

## **DAILY NEWS DIGEST BY BESI BOARD**

13 February 2026



### **ECONOMY**

**January retail inflation at 2.75% in first print under new CPI series:** India's retail inflation stood at 2.75 percent in FY26 under the newly released Consumer Price Index (CPI) series, compared with 1.33 percent (under the old series) in the previous month, according to data announced on February 12. The release marks the first major revision of India's retail inflation series in over a decade, with the base year updated to 2024 from 2012. Inflation had begun firming up toward the end of last year, rising to 1.33 percent in December from 0.71 percent a month earlier under the previous series. The new series shows that prices have been rising sequentially for three straight months, as the index rose to 104.46 in January from 104.10 in December and 104.01 in November. A key shift in the revised CPI is the reduced dominance of food. Food's weight has fallen below 40 percent for the first time, while non-food categories now account for over 60 percent of the index, up from roughly 45 percent earlier. At the same time, rural consumption has been given a higher effective weight, reflecting its growing contribution to overall demand. The new CPI basket has also expanded significantly, covering more than 350 items compared with 299 earlier.

#### ***(Moneycontrol)***

**Economists expect prolonged pause following release of new CPI series:** Economists are expecting up to a four-month pause on the central bank's policy repo rate following the release of the new consumer price index (CPI) series, which shows an upward trend in inflation and does little to materially alter the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) near-term projections. The next step is more likely to be a rate increase as and when the inflation rate rises. "Given the composition of the index and the dilution of the base effect for food items, we expect the inflation rate to go up in coming

months. There may not be too much of an alteration in inflation forecasts by the RBI for next year,”.

***(Business Today)***

**India to remain fastest growing economy in Asia: Fitch Ratings:** Fitch expects India’s economy to expand by 6.4 percent in 2026, placing it ahead of regional peers such as the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia. “Economic growth in India, Indonesia and the Philippines is likely to be least affected by trade pattern changes in the near term, as manufacturing exports are low in their relatively closed economies. India is expanding its trade relationship with countries outside of the US through a number of trade deals, most recently with the EU, to offset risks from US tariffs,” Fitch noted.

***(Moneycontrol)***

## **BANKING & FINANCE**



**High-level banking panel to review voting rights threshold for foreign bank subsidiaries:** In a bid to attract foreign banks to invest and expand their footprint in India, the government is examining a proposal on voting rights, a senior government official told Moneycontrol. The proposed change, if it goes through, would allow foreign banks have a higher voting right, proportionate to their shareholding. Sources familiar with the issue say the government is open to the idea of considering requests from several foreign banks, which plan to make fresh investments, as it would result in these banks having "skin in the game".The proposal to evaluate the ceiling on voting rights at 26 percent is viewed as a step towards removing the restrictions around foreign banks taking strategic initiatives at a shareholder and board level, said the official. Some representatives of foreign banks have made a pitch to the government asking for their voting rights to be aligned with their shareholding in Indian banks according to sources familiar with the matter.

***(Moneycontrol)***

**Policy amended to allow 20% FDI in LIC:** The government has created a special window for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of up to 20% in Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) through changes in the FDI Policy. This FDI in LIC has been allowed through the automatic route. The amendments to the FDI Policy by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) through Press Note 1 of 2026. The changes in the policy would also allow for FDI up to 100% in an insurance company through automatic route. FDI limit will aid the offer for sale (OFS) in LIC, a large stock which commands a market cap of around Rs 5.6 lakh crore. The OFS is required to help the company meet the minimum public shareholding norms.

***(Financial Express)***

**RBI proposes ban on intimidation, abusive calls by loan recovery agents:** RBI on Thursday proposed norms barring recovery agents from going too far in their pursuit of a defaulting borrower. The regulator said that neither the bank's employee, nor the recovery agent should engage in any harsh methods to recover dues. Use of abusive language, sending inappropriate messages either on mobile or through social media, or excessively calling or calling outside the prescribed hours would be considered harsh. The RBI proposals also bar threatening or anonymous calls, as well as acts of intimidation or harassment, including attempts to publicly humiliate individuals or intrude upon their privacy, among others.

***(Mint)***

**RBI proposes Kisan Credit Card revamp:** RBI has proposed a major overhaul of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme, aiming to widen its reach, simplify operations and align it with the evolving credit needs of the farm sector and allied activities. The central bank plans to issue a revised set of instructions to banks, consolidating all existing guidelines on KCC for agriculture and allied activities into a single, updated framework. Key elements of the proposed guidelines include: Standardisation of crop season: A uniform approach to defining crop seasons across regions, which will help bring consistency in assessment of credit needs and repayment timelines. Extension of KCC tenure to six years: The overall tenure of KCC facilities will be extended to six years, providing farmers a longer and more predictable credit relationship with their banks.

***(Moneycontrol)***

**Payment digitisation improves further in H1FY26: RBI:** Payment digitisation improved further in the six months to September 2025, continuing a year-long trend, the Reserve Bank said on Thursday. The composite Reserve Bank of India - Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI), which has been published since January 2021 with March 2018 as the base year to capture the extent of digitisation of payments across the country, showed an improvement in the first half of FY26, it said.

