🌿 SBI Foundation Launches SMART-CROP Initiative for Climate-Resilient Agriculture 🛰️

- SBI Foundation, UAS Raichur, ICRISAT, and Agribridge launched SMART-CROP (Sustainable Monitoring and Real-time Tracking for Crop Resilience and Optimal Practices) in Hyderabad
- Three-year project under LEAP aims to empower 8,000+ smallholder farmers across Karnataka (Bidar, Kalaburagi, Raichur) and Telangana (Sangareddy, Vikarabad) via AI/ML-driven crop stress monitoring
- Leveraging satellite imaging, remote sensing, and real-time analytics to enable preventive action against climate risks, pests, disease outbreaks, and soil degradation
- Focus on pulse crops (chickpea, pigeonpea); includes farmer-participatory integrated pest and disease management and socio-economic assessments to evaluate yield gaps and agroecological benefits
- Authorised capital: ₹500 crore; paid-up capital: ₹200 crore, with participation by all 12 PSBs to scale climate-smart practices and replicable framework for global food security and rural development

⚡ ADB Approves $460 Million Loan for Maharashtra Agricultural Solarization ☀️

- Asian Development Bank sanctions $460 million results-based loan plus $40 million concessional funding from Clean Technology Fund to modernize rural power infrastructure in Maharashtra
- Maharashtra Power Distribution Enhancement Program aligns with state's Power Sector Vision 2030 to provide reliable daytime solar electricity for irrigation to 900,000+ agricultural consumers by 2028
- Program components: solarize agricultural feeders, upgrade 180 distribution substations, install 500 MWh distributed battery storage systems, deploy 1,000 MW decentralized solar generation, and develop 3,000 ckm high-tension and 1,200 ckm low-tension lines
- Training for 5,000 individuals including 1,500 women in green jobs and entrepreneurship; expected to cut annual GHG emissions by 3 million tons and reduce transformer failure rates by 25%

🖳 Infibeam Avenues Gets IFSCA Nod to Operate PSP at GIFT-IFSC 🌐

- IFSCA grants in-principle approval to IA Fintech IFSC Private Ltd to operate as Payment Service Provider at GIFT-IFSC, offering digital payment, cross-border remittances, escrow services, and merchant acquisition

- Platform aims to streamline transactions via digital settlement infrastructure, replacing traditional correspondent banking that takes 36–48 hours with near-instant, cost-effective, transparent cross-border payments
- GIFT-IFSC ecosystem includes 16 AIFs, 75 broker-dealers, 23 aircraft leasing firms, 118 qualified jeweler firms, and is expected to capture over USD 500 billion in financial opportunities

💼 Citi Names CEO Jane Fraser as Chair, Awards $25 Million Stock Bonus 👩💼

- Citigroup's Board elected Jane Fraser as Chair, combining CEO-Chair roles for the first time since 2019; John Dugan transitions to Lead Independent Director
- Fraser receives one-time $25 million RSU grant and 1.055 million stock options vesting over three, four, and five years to ensure leadership continuity amid transformation momentum
- Dugan to maintain critical oversight functions: shareholder/regulator engagement, Board self-assessment, CEO compensation, succession planning, and chairing Transformation Oversight Committee

📱 Paytm Enables NRIs from 12 Countries to Link International Numbers for UPI Payments 🌐

- Paytm allows NRIs in Singapore, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Oman, Qatar, USA, Saudi Arabia, UAE, UK, France, Malaysia to log in with international mobile numbers and use UPI via NRE/NRO accounts
- Powered by NPCI, service eliminates need for local Indian SIM, enables instant money transfers, QR code payments at shops/restaurants, and online transactions without forex charges or remittance delays
- Exclusive features: PDF/Excel UPI statements, automatic spend classification, AI Rap Playback on spends, hide payments, and multi-bank balance check; currently in beta, full rollout in coming days

🛡 SBI & Bank of Baroda Launch IDPIC to Combat Digital Payment Fraud in Real Time 💬

