



## Our News Your Views

SCORPION CAPITAL: THE STRATEGIC EDGE

Daily Financial Newsletter | February 19, 2026

TOP 25 INDIA-ALIGNED FINANCIAL HEADLINES

Curated from The Economic Times, Mint, Business Standard, and Financial Express.

- \* **AI Transformation:** Google CEO Sundar Pichai highlights India's "extraordinary trajectory" in AI, pledging deep partnerships for diagnostics and agriculture.
- \* **Monetary Outlook:** CRISIL predicts India's consumer inflation to rise to 4.3% in FY27, up from an estimated 2.5% in the current fiscal year.
- \* **Market Momentum:** Sensex and Nifty50 extend gains for a third session, led by a late-session rally in PSU Bank and Metal stocks.
- \* **Trade Strategy:** Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal asserts India has shed its "defensive stance" in FTA negotiations, focusing on long-term gains.
- \* **Corporate Expansion:** HUL announces a ₹2,000 crore capital expenditure to boost capacity in the premium beauty and personal care category.
- \* **Logistics Infrastructure:** FedEx to invest ₹2,500 crore in an automated cargo hub at the upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport.
- \* **Railway Privatization:** Government plans to unlock ₹80,000 crore via stake sales in seven listed railway PSUs by the end of FY30.
- \* **IT Sector Evolution:** Former Tech Mahindra CEO CP Gurnani projects India's IT industry to scale to \$750 billion by 2035, driven by Generative AI.
- \* **Energy Pivot:** India's crude oil import bill drops 19% in January due to softer global prices, averaging \$63.08 per barrel.

**Dr. Aditya Vijay Kashyap**

Founder & Principal Partner

+91-70116 39525

[aditya@scorpioncapital.in](mailto:aditya@scorpioncapital.in)

[groupceo@tradeconnect.in](mailto:groupceo@tradeconnect.in)

**Corporate Office:- New Delhi**

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- \* Global Tech Hub: Yotta to invest \$2 billion for an AI hub featuring top-tier Nvidia chips to power domestic high-performance compute needs.
- \* Tobacco Pricing: ITC implements sharp price hikes in premium 84mm cigarettes to offset the steepest tax increases in the recent budget.
- \* Pharma Breakthrough: Aurobindo Pharma receives US FDA approval for Adquey, a non-steroid topical treatment for atopic dermatitis.
- \* Fiscal Federalism: Ind-Ra expects states' fiscal deficit to widen to 3% of GDP in FY27 due to increased revenue spending and debt servicing.
- \* Precious Metals: Gold prices in Delhi hold steady at ₹15,435/g; MCX Gold April futures trade near the ₹1.54 lakh/10g mark.
- \* Currency Stability: The Indian Rupee rises 5 paise to close at 90.67 against the US Dollar amid positive domestic institutional inflows.
- \* Indo-US Trade: Reports suggest the US will cut base tariff rates on Indian goods to 18% from 50% under a new bilateral trade agreement.
- \* Automotive Investment: French auto giant plans over €200 million investment in India to expand manufacturing for electric vehicle drivetrain parts.
- \* Digital Payments: UPI "One World" wallet launched to facilitate seamless digital transactions for foreign visitors and NRIs.
- \* Consumer Goods: Dabur announces leadership rejig; Mohit Malhotra elevated to Global CEO as the firm targets aggressive international expansion.
- \* Power Generation: Power Mech Projects bags Adani Power orders worth ₹1,000 crore for thermal energy projects in UP and MP.
- \* Employment Trends: Government survey shows a slight rise in India's unemployment rate to 5% in January, though labor participation is up.
- \* Corporate Governance: ICAI advances probe into Gensol and BluSmart, referring cases to the disciplinary committee for financial disclosures.

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- \* Manufacturing Hub: Festo, a German automation firm, opens a Global Capability Centre in India, aiming to hire 800 people by 2030.
- \* Startup Ecosystem: Neysa, a homegrown AI firm, secures \$1.2 billion in a funding round led by Blackstone for sovereign cloud infrastructure.
- \* Regulatory Relief: RBI defers the introduction of Unique Transaction IDs (UTI) for OTC derivatives to April 2026 to allow bank systems to sync.

FROM THE DESK OF DR. ADITYA VIJAY KASHYAP

### Final Strategic Views

The current economic landscape marks a definitive transition for the Indian economy. We are seeing a shift from 'service-based' growth to 'intelligence-led' growth. The massive capital expenditure commitments from global giants like FedEx and HUL, coupled with the \$750 billion roadmap for our IT sector, underscore a maturing market that is no longer just a back-office, but a primary engine of global innovation.

However, we must remain vigilant regarding fiscal arithmetic. As states navigate a widening deficit and inflation shows signs of a base-effect reversal in FY27, the focus must remain on productive capex rather than populist spending. The Indo-US trade recalibration remains the 'X-factor'—if the 18% tariff floor holds, Indian exports will see an unprecedented surge. Stay invested, but stay diversified in sectors aligned with the India-AI-Infra triad.

**Dr. Aditya Vijay Kashyap**  
Founder & Principal Partner  
+91-70116 39525  
[aditya@scorpioncapital.in](mailto:aditya@scorpioncapital.in)  
[groupceo@tradeconnect.in](mailto:groupceo@tradeconnect.in)

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