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HANS BIZZ BUZZ
MONDAY TO SATURDAY | www.bizzbuzz.news / www.epaper.bizzbuzz.news | BUSINESS DAILY

TODAY's QUOTE

Whole world eyes India's emerging semicon industry

Dholera in Gujarat emerging as a major centre for high-tech manufacturing soon. The whole world has its eyes India's emerging semiconductor industry, and Dholera is drawing immense interest from the global fraternity. As many as 10 critical projects are coming up in India and government is taking regular follow-up meetings on issues related to them. The govt ensures all logistics support to the semicon projects

- Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union IT Minister

MARKETS AT A GLANCE

Sensex	83,978.49	0.05%▲
Nifty	25,763.35	0.16%▲
Bank Nifty	58,101.45	0.56%▲
Gold	1,25,300/10gms	300▼
Silver	1,54,000	1,000▲
Rupee	88.75	5ps▼
Crude Oil	65.20/bbl	0.65%▲

INSIDE

India's solar power capacity to touch 216 GW in FY28: Report

India is expected to have around 216 GW of solar capacity generating 305 billion units by FY28, driven by strong responses to applications under the Production Linked Incentive scheme, a report said on Monday

P2

19 killed in truck-RTC bus head-on collision near Chevella

At least 19 passengers lost their lives and several others were seriously injured when a truck carrying gravel struck a TSRTC bus near the village of Mirzaguda in the Chevella mandal of Rangareddy district on Monday morning

P3

Indices marginally up amid muted session

P6

Half of millennials fear jobs will be replaced by AI: Report

P8

Mfg fires up as GST relief, demand lift factory pulse

HSBC PMI surges to 5-mth high of 59.2 in Oct, signalling robust output, job gains, and strong domestic demand despite softer exports

STRONGER EXPANSION
- Manufacturers continued to purchase addl raw materials
- Focus on supplement production, inventories
- Softening cost inflation
- Modest increase in input costs

NEW DELHI

INDIA's manufacturing sector activity strengthened in October, buoyed by Goods and Services Tax relief, productivity gains and tech investment, even as international sales rose at a weaker pace, a monthly survey said on Monday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose from 57.7 in September to 59.2 in October, indicating a quicker improvement in the sector's health. In the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"India's manufacturing PMI accelerated to 59.2 in October, up from 57.7 during the month prior. Robust end-demand fuelled expansions in output, new orders, and job creation," said Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC. The pick-up in sales growth mainly stemmed from the domestic market, as new export orders increased at a softer rate, the survey said. New orders increased further at the start of the third fiscal quarter, with companies attributing growth to advertising, buoyant demand and the GST reform.

Moreover, the pace of expansion was sharp and stronger than that recorded in September. Manufacturers continued to purchase additional raw materials and semi-finished items in October, reportedly to supplement production and build inventories amid softening of cost inflation. On the price front, even though there was a modest and softer increase in input costs, the rate of inflation matched September's near 12-year high.

"Input prices moderated in October, while average selling prices increased as some manufacturers passed on additional cost burdens to end-consumers," Bhandari added.

Meanwhile, job creation entered its twentieth consecutive month in October. The rate of expansion was moderate and broadly similar to September. Regarding the outlook, manufacturers attributed positive expectations to GST reform, expanded capacities and marketing efforts. They also predicted demand resilience and hoped that pending contracts will be approved.

"Looking ahead, future business sentiment is strong due to positive expectations around GST reform and healthy demand," Bhandari said. The HSBC India Manufacturing PMI is compiled by S&P Global from responses to questionnaires sent to purchasing managers in a panel of around 400 manufacturers.

> The pick-up in sales growth mainly stemmed from the domestic market, as new export orders increased at a softer rate. New orders increased further at the start of the third fiscal quarter, with companies attributing growth to advertising, buoyant demand and the GST reforms
>
> *- Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC*

AP govt forecasts ₹9.8L-cr worth 410 MoUs

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
AMARAVATI

ANDHRA Pradesh Government on Monday announced that 410 MoUs are expected to be signed at the CII Partnership Summit during November 14-15 in Visakhapatnam, unlocking Rs9.8 lakh crore in investment commitments and generating 7.5 lakh proposed jobs across the State.

This summit will embody a 3-way partnership between the people, the government, and corporates, aligning growth with opportunity and shared prosperity.

Framing the Summit as a catalyst for inclusive growth, IT and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh positioned the event as a curtain-raiser to Andhra Pradesh's mission of creating 20 lakh jobs and decentralising development across every region of the State.

He emphasized that every investment is ultimately about empowering youth.

He unveiled the tagline "Companies that choose speed, choose Andhra Pradesh."

Lokesh said: "This Summit is a partnership among our people, our government, and forward-looking corporates. Every MoU is a commitment to the dreams of our youth. Choose AP means choosing speed, trust, and opportunity grounded in Telugu pride and built for global leadership."

The summit will have 48 sessions: 1 plenary, 27 technical sessions, 3 standalone sessions, and 11 state-specific sessions.

REC powers ₹7,500-cr boost for Brookfield's green push in AP

Record funding backs India's largest private renewable project as Andhra Pradesh positioning itself with 50K-cr Green Energy Vision as India's clean-energy hub

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
AMARAVATI

IN a major boost to Andhra Pradesh's clean-energy ambitions, the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has sanctioned a record Rs7,500-crore funding for Brookfield's 1,040MW hybrid renewable-energy project in Kurnool, comprising 640 MW of wind and 400 MW of solar capacity.

The total project cost is estimated at Rs9,910 crore. It is significant as this represents the single largest REC sanction ever extended to a private-sector project.

The project is being developed by Evren, a clean-energy platform launched by Brookfield and Axis Energy as a joint venture. Evren has already lined up over 3GW of renewable projects across Kurnool and Anantapur, forming part of Brookfield's broader 8,000MW pipeline in Andhra Pradesh with a total investment of Rs50,000 crore.

This major milestone follows Minister Nara Lokesh's meeting with Brookfield Global President Connor Teskey in London in September, where both sides explored opportunities for deeper collaboration across renewable energy, AI-ready data centers, and green infrastructure.

Andhra Pradesh IT Minister Nara Lokesh with Brookfield Asset Management President Connor Teskey in London during his overseas trip to seek investments in September, 2025

Brookfield is one of the world's largest alternative investment managers, with over $1 trillion in assets under management and a leadership position in renewable power.

The company has around 46GW of installed capacity and a development pipeline of nearly 200 GW globally. Its India portfolio spans renewable energy, infrastructure, data centers, and real estate, and the Andhra Pradesh program represents a cornerstone of Brookfield's expanding green footprint in Asia.

M&As lead Deal St in Sept qtr

NEW DELHI: India recorded 999 deals worth $44.3 billion in July-September period of 2025, up 13 pr cent in volume and 64 per cent over the preceding quarter, according to PwC India's latest Deals at a Glance report released on Monday.

In the second quarter of calendar 2025, there were 887 deals worth $27 billion. India's deal market sustained its growth momentum through Q3 CY25, registering its strongest quarterly performance in the past six quarters, the report said.

"Mergers and acquisitions (M&A) continued to drive market activity, accounting for 518 transactions valued at $28.4 billion, marking an 80 per cent increase in value and 26 per cent rise in volume quarter-on-quarter," it said. Year-on-year, deal volumes grew 64 per cent, while total M&A value expanded 32 per cent, supported by active domestic consolidation and renewed cross-border interest, it said.

ED seizes over 40 assets of Anil Ambani Group

MUMBAI

THE Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached properties worth about Rs3,084 crore linked to entities of the Reliance Anil Ambani Group over alleged diversion and laundering of public funds.

The attached assets include the residence at Pali Hill, Bandra (West), Mumbai, the Reliance Centre property in New Delhi, and multiple assets across Delhi, Noida, Ghaziabad, Mumbai, Pune, Thane, Hyderabad, Chennai (including Kancheepuram) and East Godavari.

These assets include office premises, residential units and land parcels. The aggregate attached value across the four orders is approximately Rs3,084 crore.

The orders were issued on October 31, 2025 under Section 5(1) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The case concerns the diversion and laundering of public funds raised by Reliance Home Finance Ltd. (RHFL) and Reliance Commercial Finance Ltd. (RCFL).

Properties worth more than Rs3K cr; Enforcement Directorate lens on Reliance Anil Ambani Group over alleged diversion and laundering of public funds

Tata Trusts rift deepens as Mehli Mistry files caveat

Former trustee challenges ouster before Charity Commissioner, citing 2024 resolution on life reappointments amid widening boardroom divide

Boardroom Battle
- Tata Trusts board in Oct rejected Mistry's renewal for life trusteeship
- Office holders Venu Srinivasan, Noel Tata, Vijay Singh opposing Mistry
- Noel Tata leads philanthropic trust
- Vijay Singh, Venu Srinivasan are vice chairmen

MUMBAI

MEHLI Mistry, a former trustee of Tata Trusts, whose term was not renewed last week, has reportedly filed a caveat before the Maharashtra Charity Commissioner for his right to be heard before his ouster from Tata Trusts.

According to the rules, Tata Trusts must implement board changes approved by the Commissioner within 90 days. Mehli Mistry wants to contest his ouster before the Commissioner of philanthropic organisations pointing to the October 2024 resolution on life trusteeship at renewal, according to multiple media reports.

The Tata Trusts board had in October rejected Mistry's renewal for life trusteeship, with office holders Venu Srinivasan, Noel Tata, and Vijay Singh opposing his continuation. Noel Tata leads the philanthropic trust, with Vijay Singh and Venu Srinivasan as vice chairmen, according to reports.

Mistry's challenge to ouster is based on a resolution from October 2024 that reportedly grants life terms on renewal to current trustees.

"The Trustees recognise that they are all equally responsible, charged with public duty and specifically tasked by Ratan N Tata. To this end, they resolve that on the expiry of tenure of any Trustee, that Trustee will be reappointed by the concerned Trust without any limit being attached to the period of tenure of such re-appointment, and in accordance with law," the resolution said.

White-collar jobs defy festive lull

NEW DELHI: India's white-collar job market in October 2025 showed notable strength in education, accounting and finance, BPO/ITES, and specialised tech roles despite a slowdown in recruitment during the Diwali-Dussehra holidays, a report by Naukri said on Monday. The report from the recruitment platform said that India's white-collar hiring experienced a 3 per cent year-on-year growth when adjusted for the 'holiday effect' from the festive calendar shift.

The Naukri JobSpeak Index recorded 2,480 points during the month, marking a 9 per cent year-on-year dip, as the Diwali-Dussehra festive cluster temporarily slowed recruitment momentum. While the festive season led to a broad-based slowdown, sectors such as accounting and finance (up 15 per cent YoY), education (up 13 per cent), and BPO/ITeS (up 6 per cent) defied the trend with positive growth.

TWEETY FRUITY

Create an enabling environment

The war for talent is as critical as the war for market share. The war for talent is not won with higher salaries alone. It is won by creating an environment where people feel they can grow faster, take real responsibility, and make a visible difference

Harsh Mariwala
@hcmariwala, Chairman, RPG Enterprises

Evolution is constant

Every decade, new technologies rewrite old business models: We expect the future to arrive gradually but most times they come with an obituary notice

Harsh Goenka
@hvgoenka, Chairman, RPG Enterprises

Never hesitate

Talk about your ideas everywhere you can. Articulation sharpens thinking and feedback fuels motivation

Paras Chopra
@paraschopra, Founder, Wingify

5% rise in India's smartphone shipments

NEW DELHI: India's smartphone market continued its recovery in the July-September quarter of 2025, growing five per cent year-on-year (YoY) by volume and 18 per cent by value, its highest-ever quarterly value, a new report showed on Monday.

The growth was fueled by strong festive demand, attractive discounts, and rising interest in premium phones, according to Counterpoint Research. Analysts said the market's focus is shifting from volume growth to value growth, as more consumers upgrade to higher-end smartphones.

Apple led the premium market with a 28 per cent value share, driven by strong demand for its iPhone 16 and 15 series. The newly launched iPhone 17 series also received a strong response, with early demand exceeding that of previous models.

BIZZ Talk INTERVIEW

Despite a surge in renewable energy installations, operational efficiency and maintenance levels remain low

Right now, India's Renewable Energy (RE) installations are "scaling at an unprecedented pace, but an optimum yield extraction and care of these RE assets hasn't always kept up," says Praveen Kakulte, CEO at The Powercon Group in an exclusive interaction with *Bizz Buzz*. The RE industry has to switch the outlook to 'MWhs of energy delivered' from its current focus of 'MWs of power installed'. That's where the gap lies. A lot of assets are underperforming due to fragmented O&M practices, lack of data-driven decision-making, and insufficient technical training on ground

PRAVEEN KAKULTE

Full interview on Page 5

PM UNVEILS ₹1-TRN RDI FUND

New scheme aims to promote R&D with innovation emphasising ease of doing research

STARTUP ECOSYSTEM ACROSS INDIA
- PM inaugurated ESTIC-2025 at Bharat Mandapam
- Focus on emerging innovations
- Startup ecosystem expanded beyond metros
- Innovative ventures emerging from tier-2, tier-3 cities

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Monday inaugurated the Emerging Science and Technology Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) 2025 at Bharat Mandapam. During the event, he also launched the Rs1 lakh crore Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme Fund, aimed at strengthening India's scientific and technological capabilities.

Addressing the gathering, PM Modi said: "Today's programme focuses on science, but before that, I want to speak about the historic win of the Indian women's cricket team. The entire nation is proud of them for their remarkable achievement. I congratulate the team and extend my best wishes to all the players who have made India proud."

Referring to India's recent space success, the Prime Minister added, "Yesterday, ISRO successfully launched the Indian Navy's GSAT-7R (CMS-03) communication satellite. I congratulate ISRO and all the scientists involved in this mission.

> The RDI Scheme Fund to pave the way for new opportunities in R&D. We aim to promote innovation not only in public institutions, but also in the private sector. To build a modern innovation ecosystem
>
> *- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister*

... to take a call on boosting export competitiveness

Labour intensive sectors facing challenges due to a steep 50% US tariffs

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will meet exporters or certain labour-intensive sectors on Monday to discuss measures to enhance the country's competitiveness in the global trade, according to exporters.

Representatives from sectors including apparel, leather, gems and jewellery, handicrafts, engineering, and seafood will participate in the meeting, they said. Heads of export promotion councils of these sectors would attend the meeting. The meeting assumes significance as labour intensive sectors are facing challenges due to a steep 50 per cent tariffs imposed by the US on Indian goods, barring few sectors.

Tariffs or import duties play a key role in competitiveness of goods and services. India and the US are negotiating a bilateral trade agreement. India's share in the global trade is about 2 per cent (1.6 per cent in global goods exports and 3.3 per cent in services). India's exports grew 6.74 per cent to $36.38 billion in September, while imports jumped 16.6 per cent, widening the trade deficit to $31.15 billion.

IN BRIEF

Harman to be brand ambassador for Omaxe realty

NEW DELHI: Realty firm Omaxe Ltd has appointed Harmanpreet Kaur, captain of the Indian women's cricket team, as its brand ambassador. On Sunday, India won the maiden ICC Women's World Cup title with a 52-run victory over South Africa. In a statement on Monday, Omaxe announced the appointment of Kaur as the company's brand ambassador. Omaxe said the company's partnership with Harmanpreet Kaur reinforces its vision to back sporting excellence and create infrastructure where athletes can thrive. On the association, Harmanpreet Kaur said, "I am proud to join Omaxe as its brand ambassador and to stand with a company that believes in empowering youth, strengthening communities, and building facilities that inspire dreams and turn them into achievements."

Shilpi named mkt head of BharatPe

NEW DELHI: Fintech major BharatPe on Monday said it has appointed Shilpi Kapoor as its Head of Marketing, effective November 3, 2025. She will lead brand strategy, integrated marketing, and digital growth mandates across the company, working closely with leadership to accelerate brand momentum and market expansion, the company said in a statement. Kapoor brings in over two decades of experience, having held senior leadership roles across American Express, Renault, Godfrey Phillips, Bharti Airtel, and Coca-Cola. Most recently, she served as the Chief Marketing Officer at Airtel Payments Bank.

Bajaj Auto sales up 8% in Oct

NEW DELHI: Bajaj Auto on Monday reported an 8 per cent year-on-year growth in total vehicle wholesales, including exports, at 5,18,170 units in October. The Pune-based automaker had sold 4,79,707 vehicles in October 2024, according to a statement. Total domestic sales (including commercial vehicles) increased 3 per cent to 3,14,148 units in October compared to 3,03,831 units sold in the corresponding month last year. Total exports for October rose 16 per cent year-on-year to 2,04,022 vehicles from 1,75,876 units in the year-ago period. Total two-wheeler sales, including exports, increased 7 per cent to 4,42,316 units in October compared to 4,14,372 units in the same month of last year.

Star Air starts Bng-Hampi flight

MUMBAI: Regional carrier Star Air on Monday said it has started flight services to Jindal Vidyanagar Airport near Hampi in Karnataka from Bengaluru November 1 onwards, making the UNESCO World Heritage site city as the 32nd destination in the airline's network. In the last two months, Star Air said it has added multiple tier-II, and tier-III stops such as Gondia, Indore, Bhubaneswar, Purnia, Solapur, Surat, Jamnagar, Bhuj, and Bidar, thereby expanding its services network by 25 per cent. "The commencement of our operations at Vidyanagar is a proud moment for Star Air.

