

February 09, 2026 – Monday

Economy

Labour Codes spur hiring in Tier-III, -IV cities; job postings rise 56%

As businesses expand beyond metros, labour codes are accelerating recruitment in smaller cities, pushing job postings in tier III and IV markets by up to 56 per cent, according to a report. India's Labour Codes are triggering a dramatic redistribution of job opportunities across the country, with smaller cities emerging as the unexpected winners of regulatory reform, according to a report by blue and grey-collar recruitment platform WorkIndia. It revealed that despite early fears about hiring freezes, the data found the total job postings grew by 8.4 per cent after the codes took effect.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/labour-codes-spur-hiring-in-tier-iii-iv-cities-job-postings-rise-56-126020800430_1.html

Finance

Govt to constitute high-level committee on banking soon: FM Sitharaman

The government will soon constitute a High-Level Committee on Banking for Viksit Bharat to draw up a blueprint to create mega-lenders capable of meeting the financing needs of a developed India, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said. "We want the committee to tell us what kind of things we need to do so that banking is made available for funding Viksit Bharat," she told PTI Videos in an interview. Asked if it would suggest a merger of public sector banks, Sitharaman said one should not narrow it down like that.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/banking/govt-to-constitute-high-level-committee-on-banking-soon-fm-sitharaman-126020800202_1.html

RBI removes cap on VRR to boost long-term FPI debt investments

The Reserve Bank of India on Friday unveiled a set of measures to deepen financial markets, including a major change to the voluntary retention route (VRR) for foreign investors. By scrapping the Rs 2.5 lakh crore cap and offering greater operational flexibility, the RBI aims to make long-term FPI participation in India's bond market smoother and more predictable. "The VRR has been witnessing active investment by FPIs, and over 80% of the current investment limit of Rs 2.5 lakh crore has been utilised.
https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy/rbi-removes-cap-on-vrr-to-boost-longterm-fpi-debt-investments/4135739/

Banks rely on bulk deposits as retail dries up

Indian banks, including major lenders and Small Finance Banks (SFBs), are increasingly relying on high-cost bulk and wholesale deposits to bridge a widening credit-deposit gap. When retail deposits are not growing enough, banks have increased their dependence on bulk or wholesale deposits to meet higher credit demand. As deposits growth lagged credit growth, banks are forced to depend on other avenues to bridge the gap. The gap between credit and growth widened to 251 basis points (bps) compared to an average of 171 bps during October-December. Bank credit

grew 13.11%, while deposits rose 10.6% as on January 15, according to the latest RBI data. Consequently, credit–deposit (CD) ratio jumped to a multi-decadal high of 82.17%.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/banking-finance/banks-rely-on-bulk-deposits-as-retail-dries-up/4135586/

Bank loans may unlock fresh growth for REITs

The Reserve Bank of India now permits banks to lend directly to Real Estate Investment Trusts. This move is anticipated to reduce borrowing expenses and enhance financial flexibility for listed trusts. Experts believe this will shift bank focus from development risk to stable, income-generating properties. The change is seen as a significant positive for India's commercial real estate financing.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/property-/-cstruction/bank-loans-may-unlock-fresh-growth-for-reits/articleshow/128083228.cms

FPIs turn net buyers in Feb; invest ₹8,100 crore in a week on US trade deal

After three consecutive months of heavy selling, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) turned net buyers in the first week of February, infusing more than ₹8,100 crore in Indian equities, aided by improving risk sentiment, along with a trade deal with the US. The inflows follow sustained withdrawals in recent months, with FPIs pulling out ₹35,962 crore in January, ₹22,611 crore in December and ₹3,765 crore in November, data with the depositories showed.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/fpis-turn-net-buyers-in-feb-invest-8100-crore-in-a-week-on-us-trade-deal/article70606730.ece

I-T dept invites stakeholder views on draft rules under new Income Tax Act

The Income Tax department on Sunday said it has invited inputs and suggestions from stakeholders on the draft tax rules and forms under the new Income Tax Act, 2025, which will come into effect from April 1. To encourage wider stakeholder participation, the proposed Income Tax Rules, 2026, and corresponding Forms have been uploaded on the official website: www.incometaxindia.gov.in before their final notification, it added.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/i-t-dept-invites-stakeholder-views-on-draft-rules-under-new-income-tax-act-126020800223_1.html

