



April 02, 2025 – Wednesday

Economy

India's growth to be highest among advanced, emerging G20 nations: Moody's

Global credit rating agency Moody's on Tuesday said that India's growth, despite slowing to 6.5 per cent in FY26 from 6.7 per cent in FY25, will remain the highest among the advanced and emerging G20 countries due to support from tax measures and continued monetary easing. Besides, the report also noted that large emerging markets such as India and Brazil are better positioned to attract and retain global capital in risk-averse conditions because of their large and domestically oriented economies, deep domestic capital markets, moderate policy credibility and substantial foreign exchange reserves.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-s-growth-to-be-highest-among-advanced-emerging-g20-nations-moody-s-125040101064_1.html

Project capex intent falls to a 3-year low in FY25

The wait for a new capex cycle only appears to get longer. The value of new projects announced by the private sector was up just 3.3% on year in the March quarter, causing its share in all projects unveiled to decline to 69% from around 82% in both the previous and year-ago quarters. Data from Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) also showed that in the whole of 2024-25, private-sector capex fell nearly 9% on year to Rs 26.8 lakh crore, the lowest in three years. It is for the second straight year private capex dropped on a year on year basis, implying the post-Covid pick-up was short-lived.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-project-capex-intent-falls-to-a-3-year-low-in-fy25-3795834/>

Raising money as important as managing debt: FM Nirmala Sitharaman

Raising money is as important as managing debt, and while borrowing may be tempting, it must align with present realities, Finance Minister (FM) Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday, referring to trends in state finances. Speaking at the launch of the States Economic Forum by NITI Aayog and the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), Sitharaman said, "Each state is unique, but when it comes to finance, the fundamentals cannot be different. My debt-to-gross state domestic product (GSDP) ratio cannot be three times more than my GSDP, and some states cannot constantly do a fantastic job of it and then stand out as good-performing states."

https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/raising-money-as-important-as-managing-debt-fm-nirmala-sitharaman-125040101337_1.html

NREGS work demand rises a tad in March

Work demand under MGNREGS increased by 1.6% in March year-on-year, influenced by an unfavorable base effect. Improved economic activity has limited the increase in demand. The scheme generated 2.88 billion person-days in the last fiscal, surpassing the revised target of 2.43 billion.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/nregs-work-demand-rises-a-tad-in-march/articleshow/119879765.cms>

Finance

RBI announces Rs 80,000 cr through OMO days before MPC review meet

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Tuesday announced an open market operation (OMO) to pump ₹80,000 crore into the banking system. The move, which comes just a week ahead of the April monetary policy committee (MPC) review meeting, is aimed at ensuring the effective transmission of policy rate cuts, according to bankers. The bond purchase will be in four tranches of ₹20,000 crore each to be held on April 3, April 8, April 22, and April 29. The RBI said the move is to ensure orderly liquidity conditions.

https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/rbi-announces-rs-80-000-cr-through-omo-days-before-mpc-review-meet-125040101202_1.html

FinMin to hold review meeting with banks on Thursday on govt schemes

The Union finance ministry is going to hold a review meeting with public sector banks (PSBs) and select private sector lenders on Thursday to assess the progress of various government-run schemes and the performance of the National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL), according to a senior government official. "The meeting will be chaired by the Department of Financial Services (DFS) Secretary M Nagaraju. Apart from PSB chiefs, heads of ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank and IndusInd Bank have also been called for the meeting," the official said on the condition of anonymity.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/finmin-to-hold-review-meeting-with-banks-on-thursday-on-govt-schemes-125040101127_1.html

Banks' loans to grow at 12-13% in FY26: Rating agencies

Banks' loans could grow at a pace of 12-13 per cent in FY26 with pick up seen across loan segments, analysts at rating agencies said. "For banks, advances are likely to grow 12-13% in fiscal 2026, with a pick-up across segments. Asset quality should also be stable with gross non-performing assets ratio of ~2.4% expected as on March 31, 2026, in line with fiscal 2025," said Crisil Ratings in a webinar on Tuesday.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/banks-loans-to-grow-at-12-13-per-cent-in-fy26-rating-agencies/article69400592.ece>

