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Economy

India must push reforms, liberalisation to attract capital: IMF's Krishna Srinivasan

India must embrace trade liberalization, flexible labor laws, and regulatory reforms to attract investment. The IMF suggests these steps will boost private sector growth and foreign capital. Achieving developed nation status by 2047 requires sustained growth above 8%. Streamlining regulations and improving business entry and exit are crucial for job creation and economic progress.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/india-must-push-reforms-liberalisation-to-attract-capital-imfs-krishna-srinivasan/articleshow/124614051.cms

Finance

RBI initiatives helping cross-border trade, payments: Governor Malhotra

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is advancing cross-border collaboration in digital payments through multiple initiatives, including linking India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with other countries' fast-payment systems, according to Governor Sanjay Malhotra. This will enable merchant payments abroad via UPI QR codes, and support partner nations in deploying UPI-like sovereign payment platforms, he added. Malhotra was speaking earlier this week at the "High-Level Dialogue on Forging Economic Resilience through Digital Public Platforms" in Washington, D.C.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/rbi-digital-payments-collaboration-to-boost-cross-border-trade-125101601212_1.html

Private life insurers see early demand surge after nil GST rollout

Large private sector life insurers are witnessing early signs of increased customer traction — both in terms of leads and conversion to sales — following the implementation of nil goods and services tax (GST). Insurance companies have passed on the full benefit of GST cuts to consumers, and are not going to change pricing of the products. Meanwhile, the insurance companies plan to use multiple levers, including renegotiating commissions with distributors and other operating expenses (opex) optimisation measures, to reduce the impact of withdrawal of input tax credit (ITC) following the implementation of nil GST rates.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/insurance/private-life-insurers-see-demand-uptick-after-gst-rate-cut-125101601162_1.html

RBI may retain existing cap for deposit insurance premiums

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may retain the current 12 paise/Rs 100 cap on deposit insurance premiums, even after it moves towards the new risk-based premium model (RBP) proposed in the October policy, said banking industry sources. However, for well-managed banks, the insurance premium is expected to go down. Currently, all banks the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) pay an uniform premium of 12p/Rs 100.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/banking-finance-rbi-may-retain-existing-cap-for-deposit-insurance-premiums-4012861/

Industry

Centre unveils first State Mining Index to boost reforms in mineral sector

The Ministry of Mines on Thursday released the State Mining Readiness Index (SMRI) and corresponding State rankings, marking what it described as a major step towards promoting mining sector reforms at the State level. The initiative also fulfils an announcement made in the Union Budget 2025–26. The index evaluates States on several parameters, including auction performance, early mine operationalisation, focus on exploration, and sustainable mining practices related to non-coal minerals. These indicators aim to capture the overall readiness and efficiency of States in facilitating mining activity and implementing reforms.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/centre-unveils-first-state-mining-index-to-boost-reforms-in-mineral-sector-125101601076_1.html

Indian apparel designs in global limelight: Minister

Indian designs are gaining global recognition as an exciting fusion of traditional craftsmanship and modern sensibilities, according to MoS Pabitra Margherita. He highlighted the young generation's leadership in sustainability and ethical fashion, emphasizing India's unique position in preserving handloom and innovative designs.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/sme-sector/indian-apparel-designs-in-global-limelight-minister/articleshow/124595949.cms

Diwali travel demand sets the tone for year-end holiday rush, high fares

As India gets ready for fireworks and crackers this Diwali, vacationers are making the best of the extended weekend and more, at a price. In the age of dynamic airfares, when prices can zoom within seconds, one-way domestic trips have turned doubly expensive and beyond for several destinations during the week starting October 20. With hotel bookings and tariffs reflecting a similar bullish sentiment, Diwali has set the tone for the holiday season stretching to Christmas and New Year's.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/diwali-travel-demand-sets-the-tone-for-year-end-holiday-rush-high-fares-125101601458_1.html

FMCG set to turn the corner as GST 2.0 may boost spend, says report

The fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector is on the cusp of a turnaround, according to a report released on Thursday by Worldpanel by Numerator (formerly Kantar), even though growth in the segment's volumes and value continued to remain sluggish in the year ended July 2025. Speaking about the recent cuts in rates of goods and services tax, the report said: "There are indications that cooling prices might bring back growth into the market, and the GST 2.0 implementation therefore is likely to provide some impetus to the overall spends. While we are positive there will be a turnaround in the market as we finish the year."
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/consumer-caution-likely-to-persist-gst-2-0-to-provide-impetus-to-growth-125101601309_1.html

