

# THE COMSOG GAZETTE



**AUGUST 2025**

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FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

STOCK MARKET

STARTUPS

ECONOMY

GEO POLITICS

SCIENCE AND TECH

COMSOG GENIE



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## 01 GOLD PULLS BACK FROM TWO-WEEK PEAK AMID DOLLAR STRENGTH AND FED UNCERTAINTY

Gold prices retreated from a two-week high of approximately \$3,395 amid profit-taking and a modest rebound in the U.S. dollar during early European trading. However, heightened concerns over the Federal Reserve's independence in light of President Trump's attempt to oust Fed Governor Lisa Cook provided a defensive floor for the yellow metal, reinforcing its reputation as a safe-haven asset.

Traders are now turning their attention to the upcoming U.S. Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) Price Index report scheduled for Friday, which may influence the Fed's policy trajectory. Analysts note that softer inflation data would bolster expectations for rate cuts and potentially propel gold prices higher.

From a technical standpoint, key resistance lies in the \$3,400-\$3,410 zone; a sustained break above could open the door toward targets near \$3,439 or even \$3,500, while a failure to hold these levels may expose downside risk toward the \$3,325-\$3,200 range.



## 02 VODAFONE IDEA SHARES SLUMP NEARLY 10% AFTER RELIEF HOPES DASHED

Vodafone Idea shares plunged as much as 9.86% to ₹6.67 on August 26, following optimism that the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) might greenlight another relief package. That optimism had fueled a 13.50% rally over the prior five trading sessions. However, the fall came after communication minister Chandra S. Pemmasani ruled out any further support for the struggling telecom operator, dashing investor hopes of additional governmental assistance.

In the company's Q1 FY26 report, Vodafone Idea disclosed a consolidated loss of ₹6,608 crore, citing rising finance costs and government levies. Although revenue edged up to ₹11,022.5 crore and network investment helped curb subscriber attrition, the firm remains under severe financial strain.

The sharp pullback underscores lingering concerns around Vodafone Idea's debt burden, AGR liabilities, and lack of fresh relief measures. Without a turnaround or renewed policy support, the stock's recovery outlook remains bleak.



## 01 SUZUKI'S 8 BILLION DOLLAR COMMITMENT TO INDIA AND THE EV PUSH

Suzuki Motor is doubling down on India's auto market with one of its boldest bets yet. On August 26, 2025, the Japanese carmaker announced plans to invest 8 billion dollars over the next five to six years. The focus is clear: expand production, launch new models, and cement Maruti Suzuki's leadership in a market that is now the third largest in the world. At the center of this plan is the Gujarat facility, which will soon operate as a global manufacturing hub with capacity to roll out one million cars annually.

The bigger story is Suzuki's pivot toward electric mobility. The Gujarat plant has already begun commercial production of electric vehicles, with exports planned for more than one hundred countries. Alongside this, Suzuki has partnered with Denso and Toshiba to manufacture lithium ion cells in India. This step is vital because it strengthens local supply chains and gives India a foothold in the global battery ecosystem, which has so far been dominated by Chinese and Korean companies.

For India, the benefits extend beyond foreign investment. The country gains a stronger domestic manufacturing base, fresh employment opportunities, and a faster move toward establishing itself as a hub for electric vehicles.

## 02 SBI WANTS RBI TO OPEN DOORS FOR BANK FUNDED ACQUISITIONS

India's largest lender, State Bank of India, is making a strong pitch to reshape corporate finance. On August 25, 2025, the SBI chair urged the Reserve Bank of India to permit banks to directly fund mergers and acquisitions. At present, regulations prevent banks from lending for such deals, which forces corporates to rely on non banking finance companies or the bond market. SBI has suggested a phased approach, beginning with large listed companies that already meet high governance and compliance standards.

The implications of such a change are far reaching. If RBI allows it, the cost of capital for acquisitions would fall, giving Indian companies more room to consolidate and scale. Banks, which currently play a limited role during big ticket transactions, would suddenly become central to India's corporate restructuring story. Mid sized companies could attempt deals that previously looked out of reach, while large players could act faster in securing strategic takeovers.

