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Economy

Draft policy recasts labour ministry role from regulator to job facilitator

Earlier this month, the Union labour ministry released the draft Shram Shakti Niti 2025 - the first ever national labour and employment policy. In doing so, it also seeks to make a paradigm shift in India's labour governance: the labour ministry will now be reimagined as an 'employment facilitator' instead of the regulatory role it has traditionally played. The draft policy, which is open for public consultation and feedback, envisages a technology-driven, worker-centric framework - anchored in universal social security, artificial intelligence (AI)-based job matching, and digital compliance - aimed at transforming India's fragmented labour ecosystem into an integrated, transparent, and future-ready workforce.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/draft-policy-recasts-labour-ministry-role-from-regulator-to-job-facilitator-125102100608_1.html

Extending deadline not enough, MCA portal needs fixing, say experts

Professionals, such as company secretaries and chartered accountants, have raised several technical issues with the new version 3 portal, which has delayed annual filings. Even though the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has extended the deadline for filing forms till December 31, professional service providers feel it is not enough and does not address the issues at hand. "For the time being, extension is given after professionals have gone and requested for it, but what about all the working hours we have wasted in these filings. Filing is just the information side of compliance, not compliance itself. Responsibility and accountability should be set by the government for these delays," said company secretary Vanita Agarwal.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/mca-portal-technical-glitches-deadline-extension-not-enough-125102100534_1.html

Finance

Large pvt banks see green shoots, expect credit demand revival in H2FY26

Big private banks are noticing green shoots of rising economic activities, evidenced by increasing credit, on the strength of fiscal measures of the central government. They expect fiscal and monetary measures to support stronger loan growth in the second half of FY26 (H2FY26). According to the latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), credit growth picked up during the festival season, reaching 11.4 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) in the fortnight ended October 3, while deposit growth stood at 9.9 per cent.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/large-pvt-banks-see-green-shoots-expect-credit-demand-revival-in-h2fy26-125102100562_1.html

PFRDA releases draft framework on pension wealth accumulations

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has released a comprehensive consultation paper which aims to present pension wealth accumulations more clearly to subscribers while ensuring long-term financial

stability and economic relevance. The consultation paper is titled 'Alignment of Valuation Guidelines with the core objectives of Long-only Funds when investing in Government Securities and calculation of Net Asset Value (NAV)'.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/pfrda-releases-draft-framework-on-pension-wealth-accumulations/article70187247.ece

Industry

Made-in-India boost: Diwali sales skyrocket to record ₹5.4 trillion

Diwali sales this year reached a record ₹5.4 trillion in goods, up 25 per cent from last year, excluding an additional ₹65,000 crore from services, according to the trade body Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), which attributed the rise to the Prime Minister's call for a "Swadeshi Diwali". Last year, the Diwali trade figure had stood at ₹4.25 trillion. A survey by CAIT's research arm, the CAIT Research & Trade Development Society, found that goods and services tax (GST) rate rationalisation helped boost consumer demand this festival season.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/diwali-sales-2025-record-high-cait-report-vocal-for-local-125102100617_1.html

India surpasses $20 bn in cumulative, new investment commitments in AI

With India surpassing the $20-billion mark in cumulative and new investment commitments in artificial intelligence (AI) till date in 2025 — according to the latest estimates by the ministry of electronics and information technology (IT) — the country is well poised to become a key player in the race for a place in global AI sweepstakes. Stanford AI Index Report in 2025 said India's cumulative private investment in AI from 2013 to 2024 was at $11.1 billion in 2024 (adding the government's, it is $12.3 billion).
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-s-pvt-sector-investments-in-ai-higher-than-japan-france-germany-125102100741_1.html

Premium products, fast deliveries fuel ecommerce boom during Diwali

During the period of Diwali shopping, ecommerce and quick-commerce platforms recorded sharp demand increases, with premium products and instant-delivery services driving growth and festival spend extending beyond major cities. Amazon India reported 2.76 billion customer visits during its month-long sale while quick-commerce platforms saw multifold increases in traditional festival items and last-minute purchases.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/premium-products-and-fast-deliveries-fuel-diwali-e-commerce-boom-125102100737_1.html

