



March 12, 2025 – Wednesday

Economy

FIEO launches SheTrades India hub for women entrepreneurs

The Federation of Indian Export Organisations, along with the International Trade Centre and UK government support, launched the SheTrades India Initiative Hub. This initiative aims to empower women entrepreneurs by providing workshops, mentoring, business matchmaking events, and policy advocacy to help them access international markets and development opportunities.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/fieo-launches-shetrades-india-hub-for-women-entrepreneurs/articleshow/118901875.cms>

Economic activity likely plunged to 27-month low in January

An index on India's economic activity based on assorted high-frequency indicators (HFIs) decelerated sharply to a 27-month low of 4.5% in January from 5.4% in December 2024. As per the Motilal Oswal Financial Services (MOFS), the fall in its economic activity index – gross value added (EAI-GVA) was primarily due to "low growth" in the services sector.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-economic-activity-likely-plunged-to-27-month-low-in-january-3774681/>

Feb CPI inflation to likely stay low at 4% as food prices are expected to decline incrementally

India's Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation, or retail inflation for the month of February is likely to stay low, printing 4.0 per cent YoY, per estimates by BofA Securities. This will be the lowest print in 6 months. According to the brokerage firm, food prices are expected to decline incrementally, largely due to lower vegetable and meat prices, along with lower dairy and rice prices.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-feb-cpi-inflation-to-likely-stay-low-at-4-as-food-prices-are-expected-to-decline-incrementally-3773977/>

India's employment outlook rises 43% in Q2 2025: ManpowerGroup survey

Indian employers continued to report strong hiring intentions globally in the second quarter of this calendar year, with a Net Employment Outlook (NEO) of 43 per cent, a survey said on Tuesday. India continues to lead the global Net Employment Outlook (43 per cent), exceeding the global average by 18 points for the second quarter of 2025, according to the latest ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-s-employment-outlook-rises-43-in-q2-2025-manpowergroup-survey-125031101199_1.html

India's data centre capacity to grow to 2,000-2,100 MW by March 2027: ICRA

India's data centre (DC) operational capacity is expected to increase to 2,000-2,100 MW by March 2027 from around 1,150 MW as of December 2024, on the back of data usage and data localisation initiatives, according to rating agency ICRA.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-s-data-centre-capacity-to-grow-to-2-000-2-100-mw-by-march-2027-icra-125031101265_1.html

India Inc's CSR spending rises 13% in 2022-23, education and healthcare dominate

India Inc's annual corporate social responsibility (CSR) spending saw a 13 per cent rise in 2022-23, reaching ₹29,988 crore, compared to ₹26,616 crore in the previous year. More than half of this expenditure was directed towards education and healthcare, Harsh Malhotra, Minister of State for Corporate Affairs, informed the Lok Sabha in a written reply.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-incs-csr-spending-rises-13-in-2022-23-education-and-healthcare-dominate/article69318174.ece>

Finance

RBI tweaks banks' lending norms, pushes NBFCs to modify funding strategy

Indian non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) are expected to adjust their funding strategies in the upcoming financial year, driven by the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) decision to ease certain lending regulations. This move may encourage banks to increase their funding to NBFCs, news agency Reuters reported. The RBI has rolled back some of the stricter rules on bank loans to NBFCs, reducing the risk weight on consumer microfinance loans by 25 percentage points to 100 per cent. This effectively restores the earlier risk weight framework.

https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/nbfc-funding-strategy-rbi-regulations-bank-loans-2025-125031100586_1.html

RBI asks lenders to widen scope of reporting offshore swap trades

The Reserve Bank of India has requested foreign banks operating in India to report details of all offshore trades involving rupee interest rate products, the people said, adding the disclosure would help enhance oversight of client positions. Currently, not all offshore trades are reported, especially those carried out by overseas lenders with offshore clients outside of India market hours, they added.

https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/rbi-asks-lenders-to-widen-scope-of-reporting-offshore-swap-trades-125031100389_1.html

