

TODAY'S QUOTE
PLI 2.0 set to create
1.5 crore tech jobs

The government is in discussions with mobile phone makers, IT firms and other electronics manufacturing companies for the next version of the production linked incentive scheme before getting approval from the Cabinet. The new budget reforms, including the Rs 40,000-crore component scheme and AI data centre tax holiday, will propel employment generation across the electronics, AI, and GCC sectors significantly past the current level of over one crore jobs

— Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Electronics and IT Minister



BIZZ BUZZ

MONDAY TO SATURDAY

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BUSINESS DAILY

MARKETS AT A GLANCE		
Sensex	83,739.13	2.54%▲
Nifty	25,727.55	2.55%▲
Bank Nifty	60,041.30	2.43%▲
Gold	1,57,700/10gms	5,000▲
Silver	2,84,000	24,000▲
Rupee	90.27	122ps▲
Crude Oil	66.02/bbl	0.42%▼

INSIDE



White-collar hiring sees 3% growth in Jan, non-IT sectors lead

India's white-collar hiring began 2026 on a steady footing, with a 3 per cent rise (year-on-year) in January, driven by non-IT sectors and fresher hiring, a report showed on Monday

P2



Aussie CG for deeper engagement with AP to unlock talent creativity

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Andhra Pradesh and Young Indians (YI) Amaravati Chapter organised an Interactive Session with Silai Zaki, Consul General of Australia, Chennai, here on Tuesday

P3

STT hike effect on mkt to subside soon



P6

Global aid cuts could lead to 22.6 mn deaths



P8

TWEETY FRUITY

Victory they can't accept

You will know you have won when the people you've beaten diminish your win by claiming moral superiority. Since they couldn't beat you on the field they'll make up new rules and call themselves victors

Alex Hormozi
@AlexHormozi,
Co-Founder, Skool.com

Pain isn't a free pass

Nobody owes you patience just because you had a rough upbringing or a hard day. Life doesn't hand out pity passes. Use your pain as fuel, not a crutch

Mark Manson
@Markmanson,
Co-Founder, Purpose AI

Keep learning

Your company's growth is capped by your growth. Never stop investing in yourself

Dan Martell
@danmartell, Founder,
SaaS Academy

Sensex soars over 2,000 pts | Lower US tariffs boost export hopes, lift investor sentiment

India-US trade deal triggers D-Street euphoria

MUMBAI

Trade pact reopens FII door, lifts rupee 122 paise

MUMBAI: The Indian rupee emerged as the best-performing Asian currency on Tuesday, registering a gain of 122 paise or 3.03 per cent in a single trading session to settle at 90.27 (provisional) against the US dollar, after India and the US agreed to a trade deal. Forex traders said the Indian rupee rose to the highest levels in two and a half weeks and rallied by around 1.5 pc on the trade deal between India and the US. Weakness in crude oil prices and expected foreign inflows also favoured investor sentiment. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 90.30 against the US dollar, then gained some ground to touch an intraday high of 90.05 and a low of 90.52 against the greenback. At the end of the trading session on Tuesday, the rupee was quoted at 90.27 (provisional) against the greenback, registering a gain of 122 paise from its previous close. The rupee gained 44 paise to close at 91.49 against the US dollar on Monday, a day after the Union Budget 2026-27 was presented

Full report on Pg6

Will boost FDI, FII, strengthen rupee, says EAC-PM chairman

NEW DELHI: The Indo-US trade deal will boost FDI as well as portfolio investments in the country, having a positive impact on the value of rupee. Chairman of Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) S Mahendra Dev said on Tuesday, India and the US agreed on a trade deal under which Washington will bring down the reciprocal tariff on Indian goods to 18 per cent, lower than that for countries like China, Bangladesh and Vietnam. US President Donald Trump made an announcement regarding the trade deal on Monday after a phone conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Dev, in an interview to PTI Video, said the trade deal announcement is a "huge one" for India in several ways as some of the labour-intensive manufacturing sectors, like textiles and gems and jewellery, will benefit.

en by the long-anticipated India-US trade deal and a strengthening rupee, which boosted expectations of renewed FII inflows.

"The reduction of US tariffs on Indian goods from 50 per cent to 18 per cent enhances India's competitive position among emerging markets and bolsters the outlook for export-oriented sectors with high US exposure, such as textiles, aquaculture, gems and pharmaceuticals, which were supported in the

2026 Union Budget," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

"Indian equity markets staged a sharp rally today, recording one of the strongest single-day gains in recent times after the announcement of landmark India-US trade deal that significantly reduced reciprocal tariffs on Indian exports," Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said.

Wonderful to speak with my dear friend President Trump today. Delighted that Made in India products will now have a reduced tariff of 18 per cent. Big thanks to President Trump on behalf of the 1.4 billion people of India for this wonderful announcement. President Trump's leadership is vital for global peace, stability, and prosperity



Narendra Modi, PM

It was an Honor to speak with Prime Minister Modi, of India... We spoke about many things, including Trade...He agreed to stop buying Russian Oil, and to buy much more from the United States and, potentially, Venezuela. This will help END THE WAR in Ukraine, which is taking place right now, with thousands of people dying each and every week!



Donald Trump, US President

Tariff relief brings cheer to AP's aqua, pharma

SANTOSH PATTNAIK
VISAKHAPATNAM

THE decision of US President Donald Trump to reduce tariffs on Indian exports from 50 per cent to 18 per cent is set to benefit exporters of pharmaceuticals, aquaculture products and food grains, especially rice.

