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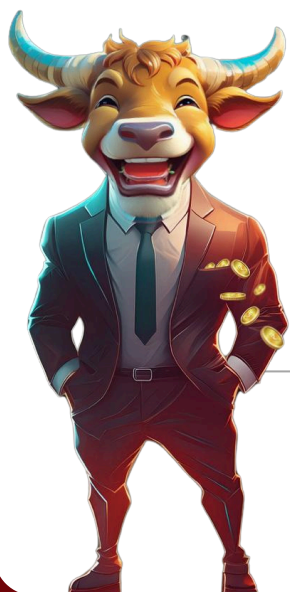
ICFAI BUSINESS SCHOOL

MUMBAI



# कौटिल्य

## UNWRAPPED WEEKLY



## NEWSFLASH

7th April- 13th April

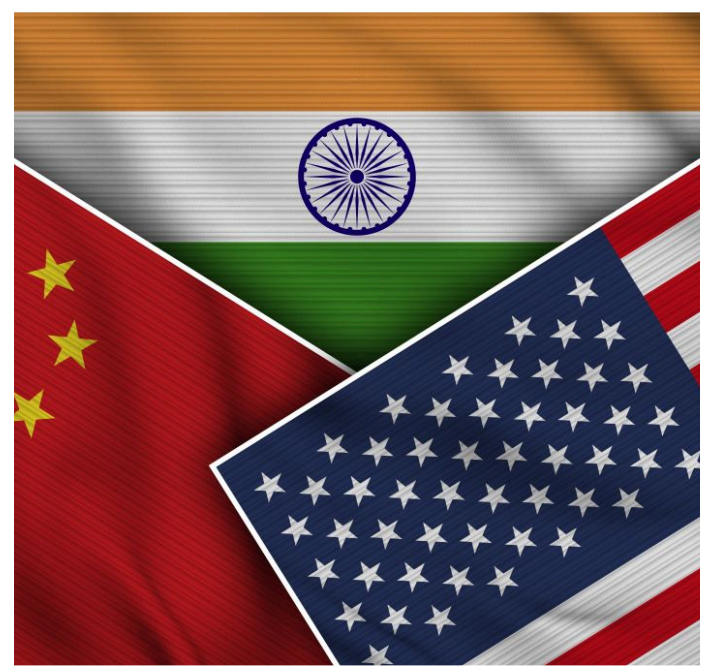
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## **US CURBS ON CHINESE GOODS OPEN EXPORT WINDOW FOR INDIAN E-SELLERS: GTRI**



The U.S. plans to impose a 120% import duty on Chinese e-commerce shipments under \$800 starting May 2, 2025, ending their duty-free status. This move disrupts Chinese supply chains, creating opportunities for Indian online exporters, especially in customized products like handicrafts, fashion, and home goods. To capitalize, India must streamline banking, customs, and export incentive processes. This shift could significantly boost India's share in the global e-commerce export market. With strategic policy support, Indian sellers can fill the gap left by Chinese exporters.

## **INDIA INC MAKES PROGRESS IN CORPORATE GOVERNANCE, SAYS IIAS STUDY**

A recent study by Institutional Investor Advisory Services (IIAS) indicates that India Inc has made steady progress in corporate governance. The median governance score for BSE 100 companies remained at 61, with the highest reaching 82 and the lowest improving to 50. Notably, for the first time, no BSE 100 company was categorized as "basic" in governance. Companies like Axis Bank, Infosys, and Mahindra & Mahindra achieved "leadership" status, reflecting enhanced responsiveness to investor feedback..





## **ISA EYES INDIAN PRIVATE SECTOR SUPPORT FOR AFRICA'S GREEN ENERGY GROWTH**



The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is urging Indian private sector companies to invest in Africa's expanding solar energy initiatives. With over 30 projects underway—including solarizing schools, health centers, and water systems—ISA highlights India's expertise in rural electrification and its strong ties with Africa as key advantages. ISA is collaborating with African nations to develop supportive policies and bankable projects, aiming to make solar energy a scalable solution for the continent's energy needs.

