

December 23, 2025 – Tuesday

Economy

Run-up to FY27 Budget: Which sectors got biggest boost in last 3 Budgets?

The Finance Ministry started the Budget preparation exercise for 2026–27 on October 9. The upcoming Budget is expected to focus on boosting demand, creating jobs and placing the economy on a sustained growth path of over 8 per cent. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is likely to present the FY27 Budget on February 1, 2026. It comes against the backdrop of strong growth in gross domestic product (GDP) of 8.2 per cent in the September quarter and a sharp fall in inflation. The Budget also follows geopolitical challenges such as the imposition of a 50 per cent US tariff, which has affected several sectors, including textiles and seafood.
https://www.business-standard.com/budget/news/run-up-fy27-budget-sectors-biggest-boost-last-three-budgets-125122200620_1.html

Net FDI into India nearly doubles to $6.2 bn in April-October: RBI data

Net foreign direct investment (FDI) in the country nearly doubled to $6.2 billion during April-October from $3.3 billion in the same period a year earlier, chiefly on account of a decline in repatriation despite a rise in outward FDI. During this period, FDI remained higher than last year both in gross and net terms. Gross inward FDI was marginally up to $58.3 billion during April-October from $50.5 billion a year ago. It remained steady in October with Singapore, Mauritius and the United States accounting for more than 70 per cent of the total, according to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) latest Monthly Bulletin.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/net-fdi-into-india-surges-to-6-2-billion-during-april-october-rbi-data-125122201015_1.html

Eight core sectors rebound to 1.8% growth in November after October dip

India's eight core infrastructure sectors recorded a growth of 1.8 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) in November 2025, which marked a rebound after a contraction in the previous month, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Monday. The recovery comes after the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) had declined by 0.1 per cent in October 2025. Notably, the core sectors had recorded a growth of 5.8 per cent in November 2024.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/eight-core-sectors-grow-1-8-percent-november-rebound-october-125122200801_1.html

Retail inflation with new base year from Feb, new IIP series from May

The first set of retail inflation data based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) with revised base year will be out on February 12, Statistics Ministry announced on Monday. The release date for the new Index of Industrial Production (IIP) dataset has been set for May 28. According to the Ministry, the new base year for retail inflation would be 2024 as against the existing base year of 2012. Similarly, for industrial growth calculation, the base year would be 2022-23 as against 2011-12.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/retail-inflation-with-new-base-year-from-feb-new-iip-series-from-may/article70426570.ece

Sustained higher and inclusive growth key for Viksit Bharat goal: Ajay Seth

Achieving the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' or developed India by 2047 requires analytical clarity and institutional discipline, Ajay Seth, former Union Finance Secretary and Chairman of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA), has said. The central challenge, he noted, is not merely whether India can grow, but whether it can grow at a higher rate for a longer period. As India attempted higher growth rates, it currently faces some global challenges such as geopolitical conflicts, slowing global economic growth; and restrictive international trade.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/sustained-higher-and-inclusive-growth-key-for-viksit-bharat-goal-ajay-seth/article70424861.ece

Finance

Provision in new Insurance Bill sparks fears of board shake-ups

A new insurance law provision raises concerns for directors. It may force many to step down from insurance boards. This impacts bank-promoted ventures where directors also serve lenders. The current wording could lead to confusion and board instability. Insurers seek clarification to avoid disruption. This change aims for better governance but might create unintended consequences for existing structures. A provision in the recently approved Insurance (Amendment) Bill has triggered concerns among insurers over its potential impact on board composition as the current wording, industry believes, could unintentionally disqualify a large number of directors. Particularly at risk are bank-promoted insurance ventures that share directorial talent with the lenders and other banking subsidiaries.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/insure/provision-in-new-insurance-bill-sparks-fears-of-board-shake-ups/articleshow/126128354.cms

Sweetened, general insurer privatisation gets a reboot after FDI cap hike

The government will restart the selection process for privatising a state-run general insurer in the next financial year. People with knowledge of the matter said days after Parliament passed a bill to raise the foreign direct investment (FDI) limit in the insurance sector to 100%. Of the four public sector general insurers, only listed New India Assurance is profitable while National Insurance, United India Insurance and Oriental Insurance remain loss-making despite a marginal turnaround.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/insure/sweetened-general-insurer-privatisation-gets-a-reboot-after-fdi-cap-hike/articleshow/126127001.cms