Alkem's research centre with IIT-B

MUMBAI: Alkem Foundation, the corporate social responsibility (CSR) arm of Alkem Laboratories, and Indian Institute of Technology Bombay on Monday announced their collaboration for setting up an advanced research centre in India for immuno-therapeutics and regenerative medicines. Under this collaboration, Alkem Foundation will fund the establishment of "Alkem Centre for Advanced Research and Development of Applied Immuno-Therapeutics and Regenerative Medicines" in the IIT Bombay campus, a joint statement said.

India's solar power capacity to touch 216 GW in FY28: Report

India needs 36-47 cr solar panels to achieve solar capacity target, says CareEdge report

SUNNY WAYS

- India's installed solar base surged to 127.3 GW as of Sept 2025
- India's exports of solar PVs surged by 10 times from 2019 to 2025
- Govt initiatives also helped to increase of solar capacity to 100 GW
- Now, India occupies fourth position worldwide in solar power

India's module manufacturing capacity is expected to add additional capacity of 100 GWp by the end of FY28, nearly three to four times the average annual module demand of 50-60 GWp over the next three years, the report said

NEW DELHI

INDIA is expected to have around 216 GW of solar capacity generating 305 billion units by FY28, driven by strong responses to applications under the Production Linked Incentive scheme, a report said on Monday.

The PLI scheme is enabling rapid capacity expansion, while efficiency gains -- where 1,700-2,200 panels (at 500 watts peak) are typically deployed for every 1 MW of solar power -- are reinforcing scale advantages in project execution, said the report from CareEdge Advisory, a subsidiary of ratings agency CareEdge Ratings.

CareEdge Advisory noted India's installed solar base surged to 127.3 GW as of September 2025, up from 3.9 GW in FY15, and contributed about 25.7 per cent of total installed capacity.

India's exports of solar photovoltaic (PV) products have surged by more than 10 times between FY19 and FY25, primarily to the US, the report said.

Government initiatives like PLI, Basic Customs Duty (BCD), and Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) have helped expand domestic solar module capacity to 100 GW, placing the country in fourth position worldwide.

India's module manufacturing capacity is expected to add additional capacity of 100 GWp by the end of FY28, nearly three to four times the average annual module demand of 50-60 GWp over the next three years, the report said. Domestic cell manufacturing capacity is projected to reach 100 GWp during the same period, with capex exceeding Rs 55,000 crore, driven by backward integration efforts, the advisory noted. CareEdge Advisory expects that by FY28, India will require an estimated 36-47 crore solar panels (at 500 Wp) to achieve its targeted solar capacity of 215 to 220 GW.The advisory expects module production to increasingly rely on exports, even as cell production is also likely to eclipse domestic demand in the medium term. This indicates that in the coming years, India's module and cell output will exceed domestic requirements, positioning exports as the key growth driver for the sector.

India Post ties up with EPFO to provide digital life certificates

The initiative aligns with the government of India's 'Digital India' and 'Ease of Living' vision, harnessing technology and postal infrastructure to ensure inclusive service delivery for senior citizens and pensioners

NEW DELHI

INDIA Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), to provide doorstep Digital Life Certificate (DLC) services to its pensioners under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995, an official statement said on Monday.

Under this collaboration, IPPB -- a 100 per cent government-owned entity under the Department of Posts -- will leverage its wide network of over 1.65 lakh post offices and more than 3 lakh postal service providers (postmen and Gramin Dak Sevaks).

They are equipped with doorstep banking devices and digital process of face authentication technology and fingerprint biometric authentication, to assist EPFO pensioners in submitting their Digital Life Certificates conveniently from their homes, eliminating the need for them to visit bank branches or EPFO offices to submit traditional paper-based certificates.

EPFO will bear the cost of issuing Digital Life Certificate entirely, making the service free for their pensioners, according to the Ministry of Communications.

"This partnership with EPFO reinforces IPPB's mission to bring essential financial and citizen services to every doorstep in India. With our technology-enabled postal network and trusted last-mile reach, EPFO pensioners — especially in rural and semi-urban areas — will now be able to complete their life certificate submission seamlessly, with dignity and convenience," said R Viswesvaran, MD and CEO, IPPB. The initiative aligns with the government of India's 'Digital India' and 'Ease of Living' vision, harnessing technology and postal infrastructure to ensure inclusive service delivery for senior citizens and pensioners, he mentioned. India Post Payments Bank introduced the doorstep service of Digital Life Certificate in 2020 for generating Jeevan Pramaan for pensioners using Aadhaar-enabled biometric authentication to reduce the turnaround time for issuance of Jeevan Pramaan.

On completion of the certificate generation process, confirmation SMS will be received by the pensioner in his mobile number and the certificate can be viewed online the next day.

Ex-CS, 3 others discharged in Coal scam case

NEW DELHI

A special court here has discharged RKM Powergen Pvt. Ltd, former Coal Secretary HC Gupta and three others in the Fatehpur East coal block allocation case in which they were chargesheeted by the CBI, saying there was no evidence to prosecute them.

The two promoters of the company, Andal Arumugam and T M Singaravel, and former Joint Secretary Kuljeet Singh Kropha have also been discharged by Special Judge Dheeraj Mor after hearing arguments from both sides.

Nearly three years after filing the FIR in 2014, the CBI submitted its closure report on September 21, 2017, claiming that allegations in the FIR under Indian Penal Code section 120B (criminal conspiracy) read with Section 420 (cheating), besides provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, were not substantiated.

Not satisfied with the findings, the special court directed the agency to conduct a further probe. Six years later, the CBI submitted a charge sheet against five accused in 2023 under IPC sections related to criminal conspiracy, cheating, forgery and provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

In its charge sheet, the CBI had alleged that RKM Powergen and its directors misrepresented their project preparedness, submitted forged documents and cheated the government to secure the coal block. Judge Mor did not find evidence to substantiate CBI's allegation while hearing detailed arguments from both sides with the company being represented by senior advocate Abhimanyu Bhandari.

CtrlS Datacenters, NTPC Green ink pact for 2 renewable power projs

NEW DELHI

CTRLS Datacenters on Monday said it has signed a strategic memorandum of understanding with NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) to jointly establish grid-connected renewable energy projects with a capacity of up to 2 GW or more.

The MoU was signed between CtrlS Founder & CEO Sridhar Pinnapureddy and NGEL CEO Sarit Maheshwari. "As part of the MoU, CtrlS and NGEL aim to jointly establish grid-connected renewable energy projects/assets with a capacity of up to 2 GW or more through greenfield development and/or acquisitions, for the supply of renewable power to CtrlS for its captive consumption on mutual agreement or any other business as may be mutually decided between the parties.

The MoU shall be in force for two years with a provision to extend further," the company said in a statement. NGEL, a subsidiary of NTPC Ltd, has an operational capacity of over 8.9 GW and 13 GW under implementation.

NGEL plans to have an installed capacity of 60 GW by 2032. Pinnapureddy described the partnership as a pivotal step toward building a sustainable digital future.

"Partnering with NGEL enables us to power our datacenters with renewable energy, enhance efficiency, and advance our commitment to net-zero operations. Together, we're demonstrating that innovation and sustainability can – and must – go hand in hand in driving the next era of digital infrastructure," he said.

CtrlS, operational since 2007, runs 16 datacenters across nine key markets in India and is actively pursuing renewable energy integration and overseas market expansion, including plans in the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

IRF welcomes highways ministry's move to install QR code on road projs

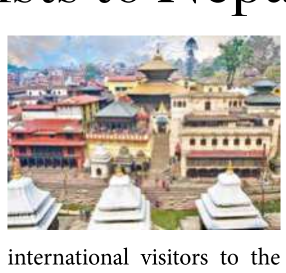
NEW DELHI

INTERNATIONAL Road Federation (IRF) on Monday welcomed highways minister Nitin Gadkari's recent announcement to install QR code on every major road project for improving the quality of roads, and termed it as a bold new transparency push and a major step towards participatory governance.

IRF is a global road safety body working for better and safer roads worldwide. IRF president emeritus K K Kapila said the bold new transparency and visionary initiative to introduce QR codes for improving the quality and monitoring of Indian roads marks a significant milestone in the nation's journey towards creating a more transparent, accountable, and technology-driven infrastructure management system. By enabling real-time tracking of road construction quality and maintenance, this initiative will go a long way in ensuring durability, safety, and long-term sustainability of India's road network," Kapila said. He added that this innovative step by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways truly reflects the government of India's dedication to enhancing the quality, transparency, and efficiency of road infrastructure development -- a move that will greatly benefit citizens.

Indian tourists to Nepal on decline

KATHMANDU



NEPAL has witnessed a significant decline in the number of Indian tourist arrivals during the first 10 months of 2025 and only a marginal increase in total foreign tourist inflows, according to the latest statistics released by the Nepal Tourism Board (NTB).

India remains the largest source market for Nepal's tourism industry, accounting for one-fourth of total international visitors to the Himalayan nation.

According to NTB data, arrivals from the southern neighbour dropped by 11 per cent year-on-year to 2,43,350 between January and October this year. Overall foreign tourist arrivals, however, grew marginally by 0.3 per cent to 9,43,716.

Likewise, arrivals from another neighbour, China, decreased by 5.3 per cent to 78,929 during the same period. China currently ranks as Nepal's third-largest source market — down from the pre-Covid period when it had emerged as the second-largest source market for Nepal's tourism industry.

Lenskart to launch AI-powered smart glasses

NEW DELHI: EYEWEAR major Lenskart is gearing up to launch its first pair of AI-powered smart glasses by the end of December, marking a step towards positioning itself as a technology-led lifestyle brand, according to people familiar with the matter.Internally referred to as "B by Lenskart Smartglasses", the upcoming device is expected to integrate AI-based interactions

ISA pitches for BIPV tech to promote solar energy

NEW DELHI

THE International Solar Alliance (ISA) is focusing on integrated photovoltaics technology that helps buildings generate solar power and reduce emissions, its Director General Ashish Khanna said on Monday. He stressed on the need to embed solar intelligence into architecture itself.

Addressing 17th GRIHA Summit being held in the national capital, Khanna noted that urban areas consume over 70 per cent of global electricity and produce more than two-thirds of emissions.

"This trend is likely to enhance further as the residential consumption of electricity is expected to have the highest share of increase in energy consumption over next few decade," he added.

The two-day summit, starting Monday, has been organised by GRIHA Council that administers green building rating system GRIHA.

Khanna pointed out that the pollution in cities is already choking lives of the next generation and impacting sustainable growth.

"Yet, the vast potential of their roofs, façades, and skylights remains untapped," he rued. "To decarbonize cities, we must go beyond adding renewables to the grid — we must embed solar intelligence into the architecture itself. This would require innovations across dimensions of institutions, technologies, and financing," Khanna said.

Aluminium industry seeks 15% customs duty to check surge in imports

India's aluminium demand stands at 5.5 MTs and is expected to reach 8.5 MTs by 2030

CHECK IMPORTS

- India's aluminium imports increased by over 50% in last 5 years
- To safeguard the industry, AAI seeks investments
- It urged govt to impose 15% import duty on all aluminium products
- AAI also sought stringent quality norms for non-standard scrap imports

According to the Government of India's Vision 2047 for the sector, aluminium has been identified as a strategic metal crucial to India's industrial transformation, powering defence, infrastructure, national security, power, aerospace, transportation and overall economic growth

NEW DELHI

THE Aluminium Association of India (AAI), in a detailed representation to the Ministry of Mines, has called for a flat 15 per cent basic customs duty on aluminium products as the industry is facing a challenge from the surge in imports from surplus nations driven by global tariff and non-tariff protectionist measures.

AAI, in their submission, has highlighted that there has been a jump of over 50 per cent in aluminium imports in the country in the last five years. To safeguard the industry from rising imports and encourage investments, the submission calls for a uniform import duty of 15 per cent on all aluminium products under the relevant categories, along with the enforcement of stringent quality norms for non-standard scrap imports.

Its representation calls for "urgent action to future-proof India's aluminium industry so that Indian industries can bring in investments worth around Rs 20 lakh crore."

"These measures are critical to protect domestic manufacturing, prevent India from becoming a dumping ground for poor quality scrap, attract long-term investments, and ensure India's aluminium industry is self-reliant and doesn't depend on imports," the representation states.

According to the Government of India's Vision 2047 for the sector, aluminium has been identified as a strategic metal crucial to India's industrial transformation, powering defence, infrastructure, national security, power, aerospace, transportation and overall economic growth.

India's aluminium demand currently stands at 5.5 million tonnes and is projected to reach 8.5 million tonnes by 2030. According to the 'Aluminium Vision Document', this demand is expected to surge nearly six-fold to 37 million tonnes by 2047, requiring investments exceeding Rs 20 lakh crore to build a self-reliant ecosystem. However, without swift action, India risks repeating the rare earth scenario seen in China, where strategic materials became trade levers through export restrictions. This challenge is compounded by global trends in 'scrap nationalism', where developed economies like the US and Europe retain high-quality scrap for domestic circularity while exporting poor-grade material to countries like India, according to the AAI statement.

This protectionist trend could erode India's manufacturing base by curtailing future investments and derail its Atmanirbhar Bharat vision. While Global economies are realising the importance of aluminium being a strategic metal and facilitating their domestic industry with tariff and non-tariff barriers, similar measures in India can prevent shortfall of aluminium

Q2 RESULTS

Bharti Airtel profit doubles to ₹8,651 crore

NEW DELHI: Telecom operator Bharti Airtel on Monday reported over twofold jump in consolidated net profit at Rs8,651 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, 2025. The company had clocked a profit of Rs4,153.4 crore in the same period a year ago. Revenue from operations increased by 25.7 per cent to Rs52,145 crore during the quarter from Rs41,473.3 crore in the year-ago period. Bharti Airtel's India revenue rose by 22.6 per cent year-on-year to Rs38,690 crore.

Ambuja Cements net profit surges to ₹2,302 cr

NEW DELHI: Ambuja Cements on Monday reported an over four-fold increase in profit after tax year on year at Rs2,302 crore in the second quarter ended September 2025. The Adani group firm reported a profit after tax (PAT) of Rs496 crore in the July-September quarter of last fiscal. The PAT for the September quarter this fiscal includes income tax provision reversal of Rs1,697 crore.

TCPL net profit up 10.7% to ₹406.5 cr

NEW DELHI: Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL) on Monday reported a 10.7 per cent increase in consolidated net profit to Rs406.51 crore in the second quarter ended September 2025, led by India business. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs367.21 crore in the July-September quarter a year ago, according to a regulatory filing from TCPL, the Tata group's FMCG arm. Its revenue from operations rose by 17.83 per cent to Rs 4,965.9 crore in the September quarter of FY'26.

LIC Housing Finance reports PAT of ₹1,353.87 cr in Q2

CEO sees huge growth potential in Vizag, Vijayawada areas

LIC HFL's loan portfolio rose 6 per cent to Rs3,11,816 crore, driven by a 5 per cent growth in the individual home loan segment to Rs2,64,096 crore. Asset quality improved, with Stage 3 exposure reducing to 2.51 per cent from 3.06 per cent a year ago, and ECL provisions at Rs5,074 crore with 53 per cent coverage

Santosh Patnaik
Visakhapatnam

LIC Housing Finance Ltd. set up in 1989 has recorded a steady performance in Q2 FY2025-26 with a net profit after tax (PAT) of Rs1,353.87 crore, registering a 2 per cent year-on-year growth, and total disbursements of Rs16,313 crore.

The company's revenue from operations grew 3 per cent to Rs7,163 crore, while Net Interest Income (NII) stood at Rs2,038 crore, up 3 per cent from the previous year. Net Interest Margin (NIM) for the quarter was 2.62 per cent, and the Profit Before Tax stood at Rs1,704.71 crore, up 2 per cent year-on-year.

LIC HFL's loan portfolio rose 6 per cent to Rs3,11,816 crore, driven by a 5 per cent growth in the individual home loan segment to Rs2,64,096 crore. Asset quality improved, with Stage 3 exposure reducing to 2.51 per cent from 3.06 per cent a year ago, and ECL provisions at Rs5,074 crore with 53 per cent coverage. For the half-year ended September 2025, the company reported a 3 per cent growth in net profit to Rs2,713.79 crore and a 5 per cent rise in total income to Rs14,403 crore, reflecting consistent momentum in both disbursements and earnings.

Addressing senior officials here on Monday after the opening of a sub-regional office in Vijayawada to focus exclusively on operations in Andhra Pradesh, Tribhuwan Adhikari, MD & CEO, said that the performance reflected sustained momentum in the housing finance sector supported by lower interest rates and favourable market sentiment. He added that LIC HFL remains focused on the affordable and mid-segment housing markets, leveraging partnerships and AI-enabled processes to deliver a seamless digital experience for new-age homebuyers.


Tribhuwan Adhikari, MD & CEO

Projecting high growth potential in Andhra Pradesh mainly around Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada cities, he said to concentrate more, they have opened a sub-regional office. Earlier, the regional office located in Hyderabad was looking after business in AP and Telangana. In H-1 of current fiscal, the company recorded a business of Rs5,634 crore as against Rs13,050 crore last year. This year, they are expecting a business of Rs15,000 crore in AP and Telangana.

Adhikari later told Bizz Buzz that they are expecting to advance loans to the tune of Rs4,250 crore in AP this year as against Rs3,700 crore. Projects like $15 billion AI Data Center Hub by Google and capital development projects in Amaravati will propel a huge demand for realty sector in Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada regions.

