

March 27, 2026 – Friday

Economy

Gulf conflict puts FY27 growth at risk

India's economic outlook is under increasing pressure from the West Asia conflict, with economists warning of a 50-60 basis point hit to FY27 growth. Elevated crude prices, supply disruptions and rising commodity costs are weighing on the country's macroeconomic stability, with sectors such as chemicals, steel, cement, textiles, paints, tyres, airlines, processed food, hospitality and fertilisers expected to be among the worst affected.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/gulf-conflict-puts-fy27-growth-at-risk/articleshow/129832873.cms

West Asia conflict to strain India's FY27 fiscal math: ICRA

A surge in global crude oil and natural gas prices amid the West Asia conflict is likely to complicate India's fiscal position in FY2027, potentially increasing subsidy burdens and pressuring revenues, ratings agency ICRA said. Crude prices have more than doubled from pre-crisis levels, raising input and logistics costs and disrupting supplies, including key fertiliser inputs, the agency said.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/west-asia-conflict-to-strain-indias-fy27-fiscal-math-icra/article70789395.ece

India retains inflation target at 4% for next five years

India has kept its retail inflation target for the central bank unchanged at 4% (plus or minus 2 percentage points), opting for continuity and price stability as global shocks from geopolitical tensions threaten to stoke price pressures. The finance ministry Wednesday notified inflation targeting framework for another five years through March 2031.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/inflation-target-held-at-4-for-next-five-years/articleshow/129810690.cms

Finance

Reserve Bank of India to hold interest rates until at least mid-2027: Reuters poll

The Reserve Bank of India will hold its key interest rate unchanged at 5.25% on April 8 and at least until mid-2027, a Reuters poll of economists showed, as benign price pressures give it space to assess the impact from the Middle East conflict. Inflation has stayed below the RBI's medium-term target of 4% for a year and economic growth remains strong but the U.S.-Israel war with Iran has blocked a key transport corridor and threatens price stability for the world's third-largest oil importer.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/reserve-bank-of-india-to-hold-interest-rates-until-at-least-mid-2027-reuters-poll/articleshow/129837187.cms

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman moves Bill to amend IBC, speed up resolution

Finance and corporate affairs minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday moved a bill in the Lok Sabha to amend the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, proposing a creditor-initiated framework with largely out-of-court arrangements to speed up bankruptcy resolution. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025, also proposes frameworks for faster resolution of cross-border and corporate group insolvency cases.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/finance-minister-nirmala-sitharaman-moves-bill-to-amend-ibc-speed-up-resolution/articleshow/129810621.cms

Lok Sabha approves Finance Bill, tax rules eased

The Lok Sabha passed the Finance Bill on Wednesday, approving several key amendments, including enhanced powers for tax authorities, changes in taxation on share buybacks, capping the surcharge on such income to 12%, and an enhanced ₹300 crore turnover limit for startups to be eligible for a tax holiday from the existing ₹100 crore. The bill introduced retrospective changes, allowing the tax department to reopen cases previously struck down on technical grounds. It also empowered tax officials to revalidate past orders set aside by courts.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/lok-sabha-approves-finance-bill-tax-rules-eased/articleshow/129810524.cms

SEBI reviews HDFC Bank disclosures after Chakraborty's exit

SEBI's has begun a review of the HDFC Bank episode, with the focus initially on disclosure hygiene and could widen into a broader governance probe if the resignation of former chairman Atanu Chakraborty points to deeper concerns, sources said.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/sebi-reviews-hdfc-bank-disclosures-after-chakraborty-exit/article70789023.ece

Industry

Sugar prices to stay firm amid tight inventories; ethanol earnings under strain, says ratings agency Ind-Ra

The sugar prices are expected to stay firm due to tight inventories, while the ethanol profitability is also expected to remain strained due to oversupply, said ratings agency Ind-Ra in a report. The sugar prices are expected to stay firm due to tight inventories, while the ethanol profitability is also expected to remain strained due to oversupply, said ratings agency Ind-Ra in a report.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/sugar-prices-to-stay-firm-amid-tight-inventories-ethanol-earnings-under-strain-says-ratings-agency-ind-ra/articleshow/129807504.cms

India's tech spending expected to grow 13.4% in 2026; among highest in APAC: Report

India's tech spending will grow at 13.4 per cent in 2026, down slightly from 13.7 per cent in 2025, according to Forrester's Asia Pacific Tech Market Forecast, 2026 To 2030. As Asia Pacific's fastest-growing market, India is being propelled by rapid cloud adoption and data localisation rules that are driving onshore infrastructure investment.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/indias-tech-spending-expected-to-grow-134-in-2026-among-highest-in-apac-report/article70789047.ece

Agriculture

ICAR–IARI makes historic debut in QS World Rankings 2026

ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), the 121-year old premier research intensive deemed to be university institute of ICAR has achieved a landmark global recognition by entering the QS World University Rankings 2026 in the subject category of Agriculture & Forestry. The premier institute has been placed in the 151–200 band, wherein only four Indian institutions have been placed. Alongside IARI, the other institutions in this band include Banaras Hindu University, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, and University of Delhi. This highlights IARI's standing among the leading agricultural and multidisciplinary institutions in the country.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/icariari-makes-historic-debut-in-qs-world-rankings-2026/articleshow/129819535.cms