Growth in net sales of FDI companies moderated to 9.3% in FY24: RBI

The RBI on Tuesday said with the normalisation of post-pandemic pent-up demand conditions, the growth in net sales of select FDI companies moderated to 9.3 per cent during 2023-24 from the high of 20.3 per cent in the previous year.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/growth-in-net-sales-of-fdi-companies-moderated-to-9-3-in-fy24-rbi-125031101209_1.html

NBFCs seek FAME, PLI-like scheme to incentivise EV finance

The Finance Industry Development Council has requested a scheme to incentivise electric vehicle financing, pointing out that EV financing is a major bottleneck. The council proposed a dedicated fund for non-bank financial companies to finance EV loans with subsidised interest rates and called for initiatives similar to the FAME and PLI schemes.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/nbfc-look-for-fame-pli-like-scheme-to-incentivise-ev-finance/articleshow/118899404.cms>

Insurers likely to prefer bond forwards over forward-rate agreements

Insurance companies are likely to move towards forward trading in bonds (bond forwards) from forward-rate agreements (FRAs) with the regulator allowing them to undertake transactions in the former for hedging interest-rate risks, according to industry participants. In a circular, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has said in view of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) directions and considering insurers' requests for introducing bond forwards, insurers are permitted to undertake transactions in them.

https://www.business-standard.com/finance/insurance/insurers-likely-to-prefer-bond-forwards-over-forward-rate-agreements-125031101208_1.html

Life insurers' new business premium growth drops 11.6% in February

Life-insurance companies in February reported an 11.6 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) drop in new business premium (NBP) owing to relatively weak performance by state-owned Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), which reported a 22 per cent drop in premium. The data from the Life Insurance Council shows the NBP of life-insurance companies was ₹29,985.5 crore in February as against ₹33,913.18 crore in the same month last year.

https://www.business-standard.com/finance/insurance/life-insurers-new-business-premium-growth-drops-11-6-in-february-125031101138_1.html

New accounting norms from April 1 to improve on forex guidance

The National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) has proposed key changes in the accounting standards, with an aim to more accurately capture the impact of transactions conducted by firms in foreign currency on their financial statements. The proposed amendments will give clearer guidance to companies to determine “appropriate exchange rate,” a move which could come handy for them in dealing with countries witnessing undue short-term currency volatility or are not adequately transparent about the exchange values of their currencies.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-new-accounting-norms-from-april-1-to-improve-on-forex-guidance-3774644/>

India's venture capital funding rises 43% to \$13.7 billion in 2024

India's Venture Capital (VC) ecosystem exhibited robust growth in 2024, with funding surging 43 per cent year-on-year to \$13.7 billion, according to a report. This recovery was fuelled by a 45 per cent rise in deal activity, with 1,270 transactions recorded, reinforcing India's position as the second largest market for venture capital and growth funding in the Asia-Pacific region, the report by Bain & Company and IVCA said.

https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/india-s-venture-capital-funding-rises-43-to-13-7-billion-in-2024-125031100527_1.html

Retiring expensive debt helped lower borrowing cost: Nirmala Sitharaman

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that the government's borrowing costs have reduced due to the repayment of high-cost debt and active debt management. The Lok Sabha approved supplementary demands for grants, including an additional ₹51,463 crore for the current fiscal and the Manipur Budget for 2025-26, aimed at reducing borrowing costs for both central and state governments.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/retiring-expensive-debt-helped-lower-borrowing-cost-nirmala-sitharaman/articleshow/118901257.cms>

Dividend payout from non-financial CPSEs may hit record Rs 67,000 cr

The Central govt is projected to collect a record ₹66,000-67,000 crore in dividends from its non-financial entities this fiscal year, driven by strong profitability of state-run firms, especially in the petroleum, coal, and power sectors. This boost will offset disinvestment shortfalls from the revised estimate.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/dividend-payout-from-non-financial-cpses-likely-to-touch-fresh-highs/articleshow/118858243.cms>

Industry

Investment in information security likely to grow 16.4% in 2025: Gartner

End-user spending on information security in India is projected to total \$3.3 billion in 2025, an increase of 16.4 per cent from 2024, according to a new forecast from Gartner Inc. Building on the momentum from the previous year, security services is projected to record the highest growth among all segments, with an expected 19 per cent increase in 2025.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/investment-in-information-security-likely-to-grow-16-4-in-2025-gartner-125031100756_1.html

