

Industry Matters

Weekly Updates

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Economy, Industry and Policy

Union Budget 2026-27-The next phase of India's technology growth: As India heads into the Union Budget 2026-27, the technology sector finds itself at a decisive moment. Over the last decade, technology has become one of the strongest pillars of India's economic growth, driving exports, enabling enterprise transformation, and creating large-scale employment. *[Business Standard]*

Reformist, strategic focus likely in Budget: Besides FDI reforms, a boost to strategic sectors such as semi-conductors and critical minerals can be expected. *[Business Line]*

New GDP series to have wider adoption of double deflation, says MoSPI Secretary Garg: Statistics Ministry will begin adoption of double deflation more widely in the new series of National Account data or GDP data from next month. *[Business Line]*

Economic Survey 2026 Highlights-Growth steady, inflation anchored, external risks persist: Economic Survey Budget 2026 Highlights: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the Economic Survey 2025-26 in the Parliament today. The document provides the government's view on India's economy and its future direction. It will cover growth, stability, and reform priorities. *[The Economic Times]*

Union Budget 2026-India's 'Office of the World' dreams await power measures: Union Budget 2026: India's office market is booming, setting new records in absorption despite global challenges. Global Capability Centres and flexible workspaces are leading this surge. As the Union Budget 2026 approaches, industry leaders seek policy continuity, infrastructure upgrades, and regulatory clarity to further solidify India's position as a global business hub. *[The Economic Times]*

India's credit growth to be 10-12% CAGR over next 5 yrs-Brickwork Ratings: India's credit growth is expected to clock 10-12% CAGR over the next five years, led by retail, MSMEs and services, outpacing deposit growth, says Brickwork Ratings. *[Business Standard]*

India bets on manufacturing overhaul to lift exports to \$1.3 trillion: A new National Manufacturing Mission will focus on easing regulatory and compliance hurdles, setting up manufacturing hubs and improving coordination with states. *[Business Line]*

GIFT City and the path to global financial leadership in a changing world: As India commemorates its 77th Republic Day, it is an opportune moment to reflect on the country's evolving capacity to translate democratic ideals into globally competitive economic institutions. *[Business Standard]*

Budget 2026-27-New playbook for trade, Customs reforms needed: A high-level committee should be set up to review India's trade and Customs regulations, and undertake economic impact analyses of trade agreements. *[Business Standard]*

Govt plays down new EU tariff order, experts seek clarity: The EU has been gradually withdrawing Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) tariff benefits for Indian goods for nearly a decade. *[Financial Express]*

Budget 2026 to incorporate recommendations of 16th Finance Commission: The Union Budget 2026 will include recommendations from the 16th Finance Commission. This constitutional body has submitted its report on tax sharing between the Centre and states. The commission's suggestions for the period 2026-27 to 2030-31 will be crucial. *[The Economic Times]*



Foreign Investment

FDI inflows to India jump 73% to \$47 billion in 2025-UNCTAD: The FDI inflows to India in 2025 surged by 73 per cent to USD 47 billion, mainly due to large investments in services and manufacturing, supported by policies aimed at integrating the country into global supply chains, the UN said. *[Business Line]*

LogiMAT India to boost 15% of Indo-german logistics, investment growth: Bilateral trade between India, Germany has crossed the \$ 50 bn milestone in 2024-25, underscoring the countries' deepening partnership in logistics, technology, and investment, a statement said. *[Business Standard]*

Budget 2026-Anticipating a shift from attracting foreign investors to retaining them: India's foreign investment landscape has seen net outflows recently, despite strong market returns. To counter this, Budget 2026 is urged to offer competitive tax rates on long-term investments for both FPIs and FDIs. *[The Economic Times]*

Maharashtra at forefront in attracting FDI, trusted destination for global investors-Guv: Maharashtra is a top destination for foreign investment, aiming for a trillion-dollar economy. The state leads in infrastructure, industry, and digital connectivity. Mumbai is key to its economic growth. Pune and other cities are emerging as innovation hubs. *[The Economic Times]*

India-EU trade pact seen supporting manufacturing, FDI inflows-Moody's: India's trade deal with the EU is a credit positive, according to Moody's, boosting manufacturing, foreign investment, and exports of labor-intensive goods. While lower EU import tariffs could ease costs, European carmakers will see enhanced market access, intensifying competition for domestic players. *[The Economic Times]*