India eyes end to popcorn imports by 2030, targets Rs 810 crore forex savings: ICAR's Jat

India is on track to become self-sufficient in popcorn production by 2030, marking a striking turnaround for a market that depended almost entirely on imports just a decade ago. According to Dr M L Jat, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), and Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the country's popcorn maize market has expanded from 50,000 tonnes in 2014-15 to 1.30 lakh tonnes in 2025-26, and is expected to rise to nearly 1.80 lakh tonnes by 2030, helping cut imports and save an estimated Rs 810 crore in foreign exchange.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/india-eyes-end-to-popcorn-imports-by-2030-targets-rs-810-crore-forex-savings-icars-jat/articleshow/129799412.cms

West Asia turmoil to swell fertiliser subsidy by up to Rs 25,000 Crore, hit output: Crisil Ratings

India's fertiliser subsidy bill could climb by Rs 20,000-25,000 crore even as production could dip 10-15% if Middle East issues persist, according to a report by Crisil Ratings. The increase in prices of raw materials and imported fertilisers is likely to raise the subsidy bill of government by Rs 20,000-25,000 crore. "..the overall subsidy budget is likely to increase by 12-15% from initial estimates of Rs 1.71 lakh crore for fiscal 2027," said Nitin Bansal, Associate Director, Crisil Ratings.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/west-asia-turmoil-to-swell-fertiliser-subsidy-by-up-to-rs-25000-crore-hit-output-crisil-ratings/articleshow/129819161.cms

Infrastructure

Infra projects see cost overrun of Rs 5.66 lakh cr in Feb

Several infrastructure projects worth above Rs 150 crore each registered a cumulative cost overrun of Rs 5.66 lakh crore, according to a monthly government report for February 2026. The latest 'Flash Report on Central Sector Infrastructure Projects' showed that the revised cost of all 1,948 projects, each valued at Rs 150 crore or higher, monitored by the statistics ministry stood at Rs 41,98,684 crore compared to their original cost of Rs 36,32,088 crore.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/infra-projects-see-cost-overrun-of-rs-5-66-lakh-cr-in-feb/articleshow/129807420.cms

Indian airlines to operate 10% fewer flights in summer schedule

Indian airlines are set to operate a little over 23,000 weekly domestic flights during the summer schedule starting from March 29, which is 10 per cent less than the services flown during the same period a year ago. Aviation watchdog DGCA has published the domestic flights summer schedule, which is from March 29 to October 24, for nine scheduled airlines.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/indian-airlines-to-operate-10-fewer-flights-in-summer-schedule/article70788722.ece

Energy

Parliament panel flags funding gap in uranium hunt, seeks priority boost for AMDER

A parliamentary panel has called for urgent, priority-based funding support for the Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMDER), warning that underinvestment in uranium exploration could pose long-term risks to India's nuclear energy ambitions. In a report tabled in both Houses of Parliament, the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change highlighted a funding shortfall impacting critical exploration activities. It recommended that the full gap of Rs 118.18 crore in AMDER's capital allocation be restored at the revised estimate stage for 2026–27.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/parliament-panel-flags-funding-gap-in-uranium-hunt-seeks-priority-boost-for-amder/articleshow/129822148.cms

Crude oil supply for 4 months; LPG production up with shortfall down to 30,000 tonnes/day

The government on Thursday asserted that India's energy supply is "fully secure and under control," with two months' worth of crude oil stocks and an equivalent volume of cargoes already secured for the next two months.

India’s liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) production has been ramped up to a record 50,000 tonnes per day, meeting over 60 per cent of the country’s requirement.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/commodities/crude-oil-supply-for-4-months-lpg-production-up-with-shortfall-down-to-30000-tonsday/article70788609.ece

Telecom

BSNL to add 50,000-60,000 more mobile towers, FY26 operating profit to grow in double digits: Scindia

State-run BSNL will add another 50,000-60,000 mobile towers to build a robust network and the company's operating profit is expected to grow in double digits in the current fiscal, Union telecom minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Thursday. Scindia said that BSNL has made its biggest capital expenditure of Rs 20,000 crore in a single year in building a 4G network, which will be upgraded to a 5G network.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-news/bsnl-to-add-50000-60000-more-mobile-towers-fy26-operating-profit-to-grow-in-double-digits-scindia/articleshow/129830660.cms

States

46 pc of CSR spends in Maharashtra, aspirational districts need more attention: Crisil

Maharashtra corners nearly half of companies' spending on corporate social responsibility, and the 112 most underdeveloped spots flagged by the government as 'aspirational districts' have not been given sufficient attention by India Inc, a report said on Thursday. The overall spend in Maharashtra stood at Rs 8,939 crore in FY24, or over 46.53 per cent of the overall spend of Rs 19,208 crore, the report by Crisil, a rating agency, said.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/46-pc-of-csr-spends-in-maharashtra-aspirational-districts-need-more-attention-crisil/articleshow/129830081.cms

