

IN BRIEF

India, Bhutan
to boost power
cooperation

NEW DELHI: India and Bhutan will strengthen cooperation in the power sector, an official statement said on Tuesday. A delegation from the neighbouring nation met Union Power Minister Manohar Lal in the national capital, the statement said. Minister of Energy and Natural Resources of Bhutan Lhendup Gyel Tshering met Lal to strengthen cooperation in the power sector, the power ministry said. "During discussions, both sides deliberated on the commercial optimisation of power output from the Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project (1020 MW)," it said. Emphasis was also placed on the early commissioning of the Punatsangchhu-I Hydroelectric Project (1200 MW), the ministry said.

**Natco gets US nod
for cancer drug**

NEW DELHI: Drug firm Natco Pharma on Tuesday said it has received approval from the US health regulator for a generic cancer medication. The company has received tentative approval for Erdafitinib in strengths of 3 mg, 4 mg, and 5 mg, the drug firm said in a regulatory filing. The company's product is a generic version of Janssen Biotech Inc's Balversa. Natco said Erdafitinib is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with locally advanced unresectable or metastatic urothelial carcinoma harbouring susceptible FGFR3 genetic alterations.

**Century Plyboards
to ramp up exports**

KOLKATA: Century Plyboards India Ltd is set to aggressively expand its export footprint in the United States, riding on Indo-US trade developments and a favourable tariff environment, Managing Director Sanjay Agarwal said on Tuesday. The company, which has so far been exporting limited volumes of laminates, cubicles and exterior laminates to the US, has decided to significantly scale up its overseas push after remaining cautious in the past. "We have been exporting laminates, cubicles and exterior laminates to the US, though in limited volumes, and we had been going slow," Agarwal said.

**KEC bags ₹1,020 cr
worth orders**

NEW DELHI: KEC International has secured new work orders worth over Rs 1,000 crore across various business verticals in domestic and international markets. With these wins, the company's year-to-date order intake has crossed over Rs 20,000 crore. In a statement, KEC International, an RPG Group Company, announced securing new orders of Rs 1,020 crore across various businesses - civil, transportation, Transmission and Distribution (T&D) and cables and conductors.

**Maha govt's pact
with Godrej Agrovet**

MUMBAI: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday said the government has entered into a partnership with Godrej Agrovet Ltd, as part of which more than 5,000 women farmers from cotton-producing districts in the state will receive training in sustainable and modern farming practices. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Godrej Agrovet Ltd and the Maharashtra State Rural Livelihoods Mission (MSRLM-Umed) under the guidance of the CM to empower women farmers in the state, a statement from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said.

**SAIL posts highest-ever
16% growth in FY26 so far**



NEW DELHI

**The company
recorded total sales
of 16.6 million tonnes
during this period in
FY 2025-26, showing
a strong growth of 16
per cent compared to
14.3 million tonnes
in the same period
last financial year,
according to the
official statement**

The strong sales performance helped the company reduce its inventory by around 0.25 million tonnes.

It also led to a significant reduction in borrowings, improving the company's financial position.

According to the company, the record achievements were seen across several areas such as sales, dispatches, cash collections and customer deliveries.

SAIL increased the volume of steel delivered directly to customers' locations, expanded warehouse-based sales and improved dispatches from its plants.

These improvements reflect the company's focus on better logistics and customer service. The marketing team played a key role in driving these results by strengthening market reach and meeting business targets.

**Streax Shampoo
ropes in Bumrah**



BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
HYDERABAD

STREAX, one of India's leading hair colour and hair care brands from Hygienic Research Institute (HRI), has unveiled Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah as the brand ambassador for Streax Shampoo Hair Colour, marking the association with a high-impact campaign titled "Main Fast, Streax Super-Fast."

The campaign positions Streax Shampoo Hair Colour as a quick, performance-driven grooming solution tailored for today's fast-paced, on-the-go consumers. Drawing inspiration from Bumrah's trademark speed and precision, the campaign reinforces the product's core promise of delivering effective hair colour results in just five minutes.

Commenting on the association, Priyanka Puri, Senior Vice President - Marketing, Hygienic Research Institute, said Jasprit Bumrah perfectly represents the brand's values.

"Bumrah embodies precision, performance, and passion - qualities that define Streax. 'Main Fast, Streax Super-Fast' reflects our belief in innovation that is quick, reliable, and effective. South India is a strategic market for us, and with a Rs 10 price point, we are making this breakthrough format even more accessible to households across the region," she said.

The report highlighted that price growth was broad based, led by the National Capital Region

India's housing prices up 9.6%, outperforming peers: Report

Strong domestic demand and a stable macroeconomic environment aiding growth, says report

STEADY GROWTH

- Housing sales in top eight cities remained steady at 3.48L units last year
- Sales in H2 2025 was the highest since 2013
- Price growth in Delhi saw a 19% increase
- It was followed by Hyderabad (13%), Bengaluru (12%) and Mumbai (7%)

NEW DELHI

INDIA ranked among the top ten global markets with residential prices up 9.6 per cent year on year, significantly outperforming the global average supported by firm domestic demand, improving affordability and a stable macroeconomic environment, a report said on Tuesday.

The report from real estate services firm Knight Frank said that residential sales across the top eight cities remained steady in 2025 at over 3.48 lakh units, with H2 2025 volumes the highest since 2013.

"Market health indicators remained balanced, with the quarters-to-sell ratio holding at 5.8 quarters, despite a rise in unsold inventory driven largely by higher-value project launches," the firm said.

The report highlighted that price growth was broad based, led by the National Capital Region



strong economic growth, easing financial conditions and a decisive shift towards end user led demand created a more mature and resilient residential cycle," said Shishir Baijal, International Partner, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India.

"As we move into 2026, we expect the market to be defined by stable absorption, selective price appreciation and disciplined supply, rather than speculative excess," he added.

A structural shift continued with homes priced above Rs 1 crore accounting for around 50 per cent of total residential sales, and developers moderating launches while prioritising execution and using financing incentives rather than price cuts to maintain absorption momentum, the report said.

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Adani Ports' profit rises 21% to ₹3,043 cr

MUMBAI



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"Sustained momentum across our four business pillars, combined with the consolidation of NQXT, has enabled us to raise the upper end of our FY26 EBITDA guidance by a robust Rs 800 crore," Gupta added.

India's largest integrated transport utility benefited from solid growth across its core businesses, including ports, logistics, marine services and international operations.

"As India's largest and the world's fastest-growing integrated transport utility, APSEZ has once again delivered a strong and resilient performance," said Ashwani Gupta, Whole-time Director and CEO.

"Sustained momentum across our four business pillars, combined with the consolidation of NQXT, has enabled us to raise the upper end of our FY26 EBITDA guidance by a robust Rs 800 crore," Gupta added.

In the domestic market, the company maintained a strong position with an all-India container market share of 45.8 per cent. Revenue from domestic ports rose 15 per cent, while EBITDA

touched a lifetime high of Rs 4,877 crore.

Asset-light services played a major role in boosting logistics revenue, which surged 62 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,121 crore. The company's international freight network services also witnessed a sharp improvement in profitability.

Marine services revenue nearly doubled to Rs 773 crore during the quarter, supported by ongoing vessel acquisitions.

The strong performance was also supported by improvements in credit ratings.

Japan Credit Rating Agency assigned the company an "A-" rating with a stable outlook, which is a notch higher than India's sovereign rating.

