

KREO CAPITAL PRIVATE LIMITED

SEBI REGISTERED CATEGORY I - MERCHANT BANKER

SEVENTY EIGHTH EDITION



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“An investment in knowledge yields the best return.”

In the ever changing and dynamic Capital Market Environment, staying updated with the latest happenings is the need of the hour.

Keeping up to date with laws & notifications is time consuming and legislation itself is complex. However, it is of vital importance that businesses stay up to date on regulations in their sector to keep pace with best practices.

This is our series of knowledge sharing initiative towards sharing regulations and updates on corporate laws.



**CAPITAL
MARKETS**



RBI



SEBI



MCA



INCOME TAX



INDIRECT TAX



STARTUP INDIA

Click on individual images for detailed coverage

GLOBAL MARKETS

01

Fifty countries affected by USAID freeze, says WHO

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02

Japan's core inflation hits 19-month high to 3.2%, keeping alive BOJ rate-hike bets

[News Link](#)

03

Bank of England cuts key UK interest rate to 4.50% as economy stagnates

[News Link](#)

04

US core PCE inflation declines to 2.6% in January as expected

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05

Euro zone inflation dips to 2.4% in February as ECB bets point to sixth rate cut

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06

China to start re-capitalizing banks with \$55 billion as part of a broader stimulus package to revive growth in the economy

[News Link](#)

BROAD ECONOMIC NEWS

01

India achieves milestone of 100 GW solar energy capacity



News Link

02

Manufacturing activity falls to 14-month low of 56.3 in February



News Link

03

India's Global Capability Centre (GCC) sector surges: 24 centers cross \$1 bn revenue, on path for further growth



News Link

04

India's foreign exchange reserves jumped to a two-month high to reach \$640.5 billion



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05

India's private consumption hits \$2.1 trillion, set to become 3rd largest market by 2026



News Link

06

India's Q3 GDP growth quickens to 6.2%, FY25 output still seen at 4-year low



News Link

CAPITAL MARKETS



01

Indian Stocks Worst run in 29 years, wiping \$1 trillion in wealth



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02

NIFTY weekly F&O contracts will now expire on Monday than Thursday, starting April 4, 2025



News Link

03

Donald Trump announces BIG US crypto reserve move: Bitcoin skyrockets to over \$95,000 after



News Link

04

Mutual fund SIP inflows top Rs 26,000 crore mark for second straight month



News Link

05

Flls net sell shares worth Rs 6,286 crore, Dlls net buy shares Rs 5,185 crore



News Link

06

IRDAI allows insurers to hedge risks through equity derivatives



News Link

STARTUP INDIA

01

DPIIT Introduces Rs 30 Cr 'Startup Maha Rathi' Challenge To Boost Indian Startups



News Link

02

SaaS leads India's AI startup boom amid Centre's mega push



News Link

03

India's Start-Up Boom: IPOs Overtake M&As as the Top Exit Strategy



News Link

04

Indian startups raise over \$755 million in February



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05

India Plans Vertical Take-Off Air Ambulances, IIT Startup Gets \$1 Billion Deal



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06

India's venture capital funding jumps 70%, outpaces China



News Link

SEBI



01

Mumbai court orders FIR against ex-Sebi chief Madhabi Puri Buch, 5 others

- The complaint alleges that SEBI officials permitted the listing of a company that did not meet regulatory norms, leading to market manipulation and investor losses.
- The petition asserts collusion between SEBI officials and corporate entities, involving insider trading and misappropriation of public funds post-listing
- The court noted a lack of action by law enforcement and regulatory bodies, necessitating judicial intervention under the Criminal Procedure Code.
- The directive was issued a day after Buch completed her three-year tenure as SEBI chief, succeeded by Tuhin Kanta Pandey.



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02

Tuhin Kanta Pandey appointed new SEBI Chairperson for 3-year term, Finance Secy to succeed Madhabi Puri Buch

- He takes over at a time when Indian markets face volatility, with foreign investors withdrawing over ₹1 trillion in early 2025
- Pandey has held significant positions in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), including Secretary of the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM).
- His predecessor, Buch, introduced critical reforms in derivatives, corporate disclosures, and surveillance mechanisms.
- His appointment signals the government's intent to continue strengthening regulatory frameworks, ensuring market stability, and protecting investor interests



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SEBI


 भारतीय प्रतिभूति और विनियम बोर्ड
 Securities and Exchange Board of India

03

SEBI's new mutual fund rules from April 2025: Faster NFO deployment and more transparency

- From April 2025, SEBI mandates mutual funds to deploy NFO proceeds within 30 days, down from 90 days earlier.
- This ensures quicker capital deployment, reducing idle funds and improving efficiency in fund management.
- Mutual funds must provide clear disclosures on how they allocate and invest NFO funds.
- The rule aims to safeguard investors by ensuring timely deployment of their money in the markets.
- The changes affect both equity and debt mutual funds, streamlining fund utilization.



