

November 07, 2025 – Friday

Economy

India aims to lift female labour force participation to 55% by 2030

India is targeting a substantial rise in women joining the workforce by 2030. The government plans flexible jobs, equal pay, and safer workplaces. Childcare support and formalizing the care economy are also key. These measures aim to boost India's economic potential by harnessing its demographic strength.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/india-aims-to-lift-female-labour-force-participation-to-55-by-2030/articleshow/125142511.cms

PRADAN empowers 5 lakh rural households to earn over ₹1 lakh annually in FY25

The Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN) – the organisation working towards reaching out to the poorest communities, building human capabilities and building women's self-reliant collectives as change agents – has empowered 5 lakh households to earn over ₹1 lakh annually in 2024-25, according to a press release. The release said that 25 lakh households participated in improved, locally viable, sustainable livelihood opportunities. Of them, PRADAN directly engaged with more than 8.25 lakh households. Over 5 lakh households earn over ₹1 lakh annually, and 66,000 households have crossed ₹2.50 lakh through high-return livelihood models, it said.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/pradan-empowers-5-lakh-rural-households-to-earn-over-1-lakh-annually-in-fy25/article70248911.ece

Competition, rains drag services activity to 5-month low in October

Business activity in India's dominant services sector fell to a five-month low in October as competition and heavy rains constrained growth, even though demand buoyancy and goods & services tax (GST) relief led to an improvement in operating conditions, said a private survey on Thursday. The headline HSBC India services purchasing managers' index (PMI) figure, compiled by S&P Global, fell to 58.9 in October from 60.9 in September. This comes after the index held above 60 for four consecutive months.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/competition-rains-dampen-services-activity-to-5-month-low-in-october-125110601900_1.html

Govt to hold meet with states next week to finalise national labour policy

In a bid to expedite and finalise the national policy on labour and employment, the Union labour ministry will hold a two-day meeting with state labour ministers starting November 11 in the national capital, official sources told Business Standard. "The two-day meet will see participation from all states and Union Territories (UTs). Our focus will be on the recently released draft Shram Niti (labour policy). We aim to build consensus with states, as labour is as much a state subject as it is a central one. A lot of public comments have already been received, and they will be discussed at the meeting as well," one of the sources said.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/govt-to-hold-meet-with-states-on-labour-policy-next-week-125110601933_1.html

Low-carbon future to cost 0.6% of average GDP to nine emerging economies: Study

Emerging economies in the G20 require $2.2 trillion for a low-carbon future by 2030. This amount is considered achievable, representing a small fraction of their GDP. The study highlights that the challenge lies in managing capital inflows, not the cost itself. Multilateral development banks are urged to increase support for crucial sectors like steel and cement.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/low-carbon-future-to-cost-0-6-of-average-gdp-to-nine-emerging-economies-study/articleshow/125131087.cms

Finance

India plans to retain cap on voting rights for large shareholders in banks, sources say

In a strategic move to maintain stability in its banking sector, India has decided to impose restrictions on the voting rights of large bank shareholders. This allows foreign investors to acquire significant shares while ensuring they do not have complete authority over decision-making processes.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/india-plans-to-retain-cap-on-voting-rights-for-large-shareholders-in-banks-sources-say/articleshow/125131665.cms

Finance minister hints at more bank mergers

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday hinted at another round of consolidation of public sector banks, and possible privatisation of some of them, as part of the government's efforts to create more "big banks". Addressing the 12th SBI Banking & Economics Conclave in Mumbai, she reiterated that India, as a fast-growing economy with diversified banking needs for its large population and thriving businesses, "needed a lot of big, world class banks." She said the government would confabulate with the Reserve Bank of India and the banks, "to see how they want to take (the plan) forward."
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/banking-finance/finance-minister-hints-at-more-bank-mergers/4034611/