Moody's also revised its outlook on the company to "Stable" from "Negative" while reaffirming its Baa3 rating. On the sustainability front, Adani Ports became India's first company in its sector and among a few globally to adopt the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), underlining its focus on nature-positive infrastructure development.

Tesla offers EMI,
exchange incentive
to boost sales

NEW DELHI

EV major Tesla India on Tuesday said it has launched various initiatives, including an EMI scheme, to lift weak sales in the country.

To encourage customers switching from the petrol and diesel cars to electric, Tesla said it is offering Rs 3 lakh exchange incentive.

Besides, customers can now purchase the Model Y at a monthly installment starting from Rs 49,000, with a down payment of just Rs 6 lakh significantly lowering the barrier to entry for premium electric vehicles, it added.

Tesla India commenced deliveries of Model Y in September last year. As per the EV sales data shared by FADA, Tesla India has managed to sell 225 units last year. Overall electric passenger vehicle retail sales rose to 1,76,817 units last year, up 77 per cent as compared with 99,875 units in 2024 calendar year.

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Twin threat from China, Pakistan tests India's defence Budget ambitions

THE need for India's military to be prepared for a two-front, or "twin-threat", scenario involving China and Pakistan is now seen as a reality rather than a distant possibility by the country's military leadership. This strategic requirement stems from deepening collusion between the two neighbours, unresolved territorial disputes, and the imperative to secure India's long borders: 3,488 km with China and 3,323 km with Pakistan.

The timing of this concern is significant. It comes months after India and Pakistan faced a military standoff in May last year. Following a deadly militant attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, India launched strikes on terror launch pads in Pakistan and Pakistan-administered Kashmir under 'Operation Sindoar'. Military exchanges followed, before the Indian Army said tensions eased after a ceasefire request from Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO).

Recent conflicts have also altered the character of warfare. During the India-Pakistan stand-off, drones and surveillance technologies played a visible role.

Senior military leaders have noted that advanced sensors and Artificial Intelligence (AI) are steadily reducing battlefield surprise. They argue that while a technological edge increasingly decides outcomes, technology alone is insufficient. Intellectual preparedness and adaptive military leadership, they stress, are equally critical.

This raises a key question. Does the new Union Budget adequately support these ambitions? Analysts point out that India needs to finalise several major defence deals. Plans include the purchase of 114 new fighter aircraft and six submarines. A proposed \$10-billion submarine deal with Germany is under discussion, while the fighter aircraft programme could cost between \$30 billion and \$35 billion. Such large projects require sustained, long-term financial planning.

Defence now accounts for 14.68 per cent of the total Union Budget, up from 13.45 per cent last year.



Defence budgeting, however, is complex. Factors such as Operation Sindoar, China's rapid military modernisation, the push for self-reliance, and the urgent need to replace ageing equipment all shape spending decisions.

Modernisation today goes far beyond aircraft and submarines. Drones, cyber warfare and space-based capabilities are now as crucial as traditional platforms. Shortfalls remain severe. The Indian Air Force is authorised 42 fighter squadrons but currently operates only 29 to 30. With each squadron comprising around 20 aircraft, this leaves a gap of nearly 250 to 300 fighters.

Regional comparisons add perspective. After its clash with India, Pakistan raised its defence budget by 20.2 per cent for 2025-26, increasing spending from 2,122 billion to 2,550 billion Pakistani rupees, about 1.97 per cent of its GDP. China's defence spending in 2024 stood at around 1.7 per cent of its \$18.74-trillion GDP, while Bangladesh spent roughly 0.9 per cent of its \$450-billion GDP on defence. India's defence budget is about 1.9 per cent of its \$4-trillion economy.

Analysts argue that India needs to spend at least 3 per cent of GDP on defence, a demand military planners have made for decades. While GDP has expanded significantly, defence spending has remained near the 2 per cent mark. Rapid and sustained modernisation, they say, requires a firm 3 per cent commitment.

The new Budget signals intent. The real test will lie in execution, timelines and sustained political will.

Despite the increase in allocations, defence experts maintain that spending of around 2.5 per cent of GDP is the minimum required to effectively counter the dual threat, while the current Budget remains close to 2 per cent of projected GDP for 2026-27. The focus, they say, must remain on strengthening high-altitude warfare capabilities, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and AI to maintain a decisive edge.

Reviving the Buckingham Canal: Restoring a forgotten lifeline of the Coromandel Coast

A neglected 19th-century waterway holds the key to sustainable transport, disaster mitigation, and regional livelihoods

DR D SREENIVASULU

THE rapid transformation of human civilisation accelerated manifold with the invention and expansion of modern modes of transportation. In India too, beginning with the colonial period and continuing after Independence, sustained efforts have been made to improve transportation networks connecting the length and breadth of the subcontinent. Today, governments are investing heavily in road networks, highways, bullet trains, and national and international air connectivity.

However, the ease and speed of these modes of transport have overshadowed waterways, which once played a vital role in the economy by facilitating the movement of goods, services, and people across regions. As a result of this transformation, coupled with rapid urbanisation, encroachment of water bodies and pollution, several historic water canals in India have been neglected and have fallen victim to modernisation. It is the responsibility of the government to promote inland waterways through the revival of these canals. One such canal whose plight calls for immediate attention and action is the Buckingham Canal.

Designed by Western engineers, this 19th-century navigation canal runs parallel to the Coromandel Coast, connecting the present-day states of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The construction of the Buckingham Canal took place in several phases and was initially conceived as a private waterway, planned and executed under the Design-Build-Operate project delivery system—the predecessor of today's much-acclaimed Build-Own-Operate-Transfer model. This model is the predecessor of the present day much-acclaimed Build-Own-Operate-Transfer model.

Construction began in 1806,



with a 16.5-kilometre stretch from Madras Port to Ennore built by the Basil Cochrane Company. In recognition of this contribution, the canal was initially named the Cochrane Canal. Later, the British government extended it northwards and linked it with Kakinada Port via Vijayawada, enabling continuous navigation between Madras and Kakinada. For a period, it was also referred to as Lord Clive's Canal. During the Great Famine of 1876-78, canal extension works were undertaken as part of famine relief measures. Eventually, the canal was renamed the Buckingham Canal, after the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, then Governor of the Madras Presidency.

Stretching nearly 796 kilometres parallel to the Coromandel Coast, about one kilometre inland, the canal extends up to Villupuram in Tamil Nadu. It connects with

minutes. Despite its historic significance and proven utility, the Buckingham Canal today faces severe degradation. Untreated industrial and urban waste is discharged into its waters, large stretches have been encroached upon, siltation has reduced its depth, and natural disasters have caused structural damage. Mega prawn farms along the canal banks often dump diseased and dead stock directly into the waterway. Ironically, cyclones, against which the canal once served as a protective buffer, have damaged it, while reconstruction and maintenance efforts remain minimal. In several locations, the canal is clogged with debris or disappears entirely, re-emerging only after long stretches.

Initially, the canal was used extensively for transporting commodities and people, and later supported fishing activities. Settlements emerged along its banks, and several communities came to depend on it for their livelihoods. In History of the Buckingham Canal Project (1898), A.S. Russell observed that the canal placed the erstwhile Madras Presidency "in cheap and easy communication with no less than five districts, and with the large and important towns of Cocanada, Bezwada, Masulipatam, Ongole and Nellore." He further noted that regions once considered "a dreary waste of sand" witnessed agricultural expansion, improved drainage of low-lying lands, the development of casuarina plantations, and a significant rise in the wealth and prosperity of the population.

