

Industry Matters

Weekly Updates

November 28, 2025



Economy, Industry and Policy

Time to focus on real exchange rate: The real exchange rate does not usually feature in discussions on the economy. The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) decisions on the interest rate are eagerly awaited. The goods and services tax rates have been revamped, a Diwali gift to the consumer. President Trump brought import duty rates to the centre stage and demanded that India lower them. The fiscal deficit is always a matter of concern. *[Financial Express]*

Trade pact imbalance-India to discuss non-tariff measures with Japan: India's ongoing efforts to address its staggering \$12.6 billion trade deficit in FY25 with Japan emphasise a larger problem with other FTA partner countries. *[Business Line]*

Beating inflation with investment-grade bonds: With a lower minimum investment of ₹10,000, bonds are now more accessible, aiding retail investors in achieving diversification and higher inflation-adjusted returns. *[Financial Express]*

Household spending in India shifts towards asset-building-Economic Advisory Council: The survey report stated, "Household spending is shifting from basic necessities like clothing and footwear towards asset-building expenditure on personal goods, and cooking & household appliances. *[Business Line]*

A new phase of policymaking emerges with committee-led governance: Economic policymakers in the Union government appear to be on a high. The recent notification of the four Labour Codes, passed by Parliament more than five years ago, is perhaps the most immediate reason for coming to such a conclusion. *[Business Standard]*

Workforce in unincorporated units up 8.5 mn from FY24 level: The share of establishments in the manufacturing sector increased from 26% to 27%, and that of employment in the manufacturing sector increased from 26% to 28%. *[Financial Express]*

India's economy turning out to be more resilient to external shocks over time-RBI bulletin Monetary and regulatory measures undertaken so far this fiscal should pave the way for a virtuous cycle of higher private investment, productivity and growth, leading to long-term economic resilience, according to the RBI's latest monthly bulletin. *[Business Line]*

Insurance Bill for 100% FDI listed for winter session: The proposed amendments are expected to lay down the framework for composite licences, allowing insurers to offer multiple categories of insurance — life, health and general — under a single licence. *[Business Line]*

India's services exports boom offsets turbulence in goods trade-FinMin: India's services exports are providing a crucial buffer against merchandise trade volatility, growing by 9.7% year-on-year to reach \$237.6 billion in April-October FY26. This robust performance has generated a net services surplus of \$118.7 billion,

helping to offset the overall trade deficit. Total exports saw a 4.8% YoY growth during the period. *[The Economic Times]*

Tier II and III cities drive India's new retail expansion wave: India's retail revolution is moving beyond its metros, with smaller cities fast emerging as powerful growth engines for the country's retail real estate sector. *[Business Line]*

National Quantum Policy to launch in Hyderabad: The Union government is going to launch the national Quantum Computing Policy in Hyderabad next week, according to Sanjay Kumar, Special Chief Secretary (IT and Industries, government of Telangana). *[Business Line]*

Macroeconomic data suggests there is scope for repo rate cut-RBI Governor: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Monday said that the current economic indicators suggest there is a scope for repo rate cut, but a decision on it will be made by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). *[The Indian Express]*

Board of Trade to meet tomorrow to discuss ways to boost exports: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will chair the next Board of Trade (BoT) meeting on Tuesday to discuss strategies for navigating the current global trade environment and potential measures to mitigate its impact. *[Financial Express]*

States must take labour market reforms ahead-16th Finance Commission head Arvind Panagariya: Arvind Panagariya says India's growth outlook is strong, backed by infrastructure gains, tax changes, GST reform and new labour codes. *[The Economic Times]*

Labour codes-A game changer for the Indian economy: India's new labour codes aim to simplify regulations, reduce compliance burdens, and enhance worker welfare. These reforms are expected to boost competitiveness by offering greater flexibility in hiring and overtime, potentially attracting more domestic and foreign investment into manufacturing and services. *[The Economic Times]*

India may impose steel import tariffs amid growing anti-dumping threat on domestic producers: The Indian government is considering to impose an import tariff on some steel products in an effort to counter the move of cheaper imports being dumped in the Indian market, primarily from China, reported the news agency Reuters, citing a person aware of the development on Tuesday, 25 November 2025. *[Mint]*



Foreign Investment

Reform panel moots easing restrictions on investments from China: A high-level committee headed by NITI Aayog member Rajiv Gauba has recommended that the government either withdraw restrictions on investments from China or consider calibrated easing of curbs, people aware of the matter said. *[Business Standard]*

