

January 13, 2026 – Tuesday

Economy

India's retail inflation rises to 3-month high of 1.33% in December

India's retail inflation firmed up to a three-month high of 1.33 per cent in December, up from 0.71 per cent in November, as food price deflation narrowed and favourable base effects began to wane, according to data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Monday. Economists said the latest headline inflation print still leaves room for another 25-basis-point cut in the repo rate by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), though views were split on the likelihood of such a move.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-s-retail-inflation-rises-to-3-month-high-of-1-33-in-december-126011201198_1.html

India's GDP growth pegged at 7% in FY27 on favourable policies: BMI

BMI, a Fitch Group company, on Monday forecast a 7.4 per cent growth for the current fiscal and 7 per cent for FY27 saying a favourable policy environment bode well for India's economic outlook. It said that monetary and regulatory measures should stimulate investment and consumption over 2026-27 fiscal. "A strong advanced estimate of the current fiscal year's GDP, rising US-bound merchandise exports during the past two months, and a favourable policy environment bode well for India's economic outlook," BMI said in a report.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-gdp-growth-pegged-at-7-per-cent-in-fy27-on-favourable-policies-bmi-126011200693_1.html

Budget Expectations

Mining sector pushes for bauxite duty cut, insurance for overseas projects

India's mining industry is pressing the government for removing export duties on low-grade bauxite and maintain the current duty regime on iron ore, various tax concessions, and a government-backed insurance mechanism to protect overseas mining investments from geopolitical risks in the upcoming Union Budget. A senior executive at the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (Fimi) told Business Standard that the industry body has submitted a proposal to remove the 15 per cent export duty on low-grade bauxite.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/mining-sector-pushes-for-bauxite-duty-cut-insurance-for-overseas-projects-126011201193_1.html

Finance

Banks bank on cash recyclers in new ATM cycle

Indian banks are set to deploy nearly 17,350 ATMs in the coming months. A significant majority of these will be advanced cash recyclers. This move signals a shift towards modern technology for better efficiency and lower costs. Banks are prioritizing smarter machines that reduce cash handling needs and improve service availability.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/banks-bank-on-cash-recyclers-in-new-atm-cycle/articleshow/126491556.cms

Banks must ensure year-round operational discipline: RBI deputy governor

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor Swaminathan J has asked banks to put in place stronger operational discipline and data governance throughout the year, as supervision needs to shift from periodic snapshots to continuous awareness. Speaking on 'Issues and Challenges in Banking Supervision in the Digital Era', the deputy governor said for decades, supervisors were trained to read balance sheets and inspect processes, and it is still being done the same way.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/banks-must-ensure-year-round-operational-discipline-rbi-deputy-governor-126011200838_1.html

Optimum credit-deposit ratio for banks is 76-80%, says SBI report

The credit-deposit (CD) ratio beyond 80 per cent for state-owned and private banks and 70 per cent for foreign banks diminishes profitability gains sharply, indicating that excessive leverage reduces the banks' incremental profitability, according to a report by State Bank of India (SBI) research. For state-owned and private sector banks, an optimum CD ratio is between 76–80 per cent, and for foreign banks, it is in the range of 65–70 per cent.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/banking/cd-ratio-beyond-80-diminishes-profitability-gains-of-banks-sbi-report-126011201004_1.html

RBI bars resident Indians from issuing credit guarantees to NRIs

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday issued the Foreign Exchange Management Regulations, under which resident Indians are prohibited from issuing credit guarantees in favour of non-resident Indians (NRIs). "…no person resident in India shall be a party (principal debtor, surety or creditor) to a guarantee where any of the other parties to the guarantee is a person resident outside India," the central bank said in a notification.

https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/rbi-bars-resident-indians-from-issuing-credit-guarantees-to-nris-126011201269_1.html

Indian banks' Q3 earnings to get loan growth, asset quality boost

Indian banks are expected to post better annual and sequential earnings in the December quarter, supported by improving loan growth and stable asset quality, though pressure on deposit growth is likely to cap upside, brokerages said. Analysts expect private sector banks to post average profit after tax growth of about 3.5%-5% year-on-year for October-December, higher than the 2% rise in the year-ago period. State-owned lenders are seen registering a more modest 2.5%-3% rise.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/banking/indian-banks-q3-earnings-to-get-loan-growth-asset-quality-boost-126011200516_1.html