Beyond economic benefits, the canal has demonstrated its potential as a natural defence against disasters such as floods and tsunamis. During the 2004 tsunami, the canal acted as a buffer along nearly 310 kilometres of coastline from Pedaganjam in Prakasam district to Chennai, saving hundreds of lives in fishing communities and coastal villages. Scientists believe the canal can serve as a barrier, allowing tidal waves to dissipate into the ocean within

Stretching nearly 796 kilometres parallel to the Coromandel Coast, about one kilometre inland, the canal extends up to Villupuram in Tamil Nadu. It connects with Pulicat Lake and, within Chennai, intersects the city's three major rivers: the Kosasthalaiyar, Cooum, and Adyar. These features make the Buckingham Canal a remarkable engineering achievement and a multipurpose infrastructure project.

Despite its ambition, implementation has been sluggish, and there is an urgent need to reorder priorities and accelerate work, particularly with strong involvement from State Water Resources Departments.

Reviving the Buckingham Canal demands a concrete and time-bound action plan. This includes dredging, removal or redesign of obstructive bridges, recovery of encroached land, reconstruction of canal walls where necessary, and strict regulation of pollutants and untreated waste. Rejuvenation of this multipurpose canal would enable environment-friendly transport of goods and passengers, reduce road traffic congestion, support irrigation, revive fisheries and boating, and generate livelihoods for millions. Importantly, it also offers an opportunity for Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu to collaborate in protecting and benefitting from a shared national heritage. With sustained political will and coordinated action, the Buckingham Canal can once again become a vibrant artery of economic and ecological life.

(The writer is a retired IAS officer)

Younger siblings clock more screen time than firstborns: Study

Research tracking 5,500 children finds later-born kids spend more time on screens and less on learning activities

GAWAIN HECKLEY

WHERE kids are born in a family can be important. But it is not just about who gets more grown-up privileges or parental pressure. Research tells us that firstborn children, on average, tend to do better on a range of outcomes. This includes doing better at school and being more likely to be top managers when compared to those born later. In our new study, we looked at what impact birth order might have on how children spend their time. Both on their own and with their parents. This revealed differences in terms of screen use and time spent enriching their intellectual development.

Our research

In our study, we used survey data from around 5,500 Australian children aged two to 15. The data comes from the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children, a nationally representative survey. This included detailed 24-hour diaries, which recorded how children spent their time from waking up to going to sleep. They specified whether activities were done with parents or independently. We grouped activities into "sleep", "school time", "enrichment activities", "screen time" and "physical activities". Enrichment activities are outside of school activities that help intellectual development. For example, reading, homework, playing board games or learning a musical instrument. We then compared the diaries of firstborn children to later-born children from different families born in the same year, living in the same neighbourhoods, with similar socioeconomic backgrounds. All families had two or three



children. There is no similar data (such as time use records over years) available on siblings within the same family to capture and compare what siblings were doing at the same age. Other studies looking at different outcomes (such as academic achievement) have shown birth order comparisons within a family are extremely similar to birth order comparisons across different families, once you adjust for family size, as we have done in our study. So, it is likely our results would be similar to actual sibling comparisons within a family.

Younger kids get more screen time

When compared to firstborn children, second- and thirdborn children spend an extra nine and 14 minutes, respectively, per day having screen time. While this may sound modest, it represents a 10% increase compared to the average daily screen time of firstborns. Over the course of a week, it is between about one and 1.5 hours. This extra screen time also comes at the cost of other activities. In particular, later-born children spent 11 to 18 minutes less per day on enrichment activities, an 11-20% reduction compared to older siblings in the study. We found no consistent differences between older and younger siblings when it came to time spent on other activities, such

homework. Of course, parenting may still play an important role here. Our study shows that later-born children face fewer rules around screen use, such as limits on programs or time, and are less likely to feel their parents expect them to follow rules. This may in part reflect parents' desire for fairness in allowing similar use of screens for siblings at any given time, rather than at specific ages.

What does this mean?

The differences we find may seem small on any given day. But they can add up over time. As our 2024 study showed, spending more time on screens and less time on reading, homework, or other learning activities can lead to gaps in academic skill development over childhood, as measured by lower NAPLAN test scores. The increase in solo screen time for later-born children is particularly concerning because it may expose children to inappropriate content online.

What can we do?

First, recognising that later-born children on average spend more time on screens and less time on enrichment activities than firstborns can be helpful for informing parenting strategies. Second, it shows spending quality time with later-born children, actively encouraging enrichment activities, and keeping consistent rules around screen time all matter. Finally, this suggests broader policies, such as the social media limits for under-16s, could help equalise opportunities for later-born children to learn and grow.

(The writer is associated with Monash University, Australia)

When Chatbots can write, what should universities test?

Researchers say assessing judgement, process and ethical AI use matters more than the final answer

SARAH ELAINE EATON
AND RAHUL KUMAR

GENERATIVE artificial intelligence (GenAI) is now a reality in higher education, with students and professors integrating chatbots into teaching, learning and assessment. But this isn't just a technical shift; it's reshaping how students and educators learn and evaluate knowledge. Our recent qualitative study with 28 educators across Canadian universities and colleges - from librarians to engineering professors - suggests that we have entered a watershed moment in education. We must grapple with the question: What exactly should be assessed when human cognition can be augmented or simulated by an algorithm?

Research about AI and academic integrity

In our review of 15 years of research that engages how AI affects cheating in education, we found that AI is a double-edged sword for schools. On one hand, AI tools like online translators and text generators have become so advanced that they can write just like humans. This makes it difficult for teachers to detect cheating. Additionally, these tools can sometimes present fake news as facts or repeat unfair social biases, such as racism and sexism, found in the data used to train them. On the other hand, the studies we reviewed showed AI can be a legitimate assistant that can make learning more inclusive. For instance, AI can provide support for students with disabilities or help those who are learning an additional language. Because it's nearly impossible to block every AI tool, schools should not just focus on catching cheaters. Instead, schools and post-secondary institutions can update their policies and provide better training for both students and teachers. This helps everyone learn how to use technology responsibly while maintaining a high standard of academic integrity.

Participants in our study positioned themselves not as enforcers, but as stewards of learning with integrity. Their focus was on distinguishing between assistance that supports learning and assistance that substitutes for it. They identified three skill areas where assessment boundaries currently fall: prompting, critical thinking and writing.

Prompting: A legitimate and assessable skill

Participants widely viewed prompting -



the ability to formulate clear and purposeful instructions for a chatbot - as a skill they could assess. Effective prompting requires students to break down tasks, understand concepts and communicate precisely. Several noted that unclear prompts often produce poor outputs, forcing students to reflect on what they are really asking. Prompting was considered ethical only when used transparently, drawing on one's own foundational knowledge. Without these conditions, educators feared prompting may drift into over-reliance or uncritical use of AI.

Critical thinking

Educators saw strong potential for AI to support assessing critical thinking. Because chatbots can generate text that sounds plausible but may contain errors, omissions or fabrications, students must evaluate accuracy, coherence and credibility. Participants reported using AI-generated summaries or arguments as prompts for critique, asking students to identify weaknesses or misleading claims. These activities align with a broader need to prepare students for work in a future where assessing algorithmic information will be a routine task. Several educators argued it would be unethical not to teach students how to interrogate AI-generated content.

