSI roundup also recorded Sharad Mathur as MD & CEO of IndusInd General Insurance, Rajeev R Srivastava as MD & CEO of IndusInd Securities, and Ayaskant Mohapatra as Chief Technology Officer of SBICAP Securities.

Key facts

Dinesh Kumar Khara (SBI chairman Oct 2020-Aug 2024) joins Piramal Finance as Independent Director; five-year term from 19 Oct 2026

Deepak Reddy named Bajaj General Insurance CEO designate; MD & CEO from 1 April 2027, subject to IRDAI approval; Tapan Singhel stays till 31 March 2027

Sharad Mathur (IndusInd General Insurance MD & CEO), Rajeev R Srivastava (IndusInd Securities MD & CEO), Ayaskant Mohapatra (SBICAP Securities CTO)

Exam takeaway: Appointments of former public sector bank chiefs to private boards are standard exam fare. Note the long lead time in the Bajaj General succession - a CEO designate named five months ahead, subject to IRDAI approval.

One-minute recall: Khara (ex-SBI) to Piramal Finance board (5-yr from 19 Oct); Deepak Reddy Bajaj General CEO designate (MD & CEO from 1 Apr 2027).

ETBFSI BFSI leadership roundup, 24 October 2026

Knowledge Article

How NABARD's short-term refinance reaches the crop borrower

NABARD Department of Refinance page, nabard.org (read 26 October 2026); Circular No. 217/DoR-59/2026 as covered by Indian Banking Radar, 16 October 2026

NABARD's Department of Refinance handles short-term and long-term refinance. In short-term refinance, NABARD provides cooperative banks and regional rural banks loans and advances, repayable on demand or on the expiry of fixed periods not exceeding 12 months, for production, marketing and procurement activities. The objective is to supplement the resources of banks and improve credit flow at the ground level.

For the cooperative structure, refinance for seasonal crop lending runs through the State Cooperative Banks. On 8 October 2026, NABARD issued Circular No. 217/DoR-59/2026, revising the operational guidelines for short-term refinance to StCBs for Seasonal Agricultural Operations (SAO) and Additional SAO (ASAO) and consolidating the earlier ST-SAO and ASAO guidelines into one operational guideline (per Indian Banking Radar).

SAO covers the crop season's production credit needs; ASAO covers additional seasonal operations. The function has a long arc: the RBI set up the Agricultural Refinance Corporation in 1963, renamed it the Agriculture Refinance and Development Corporation in 1975, and NABARD now carries the refinance mandate.

Key facts

NABARD refinances banks; it does not lend to farmers directly

ST refinance: repayable on demand or within periods not exceeding 12 months (nabard.org)

SAO = Seasonal Agricultural Operations; ASAO = Additional SAO

Circular 217/DoR-59/2026 (8 Oct) consolidates the ST-SAO and ASAO guidelines

NABARD Department of Refinance page, nabard.org (read 26 October 2026); Circular No. 217/DoR-59/2026 as covered by

Indian Banking Radar, 16 October 2026 | Indian Banking Radar

Practical Banking Case Study

Reading the KVPL fraud: how a PNB-led consortium lost Rs 326.49 crore

Worked example from the ED statement reported on 24 October 2026; ratios computed here.

KVPL and its directors were sanctioned Bank Guarantee and Letter of Credit facilities by a PNB-led consortium (IDBI Bank, UBI, Andhra Bank now UBI, Bank of Baroda). The ED alleges funds were diverted through related and conduit entities on the strength of fabricated steel purchase invoices and transport documents, and that the company ran accounts outside the consortium.

Working

Loss across the consortium = Rs 326.49 crore; a five-lender exposure means an average of roughly Rs 65 crore per named bank, though actual shares depend on each bank's sanction.

Cash recovered in the searches = Rs 15 lakh, about 0.05% of the consortium loss - showing how little is typically recovered immediately in such frauds.

Timeline: CBI FIR 8 December 2022; ED searches 24 October 2026 - nearly four years of investigation before attachment-stage action.

Control failure pattern: fabricated invoices, bogus transport documents, conduit entities and accounts outside the consortium - all classic consortium-monitoring red flags.

Exam takeaway: In consortium lending, every member bank relies on shared monitoring. Fabricated trade documents and off-consortium accounts defeat that reliance, which is why BG/LC exposure needs invoice-level verification and strict account discipline.