Govt's FY27 capex to focus on highways, rail, metros: Expenditure Secy

The key focus of the government's ₹12.2 trillion capex for the next fiscal will be mainly on sectors like shipbuilding, national highways, railways, and metro train projects, Expenditure Secretary V Vualnam said. The government has budgeted total expenditure in 2026-27 at over ₹53.47 trillion, of which about ₹12.22 trillion is projected to be the capital expenditure, meaning it would be spent on building physical infrastructure.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/govt-s-fy27-capex-to-focus-on-highways-rail-metros-expenditure-secy-126020800214_1.html

Eway bill generation rises 43% in January, the second-highest ever

Eway bill generation in January touched 136.83 million, the second-highest monthly figure, marginally lower than the all-time high of 138.39 million recorded in December. The January figure was 42.6 per cent higher than the year-ago level of 95.96 million. An eway bill is an electronically generated document mandated under the goods and services tax (GST) regime for the movement of goods valu-ed at more than ₹50,000 within the country. It has details of the consignment, consignor, consignee and transporter, and is aimed at curbing tax eva-sion while enabling real-time tracking of goods movement across states.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/e-way-bill-generation-hits-second-highest-level-in-january-at-136-83-mn-126020800243_1.html

Industry

Foreign company registrations in India hit 5-yr high in 2025, service sector account for 87%

Foreign companies registered a five-year high in India in 2025, with 92 new entrants, primarily from the services sector. This surge reflects growing global confidence in the Indian market, supported by government initiatives

promoting a business-friendly environment and ease of doing business. Maharashtra, Karnataka, Delhi, and Gujarat attracted the majority of these new ventures.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/foreign-company-registrations-in-india-hit-5-yr-high-in-2025-service-sector-account-for-87/articleshow/128081247.cms

Cybersecurity biggest risk for enterprises, says FICCI-EY report

Cybersecurity breaches have emerged as the top risk shaping organisational performance, with 61 per cent of respondents identifying it as the primary risk, said a report by Ficci and EY. Almost 59 per cent of executives surveyed also point to limited adoption of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), affecting operational effectiveness. That is closely followed by changing customer demands and expectations at 49 per cent while 48 per cent point to geopolitical events as a key risk factor. AI is emerging as a dual risk area, where both under-adoption and weak governance are sources of concern.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/companies-news-cybersecurity-biggest-risk-for-enterprises-ficci-ey-report-126020800496_1.html

Wheels are in motion for small businesses, but global challenges remain

“The measures in the Union Budget taken together position the MSME sector on a stronger footing today, making it more resilient and competitive than before,” says Binod Kumar, managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of Indian Bank. It has been an eventful fortnight for micro-, small and medium enterprises, or MSMEs, which were flat-footed after the US tariff tantrums. But a raft of moves — easier credit and equity funding, higher growth thresholds, faster payments, sector-specific support, and inclusion-focused entrepreneurship schemes — have the potential to change the script. Even though the details of the tariff pacts with the US and European Union are awaited.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/wheels-are-in-motion-for-small-businesses-but-global-challenges-remain-126020800734_1.html

Cement majors post double-digit volume growth in Q3, eye price recovery

Leading cement makers reported strong double-digit year-on-year growth in sales volumes during the December 2025 quarter, even as their realisations came under pressure. The companies remain optimistic of further improvement in demand and prices in the coming months, aided by benign inflation, supportive tax rationalisation measures and healthy infrastructure-led growth. Industry leaders, including UltraTech, Ambuja Cements, Shree Cement, Dalmia Bharat, JK Lakshmi Cement and JSW Cement, saw higher capacity utilisation and expansion in volumes. However, overall profitability was impacted by rising input costs, provisions under new labour codes and elevated prices of pet coke and coal.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/cement-majors-post-double-digit-volume-growth-in-q3-eye-price-recovery-126020800258_1.html

