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Table of Contents

01 Global News
EU Trade Move Raises Fresh Concerns for Metal Supply Chains

02 Govt News
Government Action Disrupting Transport & Supply Chains

03 Industrial News
A Blueprint for Innovation: India's Global-Local Robot Build

04 Economics Declassified
India's GST Pulse Check: What December Numbers Really Tell Us

05 Brand Analysis
The Derma Co. (SWOT Analysis)



06 Brand in Talk
Cityflo x SOCIAL: Turning Commutes into Experiences

07 Campaign Decode
OpenAI's India Push - Bringing AI Closer to Everyday Life

08 Did You Know?
COCA-COLA & SANTA: A Live Case Study of Core Marketing Concepts

09 Case in Point
Nvidia Strategic Investments: Deals of Over \$100 Million

10 M-Lingo Toons
Tales From The Jungle - Decoding The SWOT Analysis!



WHAT IS MARKETING 360°?

Everything you're looking out to quench your curiosity about marketing, whether it's marketing concepts, latest trends, news, brand stories, innovative campaigns, or buzz-worthy advertisements, we've got you covered. marketing360.in is your one-stop solution to look forward to.





Global manufacturing is facing new challenges as trade rules become stricter. The European Union's plan to introduce tariffs and limits on ferro-alloy imports has created uncertainty for exporting countries like India. Even though India's ferro-alloy exports to the EU are not very large, the impact of this decision could be much wider. Ferro-alloys are essential raw materials used in steel production. Steel, in turn, is crucial for industries such as automobiles, construction, infrastructure, and heavy machinery. Any changes in trade policy affecting these materials can disturb supply chains across multiple sectors.

► **Trade Policies and Rising Global Uncertainty**

India has approached the World Trade Organization (WTO) to discuss the EU's proposal. This reflects a growing trend where global trade decisions are influenced more by geopolitical and strategic concerns than by cost and efficiency. For Indian metal manufacturers, even the risk of higher tariffs forces companies to rethink pricing, export markets, and long-term business plans. Such trade actions also add pressure during ongoing free-trade negotiations with other countries.

► **From Efficiency to Safety in Supply Chains**

Earlier, companies focused on keeping inventories low and costs down. Today, that approach is changing. Manufacturers are now looking at diversifying markets, increasing local demand, and building stronger supply-chain systems to reduce risk. Disruptions in ferro-alloy supply can lead to higher steel prices, production delays, and lower profit margins for industries that depend on steel.

► **What Lies Ahead: Pressure on Costs and Competition**

As trade barriers increase worldwide, companies are working with tighter margins and higher uncertainty. For India, the challenge is to stay competitive globally while protecting domestic industries from sudden policy changes. The ferro-alloy issue shows that trade risks are becoming long-term challenges, not temporary ones.



KEY INSIGHTS

- Trade restrictions on raw materials can disrupt entire supply chains.
- Ferro-alloy policies affect steel, auto, construction, and manufacturing sectors.
- Even the possibility of tariffs impacts business planning and investor confidence.
- Global trade is increasingly driven by geopolitics, not just low costs.



GOVT NEWS

GOVERNMENT ACTION DISRUPTING TRANSPORT & SUPPLY CHAINS

➤ Delhi's winter pollution is increasingly a cause of commercial inconvenience as well as an environmental issue. As new pollution control rules kick in, logistics companies are experiencing the effects of increased pollution control regulations at gas stations, city limits, and delivery timetables. A seemingly normal delivery day may abruptly come to an end because of non-compliance.

➤ According to the most recent government regulation, older and high emission vehicles are subject to entry restrictions on days with severe pollution, and vehicles without a valid Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificate are refused gasoline. These actions, which were implemented as part of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), aim to curb vehicular emissions but are creating a ripple effects across supply chains.

➤ **Current Regulations and Stronger Enforcement**

PUC compliance and emission standards have always been in place, but enforcement has now become stricter and more immediate. Authorities are keeping a close eye on fuel stations and ports of entry to make sure only vehicles that comply with the law are operating in the city. Non-adherence can result in fuel denial, penalties, or halted movement.

