

DAILY NEWS DIGEST BY BFSI BOARD

15 January 2026



ECONOMY

India, US officials holding virtual meetings to advance trade talks: Sources: Top trade officials from India and the US are holding a series of virtual meetings to advance the bilateral trade agreement (BTA) talks which could lead to the next round of formal negotiations, sources said. “There is no negotiating round scheduled at the moment. But we are holding virtual meetings, some at the chief negotiators’ level, to take forward the talks. A decision on the next round of negotiations will be taken subsequently,” a source tracking the matter told businessline.

(Business Line)

Wholesale inflation rate surges to 0.8% in December: With retail inflation rate based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) touching a three-month high in December, wholesale inflation rate turned positive in December and surged to 0.8 per cent in December against the deflation of 0.3 per cent in November, government data showed on Wednesday. “Positive rate of inflation in December is primarily due to an increase in prices of other manufacturing, minerals, manufacture of machinery and equipment, manufacture of food products and textiles, etc,” the Industry Ministry said in a statement.

(Business Line)

Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu top performers in Niti Aayog’s export preparedness index 2024: Maharashtra has topped the Niti Aayog’s Export Preparedness Index (2024) in the large States category followed by Tamil Nadu and Gujarat in the second and third places respectively. Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir and Nagaland bagged the top three spots among small States, North East and Union Territories. The report

was released by Niti Aayog CEO B V R Subrahmanyam on Wednesday. EPI 2024 assesses the export capabilities (performance and readiness) and potential of Indian States and Union Territories covering the period FY22-FY24 and has been prepared with the support of Deloitte, the report stated.

(Business Line)

BANKING & FINANCE



RBI grants in-principle approval to Japan's SMBC to set up a wholly-owned subsidiary in India: Reserve Bank of India on January 14 said it has decided to grant 'in-principle' approval to Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) for setting up a wholly-owned subsidiary (WOS) in India. The decision was taken under the Reserve Bank of India (Setting Up of Wholly Owned Subsidiaries by Foreign Banks) Guidelines, 2025, said the central bank. SMBC is currently carrying on banking business in India in branch mode through its four branches located in New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Bengaluru. "The 'in-principle' approval has been granted to the bank for setting up a WOS through conversion of its existing branches in India," said RBI in a statement.

(Moneycontrol)

Bank deposits and loans soared in the last fortnight of Q3FY26: Banks seem to have made a big push in growing business in the last fortnight of the third quarter (Q3FY26), with RBI data showing substantial jump in deposits and credit. In the fortnight ended December 31, 2025, deposits of all scheduled banks soared by ₹7,34,623.39 crore. Loans, too, jumped by ₹6,32,756.50 crore. In the preceding fortnight ended December 15, 2025, deposits of all scheduled banks shrunk by ₹1,66,460 crore even as loans went up by ₹1,08,415 crore.

(Business Line)

IOB Q3 profit up 56% y-o-y on credit growth, tax regime change: Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) recorded a 56 per cent year-on-year growth in consolidated net profit at ₹1,365 crore for quarter ended December 2025 (Q3FY26). Profits were driven by

robust growth in Retail, Agri and MSME (RAM) advances, and it was also aided by the bank's shift to the new tax regime after deferred tax adjustments over the last few years. Operating profit increased 14.8 per cent to ₹2,603 crore in Q3FY26. Net Interest Income (NII) increased 18.3 per cent to ₹3,299 crore in Q3FY26 on y-o-y basis. Net Interest Margin (NIM) domestic remained flat y-o-y at 3.32 per cent for Q3FY26.

(Business Line)

Union Bank beats estimates, profit jumps to Rs 5,017 crore: Union Bank of India's Bank of India's net profit for the quarter ended December was up 9% on year to Rs 5,017 crore beating analysts estimate. According to Bloomberg estimates, the lender was expected to report a net profit of Rs 3,872 crore. The rise in bottom-line was due to a sharp fall in provisions and an improvement in asset quality.

(Financial Express)

RBI asks banks to meet forex risk capital norms on continuous basis: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday proposed changes to the manner in which banks calculate their net foreign exchange exposure and maintain capital for foreign exchange risk. "A bank shall compute net open position and maintain capital charge for foreign exchange risk at both group / consolidated level and solo / standalone level," the apex bank said. The RBI said banks must meet foreign exchange risk capital requirements on an ongoing basis. "A bank shall meet the capital requirements for foreign exchange risk on a continuous basis, that is, at the close of each business day," it said.

(Business Standard)

RBI recognises FEDAI as self-regulatory organisation for authorised dealers: The Reserve Bank of India has recognised the Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association of India (FEDAI) as a self-regulatory organisation (SRO) for all authorised dealers under its Omnibus framework for SROs. FEDAI had applied for recognition in March 2024, and the RBI said it took into account the association's existing role in setting conduct rules for its members. The central bank has given FEDAI one year to align its governance and operations with the Omnibus SRO framework and to extend its membership to all categories of authorised dealers.

