

December 08, 2025 – Monday

Economy

Economy to grow by 7% or more in FY26, says Nirmala Sitharaman

India's economy is set to grow at 7% or higher this fiscal year, backed by strong fundamentals and resilient domestic demand, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said. Speaking at the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit in Delhi, she noted that low inflation, recent GST rate cuts, and steady consumer spending would continue to support growth despite global challenges. Sitharaman maintained that the rupee would "find its natural level", noting exporters stand to gain from its softer value. Amid these global headwinds, the government is intensifying domestic reforms. Sitharaman announced that customs simplification will be the next major reform ahead of Budget 2026, following tax rationalisation in income tax and GST.
https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy/economy-to-grow-by-7-or-more-in-fy26-says-nirmala-sitharaman/4068348/

Finance

Banks cut loan rates for retail segments after RBI's 25-bps repo cut

Following the 25 basis-point repo rate cut by the Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank of India, banks have cut their external benchmark-linked loan rates for retail segments by equal magnitude. The new rate came into effect from Dec 6.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/banks-cut-loan-rates-for-retail-segments-after-rbi-s-25-bps-repo-cut-125120700805_1.html

Banks unlikely to reduce deposit rates despite RBI easing

Following the latest repo rate decrease, bankers foresee only slight adjustments to deposit rates. The landscape, characterized by sluggish savings yields and elevated credit-deposit ratios, restricts deeper cuts. Consequently, banks will experience continued margin pressure in the near term. However, a turnaround in profitability is anticipated later this fiscal year.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/banks-unlikely-to-reduce-deposit-rates-despite-rbi-easing/articleshow/125821037.cms

Govt to launch low-interest credit cards for small firms by January

The Indian government will launch a Micro Credit Card by January with a Rs 5 lakh limit, aiming to reduce the high borrowing costs for micro-enterprises by linking it to credit guarantee schemes, thereby easing working capital stress and supporting MSMEs.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/news/govt-to-launch-low-interest-credit-cards-for-small-firms-by-january/4068768/

SEBI board to take up 11 proposals on December 17

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) will consider 11 regulatory proposals at its board meeting on December 17, covering major overhauls of broker regulations, mutual fund expense structure, administration of exchanges and the introduction of a closing-auction session, according to people familiar with the agenda. Other items include rationalisation of disclosure and lock-in norms under the IPO framework, easing compliance for debt-market issuers, relaxed KYC requirements for NRIs, standardised processes for mutual-fund folio onboarding, permitting incentives to improve retail participation in public debt issues and enhanced transparency and reporting standards for alternative-investment funds.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/sebi-board-to-take-up-11-proposals-on-december-17/article70369256.ece

Longer-term debt schemes get attractive

The latest 25 basis point (bps) repo rate cut by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is expected to give a boost to longer-term debt schemes, said fund managers. And the good news is that fund houses have been attracting good money from investors that they can deploy. In October, debt funds had recorded their highest inflow in nearly six months of Rs 1.6 lakh crore. However, they were unable to aggressively deploy due to adverse market conditions.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/banking-finance/longer-term-debt-schemes-get-attractive/4068870/

No big-bang divestment: Govt strategy is to do dribs and drabs of 'minority stake sales' in CPSEs

A 'surprised' minority stake sale, rather than any big-bang disinvestment, is the government's well thought out strategy to generate more revenue, a top Finance Ministry official has said. The revelation comes at a time when the Finance Ministry is entering the final phase of preparation for the Union Budget of Fiscal Year 2026-27 and there's been some cause of concern about the government's revenues largely owing to the temporary softening in GST collection growth.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/no-big-bang-divestment-govt-strategy-is-to-do-dribs-and-drabs-of-minority-stake-sales-in-cpses/article70368585.ece

Food subsidy need to exceed BE by Rs 22,000 crore

The Union government's food subsidy budget for FY26 is set to exceed the budget estimates (BE) of Rs 2.03 lakh crore by over Rs 22,000 crore due to the rising cost of holding surplus grains far in excess of what is needed for minimum support price (MSP) operations for paddy and wheat. Sources said that FCI, through which over 70% subsidies are routed, has revised upward its projected expenditure from Rs 1.43 lakh crore (BE) to Rs 1.72 lakh crore for 2025-26 mainly because of surplus rice stocks which far exceeds the buffer.
https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy/food-subsidy-need-to-exceed-be-by-rs-22000-crore/4068785/