Trade Policy and Competitiveness

Taking the FTA agenda forward in 2026-A strategic roadmap for India: Moving ahead with participation in next-generation FTAs, supplemented by substantive domestic trade policy reforms, must be India's focus. *[Business Standard]*

How will BRICS energy pact pan out?: It should emerge as a more multipolar order, with Russia and China shaping the energy agenda. However, for tangible outcomes, bilateral relations will play a decisive role. *[Business Line]*

India-EU trade deal-Auto firms eye India to take on Chinese rivals: The India-European Union (EU) free trade agreement (FTA) is primed to put India on Europe's auto map, challenging Chinese dominance. *[Business Standard]*

India-Chile trade pact-India looking to extract last mile concessions in critical minerals: India is trying to secure greater concessions for access to critical and strategic minerals in the last stretch of its negotiations for a free trade agreement with Chile, sources said. *[Business Line]*

India-EU FTA to be a 'living agreement' with multiple review mechanisms: The free trade deal between India and the European Union (EU) will be a “living agreement”, embedded with mechanisms for multiple reviews and regulator consultations to manage new and sudden challenges. *[Business Standard]*

India blocks China's WTO request for dispute panel on auto, EV incentive schemes: India has blocked China's request at the World Trade Organization (WTO) for a dispute panel concerning New Delhi's incentive schemes for auto, battery, and electric vehicles. Beijing claims these measures are trade-restrictive and discriminatory, but India maintains there's an inaccurate understanding of the facts. *[The Economic Times]*

European automakers accelerate India localisation ahead of EU trade deal: Companies such as Volkswagen, Mercedes-Benz, UK-based Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), Renault, and BMW already assemble imported kits and sell cars and SUVs in India at a low tariff of 16.5%, while the proposed trade pact reportedly aims to bring down tariffs from 110% to 40%.*[Mint]*

India's exports dream likely to run into the hard wall of realities: Tripling India's exports by 2035 needs tiger-like performance, open markets and ruthless reform-conditions history suggests India does not yet have. *[Business Standard]*



Corporate Governance

Waaree Renewable enters transmission space with ₹1225-crore ASPL acquisition: The company stated that the Board approved entering into a binding term sheet for the acquisition of approximately 55% stake in ASPL through a mix of primary and secondary investment. *[Business Line]*

RBI's 'core company' tag puts many promoter entities in a quandary: Corporate entities are navigating a fresh mandate from the Reserve Bank of India, which has reclassified holding and strategic investment firms as Core Investment Companies. This new label comes with a wave of rigorous regulations that many corporations are eager to sidestep, arguing that their revenue streams stem from non-financial sectors rather than financial endeavors. *[The Economic Times]*

PFRDA sets up expert panel SAARG to modernise NPS investment framework: PFRDA has set up a high-level expert panel, SAARG, to review and modernise the NPS investment framework, focusing on asset allocation, risk governance and long-term returns. *[Business Standard]*

IEPFA plans faster payouts for low-value unclaimed shares, dividends: Under the existing system, the authority then oversees claim settlements and verifications, with the relevant companies playing a key part in the stipulated processes. The proposed move aims to do away with further verification by the IEPFA in cases of low-value claims to ensure faster settlement, as per the draft rules firmed up by the authority. *[The Economic Times]*



MSMEs and Start-ups

As global headwinds bite, labour-intensive MSMEs look to Budget for job protection: India's labour-intensive MSME sectors, including textiles, leather, footwear, and rural micro enterprises, are approaching the Union Budget with a specific request for continued policy, focused support, and more effective solutions to shield employment amidst rising global trade challenges. *[The Economic Times]*

Budget 2026-Engineering exports industry pushes for GST relief, tax parity for MSMEs: The engineering exports industry proposes faster refunds and targeted green incentives to unlock cash flows, lower energy costs, and strengthen MSME-led exports. *[The Economic Times]*

E-commerce promise for a Viksit Bharat: E-commerce is one of the defining narratives of India's economic transformation. What began as a niche, urban-centric phenomenon has rapidly become a core pillar of economy, MSME empowerment, jobs, retail, digital payments, logistics, and exports. *[Financial Express]*

Govt may expand definition of startups: The expanded definition would include deep-tech, cooperatives and allow startups to pivot to deep-tech, the official said. The government has taken a series of measures to promote the startup ecosystem in the country for boosting innovation. *[The Economic Times]*

