

BIZ & BEYOND

Breaking News



Global Market Watch: A Snapshot in Time

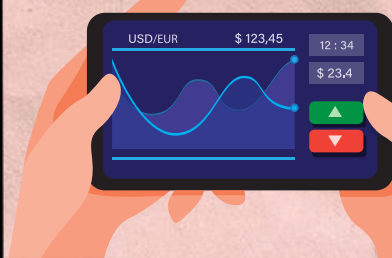
The provided data displays market information across various asset classes. Indian indices, Sensex and Nifty50, showed positive changes of 0.84% and 0.96% respectively. US indices, S&P 500 and NASDAQ, also experienced gains with 0.67% and 0.76% increases respectively. In commodities, Gold and Silver (priced in US dollars per ounce) saw slight dips of -0.05% and -0.54% respectively, while WTI Crude Oil rose by 2.17%. Natural Gas experienced a significant drop of -8.82%. Currency exchange rates against the Indian Rupee (INR) showed minor gains: JPY remained flat at 0.00%, EUR increased by 0.49%, USD by 0.52%, and GBP by 0.59%.

Index	Change	
Sensex	78,699.07	▲ 0.84%
Nifty50	23,813.40	▲ 0.96%
S&P 500	5,970.84	▲ 0.67%
NASDAQ	19,722.03	▲ 0.76%

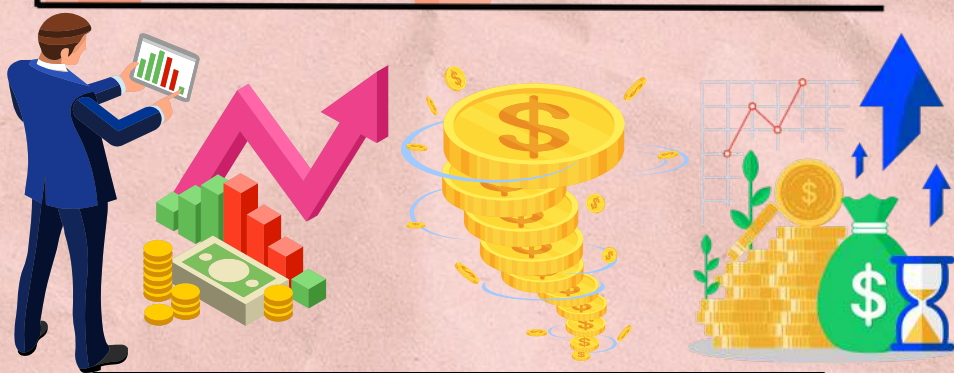
Currency	Change	
JPY/INR	0.54	▲ 0.00%
EUR/INR	89.03	▲ 0.49%
USD/INR	85.39	▲ 0.52%
GBP/INR	107.4	▲ 0.59%



Commodity	Change	
Gold(US\$/OZ)	2,620.03	▼ -0.05%
Silver(US\$/OZ)	29.37	▼ -0.54%
WTI Crude Oil	70.6	▲ 2.17%
Natural Gas	3.41	▼ -8.82%



Crypto	Change	
BTC	0.54	▲ 0.00%
ETH	89.03	▲ 0.49%
USDT	85.39	▲ 0.52%
BNB	107.4	▲ 0.59%



- Interestingly, the Cryptocurrency data mirrors the currency data, with BTC showing no change (0.00%), ETH gaining 0.49%, USDT up 0.52%, and BNB with a 0.59% increase. This parallel movement suggests a potential correlation between cryptocurrencies and their corresponding fiat currencies against the INR.

Amazon, Flipkart face stiff competition to catch up in quick commerce race



GROWING BUSINESS

	Start of operations	Number of cities	Dark stores	Daily orders
Blinkit	Jan '22	40	791	10,00,000
Swiggy Instamart	Aug '20	43	557	800,000-10,00,000
Zepto	Apr '21	10+	350	700,000-750,000
BBNow	Dec '21	35	460	540,000
Flipkart Minutes	Aug '24	3	40	50,000

Source: State of Quick Commerce Market, 2024, by Datum Intelligence

1,023 x 360



E-commerce giants Amazon and Flipkart face a significant challenge in scaling their quick commerce (qcom) operations. Analysts estimate they will need to invest at least \$1 billion each to compete with established players like Blinkit, Swiggy Instamart, and Zepto. While Amazon and Flipkart have strong logistics networks, they lack the extensive network of "dark stores" (small warehouses in urban areas) crucial for fast qcom deliveries. Qcom companies are gaining market share, particularly in grocery and household essentials, due to the convenience of rapid delivery. Amazon and Flipkart's advantages lie in their wider product selection and established brand relationships. Both companies are taking initial steps in qcom, with Flipkart launching Minutes and Amazon piloting 15-minute delivery. However, significant investment and operational adjustments are needed for them to effectively compete in this rapidly growing market.