The risks cannot be ignored. Bank exposure to acquisition financing could rise if deals are poorly structured or overvalued. Still, SBI's push signals growing confidence that India's corporate sector is mature enough to handle more flexible financing.

## 01 INDIA'S CONSUMPTION WEAKENS, REFORMS BECOME URGENT

India's biggest growth driver, private consumption, slowed sharply in the first quarter of 2025. Growth fell to 6.4 percent compared to the 8.5 to 12 percent range seen in 2023 and 2024. Softer vehicle sales, rising household debt obligations, and low consumer confidence are pulling demand down. Urban households are struggling more, with youth unemployment climbing and the trade standoff with the United States adding pressure through higher tariffs. Rural India is holding up slightly better, helped by stronger job creation and optimism about a good monsoon harvest.

There is some relief on the inflation front. Prices fell to 1.55 percent in July 2025, the lowest in years. The government has stepped in with tax cuts and the Reserve Bank of India has cut rates by 50 basis points to support growth. But here is the real challenge. Short term stimulus can ease the pain, but it will not fix the underlying weakness.

India needs long term reforms that raise investment to about 40 percent of GDP, open up easier access to credit, and expand labor force participation by building stronger skills and human capital. Manufacturing continues to contribute only 17 percent of GDP, even with production linked incentive schemes in place. Unless structural gaps are addressed, the recovery in consumption will remain fragile.

## 02 FITCH MAINTAINS INDIA'S RATING DESPITE GLOBAL HEADWINDS

Fitch Ratings reaffirmed India's long term foreign currency rating at BBB minus with a stable outlook on August 25, 2025. This is a positive signal as it highlights India's strong growth momentum and resilient external finances. Fitch expects GDP growth of 6.5 percent in 2025 and 2026, far higher than the 2.5 percent median growth of other countries in the same rating bracket.

Much of this growth is being sustained by government led capital spending and domestic consumption. But risks are rising. The United States has announced plans to impose a 50 percent tariff on India for its Russian oil imports. That move could weigh on trade balances and investor confidence.

Even with these external shocks, Fitch points to reforms that could cushion the blow. A proposed overhaul of the Goods and Services Tax is expected to improve consumption trends and stabilize revenue. In short, India's credit profile remains stable, but global pressures mean that domestic policy action will be critical to protect the growth story.



## 01 25 COUNTRIES SUSPEND POSTAL SHIPMENTS TO U.S. AMID TARIFF CONFUSION

Postal services from 25 countries have halted outbound shipments to the United States, according to the Universal Postal Union (UPU). This decision stems from confusion over the U.S. government's upcoming elimination of the "de minimis" tariff exemption, which previously allowed packages under \$800 to bypass duties.

The new regulations, set to take effect on August 29, 2025, raise serious operational questions, particularly around who bears responsibility for collecting duties and what data must be transmitted, prompting postal services to pause shipments until clearer guidance is provided.

Affected nations include key global players like France, Germany, India, Australia, and Japan. While letters and low-value gifts (often under \$100) may still be sent, most merchandise shipments are on hold. These suspensions underscore the broad operational upheaval caused by the abrupt policy change and its uncertain implementation.



## 02 US-RUSSIA ENERGY TALKS SURFACE AMID TRUMP'S 50% TARIFFS ON INDIA

U.S. and Russian officials have entered discussions concerning potential energy partnerships amid heightened geopolitical tensions and escalating trade pressure on India. As global attention focuses on Ukraine peace negotiations, talks reportedly include re-entry of Exxon Mobil into the Sakhalin-1 oil and gas project, Russia's potential procurement of U.S. equipment for its sanctioned Arctic LNG 2 project, and even possible U.S. acquisition of Russian nuclear-powered icebreakers.

These discussions coincide with President Trump's imposition of soaring 50% tariffs on Indian exports, primarily targeting New Delhi's continued purchases of Russian oil. The energy talks appear to be part of a broader U.S. strategy: using economic incentives to draw Russia into peace negotiations, while simultaneously applying pressure on India through punitive tariffs.

