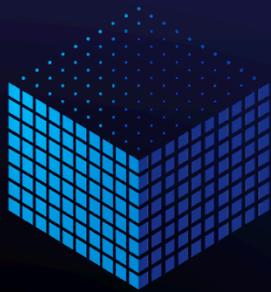




The RBI-recognized Self-Regulatory Organization in the FinTech Sector (SRO-FT)



CU BE

Issue 19 – Nov 2025

Issue 19 CUBE: Your Insight into FinTech Ecosystem

Hello from FACE, the RBI-recognised Self-Regulatory Organisation in the FinTech sector (SRO-FT). We present the nineteenth edition of Cube, a go-to source for the latest and most relevant happenings in India's FinTech ecosystem and beyond. Do let us know your inputs on Cube at communications@faceofindia.org.

Rulemaking

Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

- [RBI Issues Draft Directions and Circulars for Comments \(1 Oct 2025\)](#): RBI released draft Transaction Accounts Directions, 2025 (covering Commercial Banks, Small Finance Banks, Regional Rural Banks, Local Area Banks, Urban and Rural Co-operative Banks, and Payments Banks), Repeal Circular on Enhancing Credit Supply for Large Borrowers, and Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account Directions, 2025
- [Recognition of Self-Regulatory Organisation for NBFCs \(3 Oct 2025\)](#): RBI recognised the Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC) as the Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) for the NBFC sector, following its evaluation under the Omnibus Framework for Recognition of SROs for Regulated Entities (March 21, 2024).
- [Draft Directions on Lending to Related Parties \(3 Oct 2025\)](#): RBI issued draft “Reserve Bank of India (Lending to Related Parties) Directions, 2025” for public comments, proposing a harmonised, principle-based framework for all regulated entities — including commercial banks, SFBs, RRBs, LABs, UCBs, rural co-operative banks, NBFCs, and AIFIs.
- [Access to FX-Retail Platform via Bharat Connect \(7 Oct 2025\)](#): RBI launched a pilot linking the FX-Retail platform of Clearcorp with the Bharat Bill Payment System (Bharat Connect), enabling individual customers to access foreign exchange transactions through digital channels of participating banks and TPAPs like CRED and Mobikwik.
- [Expansion of Verified WhatsApp Channel for Public Awareness \(8 Oct 2025\)](#): RBI expanded its verified WhatsApp communication initiative under the ‘RBI Kehta Hai’ campaign by adding a second official account (9930991935) alongside the existing one (9999041935). This platform aims to make financial awareness messages, regulatory updates, and scam alerts more accessible to the public in a simple and trusted manner.
- [Consolidation of Regulations – Drafts for Comments \(9 Oct 2025\)](#): RBI has undertaken a major regulatory consolidation exercise, merging around 9,000 circulars into 238 Master Directions across 11 categories of regulated entities and 30 functional areas, to reduce compliance burden and improve clarity. Drafts of the consolidated Master Directions and the list of circulars proposed to be repealed are available on RBI’s website for feedback on completeness and accuracy (not for review of content) until November 10, 2025.
- [Fourth Global Hackathon – HaRBInger 2025 \(Oct 23 2025\)](#): RBI announced its fourth global hackathon, ‘HaRBInger 2025 – Innovation for Transformation’, inviting participants worldwide to develop technology-driven solutions. The hackathon focuses on three key problem statements — Tokenised KYC, Offline CBDC (e₹), and Enhancing Trust.
- [Draft Circular on Unique Transaction Identifier \(UTI\) for OTC Derivative Transactions \(Oct 23 2025\)](#): RBI issued a draft circular proposing the introduction of a Unique Transaction Identifier (UTI) for all OTC derivative transactions in India, inviting comments from stakeholders by November 14, 2025. The UTI, alongside the existing Legal Entity Identifier (LEI), will enable comprehensive tracking and global aggregation of OTC derivative data.
- [Draft Directions pursuant to Policy Announcement \(24 Oct 2025\)](#): RBI released draft Directions for public comments, including the Reserve Bank of India (Capital Market Exposure) Directions, 2025 (applicable to commercial banks and small finance banks) and the Reserve Bank of India (NBFC–Scale Based Regulation) Amendment Directions, 2025. Stakeholders may submit comments by November 21, 2025.