- SBI and BoB lead formation of Indian Digital Payment Intelligence Corporation (IDPIC), a Section 8 non-profit with authorised capital ₹500 crore, paid-up capital ₹200 crore, approved by RBI
- Follows A.P. Hota Committee recommendation as bank frauds surged to ₹36,014 crore in FY25 from ₹12,230 crore in FY24; all 12 PSBs to hold equity stakes

- AI/ML-driven platform for real-time detection and prevention of fraudulent transactions, alerting banks to suspicious activity before completion, complementing I4C and RBI's MuleHunter.AI
- Senior SBI and BoB executives to serve as directors; initial seed funding ₹10 crore each from SBI and BoB, with other PSBs joining in subsequent phases

🏢 RBI Clears C S Rajan's Reappointment as Kotak Mahindra Bank Part-Time Chairman 👔

- RBI approved C S Rajan's reappointment as part-time chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank for nearly two years, from 1 Jan 2026 to 21 Oct 2027
- Rajan, a 1978-batch IAS officer with over 40 years administrative experience, served as Chief Secretary of Rajasthan until 2016, then Deputy Chairman of CM's Advisory Council
- Led IL&FS as Managing Director post-retirement, spearheading corporate restructuring and governance; currently holds position on Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance board
- KMB share price trading at ₹2,160 (down 1.23%) as of 27 Oct 2025

¥ Japan Launches JPYC: World's First Yen-Pegged Stablecoin 💎

- JPYC Inc. launched JPYC, the world's first yen-pegged stablecoin, on 27 Oct 2025, fully convertible to yen and backed by domestic savings and Japanese Government Bonds
- Plans to issue up to ¥10 trillion ($66 billion) over three years; zero transaction fees initially, generating revenue from JGB interest; aims for international acceptance and cross-border payments
- CEO Noritaka Okabe: "We hope to spur innovation by giving startups access to low transaction and settlement fees" and remain open to capital tie-ups
- Dollar-pegged stablecoins dominate globally at 99%+ market share; Japan's three megabanks reportedly planning joint yen stablecoins; adoption may take 2–3 years
- BOJ caution: Deputy Governor Ryozo Himino warned stablecoins could bypass regulated banking and undermine commercial bank roles in global payments

🏢 World Bank Approves $280 Million Loan for Kerala Health System Transformation 🏷️

- World Bank sanctioned $280 million IBRD loan (25-year maturity, 5-year grace) for Kerala Health System Improvement Programme, targeting 11 million elderly and vulnerable Keralites
- Goals: 40% increase in controlled hypertension, 60% boost in cervical/breast cancer screening, 90%+ patient coverage for hypertension and diabetes via electronic tracking; home-based care for bedbound elderly

- Strengthens digital health systems (expanded eHealth, integrated data platforms, cybersecurity); climate resilience initiatives in Wayanad, Kozhikode, Kasaragod, Palakkad, Alappuzha for energy efficiency and extreme weather management
- Engages gram panchayats, municipal corporations, adopts antibiotic stewardship protocols, addresses zoonotic outbreaks via fast-tracked lab diagnostics

🛒 PayPal Partners with OpenAI: Shop and Pay via ChatGPT 🤖

- PayPal embedded its digital wallet into ChatGPT, becoming the first payments platform in generative AI; integrates the Agentic Commerce Protocol (ACP) for instant checkout
- Users pay via bank account, PayPal balance, or cards with built-in buyer/seller protections, order tracking, and post-purchase support; merchants access via OpenAI Instant Checkout
- PayPal connects global merchant network to ChatGPT for millions of SMEs and world brands to sell directly within the platform
- Microsoft secures $135 billion investment in restructured OpenAI (PBC structure), ~27% ownership post-restructuring (down from 32.5%), retaining exclusive cloud rights (Azure) until AGI; remains primary AI model partner

💰 SEBI Panel Proposes Higher Fees for NSE Clearing, Reducing NSE's Share of Revenues 📊