Centre to support food processing industry with slew of schemes: Official

The Centre has drawn up a slew of schemes, in the form of subsidies, to support the food processing industry, from micro to large units, a senior official said. Secretary of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Subrata Gupta,

said that a lot of food, particularly fruits and vegetables, go to waste for not being processed to increase their shelf life.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/centre-to-support-food-processing-industry-with-slew-of-schemes-official-125031100352_1.html

India will need 30,000 pilots in 15-20 years, says aviation minister

India will need 30,000 pilots in the next 15-20 years as domestic airlines have more than 1,700 planes on order as they expand their network, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu said on Tuesday. Asserting that the ministry is working with a collective approach for the aviation industry, he also said that officials are verifying various aspects of 38 Flying Training Organisations (FTOs) and these organisations will be rated.

https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/india-will-need-30-000-pilots-in-15-20-years-says-aviation-minister-125031100544_1.html

India's startup ecosystem expands to 1.61 lakh registered entities; this many jobs created

The number of enterprises registered as startups under the Startup India programme has jumped to 1.61 lakh as of January 31, 2025, according to the data shared by Jitin Prasada, Minister of State in the Commerce Ministry. In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, Prasada said the startups registered so far have reportedly created over 17.69 lakh direct jobs including over 14.11 lakh direct jobs created in the last five years.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/start-ups-indias-startup-ecosystem-expands-to-1-61-lakh-registered-entities-this-many-jobs-created-3774671/>

GenAI boom drives demand for specialist engineers in India's IT sector

The entry-level engineering landscape in India's IT services industry is undergoing a seismic shift. With the growing influence of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) and agentic AI, companies are redefining job roles to enhance productivity and efficiency, often at the cost of traditional headcount.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/genai-boom-drives-demand-for-specialist-engineers-in-india-it-sector-125031101195_1.html

India emerging as a global sourcing hub for auto components, says top executive of leading auto parts maker

Global automakers are increasingly using India as a sourcing hub for components, driven by cost competitiveness and advanced technology. Nathan Bowen of Tenneco highlights India's rapid growth in exports, particularly to North America and Europe. Despite potential tariff challenges, the company remains optimistic about significant growth and continued investments in the region.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/auto/auto-news/india-emerging-as-a-global-sourcing-hub-for-auto-components-says-top-executive-of-leading-auto-parts-maker/articleshow/118902202.cms>

FADA does not expect passenger vehicle sales to grow in high single digits for FY26

The Federation of Automobile Dealers Association (FADA) does not expect the country's passenger vehicles sales to grow in high single digits for the next financial year as there would be a slow recovery for the industry. With the car dealers currently grappling with high inventory levels, they are expected to start offering discounts to entice buyers and clear the stockpile.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/fada-does-not-expect-passenger-vehicles-sales-to-grow-high-single-digits-for-fy26/article69318224.ece>

India's e-bus sales likely to grow 3.6-fold in FY27, projects CareEdge

Sales of electric buses (e-buses) in India are expected to grow 3.6-fold in the financial year 2026-27 (FY27), reaching more than 17,000 units compared to 3,644 units sold in FY24, a report said. According to the report published by rating agency CareEdge, the likely exponential sales growth is attributed to cost reductions, better charging infrastructure, and supportive government policies.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/auto/india-s-e-bus-sales-likely-to-grow-3-6-fold-in-fy27-projects-careedge-125031100837_1.html

Steel companies may go slow on capacity expansion as imports hit margins: Analysts

Indian steel companies are hesitant to announce new investments due to increasing imports, especially from China and South Korea, which may impact domestic prices and profit margins. The National Steel Policy aims for 300 mt capacity by 2030, but current conditions may slow expansions, with profitability expected to remain flat.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/indl-goods/svs/steel/steel-companies-may-go-slow-on-capacity-expansion-as-imports-hit-margins-analysts/articleshow/118901403.cms>

