

January 22, 2026 – Thursday

Economy

Net FDI negative for 3rd straight month in Nov due to high repatriation

Net foreign direct investment (FDI) remained negative in November 2025 for the third consecutive month, mainly due to high repatriation, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in its January bulletin. Data shows that net FDI in November was negative $446 million, compared with negative $1.67 billion in October. However, for the April–November period of FY26, the net FDI has grown more than seven-fold, compared with the same period last year, reaching $5.6 billion, up from $781 million in April–November FY25.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/net-fdi-negative-for-3rd-straight-month-in-nov-due-to-high-repatriation-126012101338_1.html

India set to become 3rd largest economy by 2028, says Gita Gopinath

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday asserted that India will definitely become the world's third-largest economy over the next few years, with economist Gita Gopinath saying it can happen by 2028 or even earlier. Speaking in a World Economic Forum Annual Meeting session here, Vaishnaw said the only matter of concern is what will happen with the mountains of debt in the rich world and what could be the impact on India. Gopinath said the challenge for India is not becoming the third-largest economy; the challenge is raising per capita income to higher levels.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-definitely-become-3rd-largest-economy-gopinath-predicts-by-2028-126012100936_1.html

Budget Expectations

Tax sops, restoring indexation among Amfi budget wish list

The Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) has sought restoration of indexation for debt funds and granting capital gains tax exemptions for holding equity-oriented schemes for long-term in the Budget. It has submitted a total of 27 recommendations to the government. For debt mutual funds held for more than 36 months, Amfi has asked to restore long-term capital gains with indexation, as it incentivises long-horizon, fixed-income saving; restores parity with other long-term assets and channels household savings to the corporate bond market. It has requested to introduce debt-linked savings scheme (DLSS) to help expand the bond market as the retail penetration in corporate bonds is low.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/news/tax-sops-restoring-indexation-among-amfi-budget-wish-list/4113995/

Finance

India's financial assets & liabilities logs strong growth in FY24: RBI

India's financial assets and liabilities registered a strong growth of 13.9 per cent and 12.7 per cent, respectively in the financial year 2023-24, reflecting robust economic growth, high financial intermediation, and deepening linkages among institutional sectors, according to a study by Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Households expanded their asset base through deposits, insurance, and equity investments, the study, authored by RBI's staff, stated in the January bulletin.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/economy-policy-india-financial-assets-liabilities-strong-growth-2023-24-rbi-study-126012101312_1.html

PSU banks counting on QR-based payments to breach a fintech fort

Public sector banks are now actively pursuing QR-code led merchant payments. This move challenges established fintech players like BharatPe, PhonePe, and Paytm. Banks aim to capture revenue and data opportunities in this growing digital payment ecosystem.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/psu-banks-counting-on-qr-based-payments-to-breach-a-fintech-fort/articleshow/127037245.cms

Non-bank sources along with banks aiding credit pickup: RBI report

The flow of credit from non-financial sources as well as banks to the commercial sector has increased by 44 per cent during the first nine months (April-December) of 2025-26 (M9FY26), indicating demand conditions in the economy remaining buoyant underpinned by a resurgence in rural demand and a gradual recovery in urban demand, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) monthly state of the economy report said.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/non-bank-sources-along-with-banks-aiding-credit-pickup-rbi-report-126012101468_1.html

Microfinance shows signs of recovery as disbursements rise, slippages ease

The stress in the microfinance sector may be easing, with lenders ranging from large microfinance institutions to universal banks and small finance banks reporting an uptick in fresh loan disbursements and lower slippages during the latest quarter. CreditAccess Grameen, the country's largest microfinance NBFC, on Tuesday reported a 13.4% year-on-year increase in loan disbursements to ₹5,767 crore, while its gross loan portfolio expanded 8% to ₹26,566 crore at the end of the third quarter.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/banking-finance/microfinance-shows-signs-of-recovery-as-disbursements-rise-slippages-ease/4115278/

