ATHARVA SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

(Approved by AICTE & DTE)

04 February 2025 Business News Update

The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.

Motilal Oswal's top 5 stock picks post Budget 2025

Motilal Oswal's 'Smart Basket' identifies five top stocks set for 10-15% growth. Discover potential gains post-Budget 2025! The brokerage firm Motilal Oswal has identified a 'Smart Basket', a selection of five stocks expected to gain from the Budget 2025. According to the firm, these five stocks is poised to gain in the next 3 to 6 months, with an expected of 10% to 15% upside. According to brokerage house, this will fuel demand for retail and lifestyle products, positioning Trent backed by its rapid store expansion and diversified brand portfolio. With its current CMP at 6,189 and a 20% allocation in the basket as of February 1, 2025, the company is poised to capitalise on the rising demand in the retail segment.

Source: Financial Express, February 04, 2025

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Divi's Lab Q3 result: Profit up 65% to Rs 589 cr on robust market sales

Drug firm Divi's Laboratories on Monday said its profit after tax (PAT) increased 65 per cent to Rs 589 crore for the December quarter, on the back of robust sales across markets. The company had reported a profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 358 crore for the October-December quarter of last fiscal. Revenue from operations rose to Rs 2,319 crore in the third quarter as against Rs 1,855 crore in the year-ago period, Divi's Laboratories said in a regulatory filing. The drug firm noted a part of the Kakinada Project (Unit-III) commenced commercial operations from January 1, 2025. The rest of Kakinada project is being implemented and is expected to be operational in about six months, it added. The company said its board has approved the re-appointment of Kiran S Divi as Chief Executive Officer of the company for another five years.

Source: Business Standard, February 04, 2025

TVS Holdings acquires 80.74% stake in Home Credit India for Rs 554 crore

TVS Holdings Ltd on Monday announced the successful completion of its acquisition of an 80.74 per cent equity stake in Home Credit India Finance (Home Credit India) for Rs 554 crore. The remaining 19.26 per cent equity stake has been purchased by Premji Invest and other associates of TVS Holdings. Following the deal, together with TVS Credit, the Group is eyeing a lending book size of Rs 50,000 crore in the next three years, up from Rs 33,000 crore currently. The company said this acquisition aligns seamlessly with TVS Holdings' mission to strengthen its presence in the financial services sector. It focuses on new-to-credit (NTC) customers, enabling them with consumer durable loans for low-cost smartphones, along with personal loans. Home Credit India will significantly complement TVS Holdings' existing capabilities, enabling it to offer enhanced financial solutions to a wider audience, the company said in a statement.

Source: Business Standard, February 04, 2025

India set for electronics boost amid Trump's tariffs on Chinese imports

India's electronics sector is expected to see short-term benefits following the United States' decision to impose a 10 per cent tariff on Chinese imports, according to a report by Moneycontrol. However, they emphasise the need for proactive policymaking and the establishment of comprehensive trade agreements with the US to sustain long-term growth. The newly introduced levy, which is lower than the 25 per cent tariff imposed on Canadian and Mexican goods, now includes previously exempt product categories such as smartphones, laptops, and other electronic devices. The decision is expected to bolster global brands like Apple and Motorola, which utilise India as a key export base. Industry leaders highlight the importance of agile policy decisions to maximise this opportunity and reinforce India's position in global trade.

Source: Business Standard, February 04, 2025

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Elon Musk believes 'working the weekend is superpower' - Know why

In an era where conversations about work-life balance are gaining traction worldwide, Tesla CEO Elon Musk has reignited the debate with his latest remarks. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Musk asserted that working on weekends is a "superpower." His statement came in response to a user referencing the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), a new entity that Musk has been actively involved with. The billionaire entrepreneur emphasized that bureaucratic workers in the United States seldom work on weekends, likening it to the opposing team abandoning the field for two days. His comment—"Very few in the bureaucracy actually work the weekend, so it's like the opposing team just leaves the field for 2 days! Working the weekend is a superpower."—has sparked discussions on workplace culture, efficiency, and the changing expectations of employees in modern work environments.

Source: Times of India, February 04, 2025

De Minimis Loophole Closed: How New Trump Ban

In a significant move aimed at leveling the playing field for American retailers, the United States has officially closed the "de minimis loophole," a long-standing trade provision that has given foreign e-commerce giants such as Temu and SHEIN an unfair advantage in the competitive retail market. This decision comes as part of President Donald Trump's broader tariff crackdown targeting Chinese imports, with the goal of curbing illicit fentanyl inflows and addressing economic imbalances. Trump's administration cited national security concerns as the primary driver behind suspending the de minimis exemption for China, as well as for Canada and Mexico. The decision was motivated by two major factors: 1) Curbing Fentanyl Inflows 2) Targeting Chinese E-commerce Giants. The new policy is expected to have far-reaching implications for global e-commerce, forcing companies like Temu and SHEIN to reassess their supply chains and pricing strategies while enhancing border security to address the ongoing opioid crisis

Source: Times of India, February 04, 2025

SoftBank, OpenAI set up joint company to push AI services in Japan

Japanese technology giant SoftBank Group and OpenAI stepped up their AI partnership Monday, setting up a 50-50 held company called SB OpenAI Japan. SoftBank Chief Masayoshi Son and OpenAI Chief Sam Altman appeared at an event in Tokyo, talking up their collaboration and inviting Japanese companies to join. Son, holding a shiny blue crystal ball as a symbolic prop, said its AI service Cristal could be used by companies for planning, marketing, emails and figuring out old source codes. Cristal will first roll out in Son's own SoftBank Group companies, which include Arm, a semiconductor and software company, and PayPay, an electronic payment service. SoftBank said it plans to spend \$3 billion a year to integrate Cristal across its companies. This will be super-intelligence for the company. I'm so excited, Son told reporters and other participants at the Transforming Business through AI event

Source: Business Standard, February 04, 2025

OpenAI releases AI agent 'Deep Research' designed to act like analyst

OpenAI is releasing a new artificial intelligence tool that's designed to carry out time-consuming online research for users about everything from complex science questions to car recommendations — expanding the startup's portfolio of AI agents that act on a person's behalf. The service, called Deep Research, will be available to certain paying customers through OpenAI's ChatGPT chatbot online, the company said in a blog post on Sunday. In response to a prompt, the tool will scour words, images and PDFs online, as well as files uploaded by the user, to create an in-depth report. OpenAI compared the feature to a research analyst and said it's meant to do in "tens of minutes" what would typically take a person "many hours." Deep Research is the second AI agent that San Francisco-based OpenAI has released this year. Last month, OpenAI introduced Operator, which can help book flights, plan grocery orders and even complete purchases for users. Both services are initially available just to those who pay \$200 per month for OpenAI's recently introduced ChatGPT Pro option.

Source: Business Standard, February 04, 2025

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