MONTHLY BULLETIN (RESEARCH) Date 15th Feb 2025

GOLD

Market Outlook and Fundamental Analysis:

Bullion Index register 3rd consecutive monthly gain in March with index rally more than 5% to hit fresh all time exchange high during the month, thanks to Gold which also register multiple all time high in march on continue to safe haven buying after Trade war situation added by sooner than expected rate cut expectations from US FED and ongoing geopolitical tension makes bullion and especially gold as safe landing in uncertain environment. Other side continues central bank buying and positive ETF flow into Bullion in 2024, first time after few years also makes bullion attractive throughout Q1-2025. However, expected rally in dollar index as well in US Bond yield will likely to pressure bullion at higher level added by peace talk for geopolitical tension. Bullion generally remains positive during geopolitical as well financial crisis and gold is known as a safe investment during economic and geo-political crisis, but a high-interest rate environment makes the non-yielding asset less attractive to investors in last year and still this will play a vital role to decide prices in months to come. Other side Silver also get boost from Gold as well rally in base metals after top metal consumer China announce list of Stimulus to revive economy support prices at every dip. For the month of March Gold future gain straight 4th monthly gain by more than 7% and Silver gain inch above 5%.

Gold is up more than 17% in the first quarter of the year (after surging 27% in 2024), heading for its best quarterly performance since 1986, posted 19 all-time highs in 2025, among which seven are above the unprecedented $3,000 level mark thanks to Continued haven demand, coupled with EM central bank buying in an effort to diversify FX reserves, make for a convincing bull case here. Last year, gold recorded its best yearly performance since 2010, prompted by market participants fleeing to the safe-haven asset due to increased geopolitical turmoil rising from the wars in the Middle East and Europe, and to safeguard against the turbulent economic landscape against the backdrop of Trump taking office and resultant tariff proposals. Another major factor that contributed to the surge was the Fed's rate easing policy after the U.S. central bank cut rates by 50 basis points in September.

Traders at end of March month were pricing in more than 100 basis points of Federal Reserve rate cuts this year, up from around 75 basis points earlier, and increased their bets on Bank of England and European Central Bank reductions too. ECB expected 79 bps and BOE 73 bps till end of 2025. Investors also bet the mounting risk of recession could see the Federal Reserve cutting interest rates as early as May, and futures markets moved swiftly to price in almost five quarter-point cuts in U.S. rates this year, hurting the dollar on safe havens.

On Tariffs Update, China hiked its levies on imports of U.S. goods to 125% on 11-April, hitting back at U.S President decision to single out the world's No.2 economy for higher duties, while dismissing the U.S. president's tariff strategy as "a joke." "The U.S. side's imposition of excessively high tariffs on China seriously violates international economic and trade rules, runs counter to basic economic principles and common sense, and is simply an act of unilateral bullying and coercion," China's Finance Ministry said in a statement. "Even if the U.S. continues to impose even higher tariffs, it would no longer have any economic significance and would go down as a joke in the history of world economics," the Finance Ministry's statement added. "If the U.S. continues to play a numbers game with tariffs, China will not respond," it added. However it left the door open for Beijing to turn to other types of retaliation, reiterating that China would fight the U.S. to the end.

Earlier, U.S president Trump said he would impose a 10% baseline tariff on all imports to the United States and higher duties on some of the country's biggest trading partners, hammering goods from premium Italian coffee and Japanese whisky to sportswear made in Asia. Facing 54% tariffs on exports to the U.S., the world's No. 2 economy China vowed countermeasures, as did the European Union, as Washington's allies and rivals alike criticised moves they fear will deal a devastating blow to global trade. Trump said the "reciprocal" tariffs were a response to duties and other non-tariff barriers put on U.S. goods. He argued that the new levies will boost manufacturing jobs at home. The Trump administration was talking to all major trading partners about ways to bring down the new tariffs, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said, stressing that countries needed to treat the U.S. fairly. Among close U.S. allies, the EU was targeted with a 20% rate, Japan with 24%, South Korea with 25% and Taiwan with 32%. Even some tiny territories and uninhabited islands in the Antarctic were hit by tariffs. Economists have warned that tariffs could slow the global economy and increase living costs for the average American family by thousands of dollars. Canada and Mexico, the two largest U.S. trading partners, already face 25% tariffs on many goods and will not face additional levies. But Trump's tariffs do not apply to certain goods, including copper, gold, energy and "certain minerals that are not available in the United States", a White House fact sheet showed.

President Donald Trump's new tariffs are "larger than expected" and the economic fallout including higher inflation and slower growth likely will be as well, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said on 4-April in remarks that pointed to the potentially difficult set of decisions ahead for the central bank. "We face a highly uncertain outlook with elevated risks of both higher unemployment and higher inflation," undermining both of the Fed's mandates of 2% inflation and maximum employment, Powell said in prepared remarks for a business journalists' conference in Arlington, Virginia. The Fed, he said, has time to wait for more data to decide how monetary policy should respond, but the central banks' focus will be on ensuring that inflation expectations remain anchored, particularly if Trump's import taxes touch off a more persistent jump in price pressures. "While tariffs are highly likely to generate at least a temporary rise in inflation, it is also possible that the effects could be more persistent," Powell said.

US Nonfarm payrolls, a gaunge to interest rates decision shows, The U.S. economy added far more jobs than expected in March, but President Donald Trump's sweeping import tariffs could test the labor market's resilience in the months ahead amid sagging business confidence and a stock market selloff. As Nonfarm payrolls increased by 228,000 jobs last month after a downwardly revised 117,000 rise in February and against Reuters had forecast payrolls advancing by 135,000 jobs after a previously reported 151,000 rise in February. Part of the rise in payrolls was a rebound after freezing temperatures curbed activity in January and February. The unemployment rate increased to a still-relatively low 4.2% last month from 4.1% in February as more people entered the labor force. Average hourly earnings gained 0.3% after climbing 0.2% in February. Annual wages increased 3.8% after rising 4.0% in February. But businesses have been hesitant to hire because of an uncertain trade policy.

U.S. private payrolls increased more than expected in March, but that did not change economists' views that the labor market was slowing against the backdrop of mounting economic uncertainty due to tariffs. Private payrolls increased by 155,000 jobs in March month after an upwardly revised 84,000 rise in February, the ADP National Employment Report showed on Wednesday. Reuters had forecast private employment advancing 115,000 following a previously reported 77,000 gain in February.

In its latest policy meet US FED keeps policy rate Unchanged in 4.25%-4.50% range and anticipated 2-more rate cut in 2025 with economic growth seen at 1.7% in 2025 and inflation higher at 2.7%. With overall sentiment sliding due to policy "turmoil," prices are projected to rise faster than previously expected at least in part, and perhaps largely, because of Trump's plans to impose duties on imports from U.S. trading partners, Powell said after the Fed announced it had held its benchmark overnight rate steady in the 4.25%-4.50% range. While Fed policymakers still expect the central bank to deliver two quarter-percentage-point rate cuts by the end of this year, matching their projection in December, that is largely due to weakened economic growth offsetting higher inflation, and what Powell called the "inertia" of not knowing what else to do given the muddled outlook. Overall economic data remains solid, the Fed chief said, pointing to the current unemployment rate of 4.1% and a sense that the job market remains roughly in balance.

U.S. Federal Reserve policymakers were nearly unanimous at their meeting last month that the U.S. economy faced risks of simultaneously higher inflation and slower growth, with some policymakers noting that "difficult tradeoffs" could lie ahead for the central bank, according to the minutes of the meeting. The March 18-19 session was held in the wake of initial Trump administration tariff plans that raised uncertainty about the economic outlook and led participants to favor a "cautious approach" that could opt to keep interest rates higher for longer if inflation were to persist, or cut rates if a weakening economy needed more immediate attention. Trump on April 2 unveiled an even more aggressive and broadly applied set of import taxes than what had been announced before the March meeting.

The Bank of England held interest rates at 4.5% and warned against assumptions that they would be cut over its next few meetings as it grappled with deep uncertainty hanging over the British and world economies. "There's a lot of economic uncertainty at the moment," Governor Andrew Bailey said in a statement. He said the BoE still believed rates would fall gradually but it would look "very closely at how the global and domestic economies are evolving at each of our six-weekly rate-setting meetings." Policymakers next meet on May 8. The BoE slightly increased its forecast for a peak in inflation this year to 3.75% in the third quarter, up slightly from its estimate in February of 3.7%. The central bank nudged up its estimate for economic growth in Britain in the first three months of 2025 to 0.25% from a previous projection for an increase 0.1%.

