

June 3, 2026 – Wednesday

Economy

New producer price index set to replace WPI over next five years

India will introduce a Producer Price Index (PPI) covering output, input and services prices, to offer a more realistic assessment of inflationary trends in the economy, while gradually phasing out the Wholesale Price Index (WPI), the government said Tuesday.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/india-to-introduce-producer-price-index-phasing-out-wpi-over-five-years-for-enhanced-inflation-tracking/articleshow/131470562.cms

Finance

Easing cycle in FY26: Proportion of bank loans bearing less than 9% interest rises sharply

The proportion of Scheduled Commercial Banks' (SCBs) loans bearing interest rate of less than 9 per cent rose sharply in FY26 to 64.2 per cent as on end-March 2026 from 43.9 per cent a year ago in sync with the easing cycle, according to the RBI. The RBI noted that in response to the cumulative 125 bps reduction in the policy repo rate (from 6.50 per cent to 5.25 per cent), SCBs adjusted both repo-linked external benchmark-based lending rates (EBLRs) and marginal cost of funds-based lending rates (MCLR) downward during February 2025 to March 2026.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/easing-cycle-in-fy26-proportion-of-bank-loans-bearing-less-than-9-interest-rises-sharply/article71052251.ece

Fintech lenders corner 77% of India's personal loan market by volume in FY26

Fintech-led lenders have emerged as the dominant force in India's personal loan market, accounting for more than three-fourths of all personal loans sanctioned during FY26, according to a report by the FinTech Association for Consumer Empowerment (FACE). Digital-first non-banking finance companies (NBFCs), which form the backbone of India's fintech lending ecosystem, sanctioned 13.2 crore personal loans worth Rs 2.15 lakh crore during FY26. While these loans represented only 19% of the total value of personal loans sanctioned, they accounted for 77% of the total number of loans disbursed, underscoring the sector's focus on small-ticket, high-volume credit.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/fintech-lenders-corner-77-of-indias-personal-loan-market-by-volume-in-fy26/articleshow/131462449.cms

How AT1 bond issuances have hit a rough patch since 2025

Additional Tier 1 bonds or AT1 bonds have been caught in one scandal after another, making issuers shy away from them in recent years. Only ₹3,500 crore was raised through these bonds in 2025, registering a 79 per cent decline from the issuances worth ₹16,859 crore in 2024. AT1 bonds are high-yielding but very risky instruments issued by banks to meet capital requirements under Basel -III norms. These are perpetual bonds, which means that they have no maturity date and can be written off or converted into equity by the RBI if faced with a financial crisis.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/data-stories/how-at1-bond-issuances-have-hit-a-rough-patch-since-2025/article71052395.ece

Excise collection rises to highest in three years in April despite fuel duty cut

Despite a ₹10/litre cut in levies on petrol and diesel, Central excise collections in April rose to ₹447 crore from a negative ₹39 crore in the corresponding month of the previous fiscal, data from the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) showed. The April collection is the highest in three years and the second-highest in seven years. At the same time, expenditure on fertiliser subsidies surged in April, with urea subsidy rising by over 56 per cent and nutrient-based fertiliser subsidy increasing 19 per cent.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/portfolio/india-economy/excise-collection-rises-to-highest-in-three-years-in-april-despite-fuel-duty-cut/article71053519.ece

Industry

West Asia crisis likely to shrink MSME margins by 50-100 bps in FY27, says Crisil

The West Asia conflict will likely shave off 100 bps off Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) revenue this fiscal (FY27), and margins are expected to shrink 50-100 bps, a Crisil analysis found. Morbi, Firozabad, Surat and Vadodara clusters are likely to be hit the most, according to projections in Crisil Intelligence's latest MSME Report. Revenue growth will moderate to 7.5-8.5 per cent, down 100 basis points (bps) compared with fiscal 2026, while earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) margin will decline 50-100 bps to 5-5.5 per cent, the report said. The study covers 69 sectors and 147 MSME clusters

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/west-asia-crisis-likely-to-shrink-msme-margins-by-50-100-bps-in-fy27-says-crisil/article71053012.ece

India emerges as auto industry growth engine as US and China slow: Moody's

India is emerging as one of the world's fastest-growing automobile markets even as demand slows in the US and China, with Moody's saying the country continues to benefit from improving affordability, policy support and infrastructure-led economic activity despite rising global risks. India is increasingly becoming the global auto industry's growth engine as slowing demand in the US and China, combined with tariff uncertainty and geopolitical tensions, drag worldwide vehicle sales growth to near-stagnation levels, according to Moody's latest global automotive outlook.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-emerges-as-auto-industry-growth-engine-as-us-and-china-slow-moodys/article71054283.ece

