

February 24, 2026 – Tuesday

Economy

Govt targets Rs 16.7 lakh crore for asset monetisation under NMP 2.0

NITI Aayog had laid out a roadmap to monetise over 2000 assets across 12 ministries to generate a revenue of Rs 16.7 lakh crore under the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP 2.0). Of this Rs 10.8 lakh crore is expected to be generated in the five years of NMP 2.0 till 2029-30 while the remaining Rs 5.9 lakh crore will flow in the years after 2030, NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam said on Monday.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/govt-targets-rs-16-7-lakh-crore-for-asset-monetisation-under-nmp-2-0/articleshow/128717494.cms

India Inc likely to offer 9.1% average salary hike in 2026: EY report

India Inc is expected to roll out an average salary hike of 9.1 per cent in 2026, as companies move towards sharper, skills-led compensation strategies amid evolving business priorities, according to a report released on Monday.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-inc-likely-to-offer-91-average-salary-hike-in-2026-ey-report/article70669521.ece

Finance

Commercial credit up 15% in a year as rate cuts spur demand

Outstanding credit to the commercial sector crossed Rs 300 lakh crore at end-January, up 14.7% year on year, signalling a pickup in loan demand in response to the 125-basis-point cut in the policy rate by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) over the past year to spur growth. ne basis point is a hundredth of a percentage point. Incremental credit growth in the first 10 months of this fiscal year was Rs 34.5 lakh crore, up 35% over the corresponding period, data published by the RBI in its latest monthly bulletin showed.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/commercial-credit-up-15-in-a-year-as-rate-cuts-spur-demand/articleshow/128727627.cms

Centre announces re-issue of 6.48% G-Sec 2035 for ₹32,000 crore

The Government of India has announced the sale (re-issue) of its Government Security 6.48 per cent GS 2035 through an auction scheduled for Friday, February 27. The date of maturity is set on October 6, 2035 and the Centre has the right to retain additional subscription of ₹2,000 crore.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/centre-announces-re-issue-of-648-g-sec-2035-for-32000-crore/article70667636.ece

RBI holds 621st central board meeting in presence of FM Sitharaman

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) held its 621st meeting of Central Board of Directors today at New Delhi, under the Chairmanship of Sanjay Malhotra, Governor. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also attended the meeting.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/rbi-holds-621st-central-board-meeting-in-presence-of-fm-sitharaman/article70666513.ece

Airtel to invest Rs 20,000 crore in NBFC arm to scale digital lending

Indian telco Bharti Airtel on Monday announced plans to invest Rs 20,000 crore in its non-banking financial company, Airtel Money Limited, over the next few years to build a high-scale digital lending platform and expand access to formal credit across India. The telecom major said it will hold a 70% stake in the NBFC, while the promoter group through Bharti Enterprises Limited will bring in the remaining 30%.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/airtel-to-invest-rs-20000-crore-in-nbfc-arm-to-scale-digital-lending/articleshow/128711107.cms

Mis-selling an offence under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, banks should concentrate on core business: FM Nirmala Sitharaman

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday came down heavily on banks resorting to mis-selling of financial products, including insurance, saying it is an offence under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). "Banks should concentrate on their core business... My pet peeve has always been .... you're spending more time on selling insurance when it is not required, and conveniently, it fell between two stools (of RBI and IRDAI)," Sitharaman told reporters after her customary post-Budget address to the Central Board of the RBI.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/mis-selling-an-offence-under-bharatiya-nyaya-sanhita-banks-should-concentrate-on-core-business-fm-nirmala-sitharaman/articleshow/128707817.cms

SEBI to examine brokers' plea on RBI norms

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) will examine representations made by stockbrokers on the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) revised bank funding and collateral norms, SEBI chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said on Monday.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/sebi-to-examine-brokers-plea-on-rbi-norms/article70667549.ece

EPFO plans single pool for ETF investments

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) plans to consolidate funds of all its five schemes into a single account to invest in exchange traded funds (ETFs) and move to annual investment from the current monthly investment cycle, a move aimed at significantly simplifying regulatory and operational procedures related to ETF investments by the retirement fund body. Further, it is expected to participate in the fourth round of buyback offered by the Delhi-Meerut Expressway Development (DMEDL) to offload the latter's non-convertible debentures (NCDs) at the offer price of ₹ 1,03,468 per bond with a face value of ₹1,00,000.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/epfo-plans-single-pool-for-etf-investments/articleshow/128726990.cms

