

DAILY NEWS DIGEST BY BFSI BOARD

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ECONOMY

Despite 50% US tariffs, India's exports stay resilient; growth momentum likely to expand into 2026: The year of tariffs was marked by a steep 50 per cent US duty on India's exports in 2025, but Indian exporters adapted by diversifying markets, keeping export growth resilient with momentum likely to extend into 2026. As one of the senior-most officers of the commerce ministry put it, "trade is like water, it finds its own course", the country's merchandise exports responded with agility to a series of disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic (2020-22), the Russia-Ukraine war (since 2022), the Israel-Hamas war (since 2023), the Red Sea shipping crisis (2023-24), the semiconductor supply crunch, and now the high tariffs of the US. From USD 276.5 billion in 2020, outbound shipments increased to USD 395.5 billion in 2021 and USD 453.3 billion in 2022. They dipped to USD 389.5 billion in 2023, but momentum picked up again, with exports rising to USD 443 billion in 2024. In 2025 (January-November) so far, they have reached USD 407 billion.

(Moneycontrol)

India's forex reserves jump \$4.36 billion to \$693.3 billion as gold holdings surge: India's foreign exchange reserves rose sharply by \$4.368 billion to \$693.318 billion in the week ended December 19, latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India showed. The increase was driven largely by a strong rise in gold reserves, which jumped \$2.623 billion to \$110.365 billion during the week. In the previous week, the overall forex kitty had grown by a more modest \$1.689 billion to \$688.949 billion. Foreign currency assets, the biggest component of the reserves, increased by \$1.641 billion to \$559.428 billion, according to the RBI's Weekly Statistical Supplement. These

assets reflect valuation changes due to movements in non-US currencies such as the euro, pound and yen.

(Moneycontrol)

FY28 GDP data likely to incorporate results of Debt & Investment Survey:

Economic growth data based on changes in the value of Gross Domestic Products (GDP) for Fiscal Year 2027-28 (FY28) likely to include results of latest round of All India Debt and Investment Survey (AIDIS), officials said. For the first time after Covid, the latest round of AIDIS is scheduled to be conducted from July 2026 to June 2027. It is one of the flagship surveys conducted by National Statistics Office (NSO), under the Statistics and Programme Implementation Ministry (MoSPI). Origins of AIDIS can be tracked back to the All-India Rural Credit Survey (1951-52), later expanded to cover both debt and investment in 1961-62.

(Business Line)

BANKING & FINANCE



FinMin asks banks, financial institutions to promptly report vigilance matters:

The finance ministry has directed public sector banks and financial institutions, including insurance companies, to promptly report vigilance-related matters concerning whole-time directors (WTDs) of their respective companies. The directive from the Department of Financial Services (DFS) under the ministry follows several instances where adverse information about board-level appointees was not promptly reported.

(Economic Times)

Irdai to crack down on mis-selling as Insurance Bill 2025 tightens norms:

India's insurance regulator is set to tighten the screws on mis-selling, with new legal amendments empowering the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) to impose stricter rules on commission disclosure and conflicts of interest across the industry. The enhanced regulatory powers flow from changes cleared under the Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Bill, 2025, which

explicitly authorise Irdai to decide how commissions paid to agents and intermediaries are structured, capped and disclosed to policyholders. The move is aimed at improving transparency in insurance sales and reducing incentives that drive unsuitable product pushing.

(Economic Times)

IRDAI clears risk-linked capital, new accounting norms for insurers: Indian insurance companies are gearing up for significant changes. From April 2026, new rules will link capital requirements to specific risks. A new accounting standard will also alter how insurers recognize revenue and profits. These reforms aim to align India's insurance sector with global practices. Insurers are already assessing impacts and upgrading systems for the upcoming transition.

