

# MORNING BRIEF

Saturday, 21 February 2026

## BHAGAVAD GITA — VERSE 1.2 (2/12)

*sanjaya uvacha  
drishtva tu pandavanikam vyudham duryodhanastada  
acharyamupasangamya raja vachanamabravit*

Sanjaya said: O King, after seeing the army of the Pandavas arrayed in military formation, King Duryodhana approached his teacher Dronacharya and spoke these words.

True confidence doesn't come from superior resources alone. Inner strength matters more than external advantages. Don't let fear drive you to seek constant validation.

## LAW 14: POSE AS A FRIEND, WORK AS A SPY (14/48)

Knowing about your rival is critical. Use spies to gather valuable information that will keep you a step ahead. Better still: play the spy yourself. In polite social encounters, learn to probe and ask indirect questions.

## PAUL GRAHAM — SCHLEP BLINDNESS (14/97)

Founders systematically overlook startup ideas that involve tedious, unpleasant work — schleps. This is 'schlep blindness.' Stripe succeeded because most developers could see that online payments were broken, but the idea of dealing with banks, regulations, and fraud felt so tedious that they unconsciously filtered it out. The best startup opportunities are often hidden behind exactly this kind of unappealing effort.

The best opportunities are often hidden behind boring, tedious work that others instinctively avoid. Train yourself to notice the schleps everyone else overlooks. When you find yourself thinking 'someone should fix that, but it sounds like a nightmare,' that's often a sign of a great opportunity.

[paulgraham.com/schlep.html](http://paulgraham.com/schlep.html)

**GIFT NIFTY 25,886.00** +320.00 (+1.25%)

Gap from NIFTY close: **+315 pts** (+1.23%)

## INDIAN MARKETS

INDEX	CLOSE	CHANGE	%
NIFTY 50	25,571.25	+116.90	+0.46%
Sensex	82,814.71	+316.57	+0.38%
Bank NIFTY	61,172.00	+432.45	+0.71%
India VIX	14.36	+0.90	+6.71%

## FII / DII Flows

	NET (CR)
FII / FPI	-935
DII	+2,637

India Market Sentiment: **85** (Extreme Greed) — VIX at 14.4

## US & GLOBAL MARKETS

INDEX	CLOSE	CHANGE	%
S&P 500	6,909.51	+47.62	+0.69%
Nasdaq	22,886.07	+203.34	+0.90%
Dow Jones	49,625.97	+230.81	+0.47%
S&P Futures	6,924.75	+47.75	+0.69%
Nikkei 225	56,825.70	-642.13	-1.12%
Hang Seng	26,413.35	-292.59	-1.10%

US Fear & Greed: **43** (fear)

## COMMODITIES & FOREX

ASSET	PRICE	CHANGE	%
US 10Y Yield	4.09	+0.01	+0.27%
Gold	5,130.00	+154.10	+3.10%
Silver	84.57	+7.00	+9.03%
Crude Oil	66.31	-0.12	-0.18%
USD/INR	91.04	+0.25	+0.27%

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- GIFT Nifty trading above prev NIFTY close by 315 pts (+1.23%) — signals a gap-up open.
- NIFTY closed mildly positive at +0.46%.
- India VIX at 14.4 — low fear, complacency territory.
- FII sold 935 Cr, DII bought 2,637 Cr — domestic absorbing foreign outflows.
- Wall Street closed strong (S&P +0.69%) — positive cue for Asian markets.
- S&P futures pointing higher (+0.69%).
- Gold up +3.10% at \$5,130.
- Rupee weakened to 91.04 — watch IT exporters.

## CRYPTO

COIN	PRICE	24H
BTC	\$67,854.00	+1.02%
ZEC	\$261.14	-1.22%

Fear & Greed Index: **8** (Extreme Fear)

- BTC grinding up +1.0% — healthy trend continuation.
- Fear & Greed at 8 (Extreme Fear) — historically a good accumulation zone.

## 1. **Trump's global tariffs struck down by US Supreme Court**

That's it from us for the day published at 23:29 GMT 20 February We're wrapping up our live coverage of the Supreme Court decision in Learning Resources, Inc v. Trump.

