

Business News Update

16.04.2025

Nothing is impossible, the word itself says 'I'm possible'!

Market Update

Nifty 50	23,328.55
BSE Sensex	76734.86
Nifty 100	23917.40
Nifty MidCap 50	14,660.90
BSE MidCap	41,489.86

India and US just took the first big step toward a \$500 bn trade goal

India and the United States have finalised the terms of reference for the initial phase of a bilateral trade agreement, Reuters reported, citing an Indian trade official. The two nations had earlier agreed, in February, to collaborate on the first stage of the trade pact, aiming to finalise it by the end of this year. The broader goal is to boost bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030. The move comes amid recent trade tensions between the two countries, particularly the imposition of 26 per cent reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods by the US earlier this month. However, US President Donald Trump has announced a 90-day pause on tariff hikes for major trading nations, including India. India has responded by overhauling its tariff regime in recent weeks, reducing import duties on around 8,500 industrial items, including prominent American products such as bourbon whiskey and Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

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](#)

India's wholesale inflation slows to four-month low of 2.05% in March

India's wholesale inflation eased to a four-month low of 2.05 per cent in March on an annual basis, as against 2.38 per cent in January, government data showed on Tuesday. The wholesale inflation, a proxy for producer prices, was projected at 2.5% by economists in a Reuters poll. Positive rate of inflation in March, 2025 is primarily due to increase in prices of manufacture of food products, other manufacturing, food articles, electricity and manufacture of textiles etc, as per the government. Wholesale food inflation slowed to 4.66 per cent last month from 5.94 per cent in February. Primary articles inflation in March came down to 0.76 per cent from 2.81 per cent in February. Fuel and power wholesale prices stood at 0.20 per cent in March as compared to a contraction of 0.71 in February. Prices of manufactured products, which account for about 64% of the wholesale price index, increased 3.07% after rising 2.86% in February.

Source: [Economic Times, April 15, 2025](#)

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Asia-Pacific growth to fall if US imposes reciprocal tariffs: S&P

Major Asia Pacific economies like India, China, and Japan, will see growth fall by 0.2-0.4 percentage points (ppts) over the next two years if the US implements the reciprocal tariffs announced on April 2, S&P Global Ratings said on Tuesday. It said that the threat and imposition of tariffs by the US will slow global trade and confidence. The region's dependency on exports with China and the US will have an outsized hit on manufacturers and small economies. "Should the tariffs announced on April 2, 2025 resume for economies ex-China, the geopolitical and economic fallout will be deep," S&P Global Ratings, Asia-Pacific Head of Research, Eunice Tan said. For India, S&P had in March projected a 6.5 per cent and 6.8 per cent growth for 2025 and 2026, respectively. If the reciprocal tariff as announced by US President Donald Trump is implemented, S&P estimates the growth to fall to 6.3 per cent and 6.5 per cent, respectively.

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

Japan orders Google to stop forcing phone makers to pre-install its apps

Japan's Fair Trade Commission ordered Alphabet Inc.'s Google to stop alleged abuse of its market power over local smartphone manufacturers, just ahead of high-stakes trade negotiations with the US this week. The Tuesday order reiterates the FTC's earlier finding that the US tech giant took advantage of its position as the provider of the Google Play app ecosystem — the only viable alternative to the iPhone's App store. Google is improperly forcing local phone makers to prioritize its apps and services on their devices, the regulator said. The announcement comes just ahead of Economic Revitalization Minister Ryosei Akazawa's planned visit to the US this week to press for a reprieve from President Donald Trump's tariffs on Japanese products. The watchdog's move also follows a complaint by the Office of the US Trade Representative that Japan's Digital Platform Act — geared to boost transparency from large technology providers — disproportionately affects American companies and undermines their competitiveness in Japan by increasing compliance costs.

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

In new twist to Trump's tariff drama, China's rare earth gambit sends shockwaves through US tech industry

Dysprosium and Neodymium, which might be mistaken for names of medicines, are actually two elements classified as "Rare Earth" metals among the 17 in the periodic table. These elements are essential for various technologies, including missiles, wind turbines, and electric vehicles (EVs). On Monday, these elements gained significant attention after China, which dominates the sector with a 90 percent market share, halted all exports, ToI's Chidanand Rajghatta reported. This decision is one of the strategic moves by Beijing in the ongoing tariff conflict initiated by the United States, sending shockwaves throughout the American technology sector. This comes at a time when the White House has temporarily eased tariffs on certain electronic goods. Despite a gradual decrease in the U.S. reliance on rare earth imports from China, which dropped from 80 percent in 2017 to approximately 70 percent today, the U.S. still depends on Chinese processing due to Beijing's control over 90 percent of the global refining capabilities.

Source: [Economic Times, 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](#)