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

- [Enhancement of UPI Autopay \(7 Oct 2025\)](#): NPCI introduced enhancements to the UPI Autopay framework to improve flexibility for users and merchants. Users can now view all active autopay mandates across any UPI app, as well as port mandates between apps. Merchants are also permitted to port and execute autopay mandates through their preferred Payee PSP.
- [Introduction of Multi-Signatory Accounts on UPI \(7 Oct 2025\)](#): NPCI announced the expansion of UPI to support multi-signatory accounts such as joint, SME, partnership, trust, and society accounts that require multiple authorizations for payment.
- [Introduction of Additional Authentication Methods in UPI \(7 Oct 2025\)](#): In line with RBI's circular on digital payment authentication, NPCI announced optional additional authentication methods for UPI transactions to enhance user experience.
- [Addendum – Introduction of IoT Devices & Software on UPI Circle \(8 Oct 2025\)](#): NPCI extended the “UPI Circle – Delegated Payments” feature to IoT devices and software profiles, allowing users to link and authorize payments through smart devices such as watches, TVs, and AI profiles under a full delegation framework.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI)

- [Insurance Fraud Monitoring Framework Guidelines, 2025 \(9 Oct 2025\)](#): Effective April 1, 2026, the guidelines apply to all insurers and distribution channels, establishing a comprehensive framework to deter, prevent, detect, report, and remedy fraud. The objective is to strengthen fraud risk management, protect policyholders, enhance sectoral resilience, and maintain public trust in the insurance system.

Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)

- [Aadhaar Vision 2032: Technological and Strategic Review for the Next Decade of Digital ID](#): UIDAI has launched a comprehensive review to shape Aadhaar's future through the Aadhaar Vision 2032 framework, focusing on deep-tech integration and resilience.

Must-Reads

FinTech, Banking, and Credit

- [IMF – Global Financial Stability Report](#): This report examines global market's elevated risks and highlights vulnerabilities such as potential market corrections, FX stress from currency mismatches, and spillovers of nonbank risks into the banking system.
- [Dvara Research – From Periodic to Perpetual: Rethinking the Process of KYC](#): This article examines the inefficiencies of India's current periodic KYC framework and advocates a shift toward a Perpetual KYC (PKYC) model—an automated, near real-time system leveraging digital and AI tools to continuously update customer profiles and monitor transactions.

- [FSB – G20 Roadmap for Cross-Border Payments: Consolidated Progress Report 2025](#): The report finds that while major policy milestones under the G20's cross-border payments roadmap have been achieved, tangible benefits for end-users remain limited.
- [PwC – Indian Payments Handbook 2025–2030](#): The report highlights India's shift from payment volumes to value creation, driven by QR-based merchant digitisation, expanding platforms like Bharat Connect and FASTag, and renewed PPI growth via UPI.
- [FCA – Consultation Paper on Progressive Fund Tokenisation](#): The FCA proposes new rules to advance fund tokenisation and enable direct-to-fund dealing. Key elements include guidance under the Blueprint model, a roadmap to overcome tokenisation barriers, and discussions on DLT-based retail fund models.
- [Bank of England – Design Note on Offline Payments](#): This exploratory note outlines the Bank's emerging thinking on offline payment functionality within a potential digital pound. It details types of offline payments, their motivations, and future opportunities.

Artificial Intelligence, Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), and New Technologies