Industry

India makes its bets as AI chip race hots up; startup costs may fall

Google and Nvidia's competition in the artificial intelligence chip ecosystem briefly unsettled global markets last month but for India's AI ambitions the impact is marginal — at least for now. When reports in late November said that Meta Platforms (the owner of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp) may use Google's in-house Tensor Processing Units (TPUs) for its upcoming data centres, it knocked down Nvidia's stock nearly 3 per cent. It also reignited the debate over whether Nvidia, the world's chip leader, is finally facing credible competition. Nvidia was quick to respond, publicly welcoming Google's progress while asserting that its own chips remain "a generation ahead of the industry".
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-makes-its-bets-as-ai-chip-race-hots-up-startup-costs-may-fall-125120700715_1.html

Spurring innovation: BIRAC, TDB may manage key tranches of ₹1 trn RDI fund

The government is likely to appoint two focused research organisations (FROs) — the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) and the Technology Development Board (TDB) — as second-level fund managers for the proposed ₹1 trillion Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) fund, according to sources. "BIRAC and TDB have made successful presentations before the government. They have received a verbal go-ahead but are still awaiting formal confirmation, which is likely to come within a week," one source said.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/spurring-innovation-birac-tdb-may-manage-key-tranches-of-1-trn-rdi-fund-125120700772_1.html

Domestic defence production hits ₹1.51 trillion, says Rajnath Singh

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said India is witnessing a paradigm shift in defence manufacturing, from being an import-dependent nation to an emerging producer-exporter. "Due to our hard work in the last 10 years, our defence production, which was approximately Rs 46,000 crore in 2014, has now grown to a record Rs 1.51 lakh crore. Our defence exports, which were less than Rs 1,000 crore 10 years ago, have now reached nearly Rs 24,000 crore," Singh said after inaugurating 125 strategically significant infrastructure projects of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) here.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/domestic-defence-production-hits-1-51-trillion-says-rajnath-singh-125120700417_1.html

Rupee depreciation, commodity cost increase to impact consumer durable companies, will hike prices

Rupee depreciation as well as higher commodity prices will adversely impact costs of consumer durable players especially in categories of LED TVs, air-conditioners and refrigerators, which will entail price hikes for consumers next year. This also comes at a time when tightening of energy efficiency norms with the implementation of revised star labelling norms on air-conditioners and refrigerators is slated to come into effect from January 1.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/rupee-depreciation-commodity-cost-increase-to-impact-consumer-durable-companies-will-hike-prices/article70368714.ece

Startups eye African countries for next leg of growth

Africa is rapidly becoming a major growth market for Indian startups, with platforms like Leverage Edu, QueueBuster, and SUN Mobility making early inroads. The expansion is fueled by rising internet penetration (e.g., Nigeria: 107M users) and a strategic shift toward digitizing sectors like education, retail, and electric mobility.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/start-ups/startups-eye-african-countries-for-next-leg-of-growth/4069054/

GST 2.0: Buyers pick value apparel, upgrade durables

The post-GST 2.0 shopping basket is a study in contrast. The tax cuts have boosted sales in the value segment led by apparel retail, but activated premiumisation in durables and beauty categories. According to retailers and mall operators, since the goods and services tax (GST) cut, there has been a surge in sales of apparel priced below Rs 2,500 after a two-year lull in demand. On the other hand, consumers have used GST cuts in durables and beauty to upgrade to better products.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/news/gst-2-0-buyers-pick-value-apparel-upgrade-durables/4068927/

Copper industry seeks curb on cheap imports

With India's copper production reaching new heights, local manufacturers are calling on the government to curb the influx of inexpensive imports. They advocate for increased tariffs and strict quotas on copper imports, particularly from nations benefiting from free trade agreements, to protect their burgeoning industry and ensure fair competition.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/indl-goods/svs/metals-mining/copper-industry-seeks-curb-on-cheap-imports/articleshow/125820267.cms

