



Be Open to New Possibilities.

Mcap of 5 most valued firms declines by Rs 93K cr; Infosys, TCS hit hard

The combined market capitalisation of five of the top-10 most valued firms declined by Rs 93,357.52 crore, with IT giants Infosys and Tata Consultancy Services taking the biggest hit, in line with a weak trend in domestic equities. Last week, the BSE Sensex benchmark declined 503.67 points or 0.68 per cent, and the NSE Nifty fell 155.3 points or 0.69 per cent. The stock markets were closed on Friday on the occasion of Holi festival. Meanwhile, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Hindustan Unilever, State Bank of India and Reliance Industries saw a decline in their market valuations. In contrast, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, ITC, Bajaj Finance and Bharti Airtel posted gains. The five firms together added Rs 49,833.62 crore in their market capitalisation.

Source: [Business Standard, March 16, 2025](#)

New electric two-wheeler launches drive market growth despite subsidy cuts

India's electric two-wheeler (e-2W) market is witnessing a surge in new launches in 2025, with manufacturers introducing models across various segments and price points. As interest in electric mobility grows, companies are expanding their portfolios to capture a larger share of the evolving market. According to the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA), electric two-wheeler sales stood at 173,820 units in calendar 2025, marking a 5.41 per cent increase from the previous year. In January, sales rose to 97,734 units, reflecting an 18.9 per cent Y-o-Y increase, but February saw a decline, with sales dropping to 76,086 units—an 8.05 per cent Y-o-Y fall. "The electric two-wheeler market has seen consistent growth despite reduced government subsidies over the past 12–18 months, with penetration in the two-wheeler segment remaining at 5-6 per cent," said Rohan Kanwar Gupta, vice-president and sector head, corporate ratings, ICRA. "OEMs have managed to keep prices

Source: [Business Standard, March 16, 2025](#)

Hyperloop electronics tech to be built at ICF Chennai, announces Vaishnaw

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday announced that an electronics component technology for the ambitious Hyperloop project, developed by IIT-Madras, will be built at the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai. After his visit to the Hyperloop testing facility at IIT Madras' Thaiyur campus, Vaishnaw, who holds the portfolios for Information and Broadcasting, Electronics and Information Technology, said the 410-meter-long Hyperloop test tube is the longest of its kind in Asia. The entire Hyperloop testing system has been developed using indigenous technologies, with encouraging results from the tests conducted so far. India is on the brink of introducing Hyperloop transportation, he added. Tutr Hyperloop, a deep-tech startup incubated at IIT Madras, is preparing to launch the world's first commercial Hyperloop project in India, aligned with the Centre's Atmanirbhar

Source: [Business Standard, March 16, 2025](#)

Donatella Versace steps down after 30 years—How do great leaders know when it's time to go?

After nearly three decades at the helm of one of the most recognizable fashion houses in the world, Donatella Versace is stepping down as creative director of Versace. Having taken over the brand after the tragic murder of her brother, Gianni Versace, in 1997, she has been instrumental in shaping the label's global identity. Her departure is more than just a shift in the fashion industry—it serves as an important leadership lesson in knowing when to step back to allow fresh perspectives to take over. Donatella Versace has not only kept her brother's legacy alive but has also carved her own path, leading Versace through multiple transformations. Under her leadership, the brand expanded beyond fashion into luxury hotels, automobiles, and high-profile collaborations. She became the face of Versace, both through her work and her unmistakable presence, dressed in the label's signature bold prints and platinum blonde hair.

Source: [People Matters, March 15, 2025](#)

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Business News Update

Europe stocks close higher led by Germany's DAX after lawmakers reportedly agree spending boost

European markets closed higher on Friday after German lawmakers reportedly came closer to agreeing on reforming the country's so-called debt brake rule. Multiple media reports said Friday that Germany's likely next chancellor Friedrich Merz had won support from the Greens party to hike public borrowing to allow an increase in defense spending. The motion, which requires a change to the German constitution, needs backing from two-thirds of the lawmakers elected to the country's parliament. The regional Stoxx 600 index closed 1.14% higher, with the German DAX index up by 1.86%. The Stoxx 600 is nonetheless heading for a second straight weekly loss as regional investors monitor tumultuous developments on transatlantic trade policies. Earlier this week, the EU announced it would retaliate to Trump's 25% tariffs on steel and aluminum with countermeasures on 26 billion euros (\$28 billion) worth of goods. The EU's tariffs could take aim at clothing, alcohol and industrial

Source: [CNBC, March 14, 2025](#)

U.S. consumers are starting to crack as tariffs add to inflation, recession concerns

The leaders of companies that serve everyone from penny-pinching grocery shoppers to first-class travelers are seeing cracks in demand, a shift after resilient consumers propped up the U.S. economy for years despite prolonged inflation. On top of high interest rates and persistent inflation, CEOs are now grappling with how to handle new hurdles like on-again, off-again tariffs, mass government layoffs and worsening consumer sentiment. Across earnings calls and investor presentations in recent weeks, retailers and other consumer-facing businesses warned that first-quarter sales were coming in softer than expected and the rest of the year might be tougher than Wall Street thought. Many of the executives blamed unseasonably cool weather and a "dynamic" macroeconomic environment, but the early days of President Donald Trump's second term have brought new challenges — perhaps none greater than trying to plan a global business at a time when his administration shifts its

Source: [CNBC, March 14, 2025](#)

Goodbye to 'bags fly free' on Southwest Airlines, the last freebie in America

Almost nothing is guaranteed in life. Certainly not weather, electricity, health, tariffs or eggs. But for more than 50 years, American consumers could count on Southwest Airlines letting them check bags for free. Dallas-based Southwest is ending the policy in May. Customers are not happy. "It was the only reason I flew Southwest," said MaKensy Kaye Alford, a 21-year-old singer and actress who lives near Birmingham, Alabama. Alford, who is planning to move to New York City later this year, said she would "definitely" consider taking another airline now. Southwest's customer-friendly policies have survived recessions, oil price spikes and even the Covid-19 pandemic, winning it years of goodwill and a loyal following, even as it has grown. No other airline carries more people in the United States than Southwest. Now, the airline with an unrivaled streak of profitability (its almost never posted an annual loss) is under pressure to increase profits as big competitors outpace the airline. So it's

Source: [BBC, March 15, 2025](#)

Consumer sentiment slumps in March to lowest since 2022 as Trump tariffs spark more inflation worries

Consumer sentiment took another hit in March as worries intensified over inflation and a slumping stock market, according to the University of Michigan's latest sentiment survey released Friday. The survey posted a mid-month reading of 57.9, which represents a 10.5% decline from February and was below the Dow Jones consensus estimate for 63.2. The reading was 27.1% below a year ago and was the lowest since November 2022. While the current conditions index fell a less severe 3.3%, the expectations measure for the future was off 15.3% on a monthly basis and 30% from the same period in 2024. In addition, fears grew over where inflation is headed as President Donald Trump institutes tariffs against U.S. trading partners. New duties on aluminum and steel took effect Wednesday, and the president this week also threatened 200% tariffs on European Union liquor after the

Source: [CNBC, March 14, 2025](#)