

February 13, 2026 – Friday

Key Developments

Lok Sabha clears Industrial Relations Code (Amendment) Bill, 2026

The Lok Sabha on Thursday cleared the Industrial Relations Code (Amendment) Bill, 2026, during the Budget session of Parliment. The bill is expected to prevent any future confusion about the repeal of older labour laws. Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya introduced the Bill on Wednesday through a supplementary agenda soon after Question Hour. He described it as a step to ensure there is no misunderstanding about how earlier laws were repealed when the Industrial Relations Code, 2020 came into force. https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/lok-sabha-clears-industrial-relations-code-amendment-bill-2026/articleshow/128255033.cms

Economy

India's January retail inflation comes at 2.75%; govt revises base year

India’s retail inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), for January 2026 stood at 2.75 per cent, according to the data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Thursday. The year-on-year inflation rate based on the All India Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) for January came at 2.13 per cent as compared to the same period last year. In rural areas, food prices rose by 1.96 per cent, while in urban areas, they increased by 2.44 per cent. The year-on-year housing inflation rate for January stood at 2.05 per cent. According to the data, housing prices rose 2.39 per cent in rural areas and 1.92 per cent in urban areas. The CPI inflation data for January 2026 shifted the base year to 2024. This update adjusts the index to reflect how spending patterns have changed over the past twelve years. Under the new structure, services will have a higher weight, while the share assigned to food will be reduced. New additions include rural housing, online media service providers or streaming services, value-added dairy products, barley and its products, pen-drive and external hard disk, attendant, babysitter and exercise equipment. Some of the items removed from the data include VCR, DVD players, radio, tape recorder, second-hand clothing, and coir or rope.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/retail-cpi-inflation-january-2026-consumer-prices-126021200952_1.html

Govt must implement New Public Sector Enterprise Policy: Parl panel

A parliamentary panel on Thursday emphasised the need for the implementation of new Public Sector Enterprise (PSE) Policy without delay for achieving the intended objectives of fiscal prudence. The New PSE Policy for Atmanirbhar Bharat envisages that loss-making public sector undertakings (PSUs) in non-strategic sectors should be considered for privatisation or closure. "This policy aims to promote fiscal prudence and efficient resource allocation. However, not much headway has been made in this regard as the proposal for disinvestment of any non-strategic CPSE has not been approved since the guidelines were issued in December 2021," Standing Committee on Finance said in its report.

https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/govt-needs-to-implement-new-public-sector-enterprise-policy-without-delay-par-panel-126021201591_1.html

CBIC to roll out Eligible Manufacturer-Importer Scheme by March 1: Chairman

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) is set to introduce the proposed Eligible Manufacturer-Importer scheme by March 1, with a draft framework to be released in five to six days for stakeholder consultation, a top official said on Thursday. Addressing a media interaction in Mumbai, CBIC Chairman Vivek Chaturvedi said the scheme will initially be introduced for two years, offering eligible manufacturer-importers a "preview" of the benefits under the new framework. Manufacturers, who are not currently Authorized Economic Operators (AEOs), will receive benefits under this scheme for a period of two years, during which they must comply with the prescribed norms to obtain AEO certification, officials clarified.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/cbic-to-roll-out-eligible-manufacturer-importer-scheme-by-march-1-chairman-126021201759_1.html

Finance

RBI digital payments index rises to 516.76 in Sept 2025 on wider adoption

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) Digital Payments Index (DPI) rose to 516.76 as of September 2025, up from 465.33 in September 2024, reflecting the rapid adoption of digital payments in the country. In March 2025, the RBI-DPI score stood at 493.22. The increase in the RBI-DPI was driven by significant growth in parameters such as payment performance and payment enablers across the country over the period, the banking regulator said.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/rbi-digital-payments-index-rises-to-516-76-in-sept-2025-on-wider-adoption-126021201217_1.html

Financial Inclusion 2.0 in works; FinMin plans push to bring informal borrowers into formal credit system

The finance ministry on Wednesday held deliberations to prepare a road map for Financial Inclusion 2.0. In a statement, the finance ministry noted that financial services secretary M Nagaraju held a meeting with stakeholders, including all financial sector regulators, on the preparation of a plan document for furtherance of financial inclusion. Detailed deliberations were held on all aspects, with active participation from all stakeholders present in the meeting, the finance ministry said in a statement on Wednesday.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/finmin-to-work-out-strategies-to-bring-individuals-outside-formal-credit-system-into-mainstream/articleshow/128218349.cms

Sebi working to cut compliance burden, says chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey

The Securities and Exchange Board of India is working to lower regulatory costs and compliance burdens. This move aims to boost the competitiveness of India's securities market. Sebi is also addressing a recent technical glitch at NSDL. A framework for assessing regulatory impact is being established. These steps are intended to improve access to finance and market efficiency.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/sebi-working-to-cut-compliance-burden-says-chairman-tuhin-kanta-pandey/articleshow/128272262.cms

The RBI is set to tighten the rules on how banks recover loans from borrowers and use recovery agents: To bring tough framework from July 1, 2026

The Reserve Bank of India is introducing stricter loan recovery rules for banks, focusing on borrower protection and transparency. These new directions, set to take effect from July 1, 2026, aim to prevent harassment and ensure fair treatment during the recovery process. Banks must implement mandatory recovery policies and adhere to a code of conduct for recovery agents.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/wealth/borrow/explicit-ban-on-harassment-rbi-outlines-tough-loan-recovery-norms-in-draft-focusing-on-customer-protection/articleshow/128260176.cms

Industry

Centre unveils second tranche of critical mineral EL block auctions

The government on Wednesday launched the second tranche of auctions for Exploration Licence (EL) blocks, offering 11 blocks of critical and deep-seated minerals across eight states. Union Minister for Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy launched the tranche in New Delhi and said the government is pushing to scale up domestic mineral exploration to reduce import dependence and unlock untapped resources. The 11 blocks on offer in Tranche-II comprise critical and deep-seated minerals. The government has been seeking to expand domestic exploration amid growing demand for minerals essential for clean energy technologies, electronics and advanced manufacturing.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/https-www-business-standard-com-economy-news-centre-launches-second-tranche-of-critical-mineral-exploration-auctions-126021200889-126021201758_1.html

AI Impact Summit: Indigenous SLM, LLMs to take AI summit centre stage

With less than a week to go for the five-day AI Impact Summit, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is gearing up to showcase the latest developments in the field of indigenous development of large and small language models (SLM), tools and services built by various startups, government organisations, and states using AI, a senior government official has said. According to sources, the government is likely to formally launch India's first indigenously developed large language model (LLM) by Sarvarm during the summit, along with other LLMs and SLMs from other companies and startups. The IT ministry has also asked all participating companies to conduct extensive dry runs of their products and AI-enabled services, another official said.
https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/ai-impact-summit-to-showcase-indigenous-development-of-slm-and-llms-126021201348_1.html

Agriculture

India's agri export to US set to jump as 75% of export items now enjoy zero tariff: SBI Report

India's export to the United States on agricultural commodities is set to witness a significant jump as 75 per cent of such exports will now be at zero tariff, according to a report by SBI. The report said that India has a trade surplus of USD 1.3 billion in agricultural trade with the US. It noted that India's export of USD 1.36 billion worth of agricultural commodities will receive zero additional US duty access, which will significantly help Indian farmers and exporters scale up shipments.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/indias-agri-export-to-us-on-set-to-jump-as-75-of-export-items-now-enjoy-zero-tariff-in-us-sbi-report/articleshow/128239283.cms

RBI for inclusion of farm-linked technology innovations as loans

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed to include expenses related to technology innovations like soil testing, real-time weather forecasts, and organic/good agricultural practices certification, to be eligible for farm loans. These will be covered within the 20 per cent additional component currently allowed towards repairs and maintenance of farm assets. It has been proposed that banks should waive collateral security and margin requirements for agricultural loans, including loans for allied activities up to Rs 2 lakh per borrower. The regulator, on Thursday, released revised draft norms on Kisan Credit Card scheme with an aim to expand coverage, streamline operational aspects and address emerging requirements in the agriculture sector. In a move to bring uniformity in loan sanction and repayment schedules, crop seasons have been standardised in terms of months—short-duration crops (12 months) and long-duration crops (18 months). "To ensure proper dovetailing of loan tenure with crop seasons, especially for the longer duration crops, the tenure of KCC has been extended to 6 years," the draft norms said.
Marginal farmers, with landholding up to one hectare, will get a flexible limit of ₹10,000 to ₹50,000 from banks based on their land holding and crops grown/being grown for their working capital and investment-related credit needs.
https://www.business-standard.[]com/industry/agriculture/news-rbi-proposes-farm-loans-for-tech-innovation-under-kcc-revamp-126021201583_1.html

Infrastructure

Land costs squeeze housing dreams, bold reforms can unlock supply: NITI Aayog's Rajiv Gauba

