



February 05, 2025 – Wednesday

## Economy

### **PM Internship Scheme aims to provide exposure, not jobs: FM Sitharaman**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman clarified in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday that the Prime Minister Internship Scheme, announced last year, was designed to enhance youth employability through skill-building rather than provide direct employment. “The intent of the program is not to provide jobs, but to offer exposure and create awareness about market opportunities, so that candidates can be trained accordingly,” Sitharaman said during the Question Hour. She emphasised that an internship is not the same as employment and outlined the scheme’s objectives.

[https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/pm-internship-scheme-youth-provide-exposure-jobs-nirmala-sitharaman-125020401192\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/pm-internship-scheme-youth-provide-exposure-jobs-nirmala-sitharaman-125020401192_1.html)

### **Domestic demand to boost growth post income tax cuts in Budget 2025: S&P**

S&P Global Ratings on Tuesday said the Budget for 2025-26 will boost India's growth over the next few years via domestic demand through income tax cuts and the country will achieve the targeted 4.4 per cent fiscal deficit despite hiking I-T rebate. S&P said India's union Budget is in line with its expectation of gradual fiscal consolidation and that undergirds the positive outlook on India's sovereign ratings BBB-'. The deficit targets are also consistent with S&P's projections.

[https://www.business-standard.com/budget/news/domestic-demand-to-boost-growth-post-income-tax-cuts-in-budget-2025-s-p-125020401391\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/budget/news/domestic-demand-to-boost-growth-post-income-tax-cuts-in-budget-2025-s-p-125020401391_1.html)

## Finance

### **RBI may use CRR as regulatory tool, repo rate cuts likely in 2025: SBI**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) could start using the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) as a regulatory intervention tool rather than just a liquidity management mechanism in the future, according to a recent report by State Bank of India (SBI). The report emphasised the urgent need for the central bank to revisit its liquidity management framework, suggesting that CRR could serve as a countercyclical liquidity buffer rather than a frequent adjustment tool for daily liquidity needs.

[https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/rbi-cash-reserve-ratio-crr-regulatory-tool-rate-cuts-2025-sbi-125020400511\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/rbi-cash-reserve-ratio-crr-regulatory-tool-rate-cuts-2025-sbi-125020400511_1.html)

### **IBBI allows easier possession, registration of flats during bankruptcy resolution**

The bankruptcy regulator has allowed insolvency professionals to hand over the possession of plots, flats or buildings to homebuyers or facilitate registrations during the bankruptcy resolution of a realty firm if the buyers have honoured their parts of the agreements.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/ibbi-allows-easier-possession-registration-of-flats-during-bankruptcy-resolution/articleshow/117923900.cms>

### **Grameen Credit Score to boost rural women's access to loans, support SHGs**

The proposed Grameen Credit Score will enable banks to extend more loans to rural women, known for prompt repayments, by incorporating utility bill payments, UPI transactions, and enrolment in government schemes. This new credit scoring system will help women access credit at better interest rates, supporting the expansion of self-help groups and rural entrepreneurship.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/grameen-credit-score-to-boost-rural-womens-access-to-loans-support-shgs/articleshow/117924492.cms>

### **Government may hike collateral-free loan to farmers under KCC to ₹2 lakh from ₹1.6 lakh**

Credit limit to dairy and poultry farmers to be raised to ₹5 lakh.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/government-may-hike-collateral-free-loan-to-farmers-under-kcc-to-2-lakh-from-16-lakh/article69180339.ece>

### **Lenders chase medium-term deposits for liquidity cover**

Banks are focusing on medium-term deposit mobilization to comply with new liquidity coverage ratio rules and improve asset-liability management. Non-callable deposits with two-to-five year maturities are preferred despite higher costs. Revised rules effective from April 1 mandate a higher run-off factor, prompting banks to invest more in liquid securities.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/lenders-chase-medium-term-deposits-for-liquidity-cover/articleshow/117926477.cms>

### **SEBI expands algo trading to retail investors, new norms to take effect from Aug 1**

SEBI on Tuesday issued a tighter framework for algorithm trading to protect retail investors through checks and balances. It has tasked the Brokers' Industry Standards Forum to formulate implementation standards by April 1, following which the new norms will become effective from August 1.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/sebi-expands-algo-trading-to-retail-investors-new-norms-to-take-effect-from-aug-1/article69180422.ece>

### **FY25 target to fund projects via green bonds pruned 27%**

The government has reduced its FY25 target for green bond proceeds by 27% due to weak investor interest and plans to maintain this level for the next fiscal year. Despite the ongoing effort to promote green financing, the anticipated premium over non-green instruments has been minimal since the bonds' debut in FY23.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/fy25-target-to-fund-projects-via-green-bonds-pruned-27/articleshow/117924856.cms>

