

Industry Matters

Weekly Updates

March 06, 2026



Economy, Industry and Policy

Middle East conflict poses near-term challenges to Indian economy-RBI MPC member: Middle East conflict presents short-term challenges for India's economy, including oil price hikes and export disruptions, but is unlikely to derail long-term growth. An RBI panel member highlighted the need for coordinated fiscal and monetary policies to achieve an 8% GDP growth trajectory, supported by manufacturing and services. Inflation remains benign, offering a 'Goldilocks' scenario. *[The Economic Times]*

Stability, reforms aid India's rise-Former RBI governor Shaktikanta Das: India's economic strength stems from stable policies and reforms. The nation is poised for significant growth, contrasting with global challenges. With a young workforce and digital advancements, India is set to influence global economic trends. *[The Economic Times]*

India's cumulative exports rise to \$720.76 billion in Apr-Jan 2025-26, up 6.15%: Trade data underscores India's ability to navigate a challenging global trade environment marked by economic policy uncertainties and shifting supply chains. *[Business Line]*

Exim Matters-Rodtep rates cut as remissions rise amid flat export growth: Govt halves Rodtep benefits to rein in rising payouts amid stagnant exports, tighter Budget allocations, while exempting agriculture and pushing exporters to improve compliance with annual returns. *[Business Standard]*

India on track for \$4 trillion GDP mark by FY27-CEA Nageswaran: Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran on Friday said that India is on track to achieve the \$4 trillion GDP mark by the end of the next fiscal year. This remark comes at a time when changes to the base year and the depreciation of the rupee have raised questions regarding India's ambitions for higher economic growth. *[Business Line]*

Diversification key to India's solar panel exports after US levy: On February 25, the United States (US) Department of Commerce imposed preliminary countervailing duties (CVD) of approximately 126 per cent on solar cells and modules imported from India. *[Business Standard]*

PM Modi urges India Inc to step up investment in infrastructure and innovation: To sustain the reform express momentum, we have to focus on delivery excellence, says Prime Minister. *[Business Line]*

Productive capital, inclusion key to next growth phase-RBI Dy Guv: RBI Deputy Governor Swaminathan J says India's path to Viksit Bharat@2047 depends on productive capital allocation, meaningful financial inclusion and strong customer protection. *[Business Standard]*

Pro-poor, capacity building schemes losing sheen: India's growth is propelled by private consumption and investment, but government expenditure may have more latitude for spurring the economy. *[Business Line]*

Economists project FY27 growth to be over 7% in the new GDP series: Economists expect India's FY27 growth to exceed 7 per cent under the new GDP series, supported by capex push and consumption, though trade tensions and El Nino risks loom. *[Business Standard]*

Mop up under Miscellaneous Capital Receipts tops ₹34,400 crore, higher than RE: Assisted by asset monetisation in a big way, Miscellaneous Capital Receipts (MCRs) have exceeded the revised estimates, data from the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) showed. *[Business Line]*

Beyond tariffs-India-EU FTA text focuses on services, sustainability, IPR, digital trade: Marking a significant shift in the depth of economic engagement, the free trade agreement between India and the European Union introduces far-reaching commitments on sustainability & labour, intellectual property rights (trademark and copyright), services and digital trade, areas that had long remained sticking points in negotiations. *[Business Line]*



Foreign Investment

100% FDI gives flexibility to serious insurers-Generali Central Insurance: The government's decision to open up the insurance sector to 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) will give global insurers greater flexibility to set up operations in India, where they earlier had to mandatorily partner a local entity. *[Business Standard]*

Q3 FDI inflows up 16.6% on-year, US second top source in April-December: India FDI inflows: Singapore was the top source of overseas investments in April-December this fiscal, followed by the US. FDI equity inflows in July-September FY26 were \$16.4 billion. *[The Economic Times]*