Writing: Where boundaries tighten

Writing was the most contested domain. Educators distinguished sharply between brainstorming, editing and composition: Brainstorming with AI was acceptable when used as a starting point, as long as students expressed their own ideas and did not substitute AI suggestions for their own thinking. Editing with AI (for example, grammar correction) was considered acceptable only after students had produced original text and could evaluate whether AI-generated revisions were appropriate. Although some see AI as a legitimate support for linguistic diversity, as well as helping to level the field for those with disabilities or those who speak English as an additional language, others fear

a future of language standardisation where the unique, authentic voice of the student is smoothed over by an algorithm. Having chatbots draft arguments or prose was implicitly rejected. Participants treated the generative phase of writing as a uniquely human cognitive process that needs to be done by students, not machines. Educators also cautioned that heavy reliance on AI could tempt students to bypass the "productive struggle" inherent in writing, a struggle that is central to developing original thought. Our research participants recognised that in a hybrid cognitive future, skills related to AI, together with critical thinking, are essential skills for students to be ready for the workforce after graduation.

Living in the post-plagiarism era

The idea of co-writing with GenAI brings us into a post-plagiarism era where AI is integrated into teaching, learning and communication in a way that challenges us to reconsider our assumptions about authorship and originality. This does not mean that educators no longer care about plagiarism or academic integrity. Honesty will always be important. Rather, in a post-plagiarism context, we consider that humans and AI co-writing and co-creating do not automatically equate to plagiarism. Today, AI is disrupting education, and although we don't yet have all the answers, it's certain that AI is here to stay. Teaching students to co-create with AI is part of learning in a post-plagiarism world.

Preparing students for a hybrid cognitive future

Educators in this study sought ethical, practical ways to integrate GenAI into assessment. They argued that students must understand both the capabilities and the limitations of GenAI, particularly its tendency to generate errors, oversimplifications or misleading summaries. In this sense, post-plagiarism is not about crisis, but about rethinking what it means to learn and demonstrate knowledge in a world where human cognition routinely interacts with digital systems. Universities and colleges now face a choice. They can treat AI as a threat to be managed, or they can treat it as a catalyst for strengthening assessment, integrity and learning. The educators in our study favour the latter.

(The writers are associated with the University of Calgary and the Brock University, Canada)

Why human judgement is emerging as the most critical skill in an era of AI and automation

Organisations that prepare people for real situations will consistently outperform those that train only on theory, Pradeep B, Head, Digital Learning & Immersive Technology, Novac Technology Solutions

KUMUD DAS

HOW are skill requirements shifting from static knowledge to real-time decision-making and behavioural capability?

Across industries, the definition of skill is undergoing a fundamental shift. Organisations are moving beyond what employees know to how they respond when situations are ambiguous, time-sensitive, or emotionally charged. As AI and automation take over routine, rule-based work, the real differentiator is human judgement. Leaders today are far more concerned about decision-making under pressure, ethical judgement, emotional intelligence, and the ability to balance outcomes with trust.

Static knowledge depreciates quickly, but behavioural capability compounds with practice. Performance gaps rarely arise from lack of information. They emerge in moments of uncertainty such as handling a difficult customer, navigating compliance dilemmas, or making leadership decisions with no clear right answer. This is why enterprises are increasingly investing in scenario-driven capability building. Skills today are less about memory and more about developing mental and behavioural muscle memory.

Where do traditional classroom and LMS models fall short for high-stakes, real-world readiness?

Classroom and LMS-based learning continue to play an im-

Immersive learning must reflect real business moments rather than idealised scenarios. Authenticity drives credibility and adoption. Change management is equally important. Employees should view immersive environments as developmental tools, not evaluation mechanisms. Trust is essential for participation

portant role in awareness and standardisation. However, organisations are increasingly questioning whether these models are sufficient for high-stakes, real-world performance. The core limitation lies in the absence of consequence and context. Watching a video or completing a module does not prepare someone for a tough appraisal discussion or an ethically complex decision.

Many large enterprises report high completion rates but inconsistent behavioural outcomes. Employees pass assessments yet hesitate when confronted with real complexity. This is where experiential learning adds value. When foundational LMS learning is complemented by immersive simulations, employees move from learning about work to learning by doing. When learning feels real, confidence and engagement improve naturally.

How does simulation-based learning change the way employees internalise skills?

Most skill gaps exist not because people lack instruction, but because they lack opportunities to practise. Simulation-based learning addresses this by placing employees inside realistic scenarios that demand decisions rather than recall. Learners experience the outcomes of their choices, reflect, and try again in a safe environment.

This practice loop drives deeper emotional engagement and cognitive processing, which significantly improves retention and behavioural transfer. The ability to fail safely is particularly powerful. Discomfort without real-world risk becomes a catalyst for meaningful learning.

In AI-powered environments such as MIGOTO AI, learners navigate dynamic, unpredictable scenarios that adapt to their responses rather than follow fixed scripts. Over time, this builds instinctive capability and behavioural consistency, much like flight simulators do in aviation, preparing professionals for human-centric roles where judgement matters most.

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Pradeep B, Head,
Novac Technology Solutions

the real differentiator is human judgement. Leaders today are

far more concerned with decision-making under pressure, ethical judgement, emotional intelligence, and the ability to balance outcomes with trust," says Pradeep B, Head – Digital Learning & Immersive Technology, Novac Technology Solutions in an exclusive interaction with Bizz Buzz

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reskilling are becoming essential. Immersive learning allows employees to practice future roles before formally transitioning, reducing risk for both individuals and organisations.

Simulation-based pathways also help identify latent potential and guide reskilling decisions. Employees gain confidence to stretch into new responsibilities, while organisations reduce dependence on external hiring. Learning becomes continuous, contextual, and embedded into growth journeys.

How do you see AI training simulators evolving in the future?

AI training simulators are evolving into always-on performance partners rather than standalone learning tools. They will become more emotionally intelligent, support multi-agent interactions, and integrate closely with daily work systems. Learning will increasingly happen in moments, not modules.

Rather than replacing LMS platforms, AI simulators will augment them by adding depth where traditional systems provide breadth. The future of enterprise learning is not about more content, but better preparation for reality. Organisations that prepare people for real situations will consistently outperform those that train only on theory.

How do immersive and adaptive environments support resilience and internal mobility?

As organisations adopt skills-first workforce strategies, roles are evolving faster than job titles. Internal mobility and continuous



ness impact. Performance-based simulations make this shift possible by tracking decision quality, behavioural consistency, confidence progression, and scenario outcomes.

These metrics align closely with business KPIs such as sales effectiveness, compliance risk reduction, customer experience, and leadership readiness. Learning becomes predictive rather than retrospective. For many organisations, this is the first time learning data directly informs business decisions. It marks a transition from learning as an activity to learning as a capability driver.

What should enterprises evaluate before adopting AI-led immersive training models?

Three factors are critical: business alignment, workforce readiness, and scalability. Immersive learning must reflect real business moments rather than idealised scenarios. Authenticity drives credibility and adoption. Change management is equally important. Employees should view immersive environments as developmental tools, not evaluation mechanisms. Trust is essential for participation.