19 killed in truck-RTC bus head-on collision near Chevella

The accident was extremely serious, resulting in the complete crushing of the front part of the bus and the spillage of tons of gravel

ON COLLISION COURSE
- Hyderabad–Bijapur National Highway
- Gravel loaded truck collided with bus
- Front part of bus smashed completely
- Ex gratia announced for victims

The Chief Minister instructed the officials to immediately reach the spot and take necessary relief measures. The officials were ordered to get the complete details of the road accident and update him from time to time

Bizz Buzz Bureau
Hyderabad

AT least 19 passengers lost their lives and several others were seriously injured when a truck carrying gravel struck a TSRTC bus near the village of Mirzaguda in the Chevella mandal of Rangareddy district on Monday morning.

The incident occurred on the Hyderabad–Bijapur National Highway as the gravel truck collided with a bus from the Tandur depot. Since it was the bus's first trip, many passengers had boarded. As the bus approached Mirzaguda, a speeding tipper truck carrying gravel collided with it, resulting in the tipper overturning and its entire load spilling onto the bus.

The accident was extremely serious, resulting in the complete crushing of the front part of the bus and the spillage of tons of gravel, which trapped several passengers inside and led to fatalities. Both the bus driver and the tipper truck driver died instantly.

Authorities and rescue teams quickly arrived at the scene and initiated extensive relief efforts, utilising three JCBs to clear away the debris and rescue survivors.

Many others suffered severe injuries and were transported to Chevella Government Hospital. Medical professionals reported that the condition of five of the victims is critical.

At the time of the crash, it was reported that there were 72 passengers on the bus. The majority consisted of students and workers. The dead included ten women, eight men, and a child. Police have identified 13 of the dead bodies.

Witnesses recalled the scene as devastating, with cries for help echoing amidst the wreckage of twisted metal and piles of gravel.

CM expresses shock, announces Rs7 lakh ex-gratia

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy was shocked to learn about the devastating road accident. The Chief Minister instructed the officials to immediately reach the spot and take necessary relief measures. The officials were ordered to get the complete details of the road accident and update him from time to time.

Revanth Reddy instructed Chief Secretary K Ramakrishna Rao, DGP Shivadhar Reddy to shift all the injured persons in the bus mishap to Hyderabad for better medical treatment. The top officials were also instructed to visit the accident spot with available ministers immediately.

He ordered that emergency medical assistance should be provided to save the lives of those involved in the accident as well as sufficient ambulance and medical personnel .

Revanth Reddy ordered special arrangements to be made at Gandhi and Osmania hospitals to provide adequate treatment to those injured in the accident.

"The R&B is taking action to identify black spots to prevent road accidents in Telangana. Transport department to take serious action on fitness of buses. We will investigate the incident and take action against those responsible," he said. Minister Sridhar Babu said the government will stand by every affected family in all possible ways. The injured are being provided with the best possible medical treatment.

PM condoles mishap victims, announces Rs2 lakh ex-gratia Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed deep grief over the loss of lives due to a road accident. Modi also wished speedy recovery of those injured in the mishap.

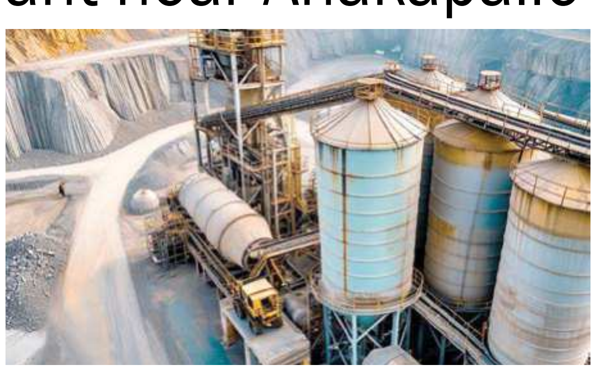
The Prime Minister announced an ex-gratia from PMNRF of Rs 2 lakh to the next of kin of each deceased and Rs 50,000 for those injured. Vice-President C P Radhakrishnan has expressed deep anguish over the loss of lives in the tragic road accident . In his message, the Vice-President said that the loss of lives in the tragic accident is deeply distressing.

NCL commissions new cement grinding plant near Anakapalle

Bizz Buzz Bureau
Visakhapatnam

NCL Industries Limited, one of India's leading cement manufacturers, has commissioned its new state-of-the-art cement grinding plant with an investment of Rs250 Rs.250 crore at Tallapalem, near Anakapalle, about 70 km from here. The plant was formally inaugurated by Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma, Union Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Steel in the presence of senior company leadership, government officials and others.

The greenfield facility adds 660,000 tonnes per annum to the company's production capacity, taking its total cement capacity to 4 million tonnes per annum (MTPA). Set up at an estimated cost of Rs250 crore, the plant spans 40 acres and is equipped to produce a range of eco-friendly cement varieties, including Portland Slag Cement (PSC), Portland Composite Cement (PCC), Portland Pozzolana Cement (PPC), Ground Granulated Blast Furnace Slag (GGBS) and Ordinary Portland Cement (OPC). The new unit is expected to generate approximately 250 direct and indirect employment opportunities



and contribute over Rs50 crore annually to the Government exchequer.

Commenting on the commissioning of the plant, K. Ravi, Vice Chairman, NCL Industries Limited, said: "The commissioning of our Visakhapatnam grinding unit is a strategic milestone in our capacity enhancement journey. This facility strengthens our presence in high-growth markets across eastern and southern India while reinforcing our commitment to operational efficiency, product quality and customer trust. With this expansion, we are well-positioned to meet increasing demand and support India's infrastructure development with reliable and superior building materials."

Over the past decade, the Indian cement industry has evolved from a commodity-driven business into a branded and customer-centric market. Capitalising on this transformation, NCL Industries has built a strong presence across southern India under its flagship brand "Nagarjuna", which holds a premium position in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. With a robust network of over 3,000 dealers, NCL's market footprint extends across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The new Visakhapatnam plant will enhance the company's ability to meet rising regional demand and further reinforce its market leadership. The Visakhapatnam plant location is strategically chosen for its proximity to major growth markets and infrastructure corridors, as well as the abundant availability of essential raw materials such as slag, fly ash and gypsum.

UN Vision diplomat visits Sri City; lauds ecosystem

Bizz Buzz Burerau
Hyderabad

JAYA Ramulu Lingutla, Chief Expert and UN Vision Diplomat Card Holder at the International Centre for Scientific and Technical Information (ICSTI), Moscow, visited Sri City on Monday as part of a special mission to Andhra Pradesh. He was warmly received by Dr Ravindra Sannareddy, Founder and Managing Director of Sri City, who presented an overview of the integrated business city.

Briefing the visitor, Dr Sannareddy emphasised that Sri City was developed through visionary leadership and structured scientific planning, enabling regional potential to scale globally. He said the city is privileged to collaborate with ICSTI and the UN framework to build ecosystems that foster industrial innovation and academic advancement, reaffirming Sri City's dedication to inclusive development and international knowledge exchange.

Commending Sri City's rapid progress, Jaya Ramulu recognised its standing as a leading investment hub, hosting more than 245 com-

panies from 31 countries. He also pointed out the city's rising prominence in education, with institutions such as IIIT, Krea University, and IFMR Business School driving academic growth. He observed that the joint skill development efforts of Sri City, the partnering industries, and the government have equipped local youth with the capabilities required to enter the industrial workforce.

During a tour of the campus and industrial facilities, including the Russian firm Kuibyshev Azot, he observed global-standard operations and expressed appreciation for the city's integration of industry and academia, aligned with ICSTI's objectives. He remarked that the visit "touches the heights to reach the un-reach," underscoring its potential to guide the development of an international skill university.

A prominent Co-Chair of BRICS IPM & IPBC, Convenor of UNGA78 Summit, IUCN Asia Member, and Secretary General of UNA APT, Jaya Ramulu is currently leading efforts to establish the Asia Pacific Work Station (APWS) at Mahanandi under the ICSTI-UN framework.

Sri City looks forward to deepening its engagement with global institutions and contributing to transformative initiatives that align with the United Nations' vision for sustainable and inclusive growth.

IN BRIEF

Lokesh calls for support to revive Vizag Steel Plant

AMARAVATI: Andhra Pradesh Government has equal responsibility with the Government of India to put Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) back on the right track by taking up corrective measures, Minister for IT, Electronics and HRD Nara Lokesh said on Monday. Lauding the sanctioning of Rs11,440-crore revival package by the Centre, he told the media here that the need of the hour is to increase the operational efficiency by implementing a slew of remedial measures. In an oblique reference to criticism by YSRCP and some union activists to privatisation of maintenance of some of the activities of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, he wondered what is wrong when the Centre and the State Government are trying to increase the performance of the company. RINL, the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant fondly called Vizag Steel, has an annual production capacity of 7.3 million tonnes. Lokesh said it is the responsibility of every Telugu person to help RINL achieve a turnaround.

KISNA opens new showroom in Karimnagar

HYDERABAD: KISNA Diamond and Gold Jewellery proudly announced the grand opening of its 5th exclusive showroom in Telangana, Karimnagar, located at Gourishetty Complex. The inauguration was graced by Ghanshyam Dholakia, Founder & Managing Director, Hari Krishna Group. To celebrate this launch, the company is offering up to 75 per cent off on making charges of diamond jewellery and up to 25 per cent off on making charges of gold jewellery, along with an additional 5 per cent instant discount on ICICI bank credit and debit cards. KISNA is also running a special Shop & Win campaign, where consumers stand a chance to win 1,000 scooters and 200 cars on the purchase of diamond and gold jewellery.

Hyd comic con draws 40,000 visitors

HYDERABAD: The Maruti Suzuki Arena Hyderabad Comic Con, powered by Crunchyroll, concluded its three-day run at HITEX exhibition centre on Sunday, drawing over 40,000 visitors and more than 400 cosplayers. Organised by Comic Con India under NODWIN Gaming, the event featured international guests including 'Lucifer' writer-producer Mike Costa and artist J. Gonzo, along with 17 Indian creators and 80 exhibitors. Interactive zones by Maruti Suzuki, Crunchyroll, Amar Chitra Katha and others kept fans engaged. The Hyderabad Qualifier of the Indian Championship of Cosplay 2026 saw Pracheta Banerjee take the top spot with a Rs50,000 prize.

AP Chambers plea for synchronising holidays

VIJAYAWADA: Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation (AP Chambers) has requested Chief Secretary K Vijayanand to the AP Government to rationalise and synchronise holidays declared under various departments and Acts. Currently, different departments — including the Labour Department (under the Shops and Establishments Act), Factories Act, General Administration Department (for Government Holidays), and the Reserve Bank of India (for bank holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act) — issue separate holiday lists. This leads to discrepancies in the number and dates of holidays, creating confusion and operational challenges for businesses, industries, and financial institutions.

300 delegates from 45 countries to attend CII Summit in Vizag

Bizz Buzz Bureau
Amaravati

MINISTER for IT, Electronics and HRD Nara Lokesh on Monday said their thrust on Speed of Doing Business is attracting many investors and corporate honchos to CII Partnership Summit being held in Visakhapatnam on November 14 and 15. Briefing reporters here on the arrangements, Lokesh who heads Group of Ministers on the summit, said they are highlighting a cluster-based approach and brand image of CBN (Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu) to bring many delegates to the two-day conclave. Buttressing on impact of Speed of Doing Business, he said big ticket projects like Google AI Data Center Hub, steel plant by ArcelorMittal and Nippon Steel (India), Cognizant, TCS have been clinched in a record time.

YSRCP leader held in spurious liquor case, Jagan calls it 'foul'

Ramesh, brother Ramu arrested under the AP Excise Act, 1968 and AP Prohibition Act, 1995 and several other statutory provisions

Bizz Buzz Bureau
Amaravati

SENIOR YSRCP leader Jogi Ramesh and his brother were arrested in connection with the alleged spurious liquor manufacture and sales in Andhra Pradesh, officials said.

Ramesh and his younger brother Jogi Ramu were arrested by the Excise department officials on Sunday morning and were produced before a local court later.

"Both the accused were arrested after duly explaining the cause of their arrest as illegal manufacture, transport, import and sale of spurious liquor," according to the re-

mand report shared by an official.

The duo was arrested under the Andhra Pradesh Excise Act, 1968 and Andhra Pradesh Prohibition Act, 1995 and several other statutory provisions.

According to sources, they were produced in a local court late on Sunday.The arrests followed the seizure of well-organised spurious liquor manufacture, distribution and sale across multiple locations in the state.

Meanwhile, YSRCP supremo YS Jagan Mohan Reddy slammed Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu over the arrest of Ramesh, calling the move "illegal and vindictive".

Reddy alleged that Naidu was caught red-handed after his government's fake liquor factories were exposed.

"The arrest of Ramesh was illegal and politically vindictive, Naidu is misusing power, he had resorted to shameless conspiracies to deflect blame and harass opposition leaders," said Reddy in a post on X late on Sunday.

The former CM alleged that the fake liquor seized by officials belonged to individuals close to Naidu's regime, including those who contested as MLA candidates from the Telugu Desam Party (TDP).

JK Paper holds jobbers' meet in Vijayawada

Bizz Buzz Burerau
Vijayawada

JK Paper Ltd., a prominent players in the paper industry and the Copier and Bond segment, concluded its JK Connect programme in Vijayawada.

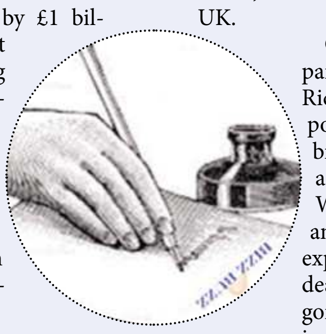
The initiative, designed to build stronger relationships with resellers, jobbers, stationers, and dealers, continues to expand JK Paper's outreach across India's high-potential markets. The Vijayawada edition witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 100 trade partners, representing the city's vibrant copier and stationery network.

The programme was organized in association with leading local distributors — Mittal Paper Agencies, Kushal Chand Pvt. Ltd., Golden Products, Arasu Papers, and Srikaar Retail Pvt. Ltd.

Tariff cuts uncork India's scotch boom, stirring investor spirits

SCOTCH investment in India in 2025 shows potential for growth driven by a new trade agreement that reduced tariffs and a rising domestic luxury market. While the global auction market for Scotch has seen a downturn, factors like increased disposable income, premiumization, and the potential for further trade liberalization create a cautiously optimistic outlook for the long term. An investment fund specifically focused on Scotch has launched, indicating new avenues for collecting and investing.

Scotch investment growth in India is strong, driven by a growing middle class, increased demand from younger consumers, and a recent trade deal that will reduce import tariffs. India is now the world's largest importer of Scotch by volume, with sales doubling in the two years prior to 2023 and projected to grow by £1 billion over the next five years following the new tariff reductions. This growth is attracting major investment from companies like Diageo and has led to the launch of dedicated investment funds.



Significant future potential: Despite strong growth, Scotch still accounts for only about two per cent of the total Indian whisky market, indicating substantial room for future growth.

Investing in whisky in India is possible through purchasing bottles or, more commonly, by buying and maturing casks. Opportunities are growing due to the rise of high-quality Indian single malts and the potential impact of the India-UK trade deal, which is set to reduce tariffs on Scotch whisky. Investors should research, consider cask vs. bottle options, understand the market, and look into direct programs with distilleries for cask ownership.

In a major development for UK-India economic relations, Britain and India have reached a long-anticipated free trade agreement that promises significant benefits for the UK's spirits industry—especially Scotch whisky and gin. Hailed as a 'landmark' deal by Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, the agreement is expected to boost the British economy by £4.8 billion annually once fully implemented.

One of the most impactful provisions of the pact is the reduction of India's 150 per cent tariff on Scotch whisky and gin. Initially halved to 75%, the tariff will gradually drop to 40 per cent over the next ten years, opening up the world's largest whisky market to UK producers like never before.

The 'once-in-a-generation deal,' projecting that the tariff cut could increase Scotch exports to India by £1 billion within five years and create 1,200 new jobs across the UK.

Chivas Brothers, part of the Pernod Ricard group, exports more than £2 billion of Scotch and gin annually. With India already among its largest export markets, the deal aligns with ongoing investments, including a €200 million distillery in Maharashtra and £100 million bottling facility in Dumbarton, Scotland.

The UK-India pact may prompt reactions from other trade players. Earlier this year, the US secured a deal to reduce India's tariffs on Bourbon from 150% to 100%. Former President Trump has voiced concerns about discriminatory practices and may push for tariff parity with the UK.

The Scotch Whisky Association (SWA) has hailed the move as a "transformative opportunity" that could reshape global demand. With freer access and fewer financial barriers, distilleries across Scotland, from Speyside legends to Islay icons, are preparing to meet an expected surge in orders.

Britain's solar wars: When politics outshine the farmers' reality

As reform stirs rural resentment, farmers face real cost of climate inaction and unfair green transitions

Alex Heffron & Tom Carter-Brookes

SEAN Matthews, the Reform UK leader of Lincolnshire County Council, has said he'll 'lie down in front of bulldozers' to stop Britain's largest solar farm being built in the county. He's taking sides in a new rural culture war that pits green energy against the countryside's traditional image of food and farming. Reform's opposition to renewables isn't surprising.

Fossil fuel interests have provided around 92 per cent of the party's funding according to research by DeSmog (when contacted by DeSmog, Reform did not comment on that finding). But solar farms have become a way for the party to mask these interests by presenting itself as a defender of farms, fields and 'common sense' against what Matthews called the "nonsense" of net zero.

