

BIZ BRIEFS

Screen's initiative for cinema industry

The Indian Express Group and Screen announced the launch of Screen Academy, a not-for-profit initiative that will nurture and showcase new voices in Indian cinema. The Academy is working with India's top film institutes, will identify and empower the next generation of filmmakers through education, representation, and recognition. Anant Goenka, Executive Director of The Indian Express Group, said: "Screen Academy represents a bold step toward institutionalising excellence in the entertainment and culture space."

Hindware arm's new products

Hindware Smart Appliances, a kitchen appliances brand has launched a comprehensive range of appliances such as BLDC (Brushless Direct Current) motor-equipped chimneys, hobs, ovens, and kitchen sinks. Mahesh Kumar Choudhary, President, Hindware Home Innovation, said: "We are incredibly excited to strengthen our presence in the Kitchen Appliances space. Understanding the rapid evolution of Indian homes—driven by real estate growth and modern homeowners' discerning tastes—we have curated a comprehensive range of smart appliances."

Amazon announces Prime Day deals

Amazon has announced that the Prime Day 2025 will kick off on July 12 and will run until July 14, featuring deals on smartphones, laptops, smart TVs, tablets, wearables and speakers. Major brands like Apple, Samsung, Sony, Xiaomi, JBL, and OnePlus are participating. Offers include no-cost EMI options and instant bank discounts. Key highlights discounted offers on devices including iPhone 15, OnePlus 13, Lenovo IdeaPad Slim 3, and LG OLED TV. Visit the website for more consumer electronics deals.

New range from Ultra Soft Toys

Ultra Soft Toys has unveiled a new range of toys at this year's Toy Biz 2025. The brand showcased its new 'Cuddle & Calm' range of weighted plush toys and sensory companions. The Cuddle & Calm collection offers soft, huggable plushies that provide grounding and tactile comfort. Brinda Agrawal, Head-Product Development, Ultra Soft Toys, said: "Weighted toys, in particular, offer calming pressure and tactile comfort that appeals across age groups."

Dreame unveils robot vacuum

Dreame Technology, a smart home appliances brand, has launched the Dreame F10 in India, a Robot Vacuum featuring standard system that delivers optimized suction power of 13,000Pa. Manu Sharma, MD, Dreame India, said: "At Dreame, our mission has always been to build technologies that make everyday life easier and smarter."

Deccan Rice enters Chinese market

Its products will be in the domestic market by early 2026, Director Kiran Kumar Pola says

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

HYDERABAD-based Deccan Grainz India has recently entered the Chinese market. The company has already been exporting 30 varieties of Indian rice to Sweden, UK, Germany, Ireland, London, US, Canada, Australia, EU and Turkey, and China is the new addition to its global footprint.

"We are the only rice brand from South India to achieve such a global footprint in rice exports," said Kiran Kumar Pola, Director, Deccan Grainz India.

He described the company's entry into China, which ranks second in the world after India in rice production, as a milestone. He said that Deccan Foods is the market leader in the non-basmati rice category in the US market. "We purchase quality rice from thousands of farmers in various states including Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, and export it to various countries," he said.



In its 15-year long journey, the company sold more than 7 crore bags of rice abroad. Sona Masuri accounts for a whopping 60 per cent of its total sales. The company has a state-of-the-art, Japanese technology-powered rice processing plant with a monthly capacity of 5,500 metric tonnes at Sultanpur near Hyderabad. It employs 100 people. "They say we have to win at home before winning outside. But we already won outside. Now, we are ready to win at home. Deccan Grainz will enter the Indian market in early 2026," said Kiran Kumar.

Kiran has more than 30 years of experience in the rice business.

T-Hub, AWS accelerator to power space startups

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

AMAZON Web Services (AWS) has announced the launch of AWS Space Accelerator: APJ 2025, a programme designed to support startups across Asia Pacific and Japan (APJ) that are focused on space technology—catalysing innovation and propelling the growing space economy in the Asia Pacific region.

