

DAILY NEWS DIGEST BY BFSI BOARD

24 December 2025



ECONOMY

'Bad deal': New Zealand Foreign Minister attacks India FTA, vows to vote it

down: New Zealand Foreign Minister Winston Peters launched a sharp attack on the newly announced India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA), branding it "neither free nor fair" and warning that his party, New Zealand First, will oppose the deal when it comes before Parliament. In a strongly worded statement, Peters said his party was "regrettably opposed" to the agreement, arguing that it concedes too much—particularly on immigration—while delivering little in return for New Zealand, especially in the crucial dairy sector. Calling the pact "a bad deal for New Zealand," Peters said the government had rushed into a low-quality agreement rather than using the full parliamentary term to negotiate better outcomes.

(Moneycontrol)

RBI to inject nearly Rs 3 lakh crore via OMOs to offset forex intervention impact:

RBI on Tuesday announced a fresh round of liquidity support measures, including open market operations (OMOs) and a foreign exchange buy-sell swap, under which it will inject nearly Rs 3 lakh crore into the banking system. The central bank said it will purchase government securities worth Rs 2 lakh crore through OMOs in four tranches of Rs 50,000 crore each, scheduled for December 29, January 5, January 12 and January 22. In addition, the RBI will conduct a three-year USD/INR buy-sell swap of \$10 billion on January 13.

(Business Today)

Net FDI negative for the third consecutive month in October 2025: Net FDI was negative for the third consecutive month in October 2025, with net outflows of \$1.5 billion, mainly due to high repatriation and outward FDI, according to RBI's latest monthly bulletin. Net FDI in September and August 2025 saw outflows of \$2.4 billion and 0.6 billion, respectively. However, during April-October period 2025, FDI remained higher than last year both in gross and net terms. Gross inward FDI remained steady in October (at \$6.5 billion vs \$6.6 billion in September) with Singapore, Mauritius and the US accounting for more than 70 per cent of total FDI inflows.

(Business Line)

BANKING & FINANCE



CCI approves Blackstone's proposal for 9.99% stake in Federal Bank: The Competition Commission of India has approved the proposal of Blackstone, the world's largest alternative asset manager, to acquire 9.99% stake through warrants in Federal Bank, the fair-trade regulator said in a press release on Tuesday. The acquisition would be done through Blackstone's arm Asia II Topco XIII Pte. Ltd. Post the transaction, Blackstone will have the right to nominate a director on the board of Federal Bank as long as they hold at least 5% stake.

(Financial Express)

Bank of India raises Rs 10,000 crore via long-term infra bonds: Bank of India of India on Tuesday raised funds through issue of long-term infrastructure bonds of Rs. 10,000 crore at 7.23% per annum, it said in a release. The base issue size was Rs 5,000 crore with green shoe option of Rs 5,000 crore. The bank received total of 83 bids amounting to Rs 15,305 crore out of which the bank accepted 37 bids totalling to Rs 10,000 crore.

(Financial Express)

Axis Bank launches digital loans for MSMEs: Axis Bank has launched ‘Digital Merchant Cash Advance Loans’, a cash-flow-based lending product for MSMEs across India. This fully digital product offers unsecured loans ranging from ₹2 lakh to ₹20 lakh, enabling merchants, particularly retail shops, to access quick credit and repay through everyday instalments aligned with their business cash flows. “The solution is entirely digital, with eligibility evaluated through cash-flow intelligence and other parameters rather than traditional financial statements.

(Business Line)

HDFC Bank spends Rs 1,068 crore in CSR during FY25: Private sector HDFC Bank on Tuesday said it has spent Rs 1,068.03 crore on its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives in 2024-25, an increase of Rs 123 crore over the previous fiscal year. Cumulatively, as of March 31, 2025, the bank has invested Rs 6,176 crore in CSR programmes, as per the annual CSR report of the bank. The last financial year also marked 10 years of Parivartan, under which HDFC Bank has touched 10.56 crore lives across 28 states and 8 Union Territories.

(Economic Times)

Unity Small Finance Bank wins 3-way auction for Aviom India Housing Finance: Unity Small Finance Bank has emerged as the winning bidder for bankrupt Aviom India Housing Finance, offering ₹977.5 crore as upfront payment, said people aware of the development. Six companies had shown interest in acquiring Aviom India Housing Finance under the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)-monitored process but eventually three of them participated at the challenge auction process that concluded last week. Areion, a fund promoted by Omkara Asset Reconstruction Company, and Authum Investment and Infrastructure were the other two bidders which participated in an auction that was conducted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)-appointed administrator Ram Kumar, former general manager of Punjab National Bank.

