

DAILY NEWS DIGEST BY BESI BOARD

14 March 2026



ECONOMY

Sensex sees worst week since May 2020 due to Middle East conflict: Benchmark index Sensex slid 5.5% this week, its worst weekly drop since May 2020, as a raging war in the Middle East kept crude oil prices above \$100 a barrel, stoking inflation and growth jitters for India. The Nifty 50 has dropped 5.3% this week. All the 16 major sectors logged losses this week. The broader mid-caps and small-caps dropped 4.6% and 3.7%, respectively. Auto stocks plunged 10.6%, the biggest laggards, as fears the Middle East war could hit production and exports rattled investors. It was their steepest weekly drop in six years. Financials-focused Bank Nifty slumped 7% this week amid intensifying foreign investor outflows.

(Moneycontrol)

Fitch raises India's GDP growth projection for FY26 to 7.5%: Fitch Ratings on Friday raised India's GDP growth forecast marginally to 7.5 per cent for current fiscal with domestic demand being the biggest growth driver this year. In December, Fitch had projected India's GDP growth at 7.4 per cent for current fiscal. For next fiscal (2026-27), Fitch has revised upwards its growth estimate to 6.7 per cent from 6.4 per cent projected in December 2025. In its Global Economic Outlook- March 2026, Fitch projected world GDP growth at 2.6 per cent in 2026.

(Business Line)

US GDP growth falls to 0.7% as Middle East tensions surge: The US economy grew more slowly than previously estimated in the final months of last year. The US Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) said on Friday that Gross Domestic Product (GDP) expanded at an annualised rate of 0.7% in the fourth quarter, lower than the

earlier estimate of 1.4%. The revised figure also fell short of market expectations. The slowdown shows weaker activity across several parts of the economy, including exports, consumer spending, government spending and investment.

(Financial Express)

BANKING & FINANCE



India is set to halt IDBI Bank sale as both bids unviable: India is set to scrap the bids it received for a majority stake in IDBI Bank Ltd. as the amounts were below the minimum price sought, according to people with knowledge of the matter. Bloomberg News had previously reported that Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd. was the frontrunner for what would have been the biggest foreign investment in India's banking sector, and that Emirates NBD had also bid. The 61% stake that the government and a state-run insurer planned to sell in the private lender is worth about \$6.5 billion at the current market price.

(Moneycontrol)

RBI seeks Middle East exposure data from banks: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked banks to furnish detailed information on their exposure to the Middle East, said bankers. "The RBI has asked for a comprehensive breakdown of exposure, covering not just loans but also contingent liabilities such as guarantees and letters of credit," said one banker, who confirmed the development on condition of anonymity.

(Financial Express)

Parliamentary panel suggests tiered UPI charges: A Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance has suggested exploring a tiered charging structure for UPI transactions. It proposed that while street vendors and small businesses continue to receive free services, banks and larger entities could be charged to help make the system financially sustainable. The suggestion comes amid discussions on the long-term viability of India's fast-growing digital payments ecosystem built around the Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

(Financial Express)

Banks recorded higher credit and deposits growth in the fortnight to February 28: Bank credit saw a strong 14.5% year-on-year growth by February 28. Deposits also expanded, reaching 11.9% growth. This marks an acceleration from the previous fortnight. Scheduled commercial banks hold Rs 251.90 lakh crore in deposits, with fixed deposits forming 87% of this amount. Total bank credit stands at Rs 207.54 lakh crore. The credit-deposit ratio slightly eased to 82.39%.

(Economic Times)

New LCR norms could help banks expand credit by 7%: The revised Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) norms, set to take effect from April 1 could give banks additional room to expand credit by about 7%, assuming deposit growth remains steady at the current 10% pace, analysts said. Banks can now use their existing liquidity for loans, increasing lending capacity. This shift is expected to benefit public sector banks significantly. Analysts believe this will ease concerns about lending growth constraints. Credit expansion may soon outpace deposit growth.

