



February 25, 2025 – Tuesday

## Economy

### **Retail inflation eases slightly to 4.61% for farm workers, 4.73% for rural labourers**

Retail inflation for farm and rural workers eased slightly to 4.61 per cent and 4.73 per cent, respectively, in January from 5.01 per cent and 5.05 per cent in December 2024, showed the government data released on Monday. The All-India Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL) and Rural Labourers (CPI-RL) decreased by 4 points and 3 points, respectively, for the month of January 2025, reaching 1,316 and 1,328 points, the labour ministry said in a statement.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy/retail-inflation-eases-slightly-to-4-61-for-farm-workers-473-for-rural-labourers/3759169/>

### **India's GDP growth likely rebounded to 6.3% in Q3 on govt spending: Survey**

India's economy likely rebounded last quarter, expanding 6.3 per cent, driven by increased government spending that helped offset weak household demand, according to a Reuters poll of economists who forecast relatively modest growth ahead. A national election in April-June last year forced the government to curb infrastructure spending, a key driver of economic expansion in recent years in what is still the world's fastest-growing major economy.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-s-gdp-growth-likely-rebounded-to-6-3-in-q3-on-govt-spending-survey-125022400741\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-s-gdp-growth-likely-rebounded-to-6-3-in-q3-on-govt-spending-survey-125022400741_1.html)

### **Decision on recommending revenue deficit grants for states yet to be made: Finance Commission chief**

A decision on revenue deficit grants to states hasn't been made yet, says Finance Commission Chairman Arvind Panagariya. The commission will finalize this after visiting all states. Some states have proposed changes to the funds' vertical and horizontal devolution criteria, including Mizoram. Key suggestions include revising weightage on income distance, population, and introducing new criteria.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/decision-on-recommending-revenue-deficit-grants-for-states-yet-to-be-made-finance-commission-chief/articleshow/118537577.cms>

### **Finance over-rules Rural, calls for merger, budget cuts in 3 key units**

The Department of Expenditure (DoE) has asked the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), headed by Shivraj Singh Chouhan, to absorb two autonomous bodies under its charge while cutting the annual outlay of a third to just a fraction of its previous allotment in the Union Budget — despite requests from the ministry to reconsider, The Indian Express has learnt. According to records, the DoE has asked for the National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (NRIDA) and National Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (NRLPS) to be merged with MoRD by March-end, saying it “may be difficult” to release any more funds for the two autonomous bodies.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/finance-over-rules-rural-calls-for-merger-budget-cuts-in-3-key-units-9854594/lite/>

### **8th Pay Commission: Employees’ 15 big demands – Interim relief, at least 5 promotions and more!**

8th Pay Commission: The Staff Side of the National Council Joint Consultative Machinery (NC JCM) in its meeting with the Secretary of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) raised various issues concerning over 1.2 crore central government employees and pensioners, who are eagerly awaiting the implementation of the 8th Pay commission from January 2026.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/money/8th-pay-commission-employees-15-big-demands-interim-relief-at-least-5-promotions-and-more-3759250/>

### **ILO reports significant improvement in India's social security coverage**

Gilbert F Hounbo, director general, International Labour Organization (ILO) on Monday said the proportion of India's population covered under at least one branch of social protection has increased from 24 per cent to 49 per cent, almost doubling in a very short time. "This remarkable achievement reflects the strong partnership between India and the ILO and the decisive actions taken by the Modi government in expanding social protection in the past few years," he said while addressing the first ever 'regional dialogue' on social justice in collaboration with the global coalition for social justice and ILO.

[https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/ilo-reports-significant-improvement-in-india-s-social-security-coverage-125022400903\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/ilo-reports-significant-improvement-in-india-s-social-security-coverage-125022400903_1.html)

## **Finance**

### **RBI increases mortgage, loan ceilings for urban co-operative banks**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the loan ceiling for urban co-operative banks (UCBs) to small value customers to 0.40% of their Tier I capital from 0.20% earlier and Rs 3 crore per borrower from Rs 1 crore earlier. These banks have also been allowed to take aggregate exposure of a to residential mortgages (housing loans to individuals), to 25% of its total loans up from 5% earlier, the RBI said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/rbi-increases-mortgage-loan-ceilings-for-urban-co-operative-banks/articleshow/118536493.cms>

