

# MORNING BRIEF

Wednesday, 04 March 2026

## BHAGAVAD GITA — VERSE 1.1 (1/12)

*dhritarashtra uvacha*

*dharma-kshetre kuru-kshetre samaveta yuyutsavah*

*mamakah pandavashchaiva kimakurvata sanjaya*

Dhritarashtra said: O Sanjaya, what did my sons and the sons of Pandu do after gathering on the holy field of Kurukshetra, desiring to fight?

Our environment shapes our actions. Choose your environment wisely — surround yourself with influences that elevate your character, not diminish it.

## LAW 25: RE-CREATE YOURSELF (25/48)

Do not accept the roles that society foists on you. Re-create yourself by forging a new identity, one that commands attention and never bores the audience. Be the master of your own image.

## PAUL GRAHAM — WHAT YOU'LL WISH YOU'D KNOWN (25/97)

Advice to high schoolers: don't decide too early what you want to do. Instead, stay upwind — work on hard problems that keep your options open. School gives the false impression that there's a fixed set of subjects and you pick one. In reality, the best careers are ones nobody told you about. The key is to be curious, work hard on interesting things, and stay flexible.

Stay upwind — make choices that expand your future options rather than narrowing them. Work on the hardest problems you can find, not because of career strategy, but because hard problems are where the most interesting work lives.

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

**GIFT NIFTY 24,409.00** -583.50 (-2.33%)

Gap from NIFTY close: -457 pts (-1.84%)

## INDIAN MARKETS

INDEX	CLOSE	CHANGE	%
NIFTY 50	24,865.70	-312.95	-1.24%
Sensex	80,238.85	-1,048.34	-1.29%
Bank NIFTY	59,839.65	-689.35	-1.14%
India VIX	17.13	+3.43	+25.04%

## FII / DII Flows

	NET (CR)
FII / FPI	-3,296
DII	+8,594

India Market Mood: **45** (Neutral)

## US & GLOBAL MARKETS

INDEX	CLOSE	CHANGE	%
S&P 500	6,816.63	-64.99	-0.94%
Nasdaq	22,516.69	-232.17	-1.02%
Dow Jones	48,501.27	-403.51	-0.83%
S&P Futures	6,809.50	-78.75	-1.14%
Nikkei 225	54,651.39	-3,405.85	-5.87%
Hang Seng	25,768.08	-291.77	-1.12%

US Fear & Greed: **32** (fear)

## COMMODITIES & FOREX

ASSET	PRICE	CHANGE	%
US 10Y Yield	4.06	+0.01	+0.20%
Gold	5,171.30	-123.10	-2.33%
Silver	84.12	-4.16	-4.72%
Crude Oil	75.51	+4.28	+6.01%
USD/INR	92.00	+0.44	+0.48%

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- GIFT Nifty trading below prev NIFTY close by 457 pts (-1.84%) — signals a gap-down open.
- NIFTY dropped -1.24% — heavy selling.
- India VIX at 17.1 — moderate zone.
- FII sold 3,296 Cr, DII bought 8,594 Cr — domestic absorbing foreign outflows.
- Wall Street fell (S&P -0.94%) — could weigh on sentiment today.
- S&P futures pointing lower (-1.14%).
- Gold down -2.33% at \$5,171.
- Crude oil surged +6.01% — watch energy stocks.
- Rupee weakened to 92.00 — watch IT exporters.

## CRYPTO

COIN	PRICE	24H
BTC	\$68,224.00	-1.12%
ZEC	\$220.60	-0.59%

Fear & Greed Index: **10** (Extreme Fear)

- BTC dipping -1.1% — mild correction territory.
- Fear & Greed at 10 (Extreme Fear) — historically a good accumulation zone.

## 1. [The Xkcd thing, now interactive](#)

1135 pts · 152 comments

---

## 2. [I'm reluctant to verify my identity or age for any online services](#)

I'm struggling to think of any online services for which I'd be willing to verify my identity or age Identity verification and age verification is an increasingly common policy conversation at the moment, in numerous countries.