Why India wants to decarbonise MSMEs—and what it means for exporters: MSMEs need to decarbonise operations to remain competitive in exports, with steep trade barriers related to cleaner manufacturing practices kicking in in India's export markets. What has Niti Aayog proposed and what does it mean for small businesses? *[Mint]*



Employment and Industrial Relations

When welfare leads to workforce confidence: Workers today rarely frame their demands in the language of policy. They demand something more fundamental: Will my job last? Will my family be secure? Will my skills remain relevant tomorrow? These questions speak not just of employment, but of confidence in the future. *[Business Line]*

Govt approves revision of wages for RBI, public sector general insurance companies and Nabard: The decision has been taken in line with the government's commitment to ensuring fair, adequate and sustainable retirement benefits for senior citizens and dependents. *[Business Line]*

Jobs as growth push: As the government stated in a press communique in October last year, "employment carries both economic and social weight (and) higher job levels signal a stronger economy, stimulate consumption, and fuel sustained growth. *[Financial Express]*

Government weighs raising EPFO wage ceiling to Rs 25,000 a month: The government is considering a significant increase in the EPFO wage ceiling to Rs 25,000 from Rs 15,000, aiming to extend social security to more workers. This move, prompted by a Supreme Court directive, could boost the EPFO corpus but will reduce employees' take-home pay and increase employer costs. *[The Economic Times]*



Industrial Finance

Shriram Finance to redraw biz plan in FY27; to focus on new vehicles: Shriram Finance is set to revamp its strategy, focus on new vehicle financing and boost growth as Japan's MUFG completes a \$4.4 billion investment. *[Business Standard]*

Shapoorji Pallonji Group looks to raise up to \$2.5 billion to refinance debt: The proposed fundraise will be used to refinance a dollar bond backed by shares of Tata Sons, held through group entity Goswami Infratech, due to mature in April. The new transaction is expected to mirror the structure of the earlier deal, with Tata Sons shares continuing as collateral. *[The Economic Times]*

Davos 2026-States need equitable risk sharing, new-age financing for investments: Speaking during a panel discussion on new age financing-mobilising capital for infrastructure creation and sustainable regional growth at ET House in Davos, Jharkhand's finance secretary Prashant Kumar said his state has started looking for new-age financing with blended finance and public-private partnerships to fund capital infrastructure. *[The Economic Times]*

Centre's FY27 capex seen topping Rs 12 lakh crore-SBI: Government capital spending is set to surge past Rs 12 lakh crore by FY27. This marks a significant increase, reflecting a strong focus on infrastructure development. The report highlights a steady rise in government-led capital expenditure over the years. *[The Economic Times]*

Micro lenders get Rs 8,000 crore credit guarantee boost amid funding stress: This government backing aims to support the sector facing delinquencies and funding challenges. The scheme will incentivize banks to lend to microfinance institutions, especially smaller ones. It will be implemented outside the union budget framework and announced after Cabinet clearance. *[The Economic Times]*



Technology and Innovation

India needs culturally rooted AI to break western bias of global models-EY India: Comparing AI development to India's success with Aadhaar and UPI, Gupta said India can democratise AI by treating data and compute as a public good. *[Business Line]*

AI to contribute approx \$607 billion to India by 2035 across agri, health, energy, education and manufacturing: The report estimates that AI could boost global GDP by up to 15% by 2035 through productivity gains as it transitions from research to everyday applications in manufacturing, healthcare, finance, and agriculture. *[Business Line]*

ToneTag bets sound waves will power next generation of digital payments: Bengaluru-based ToneTag processes over \$3 billion a month using sound wave technology, enabling secure, cardless payments in India and emerging markets while expanding globally. *[Business Standard]*

DPIIT seeks reforms in Designs law to make it more effective; seeks public comments: India's Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade is proposing updates to the Designs Act. The changes aim to protect digital and virtual designs, reflecting modern innovation. The law will be updated to include graphical user interfaces and animated designs. *[The Economic Times]*



Industrial Infrastructure, Clusters and SEZs

Adani Green targets 7 GWh BESS in Gujarat & up to ₹40,000 crore capex in FY27: The company said battery storage has become a strategic priority as grid augmentation delays continue to constrain power evacuation from Khavda near the India-Pakistan border in Kutch district. *[Business Line]*

JSW Infrastructure plans Rs 16,500-crore capex for FY27 & FY28: In an analyst call, India's second-largest port operator also said its operating Ebitda is expected to double by FY28 from FY26 levels as new port and logistics assets become operational. *[The Economic Times]*