- [J.P. Morgan Chase – The Geopolitics of AI: Decoding the New Global Operating System](#): This report examines how AI is reshaping global power structures, economies, and alliances. It identifies seven strategic axes driving geopolitical competition.
- [UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose – The DigiLocker Story: How India is Digitising its Documents](#): This case study examines how DigiLocker, launched by MeitY, addressed India's inefficiencies in document management by providing citizens with secure digital access to verified records.
- [Capgemini – A Practical Guide to Implementing AI Ethics Governance](#): The report underscores how rapid AI advancements are outpacing governance and regulation. It provides a framework to operationalize ethical principles (fairness, accountability, and explainability) across the AI lifecycle.
- [FSB – Monitoring Adoption of Artificial Intelligence and Related Vulnerabilities in the Financial Sector](#): The report reviews how jurisdictions monitor AI adoption and related risks, emphasizing vulnerabilities such as third-party dependencies, market correlations, and governance challenges.
- [Generative AI and Firm Productivity: Field Experiments in Online Retail](#): This study uses large-scale randomised field experiments on a leading cross-border retail platform to measure GenAI's impact on productivity. Integrating GenAI into seven consumer-facing workflows increased sales by up to 16.3% without raising input costs. The strongest effects were seen among smaller sellers and less experienced consumers.
- [MIT AI Risk Repository – Mapping the AI Governance Landscape: Pilot Test and Update](#): This study tested the use of large language models (LLMs) to classify over 950 AI governance documents from CSET's AGORA archive. The analysis revealed that governance failures, system security risks, and lack of transparency dominate policy coverage, while welfare, multi-agent, and cultural risks remain underexplored.
- [National AI Centre \(Australia\) – Guidance for AI Adoption](#): This framework outlines six essential practices for responsible AI governance, grounded in national and international ethics principles.

- [The Agentic State – Rethinking Government for the Era of Agentic AI](#): This Vision Paper explores how agentic AI will redefine governance. Unlike earlier digitalisation waves, agentic AI can pursue goals and adapt across boundaries, demanding that governments modernise institutions and frameworks to stay effective, responsive, and aligned with citizen expectations.
- [BioCatch – 2025 Fraud Report](#): The report traces the evolution of authorized push payment (APP) fraud—from early social engineering scams to today’s GenAI-powered schemes—now causing over \$1 trillion in global losses annually. Analyzing data from institutions serving 350 million consumers across five continents, it finds scam attempts rising exponentially worldwide.
- [CrowdStrike – Threat Hunting Report 2025](#): The report highlights how the AI era has transformed cyber adversary behaviour. It notes that 81% of intrusions were malware-free and cloud breaches surged 136% in early 2025.
- [IMF – AI Projects in Financial Supervisory Authorities](#): This working paper underscores the need for financial supervisors to upgrade their toolkits as AI and digital technologies reshape the financial sector. It proposes a project management framework for AI adoption within supervisory bodies.
- [Bank Negara Malaysia – Discussion Paper on Asset Tokenization in the Malaysian Financial Sector](#): The paper outlines BNM’s proposed framework for exploring asset tokenisation through a collaborative, industry-driven approach.

Financial Inclusion

- [BIS – Financial Health in Review: Current Practices in Different Financial Authorities](#): This paper reviews how financial authorities define, measure, and promote financial health through inclusion, regulation, and literacy initiatives. It highlights policy tools that enable individuals to manage financial needs, withstand shocks, and pursue long-term goals.
- [World Bank – The Impact of a Mobile Money Levy on Household Welfare: Evidence from Tanzania](#): This paper analyses Tanzania’s 2021 levy on mobile money transfers and finds that rural households experienced a 10–18% decline in per capita food consumption and higher food insecurity, highlighting the regressive impact of transaction levies on financial inclusion.
- [GSMA – Empirical Evaluation: How Interoperability Models Impact Financial Inclusion and Competition](#): This report provides the first large-scale empirical assessment of how different mobile money interoperability models—market-led, regulator-led, and voluntary—affect adoption, usage, and competition. Using a multi-country difference-in-differences framework, the study finds that market-led interoperability introduced aftermarket maturity yields the strongest outcomes.

The World Around

- [FCA – Open Banking and Open Finance in the UK](#): This research note assesses the current state of open banking and outlines a strategic framework for advancing open finance in the UK. It identifies key challenges such as outdated systems, inconsistent data standards, and low consumer awareness, while balancing potential benefits against emerging risks.

- [BIS – Predicting the Payment Preference for CBDC: A Discrete Choice Experiment](#): This study analyses how over 3,500 individuals in Korea might adopt a retail CBDC using a discrete choice experiment comparing payment options by issuer, fees, settlement timing, and form. Results show that financial incentives most strongly influence adoption, followed by issuer credibility and format.

FACE Forward

FACE's RFP for tech – Live

- FACE invites qualified technology service providers to participate in the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the design, development, and operation of the FACE Risk Intelligence Platform (FRIP) — a shared industry platform for risk and exposure intelligence. The RFP document (Ref: FACE/FRIP-RFP-TSP/v1.0) can be accessed [here](#). Bid submission deadline: 30 November 2025, 17:00 IST.