877 pts · 537 comments

---

## 3. [MacBook Pro with M5 Pro and M5 Max](#)

PRESS RELEASE March 3, 2026 Apple introduces MacBook Pro with all-new M5 Pro and M5 Max, delivering breakthrough pro performance and next-level on-device AI The world's best pro laptop raises the bar again with blazing-fast CPU and GPU performance...

653 pts · 642 comments

---

## 4. [Claude's Cycles \[pdf\]](#)

448 pts · 208 comments

---

## 5. [I'm losing the SEO battle for my own open source project](#)

445 pts · 221 comments

---

## 6. [Physics Girl: Super-Kamiokande – Imaging the sun by detecting neutrinos \[video\]](#)

About Press Copyright Contact us Creator Advertise Developers Terms Privacy Policy & Safety How YouTube works Test new features © 2026 Google LLC

419 pts · 66 comments

---

## 7. [MacBook Air with M5](#)

PRESS RELEASE March 3, 2026 Apple introduces the new MacBook Air with M5 The world's most popular laptop gets even better with the incredible performance of M5, double the starting storage, and improved wireless connectivity, packed into a thin...

370 pts · 417 comments

---

## 8. [Don't become an engineering manager](#)

Don't become an Engineering Manager Over drinks a few weeks ago, a friend told me he'd been offered a promotion, to an Engineering Manager role. He planned to decline it, but wanted to hear my take first.

302 pts · 217 comments

---

## 9. [GPT-5.3 Instant](#)

285 pts · 208 comments

---

## 10. [Intel's make-or-break 18A process node debuts for data center with 288-core Xeon](#)

Intel's make-or-break 18A process node debuts for data center with 288-core Xeon 6+ CPU — multi-chip monster sports 12 channels of DDR5-8000, Foveros Direct 3D packaging tech Intel unveils x86 CPU with the industry's highest core count.

238 pts · 189 comments

---

## 11. [Apple Studio Display and Studio Display XDR](#)

PRESS RELEASE March 3, 2026 Apple unveils new Studio Display and all-new Studio Display XDR Studio Display XDR is the world's best pro display, featuring a 27-inch 5K Retina XDR display with a mini-LED backlight, 2000 nits of peak HDR brightness...

214 pts · 249 comments

---

## 12. [Don't make me talk to your chatbot](#)

Don't Make Me Talk to Your Chatbot Let's talk about that moment when AI output shows up unsolicited in a human interaction. It happens a bit much for my taste. What should the etiquette be?

208 pts · 163 comments

---

### **13. Most-read tech publications have lost over half their Google traffic since 2024**

At their peaks, ten major tech publications pulled a combined 112 million organic visits per month from Google in the US. By January 2026, that number had fallen to 47 million. All ten sites are down, though not by equal amounts.

207 pts · 158 comments

### **14. Possible US Government iPhone-Hacking Toolkit in foreign spy and criminal hands**

An iPhone-hacking technique used in the wild to indiscriminately hijack the devices of any iOS user who merely visits a website represents a rare and shocking event in the cybersecurity world.

182 pts · 55 comments

### **15. When AI writes the software, who verifies it?**

Code Metal recently raised \$125 million to rewrite defense industry code using AI. Google and Microsoft both report that 25–30% of their new code is AI-generated. AWS used AI to modernize 40 million lines of COBOL for Toyota.

134 pts · 128 comments

## **MARKET NEWS**

### **Stock Market Holiday: Are NSE, BSE open or closed today on March 4?**

Exchanges operate strictly as per their notified annual calendar, and March 3 was the designated closure for Holi this year.

### **Pre-market action: Here's the trade setup for today's session**

STATE OF THE MARKETS - Tech View: Key support is placed at 24,600; a decisive break below this level could extend the decline towards 24,200.

### **Stocks in news: JSW Infra, Dixon Technologies, RIL, Natco Pharma, M&M**

In today's trade, shares of JSW Infra, Dixon Technologies, RIL, Natco Pharma, M&M among others will be in focus due to various news developments.

