



March 05, 2025 – Wednesday

## Economy

### **Modern framework needed to create growth-conducive investment climate: CEA**

Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran on Tuesday said India should have a modern, responsive regulatory framework to create a growth-conducive investment climate, as FDI inflows get impacted due to pressure on global growth.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/modern-framework-needed-to-create-growth-conducive-investment-climate-cea-125030400466\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/modern-framework-needed-to-create-growth-conducive-investment-climate-cea-125030400466_1.html)

### **Govt committed to easing regulations, boosting export economy: Sitharaman**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said the government remains steadfast in reducing regulatory burdens, besides enhancing trust-based governance and taking steps to make India a "seamless, export-friendly" economy.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/govt-committed-to-easing-regulations-boosting-export-economy-sitharaman-125030400902\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/govt-committed-to-easing-regulations-boosting-export-economy-sitharaman-125030400902_1.html)

### **87% Indians fear data breach, 50% worried about Aadhaar security: survey**

A majority 87% of India's citizens believe one or more of their personal data elements are already in public domain or in databases that have been compromised, revealed a survey by LocalCircle.

[https://www.business-standard.com/finance/personal-finance/87-indians-fear-data-breach-50-worried-about-aadhaar-security-survey-125030400164\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/finance/personal-finance/87-indians-fear-data-breach-50-worried-about-aadhaar-security-survey-125030400164_1.html)

## Finance

### **Another rate cut in April expected, liquidity key for transmission**

There is an expectation among economists that the six-member monetary policy committee (MPC) of Reserve Bank of India will deliver another policy repo rate cut in April meeting to support growth with inflation trajectory trending down.

[https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/another-rate-cut-in-april-expected-liquidity-key-for-transmission-125030401157\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/another-rate-cut-in-april-expected-liquidity-key-for-transmission-125030401157_1.html)

### **Banks shed bulk deposits for healthy net interest margins**

Banks are shedding costly bulk deposits to protect their net interest margins (NIMs) ahead of expected interest rate cuts. They are now focusing on increasing the share of retail deposits with the aim to reduce their cost of funding amid tight liquidity conditions. "We will be mindful of how to contain bulk deposits...we are not going to go for bulk deposits or the certificate of deposits," Ashok Chandra, MD & CEO, Punjab National Bank, said after announcing the bank's third-quarter earnings.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/banking-finance-banks-shed-bulk-deposits-for-healthy-net-interest-margins-3766099/>

### **Banks discuss swift move to new system**

Indian banks are collaborating with the international messaging system SWIFT to migrate to the ISO 20022 instant settlement system by November 25. Only four Indian banks have made partial transitions, prompting discussions for smoother transitions and potential deadline extensions. SWIFT encourages expedited adoption, with possible penalties for non-compliance after the global deadline.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/banks-discuss-swift-move-to-new-system/articleshow/118717749.cms>

### **NBFCs' concentrated exposures to power and infra sectors could trigger systemic issues, cautions IMF**

Non-Banking Finance Companies' (NBFCs) concentrated exposures, especially to the power and infrastructure sectors—the cause behind the 2016 bank distress—could trigger systemic issues through their linkages with banks, corporate bond markets, and mutual funds, cautioned the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its latest Financial Sector Assessment Programme (FSAP) for India.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/imf-warns-of-systemic-risks-from-nbfc-concentrated-exposures-to-power-and-infrastructure-sectors-in-india-recommends-financial-stability-prioritization/article69289786.ece>

### **Credit card spending hits Rs 1.84 lakh cr in January 2025, up 14% on year**

Total credit card spending for January 2025 reached Rs 1,841 billion, marking a 2% month-on-month decline but a strong 14% year-on-year growth, shows data analysed by Asit C. Mehta Investment Intermediates, a financial services firm. The spending contraction on a monthly basis was primarily due to seasonality effects, as December spending was boosted by festive and year-end expenditures.

