

November 20, 2026 – Friday

Economy

Increase employees' salaries to stimulate demand: DEA secretary Anuradha Thakur

Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) secretary Anuradha Thakur on Thursday said the private investment cycle appears to have turned since April, with capital flows returning and crude oil prices providing relief, and urged India Inc to address wage stagnation to stimulate demand.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/increase-employees-salaries-to-stimulate-demand-dea-secretary-anuradha-thakur/articleshow/136003233.cms

From GTA V to GTA VI, PM Modi lists how India has levelled up

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has found an unusual way to share India's development since GTA V-- a comparison inspired by the popular and recently launched video game Grand Theft Auto (GTA). As GTA 6 makes its debut, Modi has drawn a comparison between India's economic and infrastructure indicators in 2013, when GTA 5 was released, and the country's position today.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/from-gta-5-to-gta-6-pm-modi-lists-how-india-has-levelled-up/articleshow/135978866.cms

Indian economy may get windfall gain in FY28 on lower crude prices: CEA

India's challenge next year may shift to managing a stronger rupee from a weaker one, and one should get used to the compressed spread between the risk premium of the 10-year bonds of India and the US, chief economic adviser V Anantha Nageswaran said Wednesday.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/indian-economy-may-get-windfall-gain-in-fy28-on-lower-crude-prices-cea/articleshow/135970672.cms

EAC-PM chairman calls for greater reforms, push to investment and exports to help India become a developed nation

Political and macroeconomic stability and a large domestic economy can help India achieve the goals of Viksit Bharat @2047 though global macroeconomic and geopolitical uncertainty continues to be the area of concern, S Mahendra Dev, chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the PM said.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/eac-pm-chairman-calls-for-greater-reforms-push-to-investment-and-exports-to-help-india-become-a-developed-nation/articleshow/135983461.cms

Finance

Cyber risks, gold loans may be top talking points at RBI meet

"There is no specific agenda for the meeting so far but there could be a central point for the RBI to discuss like customer service was the last time," said a senior NBFC executive. "Cyber risks, which have been increasing in the

last few months in which many NBFCs have also lost money, rising risks in the sector especially on gold loans and the impact of drought on the sector could definitely come up for discussions."
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/cyber-risks-gold-loans-may-be-top-talking-points-at-rbi-meet/articleshow/136004138.cms

Budget wishlist energy sector wants RDSS boost, solar scheme extension

Augmenting Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), a national green energy security mission, extension of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and import duty concessions on battery energy storage components remained the top demands from the energy and infrastructure sector put forward to finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman during pre-budget consultations.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/budget-wishlist-energy-sector-wants-rdss-boost-solar-scheme-extension/articleshow/136004016.cms

EPFO opens door for self-employed to join provident fund, pension

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) Thursday paved the way for self-employed people to contribute towards provident fund and pension, independent of any employer-employee relationship, a move aimed at achieving universal social security.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/epfo-opens-door-for-self-employed-to-join-provident-fund-pension/articleshow/136002933.cms

LTCG, STT tax cuts top capital market wishlist

Lowering long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax and securities transaction tax remained the top demands put forward to finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman during pre-budget consultations. On Wednesday, capital market stakeholders sought relief on these levies, while representatives from the mutual fund industry lobbied for parity in tax treatment for debt mutual funds, similar to equity funds.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/finance-minister-nirmala-sitharaman-faces-pressure-to-cut-ltcg-and-stt-taxes-in-pre-budget-consultations/articleshow/135971359.cms

Ministries told to map R&D spend across schemes

The finance ministry is mapping research and development (R&D) expenditures across various programmes and initiatives under ministries ahead of the budget. The move comes amid growing demands from industry for higher public investment in research, stronger collaboration between government-funded institutions and companies, and more predictable financing for "long-gestation technology projects". At recent pre-budget meetings, the finance ministry asked ministries and departments to provide a detailed break-up of R&D spending under umbrella schemes, individual schemes and their components, as well as expenditure by research organisations, including attached and subordinate offices, societies and boards, people familiar with the discussions said.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/indias-finance-ministry-targets-enhanced-rd-investment-to-boost-domestic-tech-capabilities-ahead-of-budget/articleshow/135971324.cms

FM Sitharaman chairs seventh pre-Budget consultation with infrastructure, energy and sustainability experts

Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday chaired the seventh pre-Budget consultation with experts from the infrastructure, energy and sustainability sectors in New Delhi as part of preparations for the Union Budget 2027-28. In a post on X, the Finance Ministry said Sitharaman chaired the meeting "with the experts from the infrastructure, energy, and sustainability sectors in connection with the forthcoming Union Budget 2027-28".
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/fm-sitharaman-chairs-seventh-pre-budget-consultation-with-infrastructure-energy-and-sustainability-experts/articleshow/135989444.cms