Finally, integration and scalability matter. AI-led learning should

work seamlessly with existing LMS and HR systems and be accessible across devices. When approached strategically, immersive learning delivers sustained value rather than short-term novelty.

What challenges do organisations face when deploying next-generation learning simulators?

The most common challenges are not technological but related to design and adoption. Poorly designed simulations feel artificial and disengaging. In other cases, pilots are launched without clear ownership, success criteria, or business alignment. These risks can be mitigated through phased rollouts, co-creation with business stakeholders, and clearly defined performance benchmarks.

Simulations must reflect organisational language, culture, and real constraints. When deployment is treated as a transformation initiative rather than a training project, adoption and impact scale more effectively.

How do immersive and adaptive environments support resilience and internal mobility?

As organisations adopt skills-first workforce strategies, roles are evolving faster than job titles. Internal mobility and continuous

New attendance policy triggers row in IIM Jammu

KUMUD DAS
MUMBAI

AFTER nationwide protest against the new UGC Act 3C & 3E, it is now the deadlock in IIM, Jammu between the management and the students on the issue of New Attendance Policy. Controversy is escalating over the new attendance policy being implemented for the students at IIM Jammu, a prestigious institute of national importance. A tense situation has developed between students and the institute administration. The issue has now reached the Union Ministry of Higher Education in New Delhi. Students have appealed to the government to intervene against what they call arbitrary action by the institute and have warned of protests if their demands are not met. The dispute concerns the new handbook issued for the 2025-27 batch, in which attendance norms have been made extremely strict.

According to available information, the new attendance policy for the 2025-27 batch at IIM Jammu makes 100% attendance compulsory. Under the new rules, missing even a single class during the entire term invites strict punishment, which will directly affect students' examination results. At first glance, the rule appears impractical.



According to available information, the new attendance policy for the 2025-27 batch at IIM Jammu makes 100% attendance compulsory. Under the new rules, missing even a single class during the entire term invites strict punishment, which will directly affect students' examination results. At first glance, the rule appears impractical.

Students' dissatisfaction reportedly began after an incident in which a young MBA student was compelled to attend class despite severe abdominal pain. She had to attend despite unbearable menstrual cramps. Missing even a single class or academic activity leads directly to grade reduction. Recounting her experience, the student said, "I couldn't concentrate there because of stomach pain. I sat trembling for fear of losing marks."

She added that almost every female student in the institute faces such situations. The new rule is troubling not only for female students but also for male students. This is the reality at IIM Jammu, where attendance has become not a measure of learning but a tool of punishment. Fearing retaliatory action by the administration, the student requested anonymity.

Notably, due to faculty unavailability, extra or compensatory classes are sometimes scheduled at short notice (via WhatsApp messages) between 8 am and 10 pm even on gazetted holidays. This hangs over students like a 'sword'. Even academically brilliant students are penalized for missing a class. The institute makes no effort to provide recorded lectures.

When students filed formal complaints through the government's CPGRAMS portal, the response from IIM Jammu's Chief Administrative Officer, Kesavan Baskaran, was reportedly unsatisfactory. The reply stated that "100% attendance is expected in residential programmes" and that "due consideration is given in medical or family emergencies." No reason was given for abandoning the earlier 80% attendance norm followed at the same institute. The matter has now been closed. When this correspondent tried to contact the Director of IIM Prof. B Sahay for comment, he outrightly refused to speak on the issue. Both the senior authorities are tightlipped.

Students and legal experts criticized the response, calling it a "non-speaking order." A lawyer said that grievance redressal systems must issue reasoned orders.

IIM Jammu's rule differs from other management institutes. For example, BITS Pilani follows a zero-percentage attendance policy, based on the belief that quality teaching naturally draws students to class. Globally, universities in the US, UK, and Australia emphasize attendance but impose grade penalties only in exceptional circumstances. At the

University of Liverpool, attendance monitoring is seen as a support mechanism to identify students needing help. Lancaster University also links attendance with welfare rather than punishment. In India, most IIMs emphasize student welfare and avoid automatic grade penalties.

Students report growing stress, anxiety, and fatigue. Female students feel especially affected, as not only menstrual health needs but also issues such as panic attacks and depression are not recognized as valid medical leave. One student said, "We are treated like machines – expected to work without pause, weakness, or dignity."

Legal experts believe such rigid policies may not meet the proportionality test under Article 21 of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to life and dignity. They say the lack of gender-sensitive provisions may also violate Article 15 and international obligations such as CEDAW. IIMs were granted autonomy to set new standards of innovation. However, this autonomy is now allegedly being used to impose arbitrary rules, amounting to misuse of privilege. According to another student, "We came here to learn leadership, but we are only being taught obedience."

A few students have recovered but still facing stomach related problems. There is no proactive steps from college administration to follow up with students who became sick due to contaminated water. They cannot skip classes because the medical doctor will not sanction leave for vomiting, bloating, stomach ache. A few students are still recovering. This is not just a campus issue. India's top institutions must balance discipline, dignity, autonomy, accountability, and compassion. Until then, IIM Jammu's classrooms will remain symbols of rigidity, and students will continue to pay the price.

Why China is building so many coal plants despite its solar, wind boom

KEN MORITSUGU

More than 50 large coal units – individual boiler and turbine sets with generating capacity of 1 gigawatt or more – were commissioned in 2025, up from fewer than 20 a year over the previous decade, a research report released Tuesday said.



Depending on energy use, 1 gigawatt can power from several hundred thousand to more than 2 million homes

plants and, by most analyses, way more than it actually needs? The answer is complicated. China is at an earlier development stage than the United States or Europe, so it needs more energy to keep growing. If more of the nation's 1.4 billion people climb into the middle class, more will be able to afford air conditioners and washing machines.

Overall, China brought 78 gigawatts of new coal power capacity online, a sharp uptake from previous years, according to the joint report by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, which studies air pollution and its impacts, and Global Energy Monitor, which develops databases tracking energy trends. "The scale of the buildup is staggering," said report co-author Christine Shearer of Global Energy Monitor.

In 2025 alone, China commissioned more coal power capacity than India did over the entire past decade.

At the same time, even larger additions of wind and solar capacity nudged down the share of coal in total power generation last year. Power from coal fell about 1% as growth in cleaner energy sources covered all the increase in electricity demand last year.

China added 315 gigawatts of solar capacity and 119 gigawatts of wind in 2025, according to statistics from the government's National Energy Administration.

Blackouts in 2021-22 prompted a coal plant building spree.

The massive growth in wind and solar begs the question: Why is China still building coal power

The government position is that coal provides a stable backup to sources such as wind and solar, which are affected by weather and the time of day. The shortages in 2022 resulted partly from a drought that hit hydropower, a major energy source in western China.

Coal should "play an important underpinning and balancing role" for years to come, the National Development and Reform Commission, the lead economic planning agency, said in guidance issued last year on making coal plants cleaner and more efficient. The China Coal Transportation and Distribution Association, an industry group, said last week that coal-fired power would remain essential for power-system stability, even as other sources of energy replace it.

The risk of building so much coal-fired capacity is that it could delay the transition to cleaner energy sources, Qin said. Political and financial pressure will keep the plants operating, leaving less room for other sources of power, she said.

The report urged China to accelerate retirement of ageing and inefficient coal plants and commit in its next five-year plan, which will be approved in March, to ensuring that power-sector emissions do not increase between 2025 and 2030.