1225 pts · 999 comments

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## 2. **Keep Android Open**

Keep Android Open Posted on Feb 20, 2026 by linsui This Week in F-Droid TWIF curated on Friday, 20 Feb 2026, Week 8 F-Droid core During out talks with F-Droid users at FOSDEM26 we were baffled to learn most were relieved that Google has canceled...

1039 pts · 399 comments

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## 3. **Facebook is cooked**

Facebook is absolutely cooked And I don't just mean that nobody uses it anymore. Like, I knew everyone under 50 had moved on, but I didn't realize the extent of the slop conveyor belt that's replaced us.

694 pts · 420 comments

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## 4. **The path to ubiquitous AI (17k tokens/sec)**

The path to ubiquitous AI By Ljubisa Bajic Many believe AI is the real deal. In narrow domains, it already surpasses human performance. Used well, it is an unprecedented amplifier of human ingenuity and productivity.

663 pts · 379 comments

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## 5. **Ggml.ai joins Hugging Face to ensure the long-term progress of Local AI**

ggml.ai joins Hugging Face to ensure the long-term progress of Local AI #19759 - Beta Was this translation helpful? Give feedback. Replies: 44 comments 11 replies - Beta Was this translation helpful?

659 pts · 160 comments

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## 6. **I found a useful Git one liner buried in leaked CIA developer docs**

In 2017, WikiLeaks published Vault7 - a large cache of CIA hacking tools and internal documents. Buried among the exploits and surveillance tools was something far more mundane: a page of internal developer documentation with git tips and tricks.

597 pts · 214 comments

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## 7. **Child's Play: Tech's new generation and the end of thinking**

The first sign that something in San Francisco had gone very badly wrong was the signs.

338 pts · 210 comments

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## 8. **I found a Vulnerability. They found a Lawyer**

I found a Vulnerability. They found a Lawyer. I'm a diving instructor.

323 pts · 150 comments

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## 9. **Wikipedia deprecates Archive.today, starts removing archive links**

The English-language edition of Wikipedia is blacklisting Archive.today after the controversial archive site was used to direct a distributed denial of service (DDoS) attack against a blog.

282 pts · 152 comments

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## 10. **PayPal discloses data breach that exposed user info for 6 months**

PayPal is notifying customers of a data breach after a software error in a loan application exposed their sensitive personal information, including Social Security numbers, for nearly 6 months last year.

269 pts · 78 comments

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## 11. **Turn Dependabot Off**

Turn Dependabot Off Dependabot is a noise machine. It makes you feel like you're doing work, but you're actually discouraging more useful work. This is especially true for security alerts in the Go ecosystem.

239 pts · 68 comments

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## **12. Consistency diffusion language models: Up to 14x faster, no quality loss**

Consistency diffusion language models: Up to 14x faster inference without sacrificing quality Summary We introduce consistency diffusion language models (CDLM), which accelerates diffusion language model inference by combining consistency-based...

207 pts · 92 comments

## **13. Untapped Way to Learn a Codebase: Build a Visualizer**

The biggest shock of my early career was just how much code I needed to read that others wrote. I had never dealt with this. I had a hard enough time understanding my own code.

195 pts · 34 comments

## **14. Web Components: The Framework-Free Renaissance**

AI as Your Legacy Code Archaeologist: Extracting Business Rules from VBA Decades of business logic hide in customized VB6 applications where every customer installation has unique VBA code. ...

187 pts · 127 comments

## **15. Show HN: A native macOS client for Hacker News, built with SwiftUI**

A native macOS client for Hacker News, built with SwiftUI.

169 pts · 131 comments

## **MARKET NEWS**

### **Trump made tariffs central to his presidency. Chaos may come next**

Trump had made tariffs the bedrock of his economic pitch to voters going into the midterm elections, even describing tariffs as his "favorite word in the dictionary." He promised that factories would relocate from overseas and bring jobs with them...

### **Gift Nifty jumps 400 points from lows after US Supreme Court strikes down Trump tariffs**

The decision has significant implications for global trade flows and financial markets that have been grappling with tariff-related uncertainty.

### **Gold pares gains after U.S. Supreme Court strikes down Trump tariffs**

Spot gold was up 0.5% at \$5,025.19 an ounce by 10:35 a.m. (1535 GMT), after rising as much as \$5,063.49 earlier in the session. U.S.