Global trade war, US tariffs could cut bank profits by 25 bps in FY26: ICRA

The global trade war and ensuing US tariff hike may disrupt supply chains and raise inflation, potentially reducing bank profits in India by up to 25 basis points by FY26. Indian banks face increased competition for deposits, while large NBFCs see upgrades due to equity infusions and strong asset quality.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/global-trade-war-us-tariffs-could-cut-bank-profits-by-25-bps-in-fy26-icra/articleshow/119876035.cms>

Loan originations in MFI sector drop 42% in volume in Dec 2024: CRIF

The persisting stress in the microfinance sector continued to weigh on loan originations in the December quarter (Q3FY25), with a 35 per cent year-on-year (Y-O-Y) drop in value and 42 per cent in volume, according to CRIF data. "The contraction likely arises from rising delinquencies, borrower over-leverage across lenders, and collection inefficiencies, straining asset quality and prompting cautious growth," the report said.

https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/loan-originations-in-mfi-sector-drop-42-in-volume-in-dec-2024-crif-125040101063_1.html

Indian PE-VC investments hit \$7.9 billion in Q1, up 8% y-o-y

Private Equity and Venture Capital (PE-VC) investments in India reached \$7.9 billion across 270 deals during the first quarter of 2025, marking an 8 per cent increase compared to the same period last year, according to data from Venture Intelligence. The investment figure represents a modest 1 per cent decline from the \$8 billion recorded in the immediate previous quarter.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/indian-pe-vc-investments-hit-79-billion-in-q1-up-8-y-o-y/article69399655.ece>

UPI transaction value hits record high of ₹24.77 lakh crore in March: NPCI

India's home-grown payments technology, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) set a new record in March, registering a total of 18.30 billion transactions amounting to ₹24.77 lakh crore, data shared by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) showed. On a year-on-year (y-o-y) basis, UPI transaction volumes were up 36 per cent, while transaction value was up 25 per cent.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/upi-transaction-value-hits-record-high-of-2477-lakh-crore-in-march-npci/article69400029.ece>

Net GST collection surges by 7.3% to Rs 1.76 trillion in March 2025

The net goods and services tax (GST) collection grew marginally by 7.3 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to ₹1.76 trillion in March, according to provisional data released by the government on Monday. Sequentially, the mopup was higher than February's ₹1.62 trillion, which saw 8.1 per cent Y-o-Y growth. The gross GST collection — the amount before adjusting for refunds — rose by 9.9 per cent in March to ₹1.96 trillion.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/net-gst-collection-surges-by-7-3-to-rs-1-76-trillion-in-march-2025-125040101105_1.html

India to scrap 6% equalisation levy on digital ads, leading to revenue loss

The Indian government has removed the 6 per cent equalisation levy on online advertisements starting April 1, 2025. This move is expected to result in a revenue loss of over ₹3,000 crore in the financial year 2025-26. The government is also set to forego a substantial amount of revenue as a result of tax relief measures outlined in the Union Budget 2025. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said various tax concessions, such as higher rebate limits and reduced tax rates, could result in a revenue shortfall of around ₹1 trillion in FY26.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-equalisation-levy-removed-tax-impact-2025-125040100810_1.html

CPSE dividend for FY25 hits record Rs 74,017 crore

Central government's dividend collections from non-financial entities reached ₹74,017 crore in FY25, a 16% increase from the previous year, despite a 39% drop in disinvestment revenue to ₹10,131 crore. Major contributions came from state-run petroleum, coal, and power firms.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/cpse-dividend-for-fy25-hits-record-rs-74017-crore/articleshow/119879872.cms>

