

February 26, 2026 – Thursday

Economy

Q3 growth seen above 7%: Festive demand lifts economy, but revisions loom

The Indian economy is expected to have grown 7.4% in the December quarter from the year before, with estimates ranging from 7% to 8.7%, according to an ET poll. Festive season demand, aided by goods and services tax (GST) rationalisation, supported activity. Economists caution that the estimates could be revised as the statistics ministry unveils the new GDP series with FY23 as the base year on February 27.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/q3-growth-seen-above-7-festive-demand-lifts-economy-but-revisions-loom/articleshow/128791985.cms

Finance

MCA to roll out one-time scheme for late corporate filings with minimal penalty

The corporate affairs ministry has proposed a one-time scheme, under which penalties will be drastically cut for companies for late filings of their financial statements and annual returns, enabling them to improve their compliances. The Companies Compliance Facilitation Scheme, 2026, will remain in force between April 15 and July 15. It will allow companies to complete their pending submission of annual returns and financial statements during these three months by paying just 10% of the stipulated penalties, according to a circular issued by the ministry.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/mca-to-roll-out-one-time-scheme-for-late-corporate-filings-with-minimal-penalty/articleshow/128790195.cms

Outward remittances under LRS decline for second straight year in FY26

Outward remittances under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) declined for the second consecutive year in FY26 (April-December), falling 4.1 per cent to $21.37 billion from $22.28 billion a year ago. This follows a sharper 10.1 per cent contraction in FY25, after remittances had peaked at $24.8 billion in FY24.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/data-stories/data-focus/outward-remittances-under-lrs-decline-for-second-straight-year-in-fy25/article70675108.ece

CBIC to launch SWIFT 2.0, revamped Atithi app

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) will on Thursday launch single-window platform SWIFT 2.0, release the Digital Travellers Guide; and the revamped Atithi app. The finance ministry, in a statement, said that Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary will preside over the International Customs Day 2026 along with Arvind Shrivastava, Secretary, Department of Revenue; Vivek Chaturvedi, Chairman, CBIC; and other officials.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/cbic-to-launch-swift-2-0-revamped-atithi-app/articleshow/128789377.cms

Revenue growth of India Inc comes at 12-quarter high in Oct-Dec 2025: RBI

The Reserve Bank on Wednesday said private67 listed non-financial companies' revenue growth came at 10.1 per cent in the third quarter of FY26. For the last 11 quarters, the revenue growth was coming in single-digits, data from 3,188 such companies analysed by the central bank pointed out, attributing the acceleration to the performance of the manufacturing sector.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/revenue-growth-of-india-inc-comes-at-12-quarter-high-in-oct-dec-2025-rbi/articleshow/128788521.cms

Industry

EV exports can scale production, improve cost curves: FICCI-Yes Bank report

A National Export Strategy for electric vehicles is now a strategic necessity for India to scale production and improve cost curves as global EV sales are projected to triple by 2030. According to a FICCI-Yes Bank report titled 'EV Market - India's Export Competitiveness' released at the 3rd FICCI National Conference on Electric Vehicles (EVs), infrastructure augmentation and alignment with international safety and sustainability standards remain key to capturing emerging global value chains.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/ev-exports-can-scale-production-improve-cost-curves-ficci-yes-bank-report/article70676906.ece

Inverted GST drags downstream man-made fibre industry

The inverted GST structure has been pushing up costs in the man-made fibre industry, particularly when the global geopolitical tensions and fast evolving US duty structure have rattled the export market.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/inverted-gst-drags-downstream-man-made-fibre-industry/article70675731.ece

Agriculture

Fertiliser industry may soon see an end to inspector raj

The government is drafting changes to streamline approvals, decriminalise minor breaches and rationalise penalties in the fertiliser industry, officials familiar with the matter said, as it moves to ease rules in one of the most tightly regulated sectors. At a February 9 meeting with industry representatives, the government sought inputs on compliance bottlenecks, legal hurdles and other constraints that they face and on how such issues could be fixed, officials and industry executives said. "Fertiliser is one of the most inspector-infested sectors till date in India," said Rajib Chakraborty, president of the Soluble Fertilizer Industry Association of India. This prohibits innovation, he said.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/fertiliser-industry-may-soon-see-an-end-to-inspector-raj/articleshow/128792446.cms

