

# THE COMSOC GAZETTE



**APRIL 2026**

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FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

STOCK MARKET

STARTUPS

ECONOMY

GEO POLITICS

SCIENCE AND TECH

COMSOG GENIE



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# FINANCIAL FORESIGHTS

## 01 RBI CANCELS LICENCE OF PAYTM PAYMENTS BANK, CITES COMPLIANCE ISSUES

The Reserve Bank of India just announced they are cancelling the license for Paytm Payments Bank. This came after more than two years of putting restrictions on it because of some serious rule breaks, like not checking customers properly. Paytm Payments Bank started back in August 2015 with this limited setup. They could take in small deposits from people, but nothing like giving out loans. It is run by One97 Communications, and they had big backers too, from China's Ant Group and Japan's SoftBank, that part always seemed important since those are huge names in tech money stuff.

In January 2024, RBI told them to stop taking any new deposits. The reasons were about not following rules on customer checks, how they handled funds, and even their tech systems. Now the RBI is going to the high court to basically shut the whole bank down. From what their website says, they can let people withdraw old deposits and help with loan referrals through partners. But no new money is coming in, that's clear.



## 02 RUPEE FALLS 11 PAISE TO 94.27 AGAINST US DOLLAR ON SAFE HAVEN DEMAND

The Indian rupee took another hit early on Monday, dropping 11 paise to end up at 94.27 against the US dollar. This is mostly because of steady demand for dollars and people shifting to safer assets overall. Traders are saying the rupee is in a tough spot right now. It's fallen for five days straight, and that weighs on it from things like RBI easing up on currency controls. Moreover, oil prices keep climbing because of tensions around the world.

Investors seem wary again. Foreign groups were buying in for a bit, but now they are pulling out with all the geopolitical scenario making things uncertain. In the interbank market, it started at 94.25 versus the dollar. Then it slipped a little more to 94.27 in the early trades, down from Friday's close at 94.16. The previous level was holding steady before. The dollar index dipped too, down 0.09 percent to 98.44. It measures the buck's strength against other currencies, a basket of six. Not sure if that changes much for the rupee though, since demand is still strong.



## 01 INFOSYS RECORDS A 21% HIKE IN Q4 NET PROFIT FOR FY26



The Bengaluru-based tech giant, Infosys posted a 21% increase in its earnings of the 4th Quarter of FY26.

Their net profit currently stands at Rs. 8,501 crores, compared to the Rs. 7,033 crore profit of the same quarter in the previous financial year.

In Q4, the company banked a revenue of Rs. 46,402 crores, marking a 13.4 per cent YoY growth. Additionally, the revenue, for the entire financial year 2025-26, stood at Rs.1,78,650 crores, marking a 9.6 per cent YoY growth.

Infosys' CEO, Mr. Salil Parikh said that the margins were consistent across several quarters. This positive growth will support its ambition of hiring 20,000 freshers by FY27.

## 02 MICROSOFT AND OPENAI DRIFT APART ON REVENUE AGREEMENT

Microsoft and OpenAI are calling-off their close strategic partnership after the former no longer pays revenue share to the makers of ChatGPT. Both the companies have redrafted their alliance, valued at \$135 Billion today.

Microsoft invested in OpenAI's cloud computing services, while OpenAI aided the creation of Copilot.

However, OpenAI has confirmed that it will continue to pay Microsoft its share in the revenue. This move is crucial for both the parties as it liberates them from co-dependence.

It also allows them to explore new partnerships ahead in this new-age technology boom.



## 01 GLOBAL GROWTH AT RISK IMF CUTS GLOBAL GROWTH OUTLOOK

Conflicts today are not fought only on battlefields but also through trade, energy, finance, and sanctions. Events like tensions in the Strait of Hormuz show how geopolitical issues directly impact global oil prices, causing inflation and slowing growth in regions like Asia and Europe.

This is sometimes referred to as economic warfare—using economic means to achieve military ends. These include tariffs, bans on exports, sanctions, exchange controls and limits on technology exports. Such measures may be used for political purposes but have unintended effects on global business and consumers.

For economics students, this shift is crucial. Traditional models focused on demand and supply must now also include geopolitics, diplomacy, and strategic risks. The key lesson is that markets are deeply interconnected—conflict in one region can trigger global economic consequences.