### **P2P companies in standstill mode as volumes see steep fall**

Major peer-to-peer (P2P) lending exchanges are exploring new businesses after seeing a sharp fall in lending volumes and industry AUMs shrinking 65 per cent post the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) August 2024 diktat, sources told businessline.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/p2p-companies-in-standstill-mode-as-volumes-see-steep-fall/article69180286.ece>

### **GST Council to soon take decision on rates, number of slabs: FM Sitharaman**

The GST Council will soon take a decision on having fewer and lower rates as the review work is almost complete, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday. Currently, Goods and Services Tax (GST) is a four-tier tax structure with slabs at 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent. Luxury and demerit goods are taxed at the highest bracket of 28 per cent, while packed food and essential items are in the lowest 5 per cent slab.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/gst-council-to-soon-take-decision-on-rates-number-of-slabs-fm-sitharaman-125020401113\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/gst-council-to-soon-take-decision-on-rates-number-of-slabs-fm-sitharaman-125020401113_1.html)

### **100% FDI in insurance sector to woo more foreign players: Moody's**

Increasing foreign investment limit in the insurance sector to 100 per cent from 74 per cent is likely to attract more global players in the growing Indian insurance market, Moody's Ratings said on Tuesday.

Additionally, strong premium growth is expected to boost profitability of the sector.

[https://www.business-standard.com/budget/news/100-fdi-in-insurance-sector-to-woo-more-foreign-players-moody-s-125020401138\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/budget/news/100-fdi-in-insurance-sector-to-woo-more-foreign-players-moody-s-125020401138_1.html)

## Industry

### **FMCG firms in India bet on vending machines to propel growth in snacks-on-the-go**

With an uptick in demand for on-the-go snacks and beverages, Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) majors in India from Coca Cola and Nestle to Tata Consumer, Godrej & Boyce are betting on vending machines as business growth channels.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/fm-cg-firms-in-india-bet-on-vending-machines-to-propel-growth-in-snacks-on-the-go/article69179252.ece>

### **India's local foundational AI platform expected in 10 months, says Vaishnav**

India may be able to develop its own high-end computing chipset, known as GPUs, in the next 3-5 years while a local foundational AI platform is expected in 10 months, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said on Tuesday. During a Budget Roundtable 2025 organised by India Today & Business Today, Vaishnav said that the government will make available 18,000 high-end GPU-based compute facilities for AI development to entities in the country in the next couple of days and expects India's own AI platform within 10 months.

[https://www.business-standard.com/technology/tech-news/india-s-local-foundational-ai-platform-expected-in-10-months-says-vaishnav-125020401623\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/technology/tech-news/india-s-local-foundational-ai-platform-expected-in-10-months-says-vaishnav-125020401623_1.html)

### **AI will completely transform offline universities, says Sanjeev Sanyal**

Sanjeev Sanyal, a member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), on Tuesday said artificial intelligence (AI) will completely transform how offline universities operate. Speaking on the theme "The Potential and Peril of AI in Education" at the ASU+GSV & Emeritus Summit here, Sanyal said the current higher education system is outdated and that expensive college education may become obsolete, as the same lecture can be taught anywhere at no incremental cost. He added that university education, in its current form, is a 20th-century creation.

[https://www.business-standard.com/education/news/ai-will-completely-transform-offline-universities-says-sanjeev-sanyal-125020401505\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/education/news/ai-will-completely-transform-offline-universities-says-sanjeev-sanyal-125020401505_1.html)

### **PM Narendra Modi may push for global guidelines on AI at Paris Summit**

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi is likely to call upon nations to frame global guidelines for Artificial Intelligence (AI), in line with his pitch for an international framework for digital technologies, officials said on Tuesday. Modi and other global leaders will discuss the growing challenges and opportunities for AI in governance at the Action Summit to be held in Paris on February 10–11. A push by India to adopt standards for AI in telecommunications led to the International Telecommunication Union adopting a resolution supporting the same last year. The rapid pace of AI technology may necessitate the same for other sectors, officials said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/pm-narendra-modi-may-push-for-global-guidelines-on-ai-at-paris-summit-125020401523\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/pm-narendra-modi-may-push-for-global-guidelines-on-ai-at-paris-summit-125020401523_1.html)