Industry

Domestic passenger vehicle sales rise 2.6% in FY25 to 4.34 million units

Passenger vehicle (PV) dispatches to dealerships in India edged up by just 2.6 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to 4.34 million units in 2024-25 (FY25), weighed down by sluggish urban demand, a high base effect, and weak sales of hatchbacks and sedans. The domestic PV wholesale figure for March ranged between 380,000 units and 390,000 units, compared to 368,016 in the same month last year.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/auto/domestic-passenger-vehicle-sales-rise-2-6-in-fy25-to-4-34-million-units-125040101294_1.html

Truck sales register single-digit growth in March, raising hopes of market recovery

Commercial vehicle manufacturers have posted growth in truck sales for March 2025 after a phase of subdued performance. This positive growth hints at a revival in the sector, which has faced headwinds and uncertainties in recent months. Improved fleet utilisation, rate cuts, lower crude oil prices and focus on large-scale infrastructure projects expected to sustain demand growth going forward.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/truck-sales-register-single-digit-growth-in-march-raising-hopes-of-market-recovery/article69400653.ece>

Electric vehicle sales in FY25 go up nearly 17%, but miss 2-million mark

Despite several challenges, electric vehicle (EV) sales in 2024–25 witnessed an increase of 17 per cent, with growth in two-wheelers, three-wheelers and passenger vehicles. In the last financial year, India registered 1.96 million units

of EVs against 1.68 million units a year ago, according to data from the road and transport ministry's Vahan portal. However, it missed the 2-million mark.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/auto/electric-vehicle-sales-in-fy25-go-up-nearly-17-but-miss-2-million-mark-125040101114_1.html

Govt mulls EPR for construction and demolition waste, used cooking oil

The ministry of environment, forest and climate change (MoEFCC) is drafting guidelines to extend producer responsibility to construction and demolition (C&D) waste, used cooking oil, and toxic and hazardous waste, following previous efforts to regulate plastic packaging and electronic waste, according to two senior officials. In the case of used cooking oil, the plan is to recycle it for uses such as sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), animal feed, and soap making.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/govt-mulls-epr-for-construction-and-demolition-waste-used-cooking-oil-125040101174_1.html

India's April-February finished steel imports up nearly 16%: Govt data

India's finished steel imports during the first 11 months of the financial year, which began in April, stood at 8.98 million metric tonnes, marking a 15.8 per cent year-on-year increase, according to provisional government data reviewed by Reuters on Tuesday. India, the world's second-biggest crude steel producer, became a net importer in 2023/24, a trend that has continued with rising shipments from China, South Korea and Japan.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-s-april-february-finished-steel-imports-up-nearly-16-govt-data-125040100447_1.html

Defence exports hit record Rs 23,622 cr in FY25, but pace of growth slows

India's defence exports rose to a record Rs 23,622 crore (approximately \$2.76 billion) in the financial year (FY) 2024-25, registering a growth of 12.04 per cent over FY 2023-24's Rs 21,083 crore, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said in a release on Tuesday. However, despite the new high, the pace of growth slowed compared to the 32.4 per cent surge recorded in 2023-24 over the previous year's Rs 15,920 crore in military equipment exports.

https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/defence-exports-hit-record-rs-23-622-cr-in-fy25-but-pace-of-growth-slows-125040101323_1.html

Agriculture

Sugar production falls 18% as most mills close crushing season early

With a 6-lakh tonne reduced production in the second fortnight from the previous fortnight, sugar output in the first six months of the current season that began October 1, 2024, has reached 248.5 lakh tonnes (lt), which is 18 per cent lower than 302.5 lt in the year-ago period, according to data compiled by the cooperative federation NFCSF.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/sugar-production-falls-18-as-most-mills-close-crushing-season-early/article69399336.ece>

India exported 19.86 million tonnes rice till Mar 25 of FY25: Govt tells RS

India has exported 198.65 lakh tonnes of rice till March 25 of the last fiscal year, surpassing the outward shipment of 163.58 lakh tonnes in the entire 2023-24 financial year. Out of the total exports till March 25 of the last fiscal, basmati rice shipments stood at 59.44 lakh tonnes.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/agriculture/india-exported-19-86-million-tonnes-rice-till-mar-25-of-fy25-govt-tells-rs-125040100828_1.html