➤ **Impact on Industry and Consumers of Current Regulations and Stronger Enforcement**

These limitations result in delivery delays, increased operating expenses, fleet improvements, and route re-planning for logistics, e-commerce, and distribution companies. Cleaner fleets, however, also translate into better brand image, long-term sustainability, and regulatory readiness. Cleaner air and ethical logistical methods also help consumers.

➤ **Conclusion**

Although there are significant short-term obstacles, the long-term vision is clear: sustainable transportation is becoming unavoidable. Businesses that adapt quickly will stay ahead of both regulation and reputation.

KEY INSIGHTS

Fuel denied to vehicles without valid PUC certificates.

Older, high-emission vehicles are restricted during peak pollution.

Logistics firms must upgrade fleets and ensure compliance.

Sustainability is now a business requirement, not an option.

INDUSTRIAL TRENDS

A BLUEPRINT FOR INNOVATION: INDIA'S GLOBAL-LOCAL ROBOT BUILD

In a bustling university tech fest, laughter erupts as a four-legged robot weaves through a crowd. It greets visitors, balances on two legs, and waves enthusiastically with its front limbs. This charming scene, powered by code written in Bengaluru or Pune, represents a quiet revolution in Indian robotics. The country's startups are building the future of automation by blending homegrown intelligence with globally assembled bodies.

The strategy is pragmatic and collaborative. While the "brain" of these robots, their complex AI models, custom algorithms, and operational software are developed locally, often using open-source frameworks, their "body" comes from a global workshop. Startups source high-precision actuators from China, delicate sensors from Switzerland, and motors from other specialized markets.

"We are building most of the humanoid locally, except for parts such as motors that have to be imported. The LLM on the humanoid is also run locally and based on open-source code," explains Anshu Jain, a technical product manager at Pune-based Muks Robotics. His team is testing a humanoid named 'Spaceo M1', which can lift luggage and carry loads, envisioning a future where machines handle tedious or hazardous tasks.

This approach isn't just about cost; it's about focus and speed. By concentrating their R&D on software intelligence and unique applications, Indian engineers can innovate rapidly. They take globally available hardware SDKs and infuse them with local code tailored for specific needs, from navigating chaotic factory floors to assisting in search-and-rescue operations.

The journey is not without its challenges. Hardware supply chains can be fragile, and building a truly multipurpose humanoid remains a complex, long-term endeavor. Yet, the momentum is undeniable. From 2,126 industrial robot installations, a decade ago, India deployed over 9,100 in 2024, signaling a growing appetite for robotic solutions. These startups are not merely assembling machines; they are crafting partners. They are building robots with an Indian-made mind, designed to understand local contexts and solve local problems, all while standing on the shoulders and components from across the globe.



KEY INSIGHTS

Indian startups develop AI "brains" locally.

India reached a milestone of 9,100+ industrial robot installations in 2024.

Muks Robotics are testing the 'Spaceo M1' to automate heavy lifting in luggage handling and hazardous zones.

India has climbed to become the sixth-largest global installer of industrial robotics.



ECONOMICS DECLASSIFIED

India's GST Pulse Check: What December Numbers Really Tell Us

India's December GST collections have landed at ₹1.75 lakh crore, marking a 6.1% year-on-year growth. In a year filled with economic adjustments, this steady rise sends a reassuring signal as we step into the new calendar year. But the real story lies beneath the headline number.



Domestic consumption showed only a modest 1.2% growth, indicating that everyday spending hasn't surged dramatically. Instead, the major boost came from imports, with GST revenue from imported goods jumping by nearly 20%. In simple terms, goods coming into the country played a bigger role in fulfilling the government's offer this month.

At first glance, the slower domestic growth might seem worrying but context matters. Back in September, the government implemented a major GST rate rationalisation, reducing tax rates on around 375 items to ease the burden on consumers. Typically, such large tax cuts lead to a sharp fall in revenue. The fact that GST collections are still growing suggests something important: people are buying more, even if taxes per item are lower. This reflects a more balanced and mature tax system.

Looking at the bigger picture, GST collections from April to December now stand at ₹16.5 lakh crore, an increase of over 8% compared to last year. Industrial powerhouses like Maharashtra and Gujarat continue to drive growth with double-digit gains, while a few states such as Punjab which recorded slight declines.

