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Weekly News Summary

March 28th . 2025

Market data as on March 31. 2025

Script	Close	% Chng
NASDAQ Composite Index	19,627.44	-1.64%
DOW JONES INDU AVERAGE NDX	44,544.66	0.27%
S&P 500 INDEX	6,040.53	-1.00%
Brent Oil	75.67	-2.83
WTI Oil	73.75	-0.78
US T 10Y	4.543%	-7.40 bps
US T 02Y	4.207%	-5.60 bps
10Y-02Y	0.336%	
Dollar Index	108.500	0.96%

US News

- The U.S. could impose tariffs on copper imports within weeks, significantly ahead of the 270-day deadline set for a decision, Bloomberg reported. The administration has not disclosed a specific timeline, If enacted, the tariffs—potentially as high as 25%—could disrupt global copper markets. Prices have already surged, with the gap between New York and London copper prices reaching a record $1,400 per ton this week.
- U.S. consumer confidence plunged to the lowest level in more than four years in March, with households fearing a recession in the future and higher inflation because of tariffs. GameStop stock rose more than 6% in after-hours trading on Tuesday as the company approved a plan to buy bitcoin with its cash holdings.
- U.S. automakers and their global rivals were rocked on Wednesday by President Donald Trump's announcement that he would impose 25% tariffs on all vehicles and foreign-made auto parts imported into the United States.
- Tesla CEO Elon Musk said on Wednesday that the impact of U.S. President Donald Trump's auto tariffs on Tesla is "significant." Important to note that Tesla is NOT unscathed here. The tariff impact on Tesla is still significant," Musk said in a post on X.
- A court order blocking President Donald Trump's freeze on trillions of dollars in government financial assistance will remain in place for now, a federal appeals court said on Wednesday.
- US President Donald Trump threatened to impose "large-scale tariffs," significantly larger than currently planned on the European Union and Canada. These tariffs would be implemented if the EU and Canada work together to cause "economic harm" to the US.

- The tariffs will heavily impact major US allies like Mexico, Japan, South Korea, Canada, and Germany, who are the largest suppliers of automobiles to the US. Volkswagen (80% of US sales from imports), Hyundai-Kia (65%), and Mercedes-Benz (63%) are among the most exposed. US brands like GM (46%) and Ford (21%) face lower exposure but could still suffer from retaliatory tariffs abroad.
- The tariffs are expected to give Tesla a competitive advantage in its home market (the US). Since Tesla manufactures all its vehicles for the US market in California and Texas, it will not be directly subject to these import tariffs. Tesla's dependence on overseas suppliers for key parts remains a vulnerability.

Crude Oil

- Oil prices were steady in Asian trading on Tuesday after jumping more than 1% in the previous season, as U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to impose 25% tariffs on countries purchasing oil and gas from Venezuela, effective April 2. Venezuela's oil exports are a significant component of its economy, with major buyers including China, U.S., and India.
- Indian refiners, including Reliance Industries, are expected to halt or have already halted oil shipments from Venezuela due to the increased cost from the tariffs. Indian refiners will need to look for alternative oil sources. Venezuelan crude was attractive due to discounted pricing compared to Brent crude. India imported 1.7 million tonnes of Venezuelan oil in FY24 and 1.9 million tonnes in the first 10 months of FY25.

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Global News

- The United Kingdom will aim to slash the number of civil servants by 10,000 as it targets a 15% reduction in the government's operating costs. he Labour government will stick with its plan to lift real-term spending in every year of this parliament but prioritize where the money is allocated.
- Asia's weighted real GDP growth rate is projected to reach 4.5% this year, according to the Boao Forum annual report.
- Car production in Thailand dropped 13.62% in February from a year earlier to 115,487 units due to weaker domestic sales and exports, the Federation of Thai Industries said on Tuesday. The fall followed January's 24.63% year-on-year slump, and was the 19th straight month that production has contracted.
- Hyundai Steel will invest $5.8 billion along with Hyundai Motor Group to build a plant in Louisiana in the United States with an annual capacity of 2.7 million tonnes, the company said in a regulatory filing on Tuesday. Hyundai Motor and Kia Corp, which are expected to source steel from the upcoming factory, rallied.
- Vietnam will cut its tariffs on several U.S. products including LNG and cars, the head of the Finance Ministry's tax policy department said, as the country tries to avoid being hit with U.S. tariffs because of its large bilateral trade surplus. Among the cuts, the tariff on American LNG will be cut to 2% from 5%, on automobiles to 32% from a range of 45% to 64%, and on ethanol to 5% from 10%, Vietnam has not yet imported LNG from the U.S., but the country has been in talks with U.S. suppliers for its future fleet of LNG power plants.
- Canada has frozen all rebate payments for Tesla and banned the electric-vehicle maker from future EV rebate programs
- The sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) industry is facing significant hurdles in meeting its 2030 targets, according to a recent Boston Consulting Group (BCG) report. Despite a 1,150% increase in SAF supply over the past three years, the industry is still falling behind due to high production costs, limited investments, and a slowdown in new project announcements
- Europe's carmakers exported around 800,000 vehicles to the United States last year, according to official U.S. trade data, about four times the number of cars exported by the U.S. to Europe. The region's top carmaker, Volkswagen is particularly exposed, with 43% of its U.S.

India

Market data as on 31 Jan 2025

Script	Close	% Chng
NIFTY 50	23,482.00	1.69%
NIFTY BANK	49,506.00	2.36%
BSE 500 INDEX	33,953.00	1.28%
BSE Midcap	42,884.00	0.39%
BSE Small Cap	50,099.00	-0.02%
Nifty Micro 250	22,790.00	0.29%
Gold	82,304.00	2.85%
USD/INR	86.5000	37 paisa
IN Gsec 10Y	6.700%	-2.00 bps
IN Gsec 02Y	6.605%	-2.00 bps

- India's natural gas import bill increased by 16.4% to $14.2 billion during April-February of the current financial year, compared to $12.2 billion in the same period last year. The country imported 34,329 million standard cubic meters (mmscm) of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in the first 11 months of FY25, a 19.4% increase year-on-year.

- Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) bought ₹74.70 billion ($868.3 million) worth of Indian shares on Friday, marking the largest single-day inflow in four months.
- Housing sales in India’s top 9 cities fell by 23 per cent to 1.06 lakh units during January-March 2025, while supply declined by a whopping 34 per cent, according to the latest report by real estate data analytics firm PropEquity released on Sunday. Except Bengaluru and Delhi-NCR, all other 7 cities witnessed a decline in sales
- Indian automotive manufacturers are set to implement price hikes across vehicle portfolios from April 2025, amid escalating input costs and regulatory pressures. Major players like Maruti Suzuki, Tata Motors, Hyundai, Honda Cars India, Kia, and Mahindra & Mahindra have announced price increases ranging from 2 to 4 per cent.
- FMCG companies are likely to implement further price hikes in the coming weeks, particularly for products that rely heavily on palm oil. Despite a recent cooling in the prices of key commodities like coffee, palm oil continues to remain expensive, adding to cost pressures for manufacturers.
- It’s a double whammy for the gold jewellery industry. Already reeling under loss of demand due to high prices — 15.7% increase since January the industry is now facing liquidity crunch due to margin calls from banks on their metal loans.
- S&P Global Ratings has lowered India's GDP growth forecast for FY26 from 6.7% to 6.5% due to rising US tariffs and globalisation pressures. However, domestic demand is expected to remain strong. The RBI is likely to continue cutting interest rates to support .