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# CANOMICS

YOUR WINDOW TO THE ECONOMIC PULSE

**MONTHLY MAGAZINE**  
 (APRIL - 2026)



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अर्थनीति

**II When Goods do not Cross Borders, Soldiers will II**

--Frederic Bastia

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## Message from MD & CEO...

The tensions in West Asia has now entered the third month with negotiations intended to achieve a breakthrough in hostilities not reaching its logical conclusion. Brent crude prices reached a peak of \$120 per barrel since commencement of the war, threatening to upend global inflation and reduce growth prospects. Now the concern is not about the severity of the war but on the removal of the blockade along the Strait of Hormuz that has choked shipping lines. We might be well on the way towards higher interest rates, worsening debt metrics, disrupted supply chains and subdued trade flows. The unabated closure of the Strait of Hormuz, rising crude prices and disruptions to global trade has prompted the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to scale down global growth prospects in its latest World Economic Outlook. Growth forecasts for Middle East has been revised down sharply from 3.9% to 1.9%. Hospitality, tourism, power generation, logistics, fertilizers and auto component industries, to name a few, could suffer adverse shocks. Though India will hold out on its own, there would be visible impact on the growth front if these tensions prolong and crude stays elevated for long. From an expected rate of well above 7% in FY27, India's economic growth could move closer towards 6.5%. The GCC economies will bear the brunt much more as the confidence of global investors and businesses could weaken further. This could have some bearing on remittance flows from GCC countries to India Undoubtedly, risks to Indian financial system have increased. More caution is warranted from banks with international operations and exposure to the Middle East. Sectoral credit exposures need careful monitoring to ensure effective guardrails against such assets turning bad. The weakening of Rupee and rising bond yields can upset the profitability calculus unless due care is exercised. However, as the just concluded monetary Policy Committee decision shows, the central bank is likely to keep key policy rates unchanged in the current environment which implies a further escalation in cost of funds for the borrowers is not expected. Though India will face headwinds, its economy is expected to exhibit resilience, on the back of consumption and investment growth. RBI has estimated GDP growth for FY27 at 6.9%, even amidst a volatile global environment, though with a downside risks. As far as banking sector is concerned, credit growth is expected to be in double digits for FY27 with an estimated growth rate of 13%. Asset quality shows a sequential improvement and balance sheets of banks are stronger and healthier. Credit growth has been fairly broad-based with agriculture, MSME and personal loan segments registering double digit growth rates. The transmission of 125 bps repo rate cut to lending rates has been fairly good and adequate liquidity support to the banking system has catalyzed the process. However lagged deposit growth is a concern that merits attention. Other than the war a new risk to growth is the increasing prospects of an El Nino which could cause draught like conditions and reduce live storage capacity in major reservoirs. The central government is taking measures to salvage the situation. It has reduced excise duties on fuels and has announced Emergency Credit Linked Guarantee Scheme ECLGS 5.0 worth Rs 2.55 lakh Crore for MSME and the airline industry with defined thresholds. In the face of global headwinds RBI has taken a number of measures to provide liquidity support in every possible way with Rs 13.8 lakh crore infused since the start of the financial year by way of OMOs, VRR operations, CRR cuts and forex swap windows.

The unfolding global developments pose renewed challenges. It is an opportunity to reinvent ourselves, as well as learn and unlearn. Gone are the days when India was counted among the 'Fragile Five'. We have the Covid playbook to draw lessons on crisis management. This crisis will be turned into an opportunity to take us towards the next growth orbit.

**Hardeep Singh Ahluwalia**  
**Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (I/c)**  
**& Executive Director**



Developments on the geo-political front continue to pose concerns. While GDP growth was comfortably on track towards the 7.5% mark in FY27, the conflict has amplified downside risks. Brent crude has consistently stayed above \$100 per barrel for most of April, 26. Retail Inflation under the new series is estimated at 4.6% based on a professional forecaster's survey though the actual outturn is likely to be higher. Likely advent of El Nino conditions post July could give an upward bias to the inflation outlook. India Meteorological Department (IMD) pegs first advance estimate of monsoon at 92% of the Long Period Average. Actual rainfall outcomes, tend to undershoot initial forecasts. However, India will continue to be the fastest growing economy, driven by public capex and consumption.

The conflict in West Asia could adversely impact global growth prospects based on its duration and India cannot be wholly immune. The Middle East accounts for almost 40% of remittance flows to India and negative shocks to the region could reduce these, if the war lasts longer. Home to 10 million strong Indian diaspora, 4 lakh returned since the commencement of the war and if this persists, current account deficit will be hit. To be sure, our external position is eminently manageable with the current account deficit contained well below 2%. However, shocks from a dent in exports due to muted global demand, rising import bills and subdued remittances could widen it by another 100 bps. Coupled with a deficit in capital account overall balance of Payments (BoP) position is likely to turn negative, weakening the Rupee.

Foreign Institutional Investors have turned bearish on India for now, though the reasons attributable are external rather than domestic. Rising US treasury yields and status quo in policy rates by the US Federal Reserve have enhanced the pace of outflows from the debt market. A weak rupee adds to the concern as it erodes effective returns earned by foreign investors making them cautious about investing in India. However the recent state assembly election outcomes bode well as reform momentum will receive a fillip. Centre-State relations are expected to improve due to similar political formation being in power. This augurs well for policy stability and reduced uncertainty.

The Emergency Credit Linked Guarantee Scheme announced recently is expected to unleash a multiplier effect on the economy. Banks will be able to expand credit growth without concerns about asset quality due to guarantees while sectors impacted by stretched working capital cycles will receive a breather. This is a win-win for both banks and the borrowers.

If draught conditions persist, further measures to alleviate potential stress on the farm and rural sector can be expected. Agricultural credit growth is likely to receive a further spurt due to such measures while dependence on agri gold loans might go up further. To alleviate the pressure on inflation, Government had already reduced special additional excise duties on crude and imposed export duties on petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel, leading to a potential revenue loss of Rs 1.5 lakh cr to the Government coffers, however, retail inflation will still be higher than FY26 attributable to costlier imports resulting from a weaker rupee.

Going by past crises experience, India will emerge much less affected and continue to grow between 6.5 to 6.9% in real terms. This will spur innovation and force us to punch beyond our weight. The free trade agreements that we have signed in the last calendar year including the recent one with New-Zealand, will facilitate diversification of export basket and stand us in good stead. As the conflict comes to a close, we would be in a strong footing to regain much of the lost ground.

**Dr. MadhavanKutty G.**  
**Chief Economist**

# Movement of Key Market Indicators during the Month

- By Ankit Gupta

Indicators	High	Low	Average	Remarks
Sensex	79273.3	73134.3	76880.0	The Sensex rose mainly due to strong domestic inflows from FIIs and DIIs along with a positive corporate earnings outlook. Optimism around India's economic growth further supported investor sentiment.
Bankex	64662.5	57883.1	62220.3	The banking index gained on the back of improving asset quality (lower NPAs) and strong credit growth. Both PSU and private banks reported better profitability, boosting confidence in the sector.
India G Sec Yield	7.1	6.8	6.9	Government bond yields increased due to inflation concerns and relatively tight liquidity conditions. Additionally, higher government borrowing led to increased bond supply, pushing yields upward.
US Treasury	4.4	4.2	4.3	US yields moved higher due to expectations of delayed rate cuts by the Federal Reserve and strong economic data. Persistently high inflation also contributed to the upward movement.
Gold (Per troy \$)	4842.4	4551.4	4716.5	Gold prices declined mainly because of higher bond yields and a stronger US dollar. Rising yields reduce the attractiveness of non-interest-bearing assets like gold.
Brent Oil	113.0	91.4	101.7	Crude oil prices increased due to supply constraints and geopolitical tensions in key oil-producing regions. Additionally, expectations of strong global demand and production cuts by major producers supported the upward movement in prices.
USD/ INR	94.9	92.5	93.5	The Indian Rupee weakened due to overall strength in the US dollar and elevated crude oil prices. Foreign capital outflows also added pressure on the currency.

