

THE COMSOG GAZETTE



MARCH 2026

Issued on: 15th March 2025



FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

STOCK MARKET

STARTUPS

ECONOMY

GEO POLITICS

SCIENCE AND TECH

COMSOG GENIE



CONTENTS

TABLE OF



Financial Foresights

01

Corporate Odyssey

02

The Economic Lens

03

Sustainable Synergies

04

The Global Chessboard

05

Scientific Spectra

06

ComSoc Genie

07

FINANCIAL FORESIGHTS

01 INVESTMENT NORMS RELAXED FOR NEIGHBOURS

India has eased foreign direct investment rules for companies from bordering nations, opening the automatic approval route for entities holding less than 10% non-controlling beneficial ownership. The cabinet simultaneously introduced a time-bound clearance system for critical sectors, a move industry had been pushing for over several years.

The revised Press Note 3 framework effectively rolls back pandemic-era restrictions that had sharply curbed Chinese FDI. While majority ownership must remain with resident Indians, the relaxation targets global funds in startups and deep tech. Manufacturing investments will now require clearance within 60 days, potentially unlocking new factories, jobs and supply chains.

Though the policy covers all neighbours - Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal and Myanmar - it is widely seen as aimed at freeing up Chinese capital blocked for nearly six years. Amendments to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code were approved alongside these changes.



02 GAS SUPPLY FOR HOMES, VEHICLES GETS PRIMACY

With the Iran war squeezing global energy supplies, New Delhi has moved to protect household and vehicle gas needs at the cost of power plants and petrochemical units. Both imported and domestic gas will now be redirected to priority users - meaning CNG vehicles, LPG units and homes won't face any disruption for now.

The trouble partly traces back to Qatar, which covers nearly 30% of India's natural gas demand. It shut down its LNG export facility after an Iranian strike last week, and that alone was enough to set off a supply scare here. Throw in the broader chaos near the Strait of Hormuz - attacks on energy facilities, disrupted shipping - and the pressure on India's gas network becomes clearer.

Oil prices had shot past \$115 a barrel before cooling to around \$94 after Trump hinted the conflict could wind down soon. Still, nobody's counting on that just yet.

The government has issued a gazette notification giving itself direct control over how gas gets allocated and distributed - effectively tearing up existing supply contracts in one move.



01 CEIGALL-SUSHEE JV L1 BIDDER FOR ₹521 CR ARUNACHAL HIGHWAY PROJECT



Ceigall India Ltd. has secured a significant infrastructure opportunity after its joint venture bid was rated L1 for a highway construction project in Northeast India by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. The project will be executed through a joint venture between Ceigall India Ltd. and Sushee Infra & Mining Ltd., with Ceigall managing 74% of the project and Sushee covering the remaining 26%.

The scope includes constructing the 0.000 km to 78.38 km stretch of National Highway-913 (Frontier Highway) in Arunachal Pradesh as an intermediate lane under the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) model. The project carries a total bid value of ₹521 crore and is expected to be completed within 36 months.

This contract is expected to strengthen Ceigall India's position in the highway infrastructure segment while improving road connectivity in the region. The company has also clarified that the contract is a pure joint venture and does not involve any related party transaction or promoter obligation with the awarding authority.

02 FLIPKART MOVES HOLDING COMPANY TO INDIA AHEAD OF IPO

Flipkart has completed the relocation of its holding company from Singapore to India, a move that clears the path for a potential IPO on Indian stock exchanges. The company received the required approvals after the National Company Law Tribunal approved a restructuring plan to merge several Singapore-based entities into a single India-based entity.

Although Flipkart has not announced a timeline for the IPO, it is reportedly preparing to complete the process by March 2027. The company has not disclosed the amount it plans to raise or its expected valuation.

This step reflects the broader “reverse flip” trend among Indian startups shifting their holding companies back to India to access domestic capital markets. Other startups such as PhonePe, Groww, and Pine Labs have also undertaken similar restructuring moves.



