

December 15, 2025 – Monday

Economy

Data from more urban, rural markets from 12 big cities to used for new CPI series

In an effort to present a more comprehensive print, retail inflation based on Consumer Price Index with new base year of 2024 will include data from more than 280 markets covering cities and villages. Also, data will be from the most-popular shops for each of the items in various markets. The new series is expected to begin by the first quarter of next year.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/data-from-more-urban-rural-markets-and-e-comm-data-from-12-big-cities-to-used-for-new-cpi-series/article70395408.ece

Finance

Banks asked to offer basic services to customers at all branches

Commercial banks have been asked to offer basic services to customers from all branches, and not just home branches, said a senior banker aware of the development. Also, the lenders have been prodded to cut service charges levied by them and maintain uniformity, the banker added. Currently, many services are not provided by branches if it is not a home branch of a customer. “In an age where there has been so much progress on the technology front, the regulator is baffled that a customer has to go to the home branch for certain services,” said the banker. “The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) now wants to identify services that should be mandatorily offered by all the branches to every customer,” the person added.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/banks-asked-to-offer-basic-services-to-customers-at-all-branches-125121400467_1.html

Lending rates moving lower to raise pressure on bank NIMs

Banks' net interest margins (NIMs) are set to face renewed pressure after lenders led by State Bank of India (SBI) trimmed their marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR) by five basis points, following the Reserve Bank of India's recent policy rate cut.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/lending-rates-moving-lower-to-raise-pressure-on-bank-nims/articleshow/125965944.cms

Banks advised to link MSME loans to external benchmark by RBI: Govt

With a view to improve monetary policy transmission, banks have been advised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to link loans to MSMEs to an external benchmark, the government has informed Parliament. The reset clause for loans has been reduced to three months under the external benchmark system. Further, to make the benefit of external benchmark-based interest regime available to existing borrowers, banks have been advised to provide a switchover option as per mutually agreed terms.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/banks-advised-to-link-msme-loans-to-external-benchmark-by-rbi-govt/articleshow/125960656.cms

Microfinance institutions remain in pain even as green shoots appear

Microfinance institutions (MFIs) are in a spot of bother: A continuous shrinking of their loan book and liquidity support from lenders. The fallout: The sixth consecutive quarterly decline in their portfolio to ₹1.31 trillion as of September 2025, from ₹1.6 trillion in March 2024 with about half a million customers getting pushed out of the ambit of these entities, according to data provided by Microfinance Institutions
Network (MFIN).
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/microfinance-institutions-remain-in-pain-even-as-green-shoots-appear-125121400712_1.html

Fintechs hold steady in changing terrain as unsecured credit business grows

Personal loans given by fintechs continue to grow. Data from the Fintech Association for Consumer Empowerment (FACE) shows an expansion both in scale and value in the first half of FY26 over the same period in FY25. Volumes grew to 6.4 million (accounts) from 59 million; value was up at ₹97,381 crore (₹78,084 crore); ticket sizes were higher at ₹15,177 (₹13,327).
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/fintechs-hold-steady-in-changing-terrain-as-unsecured-credit-business-grows-125121400711_1.html

100% FDI in Insurance: Legacy distribution remains hurdle for foreign firms

The Union Cabinet's decision to raise the foreign direct investment (FDI) limit in the insurance sector to 100 per cent is unlikely to significantly boost foreign investment as distribution remains a critical factor, requiring overseas players to partner with Indian businesses, experts said. Interest is expected to be higher in general and health insurance than in life insurance, which is far more dependent on distribution networks, they added.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/insurance/finance-insurance-100-fdi-insurance-limit-foreign-investment-distribution-gift-city-125121400244_1.html

Industry

FMCG growth slips in November, but rural gallops

India's fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) market has slipped in November due to price cuts triggered by the GST rate changes. All-India value growth stood at 4.4% for November 2025, below October's 6.8%, data shared by retail intelligence platform Bizom shows. Bizom does not provide volume growth figures. It tracks value growth across FMCG categories.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/news/fmcg-growth-slips-in-november-but-rural-gallops/4076825/

