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Business News Apdate

24.06.2025

" A leader must have the courage to act against an expert's advice."

Market Update

Nifty 50	25,236.95
BSE Sensex	82,777.95
Nifty 500	23,223.80
Nifty MidCap 50	16,580.55
BSE MidCap	45,914.62

From underdog to contender: Is Instamart Swiggy's secret weapon against Zomato? Here's what BNP Paribas says

The standoff between Swiggy and Zomato is only getting intense with the former now closing the gap with the rival firm in India's food delivery market. According to a report by BNP Paribas, Swiggy's quick commerce arm Instamart could emerge as a major value driver in the long run. The brokerage firm has initiated coverage on the company with an "Outperform" rating, citing its improving performance in food delivery (FD) and an impressive growth in potential in the quick commerce (QC) space. Having created categories, Swiggy has lost ground to Zomato (now Eternal) which has "executed better" and made the right acquisitions". However, BNP Paribas said, Swiggy is staging a comeback. "At the current stock price, Swiggy's QC business is getting no valuation, and we expect this to change over the next one year," it added.

Source: Financial Express, June 23, 2025

Over 80% companies to adopt AI in customer service within a year: Report

More than 80% of companies plan to implement artificial intelligence in customer service within the next year, according to a new industry report. Businesses that have already adopted AI in their contact centres report operational cost reductions of 20% to 30%. In one case cited in the report, a telecommunications company using AI-powered voice assistants saw a 39-point improvement in Net Promoter Scores and a 5% to 10% decrease in operational expenses. The report estimates that Generative AI (GenAI) could disrupt the global contact centre market, valued between \$12 billion and \$31 billion. Despite increasing adoption, challenges remain. While 53% of consumers say they are open to interacting with AI-powered service agents, 76% report they can still identify when they are not speaking with a human.

Source: Financial Express, June 23, 2025

Upcoming dividend, stock split, bonus issue: 33 companies set to reward shareholders this week

Big week for investors in terms of corporate action to watch out for. Between June 23 and June 28, 33 companies from banking giants to FMCG stalwarts and industrial majors are set to execute key corporate actions, including dividend payouts, stock splits, and bonus share issues. A total of 33 companies have lined up dividend payouts this week with some of them offering final, interim, or even special dividends. Big names like HDFC Bank, Hindustan Unilever, Cipla, Vedanta, Bajaj Finserv, and Polycab India are among the most-watched. HUL (Hindustan Unilever) is offering a final dividend of Rs 24 per share, with June 23 as the record date.

Source: <u>Financial Express</u>, June 23, 2025

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Starbucks says it is not currently considering a full sale of its China operations

Starbucks kicked off a formal sale process of its China operations in May, inviting interested buyers to submit answers to a list of questions by the end of last week, said three sources with knowledge of the situation. The Seattle-based company, advised by Goldman Sachs, asked interested buyers about their corporate culture, management style, sustainability measures, how they treat employees as well as the potential deal structure and business plan for Starbucks China, said the people, who declined to be named as the information was not public. Starbucks however has not decided yet whether to sell a controlling or a minority stake in its China business, or whether it will keep some parts of its China operations such as its supply chain, said two of the sources.

Source: <u>Reuters, June 24, 2025</u>

Investors react to news of Iran-Israel ceasefire

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Monday that a "complete and total" ceasefire between Israel and Iran will go into force with a view to ending the conflict between the two nations. "On the assumption that everything works as it should, which it will, I would like to congratulate both Countries, Israel and Iran, on having the Stamina, Courage, and Intelligence to end, what should be called, 'THE 12 DAY WAR'," Trump wrote on his Truth Social site. "There is a lot of the momentum to the reversal in the oil price strength that we are already seeing after the Iran's strike on Qatar, which was clearly very well choreographed to be symbolic but for domestic consumption. "To the extent that we've got a reduction in the risk of a renewed oil price spike, I think that plays positively from a risk point of view. I think it sort of removes that downside global growth risks. And I'd expect that it will supports some further, modest sort of grind higher in those sort of procyclical currencies."

Source: <u>Reuters, June 24, 2025</u>

NYC governor to build state's first new nuclear power plant in decades

New York's governor on Monday proposed the construction of the state's first new nuclear power plant in decades. Gov. Kathy Hochul directed the state's power authority to develop an advanced, zero-emission facility in upstate New York that she hopes will help create a clean, reliable and affordable electric grid for the state. She said the state power authority will seek to develop at least one new nuclear energy facility with a combined capacity of no less than one gigawatt of electricity. That would increase the state's total nuclear capacity to about 4.3 gigawatts.

Source: Business Standard, June 24, 2025

Asean stonewalling progress of FTA review talks with India: Official

Asean nations are stonewalling the progress of the ongoing negotiations on the review of the existing free trade agreement in goods signed in 2009, and the talks are moving "very" slowly, an official said on Monday. The review of the agreement is a long-standing demand of Indian industry and India is looking forward to an upgraded pact, which will address the current asymmetries in bilateral trade and will make trade more balanced and sustainable. "So far, nine rounds of talks have been completed. They are going very slow. Very less progress is there. Asean is stonewalling the talks," the official, who did. Asean countries have opened less number of tariff lines or product categories for India. India has offered duty concessions on over 71 per cent of the tariff of lines to Asean countries

Source: Business Standard, June 24, 2025

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