

February 06, 2026 – Friday

Economy

RBI MPC meet: What's on the table for the rate-setting panel

The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee is expected to hold interest rates steady at 5.25% amid supportive economic signals. Analysts anticipate a pause following cumulative rate cuts, with a focus on liquidity management and transmission of existing easing measures.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/rbi-mpc-meet-whats-on-the-table-for-the-rate-setting-panel/articleshow/127944205.cms

Finance

Banks make a pitch to delay implementing the amended liquidity coverage ratio framework

With deposit growth lagging credit growth, banks have reportedly requested the RBI to delay implementing the amended liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) framework, which will come into effect from April 1, 2026. Further, they want a portion of the cash reserve ratio (CRR) to be recognised as high quality liquid assets (HQLA) for the computation of LCR. This ask comes at a time when banks are veering towards short-term resources via bulk deposits. These deposits attract run-off rate of 100 per cent, implying that the entire deposit could be withdrawn by the depositor during a crisis, thereby affecting the statutory LCR level.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/banks-make-a-pitch-to-delay-implementing-the-amended-liquidity-coverage-ratio-framework/article70596271.ece

Draft rules, forms under new I-T law likely this week for consultation

The draft rules and prescribed forms under the newly enacted Income Tax Act, 2025 are likely to be made public this week for stakeholders' consultation, a senior finance ministry official said. After considering the inputs, the government will make necessary changes, if required, and notify the final rules, he added. "Only thereafter will the income tax portal be updated with new online facilities, including simplified e-filing modules, application forms, validation tools, and tracking options," the official added. Meanwhile, there would be some overlapping periods for the new and old income tax Acts, he stated.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/draft-rules-forms-under-new-i-t-law-likely-this-week-for-consultation-126020501738_1.html

Treasury income supports public sector banks' earnings in Q3 FY26

Public sector banks' profitability during the third quarter of the current financial year largely supported healthy treasury income, which helped offset muted net interest income (NII) growth. Despite hardening of yields on government bonds, banks were able to book treasury gains by participating in IPOs, earning commission on buy/sell currency swaps and Open Market Operation (OMO) purchase auctions, among other things. While credit growth expanded this quarter, slower growth in deposits capped the NII growth. Net Interest Margins (NIMs) also remained under pressure owing to a cumulative 125 basis points repo rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/banking/treasury-incomes-supported-public-sector-banks-earnings-in-q3fy26-126020501609_1.html

SEBI to facilitate SWP/STP for MF units in demat

Capital markets regulator SEBI has proposed to allow systematic withdrawal plan (SWP) and systemic transfer plan (STP) facility for investors holding mutual fund units in demat form. This facility is being planned to be rolled out in two phases based on the number of units and the value of units. Currently, this facility is available only for investors holding units directly with the respective fund houses. Investors can send in their comments to the proposals by February 26.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/sebi-to-facilitate-swpstp-for-mf-units-in-demat/article70596657.ece

SEBI moves to withdraw expiry-day margin offsets in single-stock derivatives

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is set to tighten margin norms for single-stock derivatives on expiry days by withdrawing the calendar spread benefit, a move that could effectively raise margin requirements by 30-60 per cent for many leveraged traders. The regulator said offsetting positions across different expiries in single-stock derivatives will no longer receive margin relief on the day a contract expires, bringing the treatment in line with index derivatives.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/sebi-moves-to-withdraw-expiry-day-margin-offsets-in-single-stock-derivatives/article70596300.ece

SEBI to ease stress test, settlement guarantee fund for commodity derivatives

SEBI has proposed to ease the stress testing and coverage of settlement guarantee fund for commodity derivatives market to promote ease of doing business and align risk management with global standards. In a consultation paper, it has proposed reducing the Z-score used for historical stress testing in commodity derivatives to five from the existing 10 and revising the coverage requirement of the core settlement guarantee fund to account for the simultaneous default of the top three clearing members, instead of factoring in 50 per cent of the credit exposure arising from the default of all clearing members.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/sebi-to-ease-stress-test-settlement-guarantee-fund-for-commodity-derivatives/article70596403.ece

SEBI proposes reforms to boost operational, financial Flexibility for REITs, InvITs