The 10-week accelerator will provide up to 40 selected startups with dedicated business resources, expertise, and guidance around technology and business capabilities, to help them leverage AWS to build, grow, and scale their missions.

The accelerator is open to space-sector startups at all stages that are based in India, Australia, New Zealand, or Japan. Participants can leverage the program to build their technology platforms, scale their operations, and pursue investment opportunities. Applications for the AWS Space Accelerator: APJ will be open from July 8 to September 5.

The AWS Space Accelerator: APJ 2025 will be delivered in collaboration with AWS partners T-Hub, Minfy, Fusic, and Ansys along with leading space organizations including IN-SPACE, the Australia Space Agency, iLAUNCH, and SKY Perfect JSAT Corporation.

India makes it to global top-10 tech markets

THE COUNTRY LEADS IN TALENT AVAILABILITY

BENGALURU: India ranks among world's top-10 tech markets in 2025, particularly standing out in terms of talent availability, with its top six cities making the top 10 list for tech talent acquisition in the Asia-Pacific region, a report showed on Thursday.

The Asia Pacific region is gaining momentum as a global tech talent hub, being home to three of the world's top-10 locations – Bengaluru in India, Tokyo in Japan and Beijing in China, said the report from Colliers.

"India is a powerhouse of tech talent and a key player in the global innovation ecosystem, supported by availability of skilled talent and employment opportunities across Tier I as well as emerging cities of the country," said Arpit Mehrotra, Managing Director, Office Services, India, Colliers.

Leading tech cities in India account for 69 per cent of the total tech talent in the Asia



Pacific region. Bengaluru and Hyderabad, which host the region's largest talent clusters, continue to lead tech leasing activity, together driving nearly 50 per cent of the conventional office space uptake in H1 2025.

"With the availability of high-quality office space, robust IT infrastructure, and cost competitiveness, India's office markets will continue to feature prominently among the top destinations for technology-led global economic

expansion," Mehrotra added. The report examined more than 200 global markets based on their talent acquisition, venture capital (VC) funding, labour index, talent pipeline and sector composition. India ranks among the top destinations for tech talent both in the Asia Pacific as well as globally. Bengaluru and Hyderabad continue to remain preferred tech destinations in India, followed closely by other major markets, all of which attract global tech companies

TALENT POOL

- B'luru, Tokyo, Beijing among top-10
- Tech cities in India account for 69% of total tech talent in Asia Pacific region
- B'luru,Hydtogether driving 50% of office space uptake in H1

with skilled talent availability and a mature tech ecosystem, the report found.

Occupiers in the technology sector remain a cornerstone of office space demand across India's top seven cities, driving Grade A space uptake in both conventional and flex spaces over the past years. During H1 2025, tech occupiers leased over 10 million square feet of office space across the top seven cities, driving 40 per cent of the conventional space demand.

India made Ai+ smartphone is here!

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

IN a landmark moment for India's digital future, NxtQuantum has launched the Ai+ Smartphone, India's first fully authored smartphone, built entirely in India, governed on Indian infrastructure, and designed to deliver world-class performance with uncompromising data privacy. The launch was led by Madhav Sheth, CEO, Ai+ Smartphone and Founder, NxtQuantum Shift Technologies, alongside Shashikumar Sreedharan, Managing Director, Google Cloud India, and Smriti Ravichandran, Vice President – Mobiles, Flipkart. More than just a product launch, the model marks a bold new direction in mobile innovation, where performance meets purpose, and users gain true control over how their data is stored, accessed, and protected. Built entirely in India and powered by NxtQuantum OS, India's first sovereign mobile operating system, the Ai+ Smartphone combines high performance, affordability, and privacy in one seamless experience.

