

12 March 2025

# Business News Update

“Create your own opportunities  
instead of waiting for them to appear.”

## Minimalist’s expansion plans to pick up pace post HUL merger

Direct-to-consumer (D2C) skincare brand Minimalist, recently acquired by Hindustan Unilever (HUL) for Rs 3,000 crore, will leverage the FMCG firm’s vast distribution network to scale up both its domestic and international presence. The deal, which aligns with Minimalist’s expansion goals, will provide the resources needed for growth in manufacturing, research and development (R&D), and offline retail penetration. Speaking to FE in his first media interaction post-acquisition, Minimalist’s co-founder Mohit Yadav outlined the company’s roadmap for expansion, emphasising plans to establish a new manufacturing plant in Jaipur to meet rising demand. Minimalist had been in discussions to raise \$15-\$20 million (approximately Rs 130-175 crore) last year to fund its growth initiatives, including a new plant, product R&D, and global expansion. However, the acquisition by HUL provided the brand with an even greater opportunity.

Source: [Financial Express, March 11, 2025](#)

## Vedanta: Axis Securities decodes how demerger will unlock value

Anil Agarwal-led metals and mining behemoth Vedanta’s first de-merger scheme has come to a halt. This is because NCLT canceled it on account of an undisclosed liability by Vedanta Base Metals and its full value is yet to be unlocked. However, Axis Securities is positive on the demerger plans and expects it to be over in the second half of the next financial year. According to the report by Axis Securities, “we continue to see value unlocking post demerger especially from the Aluminium business. Going forward, the company will go for the 2nd motion of NLCT approval along with other statutory approvals and parallelly work towards mining leases and other assets transfers to the demerged entities. The entire demerger process is expected to be completed in H2FY26.”

Source: [Financial Express, March 11, 2025](#)

## Hindalco and Tata Steel among Jefferies top picks in metals: 3 reasons why

The brokerage firm Jefferies has maintained a positive outlook on India’s metal sector, reiterating its ‘Buy’ rating on Hindalco and Tata Steel while keeping a ‘Hold’ on JSW Steel. The firm has revised its target prices, setting Hindalco at Rs 800, Tata Steel at Rs 180, and JSW Steel at Rs 920. According to the brokerage, metal stocks have outperformed the Nifty 50 by 15% to 20% this year, driven by a mix of factors such as hopes of a recovery in China, expectations of safeguard duties on Indian steel, and strong aluminum prices. The brokerage highlighted that “Indian steel prices are up 5% from the December trough, and any safeguard duty can provide further support, boosting margins and valuations.”

Source: [Financial Express, March 11, 2025](#)

## India should withdraw from all negotiations with US; engage with them like other countries: GTRI

India should withdraw from all negotiations with the US and prepare to engage with the Trump administration in the same way as countries like China and Canada are doing, economic think tank GTRI said on Saturday. The Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) Founder, Ajay Srivastava said the US is exerting heavy pressure on India to accept trade demands that largely favour American interests. US President Donald Trump and his officials have criticised India mostly by using incorrect data, he said. US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick has also said that India needs to open its agriculture market, emphasising that it can not be ‘off the table’ when the country is negotiating with its largest trading partner. He has pitched for a macro, large and grand trade agreement with India, and not ‘product-by-product’ arrangement to promote bilateral trade.

Source: [Financial Express, March 11, 2025](#)

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## Big Call: Morgan Stanley says India “Most attractive”. Top Sectoral Picks Include...

The markets are flat but there is good news for investors. Morgan Stanley’s Ridham Desai expects India to recover lost ground against its peer group through the rest of the year. Desai also believes that a ‘Stock Pickers’ Market’ is unfolding. According to him a “likely positive shift in fundamentals is not in the price’ for India. This is what may spur the recovery for India. The Morgan Stanley report highlights optimism on the earnings front, “Crucially, India’s relative earnings growth is turning up based even on the more conservative consensus forecasts. In the meanwhile valuations are the most attractive since the Covid pandemic.” Desai added that another key factor that’s propelling the optimistic outlook is “India’s low beta characteristic.” This is because it makes India “an ideal market for an uncertain macro environment that equities are dealing with. Importantly, our sentiment indicator is in strong buy territory.”

Source: [Financial Express, March 11, 2025](#)

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## US markets rebound after Monday’s sell-off as equity futures turn green today

Equity investors are witnessing a big erosion of their wealth in 2025. The tech-heavy Nasdaq 100 index nosedived 3.8% with Monday’s selling wiping out more than \$1 trillion in value. On Monday, U.S. stocks experienced their worst day of 2025, causing investors to anticipate further selling and a possible bear market for the Nasdaq Composite Index. The Nasdaq Composite index witnessed a market correction, which is characterized by a 10% decline from a recent peak, which was touched on December 16 when Nasdaq finished at 20,173.89. A 20% downturn transforms a correction into a bear market. S&P 500 has already dropped 8.6% from record highs. The group of Magnificent Seven stocks tumbled 5.4% on Monday. Monday Market Mayhem saw Dow dropping 2.08%, the S&P 500 by 2.7%, and the Nasdaq Composite plunging 4%, with all three major indices hitting fresh multi-month lows.

Source: [Financial Express, March 11, 2025](#)

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## ‘Radical Left Lunatics’ boycotting Tesla to punish Elon Musk, claims Donald Trump

As Tesla shares take an all time low, US President Donald Trump came for DOGE chief, Elon Musk’s support. Standing in favour of the tech-billionaire, Donald Trump shared on Truth Social that he is “putting it on the line” to help the nation and was doing a “fantastic job” at that. Accusing the opposition “Radical Left Lunatics” of coming at Elon Musk’s Tesla. Triggering worldwide protests, dozens of demonstrations gathered at the Tesla showroom in Lisbon among other locations across the US, Barcelona and London. The post read, “To Republicans, Conservatives, and all great Americans, Elon Musk is “putting it on the line” in order to help our Nation, and he is doing a FANTASTIC JOB! But the Radical Left Lunatics, as they often do, are trying to illegally and collusively boycott Tesla, one of the World’s great automakers, and Elon’s “baby” in order to attack and do harm to Elon, and everything he stands for.”

Source: [Financial Express, March 11, 2025](#)

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## Global market turmoil: Trump blames ‘globalists’ as stocks plunge amid tariff uncertainty

Major stock indices experienced sharp declines this week as investors struggled to navigate President Donald Trump’s evolving tariff policies. The unpredictability of Trump’s trade decisions, coupled with his rhetoric on global economic relations, has left the markets in turbulence. When questioned about the market drop, Trump dismissed concerns that his tariff policies were the cause. Instead, he attributed the downturn to what he referred to as “globalist” countries and companies. “We’re taking back things that have been taken from us many years ago,” Trump stated, though he did not clarify what those things were. “We have been treated very unfairly as a country. We protect everybody. We do everything for all these countries, and a lot of these are globalist in nature,” Trump stated.

Source: [Financial Express, March 11, 2025](#)

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