

The Monthly Newsletter



Between the Lines

Edition: July 2025

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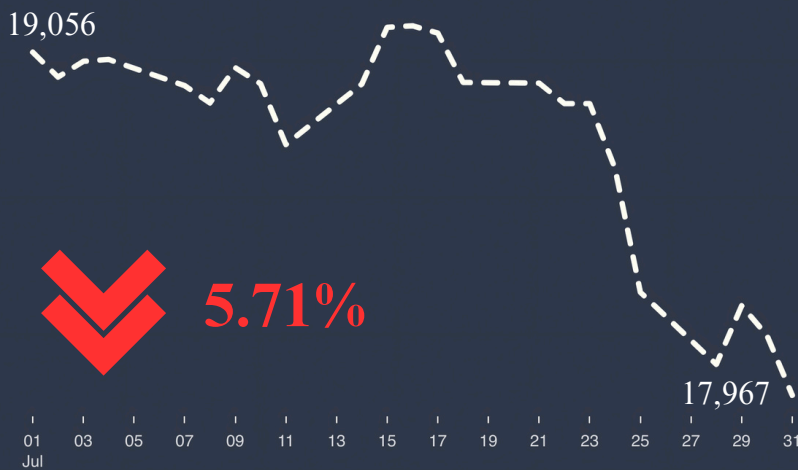
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CHARTS THAT MATTERED THIS MONTH

Equities

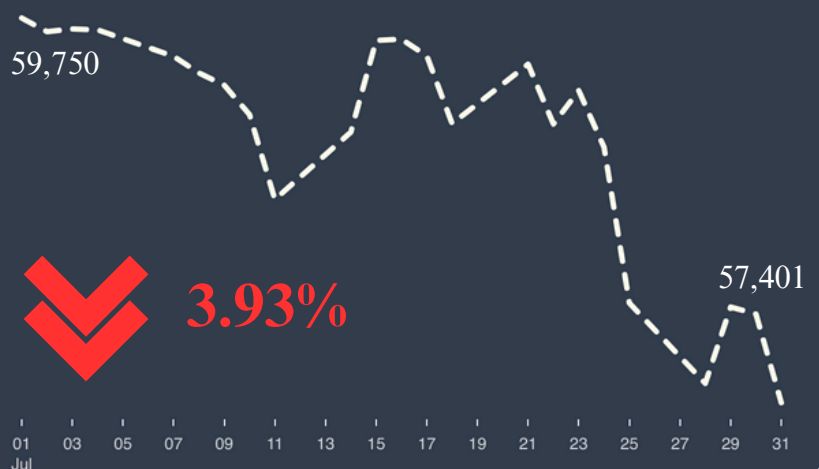
Smallcap 100 | July'25



The decline was driven by substantial FII outflows in response to sustained U.S. tariff increases, elevated valuations following the Q2 rally prompting profit-taking, and weaker-than-expected Q1 corporate earnings

Downward pressure intensified late-month amid valuation concerns, index fund outflows, and global risk aversion from a stronger U.S. dollar, reversing midcap resilience and triggering sharp declines.

Midcap 100 | July'25



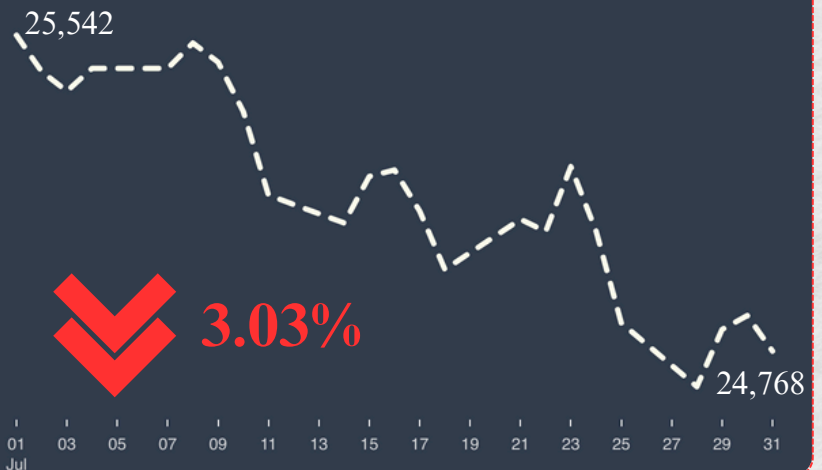
Nasdaq 100 | July'25



Strong tech earnings, AI-driven demand, and positive U.S. data boosted gains, though volatility from changing rate expectations and weak semiconductor results briefly slowed momentum.