India cuts sugar production estimate for 2025-26 on weak yields in top states

India's sugar production has been revised down 5.57 per cent to 32.40 million tonne for the 2025-26 marketing year, industry body ISMA said on Wednesday, citing lower yields in top producers Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. The third advance estimate, released after an executive committee meeting, follows a second projection of 34.35 million tonnes. Output last year was 29.62 million tonnes. After diverting 3.1 million tonnes for ethanol, net availability will reach 29.3 million tonnes, up from 26.12 million tonnes in 2024-25. Including 5 million tonne opening stock, the total availability of 34.3 million tonne exceeds domestic consumption of 28.3 million tonne, ISMA said. ISMA forecast exports at 700,000 tonnes and closing stocks at 5.3 million tonnes.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/india-cuts-sugar-production-estimate-for-2025-26-on-weak-yields-in-top-states/articleshow/128785442.cms

Big change on cards to how fertiliser subsidy is transferred? What Agriculture Minister is proposing

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Wednesday pitched for transferring the central government's Rs 1.7 lakh crore annual fertiliser subsidy to farmers' bank accounts through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), saying it would give them the freedom to choose which fertilisers to buy and in what quantities. Addressing the Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) campus here, Chouhan said a bag of urea that actually costs Rs 2,400 reaches farmers at just Rs 265-270 because of the subsidy the central government absorbs.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/big-change-on-cards-to-how-fertiliser-subsidy-is-transferred-what-agriculture-minister-just-said/articleshow/128784890.cms

Infrastructure

Infra projects see cost overrun of Rs 5.52 lakh cr in January

Several infrastructure projects worth above Rs 150 crore each registered a cumulative cost overrun of Rs 5.52 lakh crore, according to a monthly government report for January 2026. The latest 'Flash Report on Central Sector Infrastructure Projects' showed that the revised cost of all 1,702 projects, each valued at Rs 150 crore or higher, monitored by the statistics ministry stood at Rs 39,24,534 crore compared to their original cost of Rs 33,71,816 crore.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/infra-projects-see-cost-overrun-of-rs-5-52-lakh-cr-in-january/articleshow/128787974.cms

Delhi-Katra Expressway construction on track, will be completed by March 2027: NHAI

The Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, the fifth major expressway being developed in the country, is set for completion by March 2027, a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India said on Wednesday. The construction of the National Expressway 5 (NE5), which began in April 2021, had significantly slowed last year due to Operation Sindoor as well as heavy rains and floods across northern states. Once completed, the project is expected to considerably enhance regional connectivity, promote religious tourism and facilitate faster mobility for the armed forces, the official said.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/delhi-katra-expressway-construction-on-track-will-be-completed-by-march-2027-nhai/articleshow/128780633.cms

Unlocking Rs 40 lakh crore: Govt's mega bet on India's infra future

When Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled the second phase of the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP 2.0) on Tuesday, it was a continuation of a policy experiment begun in 2021. But it was also a sharpening of the Centre’s strategy to fund infrastructure without overstretching the public balance sheet. Prepared by NITI Aayog in consultation with infrastructure ministries, NMP 2.0 operationalises the asset monetisation plan for 2025–30 announced in the Union Budget 2025–26.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/unlocking-rs-40-lakh-crore-govts-mega-bet-on-indias-infra-future/articleshow/128775327.cms

South Central Railway launches Rail Parcel App

South Central Railway (SCR) has launched the next generation ‘Rail Parcel Application’, a comprehensive digital e-marketplace providing a seamless door-to-door parcel booking and delivery service for customers opting to transport parcels through trains.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/south-central-railway-launches-rail-parcel-app/article70675903.ece