More
Specifically



Rupee remains under pressure, touches new low of 85.12 per dollar



The Indian rupee weakened to a new low of 85.12 per dollar on Monday, pressured by month-end importer demand for dollars, a weakening Chinese Yuan, and rising crude oil prices. The RBI intervened with dollar sales to prevent further depreciation, despite dwindling forex reserves. While trading volumes are expected to be low this week due to holidays, the Sensex reshuffle may provide some support to the rupee. Analysts anticipate a relatively stable week for the dollar index and continued headwinds for emerging market currencies. Crude oil prices have risen slightly due to easing US government shutdown concerns and a softer inflation reading. The Federal Reserve's recent rate cut and projections for future cuts, alongside the upcoming change in US administration, add to the complexity of the situation. Some analysts predict a temporary strengthening of the rupee before renewed weakness in January.

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China plans record \$411 billion special treasury bond issuance next year



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China plans to issue a record 3 trillion yuan (\$411 billion) in special treasury bonds in 2025, a significant increase from this year's 1 trillion yuan. This move aims to stimulate the slowing economy and mitigate the anticipated impact of increased US tariffs under the incoming Trump administration. The funds will be used to boost consumption through subsidy programs, support business equipment upgrades, and finance investments in advanced sectors like electric vehicles and semiconductors.

A large portion will also recapitalize struggling state banks. This planned issuance is the largest on record and underscores

China's commitment to counteracting deflationary pressures, even through increased debt. While the official economic growth target will be announced in March, it is expected to be around 5%, with a record budget deficit of 4% of GDP.

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2025
HAPPY NEW YEAR

GST Council clears "track and trace" mechanism, cigarettes and pan masala likely first targets



GST Council clears "track and trace" mechanism, cigarettes and pan masala likely first targets

The GST Council will track cigarettes and pan masala to stop tax evasion. A unique code will be placed on products. This will help the government follow the products. The government loses lots of money from illegal cigarette sales. This new system will help recover that money. Similar systems are used in other countries.

Keeping Check	More Decisions
GST Council approves changes to law for a 'track & trace' mechanism	Move in line with global practices for evasion prone sectors such as tobacco products
A tech-based unique identifier to help keep tabs; violation to invite penalty	Definition of 'declared tariff', by hotels, to be deleted from GST law
WHO protocol on tobacco also prescribes a track & trace	Restaurants in hotels to pay 18% if room tariff exceeds ₹7500 per day
	Amendment in GST law and rules for functionality of Invoice Management System Council takes note of rules for functioning of GST Appellate Tribunal

KEY POINTS

The World Health Organization (WHO) has also advocated for such mechanisms under the Convention on Tobacco Control and the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products. Globally, systems like these are used in regions including the European Union, the UK, and Turkey to monitor the supply chain and reduce illegal trade.

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Growth in Indian Corporate Financing

Fund mobilisation by Indian companies surged 10 times over last ten years: Report

Fund mobilisation by Indian companies grew tenfold over the last ten years, rising from Rs 12,068 crore in 2014 to Rs 1.21 lakh crore in FY25. Increased household participation and higher market capitalization reflect a robust economy and strong investor confidence. Savings in shares and debentures have also significantly increased, indicating higher household contributions to the economy.



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Popcorn, in loose form, sold in movie theatres to attract 5% GST

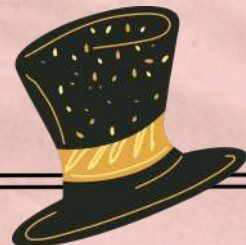
Popcorn sold in loose form in movie theatres will continue to attract a GST rate of 5 per cent. If popcorn is sold together with a movie ticket, it will be taxed at the rate applicable to the ticket. Popcorn mixed with salt and spices is classified as namkeen and also attracts a 5 per cent tax.



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New Year

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This chess genius got a little bored, so he is reinventing the game now



Chess grandmaster Magnus Carlsen is reinventing chess with the Freestyle Chess Grand Slam Tour, a new league designed to modernize the game and attract a wider audience. Key innovations include randomized starting positions for pieces, heart rate monitors to display player stress, and "confession booths" for reality-TV style interviews.

More
Specifically



Carlsen believes this format creates a more dynamic and exciting game. Backed by \$12 million in funding, the tour will visit major cities worldwide, starting in February. While profitability isn't immediate, organizers aim to build player narratives and generate revenue through sponsorships and events.

"Chess is infinite, and one has to make only one ill-considered move, and one's opponent's wildest dreams will become reality."
- David Bronstein



Indian prodigy Gukesh Dommaraju is among the top players participating. Carlsen, who previously relinquished his World Chess Championship title due to format dissatisfaction, hopes Freestyle Chess will elevate the sport's profile and appeal.