## Key Rates of Key Players

Rates	SBI	PNB	BOB	Canara	UBI	BOI	Highest Rate	Lowest Rate	Any Change In the Month
RLLR	7.90	8.10	7.90	8.00	8.00	8.10	8.10 (PNB, BOI)	7.90 (SBI, BOB)	No Change
MCLR (1Yr.)	8.70	8.75	8.70	8.70	8.70	8.75	8.75 (PNB, BOI)	8.70 (UBI, SBI, BOB, CB)	UBI MCLR Change
Term Dep (1Yr.)	6.25	6.25	6.10	6.25	6.30	6.25	6.30 (UBI)	6.10 (BOB)	No change

## Domestic Policy Rates

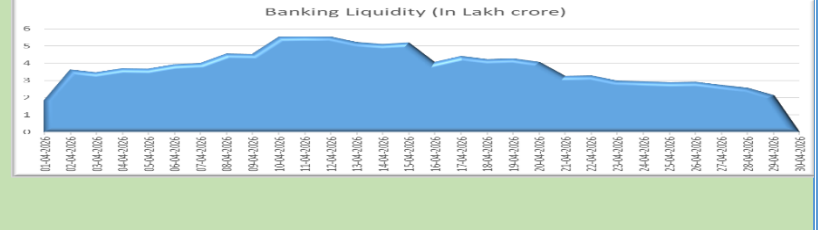
SDF	MSF	Fixed Rev Repo	CRR	SLR	MCLR (overnight)	Term Dep. >1 yr
5.00	5.50	3.35	3.00	18.00	7.70-7.95	6.00-6.60
No change	No change	No change	No change	No change	No change	changed

**Policy Context:** RBI's stance is neutral/unchanged, aiming to maintain stability while supporting credit growth.

## Liquidity Position During the Month (In Lakhs Cr.)

Opening	Closing	Highest	Lowest	Average
3.09	2.15	5.55	1.85	3.85

## Liquidity Position During the Month (In Lakhs Cr.)



## Policy Implications

Banking system liquidity remained in tight surplus due to higher government spending and continued liquidity support by the RBI.

## Global Policy Rates Status

RBI Repo Rate	US Fed	European Central Bank	Bank of Japan	Bank of England	Bank of Indonesia	PBOC, China	Bank of Korea
5.25	3.50-3.75	2.15	0.75	3.75	4.75	3.00	2.5

**Quick Observations:** Global central Banks are mostly holding rates steady as inflation eases and growth stabilizes



## Top 3 Focus of the Month ...

-- By Samir Kumar

### RBI Holds Repo Rate Steady at 5.25%: Reinforces Neutral Stance amid Global Turbulence

In a decisive move underscoring stability in uncertain times, the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) unanimously decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 5.25% during its April 2026 meeting, while maintaining a neutral policy stance. This bold yet balanced policy decision highlights the RBI's remarkable ability to navigate global energy shocks while prioritizing sustained high growth. With strong domestic demand, robust services and manufacturing activity, and improving capacity utilisation, the central bank has once again positioned India as one of the brightest growth stars among major economies in 2026. The retention of the neutral stance gives Governor Sanjay Malhotra and the MPC maximum flexibility to respond decisively to any emerging developments, striking the perfect balance between growth support and inflation control.

### IMF Sounds Alarm: Sharp Downgrade in Global Growth Outlook amid Escalating Geopolitical Risks

In its much-anticipated April 2026 World Economic Outlook titled "Global Economy in the Shadow of War", the International Monetary Fund delivered a sobering assessment, slashing its global GDP growth forecast for 2026 to 3.1% – **a 0.2 percentage point downgrade** from its January projections. This revision comes against the backdrop of the Middle East conflict, which has disrupted energy markets and injected fresh uncertainty into the global economy. Without the war's impact, the IMF noted that growth could have reached 3.4% in 2026, highlighting how geopolitical tensions have reversed earlier optimistic momentum. Headline inflation is now expected to rise modestly to 4.4% in 2026 before easing in 2027, with pressures falling disproportionately on emerging market and developing economies – especially commodity importers already facing vulnerabilities. The report paints a picture of heavily skewed downside risks, warning that a prolonged conflict, deeper energy disruptions, or renewed trade fragmentation could push global growth as low as 2.0-2.5%, potentially tipping the world toward recessionary territory.

### IMF and UN Project Solid India Growth (6.4-7.6%)

Amid a darkening global economic landscape marred by geopolitical conflicts and energy shocks, India continues to stand out as a beacon of resilience and robust growth. Various leading international institutions have spotlighted India as one of the fastest-growing major economies in 2026-2027.

The IMF has raised its FY26 growth projections for India in recent updates, reflecting strong confidence in the country's economic fundamentals. Similarly, the United Nations has projected steady expansion with 6.4% GDP growth in 2026, accelerating further to 6.6% in 2027.

## Major Economies & their Economic Soundness...

- By Ankit Gupta

### Economic Health Indicators

Country	Nominal GDP (USD Trillion) (Dec 2024)	GDP Growth Annual Growth rate (Dec-2025)	Gross Debt (of GDP) (Dec-2024)	Unemployment Rate (February-26)	Inflation Rate (%) February -2026
USA	29.18	2.7	123	4.3	3.3
China	18.74	5	88.3#	5.4	1
Germany	4.66	0.3	63.5	6.4	2.7
Japan	4.03	0.1	237	2.7	1.5
India	3.91	7.8**	81.92	5.1	3.4
UK	3.64	1.0**	94.3	4.9*	3.3
France	3.16	1.1	116	7.9**	1.7
Italy	2.37	0.8	137	5.2	2.7
Canada	2.24	0.7**	111	6.7	2.4
Russia	2.17	1.0**	18.3	2.2	5.9

\*Data feb 2026, \*\*Dec 2025, #dec 2024

## Major Economies & Their Bond Yield...

### Bond Yield (%) of Major Economies

Country	10Y Bond Yield (March'26)	Variation Vs. US T-Bill	Observations
US	4.39	***	Serving as the global benchmark amid steady economic conditions and monetary policy normalization.
China	1.75	2.64	China's very low 10Y yield of 1.75% (2.64% below the US) reflects weak domestic demand, deflationary pressures, and aggressive monetary easing by the PBOC.
Germany	3.03	1.36	Signals cautious investor sentiment in Europe's largest economy, supported by low inflation and ECB policy expectations
Japan	2.5	1.89	Japan's 10Y yield of 2.5% (still 1.89% below the US) indicates the ongoing effects of ultra-loose monetary policy and yield curve control, despite gradual normalization.
India	7.01	-2.62	India offers the highest yield among major emerging economies at 7.01% (2.62% above the US), reflecting stronger growth prospects combined with persistent inflation concerns
United Kingdom	5.01	-0.62	The UK's 10Y yield at 5.01% (0.62% above the US) suggests markets are pricing in relatively higher inflation and more hawkish Bank of England policy expectations.
France	3.71	0.68	France's 10Y yield of 3.71% (0.68% below the US) indicates moderate risk premium over Germany, driven by solid but not exceptional economic momentum.
Italy	3.57	0.82	Italy's 10Y yield at 3.57% (0.82% below the US) reflects improving fiscal credibility and ECB support, keeping borrowing costs manageable despite high public debt.
Canada	3.56	0.83	Canada's 10Y yield of 3.56% (0.83% below the US) shows close alignment with US rates, tempered by slower growth and more dovish Bank of Canada expectations.
Russia	13.33	-8.94	Russia's exceptionally high 10Y yield of 13.33% (8.94% above the US) highlights significant country risk, geopolitical tensions, and the need to attract capital under sanctions.