Meanwhile, the protest group Farmers to Action has urged supporters to 'keep the land growing, not glowing'. Its leader, Justin Rogers, has called climate change 'one of the biggest scams that has ever been told,' and the group now operates in lockstep with the Together Declaration, a rightwing campaign group with an explicit anti-net zero agenda.

Yet a recent protest organised by these groups in Liverpool, at the Labour party conference, suggests there is limited enthusiasm in the farming community for these culture wars. While most of the speakers were farmers, very few working farmers showed up. (One of us, Tom, who has been to around 15 of these protests, was there in person and estimates about 50 out of around 300 people present were farmers.)

Those mobilising the culture wars are trying to turn localised rural resentments against solar panels into a wedge issue, and in the process win over rural voters to Reform as the party of anti-net zero.

If Reform wins the election, it will seek to impede necessary renewable energy projects. However, this conflicts with the majority of farmer sentiment, which shows they are concerned by climate change. So, while Reform UK is positioning itself as anti-climate, is the party, despite the rhetoric, actually anti-farmer?

The protest group Farmers to Action has urged supporters to 'keep the land growing, not glowing'. Its leader, Justin Rogers, has called climate change 'one of the biggest scams that has ever been told,' and the group now operates in lockstep with the Together Declaration, a rightwing campaign group with an explicit anti-net zero agenda

You can't eat electricity

Research by the Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit (ECIU) found 80 per cent of UK farmers are "concerned about the impact of climate change on their ability to make a living", while 87 per cent have experienced reduced productivity due to heatwaves, floods or other climate change-induced extreme weather. For farmers, productivity isn't just about profit – it's a central pillar of what sociologists have called the "good farmer" identity. This is the idea that being a successful food producer is central to how many farmers see themselves and their role. Since the second world war, agricultural innovations have largely been aimed at producing more food, as a way to improve domestic food security. Now, in essence, they are being asked to shift their identity to embrace energy production along with food production. But planting fields with solar panels clashes with the productivity aspect of what it means to be a good farmer. The truism that "you can't eat electricity", as Farmers to Action put it, is trying to speak to this sentiment. The accusation is that taking land out of production threatens food security. In fact, only around 0.5 per cent of UK farmland needs to be converted to solar to achieve the government's target figure. At the same time, as the research by ECIU has found, the very productivity of farming is being threatened by climate change. This presents an apparent tension. Without urgent climate action, British farms will continue to bear the costs and consequences. Environmentalists and climate activists might wish to take advantage of this tension between what farmers need and what Reform is offering. While Nigel Farage, Richard Tice and co shake their fists at the sun, farmers suffer in the heat.

Corporate profits or community interest?

Many objections to large solar farms are driven by a sense of fairness. For example, a tenant farming family in Yorkshire is about to lose 110 acres of their best arable land – half their farm – to solar panels, without any compensation. This will have a devastating impact on their business – where they have lived and farmed for many decades. For the landowner, the switch will probably be very lucrative, with energy companies reportedly offering rents as high as £1,000 per acre per year, on long-term contracts. In this scenario, the landowner wins and the tenant loses, which goes against the principle of a just transition, the idea that those affected by the shift to net zero should not lose out. This is despite the prime minister, Keir Starmer, making a pre-election pledge that tenant farmers would be protected. Effective green policy must ensure that green transitions benefit those doing the work or opposition will grow. Perhaps if the profits were recouped by local communities, not far-off corporations and large absentee landowners, nimbyism wouldn't fester so easily. There are fairer ways to deploy renewables, via initiatives which involve and benefit local communities. An example of this is Cwm Arian Renewable Energy, near to where one of us, Alex, lives. It has used the income from wind energy to support the local community in various ways, such as offering good employment, putting on community events and teaching land skills. Farmers, like the rest of society, are paying the price of high energy costs. Recent research has shown that wind energy alone has reduced British energy costs by at least £104 billion. Making clear that renewable energy developments can help with lowering energy bills could go some way to overcoming opposition. Ultimately, farmers still want to farm and produce food. At the same time, agriculture must fit into broader green transitions. The challenge is to take on board the voices and concerns of farmers and see them as part of the transition – not treat them as obstacles to it. If not, there are plentiful voices on the right who are eager to offer them an alternative.

(The authors are from Lancaster University and Keele University)

Persona-centric AI turns hype into measurable, governed business value

A disciplined architecture of personas, governance, and RoI storytelling is redefining how enterprises convert AI potential into accountable performance

Vijay Kumar

PERSONA-CENTRIC AI is reshaping the global tech landscape by centering governance, measurable RoI, and executive storytelling around a concise set of personas and high-impact use cases. A layered architecture for perception, cognition, action, social, and governance delivers reliable, explainable decision support with auditable workflows and privacy-conscious controls. With disciplined onboarding and a phased rollout, organizations can scale adoption, shorten time-to-value, and convert technical capability into competitive advantage while maintaining ethics and data security. Executives focus on RoI accountability, leveraging live dashboards and scenario planning to drive faster decisions, forecast accuracy, and cost savings, all under rigorous data provenance and risk oversight. The approach emphasizes concrete milestones, robust data strategy, and governance maturity, enabling global leaders to realize rapid value, sustained adoption, and responsible innovation across sectors.

Across markets worldwide, the business environment is being reshaped by the pragmatic adoption of persona-centric AI. This shift promises measurable value for decision-makers everywhere by foregrounding governance, clear RoI, and compelling executive storytelling. By defining a compact set of user personas and clearly scoped use cases, organizations can align AI initiatives with strategic priorities driving adoption, shortening time-to-value, and delivering transparent returns on investment, all under rigorous data governance and risk oversight.

A layered architecture that separates perception, cognition, action, social interaction, and governance delivers reliability and explainability, enabling robust decision support, auditable workflows, and compliance-ready controls. With disciplined onboarding, targeted metrics, and a phased roadmap, business leaders can scale uptake, monitor tangible benefits in real time, and translate technical capability into competitive advantage without compromising ethics or privacy.

Practically, executives worldwide are prioritizing RoI accountability. Organizations should start with a focused portfolio of personas e.g. executives, operations leaders, and frontline managers paired with high-impact use cases that show value within months rather than quarters. Expected outcomes include faster decision cycles, improved forecast accuracy, and sustainable cost savings, all while upholding strict governance over data provenance, access controls, and risk management. The architecture then materializes into a business-ready framework: perception collects real-time data streams within privacy guardrails; cognition defines goals and transparent rationales; action coordinates cross-system workflows with clear human oversight for high-stakes tasks; while the social and governance layers ensure consistent communication and ongoing regulatory compliance.

Executives focus on RoI accountability, leveraging live dashboards and scenario planning to drive faster decisions, forecast accuracy, and cost savings, all under rigorous data provenance and risk oversight

From onboarding to ongoing value realization, the focus remains on concrete milestones and measurable outcomes. Practitioner-friendly onboarding should showcase early wins such as concise executive summaries or rapid protocol recommendations while adaptive guidance and templates support staff across skill levels. A robust data strategy-documented lineage, versioned prompts, rollback capabilities, and privacy defaults grounds confidence in decision outputs and builds trust among users and stakeholders. Leaders should equip their teams with executive dashboards that translate complex analytics into intuitive narratives, featuring live ROI metrics, scenario analysis, and KPIs that illuminate progress toward strategic aims.

The economics of persona-centric AI in a global market context demand disciplined measurement and clear storytelling. ROI dashboards tailored for leadership translate analytics into business impact; scenario modeling helps anticipate demand shifts; and governance dashboards demonstrate control over risk, data usage, and compliance. The phased rollout from pilots to enterprise-scale governance ensures value is demonstrable at each stage and that governance maturity tracks capability growth. This approach aligns technology investments with enduring business imperatives: productivity gains, margin improvement, and long-horizon resilience in an economy increasingly defined by data-driven decision making.

Ultimately, the market-wide promise of persona-centric AI is a disciplined integration of design rigor, governance, and tangible business outcomes. By centering on actionable personas, adopting a layered, auditable architecture, and maintaining a rigorous onboarding and measurement regime, organizations can achieve faster time-to-value, higher adoption, and robust governance delivering measurable value while upholding ethics and privacy standards that increasingly define public trust in the modern economy. This paradigm invites global business leaders to view AI not as a distant promise but as a practical accelerant of growth, competitiveness, and responsible innovation across sectors. As AI moves from promise to practice, persona-centric governance tools us to bend complexity into clarity, turning every data-driven decision into responsible growth and enduring trust.

(The author is a strategic enterprise solutions architect at a prominent IT MNC and an alumnus of IIM Ahmedabad)

No extortion: Trump holds line in bitter shutdown stalemate

With paychecks halted and food aid at risk, Washington gridlock tightens as US President dares Democrats to reopen government on his terms

PRESIDENT Donald Trump says he 'won't be extorted' by Democrats to reopen the government, making clear that he has no plans to negotiate as the government shutdown will soon enter its sixth week.

In an interview on CBS's '60 Minutes' that aired on Sunday, Trump said that Democrats who are demanding an extension in health care subsidies 'have lost their way' and predicted that they will eventually capitulate to Republicans who have said they won't negotiate until they vote to reopen the government. "I think they have to," Trump said.

"And if they don't vote, it's their problem." Trump's comments signal that the shutdown could continue to drag on for some time as federal workers, including air traffic controllers, are set to miss additional paychecks and as there is uncertainty over whether 42 million Americans who received federal food aid will be able to access the assistance. Senate Democrats have now voted 13 times against reopening the government, insisting that they need Trump and Republicans to negotiate with them first on an extension of Affordable Care Act subsidies that are set to expire at the end of the year.

Instead of negotiating, the president reiterated his pleas to Republican leaders to change Senate rules and scrap the filibuster. But Senate Republicans have rejected that idea, arguing that the rule requiring 60 votes to overcome any objections in the Senate is vital to the institution and has allowed them to stop Democratic policies when they are in the minority. "Republicans have to get tougher," Trump said in the CBS interview. "If we end the filibuster, we can do exactly what we want." With the two parties at a standstill, the shutdown, now in its 33rd day, appears likely to become the longest in history. The previous record was set in 2019, when Trump demanded that Congress give him money for a US-Mexico border wall.

Donald Trump refuses to yield in the record-long standoff, leaving millions without pay or aid as Democrats demand talks on health subsidies

A potentially decisive week

Trump's push on the filibuster could prove a distraction for Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-SD, and Republican senators who have opted instead to stay the course as the consequences of the shutdown have become more acute. Republicans are hoping that at least some Democrats will eventually give them the votes they need as moderates have been in weekslong talks with rank-and-file Republicans about potential compromises that could guarantee votes on health care in exchange for reopening the government. Republicans need five additional Democrats to pass their bill. "We need five with a backbone to say we care more about the lives of the American people than about gaining some political leverage," Thune said on the Senate floor as the Senate left Washington for the weekend on Thursday. Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine, a Democrat, said on ABC's "This Week" on Sunday that there is a group of people talking about "a path to fix the health care debacle" and a commitment from Republicans not to fire more federal workers. But it's still unclear if those talks could produce a meaningful compromise.

Far apart on Obamacare subsidies

Trump said in the '60 Minutes' interview that the Affordable Care Act, often known as Obamacare because it was signed and championed by former President Barack Obama, is 'terrible' and that if the Democrats vote to reopen the government, "we will work on fixing the bad health care that we have right now."

Democrats feel differently, arguing that the marketplaces set up by the ACA are working as record numbers of Americans have signed up for the coverage. But they want to extend subsidies first enacted during the Covid-19 pandemic so that premiums won't go up for millions of people on January 1.

Despite a surge in renewable energy installations, operational efficiency and maintenance levels remain low

Many renewable energy assets underperform due to delayed maintenance and inadequate monitoring, says Praveen Kakulte, CEO, Powercon Group

KUMUD DAS

Right now, India's Renewable Energy (RE) installations are "scaling at an unprecedented pace, but an optimum yield extraction and care of these RE assets hasn't always kept up," says Praveen Kakulte, CEO at The Powercon Group in an exclusive interaction with *Bizz Buzz*. The RE industry has to switch the outlook to 'MWhs of energy delivered' from its current focus of 'MWs of power installed'. That's where the gap lies. A lot of assets are underperforming due to fragmented O&M practices, lack of data-driven decision-making, and insufficient technical training on ground. At Powercon, we see Asset Management as both a challenge and an opportunity to bring in deeper accountability, smarter diagnostics, and most importantly, outcomes that investors, developers, and the planet can count upon

Praveen Kakulte, CEO, Powercon Group

CAN you describe the current landscape of Renewable Energy Asset Management in India?

Absolutely! Right now, India's Renewable Energy (RE) installations are scaling at an unprecedented pace, but an optimum yield extraction and care of these RE assets hasn't always kept up. The RE industry has to switch the outlook to 'MWhs of energy delivered' from its current focus of 'MWs of power installed'. That's where the gap lies. A lot of assets are underperforming due to fragmented O&M practices, lack of data-driven decision-making, and insufficient technical training on ground. At Powercon, we see Asset Management as both a challenge and an opportunity to bring in deeper accountability, smarter diagnostics, and most importantly, outcomes that investors, developers, and the planet can count upon.

What difference does it make when a third party like Powercon manages the asset operations rather than OEM players themselves?

The difference is the goal that each player has. OEM's goal is to deliver great and more products. IPP/Asset Owner's goal is to deliver 'Maximum Electricity'. Third-party Asset Managers like Powercon are synchronised with the IPPs to deliver 'Maximum Electricity' and 'A healthy and longer life-time of the asset'.

We are technology agnostic; we hold the asset performance measureable to output, not just uptime. Our role is to optimise across the entire energy delivery chain, integrate multi-locational data from multiple OEMs, and ensure the investor gets the projected returns. It's not about maintaining equipment; it's about unlocking performance. The goal synchronisation of third party Asset Manager with IPP is greater, deeper and enriching. That's where the real value lies.

Through our Energy Studio, we've integrated AI-driven diagnostics and Machine Learning algorithms that flag anomalies before they become failures. Our partner BaxEnergy's platform 'Farsight' predicts failures by using Machine Learning/ Data Analytics. It also integrates meteorological data to help pre-empt and plan for environmental conditions

How do you see the evolution of Asset Management needs with India targeting 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030?

The scale alone demands a fundamental shift. We're not talking about managing a few parks anymore, we're talking about orchestrating a national ecosystem of assets across diverse geographies, OEMs, and performance profiles. As we move toward the 500 GW goal, Asset Management must evolve from the current fragmented O&M to an integrated singular framework serving every aspect of the asset lifecycle, from daily operations to strategic governance for performance, transparency, and long-term value creation. A shift from reactive maintenance to predictive/ insight-led operations as well as the enforcement of forecasting, scheduling and regulating power dispatch for optimum gain necessitates IT enabled energy management. That's where Powercon's Energy Studio plays a crucial role, it acts as the nerve centre for real-time diagnostics, performance benchmarking, and remote optimisation.

Combined with AI-driven analytics and a future-ready workforce trained through our in-house training academy, we're building an ecosystem that's beyond maintaining energy assets, it maximises their life and output. In the next phase of India's renewable journey, Intelligent Asset Management will be as critical as energy generation itself, and Powercon is geared to lead that shift.

Are you integrating predictive maintenance through IT or AI technologies? How effective has it been?

Yes, and we wouldn't be future-ready if we weren't. Predictive maintenance isn't a buzzword for us, it's embedded in how we operate. Through our Energy Studio, we've integrated AI-driven diagnostics and Machine Learning algorithms that flag anomalies before they become failures. Our partner BaxEnergy's platform 'Farsight' predicts failures by using Machine Learning/Data Analytics. It also integrates meteorological data to help pre-empt and plan for environmental conditions.

The results speak for themselves: we've seen up to 16% reduction in downtime and a measurable improvement in asset life and generation consistency. The key is combining on-ground insights with digital intelligence, and that's where our tech stack and experienced teams complement each other. For IPPs and asset owners, this translates into higher PLFs and fewer surprises.

Can you tell us about your current asset portfolio in India, including capacity under management, project types, and key geographies, and how it has evolved over the years?

Today, Powercon manages over 2.5 GW of Renewable Energy assets across India, spanning wind, solar, hybrid, and exclusive BoP projects. Our portfolio covers the key renewable belts in Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Karnataka, where we support a diverse mix of utility-scale, IPP, and captive installations.

We started with wind O&M nearly a decade ago, and since then, our evolution has been strategic, from technology-specific services to multi-OEM, multi-technology Asset Management, powered by our Energy Studio and Advanced Analytics. Our differentiator from Day 1 has been to keep turbines spinning optimally, remote diagnostics, and predictive maintenance, and that's where we bring real value.

Which major developers or IPPs do you currently work with, and how are you planning to expand your client base as India's renewable capacity scales up rapidly?

We work with some of the most trusted names in the Renewable Energy sector, including Tata, ReNew, Apraava, O2, Serentica, CIP, Adani, SJVN, Sembcorp, Aditya Birla, NTPC, and other leading IPPs and infrastructure funds. These longstanding relationships are a testament to our delivery, transparency, and ability to adapt to evolving industry needs.

As India races toward its 500 GW target, our growth strategy is centered on innovation, application specific offerings and Difficult To Get (D2G) solutions.

With our global footprint across 22 countries, we bring international best practices to India, while Powercon's RE ecosystem ensures we're future-ready.

