

CATMOCK DAILY CAPSULE

April 4, 2026

KAKURO

SUDOKU

					10	26		
			20	3	14			
		15						14
		5			14			
		29						
	10				11			
8	13				10			
				8	4			
15			6					
			9					
	15							
	17							

	7			3		5	9	2
	2	4		7	5			6
	8	3				4	7	1
	4	7	5	8	3	1	6	
3		1	4		7	8	2	
8			9					3
		8		5	2			
7	5		3		9	6	1	8
6	3				8	2		4

RUSSIA EXPRESSES READINESS TO BOOST OIL, LNG SUPPLIES TO INDIA

- Hindu



Amid the oil shock and supply chain disruptions triggered by the U.S.-Israel war on Iran, [Russia has assured India](#) that its energy companies have the capacity to “steadily increase” the supply

of oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) to India, and also “continue” to address India’s fertilizer needs.

“The [war in West Asia](#), now entering a sixth week, has served to push New Delhi closer to Moscow. Last year, U.S. penalty tariffs had pressured India into reducing its energy imports from Russia, but the situation has now undergone a sea change. The diplomatic impact on a strategic partnership as well as the likely relief for Indian fuel consumers meant that this late story replaced a war round-up as the top choice for our front page today,” says Suresh Nambath, Editor, *The Hindu*.

At a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov said that Russia has increased supplies of “in-demand mineral fertilizers to India by 40% and is ready to continue meeting India’s needs for this product,” according to the Russian embassy. He added that a joint project for the production of carbamide (urea) is “under development”.

“Particular attention was paid to cooperation in the oil and gas sector. Manturov confirmed that Russian companies have the capacity to steadily increase supplies of oil and liquefied natural gas to the Indian market,” said the embassy readout.

“We discussed our mutually beneficial cooperation in trade, fertilizers, connectivity and people-to-people ties,” said Mr. Modi, who “welcomed sustained efforts from both sides” to realise the agreements of the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit hosted here in December 2025.

Mr. Manturov’s two-day visit is being seen as part of preparations ahead of the upcoming BRICS summit to be hosted by India, and the India-Russia annual summit scheduled in Russia this year. He also met with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, the latest in a flurry of conversations between senior Indian and Russian leaders that has coincided with growing energy insecurity in India and the rest of south Asia.

IS DONALD TRUMP CHINAMAXXING?

- Bloomberg

Donald Trump and His Paper Tigers

We have, I hope, reached peak “chinamaxxing” now that the President of the United States is mouthing a phrase made famous by the founder of the People’s Republic. Donald Trump has called North Atlantic Treaty Organization a “paper tiger” because of what he sees as the failure of the Western alliance to support his war with Iran. Talk about becoming Chinese! In the middle of the 20th century, Mao Zedong popularized that old Cantonese epithet, which applied to a formidable appearance with no real teeth. The communist overlord used it to describe the threat of nuclear weapons as well as US imperialism. Trump also leveled the invective at Russia back

Yet isn't it really the US that's become a paper tiger? In his April 1 speech, Trump said he's defanged Iran. But as Andreas Kluth notes, the conflict is leaving the US with all bark and no bite (I'm sorry I'm mixing feline and canine metaphors). "The US military is a month or so away from running out of several types of missiles and interceptors," he writes. "Just replenishing the Tomahawks that the US has already fired will probably take five years."



Trump would also really like the paper tiger alliance he's so publicly castigated – which includes most of Western Europe – to help clear the Strait of Hormuz. Retired US Admiral James Stavridis – who used to be supreme commander of NATO – says the president could get them to do that if he were less insulting. "Instead of demeaning them and demanding they join in offensive operations..." he writes, "the White House would be better served to push the allies to join in sea-control operations in the strait and throughout the Persian Gulf. The Europeans have significant air and maritime capability that could be vital to relieve an increasingly overstretched US Navy."

Of course, Mao would have called such cooperation proof that NATO members were merely the "running dogs" of US imperialism! As it is, says Lionel Laurent, France, the UK, Japan and some 30 other countries (excluding the US and Israel) are jointly trying to figure their own way out of the crisis.

In the meantime, China – in collaboration with Pakistan – is offering its own peace proposal. Karishma Vaswani says Beijing has strong cards to play because it "maintains close ties with Iran, working channels with Israel and a functioning – if strained – relationship with Washington. Its emphasis on sovereignty and non-interference makes it a more acceptable interlocutor for Tehran than most Western powers, and that gives it greater scope to help shape the contours of any settlement." However, she's skeptical that China will carry through because

its five-point plan offers no mechanism that might lead to a ceasefire. It is, in other words, paper-thin.