MFs start valuing gold holding to MCX spot prices

Mutual funds are shifting to value the gold exchange traded funds through MCX polled domestic spot prices rather than relying on London Bullion and Metal Association (LBMA) prices. All the MFs are changing their benchmark prices to MCX spot from LBMA. Nippon MF, ICICI MF, Bandhan MF and Motilal Oswal MF have recently aligned their benchmarks to MCX spot prices.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/mfs-start-valuing-gold-holding-to-mcx-spot-prices/article70501445.ece

Insurers knock on Irdai door for clarity on director overlap ban

Insurance companies, through their industry bodies — the Life Insurance Council and the General Insurance Council — have sought clarification from the insurance regulator on a provision that bars a director or officer of an insurance firm from simultaneously holding a similar position at another insurer in the same line of business, a bank, or an investment company, according to sources familiar with the development.

https://www.business-standard.com/finance/insurance/insurers-knock-on-irdai-door-for-clarity-on-director-overlap-ban-126011201408_1.html

Distribution costs weigh on value of insurance products

Insurance product value is shrinking due to high commissions and operating expenses. Experts highlight concerns with credit-linked life, non-linked, motor third-party, and retail health policies. Despite tax reforms, these costs impact customer returns. Industry growth has stagnated while expenses climb. A committee is now examining distribution costs.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/insure/distribution-costs-weigh-on-value-of-insurance-products/articleshow/126491518.cms

Net direct tax collections up nearly 9% to ₹18.38 trillion till Jan 11

The Centre's net direct tax collections rose 8.8 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to ₹18.38 trillion as of January 11, 2025-26 (FY26), largely due to a moderation in refunds, according to provisional data released by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). The growth is lower than the 12.6 per cent increase projected in the FY26 Budget. Gross direct tax collections stood at nearly ₹21.5 trillion, up 4.14 per cent from ₹20.64 trillion in the corresponding period last year. Refunds issued during the period fell 16.9 per cent to ₹3.12 trillion, compared with ₹3.75 trillion a year earlier.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/net-direct-tax-collections-up-nearly-9-to-18-38-trillion-till-jan-11-126011201349_1.html

Industry

India may tweak e-car manufacturing SOP scheme to woo global firms

Officials are evaluating changes to the Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars in India (SPMEPCI), which relies primarily on import duty concessions, including the introduction of more direct incentives, to entice global premium EV makers to establish manufacturing bases in India.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-may-tweak-e-car-manufacturing-sop-scheme-to-woo-global-firms/articleshow/126491738.cms

Govt finalising RFP for ₹7,280 crore rare earth magnet scheme: Kumaraswamy

The government is in the process of finalising the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets, Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy said on Monday, urging domestic and international players to participate in the bidding process. The Minister for Heavy Industries & Steel chaired a stakeholder consultation meeting on the scheme with various industrial stakeholders from India and abroad.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/govt-finalising-rfp-for-inviting-bids-under-rare-earth-magnet-scheme-kumaraswamy-126011200996_1.html

Educational institutions' income to rise 11-13% in FY26, FY27: Crisil

Rising enrolments and fee hikes across segments will help educational institutions log an 11 to 13 per cent increase in their total income in financial years 2025–26 (FY26) and 2026–27 (FY27), according to a report by rating agency Crisil. The report added that operating margins are expected to remain steady at 27 to 28 per cent as these institutions will incur higher staff salaries and other related costs.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/educational-institutions-income-to-rise-11-13-in-fy26-fy27-crisil-126011201222_1.html

Centre earmarks Rs 5,925 crore for coal, lignite exploration from FY27

The Centre has earmarked ₹5,925 crore for the exploration of coal and lignite over the next five-year period starting FY27, the coal ministry said Monday. The financial infusion is projected to facilitate the exploration of an additional area of about 1,845 square kilometres. The investment will be channeled through the Central Sector Scheme (CSS) of coal and lignite exploration.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/centre-earmarks-rs-5925-crore-for-coal-lignite-exploration-from-fy27/articleshow/126490844.cms