This juxtaposition underscores a complex geopolitical tapestry, where energy policy, diplomacy, and trade enforcement intersect in increasingly strategic ways.



# SUSTAINABLE SYNERGIES

## 01 BPCL AND OIL INDIA BRING CLEAN ENERGY TO ARUNACHAL PRADESH

BPCL and Oil India have joined forces to reshape the energy landscape in Arunachal Pradesh. The two Maharatna public sector companies have agreed to build a city gas distribution network across the state, bringing compressed natural gas stations and piped natural gas connections to households, businesses and industries.

Oil India will bring in its deep hydrocarbon experience while BPCL will leverage its scale as one of the country's largest fuel retailers.

What this really delivers is twofold. For Arunachal Pradesh, it means cleaner and more reliable energy access that can power local development. For India as a whole, it marks another step toward reducing carbon intensity and diversifying the energy basket. It shows how corporate partnerships can balance business goals with environmental responsibility, turning sustainability into a shared opportunity rather than a trade off.



## 02 RENEWABLES GROWTH MUST MATCH DEMAND, CEA WARNS DEVELOPERS

At a recent summit in New Delhi, the head of the Central Electricity Authority, Ghanshyam Prasad, made a clear point to renewable energy developers. Adding more solar and wind projects is valuable, but only if the demand and infrastructure exist to absorb that power. Today, India has nearly 44 gigawatts of renewable projects without power purchase agreements. That means electricity is being generated without guaranteed buyers, leaving companies exposed to financial strain.

Prasad urged companies to submit grid connection requests two to three years in advance so transmission capacity can be built in time. Without this planning, India risks creating capacity that cannot be used effectively.

The message was simple. Expanding renewable energy is critical, but growth must be aligned with demand. Better investment in transmission and stronger coordination between developers and planners will decide whether India's clean power ambitions succeed.

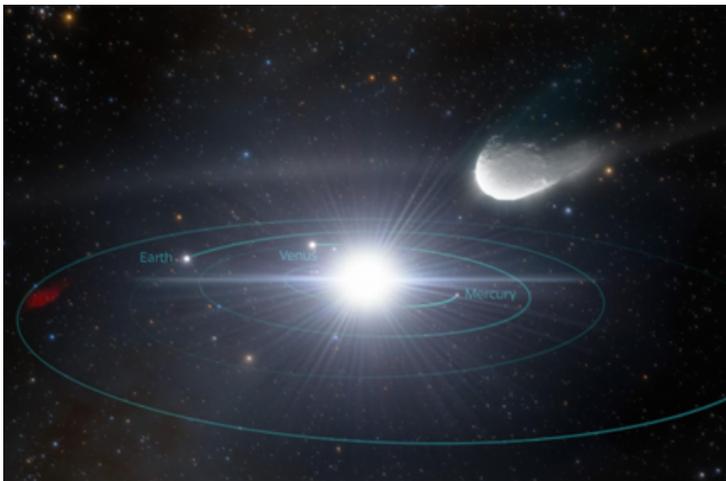


## 01 IS 3I/ATLAS AN ALIEN PROBE? HARVARD ASTROPHYSICIST RAISES POSSIBILITY

In July 2025, the ATLAS telescope in Chile discovered 3I/ATLAS- the third confirmed interstellar object entering our solar system. A Harvard astrophysicist, Avi Loeb, claims the object is massive, comparable in size to Manhattan and its brightness suggests sunlight reflecting off a solid body, prompting speculation that it could be an alien spacecraft rather than a natural comet.

3I/ATLAS follows a hyperbolic trajectory, aligning closely with the solar system's ecliptic plane, characteristics Loeb argues are unlikely for a random comet and may indicate intentional design.

However, the majority of astronomers disagree, asserting that 3I/ATLAS exhibits typical cometary behavior: an icy nucleus, a characteristic coma and outgassing, and no credible signs of propulsion or artificial structure. NASA confirms it poses no threat and will pass safely at a distance of over 1.6 astronomical units from Earth.