The Swiss National Bank cut its main interest rate to just above zero on 20-March and flagged increased uncertainty over the global impact of US President trade policies. The SNB reduced its policy rate by a quarter points to 0.25%, its fifth successive cut since it started lowering borrowing costs in March 2024, after deciding inflation was well contained and could decline further. "The upward revisions of inflation profile indicate that no further rate cut is needed." The new 0.25% rate is the SNB's lowest since September 2022, and brings it close to sub-zero interest rates again, a move it has previously not ruled out. The SNB said that its baseline scenario anticipated moderate global growth over the coming quarters and gradually easing underlying inflationary pressure, particularly in Europe.

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) left its base rate unchanged at 4.75% on 20-March, in line with the U.S. Federal Reserve's decision to keep rates steady. Major banks followed, with HSBC maintaining its best lending rate in Hong Kong at 5.25%, and Standard Chartered Bank keeping its Hong Kong dollar best lending rate unchanged at 5.5%. Bank of China (Hong Kong) kept its Hong Kong dollar prime rate steady at 5.25%. Hong Kong's monetary policy moves in lock-step with the United States as the city's currency is pegged to the greenback in a tight range of 7.75-7.85 per dollar.

The Bank of Japan kept interest rates steady on 19-March and warned of heightening global economic uncertainty, suggesting the timing of further rate hikes will depend largely on the fallout from potentially higher U.S. tariffs. But Governor also said rising food costs and stronger-than-expected wage growth could push up underlying inflation, highlighting the central bank's attention to mounting domestic price pressures. He offered few hints on the next rate-hike timing, but said the BOJ did not necessarily need to wait until everything is clear on the impact of U.S. tariffs, in pulling the trigger. Having just raised interest rates in January, the board voted unanimously to maintain the bank's short-term policy rate at 0.5% in a widely expected move.

Indonesia's central bank kept policy rates unchanged for a second straight review on Wednesday, as expected, against a backdrop of turmoil in local markets on concerns about global trade wars and the government's fiscal policy. Bank Indonesia (BI) held the benchmark 7-day reverse repurchase rate steady at 5.75%, as expected by 19 of 31 analysts polled by Reuters. The rest had expected a rate cut. The central bank also left its two other key policy rates unchanged.

U.S. manufacturing contracted in March after growing for two straight months, while a measure of inflation at the factory gate jumped to the highest level in nearly 3-years amid rising anxiety over tariffs on imported goods. The ISM said its manufacturing PMI dropped to 49.0 last month from 50.3 in February against Reuters had forecast the PMI would slip to 49.5. A PMI reading below 50 indicates contraction in the manufacturing sector, which accounts for 10.2% of the economy. The ISM survey's forward-looking new orders sub-index sagged to 45.2, the lowest reading since May 2023, from 48.6 in February.

U.S Labor Department showing job openings or JOLT, a measure of labor demand, dropped 194,000 to 7.568 million by the last day of February. The job openings rate fell to 4.5% from 4.7% in January. The retail sector had 126,000 fewer vacancies while unfilled jobs in wholesale trade decreased by 56,000. There were also fewer job openings in financial activities, healthcare and social assistance, accommodation and food services as well as manufacturing. Layoffs increased 116,000 to a still-low 1.790 million. They were concentrated in the retail and professional and business services sectors. Federal government layoffs rose by 18,000.

U.S. consumer spending rebounded in February amid rising prices for goods and services, which could amplify fears that the economy was facing a period of tepid growth and high inflation amid an escalation in trade tensions. Consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of economic activity, climbed 0.4% after a downwardly revised 0.3% decline in January against Reuters had forecast gaining 0.5% after a previously reported 0.2% fall in January. The Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) price index increased 0.3% in February after advancing by the same unrevised margin in January and in line with economists' expectations. In the 12 months through February, PCE prices increased 2.5%, matching January's rise. In the 12 months through February, core inflation increased 2.8% after rising 2.7% in January. The U.S. central bank tracks the PCE price measures for its 2% inflation target.

The number of Americans filing new applications for unemployment benefits slipped last week, while the jobless rate appeared to have held steady in March, as per data on last week of march. Initial claims for state unemployment benefits fell 1,000 to a seasonally adjusted 224,000 for the week ended March 22 against Reuters had forecast 225,000 claims for the latest week. The government revised the claims data from 2020 through 2024, in line with the normal practice.

U.S GDP increased at an upwardly revised 2.4% annualized rate, the BEA said in its third estimate of fourth-quarter GDP. Growth was previously estimated at a 2.3% pace. The economy grew at a 3.1% rate in the third quarter. Strong profits boosted an alternative measure of economic growth. Gross domestic income grew at a 4.5% rate after rising at a 1.4% pace in the July-September period. There are signs that GDP growth has significantly slowed in the first quarter because of snowstorms and unseasonably cold weather as well as trade policy uncertainty. Growth estimates for the January-March quarter are mostly below a 1.5% rate and the odds of a contraction are high.

U.S. consumer confidence dropped for a fourth straight month in March, with households the most pessimistic about the future in 12 years, a survey showed. The Conference Board said its consumer confidence index plunged 7.2 points to 92.9 in march against Reuters had forecast the index sliding to 94.0. The Present Situation Index, based on consumers' assessment of current business and labor market conditions, fell 3.6 points to 134.5. outlook for income, business, and labor market conditions, dropped 9.6 points to 65.2 - the lowest level in 12 years and well below the threshold of 80 that usually signals a recession ahead.

U.S. business activity picked up in March, but growing fears over import tariffs and deep government spending cuts continued to weigh on sentiment and prospects for the rest of the year. S&P Global's flash U.S. Composite PMI Output Index, which tracks the manufacturing and services sectors, increased to 53.5 this month from 51.6 in February. A reading above 50 indicates expansion in the private sector. Gross domestic product estimates for the first quarter are mostly below a 1.5% annualized rate. The economy grew at a 2.3% pace in the October-December quarter.

The U.S. current account deficit contracted in the fourth quarter, but the improvement could be temporary as goods imports surged to a record high in January, driven by businesses preemptively buying foreign merchandise to avoid tariffs. The Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis said, the current account deficit, which measures the flow of goods, services and investments into and out of the country, narrowed $6.3 billion, or 2.0% to $303.9 billion. Data for the third quarter was revised to show the deficit widening to a record high of $310.3 billion instead of $310.9 billion as previously reported and against Reuters had forecast the current account deficit rising to $325.5 billion in the fourth quarter.

U.S. retail sales rebounded marginally in February as consumers pulled back on discretionary spending, reinforcing the growing uncertainty over the economy against the backdrop of tariffs and mass firings of federal government workers. As Retail sales rose 0.2% in Feb after a downwardly revised 1.2% decline in January and against expected advancing 0.6% after a previously reported 0.9% drop in January. That decline followed hefty gains in the fourth quarter and winter storms in many parts of the country in January as well as wildfires in California. Sales increased 3.1% y-o-y in February. Monthly sales were lifted by a 2.4% jump in receipts from online stores. Sales at health and personal care stores jumped 1.7%.

U.S. homebuilder sentiment dropped to a seven-month low in March as tariffs on imported materials raised construction costs, a survey showed. The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index dropped three points to 39 this month, the lowest level since August and against Reuters had forecast the index at 42.

On data side, U.S. construction spending increased more than expected in February as a decline in mortgage rates boosted single-family homebuilding, though rising economic uncertainty because of tariffs on imports could slow momentum. The construction spending jumped 0.7% after a downwardly revised 0.5% decrease in January and against Reuters had forecast construction spending rebounding 0.3% after a previously reported 0.2% decline in January. Construction spending advanced 2.9% year-on-year in February. U.S. corporate profits increased sharply in the fourth quarter, but an uncertain economic outlook due to tariffs is creating a challenging environment for businesses that economists say could force companies to lay off workers to protect margins. Profits from current production with inventory valuation and capital consumption adjustments increased $204.7 billion, or at a 5.4% rate, last quarter, the Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis said. Profits declined $15.0 billion, or at a 0.4% pace, in the July-September quarter. Profits increased $281.3 billion in 2024 after rising by $229.8 billion in 2023. A measure that is conceptually most similar to S&P 500 profits increased at a 6.7% pace after declining at a 0.3% pace in the July-September period. Orders for long-lasting U.S. manufactured goods unexpectedly rose in February as businesses rushed to place orders for primary metals and fabricated metal products ahead of tariffs. Orders for durable goods, items ranging from toasters to aircraft meant to last three years or more, increased 0.9% after advancing an upwardly revised 3.3% in January against Reuters had forecast durable goods orders falling 1.0%. U.S. single-family homebuilding rebounded sharply in February amid a thaw in winter weather, but rising construction costs from tariffs and labor shortages threaten the recovery. Single-family housing starts, which account for the bulk of homebuilding, surged 11.4% to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.108 million units last month, the Commerce Department's Census Bureau said. Data for January was revised to show homebuilding declining to a rate of 995,000 units instead of the previously reported pace of 993,000 units.

