

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

-Dr. Seuss



Your Weekly Window to Key Financial Headlines

Nifty 50 Sensex **Dow Jones** Dollar Gold

22,795.90 75,311.06 43,400.28 86.7000

-424.90 -776.37 +0.0300

+10.00

-117.25

86,020.00 *As on 22/02/2025 on Money Control*

Corporate News **Economic Insights**

24/02/2025, MONDAY

Global News

Reader Engagement Government Updates

Corporate Chronicles

Merger & Acquisitions

Tata Steel Acquires T Steel Holdings Pvt Ltd (Feb 20, 2025)

- **Deal Value:** ₹2,603.16 crore
- Funding: By Tata Steel

Market Lens

- Significance: Strengthens Tata Steel's global footprint & strategic position in the steel market
- Acquisition Details: 191.08 crore equity shares acquired, making T Steel Holdings Pvt Ltd a wholly owned subsidiary

GMR Airports to Acquire Additional 10% Stake in DIAL (Feb 19, 2025)

- **Deal Value:** ₹1,100 crore
- Funding: By GMR Airports
- Significance: Consolidates GMR's presence in core assets and enhances infrastructure capabilities
- Acquisition Details: Increases GMR's stake in Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) from 64% to 74%; transaction expected to complete within 180 days

Goldman Sachs Acquires Shares in BSE Worth ₹401 Crore (Feb 19, 2025)

- **Deal Value:** ₹401 crore
- Funding: Goldman Sachs (Singapore)
- Significance: To capitalize on BSE's strong financial performance & growth prospects
- **Acquisition Details:** Acquired via open market transaction; reflects Goldman Sachs' confidence in BSE's future growth & commitment to expanding its presence in the Indian financial market

Corporate Restructuring Updates

Sirona (Feb 18, 2025) Founders Deep Bajaj and Mohit Bajaj

successfully buy back Sirona from Good Glamm Group

- **Deal Value:** ₹150 crore (approx.)
- Funding: Largely financed through founders' personal capital
- Significance: Enables founders to lead Sirona's next phase of growth amid Good Glamm's shifting priorities

Vedanta Ltd. (Feb 20, 2025)

- Approval: Received from shareholders and creditors
- Restructuring Plan: Demerger into Vedanta Aluminium, Vedanta Oil & Gas Vedanta Power, Vedanta Iron and Steel and Vedanta Ltd
- Significance: Aims to streamline operations, improve efficiency, and allow focused management on individual business segments

India's AI Ambitions Soar: 50+ Firms Join Race to Build Indigenous AI **Models**



50 companies have shown interest in developing India-specific ΑІ models, including foundation models, small language models (SLMs), and large language models The Ministry (LLMs). Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) will soon release a framework focusing

SUMN

on feasibility, scalability, and practicality. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw stated that India aims to launch its own sovereign AI foundation model within 8-10 months.

Globally, AI startups are transforming traditional business models. In Silicon Valley, companies like Gamma use AI to boost efficiency, achieving significant results with minimal teams funding.

Startups such as Anysphere and ElevenLabs have reported

strong revenues with lean operations, challenging conventional venture-backed approaches.

This shift is pressuring the venture capital space, which invested \$97 billion in AI startups last year. Al-driven efficiency is also evident in China, where DeepSeek built affordable AI tools using open-source technologies, highlighting a global trend toward cost-effective, highperformance AI solutions.

Market Lens

SIP Stoppage Soars to 109%, but Experts Say 'Don't Panic'

- India's SIP stoppage ratio spiked to 109% January, signaling more discontinuations than new sign-ups, the highest since April 2023.
- Active SIP accounts dipped 0.5% to 102.7 million, while SIP AUM fell from ₹13.6 trillion to ₹13.2 trillion.
- Despite shaken investor confidence due to market volatility, experts advise staying calm.

India's Gold Imports Jump 41% Amid Soaring Demand & Global Uncertainty

- India's gold imports surged 40.79% to \$2.68 billion in January, up from \$1.9 billion a year ago, driven by strong domestic demand and uncertainties.
- Cumulative imports for April-January rose 32% to \$50 billion. Factors like investor confidence, asset diversification, higher bank demand, and reduced customs duties fueled the rise.

NSE Tops India's Unlisted Companies, Surges 200% in Value

- The NSE became India's most valued unlisted company at ₹4.7 lakh crore in 2024, surpassing Serum Institute, as per Axis Bank's Burgundy Private and Hurun India report.
- A 200% surge in NSE's value was driven by booming stock market activity. The cumulative value of India's top 500 private companies rose 40% to \$3.8 trillion, exceeding the nation's GDP.
- Zoho Corporation followed NSE and Serum Institute on the list, while Zepto and Physics Wallah saw valuations spike by 269% and 172%, respectively.

