



February 06, 2025 – Thursday

## Economy

### Services sector growth slows to more than 2-yr low of 56.5 in Jan: PMI data

Growth in India's dominant services sector was the slowest in over two years in January amid cooling demand but remained historically strong and led to a substantial rate of hiring, a business survey showed on Wednesday. Asia's third-largest economy has been struggling with slackening consumption. To try and boost spending the government gave some tax relief to the middle class at its annual budget on Feb. 1 but shied away from announcing big reforms which are much needed to prop up growth.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/services-sector-growth-slows-to-more-than-2-yr-low-of-56-5-in-jan-pmi-data-125020500433\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/services-sector-growth-slows-to-more-than-2-yr-low-of-56-5-in-jan-pmi-data-125020500433_1.html)

## Finance

### Secy group on asset monetisation to meet on Thursday; to discuss NMP 2.0

Ahead of a formal rollout of the second edition of the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP 2.0), valued at Rs 10 trillion, the Core Group of Secretaries on Asset Monetisation (CGAM), chaired by Cabinet secretary TV Somanathan, will meet on Thursday to discuss the final progress of the first phase of the NMP. This comes as the Centre fine-tunes plans for the second one.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/secy-group-on-asset-monetisation-to-meet-on-thursday-to-discuss-nmp-2-0-125020501677\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/secy-group-on-asset-monetisation-to-meet-on-thursday-to-discuss-nmp-2-0-125020501677_1.html)

### Revenue department rejects panel's GST waiver demand on co-lending

The Department of Revenue has rejected a recommendation by a panel led by State Bank of India (SBI) to remove 18 per cent goods and services tax (GST) on activities related to co-lending among commercial banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), according to a senior government official. "We will explore other approaches to address this matter," the official said. In May last year, the Department of Financial Services had asked SBI to set up a co-lending committee to sort out issues related to its business model.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/revenue-department-rejects-panel-s-gst-waiver-demand-on-co-lending-125020501515\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/revenue-department-rejects-panel-s-gst-waiver-demand-on-co-lending-125020501515_1.html)

### Ibbi proposes coordinated insolvency resolution for interconnected entities

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Ibbi), in a discussion paper, has sought a series of amendments to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC) regulations, including allowing invitation of resolution plans concurrently for both the company under insolvency and its specific businesses or assets. "This proposal removes the requirement that resolution professionals (RPs) can only seek asset-specific plans after attempts to invite resolution plans for the entire corporate debtor have failed," the insolvency regulator said. Ibbi has noted that the current IBC process treats each entity as a standalone unit, overlooking the intricate web of interdependencies often present in modern business ecosystems.

[https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/ibbi-proposes-coordinated-insolvency-resolution-for-interconnected-entities-125020501177\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/ibbi-proposes-coordinated-insolvency-resolution-for-interconnected-entities-125020501177_1.html)

#### **Prudent fiscal management likely to soften G-sec yields: DEA secretary Seth**

The government's prudent fiscal management may soften government securities yields and leave more funds for corporates to invest in the economy, DEA Secretary Ajay Seth has said. In absolute terms, he said, "we will be borrowing (for FY26) less than what we intend to borrow in the current year. Even the gross borrowings are also marginally more than what it was, signalling that the government will leave enough into the market for the private sector to pick up".

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/prudent-fiscal-management-likely-to-soften-g-sec-yields-dea-secretary-seth-125020501438\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/prudent-fiscal-management-likely-to-soften-g-sec-yields-dea-secretary-seth-125020501438_1.html)

#### **FinMin seeks proposals for 2nd supplementary demands for grants for FY25**

The finance ministry has sought expenditure proposals for the second and final batch of supplementary demands for grants for FY25 from various ministries to be tabled in the ongoing Budget session. According to an office memorandum, ministries are required to submit their supplementary proposals by February 12. The cases that would be eligible to be incorporated under such demands include those where advances from the Contingency Fund have been granted.