### **Private banks pare CD ratios amid tight liquidity**

Private banks have pared their credit-deposit (CD) ratios as they focus on a deposit growth higher than advances amid tight liquidity conditions. The average CD ratio, also known as loan-to-deposit ratio (LDR), has decreased to 90.74% at the end of the December quarter of the current financial year from 94.4% in the same period of FY24, according to data from Capitaline. However, the average CD ratio of public sector banks, which was relatively lower than that of private lenders, increased to 77.8% in the third quarter of FY25 from 76% in the same quarter of FY24.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/banking-finance-private-banks-pare-cd-ratios-amid-tight-liquidity-3758293/>

### **NBFCs' temporary workforce driving financial inclusion**

The temporary workforce in non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) is driving financial inclusion and supporting underserved markets such as micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and rural areas, according to a TeamLease report. It highlights that even though technology is reshaping customer-facing roles in sales, support, and collection; the temporary workers play a key role as collection officers, sales officers, and relationship managers. At present, Maharashtra and Gujarat dominate the contractual workforce headcount by contributing 19.9% and 11.6%, respectively, to the overall workforce in NBFCs.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-nbfc-temporary-workforce-driving-financial-inclusion-teamlease-report-3759329/>

### **Downward shift in liquidations seen under IBC**

Over the years since the introduction of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), more companies are getting resolved, and the number of liquidations is going down, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) said in its latest newsletter. The insolvency regulator said that in 2017-18, for every one case that was resolved, five companies would go into liquidation. In 2024-25, till December, IBBI data showed that for every one company resolved, 1.3 went into liquidation.

[https://www.business-standard.com/companies/news/downward-shift-in-liquidations-seen-under-ibc-ibbi-chairperson-ravi-mittal-125022400719\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/companies/news/downward-shift-in-liquidations-seen-under-ibc-ibbi-chairperson-ravi-mittal-125022400719_1.html)

#### **Govt seeks merchant bankers for stake sale in PSBs, financial institutions**

The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) on Monday invited bids from merchant bankers to assist the government in its planned stake sale in public sector banks and listed financial institutions.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/govt-seeks-merchant-bankers-for-stake-sale-in-psbs-financial-institutions-125022400831\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/govt-seeks-merchant-bankers-for-stake-sale-in-psbs-financial-institutions-125022400831_1.html)

#### **RBI draft norms on foreclosure charges to hit lenders' profits: Analysts**

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) draft circular barring prepayment penalty on retail and small business loans would result in a drop in fee income for lenders and dent profitability, in addition to customers switching to other lenders, analysts said. The hit on non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) would be larger compared to banks, they said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/rbi-draft-norms-on-foreclosure-charges-to-hit-lenders-profits-analysts-125022400817\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/rbi-draft-norms-on-foreclosure-charges-to-hit-lenders-profits-analysts-125022400817_1.html)

#### **IRDAI plans to put risk management at industry core to align with global best**

IRDAI is working towards implementing major regulatory changes over the next 18-24 months, including a risk-based capital framework and Indian accounting standards. The regulator aims for a faster rollout while ensuring industry adjustment. Initiatives like risk-based supervision and public listings for insurance companies are also in focus.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/insure/irdai-plans-to-put-risk-management-at-industry-core-to-align-with-global-best/articleshow/118539368.cms>

#### **45% of young Indians prefer stocks as primary investment choice: Survey**

A recent survey has highlighted the ongoing shift in investment trends among young Indians. The revelations in latest Investor Behaviour Index (IBI, 2025), released by StockGro in collaboration with 1Lattice, show the growing preference for stock market investments, the rising demand for financial education, and the increasing role of digital platforms in shaping investor behaviour.

[https://www.business-standard.com/finance/personal-finance/45-of-young-indians-prefer-stocks-as-primary-investment-choice-survey-125022400660\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/finance/personal-finance/45-of-young-indians-prefer-stocks-as-primary-investment-choice-survey-125022400660_1.html)

#### **CBDT introduces self-help tool to provide instant answers to I-T bill 2025**

The Income Tax Department has introduced an online self-help tool to assist taxpayers in understanding the changes proposed in the Income Tax Bill 2025. This tool, available on the official income tax department's website, allows taxpayers to compare the provisions of the new bill with those of the Income Tax Act, 1961. The comparison tool enables taxpayers to choose a specific section from the current Income Tax Act using a dropdown menu.