### **Global Market Today | Asian stocks extend slide to third day, oil gains**

The MSCI Asia Pacific Index tumbled 1.6% with stocks opening lower in Japan, South Korea and Australia.

### **US Stock Market | Warsh's path to rate cuts getting tougher even before his Fed entry**

Most Fed officials see no compelling reason to rush additional rate cuts, given inflation is still elevated and the labor market seems to be stabilising.

### **F&O stocks in focus as war adds to uncertainty**

BULLISH KEI INDUSTRIES Change in Open Interest in March Series: 23.4% Change in price in March Series: 4.8% Rationale: The stock has been marking a sequence of higher tops and higher bottoms along with robust volumes, said Sudeep Shah, Head –...

### **Will Sedemac's IPO deliver long term growth for high-risk investors?**

Business Incorporated in 2007, Sedemac is a Pune-based company which designs and manufactures powertrain controllers, motor control products, and integrated starter-generator (ISG) solutions for automotive and industrial applications.

### **Aluminium rallies after Qatar halts output**

Prices rallied as much as 3.8% in London before paring some gains.

### **US Stock Market | What war? Bulls stick to calls for 2026 rally**

But it's a far cry from where Wall Street's bulls expect the benchmark will end 2026. Despite all the potential headwinds, the average target for the S&P 500 is 10% higher from here by December's close, same as it was when the year started.

### **FPIs open March with largest daily pullout in 4 months**

Earlier, on September 1 and November 3 last year, FPIs had sold equities worth \$1 billion and \$857.2 million respectively in the secondary market.

### **Global sell-off signals weak start, but Nifty is 'oversold'**

Dharmesh Shah, Head - Technical Research, ICICI Securities With the Nifty falling below the psychological mark of 25,000, a strong support is placed in the 24,400-24,300 zone, which is a confluence of the 20-month exponential moving average...

### **RBI tightens rules on NBFC lending to defaulting borrowers; seeks board-approved policy**

Central bank officials looking into the books of these companies have raised the issue during their annual inspection.

### **As safe-haven gold surges again, loan demand to also shoot up**

"From a gold loan perspective, higher gold prices have a constructive impact, particularly for MSME customers," said John Muthoot, chairman & managing director, Muthoot FinCorp - part of The Muthoot Pappachan Group.

### **Fino Payments Bank says it's focused on SFB transition**

"As things stand now, there is no impact whatsoever on our SFB plans," Merchant said on an analyst call.

### **Ahead of Market: 10 things that will decide stock market action on Wednesday**

Meanwhile, the volatility gauge India VIX ended at 17.13, up 25.01% from the last closing. Indian equity markets remained closed today on account of the Holi holiday.

### **US-Iran war: GIFT Nifty slumps 800 points tracking sharp fall in US stocks. What to expect on Wednesday?**

When Indian equities last traded on Monday, they had already come under heavy pressure. The BSE Sensex had plunged over 2,700 points in early trade before recovering some ground to close 1,048 points lower at 80,238, down 1.29%.

### **Gold retreats on strong dollar, delayed rate-cut expectations**

Spot gold was down 5.6% at \$5,029.59 an ounce by 1450 GMT. Prices hit an over four-week high in the previous session. U.S.

### **Market Trading Guide: Buy Sterlite Technologies and BEL on Wednesday for near term gains up to 16%.**

#### **What's brewing?**

Nifty recovered from the day's low but still ended with deep cuts on Monday amid selling pressure across the board but more prominently in financials, auto and consumer stocks.

### **US Stocks Today | Dow crashes over 1,000 pts, Nasdaq falls 2% as Middle East conflict stokes inflation worries**

Tehran's threat to attack any vessel attempting to transit the Strait of Hormuz, combined with production halts by several Middle Eastern oil and gas producers, has driven up global shipping rates and prices of crude and natural gas.

### **Average price for gallon of gas rises 11 cents overnight to about \$3.11 in US**

Gas prices were already rising before the US launched strikes on Iran as refiners switch over to summer blends of fuel, but crude futures have risen sharply this week because of the war.

