THE COMSOC GAZETTE

THE COMMERCE SOCIETY
SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE

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FINANCE AND INVESTMENT
STOCK MARKET
STARTUPS
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FINANCIAL FORESIGHTS

01 SOFTBANK'S $22.5 BILLION BET ON OPENAI: A BOLD MOVE IN AI FINANCE

In a historic move, the SoftBank group has sanctioned a remaining 22.5 billion of its intended 30 billion investment in the OpenAI, and it is also one of the largest funding investments in the history of artificial intelligence. The investment relies on the restructuring of OpenAI as a company that highlights the increasing integration of new technology and huge finance.

In the case of SoftBank, the move is a strategic initiative to reestablish itself as a leader in the tech ecosystem following its poor performance with the Vision Fund. In the case of OpenAI, the capital will enhance its computing infrastructure, product development on the prospects of a public offering

Nevertheless, mega-deals also pose a question of sustainability of the valuation, governance, and market concentration of AI industry. As AI is poised to lead to productivity worldwide and transform the model of finances, investors are walking the fine line between optimism and caution. SoftBank has made a bet, but it is not just a funding move, but a financial indicator that what will propel the next wave of competition in the world will not be oil or data, but intelligent capital driving artificial intelligence.

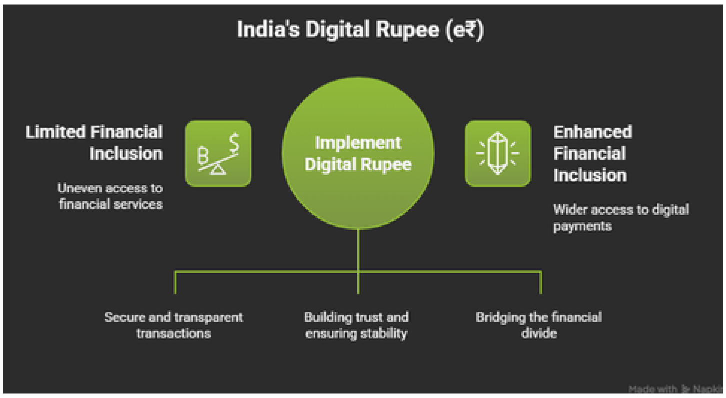
02 DIGITAL RUPEE GAINS MOMENTUM: RBI EXPANDS THE PILOT WITH OFFLINE PAYMENTS

In October, the Digital Rupee (e ₹) made major progress marking another step toward a cash light economy. On October 8, the The RBI launched a retail sandbox, allowing fintechs to test e₹ use cases The move indicates that the central bank is interested in going beyond being a pilot project and promoting innovation in relation to Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), India.

Only one week after, on October 13 the RBI added offline payment support to the e ₹, which meant that payments could even be made without an internet connection. The development will solve one of the greatest problems of expanding digital payments to rural and low-network areas.

The Digital Rupee is steadily shifting from concept to reality. To the consumers this may be quicker, safer and more inclusive transactions; to the business an efficiency and transparency revolution.

Though privacy, cybersecurity, and adoption concerns remain, these advances prove the widening leadership of India in central-bank-led digital finance - an essential move in syncing technology, inclusion, and monetary innovation.



CORPORATE ODYSSEY

01 APPLE HITS $4 TRILLION MARKET CAPITAL, JOINS NVIDIA AND MICROSOFT TO REACH MILESTONE

Apple has reached a historic milestone, becoming the third Big Tech company to cross $4 trillion in market value, driven by strong demand for its latest iPhone lineup. Apple's stock has surged nearly 13% since the launch of the iPhone 17 series and iPhone air on September 9 , reversing earlier losses and pushing the stock into positive territory for the first time this year. Analysts said the robust demand for the new devices, especially in key markets such as the US and China, helped offset concerns about the company's slower progress in artificial intelligence.

Apple becomes the third company ever to hit the $4 trillion market value milestone.

Apple's cautious approach to AI continues to raise investor concerns, especially amid reports that some of its senior AI executives have moved to Meta. The company's Apple Intelligence suite, including ChatGPT integration, has been rolled out slowly, while an AI upgrade to Siri has been delayed until next year. Zaccarelli added, "The lack of a well-understood artificial intelligence strategy is clearly one of the things that is an overhang for the stock. If they could figure out how to incorporate artificial intelligence in a way that would excite consumers and the market, you'd see a whole different company."