(Economic Times)

Sebi issues guidelines for mutual funds on intraday borrowing from banks: Markets regulator Sebi on Friday issued guidelines for mutual funds to undertake intraday borrowing arrangements with financial institutions such as banks. Under the new framework, the board of an asset management company (AMC) as well as the board of trustees will be required to approve a policy governing the use of intraday borrowing facilities. Sebi said intraday borrowings can be used only for specific purposes -- repurchase or redemption of units, payment of interest or Income Distribution-cum-Capital Withdrawal (IDCW) payouts to unitholders. The regulator also stipulated that the borrowing amount cannot exceed the "guaranteed receivables" expected on the same day.

(Business Standard)

INDUSTRY OUTLOOK



IndiGo to levy fuel charge from March 14 as aviation turbine fuel prices surge:

IndiGo, India's largest airline, will introduce a fuel charge on domestic and international routes from March 14, 2026, citing a sharp rise in aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices amid ongoing geopolitical tensions in global energy markets. According to the airline, recent data indicates that fuel prices have risen by about 85% in recent months, putting pressure on airline finances and forcing companies to review fare structures.

(Business Today)

Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen to step down after 18 years: Shantanu Narayen will step down as chief executive of Adobe after nearly two decades in the role, the company said on Tuesday, adding that he will remain chair of the board once a successor is appointed.

(Business Line)

US launches Section 301 probe into India, 15 others over 'excess capacity': US has launched investigations into India and 15 other economies over alleged "structural excess capacity" in manufacturing that it says is distorting global markets and threatening American industries. The investigation, initiated under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 on March 11, targets sectors in India such as textiles, health products, construction goods, automotive goods, solar modules, petrochemicals and steel. "The US will no longer sacrifice its industrial base to countries exporting their excess capacity and production to us," USTR Jamieson Greer said in a statement.

(Business Line)



REGULATION & DEVELOPMENT

Centre drafting insurance scheme for gig workers with life, accident cover: The Ministry of Labour and Employment is drafting a new scheme for providing accidental and life insurance coverage to gig workers in line with the provisions of the Code on Social Security, 2020, according to three people aware of the development. The scheme is likely to lay down rules for the social security scheme. The ministry is also considering inclusion of pension security as part of the scheme, a senior official said. India has an estimated 14.3 million gig workers in 2025-26, according to government think tank NITI Aayog. This number is expected to reach 23.5 million by 2030.

(Business Standard)

Asia-Africa Agri Alliance launched to boost trade, investment, tech ties: Senior ambassadors, diplomats, policymakers and agribusiness leaders — representing over ten nations — today formally launched the Asia-Africa Agri Alliance (AAAA), with the objective of accelerating agricultural trade, investment, technology transfer and policy cooperation between Asia and Africa. The platform will facilitate cooperation in five major pillars that include trade and market access, technology and innovation transfer, investment and finance, policy, standards and agriculture diplomacy, and capacity building.

(Business Standard)

Parliament panel urges NFRA to study sector-specific audit issues: A Parliamentary panel has suggested that regulator NFRA conduct sectoral studies to identify industry-specific accounting and auditing challenges as well as put in place sector-specific accounting guidance to help boost investor confidence. The National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA), set up by the government in 2018 under the Companies Act, 2013, regulates auditors and monitors compliance with accounting and auditing standards by companies. It also oversees the quality of audit services to ensure reliability in financial reporting.

(Business Standard)



ECONOMIC CAPITAL

Meaning:

Economic Capital is the **amount of capital a bank internally estimates it needs to absorb unexpected losses** at a certain confidence level.

Key Points

- Not the same as regulatory capital
- Used for **risk management and strategic planning**
- Based on risks such as:
 - Credit Risk
 - Market Risk
 - Operational Risk

Example

A bank may maintain ₹5000 crore economic capital to cover potential extreme losses in stress conditions.



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 : 92.4405

INR / 1 GBP : 123.2035

INR / 1 EUR : 106.3072

INR /100 JPY: 57.9900

EQUITY MARKET

Sensex: 74563.92 (-1470.50)

NIFTY: 23151.10 (-488.05)

Bnk NIFTY: 53757.85 (-1343.10)

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

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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)

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