### **No issue with Futures segment, but concerns around short-dated Options: Sebi chief**

Pandey said the regulator's recent interventions are focused specifically on curbing excesses in short-tenor options, while preserving the crucial role of futures and derivatives in price discovery and liquidity.

### **Profit booking: Gold falls Rs 4,300, Silver down Rs 17,000 even as US-Iran conflict escalates. What should investors do?**

Gold futures on MCX were trading at Rs 1.66 lakh per 10 grams, down Rs 4,355 or 2.56%. Silver futures declined more steeply, falling Rs 17,281 or 6% to Rs 2.61 lakh per 100 grams.

### **Market quote of the day by Benjamin Graham | "The individual investor should act consistently as an investor and not as a speculator"**

Markets often blur the line between investing and gambling. When prices surge, everyone feels like a genius. When they fall, panic replaces conviction.

### **US-Iran war: Brent crude oil rises to \$85 per barrel on closure of Strait of Hormuz. What's next?**

The rally reflects growing concern that the fighting could severely disrupt oil flows from the Middle East. About 20% of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas shipments pass through the Strait of Hormuz.

### **US Stocks | Buyback plans aren't enough to soothe investors after software-sector rout**

Investors have been dumping software stocks since the fall, with the S&P 500 software index down 28% since late October, on worries that developments in artificial intelligence (AI) will dramatically disrupt the competitive landscape for the richly...

### **US Stocks Today | Wall Street futures slide as Middle East conflict stokes inflation worries**

Tehran's threat to attack any vessel attempting to transit the Strait of Hormuz, combined with production halts by several Middle Eastern oil and gas producers, has driven global shipping rates higher and pushed up crude and natural gas prices.

### **Global Markets | Sri Lankan shares drop most since 2022 as Middle East conflict fans energy shortage fears**

The CSE All-Share index slid to 22,443.38, marking its worst day since April 2022. The Colombo Stock Exchange was closed for a local holiday on Monday, with markets having posted a 0.2% drop last week.

### **Gaurs Group to invest Rs 100 crore to set up precast plant in Greater Noida**

In a statement on Monday, the company said it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Elematic India, an arm of Finland-based Elematic Group, for sourcing of precast concrete technology.

### **Global Markets | Japanese stocks plummet as Mideast conflict widens**

The Topix slumped 3.2% to 3,772.17, the fastest decline since April, while the Nikkei declined 3.1% to close at 56,279.05, the biggest drop since November last year, after falling as much as 3.4%.

### **Global Markets | European shares fall again as Mideast war drags on**

The pan-European STOXX 600 was down 1.3% at 615.72 points by 0804 GMT, after closing at the lowest level in more than two weeks on Monday.

### **Bitcoin jumps above \$68,000 after five straight monthly losses; \$1 billion inflows reflect strong investor faith**

In the past 24 hours, Bitcoin and Ethereum were up by 3% and 2% respectively. Among the major altcoins, BNB, XRP, Solana, Tron, and Hyperliquid gained up to 8% whereas Dogecoin and Cardano were down 0.45% and 0.6% respectively.

### **ICICI Bank, Vedanta among 10 stocks to bet on amid US-Iran conflict**

Rising tensions between the US and Iran have pushed crude oil prices higher, triggering volatility across global markets.

### **Stock market holiday: Are BSE, NSE open or closed on Wednesday for Holi?**

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) and BSE follow a pre-declared holiday calendar, and March 3 was the designated closure for Holi this year.

### **Holi-to-Holi multibaggers: From market favourites to hidden gems, 80 stocks deliver up to 1,822% returns**

Out of the 80 stocks under review, 17 have delivered over 200% returns in the said period, with Midwest Gold rising up to 1,822%, the highest among its peers.

### **Global Market | Is India prepared for a prolonged Middle East oil disruption?**

Listen to this article in summarized format Asia's two largest energy consumers, India and China, both source roughly half of their crude imports from the Middle East.