02 HDFC BANK PUTS BANKERS ON LEAVE AMID CREDIT SUISSE BOND PROBE

HDFC Bank Ltd., India's largest private-sector lender, has put two senior executives on gardening leave amid a probe after customers alleged mis-selling of Credit Suisse securities, according to people familiar with the matter.The bank took the step over the last few months with the employees, who were at the center of the allegedly disputed trades of Credit Suisse's Additional Tier 1 bonds, the people said, asking not to be identified discussing confidential matters.

In response to Bloomberg queries, an HDFC spokesperson said "with reference to the sale of Credit Suisse AT1 Bonds, the bank has not come across any instances of mis-selling till now." The spokesperson did not respond to Bloomberg queries regarding the bankers' placement on leave. "HDFC Bank takes any matter pertaining to its reputation with utmost seriousness and is committed to addressing any concerns raised by stakeholders," the spokesperson said. An internal investigation is ongoing and the bank's report is likely to be released soon, said the people, adding that the bank has not reached a conclusion about wrongdoing. Once accountability is established, the bank is expected to take punitive action, they added.

THE ECONOMIC LENS

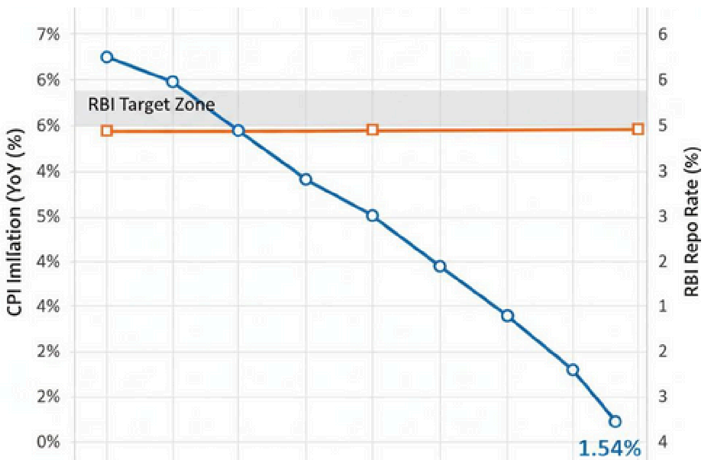
01 RBI'S "DOVISH PAUSE" SIGNALS A "GOLDILOCKS" ECONOMY

India's GDP outlook for FY 2025-26 has been upgraded beyond 6%, highlighting strong economic momentum.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in its most recent Monetary Policy Report, has raised its forecast to 6.8%.The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has raised its growth forecast for India to 6.6%, and Deloitte by 6.8%. This contrasts with the IMF's global slowdown warning, characterizing a world economic slowdown primarily due to rising protectionist policies and the increase in uncertainty.

This resilience has been built over time, and with a deep foundation. The economy surged by a stellar 7.8% in the first quarter (April-June 2025) driven by strong demand and public investment.

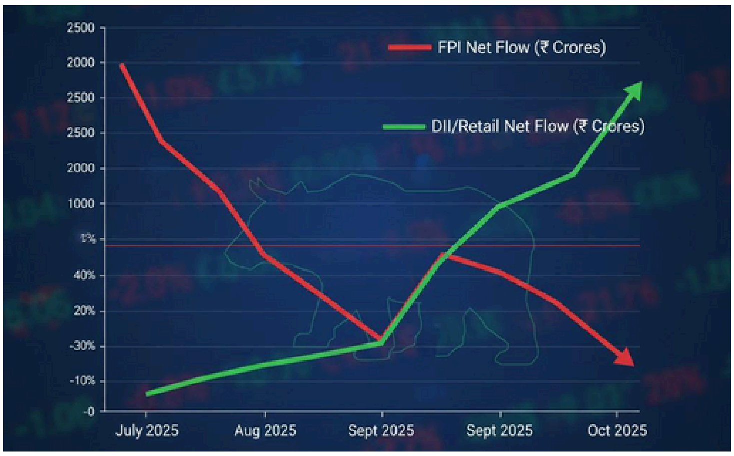
Moreover, India's external situation has also strengthened. The Current Account Deficit (CAD) narrowed to an almost neutral level of 0.2% of GDP for the quarter driven again by strong services exports. Despite global uncertainties, the Indian economy is still providing a stable and attractive environment for investment.



02 THE GREAT DIVIDE IN INDIAN EQUITIES: FPIS ARE FLEEING WHILE THE DOMESTIC INVESTORS DOUBLE DOWN

Late 2025 reveals a striking contradiction in Indian markets. Data shows sharp split in investor sentiment. On one hand, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have been net sellers, having pulled billions from Indian equities over the past year. On the other hand, Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) and retail investors are absorbing this selling and then some, driving the markets higher to record peaks. FPI retreat reflects global uncertainty and high rates abroad, global capital is shifting toward safe-haven assets.