India needs to lower guards for China FDI rather than hit it with tariffs-Sajjid Chinoy: India needs to re-evaluate its curbs on Chinese foreign direct investment, Economist Sajjid Chinoy said. He believes allowing Chinese capital would boost domestic demand and job creation, contrasting it with the negative impact of tariffs. Chinoy highlights that trade deficits with China have widened. *[The Economic Times]*

Net FDI to India doubles to \$7.64 bn in April-September, shows RBI data: RBI data shows stronger gross inflows and lower repatriation lifted net FDI in Apr-Sep, even as September saw higher outward investment pushing net flows into the red. *[Business Standard]*

The signal from China's financial boom: Setting aside concerns of various kind on the resilience of the Chinese economy, foreign financial investors are rushing into the country's financial markets. *[Business Line]*



Trade Policy and Competitiveness

FTA with India will boost bilateral trade and investments-Israeli minister: A proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between Israel and India will open up significant business opportunities for industries in both countries and boost bilateral trade and investment flows, Israeli Economy and Industry Minister Nir Barkat said. *[Business Standard]*

India's trade liberalisation initiatives praised at Shanghai symposium: India's recent trade reforms and business environment improvements received praise at a Shanghai symposium. The event highlighted sustainable development and the global demand for Indian products and services. India's strong economic fundamentals were also emphasized. *[The Economic Times]*

Japan aims to foster growth in areas of semiconductors, AI with India: Prime Minister TAKAICHI further stated that, based on the Japan-India Joint Vision for the Next Decade launched during PM Modi's visit to Japan, she is determined to achieve tangible results. *[Business Standard]*

India, Afghanistan to appoint commercial attaches to boost bilateral trade: India and Afghanistan are set to appoint trade attaches in each other's capitals. This move aims to boost bilateral trade, currently valued at over one billion US dollars. Air freight corridors between Kabul and Delhi, and Kabul and Amritsar will soon be activated. *[The Economic Times]*

Dumping hit margins, inventories up 223%-Why India moved on epoxy resin imports: India has imposed anti-dumping duties on liquid epoxy resins—widely used in industrial and automotive paints for their corrosion resistance and durability—imported from China, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, and Thailand. *[The Economic Times]*



Corporate Governance

Fractional share, producer LLP likely to be part of new bill to amend corporate laws: The Bill aims to amend the Companies Act, 2013 and the LLP Act, 2008 to facilitate ease of doing business and address gaps identified by the Company Law Committee in its 2022 report. *[Business Line]*

M&A activity robust, value jumps 37% in first 9 months: Indian companies are actively engaged in mergers and acquisitions. Deal values rose significantly in the first nine months of 2025. This surge highlights strong investor confidence. Key sectors saw substantial transactions. A major Gulf investment in Indian private banking marks a milestone. This trend signals India's growing prominence in global M&A. *[The Economic Times]*

IndiGo commits \$820 million to acquire planes: Investment to be made through combination of equity shares and 0.01% non-cumulative optionally convertible redeemable preference shares, in one or more tranches. *[Business Line]*

Who's afraid of IPO market? Policymakers should only worry about disclosure: Despite weak listing gains and rising anger among retail investors, long-term data shows the IPO pipeline is healthier than ever, and heavy-handed regulation would do more harm than good. *[Business Standard]*

Axis Energy Ventures plans investment in Madhya Pradesh: Investment proposals announced at the event are expected to generate employment for approximately 27,800 individuals across various sectors. *[Business Line]*



MSMEs and Start-ups

India eyes collaboration with Israeli startups to boost innovation-Goyal: India and Israeli startups can collaborate in areas such as cybersecurity and medical devices to boost innovation ecosystem, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday. *[Business Standard]*

Wealthy secures ₹130 cr in funding led by Bertelsmann India Investments: Wealthy, a platform for mutual-fund distributors and wealth management professionals, has raised ₹130 crore in a Series B round led by Bertelsmann India Investments. *[Business Standard]*

MSME participation in AEO programme grows but more awareness needed: A recent joint study by World Customs Organization (WCO), International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), and World Trade Organization (WTO) on integrating micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) into Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) programme praises the Indian Customs for its initiatives. *[Business Standard]*

Payments, trust, and AI-PayPal's India playbook for MSMEs: As India's freelancers and MSMEs expand overseas, PayPal is betting on AI-driven discovery, seamless payments, and real-time risk intelligence to power the shift. *[The Economic Times]*

Andhra keen to create ecosystem for small, medium enterprise units: Minister Kondapalli Srinivas: Andhra Pradesh is actively fostering an ecosystem for MSMEs, prioritizing manufacturing sector development and skill enhancement. *[The Economic Times]*