### **US Stock Market | Betting Beyond Boundaries: The growing heat on geopolitical prediction markets**

According to Reuters, bets placed on platforms such as Polymarket and Kalshi on the ouster of Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, drew intense criticism from Democratic U.S. lawmakers this week.

### **Holi to Holi: 15 smallcap multibaggers that soared up to 500% in a year**

From one splash of colour to the next, the journey between two Holis has been nothing short of dazzling for small-cap investors.

## **After a brutal Monday crash, Trump says Iran war may last four weeks. How will the stock market react on Wednesday?**

Indian markets were shut on Tuesday for Holi, leaving investors to react on Wednesday to Trump's comments that the conflict "has always been a four-week process" and could continue for "four weeks or less".

## **US Stock Market | Dollar reasserts dominance as investors seek shelter from oil surge**

The dollar index climbed nearly 1% on Monday, marking its strongest single-day performance in seven months, according to a Reuters report.

## **Can Israel-Iran war help silver hit a new record high past \$121 and gold over \$5,595?**

The two precious metals have enjoyed a remarkable run over the past year and a half. In 2025 alone, silver surged an astonishing 170%, while gold climbed 60%.

## **L&T, IndiGo among 30 listed companies exposed to the Middle East. Is your portfolio at risk?**

Corporate India is assessing its exposure to the Middle East this week, with initial estimates indicating that more than 30 listed companies across infrastructure, aviation, energy, consumer goods, logistics and pharmaceuticals could face direct or...

## **Oil prices steady even as US-Iran conflict continues. Is \$100 still on track?**

The rally followed continued US and Israeli airstrikes on Iran and retaliatory missile and drone attacks by Tehran across the region, including Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Dubai.

## **Gulf War to Operation Sindoor: What India's stock market reactions to past geopolitical risks reveal amid US-Iran conflict**

According to the report, markets do not price conflict in isolation. They assess the economic transmission. In India's case, that channel runs through crude oil prices, inflation, the rupee, interest rates and eventually equity valuations.

## **Rs 11 lakh crore gone in 2 days as missiles make Nifty bulls run for cover. Big crash ahead?**

Sensex and Nifty crashed on Monday, as Iran retaliated to Israel-US strikes that killed its supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei during the weekend. Sensex tumbled over 1,000 points close below the 81,000 level for the first time in over a month.

## **GLP-1 boom, infra buying opportunity, and why gold is for traders: Ramesh Damani's big market calls**

In a wide-ranging interaction with ET Now, Damani shared his views on the GLP-1 opportunity, India's long-term growth story, the infrastructure trade, and why he believes equities — not gold — remain the best bet for long-term investors.

## **The Golden Thumb Rule | A 2026-ready portfolio needs growth, defence and discipline, says Kalpen Parekh**

In a candid conversation, Kalpen Parekh, MD & CEO of DSP Mutual Fund, lays out what he calls the "golden thumb rule" of investing: portfolios must be built not around trends, but around structure.

## **Stocks to buy in 2026 for long term: Bharti Airtel, Cummins India among 5 stocks that could give 10-20% return**

Brokerages continue to highlight selective opportunities across telecom, capital goods, metals, pharmaceuticals, and aviation, backed by earnings visibility and sector-specific tailwinds.

## **JGB yields jump as Iran war raises inflation fears**

The benchmark 10-year JGB yield rose 6 basis points (bps) to 2.12%. The two-year yield climbed 3.5 bps to 1.25% and the five-year yield rose 5.5 bps to 1.585%. U.S.

## **Airline stocks remain under pressure; Asian carriers see surge in demand, prices jump**

Qantas Airways CEO Vanessa Hudson said the airline had "pretty good" fuel hedging in place but the spike in oil prices amid the conflict between the U.S., Israel and Iran was significant for the aviation industry.

## **Blackstone's \$82 billion private credit fund sees net outflows**

Investors in the \$82 billion Blackstone Private Credit Fund(BCRED), who usually have a chance to ask to withdraw 5% of their holdings every quarter, requested a total of 7.9% in the first quarter, Blackstone said in the filing.