Centre implements QCOs with relaxations for MSMEs to protect domestic production

The Central Government has implemented Quality Control Orders (QCOs) in a manner with exemptions and relaxations for the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to ensure no disruption to the domestic production, said Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje in a written reply in Lok Sabha. Minister of State for MSMEs Karandlaje highlighted key relaxations and exemptions for MSMEs, according to a release by the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/msme/centre-implements-qcos-with-relaxations-for-msmes-to-protect-domestic-production/article70395419.ece

Nearly 50% of Indian family businesses earn $1-30 billion revenue, AI use at 53%: Deloitte

Indian family businesses are showing robust growth with many reporting significant annual revenues and double-digit revenue increases. These firms are actively adopting technology, including AI, to manage economic challenges. Expansion plans are underway across various regions. There is also a strong focus on sustainability and governance.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/nearly-50-of-indian-family-businesses-post-1-30-billion-revenue-ai-use-at-53-deloitte/articleshow/125961280.cms

Carmakers gearing up to hit refresh button as facelifts take priority

Automakers are lining up upgrades and mid-cycle refreshes rather than all-new model launches in the coming year, a shift industry experts say is being driven by faster product development cycles, evolving customer expectations

and tightening regulatory norms. “The product development cycle in the automotive industry has accelerated dramatically,” said Anurag Singh, advisor, Primus Partners.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/auto/automobile-2026-car-facelifts-india-mid-cycle-refreshes-suvs-125121400157_1.html

Domestic copper industry flags cheap imports, seeks 3% safeguard duty

Cheap imports of copper under multiple free trade agreements are "severely damaging" Indian manufacturing, industry body IPCPA said and sought immediate government interventions in the form of a safeguard duty and quantitative restrictions on inbound shipments from overseas. According to the Indian Primary Copper Producers Association (IPCPA), a surge in zero-duty copper imports is eroding the country's domestic smelting and downstream manufacturing sector, even as over Rs 20,000 crore has been invested in recent years to achieve self-sufficiency.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/domestic-copper-industry-flags-cheap-imports-seeks-3-safeguard-duty-125121400140_1.html

Indian tourists travel closer home as rupee weakness pushes costs

Indian travellers are choosing short-haul international destinations and budget options as rupee weakness makes overseas travel costlier. According to Bharatt Malik, Senior Vice-President (flights and hotels), Yatra Online Ltd, overall tour prices are 8-12 per cent higher compared to last Christmas.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/indian-tourists-travel-closer-home-as-rupee-weakness-pushes-costs/article70395682.ece

Agriculture

Spurt in FPO trade on commodity bourses

The farmers producer organisations’ (FPOs) are increasingly participating in commodity bourse- NCDEX (National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange) to sell their assorted farm goods which has led to higher price realisation for their members through hedging. On the NCDEX platform during April-November 2025-26, farmers collectives have sold over Rs 444 crore worth of agricultural commodities – cotton, cumin, castor, coriander, turmeric, cotton seed oil cake and guar-seed.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/news/spurt-in-fpo-trade-on-commodity-bourses/4076605/

Infrastructure

Indian ports gear up to haul more cargo after a good year

The Indian port sector maintained a stable performance in FY2025, with cargo volume growing about 3.3 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y). Petroleum, oil, and lubricants (POL), including crude oil, LNG and LPG, accounted for the largest share at around 28 per cent, followed by coal at 24 per cent and containers at 21.5 per cent. The remaining 27 per cent comprised iron ore, fertilisers and other cargo. The growth was primarily driven by a 11 per cent increase in container volumes and a 3 per cent rise in POL, even as coal and iron ore volumes moderated.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/indian-ports-gear-up-to-haul-more-cargo-after-a-good-year/article70396620.ece

Centre mandates risk registers, umbrella geotech study in tunnel projects

After several incidents of tunnel collapses, especially the one in Uttarkashi which saw the multi-week rescue operation of 41 workers in 2023, the Centre has come up with guidelines which mandate the preparation of "risk register" in the planning stages of tunnel projects. “The recent occurrences of tunnel collapses during construction have prompted a critical assessment of current implementation methodologies and the necessary improvements to prevent such incidents from recurring,” the ministry of road transport and highways said in its Guidelines for Prevention and Mitigation of Road Tunnel Collapses.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/centre-mandates-risk-registers-umbrella-geotech-study-in-tunnel-projects-125121400445_1.html