Consumer durables firms ring in chartbuster Diwali; sales surge up to 45% after GST cuts

Consumer durables makers and retailers are witnessing a chartbuster Diwali, with sales soaring 40-45 per cent since the GST rollout on September 22. Companies said demand momentum has been strong across categories, led by premium products and expect the Dhanteras-Diwali weekend to deliver another spike in sales. "The demand momentum is really good and the sellout on the ground is very strong during this festival season. Premium products are driving this growth. Metro cities are witnessing robust demand, and we expect rural sales to witness a bigger uptick in the coming days," said NS Satish, President, Haier Appliances India.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/consumer-durables-firms-ring-in-chartbuster-diwali-sales-surge-up-to-45-after-gst-cuts/article70172034.ece

IT sector shows signs of recovery as clients warm up to AI-led projects

Indian IT firms Infosys , Wipro and LTIMindtree beat estimates for quarterly revenue on Thursday and pointed to improving demand in the back half of the year as clients show more willingness to fund AI projects. Their upbeat results follow a strong showing by market leader Tata Consultancy Services last week and bode well for the $283

billion sector, which has struggled in the past few quarters as customers cut discretionary spending amid tariff-related uncertainty.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-s-it-majors-post-upbeat-q2-results-as-ai-driven-demand-revives-125101601371_1.html

Hybrids outpace petrol, EVs as preferred vehicle for buyers: Survey

Hybrids have emerged as the preferred choice for Indian car buyers this festive season, surpassing petrol and electric vehicles, according to Grant Thornton Bharat's latest survey. The study, based on responses from over 2,800 consumers across cities and age groups and conducted over a month, found that 38 per cent of respondents favour hybrid vehicles, compared to 30 per cent for petrol and 21 per cent for EVs. The findings reflect a growing preference for balanced performance, lower emissions, and fuel efficiency.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/auto/hybrid-cars-overtake-petrol-evs-as-top-festive-vehicle-choice-report-125101601181_1.html

Global giants eyeing India for legal, compliance GCCs

As India's stature as a hub for Global Capability Centres (GCCs) grows, a quiet revolution is underway with the rise of Global Legal and Compliance Centres (GLCCs). Far from being mere support bases, GLCCs are emerging as engines of legal innovation and governance excellence, by delivering strategic value to multinational corporations while deepening India's legal ecosystem. At present, about 10% of India's 1,800 GCCs host dedicated legal and compliance functions — translating to about 180 operational GLCCs across the country.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-global-giants-eyeing-india-for-legal-compliance-gccs-4013259/

Agriculture

Govt revises Per Drop More Crop scheme guidelines to boost micro-irrigation

The Centre has introduced new flexibility under the Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) scheme to encourage micro-level water storage and conservation projects. The Union Agriculture Ministry has revised the guidelines for the scheme, expanding the "other inventions" section. Now, states and Union territories can plan micro-level water management activities, such as diggi construction and water harvesting systems-based on local needs, the ministry said in a statement.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/agriculture/govt-revises-per-drop-more-crop-scheme-guidelines-to-boost-micro-irrigation-125101601083_1.html

Rabi season: Farmers keen on gram, mustard sowing as wheat estimates fall

Gram and mustard sowing is expected to increase in Rajasthan during this year's Rabi or winter crop season, while wheat sowing may decrease. The Rajasthan Agriculture Department has released Rabi crop sowing targets. These estimates show a decrease in wheat sowing and an increase in gram, mustard, and barley. According to data released by the Agriculture Department, mustard sowing is expected to cover 36 lakh hectares in Rajasthan this year. Last year, mustard was sown on 33.72 lakh hectares in the state. For gram, the department expects sowing across 21.90 lakh hectares, against 16.93 lakh hectares last year.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/agriculture/rabi-season-farmers-keen-on-gram-mustard-sowing-as-wheat-estimates-fall-125101600888_1.html

National roundtable calls for integrated land restoration to strengthen India's climate resilience

The Watershed Organisation Trust (WOTR) and its research arm, the WOTR Centre for Resilience Studies (W-CReS), in collaboration with the Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) Initiative and GIZ, organised a national roundtable titled "Restore Land through Integrated Efforts – Unlocking Opportunities for Today's Needs and Sustainability Tomorrow."
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national-roundtable-calls-for-integrated-land-restoration-to-strengthen-indias-climate-resilience/article70171186.ece