## 02 INDIA'S ECONOMY IS ROBUST BUT UNDER STRESS



India remains a high-growth economy in 2026, driven by strong domestic demand, infrastructure investment, and a growing services sector. However, April highlights its vulnerability to global risks, especially rising oil prices due to geopolitical tensions. Higher oil prices put pressure on the rupee and could slow growth if sustained.

At the same time, India's strong domestic market, increasing digital consumption, and continued government investment in infrastructure and manufacturing support growth. Investor confidence also remains high due to favorable demographics, startups, and ongoing reforms.

Despite these strengths, challenges like inflation, employment, and global volatility persist. The key takeaway is clear: India is strong, but its growth depends on how well it navigates global uncertainties while sustaining domestic momentum.

# SUSTAINABLE SYNERGIES

## 01 META PARTNERS WITH SPACE STARTUP OVERVIEW ENERGY TO SECURE SOLAR POWER FOR DATA CENTERS

Meta Platforms recently signed an agreement with Overview Energy to provide power for the data centers owned by the parent company of Facebook from the startup's space-based solar energy infrastructure by the end of the decade. The solar energy system being created by Overview Energy collects the energy from the Sun as it is shining on the Earth and converts it into usable electricity (also known as "beaming" it to the ground). The companies said they expect to demonstrate the system in 2028, with commercial delivery of solar electricity from space beginning in 2030.

Other tech companies, such as Google, Amazon, Apple, etc., are entering into long-term energy supply contracts as demand for electricity rises due to increased demand for artificial intelligence and other services from datacenters. Tech companies are also looking for new sources of clean energy to respond to pressure from environmentalists and consumer groups. Meta has plans for multiple data centers with a total capacity in the gigawatt range in locations across the United States. President Donald Trump has indicated that the rural Louisiana datacenter that Meta is currently building will be one of the largest constructions in the United States and cost approximately \$50 billion and will be comparable to a sizable portion of Manhattan.

**META RESERVES UP TO 1 GIGAWATT FROM OVERVIEW ENERGY TO POWER DATA CENTERS AT NIGHT**

## 02 CONSUMPTION GROWTH; SUPPORT ESSENTIAL FOR GDP EXPANSION SUSTAINING PREDICTABLE



According to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, domestic demand has been the driving force behind the economy's current growth, but she emphasized that there are key factors that must be considered to ensure GDP growth continues at its current rate. She made specific comments during a speech at a State Bank of India event in Pune on Friday, where she also mentioned that banks are studying how they can use their existing distribution networks to sell third party products.

Ms. Sitharaman encouraged banks to maintain their physical relationships with customers even as they expand internationally and use technology to enhance customer experience. Ms. Sitharaman also stated that the disinvestment process for IDBI Bank will move forward according to established timelines. According to Ms. Sitharaman, consumption is critical to sustained long-term growth, and she stated that banking policy stability is critical to ensuring continued GDP growth in the future.

## 01 VIOLENCE AT THE TOP: A RISK TO DEMOCRATIC STABILITY

The gunfire at a political dinner attended by Donald Trump was unsettling for reasons that go beyond the immediate incident. When violence reaches that proximity to a sitting head of state, it stops being just a security failure, it becomes a statement about how fractured political life has become.

This isn't an isolated moment. Over the past decade, attacks on elected officials have grown more frequent across democracies that once considered such threats manageable. Polarisation has hardened, trust in governments has thinned, and online spaces have made extreme ideas far more accessible than they used to be. The result is an environment where political violence feels, to some, justifiable.

What makes attacks on leaders particularly consequential is the signal they send outward. Allies reassess reliability. Investors reconsider exposure. The stability a country projects internationally is partly built on the assumption that its leadership is secure. When that assumption breaks down, the consequences aren't just domestic.

The uncomfortable truth is that better protection alone won't fix this. The conditions producing political violence inequality, distrust, and polarisation need addressing at the root. Security measures treat the symptom. The harder, slower work is rebuilding the political culture that makes violence feel unnecessary in the first place.

## 02 THE MOSCOW OPTION: IRAN'S STRATEGIC RECALCULATION AFTER DIPLOMATIC FAILURE

When diplomatic talks in Islamabad collapsed without resolution, Iran didn't retreat, it redirected. Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi's subsequent visit to Moscow, where he met Vladimir Putin, was less a surprise and more a logical next step for a country running out of neutral ground.

This is fairly typical of how geopolitics works under pressure. When conventional diplomacy stalls, isolated states tend to consolidate relationships with whoever is willing. For Iran, Russia offers something valuable: a powerful partner that shares an interest in pushing back against Western influence and isn't particularly concerned about international disapproval.