Cabinet clears ₹5,000 crore equity infusion into SIDBI to boost MSME credit

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved an equity support of ₹5,000 crore to the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to strengthen its capital base and enhance credit flow to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/policy-economy-cabinet-approves-rs-5000-crore-equity-infusion-sidbi-msme-credit-126012100843_1.html

Industry

Govt plans new steel scrap recycling guideline

The government is finalising a national steel scrap recycling policy, replacing the existing 2019 guidelines, to align it with changing dynamics of the industry arising out of domestic compulsions and commitments, and emerging international developments. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the 13th International Material Recycling Conference in Jaipur, Daya Nidhan Pandey, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Steel, said the policy might be readied within the next couple of months.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/news/govt-plans-new-steel-scrap-recycling-guideline/4114006/

Govt raises customs duty on flat panel displays to boost local manufacturing

In a decisive move to solidify India's position as a global electronics hub and to promote domestic manufacturing of electronic goods, the Union Finance Ministry has announced the increase of Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on flat panel

displays to 20 per cent. The move will also correct the inverted duty structure on the goods. The Ministry also reduced the BCD on open cells and key components to 5 per cent.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/govt-raises-customs-duty-on-flat-panel-displays-to-boost-local-manufacturing/article70532973.ece

India set to release revised Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020 for stakeholder feedback

The first draft of the revised Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020 is expected to be out in a fortnight for stakeholders' feedback, as the Ministry of Defence (MoD) seeks simplification and shortening of redundant processes of capital acquisition, likely to go up in the coming budget for FY27 from the existing outlay of ₹1.80 lakh crore.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/india-set-to-release-revised-defence-acquisition-procedure-2020-for-stakeholder-feedback/article70534420.ece

Agriculture

Centre's open market wheat sale gets lukewarm response

With adequate private stocks and stable prices, the government's move to offload wheat in the open market has received a lukewarm response this season from bulk buyers such as flour millers. Sources said that after relaunching e-auctions under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) last week, the Food Corporation of India(FCI) has so far sold only around 0.35 million tonne (MT) of wheat in FY26 against an allocation of 3 MT.
https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy/centres-open-market-wheat-sale-gets-lukewarm-response/4115249/

Indian govt plans to hike agri infra fund credit to ₹5 crore in limbo

The Indian government's proposal to raise the cap on credit under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) to ₹5 crore from the current ₹2 crore is hanging fire. There are doubts over whether it will find a place in the Budget to be present on February 1, after the Prime Minister's Office reportedly flagged its reservations. The uncertainty is in view of the fact that three major agriculture-related announcements made in the last year's Budget are yet to be implemented.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/indian-govt-plans-to-hike-agri-infra-fund-credit-to-5-crore-in-limbo/article70533235.ece

Pesticide industry seeks tighter e-commerce rules to curb fake sales

The pesticide industry on Wednesday urged the government to tighten the regulation for e-commerce platforms selling crop protection products, warning that basic compliance checks are insufficient and calling for mandatory authorisation certificates to prevent fake products from reaching farmers. Industry body CropLife India said that the government should issue clear rules under the existing Insecticides Act, 1968, and include explicit provisions in the draft Pesticides Management Bill to regulate online sales, as concerns mount over product authenticity and supply chain traceability.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/pesticide-industry-seeks-tighter-e-commerce-rules-to-curb-fake-sales-126012100872_1.html

Infrastructure

CAFE norms to be finalised within 8 days: Gadkari

The government will finalise the Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) norms within the next eight days, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Tuesday, signalling movement on regulations critical to the automobile industry's fuel-efficiency and emission targets. Gadkari said he has spoken to the Union power minister, and the concerned ministry is expected to forward the file to his ministry within the next three to four days. "CAFE norms will be finalised in the next eight days. I have spoken to the power minister and they will be sending the file in the next 3–4 days," Gadkari said.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/roadways-cafe-norms-to-be-finalised-within-8-days-gadkari-4115073/