Faceless, centralised CGST framework likely from April: CBIC Chief

The framework for faceless and centralised tax administration, announced by the finance minister at a Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council meeting, is likely to be implemented from April 1, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) chairman Vivek Chaturvedi said on Wednesday.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/faceless-centralised-cgst-framework-likely-from-april-cbic-chief/articleshow/135970863.cms

Industry

EPFO Board approves systematic withdrawal plan for periodic retirement payouts

Retiring Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) members will now have the liberty to withdraw their accumulated provident fund savings in regular instalments as per their requirement rather than a single lump sum, after the Central Board of Trustees (CBT) gave nod to Systematic Withdrawal Plan (SWP) at its 240th meeting on Thursday.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/epfo-board-approves-systematic-withdrawal-plan-for-periodic-retirement-payouts/article71720981.ece

SEBI working on capacity-building network to train independent directors

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is working on a capacity building network for independent directors to help them deal with emerging business risks, including cybersecurity, data governance and artificial intelligence, chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said on Thursday.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/sebi-working-on-capacity-building-network-to-train-independent-directors/article71719894.ece

Agriculture

Nearly 10 lakh tonnes of tur in buffer stocks, yet prices keep rising

India, the largest producer, consumer, and importer of pulses, is currently facing a critical policy question. With 9.7 lakh tonnes of *tur* (pigeon pea) in its buffer stock, why are the prices of one of the country's most consumed pulses continuing to rise? The disconnect between government-held stocks and market prices is becoming increasingly difficult to ignore. Arrivals of new kharif have begun, and imports have increased after the government extended duty-free tur imports until March 2027. Yet retail prices remain high, suggesting that concerns over a smaller domestic crop, tight availability, and uncertainty over government intervention continue to weigh on the market.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/high-pulse-rate-nearly-10-lakh-tonnes-of-tur-in-buffer-stocks-yet-prices-keep-rising-why/articleshow/135977952.cms

Erratic monsoon, drought-like conditions hit India's agri-input makers in Q2

India's agri-input sector came under pressure in the September quarter (Q2) as deficient rainfall and drought conditions across large parts of the country weakened demand for seeds, fertilisers and crop-protection chemicals during the kharif season, dragging revenue and profits at the top-eight listed companies.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/erratic-monsoon-drought-like-conditions-hit-indias-agri-input-makers-in-q2/articleshow/135971049.cms

Onion farmers seek measures to ensure Rs 3,000 per quintal amid surplus production outlook

Onion farmers from Maharashtra have demanded steps to ensure that they get at least Rs 3,000 per quintal, stressing the need to expand export markets and maintain a consistent export policy to protect growers from price crashes when arrivals rise.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/onion-farmers-seek-measures-to-ensure-rs-3000-per-quintal-amid-surplus-production-outlook/articleshow/135958893.cms

Govt opens fresh window for 2.15 lakh tonnes of unallocated sugar import quota

India has opened a one-time fresh application window under the Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) scheme, offering an additional 215,043 tonnes of raw sugar import quota for eligible Indian sugar mills and refiners. This is the quantity that remained unallocated or was surrendered from the 10 lakh tonnes of raw sugar import quota announced in August this year to cool down record high domestic sugar prices.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/govt-opens-fresh-window-for-2-15-lakh-tonnes-of-unallocated-sugar-import-quota/articleshow/135970849.cms

Energy

India's crude import bill jumps 88% to $19.5 billion in October

India's crude oil import bill jumped 88% year-on-year to $19.5 billion in October, as benchmark Brent averaged its highest monthly price in more than 14 years. The increase far outpaced the 46% rise in the import bill during April-September, underscoring the exceptional cost of crude supplies last month, according to oil ministry data.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/indias-crude-import-bill-jumps-88-to-19-5-billion-in-october/articleshow/136009713.cms

Mideast crisis 'largest threat' to energy security ever: IEA

The crisis in the Middle East sparked in February by the US and Israeli bombing of Iran has created the "largest threat" to energy security in history, the International Energy Agency (IEA) warned Thursday. The agency said in its flagship annual World Energy Outlook that consumers were increasingly footing the bill as the world runs out of ways to absorb the impact of the conflict on energy supplies.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/mideast-crisis-largest-threat-to-energy-security-ever-iea/articleshow/135978442.cms

India effectively achieves 20% ethanol blending target in 2025-26

India has effectively met its 20% ethanol blending target for the 2025-26 Ethanol Supply Year (ESY), with grain-based feedstock accounting for nearly three-fourths of total supplies, according to provisional data released by the All India Distillers' Association (AIDA).
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/india-effectively-achieves-20-ethanol-blending-target-in-2025-26/articleshow/135995562.cms

States

Karnataka steps up global tech partnerships at Bengaluru Tech Summit 2026

The three-day 29th edition of Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) 2026, themed “AI & Beyond,” concluded on Thursday, showcasing strategic international partnerships, technology collaborations, innovation initiatives and start-up ecosystem outcomes that further strengthen Karnataka’s position as a leading global technology and innovation hub.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/karnataka-steps-up-global-tech-partnerships-at-bengaluru-tech-summit-2026/article71720218.ece

