

MORNING BRIEF

Monday, 20 April 2026

BHAGAVAD GITA — VERSE 1.12 (12/12)

*tasya sanjanayanharsham kuruvriddhah pitamahah
simhanadam vinadyochchaih shankham dadhmau pratapavan*

Then, to cheer Duryodhana, the mighty grandsire Bhishma, the oldest of the Kuru warriors, roared like a lion and blew his conch loudly.

Even great souls can be bound by misplaced loyalty. Sometimes our commitments need re-examination against higher principles.

LAW 24: PLAY THE PERFECT COURTIER (24/48)

The perfect courtier thrives in a world where everything revolves around power and political dexterity. He masters the art of indirection; he flatters, yields to superiors, and asserts power over others in the most oblique and graceful manner.

PAUL GRAHAM — HOLDING A PROGRAM IN ONE'S HEAD (72/97)

Good programmers can hold an entire program in their head — understanding all the pieces and how they interact simultaneously. This is what enables them to see elegant solutions that others miss. Anything that disrupts this mental model — meetings, bad code structure, interruptions — destroys productivity. The best working conditions for programmers are those that help them build and maintain this complete mental picture.

Deep understanding requires holding the entire problem in your head at once. Protect the conditions that enable this: long uninterrupted blocks, clean organization, minimal context-switching. This applies beyond programming to any complex creative or analytical work.

paulgraham.com/head.html

GIFT NIFTY 24,463.50 +43.50 (+0.18%)

Gap from NIFTY close: **+110 pts** (+0.45%)

INDIAN MARKETS

INDEX	CLOSE	CHANGE	%
NIFTY 50	24,353.55	+156.80	+0.65%
Sensex	78,493.54	+504.86	+0.65%
Bank NIFTY	56,565.70	+479.30	+0.85%
India VIX	17.21	-0.88	-4.86%

FII / DII Flows

	NET (CR)
FII / FPI	+683
DII	-4,721

India Market Mood: **66** (Greed)

US & GLOBAL MARKETS

INDEX	CLOSE	CHANGE	%
S&P 500	7,126.06	+84.78	+1.20%
Nasdaq	24,468.48	+365.78	+1.52%
Dow Jones	49,447.43	+868.71	+1.79%
S&P Futures	7,119.00	-42.50	-0.59%
Nikkei 225	58,924.69	+448.79	+0.77%
Hang Seng	26,160.33	-233.93	-0.89%

US Fear & Greed: **68** (greed)

COMMODITIES & FOREX

ASSET	PRICE	CHANGE	%
US 10Y Yield	4.25	-0.06	-1.46%
Gold	4,811.20	-46.40	-0.96%
Silver	80.06	-1.68	-2.06%
Crude Oil	82.59	-12.10	-12.78%
USD/INR	92.57	-0.47	-0.51%

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- GIFT Nifty trading above prev NIFTY close by 110 pts (+0.45%) — signals a gap-up open.
- NIFTY closed mildly positive at +0.65%.
- India VIX at 17.2 — moderate zone.
- FII bought 683 Cr, DII sold 4,721 Cr — foreign money in, domestic booking profits.
- Wall Street closed strong (S&P +1.20%) — positive cue for Asian markets.
- S&P futures pointing lower (-0.59%).
- Gold down -0.96% at \$4,811.
- Crude oil dropped -12.78% — watch energy stocks.
- Rupee strengthened to 92.57 — possible FII inflow signal.

CRYPTO

COIN	PRICE	24H
BTC	\$74,312.00	-1.70%

Fear & Greed Index: **29** (Fear)

- BTC dipping -1.7% — mild correction territory.
- Fear & Greed at 29 (Fear) — sentiment cautious.

HACKER NEWS

1. **Vercel April 2026 security incident**

Update 4/19/26: Added additional information from Vercel that was disclosed after publishing.

2. Notion leaks email addresses of all editors of any public page

323 pts · 109 comments

3. The seven programming ur-languages (2022)

The seven programming ur-languages I regularly hear people asking which programming language to learn, and then reeling off a list of very similar languages ("Should I learn Java, C#, C++, Python, or Ruby?").

