

DAILY NEWS DIGEST BY BFSI BOARD

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ECONOMY

India's smartphone exports hit record Rs 2 lakh crore, becomes country's top export commodity: India's mobile phone exports have soared to an unprecedented high, crossing the Rs 2,00,000 crore mark in the financial year 2024-25, according to data released by the India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA). This marks a significant 55% surge from Rs 1,29,000 crore recorded in FY 2023-24. In a landmark development, smartphones have emerged as India's largest export commodity, overtaking traditional leaders such as petroleum products and diamonds. ICEA hailed this as a major achievement under the Government of India's flagship Make in India initiative. The exponential growth in exports is largely attributed to the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme, which has played a transformative role in scaling up India's electronics manufacturing ecosystem. The scheme has not only drawn substantial foreign investments but also enabled India to become a key player in global electronics value chains.

(Moneycontrol)

Rupee second worst performing Asian currency amid global uncertainty: The rupee was the second worst performing currency among its Asian peers on April 11 due to global uncertainty triggered by the imposition of reciprocal tariffs by US President Donald Trump on April 2. The currency remained weak despite the sharp easing in the dollar index as limited flows from the foreign investors and falling equities restricted the gains, experts said. According to Bloomberg data, the rupee was down 0.73 percent on April 11 from its levels of April 1, making it the weakest in Asia after the Indonesian rupiah, which had fallen 1.40 percent over the same period. However, the rupee fared better versus some other major currencies. In comparison, the South African rand was down 4.31 percent, the Brazilian real 3.45 percent, the Norwegian krone 1.60 percent, the Australian dollar 0.92 percent and the Mexican peso 0.85 percent against the US dollar, the data showed.

(Moneycontrol)

At 2.9%, factory output falls to 6-month low in Feb: Dip in manufacturing dragged industrial growth based on Index of Industrial Production to 2.9 per cent in February as against 5.2 per cent of January 2025, government data released on Friday showed. This is the lowest in six months. Experts see the trend persisting in March as well. Data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO) showed that the manufacturing sector's output growth slowed to 2.9 per cent in February 2025, down from 4.9 per cent in the year-ago month. Mining production growth dipped to 1.6 per cent from 8.1 per cent a year ago. Power output growth too slowed to 3.6 per cent in February from 7.6 per cent in the year-ago period.

(Business Line)

BANKING & FINANCE



Loan pool sales surge as banks embrace securitisation to tackle credit-deposit ratio pressures: Private sector banks spearheaded loan pool sales in fiscal year 2024-25, driving securitization volume to a record high of Rs 2.35 lakh crore. This surge represents a 24% year-on-year increase. While overall performance was strong, the fourth quarter saw a dip due to reduced NBFC disbursements amid unsecured loan segment stress.

(Economic Times)

RBI to conduct extra Rs 40K cr OMO purchase to infuse durable liquidity: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced on Friday that it will conduct an open market operation (OMO) auction on April 17 to purchase government securities worth Rs 40,000 crore. This auction comes in addition to the previously announced Rs 80,000 crore OMO programme, which is being conducted in four tranches of Rs 20,000 crore each on April 3, April 8, April 22, and April 29. Additionally, the central bank will also conduct a long-term 43-day variable rate repo auction on the same day to infuse Rs 1.5 trillion into the banking system. The RBI has infused Rs 2.9 trillion via OMO auctions so far. It has also infused Rs 2 trillion via long-term variable rate repo (VRR) auctions.

(Business Standard)

Rupee logs biggest single-day gain in over 2 years on falling crude prices: The rupee witnessed its highest single-day gain in more than two years, since March 2023, appreciating 0.75 per cent amid the weakening dollar and fall in crude oil prices, said dealers. The Indian currency settled at 86.05 per dollar on Friday, against 86.70 on Thursday. Last week, it ended at 85.23. However, the

local currency posted its worst week in almost 27 months, since December 2022, amid global trade war tensions. However, the rupee regained some ground against the dollar in the last two sessions as the dollar lost sheen on growth concerns in the world's largest economy.

