

December 09, 2025 – Tuesday

Economy

Experts call for stronger policies to boost women's participation in platform economy

NITI Aayog member Arvind Virmani emphasized that skill development and increased women's participation are crucial for India's economic growth. The government is committed to boosting female labor force participation through policies like the new Labour Codes, aiming to ensure equal opportunities and social security for women in the platform economy.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/experts-call-for-stronger-policies-to-boost-womens-participation-in-platform-economy/articleshow/125837686.cms

Finance

RBI may announce more liquidity measures in Q4

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) recent policy announced a various liquidity measures, including bond purchases through open market operations (OMO) and forex swaps, to support the banking system. The central bank has frontloaded the measures in December, likely considering heavy outflows during the month, according to market participants.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/news/rbi-may-announce-more-liquidity-measures-in-q4nbsp/4070220/

RBI allows residents, non-residents to undertake rupee IRD transactions

Residents and non-residents will be permitted to do transactions in interest-rate derivatives (IRD) in rupees, according to master directions released on Monday by the Reserve Bank of India. The central bank had released the draft guidelines in June this year. The directions outline who can participate in this, how products may be introduced, and the limits applicable to foreign investors.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/rbi-allows-residents-non-residents-to-undertake-rupee-ird-transactions-125120801242_1.html

SEBI launches PaRRVA to verify past returns of market intermediaries

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Monday launched the Past Risk and Return Verification Agency (PaRRVA), a new mechanism that will independently verify historical returns of registered market intermediaries. Developed with a recognised stock exchange acting as the PaRRVA Data Centre and a SEBI-registered credit rating agency serving as the verifier, the initiative is positioned as a first-of-its-kind system to improve transparency in India's securities market.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/sebi-launches-parrva-to-verify-past-returns-of-market-intermediaries/article70372730.ece

SEBI issues modalities for migration to AI-only AIF schemes, extends flexibilities to LVFs

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued detailed modalities for migration of existing Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) schemes into Accredited Investor-only (AI-only) schemes or Large Value Funds (LVFs), following amendments to the AIF Regulations notified on November 19, 2025. The circular allows eligible AIFs or schemes to convert to AI-only or LVF structures "subject to obtaining positive consent from all the investors and meeting the respective conditions."
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/sebi-issues-modalities-for-migration-to-ai-only-aif-schemes-extends-flexibilities-to-lvfs/article70373061.ece

Insurance industry's premium growth tops 20% for the first time in FY26

Both the life and non-life insurance segment posted over 20 per cent premium growth in November for the first time in this financial year (FY26), supported by the reduction in goods and services tax (GST) on premiums from 18 per cent to zero and a favourable base effect. Life insurers reported nearly 23 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) growth in new business premiums (NBP) to ₹31,119.6 crore in November, while non-life insurers recorded 24.17 per cent Y-o-Y growth to ₹26,897.4 crore during the same period.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/insurance/insurance-industry-s-premium-growth-tops-20-for-the-first-time-in-fy26-125120801167_1.html

Industry

GST 2.0 tilts scales towards ICE; electric vehicle penetration softens

The goods and services tax (GST) reforms clearly tilted scale in favour of internal combustion engine (ICE) cars whose sales shot up by 20 per cent on-year in November, even as the electric vehicle penetration moderated across segments, according to data from Equirus Securities and the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (Fada). While GST on ICE vehicles was brought down significantly, for electric cars it remained at 5 per cent.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/auto/gst-2-0-tilts-scales-towards-ice-as-ev-penetration-softens-in-november-125120800702_1.html

PV retail sales up 20% in November, inventory down to 44-46 days: Fada

India's passenger vehicle (PV) retail sales posted a 20 per cent rise in November as compared to the same period last year, owing to sustained consumer interest beyond the festive season, the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (Fada) said on Monday. Fada President C S Vigneshwar said inventory reduced sharply to 44-46 days, down from 53-55 days, marking healthier demand-supply discipline. This pushed the sales to 394,152 units during the month compared to 329,253 last year.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/auto/passenger-vehicle-retail-sales-up-20pc-in-nov-inventory-down-44-46-days-fada-125120800189_1.html

