

9February 16, 2026 – Monday

Economy

India's forex reserves slide $6.7 billion from all-time high to $717.1 billion

India's foreign exchange reserves dipped $6.711 billion in the week that ended February 6 to $717.064 billion, after having reached a new all-time high in the prior week, according to the Reserve Bank of India's latest data.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/forex/indias-forex-reserves-slide-67-billion-from-all-time-high-to-7171-billion/article70634531.ece

'Japanese FDI in India crosses Rs 2.7 lakh crore, 1,400 firms present'

Japanese foreign direct investment in India has crossed ₹2.7 lakh crore, with around 1,400 Japanese companies operating in the country, said Akiko Okumura, executive vice president of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO). Japan is a key partner for India in investment, infrastructure, and human resource development. "Japan has helped train approximately 24,000 young Indians over the past seven years through Japanese-style manufacturing programs," Okumura said at the summit, adding her country has supported India's metro systems, high-speed rail, and dedicated freight corridors through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/japanese-fdi-in-india-crosses-rs-2-7-lakh-crore-1400-firms-present/articleshow/128358048.cms

New labour codes unlikely to hit salary hikes, but IT sector may see softer increments

Majorityuyh'hi of companies are unlikely to temper salary hikes because of higher wage bills from the implementation of new labour codes, but increments may get impacted in some select sectors like information technology, said HR heads and compensation experts. Costs of benefits such as gratuity, overtime, bonus and leave encashment have increased after the new labour codes took effect in November 2025, as these will be calculated using the new wage definition. Many companies, especially from the IT sector that have large workforce, posted significantly lower profits in the past quarter due to one-time provisions and costs related to the code implementation. Wage growth is driven more by labour demand, skills and productivity than compliance expenses, said the people ET spoke with. In a competitive market, lowering pay risks higher attrition, which can be more expensive.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/new-labour-codes-unlikely-to-hit-salary-hikes-but-it-sector-may-see-softer-increments/articleshow/128272973.cms

Finance

RBI curbs loans extended to brokers in blow to trading volumes

The RBI tightened rules for loans taken by firms that undertake proprietary trading in shares and commodities and offer leverage to clients, the latest measure aimed at reducing speculative market activity in the South Asian nation.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/rbi-curbs-loans-extended-to-brokers-in-blow-to-trading-volumes/article70634517.ece

Bank credit growth accelerates to 14.6% in January 31 fortnight: RBI data

After a relatively subdued first fortnight of calendar year 2026, credit growth accelerated sharply in the fortnight ended January 31, expanding 14.6 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y). Deposit growth also remained strong, rising 12.5 per cent Y-o-Y during the same period. Bank credit in the economy stood at ₹204.75 trillion, while deposits stood at ₹248.81 trillion.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/banking/credit-growth-tops-14-6-per-cent-in-jan-31-fortnight-126021301577_1.html

RBI eases acquisition-finance rules, allows higher limits and top-up stake purchases

The Reserve Bank of India has updated rules for acquisition financing. Banks can now offer loans for stake increases above 26% to 90%. Stricter financial criteria apply to borrowers. The banking regulator also eased the portfolio limit for such lending, raising the bank level cap on acquisition finance to 20% of eligible capital, compared with a proposed 10% of Tier 1 capital in the draft rules. The limit will apply within the overall capital market exposure (CME) ceiling, it said.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/rbi-eases-acquisitionfinance-rules-allows-higher-limits-and-topup-stake-purchases/articleshow/128312696.cms

