



February 10, 2025 – Monday

Economy

Taxonomy for climate finance should be ready in 6 months: DEA secretary

Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth has said work with respect to developing a taxonomy for climate finance is going on and it should be ready in the next six months or so. "Work is happening, and in fact, the steel ministry has completed their work. They have issued their taxonomy for the steel sector," he told PTI in an interview.

https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/taxonomy-for-climate-finance-should-be-ready-in-6-months-dea-secretary-125020900092_1.html

States, ministries to get inflation data every month for speedy fix

The central government, led by the statistics ministry, has established a monthly data-sharing mechanism with state governments and various ministries to address inflation, specifically food inflation. This system identifies high inflation subgroups and investigates underlying issues like logistics and storage to ensure swift resolution.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/states-ministries-get-inflation-data-every-month-for-speedy-fix/articleshow/118094889.cms>

Indian govt's measures to help skilled workers secure jobs abroad

India has a large population living abroad, which has grown from 18 million in 2020 to 32 million today. This makes India one of the countries with the largest overseas populations. According to the World Economic Forum (WEF), there will be a demand for 97 million new jobs worldwide by 2025 in industries like healthcare, construction, IT, agriculture, and financial services. With 65% of its population under 35 and a median age of 28, India has a young workforce that can become a global talent hub if it has the right skills. To help with this, the government is focusing on building a skilled workforce that can meet international standards.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/investing-abroad-measures-taken-by-indian-government-to-help-skilled-workers-secure-jobs-abroad-3743974/>

Govt looking at procedural easing to further promote FDI, says official

The government is looking at further easing of procedures in certain sectors to attract more foreign direct investments (FDI) into the country, a government official said. The department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) has held stakeholder consultations with different government departments, regulators, industry associations, advisory and law firms, pension funds, private equity and venture capitals.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/govt-looking-at-procedural-easing-to-further-promote-fdi-says-official-125020900199_1.html

Finance

Bankers expect loan demand conditions to moderate in Q4FY25: RBI Survey

Bankers expect some moderation in overall loan demand conditions during Q4 (January-March) of FY25 and seasonal moderation in loan growth across sectors during Q1 (April-June) of FY26, per RBI's latest Bank Lending Survey (BLS).

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/bankers-expect-loan-demand-conditions-to-moderate-in-q4fy25-rbi-survey/article69199838.ece>

Banks breathe easy as RBI goes soft on provisioning, LCR rules

Reserve Bank India governor Sanjay Malhotra's assertion that none of the new regulations on project finance provisions, liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) and expected credit loss (ECL) will be implemented in a hurry is a relief to banks battling tight liquidity, shrinking margins and rising bad loans from the unsecured portfolio.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/banks-breathe-easy-as-rbi-goes-soft-on-provisioning-lcr-rules/articleshow/118096140.cms>

NBFC's Infra Debt Fund raising fund through ECB also to be eligible for I-T Exemption

Non-Banking Financial Company's Infrastructure Debt Fund (IDF), raising money through External Commercial Borrowing (ECB), will be eligible for Income Tax exemption. Income Tax Department has notified amendment in rules for exemption.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/income-tax-exemption-for-infrastructure-debt-fund-idf-raising-money-through-external-commercial-borrowing-ecb-with-new-conditions/article69199105.ece>

Sebi mulls changes to compliance report format, auditors' appointment rules

To strengthen corporate governance at listed firms, Sebi has proposed a revised format for annual secretarial compliance report, eligibility criteria for the appointment of auditors and inclusion of monetary thresholds for Related Party Transactions (RPTs) approvals. These proposals are aimed at ensuring that listed entities maintain high standards of compliance and transparency in their dealings.

https://www.business-standard.com/markets/news/sebi-mulls-changes-to-compliance-report-format-auditors-appointment-rules-125020900120_1.html

FinMin no to PSBs taking haircut on MTNL loans

The Union finance ministry has rejected Mahanagar Telephone Nigam's (MTNL's) proposal for public sector banks (PSBs) to take a haircut on their debt to the struggling telecommunications (telecom) company, according to a senior government official. "We are currently in the process of resolving MTNL's debt. We are in discussions with the Department of Telecommunications and MTNL. We have rejected their request for a debt haircut, as MTNL is a public sector enterprise, and this would amount to a default by the central government," the official said.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/finance-ministry-no-to-public-sector-banks-taking-haircut-on-mtnl-loans-125020900511_1.html

