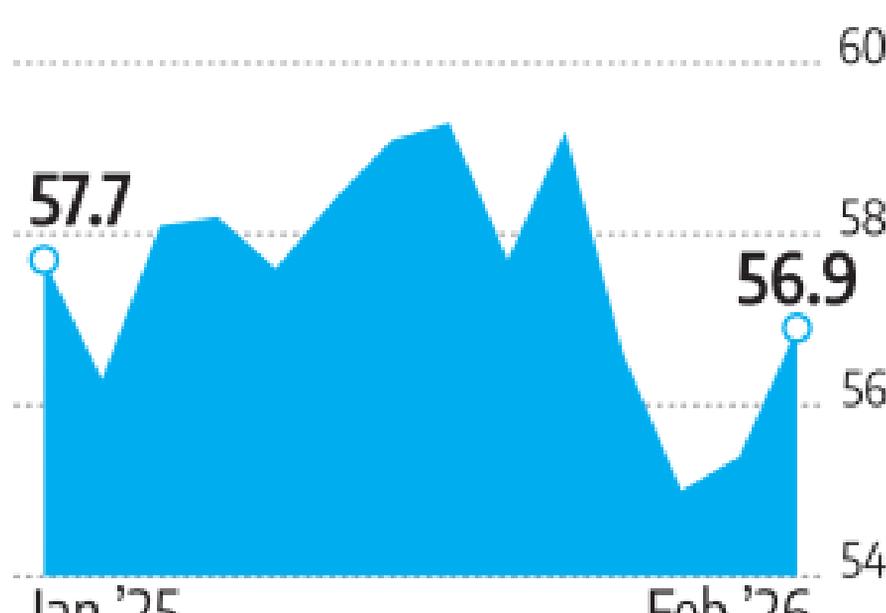


Manufacturing PMI in Feb at 4-month high

Rising again

India manufacturing PMI



Note: PMI is in points; a figure above 50 indicates expansion and one below signifies contraction Source:HSBC

AUHONA MUKHERJEE

New Delhi, 2 March

India's private sector manufacturing activity growth surged to a four-month high in February even as exports plummeted, according to data compiled by S&P Global on Monday.

HSBC's India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), compiled by S&P Global, which measures monthly change in manufacturing output, rose to 56.9 in February. This is the highest since October last year, and up from 55.4 in January. However, the latest figure — a weighted average of new orders, output, employment, suppliers' delivery times and stocks of purchases indices — was significantly lower than the Flash India Manufacturing PMI of 57.5, released last month.

The reading remained above 50, which denotes expansion in activity, while below that signifies contraction. The headline figure has been in the expansion zone for the 52nd month running.

"India's final manufacturing PMI reflected an acceleration in manufacturing activity in February. Output expanded at a faster rate for a second month, supported by stronger domestic orders," Pranjul Bhandari, chief India economist at HSBC, said.

Output by manufacturing firms also grew at the fastest pace in four months, said the survey. However, new export orders slowed significantly with February seeing the slowest growth in 17 months.