

April 13, 2026 – Monday

Economy

West Asia crisis may push India's current account deficit to 2% of GDP: Crisil

India's current account deficit (CAD) could widen to around 2 per cent of GDP in the event of a prolonged West Asia crisis, driven by a rising import bill and weakening external inflows, according to a report by Crisil. The report noted that under an adverse scenario, higher crude oil prices, rising gas costs, and increased fertiliser imports could significantly expand the trade deficit.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/west-asia-crisis-may-push-indias-current-account-deficit-to-2-of-gdp-crisil/article70853727.ece

Net FDI inflows dip, investors opting for Mexico, Vietnam

India's strong economy cemented by robust macros is facing a catch 22 situation: low net foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows despite rising gross inflows. Net FDI into India contracted for a fifth straight month in January as gross inflows fell 6.9% on-year to around $5.7 billion, but the amount repatriated out of the country nearly doubled to $4.9 billion. Officials and experts attribute this trend to the country having to compete with Mexico, Poland, and Vietnam, a preferred part of investors' nearshoring and friendshoring policies after the Covid pandemic, and the US cornering a large share of tech-related investments.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/net-fdi-inflows-dip-investors-opting-for-mexico-vietnam/articleshow/130218985.cms

Finance

Prolonged war may hit Rs 75,000 crore dividend target

A prolonged West Asia war could keep global commodity prices elevated and hurt the profitability of state-run firms, potentially weighing on the government's budgeted ₹75,000 crore dividend from central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) and other investments in this financial year, officials said. A prolonged West Asia war could keep global commodity prices elevated and hurt the profitability of state-run firms, potentially weighing on the government's budgeted ₹75,000 crore dividend from central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) and other investments in this financial year, officials said.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/prolonged-war-may-hit-rs-75000-crore-dividend-target/articleshow/130219402.cms

Alignment of average call rate with repo rate contingent on level of liquidity: RBI

Keeping the weighted average call rate (WACR) aligned to the repo rate entails different levels of liquidity in deficit and surplus conditions, according to a RBI study. Moreover, the extent of alignment is also contingent on the level of the lsurplus/ deficit.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/alignment-of-average-call-rate-with-repo-rate-contingent-on-level-of-liquidity-rbi/article70854486.ece

RBI proposes upper layer NBFCs to be defined by absolute asset size of ₹1 lakh crore+

The central bank late on Friday proposed replacing its existing methodology for identifying upper-layer non-banking financial companies (NBFC-UL) with an absolute asset size threshold of Rs 1 lakh crore. The new regulatory classification comes amid a move by Tata Sons, holding company of India's biggest and most diversified conglomerate, to deregister itself as an NBFC-UL, having repaid more than Rs 20,000 crore to avoid mandatory local listing.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/rbi-proposes-upper-layer-nbfcs-to-be-defined-by-absolute-asset-size-of-1-lakh-crore/articleshow/130179385.cms

RBI's Utkarsh 2.0 places focus on better service

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has published a medium-term strategy framework called Utkarsh 2.0 to highlight multiple strategy pillars: Regulations, customer centricity, inclusive finance, competitive markets, effective technology, a future-ready organisation, and a global India focus. The RBI said the framework would focus on simplifying regulations, deepening financial markets and enhancing accessibility, while also prioritising digitisation and innovation across its operations.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/rbis-utkarsh-2-0-places-focus-on-better-service/articleshow/130179611.cms

Industry

Draft CAFE-3 Norms: Govt eases penalties, focuses on carbon credit trading for auto sector

The government has proposed a more flexible compliance framework under the draft Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency-3 (CAFE-3) norms, easing penalty norms and allowing automakers to trade carbon credits to meet emission targets, sources told *businessline*. The revised framework shifts the focus away from the earlier small-car versus large-vehicle debate and instead prioritises reducing overall fleet emissions.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/commodities/draft-cafe-3-norms-govt-eases-penalties-focuses-on-carbon-credit-trading-for-auto-sector/article70854343.ece

Patent application filings in India rise 30.2% to 1.43 lakh in 2025-26: Goyal

Filing of patent applications has increased by 30.2 per cent to 1,43,729 in 2025-26 against 1,10,375 in the previous fiscal, on account of several initiatives taken by the government to strengthen the intellectual property rights ecosystem, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Sunday. India is the world's 6th largest patent filer. "Our patent filings soared to a historic 1.43 lakh+ in FY 2025-26, marking a 30.2 per cent increase over last year. With over 69 per cent of patents filed domestically, led by innovators from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Maharashtra, we are showing the world that Made in India is powered by Invented in India," Goyal said in a social media post.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/patent-application-filings-in-india-rise-30-2-to-1-43-lakh-in-2025-26-goyal/articleshow/130206098.cms