## **INDIA'S AUTO COMPONENT INDUSTRY TO HIT USD 145 BILLION BY 2030, EXPORTS TO TRIPLE: NITI AAYOG**

India's auto component industry is projected to reach USD 145 billion by 2030, with exports expected to triple from USD 20 billion to USD 60 billion, according to NITI Aayog. The think tank's report, "Automotive Industry: Powering India's Participation in Global Value Chains," emphasizes strategic fiscal and non-fiscal interventions to boost global competitiveness and integrate India more deeply into international automotive markets.



## **SEBI BATS FOR 'OPTIMAL REGULATION,' LIKELY TO REVAMP NORMS**



SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey has announced plans for a comprehensive regulatory overhaul aimed at reducing compliance burdens and modernizing norms. Collaborating with the Reserve Bank of India and the government, SEBI is exploring the simplification of investment rules for overseas funds and individuals, including potential fungibility between Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). This initiative seeks to attract foreign capital and enhance market efficiency.

## **TRUMP TARIFFS UPDATES: CHINA RETALIATES WITH 125% TARIFFS AGAINST U.S. IMPORTS**

President Donald Trump's escalation of tariffs—raising U.S. duties on Chinese imports to 145%—has intensified the trade war, prompting China to retaliate with tariffs up to 125% on U.S. goods. This tit-for-tat has unsettled global markets, leading to significant stock sell-offs and heightened fears of a recession. Economists warn that these aggressive trade policies could cause lasting damage to the U.S. economy and its global standing.





## **INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION DROPS TO 6-MONTH LOW OF 2.9% IN FEBRUARY**



India's industrial production growth decelerated to a six-month low of 2.9% year-on-year in February 2025, down from 5.2% in January and below the expected 4% . The slowdown was primarily due to weaker performances in manufacturing (2.9%), mining (1.6%), and electricity generation (3.6%) sectors. Cumulatively, industrial output grew by 4.1% during April–February 2024–25, compared to 6% in the same period the previous year . Economists attribute the decline to global economic uncertainties and domestic demand challenges.

## **INDIA, RUSSIA AGREE ON 6 NEW PROJECTS TO BOOST BILATERAL INVESTMENT TIES**

India and Russia have agreed on six new strategic projects to enhance bilateral investment cooperation. These initiatives were finalized during the 8th Session of the India-Russia Working Group on Priority Investment Projects (IRWG-PIP) held in New Delhi. The session was co-chaired by Amardeep Singh Bhatia, Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, and Vladimir Ilichev, Deputy Minister of the Ministry for Economic Development of the Russian Federation.





## **IN FACE OF TRADE WAR, RBI CUTS REPO RATE BY 0.25%, TRIMS THIS YEAR'S GDP GROWTH FORECAST TO 6.5%**



On April 9, 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reduced the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.00% and shifted its monetary stance from "neutral" to "accommodative." This decision aims to bolster economic growth amid global uncertainties, particularly those arising from increased U.S. tariffs. RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra projected the GDP growth for the fiscal year 2025-26 at 6.5%, down from the previous estimate of 6.7%.

## **UK-INDIA BUSINESS BOOMS: HSBC DATA SHOWS 121% GROWTH**

SBC data reveals a 121% surge in payments from India to UK clients in 2024, reflecting robust UK-India business activity. This growth is attributed to India's expanding middle class and its emergence as a hub for Global Capability Centres. Additionally, UK businesses are increasingly engaging with Indian firms, particularly in the pharmaceutical sector. Both governments are preparing to resume Free Trade Agreement negotiations in 2025, aiming to further strengthen bilateral trade





## **RBI CUTS INDIA'S GROWTH FORECAST AMID TRUMP TARIFF TENSIONS**



The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has revised India's GDP growth forecast for the fiscal year 2025-26 down to 6.5% from the earlier estimate of 6.7%. This adjustment comes amid concerns over the impact of newly imposed U.S. tariffs, which are expected to affect key export sectors. In response, the RBI has reduced the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6% and shifted its policy stance to 'accommodative' to support economic growth.

## **INDIA, ITALY RESOLVE TO TAKE FORWARD IMEEC INITIATIVE**

India and Italy have agreed to enhance collaboration in trade, defense, clean energy, and high technology, focusing on the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC). External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Italian Deputy Prime Minister Antonio Tajani discussed the Joint Strategic Action Plan (JSAP) 2025-29, emphasizing sectors like artificial intelligence, cyber technologies, and renewable energy. Tajani is on a two-day visit to India to advance these initiatives.







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