Aggressive FII selling due to new U.S. tariffs, mixed earnings, underperforming key stocks, and a shift to defensives amid policy uncertainty led to the July decline. Brief manufacturing support failed to counter the negative sentiment.

Nifty 50 | July'25



Commodities

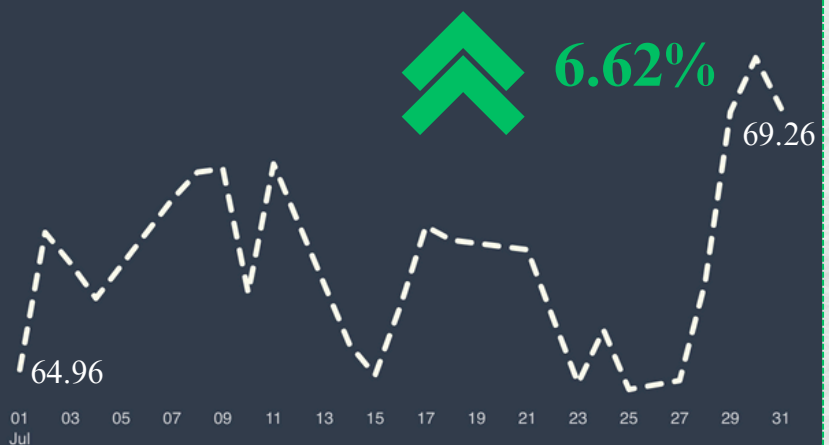
Gold in \$/31.10 gm | July'25



Prices lost momentum after an early safe-haven rally, as a stronger U.S. dollar and easing geopolitical tensions curbed demand. However, continued institutional accumulation signaled a sustained bullish outlook.

Crude prices were bolstered by OPEC+ cuts, Middle East tensions, and strong US-China demand but faced pressure from rising output and tariff uncertainty. Tight supply and demand optimism provided some underlying support.

Crude Oil in \$1 | July'25



Silver in \$/31.10 gm | July'25



Driven by strong industrial demand, safe-haven flows, ETF inflows, and a weaker dollar. Supply constraints and profit-taking added volatility, but investor interest remained strong.

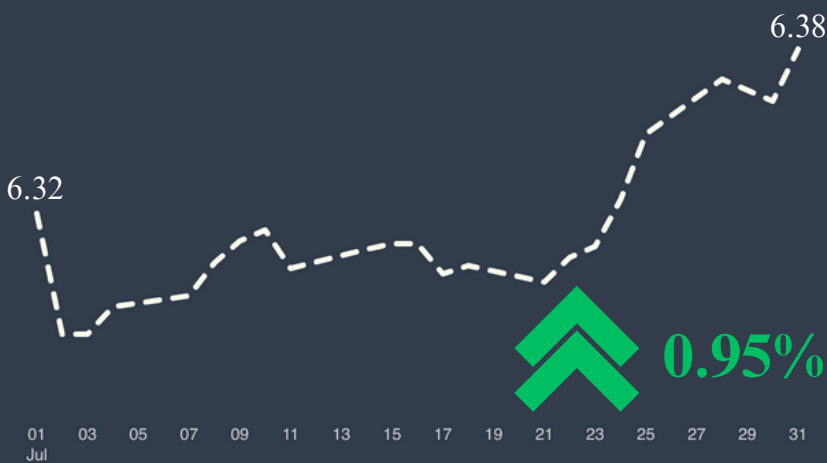
Interest Rates

Yields climbed in July on inflation surprises, strong jobs data, and hawkish Fed signals, with added pressure from fiscal concerns and heavy Treasury supply.

US 10-Year Bond | July'25



India 10-Year Bond | July'25



Rising global yields, FII outflows, and higher inflation expectations drove the increase, while government borrowing and risk-off sentiment added pressure. RBI guidance and ample liquidity helped curb the move.