DGFT rolls out procedure for allocation of calcined coke

The commerce ministry's arm DGFT on Friday rolled out a detailed procedure for imports of calcined petroleum coke (CPC) for use in the aluminium industry. Pet coke is used for fuel purposes. In a public notice, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said applications are invited for allocation of quantities for import of CPC for use in the aluminium industry and raw petroleum coke for CPC manufacturing for 2026-27.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/dgft-rolls-out-procedure-for-allocation-of-calcined-coke/articleshow/130167466.cms

Agriculture

Microplastics in India’s agriculture: A growing problem demanding urgent action

Plastic pollution has become a major global environmental and public health concern, entering ecosystems through mismanaged waste, industrial spillages, synthetic textiles, tyre wear, and personal care products. Agriculture adds to the burden through heavy use of plastic mulch, greenhouse films, and irrigation systems. A study by the National

Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) titled "Microplastics Pollution: Remedial Strategies for Sustainable Environmental Management" highlights the growing threat of microplastics. For the uninitiated, plastics larger than 20 mm are classified as macroplastics, while those smaller than 5 mm are termed microplastics (MPs).
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/microplastics-in-indias-agriculture-a-growing-problem-demanding-urgent-action/articleshow/130192688.cms

Our fisheries exports have risen from Rs 60,000 cr to Rs 68,000 cr after US tariffs: MoS Baghel

India's fisheries exports have risen from about Rs 60,000 crore to Rs 68,000 crore as the country tapped new markets following US tariff measures, Union minister Satya Pal Singh Baghel claimed on Saturday. The government aims to achieve Rs 1 lakh crore in fisheries exports over the next five years, he said on the sidelines of the second National Veterinary, Dairy and Fisheries Symposium 2026 in Nagpur.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/our-fisheries-exports-have-risen-from-rs-60000-cr-to-rs-68000-cr-after-us-tariffs-mos-baghel/articleshow/130191373.cms

Rice export rules relaxed for select European countries

India on Friday said that the requirement for a certificate of inspection from Export Inspection Council (EIC)/Export Inspection Agencies (EIAs) for rice exports is limited to the EU, UK, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. "Exports to other European countries are exempt from this requirement for six months," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notification. The DGFT also revised the policy to export feathers, skins and other parts in line with applicable regulations of the EU and UK, including provision for issuance of Veterinary Health Certificate wherever required by the importing country.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/rice-export-rules-relaxed-for-select-european-countries/articleshow/130179164.cms

Govt extends minimum import price on natural honey till December 31

The government on Friday extended the minimum import price (MIP) on natural honey for nine months till December 31 this year, a move aimed at discouraging inbound shipments of cheap honey. The MIP is USD 1400 per tonne. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said, "The validity of the existing MIP of USD 1400 FOB (freight on board) per metric ton on the export of natural honey is extended till December 31, 2026".
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/govt-extends-minimum-import-price-on-natural-honey-till-december-31/articleshow/130167452.cms

Infrastructure

Nitin Gadkari bats for 100% land acquisition before approving national highway projects

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Friday opined that no new national highway project should be approved without 100 per cent land acquisition, as it is a major hurdle in road construction. Addressing the 17th CIDC Vishwakarma Awards & Exhibitions on Viksit Bharat 2047, Gadkari further said the Highways ministry has highway assets worth Rs 15 lakh crore that can be monetised.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/nitin-gadkari-bats-for-100-land-acquisition-before-approving-national-highway-projects/articleshow/130167661.cms

Indian Railways clears 100 major projects worth ₹1.53 trn for FY2025-26

With an investment of ₹1.53 trillion, over 110 per cent jump compared to the last Financial Year; 100 projects sanctioned in FY 2025-26, marking a 56 per cent increase to develop a world-class high-capacity rail network in India. Connecting the last mile and serving the poorest and unserved regions, Indian Railways is undertaking a transformative expansion under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan. With a focus on inclusive growth and national integration, 100 railway projects involving new lines, doubling, multitracking and other works have been sanctioned in FY 2025-26.
http://business-standard.com/india-news/indian-railways-clears-100-major-projects-worth-1-53-trn-for-fy2025-26-126041300018_1.html

Energy

Coal imports fall 8.5% in February amid high stockpiles, firm global prices

India's coal import dropped 8.5 per cent to 16.55 million tonnes in February on record stockpile of domestic coal and firmness in seaborne prices. The country's coal import is poised to maintain a weak trend this month with domestic miners making efforts to liquidate stockpiles. "A record high stockpile of domestic coal and firm seaborne prices resulted in a drop in thermal coal imports. With the domestic miners endeavouring to liquidate stocks, the weak trend in imports is expected to continue during the current month," mjunction MD & CEO Vinaya Varma said.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/coal-imports-fall-8-5-in-february-amid-high-stockpiles-firm-global-prices/articleshow/130206223.cms