Industry

FMCG industry eyes high single-digit volume growth in 2026, better margins

Expecting 2026 to be a 'favourable year', with policy tailwinds as tax reliefs and GST reforms, along with benign commodities, the Indian FMCG industry looks for a high single-digit volume growth, improvement in margins and comeback of the urban demand, which is a vector of growth. Benign inflation will help expand gross margins, enabling companies to invest more in advertising, the lifeblood of FMCG (Fast-Moving Consumer Goods).
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/fmcg-industry-eyes-high-single-digit-volume-growth-in-2026-better-margins-125122200220_1.html

Knowledge most powerful tool for India to become $5 trn economy: Gadkari

Knowledge is the most powerful tool for India to become a $5 trillion economy and the third largest economy in the world, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Monday. Speaking at an event in the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, he said the future of any country is based on the type of futuristic technology it possesses. "The IITs and its students have have a great contribution towards the country's development and progress.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/knowledge-most-powerful-tool-for-india-to-become-5-trn-economy-gadkari-125122200342_1.html

Quick commerce gets costlier for FMCG as ad spends erode margins

Quick commerce is racing ahead, but it's facing a bumpy road as profit margins begin to shrink. With consumer goods firms pouring more resources into advertising on these swift platforms, they're finding that their earnings are akin to those of traditional retailers. The higher profitability in quick commerce, the fastest-growing sales channel for consumer goods makers, is diminishing primarily due to a sharp increase in expenditure on advertising on the platforms, said industry executives.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/fmcg/quick-commerce-gets-costlier-for-fmcg-as-ad-spends-erode-margins/articleshow/126127636.cms

MSME body pitches unified regulator; seeks banking oversight shift

Ahead of the Union Budget 2026, the Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (Fisme) has written to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), proposing the creation of a unified financial sector regulator covering banking, insurance, and fintech. Fisme's argument is that fragmented oversight and weak grievance redressal mechanisms are constraining credit access for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). In a reform blueprint titled "Next-Generation Economic Reforms for MSME-Led Industrial Growth in India", the industry body has recommended carving out the banking regulation function from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and merging it with the Insurance Regulatory.

https://www.business-standard.com/budget/news/msme-body-pitches-seeks-unified-regulator-banking-oversight-shift-125122200871_1.html

Agriculture

Pulses prices to remain stable on better crop prospects, buffer

The prices of pulses are likely to stay stable in coming months because of adequate buffer, robust sowing and encouraging crop prospects, officials from the Department of Consumer Affairs said. "We do not foresee an increase in pulses prices in coming months as rabi sowing areas have been higher than last year and weather conditions are conducive, while we have about 2 million tonne (MT) of buffer stock of pulses," an official told FE.

https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy/pulses-prices-to-remain-stable-on-better-crop-prospects-buffer/4084647/

Rabi sowing over in 91% normal area, acreage 1.43% higher, shows data

The sowing of rabi crops was complete in 91 per cent of the normal area during the week ended December 19, and overall acreage was marginally above than the corresponding period last year. According to data, rabi crops have been sown in around 58.07 million hectares till December 19, a 1.43 per cent increase over last year. This area is also around 9 per cent lower than the normal acreage of rabi crops, which is 64 million hectares — this gap is expected to be bridged in the coming days.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/agriculture/rabi-sowing-over-in-91-normal-area-acreage-1-43-higher-shows-data-125122200827_1.html

Infrastructure

First-ever foodgrain freight train reaches Kashmir; integrates region with national cargo rail network

The first-ever foodgrain freight train of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) reached the Anantnag Goods Terminal here in Kashmir on Sunday, formally integrating the region with the national freight rail network, official said. "The freight rake, carrying approximately 1,384 tonnes of food grains loaded in wagons, was dispatched from Ajitwal Railway Station and successfully arrived at Anantnag Goods Terminal," an official spokesman said.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/railways/first-ever-foodgrain-freight-train-reaches-kashmir-integrates-region-with-national-cargo-rail-network/articleshow/126107499.cms

Energy

For renewable energy sector, 2025 was a year of records

The installed solar power capacity crossed the 100 GW mark, as did solar module manufacturing capacity later in the year. Solar rooftop capacity, a laggard for many years, zoomed past 20 GW (about 24 GW now). India has module manufacturing capacity of 122 GW and cell capacity of 27 GW. Wind capacity drove past the 50 GW mark. Wind power capacity installations, having touched 3 GW in the first half of the current financial year, are headed for a record.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/for-renewable-energysector-2025-was-a-year-of-records/article70426005.ece

