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DAILY NEWS DIGEST BY BFSI BOARD

11 April 2025



ECONOMY

Trump's tariff, if imposed after the 90-day pause, could lower India's FY26 GDP to 6.1%: Moody's: The Indian economy could be staring at a slower pace of growth this year, at 6.1 percent compared with 6.4 percent as projected earlier, if the US' plan for trade tariffs come into effect after three months, Moody's Analytics said on April 9. "The US is one of India's largest trading partners, so a 26% tariff hovering over imports of Indian goods will heavily impede the trade balance. Gems and jewellery, medical devices, and textile industries will be among the worst hit, Moody's Analytics said in a report released on Thursday. The US President had imposed a 26 percent duty on Indian imports on April 2, as part of his reciprocal tariff plan, but ordered a 90-day pause on April 9, with a lower 10 percent rate fixed for all nations except China. While the US action is expected to hurt India, Moody's highlighted that Indian economy could be relatively less impacted as external demand contributes a smaller proportion to growth.

(Moneycontrol)

EU to put counter tariffs against US on hold for 90 days as Trump announces pause: The European Union will delay for 90 days the implementation of its counter tariffs against the US over the 25% duties President Donald Trump imposed last month on the bloc's steel and aluminum exports. The EU will move forward with the tariffs that would hit around €21 billion (\$23.2 billion) of US goods and then immediately suspend them when they take effect, according to people familiar with the matter, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. The move comes just hours after Trump announced a 90-day pause before a 20% "reciprocal" tariff rate was set to hit nearly all EU exports. That rate will now be 10%. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said she wants to give negotiations with the US a chance.

(Moneycontrol)





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Goldman Sachs cuts China GDP growth forecasts citing tariff impact: US investment bank Goldman Sachs lowered its forecasts for China's GDP growth to 4 per cent in 2025 and 3.5 per cent in 2026 in a report published on Thursday, from 4.5 per cent and 4.0 per cent previously, citing the effects of tariffs. Goldman Sachs made the revision for the world's No. 2 economy and second biggest provider of US imports after US President Donald Trump hiked the tariff on Chinese imports to 125 per cent from the 104 per cent level that kicked in on Wednesday. Although additional tariff increases are likely to have a "diminishing marginal impact", the substantial rise in US tariffs on China is expected to significantly weigh on the Chinese economy and labor market, Goldman said.

(Business Standard)





Bank margins may get squeezed in gap between loan & deposit rates: About 60% of commercial bank's loans are pegged to external benchmarks, like the policy repo rate that was lowered the second time in as many months to 6%. For private sector banks, the share of external benchmarks lending rate (EBLR) loans-or advances linked to repo rate-is 85.9%, while for public sector banks it is 44.6%. Effectively, the margins of private banks are expected to be impacted more than PSU banks.

(Economic Times)

Treat customers with dignity, ensure easy-to-understand pricing, RBI deputy governor tells NBFCs: RBI Deputy Governor Swaminathan J has asked the NBFCs to treat customers with dignity and ensure easy-to-understand pricing, free from hidden charges. Addressing a Conference of Non-Banking Financial Companies in Chennai on March 28, the Deputy Governor said the NBFC sector must live up to its promise of inclusion by treating customers with dignity, transparency, and care. "This entails ensuring transparent and easy-to-understand pricing, free from hidden charges or usurious interest rates. In instances of default, recovery practices must be conducted in an empathetic and respectful manner," Swaminathan said. Unfortunately, some NBFCs think they can pursue a business model, where it is par for the course to resort to weak underwriting in pursuit of quick growth, coupled with excessive and unsustainable interest rates -- at times masked as upfront charges or processing fees -- followed by aggressive recovery practices upon default, he added.

(Economic Times)





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NaBFID signs MoU with New Development Bank to accelerate financing infra projects:

The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) on Thursday said it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the New Development Bank (NDB) creating a deep and sustainable infrastructure financing market and developing a supportive ecosystem around it. NDB is a multilateral development bank established by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) with the purpose of mobilising resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in emerging markets and developing countries (EMDCs).