## Regulatory Moves/Announcements by RBI (1/2) ...

- By Jaya Kumari

### Regulatory Moves/Announcements by RBI (1/2)

Announcements	Brief Summary	Impacts
RBI tightens forex derivatives norms dated 2 April 2026	RBI restricted banks from offering Non-Deliverable Forward (NDF) contracts to clients and stopped rebooking of cancelled forex derivative contracts. The move aimed to reduce speculative activity and stabilise the rupee.	Corporate treasuries and banks initially faced reduced hedging flexibility. The measures supported rupee stability during volatile global currency movements.
RBI launches Benchmark Issuance Strategy for States dated 06 April 2026	RBI introduced a pilot Benchmark Issuance Strategy (BIS) for nine states to improve transparency and standardise state borrowings through pre-announced benchmark securities.	Investors get better clarity, liquidity in State Government Securities (SGS), will improve pricing efficiency and deepen the state bond market.
RBI proposes new Business Correspondent framework dated 06 April 2026	RBI proposed separate categories for Banking Correspondents (BCs), standardised remuneration norms and clearer definitions for BC outlets and touchpoints.	To improve financial inclusion & customer service quality in rural & semi-urban areas. Uniform payment structures may also professionalise the BC ecosystem.
RBI keeps FPI investment limits unchanged dated 07 April 2026	RBI retained foreign investment limits in Government Securities, State Government Securities and corporate bonds at existing levels for FY27. Additional investment space of over ₹3.3 lakh crore was provided.	Stability in FPI norms supports foreign investor confidence in Indian debt markets. It also ensures continued foreign participation without sudden policy shocks.
RBI Issues draft directions for 'Trade Receivables Discounting System' dated 08 April 2026	RBI proposed simplified onboarding norms for MSMEs on TReDS platforms, consolidated existing guidelines into a single framework and proposed a minimum net worth requirement of Rs 25 crore for TReDS operators.	These changes aim to make invoice discounting easier, faster and safer for MSMEs while increasing financier participation and liquidity in the TReDS ecosystem.
Faster inward foreign payment processing norms dated 09 April 2026	RBI directed banks to provide immediate alerts for inward foreign remittances and reconcile nostro accounts within one hour.	Customers and exporters will receive foreign payments faster with improved transparency. Banks may need technology upgrades and tighter operational controls.
RBI proposes anti-fraud digital payment measures dated 09 April 2026	RBI proposed a one-hour delay for certain high-value digital transfers, extra checks for senior citizens and a "kill switch" to freeze digital transactions instantly.	These measures can significantly reduce online payment fraud and improve customer protection. However, some users may face slight delays in high-value transfers.
RBI unveils 'Utkarsh 2029' strategy framework dated 10 April 2026	RBI launched its medium-term strategy based on six pillars including stronger regulation, customer centricity, technology adoption and inclusive finance. The framework also focuses on AI, Quantum technology and Unified Lending Interface (ULI).	The roadmap signals RBI's push toward future-ready and technology-driven banking. It can improve digital credit access and strengthen financial sector resilience.
RBI proposes ₹1 lakh crore threshold for NBFC Upper Layer dated 10 April 2026	RBI proposed classifying NBFCs with assets above ₹1 lakh crore into the Upper Layer instead of using the existing scoring methodology. Government NBFCs would also come under scale-based regulation.	Large NBFCs will face tighter supervision and stricter compliance standards. The move creates a more level regulatory playing field between public and private NBFCs.



## Regulatory Moves/Announcements by RBI (2/2) ...

Announcements	Brief Summary	Impacts
<b>RBI' direction on Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs), 2026 dated 22 April 2026</b>	RBI has proposed overhauling the regulatory framework for prepaid payment instruments (PPIs), tightening governance norms, strengthening customer protection & widening the scope of digital wallets to deepen trust in India's fast growing payments ecosystem.	The move increases trust and safety in digital wallets. Fintech companies may face higher compliance costs and tighter operational standards.
<b>RBI issues Directions on Asset Classification, Provisioning, income Recognition for Commercial Banks dated 27 April 2026</b>	RBI has consolidated and updated various banking prudential norms related to NPA classification, Provisioning requirements, income recognition, credit risk management, capital adequacy, stressed asset resolution, will be effective from April 01, 2027.	To strengthen transparency and consistency in loan classification, improve bank's risk management and provisioning practices and to align Indian banking regulations with global standards.
<b>RBI finalises Basel III credit risk framework 27 April 2026</b>	RBI released final Basel III guidelines for calculating capital charge for credit risk under the Standardised Approach. The framework makes capital requirements more risk-sensitive and globally aligned.	Banks may need to hold capital more accurately against risky assets to strengthens banking sector stability and improves international credibility.
<b>RBI issues directions on 'Reporting Instructions for Authorised Dealer Category - I Banks' dated 27 April 2026</b>	To enhance transparency in the foreign exchange market, the directions require Authorised Dealer Category-I banks to report foreign exchange derivative transactions involving INR undertaken by their related parties globally to the Trade Repository of the Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL).	This will improve transparency & monitoring of INR linked forex derivative transactions across global markets to help RBI and CCIL track currency related risks more effectively, strengthening oversight and stability in the foreign exchange market.
<b>RBI issues Final Amendment Directions on Revised Lending norms for UCBs dated 29 April 2026</b>	The draft Amendment Directions proposed, inter alia, to rationalise the definition of unsecured advances, enhance single and aggregate unsecured advances limits, enhance the lending limit to nominal members for purchase of consumer durables, and allow certain discretions to Tier 3 and Tier 4 UCBs with regard to housing loans.	The move can improve credit availability to members and retail borrowers while strengthening transparency and risk management through enhanced disclosure requirements.
<b>RBI relief measures for disaster-hit borrowers for borrower requests dated 29 April 2026</b>	Relief includes moratoriums, restructuring, fee waivers, temporary branches and restoration of ATM/mobile banking services. Banks must also maintain an additional 5% provision on restructured loans.	Borrowers affected by natural calamities will get faster financial support and continuity in banking services. Banks may face higher provisioning costs but asset quality stress could reduce in the long run
<b>RBI creates structured exit route for small NBFCs dated 29 April 2026</b>	RBI exempted small NBFCs with assets below ₹1,000 crore and no public funds/customer interface from registration requirements. It also introduced a formal deregistration process through the PRAVAAH portal.	Smaller NBFCs get regulatory relief and lower compliance burden. The structured exit route improves ease of doing business and regulatory clarity.



## Government Announcements/Moves

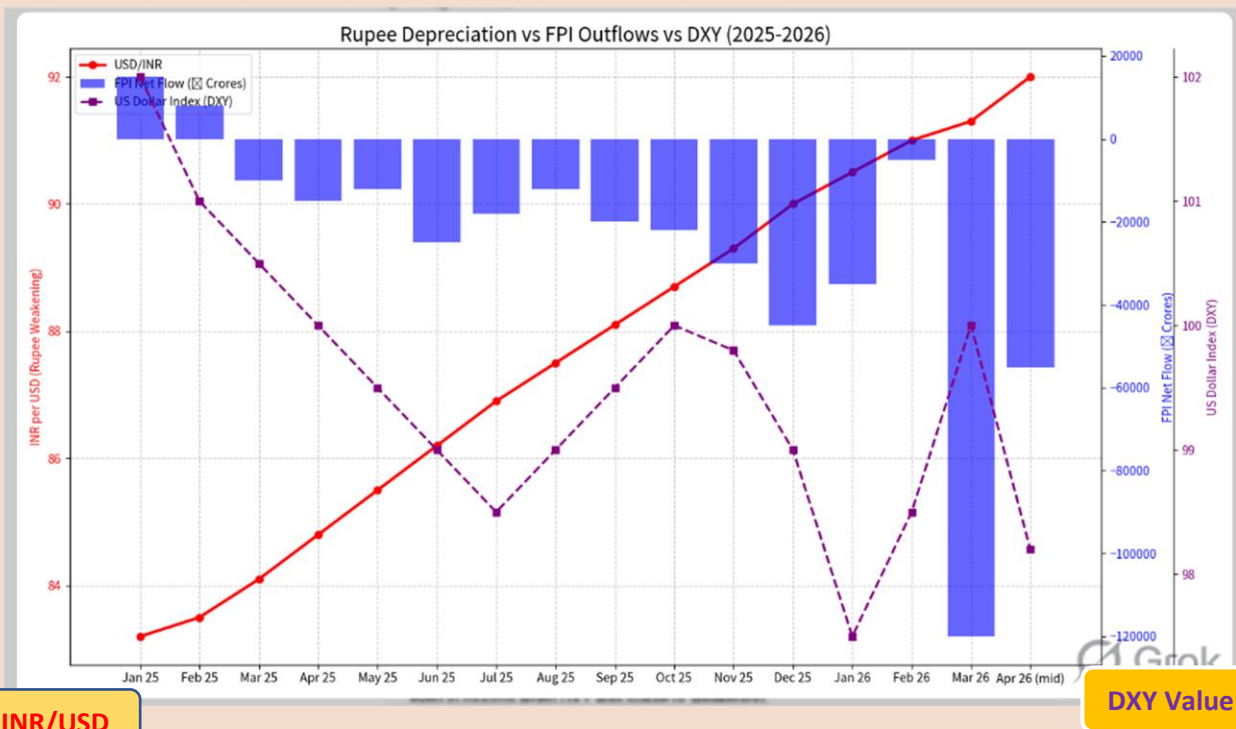
Announcements	Brief Summary	Impacts
India grants temporary customs duty relief for SEZ goods sold domestically	The lowered duty rates will range between 5% to 12.5% across industries, with levies on some industrial chemicals and fertilizers cut to 6.5% from 7.5%. The relief will be effective from April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027 and will be available to businesses that started production on or before March 31, 2025.	This move was aimed at cushioning exporters battered by steep US tariffs and rising geopolitical uncertainty.
Centre waives duties on key petrochemical products amid supply disruptions due to Iran war till June 30, 2026	The exemption was introduced as a short-term relief measure to mitigate the impact of the Middle East conflict on India's petrochemical sector and overall economic activity.	The move aimed to support domestic industries by ensuring continued access to critical inputs amid global supply chain disruptions and energy market uncertainty
SEZ units can sell locally at lower duty for one year	The government allowed SEZ units a one time relief to sell goods in the domestic market at concessional customs duty for 1 year from April 2026 to March 2027.	The measure aimed to support exporters facing global trade disruptions by improving capacity utilisation and liquidity, while maintaining export focus.
Foreign Secretary launches India-US trade Facilitation Portal	The portal is designed to connect businesses across various sectors, from agriculture to technology. This development is expected to create new opportunities and strengthen economic ties between the two countries.	It will serve as a bridge ensuring continuity and ensuring that existing supply chains are reinforced, and at the same time will enable new commercial linkages to emerge and grow.
Coal Ministry introduces insurances surety bonds as alternative to bank guarantees	ISBs is a risk transfer mechanism and can be adopted as an alternative arrangement to BGs thereby shielding the project from potential losses in the case the project developer or contractor fails to fulfil their contractual obligations	This will reduce dependence on banks and improve liquidity for contractors by freeing up working capital

