

DAILY NEWS DIGEST BY BESI BOARD

30 December 2025



ECONOMY

India mulls a monthly rupee-ruble exchange rate to spur trade with Russia: India and Russia are considering a semi-floating rupee–ruble exchange rate, potentially fixed on a monthly basis to facilitate bilateral trade. These efforts are aimed at reducing currency conversion costs and to revive momentum in bilateral commerce, according to sources aware of the developments. Most trade between India and Russia is conducted in local currencies or a third currency like the dirham, given the pressure on dollar transactions due to Western sanctions. This has also been a key part of New Delhi's efforts to internationalise the rupee. A direct rupee–ruble exchange rate would help reduce foreign exchange costs, which can be 4–5 percent higher when using indirect currency conversions compared with direct settlement in local legal tenders, an industry source said.

(Moneycontrol)

Silver prices plunge over Rs 21,500 per kg after record-setting rally: Silver prices recorded a sharp reversal on Monday as profit-booking dragged the metal off its record peak. MCX Silver March futures fell by Rs 21,511 per kg to touch an intraday low of Rs 2,32,663 per kg, after hitting a fresh all-time high of Rs 2,54,174 per kg earlier in the day. Global markets also saw intense volatility. International spot silver briefly crossed \$82.61 per ounce, marking its highest ever level, before retreating below \$74 per ounce later in the session. The price swing comes amid an apparent sudden rush among investors to lock in profits following a strong rally. Select analysts pointed out that the underlying fundamentals in the silver market remain supportive.

(Business Today)

IIP jumps 6.7% in November; manufacturing, mining drives growth: Factory output, measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), grew 6.7 per cent in November as against 0.4 per cent in October, the government reported on Monday. The growth rates of the three sectors, Mining, Manufacturing and Electricity, for November 2025 are 5.4 per cent, 8.0 per cent and (-)1.5 per cent respectively.

(Business Line)

BANKING & FINANCE



RBI tightens grip on payment ecosystem as digital transactions near 98% of total payments: India's digital payments grew 17.9 percent in value terms in 2024–25, accounting for 97.6 percent of total payments, according to a recent report by the Reserve Bank of India. Paper-based instruments such as cheques now represent just 2.4 percent of transaction value. In volume terms, digital payments expanded even faster, by 35 percent, reflecting the growing use of digital modes for low-value, everyday transactions. As a result, the average value of retail digital payments declined to Rs 3,830 in 2024–25 from Rs 4,382 a year earlier, underscoring the deepening penetration of digital payments for small-ticket transactions. UPI continued to dominate transaction volumes, while RTGS retained its position as the primary channel for high-value transfers. Debit card usage continued to decline, even as credit card transactions registered steady growth.

(Moneycontrol)

Indian banking sector shows strong growth in 2024-25: RBI report: The Indian banking sector recorded a strong and steady performance during 2024–25, according to a report released by the RBI. The RBI report, titled Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2024–25, was released on Monday and explains how banks performed during 2024–25 and the first half of 2025–26. Gross NPAs dropped to 2.2 per cent by March 2025 and further declined to 2.1 per cent by September 2025. For major commercial banks, the CRAR stood at 17.4 per cent in March 2025 and

increased to 17.2 per cent by September 2025. In 2024–25, the return on assets was 1.4 per cent, which declined slightly to 1.3 per cent in the first half of 2025–26.

(Business Today)

Large banks raise record funds via CDs in 2025: Large banks raised record funds via certificate of deposit (CDs) issuances in calendar year 2025 as organic term deposit and low-cost current account and savings account (CASA) growth remained tepid, whereas credit growth saw sustained pickup, experts said. There has been good growth in advances, with demand pickup seen in all segments including retail and MSME loans. The advances are expected to grow at 12-13 per cent, with deposits lagging at 9-10 per cent.

(Business Line)

ATM numbers dip in FY25 as digital payments rise: RBI: The number of automated teller machines (ATMs) declined moderately in FY25, with the increase in digitisation, a RBI report said on Monday. The number of bank branches increased by over 2 per cent on the back of network expansion by the public sector banks, the report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India for FY25 said. The overall number of ATMs declined to 2,51,057 as of March 31, 2025, from 2,53,417 in the year-ago period, driven down further by private-sector banks' strategies, it indicated.

