

THE COMSOC GAZETTE



FEBRUARY 2026

Issued on: 28th February 2026



FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

STOCK MARKET

STARTUPS

ECONOMY

GEO POLITICS

SCIENCE AND TECH

COMSOG GENIE



CONTENTS

TABLE OF



Financial Foresights

01

Corporate Odyssey

02

The Economic Lens

03

Sustainable Synergies

04

The Global Chessboard

05

Scientific Spectra

06

ComSoc Genie

07

FINANCIAL FORESIGHTS

01 NITI AAYOG ROLLS OUT ₹16.7 L CRORE ASSET MONETISATION PLAN

The Niti Aayog has laid out a roadmap to monetise more than 2,000 assets across 12 ministries to generate a revenue of 16.7 lakh crore under the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP 2.0).

Out of this, ₹10.8 lakh crore is expected to be generated in the five years of NMP 2.0 till 2029-30, while the remaining Rs 5.9 lakh crore will flow thereafter.

“NMP enables recycling of productive public assets, thereby unlocking resources for reinvestment in new projects and capital expenditure,” Sitharaman said at the launch of the report prepared by Aayog. “This approach facilitates efficient mobilisation of funds for capex in public assets while minimising budgetary outgo of the government.”

Of the estimated ₹10.8 lakh crore to be raised, the Aayog estimates 4.61 lakh crore would go directly to the CFI, ₹4.18 lakh crore would be direct private investment, ₹1.63 lakh crore would go to public sector undertakings (PSUs) or port authorities and ₹38,418 crore would go to the state consolidated fund.



02 HARYANA CM SAYS RS 556 CRORE RECOVERED FROM IDFC FIRST BANK

IDFC First Bank says even though investigation is ongoing, it has paid out 100 per cent of principal and interest to departments of the Haryana government as claimed.

Private sector IDFC First Bank on Sunday, 22nd Feb disclosed a Rs 590-crore fraud committed by certain employees and others at a particular branch in Chandigarh in a specific set of Haryana state government accounts.

The government will ensure that anybody who is involved, be it a bank employee, private individual, or even a government employee, will not be spared, the chief minister said.

On Saturday, IDFC First Bank informed exchanges that it had received a request from a Haryana government department for the closure of its account at a Chandigarh branch and transfer of funds to another bank.

In the process, the bank observed difference of ₹590 in the balances in the account and the balances mentioned by the Haryana government department.



01 RoDTEP EXPORT REBATES SLASHED BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

The Government has recently announced that the benefits available to exporters, under the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme, shall be reduced by 50% of the earlier notified rates and price caps effective as of right now.

The chain effect of this move will be evident in the price hikes of Indian exports in the international market. It is argued that such a hike will dent the competitiveness of these exports in price-sensitive markets.

This change is put into force at a time when India is facing a tough competition from Vietnam and Bangladesh in global export markets, and thus, it is widely discussed.

Benefits under RoDTEP cut to half

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, February 23

THE GOVERNMENT HAS slashed the benefits under the scheme that refunds taxes incurred at the production stage of exported goods by half, sparking concern among exporters facing a highly uncertain global trade environment.

"With immediate effect, the applicable Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) rates shall be limited to 50% of the existing rates and, where applicable,



50% of the notified value caps," a notification by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade said.

RoDTEP reimburses taxes, duties and levies at the central, state and local level which are

currently not being refunded under any other mechanism but are incurred by the exporters in the process of manufacture and distribution of exported products.

Before Monday notification, refunds ranged from 0.3% to 4.3% of the value of exported products. These rates will now come down to 0.15-2.15%.

The refunds are given as transferable duty credit scrip which can be used to pay import duties or sold in the market by exporters.

02 INDIA-FRANCE TAX TREATY AMENDED AFTER THREE DECADES.

The Governments of India and France have together signed a Protocol amending the India-France Double Taxation Avoidance Convention. The amendments were made after a three-decade long gap, when the French President graced the Indian soil.