Industry

Sops in works for MSMEs' green journey

The government is planning to offer fiscal incentives and regulatory relaxations to help MSMEs adopt green technologies for decarbonisation. Measures such as setting emission reduction targets, promoting green fuel, and creating a pool of skilled workforce are being considered to support the sector in line with India's 2070 net zero target.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/sops-in-works-for-msmes-green-journey/articleshow/118094754.cms>

ESC unveils 'Ignite Tech Startups' mentoring programme

The Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) has announced the 'Ignite Startups' mentoring programme that aims to catalyse the Indian tech startup ecosystem along with a complimentary exhibit space at INDIASOFT 25.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/esc-unveils-ignite-tech-startups-mentoring-programme/article69199134.ece>

PLI for electronics manufacturing attracted ₹10,213 crore investments: Minister

The Production Linked Scheme (PLI) for electronics manufacturing is performing well and it has attracted a cumulative investment of ₹10,213 crore till December 2024, Union Minister of State for electronics and information technology Jitin Prasada informed Rajya Sabha this week. Under the special incentive scheme, cumulative production of ₹6,62,247 crore and additional employment of 137,189 (direct jobs) has been achieved, the minister said in his written reply. Driven by the special incentive scheme, the production of mobile phones has increased from about 60 million mobile phones in 2014-15 to about 330 million mobile phones in 2023-24.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/pli-for-electronics-manufacturing-attracted-10213-crore-investments-minister/article69198567.ece>

IT companies likely to roll out 3-6% hikes this year, say HR experts

India's \$250 billion information technology (IT) sector is expected to roll out modest salary appraisals in the range of 3-6 per cent in FY26, HR experts said. It comes at a time when firms are witnessing a spike in attrition, even as top players have reported higher turnover in Q3FY25. Industry experts assert that this is not a sign of a demand-driven market shift. According to reports, the IT attrition rate for this year is expected to be around 12-13 per cent.

https://www.business-standard.com/companies/news/it-companies-likely-to-roll-out-3-6-hikes-this-year-say-hr-experts-125020900452_1.html

Passenger vehicles in top gear as rural sales growth returns in 2025

Rural growth in passenger vehicles (PVs) is back in 2025 with rural retail sales in January clocking an 18.75 per cent growth. Moreover, with single-digit growth in PV dispatches in January — when overall retail growth was a strong 15.5 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) — the inventory levels of top original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) have come down too.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/auto/passenger-vehicles-in-top-gear-as-rural-sales-growth-returns-in-2025-125020900084_1.html

Agriculture

Centre has no proposal to bring nano fertilizers under PLI scheme: MoS Anupriya Patel

The government has no proposal to bring the production of nano fertilizers under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, MoS chemicals and fertilisers Anupriya Patel informed Lok Sabha this week. As part of its 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India' plan, the government launched production incentive (PLI) schemes in over a dozen sectors in 2020, to make Indian manufacturers globally competitive, attract investments, enhance exports, integrate India into the global supply chain and reduce dependency on imports.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/centre-has-no-proposal-to-bring-nano-fertilizers-under-pli-scheme-mos-anupriya-patel/article69198518.ece>

Govt urges retailers to align prices of pulses with falling mandi rates

The department of consumer affairs has urged retailers to reduce prices of pulses in line with decline in mandi prices so that consumers get benefits of lower prices. Sources told FE that while prices tur, masur, chana, moong, yellow peas, urad etc have declined by 5-20% in the last couple of months in the wholesale markets, the retail prices continue to rule firm.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-govt-urges-retailers-to-align-prices-of-pulses-with-falling-mandi-rates-3744151/>

Projects worth Rs 58,000 crore get support of agri-infra fund

To boost post-harvest facilities, the government has approved proposals worth Rs 58,000 crore under Agri Infrastructure Fund (AIF) for more than 92,000 projects since its launch four years back. Sources said that so far these sanctioned projects by the agriculture ministry have mobilised an investment of Rs 91,856 crore in the agriculture sector, out of which a large chunk has been mobilised from private entities.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-projects-worth-rs-58000-crore-get-support-of-agri-infra-fund-3744132/>

Infrastructure

India to prioritise energy infrastructure in capex shift from FY25-30: Report

India's capital expenditure from FY25-30 is forecasted to shift towards energy infrastructure investments, enhancing electricity generation and power grid integration. The stable yield of India's 10-year bond, in contrast to the rising US bond yields, could pressurize the INR. Strong capex in energy and steady growth in the healthcare sector are anticipated.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/india-to-prioritise-energy-infrastructure-in-capex-shift-from-fy25-30-report/articleshow/118088517.cms>

Aero India platform showcases 'strength, resilience, self-reliance' of new India: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

