H.Q: CMA Bhawan, 3, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110 003
Kolkata Office: CMA Bhawan, 12 Sudder Street, Kolkata – 700 016

DAILY NEWS DIGEST BY BFSI BOARD

04 March 2026

ECONOMY

India has 50 days of crude stock; there are options beyond Strait of Hormuz: Govt sources amid Iran war: India is constantly monitoring the evolving situation in West Asia with the ministry of petroleum and natural gas concluding multiple meetings with Indian companies in the last 48 hours to take stock of the situation and charting contingency plans, including alternative regions for supply of crude oil, government sources aware of the development said. India is comfortably positioned with 50 days of crude oil and products stock amid the escalating conflict in the Gulf and is constantly monitoring the unfolding situation, sources said, dismissing concerns over shortage of energy requirements. The rising tensions in West Asia has put India's oil supplies at risk with around 40 percent of the country's total monthly oil imports passing through the Strait of Hormuz, a key passage between the Persian gulf and the Gulf of Oman. Government sources said that India continues to be cautiously optimistic that it can take domestic steps and diversify (sourcing) as the need arises. They noted that not all supplies of oil come via the Strait of Hormuz.
(Moneycontrol)

Risk-off sentiment drags rupee: The rupee weakened over the last week, as global and domestic factors turned adverse. The escalation of tensions involving the US, Israel and Iran has sharply shifted the global risk sentiment, triggering a risk-off move across markets. A key concern is the potential disruption of oil supplies through the Strait of Hormuz, through which nearly 20 per cent of the world's crude oil passes. Brent crude futures (now at $82/barrel) have risen about 14 per cent so far this month and are up about 33 per cent year-to-date. Given India's dependence on oil imports, sustained strength in crude prices increases dollar demand and exerts pressure on the rupee. The dollar has also strengthened amid safe-haven flows, adding to the headwinds for emerging market currencies. The dollar index, currently at 99, is up 2.3 per cent over the last three weeks.

(Business Line)

State finances under strain: Deficit rises, debt stays high: India's State finances are showing signs of renewed pressure, CareEdge report on Analysis of State Finances shows. After staying below 3% for three years, fiscal deficit has risen to 3.3% of GSDP in FY25. Debt levels remain high at around 28%, well above the recommended 20% limit. Several large States such as Punjab, Bihar, Rajasthan and Kerala face both high debt and high deficits. Despite high debt, aggregate interest payments have moderated to around 12% of revenue receipts, partly supported by the Centre's interest-free loans that reduced repayment pressure.

(Business Line)

BANKING & FINANCE

Mutual funds take a shine to bank stocks: The banking sector's robust health, signified by healthy credit growth, improving asset quality, stable profitability and stake-buys by foreign banks and institutions in private sector banks, has prompted mutual funds to increase their weightage in the sector, leading to significant rise in their stakes in various banks over the last one year. The banks in which MFs have increased their shareholding by more than 1 per cent between December 2024 and December 2025 include AU Small Finance Bank (SFB), Axis Bank, Bandhan Bank, Equitas SFB, Bank of Maharashtra, Federal Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, IDFC First Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, RBL Bank, South Indian Bank, State Bank of India and Ujjivan SFB, according to data sourced from primeinfobase.com.

(Business Line)

CCI clears Central Bank's additional stake buy in Generali Central insurance ventures: The Competition Commission of India has given its approval. Central Bank of India will acquire more shares in Generali Central Insurance Company and Generali

Central Life Insurance Company. This follows the bank's recent consolidation of its stake in these joint ventures. The companies operate together under the Generali Central brand. This move strengthens the bank's position in the insurance sector.
(Economic Times)

On a War-footing: Reinsurers move to rework marine, aviation policies as West Asia tensions rise: Reinsurers are reassessing war-risk exposure across marine hull and cargo, and aviation policies as West Asian tensions rise, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz, which carries about 20% of global oil flows and is now viewed as a high-risk combat zone. Global reinsurers are reviewing war risk insurance for ships and planes due to rising tensions in West Asia. Strait of Hormuz is now seen as a high-risk combat zone. Premiums for war risk are expected to increase significantly. Some hull policies have already been cancelled or repriced. Cargo policies are still under review.
(Economic Times)

State-run banks rolling out GCC, AI road map under EASE 9.0 reforms: Public sector banks will roll out a global capability centre (GCC) strategy in FY27 and prepare a capacity-building roadmap. SBI, which set up the first GCC among state-run lenders earlier this year, will take the lead, said people familiar with the developments. Banks are also expected to assess active-active data centre models for inclusion in their five-year business plans. Banks will also develop advanced technology like AI stacks and blockchain. This move aims to modernize lenders and improve productivity. India's BFSI GCCs are projected for significant growth by 2032.
(Economic Times)

INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

Dow drops 1.8% as global stocks slide, oil leaps as Iran war intensifies: A sell-off for stocks is slamming Wall Street after careening from Europe and Asia, and oil prices are leaping even higher as rise that the war with Iran is widening and may do more sustained damage to the economy than feared. The S&P 500 dropped 1.6 per cent in early trading on Tuesday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average sank 880 points, or 1.8

per cent , and the Nasdaq composite lost 1.8 per cent. Crude oil prices jumped more than 8 per cent as Iran struck the US Embassy in Saudi Arabia, part of a widening of targets that's also including areas critical to the world's oil and natural gas production. Treasury yields rose.