Railways likely to see 2-4% increase in FY27 outlay, may get ₹2.7 trillion

The Union budget may allocate around ₹2.7-2.75 trillion to the railways ministry for FY27, senior government officials said, maintaining steady investments in the national transporter since the pandemic. That will be a 2-4 per cent hike over Budget estimates of ₹2.65 trillion for FY26. "There is a minimum requirement of ₹2.5 trillion capital expenditure every year and it is understood at the highest levels of the government. Right now, the focus is on an overhaul of processes through reforms and significantly improving quality of procurement while investing in capacity augmentation," a senior official said.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/budget-may-hike-railways-allotment-to-2-7-trn-meet-minimum-requirement-126012101120_1.html

Energy

Ministry of Power seeks comments on draft National Electricity Policy 2026

The Ministry of Power on Wednesday sought stakeholder comments on the draft National Electricity Policy (NEP) 2026, which aims to address high losses and debt of discoms, non-cost-reflective tariffs, and high cross-subsidisation. A non-cost-reflective tariff is a pricing structure in which the rate charged to a particular consumer category is below the utility's average cost of generating, transmitting, and distributing electricity to that category.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/ministry-of-power-seeks-comments-on-draft-national-electricity-policy-2026/article70532960.ece

Niti Aayog suggests ₹6,000 cr VGF, PM-Suryaghar-like scheme for MSMEs

With India's micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) facing the challenge of energy transition, the government could launch a PM-Suryaghar-like scheme that provides capital subsidies for green energy, and a viability gap-funding (VGF) scheme for energy efficient solutions, the Niti Aayog has recommended. "For MSMEs, energy is one of their highest input costs and efficiency is deeply linked to their business viability and growth. It also affects their technology processes. In the export market, with all the regulations in place, if the MSME sector does not decarbonise soon, the challenges in the trade sector would deepen further," said S C L Das, Union MSME secretary.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/policy-economy-niti-aayog-suggests-vgf-pm-suryaghar-like-scheme-msme-decarbonisation-126012101561_1.html

Power secretary asks discoms to cut supply costs, rethink coal sourcing

Power utilities need to seriously introspect on optimising the cost of supply by participating in coal auctions to secure fuel at lower prices rather than waiting for the government to allocate coal at a notified rate, Power Secretary Pankaj Agarwal said on Tuesday.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/power-secretary-urges-discoms-lower-cost-of-supply-126012101460_1.html

Telecom

DoT de-licenses lower 6 GHz band to boost next-generation Wi-Fi services

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on Wednesday de-licensed the lower 6 GHz band—frequencies ranging between 5925 MHz and 6425 MHz—which will enable faster Wi-Fi services and open up Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 7, the next generation of Wi-Fi. This move will enable better gaming, streaming, high-quality video calls and improved device-to-device connectivity without the need to increase the power capacity of Wi-Fi routers.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/policy-technology-dot-de-licenses-lower-6-ghz-band-enables-faster-wi-fi-126012101445_1.html

States

Uttar Pradesh readies to become chip hub

Uttar Pradesh has identified semiconductors as a cornerstone of its future industrial growth and made the sector a clear strategic priority. The state has rolled out focused policies to strengthen electronics, system design and manufacturing, with the aim of building the entire value chain within the state – from design and fabrication to

testing. Working in sync with the Centre's India Semiconductor Mission, the state is focusing on land availability, world-class infrastructure, fast-track approvals and access to skilled talent. Established electronics manufacturing clusters in Noida and Greater Noida give the state a natural edge in attracting semiconductor investments.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/news/uttar-pradesh-readies-to-become-chip-hub/4115305/

MMRDA signs MoUs worth ₹9 trillion on day two of WEF 2026

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) signed 12 memoranda of understanding (MoUs) worth ₹9.52 trillion ($104.65 billion) on the second day of the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2026 in Davos, Switzerland. The partnerships span sectors such as fintech and digital infrastructure, logistics and manufacturing, healthcare and education, artificial intelligence, climate resilience, underground engineering, metropolitan planning, and global urban governance. The investment commitments are expected to generate around 9.5 lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR).
https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/mmrda-signs-mous-worth-9-trillion-on-day-two-of-wef-2026-126012101335_1.html