The deeper significance here isn't just regional. A tighter Russia–Iran axis complicates the strategic calculus for both the United States and Israel. It also raises real questions about energy security. Iran's position near the Strait of Hormuz through which a significant share of global oil passes means any escalation carries immediate economic consequences well beyond the Middle East.

What's emerging, gradually but clearly, is a realignment of states that feel cornered by Western pressure. Russia, Iran, and increasingly others are finding common cause not necessarily through shared values, but through shared grievances.

That distinction matters. Alliances built on opposition tend to be volatile but they can still be consequential.

## 01 THE QUANTUM LEAP: REWIRING GLOBAL MARKETS

The maturing of a paradigm of computation that is very different from how we view computation today is on the verge of commercial use, moving beyond theoretical physics into commercial quantum technology that will enable new solutions to problems that current computers cannot solve. Prepared to take time to develop, quantum computers do not use binary bits like conventional computers do; they use qubits that can exist in multiple states at the same time. In this way, quantum computers will be able to evaluate many multidimensional possibilities at the same time. The financial services industry will be disrupted by quantum computing; quantum algorithms will allow a financial institution to instantly evaluate millions of different market variables simultaneously, creating new opportunities for the improvement of algorithmic trading and for the way to model financial risks. Major shippers will be able to recalculate, immediately, their global trade routes and take the best routes to maximise their profit margins. Pharmaceutical manufacturers will benefit from quantum computing by being able to simulate molecular interactions with an atomic level of detail, dramatically accelerating the time it takes to discover new drugs and to bring them to market. The major technology firms are working quickly to develop, commercialize and scale quantum computing capabilities. Organizations that are forward thinking and begin to integrate quantum solutions today will have the greatest competitive advantage tomorrow.

## 02 BUILDING WITH BIOLOGY: THE SYNTHETIC ECONOMY

The global economy has depended on resource extraction for over 100 years. Synthetic biology revolutionizes the way people will be able to obtain natural resources. By reprogramming the DNA of microorganisms, microorganisms such as yeast and bacteria can now be used as "microfactories", disrupting traditional manufacturing processes and providing stability to unstable supply chains.

With precision fermentation, engineered microbes can now create extremely targeted high-value molecules for the mass market. Companies engaged in biofabrication are currently brewing leather in laboratories without creating the enormous amount of methane produced by cattle farming. In agriculture, synthetic biology creates dairy that is free of animal products and meat produced without animals, protecting our food supply from climate-related crop failures. Additionally, bio-based alternatives to traditional petroleum-based chemicals for use in industrial lubricants and cosmetics are now available, ensuring stable prices and meeting ESG expectations.

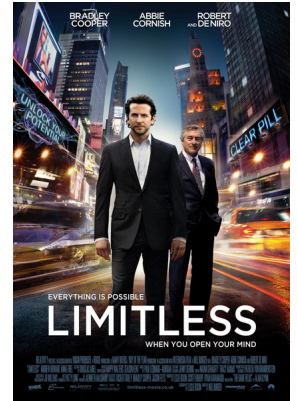
This shift will lead to a major shift in the global economy where biological manufacturing becomes the norm rather than just an expensive niche.



## MOVIE RECOMMENDATION

### LIMITLESS | WHEN AMBITION GOES PUBLIC

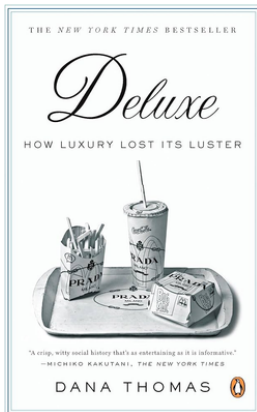
Limitless is a slick stock-market fantasy masquerading as a thriller. Struggling writer Eddie Morra discovers NZT-48, a pill unlocking total cognition, fluency, memory, genius. He transforms overnight into a Wall Street prodigy, converting insight into millions. But each dose trades sanity for success. The film becomes a metaphor for capitalism's obsession with optimization, where intellect is currency, dopamine drives markets, and every side effect is an opportunity cost. Limitless visualizes the high-speed delusion of infinite growth.