Separately, According to WGC data, Global physically backed gold ETFs recorded robust inflows of US$8.6bn in March 2025, marking the fourth consecutive month of net additions. This brought total Q1 inflows to US$21bn (226t), the second-highest quarterly level on record after Q2 2020 (US$24bn, 433t). As a result, total assets under management (AUM) surged 13% in March and 28% in Q1, reaching a new all-time high of US$345bn. North

America led regional flows with a 61% share, followed by Europe at 22%, marking Europe's strongest quarter since Q1 2020 with US$4.6bn in net inflows. Notably, Asia contributed 16% of global Q1 inflows, outperforming its 7% share of total AUM. Collective gold ETF holdings grew by 92t in March and 226t over Q1, reaching 3,445t—the highest month-end level since May 2023 and 470t below the October 2020 record of 3,915t.

Other side, Goldman Sachs raised the odds of a U.S. recession to 45% from 35%, the second time it has increased its forecast in a week, amid a growing chorus of such predictions by investment banks due to an escalating trade war. Goldman raised its estimate from 20% to 35% early last week on fears that U.S. President Donald Trump's planned tariffs would roil the global economy. Days later, Trump announced steeper-than-expected duties, which have ignited a selloff in global markets. Goldman, lowered its U.S. economic growth outlook for 2025 to 1.3% from 1.5%. That, though, is higher than Wells Fargo Investment Institute's (WFII) 1% growth forecast, while J.P.Morgan estimates a 0.3% contraction, on a quarterly basis.

Euro zone economic growth could fall much more from the impact of U.S. trade tariffs than initially estimated by the European Central Bank and the turmoil could also drag inflation down in the near term, according to Reuters news. That might leave the bloc's economy stagnating and dash hopes for a recovery that had been growing until recently on the back of large-scale public investment plans. The ECB last month predicted that a trade war would take 0.5 percentage points off the euro zone's economic growth in the first year and would briefly send prices up by a similar magnitude if the European Union retaliated.

Factory activity showed early signs of a meaningful recovery in the euro zone in March but mostly weakened around Asia as an intensifying U.S. tariff war and slowing global demand hurt business sentiment, darkening the outlook, surveys showed. HCOB's final euro zone manufacturing PMI, compiled by S&P Global, bounced to 48.6 in March, just below a preliminary estimate for 48.7 yet much closer to the 50 mark separating growth from contraction. The index has been below that line since mid-2022. In Germany, Europe's largest economy, there were also signs of recovery with its first production increase in nearly two years, while the downturn eased in France. But British manufacturers endured a torrid March as the tariff threat and impending tax increases contributed to a plunge in new orders and ebbing optimism.

Euro zone inflation eased as expected in March month and a key measure of underlying price pressures also fell, likely adding to already widespread expectations for another European Central Bank interest rate cut later in April. Consumer price growth in the 20 nations sharing the euro eased to 2.2% in March from 2.3% in February, in line with expectations, on a big drop in energy costs and slowing service inflation, Eurostat data showed.

Euro zone business activity grew at its fastest pace in seven months in March, supported by an easing in the long-running manufacturing downturn despite slower growth in services, a survey showed. HCOB's preliminary composite euro zone PMI, compiled by S&P Global, rose to 50.4 this month from February's 50.2, it's highest since August. It has remained above the 50 mark separating growth from contraction since the start of this year. An index measuring the bloc's dominant services industry declined to 50.4 from last month's 50.6, below the Reuters poll forecast of 51.0.

British inflation slowed more than expected in February, bringing some relief to consumers ahead of a likely new pick-up in price growth. Consumer prices rose by 2.8% in annual terms in February after a 3% increase in January, as clothing and footwear prices fell for the first time in more than three years and against Reuters had pointed to a reading of 2.9% in February while the Bank of England had expected 2.8% in a set of forecasts published in early February.

Asian manufacturing activity shows, China was one outlier among a broadly downbeat set of Asian PMI, showing activity in the world's second-largest economy picking up, as factories rushed to get goods to customers before U.S. tariffs took effect. Elsewhere in Asia, Japan, S.Korea and Taiwan saw manufacturing activity decline in March, the surveys showed, as companies braced for more uncertainty on U.S. trade policy. Japan's factory activity fell at the fastest pace in a year, its PMI showed and extended declines for a ninth straight month.

China, world's leading consumer of gold, China's net gold imports via Hong Kong saw a more than five-fold drop in February and was below its exports for a second consecutive month. Meanwhile, supplies of bullion to China from Switzerland dried up completely in February.

According to Industry data, China's gold market remained strong in February, driven by robust investment demand. Between January 27 and February 28, the LBMA Gold Price PM rose by 3.4%, while the Shanghai Benchmark Gold Price PM (SHAUPM) gained 4.3%. However, seasonal factors led to a decline in wholesale gold demand, with Shanghai Gold Exchange (SGE) withdrawals falling 27% m-o-m to 90t. Weak gold jewelry sales, in tonnage terms, continued to weigh on overall demand. Chinese gold ETFs saw record inflows, adding RMB14bn (US$1.9bn), boosting total AUM to RMB89bn (US$12bn). Holdings surged by 21t to 131t, reaching all-time month-end highs. Meanwhile, the People's Bank of China (PBoC) expanded its reserves by 5t, marking four consecutive months of purchases, bringing total holdings to 2,290t (5.9% of reserves).

The Russian economy has slowed sharply in recent months, according to the latest economic data, and may be at further risk if a fall in oil prices and global market turmoil persist. Russia's growth, fuelled by spending on the three-year-old war in Ukraine, exceeded 4% in the past two years, but a labour shortage across many other sectors has contributed to a wage-price spiral that has pushed inflation above 10%. GDP growth fell to 0.8% year-on-year in February from 3% in January, the lowest figure since March 2023, with transport, wholesale trade and mineral extraction leading the decline, according to data issued last week. Industrial output growth plunged to 0.2% from 2.2%.

A measure of Australian consumer sentiment dived from a three-year high in April as market turmoil triggered by U.S. President tariff plans hit the outlook for the economy and family finances, a survey showed. The Westpac-Melbourne Institute index of consumer sentiment Slid 6.0% in April from March, more than erasing the previous month's 4% gains. The index was still 9.3% higher on a year earlier at 90.1, but pessimists continued to outnumber optimists.

Australia's consumer inflation slowed in February, helped by a fall in electricity prices, while the continued easing in home building costs and rents supported the case for more rate cuts in the months ahead. Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics showed the monthly consumer price index was flat in February from January. The annual pace, however, slowed to 2.4% from 2.5%, versus forecasts for no change.

Australian employment unexpectedly fell in February to end a strong run of impressive gains, in a sign that the red-hot labour market could be finally loosening a little, although the jobless rate stayed low. Figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics on Thursday showed net employment fell 52,800 in February from January, when it rose by a downwardly revised 30,500. That compared with forecasts for a 30,000 rise. Annual jobs growth pulled back sharply to just 1.9% from 3.5% the previous month, although that is still in line with long-running averages. The participation rate, which hit a record high of 67.2% in January, slumped to 66.8%. The jobless rate, however, stayed at 4.1%, matching market expectations.

New Zealand's central bank cut its benchmark rate on 9-April, as widely expected, signalling a greater readiness to lower borrowing costs further as the economy faces headwinds from weak demand and trade barriers. The central bank cut the benchmark rate by 25 basis points to 3.50%, as widely expected, heightening economists' expectations for looser policy settings than previously expected. In minutes of the meeting, the Committee agreed that a 25 basis point reduction in the official cash rate (OCR) would be consistent with their mandate of maintaining low and stable inflation. The RBNZ statement added that having consumer price inflation close to the middle of its target band of 1% to 3% puts the Committee in the best position to respond to developments. Markets are now pricing in a 95% chance for a cut in May and for rates to be at 2.67% by the end of 2025. New Zealand, which has cut rates by 200 basis points since August, is one of several central banks around the globe that have started cutting rates as inflation has eased.