285 pts · 110 comments

4. Airline worker arrested after sharing photos of bomb damage in WhatsApp group

Airline worker arrested by Dubai police after sharing photos of bomb damage in private WhatsApp group Police lured the man to a meeting and arrested him after accessing a private WhatsApp group with colleagues An airline employee was arrested by...

245 pts · 161 comments

5. Ask HN: How did you land your first projects as a solo engineer/consultant?

I've spent roughly the last decade and some change as a software engineer, and recently decided to start a solo consultancy. I'm focused on helping SMEs sort out the messy back-office parts of the...

244 pts · 111 comments

MARKET NEWS

Global Market Today: Oil jumps, stocks wobble as Mideast ceasefire hangs in the balance

The ceasefire in the Iran war, due to run until Tuesday, was in doubt after the U.S. seized an Iranian cargo ship and Tehran's top military command vowed to retaliate.

Oil claws back losses as Strait of Hormuz is closed again

Brent crude futures jumped \$6.11, or 6.76%, to \$96.49 a barrel by 2327 GMT and U.S. West Texas Intermediate was at \$90.38 a barrel, up \$6.53, or 7.79%. The U.S.

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

STATE OF THE MARKETS - Tech View: The overall structure remains positive, favoring a buy-on-dips approach, with the support base now shifting higher to around 24,000.

Stocks in news: HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, RIL, Trent, Jio Financial

In today's trade, shares of HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, RIL, Trent, Jio Financial among others will be in focus due to various news developments and fourth quarter results.

Omkara, Oaktree pay Rs 1,200 crore to buy GTL debt from Edelweiss

The all-cash deal, valued at about ₹1,200 crore, involves a transfer of stressed debt between asset reconstruction platforms and investors. It was closed in March.

CRYPTO NEWS

The \$292 million Kelp exploit: how it happened, and what it means for DeFi

The \$292 million Kelp exploit: how it happened, and what it means for DeFi 2026 is shaping up to be DeFi's "worst year in terms of hacks," Ledger's CTO said, as the Kelp exploit shows how a single point of failure can cascade across systems.

Previewing Consensus' Policy Summit: State of Crypto

Previewing Consensus' Policy Summit: State of Crypto Every year policy discussions get more important, and this year's even more so.

Web3 VCs have a differentiation problem

Web3 VCs have a differentiation problem When every fund claims the same great networks and strong relationships, nobody wins. Bauer, Co-Founder of TBV, offers a more rigorous framework for emerging managers to build a unique value proposition.

'DeFi is dead': crypto community scrambles after this year's biggest hack exposes contagion risks

'DeFi is dead': crypto community scrambles after this year's biggest hack exposes contagion risks Developers and traders warn of structural risks as a cross-chain exploit spreads fear and prompts billions to flee DeFi platforms.

Stablecoins can help businesses turn costs into revenue, Paxos Labs cofounder says

Stablecoins can help businesses turn costs into revenue, Paxos Labs cofounder says Firms using stablecoins can reshape margins by cutting costs, unlock credit and earn yield, but not every company needs to issue a token, Paxos Labs' Chunda McCain...

TECH & STARTUPS

OpenAI's existential questions

OpenAI has been all over the news recently, whether that news is about acquisitions, competition with Anthropic, or bigger debates about AI's impact on society.

The 12-month window

In a recent episode of "No Priors" — the excellent podcast co-hosted by AI investors Sarah Guo and Elad Gil — Gil made a point about exit timing that's undoubtedly familiar to founders who've spent time with him but seems particularly useful in this...

Blue Origin's New Glenn put a customer satellite in the wrong orbit during its third launch

Jeff Bezos' space company Blue Origin successfully re-used one of its New Glenn rockets for the first time ever on Sunday, but the company failed at its primary mission: delivering a communications satellite to orbit for customer AST SpaceMobile.

Robots beat human records at Beijing half-marathon

The winning runner at a Beijing half-marathon for humanoid robots finished the race today in 50 minutes and 26 seconds — significantly faster than the human world record of 57 minutes recently set by Jacob Kiplimo.

Palantir posts mini-manifesto denouncing inclusivity and 'regressive' cultures

Surveillance and analytics company Palantir recently posted what it called a "brief" 22-point summary of CEO Alex Karp's book "The Technological Republic." Written by Karp and Palantir's head of corporate affairs, Nicholas Zamiska, "The...