The move comes as a major relief for exporters who had begun scouting for alternative markets as part of diversification, including through a memorandum of understanding on a long-term trade agreement with the European Community, following earlier US curbs. The tariff hike had resulted in an estimated annual export loss of nearly \$1 billion for India. Additional duties of 50 per cent, along with

industry sources said Andhra Pradesh accounts for over 60 per cent of India's total aquaculture exports, with frozen shrimp production valued at around Rs.21,000 crore. India's total seafood exports

countervailing duty (CVD) and anti-dumping duties, had pushed the effective tax burden in the US market to about 58 per cent.

Andhra Pradesh, which has emerged as the aquaculture capital of India due to the widespread adoption of the exotic Vannamei shrimp, was among the worst hit. The sharp rise in tariffs caused severe disruption in shrimp exports and production, leading to a price crash and loss of livelihoods for nearly 6.5 lakh aquafarmers dependent on shrimp farming along the coast.

Industry sources said Andhra Pradesh accounts for over 60 per cent of India's total aquaculture exports, with frozen shrimp production valued at around Rs.21,000 crore. India's total seafood exports

AP HAPPY

- Key gainers: Aquaculture | Pharma | Rice
- AP share in aqua exports: 60%
- Frozen shrimp value (AP): Rs.21,000 crore
- Expected export growth: 10-15% (seafood)

stood at \$7.4 billion in 2024-25, with a target of reaching \$12 billion by 2030.

The announcement on progress towards a bilateral India-US trade agreement has brought cheer among the business community in Andhra Pradesh. IT, Electronics and Education Minister Nara Lokesh welcomed the decision, calling it a major achievement for India. He said the tariff reduction would have a

direct and positive impact on the State's economy, benefiting key sectors such as marine seafood exports, MSMEs, agricultural exports and emerging manufacturing hubs through improved market access and global competitiveness.

Agriculture Minister Kinjarpur Atchan Naidu also welcomed the reduction in tariffs on Indian seafood exports from 25 per cent to 18 per cent. "There will be significant relief for seafood exporters in the State, especially the aqua sector. Exports which have declined in the past months due to high tariffs are likely to pick up again. The presence of Indian products in the USA market will increase. Seafood exports, including frozen shrimp, are likely to grow by 10 to 15 per cent, improving profit margins

in the processing sector. Tariff reduction will be a boon for AP, which is at the top in the aqua sector, income stability and employment opportunities will increase for farmers and fishermen," said.

Potluri Bhaskara Rao, president of the Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce, said the US decision offers major relief to exporters in sectors such as pharma, rice and aquaculture. He told Bizz Buzz that Andhra Pradesh's exports to the US are valued between Rs.45,000 crore and Rs.47,000 crore annually. Exporters had struggled to find alternative markets while competing against countries such as Bangladesh, Vietnam, Indonesia and Ecuador, which enjoyed lower tariffs. In some sectors, even China faced lower duties.

BIZZ TALK INTERVIEW

Why human judgement is emerging as the most critical skill in an era of AI and automation

Across industries, the definition of skill is undergoing a fundamental shift. Organisations are moving beyond what employees know to how they respond when situations are ambiguous, time-sensitive, or emotionally charged. As AI and automation take over routine, rule-based work, the real differentiator is human judgement. Leaders today are far more concerned with decision-making under pressure, ethical judgement, emotional intelligence, and the ability to balance outcomes with trust," says PRADEEP B, Head - Digital Learning & Immersive Technology, Novac Technology Solutions in an exclusive interaction with Bizz Buzz

Full interview on Page 5

PRADEEP B

Over 70% recruiters turning to AI to find 'hidden talent'

NEW DELHI

are using AI to spot the right skills and hire faster.

About 80 per cent of recruiters reported that AI makes gaining insight into a candidate's skills easier. More than three-quarters (76 per cent) believe AI is already speeding up hiring.

Around eight in 10 Indian recruiters said they plan to expand their use of AI to support hiring goals, evaluate applicants, and source top talent. A majority also plan to increase AI use for

AI FOR RECRUITMENT
Smarter Hiring with Artificial Intelligence

pre-screening interviews in 2026, believing it will lead to more valuable recruiter-candidate conversations (83 per cent), faster hiring experience (83 per cent), and

better candidate insights (82 per cent).

"We're seeing a structural shift in hiring from pedigree and past titles to demonstrate skills and capability. This shift is hard to execute at scale without AI. Used responsibly, AI helps recruiters detect the right skills earlier, reduce screening friction, and create a more consistent and fair evaluation process," said Ruchee Anand, APAC VP, LinkedIn Talent Solutions.

The research showed that 74 per cent of recruiters now struggle to find qualified candidates, even as hiring activity runs 40 per cent above pre-pandemic levels in India.

This is because recruiters are facing a volume-quality mismatch. Among recruiters who say hiring has become more difficult, over half point to a surge in AI-generated applications (53 per cent), while many cite continued shortages in in-demand skills (47 per cent).

No word from India on halting oil buys, says Kremlin

Moscow

Jaishankar to meet Rubio

NEW YORK: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will meet US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in Washington on Tuesday ahead of an inaugural ministerial on critical minerals, the meeting coming as President Donald Trump announced a trade deal with India.

Modi on Monday, announced that India and the US agreed to a trade deal under which Washington will charge a reduced reciprocal tariff on Delhi, lowering it from 25 per cent to 18 per cent from the current 25 per cent. Meanwhile, top finance ministry officials stated that the announcement of the Indo-US bilateral trade pact has ended the atmosphere of uncertainty

"Today Indian Economy continues to demonstrate strong macroeconomic resilience. Despite a global environment which has uncertainties, a great deal of uncertainty dropped today morning..." Economic Affairs Secretary Anuradha Thakur said in her address to the industry chamber FICCI here.