Energy

Cabinet panel allows increased equity investment limit in Power Grid arms

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Tuesday approved increasing the equity investment limit in subsidiaries of Power Grid Corporation of India to ₹7,500 crore per subsidiary from the current ₹ 5,000 crore, while retaining the existing cap of 15% of the company's net worth, for adding large capacity projects and supporting renewable energy evacuation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on X said, "Today, on the day of Yugabda 5127, Vikram Samvat 2082, Phalguna Shukla Ashtami, the first meeting of the Central Cabinet was held at the newly constructed Seva Tirtha. Several unprecedented decisions were taken for the country during this meeting."
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/cabinet-panel-allows-increased-equity-investment-limit-in-power-grid-arms/articleshow/128760335.cms

Telecom

No extension to OTT SIM binding deadline: Govt cites security concerns, says messaging apps must comply with March 1 date

Communications minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Wednesday ruled out giving any extension for the mandate on SIM binding for over-the-top (OTT) messaging apps, emphasising it's being done on grounds of national security. From March 1 onwards, OTT apps have to mandatorily bind accounts to SIM cards, which means apps such as WhatsApp, Signal, etc will only function when the registered SIM card is physically present and active in the device.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-policy/no-extension-to-ott-sim-binding-deadline-govt-cites-security-concerns-says-messaging-apps-must-comply-with-march-1-date/articleshow/128791443.cms

Entire 11,790 MHz telecom spectrum up for auction valued at ₹2.1 lakh crore: sources

The entire 11,790 MHz of spectrum recommended to be put up for auction would be valued at around Rs 2.1 lakh crore at the reserve price if fully taken up, sources said after telecom regulator TRAI's suggestions on the modalities for bidding of radiowaves.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/entire-11790-mhz-telecom-spectrum-up-for-auction-valued-at-21-lakh-crore-sources/article70676903.ece

External

US' 126% levy eclipses key market for Indian solar gear companies

The US announced a preliminary countervailing duty (CVD) of 125.87% on Indian solar cells and modules that's expected to further limit exports to the key market, although some manufacturers had already begun reducing shipments after an investigation was initiated in August. The US announced a preliminary countervailing duty (CVD) of 125.87% on Indian solar cells and modules that's expected to further limit exports to the key market, although some manufacturers had already begun reducing shipments after an investigation was initiated in August.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/us-126-levy-eclipses-key-market-for-indian-solar-gear-companies/articleshow/128793187.cms

Nepal's soyoil exports to India jump tenfold on duty free access

Nepal's soybean oil exports to India jumped more than tenfold in 2025 to a record high, boosted by duty-free access that helped the Himalayan nation double total exports to its neighbour, industry officials told Reuters. The surge narrowed Nepal's trade deficit with India but pressured edible oil prices in border regions, making it harder for Indian refiners paying import duties to compete with cheaper supplies.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/nepals-soyoil-exports-to-india-jump-tenfold-on-duty-free-access/articleshow/128778276.cms

Indian exporters report rise in US enquiries after court verdict on tariffs

Indian exporters across sectors, including garments, leather, engineering goods and footwear, are witnessing a revival in enquiries from American buyers after the US Supreme Court struck down the reciprocal tariffs. The industry is hopeful of orders being restored to pre-tariff levels, despite the 10-15 per cent temporary import surcharge imposed by the Trump regime on all countries, but is cautious about the possibility of other targeted levies in the future.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/indian-exporters-report-rise-in-us-enquiries-after-court-verdict-on-tariffs/article70676029.ece

Ready-made garment exports up 2.4% to $12 bn in first 9 months of fiscal year, exports to US slip 3%

India’s ready-made garment (RMG) exports grew modestly in the first nine months of the financial year 2025-26, with shipments to Japan, Saudi Arabia, and Italy surging, even as exports to the US — the country’s largest market — slipped, highlighting the pressure on exporters’ margins.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/us-tariff-reset-puts-india-china-on-par-in-apparel-exports/article70674989.ece

India cancels up to 75,000 tonnes of soybean oil imports as global prices rally

India, the world's biggest soybean oil buyer, canceled several more cargoes from South America as a rally in international prices gave traders an opportunity to book profits. About 65,000 to 75,000 tonnes that Indian traders booked for April to July have been scrapped in recent days

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/india-cancels-up-to-75000-tonnes-of-soybean-oil-imports-as-global-prices-rally/article70678105.ece