01 LPG CRISIS LIVE: COMMERCIAL LPG SHORTAGE HITS HOTELS, RESTAURANTS ACROSS INDIA

Residential LPG supply has been disrupted for three days, affecting restaurants and hotels in Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Kolkata. Hospitality groups report cutting or removing menu items due to irregular deliveries. The Indian government denies a nationwide shortage of commercial LPG, stating refineries have been ordered to increase production to 110% to stabilise supply. The crisis comes amid instability in global energy markets linked to conflict in the Middle East.

The government has invoked the Essential Commodities Act to prioritize household LPG users over commercial consumers. Refineries have been directed to operate at maximum capacity and increase domestic fuel supply, while the LPG booking interval has been extended from 21 to 25 days to prevent hoarding. Natural gas rationing has also been introduced, prioritizing households using piped gas and CNG vehicles. A four-tier allocation system limits supply to lower-priority sectors. Meanwhile, the Bangalore Hotels Association has warned that the halt in commercial LPG supply is severely affecting service providers like hospitals and hotels, urging the government to restore supplies.



02 IRAN CONFLICT FORCES ASIAN CENTRAL BANKS INTO SHARP POLICY RETHINK



Rising oil prices linked to tensions with Iran are forcing Asian central banks to reassess monetary policies. Higher fuel costs are increasing inflation across Asia, complicating efforts to cut interest rates to stimulate growth. Countries such as India, Thailand, and the Philippines may need to reconsider plans to loosen monetary policy as fuel prices rise and currencies weaken against the dollar.

Japan and South Korea, heavily dependent on imported energy and global trade, are particularly vulnerable. Higher fuel prices increase shipping and manufacturing costs, reducing international competitiveness while raising inflation. Economists warn the ongoing geopolitical tensions could lead to stagflation (slow growth combined with rising inflation), forcing central banks to balance inflation control with economic growth.

SUSTAINABLE SYNERGIES

04

01 CAPTAIN FRESH BAGS €27 MILLION SUSTAINABILITY FUNDS.

Captain Fresh, a tech-led B2B global platform for packaged sea food, recently made it to the papers when it raised a sustainability-linked financing of €27 Million (i.e. ₹288 crores) from Blue Earth Capital, a global impact investment firm.

The company, led by the Group CEO, Mr. Utham Gowda, aims to deploy these funds in the capability expansion activities. Until recently, the company has expanded globally via acquisitions. Last week, Captain Fresh concluded the acquisition of a Spain-based Tuna processor company, Frime.

The company has demonstrated strong financial growth in the FY25 by posting a profit of ₹42 Crores, as opposed to a loss of 229 crores in the preceding year. Thus, its trajectory remains positive.

The logo for Captain Fresh, featuring the words "captain" and "fresh" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font, stacked vertically on a red rectangular background.

02 SAGAR CEMENTS TO SPEND RS. 1000 CRORE FOR BOOSTING ESG GOALS.



SAGAR
C E M E N T

One of India's leading cement manufacturers, Sagar Cements, plans to invest a whopping Rs. 1000 crore to boost its Environment, Social and Governance initiatives over the next 3 years time period.

A Comprehensive Business Plan 2030 has been formulated by the company that features investment roadmaps for six of its plants. The CBP is aligned with the company's ESG Roadmap targets 2030, as reported by S. Sreekanth Reddy, Joint MD of Sagar Cements.

The company aims to elevate its green electrical energy ratio in operations to 50 per cent by the year 2030. Further, it plans to scale down its specific electric consumption per tonne of cement to 65kwh. The company moves forward considering renewable energy as a key lever for success.