Agriculture

India cuts foodgrains output target amid below normal monsoon forecast

After achieving a record foodgrain production of 376.56 million tonnes (mt) in 2025-26, India has set a target of 373.93 mt for 2026-27 crop year (July-June). This includes 151 mt of rice, 121.5 mt of wheat, 28.42 mt of pulses, 18.08 of nutri-cereals and 52.50 mt of maize. The lower target fixed for rice and maize from the actual production is seen as a realistic move amid threat of EL Nino over monsoon after India Meteorological Department predicted 'below normal' rainfall.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/india-cuts-foodgrains-output-target-amid-below-normal-monsoon-forecast/article71053502.ece

Indian refiners shift to soyoil in May as palm oil loses price advantage

India's palm oil imports rose modestly in May from the previous month's four-month low, but stayed below average, as refiners turned to rival soyoil after palm's price advantage over competing oils narrowed, five dealers said. Lower than usual imports of palm oil by the world's biggest importer of vegetable oils could swell stocks in top producers Indonesia and Malaysia and weigh on benchmark Malaysian palm oil futures.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/indian-refiners-shift-to-soyoil-in-may-as-palm-oil-loses-price-advantage/articleshow/131461571.cms

Chana prices climb over 9% in a month

Despite a record-high domestic harvest, the largest buffer stock of pulses in three years, and low overall food security concerns, chana prices have surged by over 9% in the last month and 4% year-on-year, barely exceeding the minimum support price (MSP). Industry experts attribute this recent rally to aggressive government procurement (absorbing 16% of total production) and lower imports of chana and yellow peas due to negative parity. Traders expect prices to remain firm, driven by increased chana and besan consumption during the upcoming monsoon and festival seasons.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/chana-prices-skyrocket-9-amid-record-harvest-and-government-procurement/articleshow/131470824.cms

States asked to focus on sowing pulses, oilseeds

The government has asked states to prioritise pulses and oilseeds during the kharif sowing season as India prepares for below-normal rainfall and possible disruptions in fertiliser supplies. The government has asked states to prioritise pulses and oilseeds during the kharif sowing season as India prepares for below-normal rainfall and possible disruptions in fertiliser supplies.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/indias-urgent-call-prioritize-pulses-and-oilseeds-as-kharif-sowing-season-approaches-amid-rainfall-concerns/articleshow/131470789.cms

West Asia war: Centre working on extending new investment policy for urea

Amid the West Asia crisis, the central government is finalising an extension of the 2012 New Investment Policy (NIP), with some amendments, to attract fresh investments in the urea sector. Sources said the policy aims to raise India's domestic urea production by almost 9–10 million tonnes (mt) over the next eight years through the establishment of seven new units, including both brownfield and greenfield projects.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/agriculture/west-asia-war-centre-working-on-extending-new-investment-policy-for-urea-126060201190_1.html

Energy

Venezuela's interim President Rodriguez to visit India as oil imports rise

Venezuela's interim President Delcy Rodriguez will travel to India on Wednesday for a five-day visit, the foreign ministry said, as New Delhi scales up crude imports from Caracas. India, the world's third-largest oil buyer, has revived crude supplies from Venezuela to blunt a sharp crude shortfall from the crisis-ridden Middle East.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/venezuelas-interim-president-rodriguez-to-visit-india-as-oil-imports-rise/articleshow/131463829.cms

Oman beats Qatar as India's top LNG supplier as war disrupts Gulf gas flows

Oman emerged as India's top supplier of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in March, overtaking long-time leader Qatar, as the Iran war severely disrupted gas production and supply across the Gulf, forcing Indian buyers to swiftly diversify energy sourcing. India, the world's fourth-largest LNG buyer, procured 489,000 tonnes of LNG from Oman in March, accounting for nearly 30% of the country's total LNG imports of 1.63 million tonnes, showed data collated by rating agency ICRA.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/oman-beats-qatar-as-indias-top-lng-supplier-as-war-disrupts-gulf-gas-flows/articleshow/131470296.cms

War shifts 80% of India's diesel exports to Africa

More than 80% of India's diesel exports in May headed to Africa as demand from Asia and Europe weakened and geopolitical tensions reshaped global diesel trade flows. India exported 394,000 barrels per day (bpd) of diesel in May, compared with 376,000 bpd in April and 399,000 bpd in February, according to energy cargo tracker Kpler. About 327,000 bpd, or 83% of total exports, went to Africa in May, against 32% in April and 64% in February. No diesel was exported to Europe, while shipments to Asia fell 76% to 40,000 bpd in May.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/war-shifts-80-of-indias-diesel-exports-to-africa/articleshow/131470700.cms