India's coffee exports surpass Govt target for 3rd year in a row

For the third consecutive year, India's coffee exports have exceeded government targets, driven by rising prices, global demand and growing domestic production. For FY25, India's coffee shipments crossed \$1.816 billion, registering a 46 per cent increase over previous year's \$1.286 billion.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/indias-coffee-exports-surpass-govt-target-for-3rd-year-in-a-row/article69400381.ece>

Infrastructure

Aviation Minister rules out capping airfares, says government to ensure fair pricing

Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu on Tuesday (April 1) ruled out capping airfares while stating the need for a balanced approach to ensure reasonable ticket prices while keeping airline operations viable. Speaking in the Rajya Sabha during the discussion on the Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025, Naidu acknowledged that airfares are a contentious issue but asserted that the government would act against any malpractices in ticket pricing. The bill was later passed by the Upper House.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/airlines-aviation-aviation-minister-rules-out-capping-airfares-says-government-to-ensure-fair-pricing-3795874/>

Cargo at state-owned ports grew by 4.4% to 855 mmt in FY25, shows data

Amid the government's infrastructure expansion push, cargo at state-owned ports of India (also called major ports) increased by 4.35 per cent in 2024-25 to 855 million metric tonnes (mmt), officials aware of the data said. The provisional estimates of the Indian Ports Association show that most of the 12 major ports recorded growth above the average of 4.4 per cent, while the Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Kolkata and Mormugao Port in Goa recorded contractions in their cargo handling.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/cargo-at-state-owned-ports-grew-by-4-4-to-855-mmt-in-fy25-shows-data-125040101311_1.html

Energy

India's power consumption rises 7% to 148.48 bn units in March 2025

India's power consumption rose by nearly 7 per cent to 148.48 billion units (BU) in March compared to the same month last year due to an increase in mercury levels, according to official data. Power consumption was 138.95 BU in March 2024.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-s-power-consumption-rises-7-to-148-48-bn-units-in-march-2025-125040100868_1.html

Coal India announces ₹10 per tonne price hike for coking and non-coking coal

Coal behemoth Coal India on Tuesday announced an increase of ₹10 per tonne in the prices of both coking and non-coking coal for regulated and non-regulated sectors, effective April 16. In the last financial year (FY25), the company had increased prices by ₹10 per tonne towards the contribution to the corpus of the Coal Mines Pension Scheme (CMPS), 1998. On Tuesday, it announced price hike by another ₹10 per tonne for this purpose.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/coal-india-announces-10-per-tonne-price-hike-for-coking-and-non-coking-coal/article69400687.ece>

Solar products exports decline 16% to \$1.5 billion in 2024

India's solar module and cell exports decline by 16% to \$1.5 billion in the calendar year 2024 from \$1.8 billion in 2023, as per data from Mercom. The decline in shipments can be attributed to heightened shipment scrutiny, including port inspection and barcode verification of individual modules, and concerns over potential Chinese component inclusion, Mercom said.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-solar-products-exports-decline-16-to-1-5-billion-in-2024-3795681/>

Telecom

Govt to form committee for decision on assets of MTNL and BSNL in Mumbai: Scindia

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia announced the formation of a committee to decide on BSNL and MTNL assets in Mumbai. The meeting also highlighted the progress and future plans of the BharatNet project to enhance connectivity across rural areas in Maharashtra, including setting up 4G towers in remote locations.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-news/govt-to-form-committee-for-decision-on-assets-of-mtnl-and-bsnl-in-mumbai-scindia/articleshow/119873303.cms>

States

States, Union Territories to borrow up to Rs 2.73 trillion in Q1FY26

States and Union Territories plan to borrow up to Rs 2.73 trillion through state government securities in the first quarter of the current financial year, the Reserve Bank of India said in a release on Tuesday. Bond market participants said that the borrowing amount was along expected lines.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/states-union-territories-to-borrow-up-to-rs-2-73-trillion-in-q1fy26-125040101338_1.html