Diesel export tax hike may align prices of state OMCs, private cos

A sharp increase in export tax on diesel is set to drive price convergence between state-run oil marketers and private fuel exporters, potentially easing a weeks-long standoff over domestic supply deals. State-run oil marketing companies (OMCs) such as Indian Oil, BPCL, and HPCL, which control about 90% of India's fuel retail market, procure part of their diesel requirement from private refiners like Reliance Industries and Nayara Energy, as well as from state-run refiners with limited retail presence such as MRPL, CPCL, and Numaligarh Refinery. Typically, these purchases are linked to international diesel prices.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/huge-diesel-export-tax-hike-state-run-omcs-and-private-refiners-brace-for-price-convergence/articleshow/130219156.cms

₹5 trillion power transmission projects under bidding and execution

Power transmission projects worth around ₹5 trillion are currently either being bid out or executed on the ground across states in the country, a senior official from the power ministry informed. This assumes significance as transmission issues recently emerged as a key bottleneck for expanding renewable energy projects and planning for the massive jump in future power demand.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/power-transmission-projects-worth-5-trillion-under-bid-execution-126041200689_1.html

Telecom

Telecom infrastructure, gear makers face disruptions

Telecommunication infrastructure providers and equipment makers have flagged disruptions to telecom tower connectivity in India due to the ongoing war in West Asia while freight route blockades have led to an increase in transportation logistics and insurance costs for telecom equipment being imported to the country.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-news/telecom-infrastructure-gear-makers-face-disruptions/articleshow/130218966.cms

Trai weighs direct satellite-to-mobile communication services

Telecom sector regulator Trai has started exploring options to allow direct transmission of communication services from satellites to mobile phones to support ubiquitous connectivity in the country, particularly in rural and remote areas. In a consultation paper on the framework for satellite communication network authorisation floated on Wednesday, Trai sought views of interested parties as to whether Direct-to-Device (D2D) service should be provided using spectrum meant for mobile satellite services or frequencies available for normal mobile services like 4G and 5G.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-news/trai-weighs-direct-satellite-to-mobile-communication-services/articleshow/130119610.cms

States

West Asia war: Punjab industry hit by labour shortage, rising costs

The war in West Asia has hit shop floors in the otherwise buzzing industrial and export clusters of Punjab, with long gas queues, delayed shipments and thinning workforces impacting supply chains. Readymade garments, cycles, auto spare parts, hand tools and rice units in Ludhiana and Amritsar are facing disruptions as input costs have increased

about 15-20%, according to exporters. Bicycle manufacturer and exporter Hero Ecotech, which supplies to international buyers such as Walmart, Decathlon and Disney, shifted to diesel from industrial gas citing unavailability of the latter.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/west-asia-war-punjab-industry-hit-by-labour-shortage-rising-costs/articleshow/130219746.cms

External

India-UK free trade pact may come into force from second week of May: Official

The India-UK free trade agreement, signed in July last year, is likely to come into force from the second week of May, according to an official. India and the UK, on July 24, 2025, signed the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), under which 99 percent of Indian exports will enter the British market at zero duty, while tariffs on British products, such as cars and whisky, will be reduced in India.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-uk-free-trade-pact-may-come-into-force-from-second-week-of-may-official/articleshow/130204305.cms

India, US deepen energy ties; Nuclear, LPG in focus amid Iran-linked supply concerns

India is looking to expand energy cooperation with the US, including in nuclear power, coal gasification and LPG exports, as it navigates supply constraints linked to the Iran conflict and seeks to diversify energy sources. India is looking to expand energy cooperation with the US, including in nuclear power, coal gasification and LPG exports, as it navigates supply constraints linked to the Iran conflict and seeks to diversify energy sources.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-us-deepen-energy-ties-nuclear-lpg-in-focus-amid-iran-linked-supply-concerns/articleshow/130196127.cms

Government plans weekly system to track EXIM trends

The government will create a monitoring mechanism to track export-import trends and sectoral stress weekly indicators amid concerns that supply chain disruptions, logistics constraints, and rising input costs due to the geopolitical tensions sparked by the Iran war could impact domestic industries. The commerce and industry ministry said in a statement on Friday that the customs department has agreed to examine specific cases relating to destuffing or unloading cargo from a ship to further streamline procedures with regard to hazardous consignment.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/government-plans-weekly-system-to-track-exim-trends/articleshow/130179091.cms

US military says it will blockade Iranian ports starting Monday after ceasefire talks ended without agreement

President Donald Trump on Sunday said the U.S. Navy would swiftly begin a blockade of ships entering or leaving the strategic Strait of Hormuz, after U.S.-Iran ceasefire talks in Pakistan ended without an agreement. U.S. Central Command announced the blockade would involve all Iranian ports, beginning on Monday at 10 a.m. EDT, or 5:30 p.m. in Iran, to be "enforced impartially against vessels of all nations."
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/us-military-says-it-will-blockade-iranian-ports-starting-monday-after-ceasefire-talks-ended-without-agreement/articleshow/130222532.cms