(Economic Times)

Banks seek short-term funding from RBI amid tight liquidity: Money market dealers said this will turn system liquidity into surplus from next week and help it remain comfortable through January. "This will be supported by continued OMO (open market operations) purchases totalling around Rs 1.50 lakh crore in January, along with G-sec redemptions of approximately Rs 90,785 crore,"

(Economic Times)

INDUSTRY OUTLOOK



Silver poised to overtake NVIDIA to become the second-most valued asset, says analyst: Silver has overtaken Apple Inc and Alphabet in terms of market capitalisation, and is inching towards overtaking NVIDIA Corporation to become the world's second-most valued asset after gold. Currently, silver sits at a market capitalisation of \$4.220 trillion, as per companiesmarketcap.com, just 8.1 percent behind NVIDIA at \$4.592 trillion, whereas gold commands the market capitalisation of \$31.598 trillion, as of Friday (December 26, 2025).

(Moneycontrol)



Mcap of 7 most valued firms declines by ₹35,439 cr, SBI biggest laggard: The combined market valuation of seven of the top-10 most valued firms declined by Rs 35,439.36 crore in a holiday-shortened last week, with State Bank of India taking the biggest hit, in line with a muted trend in equities. Last week, the BSE benchmark climbed 112.09 points or 0.13 per cent. From the top-10 pack, Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), ICICI Bank, SBI, Bajaj Finance, Larsen & Toubro and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) faced erosion from their valuation, while HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel and Infosys were the winners. The market valuation of State Bank of India tumbled Rs 12,692.1 crore to Rs 8,92,046.88 crore.

(Business Standard)



REGULATION & DEVELOPMENT

Indian Govt urges vehicle owners, DL holders to update mobile number on Vahan, Sarathi portals: The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has issued a nationwide advisory urging all vehicle owners, driving licence holders, and applicants to immediately update their registered mobile numbers on the official Vahan and Sarathi portals. This proactive measure aims to ensure uninterrupted access to a wide range of online transport services, including vehicle registration, renewal, transfer of ownership, driving licence applications, and permit-related transactions.

(Financial Express)

New labour codes: ICAI clarifies gratuity, leave accounting rules: Companies would have to recognise the increase in gratuity liability arising from the new labour codes in their interim financial statements and results for the period ending December 31, 2025, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has said in its FAQs on the new labour codes. The Institute said that any change in leave obligation arising from the new labour codes should also be stated as an expense in the Statement of Profit and Loss immediately. Earlier, gratuity was payable to an employee only if they had completed five years of continuous service. Under the new labour codes, fixed-



term employees, which include contracted employees, will be entitled to gratuity on completing one year of service. “Under AS 15/Ind AS 19, the changes to gratuity benefit resulting from the new labour codes are plan amendments and they are required to be treated as past service costs,” ICAI has clarified.

(Business Standard)



FINANCIAL TERMINOLOGY

BLUE FINANCE

- Blue finance is an emerging area in climate finance with increased interest from investors, financial institutions, and issuers globally. It offers tremendous opportunities to help safeguard our access to clean water, protect underwater environments, and invest in a sustainable water economy.
- Blue Bonds and Blue Loans are financing instruments that raise and earmark funds for investments such as water and wastewater management, reducing ocean plastic pollution, marine ecosystem restoration, sustainable shipping, eco-friendly tourism, or offshore renewable energy.
- The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is a global leader in financing the blue market and economy.
- IFC recognizes the untapped potential for its clients to grow their blue financing products and services. IFC works with financial institution clients, partners, other development finance institutions, corporates, to develop a systematic global blue economy finance market.
- Since 2020, IFC has provided more than \$1.9 billion dollars in blue loans and bonds to private institutions, recognizing the untapped potential for clients to grow their blue financing products and services.



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 : 89.8296
INR / 1 GBP : 121.2400
INR / 1 EUR : 105.8522
INR /100 JPY: 57.5000

EQUITY MARKET

Sensex: 85041.45 (-367.25)
NIFTY: 26042.30 (-99.80)
Bnk NIFTY: 59011.35 (-172.25)

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TEAM BFSIB

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

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