Madhya Pradesh Cabinet clears PPP-based Mukhyamantri Sugam Parivahan Sewa

The Madhya Pradesh Cabinet on Tuesday approved the proposal for the 'Mukhyamantri Sugam Parivahan Sewa', a new public transport service under the public-private partnership (PPP) model. This move aims to strengthen rural, urban and intercity bus services in the state. Under this initiative, the government will not purchase buses itself but will instead partner with private operators through the PPP model. A total of Rs 101.20 crore has been approved as equity for this transport service.

https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/madhya-pradesh-cabinet-clears-ppp-based-mukhyamantri-sugam-parivahan-sewa-125040101014_1.html

External

Ahead of April 2, US flags India's high tariffs, non-tariff barriers

Ahead of the imposition of reciprocal tariffs on April 2, the United States has raised concerns over India's high import tariffs in key sectors, such as automobiles, agricultural goods, medicines, and alcohol. It also flagged what it described as "sudden" tariff changes and regulatory hurdles that act as non-tariff barriers to American exports. The National Trade Estimate report on Foreign Trade Barriers, released by the US Trade Representative (USTR), noted that India's average applied tariff rate stood at 17 per cent in 2023 (down from 18.1 per cent in 2022), "the highest of any major world economy".

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/ahead-of-april-2-us-flags-india-s-high-tariffs-non-tariff-barriers-125040100453_1.html

EU pushes for MFN provision in India trade talks, eyes US-style concessions

The European Union is urging India to include a 'forward most-favoured-nation' clause in their free trade agreement, ensuring any concessions offered to the US will also be extended to the EU. The recent round of talks in Brussels saw little progress, with sticking points remaining on India's government procurement market and tariff negotiations for various sectors.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/eu-pushes-for-mfn-provision-in-india-trade-talks-eyeing-us-style-concessions/articleshow/119880295.cms>

India a major geopolitical power, want strategic ties with it: Dutch FM

India and the Netherlands are looking at firming up an ambitious agreement this year to facilitate cooperation in high technology areas such as semiconductors, Dutch Foreign Minister Caspar Veldkamp said on Tuesday. "We want to conclude a strategic partnership with India," he said.

Veldkamp is on a two-day visit to India.

https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/india-a-major-geopolitical-power-want-strategic-ties-with-it-dutch-fm-125040101108_1.html

Government approves export of key commodities to Maldives for 2025-26

India on Tuesday notified exports of specified quantities of commodities like eggs, potatoes, onions, rice, wheat flour, sugar, and dal for the Maldives in the current fiscal year. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) in a notification said these exports have been permitted to the Maldives under the bilateral trade agreement between the countries in 2025-26.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/government-approves-export-of-key-commodities-to-maldives-for-2025-26-125040101258_1.html

India must assess each demand of US through lens of its priorities: GTRI

India must firmly assess each demand of the US through the lens of its own national priorities, development goals, and cultural values amid continuous pressure of America to amend trade policies, think tank GTRI said on Tuesday. Commenting on the US Trade Representative's (USTR) National Trade Estimate (NTE) Report 2025, the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said that many of the proposed changes in areas like agriculture, digital governance, and public health pose serious risks to India's ability to protect its small farmers, maintain food safety, uphold deeply rooted social norms, and secure its digital future.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-must-assess-each-demand-of-us-through-lens-of-its-priorities-gtri-125040100617_1.html

Govt launches anti-dumping probe on met coke imports from 6 nations

India has initiated an anti-dumping probe over imports of low-ash metallurgical coal, or met coke, from Australia, China, Colombia, Indonesia, Japan and Russia at the behest of an industry body, according to a government notification. The Indian Metallurgical Coke Manufacturers Association asked for the investigation into these imports, which have more than doubled over the past four years, due to worries about local companies, the commerce ministry said in a notice dated March 29.

https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/govt-launches-anti-dumping-probe-on-met-coke-imports-from-6-nations-125040100997_1.html