Small cities, healthier appetite: Tier-III cities lead healthy food growth

The shift towards healthier eating in India is gaining momentum, with online sales of organic and nutritious food products witnessing a sharp rise. A recent study of e-commerce trends shows that over 12 million orders worth \$35 million were processed in the past six months (Sept 2024 to Feb 2025), reflecting a growing preference for natural and wholesome alternatives.

https://www.business-standard.com/auto-expo/news/india-healthy-food-trend-organic-market-growth-tier-iii-125031100949_1.html

Agriculture

FSSAI asks states to step up surveillance on dairy analogues during March

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has directed all States and Union Territories (UTs) to step up surveillance on Dairy Analogues throughout the month of March, keeping in view the ongoing festive season. Dairy analogues are products that imitate milk or dairy products, but are made from non-milk sources like almonds, soy or oats.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/fssai-asks-states-to-step-up-surveillance-on-dairy-analogues-during-march/article69317474.ece>

Govt to include farmers not part of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi yet: Shivraj

The government is ready to provide Rs 6,000 annual cash benefit under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi to all eligible farmers who are not part of it yet, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. He asked all state governments to cooperate with the Centre in identifying such farmers and ensuring their inclusion in the scheme.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/agriculture/govt-to-include-farmers-not-part-of-pm-kisan-samman-nidhi-yet-shivraj-125031100463_1.html

India's edible oil imports hit 4-year low due to depleting inventories

India's edible oil imports in February plunged to their lowest level in four years, led by declines in soybean and sunflower oil imports, dragging inventories to their lowest level in three years, a leading industry body said on Tuesday.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-s-edible-oil-imports-hit-4-year-low-due-to-depleting-inventories-125031100551_1.html

India's cotton imports to double as output falls short, says trade body

India's cotton imports in 2024/25 are likely to double from a year ago as production is set to fall below consumption because of a decline in acreage planted and adverse weather, a leading trade body said on Tuesday.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-s-cotton-imports-to-double-as-output-falls-short-says-trade-body-125031100682_1.html

AISTA cuts sugar production estimate by 19% to 25.8 mn tn for 2024-25

India's sugar production is expected to fall by 19 per cent to 25.8 million tonnes in the 2024-25 season ending September, down from 31.9 million tonnes in the previous season, according to the All India Sugar Trade Association's second estimate released on Tuesday.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/agriculture/aista-cuts-sugar-production-estimate-by-19-to-25-8-mn-tn-for-2024-25-125031101244_1.html

Summer crops sowing complete in half of normal area

Average of paddy, maize, bajra and pulses up, but oilseeds coverage down.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/summer-crops-sowing-complete-in-half-of-normal-area/article69318055.ece>

Energy

House panel on power to discuss India's nuclear mission

The parliamentary consultative committee on power, headed by Power Minister Manohar Lal, will discuss nuclear energy's role in India's net-zero journey. A presentation will highlight the country's plan to increase nuclear power capacity to 100 GW by 2047 amidst public concerns about safety.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/house-panel-on-power-to-discuss-indias-nuclear-mission/articleshow/118901517.cms>

Hot summer likely to boost power demand and lift power utility stocks

Power demand during the first eleven months of 2024-25 (April-February or 11MFY25) is up only 4.4 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) due to the impact of excess rainfall and weaker economic activity in industry. This is much lower than the average Y-o-Y power demand growth of 8 per cent-plus in the last three financial years and hit generation unit volume and merchant prices. But with a hot summer on the horizon, power demand should pick up strongly in FY26.

https://www.business-standard.com/markets/news/hot-summer-likely-to-boost-power-demand-and-lift-power-utility-stocks-125031101145_1.html

MNRE likely to meet half of the PM Surya Ghar Yojna target for FY25

The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) expects to install rooftop solar (RTS) plants on around 12 lakh households under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojna in the current fiscal year, ending this month, against the target of covering 25 lakh households.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/mnre-likely-to-meet-half-of-the-pm-surya-ghar-yojna-target-for-fy25/article69316991.ece>