## Behaviour of other Macro-Economic Indicators (1/4)

-By Samir Kumar

### DXY Slept, Rupee Slipped: FPI Selling Drove the Depreciation

The sustained weakening of the Indian Rupee from 83 in early 2025 to over 92 by mid-April 2026, reflecting an 11-12% depreciation. This decline closely tracks massive and persistent Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) outflows, which intensified dramatically in February-April 2026, alongside a generally resilient US Dollar Index (DXY).



INR/USD

DXY Value

In the current macroeconomic environment, the rupee's slide has been driven by the Middle East conflict-induced oil price surge, widening current account concerns, and global risk aversion triggering heavy FPI selling from emerging markets. Despite these external headwinds, the RBI has managed volatility effectively through forex interventions while maintaining a steady repo rate at 5.25% and retaining a strong 7.6% GDP growth forecast for FY26.

**Bottom Line:** India's domestic growth engines remain resilient, but the combination of record FPI outflows, elevated oil import costs, and a firm dollar continues to exert significant pressure on the rupee in April 2026.

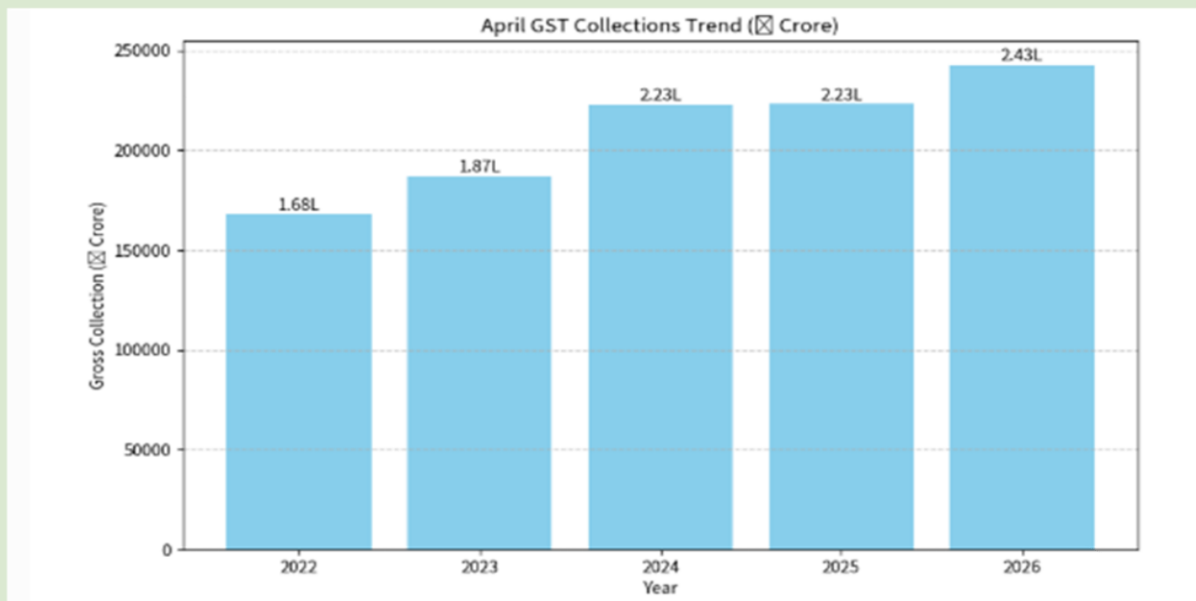
## Behaviour of other Macro-Economic Indicators (2/4)...

### India's GST Collections Hit Record High in April 2026

India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections reached a new all-time high of ₹2,42,702 crore in April 2026, marking an 8.7% year-on-year (YoY) increase over ₹2,23,265 crore in April 2025. This represents the strongest April performance since the GST regime was introduced in 2017, reinforcing the trend of steady tax buoyancy and economic formalization.

#### Historical April Trend

April collections typically see a seasonal boost from year-end adjustments and filings.



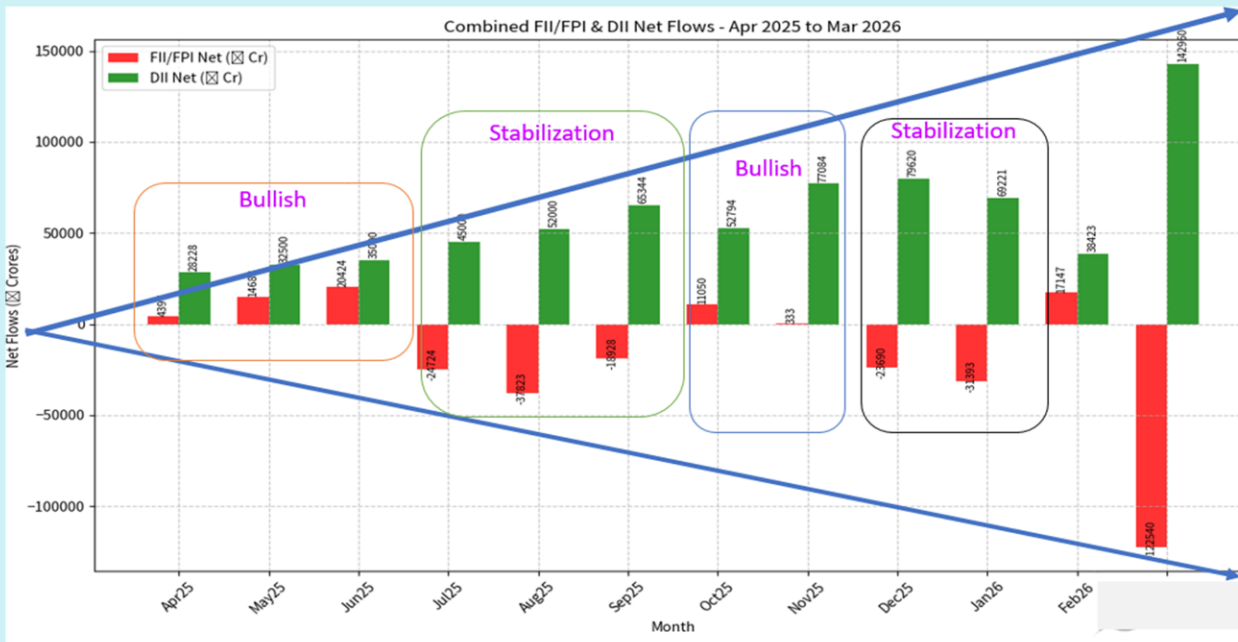
#### Breakdown of Collections: Driving factors):

Component	April 2026 (₹ crore)	Growth YoY	Share
Gross Domestic Revenue	1,85,122	+4.3%	76%
Import-linked (IGST)	57,580	<b>+25.8%</b>	24%
<b>Total Gross</b>	<b>2,42,702</b>	<b>+8.7%</b>	100%

The surge was heavily import-driven (due to factors like rupee movements and global supply dynamics), while domestic growth was more moderate. This highlights resilience in consumption and compliance alongside some import dependence.

### Movement of FII Vs. DII since April, 2025: A Tug of War?

There is a clear tug-of-war between Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs/FPIs) and Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) over 12 months. FIIs were net buyers in the first half of 2025 but turned heavy net sellers from mid-2025 onwards, with an extreme spike in selling in March 2026. DIIs remained consistent net buyers throughout the entire period, significantly increasing their buying whenever FIIs sold aggressively – demonstrating the "Domestic Cushion" effect.