Land scarcity and soaring land prices are emerging as the biggest roadblocks to scaling up housing in India, with NITI Aayog member Rajiv Gauba calling for sweeping structural reforms to bring costs down and supply up. Addressing

an international conference organised by the National Housing Bank, Gauba underscored that land alone accounts for 50–70% of total project costs—a far higher share than in comparable infrastructure sectors—making housing projects financially challenging, especially in the affordable segment.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/land-costs-squeeze-housing-dreams-bold-reforms-can-unlock-supply-niti-aayogs-rajiv-gauba/articleshow/128253051.cms

Govt cuts toll on partially-open National Expressways from Feb 15

The government has amended the national highways fee rules to lower toll fees for the users of partially operational National Expressways. The amended rules will come into effect from February 15, the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways said in a statement on Thursday. The government has notified an amendment to the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008, it said. Under this, when a National Expressway is not opened end-to-end, the toll fee will be charged for the completed length at a lower rate as applicable for the National Highway, the Ministry said.
https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/govt-cuts-toll-rates-on-partially-open-national-expressways-new-rule-effective-feb-15-126021201605_1.html

Airports Authority of India allocates Rs 3,490 crore for modernisation of air navigation infrastructure

State-owned Airports Authority of India (AAI) has earmarked Rs 3,490 crore for upgradation of air navigation infrastructure, including Rs 1,532 crore for automation of air traffic management systems at airports. AAI is the only Air Navigation Service Provider (ANSP) in the country. On Thursday, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol told the Lok Sabha that AAI continuously undertakes modernisation of air navigation infrastructure and upgradation of Air Traffic Management (ATM) systems to cater to the growing air traffic demand.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines-/-aviation/airports-authority-of-india-allocates-rs-3490-crores-for-modernisation-of-air-navigation-infrastructure/articleshow/128255016.cms

CPSEs, Railways, NHAI, DMRC maintain capex momentum, spending nears ₹6.7 Lakh crore

Capital expenditure by large central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) and four key government entities almost held steady this fiscal year, supplementing the broader public capex to drive economic growth, a senior finance ministry official said. Spending by the CPSEs and four large government agencies-Railway Board, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, and Damodar Valley Corporation-touched ₹6.67 lakh crore till January this fiscal, compared to ₹6.79 lakh crore in the same period last fiscal.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/cpses-railways-nhai-dmrc-maintain-capex-momentum-spending-nears-6-7-lakh-crore/articleshow/128271703.cms

Power sector's legacy dues fall to Rs 4,109 crore in February

Capital Legacy dues in the power sector have been brought down from Rs 1.40 lakh crore in June 2022 to just Rs 4,109 crore in February, supported by the government's initiatives, Parliament was informed on Thursday. The government notified the Electricity (Late Payment Surcharge and Related Matters) Rules, 2022 (LPS Rules, 2022) on June 3, 2022. Under these rules, all the dues, including late payment surcharges, up to June 3 2022, were considered as arrears, which were to be rescheduled, and the distribution licensee shall pay such dues in equated monthly instalments (EMIs), starting from August 2022. A total of 13 states reported arrears amounting to Rs 1,39,947 crore as of June 3, 2022, and rescheduled them into EMIs, the Minister of State for Power informed the Lower House. As a result of these measures, 43 EMIs have been paid by the distribution utilities concerned, including pre-payment of legacy dues by some utilities, and the outstanding legacy dues have reduced to Rs 4,109 crore as of February 10, 2026, he said. Total overdues (current + legacy) stood at Rs 25,287 crore, the minister said.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/power-sectors-legacy-dues-fall-to-rs-4109-crore-in-february/articleshow/128269282.cms

Energy

Silver’s sizzling surge suggests a brighter future for solar

Hitting net zero will require 630 gigawatts of panels to be installed every year between 2030 and 2050, the International Energy Agency estimates. But we already blew past that target with 654 GW built last year, according to BloombergNEF. Even after a slump from a record $121.65 a troy ounce in late January, silver prices are up 154% from a year earlier. Trading at $81.60 Wednesday, the metal has notched more than double gold's gain. Silver's conductivity makes it essential to photovoltaic modules, where thin printed contacts boost electrical output. About 196 million ounces was used by solar manufacturers last year. That's equivalent to every gram used in jewellery, and represents about 17% of the global market.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/silvers-sizzling-surge-suggests-a-brighter-future-for-solar/articleshow/128236657.cms