The Reserve Bank of India restores default loss guarantees for NBFCs

In a move that could support stronger credit expansion, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has restored the use of default loss guarantees (DLGs) for non-bank lenders, rolling back last year's curbs that had forced them to make higher provisions on loans sourced through fintech partners. Non-banking finance companies (NBFC) can now factor in DLGs when setting aside buffers for potential loan losses, provided the guarantee forms an integral part of the loan arrangement, the RBI said last week. The regulator also said lenders must update their loss estimates each time the guarantee is invoked, as the protection available reduces with every use. For NBFCs, this change reduces provisioning pressure, improves profitability, and frees up balance-sheet capacity for fresh lending. For fintechs, meanwhile, it would encourage greater loan origination. The revised framework takes effect immediately.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/reserve-bank-of-india-restores-default-loss-guarantees-for-nbfcs/articleshow/128394095.cms

RBI's new loan recovery norms: NBFCs may incur extra cost to train agents

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) proposed stricter norms on loan recovery — whether undertaken in-house or through outsourced agents — which are expected to raise compliance costs for non-banking finance companies (NBFCs), given a significant number of these lenders, barring the larger ones, rely on third-party recovery agencies, and aligning such agents with the central bank's proposed framework would entail additional training and monitoring expenses. "The cost may go up for those that are outsourcing recovery activities to a third party. Every outsourcing agent must be trained and certified and adhere to the governance standards of the bank or NBFC. This increases the cost for the lender. If an NBFC does not have its own in-house team, the compliance burden will be higher. However, from a customer's perspective, these guidelines are welcome," said a senior executive at one of the largest NBFCs in the country.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/banking/nbfcs-additional-cost-train-outsourced-recovery-agents-rbi-norms-126021500293_1.html

SEBI working group begins review of position limits on non-agri commodity derivatives

A working group constituted by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on ease of doing business in the non-agricultural commodity derivatives segment held its first meeting last week on Thursday, taking up a review of position limits and the frequency of Product Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings at exchanges.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/sebi-working-group-begins-review-of-position-limits-on-non-agri-commodity-derivatives/article70634926.ece

EPFO 3.0: ATM access, standardised procedures and higher withdrawals

From the portal that EPFO (Employee's' Provident Fund Organisation) subscribers have to use for making claims and transfers, to non-receipt of one-time passwords on mobiles, automatic logging off, non-updation of passbook, the

list is long. The time for change, for the better, of course, may have come. The labour minister was on record in a media interaction in December 2025 stating that a new EPFO 3.0 app would be rolled out early in 2026.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/portfolio/personal-finance/epfo-30-atm-access-standardised-procedures-and-higher-withdrawals/article70628421.ece

Industry

India AI Impact Summit 2026: PM Modi to inaugurate expo on Monday

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the India AI Impact Expo 2026 on February 16 at the Bharat Mandapam in the national capital. The India AI Impact Expo 2026 will be held from February 16 to 20 alongside the India AI Impact Summit and is envisioned as a national showcase of artificial intelligence in action, bringing together policy, innovation, and large-scale implementation under one platform.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/india-ai-impact-summit-2026-pm-modi-to-inaugurate-expo-on-monday/article70634998.ece

Tea industry seeks policy support as rising costs, labour shortage strain margins

India's tea industry is facing mounting financial stress due to rising input costs, stagnant prices, labour shortages and climate-related risks, prompting planters to seek policy support and structural reforms to sustain operations, industry representatives said.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/tea-industry-seeks-policy-support-as-rising-costs-labour-shortage-strain-margins/articleshow/1243op08394627.cms

Agriculture

Govt approves 25 lakh tons of wheat exports

The government on Friday allowed export of 25 lakh tonnes of wheat, along with an additional 5 lakh tonnes of wheat products and sugar each, to stabilise domestic markets and ensure remunerative returns to farmers amid a comfortable stock position. The decision was taken after a comprehensive assessment of the current availability and price scenario, reaffirming the government's commitment to protecting farmers' interests, the Food Ministry said in a statement.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/govt-approves-25-lakh-tons-of-wheat-exports/articleshow/128307121.cms

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India’s tea industry is facing mounting financial stress due to rising input costs, stagnant prices, labour shortages and climate-related risks, prompting planters to seek policy support and structural reforms to sustain operations.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/tea-industry-seeks-policy-support-as-rising-costs-labour-shortage-strain-margins/article70635388.ece