#### Trend Analysis:

- ❖ **2025 (Apr-Jun):** Golden period – both FIIs and DIIs were buying.
- ❖ **Mid-2025 onwards:** FIIs turned sellers, but DIIs consistently increased their buying.
- ❖ DII buying has been **structural and rising** – from ₹28k-35k Cr/month in early 2025 to regularly crossing ₹65k-79k Cr later.
- ❖ Even in months when FIIs sold heavily (Jul, Aug, Dec, Jan, Mar), DIIs ramped up purchases.

#### Bottom Line:

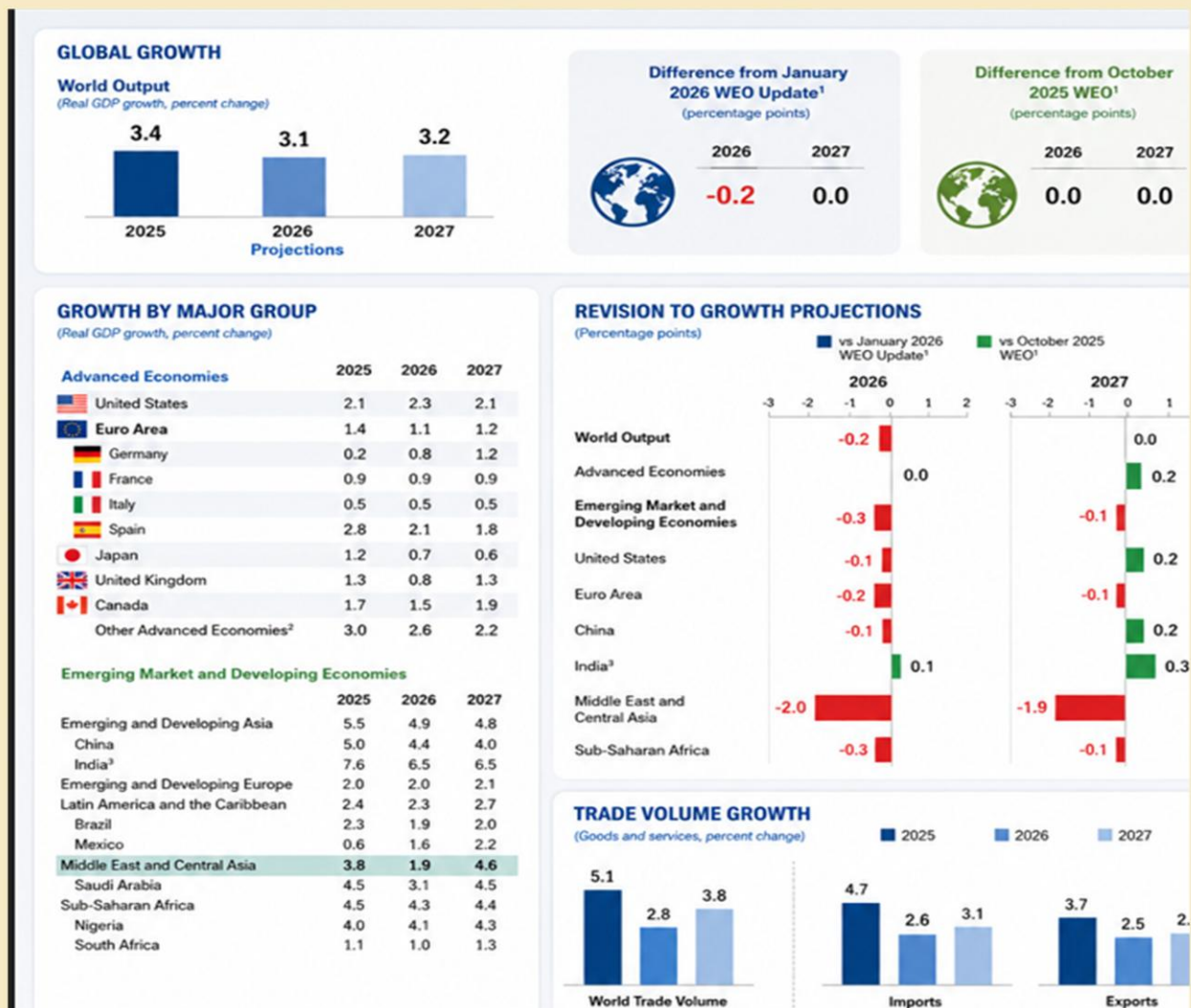
*Despite extreme FPI selling pressure (especially in March 2026), the Indian market has found strong support because DIIs have stepped up aggressively, powered by consistent retail SIP money.*

*This structural shift has made the Indian market far more resilient than it was 5-10 years ago.*

## Behaviour of other Macro-Economic Indicators (4/4)...

### IMF's latest projections paint a picture of a slower, more fragile global economy

The IMF's latest projections signal a slowing and increasingly fragile global economy as geopolitical tensions, weaker trade, and uneven recoveries weigh on growth prospects for 2026. Global GDP is expected to slow from 3.4% in 2025 to 3.1% in 2026, with *the sharpest hit seen in the Middle East and Central Asia* due to ongoing conflict-driven energy disruptions. World trade growth is also set to weaken sharply, reflecting softer demand and rising uncertainty across major economies. While the US remains relatively resilient and Europe struggles with stagnation, China continues its structural slowdown amid property and consumption challenges



*In contrast, India stands out as one of the few major bright spots, maintaining strong growth momentum at 6.5%, supported by robust domestic demand and investment activity.*



## Data Stat: Revealing the Data Taste of the Month...

- By Samir Kumar

### Discussion 1: Whether India's Core Trade Deficit highlighting its structural vulnerabilities despite modest export gains?

Data Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx>

India's core trade balance (excluding petroleum and gems & jewellery) has deteriorated sharply, highlighting structural vulnerabilities despite modest export gains. The deficit widened dramatically from USD 110.09 billion to USD 138.89 billion – a 26.16% YoY worsening – as non-petroleum imports grew far faster than exports.

#### Trade excluding Petroleum and Gems & Jewellery during FY 2025-26 (April-March)

Items	Apr'24-March '25	Apr'25-March '26	% YoY
Non- petroleum exports	374.32	387.88	+3.62%
Non- petroleum imports	535.42	601.03	+12.25%
Non-petroleum & *Non Gems & Jewellery exports	344.50	359.67	+4.40%
Non-petroleum & Non Gems & Jewellery imports	454.59	498.56	+9.67%
<b>Core Trade Balance ( Non-petroleum &amp; Non Gems &amp; Jewellery)</b>	<b>-110.09</b>	<b>-138.89</b>	<b>-26.16%</b> <i>(Deficit Widened)</i>

#### Reflections

- ✓ **Export Momentum Remains Weak:** Both non-petroleum and core exports grew only modestly (3.62% and 4.40%). This suggests limited competitiveness gains, subdued global demand in key segments, or domestic capacity constraints holding back shipments.
- ✓ **Import Boom Signals Strong Domestic Demand:** Non-petroleum imports jumped 12.25%, with core imports rising nearly 10%. This likely reflects robust domestic consumption and investment – India is importing more machinery, electronics, intermediates, and raw materials to fuel growth.
- ✓ **The Deficit Gap Widens Alarmingly:** Imports outpaced exports by a wide margin, causing the core deficit to balloon by over USD 28.8 billion in a single year. This is the sharpest deterioration in recent memory for the core trade balance.