[https://www.business-standard.com/finance/personal-finance/credit-card-spending-hits-rs-1-84-lakh-cr-in-january-2025-up-14-on-year-125030400575\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/finance/personal-finance/credit-card-spending-hits-rs-1-84-lakh-cr-in-january-2025-up-14-on-year-125030400575_1.html)

### **Investments from Indian diaspora in GIFT City funds surpass \$7 bn: IFSCA**

Investments by the Indian diaspora in GIFT City-based funds have crossed USD 7 billion, a top official from the International Financial Services Centres Authority said on Tuesday.

[https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/investments-from-indian-diaspora-in-gift-city-funds-surpass-7-bn-ifsc-125030401030\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/investments-from-indian-diaspora-in-gift-city-funds-surpass-7-bn-ifsc-125030401030_1.html)

### **States borrow Rs 50,505 crore via SDL window, highest so far in FY25**

States on Tuesday borrowed Rs 50,505 crore via state development loans (SDL) – their highest borrowing in the current financial year. After the auction, the spread between the 10-year SDL and the 10-year benchmark 6.79% 2034 bond rose to 53 basis points from 30 basis points.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-states-borrow-rs-50505-crore-via-sdl-window-highest-so-far-in-fy25-3767321/>

## **Industry**

### **FMCG firms expect demand to pick up**

Overall improvement in demand sentiment and green shoots of recovery visible in the urban areas are likely to ease the pains of FMCG companies from the January-March quarter, according to industry experts. However, they noted that commodities like coffee, tea, and cocoa continue to face inflationary pressures and will require close monitoring.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-fmcc-firms-expect-demand-to-pick-up-3767367/>

### **Manufacturing sector must take advantage of opportunities available: PM**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asked the industry not to be a "mere spectator" and take advantage of the opportunities available in the global supply chain. Stating that the world is looking to strengthen its economic partnership with India, Modi said India's manufacturing sector should take advantage of the growing needs of the world by producing high quality products.

[https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/manufacturing-sector-must-take-advantage-of-opportunities-available-pm-125030400478\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/manufacturing-sector-must-take-advantage-of-opportunities-available-pm-125030400478_1.html)

#### **India sets target of \$100 billion in auto components exports in next 7-8 years**

The Indian auto component industry has taken an ambitious target of reaching \$100 billion in the next seven-eight years (currently at \$21.2 billion in FY24) in exports. For achieving this, the country needs to position itself as a hub for both classic and emerging auto components, Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA) said on Tuesday.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/india-sets-target-of-100-billion-in-auto-components-exports-in-next-7-8-years/article69290572.ece>

#### **India's security apparatus must stay adaptive to emerging threats: Rajnath**

India's security apparatus must remain adaptive to emerging threats such as cyber and hybrid warfare as well as "space-based espionage", Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday.

[https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/india-s-security-apparatus-must-stay-adaptive-to-emerging-threats-rajnath-125030400848\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/india-s-security-apparatus-must-stay-adaptive-to-emerging-threats-rajnath-125030400848_1.html)

#### **India's circular economy can create \$2 trillion market: Bhupender Yadav**

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav on Tuesday said India's circular economy has the potential to create a market worth over USD 2 trillion and generate nearly 10 million jobs by 2050. "On a global scale, the circular economy could contribute an additional \$4.5 trillion to the global economy by 2030," he said, while speaking on the second day of the 12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum for the India and Pacific region in Jaipur.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-s-circular-economy-can-create-2-trillion-market-bhupender-yadav-125030401167\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-s-circular-economy-can-create-2-trillion-market-bhupender-yadav-125030401167_1.html)

### **Agriculture**

#### **Only 15% paddy, 9.6% wheat farmers benefit from MSP system, says paper**

As the Union government and a section of farmers sit for another round of negotiations over the next few days to discuss demands that include legally-guaranteed minimum support price (MSP), a recent paper by a state-run institute says that though MSPs lead to higher incomes and yields, only 15 percent of paddy farmers and just 9.6 percent of wheat farmers have benefited from the MSP-based procurement system.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/agriculture/only-15-paddy-9-6-wheat-farmers-benefit-from-msp-system-says-paper-125030400661\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/agriculture/only-15-paddy-9-6-wheat-farmers-benefit-from-msp-system-says-paper-125030400661_1.html)

#### **Tea sector urges govt approval for alternate molecules as EU moves to cut chemical MRLs**

As the European Union (EU) plans to reduce the maximum residual limits (MRLs) for agrochemicals such as Thiacloprid and Thiamethoxam, which are used to control pests in tea gardens, the Indian tea industry is seeking the Government's quick approval for alternative molecules that are safe and compliant with the EU standards to sustain exports.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/tea-sector-urges-govt-approval-for-alternate-molecules-as-eu-moves-to-cut-chemical-mrls/article69288772.ece>

### **Infrastructure**

#### **Real estate sector to see record Rs 60,000 crore launches in Q4**

The fourth quarter of the current fiscal year is expected to see a record Rs 60,000 crore launches of projects by top listed developers. This is a substantial increase from the Rs 24,000 crore worth launches in the corresponding period of the previous year.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-real-estate-sector-to-see-record-rs-60000-crore-launches-in-q4-3767216/>

#### **Government panel pulls up railways and telecom for slow asset monetisation**

A core group criticises railways for poor performance in asset monetisation and urges various ministries to meet higher targets. Concerns were raised over slow progress and reduced targets in railway and housing projects. The road transport ministry aims to monetise 35,000 km of highways to generate ₹3.5 lakh crore.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/railways/government-panel-pulls-up-railways-and-telecom-for-slow-asset-monetisation/articleshow/118706567.cms>

#### **Highway construction down 8% in April-January, new awards pick up**

Highway construction in the first ten months of this financial year declined 8.5% on year to 7,000 km. Still, the target for the year may be met as it was modest in the first place. The government has set a provisional target of constructing 10,421 km of national highways this financial year, which is 15% lower than last year's achievement due to the election process delaying various state clearances and prolonged monsoon in 2024.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/infrastructure-highway-construction-down-8-in-april-january-new-awards-pick-up-3767162/>

### **Energy**

#### **Hopeful that India will be able to meet demand for lithium internally in 3-4 years: Reddy**

Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy expressed optimism that India would meet its critical mineral demand, such as lithium, domestically within three to four years. He highlighted the National Critical Mineral Mission's efforts and the approval of Rs 32,000 crore for this initiative. GSI's role in exploration and collaboration with Argentina on lithium is crucial for the mission's success.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/indl-goods/svs/metals-mining/hopeful-that-india-will-be-able-to-meet-demand-for-lithium-internally-in-3-4-years-reddy/articleshow/118708440.cms>

#### **India prepared to meet 270 GW peak power demand this summer: Official**

India is geared up to handle a peak power demand of 270 GW this summer, implementing measures such as full-capacity operation of imported coal plants, increased use of gas-based power, and water conservation for hydroelectric projects. The Central Electricity Authority emphasizes removing power shortages, particularly during crucial months.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/india-prepared-to-meet-270-gw-peak-power-demand-this-summer-official/articleshow/118712770.cms>

#### **100 GW nuclear power by 2047 ambitious, achievable: Jitendra Singh**

Union minister Jitendra Singh on Tuesday said the goal to generate 100 GW nuclear power by 2047 is ambitious and achievable, and state-run Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and its subsidiaries aim to fulfill nearly half of that target.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/100-gw-nuclear-power-by-2047-ambitious-achievable-jitendra-singh-125030401160\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/100-gw-nuclear-power-by-2047-ambitious-achievable-jitendra-singh-125030401160_1.html)

#### **Natural gas import bill rises 17% to \$12.9-billion in April-January**

India's natural gas import bill surged by 17.2% to \$12.9 billion during April-January of the current fiscal, compared with \$11.0 billion in the same period last year, driven by rising consumption, according to data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC). In January, the import bill increased by approximately 8.3% to \$1.3 billion, compared to January 2024.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-natural-gas-import-bill-rises-17-to-12-9-billion-in-april-january-3767163/>