Today's Scheme

Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY): features and current terms

Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance (page read 26 October 2026); PM's Bhubaneswar address for the milestone figure

PMMY was launched on 8 April 2015 to provide institutional, collateral-free credit to micro enterprises for non-agricultural purposes, including allied activities such as poultry, dairy and beekeeping. Both term loan and working capital needs can be met.

Loans are given in four categories: Shishu (up to Rs 50,000), Kishore (above Rs 50,000 and up to Rs 5 lakh), Tarun (above Rs 5 lakh and up to Rs 10 lakh) and Tarun Plus (above Rs 10 lakh and up to Rs 20 lakh, for entrepreneurs who availed and successfully repaid previous Tarun loans, w.e.f. 24 October 2024).

Member lending institutions include public and private sector banks, foreign banks, RRBs, small finance banks, NBFCs, MFIs and NBFC-MFIs. As on 28 February 2025, 52.07 crore accounts had been sanctioned Rs 33.19 lakh crore, of which Rs 32.40 lakh crore was disbursed. The Prime Minister said on 25 October 2026 that 13 crore people became first-time entrepreneurs under the scheme.

Key facts

Launched 8 April 2015; collateral-free loans for micro enterprises

Shishu up to Rs 50,000; Kishore to Rs 5 lakh; Tarun to Rs 10 lakh; Tarun Plus to Rs 20 lakh (w.e.f. 24 Oct 2024)

52.07 crore accounts sanctioned Rs 33.19 lakh crore as on 28 Feb 2025; PM: 13 crore first-time entrepreneurs

Exam takeaway: Keep the four PMMY categories and their ceilings straight - Tarun Plus (up to Rs 20 lakh) was added in October 2024 and requires a successfully repaid Tarun loan. MUDRA Ltd refinances; it does not lend directly to borrowers.

Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance (page read 26 October 2026); PM's Bhubaneswar address for the milestone figure

Bank Promotion Exam Corner

RBI Bhubaneswar campus (25 Oct): new Data Centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute; to house RTGS and NEFT; research wing on cybersecurity, AI and data centre technologies.

UPI: over 2,400 crore monthly transactions; world's largest real-time payment system (FM, 25 Oct); over 59 crore Jan Dhan accounts opened.

IRDAI: distribution-reforms consultation (September 2026) on expense limits and commission structures; 650+ comments; feedback now till 31 October 2026.

Markets, week ended 24 Oct: Sensex -1,605.44 points (-2.15%); Nifty -546.15 points (-2.36%); Dussehra-shortened week; elevated crude and FII outflows.

ED action in KVPL case: Rs 326.49 crore loss to a PNB-led consortium; BG/LC facilities misused through fabricated steel invoices; Rs 15 lakh cash seized.

Appointments: Mohamed Ashraf J S (Deputy Secretary, DFS) to UCO Bank board w.e.f. 23 October; Dinesh Kumar Khara (former SBI chairman) to Piramal Finance as Independent Director; Deepak Reddy named Bajaj General CEO designate.

Ethics Quote of the Day

"Security is a process, not a product."

Bruce Schneier, *Secrets and Lies: Digital Security in a Networked World* (2000) (Wikiquote, Bruce Schneier page)

Banking lesson: one strong control does not make a bank safe. Fraud checks, cyber defences and audit must run continuously - the RBI's new cybersecurity institute and the ED's fraud probes both underline that vigilance is a daily process.

Bruce Schneier, *Secrets and Lies: Digital Security in a Networked World* (2000) (Wikiquote, Bruce Schneier page)

Technology in Banking

RBI's Bhubaneswar campus: data centre plus a Cybersecurity Training Institute

PM India press release, 25 October 2026; ET Now report of the Finance Minister's remarks

The Reserve Bank's newly established Data Centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute in Bhubaneswar will house mission-critical payment systems, including RTGS and NEFT, per the Finance Minister.

The training institute and research wing will build expertise in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence and data centre technologies. The Prime Minister framed

the investment as defence against 'cyber looters and cyber terrorists' as economic warfare shifts online.

PM India press release, 25 October 2026; ET Now report of the Finance Minister's remarks

Peer News

SBICAP Securities appoints Ayaskant Mohapatra as Chief Technology Officer

ETBFSI BFSI leadership roundup, 24 October 2026

SBICAP Securities Limited, a group company of the State Bank of India, has appointed Ayaskant Mohapatra as its Chief Technology Officer. He has 25 years of experience leading enterprise-scale technology functions.