Bye-Bye, Dubai?

The way Trump put it in his April 1 speech, the current Gulf war is the culmination of a 47-year struggle with Tehran. In that near-half century, magnificent cities have risen in the immensely rich federation of the United Arab Emirates. Among them, Dubai with its glittering towers and its tax-free living. It has drawn immigrants of all economic castes: construction workers and domestic servants, digital nomads and finance bros. Is its golden age now over as war ravages its skyline?

A small legion of online Dubai boosters continues to promote the longevity of the littoral utopia. But Lionel Laurent thinks its days are numbered due to the war and the vulnerability of Gulf economies to the openness of the Strait of Hormuz. He writes: "Dubai's supporters make the point that global capital has few other places to go, especially as London increases taxes and gets more squeamish about where the money comes from. The UAE-or-bust lobby is mistaken, however. International capital could find a home in the old-world hubs of Geneva and Milan, even if Europe has its own wartime challenges. Hong Kong's appeal is returning despite China's national-security law."

The UAE still sits on a huge pot of money, with sovereign wealth estimated as high as \$2.5 trillion, and Abu Dhabi – the richest emirate – calling the shots. That can help it redirect its economy as well as rebuild and install better defenses against drones and missiles. But the hazards of war are the problem. As Lionel gleans from freshly expatriated Dubai expats, being on a frontline isn't what they signed up for.

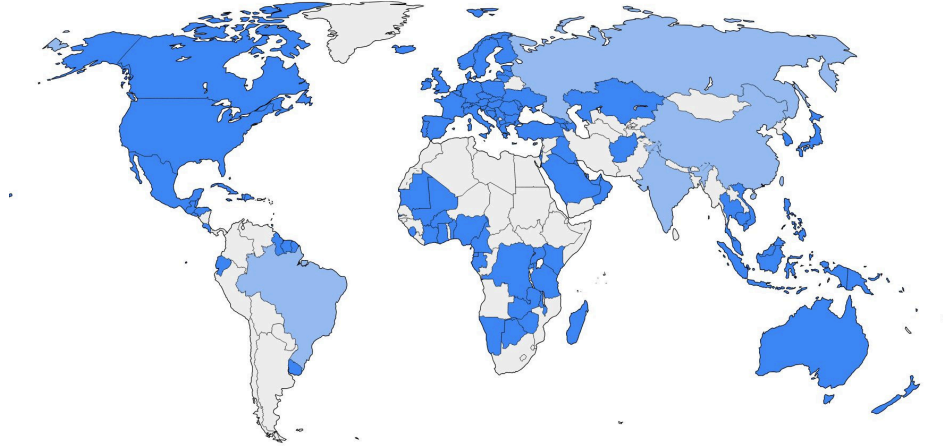
Telltale Charts

"The aviation industry [is]... navigating a complicated carbon offsetting scheme that may – or may not – become mandatory next year. The average flyer might not realize it, but since 2021, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has been running the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation, otherwise known as CORSIA. Participation has been voluntary so far, but starting in 2027, CORSIA becomes a requirement for international travel between all ICAO member states (excluding some developing nations). At the moment, it's expected that 134 countries will have to participate." – Lara Williams in "Fuel Prices Aren't Airlines Only Headache."

Demand for Corsia Credits Is Set to Rise From 2027

Global participation in CORSIA

■ Already participating ■ Expected to join from 2027



Source: ICAO
Note: Mapped data show statuses for distinct economies.

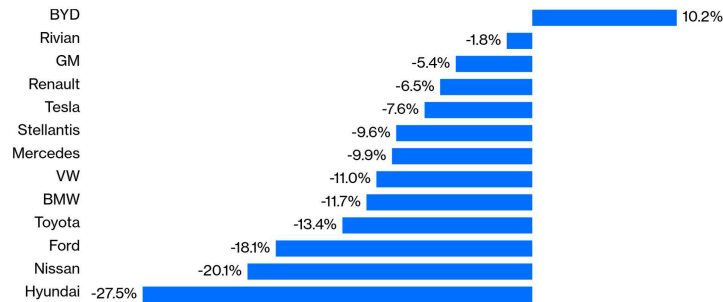
Bloomberg Opinion

“Western carmakers have been paring back their electric-vehicle ambitions in response to weaker regulation and demand, leaving buyers wondering whether their next vehicle would come with a plug after all. Now these assumptions have been jolted by another unexpected shift: the surge in gasoline prices triggered by war in the Middle East. ... Automakers able to respond nimbly to shifts in demand, while offering superior energy efficiency at an affordable price, should cope best. ... [I]n Europe I’d count on Chinese EV giant BYD Co. winning further market share. Anyone wanting a cheaper ride should also consider a used EV. Even second-hand electric Porsches offer value for money.” — Chris Bryant in “A \$45,000 Porsche Taycan Is a Decent Oil Price Hedge.”