Whether China's coal power expansion ultimately translates into higher emissions will depend on whether coal power's role is genuinely constrained to backup and supporting rather than baseload generation, Qin said.

Rupee skyrockets 122ps to close at 90.27/\$

The local unit rose to the highest levels in two and a half weeks and rallied by around 1.5% on the trade deal between India and the US

MUMBAI

THE Indian rupee emerged as the best-performing Asian currency on Tuesday, registering a gain of 122 paise or 1.33 per cent in a single trading session to settle at 90.27 (provisional) against the US dollar, after India and the US agreed to a trade deal. Forex traders said the Indian rupee rose to the highest levels in two and a half weeks and rallied by around 1.5 pc on the trade deal between India and the US. Domestic indices also surged by around 2.75 per cent, boosting domestic market sentiments. Further, weakness in crude oil prices and expected foreign inflows also favoured investor sentiment.

India and the US agreed on a trade deal under which Washington will bring down the reciprocal tariff on Indian goods to 18 per cent, lower than that for countries like China, Bangladesh and Vietnam. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 90.30 against the US dollar, then gained some ground to touch an intraday high of 90.05 and a low of 90.52 against the greenback. At the end of the trading ses-



The India-US trade deal will reopen the door for FII participation, and if capital flows recover in CY26, it would ease some pressure on the rupee. Things may not be completely smooth sailing for the INR, some experts believe

sion on Tuesday, the rupee was quoted at 90.27 (provisional) against the greenback, registering a gain of 122 paise from its previous close.

The rupee gained 44 paise to close at 91.49 against the US dollar on Monday, a day after the Union Budget 2026-27 was presented. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the India-US trade deal is a "big decision" that will benefit everyone in the country and asserted that his government always works in favour of the nation. Forex traders said the India-US trade deal will reopen the door for FII participation, and if capital flows recover in CY26, it would ease some pressure on the rupee.

"With the 'reciprocal' tariffs on India's exports to the

US now lowered, we estimate the current account deficit to narrow by around 0.25 per cent of GDP in CY26 to 0.8 per cent of GDP. In addition, if capital flows recover in CY26 on the conclusion of the India-US trade deal, which would ease some pressure on the INR, and result in downside risk to our current USD/INR 12-month forecast of 94," Goldman Sachs said in a research note.

However, things may not be completely smooth sailing for the INR, some experts believe. "There could be hiccups along the way with this trade agreement" for example, it may not be easy for India to divert its Russian oil purchases quickly. "The RBI's FX policy could also complicate things. The RBI has been intervening in a rather unpredictable way over the past few months to prevent one-sided speculative positioning" both short and long "in the INR," HSBC said in a research note, adding, "Our end-2026 forecast for USD/INR is 90." Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.05 per cent lower at 97.57.

Silver, gold futures rebound sharply

NEW DELHI: Silver and gold prices rebounded sharply in the futures trade following value buying by investors after a three-day rout in the domestic markets. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), silver for March delivery surged Rs 29,372, or 12.43 per cent, to Rs 2,65,633 per kilogram. The white metal hit a high of Rs 2,70,398 per kilogram, gaining as much as Rs 34,137, or 14.4 per cent. It had closed at Rs 2,36,261 per kg on Monday.

The rebound came after a brutal sell-off that saw silver nosedive 41 per cent from Friday to Monday, easing by Rs 1,63,632 per kg and wiping out substantial investor wealth. The fall came after silver touched a record of Rs 4,20,048 per kg on January 29. Gold prices also witnessed a strong recovery after a steep fall in the past three sessions. The April contract of the precious metal jumped Rs 7,923, or 5.5 per cent, to Rs 1,51,914 per 10 grams on Tuesday. In the past three sessions, gold lost nearly Rs 40,000, or 22 per cent, from its closing level of Rs 1,83,962 per kg on January 29. "Gold and silver staged a sharp recovery on Tuesday, snapping multi-day losses after extreme volatility earlier in the week. Gold surged around 5 per cent, while silver climbed over 10 per cent, driven by strong safe-haven demand and bargain buying after prior profit-taking," Gaurav Garg, Research Analyst at Lemonaid Markets Desk, said.

He added that the earlier sell-off had been amplified by a firm dollar, speculative liquidations, and technical pressures. The rebound reflects renewed investor confidence and a technical bounce, even as volatility remains elevated. "Near-term consolidation around current levels could set the stage for further gains in bullion markets," Garg added.

Meanwhile, silver and gold futures also recovered sharply in the international market. The March contract of silver gained \$9.59, or 12.45 per cent, to \$86.6 from the previous close of \$77 per ounce on Comex in New York.

Brent Crude trade lower at \$66.02/bbl

CRUDE oil prices fell Rs 18 to Rs 5,589 per barrel in the futures trade on Tuesday, amid weak global trends as oversupply concerns weighed on prices. Crude oil futures for March delivery slipped by Rs 18, or 0.32 per cent, to Rs 5,589 per barrel in a business turnover of 376 lots. Analysts said the prices fell after participants offloaded their holdings amid weak demand in the spot market. Globally, West Texas Intermediate crude oil was trading 0.35 per cent lower at \$61.92 per barrel, while Brent Crude fell 0.42 per cent to \$66.02 per barrel in New York.

Govt mulls stake sale in LIC via FPO in next financial year

NEW DELHI

THE government is actively considering further reducing its stake in insurance behemoth LIC through a public offering in the next financial year, Financial Services Secretary M Nagaraju said on Monday. Currently, the government holds a 96.5 per cent stake in Life Insurance Corporation (LIC). It had sold 3.5 per cent through an initial public offering (IPO) in May 2022 at a price band of Rs 902-949 per share. The share sale fetched the government around Rs 21,000 crore.

Talking to reporters, Nagaraju said, "LIC public offer has to be done slowly. We have asked DIPAM (Department of Investment and



Public Asset Management) to look at government stake dilution in LIC." LIC FPO may come in the next financial year if all approvals are in place and market conditions are conducive," he added.

The government is required to offload another 6.5 per cent stake in the public sector life insurer to meet the mandated 10 per cent public shareholding requirement by May 2027. The quantum of stake sale, price and timing would be decided in due course. The country's biggest insurer, LIC, has a market capitalisation of Rs 5.08 lakh crore, with shares settling at around Rs 804 on the BSE on Monday.

On the financial front, the state-owned insurer reported a 32 per cent year-on-year jump in net profit to Rs 10,053 crore in the three months ended September 2025 from Rs 7,621 crore in the corresponding period last fiscal. The increase in profit was driven by a lower commission outgo.

Global shares surge led by record highs in Japan and South Korea

Markets are awaiting earnings reports from major cos to gauge the impact of various trends, including US President Trump's tariffs and possible curbs on rare earths exports from China

TOKYO

GLOBAL shares surged on Tuesday, led by a nearly 7 per cent jump in South Korea's benchmark and a 3.9 per cent rally in Tokyo that took the Nikkei 225 to a record as investors bought tech-related shares.