SEA asks Govt to defend MSP with effective policy measures

The Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) has asked the Government to strongly defend the MSP (minimum support price) for mandated crops with effective policy measures. In his monthly letter to the SEA members, Sanjeev Asthana, President of SEA, congratulated the Government for announcing an increase in the MSP for all mandated rabi crops in the upcoming marketing season.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/sea-asks-govt-to-defend-msp-with-effective-policy-measures/article70170624.ece

Cotton output may range between 312 and 335 lakh bales of 170 kg each, despite dip in area

India's cotton output for the 2025-26 season starting October is likely to be between 312 and 335 lakh bales of 170 kg each, despite a dip in area and feares of excess rain hurting production in some regions. Arrivals of the new crop have picked up this week across various States with the daily arrivals estimated at over 1 lakh bales and prices of raw cotton are trending below the minimum support price (MSP) levels on weak demand. The carry-forward stocks for 2025-26 season are estimated at 60.59 lakh bales over 39.19 lakh bales a year ago due to higher imports.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/cotton-output-may-range-between-312-and-335-lakh-bales-of-170-kg-each-despite-dip-in-area/article70171446.ece

Oilmeal exports flat in H1 2025-26, despite 40% increase in September

Overall oilmeals exports from India remained flat during the first six months of 2025-26, despite a 40 per cent increase in September 2025 compared with the same period a year ago. According to the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA), overall exports remained flat at 20.93 lt during April-September 2025-26 against 20.82 lt in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, a marginal increase of 0.50 per cent.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/oilmeal-exports-flat-in-h1-2025-26-despite-40-increase-in-september/article70170767.ece

Infrastructure

India's retail REIT market may hit Rs 80,000 crore by 2030: Anarock

India is set to witness the emergence of two to three retail real estate investment trusts (REITs) over the next three to five years, as the retail REIT market is projected to reach Rs 60,000–80,000 crore by 2030, according to a report by Anarock. This would represent about 30–40 per cent of India's overall REIT market, which is expected to be valued at Rs 2 trillion by 2030. As of mid-October 2025, the total REIT market capitalisation stands at approximately Rs 1.67 trillion, with retail REITs accounting for around 15 per cent of the market value.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-retail-reit-market-to-touch-rs-80000-crore-by-2030-anarock-125101600519_1.html

India's premium warehousing supply rises 6% in Jan–Sep 2025: Report

New supply of premium industrial and warehousing spaces rose 6 per cent during the January-September period across the top eight cities, as builders look to expand portfolio to meet rising demand, according to Colliers. Real estate consultant Colliers India's latest data suggests that the fresh supply of industrial and warehousing spaces grew to 28.8 million square feet during the first nine months of this calendar year from 27.1 million square feet in the year-ago period. The data pertains to Grade A buildings.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-indias-premium-warehousing-supply-rises-6-in-jansep-2025-report-4012492/

Energy

India's seeks cheaper oil amid US pressure, aims to continue Russian imports

India's Mangalore Refineries and Petrochemicals is actively seeking discounted oil from new sources. The company aims to maintain its purchases of Russian oil, a key import. This strategy aligns with India's policy of prioritizing the lowest cost energy options. Refiners have benefited from discounted Russian crude following sanctions.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/indias-seeks-cheaper-oil-amid-us-pressure-aims-to-continue-russian-imports/articleshow/124599517.cms

Telecom

Trai proposes steeper fines for telcos not reporting tariff change

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) has proposed steeper fines for telecom companies that fail to report tariff changes on time. A draft of the newly proposed regulations, released on Thursday, has mooted that a fine of ₹10,000 per day during the first week, and ₹20,000 per day thereafter, up to a maximum of ₹5 lakh, be imposed on telcos that do not adhere to the timelines for reporting changes in their tariff structure.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/trai-proposes-steeper-fines-for-telcos-not-reporting-tariff-change-125101601507_1.html

Trai to complete digital consent pilot by February

A pilot project for digital consent acquisition is set for completion by February 2026. This initiative aims to secure customer consent for promotional messages. Banks and financial institutions will migrate to a new numbering plan. Additional measures include mandatory whitelisting of links and callback numbers. Lists of blacklisted spamming entities will be published.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-policy/trai-to-complete-digital-consent-pilot-by-february/articleshow/124614386.cms