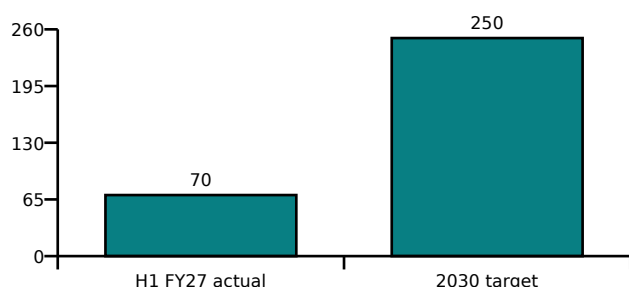
He earlier held key roles at BOBCARD, YES Securities, Axis Securities and HSBC InvestDirect. The appointment strengthens the company's leadership as it advances its technology capabilities and digital transformation agenda.

ETBFSI BFSI leadership roundup, 24 October 2026

Digital Clip: engineering exports (USD billion)

H1 FY27 exports crossed USD 70 billion; the 2030 target is USD 250 billion

PTI report carried by The Economic Times, 24 October 2026 (Commerce Dept-EEPC Chintan Shivr)



Engineering exports grew nearly 20% year-on-year in the first half of FY27 to over USD 70 billion. Reaching USD 250 billion by 2030 needs the strategy discussed at the Chintan Shivr: deeper FTA use and secure raw-material supply chains.

PTI report carried by The Economic Times, 24 October 2026 (Commerce Dept-EEPC Chintan Shivr)

Article of the Day

Irdai extends feedback window for proposed insurance distribution reforms

Business Standard (Aathira Varier), 25 October 2026

The article reports IRDAI's extension of the comment deadline on its September consultation paper on insurance distribution reforms - covering expense limits and commission structures - to 31 October 2026, after over 650 responses.

It also records the Insurance Brokers Association of India's request for time until end-December 2026, and notes premiums grew from Rs 1 trillion in FY05 to over Rs 6.7 trillion in FY24 while penetration remains unrealised.

Business Standard (Aathira Varier), 25 October 2026

Audiobook / Book of the Day

Ghost in the Wires by Kevin Mitnick

Little, Brown and Company (2011); author page and publisher listing

Kevin Mitnick's memoir recounts his years as one of the world's most wanted computer hackers and how he exploited human weakness as much as technical flaws through 'social engineering'.

For banking aspirants it is a readable reminder that most breaches begin with a person being fooled - exactly the threat the RBI's new cybersecurity institute is meant to train against.

Little, Brown and Company (2011); author page and publisher listing

Knowledge Byte

Bank Guarantee vs Letter of Credit: the two instruments KVPL misused

ICC frameworks: UCP 600 for documentary credits; URDG 758 for demand guarantees

A Letter of Credit is a bank's undertaking to pay the seller against compliant trade documents - it is a payment mechanism that keeps trade moving. A Bank Guarantee is payable when the applicant defaults on an obligation - it is a safety net, not a payment route.

In the KVPL case, the ED alleges both were abused with fabricated steel purchase invoices and bogus transport documents. Because LCs pay against documents, fake documents are the classic attack; verification of underlying trade is the control.

ICC frameworks: UCP 600 for documentary credits; URDG 758 for demand guarantees

Aaj ka Shabd

Letter of Credit, Bank Guarantee and Money Laundering

rajbhashahindi.com banking glossary (third-party; not an RBI page)

साख पत्र | बैंक गारंटी | धन शोधन

Hindi terms above, in order: saakh patra (letter of credit), bank guarantee and dhan shodhan (money laundering).

All three appear in today's edition: the KVPL fraud ran through misused letters of credit and bank guarantees, and the ED's money-laundering case rests on the CBI's predicate FIR.

rajbhashahindi.com banking glossary (third-party; not an RBI page)

Data Analysis

Operation Trident by the numbers

PIB press release, 25 October 2026

Operation Trident metric	Value
Simultaneous locations struck	38
States covered	3 (Assam, Mizoram, Manipur)
Hawala transactions revealed	Rs 100 crore
Bank accounts frozen	1,424
Properties attached	Rs 17.82 crore
Detonators seized	500
Cash seized	Rs 12 lakh
People arrested	18

Freezing 1,424 bank accounts against Rs 100 crore of revealed hawala works out to an average of about Rs 7 lakh per account - the financial-disruption strategy targets many small nodes rather than a few big ones. The operation also seized 500 detonators, underlining the security angle beyond narcotics.