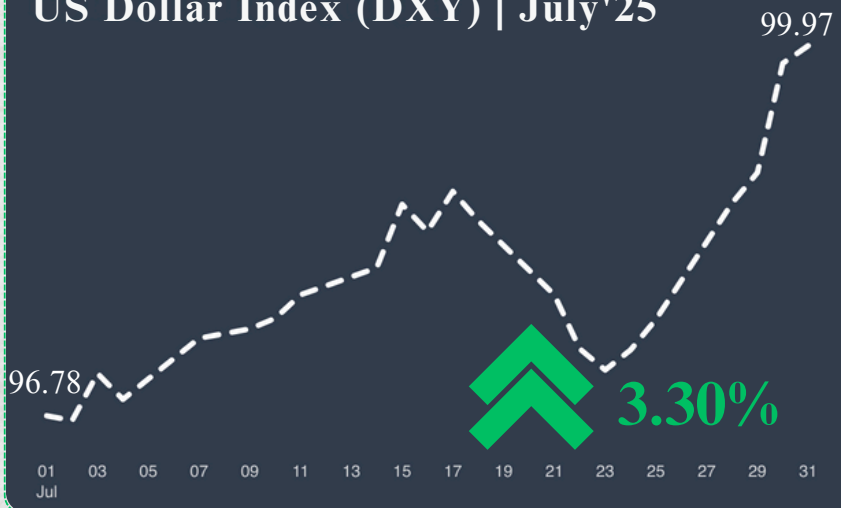
Currency Market

Persistent FII outflows, weak equities, and a stronger USD on U.S. rate optimism pressured the rupee, while new U.S. tariffs and a wider current account deficit added strain. RBI intervention curbed volatility.

USD/INR | July'25



US Dollar Index (DXY) | July'25



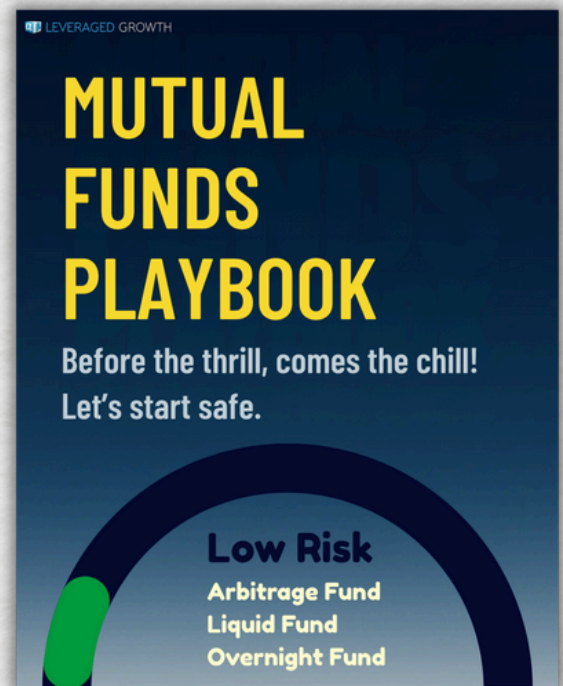
The Federal Reserve's hawkish stance, robust U.S. data, and trade developments boosted the dollar. This helped the DXY achieve its best July since 2019, following a tough first half.

TOP PICKS: FINANCIAL INSIGHTS YOU CAN'T MISS

Before you chase the highs, learn where it's safe to chill.

Start your MF journey with the most secure choices.

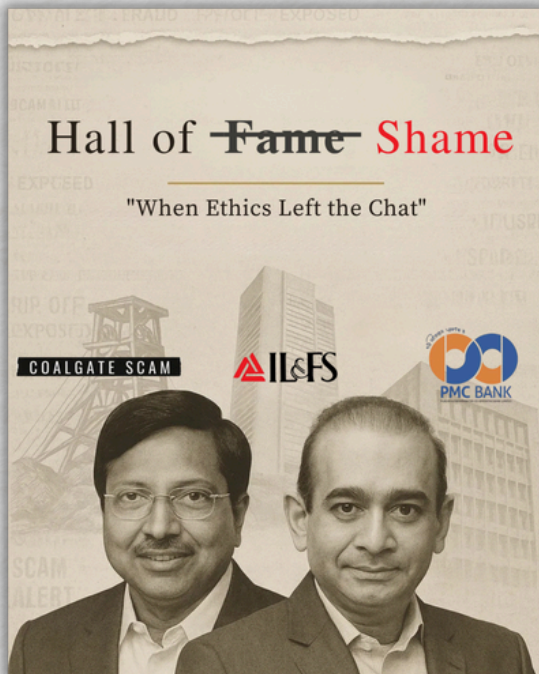
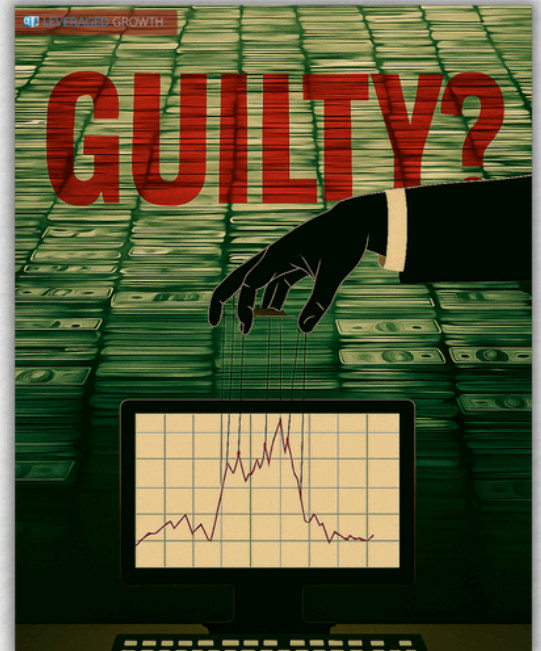
[Click for the deeper dive.](#)