New Zealand's economy grew faster than forecast in the fourth quarter, dragging the economy out of recession, but the improvement is not expected to change the central bank's planned official cash rate cuts. Government data released on 20-March showed GDP rose 0.7% in the December quarter from the prior quarter, better than analysts' expectations of a 0.4% increase and the central bank's forecast of 0.3%. The growth followed a revised 1.1% contraction in the third quarter. Annual GDP decreased 1.1%, Statistics New Zealand data showed against the market had expected a fall of 1.4%. Statistics New Zealand said 11 of the 16 industries increased in the fourth quarter. The largest rises were from rental, hiring and real estate services, retail trade and accommodation and healthcare and social assistance. It added that higher spending by international visitors had also boosted tourism-related industries.

South Korea's factory output rose in February, government data showed on Monday, beating market expectations. Industrial production rose 1.0% in February from a month earlier on a seasonally adjusted basis, compared with a dip of 2.8% in January and an increase of 0.8% tipped in a Reuters forecast. On a year-on-year basis, output jumped 7.0%, faster than a 2.0% rise forecast by economists, after falling 4.7% in the previous month.

Norway's central bank kept interest rates on hold at a 17-year high of 4.50% on 27-March, in line with most forecasts, as an unexpected resurgence of inflation led policymakers to postpone their previously stated plan for a cut. The policy committee projected the interest rate would drop to 4% by the end of the year, against a previous plan for 3.75%. The central bank raised its prediction for core inflation in 2025 to 3.4% from 2.7% seen in December, its last forecast, and for 2026 to 2.9% from 2.7%. Norges Bank now expects non-oil GDP, its favoured growth measure, to expand by 1.2% this year, down from 1.4% seen previously.

Japan's core inflation hit 3.0% in February and an index stripping away the effect of fuel rose at the fastest pace in nearly a year, a sign of broadening price pressure that reinforces market expectations of further interest rate hikes. That kept core inflation above the BOJ's 2% target for the 35th straight month. It slowed from the previous month's 3.2% rise due largely to the resumption of subsidies to curb fuel costs, government data showed. Services inflation slowed to 1.3% in February from 1.4% in January, the data showed, suggesting that companies were passing on rising labour costs at a gradual pace. The CPI data will be among factors the central bank will scrutinise in compiling fresh quarterly growth and price forecasts due at the next policy meeting on April 30-May 1. The BOJ ended a decade-long, massive stimulus last year and raised interest rates to 0.5% in January on the view Japan was on the cusp of durably hitting its inflation target.

India the world's fifth-biggest economy, Skymet Weather, a leading private meteorological agency, has projected a ‘normal’ southwest monsoon for 2025, estimating rainfall at 103% of the Long Period Average (LPA) of 868.6 mm for the June–September period. The forecast carries a model error margin of ±5%, aligning with the classification of ‘normal’ rainfall (96–104% of LPA). This bodes well for the agricultural sector and offers prospects for moderating food inflation in FY26. Jatin Singh, Managing Director of Skymet, emphasized that El Niño conditions—typically associated with monsoon disruption—are unlikely this year. Instead, a neutral El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phase is expected to prevail. The remnants of La Niña, combined with ENSO-neutral conditions, are anticipated to provide a stabilizing influence on the monsoon.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lowered its key repo rate on 9-April for a second consecutive time and changed its monetary policy stance signalling room for more cuts ahead, as it seeks to boost the sluggish economy in the face of fresh U.S. tariffs. The tariffs have raised the risk of a global slowdown and a U.S. recession while sparking financial turmoil, leaving emerging market central banks facing a tough choice between cutting rates to support growth and shoring up their fragile currencies. Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), cut the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.00% as expected. It started reducing rates with a quarter-point reduction in February, its first cut since May 2020. The central bank also changed its stance to "accommodative" from "neutral". The RBI now estimates growth at 6.5%, slightly lower than its earlier estimate of 6.7%. It sees inflation at 4% compared to 4.2% earlier.

India's central bank proposed stricter guidelines for lenders disbursing gold-secured loans, aiming to enhance underwriting processes, improve collateral management and monitor the end-use of such funds. Banks' gold loans jumped 30% between September and February, sharply outpacing the growth in overall loans that was curtailed by tighter norms for unsecured lending. That surge in gold loans was despite the central bank's warning in September that it found several irregular practices in the gold loan industry. Now, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed a raft of guidelines including establishing appropriate single-borrower limits and sectoral limits for lenders' gold loan portfolios, mechanisms to ensure end-use, 75% loan-to-value ratio and standards of gold purity. Furthermore, lenders can renew or top up gold loans only if the existing loans are not stressed and the permissible loan-to-value ratio has some headroom, the central bank said. The RBI also said one gold collateral cannot be used for two different loans simultaneously and also barred lenders from issuing loans if the collateral is re-pledged or its ownership is doubtful.

Amid escalating geopolitical tensions and a sharp rise in gold prices, investors are increasingly turning to gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs). According to ICRA Analytics, inflows into gold ETFs surged by 98.54% year-on-year, reaching ₹1,979.84 crore in February 2025, compared to ₹997.21 crore in the same period last year. The net assets under management (AUM) in gold ETFs nearly doubled over the past year, climbing to ₹55,677.24 crore from ₹28,529.88 crore in February 2024. The growing preference for gold ETFs is driven by their liquidity, transparency, cost-effectiveness, and ease of trading compared to physical gold.

Silver Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs) in India have witnessed strong investor interest since their introduction in November 2021, with assets under management (AUM) surpassing ₹13,500 crore by January 2025, according to Zerodha Fund House. Over the past three years, 12 silver ETFs have been launched, accumulating over six lakh folios, Since 2021, demand for silver has outpaced supply, driving prices higher. 'The Silver Institute' estimates a 55% rise in industrial demand, fueled by applications in technology, pharmaceuticals, and fabrication, reinforcing silver's growing importance as a strategic commodity.

On domestic Data update, The rapid expansion in India's dominant services sector cooled slightly in March amid softer demand, despite firms raising prices at the lowest rate in three-and-a-half-years, according to a survey that also showed a deceleration in job creation. The HSBC final India Services PMI, compiled by S&P Global, fell to 58.5 last month from 59.0 in February, but was higher than expected a fall to 57.7. However, it remained comfortably ahead of the 50-mark separating contraction from growth. India's infrastructure output grew 2.9% on-year in February, its slowest pace in 5-months as the decline in oil and natural gas production accelerated sharply, government data showed. Infrastructure output, which tracks activity across eight sectors and makes up 40% of the country's industrial production, grew at a revised 5.1% in January, compared to the initial estimate of 4.6%. Infrastructure output last increased at a slower pace, of 2.4%, in September last year. Infrastructure output rose 4.4% in April-February, compared to a 7.8% increase in the year-ago period. India's WPI in February rose to 2.38% y-o-y, slightly above 2.31% in January as a slowing food price increase was offset by a narrower drop in fuel prices, government data showed and against 2.36% forecasted by reiters. India's merchandise trade deficit in February narrowed sharply to $14.05 billion, the lowest level in more than three years, as imports fell amid rising global uncertainty. February's merchandise exports stood at $36.91 billion against $36.43 billion in January, while imports were lower at $50.96 billion compared with $59.42 billion in the month prior. February imports were the lowest since April 2023 and the trade deficit was lower than the latest figure in August 2021.

India's manufacturing activity expanded at the fastest pace in eight months in March, rebounding from a more than one-year low due to strong domestic demand, while output inflation declined to its lowest in a year, a private survey showed. The HSBC India Manufacturing PMI, compiled by S&P Global, bounced to 58.1 in March from 56.3 in February, higher than expected of 57.6 and firmly above 50.0 which separates growth from contraction. Both new orders - a key gauge of demand - and output increased at their quickest rate since July. But export orders expanded at the slowest pace in three months, suggesting slowing global demand.