Coal, mining sector set for busy 2026 as reforms target energy security

From the market listings of two subsidiaries of state-owned CIL to a surge in funding for ambitious coal gasification projects, the coal sector braces for a whirlwind of activities in 2026 that could redefine energy security amid the global push for cleaner fuels. With ambitious mining reforms, surging global demand for critical minerals, and the government's push, 2026 is likely to fuel the green energy boom, promising to unearth not just resources but also boost economic powerhouses.

https://www.business-standard.com/companies/news/coal-mining-sector-set-for-busy-2026-as-reforms-target-energy-security-125122200325_1.html

India’s green hydrogen market faces demand uncertainty despite strong investor interest

Even as India’s pledged green hydrogen capacity is nearing 12 million tonnes per annum, there are concerns about how much of this capacity will materialise, besides finding reliable and long term buyers. The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) in a recent briefing note pointed out that India has currently 158 green hydrogen projects at various stages of development. Roughly 94 per cent, or around 11.2 mtpa of the total green hydrogen capacity has been announced, with other details yet to be finalised. Around 0.1 per cent (9,770 tonnes per annum) is under construction, and 2.8 per cent (0.3 mtpa) was operational as of August 2025, reflecting the industry’s relatively early stage of development.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/indias-green-hydrogen-market-faces-demand-uncertainty-despite-strong-investor-interest/article70425130.ece

States

UP govt tables Supplementary Budget of ₹24,496 crore in Assembly

The Yogi Adityanath government on Monday tabled a Supplementary Budget of more than ₹24,496 crore in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly. The Supplementary Budget was presented by Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Suresh Khanna in the state legislature for the current financial year 2025-26. Since the Uttar Pradesh Annual Budget 2025-26, which was tabled on February 20, 2025, amounted to ₹8.08 trillion, the state’s total Budget size for the current fiscal has now risen to more than ₹8.32 trillion.

https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/up-government-tables-supplementary-budget-of-rs-24496-crore-125122200612_1.html

UP govt plans to speed up over 100 defence projects worth ₹23,000 crore

The Uttar Pradesh government is planning on speeding up over a 100 defence and military-ware projects worth ₹23,000 crore, in a bid to boost defence manufacturing in the state. These 110 projects cover different categories of defence hardware such as drones, arms, ammunition, missiles, propellant systems, parachutes, and defence textiles. The Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC), which spans six nodes (Lucknow, Kanpur, Jhansi, Aligarh, Agra and Chitrakoot), is a crucial element in the attempt to make India more self-reliant in the defence sector.

https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/up-govt-plans-to-speed-up-over-100-defence-projects-worth-23-000-crore-125122200564_1.html

Uttar Pradesh to hit 21 lakhs GST assessees, added 35k in Nov

Uttar Pradesh added more than 35,000 GST assesses in November, first month of granting registration within 3 days, data from GST portal showed. This is the highest increase among States, with Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka ranked after UP. With this UP is all set to touch 21 lakh mark in terms of GST assesses. Data showed that as on November 30, total number of GST assesses was more than 1.58 crore, compared to more than 1.56 crore as on October 31.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/uttar-pradesh-to-hit-21-lakhs-gst-assessees-added-35k-in-nov/article70424768.ece

External

India seals FTA with New Zealand, gets zero duty access for all exports

India and New Zealand have finalised a free trade agreement (FTA) following nine months of negotiations that includes allowing zero duty market access on 100 per cent Indian exports. According to the agreement, India has offered tariff liberalisation in 70 per cent tariff lines covering 95 per cent of the New Zealand-India bilateral trade. Under the deal, New Zealand has also given a commitment to increase foreign direct investment (FDI) to $20billion into India over 15 years. This will be backed by a 'rebalancing mechanism' to suspend the FTA benefits if such a jump in the quantum of investment doesn't take place, commerce department officials said on Monday.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-seals-fta-with-new-zealand-gets-zero-duty-access-for-all-exports-125122200296_1.html

Thailand pips UAE to emerges as top New Year destination for Indians

Thailand has emerged as the most preferred international destination for Indian travellers during the year-end and New Year holiday period, overtaking the UAE to claim the top spot, according to booking data for 2025 by MakeMyTrip. The data is based on bookings made for travel between December 20 and January 5, 2026. Thailand moved to the top position among international destinations for the New Year period, pushing the UAE to second place. Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Malaysia rounded off the top five international destinations for 2025.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-new-year-travel-destinations-2025-report-bookings-uae-thailand-125122200547_1.html