Infrastructure

Govt aims to re-flag 300 foreign ships

The government expects around 300 foreign-owned ships to be re-registered under the Indian flag by 2030, to expand the domestic fleet and lower logistics costs, official sources told FE. “The process to re-flag around 50 vessels has started and is expected to be completed in the next 3 months,” officials said. They added that nearly 11 global shipping majors have conveyed their intent to shift part of their fleets to the Indian registry, indicating rising confidence in the country’s maritime framework and regulatory predictability.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/airlines-aviation/govt-aims-to-re-flag-300-foreign-ships/4068920/

Energy

MNRE urges lenders to fund solar cells, wafers and polysilicon units

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has requested lending agencies to broaden their financing portfolio in the solar PV manufacturing ecosystem by supporting units producing solar cells, wafers and polysilicon, rather than limiting funding largely to solar module manufacturing. The ministry emphasised that it has not issued any advisory directing financial institutions to stop lending to renewable energy power projects or equipment manufacturers.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/mnre-lenders-solar-manufacturing-upstream-wafers-polysilicon-2025-125120700304_1.html

No new coal power capacity beyond 2035, says power ministry secretary

India does not have any immediate plans to add coal power generation capacity beyond 2035, a top power ministry official said on Sunday. "India wants to secure its energy requirements," Pankaj Agarwal, secretary at the power ministry told Reuters on the sidelines of a power ministry event. "As on 2035, we want to have a coal capacity of 307 gigawatts." He said it would be "premature to say what we want to do beyond 2035".
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/no-new-coal-power-capacity-beyond-2035-says-power-ministry-secretary-125120700453_1.html

Coking coal imports rise in Oct on winter restocking, general coal shipments decline

Coal imports in October saw a mixed trend with general coal shipments declining while coking coal imports rose. The fall in overall coal imports was on account of availability of surplus coal in the domestic market. Coking coal shipments increased 12 per cent to 5.04 million tonnes (MT) during the month over 4.50 MT a year earlier, driven primarily by winter restocking activities by steel mills.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/coking-coal-imports-rise-in-oct-on-winter-restocking-general-coal-shipments-decline/articleshow/125815291.cms

India faces 1.3 million transformer failures annually

In India, 1.3 million distribution transformers fail annually, according to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA). The most number of failures occur in the northern states (over 20 per cent), while the least is in Kerala (1.9 per cent). This was discussed at a CEA meeting held on November 29, 2025, on the theme 'Standardisation of distribution transformers design and related aspects for uniformity across the country', which noted that private sector players such as Tata Power-DDL (Delhi) and CESC (Kolkata) achieved "remarkable performance" with failure rates below 0.5 per cent, "showing that reliability can be achieved by uniform design and disciplined maintenance".
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/specials/clean-tech/india-faces-13-million-transformer-failures-annually/article70352343.ece

States

Odisha govt aims to develop 15 fully operational airports by 2047

The Odisha government has set an ambitious target to have at least 15 fully operational airports by 2047, when India is going to celebrate 100 years of independence, an officer said on Sunday. The programmes undertaken to achieve the target were discussed at the 4th Meeting of the High Power Committee on Aviation held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja on Saturday, the officer said. Focused on advancing Odisha's aviation ecosystem in line with the Vision of Vikshit Odisha 203647, the committee reviewed the emerging opportunities in the aviation sector and discussed measures to accelerate infrastructure development, enhance connectivity, and create an enabling policy environment. Odisha will complete 100 years of formation in 2036.
https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/odisha-govt-aims-to-develop-15-fully-operational-airports-by-2047-125120700236_1.html

Tamil Nadu releases Toy Manufacturing Policy to attract new investments in this niche sector

Tamil Nadu on Sunday released its Toy Manufacturing Policy 2025 to attract new investments in this niche sector and encourage domestic players to diversify into this segment. The State has the potential to attract local and global toy makers to establish high-end toy manufacturing, including electromechanical toys, said the policy released by Chief Minister MK Stalin at the Tamil Nadu Investors Conclave in Madurai on Sunday.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/tamil-nadu-releases-toy-manufacturing-policy-to-attract-new-investments-in-this-niche-sector/article70368774.ece