[https://www.business-standard.com/finance/personal-finance/cbd-t-introduces-self-help-tool-to-provide-instant-answers-to-i-t-bill-2025-125022400777\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/finance/personal-finance/cbd-t-introduces-self-help-tool-to-provide-instant-answers-to-i-t-bill-2025-125022400777_1.html)

### **Industry**

#### **Pvt corporate sector posts 8% on-year sales growth in Q3, margins rise: RBI**

The private corporate sector showed improvements across various segments in the third quarter of the current financial year, with the operating profit margin of listed non-financial companies increasing sequentially by 50 basis points to 16.2 per cent during the quarter, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/pvt-corporate-sector-posts-8-on-year-sales-growth-in-q3-margins-rise-rbi-125022401084\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/pvt-corporate-sector-posts-8-on-year-sales-growth-in-q3-margins-rise-rbi-125022401084_1.html)

#### **India's global manufacturing share set to double in two years**

India's share in global manufacturing could double in the next two years, driven by expanding business opportunities and growing global interest, said, Raj Subramaniam, CEO, FedEx Corporation. Speaking at the Indiaspora's Forum for Good event in Abu Dhabi on Monday, Subramaniam emphasised India's immense potential as it moves toward becoming the world's third-largest economy by 2030. "The opportunity for Indian manufacturing to double in the

next two years is very big,” said Subramaniam, who also serves as Vice Chairman of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum. “I think a lot of companies are finding ways to expand in India. It is certainly an interesting time over the next five years as we see how things play out.”

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/indias-global-manufacturing-share-set-to-double-in-two-years-fedex-ceo/article69257807.ece>

#### **FMCG stock-ready vans reducing replenishment times in rural areas**

Several FMCG companies like Godrej Consumer, Britannia and ITC are now using stock-ready vans or mini-trucks to reduce stock replenishment time with rural retailers, according to people in the know.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-fmcg-stock-ready-vans-reducing-replenishment-times-in-rural-areas-3759242/>

#### **Global brands bet on Tier-II and Tier-III expansion, investments buckle up**

Global retail giants are accelerating expansion in India, fuelled by rising consumer income and demand. Beyond just tech leaders, retailers in apparel, beauty, fashion, and entertainment are targeting Tier-II and Tier-III cities, extending their reach beyond metro hubs.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/global-brands-bet-on-tier-ii-and-tier-iii-expansion-investments-buckle-up-125022400936\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/global-brands-bet-on-tier-ii-and-tier-iii-expansion-investments-buckle-up-125022400936_1.html)

#### **India PC shipments up 3.8% at 14.4 mn in 2024, HP leads with 30% share: IDC**

Shipments of personal computers grew 3.8 per cent on a year-on-year basis to 14.4 million driven by demand for gaming and AI-powered PCs, market research firm IDC said on Monday.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-pc-shipments-up-3-8-at-14-4-mn-in-2024-hp-leads-with-30-share-idc-125022400731\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-pc-shipments-up-3-8-at-14-4-mn-in-2024-hp-leads-with-30-share-idc-125022400731_1.html)

#### **India's smartwatch shipments decline by 30 per cent y-o-y in 2024**

India's smartwatch shipments declined 30 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) in 2024, the market's first major drop after years of growth, due to a slower replacement cycle. According to Counterpoint Research's Q4 2024 India Smartwatch Shipment Tracker, this was primarily due to limited differentiation in the lower price segments, a lack of innovation, low sensor accuracy, an unclear product portfolio that made it difficult to select the right model, and an unsatisfactory experience with initial smartwatch purchases.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/smartphone-shipments-in-india-decline-by-30-per-cent-y-o-y-in-2024-counterpoint-research/article69257334.ece>