### **US stocks: US stock indexes rise after Supreme Court rules against Trump's tariffs**

The top court rules against Trump's global tariffs enacted under a federal law meant for national emergencies. Trump first imposed the levies last February under the 1977 economic sanctions law meant to be used only during national emergencies.

### **NSE to launch Gold 10 grams futures from March 16 after Sebi approval. Check expiry and other details**

Risk management, clearing and settlement norms will be communicated separately by NSE Clearing. The Gold 10 grams futures contract will have a trading unit of 10 grams, with the symbol GOLD10G and description format GOLD10GYMMM.

### **US stock markets today: US stocks dip after weaker-than-expected GDP, higher inflation data**

Investors were also watching for a possible U.S. Supreme Court ruling on President Donald Trump's tariffs that could be handed down at 10:00 a.m. ET.

### **Sebi approves 4 IPOs including Integris Medtech, Alpine Texworld and Anjali Labtech**

Among the four, Integris Medtech is set to launch one of the larger issues.

### **Trade pacts boost foreign inflows, lift Indian rupee, RBI says**

Foreign portfolio investment to India recorded net outflows of \$5.8 billion between April 2025 and February 3, 2026. However, the Indian rupee, which depreciated against the U.S.

### **US Stocks: Hedge fund stock pickers suffer in face of AI-related tech selloff, says Goldman**

The S&P 500 software and services index has tumbled almost 18% this year so far, shedding more than \$1.2 trillion in market value, according to LSEG data.

### **UPL to spin off crop protection arm into a separate listed entity**

The board cleared a composite scheme of arrangement aimed at unlocking shareholder value and simplifying the group structure.

### **Stock market quote of the day by Benjamin Franklin | "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."**

Discipline Over Short-Term Temptations In the stock market, investors are often tempted by short-term movements and the promise of quick profits.

### **US Stocks Today | US stock futures muted ahead of economic data**

A slew of economic reports on Friday, including the preliminary estimate of fourth-quarter U.S.

### **Average US long-term mortgage rate dips to 6.01%, lowest level in more than 3 years**

The benchmark 30-year fixed rate mortgage rate fell to 6.01% from 6.09% last week, mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said Thursday. One year ago, the rate averaged 6.85%. The modest pullback brings the average rate to its lowest level since Sept.

### **Indian 10-year bond yield surges most in two weeks on US-Iran jitters**

Higher crude oil prices are a key risk for India, a net energy-importer. The benchmark 6.48% 2035 bond yield settled at 6.7214% on Friday, rising more than 4 basis points, its biggest jump in two weeks. Bond yields move inversely to prices.

### **RBI net sold \$10 billion in December to curb rupee volatility**

The RBI said in its monthly bulletin that it purchased \$18.33 billion and sold \$28.35 billion in December. In November, the central bank had sold a net of \$9.7 billion in the market.

### **Gainers & Losers: Novartis India and GMDC among 6 stocks in focus on Friday. Here's why**

Feb 20, 2026 India's headline indices recovered from intraday lows to close on a firm footing. In a volatile trading session, IT stocks emerged as key drags, but broad-based buying across sectors kept the markets resilient.

### **Hitachi Energy among 4 stocks that hit 52-week high; rally up to 43% in a month**

On Friday, the benchmark Sensex jumped almost 316 points to close at 82,815. Amid this rally, four stocks in the BSE 200 index touched their 52-week highs, marking their best levels in the past year.

### **Milky Mist on track for 2026 IPO despite market jitters, CEO says**

The Tamil Nadu-based firm received regulator approval for an IPO worth 20.35 billion rupees (\$223.72 million) in October 2025, a year in which India emerged as the second-largest IPO market, according to data from LSEG.

### **Rupee posts steepest weekly drop in a month, nears 91 per dollar**

The rupee closed at 90.9825 per dollar, down 0.3% on the day and 0.4% for the week.

### **Shapoorji Pallonji Real Estate to develop a residential project on Pokhran Road 2, Thane**

Strategically positioned in one of Thane's most established and rapidly evolving neighbourhoods, Oyster benefits from strong connectivity to key business districts, social infrastructure, and lifestyle hubs.

### **Market Wrap: Sensex ends 317 points higher, Nifty above 25,550 aided by L&T, RIL**

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies grew by Rs 1.74 lakh crore today. Top Gainers & Losers The Nifty breadth tilted in favour of bulls with 36 stocks ending the session in the green, while the remaining 14 were in the red.