SEBI to streamline IPO disclosures, boost retail access in bond market

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) will soon introduce a set of reforms for the primary market and debt securities, aimed at simplifying disclosures, easing fund-raising and deepening investor participation. Speaking at the SBI Banking & Economics Conclave 2025 on Thursday, SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said the regulator plans to rationalise the offer document summary and make it separately available to investors for feedback.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/stock-markets/sebi-to-streamline-ipo-disclosures-boost-retail-access-in-bond-market/article70249338.ece

Weak demand continues to play in gsec market

The weak demand-supply dynamics continue to weigh on the government securities market, keeping yields still elevated. The weak demand from banks, insurance companies and pension funds cannot match the constant supply, said market participants. This has led participants to bid at higher yields in the previous auction, followed by which the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) rejected bids. Traders expect higher cut-off yield in the auction, which will be held on Friday.
https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy/weak-demand-continues-to-play-in-gsec-market/4034750/

Industry

Wedding season boom set to drive Q3FY26 growth after festive spending spree

India's economy is poised for a strong third quarter, fueled by a booming wedding season and sustained festive consumption following recent GST rate cuts. While urban demand shows positive response, economists caution that a weak labor market and US tariffs pose potential drags on continued growth.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/wedding-season-boom-set-to-drive-q3fy26-growth-after-festive-spending-spree/articleshow/125141722.cms

Large firms see slower Q2 growth

Bigger firms don't seem to have done as well as the rest of the companies this earnings season, going by the numbers that are out so far, reports Kishor Kadam. For larger firms (56 of the top 100 Nifty pack), sales have grown at a slower pace as have operating profits. The disparity is widest when it comes to net profits: 56 companies reported a rise of 15.7% year–on-year in Q2FY26, compared with a rise of 20.4% for a bigger basket of 653 companies. Makers of mass consumption items and IT firms have posted sedate numbers; producers of metals, durables and OMCs have reported good results.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-large-firms-see-slower-q2-growth-4033858/

I&B Ministry proposes expansion of panel size for TRP measurement

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has proposed expansion of the size of panel of households meters set up for measurement of television viewership. It has also brought in sharper provisions pertaining to conflict of interest and re-introduced cross-holding requirements in its latest amendments in draft guidelines for Television Rating Agencies. The Ministry had first released a draft of proposed amendments in the policy guidelines for Television Rating Agencies in July.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/ib-ministry-proposes-expansion-of-panel-size-for-trp-measurement/article70249194.ece

NITI panel calls for reset of 200+ quality orders stifling factory output

A high-level government committee has proposed the cancellation, suspension, and deferment of quality control orders (QCOs) for more than 200 products, citing concerns that these orders have increased compliance burdens and disrupted supply chains, thereby hurting India's manufacturing competitiveness. The panel, headed by NITI Aayog member Rajiv Gauba, includes representatives from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), the Aayog, and industry bodies such as the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Confederation of Indian Industry, and the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India, among others.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/niti-panel-calls-for-reset-of-200-quality-orders-stifling-factory-output-125110601279_1.html

Agriculture

India may double sugar exports as ethanol diversion falls sharply

India needs to double its sugar export allocation to 2 million metric tons in the new season, as lower diversion of sugar for ethanol production is expected to leave a larger domestic surplus, industry officials said on Thursday. Higher exports from the world's second-largest sugar producer could pressure benchmark New York and London futures, which are hovering near five-year lows. India was the world's second-largest sugar exporter in the five years to 2022/23, with shipments averaging 6.8 million tons annually. But a drought prompted the government to ban sugar exports in 2023/24, allowing only 1 million tons last year.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-may-double-sugar-exports-as-ethanol-diversion-falls-sharply-125110601033_1.html

Marine experts call for ecosystem-based approach to strengthen India's blue economy

The 4th edition of the International Symposium on Marine Ecosystems (MECoS 4) has emphasised the need for adopting ecosystem-based, multi-species management approaches to ensure the sustainable use of marine resources and to strengthen India's blue economy framework. In a set of recommendations, MECoS 4 placed women's empowerment and startup support at the core of the proposed roadmap for sustainable ocean development.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/marine-experts-call-for-ecosystem-based-approach-to-strengthen-indias-blue-economy/article70248428.ece

