



## U.S. Tariffs Rattle Global Trade — Friends or Foes?



In a move shaking up international trade circles, U.S. President Donald Trump announced a surprise 10% tariff on imports from close allies like Singapore and Australia — countries that have long enjoyed free trade deals with the U.S.

So, why the sudden shift? It's all part of Washington's tough stance on China. The U.S. recently slapped a steep 145% tariff on Chinese imports, and now it's pressuring its allies to do the same. The logic: present a united front against China's growing economic influence but the backlash was swift. Leaders in Singapore and Australia called the new tariffs "unfriendly" and "short-sighted." After all, these are countries that rely heavily on trade with China, even as they remain politically aligned with the West.

This move has stirred debate — is the U.S. strengthening global alliances, or straining them? As trade routes grow more complex and politics more intertwined, the world watches to see how this gamble plays out.

**Contributors – Kritika Surana, Snehajit Choudhary**

**BA 6<sup>th</sup> SEMESTER**

## **India's Forex Reserves Jump to \$665.4 Billion Highest in 5 Months**

India's foreign exchange reserves witnessed a significant rise of \$6.6 billion in the week ending March 28, marking the biggest weekly increase in five months. With this boost, the country's total forex reserves now stand at \$665.4 billion.

Over the past three weeks, the reserves have surged by \$20.1 billion, reflecting strong macroeconomic stability and growing investor confidence.

A closer look at the composition shows that:

- Gold reserves have risen to \$77.8 billion
- Foreign currency assets now stand at \$565 billion



This robust reserve position is enough to cover 10–11 months of imports, providing a solid buffer against external economic shocks.

Additionally, the Indian rupee appreciated by 0.6%, a sign of renewed optimism among global investors. Experts believe the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may have intervened in the forex market earlier to stabilize the rupee during recent episodes of market volatility. This surge not only strengthens India's external position but also signals resilience amid global economic uncertainties.



## Assam Rising! Now India's 3rd Fastest-Growing State



April 2025 brings with it a proud moment for the people of Assam — the state has officially emerged as the third fastest-growing economy in India! With a growth rate that's catching national attention, Assam is stepping into the spotlight as a powerful force in India's development story.

According to recent data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Assam's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) has witnessed a sharp upswing, powered by strong performance in key sectors like agriculture, infrastructure, tourism, and tea exports. Guwahati, the state's urban heartbeat, has played a major role by driving investments, job creation, and modernization projects.

This growth isn't just about numbers — it's about real change on the ground.

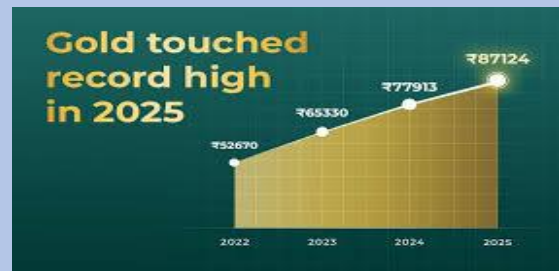
Roads are being built faster, new industries are being launched, and opportunities are opening up for youth and entrepreneurs. Assam is transforming from a quiet corner of the Northeast to a buzzing economic engine that's contributing actively to India's larger economic dream.



### FUN FACT

If Assam were a separate economy, it would rank higher in growth than many small European nations!

## Gold and Fuel Prices on the Rise



As we journey through April, gold prices in Guwahati have been fluctuating, following global market trends. This price shift is a reminder that gold remains a highly sensitive asset, influenced by international economic factors such as inflation, currency movements, and geopolitical stability. Residents of Guwahati are feeling these changes, with local jewellers adjusting their rates to reflect the global surge in demand for precious metals.

At the same time, petrol prices in the city have seen a slight increase, adding to the financial strain for daily commuters and businesses that rely on fuel. Globally, oil prices have been rising due to geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions, and market speculation. These price hikes are often passed down to consumers at the pump, affecting everything from personal budgets to the cost of goods and services.

It's clear that these price shifts remind us how closely our local economy is tied to global forces. Whether it's the cost of fuelling up your car or buying gold for an investment or wedding, the impact is felt on a personal level for many in Guwahati.



**DID YOU  
KNOW?**

Gold prices have been historically considered a “safe haven” asset, meaning that during times of global uncertainty or inflation, people often flock to gold as a reliable store of value. That's why when global markets get shaky, gold prices tend to rise.