Securities and Exchange Board of India has proposed measures for real estate investment trusts and infrastructure investment trusts to provide operational and financial flexibility, reduce concentration and refinancing risk, expand their investible universe and bring in parity between public and private InvITs. In a consultation paper floated on Thursday, the markets regulator has suggested allowing privately listed InvITs to invest up to 10 per cent of their asset value in pure greenfield projects to bring them on par with public InvITs.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/sebi-proposes-reforms-to-boost-operational-financial-flexibility-for-reits-invits/article70596506.ece

SEBI's softer 'fit and proper' norms may spur enforcement, revive deal activity

Securities market intermediaries may see lower mechanical regulatory shocks under the Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI's) proposed overhaul of the 'fit and proper person' framework, but enforcement intensity is likely to rise as the regulator shifts towards conduct-based supervision. By removing rule-based exits triggered merely by FIRs, criminal complaints or charge sheets, SEBI is separating allegation from culpability and tying regulatory consequences more closely to convictions and reasoned regulatory findings, said experts.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/sebis-softer-fit-and-proper-norms-may-spur-enforcement-revive-deal-activity/article70596343.ece

Commission expense ratio of life insurers rises to 6.86% in FY25

The commission expense ratio in the life insurance industry, measured as a percentage of total commission to total premium, rose to 6.86 per cent in the financial year 2024–25 (FY25) from 6.21 per cent in FY24 owing to an increase in the commission expense ratio among private life insurers, according to the Handbook of Indian Insurance

Statistics. The commission expense ratio of private life insurers rose to 8.94 per cent in FY25 from 7.22 per cent in FY24. For the state-owned Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), however, it dropped to 5.18 per cent from 5.46 per cent.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/insurance/commission-expense-ratio-of-life-insurers-rises-to-6-86-in-fy25-126020501341_1.html

Industry

DPIIT revises start-up definition, introduces deep-tech category

The Centre by way of a modification to the 'start-up definition' now explicitly recognises 'deep-tech' start-ups and will also allow such companies to be considered as start-ups for 20 years after incorporation. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry Of Commerce has issued a notification modifying its erstwhile 2019 Rules for recognition of start-ups. It has now introduced a new criterion for an entity to be classified as a 'deep-tech start-up.'
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/dpiit-revises-start-up-definition-introduces-deep-tech-category/article70596858.ece

Centre notifies strict rules to curb illegal offshore mineral mining

In a bid to tighten oversight of mining, storage, transportation and export of minerals extracted from India's offshore areas, the centre has notified the Offshore Areas Mineral (Prevention of Illegal Mining and Transportation) Rules, 2026. The rules, issued by the Ministry of Mines, came into force on February 3. The new framework applies to all offshore minerals, except mineral oils and hydrocarbons, and is aimed at preventing illegal mining, illegal storage and unauthorised transportation of minerals from offshore blocks. Scientific testing and research activities without commercial intent have been exempted.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/centre-notifies-rules-curb-illegal-offshore-mineral-mining-126020501583_1.html

Bharat Taxi launched, pan-India rollout in three years

Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Thursday launched 'Bharat Taxi', India's first cooperative-led ride-hailing platform, after a successful two-month pilot operation. The service has been initially launched in Delhi-NCR and Gujarat, and will be expanded across all States and Union Territories within the next three years. Shah emphasised that Bharat Taxi is giving ownership to drivers, which no other ride-hailing platform can offer. "From today, Bharat Taxi has been commercially launched in Delhi-NCR and Gujarat. In three years, Bharat Taxi will be rolled out across the country, from Kashmir to Kanniyakumari (Kanyakumari) and Dwarka to Kamakhya," he said after launching the platform.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/bharat-taxi-launched-pan-india-rollout-in-three-years/article70596932.ece

Civil Aviation Minister reviews progress in drone R&D, component manufacturing activities

Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu on Wednesday reviewed the progress of drone research and development, as well as component manufacturing activities. At the meeting, the minister said the aim is to make India the third-largest drone market globally by 2030, according to a release issued by the minister's office. "Our emphasis is firmly on indigenous technology. Making India the third-largest drone market in the world is not just an aspiration, but a clear goal we are working towards," he said.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/security-tech/technology/civil-aviation-minister-reviews-progress-in-drone-rd-component-manufacturing-activities/articleshow/127925896.cms