[https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/finmin-seeks-proposals-for-2nd-supplementary-demands-for-grants-for-fy25-125020501520\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/finmin-seeks-proposals-for-2nd-supplementary-demands-for-grants-for-fy25-125020501520_1.html)

#### **EPFO Pension Scheme: Govt confirms higher pension to 22,000 members.**

EPFO has issued 21,885 pension payment orders and asked 1.65 lakh members to deposit additional amount for higher pension under the Employees' Pension Scheme 1995. 17.48 lakh applications were submitted for higher pension. The process is based on the Supreme Court's decision from November 2022. Deadlines for employers to forward applications have been extended multiple times.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/epfo-pension-scheme-govt-confirms-higher-pension-to-22000-members-heres-how-to-check-yours/articleshow/117945407.cms>

#### **Public sector general insurance employee union oppose 100% FDI move**

A union representing employees of public sector general insurance companies has issued a statement criticising the introduction of 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) in the insurance sector and amendments to insurance laws. Joint forum of Unions & Associations of Officers & Employees (JFTU) said in a statement, "The proposed introduction of 100% FDI in the insurance sector and other amendments to insurance laws by the central government, were also discussed.

[https://www.business-standard.com/markets/news/public-sector-general-insurance-employee-union-oppose-100-fdi-move-125020501626\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/markets/news/public-sector-general-insurance-employee-union-oppose-100-fdi-move-125020501626_1.html)

#### **States' capex may see flat growth in FY25**

States' capital expenditures likely fell 4% on-year in the first nine months of the current financial year despite the Centre's acceleration in capex loan to them, indicating the year is likely to end with a flattish growth in spending on asset creation. A review of the finances of 16 states by FE showed that their capex in April-December 2024 declined to about Rs 3.39 lakh crore compared with Rs 3.52 lakh crore with an annual growth of 40% in the year-ago period.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/market/states-capex-may-see-flat-growth-in-fy25nbsp-3739071/>

### **Industry**

#### **GCCs expected to create 425,000 to 450,000 jobs this year, says report**

Indian global capability centres (GCCs) are expected to create 4.25 to 4.5 lakh new jobs this year, as the country continues to establish itself as one of the most sought-after destinations for technology talent globally, according to a report by NLB Services, a technology and digital talent solutions provider. More than a third of the GCCs, which span banking, retail, oil and gas, and aviation, will be looking to expand their workforce by 35-50 per cent, the report added, as supportive government policies provide stimulus to growth.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/gccs-expected-to-create-425-000-to-450-000-jobs-this-year-says-report-125020501627\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/gccs-expected-to-create-425-000-to-450-000-jobs-this-year-says-report-125020501627_1.html)

### **Consumer electronics manufacturers expand horizons, leverage govt incentives**

Leading consumer electronics contract manufacturers, who are now venturing into component manufacturing, and automotive part manufacturers are looking to diversify beyond their core. Thanks to government incentives and the need for maximum utilization of capacities. Chief executives of consumer electronics manufacturers like Dixon Technologies, Amber and Epack Durables said they will venture into the automotive industry with products like automotive displays, printed circuit board (PCB) and printed circuit board assembly (PCBA). It also found a mention at the investor calls in the past few days.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/electronics/consumer-electronics-manufacturers-expand-horizons-leverage-govt-incentives/articleshow/117949128.cms>

### **Underground works in forest land for projects eco-friendly: Govt**

The Union environment ministry has clarified that all underground works in forest land linked to linear, irrigation, hydel, and other development projects should be considered equivalent to underground mining, which is an environmentally-friendly activity and exempt from compensatory afforestation.

[https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/underground-works-in-forest-land-for-projects-eco-friendly-govt-125020501440\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/underground-works-in-forest-land-for-projects-eco-friendly-govt-125020501440_1.html)

### **India likely to bid for 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad: Report**

After submitting a Letter of Intent to host the 2036 Olympics, India is now considering a bid for the 2030 Commonwealth Games. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has initiated informal discussions with the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) regarding the possibility of hosting the centenary edition of the event, according to a report in Indian Express. The report further stated that unlike the 2010 edition held in New Delhi, Ahmedabad has emerged as the frontrunner, with Bhubaneswar also being considered.