Overall, the data suggests that simplifying GST rates hasn't hurt revenues. Instead, it seems to be supporting steady consumption while keeping the tax engine running smoothly.

KEY INSIGHTS
GST revenue is growing steadily despite lower tax rates.
Imports are currently contributing more than domestic spending.
Consumers are buying more, helping offset tax cuts.
Major industrial states remain the backbone of GST growth.
GST reforms appear to be working without straining government finances.





SWOT Model



STRENGTHS

- **SCIENCE-LED BRAND IMAGE:** Positioned as an ingredient-focused, dermatology-inspired brand trusted for targeted skin solutions.
- **STRONG D2C AND DIGITAL PRESENCE:** Digital-first model enables wide reach, customer data insights, and fast product rollouts.
- **ACTIVE BASED PRODUCT RANGE:** Broad portfolio of proven actives encourages repeat usage and cross-selling.



WEAKNESSES

- **LOW DIFFERENTIATION IN ACTIVITIES SPACE:** Similar ingredient positioning to competitors reduces uniqueness.
- **HIGH DEPENDENCE ON DIGITAL PLATFORMS:** Vulnerable to rising ad costs and algorithm changes.
- **OVER MARKETING RISK:** Frequent launches and promotions may dilute clinical credibility.



OPPORTUNITIES

- **GROWING DERMOCOSMETICS MARKET:** Rising awareness of ingredient-based skincare boosts demand.
- **OFFLINE AND OMNICHANNEL EXPANSION:** Physical retail can improve trust, trials, and non-digital reach.
- **PERSONALIZED SKINCARE SOLUTIONS:** Diagnostics and routine-based recommendations can enhance differentiation.



THREATS

- **INTENSE MARKET COMPETITION:** Strong Indian and global brands increase pricing and innovation pressure.
- **STRICTER REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT:** Higher scrutiny on claims, SPF, and ingredients increases compliance risk.
- **SHIFT TOWARDS MINIMAL SKINCARE:** Consumer preference for gentle, barrier-repair routines may reduce demand for actives.



BRAND IN TALK

Cityflo × SOCIAL: Turning Commutes into Experiences

Urban commuting is no longer just about reaching a destination, it's about how the journey feels. While Cityflo is known for redefining daily office travel with comfort and reliability, its recent collaboration with SOCIAL took the brand beyond functionality and into experience-led marketing.

The Collaboration Spotlight

Cityflo partnered with SOCIAL to launch Mumbai's first-ever bar-hop on a party bus, transforming an everyday commute into a social, high-energy experience. Equipped with DJs, drinks, games, and curated SOCIAL pit stops, the moving bus became a shared space for connection, celebration, and discovery.

This collaboration positioned Cityflo not merely as a transport service, but as a lifestyle enabler, a brand that understands its urban audience's need for fun, community, and memorable experiences.



Why This Campaign Worked

- **Experience over Utility:**

The campaign shifted Cityflo's perception from a functional commute solution to an experiential brand.

- **Perfect Brand Fit:**

SOCIAL's vibrant, youthful, and community-driven identity aligned seamlessly with Cityflo's urban professional audience.

- **Emotional Engagement:**

By associating travel with enjoyment and social bonding, Cityflo created a positive emotional recall beyond daily routines.

- **Differentiation in Mobility Space:**

In a category focused on efficiency, Cityflo stood out by offering joy, culture, and connection.

- **Shareability & Buzz:**

The party bus format was highly Instagrammable, driving organic reach and conversation.





Modern consumers don't just buy services they buy experiences. Cityflo × SOCIAL proved that mobility brands can build deeper relationships by embedding themselves into moments of fun, culture, and community.



KEY INSIGHTS
The campaign acted as a low-risk trial for new Cityflo users.
Associating with leisure enhanced positive brand recall.
Premium experiences helped reduce price sensitivity.
SOCIAL added instant cultural and youth relevance.
Cityflo expanded its image beyond daily office commuting.

The Bigger Picture

This collaboration highlights a growing trend where utility brands evolve into experienced brands, creating touchpoints that go beyond their core offerings and resonate emotionally with their audiences.