We're not talking about managing a few parks anymore, we're talking about orchestrating a national ecosystem of assets across diverse geographies, OEMs, and performance profiles. As we move toward the 500 GW goal, Asset Management must evolve from the current fragmented O&M to an integrated singular framework serving every aspect of the asset lifecycle, from daily operations to strategic governance for performance, transparency, and long-term value creation

As countries race toward Net-Zero targets, what role can Hybrid Renewable Energy models (e.g., combining wind, solar, and storage) play in building energy resilience?

Hybrid Renewable Energy models are the backbone of a resilient, low-carbon future. By integrating wind, solar, and storage, we smoothen the intermittency challenge and maximise generation across timeframes and weather conditions. AI-enabled Energy Management System not only ensures grid stability but also enhances asset productivity and land-use efficiency. As storage becomes more cost-effective, hybrid systems will play a key role in peak load management, frequency regulation, and ensuring round-the-clock renewable power, critical for both national energy security and energy independence!

Do mega-sporting events like World Cup football pay off? Here's economic reality behind them

FREDERIC DIMANCHE/
KELLEY A MCCLINCHEY

WHETHER it's the World Series, the FIFA World Cup, or the Olympic Games, the hope for hosting mega sporting events is that the economy will emerge as the true winner. A quick search shows how expensive World Series tickets are, or how much it costs for accommodations, food and transportation. Similar spending patterns can be predicted for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, which Canada is hosting with Mexico and the United States. Visitor spending provides direct economic benefits, generating revenue for businesses and providing jobs. There are also indirect benefits through suppliers and staffing, and induced benefits as staff spend their wages locally. Mega-events can also generate significant reputational benefits for host cities and countries, including heightened global media exposure, enhanced national branding and greater confidence among international investors who see the city as capable of managing large-scale events. These intangible outcomes can translate into sustained tourism growth, increased economic vitality and a lasting "feel-good" effect that boosts civic pride among residents and visitors. While hosting large sporting events appears to be great for communities, research suggests the actual financial outcomes are often more modest than anticipated. Nonetheless, many politicians remain eager to host them.

Mega-events can also generate significant reputational benefits for host cities and countries, including heightened global media exposure, enhanced national branding and greater confidence among international investors who see the city as capable of managing large-scale events. These intangible outcomes can translate into sustained tourism growth, increased economic vitality and a lasting "feel-good" effect that boosts civic pride among residents and visitors

The math doesn't always add up

Tourism and event scholars suggest being cautious about the so-called multiplier effect. This is the idea that mega-events ripple throughout the economy, providing benefits for others. Meta-analyses of such events show highly variable economic outcomes and frequent overestimation of long-term benefits. A lot of spending is lost due to export leakage, where additional gain goes to non-local businesses, event organisers and ticketing agencies instead of local businesses. Often, mega sporting events cause tourism displacement, as regular tourists avoid the destination due to crowds and high prices, sometimes even after the event finishes. Politicians, tourism offices and event organisers are quick to claim large economic benefits when bidding for and hosting events. Yet some academics warn that "most economic impact studies are commissioned to legitimise a political position rather than to search for economic truth." In other words, government-commissioned studies are often biased toward positive results.

A World Series boost — but for how long?

The Toronto Blue Jays' post-season run and the World Series have produced a concentrated burst of spending: sold-out home games, fuller hotels at higher prices, restaurants and bars crowded for watch parties and heavy merchandise sales. Local media and business surveys commonly report measurable upticks in hospitality and retail during playoff runs, and small business owners cite increased footfall and merchandise revenue. Sports economists, however, urge caution in extrapolating short-term spikes into lasting gains. They describe playoff-driven forecasts as "overstated," pointing to limited duration, substantial leakage and limited job creation beyond temporary hospitality shifts. While people may spend more on a game night, they often spend less elsewhere, meaning net spending is usually smaller than headline numbers suggest. A World Series may be excellent for civic morale and a short retail bump, but it rarely transforms a city's economic trajectory on its own.

FIFA World Cup moment

The FIFA World Cup is a multi-week, globally televised event with millions of spectators and huge international attention. For Canada's co-host role in 2026, official and municipal assessments project substantial economic benefits. A City of Toronto impact assessment projects roughly $940 million in positive economic output for the Greater Toronto Area, including hundreds of millions in GDP and several thousand jobs from June 2023 to August 2026. British Columbia also estimates significant provincial output and thousands of roles tied to hosting in Vancouver. These are significant short-term impacts that reflect visitor spending and operational expenditures. But will hosting the World Cup add much to cities that are already well-known? Some are doubtful, but the visibility can help achieve tourism marketing objectives and support bids for future international events, often central to destination strategies.

Counting the real costs

Mega-events often come with significant financial and environmental costs. While they can create jobs, these are typically short-term, low-wage positions concentrated in hospitality and service sectors. Public funds directed at event staging or stadium upgrades could finance affordable housing, transit or health services with potentially higher social returns for local residents. There have also been repeated cases where promised mega-event legacies failed to materialise. Environmentally, mega-events produce significant carbon footprints from global fan travel, temporary construction, energy use and waste, with many events having more negative than positive environmental outcomes.

This is particularly relevant for transnational tournaments that attract long-distance travellers and temporary stadium retrofits. Cities seeking to maximise gains should prioritise local community benefits and measure net economic impact, not gross receipts, by accounting for displacement and export leakage. For the World Series, that means leveraging short-run enthusiasm into repeat visitation and accrued local spending habits. For FIFA 2026, the focus should be on converting global attention into long-term tourism and business flows while ensuring community benefits and limiting environmental costs. Only then will the reputational windfall translate into durable economic value.

Measuring the real impact of mega-events

Sports events can deliver meaningful short-term revenue, reputational exposure and long-term benefits, but those outcomes are neither automatic nor evenly distributed. Thoughtful policy design, transparent evaluation and binding community and environmental safeguards determine whether a World Series run or a World Cup week becomes a fleeting headline or a lasting city asset. The main benefactor of the World Cup will be FIFA, not host cities. As The Economist noted in its review of economist Andrew Zimbalist's Circus Maximus, there is "little doubt that under current conditions, prudent city governments should avoid the contests at all costs."

(Authors are from Toronto Metropolitan University & Wilfrid Laurier University)

From data to delight: The subtle power of technology in hospitality industry

AKSHAY GUPTA

OVER the past few years, I've watched technology quietly reshape the way the hospitality sector operates. It is no longer about gadgets or automation alone, but about thoughtfully designed systems that enhance guest experiences, improve efficiencies, and help us connect with visitors in more meaningful ways. From reservations to banquets, from kitchens to back offices, I've seen how technology is transforming hospitality without replacing the human touch — as that remains at its core.

Rethinking bookings and revenue

For example, in the past, room pricing was often static, adjusted only occasionally based on broad trends or seasons. Today, many established premium hotels use smart revenue management tools that adjust room rates in real time based on demand, guest behavior, local events, and competitor pricing. This shift has created greater transparency and fairness for guests while also significantly increasing direct bookings. And honestly, these tailored packages and upgrade suggestions make guests feel genuinely understood rather than simply sold to.

Smart guest services

Guest interaction has been transformed even before arrival. Many premium hotels now employ chatbots, virtual concierges, and voice-activated in-room features that provide 24/7 assistance. These tools handle routine inquiries, bookings, and room preferences, freeing staff to focus on creating meaningful, personalized experiences. In my experience, when teams are relieved from repetitive tasks, guests notice the difference in service quality and warmth.

Smart rooms and connected comfort

Hotel rooms have evolved into intelligent, responsive environments. IoT devices and connected systems now adjust lighting, temperature, and entertainment automatically based on guest preferences. I've walked through rooms where guests' habits — lighting, music, even temperature — were anticipated seamlessly. These subtle touches turn a simple stay into a truly personalized sanctuary.

Food and beverage: The data-driven kitchen

In kitchens and restaurants, technology has introduced precision and foresight. Systems now forecast guest orders, optimize menu design, minimize food waste, and automate reordering. I've observed kitchens where meals are prepared faster, waste is reduced, and menus better reflect real-time guest preferences. The combination of efficiency and creativity has never been more tangible.

Reinventing events and banquets

Event planning, once a time-consuming process, is now expedited. Advanced systems analyze client requirements — dates, budgets, guest counts, and cuisine choices — and generate detailed proposals within minutes. Many premium hotels also use tools that suggest layouts, décor ideas, and menu combinations. The result is faster confirmation, more consultative planning, and events that leave lasting impressions.

Behind the scenes: Housekeeping, maintenance, and energy efficiency

Technology quietly supports operations behind the scenes. Housekeeping schedules automatically align with occupancy levels. Maintenance systems predict equipment failures before they occur. Energy management tools analyze occupancy, weather, and equipment usage to optimize consumption while maintaining comfort. These improvements make operations safer, smoother, and more sustainable — all without being visible to guests.

Marketing and personalisation

Even before check-in, hotels can use technology to craft tailored engagement. From curated spa offers to dining recommendations, personalized suggestions based on guest history and lifestyle preferences help build loyalty. I've found that the thoughtful application of these tools enhances the guest experience without ever feeling intrusive.

The balance between tech and touch

From my perspective, the real challenge isn't implementing technology — it's using it wisely. Technology cannot replace the soul of hospitality; it amplifies it. When applied thoughtfully, it allows hotel teams to focus on genuine human connections.

Looking ahead to 2026, the hotels that will be admired most won't be those with the most automation; they will be the ones that use technology to make human service better, more intuitive, and deeply personal. The future of hospitality isn't just smart — it's smart with a human touch at its core.

(Author is Executive Director, Tivoli Hospitality Group)

Indices marginally up amid muted session

Profit taking at higher levels due to the absence of fresh domestic trigger and foreign fund outflows kept the market rangebound

RENEWED OPTIMISM

- BSE Sensex rose 39.78pts (+0.05%) to 83,978.49
- NSE Nifty surged 41.25pts (+0.16%) to 25,763.35
- FIIs offloaded Rs6,769.34 cr; DIIs bought Rs7,068.44 cr

Mumbai

BENCHMARK Sensex edged up nearly 40 points while Nifty ended above 25,750 points in a lackadaisical trade on Monday, snapping the two-day declining streak on buying in select auto and banking shares.

The 30-share BSE Sensex inched up by 39.78 points or 0.05 per cent to settle at 83,978.49 as 14 of its constituents advanced and 16 declined. During the day, it hit a high of 84,127 and a low of 83,609.54. The 50-share NSE Nifty eked out a marginal gain of 41.25 points or 0.16 per cent to end at 25,763.35. Profit taking at higher levels due to the absence of fresh domestic trigger and foreign fund outflows kept the market rangebound, analysts said.

Among Sensex firms, Mahindra & Mahindra was the biggest gainer, rising 1.7 per cent after the October sales data. Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles (TMPV) rose by 1.69 per cent. Eternal, State Bank of India, Bharti Airtel and Kotak Mahindra Bank were also among the major gainers. However, Maruti Suzuki dropped the most by 3.37 per cent. ITC, Tata Consultancy Services, Larsen & Toubro, Bharat Electronics and Titan were the major laggards.

"The domestic market ended on a marginal positive note as profit-booking was visible at the higher levels due to the absence of fresh domestic triggers. While the broader market outperformed since the quarterly earnings are steering investors' preference to take a short- to medium-term view," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said. The PSU Banking index remained a preferred bet for investors, driven by healthy earnings and improving asset quality. In contrast, IT stocks declined amid fading expectations of a US Fed rate cut, while a trade truce between the US and China eased the demand for safe-haven assets, Nair added.

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>
> - Vinod Nair, Head-Research, Geojit Investments

The BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.71 per cent and midcap index went up by 0.62 per cent. Telecommunication jumped the most by 2.90 per cent, followed by realty (2.26 per cent), healthcare (1.14 per cent), oil & gas (0.96 per cent), financial services (0.62 per cent) and bankex (0.61 per cent). Utilities, consumer durables, IT and BSE Focused IT were the laggards.

Pine Labs eyes ₹3,900 cr via IPO

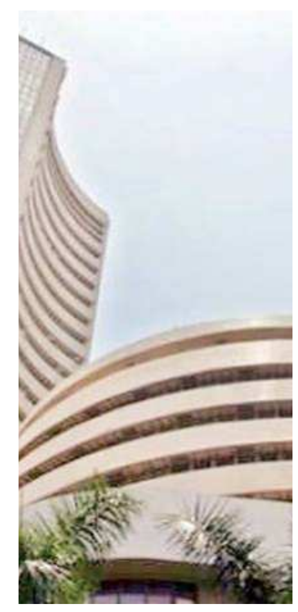
NEW DELHI: Fintech firm Pine Labs on Monday fixed a price band of Rs 210-221 per share for its upcoming initial public offering (IPO), targeting a valuation of over Rs 25,300 crore. The company's Rs 3,900 crore IPO will open for public subscription on November 7 and conclude on November 11. The bidding for anchor investors will open for a day on November 6, according to its public announcement. The IPO comprises a fresh issue of shares worth Rs 2,080 crore and an Offer for Sale (OFS) of over 8.23 crore equity shares, valuing Rs 1,819.9 crore at the upper end, by existing shareholders. Under the OFS, Peak XV Partners, London-based Actis, PayPal, Mastercard Asia/Pacific, Temasek through Macritchie Investments, Invesco, Madison India Capital, MW XO Digital Finance Fund Holdco, Lone Cascade LP, Sofina Ventures S.A., and Pine Labs co-founder Lokvir Kapoor will be divesting their shares in the fintech firm. Proceeds from the fresh issue will be used by the company to repay debt, investment in IT assets, expenditure towards cloud infrastructure, technology development initiatives and procurement of digital checkout points. The company will use funds for investment in its subsidiaries, such as Qwikcilver Singapore, Pine Payment Solutions, Malaysia, and Pine Labs UAE, for expanding the presence outside the country.

Market is largely positive

83,700 and 83,500 would act as key support zones, with a potential to move up to 84,300 and 84,700. Below 83,500, the chances of hitting 83,200 would increase

Kumud Das
Mumbai

THE benchmark indices witnessed range-bound activity. The Sensex was up by 40 points. Among sectors, the Reality index outperformed today, rallied 2.40 per cent, whereas intraday profit booking was seen in selective auto and IT stocks at higher levels. Technically, after a correction, the market has formed an intraday reversal pattern. Additionally, on daily charts, it has formed a small bullish candle, which is largely positive.



Shrikant Chouhan, Head - Equity Research, Kotak Securities, said: "For day traders, 83,700 and 83,500 would act as key support zones. As long as the market trades above these levels, a pullback formation is likely to continue, with the index potentially moving up to 84,300. Further upside may also persist, which could lift the index to 84,700. On the flip side, below 83,500, the uptrend would become vulnerable. If the market falls below this level, the chances of hitting 83,200 would increase."

STOCK PICKS

JK TYRE | TRADE – BUY | CMP: RS442 | SL: RS420 | TARGETS: RS470- RS485

JK Tyre continues to trade in a strong uptrend after breaking out from a key resistance zone near Rs430. The stock is witnessing steady volume accumulation and higher-top, higher-bottom formations on the daily chart. Momentum indicators such as RSI remain firmly in the bullish territory, suggesting further upside potential toward Rs470 and Rs485. A stop-loss at Rs420 is advised for traders to manage risk effectively.

CEAT LTD | TRADE – BUY | CMP: RS4,028 | SL: RS3,950 | TARGETS: RS4,200-RS4,350

CEAT Ltd maintains a bullish structure on the charts with consistent follow-through buying interest. The stock has sustained above its crucial short-term averages, confirming strength in the trend. RSI and volume trends are supportive, indicating potential for continued momentum. Holding above Rs4,000 could lead to upside toward Rs4,200 and Rs4,350. Stop-loss recommended at Rs3,950.

(Source: Riyank Arora Technical Analyst at Mehta Equities)

Gold falls by ₹300; silver rallies ₹1,000

NEW DELHI: Gold prices fell by Rs 300 to Rs 1,25,300 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday as a stronger dollar and easing global uncertainties weighed on investor appetite for the safe-haven asset. The precious metal of 99.5 per cent purity declined by Rs 300 to Rs 1,24,700 per 10 grams. It had closed at Rs 1,25,000 per 10 grams on Friday, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Gold of 99.9 per cent purity had settled at Rs 1,25,600 per 10 grams on Friday. On the other hand, silver rallied by Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,54,000 per kilogram from Friday's closing of Rs 1,53,000 per kg. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.09 per cent to 99.89, weighed on bullion prices. In international markets, spot gold slipped below $4,000, declining 0.14 per cent to $3,996.77 per ounce, while spot silver was marginally lower at $48.64 per ounce.

Bullion futures rise as safe-haven demand

GOLD and silver climbed higher in futures trade on Monday driven by a modest safe-haven demand in the international markets amid reports that US President Donald Trump may impose restrictions on exports of advanced artificial intelligence hardware to China. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), the yellow metal futures for December delivery appreciated by Rs 483, or 0.4 per cent, to Rs 1,21,715 per 10 grams in a business turnover of 13,230 lots. In the previous week, gold had dropped by Rs 2,219, or 1.8 per cent on the exchange. Silver futures for December delivery jumped by Rs 909, or 0.61 per cent, to Rs 1,49,196 per kilogram in 19,935 lots. The white metal snapped a nearly two-week losing streak, rising Rs 817, or 0.55 per cent, during the past week.

Crude oil futures gain on spot demand

CRUDE oil prices on Monday rose Rs 32 to Rs 5,454 per barrel in futures trade as participants increased their positions following a firm spot demand. Crude oil for November delivery traded higher Rs 32 or 0.59 per cent at Rs 5,454 per barrel in 15,062 lots. Analysts said raising of bets by participants kept crude oil prices higher in futures trade. Globally, West Texas Intermediate crude was trading 0.64 per cent higher at $61.37 per barrel, while Brent crude rose 0.65 per cent to $65.20 per barrel in New York.