Credai Hyd property show to be held in Aug

Over 70 developers, endless choices for homebuyers in largest real estate expo at HITEX

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

THE Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) Hyderabad has officially announced the 2025 edition of its flagship Hyderabad Property Show, set to take place from August 15 to 17 at HITEX Exhibition Centre, Halls 1 & 3. With the theme "Choice is Yours," this year's event promises to empower homebuyers by offering a one-stop destination to explore RERA-approved projects by over 70 reputed developers.

The announcement was made by CREDAI Hyderabad's senior leadership team, including President N Jaideep Reddy, President-Elect B Jagannath Rao, General Secretary K Kranti Kiran Reddy, Convenor Kurra Srinath, Co-convenor Aravind Rao Mechineni, and other office bearers and committee members.



Credai President N Jaideep Reddy addressing the meeting
Photo: Adula krishna

The Property Show aims to dispel real estate myths by presenting credible, RERA-compliant properties under one roof. It will feature a diverse mix of apartments, villas, plots, and commercial spaces from across Hyderabad. Highlighting Hyderabad's strong real estate momentum, President N Jaideep Reddy noted that the city witnessed property registrations worth Rs4,300 crore in May 2025 — a 14 per cent year-on-year increase. He attributed this to the city's booming employment hubs, robust infrastructure development, and ongoing investments by global firms. "Hyderabad is poised for a major transformation with metro rail expansion and el-

evated corridor projects in the pipeline. With interest rates easing and new high-rise launches, now is the ideal time to invest," he said.

President-Elect B Jagannath Rao echoed the sentiment, calling Hyderabad a "true global city" that continues to attract investments across sectors including IT, manufacturing, life sciences, EVs, and defense. "Despite global uncertainties, Hyderabad's resilience and investor-friendly climate make it a preferred destination," he added. Speaking on the upcoming show, Convenor Kurra Srinath described the event as "more than just a real estate exhibition — it's a celebration of trust, choice, and community."

HUL names Priya Nair as CEO-MD

NEW DELHI: Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) on Thursday said it has appointed Priya Nair as Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director for five years, effective August 1, 2025. Nair is currently President, Beauty & Wellbeing, Unilever. She replaces Rohit Jawa who will step down as CEO and MD on July 31, 2025 to pursue the next chapter in his personal and professional journey, the FMCG major said in a statement. Nair will also join the HUL Board, subject to necessary approvals, and continue to be a member of the Unilever Leadership Executive (ULE), it added. "Priya has had an outstanding career in HUL and Unilever. I am certain that with her deep understanding of the Indian market and excellent track record, Priya will take HUL to the next level of performance," Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) Chairman Nitin Paranjpe said. Nair joined HUL in 1995 and held several sales and marketing roles across home care, beauty & wellbeing, and personal care businesses.

Despite uptrend, top-4 trading platforms lose 20 lakh investors in H1

MUMBAI

TOP four online trading platforms together lost nearly 20 lakh active investors in the first half of the calendar year (2025), data available on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) showed on Thursday. The decline comes despite the markets remaining firm during the four consecutive months.

The first half of this year has been difficult for Groww, Zerodha, Angel One, and Upstox, the top four brokers in India in terms of active investors. In June alone, they lost about 6 lakh users overall.

Strict rules for trading in the Future and Options (F&O) segment, enforced by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), the market regulator, are the main cause of the decline in the number of active users of the major brokers.

Since the market regulator tightened the rules for trading in the derivatives seg-



ment last year, investors are becoming less interested in the sector. Since the year began, Groww, the biggest broker in the nation by number of active investors, has seen a drop of six lakh active investors. Over 5.4 lakh active investors were lost by Zerodha, the biggest broker in terms of revenue, during the same time frame.

Angel One lost over 4.5 lakh active investors, while over 3 lakh active investors were declined from Upstox's user base during the above said period.

These four firms together added nearly one crore new active investors in 2024, when trading activities in F&O were hitting all-time highs. However, their user base declined a bit this year.

