

**Financial Market****NSE plans tie-up with S & P (Tol-17)**

The world is coming to India's stock markets. On Wednesday, National Stock Exchange (NSE), the country's largest exchange by turnover, announced that it would soon approach the regulators for permission to launch futures contracts on S&P 500 index, one of world's most-watched indices.

**LIC Housing eyes banking licence (BL-1)**

LIC Housing Finance Ltd, a leading mortgage lender, is keen to apply for a banking licence, following the Government's decision to open up the banking sector to more private players.

**Rupee gains 25 paise (BL-6)**

The rupee gained by 25 paise against the greenback on Wednesday tracking the bullish equity markets and dollar selling by a big corporate house. The rupee opened at 45.53 and strengthened to touch an intra-day high of 45.35. It ended the day at 45.38, against the previous close of 45.63.

**Call rate ends higher (BL-6)**

The inter-bank call rate ended higher at 4.25-4.5 per cent on Wednesday against the previous close of 3.15-3.2 per cent.

**Banking****SBI planning 10-year retail bond issue next fiscal (BL-6)**

State Bank of India plans to test the waters with 10-year retail bond issue in the next financial year.

**RBI****RBI efforts to activate dormant no-frills accounts pay off (BL-6)**

The Reserve Bank of India's effort to activate millions of dormant no-frills accounts is slowly progressing, with Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka Governments agreeing to route all their social security programme payments through these accounts.

**Corporate****Tata Steel hit by Orissa Govt's blanket mining ban order (BL-1)**

The Orissa Government's order banning what it feels "illegal" mining by private companies in the State's iron ore-rich Banspani / Jarauli areas has proved too much for Tata Steel.

**Articles****Non-food credit shrugs off crisis blues (FE-13)**  
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Ashok Khemka**Growth scenarios for agriculture (BL-8)**  
Shashanka Bhide**[www.indiabudget](http://www.indiabudget) 2010-11 (BS-9)**

The expenditure cuts are one-off, too much has been given away in tax cuts and there are few green shoots of reform –Shankar Acharya

**What the Women's Bill cannot do (FE-8)**  
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M K Venu