Employment and Industrial Relations

Four Labour Codes implemented in India in one of biggest workforce reforms: India has officially implemented four new Labour Codes, consolidating 29 existing laws to modernise its labor governance. This historic move, effective November 21, 2025, aims to simplify regulations, boost worker welfare, enhance safety, and align with global standards. *[The Economic Times]*

From gig workers to factories-What India's new labour codes really mean: India's overhaul merges 29 labour laws into four codes, reshaping minimum wages, gig-worker social security, industrial relations, and workplace safety through unified rules and digital compliance. *[Business Standard]*

Centre-state collaboration: A must for effective labour reforms: India's labour law reform is among the most consequential structural changes in decades. By consolidating 29 central legislations into four comprehensive Labour Codes—the Code on Wages, Industrial Relations Code, Code on Social Security, and Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code—the government has laid the groundwork for a modern, inclusive, and competitive industry ecosystem. *[Business Standard]*

Urban unemployment rises after US tariffs, female job-seekers hit harder: Urban unemployment in India has been consistently rising for three consecutive months, climbing from 6.7% in August to 7% in October, while urban female joblessness surged to 9.7%. *[Financial Express]*

Empowering India's workforce-Trade union perspectives on inclusive labour code reforms: Sustainable economic progress and accelerated development depend on a strong, trusting relationship between workers and industries. *[Business Line]*



Industrial Finance

PSU NBFCs plan to raise up to ₹24,000 crore through bonds next week: PSU NBFCs Nabard, Sidbi, PFC and IRFC will raise up to ₹24,000 crore next week as issuers rush to lock in funds ahead of the RBI's December policy review amid expectations of firming yields. *[Business Standard]*

₹25k crore borrowing limit approved for India's first maritime NBFC: India's first maritime non-banking finance corporation (NBFC) – Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL) – has approved an overall borrowing limit of Rs 25,000 crore, with Rs 8,000 crore earmarked to be raised for the current financial year (FY25) to start operations, the newly-formed public sector undertaking (PSU) announced on Saturday. *[Business Standard]*

SBI Ventures plans to launch Rs 2,000 crore climate-focused fund in Jan-March: SBI Ventures is set to launch a Rs 2,000 crore fund in the first quarter of next year. This fund will invest in early and growth-stage climate startups, focusing on frontier climate technologies and AI-enabled innovations. The initiative aims to unlock green growth and address India's significant financing gap in climate goals. *[The Economic Times]*

Sagarmala Finance Corporation to raise ₹8,000 crore this fiscal: Sagarmala Finance Corporation Ltd will raise up to ₹8,000 crore this fiscal year. The company's board approved a ₹25,000 crore borrowing limit. SMFCL is in talks with banks and financial institutions. It plans to offer tailored loan products to marine sector entities. This includes ports, shipbuilding, and coastal shipping. The initiative supports India's growing maritime sector. *[The Economic Times]*



Technology and Innovation

Free AI isn't innovation, it's unchecked exposure: India has become the stage for one of the most consequential technology experiments of our time. In recent weeks, three of the world's most influential artificial intelligence platforms — OpenAI's ChatGPT, Google's Gemini, and Perplexity — made their premium services free in the country. *[Business Line]*

Emerging tech to enhance industrial workers' safety through new tools: From AI monitoring and smart PPE to mandatory safety marks, India's workplaces are set for a shift as digital tools and regulations reshape occupational safety. *[Business Standard]*

AI push may trigger structural reset across GCC ecosystem: India's Global Capability Centres (GCCs) are undergoing a structural reset driven by AI, transitioning from back-office cost centres to innovation and product-led hubs. *[Financial Express]*

AI helping SMEs adopt more business tech solutions-Salesforce's Arundhati Bhattacharya: Arundhati Bhattacharya, President and CEO, Salesforce - South Asia, says that India continues to be one of Salesforce's fastest-growing markets globally, driven by strong customer demand for trusted, data-driven and AI-powered solutions. *[Business Line]*



Industrial Infrastructure, Clusters and SEZs

Adani Enterprises' JV AdaniConneX acquires 100% stake in Trade Castle Tech Park: AdaniConneX has acquired Trade Castle Tech Park for Rs 234.31 crore to expand data centre infrastructure, strengthening Adani's large-scale digital capacity plans across India and supporting its upcoming hyperscale projects. *[Financial Express]*

Gujarat Gas bets on new industrial hubs; rolls out propane-strategy to recover Morbi-losses: The management of Gujarat Gas highlighted its ambitions to tap into under-penetrated industrial clusters through its expanding steel-pipeline network. *[Business Line]*