GIFT Nifty logs record monthly turnover of $106.22bn in Oct

Since its inception, it recorded a total cumulative turnover of $2.40-trn till October

Mumbai

MULTI-ASSET exchange NSE International Exchange (NSEIX) on Monday informed that its international Nifty futures contract, GIFT Nifty, witnessed a record monthly turnover of $106.22 billion in the month of October. The October turnover of 2.11 million contracts exceeded the previous high of $102.35 billion reached in May 2025, according to the exchange.

The milestone reflects the growing global interest and trust in the GIFT Nifty as a benchmark for the India's growth story, according to the exchange. Since launching full-scale operations on July 3, 2023, GIFT Nifty has recorded over 52.77 million contracts and a total cumulative turnover of $2.40 trillion as of October 2025, the statement said.

Trading turnover on NSEIX has been growing exponentially since the commencement of a full-scale operation of GIFT Nifty. "We are glad to witness the success of GIFT Nifty and express our sincere gratitude to all the participants for their overwhelming support and making GIFT Nifty a successful contract," according to the NSE.

The exchange had earlier informed that GIFT Nifty achieved a record open interest (OI) on October 24, 2025. GIFT Nifty saw an open interest of 4,10,100 contracts worth $21.23 billion or Rs 1,86,226 crore. NSEIX, located at GIFT City, was established on June 5, 2017, and is recognised by the International Financial Services Centres Authority. It claims a market share of over 99.7 per cent in GIFT IFSC.

NSEIX offers Indian single stock derivatives, index derivatives, currency derivatives, depository receipts, and global stocks to investors. The exchange also provides a comprehensive range of primary market products, including listings of equity shares, SPACs, REITs, InvITs, depository receipts, debt securities, and ESG debt securities. In October, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled foreign currency settlement system in GIFT City to boost international trade, investment, and ease of doing business.

Seven firms gets Sebi nod to launch IPOs

New Delhi

AS many as seven companies, including Softbank-backed e-commerce firm Meesho and Temasek-backed e-commerce enablement platform Shiprocket, have secured Sebi's approval to raise funds through initial public offerings (IPO), an update with the markets regulator showed on Monday.

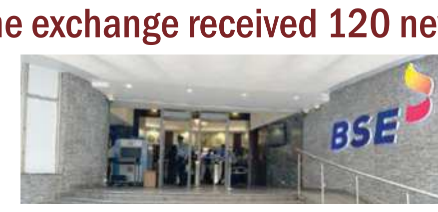
Others that received regulatory approval are Rajputana Stainless, Skyways Air Services, German Green Steel and Power, Allied Engineering Works, and Manika Plastech. All seven companies, which filed their preliminary IPO papers with Sebi between May and July, obtained its observations during October 14 to 31, the update showed.

In regulatory terms, Sebi's observation is equivalent to clearance for launching a public issue. The approval comes at a time when the Indian market is experiencing a boom in primary market activity. Meesho's proposed IPO comprises a fresh issue of equity shares up to Rs 4,250 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of 17.57 crore equity shares by certain existing shareholders. The OFS includes the sale of equity shares by some of Meesho's early investors, including Elevation, Peak XV, Venture Highway and Y Combinator, among others.

BSE resolves 143 investor complaints in Oct

During the same period, the exchange received 120 new complaints against 81 cos

Mumbai



THE Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) said on Monday that it resolved 143 investor complaints against 90 companies during the month of October. These include several complaints carried forward from previous months.

During the same period, the exchange received 120 new complaints against 81 companies, the BSE said in its monthly investor grievance report. "During the month, BSE received 120 complaints against 81 companies. In the same period 143 complaints were resolved against 90 companies," it said. "These resolved complaints include complaints brought forward from the previous periods," the bourse added.

According to the exchange, the top three companies where investor complaints have been pending for redressal for more than one month as of October 31, are JSW Steel Limited with five complaints, Aneri Fincap Limited with four complaints, and Franklin Industries Limited with four complaints.

The BSE said it continues to take measures to address investor grievances in a timely manner to strengthen market integrity and investor confidence. Earlier, in September, the stock exchange had resolved 190 complaints against 126 companies and received 173 new complaints.

The stock exchange informed that the top three companies where complaints have been pending for redressal for more than one month as of September 2025 include Suraj Products Limited, Bajaj Auto Limited, and Reliance Home Finance Limited.

Rupee weakens 5ps to 88.75/$

Expect the local unit to trade with a slight negative bias

MUMBAI: The rupee extended its descent for the third straight day and settled five paise down at 88.75 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, near its all-time low level, weighed down by a strong American currency and foreign fund outflows. Forex traders said domestic equities ended on a positive note and supported the domestic unit at lower levels. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 88.73 and touched an intraday low of 88.80 against the greenback. The unit ended the session at 88.75 (provisional) against the dollar, logging a loss of 5 paise from its previous closing level. The rupee had ended one paisa lower at 88.70 against the dollar on Friday, a day after crashing 47 paise on Thursday, following the hawkish commentary by US Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell, even as the Fed reduced the interest rate by 25 basis points. The domestic currency has recorded its lowest-ever closing level of 88.81 against the dollar on October 14. Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Currency and Commodities, Mirae Asset ShareKhan, said the Indian rupee declined to near its all-time low amid a strong US dollar and broad strength in crude oil prices. However, positive domestic equities cushioned the downside. "We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on strengthening in the US dollar and dollar demand from importers to hedge their open positions," he said, adding that any intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may also support the rupee.

Tech stocks drive world shares higher

Asian and European markets soared higher on strong buying of tech-related and shipbuilders' shares

Bangkok

WORLD shares and US futures advanced on Monday, with South Korea's market leading gains in Asia thanks to strong buying of tech-related and shipbuilders' shares.

European benchmarks began the week with gains. Germany's DAX climbed 0.9 per cent to 24,165.15, and the FTSE 100 edged 0.1 per cent higher to 9,731.48. In Paris, the CAC 40 was up 0.3 per cent to 8,145.80. The future for the Dow Jones Industrial Average was 0.1 per cent higher, while that for the S&P 500 gained 0.3 per cent.

On Friday, Amazon led the US stock market higher, gaining 9.6 per cent after it reported a much bigger profit than analysts had expected. The S&P 500 rose 0.3 per cent and the Dow industrials gained 0.1 per cent. The Nasdaq composite gained 0.6 per cent to 23,724.96.

Crude prices rose and then fell as the United Arab Emirates opened a major oil summit Monday, just after the OPEC+ group of the cartel and its allies announced they would halt planned production increases for early 2026.

In Asian trading, South Korea's Kospi jumped 2.8 per cent to 4,221.87, yet another record close. Computer chip maker SK Hynix's shares soared 11 per cent, helped by recent moves to team up with Nvidia in developing the country's artificial intelligence infrastructure and capabilities. Samsung Electronics, the country's biggest company, gained 3.4 per cent.

South Korean shipbuilders also logged gains after China said it would cancel added port fees on US-invested or US-flagged vessels after US President Donald Trump met last week with Chinese leader Xi Jinping. Japan's markets were closed for a holiday. Chinese markets also gained. Hong Kong's Hang Seng picked up 1 per cent to 26,158.36.

Gains for technology shares were offset by declines for gold shops like Chow Tai Food Jewellery Group. Its stocks dropped 8.7 per cent after the Chinese government reduced the amount of tax rebates on sales of the precious metal. The rebates have been one factor behind a frenzy of gold purchasing that has helped push its price to record levels recently. However, Chinese buying is just one reason for the rally in gold prices. Many investors have been investing in gold as a hedge against uncertainties, and that includes central banks.

> Chinese government reduced the amount of tax rebates on sales of the precious metal. The rebates have been one factor behind a frenzy of gold purchasing that has helped push its price to record levels recently. However, Chinese buying is just one reason for the rally in gold prices

A private sector measure of factory activity, the RatingDog China General Manufacturing PMI, showed an overall slowing of manufacturing in China, to 50.6 in October from 51.2 in September. That's on a scale from zero to 100, where 50 marks a level of expansion. The official PMI reading by the National Bureau of Statistics, released Friday, likewise showed factory activity slowing, to 49 last month from 49.8 in September.

The Shanghai Composite index rose 0.6 per cent to 3,976.52. Taiwan's benchmark Taiex picked up 0.4 per cent. There was no immediate or obvious reaction to Trump's assertion that Chinese leader Xi had promised not to take any action against the self-governed island of Taiwan, while Beijing claims as its territory, while Trump was in office.

The long-contentious issue of Taiwan did not come up in Trump's talks with Xi on Thursday in South Korea, which largely focused on US-China trade tensions, Trump said.

NIFTY 50

Symbol	LTP	%Chg
ADANIENT	2,469.50	-11.5
ADANIPORTS	1,446.20	-5.3
APOLLOHOSP	7,835.00	154
ASIANPAINT	2,512.00	1.2
AXISBANK	1,233.10	0.3
BAJAJ-AUTO	8,928.00	35.5
BAJAJFINSV	2,080.70	-7.6
BAJFINANCE	1,040.60	-2.2
BEL	422.2	-3.9
BHARTIARTL	2,077.00	22.5
CIPLA	1,509.60	8.3
COALINDIA	389	0.35
DRREDDY	1,198.00	0.4
EICHERMOT	7,020.00	13
ETERNAL	322.35	4.6
GRASIM	2,905.00	13.3
HCLTECH	1,544.00	2.5
HDFCBANK	993.4	6.1
HDFCLIFE	737	5.15
HINDALCO	845.5	-2.35
HINDUNILVR	2,460.00	-5.5
ICICIBANK	1,349.00	3.7
INDIGO	5,700.00	75
INFY	1,486.00	3.7
ITC	414	-6.35

Symbol	LTP	%Chg
JIOFIN	306.9	0.1
JSWSTEEL	1,194.90	-11.1
KOTAKBANK	2,110.40	8.2
LT	3,980.90	-50
M&M	3,553.20	66
MARUTI	15,634.00	-552
MAXHEALTH	1,152.00	4.2
NESTLEIND	1,268.80	-2.8
NIFTY 50	25,763.35	41.25
NTPC	335.4	-1.55
ONGC	256.8	1.4
POWERGRID	288	-0.15
RELIANCE	1,487.30	0.9
SBILIFE	1,969.50	13.8
SBIN	948.6	11.6
SHRIRAMFIN	795.15	46.25
SUNPHARMA	1,706.60	15.9
TATACONSUM	1,195.50	30.5
TATASTEEL	182.7	-0.14
TCS	3,019.50	-38.5
TECHM	1,419.70	-4.7
TITAN	3,731.40	-15.3
TMPV	417.4	7.4
TRENT	4,714.00	19.7
ULTRACEMCO	11,970.00	23
WIPRO	240.72	0.05

Ambuja Cements shares rise over 2%

NEW DELHI: Shares of Ambuja Cements on Monday climbed more than 2 per cent after the firm reported an over four-fold increase in profit after tax in the second quarter ended September 30, 2025. The stock rose 2.14 per cent to settle at Rs 577.35 on the BSE. During the day, it climbed 3 per cent to Rs 582.70. At the NSE, the stock edged higher by 2 per cent to Rs 577.20. Adani Group firm Ambuja Cements Ltd on Monday reported an over four-fold increase in profit after tax at Rs 2,302 crore in the second quarter ended September 2025. It had reported a profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 496 crore in the July-September quarter of the last fiscal, according to a regulatory filing from Ambuja Cements Ltd (ACL). The PAT for the September quarter this fiscal includes income tax provision reversal of Rs 1,697 crore, due to favourable High Court decisions, Ambuja Cements said in a regulatory filing. ACL's consolidated revenue from operations in the September quarter of FY26 was at Rs 9,129.73 crore, up 25 per cent from Rs 7,304.77 crore in the corresponding period last fiscal.

BULLISH

Symbol	LTP	%Chg	Symbol	LTP	%Chg
BANKBARODA	292.7	4.65	LICI	926.9	3.24
BPCL	369.7	3.67	PIIND	3714.4	3.64
DABUR	503.2	3.13	SHRIRAMFIN	793	5.8
IDEA	9.65	9.91	SUPREMEIND	3959.4	3.6
INDUSTOWER	384.3	4.96	VEDL	516.35	3.98

BEARISH

Symbol	LTP	%Chg	Symbol	LTP	%Chg
AMBER	7933.5	-0.95	NAUKRI	1363.9	-1.03
AUBANK	871.95	-1.11	POLYCAB	7652	-1.22
BEL	423.7	-1.22	SHREECEM	28080	-1.04
CAMS	3903	-0.095	TCS	3037	-1.26
COLPAL	2203	-1.13	TITAN	3728	-1.09

52 WEEKS H & L

HIGH

Symbol	LTP	High Price	%Chg
AIMTRON	866.05	838.85	7.97
CUMMINSIND	4358.5	4399.7	0.33
GVT&D	3165	3204.9	4.2
IFBAGRO	1443.8	1373.15	9.03
INDIANB	882	879	2.71
KMEW	2695.5	2599.9	11.45
LAURUSLABS	976	972.55	2.34
LGBBROSLTD	1619.1	1600	14.19
MCX	9531.5	9617	3.12
NAVINFLUOR	5914	5839	3.98
PRIVISCL	2965	2954.7	2.11
PSPPROJECT	974	949.85	4.87
RPEL	872	889.5	11.56
SBILIFE	1969.5	1978.7	0.71
SBIN	948.6	946.7	1.24
TATACONSUM	1195.5	1191.2	2.62
TATVA	1410	1447.4	-0.86
THANGAMAYL	2603.5	2289	20

LOW

CLEAN	1014	1007	985
COHANCE	743.75	749.05	733.45
FAIRCHEMOR	751.5	745	745
GOCOLORS	638.4	642.3	638
HDBFS	722.8	727.3	722.1

PROFIT BOOKING

Symbol	LTP	%Chg
JSWSTEEL	1198.7	-1.11
NESTLE	1270.5	-0.74
TATASTEEL	183.8	-0.05

SHORT COVERING

Symbol	LTP	%Chg
CGPOWER	749.45	1.36
DLF	785.5	3.2
GODREJCP	1180	5.36
HFCL	78.55	6.41
IIFL	543.8	1.34
LAURUSLAB	980.6	2.31
LODHA	1243.1	3.14
PHOENIXLTD	1758.8	3.84
UNIONBANK	151.53	1.28
UPL	734.85	1.33

MARKET MATTERS

COMMODITY WATCH

COPPER FUTURES ADVANCE ON INCREASED TURNOVER

New Delhi

COPPER futures rose 0.07 per cent to Rs 1,011.60 per kilogram on Monday due to higher spot demand. On the Multi Commodity Exchange, copper contracts for November delivery grew 75 paise in a business turnover of 9,527 lots. Analysts attributed the rise in copper prices to higher bets by participants.

Aluminium futures rise on spot demand

Aluminium prices rose Rs 1.55 to Rs 276 per kilogram in the futures trade as speculators built up fresh positions amid a positive trend in the spot market. Aluminium for delivery in November increased 0.56 per cent in 229 lots.

Zinc futures gain on fresh bets

Zinc prices rose Rs 3.05 to Rs 301 per kilogram in futures trade amid a pick-up in spot demand. Zinc contracts for December delivery traded higher by 1.02 per cent in a business turnover of 460 lots.

COMMODITY MARKET

MCX

Symbol	LTP	%Chg
ALUMINIUM	274.05	0.85
COPPER	1010.85	0.83
CRUDEOIL	5411	-0.2
GOLD	121525	0.24
LEAD	183.45	0.05
MCXBULLDEX	28543	-76

Symbol	LTP	%Chg
MCXMETLDEX	19253	0.49
NATURALGAS	378.1	3.62
NICKEL	1308	0.18
SILVER	148865	0.39
ZINC	302.9	0.77

Precious metals rise marginally in intl markets

As expectations for further US rate cuts diminished and safe-haven demand eased following a US-China trade deal

New Delhi

IN the international markets, Comex gold futures for December delivery rose 0.27 per cent to $4,007.45 per ounce while silver went up by 0.66 per cent to $48.48 an ounce.

"Gold prices are consolidating around $4,000 and silver around $48 an ounce, as expectations for further US rate cuts diminished and safe-haven demand eased following a US-China trade deal," Renisha Chainani, Head - Research at Augmont, said.

She added that despite the US Federal Reserve's widely anticipated rate cut last week, Chair Jerome Powell hinted that it might be the last one this year, citing the lack of economic data due to the prolonged government shutdown.

Last week, Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping reached an agreement to prevent their trade dispute from escalating further. Under the deal, Washington agreed to reduce tariffs, while Beijing pledged to lift restrictions on rare earth exports and increased its purchases of American soy beans.

"The price of gold may decline if the US-China trade agreement has positive effects on the market for safe-haven assets. Gold's recent strong drop has not affected its long-term favourable fundamental drivers. "However,

China's decision to eliminate the 6 per cent VAT incentive on gold sales could raise consumer prices and temper the safe-haven demand in one of the world's largest bullion markets," Chainani said.

In its latest Gold Demand Trends report, the World Gold Council (WGC) said investor demand continued to dominate in the third quarter. Global gold demand increased as massive exchange traded fund (ETF) inflows stood over 222 tonnes, while bar and coin demand posted its fourth consecutive quarter exceeding 300 tonnes, as per the industry body WGC.