Q-comm aggressive fee waivers fail to stem slide in downloads

Aggressive fee waivers in quick commerce announced in early November have failed to arrest the slide in new app downloads, with Zepto taking the sharpest hit despite offering the most generous incentives, according to the latest data from app intelligence platform Sensor Tower. Zepto, which was the first to eliminate all handling, surge, rain, and convenience fees for orders above Rs 99 in early November, saw its new app downloads plunge 44% month-on-month. Downloads dropped from 3.62 million in October to just 2.01 million in November—its weakest monthly performance in the ten-month period from February to November, acoording to Sensor Tower.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-q-comm-aggressive-fee-waivers-fail-to-stem-slide-in-downloads-4070224/

Agriculture

Agri growth estimated to be lower at 4% in FY26: Niti's Ramesh Chand

India's agriculture sector growth is estimated to be lower at 4 per cent in the 2025-26 financial year compared to the rate of 4.6 per cent recorded in the previous fiscal, a senior government official said on Monday. "It (agri growth) will be close to 4 per cent in FY 2025-26. It is difficult to attribute reasons for lower growth at this point of time," Ramesh Chand, member of government think tank Niti Aayog, told PTI on the sidelines of an agri business summit.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/agriculture/agri-growth-estimated-to-be-lower-at-4-in-fy26-niti-aayog-member-chand-125120800775_1.html

Real Estate

Rising NRI real estate investments push demand to fast-growing Tier-2 cities

As NRI real-estate investment has grown to $80 billion since 2010, as per Credai- Colliers, and the demand pattern is shifting beyond metros to tier-2, and emerging cities. “While the bulk of NRI investments in India remains in established metro corridors such as MMR, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Pune, along with states with traditionally high remittance inflows like, Kerala, Gujarat, and parts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, also continue to be strong NRI destinations, driven by family linkages and long-term return plans”, said Anupam Rastogi, Co-Founder & CBO – NRI Real Estate, Square Yards.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/real-estate/tier-2-cities-gain-momentum-as-nris-look-past-metros-for-value-and-long-term-plans/article70372769.ece

Realty faces execution pressure as developers expand launch pipelines

Developers are entering one of the busiest construction cycles, with the top four firms planning launches worth ₹1.13 trillion over the near to medium term, even as execution faces pressure from approval delays, labour shortages, rising costs, and contractor capacity limits across the industry. “Execution challenges are visible across the real estate industry. Even as demand and presales remain strong, deliveries have not kept pace. Developers are making large launch announcements, but approvals, labour availability, contractor capacity, and construction timelines are yet to fully align with this scale. The widening gap between what is launched and what is delivered clearly signals execution pressure, even in a bullish market,” said Sanjay Daga, managing director and chief executive officer (MD&CEO), Anex Advisory, a Mumbai-based real estate consulting firm that advises mid- to high-scale developers.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/realty-faces-execution-pressure-as-developers-expand-launch-pipelines-125120800844_1.html

Energy

India free to buy oil from sources it deems beneficial, says Russia

Two days after Russian President Vladimir Putin concluded his visit to India, during which he assured that Moscow would remain a reliable energy supplier, the Kremlin on Monday said that India, as a sovereign nation, is free to buy oil from sources it deems beneficial. It expressed confidence that New Delhi will continue to prioritise its economic interests. Putin’s assurances to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, along with the Kremlin’s comments on Monday, come amid expectations in both New Delhi and Moscow that a peace deal over Ukraine could be imminent. Such a development could pave the way for the White House to revoke the 25 per cent tariff it has imposed on India for its purchase of Russian oil.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-free-to-buy-oil-from-sources-it-deems-beneficial-says-russia-125120801141_1.html

India's fuel demand hits six-month peak in November, rises 5.5% to 21.27 MT

India's fuel consumption climbed to a six-month high in November, rising 5.5% from October to 21.27 million metric tons, according to data from the oil ministry. India is the world's third-largest consumer and importer of oil and the largest buyer of Russian seaborne crude, taking advantage of discounts on Russian oil as Europe and the U.S. shun those barrels over Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-s-fuel-demand-hits-six-month-peak-in-november-rises-5-5-to-21-27-mt-125120800472_1.html

2.396 million households covered under solar rooftop scheme PMSGMBY

The government’s ambitious solar rooftop scheme, PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY), has covered 2.396 million households across the country against a target of 10 million households, Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy Shripad Yesso Naik said today. “The scheme is progressing well and as on December 3, 2025, a

total of 53,54,099 applications have been received on the National Portal and 19,17,698 rooftop solar systems have been installed across the country, covering 23,96,497 households," Naik said in a written reply in Parliament.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/2-396-million-households-covered-under-solar-rooftop-scheme-pmsgmby-125120800888_1.html