SENSEX Drops 628 pts, NIFTY Dips

Indian stock markets ended the week lower, with the SENSEX falling 628 points (0.83%) and NIFTY slipping 133 points

Amid Global Uncertainty

- Despite the downturn, NIFTY Metal and Oil & Gas sectors gained over 5%, while NIFTY Auto dropped more than 2.5%. Godrej Industries surged 34%, while Mahindra & Mahindra saw notable declines
- Global economic concerns, FIIs' selling pressure, and interest rate uncertainties weighed on market sentiment.

India-UK to Resume FTA Talks Post-Election Pause, Aiming for **Stronger Trade Ties** 207

India and the UK will relaunch Free Trade Agreement (FTA) talks in the new year after a pause due to elections in both countries. Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Keir Starmer, meeting at the G-20 summit in Brazil, emphasized fast-tracking the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Since January 2022, 14 rounds of FTA talks have been held, with key issues like services access and tariff reductions still under discussion.

The UK seeks lower tariffs on whisky and cars, while India pushes for greater access for its skilled professionals. Bilateral trade reached \$11.5 billion in the first half of this fiscal year, with the UK being India's fourthlargest export market.

Government Updates

India's EV Policy Caps Charging Infra Spend, Tesla Plans May Be Hit

- India's new EV policy offers tax cuts for foreign automakers investing \$500 million in local manufacturing but limits charging infrastructure spend to 5% of total investment.
- It aims to prioritize car production over charging networks, despite India's limited charging infrastructure. And affects Tesla's India plans.
- The draft policy requires automakers to meet revenue targets to qualify for reduced import tariffs on up to 8,000 EVs annually

RBI Plans Emergency Withdrawals for Troubled New India Co-op Bank Depositors

- The RBI plans to allow New India Co-operative Bank depositors to withdraw up to ₹500,000 for personal and medical emergencies, with proof required.
- The bank, facing heavy losses over the past two years, was recently barred from issuing new loans and suspended withdrawals for six months due to liquidity
- While over 90% of depositors are insured, many still face financial strain amid uncertainty over the bank's

Ex-RBI Chief Shaktikanta Das Appointed as PM Modi's Principal Secretary

- Former RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has been appointed as PM Narendra Modi's principal secretary, according to a government notice. Das, who led the central bank from 2018 to 2023, was the first non-economist in nearly three decades to head the RBI.
- He will serve alongside Pramod Kumar Mishra, Modi's current principal secretary since 2019, for the PM's full term or until further notice.

Startup & Innovation

Licious-Temasek-backed Indian startup

- Online meat & seafood retailer Licious plans an IPO within 12-18 months, targeting a \$2 billion valuation. Backed by Temasek, it aims to open 500 stores in five years.
- Losses narrowed to ₹2.98 billion in FY24 from ₹5.29 billion, though revenue dipped to ₹6.87 billion. The IPO comes amid market volatility, with 60% of recent listings trading below issue price.

Genspark Raises \$100 Million

 Al search startup Genspark has secured \$100 million in Series A funding, valuing the company at \$530 million. The Palo Alto-based firm, aiming to challenge Google's dominance in the search engine market, boasts over 2 million monthly active users.

Readers Engagement

Impact of US Tariff on Indian Pharmaceutical Imports

By The Valuation School

Former US President Donald Trump has hinted at a 25% tariff on pharmaceutical imports into the US by April. This could have a major impact on India's pharma industry.

Impact on India

The US is India's largest pharmaceutical export market, contributing 31% of total exports in FY23-24, worth \$8.7 billion out of \$27.9 billion. If the tariff is imposed and companies cannot pass on the cost, profitability will take a

US Dependence on Indian Pharmaceuticals

India supplies over 45% of generic drugs and 15% of biosimilars to the US, making it a key supplier. With low-cost manufacturing, any supply disruption would be tough for US manufacturers to manage in the short term.

Companies' Strategy

Some Indian firms have manufacturing units in the US, but the scale is small and can't replace exports. Expanding US production capacity would take at least three years, making it an unfeasible short-term fix.

What If?

If the tariff applies to all countries, it would create a level playing field, and India's competitive cost advantage would remain.

India's Response

The Indian government has waived customs duty on 37 life-saving medicines to ensure affordable access. Industry bodies are lobbying against the proposed tariff, stressing the mutual benefits of India-US pharmaceutical trade and urging the US to reconsider There are a lot of Uncertainties and Possibilities only time will tell what would happen to one of the strongest export economy of India!

Did You Know?

Starbucks uses round tables specifically so customers won't feel alone. The lack of edges makes it seem less like people are missing.

📻 The world's first paper money was issued in China during the Tang Dynasty (7th century AD) as merchants found coins too heavy to carry.

🧐 Bitcoin's creator, Satoshi Nakamoto, remains completely anonymous to this day. It's estimated that Nakamoto owns over 1 million Bitcoins, worth billions, but has never spent a single coin!