Meity for inclusion of rare-earth magnet recycling in PLI scheme

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) has suggested to the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) that the proposed production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for boosting rare earth permanent magnet (REPM) manufacturing in India should also encourage the recycling of spent magnets, as the country is already among the world's top three generators of electronic waste (e-waste), multiple sources aware of the development told Business Standard.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/meity-wants-pli-for-magnets-to-include-recycling-of-e-waste-materials-125102100622_1.html

GST reforms may flood India with paper imports, warns industry body IPMA

Indian paper industry has raised concern over the potential surge in paper imports following the recent GST reforms, warning that the move could erode domestic competitiveness and undermine the government's flagship Make in India' initiative. Indian Paper Manufacturers Association (IPMA) President Pawan Agarwal, in a statement, said that with the recent GST changes, India risks becoming a further dumping ground for cheaper paper from abroad.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/gst-reforms-may-flood-india-with-paper-imports-warns-industry-body-ipma-125102100586_1.html

Car sales hit top gear on festive push, up 15-35% during Navaratri-Diwali

India's leading automobile manufacturers have recorded their best Diwali season ever, driven by recent goods and services tax (GST) reforms, repo rate relief, and buoyant consumer sentiment during the festival period from

Navaratri to Diwali. According to initial industry estimates, passenger-vehicle makers have seen between 15 per cent and 35 per cent sales growth during this period. Industry major Maruti Suzuki on Saturday reported 450,000 bookings during the festival period, with retail sales touching a record 325,000 units.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/auto/passenger-vehicle-sales-2025-diwali-record-growth-maruti-tata-hyundai-125102100690_1.html

Commercial vehicle sales up 2% in H1 as medium, light trucks drove growth

Commercial vehicle (CV) sales registered a modest upswing, growing 2 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to 463,695 units in the first half of the financial year 2025 (H1FY26), according to data from the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (Fada). The performance masked a shift in demand dynamics within the CV segment. The limited growth was primarily driven by the light commercial vehicle (LCV) and medium commercial vehicle (MCV) segments.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/auto/cv-sales-h1-fy26-growth-infrastructure-demand-lcv-mcv-hcv-125102100694_1.html

Defence Ministry to take up ₹10,000 cr missile deal for S-400 Systems

The Ministry of Defence is expected to consider a proposal from the Indian Air Force (IAF) to procure missiles worth around Rs 10,000 crore for its S-400 'Sudarshan chakra' air defence systems at an upcoming Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) meeting scheduled for October 23, defence sources said. This procurement aims to significantly bolster India's air defence capabilities following the S-400's successful operational deployment during Operation Sindoor.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/defence-ministry-to-take-up-10000-cr-missile-deal-for-s-400-systems/article70186875.ece

Investor confidence builds in semicon start-ups as government schemes take hold

India's semiconductor start-up ecosystem is witnessing a gradual shift in investor sentiment, driven largely by government initiatives like the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) and the Design Linked Incentive (DLI) scheme. While funding levels still lag global peers, industry leaders say the conversation around semiconductor investments has become significantly easier than it was just a few years ago.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/investor-confidence-builds-in-semicon-start-ups-as-government-schemes-take-hold/article70186085.ece

Hoteliers bet on mid-market segment with big investment

For the first time in over a decade, India's planned supply of branded hotel rooms has crossed the 100,000 mark. Interestingly, the mid-market and upper mid-market segments account for half of this pipeline while luxury rooms account for less than 5%. If hoteliers and developers are placing their bets on mid-range hotel brands, it is because the evolving demographics and a growing middle class are fuelling demand for branded rooms.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-hoteliers-bet-on-mid-marketnbsp-segment-with-big-investment-4017522/