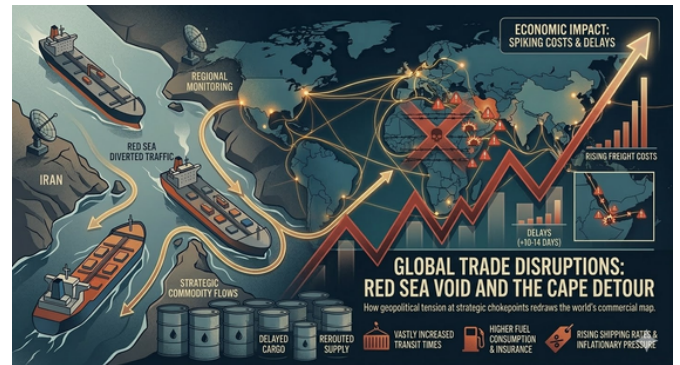
THE GLOBAL CHESSBOARD

01 MIDDLE EAST TENSIONS AND THE GLOBAL OIL ECONOMY

The tensions in the Middle East highlight how geopolitical conflicts can affect the global economy. The escalation involving Iran, Israel, and the United States has revived attention on the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most crucial energy transit routes. Nearly one-fifth of global oil supply passes through this waterway, making it vital for global trade and energy security. Any disruption in the region can push oil prices upward, raising fuel costs for industries such as aviation, logistics, and manufacturing.

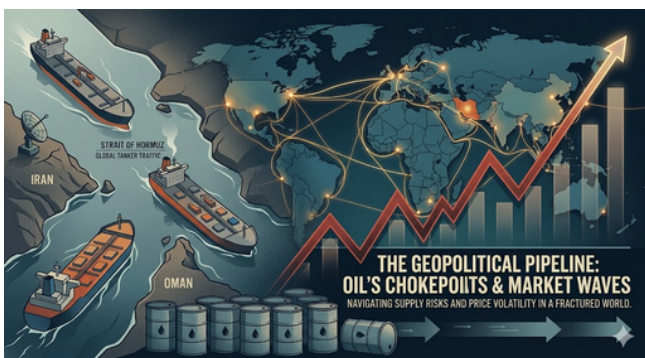
Higher transport and energy costs are passed on to buyers, adding to inflationary pressures worldwide. For import-dependent nations like India, which relies on crude oil from the Gulf region, such volatility can widen trade debts and strain fiscal stability. The crisis exposes the fragility of global supply chains dependent on maritime routes, prompting governments and businesses to explore alternatives such as expanding strategic petroleum reserves, investing in renewable energy, and developing new trade corridors to strengthen energy security.

02 RED SEA SHIPPING CRISIS AND THE RISING COST OF GLOBAL TRADE



The recent unrest in the Red Sea has become a major concern for global trade, exposing how vulnerable modern supply chains are to geopolitical troubles. Attacks on ships have led several major shipping firms to avoid the area and reroute vessels around the southern tip of Africa. The Red Sea connects the Suez Canal with key trade routes between Asia and Europe, making it one of the most vital maritime corridors in the world.

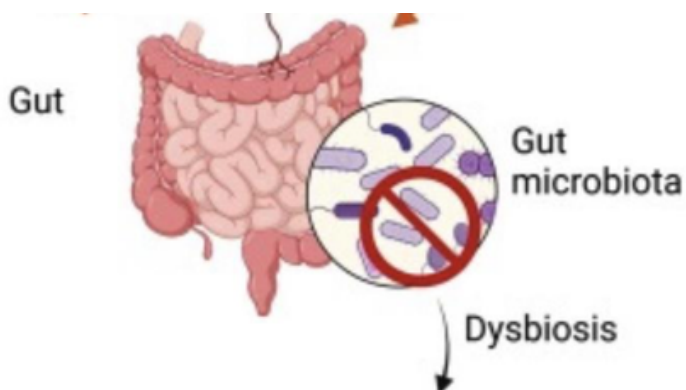
Ships avoiding the region must travel around the Cape of Good Hope, adding nearly two weeks to transit times and increasing fuel consumption, insurance costs, and freight rates. For businesses, these delays raise operational costs and slow inventory turnover, particularly in industries dependent on just-in-time supply chains such as electronics, automobile manufacturing, and retail. Higher shipping costs are often passed to consumers, contributing to inflation. For emerging economies like India that rely on maritime trade, the crisis highlights the need for stronger supply chain resilience through diversified suppliers, higher inventories, and alternative trade routes.