Meanwhile, the lengthy US government shutdown has delayed several key economic releases, including monthly jobs data, creating uncertainty in markets. "This week, investors will look for cues from private indicators such as the Michigan consumer sentiment index, ISM PMIs, and the ADP employment report," Chainani added.

NIFTY 500

Symbol	LTP	%Chg
360ONE	1,095.00	14.3
3MINDIA	30,865.00	1,305.00
AADHARHFC	509	-0.85
AARTIIND	389.15	9.2
AAVAS	1,655.00	5
ABB	5,256.50	36.5
ABBOTINDIA	29,080.00	85
ABCAPITAL	334.15	9.95
ABFRL	85.45	3.81
ABLBL	136.09	2.49
ABREL	1,875.10	-1.6
ABSLAMC	769	7
ACC	1,864.50	-17
ACE	1,096.60	-4.3
ACMESOLAR	273.5	-8.3
ADANIENSOL	994.3	8.1
ADANIENT	2,469.50	-11.5
ADANIGREEN	1,108.00	-32
ADANIPORTS	1,446.20	-5.3
ADANIPOWER	156.8	-1.05
AEGISLOG	768.3	18.15
AEGISVOPAK	276.15	-2.8
AFCONS	451.5	3.45
AFFLE	1,897.00	-33.6
AGARWALEYE	512.2	5.95
AIAENG	3,283.00	33.1
AIIL	2,835.20	-72.9
AJANTPHARM	2,535.00	69.7
AKUMS	466.5	5.75
AKZOINDIA	3,261.00	19.3
ALKEM	5,635.00	128.5
ALKYLAMINE	1,881.10	21.1
ALOKINDS	17.32	-0.1
AMBER	7,946.00	-90.5
AMBUJACEM	578.75	13.35
ANANDRATHI	3,093.00	4.6
ANANTRAJ	651	6.6
ANGELONE	2,565.10	72.7
APARINDS	8,540.00	-131
APLAPOLLO	1,802.00	10.5
APLLTD	929	31.6
APOLLOHOSP	7,835.00	154
APOLLOTYRE	508.4	6.9
APTUS	302.9	-14.7
ARE&M	1,012.00	7.2
ASAHIINDIA	928	5.1
ASHOKLEY	139.99	-1.54
ASIANPAINT	2,512.00	1.2
ASTERDM	679	0.95
ASTRAL	1,483.00	32.9
ASTRAZEN	9,789.00	234
ATGL	625.25	-6.35
ATHERENERG	688	-3.95
ATUL	5,900.00	137.5
AUBANK	867.5	-10.35
AUROPHARMA	1,156.10	17.2
AWL	275	0.15
AXISBANK	1,233.10	0.3
BAJAJ-AUTO	8,928.00	35.5
BAJAJFINSV	2,080.70	-7.6
BAJAJHFL	109.9	-0.31
BAJAJHLDNG	12,131.00	-172
BAJFINANCE	1,040.60	-2.2
BALKRISIND	2,297.70	17.9
BALRAMCHIN	460.05	1.1
BANDHANBNK	157.85	1.29
BANKBARODA	291.4	13
BANKINDIA	141.93	2.05
BASF	4,463.30	51.3
BATAINDIA	1,070.00	-0.6
BAYERCROP	4,865.00	-19.6

Symbol	LTP	%Chg
BBTC	1,979.90	-0.9
BDL	1,538.00	8.1
BEL	422.2	-3.9
BEML	2,208.50	8.6
BERGEPAINT	538.9	-3.2
BHARATFORG	1,340.00	15.3
BHARTIARTL	2,077.00	22.5
BHARTIHEXA	1,870.00	9.2
BHEL	265.15	-0.35
BIKAJI	725.7	-4.9
BIOCON	378.4	6.3
BLS	318.5	3.9
BLUEDART	6,365.00	-207
BLUEJET	677	20.6
BLUESTARCO	1,905.60	-31.8
BOSCHLTD	37,090.00	-155
BPCL	367.6	10.8
BRIGADE	1,039.70	2
BRITANNIA	5,814.00	-22.5
BSE	2,542.80	63.8
BSOFT	373.1	1.5
CAMPUS	278.3	-1.55
CAMS	3,888.30	-53
CANBK	139.69	2.7
CANFINHOME	864.55	-3.35
CAPLIPOINT	2,006.00	-26.8
CARBORUNIV	909.9	9.4
CASTROLIND	196.09	1.08
CCL	876	16.25
CDSL	1,592.80	5.6
CEATLTD	4,026.60	-6.1
CENTRALBK	39.85	0.37
CENTURYPLY	753.45	-1
CERA	6,291.00	64.5
CESC	179.86	-0.1
CGCL	202.99	-0.04
CGPOWER	745	8.35
CHALET	962.95	13.2
CHAMBLFERT	489.1	8.25
CHENNPETRO	947	-32.35
CHOICEIN	828.5	-8.1
CHOLAFIN	1,717.10	20.3
CHOLAHLDNG	2,010.00	97.4
CIPLA	1,509.60	8.3
CLEAN	1,014.00	5.2
COALINDIA	389	0.35
COCHINSHIP	1,791.40	1.9
COFORGE	1,794.90	16.8
COHANCE	743.75	-9.65
COLPAL	2,200.30	-18.7
CONCOR	550.6	5.35
CONCORDBIO	1,468.00	24.2
COROMANDEL	2,160.00	35.4
CRAFTSMAN	6,775.00	95
CREDITACC	1,407.00	-16.6
CRISIL	4,860.00	-69.2
CROMPTON	284	1.3
CUB	235.7	7.03
CUMMINSIND	4,358.50	14.4
CYIENT	1,160.60	-1.9
DABUR	502.3	14.75
DALBHARAT	2,084.00	-12.8
DATAPATTNS	2,753.20	9.2
DBREALTY	151.8	2.92
DCMSHRIRAM	1,281.00	3.4
DEEPAKFERT	1,485.00	-6.6
DEEPAKNTR	1,734.90	6.5
DELHIVERY	472	6.05
DEVYANI	161	-0.8
DIVISLAB	6,790.00	52
DIXON	15,497.00	3

Symbol	LTP	%Chg
DLF	780	23.75
DMART	4,164.00	10.5
DOMS	2,560.00	-12.1
DRREDDY	1,198.00	0.4
ECLERX	4,730.00	2.4
EICHERMOT	7,020.00	13
EIDPARRY	1,063.00	-9.4
EIHOTEL	395	5.2
ELECON	557.5	-3.95
ELGIEQUIP	497.1	-0.3
EMAMILTD	532.7	-1.7
EMCURE	1,317.50	-1.4
ENDURANCE	2,884.80	46.2
ENGINERSIN	201.6	-0.58
ENRIN	3,194.70	9.1
ERIS	1,597.40	5.7
ESCORTS	3,847.00	60.5
ETERNAL	322.35	4.6
EXIDEIND	383.95	2.05
FACT	908	4.65
FEDERALBNK	237.52	0.91
FINCABLES	795.65	9.75
FINPIPE	188.3	0.29
FIRSTCRY	348	-0.4
FIVESTAR	660	7.25
FLUOROCHEM	3,720.00	-23.6
FORCEMOT	18,451.00	797
FORTIS	1,030.00	6.9
FSL	353.25	-0.65
GAIL	183.95	1.19
GESHIP	1,082.10	-17.5
GICRE	380.1	5.9
GILLETTE	8,880.00	-136.5
GLAND	1,971.00	42.1
GLAXO	2,688.40	69.8
GLENMARK	1,896.50	5.3
GMDCLTD	601.25	6.95
GMRAIRPORT	93.6	-0.37
GODFRYPHLP	3,100.00	22.3
GODIGIT	361	2.35
GODREJAGRO	660.05	-3.2
GODREJCP	1,179.90	61.3
GODREJIND	1,129.80	24.9
GODREJPROP	2,313.90	25.9
GPIL	281.1	-2.65
GRANULES	576.1	10.5
GRAPHITE	617.05	-6.1
GRASIM	2,905.00	13.3
GRAVITA	1,802.90	135.8
GRSE	2,580.00	23.9
GSPL	309.75	0.1
GUJGASLTD	410.95	3.55
GVT&D	3,165.00	127.6
HAL	4,698.00	18.2
HAPPSTMNDS	511	-4.55
HAVELLS	1,498.00	4.1
HBLENGINE	987.7	-16.5
HCLTECH	1,544.00	2.5
HDFCAMC	5,401.50	22.5
HDFCBANK	993.4	6.1
HDFCLIFE	737	5.15
HEG	584	-7
HEROMOTOCO	5,532.00	-12
HEXT	691	3.6
HFCL	77.99	4.48
HINDALCO	845.5	-2.35
HINDCOPPER	343.5	3.25
HINDPETRO	483.55	7.55
HINDUNILVR	2,460.00	-5.5
HINDZINC	480.4	3.9
HOMEFIRST	1,257.00	61.9
HONASA	280	-4.3
HONAUT	36,710.00	215
HSCL	474.45	-7.8

Symbol	LTP	%Chg
HUDCO	237.8	0.8
HYUNDAI	2,435.00	-3.7
ICICIBANK	1,349.00	3.7
ICICIGI	2,003.00	9.3
ICICIPRULI	601	9.85
IDBI	101.48	-2.32
IDEA	9.58	0.85
IDFCFIRSTB	82	0.23
IEX	140.15	1.09
IFCI	57.3	-0.65
IGIL	344.7	7
IGL	215.45	3.51
IIFL	540.75	6.15
IKS	1,630.00	-15.9
INDGN	536	-3.4
INDHOTEL	748	6.2
INDIACEM	403.25	0.9
INDIAMART	2,465.90	8
INDIANB	882	23.3
INDIGO	5,700.00	75
INDUSINDBK	797	2.2
INDUSTOWER	382.75	19.15
INFY	1,486.00	3.7
INOXINDIA	1,196.00	9
INOXWIND	157.46	2.33
INTELLECT	1,191.50	58
IOB	40.44	0.33
IOC	166.9	1
IPCALAB	1,308.60	37.4
IRB	45.08	0.29
IRCON	169.2	-0.42
IRCTC	725	6.3
IREDA	153.49	1.56
IRFC	123.28	-0.03
ITC	414	-6.35
ITCHOTELS	216.15	-0.73
ITI	326.8	2.1
J&KBANK	107.6	1.47
JBCHEPHARM	1,711.00	28.7
JBMA	659.65	-5.35
JINDALSAW	175	-0.25
JINDALSTEL	1,074.50	7.7
JIOFIN	306.9	0.1
JKCEMENT	5,899.50	-314.5
JKTYRE	442.15	10.1
JMFINANCIL	168	3.98
JPPOWER	17.99	-0.03
JSL	752	-1.7
JSWENERGY	535	7.55
JSWINFRA	290.9	1.05
JSWSTEEL	1,194.90	-11.1
JUBLFOOD	600.2	2.35
JUBLINGREA	687.3	-2.65
JUBLPHARMA	1,159.00	58
JWL	323.75	1.1
JYOTHYLAB	316.45	1.95
JYOTICNC	877.35	13.35
KAJARIACER	1,189.80	-17.8
KALYANKJIL	515.75	6.05
KARURVYSYA	251.49	8.34
KAYNES	6,644.50	-60
KEC	812	-5.75
KEI	4,008.80	-23.2
KFINTECH	1,106.90	8.8
KIMS	726.7	5.65
KIRLOSBROS	1,900.00	25.5
KIRLOSENG	1,014.00	14.1
KOTAKBANK	2,110.40	8.2
KPIL	1,280.00	23.6
KPITTECH	1,168.90	2.2
KPRMILL	1,067.00	-2.4
KSB	784.1	-6.55
LALPATHLAB	3,248.80	113.3
LATENTVIEW	475.45	27.1

Symbol	LTP	%Chg
LAURUSLABS	976	22.35
LEMONTREE	168.45	3.18
LICHSGFIN	576	5.05
LICI	921.4	26.7
LINDEINDIA	6,012.00	-1.5
LLOYDSME	1,320.00	15.2
LODHA	1,237.40	39.5
LT	3,980.90	-50
LTF	279.9	9.4
LTFOODS	415.8	-4.7
LTIM	5,692.50	8
LTTS	4,117.00	-1.8
LUPIN	1,999.00	35.5
M&M	3,553.20	66
M&MFIN	317.8	2.25
MAHABANK	59.85	0.82
MAHSCOOTER	14,900.00	-208
MAHSEAMLES	580.55	12.55
MANAPPURAM	268	-1.5
MANKIND	2,402.00	18
MANYAVAR	642.5	-3.25
MAPMYINDIA	1,795.10	-24.2
MARICO	722.65	2.7
MARUTI	15,634.00	-552
MAXHEALTH	1,152.00	4.2
MAZDOCK	2,754.70	25.7
MCX	9,531.50	288
MEDANTA	1,272.10	-39.4
METROPOLIS	2,007.40	37
MFSL	1,558.80	12.3
MGL	1,276.60	-0.3
MINDACORP	590.05	26.35
MMTC	68	-0.73
MOTHERSON	106.08	0.69
MOTILALOFS	1,006.00	28
MPHASIS	2,785.90	21.5
MRF	1,58,700.00	1,185.00
MRPL	168.45	2.05
MSUMI	47.54	0.33
MUTHOOTFIN	3,179.20	0.5
NAM-INDIA	871	-3.8
NATCOPHARM	832.95	13.05
NATIONALUM	238.3	4.16
NAUKRI	1,360.00	-18.3
NAVA	608	-10.8
NAVINFLUOR	5,914.00	226.5
NBCC	117.55	0.14
NCC	213.66	1.29

Symbol	LTP	%Chg
NESTLEIND	1,268.80	-2.8
NETWEB	3,798.00	-239.8
NEULANDLAB	17,166.00	693
NEWGEN	994	17.9
NH	1,782.90	25.5
NHPC	85.4	0.56
NIACL	183.14	-3.93
NIVABUPA	73.86	-1.2
NLCINDIA	259.05	-3.25
NMDC	75.95	0.16
NSLNISP	45.35	2.3
NTPC	335.4	-1.55
NTPCGREEN	102.98	-0.16
NUVAMA	7,145.00	53
NUVOCO	408.3	-6.35
NYKAA	249.95	2.01
OBEROIRLTY	1,803.10	24.8
OFSS	8,418.00	33
OIL	438	4.65
OLAELEC	51.45	1.31
OLECTRA	1,516.00	-32.5
ONESOURCE	1,873.40	19.3
ONGC	256.8	1.4
PAGEIND	40,645.00	-555
PATANJALI	575	-27.4
PAYTM	1,274.00	-29.2
PCBL	357.6	-4.5
PERSISTENT	5,921.00	4
PETRONET	285.4	4.15
PFC	403.5	0.25
PFIZER	5,164.00	-45
PGEL	576	5.05
PGHH	13,400.00	49
PHOENIXLTD	1,750.00	67.4
PIDILITIND	1,463.00	18.4
PIIND	3,695.00	117.6
PNB	123.3	0.41
PNBHOUSING	939	10.3
POLICYBZR	1,814.00	28.6
POLYCAB	7,641.00	-63
POLYMED	1,918.00	-81.7
POONAWALLA	474.4	-7.45
POWERGRID	288	-0.15
POWERINDIA	17,850.00	72
PPLPHARMA	201.29	1.66
PRAJIND	340.25	2.65
PREMIERENE	1,059.00	-34.2
PRESTIGE	1,782.40	37.7

Symbol	LTP	%Chg
PTCIL	17,240.00	-43
PVRINOX	1,205.00	-1.6
RADICO	3,191.50	60
RAILTEL	370	1.9
RAINBOW	1,375.00	5.6
RAMCOCEM	1,024.00	-20.5
RBLBANK	328.85	2.5
RCF	151.51	2.23
RECLTD	379.1	4.25
REDINGTON	252.9	-0.85
RELIANCE	1,487.30	0.9
RELINFRA	205.16	-10.8
RHIM	480.5	3.7
RITES	247.7	2.22
RKFORGE	543.4	0.4
RPOWER	43.99	-2.43
RRKABEL	1,386.80	-25.2
RVNL	328.85	0.05
SAGILITY	52.4	-0.14
SAIL	138.1	1.25
SAILIFE	925	6.8
SAMMAANCAP	190	1.41
SAPPHIRE	287.05	1
SARDAEN	546	16.5
SAREGAMA	456.9	2
SBFC	118	3.92
SBICARD	886	7.35
SBILIFE	1,969.50	13.8
SBIN	948.6	11.6
SCHAEFFLER	4,225.00	203.6
SCHNEIDER	863	26.5
SCI	257	-2.7
SHREECEM	28,045.00	-185
SHRIRAMFIN	795.15	46.25
SHYAMMETL	906	28.15
SIEMENS	3,125.10	28.8
SIGNATURE	1,102.00	17.7
SJVN	88.05	0.02
SKFINDIA	2,125.00	-15.8
SOBHA	1,659.50	40.9
SOLARINDS	14,160.00	282
SONACOMS	480.45	7.7
SONATSOFTW	371.1	1.25
SRF	2,974.90	44.4
STARHEALTH	486.1	-8.3
SUMICHEM	508	5.8
SUNDARMFIN	4,691.00	96.5
SUNDRMFAST	961	11.6
SUNPHARMA	1,706.60	15.9
SUNTV	562.65	0.85
SUPREMEIND	3,920.30	118.8
SUZLON	59.39	0.09
SWANCORP	473.95	4.35
SWIGGY	401.7	-8.25
SYNGENE	659.9	9.8
SYRMA	793.45	-20.35
TARIL	446	0.6

Symbol	LTP	%Chg
TATACHEM	875.5	-15.15
TATACOMM	1,904.00	28.6
TATACONSUM	1,195.50	30.5
TATAELXSI	5,450.00	-4.5
TATAINVEST	797.65	-1.35
TATAPOWER	408.4	3.5
TATASTEEL	182.7	-0.14
TATATECH	697.4	5.15
TBOTEK	1,497.50	14.3
TCS	3,019.50	-38.5
TECHM	1,419.70	-4.7
TECHNOE	1,344.00	24.9
TEJASNET	535.4	1.9
THELEELA	436.45	2.75
THERMAX	3,210.00	-8.8
TIINDIA	3,043.00	20
TIMKEN	3,070.00	-74
TITAGARH	907	22.45
TITAN	3,731.40	-15.3
TMPV	417.4	7.4
TORNTPHARM	3,627.00	66.9
TORNTPOWER	1,343.00	26.5
TRENT	4,714.00	19.7
TRIDENT	28.89	0.26
TRITURBINE	540.1	4.8
TRIVENI	359.85	2.8
TTML	56.05	1.47
TVSMOTOR	3,505.50	-3.2
UBL	1,810.00	12.6
UCOBANK	33.63	0.42
ULTRACEMCO	11,970.00	23
UNIONBANK	151.07	2.4
UNITDSPR	1,446.80	15.4
UNOMINDA	1,260.00	24.8
UPL	729.05	8.95
USHAMART	477	12.15
UTIAMC	1,236.00	-11.6
VBL	475.5	5.85
VEDL	512.7	19.15
VENTIVE	742.1	3.2
VGUARD	368.8	6.55
VIJAYA	1,022.00	33.35
VMM	142.11	-2.58
VOLTAS	1,369.60	-14
VTL	442.15	6.1
WAAREEENER	3,422.00	-5.4
WELCORP	952.3	-13.45
WELSPUNLIV	130.5	0.85
WHIRLPOOL	1,380.00	-19.1
WIPRO	240.72	0.05
WOCKPHARMA	1,390.10	108.6
YESBANK	22.97	0.23
ZEEL	100.67	0.09
ZENSARTECH	754.8	-42.75
ZENTEC	1,410.00	52.8
ZFCVINDIA	12,661.00	237
ZYDUSLIFE	983.05	8.6

Half of millennials fear jobs will be replaced by AI: Report

The findings also highlight a positive shift across industries, with employees showing greater readiness and trust in leveraging AI as a catalyst

AI ON THE PROWL!!