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04

SEBI eases timeline for AIFs to hold investments in demat form

- Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) must now hold units in demat form, ensuring greater transparency and security
- All new AIF subscriptions must be in demat format, enhancing investor protection and reducing fraud risks.
- Existing AIFs must gradually transition to demat holdings, while new investments must comply immediately.
- This move aligns AIFs with mutual funds and listed securities, ensuring standardized and streamlined investment processes
- Investors will benefit from easier tracking, transferability, and better regulatory oversight of their holdings.



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SEBIभारतीय प्रतिभूति और विनियम बोर्ड
Securities and Exchange Board of India

05

SEBI CIRCULARS

Industry Standards on Key Performance Indicators (“KPIs”) Disclosures in the draft Offer Document and Offer Document



Link

Safer participation of retail investors in Algorithmic trading



Link

Industry Standards on “Minimum information to be provided for review of the audit committee and shareholders for approval of a related party transaction



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Clarification regarding Investor Education and Awareness Initiatives



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Facilitation to SEBI registered Stock Brokers to access Negotiated Dealing System-Order Matching (NDS-OM) for trading in Government Securities- Separate Business Units (SBU)



Link

Regulatory framework for Specialized Investment Funds (‘SIF’)



Link

Opening of Demat Account in the name of Association of Persons



Link

RBI



01

RBI Cuts Repo Rate By 25 bps To 6.25%; Pegs GDP Growth In FY26 At About 6.7%

- The MPC unanimously decided to reduce the benchmark policy repo rate by 25 basis points (bps), bringing it down to 6.25%. This marks the first rate cut in nearly five years
- Inflation is projected at 4.2% for FY26, allowing room for policy adjustments.
- India's GDP growth is estimated at 6.7% for FY26, with stable quarterly projections.
- Geopolitical tensions and trade policies pose risks to India's economic performance.
- RBI maintained a neutral stance, keeping flexibility for future policy adjustments.



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02

RBI Doubles OMO Purchase to Rs 40,000 Cr from the earlier notified amount of ₹20,000 crore

- This move aims to stabilize bond yields by ensuring adequate liquidity, reducing volatility, and supporting market confidence.
- The RBI is balancing liquidity infusion while keeping inflation under control, ensuring that surplus liquidity does not lead to excessive price pressures.
- By enhancing liquidity through OMOs, RBI aims to facilitate credit flow in the economy, fostering investment and economic expansion.
- The decision has boosted investor sentiment, with expectations of improved market conditions and a more accommodative monetary environment.



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RBI



03

Credit card spending rises by 10.8% to Rs 1.84 Tn in Jan 2025: RBI data

- HDFC Bank saw 15.91% growth in spending, while ICICI Bank reported a 20.25% rise; SBI Cards' spending dropped 6%
- The number of active credit cards increased 9.4% YoY to 108.87 million in January.
- Net additions stood at 817,279 for January, slightly lower than December's 820,000.
- Unlike peers, Axis Bank saw a net reduction of 14,862 credit cards in January
- While overall spending increased, per card spending declined for SBI Cards (-14.23%) and Axis Bank (-7.38%), whereas ICICI Bank saw a 11.69% increase.



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04

Reserve Bank of India to inject \$10 billion through forex swap

- The auction received bids totaling \$16.2 billion, oversubscribed by 1.6 times the notified amount, indicating strong demand.
- This operation is set to infuse over ₹870 billion (approximately \$9.96 billion) into the banking system, addressing the current liquidity deficit.
- Following the announcement, the one-year dollar/rupee forward premium dropped by 12 basis points to 1.99%, and yields on four- and five-year government bonds decreased by 2 basis points,
- The RBI accepted 161 out of 244 bids, with a premium cut-off at 6.55 rupees. The settlement of the initial leg of this three-year swap begins next Tuesday.



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RBI

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RBI CIRCULARS

Government securities transactions between a Primary Member (PM) of NDS-OM and its own Gilt Account Holder (GAH) or between two GAHs of the same PM



Link

Reserve Bank of India (Prudential Regulations on Basel III Capital Framework, Exposure Norms, Significant Investments, Classification, Valuation and Operation of Investment Portfolio Norms and Resource Raising Norms for All India Financial Institutions) Directions, 2023 - Amendment



Link

Reserve Bank of India (Forward Contracts in Government Securities) Directions, 2025



Link

Review and rationalization of prudential norms - Urban Co-op Banks(UCBs)



Link

All Agency Banks to remain open for public on March 31, 2025 (Monday)



Link

Review of Risk Weights on Microfinance Loans



Link

Exposures of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) to Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) - Review of Risk Weights



Link

MCA



01

Demat deadline eased for large unlisted companies

- This mandate led to a significant increase in dematerialization applications, overwhelming depositories like NSDL and CDSL
- The deadline extension aims to provide companies and depositories additional time to manage the dematerialization process efficiently
- The deadline extension aims to provide companies and depositories additional time to manage the dematerialization process efficiently
- The dematerialization initiative seeks to enhance transparency in shareholding structures and reduce illicit fund flows
- Companies are advised to expedite their dematerialization efforts to meet the revised deadline once announced.