Mid-size IT firms slow hiring as AI boosts productivity

Mid-size IT companies moderated hiring in the December quarter as many reported higher revenue per employee driven by AI productivity. In the latest quarter, mid-size firms Coforge, KPIT Technologies, Mphasis, Hexaware and LTIMindtree collectively reported half the net adds of the previous quarter; from over 4,000 employees in Q2 to over 2,000 employees in Q3. Firms like KPIT lessened workforce by 155 employees in Q3. Many officials attributed the slowdown to the advent of AI.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/mid-size-it-firms-slow-hiring-as-ai-boosts-productivity/article70607145.ece

Venture capitalists must increase support for defence start-ups: NITI Aayog's Saraswat

NITI Aayog member and former DRDO director general VK Saraswat on Sunday said venture capitalists must increase financial support for Indian defence start-ups, which he asserted have come a long way. On a question about deepening defence ties with the US and the balance required to ensure the enduring partnership with Russia is not affected, he said the prime focus was on meeting India's requirements rather than "choosing between A and B".
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/venture-capitalists-must-increase-support-for-defence-start-ups-niti-aayogs-saraswat/article70607388.ece

ISM 2.0 to focus on chip design, equipment ecosystem: Vaishnaw

The second phase of the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) will focus on attracting more chip design companies to India as its top priority, followed by developing a domestic semiconductor manufacturing equipment and raw material supply chain, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said. Under ISM 2.0, the government will also place emphasis on developing semiconductor talent to the next level, enabling students and engineers to design a complete chip ecosystem within the country, Vaishnaw said in Bengaluru, where he inaugurated and launched several new projects by semiconductor and electronics manufacturing companies.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/ism-2-0-focus-chip-design-equipment-ecosystem-vaishnaw-126020701195_1.html

Gig hiring likely to surge in 2026 as qcom, ecom expand beyond metros

Ecommerce (ecom) and quick commerce (qcom) platforms are expected to lead gig worker hiring in calendar year 2026 (CY26), adding nearly 1 million workers on the back of sustained demand for last-mile deliveries, higher order volumes, and continued expansion of dark stores into non-metropolitan cities, industry experts have said. According to data from TeamLease Services, ecom and qcom are likely to add nearly 1 million jobs this year, followed by the logistics and warehousing sector.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/https-www-business-standard-com-economy-jobs-gig-hiring-to-surge-in-2026-as-qcom-ecom-expand-beyond-metros-126020800002-126020800403_1.html

Agriculture

No sensitive agri items in US trade pact: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

India has excluded all sensitive commodities, including spices, grains, dairy, poultry and major fruits and vegetables, from the proposed trade deal with the US, union agriculture minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Sunday. Also, no genetically modified crops will be permitted, he said at a press conference in Bhopal. "This is a major decision that will maintain the purity of Indian agriculture and ensure that our soil and our seeds remain protected," he said.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/no-sensitive-agri-items-in-us-trade-pact-shivraj-singh-chouhan/articleshow/128082903.cms

DDGS import cap at 500K tonnes offers distillers temporary relief

The central government's clarification that duty concessions on imports of dried distillers' grains with solubles (DDGS) from the US under an interim trade deal will be capped at 500,000 tonnes in the first phase has eased concerns among domestic distillers and manufacturers, who say the initial volume is unlikely to have a significant impact on them, for now. They cautioned, however, that imports beyond this threshold could weigh on their realisations.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/agriculture/ddgs-import-cap-at-500k-tonnes-offers-distillers-temporary-relief-126020800700_1.html

Infrastructure

National highway developers flag stringent timelines

Highway developers have urged PM Modi to review construction timelines for public-private partnership projects. They argue that current deadlines are too short for quality and durability. The National Highways Builders Federation highlighted a recent greenfield project with a two-year construction period. They seek reasonable periods based on project size and complexity to ensure successful national highway development.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/national-highway-developers-flag-stringent-timelines/articleshow/128081176.cms

States

Andhra Pradesh CM Naidu lays foundation stone for Quantum Valley in Amaravati

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has on Saturday laid the foundation stone for the country's first quantum technology valley at Uddandarayunipalem village in Thullur mandal, Amaravati capital region in the presence of Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Science & Technology. Speaking on the occasion, Naidu said: "When the world needs quantum solutions, they will look to Amaravati. From here, we will make Quantum for the World.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh-cm-naidu-lays-foundation-stone-for-quantum-valley-in-amaravati/article70604403.ece