Government restricts platinum article imports to curb gold blending loophole

The government on Thursday imposed restrictions on imports of certain articles of platinum to curb illicit imports of platinum blended with significant amount of gold. There were no restrictions on this earlier."The import policy of items covered under ITC HS codes 71141920 is revised from free to restricted...," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade said in a notification. This HS (harmonized system) code includes articles made from platinum.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/gold/government-restricts-platinum-article-imports-to-curb-gold-blending-loophole/article70597183.ece

Truck rentals flat in January; EV and CV sales sustain momentum: Report

Truck rentals remained flat month-on-month (M-o-M) in January across key trunk routes, even as year-on-year (Y-o-Y) growth ranged between 5-12 per cent, according to the monthly Shriram Mobility Bulletin. The onset of the Rabi harvest in January, with increased movement of agricultural produce across regions, kept trucking activity busy. The Delhi-Mumbai-Delhi route recorded the highest Y-o-Y growth at 12 per cent, while the Delhi-Kolkata-Delhi, Mumbai-Chennai-Mumbai, Bengaluru-Mumbai-Bengaluru and Kolkata-Guwahati-Kolkata routes each posted growth of around 10 per cent.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/mobility-sector-stable-start-2026-truck-rentals-ev-demand-126020501614_1.html

Agriculture

SOPA opposes GM soyameal imports, says domestic supplies are adequate

The Soybean Processors Association of India (SOPA) has urged the Union government to not permit import of genetically modified (GM) soybean meal, while stating that there's adequate domestic supply and that allowing such imports would hurt millions of farmers. In a representation, to the Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, SOPA said the poultry sector's demand for GM soybean meal imports on the grounds of high domestic prices ignores market realities and threatens the country's agricultural sector.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/sopa-opposes-gm-soyameal-imports-says-domestic-supplies-are-adequate/article70596447.ece

Centre withdraws wheat stock limit order citing comfortable supplies

The central government has withdrawn the wheat stock limit order issued on May 27, 2025, with immediate effect as part of its ongoing efforts to monitor prices and ensure adequate availability of wheat ahead of the upcoming festive season. The decision reflects a comfortable supply position and easing price trends in domestic markets, an official statement said. The stock limit order was introduced through the Removal of Licensing Requirements, Stock Limits and Movement Restrictions on Specified Foodstuffs (Amendment) Order, 2025, which was applicable across all states and Union Territories. With the withdrawal of the order, restrictions on wheat stocking by traders, millers, and other private entities have been lifted.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/agriculture/centre-withdraws-wheat-stock-limit-order-citing-comfortable-supplies-126020600119_1.html

Energy

Government sharply cuts EV charger benchmark prices to boost green mobility

The government has significantly cut benchmark prices for electric vehicle chargers. This move aims to reduce subsidy expenses and speed up the installation of public charging stations nationwide. The price reductions reflect falling equipment costs and increased competition. This will help align government support with current market conditions and encourage private investment in charging networks across India.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/government-sharply-cuts-ev-charger-benchmark-prices-to-boost-green-mobility/articleshow/127925085.cms

India's ACC battery demand to rise to 700GWh by mid-2040s from 28GWh in 2025: Report

India's battery demand is set for massive growth. By the mid-2040s, Advanced Chemistry Cell battery needs will surge to over 700 GWh. This expansion is driven by electric mobility and energy storage goals. The Viksit Bharat Vision 2047 hinges on this growth. Electric vehicles will dominate demand, with stationary storage also accelerating. This presents a significant opportunity for domestic manufacturing.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/indias-acc-battery-demand-to-rise-to-700gwh-by-mid-2040s-from-28gwh-in-2025-report/articleshow/127934014.cms

Venezuela long-standing energy partner, India open to crude sourcing: MEA

India on Thursday said Venezuela has been its long-standing energy partner, and New Delhi has purchased oil from Venezuela in 2019-20 and again in 2023-24. “Consistent with our approach to energy security, India remains open to exploring the commercial merits of any crude supply options, including from Venezuela,” Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing in the afternoon. US President Donald Trump had said on Monday night that India has agreed to buy more oil from Venezuela instead of Russia.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-open-to-venezuela-oil-sourcing-mea-energy-security-126020501684_1.html