CAMPAIGN BREAKDOWN

OpenAI's India Push -
Bringing AI Closer to
Everyday Life



THE INSIGHTS

When a global tech giant launches a campaign for India, expectations run high. But OpenAI chose not to go bigger, it went local. Its new India campaign centres on regional languages, everyday moments, and the belief that AI should feel like a companion rather than a complex tool.

The Core Insight: India Isn't an English-Only Nation

India communicates in countless languages, and people connect fastest in their mother tongue. OpenAI recognised that language barriers slow tech adoption, and that AI becomes more natural when it feels local, familiar and voice-first just like everyday Indian communication.

The Concept: AI That Speaks Your Language

OpenAI's first integrated India campaign is built on a simple idea: technology becomes meaningful when it sounds like home. Instead of futuristic visuals, the films highlight ordinary people a young woman preparing for an interview, families handling daily challenges and interacting with ChatGPT in their native languages.





The Plan: Go Local, Go Everywhere

The campaign runs across TV, OTT, digital, print and outdoor billboards. Directed by Bharat Sikka, the films were released in seven Indian languages ensuring inclusivity and cultural relevance.

The Spark & Impact

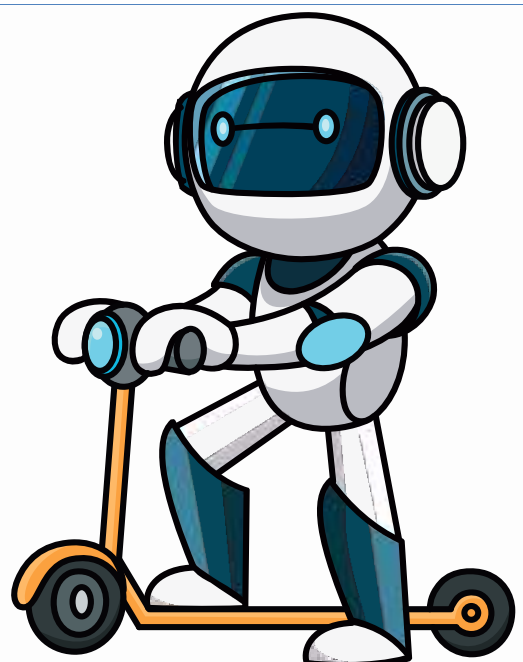
- Focus on empowerment through relatable, real-life situations.
- Makes ChatGPT feel more Indian, accessible and suitable for everyone.
- Encourages brands to prioritize localization in their own strategies.

Let Automation do it !

Conclusion: A Campaign That Feels Like Home

In a world where brands often speak to India, OpenAI did something refreshing it spoke like India.

By embracing regional languages and real-life stories, the campaign transforms AI from a high-tech tool into an everyday companion.



DID YOU KNOW



One of the strongest examples of “Brand Consistency” in marketing textbooks wears a red suit. Before 1931, Santa Claus had no fixed identity. Different illustrations showed him as thin, strict, elf-like, or even scary. There was no single, dominant brand image of Santa. Then Coca-Cola applied something marketers study but rarely executed this well: long-term brand consistency.

COCA-COLA & SANTA: A LIVE CASE STUDY OF CORE MARKETING CONCEPTS

BRAND CONSISTENCY (Integrated Marketing Communication in Action)

In 1931, Coca-Cola commissioned illustrator, Haddon Sundblom, to create a Santa that felt warm, friendly, and human. What followed was not a short-term campaign, but three decades of consistent execution. The same Santa personality, emotional tone, visual cues & the message of warmth, joy, and togetherness appeared year after year across magazines, billboards, store displays, calendars, and collectibles.

Long before the term existed, Coca-Cola was practicing Integrated Marketing Communication by ensuring one unified brand message across all touchpoints.



BRAND POSITIONING: SELLING A FEELING, NOT A PRODUCT

Coca-Cola never positioned itself as a winter beverage through logic or functionality. Instead, it positioned itself emotionally. Santa was never shown selling Coca-Cola. He was shown pausing, sharing moments, and participating in family rituals. This placed Coca-Cola in the consumer's mind as a symbol of joy, comfort, togetherness, and celebration. Strong positioning lives in the consumer's mind, not on the product label.