Parliamentary committee asks govt to remove solar power constraints

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy has asked the government to remove constraints in the development of the solar power sector, including delays in land acquisition and connectivity approvals, as well as the lack of storage facilities and domestic manufacturing. The panel, headed by chairperson Shrirang Appa Barne, has also asked the government to address the slow pace of implementation of solar sector schemes, and work out a PLI scheme for manufacturing solar ingots and wafers.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/parliamentary-committee-asks-govt-to-remove-solar-power-constraints-125120800727_1.html

Telecom

Trai rejects DoT view on hike in satcom annual spectrum charge to 5%

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) on Monday rejected the government's views that a 5 per cent annual spectrum fee, instead of 4 per cent, should be charged from satellite communication (satcom) players, and that a ₹500 per connection charge for urban areas should be waived. In a response to the department of telecommunications (DoT), Trai maintained its stand, sticking to its original recommendations, on grounds that potential users in rural areas would be left behind in accessing satellite connectivity if DoT's views were adopted.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/trai-rejects-dot-push-to-raise-satcom-spectrum-fee-reiterates-its-stand-125120801223_1.html

States

Day 1: Telangana summit attracts ₹1.88 trillion investment proposals

Investment proposals for around Rs 1.88 trillion through 35 major agreements, spread across deep tech, green energy, and aerospace, were the hallmark moment of the first day of the two-day "Telangana Rising Global Summit", which started on Monday. These include a commitment of Rs 75,000 crore from the Brookfield/Axis Ventures consortium to develop Bharat Future City, a net-zero urban ecosystem for global research & development, deep technology, and high-value services.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/telangana-targets-to-contribute-10-of-india-gdp-by-2047-revanth-reddy-125120801195_1.html

Chhattisgarh buys 2.23 mt of paddy during ongoing procurement season

The Chhattisgarh government has, so far, purchased over 2.23 million tonne (mt) paddy during the ongoing procurement season for the Kharif marketing season 2025-26 -- which kicked off on November 15 and will go on till January 31 next year. "As per the latest report, over 2.23 million tonne (mt) of paddy have been procured since the mega drive began on November 15," a state government spokesperson said. For the current kharif marketing season, Chhattisgarh government has not fixed any target.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/chhattisgarh-buys-2-23-mt-of-paddy-during-ongoing-procurement-season-125120800848_1.html

Rajasthan govt's cities among 100 chosen to push rooftop solar expansion

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has launched the City Accelerator Program to promote rooftop solar installations under the PM Surya Ghar Yojana. Around 100 cities across the country, including four from Rajasthan, have been selected for the initiative. Jaipur, Jodhpur, Ajmer and Udaipur are among the cities chosen, a state energy department official said. "Under the program, awareness activities and vendor training will be conducted in these cities to encourage people to install rooftop solar systems," the official added.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/rajasthan-govt-s-cities-among-100-chosen-to-push-rooftop-solar-expansion-125120800740_1.html

Uttar Pradesh govt aims to set up three electronics hubs in hinterland

The Uttar Pradesh government is aiming to set up three greenfield hubs for electronics and semiconductors in the hinterland region of the state, in an effort to boost production beyond the Noida-Greater Noida belt. The three hubs in Pilibhit, Barabanki and Gorakhpur districts will be developed on the public private partnership (PPP) model, and encompass three distinct regions: western, central and eastern UP respectively.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/uttar-pradesh-govt-aims-to-set-up-three-electronics-hubs-in-hinterland-125120800708_1.html

Maharashtra sets world record with 45,911 solar pumps in 30 days

Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL) has achieved a Guinness World Record by installing 45,911 off-grid solar agricultural pumps in a single month, the company announced on Monday. The achievement makes Maharashtra the fastest-deploying solar agriculture state in India and second globally only to China in scale and speed of solar pump deployment by a single administrative region. The installations were carried out under the PM-KUSUM Component B and Magel Tyala Saur Krushi Pump Yojana schemes.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/maharashtra-sets-world-record-with-45911-solar-pumps-in-30-days/article70371550.ece

Transmission connectivity of 6.43 GW capacity RE projects revoked since 2022

The Central Transmission Utility of India (CTUIL) has revoked the connectivity granted to 24 entities with around 6.43 GW renewable energy (RE) capacity in the last three years due to power developer-led delays, Parliament was informed on Monday. “Since 2022, Central Transmission Utility of India Ltd (CTUIL) has revoked connectivity of 24 grantees with a renewable energy (RE) capacity of 6343 MW. The cancellations are on account of developer delays and not due to transmission side delays,” Minister of State for Power Shripad Naik told the Rajya Sabha in a written response.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/transmission-connectivity-of-643-gw-capacity-re-projects-revoked-since-2022/article70373082.ece