States

Delhi govt gears up for Economic Census

The Delhi government has started preparations for the economic census in the city to list various trade, business and entrepreneurial agricultural units in the national capital. The Ministry of Statistics and Plan Implementation has designated the Delhi government's Directorate of Economics and Statistics as the central nodal agency for holding the 8th Economic Census in the city, officials said on Tuesday.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/delhi-govt-gears-up-for-economic-census/article71055412.ece

Rajasthan's mega ₹2.72 lakh cr infra boom: 81 central projects to transform the state

Rajasthan is witnessing a major infrastructure expansion with 81 projects worth ₹2.72 lakh crore currently under execution, according to the Project Monitoring Group report of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The projects span railways, highways, energy transmission, petroleum, and civil aviation, making the state one of India's largest ongoing infrastructure investment hubs. Officials say these projects aim to improve connectivity, logistics, industrial growth, and energy security across the state.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/rajasthans-mega-2-72-lakh-cr-infra-boom-81-central-projects-to-transform-the-state/videoshow/131464927.cms

External

India-UK FTA implementation stuck due to carbon tax on steel; Scotch duties may be rolled back to rebalance pact

Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal Tuesday said he had "great conversations" with visiting UK secretary of state for business and trade Peter Kyle on ways to further strengthen bilateral economic ties. The talks come in the backdrop of the British Parliament discussing the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), which was signed on July 24, 2025, but is currently facing a hurdle in its implementation due to Britain's new steel safeguard measures and carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM).
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-uk-fta-implementation-stuck-due-to-carbon-tax-on-steel-scotch-duties-may-be-rolled-back-to-rebalance-pact/articleshow/131470727.cms

US tariffs on agricultural machines to be cut, 50% metal levies stay

The US will cut tariffs on farm equipment such as combines and harvesters to 15% from 25%. In addition, a new 10% tariff category has been introduced for imported products manufactured using at least 85% US-origin steel, aluminium or copper by weight. Under a proclamation issued late Monday, the White House announced limited changes to its Section 232 metal tariffs to reduce costs for American farmers and manufacturers, adding that the tariffs will last till December 31, 2027.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/us-tariffs-on-agricultural-machines-to-be-cut-50-metal-levies-stay/articleshow/131470549.cms

US may have shaved its metal tariffs but the steel wall facing Indian exporters remains standing

The United States' decision to ease tariffs on a select range of metal-containing products offers only limited benefits for Indian exporters, as the most significant duties on steel, aluminium and copper imports remain firmly in place, according to the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI). The Trump administration on June 1 announced targeted modifications to its Section 232 tariff regime, including a reduction in duties on certain industrial and agricultural equipment containing steel, aluminium or copper from 25 per cent to 15 per cent. The lower tariff will be effective from June 8, 2026, through December 31, 2027.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/us-tweaks-metal-tariffs-but-keeps-50-percent-duties-on-steel-aluminium-copper-imports/articleshow/131465502.cms

UK Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper to visit India soon; FTA among key agenda items: MEA

UK Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper is set to visit India soon, with discussions expected to focus on the proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA), trade and investment, as well as security and defence cooperation, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Tuesday.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/uk-foreign-secretary-yvette-coopers-upcoming-visit-to-india-key-focus-on-free-trade-agreement-and-strengthening-economic-ties/articleshow/131467195.cms

SBI Chairman, Apple India MD among 29 members appointed to Board of Trade

The government on Tuesday said it has nominated 29 non-official members, including SBI Chairman CS Setty, Apple India MD Virat Bhatia, and Mahindra & Mahindra MD Anish Shah, to the Board of Trade, chaired by the Commerce and Industry Minister. The board, which includes participants from states, Union territories, and senior officials from public and private sectors, provides a platform to discuss ways of boosting manufacturing and exports.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/sbi-chairman-and-apple-india-md-appointed-to-key-positions-on-indias-board-of-trade-to-boost-exports/articleshow/131466960.cms

Silver imports via authorised channels only

In a further tightening of import norms for silver, the government on Tuesday mandated that imports be routed through RBI-nominated agencies, Directorate General of Foreign Trade-approved entities and qualified jewellers authorised by the IFSCA via the India International Bullion Exchange against a valid import authorisation.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/silver-imports-via-authorised-channels-only/articleshow/131470946.cms