(Economic Times)

INDUSTRY OUTLOOK



India ranks 3rd in rare earth reserves, but trails in production due to structural bottlenecks in mining: Report: India has the world's third-largest rare earth reserves, but its production remains among the lowest compared to major global players, highlighting a sharp gap between resource availability and actual output, according to a report by Amicus Growth. Data showed that India holds about 6.9 million tonne of rare earth oxide (REO) reserves, placing it behind only China and Brazil. China tops the list with 44 million tonne of reserves, followed by Brazil with 21

million tonne. Other countries with notable reserves include Australia (5.7 million tonne), Russia (3.8 million tonne), Vietnam (3.5 million tonne) and the United States (1.9 million tonne).

(Business Line)

Paramount TPA to merge with Medi Assist Insurance TPA: Medi Assist Healthcare Services' step-down subsidiary, Paramount Health Services & Insurance TPA, will merge with group entity Medi Assist Insurance TPA. This cash-free merger aims to integrate operations, enhance access to assets, and create synergies for future growth. The consolidation is expected to reduce overheads and boost financial strength.

(Economic Times)

Nabard scraps ₹7,000 crore bond issue as short-end yields stay elevated: State-owned National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) on Monday scrapped its planned bond issuance of ₹7,000 crore, which comprises three-year bonds, due to elevated yields at the shorter end of the curve. According to market participants, Nabard was expecting rates to soften after the liquidity infusion announcement last week, but the 10-year government bond yield rose to around 6.60 per cent from 6.52 per cent.

(Business Standard)



REGULATION & DEVELOPMENT

RBI asks microlenders to monitor stress build-up: The Reserve Bank of India has urged microfinance institutions to monitor stress build-up on their books, noting lower disbursements in southern states. This comes as the industry adopts guardrails to ensure steady growth, following challenges like borrower over-leverage. The RBI's revised framework aims for systemic and sustainable growth while fostering financial inclusion.

(Economic Times)

RBI to issue instructions to prevent mis-selling of financial products: The Reserve Bank will issue comprehensive norms to regulated entities on advertising, marketing and sales to prevent mis-selling of financial products and services to consumers. It is proposed to review the extant instructions on conduct-related matters associated with the engagement of recovery agents and recovery of loans, and issue harmonised instructions in this regard, it added.

(Economic Times)

FinMin to hold colloquium on rising pendency of debt recovery cases in DRTs:

The Union Finance Ministry is holding a colloquium on Tuesday to review pending debt recovery cases before debt recovery tribunals (DRTs) and debts recovery appellate tribunals (DRATs) involving public sector banks, which soared to 137,000 involving ₹7.49 trillion in September. “The colloquium will see the participation of chairpersons of DRATs, presiding officers of DRTs, and senior bank executives. The move comes against the backdrop of a worrying rise in unresolved cases before DRTs, and aims to deliberate on possible measures that can be adopted going forward to ensure faster recovery of public money,” according to senior government officials who spoke on condition of anonymity. He said that the upcoming meeting aims to identify bottlenecks, streamline procedures and explore measures to improve efficiency and effectiveness of DRTs and DRATs, which play a critical role in the recovery of stressed assets in the banking system.

(Business Standard)



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FINANCIAL TERMINOLOGY

JUNK BONDS

- Junk bonds, also known as high-yield bonds, are debt securities issued by companies with lower credit ratings, indicating a higher risk of default compared to investment-grade bonds. To compensate investors for this increased risk, these bonds offer higher interest rates (yields).
- Junk bonds are rated below investment grade by major credit rating agencies.
- These bonds are often issued by young, capital-intensive companies, those with significant debt, or those in financial distress who may not qualify for traditional, lower-interest bank loans.



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 : 89.9756
INR / 1 GBP : 121.4053
INR / 1 EUR : 105.8407
INR /100 JPY: 57.5800

EQUITY MARKET

Sensex: 84695.54 (-345.91)
NIFTY: 25942.10 (-100.20)
Bnk NIFTY: 58932.35 (-79.00)

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The Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI)**

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