India's fiscal deficit for April-February was 13.47 trillion rupees ($157.62 billion), or 85.8% of the estimate for the financial year ending March 31, government data showed. Net tax receipts for the first 11 months of the financial year were at 20.16 trillion rupees, or 78.8%

of the annual target, compared with 18.49 trillion rupees for the same period a year earlier, the data showed. Total government expenditure for the 11 months was 38.93 trillion rupees or about 82.5% of the annual goal. Capital expenditure, or spending on building physical infrastructure, was 8.12 trillion rupees, or 79.7% of the annual target.

India's export growth has softened in the current fiscal year due to global tariff-related developments that have raised trade risks and affected investments and trade flows, the government said in its February economic report. Uncertainties around trade policies, geopolitical tensions, and volatile commodity prices pose significant risks to next year's growth outlook, the government said, while retaining its growth estimate for the fiscal year 2024/2025 at 6.5%. India's good exports remained flat between April to February, compared to a similar period in the previous year, as per latest government data.

Growth in India's overall business activity softened in March as robust manufacturing expansion failed to offset a slowdown in the services sector, a private survey showed. HSBC's flash India Composite PMI, compiled by S&P Global, slipped to 58.6 in March from February's final reading of 58.8, lower than a Reuters prediction of 59.0. The 50-mark divides growth from contraction. The manufacturing PMI index increased to 57.6 from 56.3, remaining in the expansion territory for more than three-and-a-half years. But the dominant-services sector's PMI index fell to 57.7 from 59.0 in February, contributing to the fall in the overall index.

Going ahead, political and economic risks, non-dollar and yield-sensitive demand from de-dollarising central banks and investors seeking a hedge against fiscal instability, as well as sticky inflation, will support another year of gains for gold. Gold likely to continue its northward journey with record high prices on sight in 2024, when the fundamentals of a dovish pivot in U.S. interest rates, continued geopolitical risk, and central bank buying are expected to support the market. To makes bullion attractive assets class, we need to see stronger demand from investors, such as a pickup in ETF inflows, continue central banks buying and for all that weaker U.S. economic data and lower inflation is needed, so that the Fed sounds more dovish.

Technical Outlook:

On the Daily Chart MCX:

Sources – Ticker Plant and Bonanza Research

MONTHLY BULLETIN (RESEARCH) Date 15th Feb 2025

In COMEX GOLD is trading at $3335

Expected support and Resistance level for the month

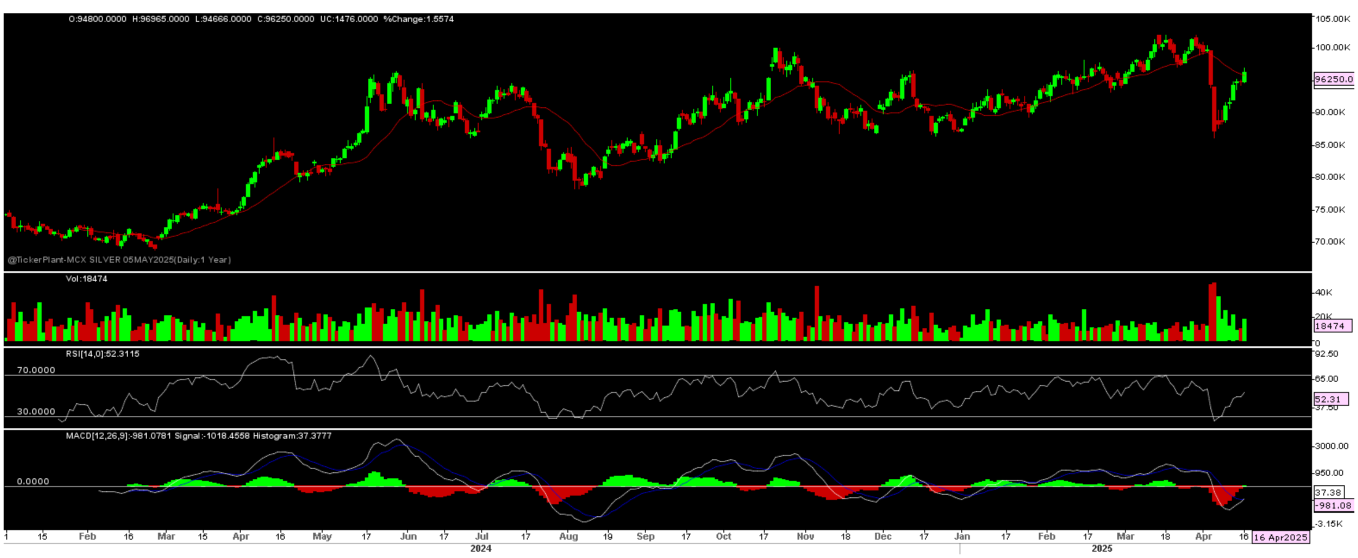
Gold	S1	S2	R1	R2
COMEX/DG CX ($)	3240	3160	3350	3410
MCX (Rs.)	92400	91000	95500	96500

Mcx Trend seen Bullish as long S1 hold, while Sustain close below 91000 seen prices towards 87000-85000.

SILVER

Technical Outlook:

On the Daily Chart MCX:



Sources – Ticker Plant and Bonanza Research

Expected support and Resistance level for the month

Silver	S1	S2	R1	R2
COMEX/DG CX ($)	31.60	30.50	34.0	35.0
MCX (Rs.)	91900	87700	98000	100000

MCX trend seen Bearish as long hold R1, While Sustain above 100000 seen towards 102000-106000.

CRUDE OIL

Market Outlook and Fundamental Analysis

Energy complex continue its range bound trading in 5th straight month in March as price fall earlier than some bounce due to on one side demand concern after Trade war and poor global economic outlook will likely to hurt oil demand added by OPEC+ might increase production quota as decided earlier pressure energy prices. While short covering & lower level buying seen later on as ceasefire news from geopolitical side and fall in dollar index offer support to Crude oil. Benchmark Brent crude and WTI end marginally higher by $ 1-3 for March.

Eight OPEC+ countries unexpectedly agreed on Thursday to advance their plan to phase out oil output cuts by increasing output by 411,000 barrels per day in May, a decision that prompted oil prices to extend earlier sharp losses. Eight members of OPEC+, which includes the OPEC and allies led by Russia, had been scheduled to raise output by 135,000 barrels per day in May as part of a plan to gradually unwind their most recent layer of output cuts. But after a meeting of the eight countries held online on Thursday, the group announced it would boost output by 411,000 bpd in May. OPEC cited "continuing healthy market fundamentals and the positive market outlook." "This comprises the increment originally planned for May in addition to two monthly increments," OPEC said in a statement referring to the volume. "The gradual increases may be paused or reversed subject to evolving market conditions." OPEC+ also has 3.65 million bpd of other output cuts in place until the end of next year to support the market. The total of 5.85 million bpd is equal to about 5.7% of global supply.

MONTHLY BULLETIN (RESEARCH) Date 15th Feb 2025

OPEC oil output fell in March ahead of a scheduled output hike, a Reuters survey found, as Nigeria curbed deliveries to domestic refineries and Iranian and Venezuelan supply dropped on renewed U.S. attempts to curb the flows. The OPEC pumped 26.63 million barrels per day last month, down 110,000 bpd from February's total, the survey showed, with Nigeria, Iran and Venezuela posting the largest drops. In March, supply from Nigeria, Iran and Venezuela fell by 50,000 bpd each, the survey found. Output in OPEC's two biggest producers, Saudi Arabia and Iraq, edged slightly higher, the survey found.

The International Energy Agency which advises industrialised countries, The world's energy demand grew at 2.2% in 2024, a pace described as "faster than average" by the IEA in its Global Energy Review, released on 24-March. The acceleration was led by emerging and developing economies, which accounted for more than 80% of the growth, while the leading sector was electricity, which grew by 4.3% in 2024, or nearly double the annual average of the past decade. The IEA report showed renewable power capacity rose by about 700 gigawatts (GW) in 2024, setting an annual record for the 22nd consecutive year. Along with an increase in nuclear energy it resulted in 80% of the rise in global electricity coming from low-emission sources. Global electricity generation rose by 1,200 terawatt hours (TWh) in 2024, an increase of 4%, with solar climbing by about 480 TWh and wind up by 180 TWh, the IEA said.

the other big winner in 2024 was natural gas, with the IEA in its Global Energy Review saying demand reached an all-time high, rising 2.7% in 2024 to reach 115 billion cubic metres, rebounding from the 1% growth rate between 2019 and 2023. Once again, the main driver was Asia, with demand in China from heatwaves and the switch to liquefied natural gas (LNG) trucks fuelling growth.