But this is only half the story. The standout story is strong domestic investor confidence. While FPIs look at global relative risk, Indian investors see a different picture: strong domestic consumption, resilient corporate earnings, and a stable policy environment. The fact that DIIs (mutual funds and insurers) bought over ₹5,600 crore in cash equities just yesterday, directly counteracting FII selling, signals a structural maturation. Markets are no longer dependent solely on foreign flows. It is now powered by domestic belief in India's growth story.



SUSTAINABLE SYNERGIES

01 IIM NAGPUR DRIVES SUSTAINABILITY WITH ON-CAMPUS SOLAR PARK

A 2MW Solar Park, spanning an area of 6 acres, is impending at IIM Nagpur's Campus. The Solar Park is set to generate clean power that will meet power demands of the campus.

Dr. Bhimaraya Metri, Director of IIM Nagpur, reaffirmed that the Park will be reducing their electricity bill by a whopping Rs. 6 lakh per month, as the institute is currently spending Rs. 25-30 lakh per month for its power requirements.

This bolsters the institute's Net Zero Campus Initiative, under which it has already forested 8000 trees and established water harvesting and recycling systems. These practices have earned them a 4-star GRIHA rating.

The Solar Park reinforces the valuable contribution of premier institutes in driving sustainability

02 TATA POWER SIGNS MULTIPLE PPAS FOR RENEWABLES IN MUMBAI

Tata Power has entered into multiple Power Purchase Agreements for supplementing renewable power supply in Mumbai. Currently, it serves 8 lakh consumers in Mumbai.

On 16 October, 2025, a 25 year PPA was signed with Acme Solar Holdings for a 50 MW Firm and Dispatchable Renewable Energy Project.

Officials have declared a commitment of power supply for 4 peak hours and have ensured power availability for 90% of the time. Power will now be supplied at the tariff of 4.43 rs. Per unit.

Another PPA was signed with Juniper Green Sigma Eight for an FDRE of 70MW. This project will constitute equipment of 180MWp of solar and wind capacity.

Lastly, a PPA with Tata Renewables was executed for establishing an 80MW FDRE project, generating 315 MWs of electricity annually and curbing CO_2 emissions by 0.25 Million ton.

TATA POWER

THE GLOBAL CHESSBOARD

01 CHINA'S GEOPOLITICAL COMPETITION EXPANDS INTO NEW FRONTIERS WITH SCIENTIFIC MILESTONES

From deep in the Arctic Ocean to outer space and cyberspace, Beijing's focus on technological advancements is reshaping the global strategic balance

On 26th October, China announced that its independently designed and built polar research vessel – the world's first manned deep-sea-operations depot ship with icebreaking capabilities – and its crewed submersible had successfully conducted a scientific expedition performing crewed dives in the Arctic Ocean.

The vessel - Tan Suo San Hao(Explorer three) - made china capable of carrying out continuous manned deep-sea dives in the dense Arctic sea ice zone. This strengthens the position of China as a global leader in manned deep-sea technology.

The expedition dived to a maximum depth of 5,277 metres (17,313 feet) in the central Arctic Basin, where sea ice coverage exceeded 80 per cent. This mission aligns with China's 14th five-year plan (2021-2025) that focuses on deep-sea and polar technologies.

China also holds more than half of all effective global patents in marine equipment manufacturing, surpassing South Korea, the United States and Japan.

02 INDIA'S HAL SIGNS MOU WITH RUSSIA'S UAC FOR PRODUCTION OF CIVIL COMMUTER AIRCRAFT SJ-100

In a first, a complete passenger aircraft will be produced in India as Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) joined hands with Russia's United Aircraft Corporation (UAC) for the production of SJ-100 jets.

The development signals India's growing engagement with Russia despite the US's resentment. If the MoU materialises, SJ-100 could become the first passenger jet to be fully manufactured in India, which harbours the ambition to become an aerospace manufacturing hub.

