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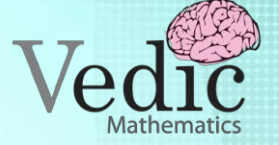
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Economic & Business

Financial Markets

Stock Market Performance: The Indian equity benchmark indices, Sensex and Nifty, opened in the green on August 14. The Sensex was near 80,600 and the Nifty was above 24,600.

Company Earnings: Over 500 companies are scheduled to announce their Q1 earnings today. Major companies include Indian Oil, Ashok Leyland, and Vodafone Idea.

Brokerage Actions: Several brokerages have issued recommendations and target price adjustments for various stocks. For example, Motilal Oswal has upgraded Bharat Dynamics to 'buy', while Jefferies is positive on FSN E-Commerce Ventures (Nykaa) after its Q1 growth. Conversely, Emkay Global has retained its 'reduce' rating on Hindalco.

IPO News: AI solutions company Fractal has filed for an IPO of nearly ₹5,000 crore.

Economic Policy and Outlook

RBI and Monetary Policy: According to a report by SBI, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is unlikely to cut interest rates in its upcoming October policy review. The report cites a projected rise in inflation for August, which could make a December rate cut also difficult. Economists believe that growth, rather than inflation, will be the primary driver of future monetary policy decisions.

Morgan Stanley Report on India: A Morgan Stanley report suggests that India is on track to become the world's most sought-after consumer market, driven by a major energy transition, a rising credit-to-GDP ratio, and a larger share of manufacturing in the GDP. The report also anticipates lower real interest rates in the economy.

Generative AI in Banking: An RBI report highlights that generative AI could boost Indian banking operations by up to 46%. The central bank believes AI can improve customer service, increase efficiency, and broaden access to credit by using non-traditional data for credit scoring.

Other Business Developments

ICICI Bank Policy Change: ICICI Bank has lowered the minimum account balance requirements for various locations, including metro, urban, semi-urban, and rural areas.

Infosys Acquisition: Infosys will acquire a 75% stake in Versent Group, an Australian Digital Transformation Solutions Provider, for AUD 233.25 million.

US Deficit and Tariffs: The US budget deficit reached \$291 billion in July, despite revenue from new tariffs. S&P Ratings expects a minimal impact of these US tariffs on India's economic growth.

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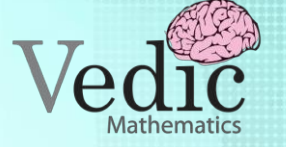
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MCQS

1. According to a report by SBI, why is the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) unlikely to cut interest rates in its October policy review?

- a) Because of a projected decrease in economic growth.
- b) Due to a rising credit-to-GDP ratio.
- c) Because of a projected rise in inflation for August.
- d) To align with US Federal Reserve policy.

Answer: c) Because of a projected rise in inflation for August.

The news report states that a report by SBI suggests the RBI is unlikely to cut interest rates due to a projected rise in inflation for August.

2. Which company is Infosys acquiring a 75% stake in for AUD 233.25 million?

- a) Fractal
- b) Vodafone Idea
- c) Versent Group
- d) FSN E-Commerce Ventures (Nykaa)

Answer: c) Versent Group

The news mentions that Infosys will acquire a 75% stake in Versent Group, an Australian Digital Transformation Solutions Provider.

3. What is the estimated potential boost to Indian banking operations from generative AI according to an RBI report?

- a) Up to 25%
- b) Up to 46%
- c) Up to 75%
- d) Up to 100%

Answer: b) Up to 46%

An RBI report highlighted in the news indicates that generative AI could boost Indian banking operations by up to 46%.

4. What is the amount of the IPO that AI solutions company Fractal has filed for?

- a) ₹500 crore
- b) ₹5,000 crore
- c) ₹50,000 crore
- d) ₹5 crore

Answer: b) ₹5,000 crore

The news report states that AI solutions company Fractal has filed for an IPO of nearly ₹5,000 crore.





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5. What is one of the key factors driving India to become the world's most sought-after consumer market, according to Morgan Stanley?

- a) A decrease in manufacturing's share of GDP.
- b) Lower government spending.
- c) A major energy transition.
- d) An increase in real interest rates.

Answer: c) A major energy transition.

The news states that a Morgan Stanley report suggests India is on track to become the world's most sought-after consumer market, driven by factors including a major energy transition and a rising credit-to-GDP ratio.



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