(Business Standard)

Trump threatens to cut trade with Spain over lack of support on Iran attack: President Donald Trump on Tuesday threatened to end trade with Spain, citing a lack of support over the US and Israeli attacks on Iran and the European nation's resistance to increase its Nato spending. "We're going to cut off all trade with Spain," Trump told reporters during an Oval Office meeting with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz. "We don't want anything to do with Spain." The US president's comments came a day after Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares said his country would not allow the US to use the bases in southern Spain in any strikes not covered by the United Nations' charter.

(Business Standard)

India, Canada sign 5-year MoU to boost agri-food research cooperation: India and Canada strengthened bilateral cooperation in the agri-food sector with the signing of a five-year Memorandum of Understanding between the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management-Kundli (NIFTEM-K) and the University of Saskatchewan (USask). The MoU provides for joint research projects, online teaching and training programmes, faculty and student exchanges, integrated degree programmes in Food Processing Technology, and industry-oriented short courses. It also envisages collaborative funding proposals, seminars and workshops aimed at advancing innovation, sustainable food systems, food security and value-chain development.

(Business Standard)

H.Q: CMA Bhawan, 3, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110 003
Kolkata Office: CMA Bhawan, 12 Sudder Street, Kolkata – 700 016

REGULATION & DEVELOPMENT

Centre aiming to quadruple intake of foreign students in India by 2030: The Centre is aiming to quadruple the yearly intake of international students in Indian educational institutions to 200,000 by 2030 from around 50,000 currently. This comes as the government aims to market India as a transnational education hub, offering policy certainty and geopolitical stability to students. “The government has intensified its Study in India programme and is working closely with universities and states to achieve this goal,” said an official with the Department of Higher Education.
(Business Standard)

Irdai proposes April 2026 shift to Ind AS with parallel reporting phase: The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) on Tuesday issued a consultation paper outlining the proposed transition of insurers to Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) from the current Indian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (Igaap) framework, with implementation slated for April 1. The move aims to align financial reporting for insurers with global best practices under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Insurers now follow a regulatory accounting framework prescribed under the Insurance Act, 1938, and Irdai regulations, even as most listed companies and large non-banking financial companies have migrated to Ind AS.
(Business Standard)

FINANCIAL TERMINOLOGY

NAGGING

- A dark pattern practice due to which a user is disrupted and annoyed by repeated and persistent interactions, in the form of requests, information, options, or interruptions, to effectuate a transaction and make some commercial gains, unless specifically permitted by the user.
- For example; Repeatedly asking the customer to enable non-essential cookies on website / mobile application despite the customer having refused earlier. Inserting multiple dialogue boxes (e.g., for seeking reviews) and asking the customer to mandatorily select an option before allowing him / her to leave the application / website.

ICMAI
THE INSTITUTE OF COST ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA
भारतीय लागत लेखाकार संस्थान
Statutory Body under an Act of Parliament
(Under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Corporate Affairs)

H.Q: CMA Bhawan, 3, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110 003
Kolkata Office: CMA Bhawan, 12 Sudder Street, Kolkata – 700 016

RBI KEY RATES

Repo Rate: 5.25%
SDF: 5.00%
MSF & Bank Rate: 5.50%
CRR: 3.00%
SLR: 18.00%
Fixed Reverse Repo: 3.35%

FOREX (FBIL 1.30 PM)

INR / 1 USD : 91.4514
INR / 1 GBP : 122.4499
INR / 1 EUR : 107.3920
INR /100 JPY: 58.2600

EQUITY MARKET

Sensex: 80238.85 (-1048.34)
NIFTY: 24865.70 (-312.95)
Bnk NIFTY: 59839.65 (-689.35)

Courses conducted by BFSI Board

- Certificate Course on Concurrent Audit of Banks
- Certificate Course on Credit Management of Banks
- Certificate Course on Investment Management
- Certificate Course on General Insurance.
- Advance Certificate Course on FinTech
- Certificate Course on Project Financing
- Certificate Course on Cost Control Strategies in the Banking Sector
- Certificate Course on Treasury, Foreign Exchange and International Banking

For details please visit BFSIB portal of the ICMAI website

Publications by BFSI Board

- Handbook on Aide Memoire on Infrastructure Financing (3rd enlarged revised edition).
- Aide Memoire on lending to MSME Sector (including restructuring of MSME Credit).
- Guidance Note on the Internal Audit of General Insurance Companies.
- BFSI Chronicle (quarterly issue of BFSIB)
- Handbook on Stock & Book Debts Audit (Revised and Enlarged 2nd Edition)
- Handbook on Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)
- Monograph on Climate Risk and Green Finance-Banking Sector-International Practices and Indian Perspective (2nd Series)
- Guidance Note on Cost Control Strategies in the Banking Sector

TEAM BFSIB

Banking, Financial Services & Insurance Board
The Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI)