



March 24, 2025 – Monday

## Economy

### India's overseas direct investments in April-Jan FY25 exceed FY24 total by 15%

Amid Indian equity market seeing massive outflows, Overseas Direct Investments (ODI) by Indian institutions and individuals in April-January period of the current fiscal has exceeded the total of the last fiscal by 15 per cent. Experts feel that besides displaying India Inc's strategic ambitions, it shows that the next cycle of growth may not be led by emerging economies.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/indias-overseas-direct-investments-in-april-jan-of-fy25-surpasses-total-of-fy24-by-15/article69364569.ece>

## Finance

### MSME loan threshold under digital footprint model hiked to Rs 10 crore

The government has urged public sector banks (PSBs) to extend loans up to Rs 10 crore through the newly launched digital footprint-based credit assessment model from Rs 25 lakh to Rs 5 crore now, to accelerate seamless credit flow to the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). While no target is being fixed as of now as their systems will take some time to stabilise, the finance ministry will monitor what percentage of PSBs loans for MSMEs are happening through this automated model. Based on the customer feedbacks, the product would be reviewed to popularise it.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/sme-2/msme-loan-threshold-under-digital-footprint-model-hiked-to-rs-10-crore/3785950/>

### Banks set to make treasury gains in Q4 FY25 as bond yields soften

Banks are set to make treasury gains in the fourth quarter of the current financial year as the yield on government bonds softened in the current quarter so far on the back of strong inflows in the debt segment, said market participants. The yield on the 10-year benchmark government bond fell 8 basis points in the previous week — the steepest weekly decline in four months, since November 30, 2024 — to settle at 6.62 per cent.

[https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/banks-set-to-make-treasury-gains-in-q4-fy25-as-bond-yields-soften-125032300464\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/banks-set-to-make-treasury-gains-in-q4-fy25-as-bond-yields-soften-125032300464_1.html)

### Business correspondents to undergo digital audit, new training models

The first steps for rolling out a digital audit of the over 2.5 million business correspondents (BCs) along with their training and certification is in the works, sources said. This will be the first such audit in almost two decades. A working committee is likely to be formed to undertake the task, and headed by one of the managing directors of the State Bank of India (SBI) with members drawn from Yes Bank as well as the Business Correspondents Federation of India (BCFI).

[https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/business-correspondents-to-undergo-digital-audit-new-training-models-125021400832\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/business-correspondents-to-undergo-digital-audit-new-training-models-125021400832_1.html)

### **State-run banks bearing good deal of credit card bad debt**

State-run banks face high credit card bad loan ratios, particularly from cards issued between September 2021 and October 2023 amid competition from fintechs. These banks' aggressive lending during the post-pandemic boom contributed to the issue, with current stress primarily in the sub-Rs 50,000 category.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/state-run-banks-bearing-good-deal-of-credit-card-bad-debt/articleshow/119389785.cms>

### **Public sector banks' dividend rises 33% to ₹27,830 crore in FY24**

Dividend payout by public sector banks (PSBs) have risen by 33 per cent to ₹27,830 crore in FY24, indicating significant improvement in financial health of these lenders. PSBs declared a dividend of ₹27,830 crore to shareholders in 2023-24 as against ₹20,964 crore in the previous fiscal, registering an increase of 32.7 per cent, according to the government data.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/public-sector-banks-dividend-rises-33-to-27830-crore-in-fy24/article69364457.ece>

### **Banks turn cautious on FCNR deposits**

This is primarily because of two reasons. First, banks are increasingly sourcing funds from global markets at cheaper rates. Second, demand for foreign currency loans from companies remains static. So, there is not much upward movement in foreign currency non-resident-bank (FCNR-B) deposit rates, although the central bank had raised the deposit rate ceiling at the last monetary policy announcement on December 6 by previous governor Shaktikanta Das.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/banks-turn-cautious-on-fcnr-deposits/articleshow/119389552.cms>

### **SEBI to tighten post listing rules for SMEs amid governance concerns**

After tightening rules for listing and eligibility of SME public issues, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is set to introduce stricter rules on post-listing obligations and disclosures, sources said. Stricter rules for related-party transactions, board disclosures, and filings to be notified by April.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/sebi-may-extend-mainboard-like-compliance-disclosure-rules-to-smes/article69364648.ece>

### **Central GST authority adopts 'soft nudging' to bring unorganised sectors under tax net**

The Central GST Administration has adopted a policy of 'soft nudge' against non-registered GST assesseees to bring them under the tax base. In one such campaign in an evasion-prone business locality of East Delhi, it managed to get 100 fresh registrations besides more than 2,000 queries from potential and unregistered traders.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/central-gst-authority-adopts-soft-nudging-to-bring-unorganised-sectors-under-tax-net/article69364614.ece>

### **GST on insurance may be slashed to 5%**

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council may settle for a reduction in the tax rates on health & life insurance, instead of a full waiver. The GST, which now applies at 18% on gross premiums, is likely to be reduced to 5%, while retaining the facility of input tax credit, according to official sources. Most members of the Group of Ministers (GoM) that reviewed tax rates for health and life insurance are favouring the tax cut, but feel that a full exemption could only jack up costs as input taxes would get accumulated for the insurers.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/money/gst-on-insurance-may-be-slashed-to-5-3785942/>

### **Terrorism insurance premium likely to drop up to 15% from April 1**

Companies taking cover against terrorism risk are likely to see premiums fall up to 15 per cent from April 1, as state-owned reinsurer General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) slashes rates for terrorism risk insurance pool. The pool provides insurance support for terrorism risk covered under the property insurance policies, including cover to dwellings and fixed assets in multiple locations.

[https://www.business-standard.com/finance/insurance/terrorism-insurance-premium-likely-to-drop-up-to-15-from-april-1-125032300419\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/finance/insurance/terrorism-insurance-premium-likely-to-drop-up-to-15-from-april-1-125032300419_1.html)

## Industry

### US tariffs come with a silver lining for India's self-reliance, local production boost

Amid concerns over US tariffs, a report by Motilal Oswal suggests India could strengthen its domestic industries. Increased tariffs raise costs and hurt exports, but they also present an opportunity to boost local production and reduce reliance on foreign goods. Strategic use of import duties and improved trade agreements could mitigate the impact and stimulate economic growth.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/us-tariffs-come-with-a-silver-lining-for-indias-self-reliance-local-production-boost/articleshow/119403717.cms>

### PLI for leather, footwear at draft Cabinet note stage

The production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for the leather and footwear sector is in the draft Cabinet note stage, the government has informed the standing committee on commerce. There have been discussions for some time to extend the scheme to the leather and footwear sector. The allocation for it will be around Rs 2,600 crore as per Budget documents.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry/pli-for-leather-footwear-at-draft-cabinet-note-stage/3786131/>

### Auto firms to raise prices from April as costs, regulations squeeze margins

Indian automotive manufacturers are set to implement price hikes across vehicle portfolios from April 2025, amid escalating input costs and regulatory pressures. Major players have announced price increases ranging from 2 to 4 per cent. As net profit margins for original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) have mostly remained flat in the last nine months, analysts believe without these price hikes, profit margins would come under considerable squeeze. Data from Bloomberg highlights the rising costs of key raw materials.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/auto/auto-firms-to-hike-prices-from-april-as-costs-regulations-squeeze-margins-125032300315\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/auto/auto-firms-to-hike-prices-from-april-as-costs-regulations-squeeze-margins-125032300315_1.html)

### Higher prices drag electric vehicles' registrations

Following the reduction in electric vehicle subsidies and a nationwide price surge, EV adoption has slowed. This downward trend is evident in the decreasing registration numbers recorded last year, a pattern that persists into 2025.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/as-higher-prices-hurt-electric-vehicles-registrations-decline/article69365393.ece>

### Indian edtech sector rides the AI wave as upskilling gains momentum

The Indian edtech sector is experiencing a surge in demand for artificial intelligence (AI) courses, mirroring global trends. As AI becomes central to upskilling, a growing number of learners — from seasoned professionals to school students — are eager to explore and experiment with the technology. BrightCHAMPS, an edtech firm that delivers learning courses to students in the K–12 segment, found that 58 per cent of students globally are already integrating AI into their studies. In comparison, 36 per cent of them use the technology for their homework.

[https://www.business-standard.com/companies/start-ups/indian-edtech-sector-rides-the-ai-wave-as-upskilling-gains-momentum-125032300561\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/companies/start-ups/indian-edtech-sector-rides-the-ai-wave-as-upskilling-gains-momentum-125032300561_1.html)

### Strengthen code to prevent glorification of drugs in digital content: Parliamentary panel tells I&B Ministry

A Parliamentary panel has advised the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting to have a stronger code of ethics that prevents streaming of content on digital platforms that glorifies consumption of harmful substances such as drugs. The Committee has also advised the Ministry to look at formulating a comprehensive Media Bill and set up a Media Council.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/strengthen-code-to-prevent-glorification-of-drugs-in-digital-content-parliamentary-panel-tells-ib-ministry/article69365750.ece>

### Firms with ₹250-crore turnover rush to register on TReDS as March 31 deadline nears

Companies with annual turnover of ₹250 crore are making a beeline to register on Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) platform to comply with MSME ministry's deadline of March 31. As per the government notification, all companies with a turnover exceeding ₹250 crore, along with Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) involved in procurement from MSMEs, are required to register on the TReDS platform by March 31, 2025.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/firms-with-250-crore-turnover-rush-to-register-on-treds-as-march-31-deadline-nears/article69364654.ece>

## Agriculture

### Govt aims at record MSP purchases of pulses and oilseeds

With market prices ruling below minimum support price (MSP) on robust crop prospects after staying at elevated levels for two years, the government is set to approve purchase of over 6 million tonne (MT) of oilseeds and 5 MT of pulses purchase under the price support scheme (PSS) in the key growing states for 2024-25 season (July-June).

<https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy/govt-aims-at-record-msp-purchases-of-pulses-and-oilseeds/3785963/>

### Centre withdraws 20% onion export duty as prices slump

With onion prices dropping by almost 30-40 per cent since late February, the Centre has removed the 20 per cent duty on exports with effect from April 1. The duty was in place since September 13, 2024. It said that despite the export curbs, India has exported around 1.71 million tonnes of onions in FY24 while in FY25 (till March 18) around 1.16 million tonnes has already been exported.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/centre-removes-20-onion-export-duty-from-april-1-as-prices-slump-125032200794\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/centre-removes-20-onion-export-duty-from-april-1-as-prices-slump-125032200794_1.html)

### Govt aims to raise farmers' incomes through PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana

The government's main thrust is likely to be raising farmers' income in 100 districts under the PM Dhan Dhaanya Yojana (PMDDY), announced in the Budget, as it has been observed that with increased income, farmers are capable of undertaking many initiatives either on their own or through government schemes. Currently, the agriculture ministry is discussing the details of the scheme, which may be launched before Kharif season sowing, which usually starts in June with the arrival of the monsoon.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/govt-aims-to-raise-farmers-incomes-through-pm-dhan-dhaanya-krishi-yojana/article69365288.ece>

### India imports 8.47 lakh tons of DAP fertiliser from China by February

India has imported 8.47 lakh tonnes of DAP fertiliser from China till February this fiscal, representing 19.17% of total imports. China accounted for 40% in the previous fiscal. Despite various challenges, domestic DAP availability has exceeded the requirement for the ongoing rabi season.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-imports-8-47-lakh-tons-of-dap-fertiliser-from-china-by-february/articleshow/119374022.cms>

## Infrastructure

### Local for global: Bharat Global Ports may get domestic assignments

The government is looking to give Bharat Global Ports a certain amount of domestic exposure after it set up the state-owned consortium to increase India's global maritime heft, officials aware of the development said. The intended domestic exposure is meant to give the consortium experience and build its credentials for international projects.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/local-for-global-bharat-global-ports-may-get-domestic-assignments-125032300469\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/local-for-global-bharat-global-ports-may-get-domestic-assignments-125032300469_1.html)

### Housing sales, launches continue to correct in Q1 of 2025

Home sales and launches across tier 1 markets have shown a falling trend both sequentially and annually in the first quarter of 2025, according to data by PropEquity, pointing to a continuing correction in the market that has been a trend last year as well.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/real-estate/housing-sales-launches-continue-to-correct-in-q1-of-2025/article69364539.ece>

#### **India's premium residential market soars with rising demand for luxury living spaces**

India's luxury residential market is growing, with 17% of new launches in 2024 priced above Rs 1.5 crore. Tier-2 and tier-3 cities are contributing 12%, driven by urbanization and infrastructure development. Notable projects like The Wilton and M Square in Ludhiana highlight this trend.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/property/-/cstruction/indias-premium-residential-market-soars-with-rising-demand-for-luxury-living-spaces/articleshow/119375436.cms>

### **Energy**

#### **Wind power generation clocks zero growth in 10 months; solar generation sees 22% rise**

Compared to a 22 percent rise in production of solar power in India during the current financial year, there has been zero growth in wind power generation, with states like Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra even reporting a decline in production.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/last-10-months-wind-power-generation-clocks-zero-growth-solar-generation-sees-22-rise/article69365253.ece>

#### **India's ethane imports from US decline for sixth consecutive year in 2024**

India, which is among the top buyers of ethane from the US, has witnessed its import share of the commodity from the North American country decline for the sixth straight year in 2024. India's push for self-reliance among reasons for decline.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/indias-ethane-imports-from-us-decline-for-sixth-consecutive-year-in-2024/article69364664.ece>

### **Telecom**

#### **Government has aggressive plans to monetise land assets of BSNL: Scindia**

The government will pursue monetisation of the land assets of State-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) aggressively at an outlay of around ₹4,000 crore, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister of Telecommunications has said.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/government-has-aggressive-plans-to-monetise-land-assets-of-bsnl-scindia/article69364558.ece>

### **States**

#### **Maharashtra budget to boost real estate with infra focus: CREDAI-MCHI**

Realtors' body CREDAI-MCHI has said the Maharashtra government's budget will give a significant boost to real estate sector because of huge allocation for infrastructure development and focus on affordable housing. The focus on urban development, including multi-modal corridors, metro projects, and improved connectivity, will propel the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) as the economic powerhouse of India.

[https://www.business-standard.com/pti-stories/national/maharashtra-budget-to-give-further-boost-to-real-estate-sector-credai-mchi-125032300381\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/pti-stories/national/maharashtra-budget-to-give-further-boost-to-real-estate-sector-credai-mchi-125032300381_1.html)

#### **Haryana CM launches AI chatbot 'Sarathi' for enhanced citizen engagement**

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has launched the state-of-the-art artificial intelligence-powered chatbot 'Sarathi' for the Chief Secretary's office website. This chatbot is aimed at bringing revolutionary changes in citizen engagement by providing easy access to important government directives, notifications, and circulars published over the years, a release said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/haryana-cm-launches-ai-chatbot-sarathi-for-enhanced-citizen-engagement-125032300053\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/haryana-cm-launches-ai-chatbot-sarathi-for-enhanced-citizen-engagement-125032300053_1.html)

#### **Andhra Pradesh bags nearly Rs 4 trillion green investments in 8 months**

Andhra Pradesh has emerged as a leading destination for renewable energy (RE) investments, attracting around Rs 4 trillion from national and international players in eight months, mainly due to its Integrated Clean Energy Policy aimed at establishing the state as a green energy hub. Launched in October 2024, the policy has fast-tracked clearances and lined up fresh sops.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/andhra-pradesh-bags-nearly-rs-4-trillion-green-investments-in-8-months-125032300392\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/andhra-pradesh-bags-nearly-rs-4-trillion-green-investments-in-8-months-125032300392_1.html)

#### **South leads in bioeconomy boom with 45.4% share in 2024**

In 2024, South India led India's bioeconomy, contributing 45.4% (\$75.2 billion), with Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Telangana emerging as key biotech hubs. The sector saw significant growth, driven by biomanufacturing, agribiotech, and health sciences. Collaboration between industry, academia, and policymakers will be essential for India's bio-industrial future said GS Krishnan, honorary president of the Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/technology/south-leads-in-bioeconomy-boom-with-45-4-share-in-2024/articleshow/119402532.cms>

#### **External**

#### **India, Myanmar bond over Buddhism**

India recognizes Pali as a classical language, leading to MoUs between the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) and Myanmar institutions. The discussions included promoting and preserving Pali, mindful communication, and potential collaborations in Buddhism studies. The delegation met with Myanmar officials and visited key Buddhist universities and centers to strengthen cultural and academic ties.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/india-myanmar-bond-over-buddhism/articleshow/119401352.cms>

#### **India imposes anti-dumping duty on 5 Chinese goods including aluminium foil**

India has imposed anti-dumping duty on five Chinese goods, including vacuum flasks and aluminium foil, during the month so far to guard domestic players from cheap imports from the neighbouring country. These duties were imposed as these products -- Soft Ferrite Cores, certain thickness of vacuum insulated flask, aluminium foil, Trichloro Isocyanuric Acid, and Poly Vinyl Chloride Paste Resin -- were exported to India from China at below normal prices.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-imposes-anti-dumping-duty-on-4-chinese-goods-including-aluminium-foil-125032300266\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-imposes-anti-dumping-duty-on-4-chinese-goods-including-aluminium-foil-125032300266_1.html)

#### **China's diamond market recovery boosts hopes for Indian exports: GJEPC**

Chutes of recovery seen in the Chinese diamond market, which is second only to the US, has sparked optimism among the Indian diamond industry, which could reshape the diamond manufacturing landscape, the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) officials said. India's gems and jewellery exports declined by 23.49 per cent in February compared to the same month of last year following a continued dip in demand in the US and China, the GJEPC data stated.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/china-s-diamond-market-recovery-boosts-hopes-for-indian-exports-gjepc-125032300525\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/china-s-diamond-market-recovery-boosts-hopes-for-indian-exports-gjepc-125032300525_1.html)

#### **Customs rule changes may increase compliance costs for importers: GTRI**

The amendments in the customs rules to tighten checks on goods imported under free trade agreements (FTAs) could make it harder for businesses to do imports at concessional duties and may increase compliance cost, economic think tank GTRI said on Sunday. However, it said the move would curb the misuse of FTAs as India has seen repeated instances where goods originating from non-FTA countries, such as China, were rerouted through FTA member countries like Vietnam or Singapore to exploit preferential duty benefits.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/customs-rule-changes-may-increase-compliance-costs-for-importers-gtri-125032300282\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/customs-rule-changes-may-increase-compliance-costs-for-importers-gtri-125032300282_1.html)

#### **India's traditional beverage Goli Soda sees strong demand in US, Europe, Gulf**

India's Goli Soda, now rebranded as Goli Pop Soda, is gaining strong global demand in markets like the US, UK, Europe, and the Gulf. Through a partnership with Fair Exports, the product is now available at Lulu Hypermarket. Its innovative packaging and nostalgic appeal have helped it compete with multinational brands, marking a significant milestone in promoting Indian beverages internationally.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/food/indias-traditional-beverage-goli-soda-sees-strong-demand-in-us-europe-gulf/articleshow/119369986.cms>

#### **Trump tariff could aid India electronics exports, says Nomura**

Nomura maintained that if India, in response to Trump's tariff threat, decides to lower import duties to even zero, there will be limited scope of smartphone assembly shifting to the US. On the other hand, India could be at a comparative advantage and there could be a sustained ramp-up of smartphone exports from India. This, it added, will be contingent on whether tariffs are maintained over a period, as supply chain shifting takes time.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-trump-tariff-could-aid-india-electronics-exports-says-nomura-heres-what-can-work-in-our-favour-3785922/>