One virus. Five years. Endless chaos.
The pandemic was only the beginning.
Ready for the full story?

[Click for the deeper dive.](#)

Market genius or market manipulator?
One firm. ₹735 crore profit. One day.
Here's the playbook they allegedly used,
and how retail traders paid the price.
[Click for the deeper dive.](#)



When corporate legends become
cautionary tales...
Discover the scams that shook India's
trust.
[Click for the deeper dive.](#)

Think today's markets are volatile?
These 4 disasters redefined global
finance.
What broke the system? Slide in to
find out.
[Click for the deeper dive.](#)



FEATURED BLOG OF THE MONTH

JANE STREET: FROM QUANT KING TO COMPLIANCE

The Quantum Empire: Billions in the Balance

Let's quantify the giant first:

Jane Street, a New York-based quantitative trading powerhouse, reported a whopping \$20.5 billion in global revenue for 2024, with a war chest estimated at \$42 billion to deploy in markets. With over 3,000 employees working across the US, Europe, and Asia, its average payout per employee at \$1.39 million is nearly four times Goldman Sachs' average.



In India, Jane Street is hardly an outsider. Through its entities based locally and in Hong Kong/Singapore, the firm booked \$5 billion in profit from Indian equity options between January 2023 and March 2025 alone. At one point, Jane Street controlled 2% of derivatives volume across 18 countries, including India.

Trading Playbook: Algorithmic Edge or Market Manipulation?

In July 2025, the SEBI dropped a bomb: accusing Jane Street of “index manipulation,” based on an intricate scheme:

JANE STREET INDIA REGULATORY TIMELINE



June 2025

SEBI probes Jane Street for market manipulation.



July 3

Trading ban; ₹4,844 Cr frozen.



July 3-21

Market turmoil; ban to lift if funds escrowed.



July 21

Funds deposited; ban lifted—with conditions



- **Intraday Index Manipulation:** Jane Street would buy large quantities of bank stocks and futures, pushing indices like Bank Nifty up, sparking retail FOMO. Simultaneously, it built massive short positions in index options. It then aggressively sold those stocks and futures to crash the index, locking in windfall options profits even after minor cash market losses.
- **Marking the Close:** On select days, it would execute blockbuster trades at market close, nudging closing prices in its favor to benefit pre-existing options bets.

On the infamous day of Jan 17, 2024, SEBI estimated Jane Street made ₹735 crore profit in a single session, dwarfing normal trading desk numbers.

The Compliance Crackdown: Billions on Ice!

This July, facing mounting evidence, SEBI banned Jane Street from trading in India, seizing ₹4,843.5 crore, effectively “freezing” suspected gains pending investigation. The move sent shockwaves through the F&O market, raising fears that banning a liquidity giant could chill derivatives volumes, at least in the short term.

By July 21, after intense negotiations and the full deposit of frozen funds in

GAMMA BLAST



WHAT IS IT

- A rapid price move in underlying stock
- Driven by options hedging activity



CAUSES

- Large buying of short-dated options
- Forces dealers to hedge aggressively



EFFECTS

- Increased volatility and price swings
- Sharp losses often quickly reverse



CONSIDERATIONS

- Short-term traders may benefit
- Can lead to both gains and loss
- Use caution during these moves

escrow, SEBI allowed Jane Street to resume trading, but not without strings attached:

- No options trading allowed (Jane Street’s specialty).
- No new trades in equities (“cash”) until all activities are explained.
- Exchanges to maintain constant surveillance over Jane Street’s Indian operations.