(Economic Times)

INDUSTRY OUTLOOK



TCS Q4 profit falls 1.6% YoY to ₹12,224 crore owing to business uncertainties: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) reported a net profit of ₹12,224 crore for the fourth quarter of the financial year 2024-25, down by 1.6 per cent compared to ₹12,434 crore in the same quarter of the previous fiscal year, owing to uncertainty in the market leading to delays in decision-making and project ramp downs. Net profit also decreased marginally by 1.2 per cent on a sequential basis compared to ₹12,380 crore in Q3. Net profit grew 5.7 per cent from ₹45,908 crore in FY24 to ₹48,553 crore in FY25. It may be noted that the FY24 number includes a one-time legal claim.

(Business Line)

Chinese steel undercuts Indian prices by up to 12% amid tariff uncertainty: Chinese steel offers for India have continued to be cheaper by 5–12 per cent, week-on-week since March 4, following the first round of Trump tariffs. This accounts for basic customs duty, currency fluctuations, and port and miscellaneous charges. Price fluctuations have been in the ₹500 per tonne range, although purchases from Indian traders have been on the slower side, sources said. Corresponding prices in India during this two-month period were ₹48,500–₹49,000 per tonne in the first week of March (vs ₹47,000 per tonne from China); they increased to nearly ₹51,000 per tonne by March-end. By April, domestic steel prices were in the ₹52,000 per tonne range, against Rs.46000/-per tonne for Chinese offerings.

(Business Line)

TCS defers salary hikes amid global uncertainty, US tariff concerns: ndia's largest information technology (IT) services firm by revenue, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), said it was deferring salary hikes for employees starting April, citing the growing macroeconomic uncertainty





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intensified by the ongoing tariff war between the US and other countries. The hikes will be implemented later in the financial year, once there is greater clarity and the outlook improves.

(Business Standard)



REGULATION & DEVELOPMENT

Govt may fast-track food, medicines, farm trade under AEO framework: The Directorate of International Customs (DIC) under the finance ministry has been working with regulatory agencies responsible for safety, quality, and compliance of food, medicines, and agricultural trade to fast track clearances of exports and imports under the authorised economic operator (AEO) framework. The unilateral trade facilitation measure is expected to improve trade with countries like the US, with which India has mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) under the AEO framework. Other jurisdictions with which India has similar arrangements for faster cargo clearance, reduced checks, and priority handling during disruptions include South Korea, United Arab Emirates, Russia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Australia etc.

(Business Standard)

US tariff impact: Moody's Analytics cuts India's 2025 GDP forecast to 6.1%: Moody's Analytics on Thursday revised its India gross domestic product (GDP) forecast for calendar year 2025 (CY25) downward by 30 basis points (bps) to 6.1 per cent due to tariff threats from the US hitting gems and jewellery, medical devices, and textile industries. "The US is one of India's largest trading partners, so a 26 per cent tariff hovering over imports of Indian goods will heavily impede the trade balance," Moody's Analytics, a division of Moody's Ratings said. Acknowledging the 90-day freeze on most tariffs and the 10 per cent blanket in their place, Moody's Analytics said that its April baseline represents the economic toll should the tariffs eventually go ahead in full.

(Business Standard)





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COVERED INTEREST RATE PARITY

- ❖ Covered interest rate parity refers to a theoretical condition in which the relationship between interest rates and the spot and forward currency values of two countries are in equilibrium.
- ❖ The covered interest rate parity situation means there is no opportunity for arbitrage using forward contracts, which often exists between countries with different interest rates.
- ❖ Under normal circumstances, a currency that offers lower interest rates tends to trade at a forward foreign exchange rate premium in relation to another currency offering higher interest rates.
- ❖ Covered interest rate parity is a no-arbitrage condition that could be used in the foreign exchange markets to determine the forward foreign exchange rate. The condition also states that investors could hedge foreign exchange risk or unforeseen fluctuations in exchange rates (with forward contracts).



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RBI KEY RATES

Repo Rate: 6.25% SDF: 6.00% MSF & Bank Rate: 6.50% CRR: 4.00%

SLR: 18.00% Fixed Reverse Repo: 3.35%

FOREX (FBIL 1.30 PM)

INR / 1 USD : 86.6171 INR / 1 GBP : 111.1372 INR / 1 EUR : 95.8054 INR /100 JPY: 59.6800

EQUITY MARKET

Sensex: 73847.15 (-379.93) NIFTY: 22399.15 (-136.70) Bnk NIFTY: 50240.15 (-270.85)

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