## 02 CHANDRAYAAN-3 UNVEILS SULPHUR, MOONQUAKES, AND ANCIENT CRATERS AT SOUTH POLE

India's Chandrayaan-3 mission has uncovered major discoveries at the Moon's south pole. The Pragyan rover confirmed sulphur for the first time in this region, along with elements like aluminum, calcium, iron, chromium, titanium, manganese, silicon, and oxygen. Over 250 seismic signals were also recorded, including possible moonquakes, marking the first such detection in the southern hemisphere. These findings provide vital clues to the Moon's composition and evolution.

Temperature measurements by the ChaSTE instrument revealed sharp contrasts: surface temperatures rose to 82 °C, while just 10 cm below, they plunged to -168 °C. This suggests that certain slopes near the south pole may preserve stable water-ice deposits. The rover also uncovered signs of ancient impacts, including mantle materials dating back 4.3 billion years, inside the South Pole-Aitken Basin.

Other results included low-density lunar plasma and a vast, 160-kilometer-wide ancient crater. Together, these discoveries strengthen ISRO's ambition to expand lunar exploration and aim for a crewed Moon mission by 2040.

## MOVIE RECOMMENDATION

### THE BIG SHORT (2015)

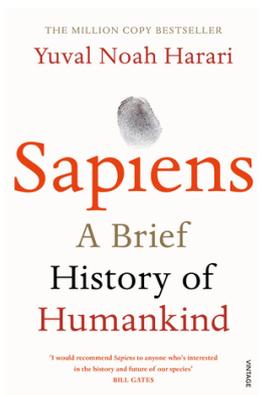
The Big Short is a gripping drama that delves into the events leading up to the 2008 financial crisis. The film follows a group of investors who go against the grain and decide to bet against the housing market, uncovering the corrupt practices that triggered a financial collapse, profoundly impacting the global economy. With a stellar cast, sharp wit, and keen insights, this film is a must-watch for anyone interested in finance and economics!



## BOOK RECOMMENDATION

### “SAPIENS: A BRIEF HISTORY OF HUMANKIND” BY YUVAL NOAH HARARI

This comprehensive book by Yuval Noah Harari offers a thought-provoking exploration of the evolution of humankind. From the emergence of Homo sapiens to the modern world, Harari insightfully combines elements of science, history, and anthropology to explain how various factors such as money and religion have shaped our societies, beliefs, and behaviours. *Sapiens* encourages readers to reflect on what it truly means to be part of this world and consider what lies ahead. If you're curious about our past and how it has shaped the present, this book is a must-read!



## PODCAST RECOMMENDATION

### THE INDICATOR FROM PLANET MONEY

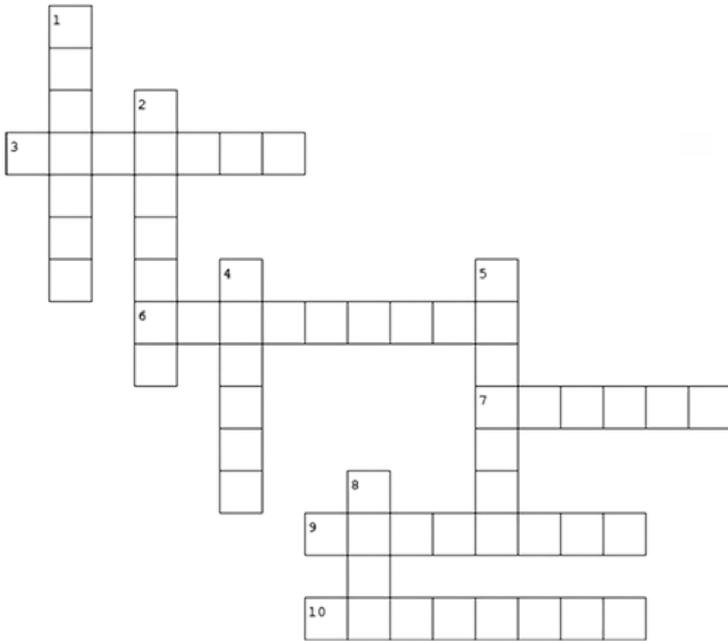
This podcast is designed for those who are passionate about learning new topics related to the field of commerce. Hosted by Cardiff Garcia and Stacey Vanek Smith, the podcast covers various aspects of business, finance, and economics, breaking down complex concepts in an engaging and comprehensible manner. Different episodes feature a range of industry experts who elaborate on real-life examples from the world of commerce, making it highly informative and valuable for all age groups.



## MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

1. “Leanin (Ultra Slowed)” by Cormill
2. “Experience” by Ludovico Einaudi
3. “Cornfield chase”/“S.T.A.Y.” by Hans Zimmer
4. “I Don’t Want To Set The World On Fire” by The Ink Spots
5. “Counting Stars” by OneRepublic

## CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

3. A pricing strategy offering basic services for free while charging for premium features.
4. Additional benefits derived from increasing production.
6. Taking advantage of price differences in different markets for profit.
7. The ease of converting assets into cash.
9. An economic system characterized by private ownership and free markets.
10. The systematic reduction of asset value over time.

### DOWN

1. Pertaining to the authority of a state to govern itself or another state.
2. A risk management strategy used to offset potential losses.

## ANSWERS IN THE NEXT EDITION

5. Gradual reduction of debt or intangible asset value over time.
8. The global market for trading national currencies against one another.

### Answers of the previous edition

#### Across

4. Blockade
6. Sanctions
8. NATO
10. Summit
11. Treaty

#### Down

1. QUAD
2. EMBARGO
3. BRICS
5. Ceasefire
7. OPEC
9. ALLY

## VOCABULARY

1. **Inimitable** - Matchless.
2. **Promulgate** - State or announce.
3. **Contusion** - An injury in which the skin is not broken.
4. **Psychosis** - Severe mental disorder in which contact with reality is lost.
5. **Stalemate** - A situation in which no progress can be made.
6. **Effeminate** - Lacking traits typically associated with men or masculinity.
7. **Expiate** - Make amends for.
8. **Beatific** - Resembling or befitting an angel or saint.
9. **Awl** - A pointed tool for marking surfaces or for punching holes.
10. **Tureen** - Large deep serving dish with a cover.

## JARGONS DECODED

### Growth Hacking

Growth hacking involves strategies businesses use to rapidly expand their customer base and maximize revenue with minimal expense. It emphasizes continuous experimentation across marketing channels—like advertising, content, and product marketing—to find the most efficient methods. For example, Airbnb leveraged Craigslist to reach users seeking affordable accommodations, tapping into an existing market at minimal cost.

### Zero Party Data

Zero-party data is the information which customers willingly share with a brand. With stricter privacy regulations, third-party data (collected externally) and even first-party data (based on observed behavior) are declining. Zero-party data is valued for its accuracy and ability to enable highly customized experiences. Examples include personal details, preferences, and feedback from surveys or polls.

## MYTH BUSTERS

### Lower prices always attract more customers

While it is believed that lower prices help businesses expand their customer base and boost sales, it's important to recognise that competing solely on price can erode profit margins and create a cheap perception of the brand. Many businesses, such as Apple, BMW, and Rolex, are considered status symbols, valued by customers for their quality, exclusivity, and the unique experience they offer rather than their price.

### Once loyal, always loyal

It is often believed that consumers remain loyal to a business for life. However, businesses must recognise that the modern market is highly dynamic, and consumers can easily switch to new products with minimal costs. Therefore, consumer loyalty must be continually earned and maintained by closely monitoring competitors and adapting to evolving consumer tastes and preferences.

## FORTUNE'S FABLES

Sweetgreen is a startup founded in 2007 by three friends—Jonathan, Nicolas, and Nathaniel—who opened a small salad shop in Washington, D.C. They aimed to promote healthy eating and transform the fast food industry by using fresh, locally sourced ingredients. Despite initial challenges, including a lack of industry experience, their dedication to quality and customer connection helped them create a unique brand centred on sustainability and community. Now, Sweetgreen spans multiple locations across the United States, leveraging technology to grow its customer base through a mobile app. This story illustrates how even a small business can flourish by building strong customer relationships and prioritising innovation and quality.

You carry the passport to your own  
happiness.

—Diane Von Furstenberg

*Thank you for reading!*

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