The amending protocol grants the right to tax capital gains arising from the sale of shares of a company, to the jurisdiction where the company is a resident. Further, as a result of these amendments, the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) Clause has been dropped from the Protocol to the DTAC. Moreover, the tax rates under the convention have been rationalised.

The Amending protocol thereby modifies the India-France DTAC to the latest international standards.

INDIA-FRANCE DTAA UPDATE
Amending Protocol to 1932 Tax Treaty Signed

- 1 Capital Gains on Shares**
Now taxable in the source country (where the company is resident).
→ Strengthens India's taxing rights on Indian company shares.
- 2 Dividend Taxation Revised**
Earlier Flat 10% withholding
Now:
→ 5% for substantial shareholding (generally eFPI)
→ 10% in other cases
✓ More structured relief for strategic investors
✓ Clearer framework for group structures
- 3 MFN Clause Removed**
Ends uncertainty and litigation around Most Favoured Nation' interpretations.
→ Greater certainty, fewer disputes.
- 4 Other Important Updates**
→ Refined Fees for Technical Services (FTS) provisions
→ Introduction of Service PE rules
→ Stronger exchange of information
→ Assistance in tax collection
→ Alignment with OECD BEPS principles

01 DEWA EXPLORES SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COLLABORATION WITH US ENERGY DELEGATION

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority CEO Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer met Robert Hertzberg of Mission Possible Partnership and First Public Hydrogen, along with a senior delegation from Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), to discuss collaboration in energy sustainability. Talks covered stronger R&D and innovation partnerships and specialized training in smart grids, renewables, network upgrades, energy efficiency, cybersecurity, and advanced data analytics.

Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer reaffirmed Dubai Electricity and Water Authority's commitment to building global partnerships to exchange technical expertise and strengthen national capacity, stressing the need to equip professionals to lead the energy transition, digital transformation, and climate action. He noted these seminars support Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 and Dubai Net Zero Carbon Emissions Strategy 2050, advancing Dubai's shift toward a low-carbon, sustainable energy future.



02 TANZANIA CHAMPIONS CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION AT SADC CONFERENCE



At the SADC Sustainable Energy Week in Victoria Falls, Tanzania presented its comprehensive clean energy roadmap, outlining planned investments in hydropower and solar projects, a gradual reduction in biomass use, and stronger regional collaboration. Senior officials emphasized that achieving sustained development, improved grid stability, and long-term energy security for all member states requires alignment of policy frameworks, regulatory standards, and infrastructure development at both national and regional levels.

Tanzania's growing engagement with the East African Community (EAC) and the East African Power Pool (EAPP) was also highlighted. Expanding cross-border electricity trade is expected to lower costs, improve grid resilience during local disruptions, attract climate and green investment, and drive industrial growth, fostering a more interconnected, competitive, and sustainably powered African economy.

THE GLOBAL CHESSBOARD

01 ORBITAL REAL ESTATE: THE SCRAMBLE FOR LOW EARTH ORBIT

The LEO land rush is rapidly escalating into an unprecedented space race. As tech giants and well-funded startups deploy mega-constellations of thousands of satellites, prime orbital slots and critical radio frequencies are becoming scarce and fiercely contested. Governments now recognize that access to LEO is no longer just a scientific pursuit, but a strategic issue tied to national sovereignty over global broadband, real-time Earth observation, and crucial military intelligence.

As a result, governments are strongly backing their domestic space champions with major contracts to secure their stake in this critical infrastructure. For the global telecommunications and logistics industry, space is becoming a tightly regulated and geopolitically sensitive arena. Companies now face a complex landscape of national security laws, spectrum conflicts, and international treaties. Launch access and prime orbital slots are no longer just technical or financial hurdles, but strategic imperatives to secure dominance in the trillion-dollar space economy.



02 THE POLAR SILK ROAD: TRADING ON THIN ARCTIC ICE FRONTIERS AND GEOPOLITICS



Climate change is opening the Arctic Ocean, turning a once-impassable frozen barrier into the world's newest and most contested trade route. The Northern Sea Route offers a shorter maritime link between East Asia's manufacturing hubs and European markets than the congested southern passage via the Suez Canal, providing significant fuel and transit savings. Yet the corridor is marked by rising geopolitical risk: Russia is militarizing its northern frontier and tensing territorial control, while China is expanding regional port infrastructure to advance its strategic "Polar Silk Road" vision.