---

## CRYPTO NEWS

---

### **Trump urges passage of U.S. Clarity Act, attacks banks for 'undercutting' GENIUS**

Trump urges passage of U.S. Clarity Act, attacks banks for 'undercutting' GENIUS U.S. President Donald Trump said in a post on Truth Social that the banking industry is trying to undermine the stablecoin bill he signed into law last year.

### **JP Morgan CEO Jamie Dimon says stablecoin issuers paying interest should be regulated as banks**

JP Morgan CEO Jamie Dimon says stablecoin issuers paying interest should be regulated as banks Dimon argued stablecoin issuers paying interest should meet bank standards as talks continue in Washington about the CLARITY Act.

### **Donald Trump's crypto legacy in two words: Paul Atkins**

Donald Trump's crypto legacy in two words: Paul Atkins As the CLARITY Act faces a stalemate on Capitol Hill, the Trump administration is pivoting toward executive workarounds and family-backed stablecoins to reshape the financial system without...

### **International finance watchdog warns stablecoins are increasingly used in sanctions evasion and money laundering**

International finance watchdog warns stablecoins are increasingly used in sanctions evasion and money laundering In its latest report, the global standard setter FATF said stablecoins now account for the bulk of illicit crypto activity and pose...

### **Circle shares boosted by Middle East tensions, rising oil, fading rate cut hopes, says Mizuho**

Circle shares boosted by Middle East tensions, rising oil, fading rate cut hopes, says Mizuho The stock has risen about 20% since the U.S. strikes on Iran over the weekend.

### **AI agents will be primary users of blockchain, NEAR co-founder says**

AI agents will be primary users of blockchain, NEAR co-founder says Polosukhin argues that AI will become the primary interface layer for everything online, including crypto, abstracting away wallets, explorers and transaction hashes.

### **Aave governance rift deepens as major governance group exits \$26 billion DeFi protocol**

Aave governance rift deepens as major governance group exits \$26 billion DeFi protocol The conflict centered on a proposal to fund product development and expansion, which ACI opposed due to concerns over self-voting and lack of transparency.

### **Eric Trump's American Bitcoin buys 11,298 ASIC miners, increasing mining capacity by 12%**

Eric Trump's American Bitcoin buys 11,298 ASIC miners, increasing mining capacity by 12% The move stands in stark contrast to the company's peers, many of whom are moving away from or totally abandoning the business of bitcoin mining.

### **Bank of Japan expands blockchain settlement sandbox and says CBDC efforts are ongoing**

Bank of Japan expands blockchain settlement sandbox and says CBDC efforts are ongoing The BOJ is testing blockchain settlement for reserves and exploring tokenized central bank money as it prepares to decide in 2026 whether to issue a retail digital...

### **Bitcoin attempting to make a stand as global stock markets melt down on Iran war**

Bitcoin attempting to make a stand as global stock markets melt down on Iran war Having already plunged in the months leading up to the Middle East conflict, crypto markets so far aren't making new lows this week.

### **End of bitcoin 'HODL': public miners going all-in on AI, signaling more BTC selling**

End of bitcoin 'HODL': public miners going all-in on AI, signaling more BTC selling Public bitcoin miner balance sheets are shifting as capital rotates from bitcoin treasuries to AI infrastructure.

### **CFTC chief Selig to clear path for U.S. perpetual futures in coming weeks**

CFTC chief Selig to clear path for U.S. perpetual futures in coming weeks The Commodity Futures Trading Commission chairman, appearing beside his Securities and Exchange Commission counterpart, said several crypto policies are coming.

## **Here is why Harvard trimmed bitcoin and bought ether and why the move is bullish for crypto**

Here is why Harvard trimmed bitcoin and bought ether and why the move is bullish for crypto Volatility and private equity cash needs, not a market bet, may explain the endowment's crypto shift, experts say.