External

EU trade commissioner Sefcovic in Delhi for push on India-EU trade talks

European Union (EU) Trade Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič is in New Delhi for a two-day visit aimed at advancing talks on the proposed trade and investment agreements. With the year-end deadline fast approaching, Šefčovič held a meeting with his counterpart, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. He also met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. “In India for a two-day marathon of meetings with Piyush Goyal to advance our trade and investment negotiations. EU-India ties are growing fast — as they should between partners. But we’ve only scratched the surface. A commercially meaningful FTA would unlock enormous potential,” Šefčovič, who is the European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security, said on X on Monday.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/eu-trade-commissioner-sefcovic-in-delhi-for-push-on-india-eu-trade-talks-125120801208_1.html

US, India to hold bilateral trade talks on December 10-11 in Delhi

A delegation led by Deputy US Trade Representative (USTR) Rick Switzer will meet his Indian counterpart Rajesh Agarwal on the proposed bilateral trade agreement here this week, official sources said. The USA's chief negotiator for the pact, Assistant US Trade Representative for South and Central Asia Brendan Lynch, will hold discussions with India's chief negotiator and Joint Secretary in the Department of Commerce Darpan Jain. "A delegation from the office of the US Trade Representative, led by Deputy US Trade Representative Ambassador Rick Switzer, will be visiting India from December 9-11, 2025. Talks on 10th and 11th will happen on all trade-related issues," they said.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/us-india-to-hold-trade-talks-on-dec-10-11-on-proposed-bilateral-pact-125120800918_1.html

India, Oman hope to finalise long-negotiated FTA during Modi’s visit

India and Oman hope to finalise the long-negotiated bilateral free trade agreement later this month during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposed visit on December 17-18, sources said. Some of the sticking issues in the FTA, including the Gulf country's `Omanisation' policy of compulsory recruitment of locals and India's fears of misuse of the treaty by China, have largely been sorted out and the pact is almost ready to be signed, a source tracking the matter said.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-oman-hope-to-finalise-long-negotiated-fta-during-modis-visit/article70373117.ece

Russia to address India's concerns on non-tariff barriers across sectors

India and Russia are working towards resolving New Delhi's concerns on non-tariff barriers across sectors, such as pharmaceuticals, agriculture, marine products, dairy and poultry. The Indian side has been raising its concerns over these issues for more than a year. However, the momentum to resolve the trade barriers picked up after Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to New Delhi last week.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/russia-to-address-india-s-concerns-on-non-tariff-barriers-across-sectors-125120800906_1.html

India, Israel sign agreement to boost sustainable agricultural technologies

India and Israel have taken a major step forward in agricultural cooperation with the launch of a new joint venture that will manufacture and commercialise Indian pheromone-based crop protection technologies across global markets, as per the Israeli Embassy's press statement. The announcement was made at the valedictory session of the First International Science & Technology Clusters Conference held in New Delhi, where ATGC Biotech Pvt. Ltd. (India) and Luxembourg Industries Ltd. (Israel) formally exchanged licensing agreements to set up Semiophore Ltd., a 50-50 Indo-Israeli partnership. The venture marks a first for both countries, it is the first time Indian semiochemical technology is being out-licensed and produced in Israel.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/india-israel-sign-agreement-to-boost-sustainable-agricultural-technologies/article70371567.ece

Trump signals possible new tariffs on Indian rice amid farm pressure

President Trump indicated potential new tariffs on Indian rice, citing "dumping" concerns and aiming to support US farmers. This move, alongside possible tariffs on Canadian fertilizer, signals ongoing trade tensions with key partners as the US administration seeks to address agricultural sector complaints ahead of midterm elections.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/trump-signals-possible-new-tariffs-on-indian-rice-amid-farm-pressure/articleshow/125854542.cms

High-value parts push up electronics firms' import bill

Industry executives attributed the rebound to greater imports of high-value parts and a weaker rupee, even as the government's Make in India campaign has so far failed to reduce imports by value for most of the companies since 2018-19, the filings revealed. The sole exception was in FY24 with a 6% decline in the consolidated import bill of these companies.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/high-value-parts-push-up-electronics-firms-import-bill/articleshow/125844746.cms