Telecom

TRAI revamps TV distribution audit regime, offers relief to small operators

New rules for television distribution platform audits are coming. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has set clear deadlines and eased requirements for smaller operators. Infrastructure sharing norms are also updated. These changes aim to improve compliance and reduce audit complexities. The revised framework will be effective from April 1, 2026, bringing significant updates for broadcasters and distributors.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-news/trai-revamps-tv-distribution-audit-regime-offers-relief-to-small-operators/articleshow/127951332.cms

States

Rajasthan govt's self-employment scheme drew 5K applications in 10 days

Rajasthan government’s self employment scheme is attracting a positive response from the youth, the state’s Industries and Commerce Commissioner said on Thursday. Suresh Kumar Ola said that the Chief Minister’s Youth Self-Employment Scheme (Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarojgar Yojana) drew over 5,000 applications in 10 days. The government had announced the scheme to provide financial assistance to one lakh youth in the next three years in the state to establish their own businesses. The official pointed out that under this scheme, interest-free loans of up to ₹10 lakhs are provided for setting up micro-enterprises in the manufacturing, service, and trade sectors.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/rajasthan-govt-s-self-employment-scheme-drew-5k-applications-in-10-days-126020501171_1.html

West Bengal economy projected to grow at 7.6% in FY26: Economic Review

West Bengal's economy is set for robust growth. Projections indicate a 7.62 percent expansion in the 2025-26 financial year. The state's Gross State Domestic Product is expected to reach approximately Rs 19.91 lakh crore. This growth outpaces India's projected GDP expansion. The review highlights significant improvements in fiscal and social indicators since 2010-11.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/west-bengal-economy-projected-to-grow-at-7-6-in-fy26-economic-review/articleshow/127946095.cms

Tamil Nadu Cabinet clears ₹34,000 crore investments, 55,000 jobs expected

The Tamil Nadu Cabinet on Thursday approved 15 industrial investment projects worth ₹34,000 crore with the potential to generate employment opportunities for nearly 55,000 people. The approval includes Hyundai’s expansion plans, said Industries Minister TRB Rajaa. Briefing newspersons on the meeting, which was chaired by Chief Minister MK Stalin, Rajaa said that projects will be set up in districts, including Chennai, Chengalpattu, Kanchipuram, Tiruvallur, Ranipet, Tiruvannamalai, Krishnagiri, Namakkal, Perambalur, Tiruchirappalli, Karur, Tiruppur, Ramanathapuram, and Thoothukudi.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/tamil-nadu-cabinet-clears-34000-crore-investments-55000-jobs-expected/article70595414.ece

Telangana solar expo 2026 set for February 6 in Hyderabad

The Telangana Global Solar Expo 2026 will be organised on February 6, 2026 at Hitex Exhibition Centre here to bring together senior government officials, regulators, Discoms and representatives of renewable energy companies

Navin Mittal, Special Chief Secretary, Energy Department, Telangana Government will participate as the chief guest in the inaugural session.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/telangana-solar-expo-2026-set-for-february-6-in-hyderabad/article70596201.ece

Healthcare

Drug regulator steps up oversight on product changes after approval

Drug makers now need government approval for any quality changes to medicines. This applies to alterations affecting a drug's identity, strength, quality, purity, or potency. The regulator is strengthening manufacturing standards through risk-based audits and more inspections. This ensures only safe and effective medicines reach consumers. Manufacturers must inform the drug regulator about changes in manufacturing, packaging, or shelf life.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/pharmaceuticals/drug-regulator-steps-up-oversight-on-product-changes-after-approval/articleshow/127951069.cms