01 THE GUT- BRAIN AXIS: HOW MICROBIOME BACTERIA INFLUENCE MOOD AND DECISION MAKING

Trillions of microorganisms live in the human gut as part of the gut microbiome. Beyond digestion, these microbes communicate with the brain through the gut-brain axis, mainly via the vagus nerve. Gut microbes also produce neurotransmitters like serotonin and dopamine that travel through the blood and nervous system, influencing brain activity, mood, and behavior.

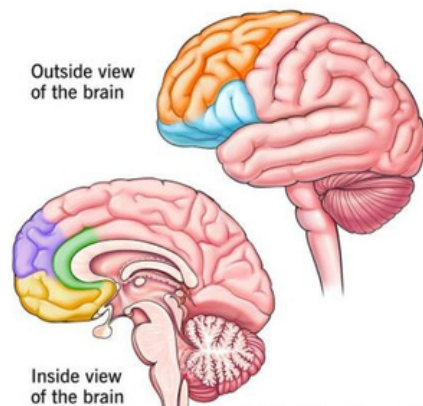
Research shows that changes in gut microbiota can influence stress responses and emotional regulation. Some bacterial strains may reduce anxiety-like behavior, while others can affect how people respond to stress. This has led to the study of *psychobiotics*, a type of probiotic that may support mental health. The gut-brain axis highlights the strong connection between physical and psychological systems, showing that the digestive system and brain function as part of a complex biological network. This understanding is reshaping mental health research and suggests that maintaining a balanced microbiome may support emotional well-being and cognitive functioning.



02 THE SCIENCE OF DECISION FATIGUE: WHEN TOO MANY CHOICES REDUCE COGNITIVE PERFORMANCE

People make numerous decisions daily, from minor routine choices to major judgments. Cognitive science explains that the brain cannot sustain constant decision-making for long, leading to decision fatigue, which occurs when the executive systems become overloaded after prolonged evaluation of options. The prefrontal cortex, responsible for planning, reasoning, and self-control, plays a key role in this process. When it is repeatedly used, cognitive resources become depleted, causing individuals to make impulsive choices, avoid decisions, or choose the easiest option.

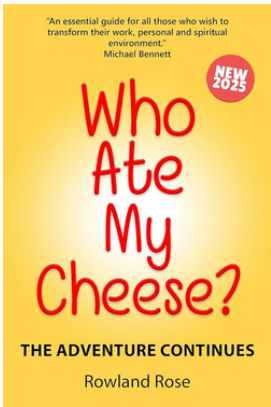
Research in *behavioural psychology* shows that decision fatigue can influence performance in many settings. Studies suggest that judges often give better rulings earlier in the day when mental energy is higher, and consumers or students may struggle to make sound decisions after long periods of thinking. This highlights the importance of conserving cognitive energy by reducing unnecessary decisions through routines and making important choices earlier in the day.



MOVIE RECOMMENDATION

INTERSTELLAR

The movie covers the possible reality of leaving Earth and traveling to another planet in search of survival and hope for humanity. The storyline, acting, direction, and pacing are just perfect and keep the audience fully engaged throughout. The core moments of the movie - The Cornfield Chase and No Time For Caution, make you feel like you are actually in space, experiencing the tension and urgency along with the characters. The VFX did complete justice to the film and enhanced the realism of the situation, making the scenes visually stunning and the overall experience far more immersive and emotionally engaging for the audience.



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

WHO ATE MY CHEESE ? BY ROWLAND ROSE

This book is for people who just started their reading journey. Although small in length it covers an important topic of Inevitability of Change in life, how to spot then and adopt them by using the example of rats and cheese. The book presents a great metaphor to the readers and relate to real lives of people who constantly run away from changes and think that the world is at fault for their failure.