India's FDI palace of illusion: India mostly measures success in the foreign direct investment (FDI) arena by a single number. How much capital (money) came in during a year. When FDI inflows rise, the credit is instantly given to the reforms, and other policy measures. *[The Pioneer]*

States now central to India's investment strategy-Invest India's Karthikeyan: Karthikeyan says improving policy predictability, streamlined approvals and stronger state coordination are helping India deepen its investment pipeline. *[The Economic Times]*



Trade Policy and Competitiveness

US trade report acknowledges gaps in India-US trade deal talks: Gaps remain on "sensitive issues" in the US-India bilateral trade deal talks, even as both nations are continuing to work towards an agreement that will "open the Indian market for American products" and reduces India's 2025 trade surplus of \$58.2 billion, according to the US President's 2026 Trade Policy Agenda and 2025 annual report. *[Business Line]*

India, Canada forge CAD \$2.6 billion uranium deal; target year-end trade pact: Modi, Carney agree on stepping up cooperation in critical minerals, energy trade, digital and AI initiatives, defence; double bilateral trade to \$50 billion by 2030. *[Business Line]*

India, EU trade agreement includes model mediation procedures: Regarding the selection of a mediator, the text said, if the two sides are unable to agree on the mediator within the specified time period, the request for mediation "shall be regarded as rejected. *[Business Line]*

India, Canada sign \$1.9 bn uranium pact to strengthen energy cooperation: India has signed a \$1.9 billion uranium supply deal with Canada's Cameco for deliveries from 2027 to 2035, part of a wider strategic energy partnership spanning renewables and fuels. *[Business Standard]*

WTO meet-India pushes tech transfer to boost developing nations' trade: New Delhi highlighted persistent barriers faced by developing economies and LDCs in acquiring, adapting and deploying critical technologies, including export controls on inputs such as semiconductor chips and rare earth minerals, as well as rigid intellectual property regimes. *[The Economic Times]*



Corporate Governance

Many Maharatna, Navratna PSUs face board governance gaps-Survey: Several of India's largest public sector utilities (PSUs) continue to run with gaps in board composition, evaluation and governance processes, according to a survey by Excellence Enablers. *[Business Line]*

CAs flag SGB tax change, dividend rules in post-Budget memo: Industry body flags market impact of proposed tax tweaks; seeks grandfathering for gold bonds and clarity on key provisions. *[Business Line]*

Govt should amend SMC Bill to unify regulation of the corporate bond market: To facilitate retail participation in G-Secs, RBI came out in November 2021 with a scheme for direct retail participation in G-Secs through its own depository system and the NDS-OM trading platform. *[Business Standard]*

Actis' Athena Renewable Energy draws SEIT, IndiGrid, Anzen InvIT bids: The interested bidders include SEIT, the energy InvIT sponsored by Mahindra Susten; IndiGrid, backed by KKR; and Anzen InvIT, sponsored by Sekura Energy, which is owned by Edelweiss. *[The Economic Times]*

IIFL Finance hires EY for due diligence on potential Samasta stake sale: IIFL Finance has appointed EY to conduct due diligence for a possible stake sale in its MFI arm Samasta, as the lender evaluates strategic options amid pressure on the microfinance portfolio. *[Business Line]*

Visible signs of pickup in private investment cycle-Shaktikanta Das: Indian companies are now on a much stronger financial footing after a multiyear deleveraging cycle, cleaner balance sheets, lower leverage and improved profitability, said Shaktikanta Das, principal secretary to the Prime Minister, at an event. *[Business Standard]*



MSMEs and Start-ups

India missed out on chips, models but real opportunity is in applications: India may have missed the early layers of the artificial-intelligence technology stack — chips, infrastructure, and large language models (LLMs) — but venture capitalists are betting it can compete in AI-powered applications and services. *[Business Standard]*