Adani Ports to invest ₹16,000 crore in Vizhinjam phase 2 development: The Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) expects the second phase of development to make Vizhinjam the largest transshipment hub in the Indian sub-continent. *[Business Standard]*

India to hit 100 GW pumped storage hydropower by 2035-36-CEA: India plans to build 100 GW of pumped storage hydroelectricity by 2035-36. This is crucial for meeting the nation's growing energy storage needs. The goal supports the expansion of non-fossil fuel power sources. *[The Economic Times]*

Shipping Corporation of India seeks to acquire eight new very large gas carriers: Shipping Corporation of India has invited bids to acquire eight new very large gas carriers, of which six must be built in India and two can be supplied by overseas shipyards. The move aligns with the government's push to boost domestic shipbuilding capacity. *[The Economic Times]*



Sustainable Industrialisation

VinFast generates interest again to participate in EV manufacturing scheme (SPMEPCI): Vietnam-based electric vehicle maker VinFast has said that the company would participate in the Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars in India (SPMEPCI). *[Business Line]*

Premier Energies commissions 400 MW solar cell facility in Telangana: Clean energy firm Premier Energies has commissioned a 400 megawatt solar cell manufacturing facility in Telangana as part of its ₹11,000-crore expansion plan, the company said. *[Business Line]*

Nalco eyes 200-300 MW green power capacity backed by battery storage for low-carbon aluminium: Challenges such as higher green power tariffs and supply consistency remain, but the shift is critical for sustainable aluminium production, Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) Brijendra Pratap Singh said. *[Business line]*

HPCL bets big on renewables and biofuels to meet 2040 net-zero target: HPCL's capex spending includes 15% for gas projects, 8% for renewables, 4 per cent for biofuels, 3% for electric vehicle (EV) or alternate fuels and 6% for net zero projects. *[Business Standard]*

Tata Power Renewables reaches 10 GW projects execution milestone: The company reported a 33% increase in commissioned EPC RE capacity in the first nine months of FY26 compared to the previous year, with Q3FY26 marking its highest-ever quarterly addition. *[The Economic Times]*



Sectoral News

Budget 2026-27-Vedanta urges policy push for low-grade iron ore beneficiation: India's steel demand is expected to hit 300 million tonnes by 2030; Beneficiation of low-grade reserves could enhance supply security, create jobs, and generate billions in government revenue through increased mining and exports. *[Business Line]*

India-EU FTA to boost textiles industry, generate more jobs: Raymond Group MD Gautam Singhania: Textiles remain among the largest employers in the country and a duty-free access to the EU market would be beneficial not only for the sector but also for the broader economy," Singhania said. *[Business Line]*

Pharma sector shifting from volume-driven to value-driven approach-Eco Survey: India's pharmaceutical industry is shifting from a volume-driven to a value-driven approach, with greater emphasis on complex generics, biosimilars, and innovation, to move up the value chain, according to Economic Survey 2025-26. *[Mint]*

Export gains mask localisation challenge for auto component makers: India's auto component industry delivered resilient growth in the first half of FY26, but rising imports underline the structural challenges that lie ahead, even as export competitiveness improves. *[Financial Express]*

EU deal to open \$750 billion electronics market for Indian manufacturers: India's electronics sector is set for significant growth. A new trade deal grants Indian manufacturers easier access to the European Union's large electronics market. This agreement is expected to boost India's electronics exports to \$50 billion by 2031. *[The Economic Times]*

Pro tem extension may add 1,200 MSMEs to telecom gear space: India's telecom landscape is gearing up for an influx of micro and small businesses, thanks to the extended Pro Tem Certification Scheme, which will slash certification costs. This change is anticipated to ignite growth and spark innovation within the national sector. *[The Economic Times]*

Budget 2026 wish-list-Pharma sector seeks API self-reliance, export incentives to strengthen India's 'Pharmacy of the World' tag: As the Union Budget 2026-27 draws closer, India's pharmaceutical industry is pressing for a forward-looking policy framework that prioritises innovation, manufacturing resilience, and the ease of doing business. *[The Economic Times]*

India-EU FTA to boost steel trade, low-carbon cooperation-Indian Steel Association: The India-EU Free Trade Agreement is hailed as a significant boost for bilateral trade, especially in steel, with India anticipating increased export quotas. The pact is expected to enhance overall economic ties, driving India's growth and domestic steel demand, while also fostering cooperation in low-carbon steel production. *[The Economic Times]*

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