(Business Standard)

INDUSTRY OUTLOOK



US Supreme Court holds off on decision over Trump tariffs: The U.S. Supreme Court issued three decisions on Wednesday but did not rule on the closely watched case concerning the legality of President Donald Trump's global tariffs. The court also did not announce when it will issue a decision on the matter. Traditionally, the Supreme Court does not disclose in advance which rulings will be released on any given date. The challenge to Trump's tariffs represents a major test of presidential powers and the court's willingness to scrutinise some of the Republican president's broad assertions of authority since his return to office in January 2025. Observers note that the outcome could have far-reaching consequences for the global economy.

(Moneycontrol)

Infosys absorbs regulatory hit in Q3; PAT down 9.6% sequentially: Infosys reported a decline in profit for the December-ended quarter of FY26, with PAT falling 9.6 per cent sequentially and 2.2 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) to ₹6,654 crore. Despite the dip, the IT major raised its constant currency revenue growth guidance for FY26 to 3–3.5 per cent, up from the 2-3 per cent forecast issued in the previous quarter. Revenue rose 8.9 per cent y-o-y and 2.2 per cent quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q) to ₹45,479 crore. In constant currency (CC) terms, revenue grew 1.7 per cent y-o-y and 0.6 per cent q-o-q. Large deal momentum improved, with total contract value (TCV) reaching \$4.8 billion during the quarter, including 57 per cent net new deals, up from \$3.1 billion in the September quarter.

(Business Line)

NITI Aayog Releases Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024: NITI Aayog released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024, a comprehensive assessment of export readiness across India's States and Union Territories (UTs). The Index recognises the diversity of subnational economic structures and their critical role in advancing India's global trade ambitions. The first edition of the EPI was published in August 2020 and

this is the 4th edition. Aligned with India's objective of achieving USD 1 trillion in merchandise exports by 2030 and the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, the Export Preparedness Index provides an evidence-based framework to evaluate the strength, resilience, and inclusiveness of subnational export ecosystems. The Index identifies key structural challenges, growth levers, and policy opportunities for enhancing export competitiveness at the State and district levels.

(PiB)



REGULATION & DEVELOPMENT

RBI tightens complaint review norms, strengthens role of internal ombudsman: The Reserve Bank of India has enhanced its review mechanism for customer complaints within regulated entities, mandating a senior-level review before rejection or partial resolution. This move aims to ensure speedy and meaningful grievance redressal, with internal ombudsmen playing a key role in oversight and reporting to the board's customer service committee.

(Economic Times)

DFS launches Composite Salary Account Package for Central Government Employees in association with Public Sector Banks: The Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, has taken a significant step towards enhancing the financial well-being and social security of Central Government employees by advising Public Sector Banks to introduce a composite 'Salary Account Package for Central Government Employees'. It seeks to provide Central Government employees with a comprehensive suite of banking and insurance benefits under a single, seamless account structure; such as; Zero balance account with free RTGS/NEFT/ facility, concessional RoI and processing charges for housing, vehicle, education and personal loan, waiver on locker rental, Personal accidental insurance up to Rs.1.50 crores, Term Life insurance cover up to Rs.20 Lakh.

(PiB)

Department of Financial Services launches Paripoorna Mediclaim Ayush Bima for CGHS beneficiaries: The Paripoorna Mediclaim Ayush Bima has been launched by the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance today for CGHS beneficiaries. It offers cashless facilities, modern treatments and access to a wide network of hospitals. The policy is exclusively available to CGHS beneficiaries with a maximum of six members per policy. It provides indemnity-based in-patient hospitalization coverage within India, with sum insured options of ₹10 Lakh or ₹20 Lakh.

(PiB)



GREEN BANKING

- Green banking means promoting environmental friendly practices and reducing your carbon footprints from your banking activities.
- Green banking aims at improving the operations and technology along with making the clients habits environment friendly in the banking business. It is like normal banking along with the consideration for social as well as environmental factors for protecting the environment.
- Green banking minimizes paperwork to the greatest extent possible and concentrates on electronic transactions such as ATM, mobile banking, and other forms of electronic banking by customers. Electronic transactions not only contribute to sustainability, but they also give convenience to both clients and banks.



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 : 90.2016

INR / 1 GBP : 121.1997

INR / 1 EUR : 105.0482

INR /100 JPY: 56.6200

EQUITY MARKET

Sensex: 83382.71 (-244.98)

NIFTY: 25665.60 (-66.70)

Bnk NIFTY: 59580.15 (+1.35)

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TEAM BFSIB

Banking, Financial Services & Insurance Board

The Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI)

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