#### **Indian ITes Industry and GenAI Conundrum as adoption remains under 40%**

According to the latest Boston Consulting Group (BCG) report 'The GenAI Adoption Conundrum', over 80 per cent of developers acknowledge its advantages, citing increased productivity and efficiency. But even with all-pervasive benefits, proficient adoption of these tools is still at paltry figures.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/indian-ites-industry-and-genai-conundrum-as-adoption-remains-under-40-125022400212\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/indian-ites-industry-and-genai-conundrum-as-adoption-remains-under-40-125022400212_1.html)

#### **India's tech sector FY25 revenue to grow 5.1% to \$282.6 billion**

IT industry body Nasscom on Monday pegged the FY25 revenues for the sector to grow 5.1 per cent to \$282.6 billion. The industry is likely to cross \$300 billion in revenues in FY26, which is about 6 per cent higher than the FY25 level, its President Rajesh Nambiar said at the Nasscom Technology Leadership Forum here.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/indian-tech-sector-fy25-revenues-to-grow-5-1-to-282-6-billion-nasscom-125022400454\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/indian-tech-sector-fy25-revenues-to-grow-5-1-to-282-6-billion-nasscom-125022400454_1.html)

#### **India's IT sector must revamp biz, create own language models**

Indian IT firms need to rethink how they operate and the country needs to create its own language models as artificial intelligence technologies disrupt the sector, according to HCLTech CEO C Vijayakumar. The generative AI boom has threatened to disrupt business models for Indian IT companies that largely serve clients in the United States for operations support, providing software as a service.

[https://www.business-standard.com/technology/tech-news/india-s-it-sector-must-revamp-biz-create-own-language-models-hcltech-ceo-125022400656\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/technology/tech-news/india-s-it-sector-must-revamp-biz-create-own-language-models-hcltech-ceo-125022400656_1.html)

## Agriculture

### PM Modi releases 19th PM-Kisan instalment, transfers Rs 22K cr to farmers

More than Rs 22,000 crore was transferred into the bank accounts of 98 million farmers across the country as Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday released the 19th installment of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme. The PM also inaugurated several developmental projects in Bihar. Modi was accompanied by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar at an event here.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/agriculture/pm-modi-releases-19th-pm-kisan-instalment-transfers-rs-22k-cr-to-farmers-125022400653\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/agriculture/pm-modi-releases-19th-pm-kisan-instalment-transfers-rs-22k-cr-to-farmers-125022400653_1.html)

### Current premium of palm oil prices may be unsustainable

India Vegetable Oil Producers' Association (IVPA) has said the current premium of palm oil prices over soyabean oil may not be able to continue for long. Demand for palm oil has fallen steeply, ceding market share to rival oils due to price elasticity.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/current-premium-of-palm-oil-prices-may-be-unsustainable-ivpa-chief/article69257286.ece>

### India eyes more than doubling spices exports to \$10 billion by 2030

India is eyeing to more than double the spices export over the next five years targeting shipments of \$10 billion by 2030 and \$25 billion by 2047, said Spices Board Secretary P Hemalatha on Monday. In 2023-24, India's spices exports were \$4.4 billion.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/india-eyes-more-than-doubling-spices-exports-to-10-billion-by-2030/article69258937.ece>

## Infrastructure

### Railways will achieve 100% electrification in FY26: Ashwini Vaishnaw

Railways will achieve 100 per cent electrification in the next fiscal year and is making rapid progress in the usage of renewable energy as well, union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Monday. In a virtual address at the MP Global Investors Summit (GIS) 2025 after the signing of a power purchase agreement with the state, Railways Minister Vaishnaw said the government has set a target of making railways net zero by 2030.

[https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/railways-will-achieve-100-electrification-in-fy26-ashwini-vaishnaw-125022400541\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/railways-will-achieve-100-electrification-in-fy26-ashwini-vaishnaw-125022400541_1.html)

### NHAI identifies 24 road assets to be monetised in 2025-26

As per the office order, dated February 24, 2025 and issued by the National Highways Authority of India, these assets are preferably to be monetised through toll-operate-transfer (TOT) mode unless not revised at a later stage for any other mode of monetisation. The total length of the roads assets to be monetised in the coming financial year is 1,472 km with a cumulative annual revenue from these assets pegged at Rs 1,863 crore in 2023-24.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/nhai-identifies-24-road-assets-to-be-monetised-in-2025-26/articleshow/118535988.cms>