Energy

Power Ministry lists 16 imported items to achieve self-sufficiency

The Power Ministry has identified 16 very critical items, such as subsea cables and certain specialised coated steel sheets, which are imported at present, to create a domestic manufacturing roadmap for achieving self-sufficiency. The list has been prepared by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), in consultation with the Indian Electrical and Electronics Manufacturers' Association (IEEMA) and industry players such as ABB, Hyosung, Polycab, Dong-Woo Quantum India, Sterlite, Schneider and Toshiba.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/power-ministry-lists-16-imported-items-to-achieve-self-sufficiency/article70395093.ece

Nuclear sector needs strategy, skilled manpower to reach 100 GW by 2047

Even as the Union Cabinet cleared the much-awaited Atomic Energy Bill 2025 last week, experts feel that India's nuclear industry also requires significant reforms, including revision in insurance policy, fuel procurement strategies and creation of skilled manpower, to reach the 100 gigawatt (Gw) target by 2047. At present, the Indian Nuclear Insurance Pool (INIP) provides ₹1,500 crore as nuclear operator and supplier liability under the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage (CLND) Act 2010.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/nuclear-sector-needs-strategy-skilled-manpower-to-reach-100-gw-by-2047-125121400427_1.html

Parl Panel urges diversification of crude sources to cut geopolitical risks

A parliamentary committee has flagged India's heavy dependence on crude oil imports and rising geopolitical risks as major challenges for the country, and urged the government to step up diversification of supply sources and strengthen risk management mechanisms. In its report tabled in Parliament last week, the Public Undertaking Committee noted that India imports nearly 89 per cent of its crude oil requirements, making the country vulnerable to global disruptions arising from conflicts, sanctions, civil unrest in oil-producing nations and disruptions in key shipping routes such as the Suez Canal and the Red Sea.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/parl-panel-urges-diversification-of-crude-sources-to-cut-geopolitical-risks-125121400136_1.html

India's solar push hits slowdown as transmission and demand gaps emerge

The past few months have seen an upheaval in India's solar power sector. What was until recently a sunrise sector drawing record investments and adding new capacity at a record pace, has sudd-enly skidded to a phase of consolidation and recalibration, with the government saying it may not make sense to go for large-scale renewable energy bids amid a flattening of project pipelines. While the government aimed for a national target of tendering 50 gigawatt (Gw) annually with the larger aim of reaching 500 Gw of installed non-fossil fuel-based generation capacity, the country is now adding only 15-25 Gw capacity annually.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-s-solar-push-hits-slowdown-as-transmission-and-demand-gaps-emerge-125120900837_1.html

Telecom

Regulatory hurdles likely to delay rollout of satcom internet services

Commercial rollout of satellite internet services may take longer than expected, due to a standoff between the telecom regulator and the department of telecommunications (DoT) over spectrum pricing, industry executives said. So far, Starlink, Eutelsat OneWeb, and Jio Satellite have completed most of the licensing and space-regulatory steps, including obtaining the Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) licence, and approvals from space-regulatory body In-SPACe. Commercial launch, however, hinges on the spectrum allocation based on pricing rules, and compliance with security and capacity rules.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-news/regulatory-hurdles-likely-to-delay-rollout-of-satcom-internet-services/articleshow/125965465.cms

States

ADB approves $108 mn loan to Mizoram to strengthen public healthcare system

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a $108 million results-based loan to support the Government of Mizoram in strengthening its public health care system and achieving universal health coverage. The Supporting Public Health Care System Strengthening to Achieve Universal Health Care for Mizoram Programme aims to improve equitable access to affordable, high-quality health services for the state's 1.38 million residents, particularly women, older people, and persons with disabilities, the ADB added in a release.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/adb-approves-108-mn-loan-to-mizoram-to-strengthen-public-healthcare-system/articleshow/125959430.cms

ADB approves $240 million loan for Chennai metro expansion in India

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 240 million loan--the second tranche of the Chennai Metro Rail Investment Project--to support the expansion of the metro rail network and provide cleaner, safer, and more reliable urban transport across the Chennai Metropolitan Area, India.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/adb-approves-240-million-loan-for-chennai-metro-expansion-in-india/article70395215.ece

Andhra Pradesh becomes India's top fruit, fish producer amid steady economic growth: RBI report

