

February 27, 2026 – Friday

Economy

New GDP series to use 600 item level data; adopts double deflation for sharper growth estimates

The Ministry of Statistics will significantly expand the data used to calculate India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the upcoming series with a base year 2022-23, aiming to improve the accuracy of growth estimates. The revised series, scheduled for release on Friday, will use nearly 600 item level data indicators under what is known as the "double deflation" method, more than three times the current 180 level data used for price adjustment.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/new-gdp-series-to-use-600-price-indicators-adopts-double-deflation-for-sharper-growth-estimates/article70680410.ece

India growth seen at 6.8–7.2% in FY27 as tax reforms lift outlook: EY Economy Watch

India's economy is projected to expand between 6.8% and 7.2% in FY27, supported by stronger medium-term prospects and recent policy measures, according to the latest EY Economy Watch report. The report said India's expanding network of bilateral trade agreements with major economies has improved its growth trajectory, even as structural reforms continue to reshape the fiscal landscape. "In the background of India's extensive bilateral trade agreements with other major economies or economic groups, India's medium-term prospects have brightened up," said D K Srivastava, Chief Policy Advisor at EY India, while outlining the firm's growth estimate.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/india-growth-seen-at-6-87-2-in-fy27-as-tax-reforms-lift-outlook-ey-economy-watch/articleshow/128807409.cms

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

New income tax regime: Monthly TDS returns, HRA tax rule recast on wish list

A shift to monthly Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) returns from the current quarterly practice, and revamping tax rules concerning house rent allowance (HRA) are among 13,600 public responses received on the proposed tax rules and forms ahead of the new income-tax regime coming into force from April 1. A key suggestion is related to aligning HRA provisions with residential area classifications to address metro and non-metro disparities besides introducing a dedicated remark column in forms to let taxpayers furnish additional information.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/new-income-tax-regime-monthly-tds-returns-hra-tax-rule-recast-on-wish-list/articleshow/128823423.cms

NRI deposit inflows fall 16% in FY26 due to weak rupee

NRI deposit inflows declined 16 per cent to $11.20 billion during April-December FY26, reversing a sharp 42.8 per cent surge to $13.33 billion in the corresponding period of FY25. The moderation comes after two years of strong growth. Inflows had risen 72.7 per cent in FY24 and 42.8 per cent in FY25, marking a sharp recovery from the 61.1 per cent contraction recorded in FY22. Over the past decade, flows have remained episodic, swinging between double-digit growth and sharp contractions.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/data-stories/data-focus/nri-deposit-inflows-fall-16-in-fy26-due-to-weak-rupee/article70679509.ece

RBI's additional liquidity support to wind down after March, bankers say

The Indian central bank's additional liquidity support to lenders, which has pushed overnight rates towards the floor of the policy rate corridor in a bid to ease money market stress and improve transmission, is unlikely to extend beyond March, according to bankers. Market participants say the liquidity push reflects an interim calibration, with the central bank aiming to ease short-term rates.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/rbis-additional-liquidity-support-to-wind-down-after-march-bankers-say/articleshow/128804820.cms

SEBI allows equity MF schemes to invest in gold, silver

Capital markets regulator SEBI has allowed equity-oriented mutual fund schemes to invest a residual portion of their funds in gold and silver in addition to REITs and InVITs. In the equity category schemes, mutual funds may invest residual portion in equity, money market instruments and other liquid instruments, gold and silver instruments as permitted by SEBI and in InvITs, subject to the ceilings laid out in MF regulations with respect to the respective asset class.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/sebi-allows-equity-mf-schemes-to-invest-in-gold-silver/article70680244.ece

Banks' G-Sec portfolio grows at a slower clip amid pick up in credit growth

Banks' investment in central government securities (G-Secs) and State Government Securities (SGS) grew at a slower clip of 3 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) as on January 31, 2026 amidst credit growth picking up momentum.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/banks-g-sec-portfolio-grows-at-a-slower-clip-amid-pick-up-in-credit-growth/article70679393.ece