Agriculture

India braces for higher fertiliser prices as China suspends exports

India is preparing for higher fertiliser prices ahead of the crucial rabi (winter) crop season after China suspended exports of urea and specialty fertilisers from October 15, a senior industry official said on Tuesday. China, which had only recently resumed fertiliser exports from May 15 to October 15 with increased inspections, has now suspended the export window until further notice, affecting not just India but global markets as well. The suspension covers specialty fertilisers like TMAP (Technical Monoammonium Phosphate) and Urea-solution products like AdBlue, as well as conventional fertilisers such as DAP and urea.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/agriculture/india-braces-for-higher-fertiliser-prices-as-china-suspends-exports-125102100323_1.html

Sugar industry body seeks clarity on export policy and EBP roadmap

Cautioning the government that there could be delayed payments to sugarcane farmers due to the recent decision of oil marketing companies to allocate only 288.52 crore litres (28 per cent) to the sugar-based manufacturers and 759.75 crore litres (72 per cent) to the grain-based distilleries, private sugar industry body ISMA has requested for 2 million tonnes (mt) of export permit.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/sugar-industry-body-seeks-clarity-on-export-policy-and-ebp-roadmap/article70186434.ece

India's pulses import value halves in H1FY26 to $1.03 billion

India's pulses import value has more than halved in the first half of current financial year on fall in global prices and lower import volumes. The April-September 2025 import value of pulses stood at $1.03 billion over same period last year's $2.18 billion, per the recently released quick estimates released by the Commerce Ministry. In rupee value terms, pulses imports fell 51 per cent to ₹8,908 crore from ₹18,282 crore in the same period last year.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/indias-pulses-import-value-halves-in-h1fy26-to-103-billion/article70186724.ece

FCI set to launch direct rice sale to public on Nov 14

The Food Corporation of India (FCI) plans to sell the best quality rice, including parboiled rice, directly to consumers during Delhi's annual trade fair on November 14. This is being seen as an attempt to secure feedback for any future retail sale plan. The FCI also plans to increase rice sales from the central pool stock for which it will allow traders to buy in bulk (minimum 10,000 tonnes) through tender directly from their nearest depot, where FCI will make available the cereal absorbing transport costs, sources said.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/fci-set-to-launch-direct-rice-sale-to-public-on-nov-14/article70183148.ece

Infrastructure

Compensation portal set up for annual toll pass

The Road Transport Ministry has rolled out an innovative compensation portal designed to enhance toll operations. This platform will empower dedicated officials to oversee revenue sharing for the FASTag Annual Pass scheme, significantly reducing conflicts over revenue losses faced by concessionaires. The annual pass allows for toll-free travel or one year of use for private vehicles.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/compensation-portal-set-up-for-annual-toll-pass/articleshow/124727979.cms

New funding routes on regional flight map: Budgetary support, other options on cards

The government is exploring new funding mechanisms for its regional air connectivity scheme, UDAN, including direct budgetary support to airlines. This move aims to offset losses on remote routes and facilitate the addition of 120 new destinations over the next decade, as existing funding models are deemed insufficient.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines-/-aviation/new-funding-routeson-regional-flight-map-budgetary-support-other-options-on-cards/articleshow/124728291.cms

Energy

India's nuclear power push to 100 GW by 2047 hinges on reforms, funding

India has set an ambitious target to ramp up nuclear power generation capacity to 100 Gigawatt (GW) by 2047, implying a tenfold expansion in just over two decades. This translates into an average annual capacity addition of around 4.14 GW. With a current operational capacity of only 8.8 GW, the plan forms part of India's broader effort to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070. However, experts say the nuclear expansion programme faces major challenges related to fuel procurement, financing, and legislative restrictions.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-nuclear-power-capacity-100gw-2047-fuel-cost-legal-hurdles-125102100785_1.html

India's coal imports drops 0.6% to 20.58 MT in August, coking coal rises

India's coal import dropped by marginal 0.6 per cent to 20.58 million tonne in the month of August, over the year-ago period. The country's coal import was 20.70 MT in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal. In the April-August period of FY26, the coal import dropped to 118.07 MT from 121.18 MT a year ago, according to data compiled by B2B e-commerce solution provider mjunction services.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-s-coal-imports-drops-0-6-to-20-58-mt-in-august-coking-coal-rises-125102100334_1.html