Andhra Pradesh has secured top positions across several sectors, including agriculture and fisheries, reflecting the state's steady economic and social progress, according to a recent report. Citing the latest Reserve Bank of India (RBI) report, the Andhra Pradesh government said the state emerged as a top performer across key indicators during the 2024–25 financial year.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh-becomes-indias-top-fruit-fish-producer-amid-steady-economic-growth-rbi-report/article70396403.ece

Healthcare

GLP-1 weight-loss drugs likely to see value growth slowing down

India's fast-growing glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) drug market is likely to witness a sharp rise in volumes but slower value growth as cheaper generics are set to enter the country after semaglutide goes off patent in March 2026, industry executives and doctors said. While broader access could expand the patient base, experts also warn of higher therapy discontinuation rates. This comes as more users experience side effects or fail to sustain long-term treatment.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/industry-pharma-india-glp1-market-generics-semaglutide-patent-march-2026-125121400185_1.html

External

India-Oman trade pact likely to be announced during PM's visit this week

India and Oman are poised to sign a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Muscat. This free trade agreement, approved by the Union Cabinet, aims to significantly deepen economic ties and open a new chapter in bilateral trade and commercial relations.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-oman-trade-pact-likely-to-be-announced-during-pms-visit-this-week/articleshow/125965362.cms

India–Mexico FTA talks begin amid looming tariff hikes

India and Mexico are discussing a free trade agreement. This comes as Mexico plans to impose new tariffs on imports from non-preferential partners like India. The terms of reference for the pact are expected soon. Both nations aim for mutually beneficial solutions. This move could strengthen bilateral trade ties and address concerns over rising duties.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indiamexico-fta-talks-begin-amid-looming-tariff-hikes/articleshow/125952280.cms

India, Georgia review bilateral relations at 8th Foreign Office Consultations

India and Georgia held their 8th Foreign Office Consultations in Tbilisi. Discussions focused on strengthening bilateral ties across political, economic, and cultural spheres. Both nations reviewed regional and global issues. This meeting aims to deepen the strategic relationship. Historical and cultural links between the two countries were also highlighted.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-georgia-review-bilateral-relations-at-8th-foreign-office-consultations/articleshow/125956548.cms

India, France revamp treaty; Paris dividend halved, Delhi gets tax rights

India and France have struck a deal to revise their 1992 treaty which will halve the tax on dividends paid by Indian units to French parents, potentially saving millions for companies with major operations in the South Asian nation, documents show. In return, India will get to widen its powers to tax share sales by French investors, and revoke the "most favoured nation" status of France that gave it certain tax advantages, according to confidential Indian government documents reviewed by Reuters.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-france-revamp-treaty-paris-dividend-halved-delhi-gets-tax-rights-125121500045_1.html

India a significant trade partner for Ethiopia and Jordan, shows data

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be travelling to Ethiopia and Jordan, beginning Monday to boost bilateral ties with these countries. The size of India-Ethiopia bilateral trade was only $550 million in FY25, but India was the second largest trading partner for the African nation. India's key exports to the country include primary and semi-finished iron and steel products, drugs and pharmaceuticals, machinery, chemical, paper products, plastic products. About 40 per cent of all exports to the country comprises pharmaceuticals.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-a-significant-trade-partner-for-ethiopia-and-jordan-shows-data-125121400758_1.html

300 products hold huge potential for Indian exporters in Russia: Official

As many as 300 products, including that of engineering goods, pharma, agri, and chemicals, hold huge potential for Indian exporters to push their shipments to Russia as the two countries target $ 100 billion trade by 2030, an official said. At present, India's exports of these goods to Russia stood at $ 1.7 billion, as against Russia's $ 37.4 billion in imports. "This stark disparity demonstrates the substantial complementary export space India can target," the official said, adding increasing exports will also help India bridge its trade deficit with Russia, which stood at $ 59 billion.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/300-products-hold-huge-potential-for-indian-exporters-in-russia-official-125121400528_1.html

Gems, jewellery exports up 20% on lower base, better realisations

Gems and jewellery exports increased 20 per cent in November to $2.51 billion against $2.10 billion logged in the same period last year, on the back of lower base, better realisation and market diversification due to the US trade tariff. In rupees terms, it was up 26 per cent to ₹22,300 crore (₹17,709 crore) due to currency depreciation, according to the data released by the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council of India.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/gold/gems-jewellery-exports-up-20-on-lower-base-better-realisations/article70395374.ece