Infrastructure

Cabinet approves ₹1 trn Urban Challenge Fund to drive urban transformation

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Thursday approved the launch of the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) with a total Central Assistance (CA) of Rs 1 trillion to drive market-led urban transformation. CA will cover 25 per cent of the project cost, subject to raising a minimum of 50 per cent of the project cost from the market. This will lead to a total investment of Rs 4 trillion in the urban sector in the next five years, marking a shift in India’s urban development approach from grant-based financing to market-linked, reform-driven and outcome-oriented infrastructure creation.
https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/cabinet-approves-rs-1-trillion-urban-challenge-fund-126021401411_1.html

Govt plans to revive private investment in highways with ₹1 trn project

The government is preparing new rules that promise revenue protection for developers and invite global funds to bid for projects to accelerate expressway expansion, according to people familiar with the matter. The framework is expected to be finalised this month and the target is to award projects worth ₹1 trillion ($11 billion) to the private sector by fiscal year 2027, said the people, who asked not to be identified as the discussions are private. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government wants private investment to account for up to 25 per cent of highway development next year, compared with the current low single digits, the people said.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/govt-plans-to-revive-private-investment-in-highways-with-1-trn-project-126021600059_1.html

Energy

India's power generation capacity addition crosses 50 GW during April-January period

India's power generation capacity addition from all energy sources has crossed record the 50 GW-mark during April-January period in the ongoing fiscal year, according to an official statement. This marks the highest-ever capacity addition in a single year, surpassing the previous record of 34,054 MW achieved during 2024-25, the power ministry said in a statement.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/indias-power-generation-capacity-addition-crosses-50-gw-during-april-january-period/articleshow/128385340.cms

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

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.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/power-sectors-legacy-dues-fall-to-rs-4109-crore-in-february/articleshow/128269282.cms

CERC gets go-ahead to frame norms on power market coupling

The Appellate Tribunal for Electricity on Friday allowed the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission to proceed with framing regulations on power market coupling, dismissing a plea by the Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) challenging the commission's July order. The tribunal said IEX's petition was not maintainable at this juncture since the rules on coupling were yet to be framed.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/cerc-gets-go-ahead-to-frame-norms-on-power-market-coupling/articleshow/128318882.cms

Merger involving $61 billion of debt seen aiding India's credit market

A recently announced merger of Indian lenders to the power sector is fueling hope that financing will get a boost for energy and other key drivers of the world's fastest growing major economy. The Indian government announced that it will combine state-owned Power Finance Corp. and unit REC Ltd. Creditsights analysts expect the merger may lead to funding larger ticket size, complex projects in India's power sector that historically faced challenges obtaining financing due to counterparty lending limits. Combining the lenders would raise the ceiling on lending to individual projects. It could also help refinancing larger obligations, they wrote in a note. The two lenders, created to finance power projects across the country, are among the largest rupee bond issuers in the market. They are also among the biggest lenders for the sector. The outstanding loan assets for Power Finance were at ₹5.7 trillion as of Dec. 31, while REC stood at ₹5.8 trillion, according to the firms' earnings presentations.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/merger-involving-61-billion-of-debt-seen-aiding-india-s-credit-market-126021600071_1.html

States

Kochi to host Tradex Kerala 2026 meet from Feb 17

Tradex Kerala 2026, the 2-day international buyer-seller meet, to open avenues for products from the State's MSMEs in global markets will begin here on Tuesday at Hotel Le Meridien. Organised by the State Industries Department, buyers from 20 foreign countries are expected participate in the meet, which will be inaugurated by the State Industries Minister P.Rajeeve.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/kochi-to-host-tradex-kerala-2026-meet-from-feb-17/article70635095.ece