## BOOK RECOMMENDATION

### DELUXE: HOW LUXURY LOST ITS LUSTER BY DANA THOMAS

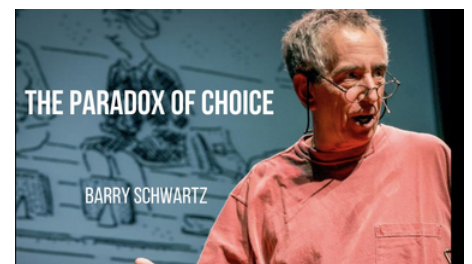
Think of this as the exposé where haute couture meets hedge funds. Dana Thomas unzips the silk facade of luxury to reveal spreadsheets, sweatshops, and stock options. It's deliciously cynical-Gucci meets GDP. She proves exclusivity can be mass-produced, and scarcity can be an algorithm. Every page reads like insider trading for your moral compass. After this, you'll never see a monogram without hearing the faint hum of marketing ROI. It's essential reading for anyone who wants to understand the intersection of fashion, finance, and power.



## YOUTUBE RECOMMENDATION

### “THE PARADOX OF CHOICE” BY BARRY SCHWARTZ (TED)

Barry Schwartz's TED Talk dismantles modern anxiety disguised as freedom. He argues that while more choices seem empowering, they often lead to paralysis, regret, and dissatisfaction. From stocks to sneakers to social decisions, abundance breeds unrest. It's witty, sharp, and uncomfortably true making you question why scrolling Zara feels like existential dread. In a world obsessed with options, Schwartz reminds us that happiness often hides in the simplicity of fewer and better decisions.



## MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Iris - Goo Goo Dolls
2. 3nights - Dominic Fike
3. Maand - Bayaan
4. Chrome Hearted - Jxdn
5. Filhaal - Towers

## GUESS THE PERSONALITY

- Dropped out of college to chase creativity.
- Built an empire on dreams, storytelling, and a mouse.
- Revolutionized entertainment before “content” was a term.
- Believed imagination could fund itself
- The happiest brand on Earth began with his sketch.



## Answers of the previous edition

Personality: David Goggins

Company: Capsula Mundi (Italy)



## GUESS THE COMPANY

- Started with one handbag.
- Its waiting list is longer than your semester break.
- Every stitch is a status symbol.
- They don't chase trends, they age like art.
- Known for quiet orange boxes and loud prices.

ANSWERS IN THE NEXT EDITION

## JARGONS DECODED

### Dead Cat Bounce

When a crashing stock briefly rises, tricking traders into thinking it's alive. The name comes from Wall Street's dark humour that even a dead cat will bounce if it falls fast enough. It's hope meets gravity, a cautionary tale for investors who confuse volatility with recovery. In short not every uptick is a comeback, sometimes it's just physics in disguise.

### Velvet Rope Economy

An economy where access is the new asset. From airport lounges to invite-only drops, luxury brands build velvet ropes not to exclude, but to inflate desire. It's capitalism gamified status through scarcity. The fewer people allowed in, the higher the perceived worth. Essentially, elitism now has a subscription model.

## MYTH BUSTERS

### Money Buys Freedom

No, it buys options. Freedom comes from detachment, not digits. Money frees time only if you stop trading time to earn it. Most people upgrade prisons small cubicles for glass offices, cheap chaos for designer burnout. True freedom is owning your pace, not your possessions. Finance can fund it, philosophy has to sustain it.

### You must have a fancy degree to succeed

It's not. Real luxury is curated silence, clean design, empty schedules, and space to think. The louder the world gets, the more priceless stillness becomes. Minimalism isn't lack, it's control. It's not about owning less it's about owning with intention. The ultimate luxury isn't gold or glitter, it's clarity. Every Patek Philippe watch whispers it, every slow morning proves it that excess is outdated, elegance is efficient.

## FORTUNE'S FABLES

Founded in 2013 by Matt Chitharanjan and Namrata Asthana, a small roastery in Delhi with a borrowed machine has grown into one of India's most influential specialty coffee brands. Blue Tokai pioneered farm-to-cup transparency in India long before sustainability became a buzzword. By sourcing directly from estates like Tat TVAM, Nullore, and Attikan, they cut out middlemen and gave farmers fairer prices. Their strategy brewed luxury and approachability into one blend: QR-coded beans, subscription models, and cafes that look like sunlight meets spreadsheet. Blue Tokai isn't just roasting coffee, it's roasting convention proof that Made in India can smell global, taste ethical, and scale beautifully.

**“Your work is going to fill a large part  
of your life, and the only way to be truly  
satisfied is to do what you believe is  
great work.”**

**—Steve Jobs**

*Thank you for reading!*

**Hope you enjoyed the content.  
Stay tuned for the next edition!**