Jane Street, for its part, continues to claim its trades were standard hedging and liquidity provision, hinting that India’s surveillance systems need a big tech upgrade, not just sharper rules.



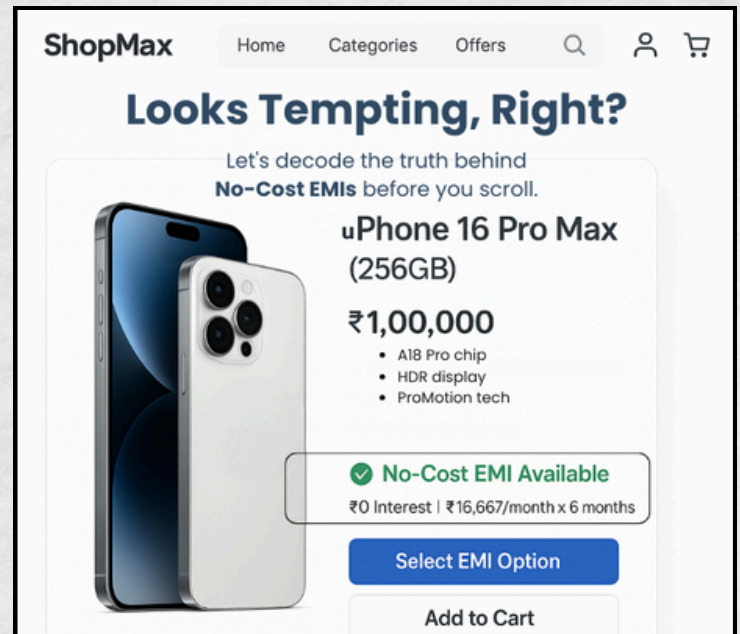
DON'T MISS THE REST

NO-COST EMI: A SWEET DEAL OR A SNEAKY TRAP?

In today's digital world, owning high-value products is easier than ever. With just a click, you can select “No-Cost EMI” at checkout and break down your payment into smaller monthly installments, no upfront cost, no visible interest. It sounds like the ideal deal. But is it really as simple and cost-free as it appears?

What Is No-Cost EMI?

No-Cost EMI (Equated Monthly Instalment) allows you to pay for a product over a fixed period without



for a 6-month EMI, you're told to pay ₹10,000 a month, seemingly with no additional charges.

In reality, banks rarely lend money without interest. What usually happens is this: the bank charges standard interest on the loan, but the seller or manufacturer offers an upfront discount equivalent to that interest. Sometimes, the product price is inflated beforehand to absorb the interest, or the EMI option is not eligible for existing discounts available on full payments.

So while you're technically not paying *extra*, you're not always getting the *best* deal either.



any extra interest, at least on paper. If a product costs ₹60,000 and you opt

What Are the Hidden Costs?

Despite its “no-cost” branding, this EMI model can come with additional charges:

- **Processing Fees:** Most banks charge a processing fee between 1–3% of the product price. This adds to your total outflow.
- **GST on Interest:** Even if the interest is discounted, you may still have to pay GST on it.
- **Inflated MRP:** In some cases, retailers bump up the product price to absorb the interest.
- **Loss of Discounts:** No-Cost EMI may not qualify for cashback or full-payment discounts.
- **Blocked Credit Limit:** EMI options often tie up your credit card limit, reducing your spending flexibility.
- **Late Payment Risks:** Missing an EMI may attract penalties and impact your credit score. Some No-Cost EMIs are even reported as personal loans on your credit report.

Why It Feels So Tempting?

The appeal lies in the illusion of affordability. Smaller monthly payments feel more manageable than one large transaction. There's also the psychological comfort of instant ownership, enjoying the product now



while paying for it later.

It's easy to focus on the EMI amount and ignore the bigger picture of how much you're really paying in total.

When Does It Make Sense?

No-Cost EMI can be useful in specific cases:

- The product is essential (like a laptop for work).
- The merchant genuinely absorbs the interest.
- There are no processing fees or better offers available.
- You're confident about making every payment on time.

Read the fine print, do the math, and swipe wisely. Not every “zero-interest” offer is as harmless as it sounds.