OPEC, in a monthly report,

Latest US Weekly Inventory data shows, U.S. crude oil and distillate inventories rose while gasoline inventories fell last week, the EIA said in its latest weekly inventory data. Crude inventories rose by 6.2 million barrels to 439.8 million barrels in the week ending March 28, against Reuters forecasted for a 2.1 million-barrel draw. Refinery crude runs fell by 192,000 barrels per day last week, while utilization rates fell by 1% point in the week to 86%. Gasoline stocks fell by 1.6 million barrels in the week to 237.6 million barrels, compared with expectations for a 1.7 million-barrel draw. Distillate stockpiles, which include diesel and heating oil, rose by 300,000 barrels in the week to 114.6 million barrels, versus expectations for a 1 million-barrel drop. Net U.S. crude imports rose last week by 999,000 barrels per day, the EIA said.

U.S. energy firms this week cut the number of oil and natural gas rigs operating for the first time in three weeks, energy services firm Baker Hughes said in its closely followed report on last weekend of March. The oil and gas rig count, an early indicator of future output, fell by one to 592 in the week to March 28. Baker Hughes said this week's decline puts the total rig count down 29 rigs, or 5% below this time last year.

U.S. oil producers are grappling with geological limits to production growth as the country's top oilfield ages and produces more water and gas and less oil - and may be nearing peak output. The Permian basin was the centerpiece of the shale revolution that began nearly two decades ago and spurred the U.S. to become the world's top oil producer, stealing market share from the OPEC and other top producers. The Permian is pumping 6.5 million barrels per day (bpd), a record level and nearly half the all-time high 13.5 million bpd of crude that the U.S. produced in December. But the Permian is flagging. Since the widespread introduction of hydraulic fracturing, the technique that enabled the shale revolution in the mid-2000s, thousands of wells have perforated the Permian and fractured the rock to extract oil and gas. Shale executives expect oil output growth from the Permian to slow by around 25% this year to 250,000 to 300,000 bpd. The government estimates higher growth, of about 350,000 bpd, but even that would be the smallest increase in the basin's oil output since the COVID-19 pandemic.

China, the world's biggest crude importer, saw arrivals of 10.37 million bpd in the first two months of the year, and domestic production of 4.34 million bpd. The combined total of 14.71 million bpd was 30,000 bpd below the volume processed, the first time since September 2023 that processing exceeded available crude. China dipped slightly into crude stockpiles in the first two months of the year as refiners processed more oil and imports remained weak. It was the first time in 18 months that refinery throughput exceeded the amount of crude available from imports and domestic production. Refiners processed about 30,000 barrels per day (bpd) more in the January-February period than the total of crude available, according to calculations based on official data. China does not disclose the volumes of crude flowing into or out of strategic and commercial stockpiles, but an estimate can be made by deducting the amount of oil processed from the total of crude available from imports and domestic output.

Thermal power generation in China, fuelled mainly by coal, fell at the beginning of the year, down in both January and February, official data showed, one of only a handful of times it has declined during that period in more than two decades. China's power generation dipped by 1.3% to 1.49 trillion kilowatt-hours (kWh) in the first two months of the year, according to data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

Russia's Deputy Prime Minister said that global oil demand was seen rising by between 1.0 million barrels per day and 1.5 million bpd this year, various news agencies reported. That compares with the latest expectations from the OPEC for a rise of 1.45 million bpd. Some experts and think tanks are expecting a possible oil glut this year due to production increases in the United States and sluggish demand.

Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said on 18-march that Russia's oil output is expected to be 515-520 million metric tonnes in 2025. The volume of oil processing would be higher this year compared to 2024, he added. Novak believes that the global oil market is balanced now and that this situation will be maintained in April as the planned OPEC+ oil output rise of 100,000 barrels per day will not affect the market.

Iranian oil shipments into China are set to fall in the near-term after new U.S. sanctions on a refiner and tankers, driving up shipping costs, but traders said they expect buyers to find workarounds to keep at least some volumes flowing. US on 20-march imposed new sanctions on entities including Shouguang Luqing Petrochemical, a "teapot," or independent refinery in east China's Shandong province, and vessels that supplied oil to such plants in China, the top buyers of Iranian crude. It was the fourth round of sanctions on Iran's oil sales since President Donald Trump's February call for "maximum pressure" on Tehran, including efforts to drive its crude exports to zero. Iranian oil flows to China had already dropped due to rising freight costs as earlier sanctions hit shipping capacity, said traders, including three directly involved in the business.

India, the world's third-biggest oil importer and consumer, on 7-Apri raised excise duty on petrol and diesel without passing on higher costs to consumers, oil minister said, a move that would boost the government's tax collection amid falling global oil prices. The hike in excise tax would be absorbed by state-controlled fuel retailers and will not be passed on to consumers, Puri said at a press conference. The government has raised the excise duty on a litre of petrol and diesel by 2 rupees each from April 8, taking the effective tax to 13 rupees and 10 rupees, respectively. Puri also said that if global oil prices remain at current level "we will have the headroom to bring down the prices of petrol and diesel".

India fuel demand in March hit a 10-month high, rising 9.3% from the previous month to 20.91 million metric tons, oil ministry data showed. On a yearly basis, March fuel demand was down 3.1% from 21.57 million tons in the same month last year, the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell's website showed. Sales of gasoline, or petrol, rose 10.6% to 3.5 million tons compared with last month's 3.2 million tons, and were 5.7% higher than a year earlier. Diesel consumption rose nearly 10% month-on-month to 8.1 million tons in March.

Separately, Goldman Sachs forecast that Brent and WTI crude prices would be at $62 a barrel and $58 by December 2025 and at $55 and $51 by December 2026, respectively, under two assumptions. The bank, in a note dated April 7, said that the first assumption is the U.S. economy avoids a recession given a large reduction in tariffs, which are scheduled to take effect on April 9. Second, supply from eight OPEC+ countries rises moderately with two final increments of 130,000-140,000 barrels each in June-July. However, the bank noted that in a typical U.S. recession and their OPEC baseline scenario, they estimate that Brent would decline to $58 by December 2025, and $50 by December 2026, respectively.

MONTHLY BULLETIN (RESEARCH) Date 15th Feb 2025

Europe may need up to an extra 250 cargoes of liquefied natural gas this year costing at least $11 billion to refill its depleted gas stores ahead of winter, with Ukraine requiring at least another 30 cargoes, according to analysts and data. Demand during winter 2024-25 was higher than the year before due to colder and less windy weather, resulting in more withdrawals from European Union stores, which are now just under 34% full, the lowest since 2022. Based on current European Commission targets, set to help prevent supply shortages following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, gas storage sites across the EU must be 90% full again by Nov. 1. Hitting the 90% target would require 57.7 billion cubic metres of net injections, 25.8 bcm more year on year, or up to 250 extra LNG cargoes, according to analytics firm Kpler.

Going ahead, Prices likely to be trade between weak global growth to cap demand against ongoing geopolitical tensions could provide support to prices. Other side, OPEC+, will be able to commit to the supply cuts they have pledged to prop up prices.

Technical Outlook:-

On the Daily Chart MCX:

Sources – Ticker Plant and Bonanza Research

MONTHLY BULLETIN (RESEARCH) Date 15th Feb 2025

Expected Support and Resistance level for the month

Crude	S1	S2	R1	R2
NYMEX/DG CX ($)	58.50	55.0	65.0	67.0
MCX (Rs.)	5070	4800	5500	5680

MCX trend seen Bearish as long hold R1 While Sustain below 5070 seen towards S2-4700.

Natural Gas

Technical Outlook:

On the Daily Chart MCX:

Sources – Ticker Plant and Bonanza Research

Natural Gas	S1	S2	R1	R2
MCX (Rs.)	273	260	310	328

MCX trend seen bearish as long hold R1, While Sustain Close below 273 seen towards S2-250 belt.

Base Metals

Market Outlook and Fundamental Analysis

COPPER:

Base metal complex ended almost flat after 2-consecutive months of gains with price seen seesaw both side as on one side continue pressure seen from demand concern after US President announcement on tariff & Reciprocal Tariff, subdued economic numbers from top metal consumer China and global uncertainty pressure base metals in march. However, fall in dollar index and China stimulus hope support prices at every dip with rate cut expectations from US FED. Benchmark Copper future in domestic future exchange register 3rd monthly gain by 3.5% & Zinc by 1% against sharp fall seen in Aluminum by more than 4% and Lead down less than 1% in domestic future exchange for the month of March.