---

## **CoinDesk 20 performance update: AAVE plunges 10%, leading index lower**

CoinDesk 20 performance update: AAVE plunges 10%, leading index lower Cardano (ADA), down 5.9% from Monday, joined Aave (AAVE) as an underperformer.

---

## **Ondo Finance tokenized stocks platform on Binance wins regulatory approval in Abu Dhabi**

Ondo Finance tokenized stocks platform on Binance wins regulatory approval in Abu Dhabi The regulatory nod will let UAE-based financial institutions deal in tokenized equities on Binance's regulated trading venue.

---

## **Visa and Bridge plan stablecoin-linked card expansion to over 100 countries**

Visa and Bridge plan stablecoin-linked card expansion to over 100 countries Bridge has partnered with Lead Bank, a participant in Visa's stablecoin settlement pilot, to help businesses and fintechs offer stablecoin-backed Visa cards.

---

## **Bitcoin could slide further on liquidity squeeze, but long-term bull case intact: Sygnum CIO**

Bitcoin could slide further on liquidity squeeze, but long-term bull case intact: Sygnum CIO Fabian Dori says a short-term liquidity squeeze is driving crypto's slump, with further downside possible, though improving macro data and fundamentals...

---

## **Oil shock and inflation fears drag down bitcoin**

Oil shock and inflation fears drag down bitcoin Your day-ahead look for March 3, 2026 By Francisco Rodrigues (All times ET unless indicated otherwise) Bitcoin fell more than 3.5% to below \$67,000 as escalating tensions in the Middle East drove...

---

## **Dollar surge pressures crypto markets after escalation in Iran conflict**

Dollar surge pressures crypto markets after escalation in Iran conflict Risk assets fell across the board Tuesday as the U.S. dollar strengthened to a near two-month high following renewed military escalation in Iran, pressuring the crypto market.

---

## **'Scam token' case against Uniswap dismissed by U.S. district judge in NYC**

'Scam token' case against Uniswap dismissed by U.S.

---

## **Japan prime minister Sanae Takaichi disavows Solana meme coin after it crashes by 75%**

Japan prime minister Sanae Takaichi disavows Solana meme coin after it crashes by 75% Japan's prime minister says she has no knowledge of or involvement in a Solana-based meme token that briefly reached a \$27.7 million market cap before tumbling.

---

## **Tether taps Deloitte for first USAT reserve report**

Tether taps Deloitte for first USAT reserve report The report is a third-party attestation, which provides a snapshot of reserves at a specific point in time, rather than a full audit of the company's finances.

---

## **Bitcoin falls below \$67,000 as U.S. equities slide and oil pushes higher**

Bitcoin falls below \$67,000 as U.S. equities slide and oil pushes higher Risk off sentiment builds ahead of Tuesday's open, with investors moving into the dollar and watching energy markets amid ongoing Middle East tensions.

---

## **OKX jumps into AI agent race with new OnchainOS toolkit**

OKX jumps into AI agent race with new OnchainOS toolkit Developer layer aims to stitch together wallets, swaps and data feeds for autonomous bots.

---

## **Core Scientific sells \$175 million in bitcoin as AI pivot accelerates**

Core Scientific sells \$175 million in bitcoin as AI pivot accelerates CORZ still holds under 1,000 BTC but look to "remain opportunistic" moving forward.

---

## **TECH & STARTUPS**

---

### **Why AI startups are selling the same equity at two different prices**

As competition among AI startups heats up, founders and VCs are turning to novel valuation mechanisms to manufacture a perception of market dominance.

### **A suite of government hacking tools targeting iPhones is now being used by cybercriminals**

Security researchers have identified a suite of powerful hacking tools capable of compromising iPhones running older software that they say has passed from a government customer into the hands of cybercriminals.

### **Alibaba's Qwen tech lead steps down after major AI push**

Alibaba's Qwen AI project has lost one of its most visible technical leaders just a day after the Chinese tech giant unveiled its new Qwen 3.5 open-weight small models.

