

DAILY NEWS DIGEST BY BESI BOARD

30 April 2026



ECONOMY

US Fed holds interest rates unchanged at 3.5-3.75% in rare 8-4 split; flags ‘elevated’ inflation amid oil surge: The Federal Reserve kept its benchmark interest rate unchanged at 3.5-3.75 percent on Wednesday, but the decision came in a sharply divided 8-4 vote. The highest number of dissents since 1992 highlights the deepening differences among policymakers at what is likely Jerome Powell’s final meeting as chair. The policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) said inflation remains “elevated”, revising its earlier description of “somewhat elevated”, and cited a recent rise in global energy prices as a key factor. The central bank also flagged that the ongoing US-Iran conflict is contributing to a “high level of uncertainty” around the economic outlook.

(Moneycontrol)

External commercial borrowings fall 25% in FY26 amid currency risks, shift to domestic funding: External commercial borrowings (ECBs) declined in FY26 after peaking in the previous fiscal, reflecting a shift in borrowing patterns and weakening of the rupee. ECB registrations in FY26 (April-February) fell to \$37.5 billion from \$50.1 billion in the same 11-months period in FY25, even as the number of such borrowings inched up to 1,250 from 1,220. The moderation comes after a steady rise from \$22.8 billion in FY23 to \$41.5 billion in FY24 and a peak in FY25.

(Business Line)

Centre proposes E100 testing framework to accelerate flex fuel vehicles: The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) plans to widen emission testing standards for flexible (flex)-fuel vehicles that can run on 100 per cent ethanol (E100), in

a bid to boost production of such vehicles. In a draft notification issued on Tuesday night, the ministry proposed including E100 in testing and certification standards, replacing the current provision that only covers E85, a fuel blend containing 85 per cent ethanol and 15 per cent gasoline. The West Asia crisis has spurred the push for faster adoption of flex-fuel vehicles, as critical energy supplies, including crude oil, remain vulnerable in the Strait of Hormuz off the Iranian coast.

(Business Standard)

BANKING & FINANCE



RBI allows banks to extend relief measures to borrowers without their requests in disaster-hit areas: Banks are allowed to extend relief measures to all borrowers without waiting for their requests, according to the Reserve Bank's revised guidelines for calamity-affected areas, which take effect from July 1. "Lenders are permitted to extend the relief measures to all borrowers without waiting for a request from them, with an opt-out clause for such borrowers who desire to opt out at any point till the end of 135 days from the date of declaration of natural calamity," the RBI said while issuing the directions. One of the directions said that a bank may operate its calamity-affected branches from temporary premises under advice to the concerned regional office of the RBI. Borrowers will be eligible for resolution whose accounts are classified as 'Standard', but which are not in default for more than 30 days with the bank as on the date of occurrence of the calamity.

(Moneycontrol)

Govt bars Mythos testing in banks: India has taken a pre-emptive stance on Anthropic's unreleased frontier AI model Mythos, indicating that banks and insurance companies will not be allowed to test or deploy it until its safety is established, even as authorities step up preparedness against potential cyber risks, sources told Fe. The guidance does not amount to a ban on an existing deployment, as Mythos has not yet been made available outside a limited sandbox environment in the United States.

Instead, it signals that any future access to the model will be subject to regulatory clearance.

(Financial Express)

IOB Q4 net jumps 43% to Rs 1,505 crore; FY26 profit crosses Rs 5,000 crore mark: Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) reported a 43% year-on-year rise in net profit to Rs. 1,505 crore in the fourth quarter, aided by higher interest income and lower provisions and tax expenses. For FY26, net profit rose 56% to Rs. 5,419 crore, crossing the Rs. 5,000 crore mark for the first time. The public sector lender also crossed a key milestone, with annual operating profit exceeding Rs. 10,000 crore for the first time at Rs. 10,026 crore. Credit growth continued to outpace deposits. Total advances rose 24% year-on-year to Rs. 3.10 lakh crore in Q4FY26, while deposits grew 18% to Rs. 3.68 lakh crore. Total business stood at Rs. 6.78 lakh crore, up 21% year-on-year. Asset quality improved during the quarter. Gross NPAs declined to 1.42% from 2.14% a year earlier, while net NPAs fell to 0.21% from 0.37%.

(Financial Express)

India's credit card market expands to 119 million, PSU banks gain in spends: India's credit card market has surpassed 119 million cards. HDFC Bank, SBI Cards, ICICI Bank, and Axis Bank dominate this sector. HDFC Bank is expanding its lead in both card numbers and spending value. Public sector banks are showing strong growth, especially in tier-2 and tier-3 markets. This expansion is driven by wider networks and partnerships.

(Economic Times)

FinMin asks banks to take measures for welfare of persons with disabilities: Public sector banks and financial institutions are now required to offer reservations for individuals with benchmark disabilities in direct recruitment and promotions. The Department of Financial Services has issued clear instructions for this implementation. Furthermore, these institutions must hold regular meetings with PwD Employees Welfare Associations to address concerns and ensure their voices are heard.

