

Business News Update

15.04.2025

**“A True Leader Is Someone Who Lifts Others
While Climbing Up.”**

Market Update

Nifty 50	23,309.50
BSE Sensex	76747.86
Nifty 100	23872.15
Nifty MidCap	51509.25
BSE MidCap	41077.11

‘Success in trade talks with regional blocs will require flexibility,’ says Montek Singh Ahluwalia

Montek Singh Ahluwalia, former deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, and currently Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP), tells E Kumar Sharma that India needs to have a flexible approach for an early conclusion to the Bilateral Trade Agreement with the US, and FTAs with the EU and the UK. He also shares his thoughts on a range of other issues — from the challenges confronting the pharmaceutical industry, China’s push to move away from dollar-based settlement and whether there is a case for carbon taxation in India. The need to join trade blocs is a no-brainer. We have traditionally favoured liberalising trade through multilateral trade negotiations (MTNs) conducted under the aegis of the World Trade Organization (WTO), but most of the developed nations have now given up on MTNs. They found it very difficult to get agreement with all 194 countries but most importantly they also felt that negotiations in WTO focussed on tariff reductions whereas they were increasingly concerned about “behind the border” issues such as labour standards, phytosanitary standards, patent rights, environmental issues and investor protection.

Source: [Business Standard, April 15, 2025](#)

Indian Rupee opens at 85.87/\$; Gains 17 paise on hopes of tariff relief

The Indian rupee opened stronger, slipping back below the 86 mark, following US President Donald Trump's remarks on possible tariff relief for auto parts and consumer electronics. The domestic currency strengthened 17 paise to open at 85.87 against the greenback after closing at 86.05 on Friday, according to Bloomberg data. This comes after the currency witnessed its highest single-day gain in more than two years on Friday. The Indian rupee is likely to open slightly stronger as markets await further clarity on the tariff exemptions announced by President Trump and the timeline for their possible reimposition on electronics, said Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director at Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP. "We could see more exports happening in the 90-day period that Trump has given so there could be more inflows and rupee could gravitate towards 85.25 in the coming days."

Source: [Business Standard, April 15, 2025](#)

Retail investors grow wary amid tariff seesaw but analysts remain upbeat

Signs of India's retail investors growing wary have begun to emerge, as rising market volatility -- fueled by US President Donald Trump's shifting stance on tariffs -- is prompting many to rethink their investments. Inflows into the equity mutual fund fell for the third straight month in March to ₹25,082.01 crore, the lowest since April 2024, according to the data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi). Inflows via Systematic Investment Plan (SIP), although hovering near all-time highs, have reduced marginally for the third straight month. In signs that investors either stopped their SIPs or failed to initiate fresh positions when their existing SIP tenures ended, the SIP stoppage ratio surged to 128.27 per cent in March, according to reports. Meanwhile, direct stock market investment by retail investors turned negative in March to see the highest outflow since December 2023.

Source: [Business Standard, April 15, 2025](#)

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Why did Trump cancel Harvard funds worth \$2bn? Face-off after university refused his demands

The US Department of Education on Monday froze more than \$2 billion in federal funding for Harvard University, just hours after the school rejected President Donald Trump's demands for sweeping changes to its diversity policies and campus governance. Harvard issued a firm refusal to comply with a series of demands from the Trump administration, which it argued would effectively cede control of the private institution to a conservative government intent on reshaping higher education. The administration responded swiftly, announcing a freeze of \$2.3 billion in federal funding, escalating an already high-stakes clash over academic freedom, campus speech, and the role of government oversight in universities. In a public letter, Harvard President Alan Garber called the demands a direct assault on the university's independence and core values. "No government — regardless of which party is in power — should dictate what private universities can teach, whom they can admit and hire, and which areas of study and inquiry they can pursue," Garber wrote.

Source: [Financial Express, April 15, 2025](#)

Next round of nuclear talks in Oman, says Iran after officials name Rome

The talks between Iran and the United States over Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear program had appeared ready Monday to leave the Middle East, as an Italian source and others said the next round of negotiations would take place in Rome. However, Iran early Tuesday insisted they'd again be held in Oman. It wasn't immediately clear where the negotiations would be held after Tehran's overnight announcement. American officials have not said where the talks would be held. President Donald Trump separately complained Monday about the pace of nuclear talks between the United States and Iran as the two countries start a new round of pivotal negotiations. The next meeting had been expected to take place on Saturday in Rome, according to a source in the Italian government who spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press because they weren't authorized to speak publicly. Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani also signalled the talks would take place there.

Source: [Financial Express, April 15, 2025](#)

Trump tariffs: Chinese manufacturers flood TikTok with videos of how luxury brands make in China

Amid the escalating US-China trade war, a report in the Glitz says China may give free rein to counterfeiters, particularly those which target luxury brands in America, in retaliation for Trump's tariffs. Amid this, TikTok is flooded with videos that show how luxury brands manufacture their products in China. Trump has imposed 145% tariffs on Chinese imports, and in its own tit-for-tat tariffs, the Xi Jinping government imposed 125% tariffs. China has now urged Washington to "completely cancel" what it calls the unfair practice of reciprocal tariffs. The statement followed Trump's 90-day pause on the new tariffs he announced during his April 2 Liberation Day speech. The Trump administration on Friday announced exemptions for some electronic products, including those manufactured in China, saying that the administration is preparing to introduce a separate "semiconductor tariff", which would be announced at a later date. "Now, as the USA and its little European brothers are trying to refuse Chinese goods, don't you think luxury brands are not trying to move their OEM out of China.

Source: [Financial Express, April 15, 2025](#)

Trump administration freezes \$2.2 billion in grants to Harvard University

The federal government says it's freezing more than \$2.2 billion in grants and contracts to Harvard University, since the institution said Monday it won't comply with the Trump administration's demands to limit activism on campus. In a letter to Harvard Friday, the administration called for broad government and leadership reforms, a requirement that Harvard institute what it calls merit-based admissions and hiring policies as well as conduct an audit of the study body, faculty and leadership on their views about diversity. The demands, which are an update from an earlier letter, also call for a ban on face masks which appeared to target pro-Palestinian protesters. They also pressure the university to stop recognizing or funding "any student group or club that endorses or promotes criminal activity, illegal violence, or illegal harassment. Harvard President Alan Garber, in a letter to the Harvard community Monday, said the demands violated the university's First Amendment rights and exceeds the statutory limits of the government's authority under Title VI," which prohibits discrimination against students based on their race, colour or national origin.

Source: [Business Standard, April 15, 2025](#)