### Government puts airport privatisation plan in flight mode again

India has resumed the privatisation process for 13 airports to increase revenue through asset monetisation. The Ministry of Civil Aviation is consulting other ministries, aiming for completion by FY26. Clubbing smaller airports with bigger ones may limit investor interest, as infrastructure firms seek already operational assets rather than developing new ones.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines/-aviation/government-puts-airport-privatisation-plan-in-flight-mode-again/articleshow/118539310.cms>

### **Government plans to anchor oil tanker production via SPVs**

India's Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) will back proposals by picking up equity, for manufacture of oil tankers through SPVs (special purpose vehicles) between Shipping Corporation of India, oil marketing companies (OMCs), dockyards and other financial institutions. Projects will have a nearly 70:30 debt-equity component, indicating that majority of the project will be funded through loans or borrowings.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/government-plans-to-anchor-oil-tanker-production-via-spvs/article69258391.ece>

## **Energy**

### **India to easily achieve renewable energy target of 500 GW by 2030, challenges ahead**

Bhopal, India will easily achieve its 500 GW production target from renewable energy in the next five years but may face challenges in meeting intermediate goal of 2,000 gigawatt by 2047, SECI CMD R P Gupta said on Monday. The challenges will be in the area of land availability for setting up renewable energy projects, energy transmission and storage systems, he said while speaking at the MP Global Investors Summit (GIS) 2025.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/india-to-easily-achieve-renewable-energy-target-of-500-gw-by-2030-challenges-ahead/articleshow/118531393.cms>

## **Telecom**

### **Space regulator IN-SPACe grants 6-month extension to foreign satellites**

IN-SPACe has extended the authorisation deadline for foreign satellites until September 30, 2025, allowing them to continue providing communication and broadcasting services in India. This extension was granted due to pending approvals and incomplete applications, ensuring popular channels like Star, Zee, and Sony avoid disruptions.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-news/space-regulator-in-space-grants-6-month-extension-to-foreign-satellites/articleshow/118538732.cms>

## **States**

### **UP govt tax revenue may rise 16% in FY26, indicating economic growth**

The Uttar Pradesh government has estimated a 16 per cent jump in tax revenue in the next financial year (FY26), signalling a rise in economic activities. The state has estimated the tax kitty to rise by ₹75,000 crore to reach ₹5.50 trillion in FY26 against the estimated tax revenue – including both own tax and the state's share in central taxes – that was roughly ₹4.75 trillion in FY25.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/up-govt-tax-revenue-may-rise-16-in-fy26-indicating-economic-growth-125022400671\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/up-govt-tax-revenue-may-rise-16-in-fy26-indicating-economic-growth-125022400671_1.html)

### **Tamil Nadu Govt to provide subsidised medicines via 1,000 state-run pharmacies**

The Tamil Nadu government will make generic and other medicines available to the public at affordable prices through 1,000 Mudhalvar Marundhagams (Chief Minister's Pharmacy) opened across the State in the first phase. The government announced that 500 of these pharmacies will be run by cooperative societies, and many will be managed by entrepreneurs who are also qualified pharmacists. These 1,000 are part of the first phase of such pharmacies set up by the Cooperation Department.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/tamil-nadu-govt-to-provide-subsidised-medicines-via-1000-state-run-pharmacies/article69257940.ece>

## **External**

### **India-UK deal to fire up goods trade 2-3x in 10 years**

India has the "flexibility and ability" to significantly reduce its tariffs in a free trade agreement (FTA) with the UK and is actively negotiating a social security agreement with Britain, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said Monday, even as he pitched for a more liberal visa regime for businesses and professionals to promote bilateral trade and investments between the two sides.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-uk-deal-to-fire-up-goods-trade-2-3x-in-10-yrs/articleshow/118538908.cms>

**India, Thailand & South Korea most vulnerable to Trump tariffs: S&P**

S&P assessed the weighted average tariffs imposed by Asia-Pacific economies on US products, US tariffs on imports from these economies and the difference between the two. "India and Japan have more domestically oriented economies, which will provide some mitigation from tariffs," noted S&P in the report titled 'Asia-Pacific economies likely to be hit by US trade tariffs'.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-thailand-south-korea-most-vulnerable-to-trump-tariffs-sp/articleshow/118538765.cms>