France's CAC 40 gained 0.6 per cent in early trading to 8,232.71, while the German DAX surged 1.0 per cent to 25,053.90. Britain's FTSE 100 rose 0.2 per cent to 10,361.21. The future for the S&P 500 was up 0.3 per cent while that for the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.1 per cent. Markets are awaiting earnings reports from major companies to gauge the impact of various trends, including US President Donald Trump's tariffs and possible curbs on rare earths exports

from China. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 climbed 3.9 per cent to finish at 54,720.66, its highest close ever. Shares in equipment maker Disco Corp. jumped 7.4 per cent while those in testing equipment maker Advantest gained 7.1 per cent. Share prices have been boosted by expectations that Prime Minister Sanaa Takaichi's Liberal Democratic Party will regain a significant majority in the parliament in a Feb. 8 election, ushering in more market-friendly policies. Some analysts warn that the Japanese yen may weaken further if Takaichi boosts government spending, presenting hardships for consumers and some companies.

In South Korea, the Kospi gained 6.8 per cent to 5,288.08, also a record. Investors appeared to regain confidence



after the latest scare over a possible bubble in artificial intelligence as shares in Samsung Electronics Co. soared 11.4 per cent while those in chip maker SK Hynix rocketed up 9.3 per cent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 0.2 per cent to 26,834.77, while the Shanghai Composite added 1.3 per cent to 4,067.74. Australia's S&P/

ASX 200 edged up 0.9 per cent to 8,857.10. Australia's central bank raised its benchmark policy rate for the first time in two years, citing higher inflation than anticipated before it last cut rates.

On Monday, the S&P 500 added 0.5 per cent, snapping a three-day losing streak. The Dow industrials rose 1.1 per

cent, and the Nasdaq composite gained 0.6 per cent. Gold gained 6.7 per cent on Tuesday, while silver's price rebounded nearly 14 per cent. Gold and silver prices have surged as investors search for safer things to own at a time of uncertainty over the status of the Federal Reserve, which may be set to

become less independent, a US stock market that critics say is expensive, threats of tariffs and heavy debt loads for governments worldwide.

Their prices cratered on Friday, including a 31.4 per cent plunge for silver. Some on Wall Street saw it as a result of President Donald Trump's nomination of Kevin Warsh as the next chair of the Fed. The Fed's chair has a big influence on the economy and markets worldwide by helping to dictate where the US central bank moves interest rates. That affects prices for all kinds of investments, as the Fed tries to keep the US job market humming without letting inflation get out of control. The US dollar declined to 155.52 Japanese yen from 155.61 yen. The euro cost \$1.1819, up from \$1.1791.

Fractal Analytics trims IPO size to ₹2,834-cr

NEW DELHI: Artificial intelligence (AI) solutions provider Fractal Analytics has trimmed the size of its Initial Public Offering (IPO) to Rs 2,834 crore from Rs 4,900 crore initially planned, before the launch of the maiden issue next week. The company's maiden public offering will open for subscription on February 9 and conclude on February 11. The bidding for anchor investors will take place on February 6, according to the red herring prospectus filed on Monday. The IPO now comprises a fresh issue of equity shares worth up to Rs 1,023.5 crore and an Offer for Sale (OFS) valued Rs 1,810.4 crore, this aggregates the total issue size to Rs 2,833.9 crore.

In its draft papers filed in August, Fractal was aiming to raise Rs 4,900 crore through its IPO. Those selling shares in the OFS include Quinag Bidco Ltd, TPG Fett Holdings Pte. Ltd, Satya Kumari Remala Rao, Venkateswara Remala and GLM Family Trust. The company is expected to announce the price band details on Wednesday. Fractal plans to use the proceeds from fresh issue to invest in its subsidiary, Fractal USA, for pre-payment or repayment of its borrowings; buy laptops; set up new offices in India; invest in research and development; support sales and marketing under Fractal Alpha; fund acquisitions and other strategic initiatives; and for general corporate purposes.

STT hike effect on markets to subside soon; NSE says no impact on IPO

Chiefs of NSE, BSE say, such moves in past show initial market unease, followed by stabilisation—without materially affecting IPO prospects or asset valuations

MUMBAI

MARKETS are used to tweak in taxation and the adverse impact of the steep hike in securities transaction tax (STT) will not last long, leading bourses said. NSE, the largest stock exchange, feels that the move to curb volumes will not have any impact on its upcoming initial public offering (IPO) plans, its Managing Director and Chief Executive Ashish Kumar Chauhan said.

"What has been raised is the STT has been increased in a minor way. Broadly, markets are used to having STT on options and this time it has also been increased on futures but broadly, I do not see any large impact on the IPO of NSE or otherwise asset valuations in the stock market going forward," Chauhan told.

Rival BSE's Managing Director and Chief Executive S Ramamurthy said markets react in a "bit adverse" way whenever any such changes are proposed by the government and exuded confidence that gradually things will settle down. "This is not the first time that STT is increased. When any such move is announced, the market reaction is a bit adverse to start with and then it stabilises," he said.

The proposal to increase



FM announced a proposal to raise the STT on futures to 0.05% from the present 0.02% and STT on options premium and exercise of options to be raised to 0.15% from the present rate of 0.1% and 0.125%

the STT on futures and options will also encourage long-term equity investments, he said, adding that it may also lead to a shift of money from the arbitrage funds to banks' fixed deposits as the returns one stands to make get on par.

The moves to hike the STT on the F&O segment was attributed as one of the key reasons that led to a sharp correction in the equity markets after the Budget speech by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

It can be noted that as per studies by Sebi, over 90% of

retail investors' trades in the F&O segment lead to losses, and the capital markets regulator has also taken steps to reduce the volumes in the past. Sitharaman announced the STT hikes, saying the move is aimed to "provide reasonable course correction" in the F&O segment in the capital market and generate additional revenues for the government.

Accordingly, she announced a proposal to raise the STT on futures to 0.05% from the present 0.02% and STT on options premium and exercise of options to be raised to 0.15% from the present rate of 0.1% and 0.125%

The BSE scrip closed the session 10% down at the end of trade on Sunday.

Buy on dips and sell on rallies

Retracement support is placed at 83,000 and 82,500, while 84,300 and 84,500 would act as immediate resistance levels

KUMUD DAS
MUMBAI

THE benchmark indices witnessed a promising rally. The Sensex was up by 2073 points. Among sectors, all the major sectoral indices traded in positive territory, but the Capital Market index outperformed, rallying over 5 per cent.

Technically, the market opened with a gap of over 3,500 points, but due to temporary overbought conditions, it witnessed some profit-

booking at higher levels. "We are of the view that the short-term market outlook remains positive, but a strategy of buying on dips and selling on rallies would be ideal for traders," says Shrikant Chouhan, Head - Equity Research, Kotak Securities.

On the downside, retrace support is placed at 83,000 and 82,500, while 84,300 and 84,500 would act as immediate resistance levels for the bulls. However, below 82,500, the uptrend could become vulnerable.



Dhoot Transmission aims to raise \$250-mn via IPO

NEW DELHI: Auto component maker Dhoot Transmission has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi through the confidential pre-filing route to raise \$250 million (about Rs 2,258 crore) through an initial public offering of its equity shares on the mainboard of the stock exchanges.

According to market sources, the initial public offering (IPO) size has been pegged at \$250 million. Dhoot Transmission has opted for the confidential pre-filing route, which allows the company to engage with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) for initial feedback on its draft document without it being publicly disclosed. This route has been increasingly favoured by companies seeking more flexibility in their IPO preparations and responding to market conditions before a public filing.