### **Euro zone bond yields skim recent lows as investors track ECB chatter, geopolitics**

ECB President Christine Lagarde told the Wall Street Journal on Thursday she expects to complete her eight-year term at the head of the central bank, following a report earlier in the week she was planning to step down.

### **UK 5-year gilt yields hit lowest since September 2024**

Five-year gilt yields - which are sensitive to interest rate expectations - fell around 3 basis points to 3.762%, the lowest since September 2024.

### **Nestle, Britannia among 4 high-conviction FMCG and retail picks from Axis Direct, here's why**

Brokerage Axis Direct has picked four stocks from FMCG and retail sectors as its conviction buys post their Q3 earnings. Here's why it sees up to 32% gains in Nestle India, Britannia Industries, DOMS Industries and V-Mart Retail.

### **Gaurav Jogani sees jewellery, footwear driving consumer discretionary growth**

Jewellery and Footwear Lead Growth Gaurav Jogani from JM Financial Institutional Securities in an interview to ET Now highlighted that the jewellery segment drove significant growth, largely due to gold prices rising 65% year-on-year.

### **Indian IT companies returned Rs 4.8 lakh crore cash to shareholders, spent little on R&D. Will the AI cost prove existential?**

The sell-off has been driven by anxiety over artificial intelligence and whether it threatens the core economics of India's \$250 billion technology services industry.

### **10 stocks slip up to 30% in a month. Rebound potential ahead?**

The past month has been a rollercoaster for Indian equities. While the benchmark Sensex and BSE500 have largely remained flat, individual stock movements paint a far more dramatic picture. Within the BSE500 universe, price swings have been stark.

### **Global Markets | Japan's Nikkei falls as US-Iran tensions unsettle investors**

The Nikkei dipped 1.1% to close at 56,825.70, breaking a two-week rally to log a 0.2% weekly drop. The broader Topix sank 1.1% to 3,808.48, and edged down 0.3% for the week. U.S.

### **TCS Share Price Live Updates: TCS's returns take a hit this month**

TCS Share Price Live Updates: TCS's returns take a hit this month 20 Feb 2026 | 05:46:58 PM IST TCS share price live updates Stay up-to-date with the TCS Stock Liveblog, your comprehensive source for real-time updates and detailed analysis on a...

### **HDFC Bank Share Price Live Updates: HDFC Bank's monthly returns reflect a negative trend**

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### **Markets in a seesaw phase; investors should use volatility to back largecap stocks: Rahul Shah**

Rahul Shah from MOFSL in an interview to ET Now noted that markets have largely been in a "seesaw" phase through the month, even as earnings remained robust.

### **SBI Life Share Price Live Updates: SBI Life experiences a dip in returns**

SBI Life Share Price Live Updates: SBI Life experiences a dip in returns 20 Feb 2026 | 05:40:50 PM IST SBI Life share price live updates Discover the SBI Life Stock Liveblog, your go-to destination for real-time updates and comprehensive analysis of...

### **Cipla Share Price Live Updates: Disclosures under Reg. 29(2) of SEBI (SAST) Regulations, 2011**

Cipla Share Price Live Updates: Disclosures under Reg.

### **JGB yields fall as inflation cools, PM Takaichi reiterates fiscal pledge**

The benchmark 10-year JGB yield fell 3.5 basis points (bps) to 2%. The two-year bond yield, the one most sensitive to Bank of Japan policy rates, decreased 0.5 bp to 1.25%. The five-year yield slid 2.5 bps to 1.6%.

### **Bharti Airtel Share Price Live Updates: Bharti Airtel's 3-Month Returns Show Significant Drop**

Bharti Airtel Share Price Live Updates: Bharti Airtel's 3-Month Returns Show Significant Drop 20 Feb 2026 | 06:30:20 PM IST Bharti Airtel share price live updates Welcome to the Bharti Airtel Stock Liveblog, your real-time source for the latest...

### **Tata Motors PV Share Price Live Updates: Tata Motors PV's three-month return figures**

Join us on the Tata Motors PV Stock Liveblog, your hub for real-time updates and comprehensive analysis on a prominent stock.