The 15th edition of 'Aero India', billed as Asia's largest air show, is all set to be inaugurated in Bengaluru on February 10 by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who on Sunday said this is a platform that showcases the "strength, resilience and self-reliance" of a new India. Organised in a total area of over 42,000 sq m and with the confirmed participation of over 900 exhibitors, including 150 foreign companies, the event is set to be the biggest-ever 'Aero India' till date.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines/-aviation/looking-forward-to-witness-future-of-aerospace-sector-rajnath-singh-on-aero-india-2025/articleshow/118087203.cms>

Future highway projects will be on Vision 2047 plan: Nitin Gadkari

India will approve future highway projects under the Vision 2047 roadmap according to Union Minister for Road Transport, and Highways, Nitin Gadkari. Responding to queries at sidelines of the second edition of Advantage Vidarbha, he said there is no dearth of funds for highway making in the country. This is despite no hike in budgetary allocation for roads ministry in fiscal 2025-26.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/roadways/future-highway-projects-will-be-on-vision-2047-plan-nitin-gadkari/articleshow/118090198.cms>

Co-working spaces boom in small towns

According to NASSCOM, a not-for-profit industry association, the GCC (Global Capability Centers or the strategic unit of MNCs) market in India is projected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 7-8%, reaching more than 4,300-4,400 GCCs by 2030.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-co-working-spaces-boom-in-small-towns-3743751/>

Energy

Increase in MSME financing right step to boost biogas industry, says IBA

Indian Biogas Association (IBA) on Sunday said the proposed increase in MSME financing in the General Budget 2025 is a right step to boost biogas industry. With a strong push for manufacturing, green energy, and digital transformation, this Budget sets the stage for Aatmanirbhar and Viksit Bharat, an IBA statement said. From the standpoint of the fledgling biogas/CBG (compressed biogas) industry, the announced increase to the MSME Credit Guarantee Scheme will significantly benefit the biogas industry, which often faces challenge in securing credit with reasonable terms, it noted.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/increase-in-msme-financing-right-step-to-boost-biogas-industry-says-iba-125020900290_1.html

States

Karnataka eyes Rs 10 trn investment commitments at investor meet: Patil

Karnataka is expecting to sign investment commitments of about Rs 10 lakh crore with an array of industries at its biennial investor meet this week, aimed at showcasing the state's industrial potential, M B Patil, Minister of Large and Medium Scale Industries, said. The Invest Karnataka 2025 -- Global Investors Meet (GIM 2025), scheduled from February 11-14 in Bengaluru, aims to position Karnataka as a premier global investment hub.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/karnataka-eyes-rs-10-trn-investment-commitments-at-investor-meet-patil-125020900363_1.html

MP to host its biennial Global Investors' Summit in Bhopal from Feb 24-25

Madhya Pradesh is luring investments by showcasing its thriving economy, world-class infrastructure, investor-friendly policies, and exclusive incentive programmes that make it a prime destination for investment opportunities. Strong commitment to creating a business-friendly environment and investment opportunities essentially make the state the 'Kumbh' of growth and development. It is rapidly emerging as a key hub for sectors such as tourism, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, mining, dairy, and food processing, according to the state government's investment pitch.

https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/mp-to-host-its-biennial-global-investors-summit-in-bhopal-from-feb-24-25-125020900100_1.html

AP set to power up port economy

Andhra Pradesh targets handling an ambitious 20 per cent of all cargo countrywide within two decades, through the development of additional port terminals and industrial clusters in the vicinity of the leading ports in the State.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/ap-set-to-power-up-port-economy/article69199502.ece>

Foundry industry in Bengal to receive ₹2,000 crore investment by FY26

The foundry industry in West Bengal will receive ₹2,000 crore investment in new FY26 and brownfield expansions to boost capacity amid cost pressures and evolving demand trends, an official said on Sunday. "West Bengal is witnessing a growth rate 50 per cent higher than the national average. Considering both large and MSME foundry expansions and greenfield projects, the cumulative investment will be ₹2,000 crore, of which MSMEs will contribute ₹400 crore," said Navneet B Agarwal, president of the Institute of Indian Foundrymen (IIF), in an interaction with PTI.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/foundry-industry-in-bengal-to-receive-2000-crore-investment-by-fy26/article69198946.ece>