States

Uttar Pradesh govt pitching for investments in textile, auto sectors

The Uttar Pradesh government will set up dedicated cells which will help develop sector specific industrial clusters for electronics, electric mobility and, textiles as part of its larger mission to become a $1 trillion economy. Other sectors the government is working on include electric mobility, chemicals, electronics, services, for which it is eyeing big private investments. UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has tasked 'Invest UP', a nodal industry interface, to set up dedicated cells for these sectors to align with the state's long term development roadmap.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/uttar-pradesh-govt-pitching-for-investments-in-textile-auto-sectors-125101601006_1.html

PM Modi to visit Andhra Pradesh to inaugurate projects worth ₹13,430 crore

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to visit Andhra Pradesh on Thursday to participate in a series of programmes and inaugurate projects worth ₹13,430 crore. These projects span across key sectors in the state, including industry, power transmission, roads, railways, defence manufacturing, and petroleum and natural gas.
https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/pm-modi-andhra-pradesh-visit-inaugurate-projects-worth-rs-13430-crore-125101600239_1.html

PM opens Andhra industrial parks with Rs 5K cr investment

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday inaugurated two greenfield industrial parks in Kopparthy and Orvakal, Andhra Pradesh, marking a key step in India's manufacturing expansion. The projects, backed by an investment of Rs 4,920 crore, are part of a broader push to establish the state as a major industrial hub.
https://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/pm-opens-andhra-industrial-parks-with-rs-5k-cr-investment/4013254/

MP plans price support scheme for soybean farmers

To protect oilseeds farmers against fall in mandi prices, Madhya Pradesh will launch a price deficiency support scheme — Bhavantar– for soyabean farmers. Under the scheme, the state government will compensate the farmers by paying the difference between the prevailing (lower) market price and the minimum support price (MSP) to farmers. To be rolled out from October 24, the scheme would benefit 0.6 million farmers in Madhya Pradesh.
https://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/mp-plans-price-support-scheme-for-soybeannbspfarmersnbsp/4013105/

Healthcare

Pharma sector poised to grow at 9% through FY30: Care Ratings

The Indian pharma sector remains largely insulated from the immediate effects of the 100% tariffs imposed by the US administration on branded and patented products imported into the country, according to a report from Care Ratings. This is primarily due to the export of generic medicines to the US, which accounts for 90-95% of overall pharma shipments. These generics are off-patent, low-cost alternatives and are not covered under the new tariff regime.

https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-pharma-sector-poised-to-grow-at-9-through-fy30-care-ratings-4013202/

External

India, Brazil look to broaden PTA, eye $20 bn bilateral trade by 2030

India and Brazil are looking to broaden the preferential trade agreement (PTA) and are eyeing a bilateral trade target of $20 billion by 2030, up from $12 billion in 2024. India and Brazil have a limited trade agreement, as a part of a part of the PTA with the Latin American bloc – Mercosur. In July, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Argentina and Brazil saw discussions over the expansion of the existing limited trade deal with Mercosur bloc – comprising Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay as its members.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-brazil-to-expand-trade-pact-targets-20-billion-bilateral-trade-by-2030-125101601134_1.html

Continuing to engage with China on supply of rare-earth elements: MEA

India on Thursday said it is in talks with China on the supply of rare earth elements, and is respectful of its international obligations on the various frameworks and arrangements regarding end-user certifications. Recently, China sought guarantees from India that the rare earth elements supplied by it will not be re-exported to the US, and will be used to meet only local needs. Beijing is seeking export control commitments similar to those under the Wassenaar Arrangement, which governs the export of dual-use technologies and goods among its member countries.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-china-rare-earths-supply-in-discussion-mea-confirms-125101601217_1.html

Engineering goods exports grow 3% in September despite high US tariffs

Engineering goods exports maintained growth momentum in the month of September 2025, even as high US tariffs weighed on margins and competitiveness. As per the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the value of engineering goods shipments in September 2025 stood at US$10.11 billion as compared to US$9.82 billion in September 2024, thus registering a growth of nearly 3%. On a cumulative basis, engineering goods exports in the April-September period of the current financial year 2025-26 grew 5.35% year-on-year to US$59.36 billion as compared to US$56.34 billion in the corresponding period of the previous financial year.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/trade/exports/insights/engineering-goods-exports-grow-3-in-september-despite-high-us-tariffs/articleshow/124597826.cms