After IDFC First Bank fraud disclosure, government deposits may tilt toward PSU banks

Private sector banks, already contending with slower deposit mobilisation, could face renewed pressure if a portion of government balances shifts out of their books, analysts said. The concern follows the disclosure by IDFC First Bank of a Rs 590 crore fraud in Haryana government accounts maintained at its Chandigarh branch. Analysts said any migration of low-cost CASA deposits from private lenders is likely to benefit large public sector banks, particularly State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank which have a strong presence in government banking.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/after-idfc-fraud-disclosure-government-deposits-may-tilt-toward-psu-banks/articleshow/128714871.cms

Labour ministry to return unclaimed deposits back to EPFO subscribers

The ministry of labour and employment will return the unclaimed deposits in inoperative accounts of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation to its subscribers, an exercise aimed at benefiting over 3.1 million subscribers with 0.7 million subscribers benefiting in the first and pilot phase to be rolled out soon, labour minister Mansukh Mandaviya said. A decision to this effect was taken at the weekly review meeting of the ministry, taken by minister Mandaviya, on Monday.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/labour-ministry-to-return-unclaimed-deposits-back-to-epfo-subscribers/articleshow/128712165.cms

Agriculture

Basmati exporters seek separate Board for focussed attention on the sector

As India negotiates a litany of trade deals, the ₹60,000-crore basmati rice segment is strongly pitching for a separate 'Basmati Rice Board' on the lines of the Tea and Coffee Boards to be carved out of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (Apeda). According to basmati exporters, this Board could ensure focused attention on the entire value chain — from seed production to final exports. India is one of the world's largest exporters of basmati rice, accounting for almost 6 million tonnes in a financial year, valued around ₹60,000 crore.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/agriculture/basmati-exporters-seek-separate-board-for-focussed-attention-on-the-sector-126022301113_1.html

Infrastructure

Government rolls out mobile labs to monitor National Highway quality

The government has come out with an initiative to diagnose the road quality of ongoing National Highway projects, an official statement said on Monday. Pilot projects have already been implemented across four states -- Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka and Odisha, the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways (MoRTH) said in the statement.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/government-rolls-out-mobile-labs-to-monitor-national-highway-quality/article70669520.ece

Energy

BPCL gets Rs. 1,816.65 cr excise demand order

India's state-owned oil major Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has received a Rs. 1,816.65 crore excise demand order from the Commissioner of Central Tax and Central Excise, Kochi, the company said on Monday. This includes excise duty demand of Rs 476.94 crore in addition to the applicable interest worth Rs 1,339.70 crore and a penalty of Rs 95,000.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/bharat-petroleum-corporation-ltd-bpcl-gets-rs-1816-65-cr-excise-duty-demand-notice/articleshow/128711484.cms

PM Surya Ghar scheme crosses 30 lakh rooftop solar installations

Installation of rooftop solar power systems has crossed 30 lakh households since February 2024 under the central government's PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, Union minister Pralhad Joshi said on Monday.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/pm-surya-ghar-scheme-crosses-30-lakh-rooftop-solar-installations/article70669519.ece

Telecom

Telcos dial up home broadband battle: Vi and Starlink join Jio, Airtel push

India's home broadband market is entering what sector watchers describe as a "land grab" phase, as competition between Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel intensifies each quarter, while Vodafone Idea (Vi) prepares to enter a space with an addressable market of more than 100 million homes. Market leader Jio has strengthened its position as the country's largest home broadband provider with a hybrid strategy spanning fixed wireless access (FWA), unlicensed broadband radio (UBR), and fibre. The Reliance Industries telecommunications (telecom) arm added 2.5 million home broadband subscribers in the quarter ended in December, taking its total base to 25 million.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/telcos-dial-up-home-broadband-battle-vi-and-starlink-join-jio-airtel-push-126022200669_1.html

States

Assam gets ₹1,800 cr infra boost; Himanta & Shivraj Singh Chouhan launch agri scheme

Assam received a major infrastructure boost in Guwahati as 728 roads worth over ₹1,800 crore and 62 bridges were sanctioned. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said bridge projects over the Brahmaputra are already reducing travel time and transforming connectivity. Alongside infrastructure expansion, farmer-centric measures were announced, including a new FPO scheme, additional funds for power tillers, Centre's approval under the Price Support Scheme (PSS), and ₹500 per quintal above MSP for farmers.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/assam-gets-1800-cr-infra-boost-himanta-shivraj-singh-chouhan-launch-agri-scheme/videoshow/128715952.cms