China world's second-biggest economy, China's factory activity expanded at its fastest pace in 4-months in March, buoyed by stronger demand and robust export orders, a private-sector survey showed, although the escalating U.S. trade war clouds the outlook. The Caixin/S&P Global manufacturing PMI climbed to 51.2 in March from 50.8 in the previous month, surpassing analyst expectations of 51.1. The 50-mark separates growth from contraction.

China's manufacturing sector expanded at its fastest pace in a year in March, signaling the effectiveness of Beijing's stimulus measures amid growing trade tensions with the U.S. The official PMI rose to 50.5, up from 50.2 in February, indicating continued expansion after a contraction in January. The non-manufacturing PMI also improved, reaching 50.8 from 50.4. Trade tensions are escalating as U.S. President Donald Trump imposed 20% additional tariffs on Chinese goods, prompting Beijing's retaliatory tariffs on U.S. energy and agricultural products.

China's retail sales growth quickened in January-February in a welcome sign for policymakers' efforts to boost domestic consumption even as joblessness rose and factory output eased, underscoring the strains on an economy facing fresh U.S. trade pressure. Retail sales, a gauge of consumption, rose 4.0% in the January-February period, better than a 3.7% rise in December and marking the quickest rate since November 2024 and against expected to grow 4.0%. Household consumption in the first two months was buoyed by holiday spending during the 8-day Lunar New Year holidays, when China's box office raked in record takings with animated hit "Nezha 2".

Chinas, the urban survey-based jobless rate in February climbed to 5.4%, the highest in two years. With factories shutting down temporarily during the Lunar New Year holidays, China's industrial output grew 5.9% year-on-year in the first two months, slowing from the 6.2% expansion in December. However, it was ahead of expectations for a 5.3% rise. Fixed asset investment, which includes property and infrastructure investment, expanded 4.1% in the January-February period year-on-year, versus expectations for a 3.6% rise. It grew 3.2% in 2024. Property investment fell 9.8% in the first two months of 2025 year-on-year, after tumbling 10.6% in 2024. An NBS spokesperson said the country's housing market faces some pressure despite signs of stabilising. China publishes data for the two months in a combined release to smooth out the impact of the LNY holidays, which fall in either of the two months.

China's State Council unveiled on 16-March what it called a "special action plan" to boost domestic consumption, featuring measures including increasing residents' income and establishing a childcare subsidy scheme. The plan was issued to all regions and departments to "vigorously boost consumption, expand domestic demand in all directions, improve consumption capacity by increasing income and reducing burdens," a report from the Council said. The plan called for increasing urban and rural incomes and said farmers' incomes should be boosted by measures such as housing reforms. The action plan was wide-ranging but was limited in promising concrete resources to support local governments as they formulate actual measures to implement the plan. The plan also envisaged measures to stabilize the stock market but gave no details on when and how this could happen. Workers' rights and vacation days must be guaranteed and paid annual leave and short holidays should be encouraged. Financial subsidy standards for urban and rural residents' basic pensions are also to be increased. There were also proposals to boost tourism such as expanding the number of countries whose travellers don't need visas.

Copper prices in Shanghai have flipped into modest backwardation in anticipation of robust Chinese demand, as expectations that U.S President will impose tariffs on the metal lure refined supply to the U.S. to profit from the price gap. The front-month April copper contract on the Shanghai Futures Exchange closed at 81,900 yuan ($11,277.88) per metric ton on 25-March, 0.75% higher than the closing price of the September contract. Backwardation occurs when the price of a near-month contract is higher than that of a longer-term contract, indicating concerns about current supply. Meanwhile, stocks of refined copper fell by 4% on the week to 333,600 tons on March 24, which is 13.9% lower than the year before, a survey from consultancy Shanghai Metals Market showed.

Mercuria estimates that about 500,000 tons of copper are heading to the U.S., against normal monthly imports of around 70,000 tons, triggered by the potential imposition of tariffs, Bloomberg said in a report on 24-March. This massive amount of copper being transported to the U.S. could push copper prices to record highs and potentially leave top consumer China and the rest of the world critically short of copper supplies, the report added, citing Kostas Bintas, the former co-head of metals at commodity trading giant Trafigura Group.

The London Metal Exchange (LME) average daily volumes gained 5.9% in the Q1-2025, marking the second highest quarterly level in the last 11 years, the exchange said. LME world's oldest and largest market for industrial metals, said average daily volumes (ADV) rose to 698,209 lots in the first three months of the year. ADV in nickel surged 28% in the first quarter, tin jumped 22% while copper gained 10.6%, the second strongest quarter since Q2 in 2016, the exchange said. The only metal that had weaker quarterly volumes was lead, which slipped 2.8%, while aluminium edged up by 1.2%.

Codelco, Chile's state-owned copper producer, boosted production in the first three months of 2025 and was still bullish about long-term prospects for global demand despite an escalating trade war between the U.S. and China, Chairman Maximo Pacheco said. The world's biggest copper producer registered slightly higher output in the first quarter of the year than in the same period in 2024, and is maintaining production guidance even after a national power outage in February crimped output. Codelco is targeting production between 1.37 million and 1.4 million tons of copper this year as it aims for a second year of increased output following a quarter-century low in 2023.

Goldman Sachs reduced its forecast for aluminium prices this year after its economists downgraded global growth forecasts including for the U.S. and China following the Trump administration's move to sharply increase tariffs. "We now expect the aluminium price to fall to a monthly average low of $2,000 (per metric ton) in Q3 2025," the bank said in a note. Goldman expects prices to rebound to $2,300 per metric ton (/t) by December 2025, compared to its earlier forecast of $2,650/t. Goldman also forecast a global aluminium market surplus of 580,000 tons in 2025, versus its previous forecast of a 76,000 tons deficit. According to the note, aluminium prices will be at $2,720/t by December 2026, instead of $3,100 forecast previously, and average around $2,800 per ton in 2027, when Goldman sees the market entering a 722,000 tons deficit.

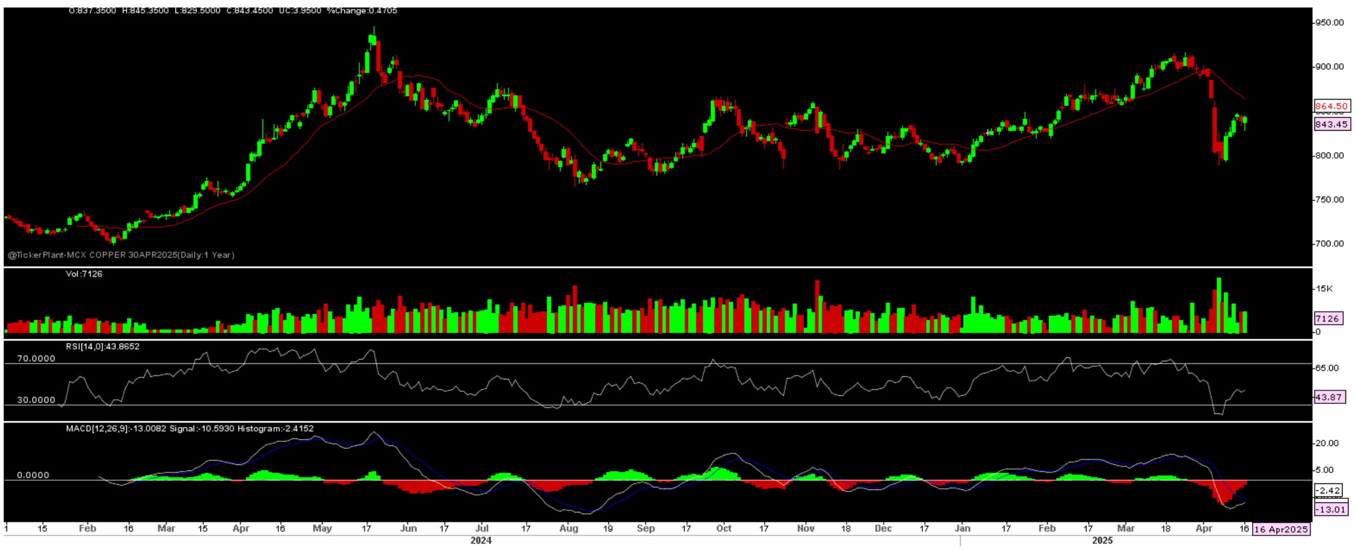
Going ahead, weak economic numbers, demand concern from top consuming countries weigh on process for short term while FED rate cut expectation which might revive demand for base metals and any fall in dollar index will support base metals at every dip.