M&M to set up 1,000 charging points by the end of 2027: The company will set up 250 electric vehicle charging stations, each with 180 kW, as a part of the company's vision to unlimit electric mobility through its Charge_IN ultrafast charging network. *[Business Line]*

Special economic zone policies need realignment with new global trade realities-Commerce secretary: Shifts in global value chains, rising demand for domestic tariff area (DTA) access, and the evolving impact of free trade agreements (FTAs) require special economic zone (SEZ) policies to be realigned with current economic realities, commerce secretary Rajesh Agrawal said on Friday. *[Hindustan Times]*

India set to become a hub for global shipbuilding-Rajnath Singh: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh stated India is poised to be a global shipbuilding hub within a decade, inviting international collaboration. He highlighted India's integrated, end-to-end shipbuilding ecosystem, from design to life cycle support, and its capacity to produce advanced vessels like aircraft carriers and submarines. *[The Economic Times]*

Exports in positive zone; SEZ surplus can help cut imports-Piyush Goyal: India's exports have rebounded this month. After a fall in October, November exports are now in positive territory. Sectors like seafood are showing healthy growth. Merchandise exports are on an upward trajectory compared to last year. *[The Economic Times]*

Indian aviation can soar to greater heights: To become a global aviation powerhouse, India must strengthen its airport infrastructure further, enable transit hubs, enhance Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul capabilities and enhance skilling. *[Business Line]*



Sustainable Industrialisation

India's solar panel exports slump in September as US tariffs bite: India's exports to the United States had surged earlier this year as developers sought alternatives to Chinese panels amid Washington's restrictions on Chinese products. *[Business Standard]*

Only 13% of 'Made in India' EVs qualify for govt's PLI scheme as China factor looms in auto sector: India's electric car market heavily relies on Chinese imports for crucial components like batteries and semiconductors, hindering local manufacturing. *[The Economic Times]*

India's solar module sector faces shake-up as overcapacity looms-ICRA analysts: The country has authorised about 110 gigawatts (GW) of module capacity under its approved list of models and manufacturers, but only 70-75% of that can adapt to newer technologies such as ToPCon and bifacial modules, the analysts said. *[The Economic Times]*

Sustainable future needs critical minerals, but even more, it needs global cooperation: The world is shifting towards a clean energy transition by minimising the use of fossil fuels. However, minerals such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, and rare earths have become the new lifeline of the green economy. *[The Economic Times]*

Vikram Solar announces commissioning of 5 GW module manufacturing facility in Tamil Nadu's Vallam: Vikram Solar, one of the leading Indian solar module manufacturers, on Wednesday announced the commissioning of its 5 GW of advanced module manufacturing facility at Vallam in Tamil Nadu. *[Business Line]*



Sectoral News

Atmanirbharta in textiles: India's textile industry employs over 45 million people, making it the country's second-largest employer after agriculture. Yet India's share in global exports has stagnated at 3.9%, while smaller economies such as Bangladesh and Vietnam have reached nearly 7 per cent, signalling trade disadvantages and regulatory bottlenecks. *[Business Line]*

Textile industry says new labour codes may boost export prospects to US, EU: The textiles industry has welcomed the rollout of new labour codes, citing that it will help players clinch more export orders, as it will comply with the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) norms. *[Business Standard]*

Auto sector to see demand recovery over next 2-3 years: The Indian automotive industry is gearing up for a revival over the next few years. With government initiatives like tax relief and salary hikes on the horizon, experts predict a turnaround in demand. Recent cuts in GST rates have already kickstarted sales, bringing a breath of fresh air to the market. *[The Economic Times]*

Minecraft 2.0: AI-driven exploration reshaping India's hunt for rare earths: India is transforming how its hunts for copper, lithium, rare earths and more, using AI to shave years off exploration timelines and reshaping the push for critical mineral security. *[Business Standard]*

Telcos plan ₹3-lakh crore capex to get future-ready: India's telecom sector is poised for a significant capital expenditure of ₹2.5-3 lakh crore over the next three to five years. This investment will shift focus from 5G coverage expansion to network densification, fiberisation, and AI-driven optimization, driven by rising data consumption and enterprise use cases. *[The Economic Times]*

Auto industry flags Mexico's plan for steep tariff hike; pharma firms also worried: India's auto and pharma sectors are concerned as Mexico plans to more than double tariffs on countries that is doesn't have FTAs. This move could significantly impact India's \$887 million auto exports to Mexico, its third-largest destination, and also affect pharmaceutical companies preparing to expand their presence. *[The Economic Times]*

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