Digital land records gain legal status in Maharashtra; set to boost deals, capital flows

Maharashtra's government now recognizes digital land records as fully legal. This move eliminates the need for physical signatures, speeding up property deals and loan approvals. Financiers and developers expect reduced risks and faster decision-making. This reform aims to boost transparency and confidence in India's real estate market.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/property-/-cstruction/digital-land-records-gain-legal-status-in-maharashtra-set-to-boost-deals-capital-flows/articleshow/125819988.cms

Healthcare

Price controls erode US margins of Indian drugmakers

Major domestic pharma companies are witnessing pricing pressure in the generics segment in the US, their largest export market. Many of them are trying to address this by focusing more on high-value and speciality and innovative products. Branded and patented products now attract a hefty 100% tariff in the US markets, a segment which is not the mainstay of Indian companies.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/news/price-controls-erode-us-margins-of-indian-drugmakers/4068758/

External

Senior Trump administration official begins five-day visit to India

Allison Hooker, the US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, is on a five-day visit to India from Sunday to advance bilateral strategic and economic ties. Hooker's trip to New Delhi and Bengaluru comes amid increasing strain in ties between the two countries after Washington slapped a whopping 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods, including 25 per cent levies for India's procurement of Russian crude oil. Hooker's December 7-11 visit is aimed at advancing the US-India strategic partnership, deepening economic and commercial ties including increasing American exports, and fostering collaboration in emerging technologies including artificial intelligence and space exploration, it said.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/senior-trump-administration-official-begins-five-day-visit-to-india-125120700465_1.html

EU team to meet Piyush Goyal today on FTA

The visiting European Union (EU) team will hold discussions with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday on the progress of negotiations on the proposed free trade agreement, an official said. The meeting is important as both sides are eager to conclude the negotiations as early as possible. The team, led by EU's Directorate-General for Trade Sabine Weyand, is here to iron out differences on issues pertaining to both goods and services. They have fixed the year-end deadline to conclude talks.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/eu-team-to-meet-piyush-goyal-tomorrow-on-fta/articleshow/125817591.cms

UAE emerges as prime destination for India's tech expansion amid proptech boom

As India's tech-solution providers push beyond traditional markets in a bid to diversify their global footprint, the Gulf--especially the UAE--has rapidly emerged as their newest frontier. Drawn by the region's pro-business ecosystem, soaring digital adoption, and its growing appetite for advanced technology, Indian tech firms are increasingly anchoring themselves in Dubai and beyond. This momentum is now gaining fresh pace as Indian tech companies enter the UAE's booming proptech sector, signalling a broader shift: Indian enterprises are no longer just exporting technology--they are reshaping the Gulf's digital economy.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/real-estate/uae-emerges-as-prime-destination-for-indias-tech-expansion-amid-proptech-boom/article70368575.ece

Petroleum exports to US surge in Oct as labour intensive sectors bear brunt

India's petroleum exports to the US surged 94.5 per cent in October to $251.5 million, making it the only major export category to post positive growth, apart from iPhone-led telecom instruments, which jumped 204 per cent during the month. This surge comes even as India's key refined petroleum markets — including the Netherlands (-15.7 per cent), Australia (-93.1 per cent) and Togo (-62.3 per cent) — sharply cut their purchases from India during the same month.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/petroleum-exports-to-us-surge-in-oct-as-labour-intensive-sectors-bear-brunt-125120700621_1.html

EU poised to curb rice imports from India, Pakistan and other Asian nations

The European Union (EU) is set to curb rice imports from India, Pakistan and other Asian countries as part of its move to protect its growers and millers. The curbs will be imposed through a safeguard mechanism, documents accessed by businessline showed. The move comes despite the EU committing itself to a free trade agreement (FTA) with India, after 11 of 23 chapters agreed upon already. "This is like shutting one door, while opening another," said a rice industry source.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/eu-poised-to-curb-rice-imports-from-india-other-asian-nations/article70357912.ece