(Business Standard)

INDUSTRY OUTLOOK



Meta to roll out additional protections for teens on Instagram in India: Meta announced on April 11 that it is rolling out additional built-in protections for teens on Instagram in India, along with planned safeguards on Facebook and Messenger. This move is part of the company's broader efforts to strengthen its safety features for young users amid increased scrutiny by lawmakers and parents. It comes a few months after the social networking giant unveiled plans of extending 'Instagram Teen Accounts', or accounts aimed at users aged 13–17 with built-in protections for online safety and privacy, to India in a phased manner. As part of the new protections on Instagram, teens under 16 will no longer be able to go live or turn off the app's feature that blurs images containing suspected nudity in direct messages without permission from their parents.

(Moneycontrol)

India's outward FDI up 20% at \$5.81 bn in March 2025, shows RBI data: 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)

India, US agree on terms of reference for first phase of trade deal: India and the United States have finalised 'terms of reference' over the first segment of a bilateral trade deal, a trade official said on Friday, reported Reuters. The official further stated that there was a possibility of a 'win-win shape and form' to the deal in the next 90 days. India is trying to finalise the trade deal with the US by the fall of this year, aiming to more than double the bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030 from the

current about \$191 billion. "The work has started. India is far ahead of other countries in negotiating a trade deal," the official added, as quoted by PTI.

(Business Standard)



REGULATION & DEVELOPMENT

Govt sets up dedicated trade helpdesk amid tariff dispute and import spike fears: As global trade dynamics shift, the Department of Commerce and DGFT are closely monitoring developments around tariff changes, import surges, and export constraints. With new trade measures emerging worldwide, India is navigating both fresh export openings and rising import pressures — especially amid an ongoing tariff dispute. In response to these evolving trade challenges, the government has urged exporters and importers to report any changes in export prospects or increased import pressures from specific countries or product sectors.

(Business Today)

Fake invoices: I-T dept reopening hundreds of old assessment cases: The income tax (I-T) department has begun reopening hundreds of old assessment cases, targeting businesses that may have claimed fake or inflated purchases to suppress profits and reduce tax liability. According to sources, in some instances, authorities have even gone back as far as five years, where credible evidence of tax evasion has surfaced. Many businesses — particularly in trading, electronics, and construction — are alleged to have used fake invoices from non-existent suppliers, often referred to as “entry operators”, to inflate expenses and wrongly claim input tax credits (ITC) under the goods and services tax (GST).

(Business Standard)

Outlook gloomy for corporate share in direct tax mopup, shows data: Companies may foot less of the tax bill for some time yet. The corporate share of net direct tax collections has been lower in 2024-25 than in previous years. The corporate segment accounted for 45.6 per cent of total net direct tax collections as of March 16, compared to 48.1 per cent on the same date in 2023-24 (FY24). The trend in corporate tax collections has been declining relative to overall tax collections. The share peaked at 67 per cent in 2010-11 but dropped to 46.5 per cent in FY24, according to Department of Revenue figures.

(Business Standard)



FINANCIAL TERMINOLOGY

NEOLIBERALISM

- ❖ Neoliberalism is a policy model that encompasses both politics and economics. It favors private enterprise and seeks to transfer the control of economic factors from the government to the private sector.
- ❖ Many neoliberal policies concern the efficient functioning of free market capitalism and focus on limiting government spending, government regulation, and public ownership.
- ❖ Neoliberalism is often associated with the leadership of Margaret Thatcher, the prime minister of the U.K. from 1979 to 1990, and Ronald Reagan, the 40th president of the U.S. from 1981 to 1989.
- ❖ More recently, neoliberalism has been associated with austerity policies and attempts to cut government spending on social programs.



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COST ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA
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www.icmai.in

Telephones: +91-33- 2252-1031/1034/1035
+ 91-33-2252-1602/1492/1619
+ 91-33- 2252-7143/7373/2204
Fax :+91-33-2252-7993
+91-33-2252-1026
+91-33-2252-1723

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 : 86.1441
INR / 1 GBP : 112.0057
INR / 1 EUR : 97.1097
INR /100 JPY: 59.8200

EQUITY MARKET

Sensex: 75157.26 (+1310.11)
NIFTY: 22828.55 (+429.40)
Bnk NIFTY: 51002.35 (+762.20)

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