EMOTIONAL BRANDING AND NOSTALGIA MARKETING

By humanizing Santa, Coca-Cola tapped into childhood memories, family traditions, and holiday nostalgia. With time, Coca-Cola stopped being perceived as just a beverage and became embedded in the emotional experience of Christmas itself.

Emotional branding does not drive short-term sales spikes. It builds long-term loyalty and emotional attachment.



CONCLUSION

The Coca-Cola Santa story proves that the most powerful marketing does not come from chasing trends or launching flashy campaigns. It comes from clarity, consistency, and patience.

They applied core textbook concepts such as brand consistency, emotional branding, positioning, integrated marketing communication, and brand equity. Coca-Cola did more than increase winter sales, it shaped a collective memory.

In a digital-first world obsessed with speed and virality, Coca-Cola's Santa teaches a timeless lesson:

The brands that last are not the loudest.

They are the most consistent.

That is why this is not just a Christmas story.

It is a masterclass in marketing.

BRAND ASSOCIATIONS AND BRAND EQUITY

Repeated exposure to the same Santa year after year created powerful mental associations: Christmas became linked to Santa, Santa became linked to warmth and happiness, and warmth and happiness became linked to Coca-Cola.

These consistent associations accumulated into brand equity value that exists beyond the product. This is why even today, Coca-Cola's Christmas trucks, festive packaging, or limited editions instantly trigger emotion without needing explanation. Brand equity is built slowly through meaningful and consistent associations.

TURNING A CHALLENGE INTO OPPORTUNITY

By changing the product, the brand changed the context and embedded Coca-Cola into Christmas rituals and seasonal emotions. The brand made itself season-independent, occasion-driven, and emotion-led. A great marketing does not fight consumer behavior, it reframes it.





nvidia

CASE IN POINT

NVIDIA STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS: DEALS OF OVER \$100 MILLION

TIMELINE: NVIDIA'S STRATEGIC AI EXPANSION (2019-2025)

Founded as a graphics chip company, Nvidia has strategically evolved into the backbone of the global AI ecosystem. Through well-timed acquisitions, investments, and partnerships, Nvidia moved beyond being a hardware company to becoming a full-stack AI infrastructure leader.



2023

- Scaled AI computing infrastructure
- Invested in CoreWeave (GPU-focused AI cloud)
- Expanded into Southeast Asia (Malaysia)
- Focus on AI supercomputers & regional AI growth

2025

- Established as a full-stack AI company
- Led foundational AI research
- Became central to the global AI ecosystem

2019

- Acquired Mellanox Technologies
- Strengthened high-speed networking for AI & data centers
- Enabled integrated compute + networking solutions

2024

- Shifted from scale → efficiency
- Acquired Run: AI for GPU utilisation optimisation
- Improved data-centre automation & cloud reliability
- Invested in next-gen, energy-efficient AI hardware



JENSEN HUANG
CEO OF NVIDIA

Today, Nvidia is no longer viewed simply as a semiconductor manufacturer. It stands as a strategic partner for enterprises, governments, and AI innovators, proving that long-term vision, ecosystem thinking, and strategic investments can redefine an entire industry.

KEY INSIGHTS

Infrastructure-First Approach

Nvidia focused early on data centers and networking, building a strong foundation for AI leadership.

Ecosystem Thinking

By investing across cloud, software, and research, Nvidia ensured long-term reliance on its technology.

Efficiency Over Scale

Optimising GPU usage became as important as performance, improving scalability and cost efficiency.

Global Expansion Strategy

Partnerships beyond the US strengthened Nvidia's influence in emerging AI markets.

Long-Term Innovation Vision

Backing future technologies and research secured Nvidia's leadership beyond the current AI boom.



Nvidia is not only strengthening its own ecosystem but also shaping the future of technology. It's journey from a graphics chip maker to the backbone of global AI infrastructure proves that strategic investments, ecosystem thinking, and long-term vision can redefine an entire industry.