*(Economic Times)*

## INDUSTRY OUTLOOK



**SoftBank bags \$7.4 billion from India exits; portfolio value stands at \$13.7 billion:** Japan's SoftBank has realised about \$7.4 billion in cumulative proceeds from its India investments so far, while the current value of its holdings in the country stands at roughly \$13.7 billion, as of December 31, according to the technology and investing conglomerate's latest disclosure. The Japanese investment major has made 24 investments in India through its Vision Funds, with eight portfolio companies listing on markets and four full exits, reflecting steady monetisation of late-stage bets. SoftBank has fully exited companies such as Flipkart, Paytm and Policybazaar, which contributed to the cumulative proceeds disclosed by the firm.

*(Moneycontrol)*

**India second-largest active installed base of smartphones globally:** India has the second-largest active installed base of smartphones in the world, behind only China, according to a yet-to-be-released Counterpoint Research report based on 2025 data. The country has an active installed base of over 740 million smartphones, more than half of its population of 1.45 billion. Unlike shipment data, the active installed base reflects device longevity, user retention, and ecosystem loyalty, capturing the cumulative impact of years of sales combined with longer replacement cycles in mature markets.

*(Business Standard)*

**Sebi mulls measures to cut regulatory costs, study market impact:** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) is examining several measures to reduce regulatory costs across the market ecosystem, Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said on Thursday. These include setting up a centre for regulatory studies, a dedicated unit under its Department of Economic and Policy Analysis (DEPA), and an external expert committee to assess the impact of regulations. “Cost of capital is an important cost and it should come down. For all productive sectors, the access to finance should be available—which includes not only availability but also the cost. Cost efficiency of all our measures is important. If you must build competitiveness, obviously if the compliance burden of regulation is too high in terms of cost and time—then to that extent the competitiveness also goes down,” Pandey said on the sidelines of the 6th NISM-Sebi Annual International Research Conference.

***(Business Standard)***



## REGULATION & DEVELOPMENT

**Govt mulls changes in IBC to allow third-party funding in pursuing fraud cases:** The government is mulling amendments in the insolvency and bankruptcy code (IBC) to permit litigation funding or third-party funding in insolvency disputes that will significantly help in bringing down the money stuck in preferential, undervalued, fraudulent, and extortionate (PUFE) transactions, an official told FE. “The discussion is still at an early stage as we evaluate the international practices. The changes in IBC will enable specialised agencies to take over filing and pursuing cases involving PUFE transactions. Given the magnitude of funds stuck in the PUFE transactions, the government felt the need to make necessary changes,” the official said.

***(Financial Express)***

**RBI proposes tech innovation costs under farm loan eligibility norms:** RBI has proposed to include expenses related to technology innovations like soil testing, real-time weather forecasts, and organic/good agricultural practices certification, to be

eligible for farm loans. These will be covered within the 20 per cent additional component currently allowed towards repairs and maintenance of farm assets. It has been proposed that banks should waive collateral security and margin requirements for agricultural loans, including loans for allied activities up to ₹2 lakh per borrower. The regulator, on Thursday, released revised draft norms on Kisan Credit Card scheme with an aim to expand coverage, streamline operational aspects and address emerging requirements in the agriculture sector.

***(Business Standard)***

**'Better to abolish RERA': Supreme Court raps States over regulator's role:** The Supreme Court (SC) on Thursday sharply criticised the functioning of real estate regulatory authorities (Reras) across several states, observing that they appeared to be doing little “except facilitating builders in default” and suggesting that it might be “better to just abolish this institution”. A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi made the remarks while hearing an appeal filed by the Himachal Pradesh government against a high court (HC) order that had stalled its decision to relocate the state Rera office from Shimla to Dharamshala. “All states should now think of the people for whom the institution of Rera was created. Except facilitating builders in default, it is not doing anything else. Better to just abolish this institution,” the CJI observed during the proceedings.

***(Business Standard)***



## **DEPRESSION**

- A depression is a severe and prolonged downturn in economic activity. A depression may be defined as an extreme recession that lasts three or more years or that leads to a decline in real gross domestic product (GDP) of at least 10% in a given year.
- Depressions are far less common than milder recessions. Both tend to be accompanied by relatively high unemployment and relatively low inflation.
- Two major factors characterize a depression. Consumer confidence falls dramatically as people begin to worry about their job security and pull back on spending. And investments decrease as businesses and individuals stop investing, whether that means building a new factory, developing a new product, or buying stocks.



### **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 : 90.5947  
INR / 1 GBP : 123.3580  
INR / 1 EUR : 107.4459  
INR /100 JPY: 59.1000

### **EQUITY MARKET**

Sensex: 83674.92 (-558.72)  
NIFTY: 25807.20 (-146.65)  
Bnk NIFTY: 60739.75 (-5.60)

### **Courses conducted by BFSI Board**

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- ❖ **Aide Memoire on lending to MSME Sector (including restructuring of MSME Credit).**
- ❖ **Guidance Note on the Internal Audit of General Insurance Companies.**
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## **TEAM BFSIB**

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

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