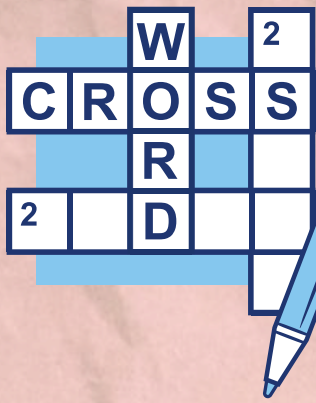
The Campus Grapevine

"Level up your writing! Get expert feedback from faculty on your articles."

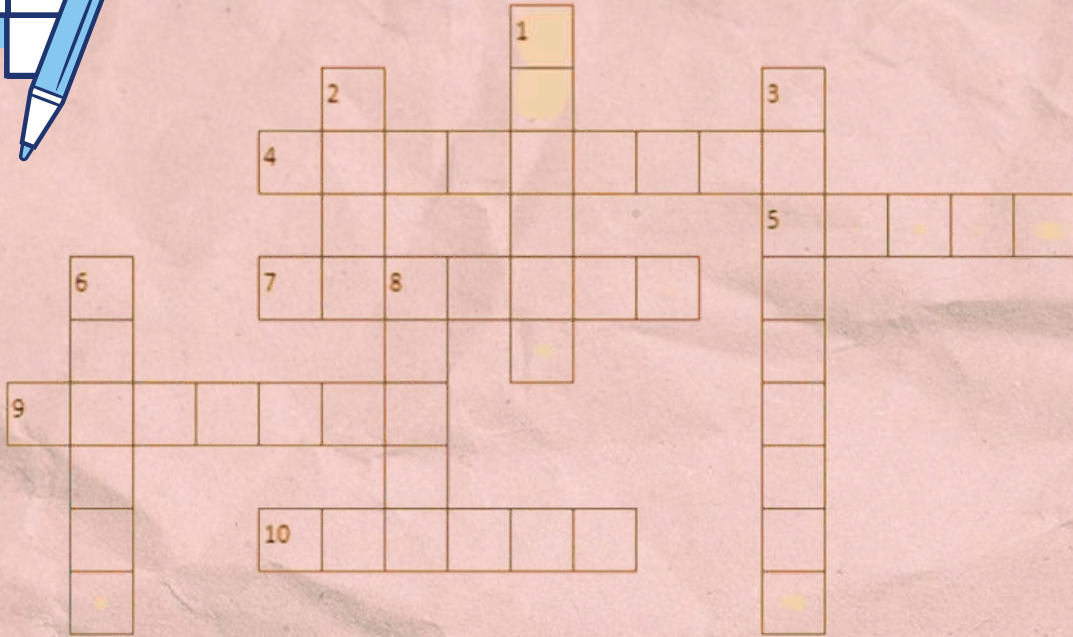


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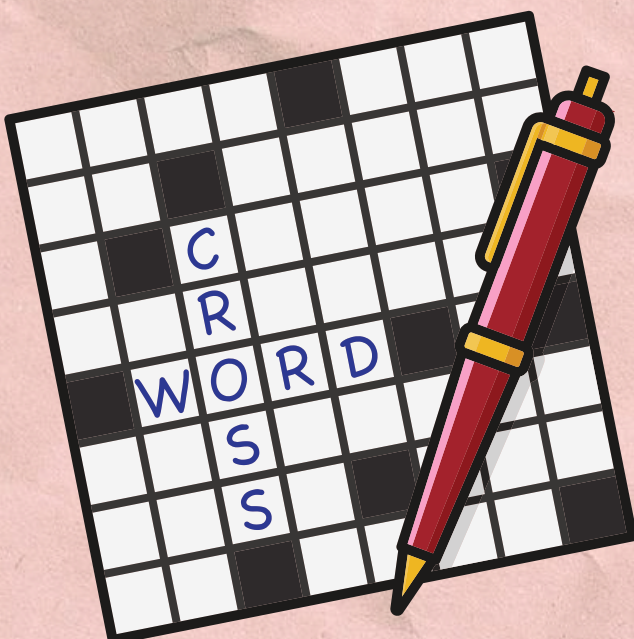
Across

4. Software giant known for Windows
5. Smartphone manufacturer based in Cupertino
7. Entertainment streaming service with a red "N" logo
9. German engineering and technology company specializing in industrial automation
10. Giant online retailer founded by Jeff Bezos

Down

1. Search engine giant, also a verb
2. Sportswear giant with a swoosh logo
3. Coffeehouse chain with a green mermaid logo
6. Pharmaceutical giant that developed Lipitor
8. Electric car manufacturer led by Elon Musk

Submit the solution



The Team

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Announcement
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The Wordsmiths aims to empower students with knowledge, foster critical thinking, and contribute to a more informed and engaged campus community.

Feedback

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