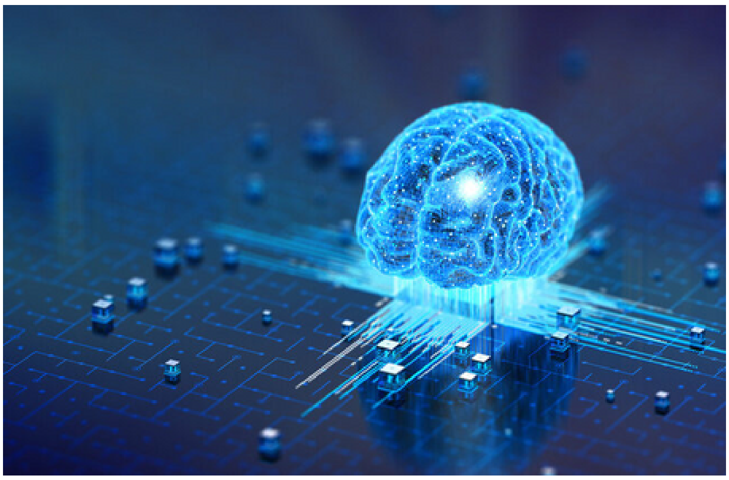
India has been pushing global aircraft manufacturers to set up final assembly lines (FALs) for passenger jets in the country, given India's status as the world's third-largest domestic aviation market and the fastest-growing major aviation market globally.The announcement comes as Indian refiners prepare to heavily cut their Russian oil imports following imposition of US sanctions on two of Moscow's large oil and gas companies.

01 NEUROMORPHIC CHIPS — WHEN YOUR COMPUTER THINKS LIKE YOU

For decades, computers have been fast but not smart. They process in binary, line by line, while the human brain works in a swirl of neurons, intuition, and chaos. Enter neuromorphic computing, a field designing chips that don't just calculate but adapt.

Unlike traditional processors, these chips mimic neurons and synapses, learning from patterns rather than being explicitly programmed. IBM's TrueNorth and Intel's Loihi 2 are pioneering this revolution, consuming a fraction of the energy that AI supercomputers gulp down. Imagine edge devices like drones, smartwatches, even your coffee machine,processing speech, touch, or motion without an internet connection.

This brain-inspired architecture can handle fuzzy, real-world data better than rigid algorithms ever could. It's AI, but with intuition, an electronic cortex that evolves with experience. Researchers believe neuromorphic chips will transform robotics, healthcare diagnostics, and sensory systems. We're still teaching silicon to dream, but each firing transistor brings us closer to computers that don't just think for us , they think like us.



02 THE PLASTIC THAT EATS ITSELF — ENZYMES GO INDUSTRIAL

Humanity's relationship with plastic is complicated. We love its convenience but hate its persistence. While recycling bins help us sleep at night, less than 10 percent of global plastic actually gets recycled. Enter FAST-PETase, a bio-engineered enzyme developed by researchers at the University of Texas at Austin that quite literally digests plastic.

This microscopic marvel breaks down polyethylene terephthalate (PET),the stuff in bottles, packaging, and polyester into its base ingredients in just a few days, not centuries. Once reduced, these monomers can be reused to make new, high-quality plastic without extracting more oil. It's like composting, but for Coke bottles.

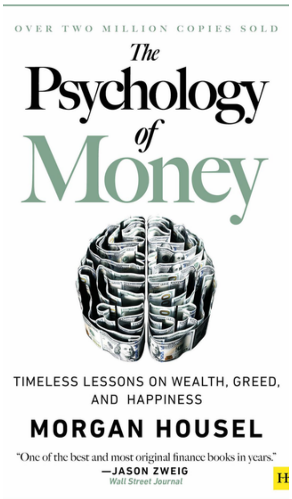
Beyond cleaning beaches, this enzyme could rewrite industrial economics, turning landfills into raw-material mines. Companies are now testing reactor systems that can scale this process for factories. If successful, it could close the loop on one of humanity's messiest inventions.

The most poetic part? Nature might fix what we broke, using its own chemistry. The age of guilt-free plastic might finally be within reach, powered not by machines or markets, but by a hungry little enzyme doing its job.

MOVIE RECOMMENDATION

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS

This movie tells the inspiring story of Chris Gardner who faces homelessness while raising his young son. The protagonist faces numerous hardships, failures and personal setbacks but his undying determination and optimism pushes him forward as he trains for a competitive position of stockbroker. The turning point in the film when Gardner's life takes a turn, is overwhelming and gives a lesson to the viewers of perseverance in face of adversity. The film is a perfect blend of hope, resilience and the unbreakable bond between a father and his son.



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF MONEY

The psychology of money by Morgan Housel isn't a typical finance book that teaches how to make money or generate wealth. The books provides a insight as to how people think about money. Through engaging stories and real life examples the book explores the impact of emotions and mindset in shaping financial decisions. The books teaches that generating money is about more than knowledge and intelligence, it's about patience, disciple and an understanding of human nature. The book also helps in providing a more holistic approach while thinking about money instead of limiting ourselves to technical factor.