Telecom

Don't repeat 5G mistakes in launching 6G: COAI to government

The government should not make the same mistakes of not having standards and ecosystems in place, which they did in 5G rollout before launching 6G services in India, Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) said on Tuesday. Even globally, telcos are getting low returns on investment (RoI) at just 3 per cent due to lack of monetisation for 5G.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/dont-repeat-5g-mistakes-in-launching-6g-coai-to-government/article69317558.ece>

States

NDMC aims for solar panels on every rooftop by 2026

The New Delhi Municipal Council is working towards 100% solar energy adoption by 2026, providing subsidies and installing solar panels on rooftops. Major initiatives include night sweeping, rainwater harvesting, anti-encroachment drives, and extensive CCTV coverage, aimed at enhancing civic infrastructure and sustainability.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/ndmc-aims-for-solar-panels-on-every-rooftop-by-2026/articleshow/118898325.cms>

Uttar Pradesh govt saves Rs 10,000 cr annually via direct benefit transfer

The Uttar Pradesh (UP) government is saving nearly ₹10,000 crore annually by plugging leakages through direct benefit transfer (DBT), said Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. In the state, 207 schemes spanning 11 departments — including 113 central and 94 state-sponsored schemes — operate under the DBT framework. Nearly 91 million people receive payments totaling over ₹1.11 trillion annually, saving the state government ₹10,000 crore.

https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/uttar-pradesh-govt-saves-rs-10-000-cr-annually-via-direct-benefit-transfer-125031100833_1.html

Assam tea body welcomes proposal for AI-driven, blockchain auction system

The North East Tea Association (NETA) on Tuesday welcomed the Assam budget's proposal for an AI-driven, blockchain-based tea auctioning system in the state. It also lauded the extension given to the exemption of green leaf cess for another two years.

https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/assam-tea-body-welcomes-proposal-for-ai-driven-blockchain-auction-system-125031100433_1.html

AP set to attract mega tourism investments with new land allotment policy

The Andhra Pradesh Government is all set to attract investments in the tourism sector with new land allotment guidelines aimed at promoting ease and speed of doing business. Land from 1 to 150 acres can be allotted in line with the potential of new tourism projects.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/ap-set-to-attract-mega-tourism-investments-with-new-land-allotment-policy/article69317602.ece>

Ahmedabad hospitals to suspend cashless facility for 3 health insurers

Citing low charges and unjustified deductions, Ahmedabad-based hospitals and nursing homes have announced the indefinite suspension of cashless services for policyholders of Tata AIG General Insurance, Care Health Insurance, and Star Health and Allied Insurance with effect from April 2, 2025. The suspension follows growing concerns over low reimbursement rates, unjustified deductions, non-renewal of tariff rates, and the unilateral exclusion of hospitals by insurers.

https://www.business-standard.com/finance/insurance/ahmedabad-hospitals-to-suspend-cashless-facility-for-3-health-insurers-125031101489_1.html

Have asked Centre to lift cap on borrowing for big projects: Tripura CM

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Tuesday said the state government has approached the Centre to lift the cap on borrowing as it will take up big projects. As part of prudent fiscal management, the Centre has allowed Rs 4,000 crore borrowing for Tripura in the next three years.

https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/have-asked-centre-to-lift-cap-on-borrowing-for-big-projects-tripura-cm-125031100917_1.html

Healthcare

Indian pharmaceutical exports ranked 11th globally in 2023: Anupriya Patel

Indian pharmaceutical exports ranked 11th globally in value terms in 2023 and accounted for 3 per cent of the total pharmaceutical exports, Union Minister Anupriya Patel said in Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/indian-pharmaceutical-exports-ranked-11th-globally-in-2023-anupriya-patel-125031101108_1.html

India, vaccine superpower; manufactures 60% of global supply: ICMR former chief

India's Thiruvananthapuram has become a vaccine superpower, producing 60 per cent of the world's vaccines, with significant contributions from Pune. India's efficient vaccine development and distribution, spearheaded by government-supported research and a National Task Force, have positioned the country as a leader in global health. This effort notably helped achieve low death rates during the Omicron wave.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/pharmaceuticals/india-vaccine-superpower-manufactures-60-of-global-supply-icmr-former-chief/articleshow/118897233.cms>