### **India's passenger vehicle industry to see modest 1.5% growth in FY25: Report**

India's passenger vehicle industry is projected to grow 1.5% in FY25 due to subdued demand, while the two-wheeler segment could benefit from stronger exports. The tractor industry is expected to grow by 7%. Discounts are rising, with Mahindra & Mahindra and TVS Motor outperforming, while Tata Motors lags.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/auto/auto-news/indias-passenger-vehicle-industry-to-see-modest-1-5-growth-in-fy25-report/articleshow/117910001.cms>

## Agriculture

### **Walnut industry seeks duty structure change**

The nuts and dry fruits industry anticipates a relief in import duty on walnuts before PM Modi's US visit. The current 100% duty is challenged, suggesting ₹125 per kg instead, which would benefit both Kashmir farmers and India-US relations. Duty rationalisation is expected to prevent industry malpractices.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/food/walnut-industry-seeks-duty-structure-change/articleshow/117924791.cms>

#### **India's fruit and vegetable exports surge 47.3 pc with APEDA's financial assistance: Commerce Ministry**

India's fruits and vegetable exports have surged by 47.3% from 2019-2020 to 2023-2024, fueled by financial aid schemes from APEDA. The support includes developing essential export facilities and quality management systems, participating in trade fairs, and expanding into 17 new markets over the last three years.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indias-fruit-and-vegetable-exports-surge-47-3-pc-with-apedas-financial-assistance-commerce-ministry/articleshow/117932748.cms>

### **Infrastructure**

#### **Gati Shakti masterplan: Detailed norms soon on data access to pvt sector**

Instead of giving access to the Gati Shakti national masterplan portal, the government may provide data and information based on queries raised by the private sector. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) will soon spell out the data-sharing norms of the Gati Shakti national masterplan with the private sector, Secretary Amardeep Singh Bhatia said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/gati-shakti-masterplan-detailed-norms-soon-on-data-access-to-pvt-sector-125020401546\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/gati-shakti-masterplan-detailed-norms-soon-on-data-access-to-pvt-sector-125020401546_1.html)

#### **Flat capex for railways may hit suppliers**

The pace of capital expenditure by Indian railways has slowed with the Budget allocating just Rs 2.52 lakh crore, to the transporter in FY26 which in real terms denote a marginal year on year decline. The squeeze comes amid strict controls on market borrowings by the transporter via its arm IRFC. The leading suppliers to railway projects and EPC contractors like BEML, BHEL, ABB, Siemens, KEC International etc. may be impacted with lower growth in new orders from the transporter.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry/flat-capex-for-railways-may-hit-suppliers/3736821/>

#### **Centre pushes for policy to ramp-up shipbuilding yards, set up new clusters**

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has decided to expedite \$ 2–3 billion policy aimed at modernising, ramping-up and setting up of ship-building yards.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/as-global-shipping-majors-eye-shipbuilding-orders-from-india-centre-pushes-for-policy-to-ramp-up-yards-set-up-new-clusters/article69180378.ece>

### **Telecom**

#### **Trai recommends opening up key 5G spectrum band for upcoming auctions**

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) has recommended the auction of several 5G high-band or millimetre wave (mmWave) spectrum in upcoming spectrum auctions. Trai on Tuesday said spectrum in the 37-37.5 GHz and 37.5-40 GHz frequency ranges should be auctioned, while it has recommended against auctions for the 42.5-43.5 GHz frequency range. The move is expected to find support from telecom service providers who have pushed for access to it.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/trai-recommends-opening-up-key-5g-spectrum-band-for-upcoming-auctions-125020401599\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/trai-recommends-opening-up-key-5g-spectrum-band-for-upcoming-auctions-125020401599_1.html)

#### **Illegal jammers at educational institutes; boosters at home, firms hampering mobile services: COAI**

COAI has requested the telecom department to take action against illegal jammers and repeaters installed at educational institutes, homes, and firms, which degrade mobile network service quality. They urged the government to impose penalties on online platforms selling such equipment and to write to all states to stop this illegal practice.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-news/illegal-jammers-at-educational-institutes-boosters-at-home-firms-hampering-mobile-services-coai/articleshow/117920396.cms>

## States

### UP SMEs eye offshore markets as state targets Rs 3 trillion in exports

With Uttar Pradesh (UP) eyeing exports of Rs 3 trillion in 2-3 years, the state's small and medium businesses (SMEs) are looking to tap offshore markets, especially Africa, Europe, and the Gulf countries for trade ties. The sectors under focus for global business tie-ups include agro and food processing, green energy, building and construction material, and electrical and electronics.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/up-smes-eye-offshore-markets-as-state-targets-rs-3-trillion-in-exports-125020400957\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/up-smes-eye-offshore-markets-as-state-targets-rs-3-trillion-in-exports-125020400957_1.html)

### BMC allocates Rs 1,000 cr for BEST bus services in FY 2025-26 budget

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has in its budget for the financial year 2025-26 allocated Rs 1,000 crore for the civic bus services BEST, acknowledging its financial challenges. The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) undertaking, the second-largest public transport system in the metropolis after suburban trains, operates a fleet of around 3,000 buses, serving more than 30 lakh commuters daily.