MFI sector continues signs of stabilisation in Q3 FY26-Arohan Financial: The microfinance sector continued to show signs of stabilisation in Q3 FY26, said Manoj Nambiar, managing director (MD), Arohan Financial Services. The asset quality of the company improved, with gross non-performing assets (GNPA) at 1.69 per cent and net NPA at 0.39 per cent. *[Business Standard]*

Capital exists; long-term leadership doesn't-Vadodara MSMEs face succession crisis as next generation opts out of family businesses: Vadodara's MSMEs grapple with a succession crisis as next-gen heirs choose global careers over family firms, risking slow industrial hollowing and job losses without urgent reform. *[The Economic Times]*

As banks tap AI for big tasks, local startups get a prompt: While automation of call centres saw the first wave of AI adoption in the highly regulated sector, more applications are getting powered by this technology now. *[The Economic Times]*



Employment and Industrial Relations

EPFO fixes 8.25% interest rate on employees' PF deposits for 2025-26: Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) on Monday fixed the interest rate on employees' provident fund (EPF) deposits for FY26 at 8.25 per cent, retaining the rate for the second consecutive year, news agency PTI reported citing a source. *[Business Standard]*

The great tech rebound-India's white-collar job market surges 12% in Feb: The Indian white-collar landscape is witnessing a significant transformation as 2026 begins, marked by a powerful "V-shaped" recovery in hiring. According to the latest Naukri JobSpeak Index, the market recorded a 12% year-on-year growth in February, reaching 3,233 points—the strongest performance for the month in recent years. *[Business Standard]*



Industrial Finance

Axis Bank ties up with Tesla as preferred EV financier in India: Under the arrangement, Axis Bank will provide end-to-end digital loan processing for Tesla buyers, from booking through to vehicle delivery, with no paperwork required. *[Business Line]*

New loans sourced in Q3FY26 rose 36% Y-o-Y to ₹20 trillion: Experian report shows strong rebound in secured lending, while unsecured loans recover from last year's decline; average ticket sizes rise across segments. *[Business Standard]*

RBI tightens rules on NBFC lending to defaulting borrowers; seeks board-approved policy: Reserve Bank of India is scrutinizing shadow banks. Several non-banking finance companies face questions regarding their policy on lending to borrowers with existing defaults. *[The Economic Times]*

Shriram Finance secures USD 76 million co-financing for economic inclusion & rural development: In a significant move towards enhancing economic opportunities in India, DEG, the German development finance institution, has joined forces with Citi to deliver a remarkable USD 76 million co-financing package to Shriram Finance. *[The Economic Times]*



Technology and Innovation

AI won't take India's tech jobs away: With GCCs scaling up and IT firms having strong hiring plans, AI will only redefine the kind of jobs that will be in demand. *[Business Line]*

Apple rivals top Indian manufacturers by turnover on surging iPhone output: Apple Inc, through its iPhones manufactured by two key vendors — Foxconn (Hon Hai Technology Group) and Tata Electronics — achieved market revenues of over ₹3 trillion in 2025, placing it just behind the country's largest listed manufacturing company by revenue. *[Business Standard]*

NDAP overhaul in works to handle surge in big data: India's National Data and Analytics Platform is set for a major upgrade. The government plans to enhance its capacity to manage vast amounts of data. This will enable advanced analytics and the use of generative AI. *[The Economic Times]*

OpenAI releases GPT-5.3 Instant in ChatGPT-Here's how it's different: OpenAI says GPT-5.3 Instant improves conversational flow, trims excessive disclaimers and delivers more reliable answers across domains. *[Business Standard]*

From scale to structure-The ET Gen AI Hackathon and India's next phase of AI: The ET Gen AI Hackathon is emerging as a defining AI hackathon in India, bringing together 55,000+ participants in a structured, three-phase format designed to test real-world viability. With a ₹10 lakh prize pool, the platform prioritises scalable, enterprise-ready innovation. *[The Economic Times]*



Industrial Infrastructure, Clusters and SEZs

Oman Air Cargo to add India, Europe network capacity in coming days: The cargo player has suspended flights to and from Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, and Dubai due to ongoing regional airspace closures. *[Business Standard]*