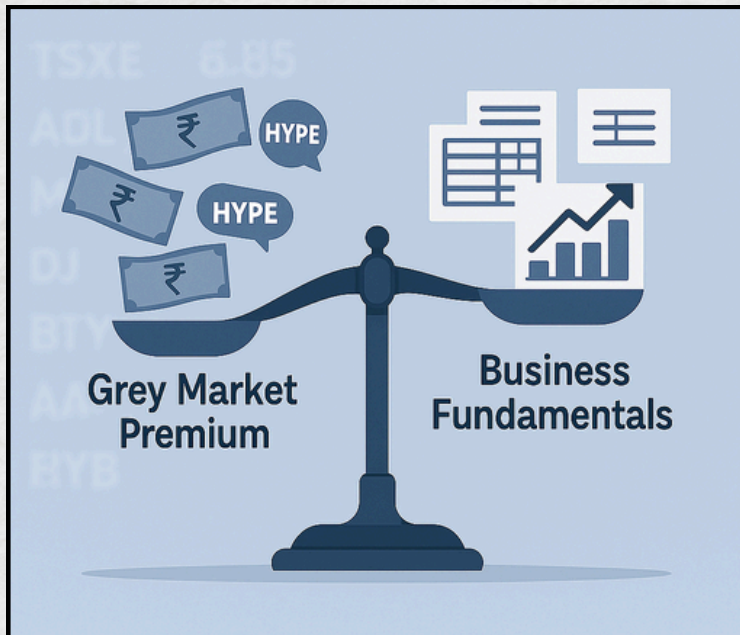
GREY MARKET PREMIUMS: SIGNAL OR SPECULATION?

Understanding the Grey Market

The grey market operates outside official exchanges where IPO shares are bought and sold unofficially before their actual listing. Here, traders quote premiums based on expected demand with no regulatory oversight. While this space can offer early insights into market sentiment, the numbers thrown around are unofficial and unverified.

What is GMP and Should You Trust It?

Grey Market Premium refers to the extra price investors are willing to pay



for an IPO share in this informal market



For example, if an IPO is priced at ₹1,000 and is trading at ₹1,100 in the grey market, the GMP is ₹100. It reflects anticipation but not necessarily accuracy.

A high GMP might suggest strong investor interest, but it doesn't always translate to post-listing success. Many times, the hype fades quickly, leaving investors with disappointing returns. GMP is more about perception than precision and often influenced by FOMO, social media chatter, and herd behaviour.

Signal vs Hype: A Risky Balancing Act



GMP is useful for gauging sentiment, but relying on it blindly can backfire. Listing gains can be tempting, but they shouldn't override the basics like evaluating company financials, industry trends, or future growth potential. Remember, grey market activity is driven by supply and demand, not business fundamentals.

IPO Listing Performance: Mixed Bag

Recent IPOs show how unpredictable this can be. Some, like Tata Technologies, listed well above GMP expectations, while others like Waaree Energies saw actual listing prices fall far below the grey market buzz. It's a reminder that premiums are not promises.

SME IPOs: Higher Stakes, Higher Risks

SME IPOs, listed on platforms like NSE Emerge and BSE SME, have gained attention in the grey market. But as of July 2025, SEBI has raised the minimum application size to ₹2 lakh, raising the entry bar for retail investors. These IPOs often have low liquidity, minimal analyst coverage, and greater price swings. The GMP in such cases may reflect hype in a thinly traded space rather than real value.

The Bottom Line

Grey Market Premiums offer a glimpse

DON'T CHASE THE HYPE BLINDLY



Cross-check GMP from multiple sources



Look at QIB and anchor investor data



Assess company fundamentals



Consider IPO pricing strategy



Know your risk appetite

into investor excitement, but come with no guarantees. Use them as one of many inputs, not the only one. Evaluate the company's fundamentals, understand the business model, and assess your own risk appetite.

Because while a high GMP might look like a green light, it's worth asking, is it a real signal or just speculation dressed up in rupee signs?