#### **Smart meter installation yet to gather pace, less than 10% completed**

Besides complex tendering processes, logistical challenges, infrastructure upgrades and protests by end consumers in some regions, the government has targeted to install 25 crore smart meters by March 2026.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/smart-meter-installation-yet-to-gather-pace/article69288767.ece>

## States

### Uttarakhand Cabinet approves implementation of Unified Pension Scheme

The Uttarakhand Cabinet, under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, has approved the implementation of the Central Government's Unified Pension Scheme for officers and employees in the state.

[https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/uttarakhand-cabinet-approves-implementation-of-unified-pension-scheme-125030400392\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/uttarakhand-cabinet-approves-implementation-of-unified-pension-scheme-125030400392_1.html)

## Healthcare

### Centre to expand internet access to Arogya Mandirs, enhance CMO training

The Centre is looking to increase internet coverage to Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs), expand teleconsultations, and formulate new training programmes for Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) under the National Health Mission (NHM). In a Mission Steering Group (MSG) meeting of the NHM, chaired by health minister JP Nadda held on Tuesday, stressed on the need for ensuring required results of healthcare schemes at the grassroots level.

[https://www.business-standard.com/health/centre-to-expand-internet-access-to-arogyamandirs-enhance-cmo-training-125030401097\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/health/centre-to-expand-internet-access-to-arogyamandirs-enhance-cmo-training-125030401097_1.html)

## External

### India-Belgium defence cooperation set to deepen: Focus on Light Tanks and Strategic Ties

India and Belgium have deepened their defence collaboration, as both nations work to expand their strategic and economic relationship. During the ongoing Belgian Economic Mission to India, (March 2-8, 2025) led by Princess Astrid, several key agreements were signed, including those in defence technology, military cooperation, and manufacturing partnerships.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/india-belgium-defence-cooperation-set-to-deepen-focus-on-light-tanks-and-strategic-ties-3767271/>

### India-US trade deal long overdue, it will boost GDP of both nations: USIBC

As commerce minister Piyush Goyal and his US counterpart Howard Lutnick begun talks to strike an early bilateral trade deal, US-India Business Council (USIBC) of the US Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday said that non-tariff barriers and red tape should be “dismantled with haste” as it slows market access.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-us-trade-deal-long-overdue-it-will-boost-gdp-of-both-nations-usibc-125030400750\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-us-trade-deal-long-overdue-it-will-boost-gdp-of-both-nations-usibc-125030400750_1.html)

### Tariffs on China, Mexico and Canada may boost Indian exports to US: Experts

Imposition of high tariffs on China, Mexico, and Canada by the US is expected to help Indian exporters in increasing their shipments to the American market, experts say.

[https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/tariffs-on-china-mexico-canada-may-boost-indian-exports-to-us-experts-125030400732\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/tariffs-on-china-mexico-canada-may-boost-indian-exports-to-us-experts-125030400732_1.html)

### Survey reveals challenges faced by Danish companies in India, impacting growth

Despite India’s increasing attractiveness, Danish companies operating in the country clearly face numerous challenges that impact their growth and operational efficiency. One of the most significant concerns is finding and retaining qualified staff with 44 per cent of respondents identifying this issue. The companies that responded are primarily headquartered in Tamil Nadu (47 per cent) and Karnataka (27 per cent), in sectors like energy, health and environment and water.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/survey-reveals-challenges-faced-by-danish-companies-in-india-impacting-growth/article69289727.ece>

