

## **DAILY NEWS DIGEST BY BFSI BOARD**

17 December 2025



### **ECONOMY**

**Rupee closes at historic low of 91.03 against US dollar:** INR ended at fresh record low on December 16 due to persistent demand for dollar due to delay in the trade deal between US and India, outflows of funds by the foreign investors, and further widening of the current account deficit. The local currency ended at 91.0325 against the USD. With the current fall in rupee, it is worst performing currency in Asia with a depreciation of 5.96 percent YTD.

***(Business Line)***

**HSBC Composite PMI slips to 58.9 in December as business growth slows:** The pace of business growth in India slowed slightly in December, but overall activity in the private sector remained strong, according to the latest HSBC PMI data released on Tuesday. The HSBC PMI Composite Index, which combines the output of India's manufacturing and service sectors, fell to 58.9 in December from 59.7 in November. Even though the index declined, it stayed well above the 50.0 mark, which shows that business activity is still growing.

***(Business Line)***

**India's new GDP series to reboot consumption maths as spending shifts:** In 2023-24, rural as well as urban Indian households spent more of their monthly budgets on non-food items like conveyance, clothing, and durable goods, than food items, marking a shift from previous decades. Now, these changed consumption patterns will be used to improve the consumption spending estimates computed to arrive at the economy's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). For the country's revised GDP series, slated to be released on February 27, 2026, India's official statistical machinery has

decided to use data from the Household Consumption Expenditure Surveys (HCES) conducted over 2022-23 and 2023-24, along with other survey and administrative data sources.

***(Business Standard)***

**India, Jordan aim to double trade to \$5 billion over the next five years:** During his two-day visit to Jordan, which concluded on Tuesday afternoon, Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed that the two countries should aim to double their bilateral trade to \$5 billion over the next five years. The two sides also discussed cooperation in production of fertilisers. “Jordan is an important supplier of fertilisers to India, and companies on both sides are in discussions for further substantive investment in Jordan to meet growing demand for phosphatic fertiliser in India,” India’s Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a readout of the PM’s meeting with Jordanian King King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein, which took place on Monday evening.

***(Business Standard)***

## **BANKING & FINANCE**



**Centre to divest up to 3% stake in Indian Overseas Bank; retail bidding on Dec 18:** The Centre is set to divest up to a 3 per cent stake in the Indian Overseas Bank, with bidding for retail investors opening on December 18. "Offer for Sale in Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) opens tomorrow for non-retail investors," the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) announced on Tuesday. The government has offered to disinvest 2 per cent equity in the bank, with an additional 1 per cent as a green shoe option.

***(Business Today)***

**Lok Sabha Passes seminal Insurance Bill for 100% FDI, mandates undue gain disgorgement:** The Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed the Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Bill that ushers in major reforms in the insurance sector, besides raising the foreign direct investment limit to 100 per cent from the

existing 74 per cent. Among the major changes brought about by the Bill are empowerment of IRDAI to cap the commission to be given to the agent, disgorging wrongful gain from the insurer or insurance intermediaries. Significantly, while the Bill hikes FDI in the insurance sector to 100 per cent, the top leadership of the insurance company, Chairman, Managing Director, or CEO must be an Indian citizen. It also paves the way for the merger of a non-insurance company with an insurance company. Setting up of Policyholders' Education and Protection Fund funded through penalties imposed on insurers. The bill also provide for a five-year term for the chairperson and other whole-time members of IRDA, or until they reach 65 years, whichever is earlier.

***(Business Line)***

**HDFC Bank gets approval to acquire up to 9.5% stake in IndusInd Bank:** HDFC Bank has secured RBI approval for its group entities to collectively hold up to 9.50% in IndusInd Bank. This approval, valid for one year until December 14, 2026, allows for aggregate investments by entities like HDFC Mutual Fund and HDFC Life. The bank sought this increase as combined group investments were projected to exceed the previous 5% limit.

***(Economic Times)***

**Sebi board likely to review MF fee structure, stock broker rules:** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) is set to review a series of key regulatory amendments at its board meeting on Wednesday. The agenda includes an overhaul of mutual fund (MF) fee structure, a revamp of stock broker regulations, new norms on pledging of shares in initial public offering (IPO)-bound companies, and simplification of offer documents, among others. According to sources, the board will take up revisions to the three-decade-old Stock Brokers Regulations to ease compliance and align them with the Companies Act, 2013.

***(Business Standard)***

**Six private sector candidates apply for Canara Bank MD & CEO role:** For the first time, six candidates from the private sector have applied for the post of MD and CEO in Canara Bank. Interviews are scheduled for December 22, according to sources who spoke on condition of anonymity. "A total of 19 candidates have applied for the top post, including one from State Bank of India, 12 from other public sector banks, and six

from private sector banks,” one source said. The interviews for all applicants will be conducted by the FSIB.

***(Business Standard)***

## INDUSTRY OUTLOOK



**Google to fund \$8 million to India’s AI centres of excellence:** Tech giant Google, on Tuesday announced funding support of \$8 million to India’s AI Centers of Excellence for health, agriculture, education, and sustainable cities. These centers are established under the Ministry of Education for fostering research, developing scalable solutions and training of future ready workforce. This is in addition to the \$400,000 support for development of the country’s health foundation model, aimed to leverage MedGemma to build India’s health-on-the-spot model, the company said.