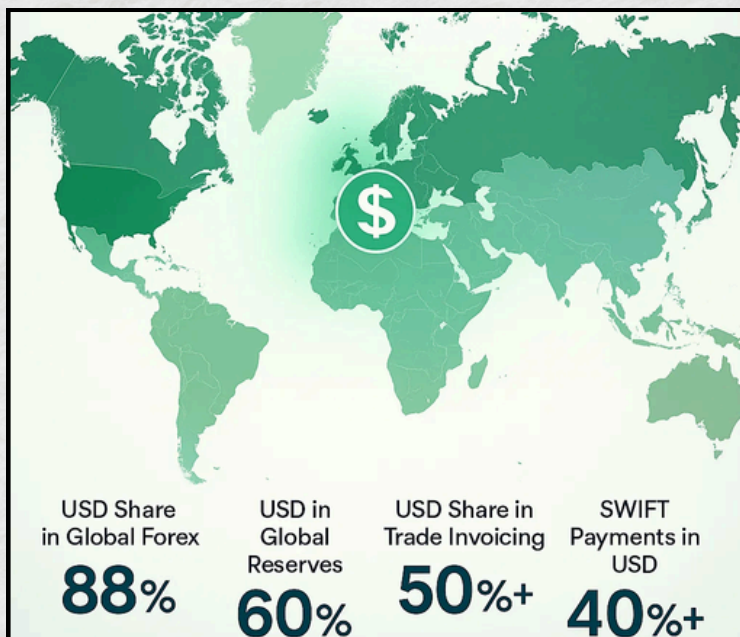


USD: KING OF THE PAST, PRESENT... AND THE FUTURE?

For nearly eight decades, the U.S. Dollar has reigned as the world's financial king. Whether it's oil from the Middle East or semiconductors from East Asia, chances are, the deal is sealed in dollars. However, in a rapidly changing world of geopolitics, rising multipolar powers, and fintech revolutions, the question looms: can the dollar remain supreme, or is its dominance waning?

The Rise of the Dollar

The dollar's dominance began at the **Bretton Woods Conference in 1944**,



where global leaders pegged major currencies to the dollar, and the dollar



to gold. This framework helped stabilize the post-war economy. Even after the gold standard ended in the 1970s, global trust in the dollar, thanks to the strength, resilience, and transparency of the U.S. economy in fact made it the global currency of choice.

The Numbers Say It All

- **88%** of global forex trades involve the USD.
- Over **50%** of global trade is invoiced in USD.
- Around **60%** of global foreign reserves are held in dollars.
- Over **40%** of SWIFT transactions are in USD.

The dollar is more than just money - it's a financial infrastructure, a standard, and a symbol of global trust that most nations rely on daily.

The Dollar Smile Theory

This theory explains why the dollar often rises in both crises and booms.

When global markets are rattled, investors flock to the dollar as a **safe-haven** asset.

When the U.S. economy is thriving, capital flows into U.S. assets, again strengthening the dollar.

Only during a rare scenario of global stability paired with weak U.S. growth does the dollar lose significant ground, flattening the “smile.”

When Crisis Strikes, USD Shines

In the 2008 financial crisis, the dollar surged **26%** as investors ran for safety despite the crisis originating in the U.S. This paradox highlights just how deeply the world trusts the greenback, even when America's own systems are under pressure.

SWIFT: The Dollar's Hidden Power

The U.S. also controls critical financial plumbing like **SWIFT**, the messaging system that links over 11,000 banks across 200+ countries. SWIFT doesn't move money, but it moves the messages that move money.



Being cut off from it as seen with Russia in 2022, means being cut off from the **global financial bloodstream**, especially the dollar.

Cracks in the Crown?

While still dominant, the dollar's share of global reserves has fallen from **71%** in 1999 to about **58%** today.

Meanwhile, countries like China and Russia are increasingly settling trade in local currencies. Over 130 nations are piloting **central bank digital currencies (CBDCs)** and alternative payment systems aimed at reducing dollar reliance.

The dollar isn't done, not yet. But the world is clearly hedging its bets.

The question is: how long can it keep smiling?