Infrastructure

Connectivity, capacity upgrades lift small ports

India's relatively smaller ports among the major state-owned maritime facilities are beginning to show stronger growth momentum, backed by better connectivity, capacity upgrades, and gains paced by demand for specific commodities. Data from the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways show that in the first half of FY26, the country's 12 major ports handled 437.43 million tonnes (mt) of cargo, up 5.75% from 413.65 mt in the same period last year.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/shipping-/-transport/connectivity-capacity-upgrades-lift-small-ports/articleshow/125140987.cms

InvIT market size pegged to triple to Rs 21 lakh crore by 2030

The assets-size of India's Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvITs) could triple to around Rs 21 lakh crore by 2030, driven by the heavy government spending and rising institutional investor allocations to alternatives, according to experts. Corporate capital optimization through InvITs and low retail penetration offers large room for growth, say market observers. Client Associates (CA), a Multi Family Office (MFO) which manage over $7 billion in assets, sees government initiatives like the National Infrastructure Pipeline fuelling the growth.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry/invit-market-size-pegged-to-triple-to-rs-21-lakh-crore-by-2030/4033240/

Energy

India's solar boom could create a ₹3,700 crore recycling market in 2047: CEEW

Recovering and reusing materials from discarded solar panels could be a ₹3,700 crore worth market opportunity in 2047, according to a pair of new independent studies released today by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW). The studies also highlight that, if this potential is realised, recovering valuable materials such as silicon, copper, aluminium, and silver from solar waste could meet 38 per cent of the sector's manufacturing inputs in 2047 and avoid 37 million tonnes of carbon emissions by replacing virgin resources with recycled ones. India's solar module recycling market is currently at a very nascent stage, with only a few commercial recyclers operating.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/indias-solar-boom-could-create-a-3700-crore-recycling-market-in-2047-ceew/article70247725.ece

Overcapacity in solar manufacturing to impact firms' profitability: ICRA

India's solar photovoltaic (PV) module manufacturing capacity is set to rise to over 165 gigawatts (GW) by March 2027 from around 109 GW at present, driven by strong policy support such as the approved list of models and manufacturers (ALMM), ratings agency ICRA said on Thursday.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/solar-manufacturing-overcapacity-impact-icra-profitability-125110601394_1.html

India diversifies petroleum exports as traditional buyers cut sourcing

India is shifting its refined petroleum exports to newer destinations such as Jordan, Hong Kong, and Spain, as traditional buyers like the Netherlands, France, and Indonesia reduce their imports. The US stepped up pressure on India to halt purchases of discounted Russian crude oil after Donald Trump assumed office in January this year. On August 7, US President Trump imposed an additional 25 per cent tariff on India for buying Russian oil, effective from August 27, doubling the total tariff to 50 per cent.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-diversifies-petroleum-exports-as-traditional-buyers-cut-sourcing-125110602026_1.html

States

Karnataka approves ₹518 crore Start-Up Policy to fuel 25,000 new ventures

The Karnataka Cabinet has approved the Start-Up Policy 2025–2030, with an outlay of ₹518.27 crore aimed to strengthen the State's innovation ecosystem and create 25,000 new start-ups, including 10,000 ventures from Beyond Bengaluru. The new policy seeks to position Karnataka as a "Champion State" in the start-up domain with a focus on Artificial Intelligence (AI), Blockchain, Quantum Computing, and other DeepTech sectors.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/karnataka-approves-518-crore-start-up-policy-to-fuel-25000-new-ventures/article70249229.ece