(Economic Times)

INDUSTRY OUTLOOK



Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company refutes corporate governance allegations, mulls legal action: Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Ltd (CIFCL), on Tuesday, said that allegations raised against the company by a media portal were “malicious and baseless,” and wants regulators to look into the motives behind it. The company is also evaluating legal action against the publishers of the post, it added. The company executives, in a specially-convened analyst call on Tuesday, also acknowledged that they have already started reorganising the company structure and related-party arrangements to simplify them. “A lot of the facts (in the blog post) have been distorted and presented selectively; They’ve taken standard industry practice and presented in a way that kind of seems like there’s been malign there,” Vellayan Subbiah, Executive Chairman, CIFCL, told.

(Business Line)

Costlier chips may squeeze 2026 smartphone sales as prices jump 40%: The smartphone sector in India is staring at a sharp fall in shipment and demand next year because the unabated global shortage of memory chips is expected to push up prices by another 40 per cent in January-June. This will force manufacturers to pass on to customers the entire increase, or part of it, in the bill of material (BoM), which will lead to a cost increase of 8-15 per cent for manufacturing a phone. This will affect demand.

(Business Standard)

NTPC to set up 1 tonne-per-day green hydrogen plant in Greater Noida: Power giant NTPC on Tuesday announced its plan to set up a green hydrogen project of 1 tonne/day at Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh. The project will be set up through NTPC Energy Technology Research Alliance (NETRA), the Research & Development (R&D) wing of NTPC. NETRA will set up a plasma gasificationbased green hydrogen plant on its campus at Greater Noida, the company said. The plant is designed to produce 1 tonne of green hydrogen per day, NTPC said. The advanced plasma gasification

technology will convert waste into tar-free syngas, which will be further processed to produce hydrogen using PSA/membrane technology, it said.

(Business Standard)



REGULATION & DEVELOPMENT

CBDT launches data-driven nudge campaign for AY26, flags bogus political donations: The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has launched a data-driven “nudge” campaign for the 2025–26 assessment year, asking taxpayers to voluntarily review and correct deduction and exemption claims identified as potentially ineligible through risk analytics, including cases involving bogus donations to Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs). The initiative, which is advisory in nature, requires identified taxpayers to file revised income-tax returns (ITRs) by December 31, 2025. Those who miss the deadline may still file updated returns from January 1, 2026, but with additional tax liability as permitted under law.

(Moneycontrol)

'Launch of NUDGE campaign to encourage taxpayers to voluntarily review deduction claims': CBDT: The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said it has launched a data-driven NUDGE campaign for AY 2025–26 to prompt taxpayers to voluntarily review deduction and exemption claims flagged as potentially ineligible through risk analytics. It clarified that the outreach is advisory in nature and reflects a trust-first approach, allowing taxpayers to make voluntary corrections wherever necessary.

(Business Today)

New GDP series to improve informal sector estimates, add double deflation: India's new national accounts will leverage new data sources and surveys to enhance the measurement of the country's informal economy, and introduce double deflation methods across sectors, replacing the current system that relies on a single deflation mechanism in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) calculations. These changes, which

would also tackle some of the data adequacy concerns raised by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) about India's national accounts, were highlighted by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (Mospi) Secretary Saurabh Garg at a consultative workshop on Tuesday.

(Business Standard)



JUNIOR CAPITAL POOL

- A junior capital pool (JCP) is a corporate capital structure that allows early-stage startups to sell shares in the company before actually establishing a line of business. This form of company financing is a Canadian invention and is permitted only in Canada.
- The JPC is, essentially, a shell corporation with no assets other than cash, which has not yet begun business operations. Their issues might be described as stock options rather than stock shares, since their value remains to be determined at a future date.



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 : 89.8314
INR / 1 GBP : 121.1305
INR / 1 EUR : 105.7393
INR /100 JPY: 57.5400

EQUITY MARKET

Sensex: 85524.84 (-42.64)
NIFTY: 26177.15 (+4.75)
Bnk NIFTY: 59299.55 (-4.45)

Courses conducted by BFSI Board

- ❖ **Certificate Course on Concurrent Audit of Banks**
- ❖ **Certificate Course on Credit Management of Banks**
- ❖ **Certificate Course on Treasury and International Banking**
- ❖ **Certificate Course on Investment Management**
- ❖ **Certificate Course on General Insurance.**
- ❖ **Advance Certificate Course on FinTech**

For details please visit
BFSIB portal of the ICMAI

Publications by BFSI Board

- ❖ **Aide Memoire on Infrastructure Financing.**
- ❖ **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)**

TEAM BFSIB

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

Disclaimer: Information published in the Daily News Digest are taken from publicly available sources and believed to be accurate. BFSI Board of ICMAI takes no responsibility for the accuracy and reliability of information published in the Daily News Digest. No part of this Daily News Digest may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means - electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise without the permission of BFSIB of ICMAI. For Restricted Circulation only. A Compilation of News in this regard from Secondary Sources.