The filing comes amid sustained activity in the auto components segment of the capital markets. Over the past three years, several players including ASK Automotive, and Moterson Sumi Wiring India have debuted on the exchanges, while a number of other auto ancillary and electric vehicle-linked component manufacturers are at various stages of regulatory approval. Founded in 1999 by Rahul Dhoot and headquartered in Aurangabad, Maharashtra, Dhoot Transmission manufactures products such as wiring harnesses, electronic sensors and controllers, automotive switches, power cords, cables, connectors and terminals.



NIFTY 50

Symbol	LTP	%Chg
ADANIENT	2206.5	10.58
ADANIPORTS	1532	9.19
APOLLOHOSP	7065	1.9
ASIANPAINT	2424.1	0.92
AXISBANK	1354.4	3.27
BAJAJ-AUTO	9610	1.2
BAJAJFINSV	2011.1	4.2
BAJFINANCE	964	6.67
BEL	438.4	-0.16
BHARTIARTL	1995	1.51
BPCL	372.3	1.53
BRITANNIA	5880	-0.14
CIPLA	1323.4	0.9
COALINDIA	430.5	1.65
DRREDDY	1228.9	3.92
EICHERMOT	7205	3.14
GRASIM	2808.1	1.21
HCLTECH	1692.2	0.92
HDFCBANK	947.65	2.11
HDFCLIFE	720	0.35
HEROMOTOCO	5765	2.53
HINDALCO	954.4	2.57
HINDUNILVR	2369.5	0.52
ICICIBANK	1388	2.6
INDUSINDBK	923	1.4

BULLISH

Symbol	LTP	%Chg
INFY	1654.7	1.55
ITC	316.95	0.71
JSWSTEEL	1230.7	2.63
KOTAKBANK	415.8	1.86
GAIL	163.63	▲ 1.72%
KEI	4,345.80	▲ 7.42%
M&M	3530	1.93
MARUTI	14768	2.67
NESTLEIND	1307.4	-0.07
NTPC	358.1	2.21
ONGC	256.75	1.1
POWERGRID	283.05	4.68
RELIANCE	1438	3.42
SBLIFELIFE	1999.4	-0.08
SBIN	1062.1	3.25
SHIRAMFIN	1000	3.94
SUNPHARMA	1702.1	4.56
TATACONSUM	1155.4	2.67
TMPV	372.5	2.65
TATASTEEL	193.22	2.5
TCS	3220	1.59
TECHM	1712.7	-0.66
TITAN	4080.3	3.22
TRENT	3821	2.69
ULTRACEMCO	12610	0.6
WIPRO	242.56	0.11

BEARISH

Symbol	LTP	%Chg
BDL	1,311.50	▼ 0.52%
BRITANNIA	5,898.00	▼ 0.02%
DABUR	500.95	▼ 0.08%
GODREJCP	1,149.20	▼ 2.00%
HINDPETRO	452	▼ 0.40%
IRFC	115.05	▼ 0.03%
KPITECH	991.6	▼ 1.02%
NMDC	81.66	▼ 0.17%
POLICYBZR	1,465.50	▼ 6.08%
VBL	452	▼ 3.29%

SELL BUY 52 WEEKS H & L

HIGH

Symbol	LTP	High Price	%Chg
ABSLLIQUID	999.99	0	1,000.01
AETHER	1,009.00	-2.79	1,049.50
APEX	352.30	19.99	350.53
APLAPOLO	2,134.00	2.63	2,151.10
ASCOM	159.50	4.97	154.00
ASHOKLEY	200.00	2.88	199.21
AXISBANK	1,354.40	3.27	1,384.90
BALJ-AUTO	9,610.00	1.2	9,888.00
BALJACON	352.50	1.25	351.50
BANKADD	61.34	2.46	61.84
BANKBEES	619.73	2.52	624.70
BANKKTF	609.49	2.58	612.84
BANKKTF	61.50	2.59	62.88
BHARATFOR	1,539.50	6.64	1,506.50
CLCIND	10.36	4.96	9.87
ABSLLIQUID	999.99	0	999.99
ADDICTIVE	101.50	-0.49	98.00
AMBICAAGAR	23.22	-2.72	22.90
ANSALAPI	2.89	0	2.86
ARMOUR	31.90	4.93	30.40

LOW

Symbol	LTP	%Chg
ABSLLIQUID	999.99	0
ADICTIVE	101.50	-0.49
AMBICAAGAR	23.22	-2.72
ANSALAPI	2.89	0
ARMOUR	31.90	4.93

SENSEX 30

Symbol	LTP	%Chg
ADANIPORTS	1532	9.19
ASIANPAINT	2424.1	0.92
AXISBANK	1354.4	3.27
BAJAJFINSV	2011.1	4.2
BAJFINANCE	964	6.67
BEL	438.4	-0.16
BHARTIARTL	1995	1.51
BPCL	372.3	1.53
BRITANNIA	5880	-0.14
CIPLA	1323.4	0.9
COALINDIA	430.5	1.65
DRREDDY	1228.9	3.92
EICHERMOT	7205	3.14
GRASIM	2808.1	1.21
HCLTECH	1692.2	0.92
HDFCBANK	947.65	2.11
HDFCLIFE	720	0.35
HEROMOTOCO	5765	2.53
HINDALCO	954.4	2.57
HINDUNILVR	2369.5	0.52
ICICIBANK	1388	2.6
INDUSINDBK	923	1.4
INFY	18.34	4.32
ITC	316.7	0.6
KOTAKBANK	415.8	1.86
LT	4038	2.98

NIFTY 500

Symbol	LTP	%Chg
3600NE	1167	5.09
3MINDIA	35000	1.48
AADHARHFC	476.65	-0.03
AARTIIND	426.5	14.34
AAVAS	1433	-1.02
ABB	5665	3.6
ABBOTINDIA	26930	-1.45
ABCAPITAL	346.9	4.16
ABFRL	65.6	2.45
ABREL	1250	4.57
ABSLAMC	809.95	4.29
ACC	1667	1.89
ACE	867	-2
ACMESOLAR	217.72	0.12
ADANIENSO	971.15	9.78
ADANIENT	2206.5	10.58
ADANIGREEN	932	10.43
ADANIPORTS	1532	9.19
ADANIPOWER	144.5	7.36
AEGISLOG	700	-0.38
AFCONS	339	1.39
AFFLE	1644.2	3.09
AIAENG	4029	0.32
AIL	526	3.22
AJANTPHARM	2880	3.38
AKUMS	446.85	1.83
ALIVUS	948	2.83
ALKEM	5695	3.14
ALKYLAMINE	1605.9	3.21
ALOKINDS	16.07	6.78
AMBER	6165	2.77
AMBUJACEM	528	3.43
ANANDRAJH	2955	2.92
ANANTRAJ	562.9	0.84
ANGELONE	2590	7.86
APARINDS	9794	19.99
APLAPOLLO	2134	2.63
APLITD	792.6	1.35
APOLLOHOSP	7065	1.9
APOLLOTYRE	505	4.54
APUTS	281.65	5.57
ARE&M	834	2.16
ASAHIINDIA	989.9	-0.23
ASHOKLEY	200	2.88
ASIANPAINT	2424.1	0.92
ASTERDM	544.65	-2.4
ASTRAL	1503.9	2.47
ASTRAZEN	8651	0.25
ATGL	542.5	4.52
ATUL	6200	3.97
AUBANK	982.5	1.79
AUROPHARMA	1222.1	4.36
AWL	215</td	