#### Key Takeaway

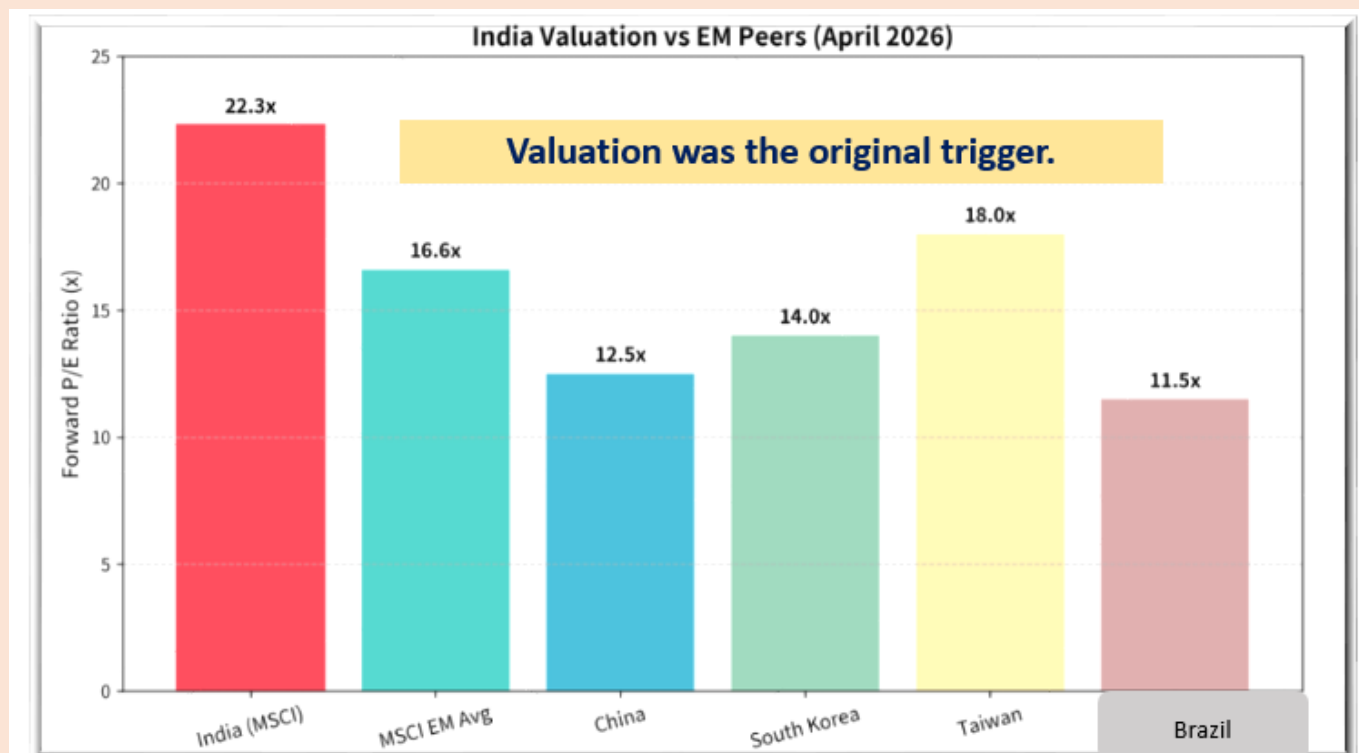
- ✓ Even after excluding oil and bullion, India's core exports remain in contraction, indicating that the external sector weakness is structural rather than commodity-driven.

## Discussion 2: Whether Indian Equities Market's valuation Premium is the reason of FPI Outflow?

Data Source: <https://en.macromicro.me/series/20731/msci-india-index-pe-ratio>

Indian equities continue to command a significant valuation premium over emerging market peers in April 2026. At 22.3x forward P/E, India (MSCI) is trading well above the MSCI EM average of 16.6x – a premium of nearly 35%. This premium reflects strong investor confidence in India's superior long-term growth prospects, robust domestic demand, and resilient macro fundamentals despite global headwinds.

However, it also highlights vulnerability to FII outflows – as seen in the char below – since expensive valuations make Indian markets more sensitive to profit-taking and global risk aversion.



### Reflections

- ✓ India trades at 20x forward P/E → 50% premium to emerging market average.
- ✓ Earnings growth only 10-15% – not enough to justify the price
- ✓ Low innovation quotient and R&D spends even in traditional strongholds like IT
- ✓ Not a single sectors where India is a world leader. Alternative markets exist now.
- ✓ Why Investors should pay 20x when Korea/Taiwan deliver better growth cheaper.

### Key Takeaway

- ✓ FPIs shifting capital to cheaper EMs (Brazil, Korea, China tech) that offer better value and innovation potential.
- ✓ Even after the 2025-26 correction, India remains at a premium, which is one of the core reasons for sustained outflows

## Headline:

### Bank of Baroda + Reliance Jio Launch 'BoB World Lite'

Source: ET, 13-04-2026

#### What is the Move?

### Strategic Move Details

**Competitor's Name:** Bank of Baroda (BoB)

**Date of Announcement:** April 13, 2026

**Partner:** Reliance Jio

**Overview:** India's first comprehensive mobile banking app specifically designed for feature phones. It is pre-loaded on the Jio-Phone Prima 4G devices and aims to bridge the digital divide by bringing full-scale digital banking to millions of users who do not own smartphones, especially in rural and semi-urban areas.

#### Key Details:

- ✓ **Pre-loaded & Easy Access:** The app comes pre-installed on new Jio-Phone Prima 4G devices and is accessible directly from the home screen. Existing Jio-Phone Prima 4G users can download it from the Jio-Store.
- ✓ **Open to All:** Available to both existing Bank of Baroda customers and customers of any other bank through a simple self-onboarding process.
- ✓ **Lightweight Design:** Built with a low-bandwidth architecture, keypad-based navigation, and secure access – optimized for feature phones.

#### Why is this Move?

### Strategic Rationality

- ✓ Strengthens BoB's positioning as a digitally progressive public sector bank.
- ✓ The initiative is fully aligned with the Government of India and RBI's vision for financial inclusion and expanding digital payments to every section of society.
- ✓ Targets the large base of feature phone users in India (especially Jio's massive rural/semi-urban customer base).
- ✓ Significant boost to digital inclusion and financial services in Tier 3, 4, and rural markets.
- ✓ Strengthens Bank of Baroda's retail and rural banking franchise.
- ✓ Deepens the strategic partnership between BoB and the Reliance ecosystem.

#### Impact

### Implications

- ✓ This is a disruptive move by Bank of Baroda. Competitors, especially those with large rural footprints cannot afford to ignore it.
- ✓ Competitors (Other PSBs) will now be forced to invest in lightweight, low-bandwidth apps or forge similar telco partnerships (Airtel, Vi, BSNL).
- ✓ Banks slow to respond may see slower deposit growth, lower UPI transaction share, and weaker performance in financial inclusion parameters.



## Indian Banking/financial Sector News

-By Jaya Kamari

Date	News Headlines	Summary/Implications
02-Apr-26	<b>Banks, telecom companies to adopt silent authentication</b>	Banks and telecom companies are developing a silent authentication mechanism to combat SIM cloning and eSIM swaps. This background check verifies mobile number and SIM card matches, flagging or blocking suspicious transactions in real-time without customer action. This move enhances security beyond traditional OTPs, aligning with new RBI mandates for two-factor authentication.
02-Apr-26	<b>RBI says 98.45% of ₹2,000 notes returned since withdrawal</b>	RBI stated that ₹2000 notes worth ₹3.56 lakh crore withdrawn in May 2023 have largely returned to the banking system, with only ₹5,501 crore remaining in circulation. The notes continue to remain legal tender. The move improved formalisation of cash holdings and increased deposits in the banking system. It also reduced high-value currency circulation significantly.
07-Apr-26	<b>Banks sharply increase Certificate of Deposit (CD) issuances</b>	Banks and financial institutions raised over ₹5.27 lakh crore through Certificates of Deposit in Q4FY26 amid tight liquidity conditions. Credit growth continued to outpace deposit mobilisation, increasing dependence on short-term funding instruments. Higher CD issuance indicates liquidity stress in the banking system. Banks may face higher funding costs if deposit growth remains weak.
08-Apr-26	<b>Supreme Court backs RBI fraud classification norms</b>	The Supreme Court ruled that banks need not provide borrowers a personal hearing before classifying accounts as fraud. Written notices and representations were considered sufficient under RBI's Fraud Risk Directions 2024. Banks can now act faster against suspected fraud accounts and reduce delays in investigations. The judgment strengthens lenders' fraud-control mechanisms.
09-Apr-26	<b>PM Mudra Yojana completes 11 years</b>	PMMY disbursed loans worth ₹40.07 lakh crore across 57 crore accounts by March 2026. Women accounted for nearly 60% of loan accounts, while over 12 crore accounts belonged to new entrepreneurs. The scheme has significantly expanded financial inclusion and small business financing. It has also boosted women entrepreneurship and rural credit access.
09-Apr-26	<b>RBI announces major regulatory reforms in April MPC</b>	RBI proposed removal of restrictions on including quarterly profits in CRAR calculations, scrapping Investment Fluctuation Reserve (IFR) requirements, easing MSME onboarding on TReDS and expanding term money market participation. These measures may improve banks' capital position, liquidity and operational flexibility. MSMEs may also gain easier access to invoice financing platforms.
10-Apr-26	<b>RBI proposes removal of Investment Fluctuation Reserve</b>	RBI proposed scrapping IFR requirements for banks, potentially allowing ₹40,000-₹60,000 crore of reserves to move into Tier-I capital. This may improve banks' capital adequacy and lending capacity. Banks could get stronger capital buffers and more room for credit growth. It may also reduce the impact of bond portfolio MTM losses.
15-Apr-26	<b>Gold loans become India's second-largest retail credit product</b>	Gold loans' share in retail credit rose from 5.9% in March 2022 to 11.1% in December 2025. Rising ticket sizes and participation from banks and NBFCs drove rapid growth. The segment is becoming a major growth driver for lenders. However, rising delinquency risks and high borrower concentration may increase asset quality concerns.
15-Apr-26	<b>RBI rejects banks' request to defer treasury loss provisioning</b>	RBI refused banks' demand to spread Q4FY26 treasury MTM losses over multiple quarters. The central bank insisted that losses from bond yield spikes and forex volatility be recognised immediately. Banks may report lower profits and higher provisioning in the short term. The decision reinforces stricter transparency and accounting discipline.
15-Apr-26	<b>RBI allows NBFCs to open branches freely dated 15 April 2026</b>	RBI allowed NBFCs, including gold loan and microfinance firms, to open branches without prior approval to improve operational flexibility. This may improve credit access and support financial inclusion growth while ensuring necessary regulatory compliance.