Maharashtra will unveil seven new industrial policies to boost growth: Fadnavis

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday said the State government will announce seven new industrial policies for sectors, including textiles, pharma and footwear, in the coming months to boost growth. He was speaking after the inauguration of the International Business Conclave at the Advantage Vidarbha 2026 in Nagpur, organised by the Association for Industrial Development (AID).
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/maharashtra-will-unveil-seven-new-industrial-policies-to-boost-growth-fadnavis/article70606527.ece

Over 600 tribal homes in Prakasam get solar power under Andhra govt initiative

Andhra Pradesh Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar launched an off-grid solar project to provide power to over 600 tribal households deep in the Nallamalla Forest, Prakasam district, at ₹3 crore. After learning that 611 tribal households in the Palutla region had been without electricity for decades, Kumar apprised Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, who approved the off-grid solar initiative.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/over-600-tribal-homes-in-prakasam-get-solar-power-under-andhra-govt-initiative/article70606517.ece

Healthcare

India expected to see surge in Parkinson's disease, becoming 2nd-highest in 5 yrs: Experts at 6th International Annual Symposium-2026 in Kerala

India faces a surge in Parkinson's disease cases, potentially becoming second globally. Young-onset Parkinson's is a growing concern in Southeast Asia. Experts at a Kerala symposium highlighted the need for region-specific research and affordable treatments. Local manufacturing and international collaboration are key to expanding access to care for millions of patients.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/healthcare/india-expected-to-see-surge-in-parkinsons-disease-becoming-2nd-highest-in-5-yrs-experts-at-6th-international-annual-symposium-2026-in-kerala/articleshow/128076658.cms

External

India, Canada to forge shared work plan to bolster security cooperation

India and Canada have agreed to formulate a "shared work plan" to guide cooperation on national security and law enforcement issues with a larger plan to have practical collaboration to address mutual concerns such as transnational criminal networks. The decision was taken at a meeting between National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and his Canadian counterpart Nathalie Drouin in Ottawa on Saturday.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/india-canada-to-forge-shared-work-plan-to-bolster-security-cooperation/article70608526.ece

India seeking higher product coverage in Asean-India FTA

India's aim is to liberalise trade in 80% of the tariff lines and product-specific Rules of Origin in the review of Asean India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) which it hopes will conclude in the next few months, a senior official said Sunday. "Our broad objective is to overall achieve liberalisation of trade in 80% tariff lines. At every country level minimum 70% tariff line liberalisation should be achieved. The discussions are on," Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs P Kumaran said.

https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy/india-seeking-higher-product-coverage-in-asean-india-fta/4135600/

India, Egypt officials discuss 'entire gamut of bilateral strategic partnership' at Cairo

India and Egypt held their 14th Foreign Office consultation in Cairo. Both nations reviewed their strategic partnership and explored avenues for future cooperation. Discussions also covered regional and international issues. This follows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Egypt in 2023, where trade targets were set. Cooperation in renewable energy is also growing.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-egypt-officials-discuss-entire-gamut-of-bilateral-strategic-partnership-at-cairo/articleshow/128095482.cms

India-US deal: Cost, crude quality may delay gains from US energy upside

India and the United States (US) have reached an interim trade agreement, but experts caution that it is too early to expect any immediate or significant upside on the energy front. They cite a host of challenges, such as high freight costs, pricier crude and technical limitations posed by refinery configurations, and geopolitical complexities of shifting from Russian Urals to US oil grades that could limit India's ability to quickly boost energy imports from the US.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/trade-thaw-apart-road-ahead-for-india-s-energy-imports-from-us-not-easy-126020800395_1.html

Malaysia seeks revision of air traffic rights to increase India flights

Malaysia has sought enhancement of air traffic rights that will enable its carriers to increase flights to India. The request was put forth in the delegation level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Malaysian counterpart Anwar Ibrahim on Sunday. India's civil aviation ministry is examining Malaysia's proposal for more destinations.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/malaysia-seeks-revision-of-air-traffic-rights-to-increase-india-flights/article70607678.ece