### **Global investors stung by AI could turn to India, lured by domestic demand, growth**

That could turn around last year's departure from the market of a net \$21 billion in foreign cash.

### **BPCL Share Price Live Updates: BPCL shows modest returns over the last three months**

BPCL Share Price Live Updates: BPCL shows modest returns over the last three months 20 Feb 2026 | 06:16:59 PM IST  
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### **Axis Bank Share Price Live Updates: Axis Bank Reports 6.79% Return in 3 Months**

Axis Bank Share Price Live Updates: Axis Bank Reports 6.79% Return in 3 Months 20 Feb 2026 | 06:20:20 PM IST Axis Bank share price live updates Stay informed with the Axis Bank Stock Liveblog, your comprehensive resource for real-time updates and...

### **Maruti Suzuki Share Price Live Updates: Maruti Suzuki's recent performance shows a downturn**

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### **Britannia Share Price Live Updates: Britannia's Recent Returns**

Britannia Share Price Live Updates: Britannia's Recent Returns 20 Feb 2026 | 06:10:19 PM IST Britannia share price live updates Stay updated with the Britannia Stock Liveblog, your one-stop destination for real-time information and analysis of a...

### **Global Markets | Australian shares ease after record run; banks anchor weekly advance**

The S&P/ASX 200 slipped 4.8 points to 9,081.4, snapping a four-day winning streak, but rose 1.8% for the week after touching a record 9,118.3 on Thursday.

### **Grasim Inds Share Price Live Updates: Grasim Industries reports solid returns**

Welcome to the Grasim Inds Stock Liveblog, your real-time source for the latest updates and comprehensive analysis on a prominent stock.

### **Divis Labs Share Price Live Updates: Divis Labs experiences a decline in returns**

Divis Labs Share Price Live Updates: Divis Labs experiences a decline in returns 20 Feb 2026 | 06:07:21 PM IST Divis Labs share price live updates Welcome to the Divis Labs Stock Liveblog, your ultimate source for real-time updates and analysis of...

### **Fundamentals intact but markets search for fresh triggers, says Karthikraj Lakshmanan**

He acknowledged the disconnect between positive fundamentals and subdued market performance, as the anchor observed that "on paper everything looks okay... but it is not reflecting on the ticker." Lakshmanan responded that "flows are difficult to...

### **HUL Share Price Live Updates: HUL's three-month returns signal a decline**

HUL Share Price Live Updates: HUL's three-month returns signal a decline 20 Feb 2026 | 06:06:59 PM IST HUL share price live updates Join us on the HUL Stock Liveblog, your hub for real-time updates and comprehensive analysis on a prominent stock.

### **GMDC shares rise over 4% after India joins US' AI initiative Pax Silica**

The state-owned company develops Gujarat's mineral resources such as lignite, bauxite, coal and rare earth materials. It also has a diversified energy portfolio comprising thermal, wind and solar power.

### **IndusInd Bank Share Price Live Updates: Strong performance from IndusInd Bank**

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### **Adani Ports SEZ Share Price Live Updates: Adani Ports SEZ shows steady performance**

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### **Sun Pharma Share Price Live Updates: Sun Pharma's three-month returns indicate a decline**

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## **CRYPTO NEWS**

### **SEC makes quiet shift to brokers' stablecoin holdings that may pack big results**

SEC makes quiet shift to brokers' stablecoin holdings that may pack big results The securities regulator has continued its Project Crypto work to make unofficial policy changes as it moved to let broker-dealers treat stablecoins as capital.

### **Bitcoin shrugs off Trump's new tariffs, nears \$68,000 as altcoins lead modest bounce**

Bitcoin shrugs off Trump's new tariffs, nears \$68,000 as altcoins lead modest bounce Crypto prices edged higher on Friday despite a splash of tariff turbulence after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled Trump's levies illegal.

### **Specialized AI detects 92% of real-world DeFi exploits**

Specialized AI detects 92% of real-world DeFi exploits New research claims specialized AI dramatically outperforms general-purpose models at detecting exploited DeFi vulnerabilities.

### **U.S. Supreme Court's decision on Trump's tariffs may not rock crypto — yet**

U.S. Supreme Court's decision on Trump's tariffs may not rock crypto — yet The more significant result from the U.S. Supreme Court's rejection of President Donald Trump's trade tariffs may be political, which could sting the industry.