### Free trade agreement tariff concessions cost India Rs 94,172 crore in FY25

With India negotiating trade deals with developed economies like the United States (US), European Union (EU), and United Kingdom (UK), its customs duty collection, budgeted to grow only 2.1 per cent to ₹2.4 trillion in FY26, may

come under more pressure than it is now. India had forgone ₹94,172 crore as customs duty in FY25 due to preferential tariff reductions under free-trade agreements (FTAs) signed with entities such as Japan, South Korea, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/free-trade-agreement-tariff-concessions-cost-india-rs-94-172-crore-in-fy25-125030401172\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/free-trade-agreement-tariff-concessions-cost-india-rs-94-172-crore-in-fy25-125030401172_1.html)

#### **Trade strategy for steel industry after clarity in tariffs: Steel Minister**

Union Steel and Heavy Industries Minister HD Kumaraswamy on Tuesday said the government will devise a trade strategy for the steel industry after getting clarity on the nature of tariffs imposed by the United States. The minister's comments come after US President Donald Trump unleashed a 25 per cent tariff on imports from Canada and Mexico, and an additional 10 per cent levy on imports from China.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/protection-for-indian-steel-industry-after-clarity-in-tariffs-kumaraswamy-125030400764\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/protection-for-indian-steel-industry-after-clarity-in-tariffs-kumaraswamy-125030400764_1.html)

#### **India's visa applications up 11% in 2024, Canada and China among favourites**

Indians are travelling more frequently. Outbound travel from India remained strong, with visa application volumes rising by 11% in 2024 compared to the previous year, according to a VFS Global release accessed by Business Standard. The number has also surpassed pre-pandemic levels (2019) by 4%, showing both a recovery and an increase in Indian travellers heading abroad.

[https://www.business-standard.com/finance/personal-finance/india-s-visa-applications-up-11-in-2024-canada-and-china-among-favourites-125030400261\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/finance/personal-finance/india-s-visa-applications-up-11-in-2024-canada-and-china-among-favourites-125030400261_1.html)

#### **Indian exports under mounting pressure from US, EU trade policies**

Indian exports are facing mounting pressure from aggressive trade policies by partners such as the United States and the European Union, a senior trade ministry official said on Tuesday. Citing the US decision to raise import tariffs and initiatives like the CHIPS Act, Santosh Sarangi, head of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), said it was "high time India also looked at our trade and industrial policies comprehensively".

[https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/indian-exports-face-strain-from-us-eu-trade-policies-says-govt-official-125030400685\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/indian-exports-face-strain-from-us-eu-trade-policies-says-govt-official-125030400685_1.html)

#### **India sees 5th month of negative flows, US accounts for 50% of outflows**

India's capital flows have remained negative for the fifth consecutive month, although the pace of outflows has slowed. The latest data analysed by Elara Capital reveals a modest weekly outflow of \$177 million, marking the smallest weekly outflow since January 2025. However, a significant pressure point continues to be the redemption from India-dedicated funds, which saw a substantial outflow of \$370 million this week, pushing the total calendar year-to-date (CYTD) outflow to \$2.9 billion.

[https://www.business-standard.com/finance/personal-finance/india-sees-5th-month-of-negative-flows-us-accounts-for-50-of-outflows-125030400517\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/finance/personal-finance/india-sees-5th-month-of-negative-flows-us-accounts-for-50-of-outflows-125030400517_1.html)

#### **India's April-January finished steel imports from S.Korea, China, Japan hit record high**

India's finished steel imports from China, South Korea, and Japan reached a record high in the first ten months of the fiscal year. South Korea led by exporting 2.4 million metric tons. Imports from these countries accounted for 78% of India's overall finished steel imports, with hot-rolled coil being the most frequent type.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/indl-goods/svs/steel/indias-april-january-finished-steel-imports-from-s-korea-china-japan-hit-record-high/articleshow/118702255.cms>

#### **India restricts platinum alloy imports, except 99% pure**

India moved platinum alloy imports to the restricted category from the previously free category, except for 99% pure platinum alloy imports, the government said in a notification on Wednesday. The decision to restrict platinum imports by the world's second largest gold consumer comes as some importers were masking gold imports as platinum to avoid higher import duties.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-restricts-platinum-alloy-imports-except-99-pure/articleshow/118723659.cms>