BYD Has Outperformed Auto Stocks Since the Iran War Began

Its competitively priced EVs and hybrids could appeal to customers

■ % change in local currency since February 27



Source: Bloomberg

Bloomberg Opinion

OPENAI CEO SAM ALTMAN ACCUSED OF SEXUAL ABUSE BY FAMILY MEMBER

- *The Independent*



- Annie Altman has filed an amended [complaint](#) in federal court against her [brother](#), [OpenAI](#) chief executive Sam Altman, alleging sexual [abuse](#).
- A U.S. District Judge previously dismissed her initial civil [lawsuit](#), stating the sexual assault and battery claims from 1997-2006 had expired in 2008.
- The judge, however, allowed Annie Altman to refile under Missouri's Childhood Sexual Abuse statute, which permits lawsuits for older alleged abuse.
- Annie Altman accuses her brother of sexually abusing and raping her at their family home between 1997 and 2006, starting when she was three and he was 12.
- The Altman family has stated that Annie Altman faces mental health challenges, and Sam Altman has characterized her lawsuit as extortion.

After a federal judge dismissed Sam Altman's sister's civil lawsuit accusing the OpenAI chief executive of sexually abusing her more than two decades ago, Annie Altman filed her amended complaint in St. Louis federal court.

U.S. District Judge Zachary Bluestone said last month Annie Altman cannot pursue sexual assault and sexual battery claims over her brother's alleged abuse between 1997 and 2006, because those claims expired in 2008, but the Missouri statute allows some accusers to sue over alleged abuse from long ago.

He said Annie Altman will be allowed to file an amended complaint stating a claim under Missouri's Childhood Sexual Abuse statute, which is what she did Wednesday morning.

Lawyers for Sam Altman did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

META'S AI RESET

- *Business insider*



Charles Rollet has been digging into how tech companies are reorganizing around AI – especially Meta, which is leaning on AI coding tools to ship more product faster. Here's my chat with Charles, edited for length and clarity:

What's the big takeaway?

There's no more hiding from AI at Meta. Until recently, you could succeed as a strong coder or product manager alone. Now, advancing requires using, and touting, your AI skills. Meta is formalizing this shift, with some engineers expected to generate 50% to 80% of their code using AI tools.

Why is Mark Zuckerberg pushing this?

Productivity. He wants 100x engineers who manage fleets of AI agents, instead of relying on junior developers just doing the basics. That has raised concerns among some employees: If AI dramatically boosts output, why maintain an expensive workforce of more than 75,000?

Employees embracing AI too enthusiastically may be “digging their own graves,” former Meta engineering director Erik Meijer told me recently. A company at Meta’s scale can’t simply ship 10x more features because users can’t absorb that much new supply, he said. So efficiency gains could translate into more headcount reductions.

Where is this happening most?

Reality Labs has seen the most aggressive changes so far that we know of. Its roughly 1,000-person internal tools team reorganized into small AI-native “pods,” scrapping traditional roles. Employees are now “AI builders,” and managers are “AI pod leads,” using AI for performance reviews. Some staff worry this approach could spread and justify more layoffs. Meta says headcount isn’t affected, but anxiety remains.

Will it work?

There will be issues, like AI deleting important stuff by mistake, but they’re likely manageable. Tools like Claude Code represent real progress, and Meta is encouraging experimentation. The bigger risk may lie with startups moving too fast, not Meta.

Is this just about efficiency?

Mostly, but not entirely. Meta also wants more flexible employees, such as engineers who can design, build, and adapt as needed. That could unlock more creative products, though I think productivity gains remain the primary driver.

SOLUTIONS:

KAKURO

					10	26	
			20	14	9	5	
		15	9	2	1	3	14
		5	4	1	14	9	5
	10	13	3	7		11	2
8	6	2		8	1	7	
15	7	8	6	9	1	5	
	15	7	1	3	4		
	17	9	8				

SUDOKU

1	7	6	8	3	4	5	9	2
9	2	4	1	7	5	3	8	6
5	8	3	2	9	6	4	7	1
2	4	7	5	8	3	1	6	9
3	9	1	4	6	7	8	2	5
8	6	5	9	2	1	7	4	3
4	1	8	6	5	2	9	3	7
7	5	2	3	4	9	6	1	8
6	3	9	7	1	8	2	5	4