Selling in IT, telecom shares drag benchmarks into red

Investors turned cautious ahead of the start of earnings season, Tariff-related uncertainty also dampened investor sentiment

MUMBAI

BENCHMARK indices Sensex and Nifty buckled under selling pressure on Thursday due to weakness in IT and telecom stocks as investors turned cautious ahead of the start of earnings season, with tech major TCS scheduled to announce its Q1 numbers later in the day. Tariff-related uncertainty also dampened investor sentiment in the market, traders said.

Sliding for the second straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 345.80 points or 0.41 per cent to settle at 83,190.28. During the day, it declined 401.11 points or 0.48 per cent to 83,134.97. As many as 2,064 stocks declined, while 1,959 advanced and 138 remained unchanged on the BSE. On similar lines, the 50-share NSE Nifty declined 120.85 points or 0.47 per cent to 25,355.25. A positive momentum in global equities, however, restricted the loss in the domestic markets.

"Indian equities concluded the day in the red, weighed down by weakness in IT stocks ahead of TCS' Q1 results. In-



vestor sentiment remains cautious ahead of the Q1 results in anticipation of a muted start to the season from the IT and finance sectors. However, the recent consolidation in the IT stocks largely factors in the muted outlook, limiting further worries," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

From the Sensex pack, Bharti Airtel, Asian Paints, Infosys, Bharat Electronics, Tech Mahindra and Eternal were major laggards. However, Maruti, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Trent and Tata Consultancy Services were among the gainers. "Dalal Street ended in the red on Thursday, as investors re-

mained cautious ahead of two key events -- US President Donald Trump's upcoming tariff announcement and the start of India's Q1FY26 earnings season, with TCS scheduled to report results post market hours," Gaurav Garg, Analyst, Lemonn Markets Desk, said.

The BSE midcap gauge dipped 0.28 per cent while the smallcap index inched higher by 0.12 per cent. Among BSE sectoral indices, tech dropped 1.17 per cent, telecommunications (1.11 per cent), BSE Focused IT (0.77 per cent), IT (0.71 per cent) and consumer durables (0.44 per cent). Realty, metal, oil & gas and utilities were the gainers.

Nvidia world's first firm to reach \$4-trn mcap

SAN FRANCISCO

SILICON Valley chipmaker Nvidia on Wednesday became the first publicly traded company to surpass a \$4-trillion market valuation, putting the latest exclamation point on the investor frenzy surrounding an artificial intelligence boom powered by its industry-leading processors. The milestone reflects the upheaval being unleashed by artificial intelligence, or AI, which is widely viewed as the biggest tectonic shift in technology since Apple co-founder Steve Jobs unveiled the first iPhone 18 years ago.

Underscoring the changing of the guard, AI bellwether Nvidia is now worth \$900 billion more than Apple, which rode the iPhone's success to become the first publicly traded company to valued at \$1 trillion, \$3 trillion and eventually, \$2 trillion. Meanwhile, Indian capital market's valuation was over \$5 trillion. The market capitalization (mcap) of BSE-listed companies was \$5.38 trn on Thursday (July10, 2025).

Nvidia's rise as come as Apple has struggled to deliver on its ambitions to infuse the iPhone and other products with more AI with



an array of new features that included a more than year-old promise to smarten up its often bumbling virtual assistant Apple acknowledged last month that delivering on its AI vision is going to take until at least next year, leading some industry analysts to wonder if the company will have to acquire an AI start-up to regain momentum.

In the meantime, former Apple design guru Jony Ive has joined forces with OpenAI to work on a wearable AI device that could challenge the iPhone while Nvidia has been scrambling to meet the feverish demand for its specialized chips that power the energy-intensive data centres underlying artificial intelligence.

And tech giants Microsoft, Amazon, Google parent Alphabet and Facebook parent Meta Platforms are upping the AI ante too, collectively budgeting about \$325 billion for investments in the technology this year — with a significant amount of that money likely to flow into Nvidia's coffers.