States

Kashmir's walnut industry struggles amid poor infrastructure, rising imports

India produces over 320,000 metric tonnes of walnuts annually, with Jammu and Kashmir contributing more than 95% of the total production. Of the 109,000 hectares under walnut cultivation nationwide, about 89,000 hectares are located in the Jammu and Kashmir, according to official data. Despite its dominance, the sector remains crippled by the absence of modern processing and packaging facilities, and organized dry fruit markets. The closure of several walnut processing units over the past decade has further deepened the crisis.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/kashmirs-walnut-industry-struggles-amid-poor-infrastructure-rising-imports/article70186488.ece

UP RERA approves 35 projects worth Rs 9,000 crore in a month

UP-RERA has approved 35 projects valued at Rs 9,000 crore in a month, boosting the real estate sector. Approvals span beyond NCR to cities like Ayodhya and Jhansi, promoting balanced regional development and enhancing housing availability, particularly for affordable and mid-income segments.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/property-/-cstruction/up-rera-approves-35-projects-worth-rs-9000-crore-in-a-month/articleshow/124723407.cms

Telangana to unlock more land auction after ₹3,135-crore Raidurg record

Following a record-breaking land sale, Telangana is auctioning another prime parcel in Hyderabad's Knowledge City for an estimated Rs 200 crore. This move signals the state's strategy to monetize high-value urban land amid strong investor demand in the city's western corridor, known for its IT and financial ecosystem.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/property-/-cstruction/telangana-to-unlock-more-land-auction-after-3135-crore-raidurg-record/articleshow/124715444.cms

External

India, UK launch Ramanujan research fellowship for young scientists

India and the United Kingdom (UK) have launched a new research fellowship programme aimed at fostering collaboration between young scientists of both countries. Named after renowned Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan, the Ramanujan Junior Researchers Programme will allow young Indian physicists and mathematicians to undertake joint research at the London Institute for Mathematical Sciences (LIMS). The initiative, supported by India's Department of Science and Technology (DST), was announced following UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer's recent visit to India. It draws inspiration from Ramanujan's historic 1913 collaboration with British mathematician G.H. Hardy.
https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/india-uk-launch-ramanujan-research-fellowship-programme-young-scientists-125102100868_1.html

India upgrades technical mission in Afghanistan to status of embassy

India restored the status of the technical mission of India in Kabul to that of a full-fledged embassy on Tuesday, underscoring its resolve to "deepen" its bilateral engagement with Afghanistan, the Ministry of External Affairs has said. "In keeping with the decision announced during the recent visit of the Afghan Foreign Minister to India, the government is restoring the status of the technical mission of India in Kabul to that of embassy of India in Afghanistan with immediate effect," the MEA statement noted. This decision underscores India's resolve to deepen its bilateral engagement with the Afghan side in all spheres of mutual interest, it added.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/india-upgrades-technical-mission-in-afghanistan-to-status-of-embassy/article70186997.ece

Piyush Goyal holds discussion with VP, International Electrotechnical Commission, German Business leaders

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal held a series of productive meetings in Delhi with the Vice President of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and key German business leaders to discuss avenues for collaboration in clean energy, technology, and sustainable growth.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/piyush-goyal-holds-discussion-with-vp-international-electrotechnical-commission-german-business-leaders/articleshow/124732233.cms

Australia lifts ban on imports of unpeeled Indian prawn

In a major relief for India's seafood sector, Australia has granted its first import approval for unpeeled Indian prawns, ending years of restrictions linked to disease concerns. The announcement coincides with state industries minister Nara Lokesh's visit to Australia, where he has been meeting government officials, investors, and seafood trade representatives.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/australia-approves-first-import-of-unpeeled-indian-prawns-nara-lokesh-125102100440_1.html