***(Financial Express)***

**Apple exports record \$2 billion worth of iPhones from India in November:** Apple Inc clocked a new record of exporting iPhones worth \$2 billion from India in November this year. This is the highest value of exports by the Cupertino-headquartered company in a month for 2025-26 (FY26). As a result, total iPhone exports for the first eight months of FY26 have crossed \$14 billion. All companies that are part of the production linked incentive (PLI) scheme submit their monthly figures to the government. Apple’s iPhone exports in November constitute nearly 75 per cent of the total smartphone exports from the country amounting to \$2.7 billion in the month.

***(Business Standard)***

**US banking giant JP MorganChase to set up Asia's largest GCC in India:** American banking giant JP Morgan will be the sole occupier of a space of 2 million square feet at the global capability centre (GCC) in Mumbai’s Powai, making the centre the largest of its kind in Asia when it completes in 2029, according to people in the know. The GCC can house 30,000 employees. The American banker’s GCC push in India comes on the back of it taking up nearly 1 million square feet over the past two

years, numbering it among the busiest in the banking, finance, securities and insurance (BFSI) segment in India.

**(Business Standard)**



## REGULATION & DEVELOPMENT

**Major changes for NPS subscribers as PFRDA removes 5-year lock-in, eases exit norms:** PFRDA on December 16 announced key amendments to the National Pension System (NPS), aimed at providing greater flexibility to subscribers from non-government sectors. Earlier, subscribers could withdraw up to 60% of their corpus as a lump sum at exit, with at least 40% mandatorily used to buy an annuity. Under the revised framework for corpus exceeding Rs 12 lakh, the new rule is shifted to 80:20, allowing subscribers to take up to 80% as a lump sum while requiring only 20% to be annuitised. However, if the total accumulated corpus does not exceed Rs 8 lakh, the entire amount can be withdrawn in a lump sum. For those with a corpus above Rs 8 lakh up to Rs 12 lakh, withdrawals of up to Rs 6 lakh are allowed upfront, while the remaining balance must be deployed towards an annuity with a minimum tenure of six years. The revised rules now allow subscribers to remain invested until the age of 85, unless they choose to exercise an exit option. Normal exit has now been permitted after completing 15 years of subscription or upon attaining 60 years of age, superannuation, or retirement—whichever comes first. Moreover, the new amendment has removed the mandatory lock-in period of five years for the non-government subscribers of NPS. For government employees under NPS, the five-year lock-in period is mandatory for any exits to be permitted. The normal exit is permitted after 60 years of age, wherein 100% withdrawal is permitted if the corpus is less than Rs 5 lakh. For accumulated wealth exceeding Rs 5 lakh, 40% will be subject to annuity, and the remaining balance can be withdrawn upfront.

**(Moneycontrol)**

**Government introduces VB-G RAM G Bill to replace MGNREGA:** The government on Tuesday introduced the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin): VB–G RAM G Bill in the Lok Sabha to replace the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), triggering loud protests from the Opposition. Opposition members objected to multiple provisions, including the removal of Mahatma Gandhi’s name from the Bill title and a change in the Centre–State fund-sharing pattern from the existing 90:10 to 60:40.

***(Business Line)***

**PFRDA allows loans against pension savings:** PFRDA has made multiple changes under its exit regulations of the National Pension System (NPS). It has allowed subscribers to seek financial assistance against their pension corpus, as part of the PFRDA (Exits and Withdrawals under the NPS) (Amendment) Regulations, 2025. Under the revised stipulation, an NPS subscriber may avail financial assistance from a regulated financial institution. The lender is permitted to mark a lien or charge on the individual pension account. However, such lien or charge will be restricted to up to 25 per cent of the subscriber’s own contribution, in line with the existing limits applicable to partial withdrawals.

***(Business Standard)***



# FINANCIAL TERMINOLOGY

## TERTIARY INDUSTRY

- The tertiary industry is the part of the economy that provides services rather than producing goods, and includes medical providers, educators, financial services, and personal services, among others.
- The tertiary industry is a technical name for the services sector of the economy, which encompasses a wide range of businesses, including financial institutions, schools, hotels, and restaurants.
- The tertiary industry is one of three primary industrial types in a developed economy, the other two being the primary (i.e., raw materials) and secondary (i.e., goods production) industries. As an economy becomes more developed, it tends to shift its focus from primary to secondary and tertiary industries.



### **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 : 91.0202  
INR / 1 GBP : 121.6103  
INR / 1 EUR : 106.9506  
INR /100 JPY: 58.7600

### **EQUITY MARKET**

Sensex: 84679.86 (-533.50)  
NIFTY: 25860.10 (-167.20)  
Bnk NIFTY: 59034.60 (-427.20)

### **Courses conducted by BFSI Board**

- ❖ **Certificate Course on Concurrent Audit of Banks**
- ❖ **Certificate Course on Credit Management of Banks**
- ❖ **Certificate Course on Treasury and International Banking**
- ❖ **Certificate Course on Investment Management**
- ❖ **Certificate Course on General Insurance.**
- ❖ **Advance Certificate Course on FinTech**

For details please visit  
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### **Publications by BFSI Board**

- ❖ **Aide Memoire on Infrastructure Financing.**
- ❖ **Aide Memoire on lending to MSME Sector (including restructuring of MSME Credit).**
- ❖ **Guidance Note on the Internal Audit of General Insurance Companies.**
- ❖ **BFSI Chronicle (quarterly issue of BFSIB)**
- ❖ **Handbook on Stock & Book Debts Audit (Revised and Enlarged 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)**

## **TEAM BFSIB**

### **Banking, Financial Services & Insurance Board The Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI)**

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