Agriculture

Government panel said to review future of key GM food crop

A panel of Indian ministers is set to examine a key genetically modified food crop with a view to agreeing government policy — a potential step toward opening one of the world's largest agricultural markets to engineered varieties. The officials will discuss field trials of a GM variety of rapeseed, known locally as mustard, according to a person with direct knowledge of the matter. The rollout of the crop has been stalled for years due to a lengthy court process after activists challenged its commercial release.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/government-panel-said-to-review-future-of-key-gm-food-crop/articleshow/128817327.cms

Storage in India's key reservoirs drops below 60% of capacity

Storage in India's 166 major reservoirs dropped below 60 per cent of capacity this week, with the level in at least 28 per cent of dams dipping below 50 per cent. The level has dropped as winter rain from January 1 to February 25 is 58 per cent deficient, with the precipitation in the eastern and north-eastern region 90 per cent deficient, and in the central region 77 per cent.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/storage-in-indias-key-reservoirs-drops-below-60-of-capacity/article70680458.ece

Infrastructure

Indian Railways sanctions key capacity, connectivity projects worth ₹871 cr

Continuing its transformative push to build a future-ready, high-capacity rail network, Indian Railways has sanctioned a series of strategic infrastructure projects across Northern, Southern and Eastern Railway zones. These projects aim to modernise coaching maintenance ecosystems, decongest high-density corridors, eliminate operational bottlenecks and significantly enhance both passenger and freight capacity. Indian Railways has sanctioned the Development of Coach Maintenance Facilities at Shri Ganganagar Station in Rajasthan under Phase I at a cost of ₹174.2644 crore. The project is part of the broader initiative to upgrade and develop maintenance infrastructure for modern rolling stock, including LHB and Vande Bharat trains.

https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/indian-railways-sanctions-key-capacity-connectivity-projects-worth-871-cr-126022700052_1.html

Railways to fund 50% of tech development as new Rail Tech portal launches

The Ministry of Railways has launched a new technology portal called Rail Tech to encourage startups to bring solutions for legacy railway issues regarding safety, maintenance, equipment monitoring and defect identification, among others, railways minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said. The ministry is especially looking to harness artificial intelligence (AI) for these solutions and will fund up to 50 per cent of the technology's development cost after a feasibility identification process. Some of the areas it is looking at include an AI-based elephant intrusion detection system and fire detection system in coaches, a drone-based broken rail detection system, a rail stress monitoring system, a sensor-based load calculation device on parcel vans, solar panels on coaches, an AI-based coach cleaning monitoring system, obstruction detection in foggy environments, and AI-based pension and dispute resolution systems.

https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/railways-rail-tech-portal-govt-to-fund-50pc-tech-development-126022601354_1.html

Energy

City gas expansion loses steam in Apr-Dec as customer additions, infra growth falter

City gas distributors are losing momentum in both customer additions and infrastructure expansion. Industrial customer additions fell 16% year-on-year in April-December 2025, while household additions declined 5%, according to data published by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board. In December alone, city gas companies lost 80 industrial customers against a net addition of 123 a year ago. For April-December, industrial additions stood at 912, down from 1,084 a year earlier. Industrial consumers account for 28% of total gas sales by city gas companies, compared with CNG's 63% and households' 8%.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/city-gas-expansion-loses-steam-in-apr-dec-as-customer-additions-infra-growth-falter/articleshow/128822528.cms

Shell projects India's gas demand rising over 50% in the next decade

Shell India expects gas demand in India to rise 50 per cent or more in the next decade, supporting reliability during renewables scale-up, meeting industrial and domestic residential needs, and serving artificial intelligence (AI)-driven electricity demand growth, the company said in a report launched on Wednesday. India's energy demand rose nearly 40 per cent over the past decade, driven by economic and population growth, the report said. Shell expects demand to continue accelerating, with India's energy consumption projected to surpass that of the US in the 2040s and China in the 2060s.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/shell-india-projects-50pc-rise-gas-demand-next-decade-energy-outlook-126022601357_1.html

India mandates sale of 20% ethanol-blended petrol from April

The government has mandated the sale of petrol with up to 20 per cent ethanol and a minimum Research Octane Number (RON) of 95 across all states and Union Territories from April 1, 2026. The oil ministry in a February 17 notification, said, "the central government hereby directs that oil companies shall sell ethanol-blended motor spirit (petrol) with percentage of ethanol up to 20 per cent as per the Bureau of Indian Standards specifications and having minimum Research Octane Number (RON) of 95, in states and the Union Territories".