Healthcare

Govt proposes tighter scrutiny of antimicrobial drugs to address resistance worries

The government has proposed an additional layer of regulatory scrutiny for antimicrobial medicines to address the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), a move that industry experts warn could increase compliance costs for pharmaceutical manufacturers, particularly micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and potentially affect the availability and affordability of these medicines.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/pharmaceuticals/govt-proposes-tighter-scrutiny-of-antimicrobial-drugs-to-address-resistance-worries/articleshow/136009895.cms

External

Piyush Goyal, Italy's Tajani seek stronger ties in autos, pharma and technology

India and Italy have encouraged businesses of the two countries to explore joint ventures, technology partnerships and integration into global value chains to boost economic ties, an official statement said on Thursday. The two countries are also looking to increase cooperation in areas such as automotive and aerospace, Industry 4.0, agriculture and agri-technology, connectivity and energy, critical minerals, science and innovation, culture and tourism, skills development and entrepreneurship.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/piyush-goyal-italys-tajani-seek-stronger-ties-in-autos-pharma-and-technology/articleshow/135986992.cms

Piyush Goyal calls for trusted, resilient supply chains between India & US

Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal Thursday called for building resilient and trusted supply chains between India and the US amid prevailing global uncertainties. He said a huge potential exists between the two countries to enhance economic cooperation as the US offers capital, technology, and innovation while India has skill, talent, manufacturing strength, and competitiveness.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/piyush-goyal-calls-for-trusted-resilient-supply-chains-between-india-us/articleshow/136003119.cms

India needs $430 billion in exports in five months to meet FY27 target: Piyush Goyal

India needs about USD 430 billion in goods and services exports between November and March to meet its USD 1 trillion target for 2026-27, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday. The country had reached about 57 per cent of the target by the end of October. "So we had 570, 7 months gone. 430 in 5 months," Goyal said, referring to export values in billions of dollars, in his valedictory keynote address at the Annual General Meeting and Annual Convention of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in New Delhi.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-needs-430-billion-in-exports-in-five-months-to-meet-fy27-target-piyush-goyal/articleshow/135997642.cms

India working to resolve bulk Scotch duty dispute under UK trade pact

The government is working to resolve the issue around the classification of bulk Scotch under the India-UK trade agreement, which came into effect in July, officials said, adding that this was largely a classification issue as the duties in certain tariff lines where that Scotch can be imported are very different.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-working-to-resolve-bulk-scotch-duty-dispute-under-uk-trade-pact/articleshow/136003064.cms

India-US FTA could strengthen aerospace partnerships, boost business opportunities: Gautam Singhania

The proposed India-US Free Trade Agreement (FTA) could create better opportunities for companies in both countries to expand aerospace partnerships and strengthen business ties, industrialist Gautam Singhania said on Thursday.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-us-fta-could-strengthen-aerospace-partnerships-boost-business-opportunities-gautam-singhania/articleshow/135985945.cms

The $32.7 trillion trade club India isn't in, but can't ignore

India may not be a member of APEC, but it has $628.5 billion in trade with the 18 economies of the 21-member grouping. Nearly 70% of this trade is imports, showing how much India buys from the region compared with what it sells. Together, APEC's 21 member economies clocked $32.7 trillion in trade in goods and services in 2025, making it one of the world's largest trading blocs.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/the-32-7-trillion-trade-club-india-isnt-in-but-cant-ignore-china-apec-meet-trump-xi/articleshow/135977478.cms

Jaishankar meets senior Japanese leaders; discusses deeper strategic, economic ties

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met senior Japanese leaders on Thursday, including ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Vice President Taro Aso, and discussed ways to strengthen bilateral strategic, economic and energy security cooperation. Jaishankar, who is in Japan to attend the fourth India-Japan Foreign and Defence Ministers' Dialogue (2+2), said he had a "pleasure" meeting with Aso and appreciated his commitment to deepening the bilateral partnership across governments, businesses and people.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/jaishankar-meets-senior-japanese-leaders-discusses-deeper-strategic-economic-ties/articleshow/135978335.cms

Putin singles out India as key market for Russia-led EAEU trade deal

Russian President Vladimir Putin has actively pushed to fast-track a free trade agreement (FTA) between India and Russia-led Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). Speaking at the APEC Summit in Shenzhen on Wednesday, Putin singled out India as a key market Moscow wants to seal an FTA with, following his talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in September to expedite negotiations with stipulated timelines. Putin said "the world's centre of gravity has shifted" and that Asia-Pacific is now driving the global economy.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/putin-highlights-india-as-strategic-partner-for-eaeu-free-trade-agreement/articleshow/135970605.cms