[https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/bmc-allocates-rs-1-000-cr-for-best-bus-services-in-fy-2025-26-budget-125020400586\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/bmc-allocates-rs-1-000-cr-for-best-bus-services-in-fy-2025-26-budget-125020400586_1.html)

## Healthcare

### India has robust system to tackle pandemics: Health min tells Rajya Sabha

India has a very robust system to deal with future pandemics and public health emergencies, Union Health and Family Welfare Minister JP Nadda asserted in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday. Replying to supplementary questions in the Rajya Sabha, Nadda highlighted the steps taken by the government in the last 10 years to strengthen India's health system, especially in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[https://www.business-standard.com/health/india-has-robust-system-to-tackle-pandemics-health-min-tells-rajya-sabha-125020400740\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/health/india-has-robust-system-to-tackle-pandemics-health-min-tells-rajya-sabha-125020400740_1.html)

## External

### Govt framing schemes under export promotion mission for exporters: DGFT

The government is framing schemes for MSME exporters to provide credit at easy terms, promote alternate financing instrument through strengthening factoring services for them, and offer assistance to deal with non-tariff measures imposed by other countries, an official said on Tuesday. The commerce, MSME and finance ministries are working on these schemes, Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Santosh Kumar. These schemes are being formulated under the export promotion mission, announced in the Union Budget for 2025-26. The schemes are expected to be rolled out in about 4-5 months, he said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/budget/news/govt-framing-schemes-under-export-promotion-mission-for-exporters-dgft-125020400736\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/budget/news/govt-framing-schemes-under-export-promotion-mission-for-exporters-dgft-125020400736_1.html)

### India among top three countries on Singapore's tourist list in 2024

India has emerged as one of the top three markets for visitor arrivals in Singapore with 1.2 million Indians visiting the city-state in 2024, the tourism board here said on Tuesday. China topped the tourist list with 3.08 million arrivals to Singapore followed by Indonesia with 2.49 million arrivals.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-among-top-three-countries-on-singapore-s-tourist-list-in-2024-125020400744\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-among-top-three-countries-on-singapore-s-tourist-list-in-2024-125020400744_1.html)

### India working on compromise proposal to resolve origin rules differences with EU in FTA talks

India is working on a compromise proposal to resolve differences with the European Union on issues such as rules for determining the origin of goods, and thereby duty concessions as part of bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) talks.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-working-on-compromise-proposal-to-resolve-origin-rules-differences-with-eu-in-fta-talks/articleshow/117924696.cms>

#### **India, Saudi Arabia to boost ties in critical mineral sector**

India and Saudi Arabia on Tuesday agreed to strengthen cooperation in the critical mineral sector. Mines minister G Kishan Reddy held a high-level meeting with Saudi Arabia's minister of industry and mineral resources Bandar Ibrahim Alkhorayef to discuss on the opportunities and exploring new avenues for investment and technological collaboration.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry/india-saudi-arabia-to-boost-ties-in-critical-mineral-sector/3738015/>

#### **Plan is to create separate agency to implement BharatTradeNet: DGFT**

The Budget announcement to set up BharatTradeNet as a unified platform for trade documentation and financing solutions is an ambitious proposal and there is a plan to create a not-for-profit company to implement this project, a senior government official said on Tuesday. Proposed on the lines of Unified Payments Interface (UPI), the platform will help in moving towards complete digitisation of the entire range of trade documentation and then allow seamless operability of different agencies which are involved in this, Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Santosh Kumar Saranagi told reporters.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/plan-is-to-create-separate-agency-to-implement-bharatradenet-dgft-125020401600\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/plan-is-to-create-separate-agency-to-implement-bharatradenet-dgft-125020401600_1.html)

#### **Duty cut on jewellery to boost demand**

Jewellery firms say the proposed customs duty cuts on jewellery and platinum parts in the FY26 Budget will boost consumption. The duty on platinum findings has dropped from 25% to 5%, and on jewellery from 25% to 20%. A new tariff line for gold imports in bars has also been introduced.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy/duty-cut-on-jewellery-to-boost-demand/3736846/>