### **Just three companies dominated the \$189B in VC investments last month**

AI continues to dominate the venture world, per a new Crunchbase report. A record \$189 billion of global venture capital flowed to startups in February, according to the report.

### **TikTok down for some in US, thanks to second Oracle outage since sale**

Some TikTok users in the U.S. are having trouble using the app, which the company attributes to an issue with an Oracle data center.

### **AI companies are spending millions to thwart this former tech exec's congressional bid**

If you've seen the recent ads attacking New York assembly member Alex Bores, you'll know he used to work for Palantir, the AI company that's powering the controversial raids and high-volume deportation efforts from U.S.

### **ChatGPT's new GPT-5.3 Instant model will stop telling you to calm down**

Take a breath, stop spiraling. You're not crazy, you're just stressed. And honestly, that's okay.

### **Anduril aims at \$60 billion valuation in new funding round**

Palmer Luckey's defense-tech company is in the middle of a multibillion-dollar funding round led by Thrive Capital and Andreessen Horowitz, according to a new report from The Wall Street Journal.

### **Claude Code rolls out a voice mode capability**

Anthropic is bringing Voice Mode to Claude Code, the company's AI coding assistant for developers. The launch of voice mode marks a significant step toward more hands-free, conversational coding workflows.

### **Android users can now share tracker tag info with airlines to help locate lost luggage**

Google on Tuesday announced a series of new features coming to the Android ecosystem, alongside its March software update for Pixel phones, called the Pixel Drop. Notably, Android users are getting a new way to find lost luggage.

### **X says it will suspend creators from revenue-sharing program for unlabeled AI posts of 'armed conflict'**

X says it's going to take action against creators who post AI videos of armed conflict without disclosure that the content is AI-generated.

### **The new MacBook Pro laptops are as much as \$400 more expensive than their predecessors. Thank the RAM shortage.**

Apple unveiled its latest slate of MacBook Air and MacBook Pro laptops on Tuesday morning, and in the case of the MacBook Pro, the new hardware comes with the announcement of new M5 Pro and M5 Max chips.

### **Hacked traffic cams and hijacked TVs: How cyber operations supported the war against Iran**

On Saturday, U.S. and Israeli jets began a bombing campaign against Iran, killing its supreme leader Ali Khamenei and several senior government officials.

### **Activist investor Elliott takes a \$1B stake in Pinterest, betting on AI-driven growth**

Elliott Investment Management, an activist investor known for its assertive involvement in company decisions, has taken a \$1 billion stake in Pinterest. The firm first invested in the social platform in 2022.

### **Apple's rumored MacBook Neo, a lower-cost, colorful laptop, could launch this week**

According to multiple reports, Apple is working on a low-cost MacBook, which would allow the company to compete with inexpensive laptops for the first time.

---

### **Amid new competition, Chrome speeds up its release schedule**

As AI-powered browsers from companies like OpenAI, Perplexity, and others attempt to carve out a space for themselves in a market that's long been dominated by Chrome, Google says that it's now speeding up the pace of Chrome releases.

---

### **Audible launches a cheaper 'Standard' subscription plan, challenging Spotify**

Audible is rolling out a cheaper "Standard" subscription plan that costs \$8.99 per month, the Amazon-owned company announced on Tuesday. The new plan is \$6 cheaper than the platform's existing "Premium" plan, which costs \$14.95 per month.

---

### **X begins testing standalone X Chat app on iOS**

Social network X is bringing its private messaging service, dubbed X Chat, to a standalone app.

---

### **Apple unveils new MacBook Air and MacBook Pro with M5**

Apple announced its new slate of laptops on Tuesday morning, including new MacBook Air and MacBook Pro models that use Apple's M5 chips.

---

### **Apple's new Studio Displays come with Thunderbolt 5**

Apple on Tuesday announced a new MacBook Pro and MacBook Air, both powered by its latest chips, as well as a new family of displays. The latter includes a new \$1,599 Studio Display and a \$3,299 Studio Display XDR.

---

MORNING BRIEF · Mohit Sharma · mohitsharma.com