Delhi PWD waives road restoration charges to fast-track PNG rollout

The Delhi Public Works Department (PWD), to ensure faster laying of PNG pipelines, has decided to approve road-cutting permission within 24 hours from receiving the request, an official order said on Thursday. The PWD, which is the main road owning agency in the national capital, has also waived off road restoration charges for three months, in a fresh order issued. "It is further directed that permission for road cutting for laying of Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) pipelines shall be accorded within 24 hours of receipt of a complete request, along with directions to commence the work immediately," the order said.
https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/delhi-pwd-waives-road-restoration-charges-to-fast-track-png-rollout-126032601013_1.html

PM Modi grants land ownership rights to over 28,000 Assam tea workers

Jagdu Dusadh has been granted land ownership rights to build his own home. He has worked in tea gardens for four generations, and his dream has finally come true. Jagdu Dusadh stated that it was Narendra Modi who fulfilled his dream, a dream that has finally materialised after four generations. Purusuttam Ghatwar, a union leader of the Assam Tea Workers' Association, said that 1,200 tea workers are affiliated with his union; approximately 900 of them have already received land ownership rights, while the rest are yet to receive theirs.
https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/pm-modi-grants-land-ownership-rights-to-over-28-000-assam-tea-workers-126032600408_1.html

Karnataka attracts ₹51,000+ cr investments across 48 companies, set to create 70k jobs

Karnataka has received a major boost on Thursday as 48 companies signed investment agreements worth ₹51,469 crore at the Invest Karnataka Summit 2026 in Bengaluru. The commitments, formalised in the presence of Industries Minister MB Patil, are projected to generate approximately 70,000 jobs across sectors including aerospace, automotive, biotechnology, and manufacturing.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/karnataka-attracts-51000-cr-investments-across-48-companies-set-to-create-70k-jobs/article70789130.ece

Healthcare

Health insurance records strong growth momentum with premiums exceeding Rs 1.2 lakh crore in FY25

India's health insurance sector continues to witness robust growth, growing at a rate of around 9 per cent, with total health insurance premiums volume exceeding Rs 1.2 lakh crore in 2024-25. This growth reflects increasing awareness, improved access to healthcare financing, and a rising demand for financial protection against medical expenses, a finance ministry statement said.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/insure/health-insurance-records-strong-growth-momentum-with-premiums-exceeding-rs-1-2-lakh-crore-in-fy25/articleshow/129824613.cms

Healthcare sector can touch $700 bn by 2030, but financing architecture fragmented: Report

India's healthcare sector is likely to reach USD 700 billion by 2030, but its financing architecture remains fragmented and underpenetrated, with out-of-pocket spending still accounting for a large share of healthcare expenditure, according to a report. The country's healthcare ecosystem was valued at around USD 300 billion in FY25 and projected to reach USD 700 billion by 2030, but health financing remains underpenetrated, as per the report by Praxis Global Alliance, in collaboration with Nathealth.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/healthcare/healthcare-sector-can-touch-700-bn-by-2030-but-financing-architecture-fragmented-report/articleshow/129799972.cms

External

India holds bilateral meetings with EU, Russia, NZ, others on MC14 sidelines

Commerce secretary Rajesh Agrawal Thursday held bilateral talks with the EU, Russia, New Zealand, Peru and Mexico on the sidelines of the ongoing 14th ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO MC14) to advance trade agenda and issues related to the trade deals with the respective economies. In his meeting with members of the European Parliament delegation led by Bernd Lange, Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on International Trade, the discussions focused on key issues related to the WTO, including the need for institutional reforms and the future direction of global trade frameworks.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-holds-bilateral-meetings-with-eu-russia-nz-others-on-mc14-sidelines/articleshow/129829307.cms

India gathers data to counter US claims of excess capacity

India has begun compiling granular industry data after the US sought consultations under a Section 301 probe into alleged excess capacity. The commerce and industry ministry has asked the industry to furnish details on installed capacity, production, employment, policy support, export profiles, linkages with the US, and integration into global value chains, according to people familiar with the matter. The probe, under Section 301 of the US Trade Act, claims India has created significant excess capacity in petrochemicals, steel and solar modules, while identifying textiles, health, construction goods, and automotive goods as sectors where India has a global trade surplus.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-gathers-data-to-counter-us-claims-of-excess-capacity/articleshow/129810831.cms

Iran-India fuel trade begins after strait open sesame, first LPG cargo due this week

Indian refiners have begun buying Iranian crude oil and LPG after the temporary lifting of US sanctions, to make up for supplies lost due to the near-closure of the Strait of Hormuz, people familiar with the matter told ET. This comes as Iran foreign minister Abbas Araghchi on Thursday said vessels from "friendly" countries, including India, will be allowed to pass through the strait, potentially easing the fuel supply squeeze to some extent. The first Iranian LPG cargo is due to arrive this week, with more crude and LPG shipments expected in the coming days.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/iran-india-fuel-trade-begins-after-strait-open-sesame-traffic-of-friendly-india-can-pass-says-araghchi-first-lpg-cargo-due-this-week/articleshow/129833238.cms