India's single-specialty healthcare market to triple to over $12 bn by 2030

India's single-specialty provider market will reach $12.3 billion by 2030, up from about $4.4 billion in 2025 — a 22 per cent compound annual growth rate that outpaces the broader provider sector by more than two times, according to a report by venture capital firm Bessemer Venture Partners. Bessemer released Transforming Indian healthcare, one specialty at a time, a roadmap outlining how focused, single-specialty providers are emerging as the fastest-growing segment of India's healthcare market — and creating a category-defining opportunity for entrepreneurs and investors.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-s-single-specialty-healthcare-market-to-triple-to-over-12-bn-by-2030-126020300766_1.html

Non-animal testing can cut drug costs by up to 90%, says report

India's pharmaceutical industry is beginning to see a sharp shift in how drugs are tested, as science-led non-animal methods (NAMs) move from theory to real-world use. A new multi-stakeholder report says these approaches can cut drug development timelines by more than half and reduce costs by as much as 70-90 per cent, while still meeting global regulatory standards. The findings are part of the 'Landscape Analysis on Alternatives to Animal Testing for Drug Development in India', jointly developed by Dr Reddy's Laboratories (DRL), Department of Biotechnology's Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (inStem), Humane World for Animals India and the Animal Law & Policy Network. The report draws on inputs from regulators, pharmaceutical companies, CROs and academic researchers.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/non-animal-testing-can-cut-drug-costs-by-up-to-90-says-report-126020500788_1.html

External

EU FTA positive, but Swiss Franc giving a tough time to Indians: Adrian Bosshard

Swiss luxury watchmaker Rado's global chief executive officer Adrian Bosshard said the price advantage following the India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) trade deal, effective October 2025, has been to a large extent neutralised by the depreciation of the rupee. Had the agreement not been in place, Indian consumers would have had to pay a lot more for Swiss-made goods, he added.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/eu-fta-positive-but-swiss-franc-giving-a-tough-time-to-indians-adrian-bosshard/articleshow/127952367.cms

Trade deal: 18% US tariff to kick in after joint statement in 4-5 days

India and the United States (US) plan to issue a joint statement in the next four to five days finalising the first tranche of their trade agreement, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday. This will be followed by a White House Executive Order cutting tariffs on Indian exports to the US to 18 per cent from 50 per cent now, Goyal added. The joint statement will be followed by the signing of the first tranche of a "formal", "legal" trade agreement by mid-March, Goyal told reporters.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-us-trade-deal-18-percent-tariff-after-joint-statement-goyal-126020501717_1.html

Sri Lanka welcomes Indian investment in Udan-like domestic aviation scheme

Sri Lanka is formulating a domestic air connectivity scheme on lines of India's Udan scheme and is keen to attract investment from international airlines including those from India, the island country's Deputy Tourism Minister Ruwan Ranasinghe said on Thursday. While SriLanka Airlines operates international flights, domestic air connectivity is limited with only four commercial aircraft serving within country.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/sri-lanka-welcomes-indian-investment-in-udan-like-domestic-aviation-scheme/article70595959.ece

India, GCC sign ToR to restart free trade talks after three-year pause

India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries signed the terms of reference (ToR) for a proposed free-trade agreement (FTA) on Thursday, over three years after announcing the intention to relaunch the negotiations. The ToR defines the scope and modalities of the FTA. GCC is a regional, intergovernmental political economic union comprising six countries -- Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The deal, if finalised, will strengthen India's economic and strategic ties with West Asia.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-gcc-sign-tor-free-trade-agreement-negotiations-126020501471_1.html

Indian rice export prices near one-month high on firm rupee; Thai, Vietnam rates steady

Indian rice export prices rose to a near one-month high this week, supported by modest demand and a rebound in the rupee, while prices in Thailand and Vietnam remained steady. India's 5% broken parboiled rice reached $353–$359 per ton, up from last week, and white rice was at $351–$356 per ton. The rupee's 1% appreciation reduced exporters' dollar returns.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indian-rice-export-prices-near-onemonth-high-on-firm-rupee-thai-vietnam-rates-steady/articleshow/127963797.cms

Import norms eased for certified foreign vehicles

India is easing import rules for foreign vehicles. A select number of certified cars and motorcycles can now enter without prototype testing. This move aims to simplify imports, especially for European models, following a trade deal. Importers will need compliance certificates. Specific emission reports are also required for certain vehicles.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/import-norms-eased-for-certified-foreign-vehicles/articleshow/127950421.cms