- Four in 10 feel that AI could replace their roles
- Intend to quit their current company
- 57 per cent in companies have not adopted AI yet
- 8 per cent at advanced stage of AI adoption

MUMBAI

AMID increasing adaptation to the growing influence of artificial intelligence (AI) at the workplace, nearly 50 pc millennials in the country fear that their jobs will be replaced by AI in the next three to five years, according to a report on Monday.

The report by Great Place To Work India offered an in-depth look at how Indian employees are adapting to the growing influence of AI at work.

The findings also highlight a positive shift across industries, with employees showing greater readiness and trust in leveraging AI as a catalyst for productivity and innovation.

The report revealed that 54 per cent of employees across India believe their organisations are currently at a pilot or intermediate stage of AI implementation. This reflects the steady progress toward a more tech-empowered and efficient work environment.

However, it revealed that four in 10 employees feel that AI could replace their roles in the next three to five years. This apprehension is not confined to a single demographic and is consistent irrespective of tenure at the current organisation or total career experience.

At least 40 per cent of the employees concerned about AI taking their employment also intend to quit their current company, revealed the report, highlighting a crucial and pressing issue for HR departments and senior leadership.

Report revealed that four in 10 employees feel that AI could replace their roles in the next three to five years. This apprehension is not confined to a single demographic and is consistent irrespective of tenure at the current organisation or total career experience

"As organisations across industries advance in AI implementation, leaders are devising high-impact AI strategies that enhance human capabilities. Roadblocks that currently need attention are organisational resistance, coupled with employee readiness," said Balbir Singh, CEO, Great Place To Work, India.

Further, about 57 per cent of employees in companies that have not adopted AI yet noted being insecure, as compared to 8 per cent at companies that are at advanced stages of AI adoption.

This positive shift highlights how structured adoption, leadership support, and inclusive communication can turn initial apprehension into genuine excitement about the future of work.

Singh urged employers to "actively identify real use cases for AI within their organisation, involve employees in AI initiatives, and invest in reskilling programmes. This is the only way to stay above the curve and get the internal mobility running successfully from within."

Babylon Brewery unveils new unit in Hyderabad

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
HYDERABAD

BABYLON Brewery & Club 2.0, has launched an expansive 1-lakh sq. ft. experiential destination inside Fairfield by Marriott, here. More than a club, bar, or restaurant, Babylon is a living universe of celebration, where architecture, gastronomy, craft beer culture, and immersive entertainment coexist in perfect rhythm. Reimagined from the iconic Babylon legacy, this next chapter is larger-than-life, a breathtaking evolution of scale, creativity, and sensory indulgence. Think towering stone arches, cascading water features, colossal domed ceilings, sculpted walls, and dramatic lighting, each corner designed to astonish, each moment crafted to linger.

BIZZTOON

Tata AutoComp showcases advanced rail solutions

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
HYDERABAD

TATA AutoComp Systems Limited, provider of automotive and mobility component solutions, showcased its products at the International Railway Equipment Exhibition (IREE) 2025, held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The company's participation marked a significant milestone in its journey of diversification into the railway mobility sector.

The company booth was inaugurated by State Minister of Railways, Ravneet Singh, and BEML Chairman & MD Shantanu Roy. The booth received an exceptional response from visitors, including distinguished dignitaries from the Railway Ministry, Metro and Urban Transport (MoUD), and prominent industry leaders.

The company booth attracted significant attention from a broad spectrum of the railway industry for the company's innovative propulsion systems, lightweight composite components, seating solutions, and HVAC technologies—all engineered to enhance performance, energy efficiency, and passenger comfort.

India shaping a global framework for ethical, human-centric AI: PM Modi

Announces that India will host the 'Global AI Summit' in February 2026, which will accelerate efforts towards inclusive, ethical, and human-centric AI

NEW DELHI

INDIA is shaping a global framework for ethical and human-centric artificial intelligence (AI), Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday, mentioning that the upcoming AI Governance Framework will be a major step in this direction, aiming to develop innovation and safety together.

PM Modi announced that India will host the 'Global AI Summit' in February 2026, which will accelerate efforts towards inclusive, ethical, and human-centric AI.

The Prime Minister emphasised the need to un-

derstand the transformative power of science and technology, and to ensure that they remain ethical and inclusive. He cited Artificial Intelligence as an example, noting its widespread application from retail and logistics to customer service and children's homework.

He affirmed that India is working to make AI beneficial for every section of society. Under the India AI Mission, an investment of over Rs10,000 crore is being made.

Addressing the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) 2025 at Bharat Mandapam here, the Prime Minister called for intensified efforts in emerging areas, which are crucial for achieving the goal of a developed India.

During his keynote address, PM Modi posed key questions: Can India develop next-generation biofortified crops to help combat malnutrition globally? Can innovations in low-cost soil health enhancers and bio-fertilisers serve as alternatives to chemical inputs and improve soil health?

At 92%, India's AI adoption rate highest in APAC: Report

The report offers a clear view of how organisations can move from experimenting with AI to truly reimagining their operating models

NEW DELHI

INDIA has the highest AI adoption rate in Asia Pacific at 92 per cent, according to a report showcasing the country's dynamic, digitally fluent workforce and strong appetite for innovation.

The report by Boston Consulting Group reveals how employees across nine markets in Asia Pacific are both optimistic and fearful about the rise of AI, offering a nuanced snapshot of the region's workplace transformation.

It showed that 92 per cent of employees in the country use AI regularly -- 20 points above the global average --

while Japan lags at just 51 per cent. Optimism about AI was highest in China (70 per cent), Malaysia (68 per cent), and Indonesia (69 per cent)

"India's AI adoption rate, the highest in Asia Pacific, signals not just enthusiasm but readiness for the next phase of transformation. What's unique about India's journey is the confidence of its workforce and the strength of its leadership engagement," said Nipun Kalra, India Leader, BCG.

Nations urged to tackle inequalities driving pandemics for global health security

UN report says pandemics are also fostering inequality, fuelling a cycle that was visible not just for Covid-19, but also for AIDS, Ebola, influenza, mpox, among others

NEW DELHI

INEQUALITY is undermining national and global efforts to combat pandemics, making them more disruptive, deadly, and longer in duration, according to a global report by UNAIDS on Monday.

The report by the world-leading economists, public health experts, and political leaders as part of the Global Council on Inequality, AIDS and Pandemics, a high-level initiative convened by UNAIDS, highlighted how inequality is making the world more vulnerable to pandemics.

It highlighted that high levels of inequality, within and between countries, are not

only making pandemics more economically disruptive and deadly but also enabling them to last longer.

On the other hand, pandemics are also fostering inequality, fuelling a cycle that was visible not just for Covid-19, but also for AIDS, Ebola, influenza, mpox, among others.

The report called for actions on inequality before pandemics hit to protect the world from the next global disease crisis more effectively than current preparedness efforts.

"This report shows why leaders urgently need to tackle the inequalities that drive pandemics, and it shows them how they can do this. Reducing inequalities within and between countries will enable a better, fairer, and safer life for everyone," said Winnie Byanyima, UNAIDS Executive Director and United Nations Under-Secretary-General.

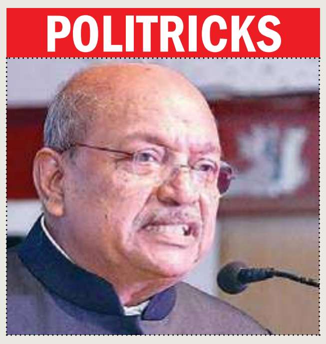
The new findings arrive as G20 Health Ministers prepare to meet amidst reports of new and growing outbreaks internationally of avian flu and mpox, and as breakthrough HIV prevention drugs are being approved by drug regulators.

THE POLITICA
Nothing political about it

AI EVERYWHERE, DIRECTION NOWHERE!

If we build our AI future by renting intelligence from global platforms, then our data trains someone else's models

POLITRICKS



BN Kumar

AI to the left of us, AI to the right of us, AI in front of us — and we haven't yet stopped to ask where we're steering. The rhythm is deliberate; it echoes Tennyson's cadence not to dramatise the moment, but to remind us that charge without formation is how armies are lost, not how futures are built. Presence is not the same as direction.

The moment feels overwhelming. Every company now claims to be "AI-powered." Every startup pitch begins and ends with a large language model. Every consumer device, from air-conditioners to pressure cookers, now advertises intelligence as though sprinkling spice. It is easy to mistake ubiquity for progress. But this moment requires less celebration and more orientation. At Trafalgar, the sea was loud, the cannons louder, but victory came not from the most noise — it came from the navies that held formation. Momentum alone does not create history. Discipline does.

Right now, discipline is in short supply

AI has moved from breakthrough to fashion statement. The Prime Minister's clever play of "AI can also mean American/Indian" landed because it made the technology feel personal, accessible, even patriotic. Once leadership signals that something is the future, the country does not walk — it rushes. Some rush to build. Many rush to re-label. And so we now have AI-enabled job interviews where résumés are rejected automatically for a spelling quirk. "AI news anchors" reading scripts prepared manually minutes earlier. AI projectors in classrooms that are just autoplay settings under a different name. Even the modest microcontroller has been rebadged into an "AI chip inside."

This is not transformation. This is spray-on futurism — the label spreading faster than capability.

Yet, beneath the theatrics, something meaningful is happening. AI is quietly making daily life less exhausting. It drafts the email you didn't want to write. It summarises the document you did not have time to read. It translates a prescription for a caregiver who speaks another language. It lets a student revise a concept slowly, rather than pretend to understand in a classroom of sixty. It helps a farmer identify blight with a single photograph instead of waiting days for an agricultural officer. AI is not replacing the human. It is removing friction. It gives us minutes back. And minutes matter.

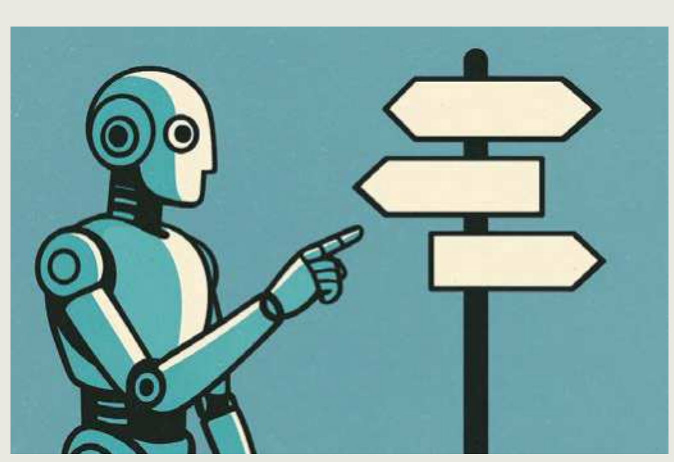
The real danger is not that India will invest too little in AI. It is that we may invest too quickly, confusing speed for strategy.

This is where the latest policy announcement — introducing Artificial Intelligence and Computational Thinking in schools from Grade 3 — becomes instructive. The intent is forward-looking: equip every child with reasoning, pattern recognition, and problem-solving skills; move away from rote memorisation towards cognitive flexibility. This aligns with NEP 2020 and the global education shift.

But intent is not capacity

Many government schools still struggle with stable electricity. Teacher training capacity is uneven. Foundational literacy and numeracy missions are still catching up after pandemic disruptions. If AI education is introduced without preparing teachers, materials, and classroom support, it risks becoming another subject to memorise, display in charts, and reproduce during inspection — without genuine understanding. AI may become handwriting practice by another name.

The Women's Reservation Bill was passed with applause — and then its implementation was left to an open-ended future. Announcing AI education nationwide without preparing the ground risks the same fate: a grand promise celebrated today, and an uncertain, diluted reality tomorrow. A wiser approach would be to run deep pilot programmes in a few states — rural, semi-urban, and urban — learn what actually works in real classrooms, refine, and scale. True reform grows outward from success, not downward from decree. Direction needs pacing. Speed without grounding is drift.



The deeper challenge is that our education, training, and employment systems were built for a world where knowledge lived in the mind. Exams were tests of recall — how much you could store and reproduce...If we do not shift education from memorisation to reasoning, AI will not democratise opportunity — it will concentrate it. The divide will not be between "tech jobs" and "non-tech jobs." It will open within the middle class itself — between those who learn to use AI as leverage and those quietly outpaced by those who do

The deeper challenge is that our education, training, and employment systems were built for a world where knowledge lived in the mind. Exams were tests of recall — how much you could store and reproduce. But we are entering a world where information is retrievable instantly. Knowledge is no longer memory — it is navigation. The real skill now is judgment: the ability to verify, interpret, differentiate signal from automation. If we do not shift education from memorisation to reasoning, AI will not democratise opportunity — it will concentrate it. The divide will not be between "tech jobs" and "non-tech jobs." It will open within the middle class itself — between those who learn to use AI as leverage and those quietly outpaced by those who do.

Language deepens this divide. Most powerful AI systems still think in English. But Language deepens this divide. Most powerful AI systems still think in English. But India lives in its languages — from Bengaluru tech floors to Chhattisgarh haats, from Mumbai trains to Manipuri courtyards. AI that cannot understand your tone, idiom, humor, grief, hesitation, or pride does not empower you. It works around you. The real AI race is not who deploys fastest. It is who builds models that understand their people.

Meanwhile, capital is flooding the space. Companies are buying GPUs because others are buying GPUs. Institutions are signing multi-year cloud contracts without securing data portability. Government departments are announcing "AI readiness" without securing maintenance budgets. This is how readiness turns quietly into strategic dependency.

The global AI ecosystem runs on closed loops. Microsoft invests in OpenAI; OpenAI runs on Microsoft Azure. Amazon backs Anthropic, which trains on AWS. Google provides TPU compute to the same labs it funds. NVIDIA invests in cloud providers that then buy NVIDIA hardware in volume. These are not conspiracies — they are efficiencies. But when capital reinforces itself, prices begin to reflect belief rather than objective value. We have seen this movie before: telecom spectrum races, e-commerce land grabs, crypto booms. The technology was real. The stampede was the problem.

India now stands at the pivot where direction matters more than acceleration.

If we build our AI ecosystem purely by renting compute, platforms, and model intelligence, then our data will train someone else's systems, our public institutions will pay subscription fees to foreign platforms, and our strategic choices will be shaped by pricing, not priorities. Our future becomes a license agreement.

But we can choose differently

We can build shared national compute clusters, accessible to universities and state boards.

We can compile responsibly governed Indian datasets, reflecting our languages and ways of reasoning.

We can train millions, not an elite, to use AI well — from nurses to clerks to drivers to teachers.

We can build AI systems that speak as we speak — not translated, but native.

This is not techno-nationalism. It is economic self-respect.

The hype has done its job. It brought imagination. It opened the room. Now comes the part that determines whether this moment becomes transformation or just another chapter of acceleration without architecture.

The future is moving either way. But we do not have to be passengers. We do not have to imitate. We can steer. The wheel is in our hands. The question is whether we choose to use it.

(The columnist is a Mumbai-based author and independent media veteran, running websites and a youtube channel known for his thought-provoking messaging)

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