Assam secures ₹1 trillion investment commitments in first year at WEF

Attending the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting here for the first time in its history, Assam has secured investment commitments worth ₹1 lakh crore already, and it is only a base for the state in the global arena, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Wednesday. Speaking to PTI here, Sarma said Assam, or for that matter any state from the northeastern region, has come to Davos for the first time, and it has been an enlightening experience, and it will help us in framing policy and bringing more investment to our state.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/assam-secures-rs-1-lakh-crore-investment-commitment-in-first-year-at-wef-126012101068_1.html

Telangana sets $25 billion investment goal under new life sciences policy

Telangana aims to attract $25 billion in investments, generating five lakh jobs in the life sciences sector by 2030, according to the "Next-Gen Life Sciences Policy 2026-30". The policy was unveiled on the sidelines of the ongoing World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, a press release said on Wednesday. According to the policy, Telangana aims to become one of the world's top three life sciences clusters. Accounting for about one-third of global vaccine production and 40 per cent of India's pharmaceutical production, Telangana is home to over 2,000 life sciences companies, ranging from pharmaceutical majors to cutting-edge biotech firms, the policy noted.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/telangana-unveils-life-sciences-policy-to-attract-usd-25-bn-investments-in-five-years-126012100745_1.html

Maharashtra in talks to set up India's first thorium-based power plants

Maharashtra is set to become the first state to host thorium-based power plants. The state government is in advanced talks with the Department of Atomic Energy and NPCIL. Two units, a 1,540 MW plant and a 440 MW unit, are planned. This initiative aims for clean and cheaper energy, aligning with national decarbonization goals. Power is estimated to cost ₹3.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/maharashtra-in-talks-to-set-up-indias-first-thorium-based-power-plants/articleshow/127030492.cms

External

India-EU trade deal set to conclude in next few days, Spanish minister says

India and the European Union are on the cusp of a groundbreaking trade agreement, with Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares forecasting its finalization within days. With European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's upcoming visit to India next week, the stage is set for crucial negotiations.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-eu-trade-deal-set-to-conclude-in-next-few-days-spanish-minister-says/articleshow/126957535.cms

'Going to have a good deal': Trump on India-US trade deal, says has "great respect" for PM Modi

US President Donald Trump expressed confidence in an upcoming India-US Bilateral Trade Agreement, calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi a close friend and respected leader. Both nations are reportedly nearing a deal to significantly boost bilateral trade, aiming to reach $500 billion by 2030.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/going-to-have-a-good-deal-trump-on-india-us-trade-deal-says-has-great-respect-for-pm-modi/articleshow/127021109.cms

Staff cuts, red tape may derail India FTA gains, warns UK Parliament panel

Billions of pounds of tariff savings from Britain's free trade agreement with India could be jeopardised by deep cuts to UK export support staff helping firms use the deal in practice, an influential Parliament panel cautioned in a report on Wednesday. The House of Commons Business and Trade Committee, with a remit to scrutinise the country's trade deals, released its analysis as the government tables the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) in Parliament for ratification.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/staff-cuts-non-tariff-barriers-pose-india-fta-delivery-risks-warns-uk-parliament-panel-126012101218_1.html

Davos: Swiss firms' interest in India surges after EFTA trade deal

Swiss corporate interest in India has accelerated sharply following the signing of the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) between India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), with investment enquiries and advisory support requests more than doubling, Anja Fiedler, CEO designate, Switzerland Global Enterprise said. "TEPA is a strategic agreement, not a short-term trade boost," she said, adding that it gives companies predictability and confidence to commit capital for the long run. The TEPA came into force October 1. EFTA members are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/davos-swiss-firms-interest-in-india-surges-after-efta-trade-deal/articleshow/127042143.cms

Indian refiners tap into Guyana, Saudi Arabia for crude imports

India's oil refiners are actively seeking new crude oil sources. Imports from Guyana have resumed after two years. Saudi Arabian and Iraqi supplies are significantly up. This shift aims to meet strong domestic energy demand. Russia remains the top supplier but volumes are decreasing. Refiners are tapping new and previously marginal sources to ensure supply.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/indian-refiners-tap-into-guyana-saudi-arabia-for-crude-imports/articleshow/127034547.cms