Share of clean tech in passenger vehicles more than doubles in 3 years

Clean technology cars — electric vehicles (EVs), compressed natural gas (CNG) and hybrids — are revving up in India's overall passenger vehicle (PV) space, with sales more than doubling in the last three years. Ravi Bhatia, president and director, Jato Dynamics, a market research firm, said: "The data clearly shows clean technology gaining share in the overall PV market. The combined share of clean tech grew from 12.8 per cent in 2022 to 28.3 per cent in 2025."
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/auto/share-of-clean-tech-in-passenger-vehicles-more-than-doubled-in-3-years-126011201001_1.html

Mobile phone production to reach USD 75 billion by FY26-end: ICEA

India's mobile phone production is projected to reach USD 75 billion by the end of the current fiscal year, with exports exceeding USD 30 billion. This growth is attributed to the Mobile Phone PLI scheme and expanding value chains, with Apple leading premium segment exports. The sector is poised for further scaling and specialization in global value chains.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/electronics/mobile-phone-production-to-reach-usd-75-bn-by-fy26-end-icea/articleshow/126485906.cms

Agriculture

Union fisheries minister arrives in Israel for global blue food summit

Fisheries Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh arrived here on Monday to participate in the global summit on blue food security, which will focus on enhancing food production in extreme climates through breakthrough technologies. Singh, the minister of fisheries, animal husbandry and dairying, is attending the three-day event at the invitation of Israel's Minister of Agriculture and Food Security Avi Dichter. The Second Global Summit on Blue Food Security: Sea the Future' event is taking place in the southern coastal city of Eilat from January 13 to 15.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/union-fisheries-minister-arrives-in-israel-for-global-blue-food-summit-126011200686_1.html

Iran crisis leaves Indian tea exporters worried as shipments get held up

Indian tea exporters are very worried about the Iran crisis as shipments to the country, a major overseas market for them, have been halted due to a total breakdown in communication with importers. Iran is mostly a premium quality orthodox tea market, where Assam orthodox tea finds its place in many Iranian brands.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/iran-crisis-leaves-indian-tea-exporters-worried-as-shipments-get-held-up/article70501936.ece

Rabi acreage tops normal levels for most crops till January 9, shows data

Sowing of rabi crops crossed their normal levels during the week ended January 9, with acreage under wheat, pulses and gram even topping the area covered in the full 2024-25 rabi season. Data showed that till January 9, 2026, around 64.42 million hectares of land was sown under rabi crops, which is 2.81 per cent more than the area covered during the corresponding period last year and 101 per cent of the normal acreage. Normal acreage is the area covered in the previous five years.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/agriculture/rabi-acreage-tops-normal-levels-for-most-crops-till-january-9-shows-data-126011201096_1.html

Infrastructure

India's urban housing market faces structural affordability crisis in 2025

India's urban housing market is facing a structural affordability crisis in 2025 as new supply priced below Rs 1 crore has contracted across all metros, according to a report by NoBroker, a proptech platform. The report highlighted that buyers looking for affordable housing are being pushed into mid-end and high-end housing segments as affordability pressures have intensified year-on-year (YoY), with new launches increasingly skewed towards luxury segments. At the same time, demand for entry-level and mid-segment housing grew sharply.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-s-urban-housing-market-faces-structural-affordability-crisis-in-2025-126011201075_1.html

Energy

Record domestic coal output helps India save nearly $8 bn in imports

India saved nearly $8 billion in foreign exchange in FY25 as coal imports declined sharply on the back of strong domestic production and high stock levels at power plants, according to the coal ministry's year-end review. The easing of supply pressure was supported by record coal production, which rose to 1,047.5 million tonnes in FY25, a 4.98 per cent increase over the previous year. Imported coal blending at thermal stations dropped steeply, falling from 12 million tonnes last year to 5.5 million tonnes in the April–December period. Overall coal imports were down 7.9 per cent in FY25, translating into estimated savings of $7.93 billion (Rs 60,682 crore), the coal ministry said.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/record-domestic-coal-output-helps-india-save-nearly-8-bn-in-imports-126011201190_1.html