Canada suspends Start-Up Visa as entrepreneurs face 10-year PR waits

Canada is pausing parts of its business immigration system as it prepares the ground for a new pilot for immigrant entrepreneurs. On December 19, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada said it would no longer accept applications for the optional work permit available to Start-Up Visa applicants. The only exception is for those already in Canada who are applying to extend their existing Start-Up Visa work permit.
https://www.business-standard.com/immigration/canada-suspends-start-up-visa-as-entrepreneurs-face-10-year-pr-waits-125122200232_1.html

Trade agreement between India and EAEU to exclude areas of services

The proposed trade agreement between India and Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) will exclude chapters on services and investment, with the deal primarily focusing on tariff reduction in goods as well as some other areas, according to a person aware of the matter. This is because EAEU does not negotiate services under its free trade agreements (FTAs). Diverse domestic regulations among member nations of the bloc limits their ability to market access in services, a person aware of the matter told Business Standard. India, however, has an option to have pacts on services with member nations on a bilateral basis.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/trade-agreement-between-india-and-eaeu-to-exclude-areas-of-services-125122100380_1.html

Cheap oil-linked LNG supply to India trumps US gas amid trade talks

A surge in US natural gas benchmark prices Henry Hub (HH) and volatile freight rates are making Indian fuel importers review their plans to purchase US LNG on a long-term basis, a key demand of the (US President) Donald Trump administration, senior industry sources told Business Standard. This comes even as India accelerates talks with the US to conclude a much-delayed bilateral trade deal.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/cheap-oil-linked-lng-supply-to-india-trumps-us-gas-amid-trade-talks-125122100560_1.html

Water-soluble fertiliser imports steady despite China export crackdown

China's crackdown on its export of water-soluble fertilisers (WSFs), that form part of the broader speciality fertilisers category, was expected to lead to a big drop in import because India's northern neighbour accounted for more than half the supplies, but the recent data shows that till November there has been no impact owing to the fact that shipment from Norway and Russia has gone up sharply. China has been intermittently imposing curbs on the export of speciality fertilisers to India over the past few years. This became acute from April-May. Fresh curbs came into force in October.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/water-soluble-fertiliser-imports-steady-despite-china-export-crackdown-125122100341_1.html

India at advanced stage of talks on bilateral trade pact with US: Goyal

India is at an advanced stage of negotiations for a bilateral trade agreement with the US, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday. US Deputy Trade Representative Rick Switzer was recently here with his team to take stock of these talks. The two-day talks concluded on December 11. "We are already at an advanced stage in our discussions with the US," Goyal said here while talking to the media about the conclusion of negotiations for the India-New Zealand free trade agreement.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-advanced-talks-bilateral-trade-pact-with-us-piyush-goyal-125122200607_1.html

India, Canada to soon start talks to revive trade pact discussions: Goyal

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday said India and Canada are soon to start discussions on the Terms of Reference (ToR) to formally start negotiations for a free trade agreement. The two countries were earlier negotiating a trade pact but it was paused by Canada in 2023. "We are soon going to launch discussions for the terms of reference with Canada also," Goyal said here, talking to the media about the conclusion of negotiations for the India-New Zealand free trade agreement.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-canada-revive-trade-pact-discussions-piyush-goyal-update-125122200602_1.html

India's ferrous scrap imports jump 45% in FY26 as domestic supply lags

India's ferrous scrap imports rose sharply this fiscal even as monthly volumes steadied in October, pointing to continued dependence on external supplies for scrap-based steel manufacturing. Cumulative imports during April-October 2025 climbed to 5.695 million tonnes (mt), compared to 3.932 mt a year earlier, according to data compiled from major and minor ports by mjunction services.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/indias-ferrous-scrap-imports-jump-45-this-fiscal-as-domestic-gap-persists-125122200836_1.html

Natural gas import bill down 12% in Apr-Nov

India's natural gas import bill declined by 11.5% to $9.2 billion during April to November of financial year 2025-26, compared with $10.4 billion in the same period of FY25, according to data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC). The country imported 23,102 million standard cubic meters (mmscm) of liquefied natural gas (LNG) during the period, reflecting a 8.8% decline over Apr-Nov of FY25.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/news/natural-gas-import-bill-down-12-in-apr-nov/4085366/