HOW SAFE IS YOUR DATA? THE RISE OF PRIVACY AS A SERVICE

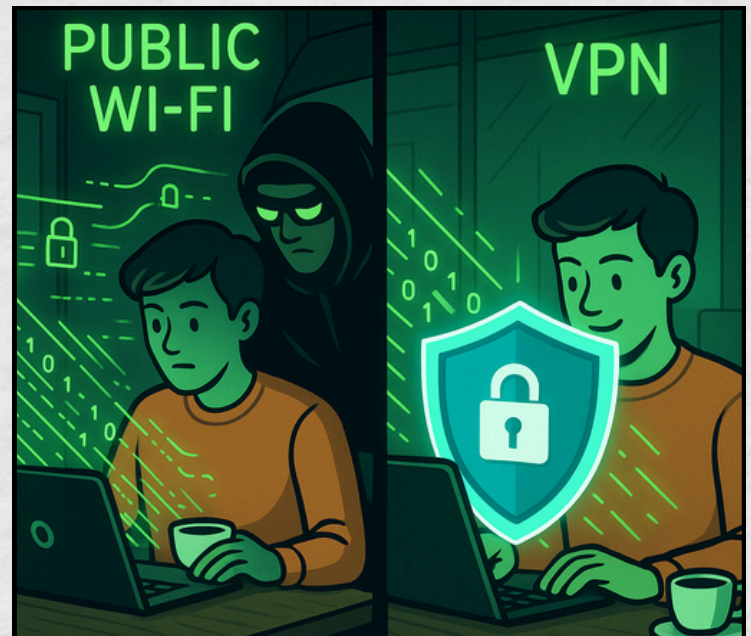
The Hidden Cost of Being Online

Ever received a call or SMS from a website you never signed up for? It's unsettling, especially when you never gave away your number. But this isn't magic; it's data exploitation. Websites, apps, and seemingly harmless online behaviour often collect more than you think, like your browsing habits, location, and social connections, all without your consent.

From Data Leaks to Digital Scams



This unchecked collection has led to worrying trends in digital fraud, particularly in banking. In FY24,



reported fraud losses surged to ₹2054.6 crores from ₹421.4 crores in FY23. Criminals exploit stolen data to impersonate individuals, gain unauthorised access, and drain accounts.

More recently, fake digital arrests have emerged as a disturbing cybercrime trend. Victims receive calls or video chats from fraudsters impersonating law enforcement officers, accusing them of crimes with fabricated documents and fake legal threats. In panic, many end up transferring money or sharing sensitive details. These scams thrive in a world where digital identities are poorly protected.

Enter Privacy as a Service (PaaS)

So how do we regain control over our data?

This is where Privacy as a Service (PaaS) steps in. PaaS providers offer tools and systems to help individuals and businesses protect their information. These aren't just technical shields; they are lifelines. As data breaches, phishing scams, and impersonation crimes rise, the PaaS market is projected to grow from USD 3.69 billion in 2024 to USD 11.51 billion by 2033, riding on a CAGR of 13.6%.

Top Tools That Power Privacy Protection

Some of the most popular PaaS tools include:

VPNs (Virtual Private Networks): These encrypt your internet traffic and mask your IP address, making it harder for hackers and trackers to monitor your activity. The VPN market alone is expected to reach USD 143.12 billion by 2034, with top players like NordVPN, Surfshark, and ExpressVPN.

Burner Emails: Temporary email addresses like those from Temp Mail and Guerrilla Mail help you avoid spam and breaches during one-time sign-ups. The burner email market was valued at



USD 2.5 billion in 2024 and continues to grow.

Identity Scrubbing: Also known as Personally Identifiable Information (PII) scrubbing, this involves removing or anonymising personal identifiers from datasets. It is used by businesses to comply with regulations like the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA), and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

The Legal Push: DPDP Act and Global Privacy Laws

India's newly introduced Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act,

2023 further strengthens privacy rights by mandating explicit consent for data collection and placing greater accountability on organisations handling personal data. It aligns with global privacy trends and sets the tone for stricter digital governance.

Your Data, Your Responsibility

Privacy is no longer a passive expectation; it is an active responsibility. By using tools like VPNs, burner emails, and data scrubbing services, and by staying alert to emerging threats like fake digital arrests, users can better shield themselves in a world that's always watching.



Mark your calendar

Date	Event	Why it Matters
August 4 - 6, 2025	RBI Monetary Policy Meeting	Sets interest rate direction; impacts liquidity, banking, real estate, and market sentiment.
August 12, 2025	US CPI Inflation Data Release	Key input for Fed decisions; influences global risk appetite and FII flows into India.
August 15, 2025	India’s 79th Independence Day	May include major policy announcements or development plans by the Prime Minister.
August 21 - 23, 2025	Jackson Hole Economic Symposium	Fed Chair’s speech may signal changes in global monetary policy, affecting markets worldwide.
August 29, 2025	India Q1 FY26 GDP Data Release	First post-election GDP figure: key to understanding economic recovery and investment outlook.

The Finance Game Zone

Monthly Riddle

Which asset can you never hold in your hand, yet it can bankrupt nations when it disappears?
(Think you know? Reply to this email, **the winner’s answer will be featured** over our **Instagram story!**)

That’s a wrap for July! If you enjoyed this issue, share it with a friend, send your thoughts or quiz answers, and let us know which sections you want more of.

Keep Investing in yourself!