- SEBI working group (headed by ex-RBI Deputy Governor RS Gandhi) recommends revisiting clearing corporation transaction charges, scientifically tying them to settlement volumes before NSE's IPO
- NSE Clearing currently receives 5–6% of NSE's collected member fees; proposed reform would raise share to 25–50% to strengthen its balance sheet and settlement guarantee fund (SGF) independence
- Proposal: clearing members contribute to SGF via bank guarantees or fixed deposit liens, aligning with advanced market practices; investor charges remain flat to control transaction costs
- Goal: Build robust NSE Clearing financials before public listing, avoiding future need for parent fund infusions to grow contingency reserves amid rising trade volumes

🐾 MoSPI-IICA MoU: Building Comprehensive SDG Alignment Framework for Viksit Bharat ☑

- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation signed MoU with Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs on 31 Oct 2025 to develop Comprehensive SDG Alignment Framework

- Integrates National Indicator Framework (NIF), state-level indicators, ESG, and CSR dimensions; harmonises NIF–SIF alignment for evidence-based policymaking and sustainable corporate participation
- Framework bridges national, state, and corporate sustainability ecosystems, aligning CSR/ESG initiatives with State and UT SDG objectives toward Viksit Bharat vision
- Leadership: IICA DG Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh steering ESG, CSR, and Responsible Business initiatives; aligns with SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Health & Well-Being), SDG 17 (Partnerships)

🍲 PM Modi Celebrates UNESCO Recognition of Lucknow as Creative City of Gastronomy ✳️

- UNESCO honoured Lucknow as a Creative City of Gastronomy, recognising the city's vibrant culture and distinctive culinary heritage
- PM Modi called upon global visitors to discover Lucknow's uniqueness, emphasising the city's cultural significance and gastronomic legacy
- Recognition elevates Lucknow's profile as a custodian of traditional Indian cuisine and cultural diversity on the international stage

⚖️ Justice Surya Kant Appointed as 53rd Chief Justice of India ⚡

- Justice Surya Kant formally appointed as Chief Justice of India effective 24 Nov 2025, succeeding CJI B.R. Gavai (retiring 23 Nov 2025 upon turning 65)
- Born 10 Feb 1962 in Petwar, Hisar, Haryana; law degree from Maharishi Dayanand University (1984); holds Master's in Law with First Class First distinction (2011)
- Career trajectory: district court practice (Hisar), Punjab and Haryana HC (1985, constitutional/service/civil law specialist), youngest Advocate General of Haryana at 38 (2000), Senior Advocate, CJ Punjab & Haryana HC (9 Jan 2004), CJ Himachal Pradesh HC (5 Oct 2018), Supreme Court Judge (24 May 2019)
- NALSA Executive Chairman since May 2025; presided over thousands of cases delivering landmark judgments in constitutional, civil, and human rights matters; tenure ~14 months (retiring 9 Feb 2027)

🪙 UIDAI Launches 'Aadhaar Vision 2032' to Future-Proof India's Digital Identity 👹

- UIDAI unveiled Aadhaar Vision 2032 framework integrating AI, Blockchain, Quantum Computing, and advanced encryption to strengthen India's digital identity ecosystem over the next decade
- High-Level Expert Committee chaired by Neelkanth Mishra (UIDAI Chairperson) includes Bhuvnesh Kumar (CEO UIDAI), Vivek Raghavan (Sarvam AI), Dheeraj Pandey (Nutanix), Sasikumar Ganesan (MOSIP), Rahul Matthan (Trilegal), and academics from Amrita, Michigan State, IIT Jodhpur
- Framework emphasises: intelligent AI authentication, Blockchain trust/transparency, quantum-ready encryption, and alignment with Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act and international privacy/cybersecurity standards
- Goals: ensure Aadhaar remains secure, scalable, inclusive, and privacy-compliant amid evolving technological and regulatory landscapes; reinforce Aadhaar's role as cornerstone of India's digital governance and economy