The Arctic route is a high-risk, high-reward bet for global logistics firms and energy majors. Firms must consider the clear retail benefits of new, faster trade routes and newly accessible resource stakes against the high geopolitical cost, extreme environmental risks, and stratospheric maritime insurance rates of operating in highly surveilled waters under the territorial dominance of rival superpowers.

01 INDIA AI IMPACT SUMMIT 2026 HIGHLIGHTS GLOBAL AI DIALOGUE

The AI Impact Summit was successfully hosted by India from February 16–20, 2026 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, highlighting India's growing role in the global AI conversation. Over 100 countries participated, including 20+ heads of state, 60+ ministers, and industry leaders such as Sundar Pichai (Google), Sam Altman (OpenAI), and Dario Amodei (Anthropic). The summit aimed to define practical AI applications, discuss technological advances, and develop inclusive, and impactful deployment frameworks, especially in healthcare, agriculture, and education. India showcased domestic innovation through large language models and AI-enabled hardware like smart glasses, reflecting its push to build a strong indigenous AI industry. Despite minor organizational issues and one misrepresented exhibit, the event underscored India's ambition to help shape global AI development and governance, while emphasizing collaboration among governments, industry, and international stakeholders



02 INDIAN IT SECTOR FACES BACKLASH AND DOWNTURN AMID AI ANXIETY

Investor uncertainty in India's IT sector has led to falling stock prices amid fears that AI will disrupt traditional business models and reduce long-term revenue visibility. The NIFTY IT is down over 19% year-to-date, while the NIFTY 50 has declined only marginally. Shares of Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, and Wipro have each fallen 20% or more, as investors worry about AI-driven automation, potential contract cancellations, pricing pressures, and restructuring of service agreements, further accelerating the sell-off. Foreign institutional investors have withdrawn nearly ₹11,000 crore (US\$1.8 billion) from IT stocks in the first half of February alone, increasing market volatility and deepening apprehensions over how the traditional outsourcing industry will adapt, reposition talent, and sustain growth in an AI-driven global technology landscape. While short-term pressures remain, long-term prospects will hinge on how effectively Indian IT firms integrate AI into their business models, delivery frameworks, and client transformation strategies.



MOVIE RECOMMENDATION

ABOUT TIME

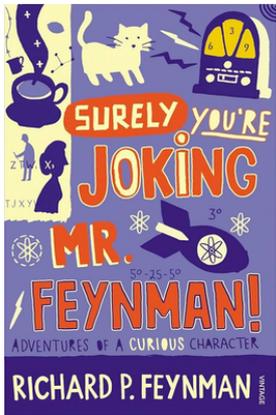
About time is a comedy-drama that follows the story of Tim Lake, who, upon turning 21, discovers that the men in his clan can travel back in time. Incipiently, he uses this power to perfect his relationship with Mary, his love interest. Soon, he realises that though revisiting the past is gratifying, altering it would be catastrophic. Upon his father's advice, he eventually ceases his temporal meddling, believing that a happy life cannot be attained by manipulating time, but by fully appreciating the ordinary.



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

SURELY YOU'RE JOKING, MR. FEYNMAN! - RICHARD FEYNMAN

This book is a collection of autobiographical anecdotes, written by the Nobel Prize winner, Richard P. Feynman. It sheds light on the thoughts and values of a genuine learner like him. Descriptions of his time spent on the Manhattan Project, playing bongo drums and him challenging the conventions of academia, demonstrate his remarkable curiosity. This book motivates the reader to get on to the never-ending journey of learning. This book is a must read for the people who constantly have this one question: WHAT UNFOLDS IN A GENIUS' MIND?