### **Dubai takes next step to make real estate flips instant in \$16 billion tokenization plan**

Dubai takes next step to make real estate flips instant in \$16 billion tokenization plan Dubai Land Department and Ctrl Alt move to the next phase of real estate tokenization project, enabling the resale of property tokens.

### **RWA issuers prioritize capital formation over liquidity, according to Brickken survey**

RWA issuers prioritize capital formation over liquidity, according to Brickken survey Exclusive fourth quarter data shows 69.2% of issuers are live, while 84.6% report regulatory friction shaping tokenization rollout.

### **Bitcoin pops then drops as Supreme Court strikes down Trump tariffs**

Bitcoin pops then drops as Supreme Court strikes down Trump tariffs As has been typical in crypto markets of late, even the most modest move higher was met with immediate selling. What to know: - The U.S.

### **Goldman Sachs, Franklin Templeton, and Nicki Minaj: Inside Trump's surreal Mar-a-Lago crypto summit**

Goldman Sachs, Franklin Templeton, and Nicki Minaj: Inside Trump's surreal Mar-a-Lago crypto summit Crypto, real estate and politics collided at Trump's Mar-a-Lago club as insiders debated tokenization and regulation.

### **CoinDesk 20 performance update: AAVE falls 3.3%, leading index lower**

CoinDesk 20 performance update: AAVE falls 3.3%, leading index lower Bitcoin Cash (BCH), down 2.1% from Thursday, was also among the underperformers.

### **What next for XRP as volatility sinks to 2024 lows**

Share this article What next for XRP as volatility sinks to 2024 lows Technical traders see a compression setup, with \$1.39 as key support and \$1.44 as near-term resistance that could open a move toward \$1.50 to \$1.62 if reclaimed.

### **Bitcoin gains, is still 'significantly undervalued,' Bitwise says. 'Extreme fear' dominates.**

Bitcoin gains, is still 'significantly undervalued,' Bitwise says. 'Extreme fear' dominates. Your day-ahead look for Feb.

### **Dual South Korean listings send Ethereum layer-2 token AZTEC surging 82%**

Dual South Korean listings send Ethereum layer-2 token AZTEC surging 82% Korean exchanges Upbit and Bithumb both added local currency pairs for the privacy-focused layer-2 token, triggering a sharp move in a thinly traded market.

### **Panic premium lingers in options even as bitcoin recovers from lows**

Panic premium lingers in options even as bitcoin recovers from lows Bitcoin rebounded above \$68,000 as ETF outflows hit \$6.8 billion and funding flips positive. A break above \$72,000 is needed to confirm a bullish shift.

### **Ripple's Brad Garlinghouse says CLARITY bill has '90% chance' of passing by April**

Ripple's Brad Garlinghouse says CLARITY bill has '90% chance' of passing by April The bill would clarify which digital assets fall under securities law versus Commodity Futures Trading Commission oversight.

### **Bitcoin difficulty jumps 15% largest increase since 2021, despite price slump**

Bitcoin difficulty jumps 15% largest increase since 2021, despite price slump Bitcoin difficulty rebounds to 144.4T as hashrate recovers to 1 ZH/s despite multi year low hashprice.

### **Bitcoin nears \$68,000, gold jumps as U.S.-Iran tensions return**

Bitcoin nears \$68,000, gold jumps as U.S.-Iran tensions return Geopolitical tensions and a cautious tone in U.S. stocks are keeping risk appetite in check, and some strategists warn of a potential retest of 2024 lows before a more sustained recovery.

### **Bitcoin logs worst first 50-day start to a year on record**

Bitcoin logs worst first 50-day start to a year on record Bitcoin is on course for its first ever back to back declines in January and February.

### **Metaplanet CEO rebuts critics over bitcoin strategy and transparency**

Metaplanet CEO rebuts critics over bitcoin strategy and transparency Simon Gerovich defends disclosure standards, options trading model, and hotel operations.

## **TECH & STARTUPS**

### **India's Sarvam launches Indus AI chat app as competition heats up**

Sarvam, an Indian AI startup focused on building models for local languages and users, on Friday launched its Indus chat app for web and mobile users, entering a fast-growing market dominated by global players including OpenAI, Anthropic, and Google.