Tamil Nadu Cabinet clears incentives for 46 projects, bringing in ₹31,592 crore investment

The Tamil Nadu Cabinet under the chairmanship of Chief Minister MK Stalin on Monday approved incentives for 46 investment projects proposed to be established or expanded across the State, with a committed investment of ₹31,592 crore and employment potential for 61,521 people, according to a government release.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/tamil-nadu-cabinet-clears-incentives-for-46-projects-bringing-in-31592-crore-investment/article70667882.ece

Healthcare

Government urges pharma sector to anchor global supply chains via quality, innovation

Union Minister J P Nadda on Monday asked the domestic pharmaceutical industry to anchor the redesigned global supply chain not only with scale, but with quality, reliability and innovation. Addressing virtually the 11th edition of the Global Pharmaceutical Quality Summit here, the minister for health and family welfare, as well as for chemicals and fertilisers, said that India is embracing emerging technologies responsibly, with artificial intelligence being leveraged for early disease detection, predictive diagnostics and improved outreach.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/pharmaceuticals/government-urges-pharma-sector-to-anchor-global-supply-chains-via-quality-innovation/articleshow/128712642.cms

CDSCO to create 1,500-member scientific cadre to fast-track drug approvals

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), the regulatory body for the Indian pharmaceutical sector, is in the process of creating a 1,500-member scientific cadre to speed up approval timelines for new drugs and meet global standards.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/pharmaceuticals/cdsco-to-create-1500-member-scientific-cadre-to-fast-track-drug-approvals/articleshow/128726876.cms

External

Govt slashes by half export benefit under RoDTEP scheme

In a major blow to Indian exporters, the government has restricted benefits under the popular Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme to 50 per cent of the notified rates and value caps. Trade experts have expressed concern at the reduction in RoDTEP rates, especially as they come at a time when Indian exporters are facing heightened global uncertainty and tariff fluctuations, especially from the US.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/govt-slashes-by-half-export-benefit-under-rodtep-scheme/article70667714.ece

India amends tax treaty with France, drops most favoured nation clause

During the recent visit of the France President to India, the Indian Government and the Government of the French Republic have signed a Protocol amending the India-France Double Taxation Avoidance Convention, signed on 29 September 1992 ('India-France DTAC'). The Amending Protocol was signed by Ravi Agrawal, Chairperson, Central Board of Direct Taxes, Government of India, and Thierry Mathou, Ambassador of France to India, on behalf of their respective Governments.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/india-amends-tax-treaty-with-france-drops-most-favoured-nation-clause/articleshow/128705052.cms

Will fund part of costs of micro, small exporters to obtain intl approvals under EPM: Piyush Goyal

The government will fund a large part of the costs incurred by micro and small exporters to obtain international approvals for complying with regulations such as REACH and CBAM in Europe to help them boost shipments, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday. The support is being extended to these exporters under the Rs 25,060 crore export promotion mission (EPM).
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/will-fund-part-of-costs-of-micro-small-exporters-to-obtain-intl-approvals-under-epm-piyush-goyal/articleshow/128716406.cms

"India, Israel may sign FTA by this year," Israeli envoy to India

Israeli Ambassador Reuven Azar on Monday said that Israel is excited to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi this week, noting that the two nations will move forward decisively during his visit. Further, he said that both India and Israel were moving towards a Free Trade Agreement, and it could get finalised this year. During PM Modi's visit, India and Israel will deepen their defence partnership by updating security agreements, the Israeli diplomat said.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-israel-may-sign-fta-by-this-year-israeli-envoy-to-india/articleshow/128715767.cms

India sees more options on US trade deal after tariff ruling

India is studying the implications for its bilateral trade deal with Washington after the US Supreme Court scrapped President Donald Trump’s decision to impose tariffs, a move that gives New Delhi room to reassess its strategy, people familiar with the matter said. The South Asian nation is not considering backing away from the agreement struck earlier this month, under which it secured lower US tariffs on its exports and signalled intent to buy $500 billion of American goods over five years, they said, asking not to be named because the matter is sensitive.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-sees-more-options-on-us-trade-deal-after-tariff-ruling/articleshow/128709331.cms