YOUTUBE RECOMMENDATION

EVERY STORY HAS A HOUSE -

Roshan Mathew's raw and observational take on what it is to have grandparents and what it feels like to lose them offers a fresh outlook on how grief is universal and almost inevitable. Roshan's Achachan not only built a home for his family, but also gave them reasons why the house didn't feel like a home when he passed away. Give it a watch if you miss the bliss of your childhood, surrounded by your grandparents!



MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Rescue - Lauren Daigle
2. This Is Who I Am - Celeste
3. Lights Up - Harry Styles
4. Low Lays the Devil - The Veils
5. Stronger Than Me - Amy Winehouse

GUESS THE PERSONALITY

- This person holds the title of “The Terminator” in the world of business.
- His chain of brands, LVMH, have a habit of burning or destroying the unsold goods, they never sell it on discount.
- He is also the founder and the President of a contemporary Art Museum in Paris- Fondation Louis Vuitton.
- A taxi hire in New York City ignited his interests in rigorously building and acquiring luxury brands. The taxi driver was unaware of the French President’s name, but knew Christian Dior.
- All of his 5 children hold official positions in the brands controlled by LVMH. A real life version of SUCCESSION.



Answers of the previous edition

Personality: Hanumankind

Company: Nvidia



GUESS THE COMPANY

- This company started its journey in 2002 with a single store in Mumbai and has since grown into one of India’s largest retail chains.
- Known for its no-frills model, it focuses on offering quality products at the lowest possible prices, a formula that attracts millions of middle-class shoppers.
- Its founder is one of India’s most reclusive billionaires, often called “India’s retail king,” who rarely gives interviews or appears in public.
- The company’s IPO in 2017 was one of the most successful in Indian stock market history, with shares doubling on the first day of trading.
- Despite competing with giants like Reliance Retail and Big Bazaar, it continues to dominate with its focus on efficiency, scale, and customer loyalty.

ANSWERS IN THE NEXT EDITION

JARGONS DECODED

Dry Powder

It refers to cash or uncommitted capital that is held in reserve for unforeseen circumstances or for further opportunities. The phrase dates back to the days of gunpowder usage in wars, when soldiers had to keep some powder dry so it would still function when needed. These are the unutilised funds like the cash reserves in business, unused capital of a venture fund or just an idle fund of an investor. It provides flexibility and strength of investment.

Skin in the Game

It refers to having a personal interest in a project, investment, or choice. Because the individual is risking their own money, reputation, or resources, it demonstrates commitment. A founder who puts their own money into a startup, has a stake in the outcome and gives investors a sense of confidence. This idea aligns interest, promotes accountability, and curbs reckless behaviour.

MYTH BUSTERS

Backtesting Always Guarantees Future Success

Backtesting refers to applying a strategy to a historical price data of a stock. If the results show high returns, low drawdowns and consistency, they believe that it will be a “one-size fits all” formula for trading. However, what worked in 2015, might be irrelevant in 2025 as markets keep on changing due to new regulations, technologies and macroeconomic shifts.

If a Stock is down a lot, it is due for a rebound

If a stock's price is falling, then it is highly likely that it will fall further. Additionally, if the said company's business is going downhill, the price will not bounce back. Investing in such stocks is said to be equivalent to “catching a falling knife” that can destroy your funds.

FORTUNE'S FABLES

Kheyti- Founded by Sathya Raghu Mokkaapati, Kaushik Kappagantulu, Saumya and Ayush Sharma in 2015, Kheyti specialises in the “Greenhouse-in-a-Box,” a straightforward but efficient invention, that enables farmers to save 90% water and boost crop yields by up to seven times. It has grown to influence more than 1000 farms pan India and works with partners like Bank of Baroda. Numerous accolades have been bestowed upon the startup's efforts, including the Earthshot Prize (2022), a \$42000 worth of MassChallenge Prize (2017), and the Government of Telangana's recognition for sustainability. Kheyti keeps encouraging environmentally friendly farming practices and empowering farmers.

**“Do what you can, with what you have,
where you are.”**

— Theodore Roosevelt

Thank you for reading!

**Hope you enjoyed the content.
Stay tuned for the next edition!**