External

India-Brazil defence partnership: MoU on 'Scorpene' class submarine maintenance to be inked soon

In an important visit to India recently, General Heraldo Luiz Rodrigues, Secretary of Defence Products (SEPROD) of Brazil, set the stage for a deeper defence partnership between the two nations. The discussions in New Delhi with top officials in the Ministry of Defence and three services covered everything from submarine maintenance to cutting-edge missile systems, with a focus on cooperation that goes beyond just buying and selling equipment.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/india-brazil-defence-partnership-mou-on-scorpene-class-submarine-maintenance-to-be-inked-soon-3774267/>

India, US to focus on mkt access, reducing tariff, non-tariff barriers: MoS

India and the US are planning to negotiate a trade agreement and both countries will focus on increasing market access, reducing import duty and non-tariff barriers, and enhancing supply chain integration, Parliament was informed on Tuesday. In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada said that as on date, reciprocal tariffs have not been imposed by the US on India.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-us-to-focus-on-mkt-access-reducing-tariff-non-tariff-barriers-mos-125031100497_1.html

India imposes 150 pc tariff on American alcohol, 100 pc tariff on agriculture goods: White House

The US has strongly criticised high tariffs imposed by India, Canada, and Japan on American goods. White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt cited India's 150% tariff on American alcohol and 100% on agricultural products, saying the US seeks fair trade. President Donald Trump also suggested further tariff hikes, accusing nations of exploiting the US for decades. Meanwhile, he claimed India had agreed to lower tariffs following increased scrutiny. Tensions over trade policies remain high as discussions continue.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-imposes-150-pc-tariff-on-american-alcohol-100-pc-tariff-on-agriculture-goods-white-house/articleshow/118912288.cms>

India signs MoU with Qatar to boost economic, financial cooperation

India and Qatar have signed an agreement to promote and develop mutual collaboration in public-private partnership framework and investment, use of financing tools, as well as economic policies, the finance ministry said on Tuesday.

https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/india-signs-mou-with-qatar-to-boost-economic-financial-cooperation-125031101023_1.html

India-Nicaragua deepens ties with historic ministerial visit

India's Minister of State for External Affairs, Pabitra Margherita, made his first-ever official visit to Nicaragua, marking a significant milestone in the diplomatic relations between the two countries. This is the first ministerial-level visit from India's Ministry of External Affairs (March 6-8, 2025), to the Central American nation Nicaragua, and it sets the stage for deeper bilateral cooperation. The talks mostly centered around advancing cooperation in trade, investment, and renewable energy, with both nations showing keen interest in furthering their economic ties.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/india-nicaragua-deepens-ties-with-historic-ministerial-visit-focused-on-trade-investment-and-renewable-energy/3774302/>

Govt mulls incentives for exporters amid global trade uncertainty

The government is considering additional incentives for exporters to arrest the decline in India's exports and mitigate the potential impact of reciprocal tariff threats by the Donald Trump administration, sources said. Though the government is yet to formulate the exact form of incentives to be given, the Rs 2,250 crore Export Promotion Mission announced in the Budget has room for flexibility in providing more incentives as the schemes are yet to be notified, they added.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/govt-mulls-incentives-for-exporters-amid-global-trade-uncertainty-125031100649_1.html

Few rice shipments to EU detected with Aflatoxin: Minister informs parl

Some rice shipments from India to the European Union (EU) have been detected with Aflatoxin, a toxic substance, and the country has been complying with the requirements of the importing nations, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Jitin Prasada, informed the Parliament on Tuesday.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/few-rice-shipments-to-eu-detected-with-aflatoxin-minister-informs-parl-125031100829_1.html

Reduction in coal import saves around ₹42,315 cr of foreign exchange

India's coal import dropped by 8.4 per cent to 183.42 million tonnes in the April-December period of the current fiscal, resulting in foreign exchange savings of around Rs 42,315 crore. The country's coal import was 200.19 MT in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/reduction-in-coal-import-saves-around-42-315-cr-of-foreign-exchange-125031100970_1.html