

21 April 2025

Business News Update

*“You don’t have to be great to start, but
you have to start to be great.”*

Mcap of 10 top valued firms jumps ₹3.84 trn; HDFC, Airtel biggest gainers

The combined market valuation of the top-ten most valued firms jumped by a whopping Rs 3,84,004.73 crore in the holiday-shortened last week, in-tandem with a smart rally in equities, with HDFC Bank and Bharti Airtel emerging as the biggest gainers. Last week, the BSE benchmark Sensex jumped 3,395.94 points or 4.51 per cent, and the NSE Nifty surged 1,023.1 points or 4.48 per cent. Markets witnessed a robust recovery and surged over 4.5 per cent in the holiday-shortened week, driven by favorable cues from both domestic and global fronts, Ajit Mishra SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said. "The rally was primarily fueled by optimism surrounding the deferral of tariffs and recent exemptions on select products, raising hopes for potential negotiations that could mitigate the impact on global trade. "As the week progressed, market participants responded positively to a slew of favorable developments, including updates on a normal monsoon, easing retail inflation -- which raised hopes for potential policy rate cuts -- and the absence of any major negative surprises from global markets," Mishra added.

Source: [Business Standard, April 20, 2025](#)

FinMin to hold high-level talks on 'One State, One RRB' execution on May 6

The Union finance ministry is scheduled to hold a meeting with the chairpersons of all Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) on May 6 to discuss execution strategies and the implementation roadmap for the state-wise amalgamation of RRBs, a senior government official said. “A national-level review meeting of RRBs will be held under the chairmanship of M Nagaraju, secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS), on May 6 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi," the official said, requesting anonymity. The official further added that the meeting will include a discussion on the performance of the RRBs in FY25. The new structure is aimed at improving the efficiency of the RRBs and minimising competition among the public sector banks that sponsor them, as part of the Union finance ministry's “One State, One RRB” policy

Source: [Business Standard, April 20, 2025](#)

Auto part makers turn to localisation, new markets amid tariff shifts

As the global trade landscape faces potential shifts with evolving tariff policies, Indian auto component manufacturers are proactively strategising to mitigate adverse impacts. From increased localisation to strategic market diversification, industry leaders are recalibrating operations to maintain resilience in an evolving global trade environment. Leading players such as Kinetic Engineering and Samvardhana Motherson International (SAMIL) are placing strong emphasis on localisation, long-term partnerships, and a cautious yet opportunistic outlook on market diversification. Ajinkya Firodia, vice-chairman and managing director of Kinetic Engineering, said the company has long embraced localisation as a core philosophy, with over 97 per cent of its components. Industry players have called for stronger policy support to boost the country’s auto component exports. With global trade uncertainties rising, Indian auto component manufacturers are focusing on localisation, diversification, and policy support to shield operations and tap fresh export opportunities

Source: [Business Standard, April 20, 2025](#)

Lenders saw muted demand across sectors in the 2024 festive season

The just concluded festive season has been lacklustre on the lending side. Personal loans were down 6.7 cent, consumer durable loans by 1.9 per cent, and home loans by 7 per cent. Auto- and two-wheeler loans also recorded muted growth, driven by tighter liquidity, rising household debt, and stricter regulatory norms that led to more cautious lending. According to the 'How India Celebrates Report' by CRIF High Mark, contributing factors were the lack of softened interest rates, increase in risk weights on unsecured loans, and broader macroeconomic challenges. Additionally, as the Reserve Bank of India’s Financial Stability Report (December 2024). The leading contributing factors were the lack of softened interest rates, increase in risk weights on unsecured loans, and broader macroeconomic challenges.

Source: [Business Standard, April 20, 2025](#)

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China's US envoy urges end to trade war, but warns Beijing ready to fight

China's ambassador to the United States, Xie Feng, has urged Washington to seek common ground with Beijing and pursue peaceful coexistence while warning that China stood ready to retaliate in the escalating trade war. Speaking at a public event in Washington on Saturday, details of which were posted on the Chinese embassy's web site, Xie said tariffs would devastate the global economy and drew a parallel between the Great Depression and tariffs imposed by the US in 1930. Referring to concepts in traditional Chinese medicine like the need to balance the opposing forces of yin and yang, Xie said harmony should guide relations between the world's two largest economies. "A good traditional Chinese medicine recipe usually combines many different ingredients which reinforce one another and creates the best medical effect," he said.

Source: [Business Standard, April 20, 2025](#)

'We're going to make a very good trade deal with China', says Trump

US President Donald Trump on Thursday expressed confidence about reaching a "very good" trade deal with China, even as the US imposed steep tariffs of up to 245 per cent on Chinese imports in response to Beijing's retaliatory actions. "We're going to make a deal. I think we're going to make a very good deal with China," Trump said, as reported by The Hill. He also told reporters he thought the U.S. would have "very little problem making a deal with Europe or anybody else." Trump's remarks came during the visit of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni to the White House, where he also expressed confidence in reaching a trade deal with the European Union (EU) before the 90-day pause on reciprocal tariffs ends. According to a White House fact sheet, China's retaliatory actions have resulted in up to a 245 per cent tariff on imports to the United States. Prior to the latest revision, a 145 per cent tariff was being levied on Chinese exports to the United States. Reacting to the White House's statement claiming China now faces up to 245 per cent tariffs on imports to the US, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said they should ask the US side for the "specific tax rate figures."

Source: [Business Standard, April 20, 2025](#)

US tariffs to weaken global economy, trigger inflation, not recession: IMF

Surging US tariffs will weaken the global economy and push up inflation this year, according to projections to be released next week by the International Monetary Fund. The IMF's Managing Director, Kristalina Georgieva, said Thursday that the Trump administration's sharp increases in duties have caused global uncertainty to spike. The import taxes will slow global growth, but not cause a worldwide recession, she added. The details of the IMF's outlook will be issued Tuesday. The world economy's resilience is being tested by the reboot of the global trading system that threatens to cause turbulence in financial markets, Georgieva said. That turbulence has been playing out in financial markets for weeks now, especially on Wall Street, which has experienced wild swings from day-to-day and often times even hour-to-hour. The IMF chief also echoed some Trump administration concerns. She called on countries to reduce their tariffs and lower other barriers to trade, a process that she said had stalled out in the past decade after making steady progress for many years after World War II.

Source: [Business Standard, April 20, 2025](#)

US small manufacturers hopeful on tariffs, but fear growing uncertainty

Drew Greenblatt is fully on board with the Trump administration's use of tariffs to rebalance a global trading system that it says favours foreign companies over US manufacturers. Greenblatt is the president and owner of Marlin Steel Wire Products in Baltimore, Maryland, which makes baskets and racks for medical device manufacturers, aerospace companies, food processing companies and others. It has 115 employees and makes its products in three locations in Maryland, Indiana and Michigan. The steel is sourced from Tennessee, Illinois and Michigan. Currently, it's hard to compete with baskets made overseas, Greenblatt says, because the countries he competes against have an unfair advantage. For example, due to European tariffs and taxes, it costs much more for a German consumer or company to buy Marlin wire baskets than it does for Americans to buy a German-made basket, creating an uneven playing field, Greenblatt said.

Source: [Business Standard, April 20, 2025](#)