(Economic Times)

No paperwork for NPS retirees' medical allowance: The government has moved to a fully automated system for paying fixed medical allowance (FMA) to National Pension System (NPS) beneficiaries, eliminating the need to submit medical bills and reducing delays. For NPS retirees, especially those dependent on fixed incomes, predictability and ease of access are critical. The new system addresses several long-standing issues.

(Business Line)

INDUSTRY OUTLOOK



Corporate boardrooms now have more than 10 lakh women, less than half of men: Number of women in India's corporate boardrooms crossed 10 lakhs at the end of 2025, still it is lower than half of numbers for men, a report by Statistics Ministry, released on Wednesday showed. Meanwhile, share of women among judges, police and army are not very encouraging. The 27th edition of annual publication 'Women and Men in India,' by Statistics Ministry termed the decision-making as fundamental to the exercise of agency and the ability of individuals to shape social, economic, and political outcomes. Women, who are equally affected by contemporary challenges in development, peace, and security, must therefore be engaged in decision-making processes across all spheres and at all levels, it said.

(Moneycontrol)

Finance Secretary reviews PSU insurance strategy: Financial services secretary M Nagaraju reviewed strategy documents for four public sector insurance companies. He directed them to boost investment opportunities and cut loss ratios. The companies must also maintain market share. Strengthening retail portfolios and expanding presence in rural and semi-urban areas are key priorities. These steps aim to enhance their overall performance and reach.

(Economic Times)

iPhone exports hit record Rs. 2 trillion in final year of smartphone PLI: India's iPhone exports hit a record high in FY26, reaching Rs. 2 trillion in the final year of the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for large-scale electronics manufacturing, according to data submitted by vendors to the government. With that, the Apple Inc-owned smartphone brand has emerged as India's single largest branded export across all major export categories classified under the Harmonised System (HS) code framework, which covers more than 5,000 product groups used in global trade.

(Business Standard)



REGULATION & DEVELOPMENT

SEBI operationalises PaRRVA to verify performance claims of market intermediaries: The market regulator has operationalised the Past Risk and Return Verification Agency (PaRRVA) framework to enhance transparency in performance claims made by market intermediaries. Care Ratings has been granted recognition as the PaRRVA, while National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) will function as the PaRRVA Data Centre (PDC), in line with the regulatory framework issued on April 4, 2025, SEBI said in a statement. The regulator said a pilot phase of the system was launched on December 8, 2025. Following the successful completion of the pilot, PaRRVA will commence full-scale operations from May 4, 2026. The initiative is designed to allow regulated entities to present verified performance metrics, while enabling investors to access reliable and standardised data for informed decision-making.

(Business Line)

RBI notifies final lending rules for UCBs: The Reserve Bank of India on Wednesday issued the final norms governing lending by urban co-operative banks (UCBs). In a relief to Tier 1 and Tier 2 UCBs, the regulator has increased the moratorium cap on housing loans to 24 months from 18 months earlier. The guidelines will be in effect from October 1. However, the overall tenor of housing loans for these banks will continue to be capped at 20 years, including the moratorium period. Tier 3 and Tier 4

UCBs can determine the tenor and moratorium for housing loans according to their Board-approved policies. The aggregate unsecured loans and advances of a UCB cannot exceed 20% of its total loans and advances, as per the audited balance sheet of the previous financial year, the guidelines said. However, unsecured loans up to Rs 50,000 per borrower that are eligible for priority sector classification would be excluded from this prudential ceiling. The RBI also has retained revised caps on individual unsecured advances within the overall limit, which was Rs 5 lakh for Tier 1 UCBs, Rs 7.5 lakh for Tier 2 and Rs 10 lakh for Tier 3 and Tier 4 banks.

(Financial Express)

Social justice ministry spends Rs 2,042 crore on educational schemes in FY-26:

Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has disbursed over Rs 2,000 crore on various educational schemes for OBCs, EBCs, and DNTs students in the Financial Year 2025-26, an official statement said on Wednesday. Union Minister Virendra Kumar said these interventions seek to improve access to quality education and support academic progression among students from these communities.

(Economic Times)



UNDERCAST

- Undercast is a type of forecasting error that occurs when estimates turn out to be below realized values. These estimates could apply to sales, an expense line item, net income, cash flow, or any other financial account.
- Undercast estimates can occur because of a conservative management team or a volatile or unpredictable market.
- Dishonest undercast estimates can occur because management purposefully lowered estimates to ensure that the actual performance would outperform the lower numbers.
- Continuous undercasting indicates that a company is ineffectively deploying its resources based on poor estimates.



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 : 94.7870

INR / 1 GBP : 127.9454

INR / 1 EUR : 110.8844

INR /100 JPY: 59.3400

EQUITY MARKET

Sensex: 77496.36 (+609.45)

NIFTY: 24177.65 (+181.95)

Bnk NIFTY: 55403.60 (+3.25)

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TEAM BFSIB

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

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