16-Apr-26	Bank credit grows faster than deposits in FY26	Bank credit grew 16.1% year-on-year to ₹213 lakh crore, while deposits rose 13.5% to ₹262 lakh crore. The gap reflects continued strong loan demand in the economy. Persistent mismatch between credit and deposit growth could tighten liquidity and increase competition for deposits. Banks may raise deposit rates further.
17-Apr-26	FIU signs MoUs with PFRDA and SEBI	FIU-India signed agreements with PFRDA and SEBI to strengthen AML/CFT cooperation, information sharing and financial crime monitoring. The arrangement also supports global information exchange standards. The move strengthens India's anti-money laundering ecosystem and improves coordination among regulators. Financial institutions may face tighter compliance requirements.
17-Apr-26	New creditor-led insolvency framework proposed	The proposed Creditor-Initiated Insolvency Resolution Process (CIIRP) allows creditors with 51% debt share to initiate insolvency proceedings directly, targeting resolution within 150 days from the current 330 days. The framework could significantly reduce delays in insolvency resolution and improve recovery rates for lenders. Faster resolutions may strengthen credit discipline.
20-Apr-26	RBI partially rolls back forex derivative restrictions dated	RBI again allowed banks to offer NDF contracts and rebook cancelled forex derivative trades, though restrictions on related-party derivative trades remained. Corporates regained hedging flexibility against currency risk. Forex markets became more efficient while RBI retained safeguards against excessive speculation.
22-Apr-26	Tweak sought in capital norms for urban co-operative bank licence	The Reserve Bank of India is evaluating requests to lower the minimum capital requirement to ₹200 crore for co-operative credit societies seeking an urban co-operative bank (UCB) licence. The central bank had proposed a ₹300 crore threshold in a discussion paper issued in January.
24-Apr-26	Finance Ministry warns banks on AI-driven cyber threats	The government directed banks and CERT-In to establish real-time cyber threat intelligence sharing systems amid rising AI-linked cybersecurity risks. Banks were also asked to strengthen reporting and defence mechanisms. Banks will need to increase cybersecurity investments and improve monitoring systems. The initiative aims to reduce systemic cyber risks in the financial sector.
27-Apr-26	RBI cancels Paytm Payments Bank licence	RBI cancelled the banking licence of Paytm Payments Bank citing regulatory non-compliance and concerns over depositor interests. Paytm clarified that its parent company operations remain unaffected. The action highlights RBI's strict stance on compliance and governance failures. It may increase regulatory scrutiny on fintech and payments banks.
27-Apr-26	Jan Dhan deposits cross ₹3.09 lakh crore	Deposits under PMJDY crossed ₹3.09 lakh crore with total accounts reaching 58 crores. Growth was driven by increasing account usage in rural and semi-urban regions. The scheme is evolving from financial inclusion to active savings mobilisation. Higher balances improve banking penetration and formal savings habits.
28-Apr-26	RBI confirms Expected Credit Loss (ECL) norms from April 2027	RBI decided to implement the ECL provisioning framework from April 1, 2027. The new framework introduces a staging-based asset classification approach replacing the incurred-loss model. Banks will need to maintain higher provisions for stressed assets, which may impact capital adequacy initially.
28-Apr-26	RBI asks banks to report overseas rupee OTC derivatives to CCIL	RBI directed banks to report all overseas OTC forex derivative contracts involving INR to CCIL's trade repository. The move aims to improve transparency in the derivatives market
30-Apr-26	RBI introduces 3-day credit card payment buffer	RBI's revised credit card norms provide a three-day grace period before delayed payments are treated as overdue or penalised. The rules will be effective from April 2027. The move improves customer protection and standardises payment reporting practices. It may reduce sudden penalty charges and improve borrower convenience.

## Peer's Signal: Indian Banks/FIs with New Business Strategy

02-Apr-26	<b>Axis Bank launches Aadhaar Face Authentication for mobile number update</b>	Axis Bank introduces a new digital feature for customers. You can now update your registered mobile number using Aadhaar-based face authentication directly on the mobile banking app. The process involves three simple steps: entering your new number, completing face verification, and confirming with an OTP.
07-Apr-26	<b>UCO Bank records 19% rise in loan growth in Q4</b>	The state-owned lender saw its credit grow by 19% to Rs 2.62 lakh crore. Total deposits also rose by 11%, reaching Rs 3.27 lakh crore. Low-cost CASA deposits saw an improvement. The bank's total business (advances and deposits) increased by 15% to Rs 5.89 lakh crore from Rs 5.14 lakh crore at the end of March 2025.
08-Apr-26	<b>Bank of Baroda launches AI-powered multilingual platform for in-branch customer service</b>	Bank of Baroda has introduced bob SAMVAD, an AI-driven platform. This new system allows customers and bank staff to communicate in their preferred languages. It translates conversations in real-time across 22 Indian languages.
21-Apr-26	<b>HDFC Bank Q4 profit rises 9% to ₹19,221 crore; asset quality improves</b>	HDFC Bank reported a 9% y-o-y increase in standalone net profit at ₹19,221 crore in Q4FY26 against ₹17,616 crore in Q4FY25 on the back of a decent growth in other income and a decline in loan loss provisions amid improvement in asset quality. For the full year, net profit of India's largest private sector bank rose 10.9% y-o-y to ₹74,670 crore in FY26 against ₹67,347 crore in FY25.
21-Apr-26	<b>ICICI Bank Q4 Results: Net profit up 8.5% to Rs 13,702 crore, announces Rs 12 dividend</b>	ICICI Bank announced a net profit of Rs 13,702 crore for the fourth quarter of FY26, an 8.5% y-o-y increase. The bank's net interest income also rose by 8.4% to Rs 22,979 crore during the same period, reflecting strong financial performance. The bank's asset quality improved sequentially, with gross NPA easing to 1.4% from 1.53% in the previous quarter. In absolute terms, gross NPAs declined to Rs 23,051.9 crore from Rs 23,758 crore earlier. ICICI Bank's total advances rose 15.8% year-on-year and 6% sequentially to Rs 15.53 lakh crore, reflecting steady credit growth.
21-Apr-26	<b>Bank of Maharashtra Q4 Results: Net profit jumps 34% YoY to Rs 2,014 crore; NII up 20%</b>	BOM reported a 35% YoY rise in Q4FY26 net profit to Rs 2,014 crore, driven by strong growth in NII, advances and overall business. Asset quality improved, with lower gross and net NPAs. For FY26, profit rose 27%, while deposits and advances grew robustly. The bank also announced a total dividend of 22% for the year.
22-Apr-26	<b>DBS Bank India launches relationship banking for globally-mobile, emerging affluent Indian</b>	DBS Bank India has launched DBS Aspire, a new banking proposition targeting the emerging affluent segment with a total relationship value of ₹10 lakh or a ₹2 lakh average savings balance. The offering provides premium banking access, including a dedicated relationship manager and zero forex mark-up on international spends, aiming to be a long-term partner as customers grow their wealth.
23-Apr-26	<b>PNB joins hands with Kiwi to expand credit on UPI for 180 million customers</b>	State-owned Punjab National Bank has partnered with Kiwi to launch the RuPay-based PNB Kiwi Credit Card, to introduce credit-enabled UPI payments to its 180 million customers. It offers digital onboarding, UPI integration and 0.5-1.5% cashback. The move aims to expand credit access, especially in semi-urban and rural areas, amid rising UPI adoption.
24-Apr-26	<b>Union Bank of India's Q4 FY26 results highlights</b>	Net Profit: ₹5,316 crore, up 6.64% YoY from ₹4,985 crore (Q4 FY25). Net Interest Income (NII): ₹9,406 crore, down 1.14% YoY, compared to ₹9,514 crore in the year-ago period. Asset Quality: Gross NPA improved to 2.82% from 3.06% in the previous quarter (Q3 FY26), and net NPA dropped to 0.48%. Provisions: Provisions increased sharply to ₹1,055 crore, rising 227% sequentially due to higher provisioning for standard assets. Business Growth: Global advances grew by nearly 10% YoY and total deposits increased by 2.72% YoY.
27-Apr-26	<b>Axis Finance raises Rs 750 crore from Kedaara Capital via preferential issuance</b>	This investment follows a Rs 1,500 crore infusion from Axis Bank. The capital boost will strengthen Axis Finance's financial base and fuel its expansion. The company serves retail, MSME, and wholesale loan sectors. Its business grew 22% to Rs 47,692 crore. This is the first ever capital raise by Axis Finance from an external investor. Kedaara Capital's primary infusion remains subject to customary regulatory approvals.