[https://www.business-standard.com/sports/commonwealth-games/india-likely-to-bid-for-2030-commonwealth-games-in-ahmedabad-report-125020500598\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/sports/commonwealth-games/india-likely-to-bid-for-2030-commonwealth-games-in-ahmedabad-report-125020500598_1.html)

### **India second biggest mkt for OpenAI; total users tripling in one yr**

India is the second-biggest market for OpenAI, with the number of users tripling in one year by 2024, the company's chief executive officer, Sam Altman, said here on Wednesday. "Seeing what people are building in India with AI (artificial intelligence) at all levels of the stack—chips, models... you know, all of the incredible applications—I think India should be doing everything. It is really quite amazing to see what the country has done and how it has embraced the technology," Altman, who was on a one-day tour of the country, said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/technology/tech-news/india-second-biggest-mkt-for-openai-total-users-tripling-in-one-yr-altman-125020501554\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/technology/tech-news/india-second-biggest-mkt-for-openai-total-users-tripling-in-one-yr-altman-125020501554_1.html)

## **Agriculture**

### **I-T dept to assist food ministry in tracing false beneficiaries of PMGKAY**

The income tax department will share data with the Food Ministry to weed out ineligible beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY). Under the PMGKAY, free ration is provided to poor families who do not pay income tax.

[https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/i-t-dept-to-assist-food-ministry-in-tracing-false-beneficiaries-of-pmgkay-125020501285\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/i-t-dept-to-assist-food-ministry-in-tracing-false-beneficiaries-of-pmgkay-125020501285_1.html)

### **Govt extends export ban on de-oiled rice bran till Sep**

The government has extended the ban on exports of de-oiled rice bran till September 30, 2025, to help control domestic prices and ensure availability for cattle feed. Additionally, DGFT has updated norms regarding wastage and standard input-output for the export of jewellery to align with duty-free metal imports.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/govt-extends-export-ban-on-de-oiled-rice-bran-till-sep/articleshow/117956323.cms>

### **Collaborative research on marine mammal assume significance ahead of US deadline**

A collaborative research work on marine mammal conservation in Indian waters has assumed greater significance in anticipation of the US' impending enforcement of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) in 2026.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/collaborative-research-on-marine-mammal-assume-significance-ahead-of-us-deadline/article69183973.ece>

### **Cotton mission to look at new technologies to boost yields, tackle pests**

The 5-year "Mission for Cotton Productivity" announced in the Budget 2025-26 will look at technologies beyond the transgenics, such as gene editing and others, to develop the new seeds that will not only boost yields, but also resistant to dreaded pests like pink bollworm.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/cotton-mission-to-look-at-new-technologies-to-boost-yields-tackle-pests/article69184454.ece>

### **Govt considering export of limited quantity specialty sugar**

The Government is considering the export of 15,000 tonnes of specialty sugar annually, which will not come under the purview of any restrictions, even if imposed. Currently, sugar export is allowed through a permit system issued by the Food Ministry, and there is no separate distinction made for specialty sugar, which are essentially value-added products.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/govt-considering-export-of-limited-quantity-specialty-sugar/article69183999.ece>

## **Infrastructure**

### **PM Gati Shakti, logistics policy to push India's World Bank ranking: Report**

Strong infrastructure development through initiatives like PM Gati Shakti and National Logistics Policy will help India find a place among top 25 nations on the World Bank Logistics Performance Index by 2030, a report said. India ranks 38th in the World Bank Logistics Performance Index (LPI) out of 139 countries and aims to be in the top 25 by 2030/

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/pm-gati-shakti-logistics-policy-to-push-india-s-world-bank-ranking-report-125020500981\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/pm-gati-shakti-logistics-policy-to-push-india-s-world-bank-ranking-report-125020500981_1.html)

### **India's student housing market expected to expand as demand rises**

India's student housing market is set to grow as demand rises in education hubs where millions of young people need hostel and rental accommodation, according to experts. "According to various market reports, the Indian student housing market is estimated to reach approximately \$780.5 million by 2030 with a CAGR (compound annual growth rate) of 6.6 per cent from 2025 onwards," said Santhosh Kumar, vice-chairman, Anarock Group, a real estate consultancy.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-s-student-housing-market-expected-to-expand-as-demand-rises-125020500544\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-s-student-housing-market-expected-to-expand-as-demand-rises-125020500544_1.html)

## **Energy**

### **India's natural gas production to peak in 2025, decline thereafter**

India's natural gas production is expected to peak in the current calendar year, after which it is likely to decline at a rate of 3.6 per cent annually until 2030, Wood Mackenzie said in a report. India likely to become the world's third largest LNG importer by 2032, after China and Japan.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/commodities/indias-natural-gas-production-to-peak-in-2025-decline-thereafter-wood-mackenzie/article69182949.ece>