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02

IBBI amends insolvency process rules to ease homebuyers' woes

- Resolution professionals can now hand over possession of flats, plots, or buildings to homebuyers during insolvency to reduce delays.
- Properties already handed over to homebuyers will be excluded from liquidation to prevent disputes and protect their interests
- Each real estate project undergoing insolvency must maintain separate accounts to enhance transparency and avoid financial mismanagement.
- Real estate projects under insolvency must be registered under RERA to ensure compliance and safeguard homebuyers' rights.



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INCOME TAX



01

IT BILL 2025: Key Direct Tax Highlights

- Income tax exemption limit raised to ₹12 lakh, with a ₹75,000 standard deduction for salaried individuals.
- A new, transparent tax code replaces the old Income Tax Act, making tax compliance easier for individuals and businesses.
- Many old and irrelevant tax exemptions and deductions have been removed to streamline the tax framework.
- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has been given greater autonomy and authority to ensure faster tax administration and policy implementation
- The bill emphasizes leveraging digital solutions and automation to create a more efficient tax administration system.



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02

India's net direct tax collection rises 15% to cross ₹17.78 lakh crore in 2024-25

- The net direct tax collections have grown by 14.69% year-on-year, totaling over ₹17.78 lakh crore.
- The gross collections have seen a substantial rise, reaching ₹20.67 lakh crore during the same period.
- Net corporate tax collections have increased by over 6%, amounting to ₹7.78 lakh crore between April 1, 2024, and February 10, 2025..
- Net collections from personal income tax, including securities transaction tax (STT), have grown by 21% year-on-year, reaching approximately ₹9.48 lakh crore.
- Collections from STT have surged by 65%, totaling ₹49,201 crore so far in FY25.



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INDIRECT TAXATION



01

Gross GST collections grow 9.1% to about Rs 1.84 lakh crore in February

- India's gross GST collection for February 2025 stood at ₹1.84 lakh crore, reflecting a 9.1% y-o-y increase
- The collection included ₹36,100 crore from CGST, ₹44,900 crore from SGST, ₹1.01 lakh crore from IGST, and ₹13,400 crore from Cess.
- The government estimates an 11% GST revenue growth for FY25, aiming for a total collection of ₹11.78 lakh crore.
- January 2025 recorded a higher collection of ₹1.96 lakh crore, growing 12.3% year-on-year.
- The GST revenue for December 2024 was ₹1.77 lakh crore, marking a 7.3% annual rise.



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02

SC clarifies power of arrest Under GST & Customs laws

- The Supreme Court ruled that arbitrary tax arrests and coercion under GST and Customs laws violate constitutional rights
- The court clarified that tax officers do not have the status of police officers and cannot exercise similar powers under these laws
- Arrests under GST and Customs laws must be based on verifiable material, not just suspicion, and anticipatory bail provisions will apply
- Allegations of coercion in tax payments must be taken seriously, and affected individuals can seek legal redress.
- Sections 132 and 104 of the Customs Act should be treated as non-cognizable and non-bailable, reinforcing legal protections.



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KREO CAPITAL PRIVATE LIMITED

CAPITAL MARKETS | INVESTMENT BANKING | WEALTH MANAGEMENT

ABOUT OUR INVESTMENT BANKING SERVICES

Our Investment Banking division works with a wide range of clients including young, cutting-edge start-ups and established market leaders. We advise our clients on mergers and acquisitions, private equity funding, divestments, corporate restructuring, valuation of shares as per SEBI guidelines, company law and secretarial advisory.

Our advice is built from a rigorous and up-to-date understanding of the market, coupled with clients financial vision. This means we only offer solutions that work best for our clients.

ABOUT KREO CAPITAL

Kreo Capital is a boutique financial service company with Mid Market focus, offering integrated financial advice and services. Promoted by professionals with rich experience in financial and capital markets, Kreo Capital is a financial expert for all growth-oriented companies.

Team Kreo is committed to long term relationships and has a proficient and skilled work force invested in its clients and their business. Our services enable our clients to access Capital Markets, Corporate Finance Advisory, Wealth Management Advisory, Mergers and Acquisition Advisory, ESOP & Valuation Advisory, Equity/Debt Placements and Restructuring.

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