### **The creator economy's ad revenue problem and India's AI ambitions**

The creator economy is evolving fast, and ad revenue alone isn't cutting it anymore. YouTubers are launching product lines, acquiring startups, and building actual business empires.

### **Remember HQ? 'Quiz Daddy' Scott Rogowsky is back with TextSavvy, a daily mobile game show**

Scott Rogowsky is a comedian — he knows how to make fun of himself.

### **Anthropic-funded group backs candidate attacked by rival AI super PAC**

Late last year, New York Assembly member Alex Bores became the target of a campaign by a pro-AI super PAC to thwart his congressional bid.

### **Apple's iOS 26.4 arrives in public beta with AI music playlists, video podcasts, and more**

Apple this week released the latest version of its mobile operating system, iOS 26.4, which introduces several new features, including an AI-powered playlist-generation feature in Apple Music, support for video content in the Podcasts app...

### **InScope nabs \$14.5M to solve the pain of financial reporting**

Even without a background in accounting, anyone who has ever glanced at a 10-K or 10-Q can tell that preparing financial statements is a complex, tedious process.

## **Great news for xAI: Grok is now pretty good at answering questions about Baldur's Gate**

Different AI labs have different priorities. OpenAI has traditionally focused on consumer users, for instance, while its rival Anthropic tends to target enterprises.

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## **Ukrainian man jailed for identity theft that helped North Koreans get jobs at US companies**

A U.S. federal court has sentenced a Ukrainian man to five years in prison for his part in a long-running identity theft operation that helped overseas North Korean workers gain fraudulent employment at dozens of U.S. companies.

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## **Tesla loses bid to overturn \$243M Autopilot verdict**

A judge has denied Tesla's request to overturn a \$243 million jury verdict that held the automaker partially responsible for a fatal crash involving its Autopilot driver assistance system.

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## **Threads posts can now be shared directly to your Instagram Story without leaving the app**

Threads already has over 400 million monthly users, but Meta wants to push that number even higher.

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## **'Toy Story 5' takes aim at creepy AI toys: 'I'm always listening'**

When the first Toy Story movie came out in 1995, Google didn't exist yet and Apple was on the verge of bankruptcy.

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## **Meta's metaverse leaves virtual reality**

Meta announced a major update for its immersive virtual world, Horizon Worlds, on Thursday that will see it leave the metaverse behind.

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## **Lucid Motors slashes 12% of its workforce as it seeks profitability**

Lucid Motors is laying off 12% of its workforce in a bid to "improve operational effectiveness and optimize our resources as we continue on our path toward profitability," according to an internal memo that was obtained by TechCrunch.

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## **AI's promise to indie filmmakers: Faster, cheaper, lonelier**

A Filipino man walks through the backyard of his childhood home in rural Hawai'i, his footsteps swooshing through the grass. Birds chirp, contributing to the tropical din, as he approaches a shrine at the base of a starfruit tree.

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## **Prepare for pitch battle: Startup Battlefield 200 nominations are open**

Pre-Series A founders, this is your moment! If your startup is ready to be tested under real pressure, the battlefield is open. We're still accepting nominations for TechCrunch Startup Battlefield 200.

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## **Peak XV raises \$1.3B, doubles down on AI as global VC rivalry in India heats up**

Peak XV announced on Friday that it has raised \$1.3 billion across new India and Asia-focused funds.

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## **TechCrunch Disrupt 2026 Super Early Bird rates end in 1 week**

Super Early Bird pricing for TechCrunch Disrupt 2026 ends February 27 at 11:59 p.m. PT. This is your final window to lock in the lowest ticket prices of the year.

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## **Why investors are going gaga over solid-state transformers**

It's no secret that the electrical grid is aging, but one part stands out from the rest. Transformers haven't changed much since Thomas Edison made his first light bulb.

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## **OpenAI says 18- to 24-year-olds account for nearly 50% of ChatGPT usage in India**

OpenAI seems to have found product-market fit with young Indians. The company said on Friday that users between 18 and 24 years of age accounted for nearly 50% of messages sent to ChatGPT in the country, and users under 30 accounted for 80%.

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## **The OpenAI mafia: 18 startups founded by alumni**

Move over, PayPal mafia: There's a new tech mafia in Silicon Valley. OpenAI, the startup behind ChatGPT, is arguably the biggest AI player in town.

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