## Domestic Economy News

- By Sonal Rashmi Ekka

Date	News Headlines	Implications
1-Apr-26	<b>New I-T Act marks new chapter in India's tax administration, step towards Viksit Bharat: CBDT</b>	This replaces the old 1961 Act, making tax rules simpler and easier to follow. The e-filing portal will support both old and new acts during the transition. Assessments for past years will follow the old Act. Advance tax payments from June 2026 will use the new Act.
5-Apr-26	<b>Gold imports rise by nearly 29% to \$69 bn in Apr-Feb 2025-26</b>	This surge, attributed to elevated gold prices, has contributed to a wider trade deficit. Switzerland remains the primary source for these imports. The increased gold imports also impact the country's current account deficit.
6-Apr-26	<b>NeSL enabling real-time access to digital debt &amp; claims data in insolvency cases</b>	NeSL is providing instant access to digital default records for insolvency cases. This helps authorities quickly verify debt and claims. Amendments to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code make NeSL a central gateway for all insolvency proceedings.
08-Apr-26	<b>Government issues draft norms to standardise state, district GDP estimates</b>	The key focus areas in SDP include identification and integration of new data sources such as administrative records, sector-specific databases and survey inputs to improve coverage and reliability, and refinement of estimation techniques to better capture emerging sectors, particularly services and the unincorporated segment.
10-Apr-26	<b>US, India agree to further cooperation under Pax Silica</b>	India and the United States are set to deepen their collaboration. Discussions focused on Pax Silica, artificial intelligence, and critical minerals. Foreign Secretary met with US Under Secretary Jacob Helberg. This engagement aims to strengthen economic and technology ties between the two nations. India joined Pax Silica earlier this year.
15-Apr-26	<b>Centre offers to bail out airlines with Rs 4,000-crore loan</b>	India plans a ₹4,000 crore emergency credit scheme for airlines, offering sovereign guarantees of up to ₹1,000 crore per carrier to ease stress from the Iran war. Additional loans will require promoter funding. The move comes as rising fuel costs and curtailed West Asia routes hit operations. SpiceJet is likely to benefit most amid financial strain, while lenders remain cautious given past airline bankruptcies.
20-Apr-26	<b>FY27 capex growth of states pegged at 8-10%: report</b>	State capital spending growth is set to slow in FY27. This moderation follows a strong FY26. Rising revenue expenses and slower revenue growth are key factors. Geopolitical issues in West Asia could further impact state finances. Fiscal discipline will be crucial for states balancing welfare and investment needs. Top states continue to prioritize infrastructure development.
21-Apr-26	<b>Govt extends interest subvention benefit to micro, small exporters of certain iron, steel goods</b>	The government has extended interest subvention benefits to micro and small enterprises exporting 167 specific iron and steel product categories, to support the trading community, which is reeling under the impact of global uncertainties.
22-Apr-26	<b>India, Korea ink MoU to boost MSME ties</b>	The MoU creates a structured framework for collaboration between the two countries, enabling continuous dialogue on key MSME issues and encouraging exploration of mutually beneficial opportunities.
23-Apr-26	<b>Smartphones emerge as India's export champions in FY26</b>	India's electronics exports saw a significant 24% rise in the last fiscal year. Smartphones led this growth, with exports climbing nearly 22%. This surge highlights the success of the government's production linked incentive program. Key export destinations included the US, UAE, and China. This performance demonstrates India's growing role as a global manufacturing hub for electronics.

# Global Economy News

- By Rama Krishna Naik

Date	News Headlines	Implications
07-Apr-2026	Reuters highlighted renewed global inflation concerns	Reuters reported that major central banks faced renewed inflation risks due to Middle East conflict and rising oil prices, increasing expectations of prolonged tight monetary policy globally.
08-Apr-2026	World Bank projected South Asia growth slowdown	World Bank projected South Asia growth at 6.3% in 2026 against 7.0% in 2025 due to Middle East conflict and energy market disruptions, increasing inflation and import pressures across the region.
14-Apr-2026	IMF warned Eurozone growth could weaken sharply	IMF stated that the Iran conflict could significantly weaken Eurozone growth while increasing inflationary pressures through higher energy prices and supply disruptions.
16-Apr-2026	IMF warned Asia remained vulnerable to energy shocks	IMF warned that Asian economies remained highly exposed to war driven energy shocks due to heavy import dependence, creating inflation and external balance risks.
16-Apr-2026	ECB policymakers monitored second round inflation effects	Reuters reported ECB officials stating that energy driven inflation had not yet fully spread into broader prices, though concerns regarding persistent inflation remained elevated.
17-Apr-2026	IMF expected ECB tightening in 2026	IMF projected that ECB could raise rates by 0.5 percentage point during 2026 as inflation risks from energy markets and geopolitical tensions intensified.
20-Apr-2026	ECB sought more clarity before policy shift	ECB President Christine Lagarde stated that policymakers required additional data before deciding on rate hikes despite rising energy and inflation pressures linked to the Iran war.
21-Apr-2026	ECB warned against rushed monetary tightening	ECB Vice President Luis de Guindos emphasized caution in monetary policy decisions amid uncertainty caused by the Iran conflict and financial stability concerns.
23-Apr-2026	Reuters poll signalled ECB June rate hike expectations	Reuters poll showed economists increasingly expected ECB to raise rates in June as war driven energy inflation pushed Eurozone inflation above target.
24-Apr-2026	Reuters analysis flagged weakening Eurozone activity	Reuters reported that rising energy costs and weak business activity were simultaneously slowing growth and raising inflation risks in the Eurozone economy.
24-Apr-2026	Reuters warned global oil demand pressures could intensify	Reuters Breaking views analysis stated that oil market disruptions and slowing economic activity could create broader global demand and inflation challenges.
28-Apr-2026	World Bank forecast sharp rise in global energy prices	World Bank projected global energy prices could rise 24% in 2026 due to prolonged Middle East conflict and supply disruptions, increasing global inflation risks.
30-Apr-2026	Eurozone inflation rose above ECB target	Reuters reported Eurozone inflation accelerated to 3.0% in April 2026 due mainly to surging energy prices, strengthening expectations of tighter ECB policy stance.
30-Apr-2026	ECB kept rates unchanged amid war driven uncertainty	ECB maintained interest rates at 2% while warning that the Iran conflict was fuelling inflation and weakening economic activity across the Eurozone.
30-Apr-2026	Brent crude touched four year high amid Iran conflict	Reuters reported Brent crude crossed \$126 per barrel due to fears regarding prolonged supply disruptions and Strait of Hormuz tensions, increasing imported inflation risks globally.



## Must Track in Next Month...

Date	Report/Event	Country
05-May-26	US Balance of Trade	US
06-May-26	India HSBC Composite PMI	India
09-May-26	China Balance of Trade	China
11-May-26	China Inflation Rate YoY	China
12-May-26	US Inflation Rate YoY	US
12-May-26	India Inflation Rate YoY	India
14-May-26	India WPI Inflation YoY	India
15-May-26	Indian Banks Deposit & Credit Growth YoY	India
15-May-26	India Balance of Trade	India
15-May-26	US Industrial Production YoY	US
18-May-26	China Industrial Production YoY	China
21-May-26	US S&P Global Composite PMI	US
28-May-26	India Industrial Production YoY	India

## Data Sources...

### ❖ Web Site:

- ❖ <https://mospi.gov.in/data>
- ❖ <https://data.rbi.org.in/DBIE/>
- ❖ <https://www.pib.gov.in/>
- ❖ <https://financialservices.gov.in/>
- ❖ <https://www.dgft.gov.in/CP/>
- ❖ <https://www.commerce.gov.in/>
- ❖ <https://www.sebi.gov.in/>
- ❖ <https://www.focus-economics.com/countries/india/>

### ❖ Report /Publications:

- World Gold Council (WGC) Gold Demand Trends reports
- CMIE
- COGENCIS

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