YOUTUBE RECOMMENDATION

JOE ROGAN WITH DONALD TRUMP

For the first time an American president went onto a podcast to answer completely raw questions. He answered every question and became very raw. Some people argue that this played a big role in helping him to win the presidential elections as he came out to the ordinary people of the country. Inspired by this many other politicians like Kamla Harris also did the same thing later indicating that this move was actually beneficial.



MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

1. This Town by Nial Horran
2. Birds by Imagine Dragons
3. Hope by NF
4. Perfect by One Direction
5. Pillowtalk by Zayn

GUESS THE PERSONALITY

- He is a young entrepreneur who started with a vision to do something incredible, innovative and meaningful for the Indian economy.
- He founded United Wolfram, also known as the "tungsten king of India", which specializes in the production of tungsten and cobalt and their intermediates.
- United Wolfram is India's largest tungsten-based center manufacturer.
- At 30, he became the youngest promoter and director of a stock company.
- He was also invited by the BRICS Council and attended the BRICS Summit along with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Answers of the previous edition

Personality: Bernard Arnault

Company: General Electric



GUESS THE COMPANY

- The company originally produced carbon filament lamps before becoming a global health technology leader.
- In the 1900s, it built an empire in Eindhoven that included schools, healthcare, and housing for employees, becoming the largest employer in the Netherlands.
- This company was a co-creator of the Compact Disc (CD) and DVD technologies.
- It was early to the video game market, acquiring Magnavox in 1974 and developing the Odyssey 2 console.
- The company was once heavily into white goods (home appliances), which they divested to focus on health technology.

ANSWERS IN THE NEXT EDITION

JARGONS DECODED

Green Financing

Green financing refers to funding that supports environmentally friendly projects such as renewable energy, electric vehicles, or sustainable infrastructure. It helps companies and governments reduce their carbon footprint while promoting long-term environmental benefits. Instruments like green bonds and sustainability-linked loans are popular examples. As the world transitions toward cleaner energy and climate-conscious policies, green financing plays a key role in aligning economic growth with ecological responsibility.

Mergers and Acquisitions

Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A) refer to the consolidation of companies through buying, selling, or combining business entities to achieve growth, efficiency, or competitive advantage. For instance, India's SBI recently urged the RBI to allow banks to fund such deals—highlighting how crucial M&A can be for corporate expansion.

MYTH BUSTERS

Renewable energy can replace fossil fuels overnight

While renewable energy is essential for a sustainable future, the transition cannot happen instantly. Infrastructure, storage capacity, and grid readiness are still catching up. India, for instance, has gigawatts of renewable power without purchase agreements, meaning supply often exceeds immediate demand. The real solution lies in balanced planning—developing renewables alongside transmission networks and energy storage to ensure stability and long-term viability.

High GDP growth guarantees better living standards

A rising GDP does not automatically improve people's quality of life. Economic growth can be uneven, benefiting certain sectors or regions more than others. In India, even with GDP growth above 6%, issues like unemployment, weak consumption, and limited manufacturing growth persist. True progress depends on inclusive policies that enhance education, skills, and social welfare, ensuring growth translates into real human development.

FORTUNE'S FABLES

Skipi Ice Pops: Founded by husband-wife duo Ravi Kabra and Anuja Kabra in April 2021 in Hyderabad. The idea was to bring back the nostalgic “chuski” (ice pop) in a more hygienic, natural, and branded format. On Shark Tank India Season 1, Skipi Ice Pops made history by securing an “All Shark Deal”, all 5 Sharks invested. Before Shark Tank, monthly sales were about ₹4–5 lakh. After the investment and exposure, monthly revenues skyrocketed to ₹2 crore, reflecting nearly a 40× growth.

To improve accessibility and distribution, Skipi launched “Freezer Bikes” (electric two-wheelers with freezers) so the ice pops can be brought fresh to homes and on the go. The brand also expanded its product range with multiple natural fruit flavors and focused heavily on online marketplaces and quick-commerce platforms to reach a wider audience across India.

**“Choose a job you love, and you will
never have to work a day in your life.”
— Confucius**

Thank you for reading!

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