M-LINGO TOONS

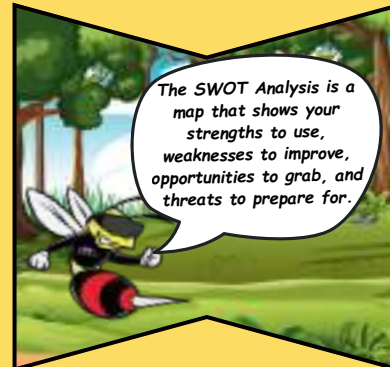
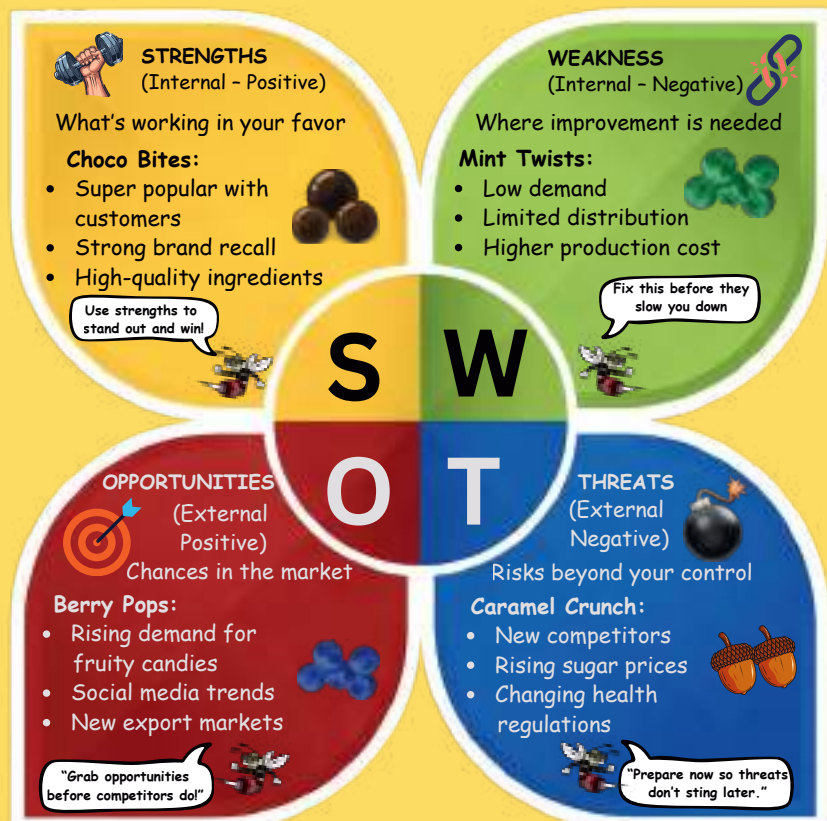
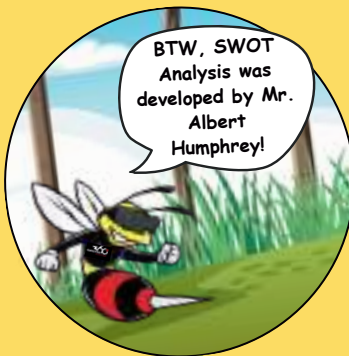
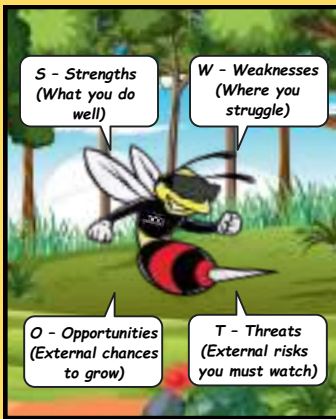
TALES FROM THE JUNGLE DECODING THE SWOT ANALYSIS!

Harry, the Tortoise & Rico, the Parrot are planning to launch a new candy brand.



"where's the buzzbee???"

Buzz-buzz!! There are multiple factors to look at before making big decisions. I know, SWOT analysis can come to rescue!



So, every business, big or small, can use the SWOT Analysis to succeed!



SWOT Analysis helps businesses make smarter decisions by clearly understanding internal capabilities and external market realities before taking any actions.

THE END.



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LIFE EASIER!



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