Healthcare

India's CDMO market set to double by 2028 amid Asia's healthcare boom

India's CDMO market is set to grow from USD 7 billion to USD 14 billion by 2028. This growth is driven by its strong stance in API manufacturing and cost advantages over China. Global pharmaceutical companies are diversifying supply chains to India. The broader APAC healthcare sector is also expanding rapidly, supported by rising income levels.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/healthcare/indias-cdm0-market-set-to-double-by-2028-amid-asias-healthcare-boom/articleshow/118086689.cms>

PG medical seats in focus as Centre aims to add 10,000 seats this year

Around 30 per cent of the upcoming 10,000 medical seats in the country this year could be for postgraduate courses, industry insiders said. "Of the 10,000 seats announced to be added, 2,000 to 3,000 can be in MD and DNB courses, whereas the remaining 7,000 can be in MBBS," Gaurav Tyagi, career counsellor with Career Xpert, said. India is aiming to add 75,000 new medical seats in five years as it seeks to meet the World Health Organization (WHO) standard of one doctor for every 1,000 people, compared to the current ratio of one doctor for 1,263 people.

https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/pg-medical-seats-in-focus-as-centre-aims-to-add-10k-seats-this-year-125020900078_1.html

External

Trump to announce 25 pc steel and aluminum tariffs

US President Donald Trump on Sunday said he will introduce new 25 per cent tariffs on all steel and aluminum imports into the country, on top of existing metals duties, in another major escalation of his trade policy overhaul, reported Reuters. He added that the announcement for reciprocal tariffs will be made on Tuesday or Wednesday and will take effect almost immediately, applying them to all countries and matching the tariff rates levied by each country.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/global-trends/trump-to-announce-25-steel-and-aluminum-tariffs-in-latest-trade-escalation/articleshow/118101203.cms>

Trade between India, France has increased slightly to \$20 billion, primarily focused on defence and aerospace: Coumar Ananda

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to France to co-chair the AI summit, Coumar Ananda, President of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry France-India, claimed that trade between India and France has remained below USD 20 billion, an increase from the earlier range of USD 15-18 billion, with most transactions focused on defense and aerospace industries.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/trade-between-india-france-has-increased-slightly-to-20-billion-primarily-focused-on-defence-and-aerospace-coumar-ananda/articleshow/118102029.cms>

PM Modi's US visit to focus on trade, tech, and migration: USISPF chief

Terming Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to the United States as "very important," President and CEO of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) Mukesh Aghi, emphasised that the trip will focus on strengthening geopolitical alignment, trade relations, technology transfer and the issue of illegal immigration will also be discussed. Speaking to ANI, Aghi highlighted the importance of early discussions between PM Modi and President Donald Trump, noting that alignment on common objectives would help drive the growth of both economies.

https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/pm-modi-s-us-visit-to-focus-on-trade-tech-and-migration-usispf-chief-125020900251_1.html

Indian investors show interest in Saudi Arabia's \$63 bn Diriyah project

Several Indian firms have shown a keen interest in investing in Diriyah, a USD 63-billion Saudi Arabian giga project, while some big names like Tatas and Oberois having already signed up, its CEO Jerry Inzerillo said.

Diriyah, being billed as the City of Earth, is being built on the outskirts of Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh and it will have homes for 100,000 people and office space for a further 100,000 plus.

https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/indian-investors-show-interest-in-saudi-arabia-s-63-bn-diriyah-project-125020900318_1.html

India's total trade to reach USD 1.8 trillion by 2033, growing at 6.4% CAGR: Report

India's trade is set to grow at a 6.4% CAGR, reaching USD 1.8 trillion by 2033. Significant growth is expected with the US, EU, ASEAN, and Africa, while China's trade with the West slows. India's expanding role as a production hub and increased foreign investment contribute to its trade surge, especially in technology and manufacturing sectors.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indias-total-trade-to-reach-usd-1-8-trillion-by-2033-growing-at-6-4-cagr-report/articleshow/118086893.cms>

India's pharma exports set for 10x growth, targeting \$350 billion by 2047

India's pharmaceutical industry exports are projected to reach \$350 billion by 2047 — an estimated 10-15 times increase from the current levels. The nation, already a global leader in generic drug supply, is expected to move up the value chain by focusing on specialty generics, biosimilars, and innovative pharmaceutical products. According to a new report by Bain & Company in collaboration with Indian pharmaceutical bodies while India currently ranks 11th in pharmaceutical export value, India can secure a position among the top five nations by 2047. The country's pharma exports are expected to grow from approximately \$27 billion in 2023 to \$65 billion by 2030, before reaching the ambitious \$350 billion target by India's 100th year of independence.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-s-pharma-exports-set-for-10x-growth-targeting-350-billion-by-2047-125020900272_1.html