India grapples with grid curtailment, biggest test yet on energy transition: The rising share of renewable energy in India's fuel basket — something that's rightly applauded — has handed policy planners a major headache: How to maintain grid stability and avoid supply curtailments. *[Business Standard]*

JP Morgan initiates coverage on Adani Ports, JSW Infrastructure with overweight ratings; shares rally 2%: Adani Ports and JSW Infrastructure shares saw gains after JP Morgan initiated coverage with overweight ratings. The brokerage sees strong growth in India's ports sector. JP Morgan has set price targets for both companies, anticipating significant expansion and revenue growth. *[The Economic Times]*

Global tech companies deepen roots within own Indian bases: Global giants like Google, Apple, and Airbus are deepening their roots in India. They are expanding within their current campuses, not leasing new spaces. This shows a strong, long-term belief in India's capabilities. India is becoming a major hub for global operations and engineering. *[The Economic Times]*



Sustainable Industrialisation

Green hydrogen capacity to rise sharply in 2-3 years-MNRE director: India is set for a major jump in green hydrogen production capacity within the next two to three years, with a long list of sectoral projects in the pipeline to start commissioning. The growth will ramp up decarbonisation efforts across hard-to-abate sectors and bring the country closer to its Net Zero target for 2070. *[Business Standard]*

Andhra Pradesh okays Adani solar power deal, with rider: Adani Andhra solar deal: CM Naidu had kept the decision in abeyance and the state was examining the financial impact of cancelling the power supply agreement. Last year, Andhra Pradesh had realised the adverse financial implications of such a move and was trying to look for options. *[The Economic Times]*

GAIL to invest Rs 1,736 crore in wind power project in Maharashtra: State-run GAIL (India) Ltd has approved an investment of Rs 1,736.25 crore to set up a 178.2 MW wind power project in Maharashtra, expanding its renewable portfolio as it targets net zero carbon emissions by 2035. *[The Economic Times]*

AGEL spins up 185 MW wind energy project in Gujarat: Adani Green Energy Twenty Five C Limited has commissioned a new 185 MW wind power project in Khavda, Gujarat. This development boosts Adani Green Energy's total operational renewable generation capacity to 17,472.2 MW. *[The Economic Times]*



Sectoral News

Conflict in West Asia disrupts gems and jewellery trade; Surat exporters raise concerns: The ongoing conflict in West Asia following the joint military action by the US and Israel against Iran is expected to significantly impact India's gems and jewellery sector, particularly exports and imports to Israel and Dubai, industry stakeholders said. *[Business Line]*

Strong demand, new launches drive double-digit growth in auto wholesales in Feb: The report noted that Indian auto OEMs continued to witness sustained growth in wholesale volumes during the month, with strong double-digit growth recorded across industry segments. *[Business Line]*

Mining cooperation shaping India-Argentina partnership: Argentina and India are strengthening economic ties. Mining cooperation is a key focus, with Argentina offering a favorable framework for Indian investment in critical minerals. Agreements are already in place for lithium exploration. India is a growing partner for Argentina, with bilateral trade increasing. *[The Economic Times]*

Power Ministry extends deadline for Draft National Electricity Policy 2026 feedback till March 19: The timeline has been extended on the request of several stakeholders who have sought additional time to examine the provisions of the draft electricity policy, the Ministry said in a notification dated February 25. *[The Economic Times]*

Smartphone sector needs PLI 2.0 boost: India's government is right to extend PLI for smartphone exports, sustaining momentum and signaling its intent to become a global manufacturing hub. This strategy leverages the presence of major players like Apple and Samsung, fostering local value addition and employment. *[The Economic Times]*

Strategy to secure critical minerals: Exploration, mining, and refining of critical minerals are associated with capital and gestation periods, requiring government and private sector collaboration. *[Business Line]*

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