Uttar Pradesh govt to provide free pulses, oilseeds to 1 million farmers

The Uttar Pradesh government will distribute free pulses and oilseeds to nearly a million farmers for the current rabi season. It is expected to boost the sowing of these major cash crops and provide remunerative prices to the UP farm community. UP is among India's top agricultural-producing states. Its food grain production jumped from 55.7 million tonnes (mt) in 2016-17 to nearly 72.5 mt in 2024-25.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/uttar-pradesh-govt-to-provide-free-pulses-oilseeds-to-1-million-farmers-125110601650_1.html

Rajasthan govt approves land allotment in key districts for industry

The Rajasthan government has approved various land allotments for projects in Bhilwara, Didwana-Kuchaman, and Phalodi districts in a bid to boost industrialisation, according to an official. Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma has approved allotment of 20.80 hectares of land in Kodiya village, in Kotdi tehsil of Bhilwara district, to Rajasthan Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Limited (RIICO) for the establishment of a new industrial area. Similarly, 71.59 hectares of land has been allotted in Mouza Bhakri Moulas, located in Parbatsar tehsil of Didwana-Kuchaman and 49.82 hectares of land has been approved in Hajisagar village and Tenanadi village in Phalodi district.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/rajasthan-govt-approves-land-allotment-in-key-districts-for-industry-125110602168_1.html

Chhattisgarh exports first batch of fortified rice kernels to Costa Rica

India has exported its first consignment of fortified rice kernels (FRK) from Chhattisgarh to Costa Rica, positioning the state as a contributor to the country's foreign trade. FRK is a manufactured rice grain that is blended with regular rice to enhance its nutritional value by adding essential micronutrients like iron, folic acid, and Vitamin B12. The 12 metric tonnes of export by the central government's Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) "advances the nation's commitment to nutrition, quality, and global agricultural leadership," said a Chhattisgarh government official. It aligns with the central government's Kuposhan Mukt Bharat (Malnutrition-Free India) programme, which distributes fortified rice nationwide through the Food Corporation of India (FCI).
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/chhattisgarh-exports-first-batch-of-fortified-rice-kernels-to-costa-rica-125110601904_1.html

Healthcare

NPPA fixes retail price of 28 drugs, ceiling price of six formulations

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has announced the fixing of retail prices for 28 drug formulations and ceiling prices for six scheduled formulations under the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM). The decision to revise prices was taken during the NPPA's 138th meeting. The authority fixed prices for drugs used to treat diabetes, hypertension, bacterial infections, and allergies, according to a notification issued by the Department of Pharmaceuticals and the NPPA.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/nppa-fixes-retail-price-of-28-drugs-ceiling-price-of-6-formulations-125110601941_1.html

External

India-Peru trade talks set to resume in New Delhi in January 2026

India and Peru are set to hold the next round of trade negotiations in New Delhi in January 2026, following substantive progress on key chapters including critical minerals. Meanwhile, India and Chile have concluded their third round of talks for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, aiming to deepen economic ties in the Latin American region.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-peru-trade-talks-set-to-resume-in-new-delhi-in-january-2026/articleshow/125130833.cms

Trade ministers of India, New Zealand review FTA talks

Trade ministers of India and New Zealand on Thursday reviewed the progress in the negotiations on their Free Trade Agreement (FTA) as the negotiating teams near the end of fourth round of negotiations. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and New Zealand's trade and investment minister Todd McClay and chief negotiators from both sides participated in the discussions. Goyal is on a visit to New Zealand as officials from both countries hold a fourth round of negotiations that started on Monday and will last till Friday.
https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy/trade-ministers-of-india-new-zealand-review-fta-talks/4034755/

Indian envoy discusses bilateral trade, defence deal with key US Senator

In a significant diplomatic encounter, Indian Ambassador Vinay Mohan Kwatra engaged with US Senator Steve Daines, focusing on enhancing bilateral trade ties and unveiling a comprehensive 10-year defense framework pact. This agreement marks a pivotal step in reinforcing the strategic partnership between India and the United States.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indian-envoy-discusses-bilateral-trade-defence-deal-with-key-us-senator/articleshow/125129802.cms