FACE Governance

- [FACE welcomed Shri Manoranjan Mishra](#), former Executive Director of the Reserve Bank of India, as an Independent Director on the FACE Board, 1 Oct 2025.



Standards and Reports

- [FACE and D91 Labs – The DPI Advantage: Powering Credit Access for the Next 450 Million](#) (8 Oct 2025): Formally released at the Global Fintech Fest 2025 by Shri Bhuvnesh Kumar, CEO,



UIDAI, the report examines how India's Digital Public Infrastructure has revolutionised digital lending across onboarding, underwriting, repayment, and collections. The report outlines innovations to onboard the next 450 million borrowers and advance inclusive, interoperable credit access.

- FACE is compiling the [Fintech Barometer Survey](#) in collaboration with Grant Thornton Bharat, this edition broadens the scope to lending, payments, regtech, collectiontech and other critical areas that define the fintech landscape. Fill the survey [here](#).

Webinars

- FACE hosted a webinar with BDO on [CERT-In's Cybersecurity Audit Guidelines \(July 2025\): Implications for the Digital Lending Ecosystem](#), 16 Oct 2025.
- FACE hosted a webinar with Grant Thornton Bharat on [Self-Assessment Framework for Identification of Dark Patterns in Financial Services Organisations – with Special Focus on Digital Lending](#), 17 Oct 2025.

Membership

- FACE has reached 280+ members by Oct 2025. We're grateful to our members for their ongoing trust and support.
- You can learn more about FACE's membership, its eligibility, privileges, and fees [here](#).
- **To submit your interest in becoming a member of FACE, kindly fill in the form [here](#).**

Events

- FACE and Signzy hosted a roundtable on [Fraud Risk Prevention – Leveraging Technology to Safeguard Borrowers and Institutions](#), 28 Oct 2025, New Delhi.



- FACE is partnering as FinTech SRO Partner with the Fintech Premier League (FPL) 2025, hosted by Signzy: The multi-city corporate box-cricket league brings together leading fintech companies, including Razorpay, Pine Labs, PayU, BharatPe, MobiKwik, PhonePe, and PaisaBazaar. FPL is a platform to strengthen ecosystem connections, amplify industry voices, and foster collaboration across the fintech landscape.
- FACE is participating as FinTech SRO Partner at [Rural Fintech & Financial Inclusion Forum 2025](#), 7 Nov 2025, Mumbai
- FACE is participating as Industry Partner at the [4th MENA FinTech Festival](#), 2–3 Dec 2025, Doha.



Members' Miles

- [Cadre helps successful court execution of an ODR powered arbitral award enabling firm to secure 100% of its outstanding payments within 120 days.](#)
- [Gnani.ai's AI avatar for enterprise use launched](#)
- [Groww completes acquisition of Fisdom after Sebi nod; marks entry into wealth management](#)

- [Groww enables in-app algo trading with 'Groww Cloud'](#)
- [Kisht Posts 79% CAGR in AUM, Strengthens Position](#)
- [Lark Finserv: Reimagining loans against mutual funds through embedded credit infrastructure](#)
- [Navi launches with Reserve Pay, EV Recharge](#)
- [Paytm Allows NRIs To Make UPI Payments Using International Mobile Numbers](#)
- [PayU Launches UPI NXT Stack to Transform India's Real-Time Digital Payments Ecosystem](#)
- [PayU Finance, Swiggy, target Rs 300 crore in annual credit disbursements to restaurant partners](#)
- [PhonePe - General Atlantic invests another \\$600 million](#)
- [PhonePe, Utkarsh Small Finance Bank launch FD-backed Wish Credit Card](#)
- [Razorpay and YES BANK launch RBI-compliant biometric card authentication for online payments](#)
- [Razorpay, NPCI, and OpenAI collaborate to launch agentic payments](#)
- [SalarySe Nets \\$11.3 Mn to Scale Its Salary-Linked Credit Platform](#)
- [ZIGRAM and id4 Announce a Strategic Partnership in the United Arab Emirates](#)

For more event details or partnership queries, connect at communications@faceofindia.org.