Telecom

After 5 robust quarters, telcos' revenue growth slows to single digits in Q3

Revenue growth in India's telecom industry slowed to a single digit after five quarters of double-digit expansion despite strong subscriber additions and increasing data usage in the October-December period, as benefits of tariff hikes which happened in July 2024 have now been fully baked in.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-news/after-5-robust-quarters-telcos-revenue-growth-slows-to-single-digits-in-q3/articleshow/128271812.cms

States

TN growth outpaces national average: CM Stalin outlines $1 trillion roadmap

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Thursday asserted that the state's economic growth has significantly outpaced the national average with a growth rate of 11.19 per cent. "Today, Tamil Nadu's economic growth is higher than the national average, at 11.19 per cent. To be more specific, while India's manufacturing sector growth last year was 4.5 per cent, Tamil Nadu's growth was three times higher at 14.7 per cent," the Chief Minister said.
https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/tn-growth-outpaces-national-average-cm-stalin-outlines-1-trillion-roadmap-126021200632_1.html

Tamil Nadu converts 73.5% of MoUs signed since 2021; 35% projects operational

Tamil Nadu achieved a conversion rate of 73.53 per cent of the Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) signed since 2021. In the last five years, a total of 1,179 MoUs were signed, with a total investment of ₹12.37 lakh crore, creating 36.52 lakh jobs. Of this, 867 projects are in advanced stages — 73.53 per cent conversion — and 35.11 per cent in operation.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/tamil-nadu-converts-735-of-mous-signed-since-2021-35-projects-operational/article70622883.ece?cx_testId=22&cx_testVariant=cx_1&cx_artPos=1&cx_experienceId=EX8OXMB4HBZD&cx_experienceActionId=showRecommendationsV8PMDQZX4WJ519#cxrecs_s

Rajasthan govt actively pushes natural farming; 250K farmers on board

As may as 250,000 farmers are practicing natural farming in Rajasthan as the state carries out plans to increase yields sustainably, said a senior agriculture department official. The state government's goal is to nudge farmers towards chemical-free practices that also increases incomes. "To promote natural farming, the state government has announced a comprehensive and visionary action. Under this 250,000 farmers are being connected to natural." He said.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/agriculture/rajasthan-govt-actively-pushes-natural-farming-250k-farmers-on-board-126021201118_1.html

Healthcare

India's medical devices industry to reach USD 50.1 billion by 2030: Report

India's medical devices industry is projected to reach USD 50.1 billion by 2030, registering a CAGR of 26.9 per cent from the current valuation of USD 15.2 billion in 2025, said a report by Rubix Data Sciences on Wednesday. Currently, India ranks the fourth-largest medical devices market in Asia and among the top 20 globally. According to the report,

growth is being propelled by government initiatives such as National Medical Devices Policy (NMDP), Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme, Scheme for Promotion of Medical Devices Parks, and MedTech Mitra. https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/healthcare/indias-medical-devices-industry-to-reach-usd-50-1-billion-by-2030-report/articleshow/128199885.cms

External

Commerce ministry likely to roll out 8 components of export promotion mission next week

In November last year, two schemes were approved by the Union Cabinet with a combined outlay of over ₹45,000 crore -- Export Promotion Mission (₹25,060 crore) and the Credit Guarantee Scheme (₹20,000 crore). The commerce ministry is likely to roll out eight components of the ₹25,060-crore Export Promotion Mission, including e-commerce, factoring services and warehousing.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/commerce-ministry-likely-to-roll-out-8-components-of-export-promotion-mission-next-week/article70622834.ece

Free trade agreement lifts hopes of India-EU organic food players

Organic food traders from India and the European Union are bullish on the recently announced free trade agreement, saying it will expand market access on both sides and create significant opportunities for the sector. About 2,200 players from the sustainable food sector, including over 100 from India, are exhibiting their products at the four-day BIOFACH 2026, which is the world's leading trade fair for organic food, at the Exhibition Centre Nuremberg.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/food/free-trade-agreement-lifts-hopes-of-india-eu-organic-food-players/articleshow/128240531.cms

India likely to receive Bangladesh-style zero-duty benefits on US cotton: Commerce Ministry

India will receive yarn and cotton-related trade benefits similar to those extended to Bangladesh, the Commerce Ministry said, signaling a potential boost for the country's textile and apparel exporters. According to the ministry, Indian textile and apparel exporters are expected to get zero-tariff benefits on garments made using US-origin cotton once the deal is signed. The move is seen as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen bilateral trade ties between India and the United States while ensuring competitive parity with regional players.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-textiles-to-receive-bangladesh-style-zero-duty-benefits-on-us-cotton-commerce-ministry-piyush-goyal/articleshow/128243352.cmsx