## **Telecom**

### **Indian telecom companies are the preferred ones in Asia, Airtel top pick**

India's ARPU growth outlook makes its telecom companies the preferred companies in Asia, said HSBC Global Research in its latest report looking at diversified telecoms in India. India, Thailand and mainland China telcos outperformed in the region while Indonesia and Taiwan telcos underperformed, said the report. India had the lowest telecom spend amongst Asian consumers, at 1.3 per cent of GDP.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/indian-telecom-companies-are-the-preferred-choice-in-asia-airtel-top-pick-hsbc-global-research/article69182851.ece>

## States

### Madhya Pradesh looks to become drone manufacturing hub with new policy

The Madhya Pradesh government has formulated a new drone policy to foster manufacturing of drones in the state as well as encourage their use across sectors like agriculture, logistics, security and governance. The state cabinet in its meeting on Tuesday approved the Madhya Pradesh Drone Promotion and Utilisation Policy 2025, officials said. The policy focuses on promoting drone manufacturing, assembly, and maintenance. It offers incentives such as subsidies and tax incentives to manufacturers, aiming to make Madhya Pradesh a hub for drone production and services.

[https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/madhya-pradesh-looks-to-become-drone-manufacturing-hub-with-new-policy-125020501517\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/madhya-pradesh-looks-to-become-drone-manufacturing-hub-with-new-policy-125020501517_1.html)

## Healthcare

### More than 8.5 crore treatments have been taken under AB-PMJAY scheme till now

Health Minister JP Nadda on Tuesday informed that more than 8.5 crore treatments have been taken by the beneficiaries under Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) as on 31 January 2025. While answering to a question in Rajya Sabha, Nadda said that approximately 4.2 crore and 4.3 crore treatments were undertaken in public and private hospitals respectively.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/life/more-than-8-5-crore-treatments-have-been-taken-under-ab-pmjay-scheme-till-now-nadda-tells-parliament-3738538/>

### Timely cancer care improves with Ayushman Bharat in India

India has made progress in reducing delays in starting cancer treatment, with improvements seen among patients enrolled in the Centre's Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), according to a recent study published in medical journal The Lancet. The study mentions health insurance-enabled access to therapy has led to timely initiation of cancer treatment increased by 36 per cent across the population, reports The Indian Express.

[https://www.business-standard.com/health/india-ayushman-bharat-cancer-treatment-timeliness-lancet-study-125020501360\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/health/india-ayushman-bharat-cancer-treatment-timeliness-lancet-study-125020501360_1.html)

## External

### India to review tariff surcharges on luxury cars, solar cells, may spur US imports

India is reviewing import tariffs on over 30 items, including luxury cars and solar cells, to potentially increase imports from the US. This move aims to reduce average tariffs and improve trade ties amid global trade tensions. Consultations with local industry and various govt departments will determine the potential tariff reductions. The move, aimed at reducing average tariffs, comes ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S. next week.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-to-review-tariff-surcharges-on-luxury-cars-solar-cells-may-spur-us-imports/articleshow/117949251.cms>

### India-Oman free trade agreement talks progressing at healthy pace

The negotiations for a proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and Oman are progressing at a healthy pace and the two sides will hold another round of talks to resolve the pending issues, an official said. The official said that issues pertaining to petrochemical products have been resolved.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-oman-free-trade-agreement-talks-progressing-at-healthy-pace-125020501011\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-oman-free-trade-agreement-talks-progressing-at-healthy-pace-125020501011_1.html)

#### **Govt expands quality compliance requirements for over 150 products**

The government has expanded quality compliance requirements by mandating Quality Control Orders (QCOs) for over 150 products, ranging from household appliances to industrial materials, in a move aimed at ensuring stricter safety and performance standards. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) said it has listed out 150-odd products in advance for better awareness purpose. The scope of these mandatory standards is extended to various sectors with varied enforcement dates for different sectors

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/govt-expands-quality-compliance-requirements-for-over-150-products-125020501120\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/govt-expands-quality-compliance-requirements-for-over-150-products-125020501120_1.html)

#### **EAM Jaishankar holds talks with UNGA President Yang, discusses UN agenda**

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday met Philemon Yang, President of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly and discussed various issues on UN Agenda. Jaishankar said that they exchanged views on regional, global and developmental issues.

[https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/eam-jaishankar-holds-talks-with-unga-president-yang-discusses-un-agenda-125020501417\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/eam-jaishankar-holds-talks-with-unga-president-yang-discusses-un-agenda-125020501417_1.html)