Rajasthan govt approves incentive packages for 10 ultra-mega projects

The Rajasthan government on Saturday approved customised incentive packages for 10 ultra mega projects involving an investment of about Rs 46,000 crore, officials said. The Board of Investment, in a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, approved proposals related to solar module and cell manufacturing, renewable energy, cement, mines and minerals, automobile, chemical, textile and tourism sectors, an official statement said. The projects are expected to generate employment for more than 12,000 people in the state. The chief minister said the government's priority is to promote revenue growth along with job creation and directed officials to regularly monitor the progress of companies availing benefits under the Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS).
https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/rajasthan-govt-approves-incentive-packages-for-10-ultra-mega-projects-126021401395_1.html

Central projects worth ₹55,000 cr cleared for Assam in last 1 yr

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday said that central projects worth around ₹55,000 crore have been sanctioned for the state in the last one year.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/central-projects-worth-55000-cr-cleared-for-assam-in-last-1-yr-cm-himanta/article70635033.ece

External

Multi pronged strategy to mitigate US tariff impact on Indian exports: Govt to Parliament

The detailed agreement between India and the US is undergoing technical and legal processes in both governments and is expected to be signed once these processes are completed, Parliament was informed Friday. The government also said that it "continues to work to mitigate the impact of the US tariff measures on Indian exports through a comprehensive multi- pronged strategy".
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/multi-pronged-strategy-to-mitigate-us-tariff-impact-on-indian-exports-govt-to-parliament/articleshow/128312492.cms

Argentina-India trade boost: Argentine envoy eyes deeper cooperation and economic growth

Argentina and India are destined to deepen their cooperation in an ever-increasing number of areas and poised to increase volume of trade, Argentine Ambassador to India Mariano Caucino said on Saturday. Speaking at the CS India's Borderless Bharat Conclave at the IIMT Group of Colleges Campus in Noida, Caucino stated that "Argentina and India are destined to deepen their cooperation in an ever-increasing number of areas. Our countries maintain a growing economic interaction stemming from the objective complementarity between our economies".
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/argentina-india-trade-boost-argentine-envoy-eyes-deeper-cooperation-and-economic-growth/articleshow/128352810.cms

India-UK free trade pact likely to be implemented in April: Official

The India-UK free trade agreement, signed in July last year, is likely to be implemented in April 2026, according to an official. India and the UK, on July 24, 2025, signed the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) under which 99 per cent of Indian exports will enter the British market at zero duty, while tariffs on British products such as cars and whisky will be reduced in India.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-uk-free-trade-pact-likely-to-be-implemented-in-april-official/articleshow/128382436.cms

India, Brazil set to seal trade, pharma & minerals pacts during prez Lula's visit; Adani & Embraer deal also on cards

Indian and Brazilian officials are finalising the terms of the agreements the two countries will sign during President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's official India visit next week. These pacts are expected to boost India's pharmaceutical exports, trade in essential minerals, and support the civil aviation sector.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-brazil-set-to-seal-trade-pharma-minerals-pacts-during-prez-lulas-visit-adani-group-embraer-also-expected-to-sign-deal/articleshow/128319000.cms

Gem, jewellery exports dip by 5.79 per cent at USD 2,238.54 million in Jan: GJEPC

India's gem and jewellery exports witnessed a 5.79 per cent on-year decline in January to USD 2,238.54 million amid global trade headwinds and tariff-related pressures in key markets, the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) said on Friday. The overall exports stood at USD 2,376.02 million in January 2025, for the same period of the previous year, GJEPC said in a statement.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/gem-jewellery-exports-dip-by-5-79-pc-at-usd-2238-54-million-in-jan-gjepc/articleshow/128304964.cms

India's palm oil imports in January jump 51% m/m, trade body says

India's palm oil imports jumped 51% in January from a month earlier to their highest in four months, as a wider discount to rival soyoil encouraged refiners to step up purchases of the tropical oil while cutting soyoil imports to a 19-month low.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indias-palm-oil-imports-in-january-jump-51-m/m-trade-body-says/articleshow/128292942.cms