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/india-mandates-sale-of-20-ethanol-blended-petrol-from-april/articleshow/128807291.cms

States

UP govt signs ₹200 crore investment MoU with German rail infra firm

The Uttar Pradesh government on Thursday announced an agreement with a German railway infrastructure company for an investment of ₹200 crore to bolster modern infrastructure in the state. According to a statement issued here on Thursday evening, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with RAILONE GmbH during a visit to the company's manufacturing plant in Germany. The move aligns with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision of developing modern infrastructure in the state and enhancing global partnerships.
https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/up-govt-signs-200-crore-investment-mou-with-german-rail-infra-firm-126022700004_1.html

Healthcare

CDSCO eases drug testing approvals, new fast-track system from June 1, 2026

In a move aimed at speeding up approvals for new drugs, the government has changed the way testing permissions are granted, allowing companies to begin laboratory testing immediately after filing applications instead of waiting for detailed scrutiny.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/cdsco-eases-drug-testing-approvals-new-fast-track-system-from-june-1-2026/article70678099.ece

External

India, Israel FTA: Next round of talks in May

India and Israel will hold the next round of negotiations for the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between the two countries in May, the commerce and industry ministry said Thursday, after the “successful conclusion” of the first round here. The first round of talks coincides with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s ongoing state visit to Israel who called for early finalisation of an ambitious FTA to realise the untapped trade potential between the two countries on Wednesday.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-israel-fta-next-round-of-talks-in-may/articleshow/128817512.cms

Carbon tax remains intact in India-EU FTA; technical talks to address concerns: German official

The European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) will not see any exceptions despite the concluded India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA), but both sides have committed to technical discussions to find the best way forward, a senior German environment ministry official said here. Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary in the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, emphasised that the CBAM is not targeted against any specific country but serves as a necessary protective measure once carbon pricing is introduced domestically in the EU.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/carbon-tax-remains-intact-in-india-eu-fta-technical-talks-to-address-concerns-german-official/articleshow/128800116.cms

India holds line on Russian oil with Trump’s tariffs in question

Indian refiners are keeping Russian oil purchases to a minimum after a US Supreme Court ruling at the end of last week threw into question a long-awaited trade deal that would cut tariffs in exchange for halting those imports. Processors have remained on the sidelines and are not booking cargoes as they seek clarity from the Indian government on the future of Russian crude buying, said people familiar with the matter, asking not to be identified due to the sensitivity of the situation. Purchases have already declined over recent months following sustained US pressure on the trade.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/india-holds-line-on-russian-oil-imports-donald-trump-tariffs-in-question/articleshow/128807474.cms

Eligible manufacturer-importers to get duty deferment facility from March

The revenue department will roll out the 30-day duty deferral facility for eligible manufacturer-importers from next month, which will help such importers to better manage their liquidity, a senior official said on Thursday. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Budget for 2026-27 had proposed to provide eligible manufacturer-importers the same duty deferral facility as is available to Authorised Economic Operators (AEOs).
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/eligible-manufacturer-importers-to-get-duty-deferment-facility-from-march/articleshow/128806782.cms

Saudi Arabia bans poultry, egg imports from 40 countries, including India; partial curbs on 16 nations

Saudi Arabia's Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) has imposed a full ban on poultry and table egg imports from 40 countries, including India and introduced partial restrictions on specific regions in 16 others as part of precautionary measures to protect public health and ensure food safety in the domestic market. According to Gulf News, the revised import list marks one of the most extensive updates in recent years. The changes, examined by Okaz newspaper, confirm that imports from 40 countries are now completely prohibited, while additional regional restrictions have been imposed amid ongoing global disease concerns.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/saudi-arabia-bans-poultry-egg-imports-from-40-countries-including-india-partial-curbs-on-16-nations/articleshow/128800815.cms

India's 8th Trade Policy Review at WTO in July

India's 8th Trade Policy Review at the World Trade Organization (WTO) will take place in July 2026, which will involve a comprehensive peer-review of the country's national trade policies, an official statement said on Thursday.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/indias-8th-trade-policy-review-at-wto-in-july/article70679145.ece