YOUTUBE RECOMMENDATION

THE INSANE RISE OF NVIDIA -

This video explores Nvidia's extraordinary journey from a company near to bankruptcy to a trillion dollar company. It provides a deeper insight into company's major strategic decisions that changed the future of computation all together. Through detailed story telling, the video shows how a strong believe in vision and not being scared to take risks can turn a struggling company to a global leader. This video is a perfect blend of history, strategy, setbacks and inspiration in a highly engaging way.

MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Video games- Lana del Rey
2. Hotel California - Eagles
3. Swim - Chase Atlantic
4. Viva la Vida - Coldplay
5. Ordinary - Alex Warren

COMSOC GENIE

GUESS THE PERSONALITY

- “He was known for humility despite immense wealth, when others chased profits he built trust, he’s never been on the Forbes Billionaires list - by choice, not by chance”
- “Known for bold statements, gold interiors, and unapologetic confidence, making headlines is his daily habit, loved by some, loathed by others - but never ignored”
- “A calm voice in chaotic global halls, known for his sharp wit and sharper intellect, makes geopolitics sound like poetry, handles tough questions with tougher one-liners”
- “From a small tribal village to the highest office in the land, the second woman, and the first tribal leader, to hold India’s most prestigious position”
- “Her fandom calls her “mother,” and her pen bleeds emotions that unite millions, every “era” she enters becomes history in the making, Broke records, re-recorded her masters, and built an empire - all before turning 35”

GUESS THE COMPANY

- “Originated from a cooperative movement in India, known for witty billboard ads, its mascot has been unchanged since 1966.”
- “Turned spare rooms into business empires and strangers into hosts, his company redefined travel without owning a single hotel room, feels like home away from home”
- “Named after Greek goddess, it’s logo costed less than your previous Starbucks order, just three words make it timeless”
- “Began by mailing DVDs in red envelope, ended up changing how the world spends Friday nights, it’s algorithm probably knows you better than your friends”
- “ The company that turned your car into an income source, what started with two friends unable to find a cab in Paris turned into a global revolution”
- “A giant that owns pieces of thousands of global firms and was once the world’s biggest landlord. Nicknamed Wall Street’s “shadow government,” its founder has made controversial political remarks .

ANSWERS IN THE NEXT EDITION

COMSOC GENIE

JARGONS DECODED

Dark Stores

Dark stores are specialized retail outlets that look like stores but are closed to the public. They serve sole purpose of fulfilling online orders for groceries, household items or other goods. These are strategically located in urban areas to enable ultra-fast delivery. Companies like Blinkit and Zepto heavily rely on these dark stores to fulfil their commitment of delivering orders within 10-20 minutes. This model has transformed e-commerce altogether by speeding up deliveries and adding customer base.

Blockchains

A blockchain is like a digital ledger or notebook that is shared across multiple computers. It records transactions in blocks, which are linked together in a chain. Once a block is added it can't be changed, making the system secure and transparent. All network members can view and confirm transactions without needing to depend on a central authority such as a bank. This forms the foundation for aspects such as cryptocurrencies, smart contracts, and all matters related to trust, security, or notification.

MYTH BUSTERS

"Startups need to reinvent everything"

The idea that startups must reinvent everything is misleading. Most successful startups thrive by improving existing solutions instead of creating entirely new ones. Small improvements like easier use, faster service, or focusing on a niche area often works better than reinvention. For example, companies like Uber and Airbnb didn't invent transportation or lodging; they optimized access and convenience.

"Savings are the safest options"

The idea of being prepared for uncertainty often overshadows the importance of growing wealth over time. While savings account protect the principal, they often fail to beat inflation, meaning that money in the bank account gradually loses value. Relying solely of savings can restrict wealth growth. Diversifying into investments like mutual funds, bonds or stocks offer higher return while managing risk. True financial growth balances security with investments choices that ensure growth in wealth over time.

FORTUNE'S FABLES

Founded in 2015 by Ashish Mohapatra, Ruchi Kalra, and Bhuvan Gupta, Ofbusiness began as a B2B platform providing raw materials to small and medium enterprises(SMEs) in sectors like infrastructure and manufacturing. What set it apart was its unique blend of financing and commerce, offering SMEs not just procurement solutions but also credit facility through its NBFC arm, Oxyzo. Over the years, Ofbusiness has expanded rapidly, becoming a profitable unicorn with revenues crossing the Rs. 15000 crore mark in FY24. Its model of empowering India's backbone businesses made OfBusiness most impactful yet understated startups in the country.

Education is not the learning of facts ,
But the training of mind to think
—Albert Einstein

Thank you for reading!

Hope you enjoyed the content.
Stay tuned for the next edition!