Telecom

AI infra must be resilient, self-regulated to manage risks: Trai chief

Trai Chairperson Anil Kumar Lahoti on Monday pitched for resilient AI infrastructure and strong self-regulation to proactively mitigate risks and ensure that systems remain secure, accountable and adaptable to disruptions. Addressing a Nasscom pre-summit event for the upcoming AI Impact Summit, Lahoti said the design and rollout of AI infrastructure will decide if the technology's advantages stay limited to a few or get distributed broadly across regions and sectors.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/ai-infra-must-be-resilient-self-regulated-to-manage-risks-trai-chief-126011201077_1.html

States

Delhi govt to upgrade ITIs with industry partners under PM-SETU scheme

The Delhi government has started the process of upgrading its Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), seeking to engage industry partners under the PM-SETU scheme, officials said. The Department of Training and Technical Education of the Delhi government is the implementing body of the Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU) scheme's hub and spoke model for the transformation of the ITIs in the city.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/delhi-govt-to-upgrade-itis-with-industry-partners-under-pm-setu-scheme-126011201227_1.html

Goa economy grew 14.94% in FY24, 'Viksit' state target set for 2037: Guv

Goa's economy has shown a positive growth trajectory of 14.94 per cent in 2023-24 (provisional) as per estimates received from Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Governor P Ashok Gajapathi Raju said on Monday on the first day of the Winter Session of the state assembly. In his first address in the House since taking over as governor in July last year, Raju said the preparation of Vision Document 'Viksit Goa @ 2037' is in its final stages, adding it would act as an all-inclusive, long-term blueprint by aligning with the vision of Prime Minister Modi of 'Viksit Bharat 2047'.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/goa-economy-grew-14-94-per-cent-in-fy24-viksit-state-target-set-for-2037-guv-126011200688_1.html

External

India-EU trade deal in 'final stages'; talks with US underway, says Piyush Goyal

India is nearing a trade agreement with the European Union. Talks are also underway for a trade deal with the United States. These developments signal significant progress in India's international trade relations. The India-EU agreement aims for completion soon. The European Union is India's largest trading partner in goods. This indicates a strengthening economic partnership.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-eu-trade-deal-in-final-stages-talks-with-us-underway-says-piyush-goyal/articleshow/126478925.cms

UK & EU apparel brands begin sourcing talks with Indian companies

UK and European apparel brands, including Marks & Spencer, Primark and Next, have started negotiations with Indian suppliers as the India-UK and India-EU free trade agreement talks move closer to ratification. Buyers are intensifying factory audits and evaluations in hubs such as Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu, with plans to start or expand sourcing from India amid supply-chain uncertainties in Bangladesh and in anticipation of lower tariffs under the FTAs, said exporters.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/uk-eu-apparel-brands-begin-sourcing-talks-with-indian-companies/articleshow/126491093.cms

India, Germany boost economic, technology and security ties ahead of EU FTA

India and Germany on Monday announced 27 outcomes — 19 agreements and eight announcements — to underline their deepening ties in defence, security, the mobility of health care workers, semiconductors, supply chains, technology, and green energy, and with an eye to enhancing bilateral trade in the context of the impending India-European Union (EU) trade deal. During their discussions in Ahmedabad late Monday morning, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, who is on a two-day visit to India, told Prime Minister Narendra Modi his country's "strong support" for the India-EU free-trade agreement (FTA).

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/pm-modi-german-chancellor-friedrich-merz-stress-economic-security-ties-126011201167_1.html

US tariff pressures push British Columbia to boost India trade

India and British Columbia have a shared interest in energy such as liquefied natural gas and hydrogen, life sciences and critical minerals including copper and nickel, said the Canadian province's premier David Eby. Eby, who is leading a trade mission to India from January 12-17, told ET in an interview that the province is trying to develop more opportunities with India to diversify trade, which has been hit by the US tariffs.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/us-tariff-pressures-push-british-columbia-to-boost-india-trade/articleshow/126491698.cms

US to impose 25% tariffs on countries trading with Iran, Trump says

President Donald Trump has said that Iran's trade partners will face 25% tariffs from the US as he looks to pressure Tehran over its violent protest crackdown that's left nearly 600 dead across the country. The US president has repeatedly threatened Tehran with military action, if his administration found the Islamic Republic was using deadly force against anti-government protesters.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/world/us-to-impose-25-tariffs-on-countries-trading-with-iran-trump-says/article70503822.ece