PIB press release, 25 October 2026

Daily MCQ Challenge

1. The RBI's newly established Data Centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute was inaugurated on 25 October 2026 in:

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Chennai
- C. Bhubaneswar
- D. Mumbai

Answer: C. Bhubaneswar, Odisha - inaugurated by the Prime Minister.

2. NABARD Circular No. 217/DoR-59/2026, dated 8 October 2026, revises operational guidelines for short-term refinance to:

- A. Regional Rural Banks
- B. Small Finance Banks
- C. State Cooperative Banks
- D. Payments Banks

Answer: C. The circular is addressed to the Managing Directors of all State Cooperative Banks.

3. Per the Finance Minister on 25 October 2026, monthly UPI transactions have crossed:

- A. 1,900 crore
- B. 2,400 crore
- C. 2,900 crore
- D. 3,400 crore

Answer: B. Over 2,400 crore transactions a month.

4. IRDAI has extended the deadline for feedback on its insurance distribution reforms consultation paper to:

- A. 25 October 2026
- B. 31 October 2026
- C. 15 November 2026
- D. 31 December 2026

Answer: B. Extended from 25 October to 31 October 2026.

5. In the week ended 24 October 2026, the Sensex:

- A. gained 1.15%
- B. fell 3.55%
- C. fell 2.15%
- D. was unchanged

Answer: C. Shed 1,605.44 points, or 2.15%, in the holiday-shortened week.

Revision: recent days

23 October 2026: Earlier edition: the 22 October overnight VRR drew bids of Rs 1,62,354 crore at a 5.54% cut-off; the 23 October 3-day VRR drew Rs 1,06,949 crore at 5.58%.

24 October 2026: Earlier edition: the RBI notified a Rs 1,50,000 crore 4-day VRR for 26 October as liquidity slipped into deficit; IndusInd Bank returned to profit with a Q2 PAT of Rs 1,242 crore.

25 October 2026: Earlier edition: Kotak Q2 PAT Rs 4,212 crore (+29%), IDFC First Rs 1,045 crore (+196.5%), AU SFB Rs 858 crore (+53%); September CPI 5.54% with food at 7.74%; forex reserves USD 721.016 billion; IMF FY27 growth forecast 7%.

Sources and publication information

The RBI data centre event, the PM's quotes and the Jan Dhan/Mudra/APY figures are from the PM India press release of 25 October 2026, read in full. The UPI milestone, the RTGS/NEFT detail and the over-59-crore Jan Dhan figure are from the Finance Minister's remarks at the same event as reported by ET Now (matching reports in NDTV Profit, CNBC-TV18 and Moneycontrol); an 'about 80 crore daily transactions' figure carried by some outlets was not verified against a read source and is not used. The NABARD item is limited to the independently corroborated core: Circular No. 217/DoR-59/2026 dated 8 October 2026, revising and consolidating the ST-SAO and ASAO short-term refinance guidelines for State Cooperative Banks (Indian Banking Radar, 16 October 2026; TeamLease RegTech, 18 October 2026; nabard.org Department of Refinance page for the refinance framework and the SAO expansion). Finer operational terms reported in the summaries (penalty clauses, interest-payment rests, rate frameworks) were not confirmed against a NABARD owning page and are not used. The IRDAI item is from Business Standard (the IRDAI press release was not read directly). The markets wrap is from mid-day (PTI-derived); Brent crude levels and a 'worst weekly fall in two years' claim carried by some outlets were not verified and are not used. The engineering exports item is from a PTI report carried by The Economic Times. The ED item is from an IANS report carried by Zee News. Operation Trident is from the PIB release of 25 October 2026, read in full. The UCO Bank item is from PSU Connect citing the bank's exchange filing; the Piramal Finance and Bajaj General items are from ETBFSI's roundup. PMMY features in the scheme section are from the Department of Financial Services page, read 26 October 2026. Policy rates were re-verified against the RBI homepage on 26 October 2026.

The separate 25-question practice test uses the same verified dataset. Original practice, not an actual previous-year paper.

Designed and prepared by CrackExam.co.in Team