MONTHLY BULLETIN (RESEARCH) Date 15th Feb 2025

Base Metals

TECHNICAL OUTLOOK:

COPPER:



Sources – Ticker Plant and Bonanza Research

Expected Support & Resistance level for the month

Copper	S1	S2	R1	R2
MCX	820	795	862	887

MCX trend seen Bearish as long hold 850-R1, While Sustain below S1 seen towards S2-790 belt.

MONTHLY BULLETIN (RESEARCH) Date 15th Feb 2025

LEAD:

Technical Outlook:

Sources – Ticker Plant and Bonanza Research

Expected support and Resistance level for the month

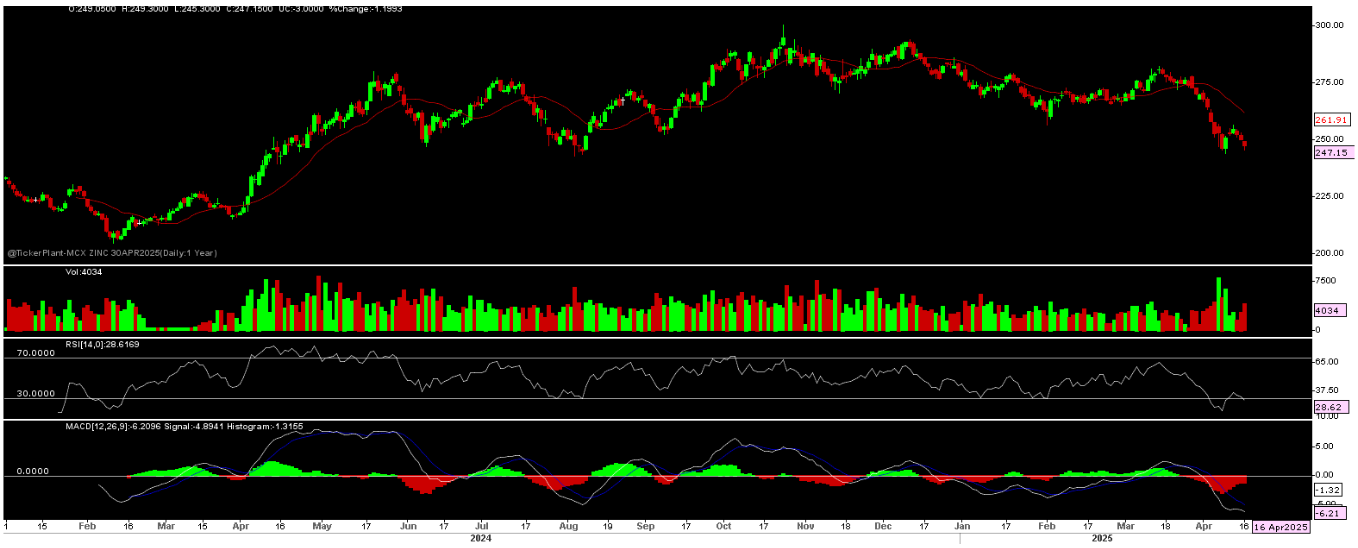
Lead	S1	S2	R1	R2
MCX	174.50	172	180	185

MCX trend seen Bearish as long hold R1 while Sustain Close above R1 seen 189-190 belt.

MONTHLY BULLETIN (RESEARCH) Date 15th Feb 2025

ZINC

TECHNICAL OUTLOOK:



Sources – Ticker Plant and Bonanza Research

Expected Support & Resistance level

Zinc	S1	S1	R1	R2
MCX	243	235	257	265

MCX trend seen Bearish as long hold R1, While Sustain below 243 seen towards S2-230.

NICKEL

TECHNICAL OUTLOOK:

No View due to Low Volumes

MONTHLY BULLETIN (RESEARCH) Date 15th Feb 2025

BONANZA RESEARCH TEAM

Technical Research Analyst

Vibhu Ratandhara

BONANZA COMMODITY BROKERS PVT. LTD.

DATE-April 15th, 2025

Disclosure:

M/s. Bonanza Portfolio Ltd here by declares that views expressed in this report accurately reflect view point with subject to companies/securities. M/s. Bonanza Portfolio Ltd has taken reasonable care to achieve and maintain independence and objectivity in making any recommendations. The Analysts engaged in preparation of this Report or his/her relative: - (a) do not have any financial interests in the subject company mentioned in this Report; (b) do not own 1% or more of the equity securities of the subject company mentioned in the report as of the last day of the month preceding the publication of the research report; (c) do not have any material conflict of interest at the time of publication of the Report. The Analysts engaged in preparation of this Report:- (a) have not received any compensation from the subject company in the past twelve months; (b) have not managed or co-managed public offering of securities for the subject company in the past twelve months; (c)have not received any compensation for investment banking or merchant banking or brokerage services from the subject company in the past twelve months; (d) have not received any compensation for products or services other than investment banking or merchant banking or brokerage services from the subject company in the past twelve months; (e) has not received any compensation or other benefits from the subject company or third party in connection with the Report; (f) has not served as an officer, director or employee of the subject company; (g) is not engaged in market making activity for the subject company.

M/s. Bonanza Portfolio Ltd operates under the regulation of SEBI Regn No. INH100001666 and research analyst engaged in preparation of report

MONTHLY BULLETIN (RESEARCH) Date 15th Feb 2025

Disclaimer:

This research report has been published by M/s. Bonanza portfolio Ltd and is meant solely for use by the recipient and is not for circulation. This document is for information purposes only and information / opinions / views are not meant to serve as a professional investment guide for the readers. Reasonable care has been taken to ensure that information given at the time believed to be fair and correct and opinions based thereupon are reasonable, due to the nature of research it cannot be warranted or represented that it is accurate or complete and it should not be relied upon as such. If this report is inadvertently send or has reached to any individual, same may be ignored and brought to the attention of the sender. Preparation of this research report does not constitute a personal recommendation or take into account the particular investment objectives, financial situations, or needs of individual clients. Past performance is not a guide for future performance. This Report has been prepared on the basis of publicly available information, internally developed data and other sources believed by Bonanza portfolio Ltd to be reliable. This report should not be taken as the only base for any market transaction; however this data is representation of one of the support document among other market risk criterion. The market participant can have an idea of risk involved to use this information as the only source for any market related activity. The distribution of this report in definite jurisdictions may be restricted by law, and persons in whose custody this report comes, should observe, any such restrictions. The revelation of interest statements integrated in this analysis are provided exclusively to improve & enhance the transparency and should not be treated as endorsement of the views expressed in the analysis. The price and value of the investments referred to in this report and the income from them may go down as well as up. Bonanza portfolio Ltd or its directors, employees, affiliates or representatives do not assume any responsibility for, or warrant the accuracy, completeness, adequacy and reliability of such information / opinions / views. While due care has been taken to ensure that the disclosures and opinions given are fair and reasonable, none of the directors, employees, affiliates or representatives of M/s. Bonanza portfolio Ltd shall be liable. Research report may differ between M/s. Bonanza portfolio Ltd RAs and other companies on account of differences in, personal judgment and difference in time horizons for which recommendations are made. Research entity has not been engaged in market making activity for the subject company. Research analyst has not served as an officer, director or employee of the subject company. Research analyst have not received any compensation/benefits from the Subject Company or third party in connection with the research report

M/s. Bonanza Portfolio Ltd at Bonanza House, Plot No. M-2, Cama Industrial Estate. Walbhat Road, Goregaon (E), Mumbai – 400063 Web site: https://www.bonanzaonline.com

SEBI Regn. No.: INZ000212137

MONTHLY BULLETIN (RESEARCH) Date 15th Feb 2025

BSE CM: INB 011110237 | BSE F&O: INF 011110237 | MSEI: INE 260637836

| CDSL: a) 120 33500 |

NSDL: a) IN 301477 | b) IN 301688 (Delhi) | PMS: INP 000000985 | AMFI: ARN -0186