

BIZ BRIEFS

BharathCloud, BDIA in pact

BharathCloud engaged in discussions at Bharat Digital Samvad, the inaugural national forum organised by the Bharath Digital Infrastructure Association (BDIA), in New Delhi. The summit brought together policymakers, cloud infrastructure leaders, regulators, enterprises, and technology stakeholders to discuss India's digital sovereignty, AI infrastructure readiness, and the future of domestic cloud ecosystems. The event also initiated the official launch of BDIA as an association of not-for-profit industry dedicated to developing and improving India's digital infrastructure.

Classic Legends' new initiative

Classic Legends has announced the launch of the 9-day "Legends' Care Camp", a nationwide service initiative across its authorised Jawa, Yezdi and BSA dealership network from May 23 to May 31, 2026, reinforcing the company's continued focus on customer satisfaction and after-sales experience. The service camp will be organised across multiple cities and will offer customers comprehensive vehicle health check-ups along with exclusive benefits on service, spare parts, labour and genuine accessories. As part of the initiative, trained technicians will conduct a detailed 72-point motorcycle inspection.

Bajaj Finserv AMC's report

In its latest outlook, Bajaj Finserv AMC believes global markets are entering a more challenging phase marked by moderating growth, elevated inflation, and heightened geopolitical uncertainty. According to the latest IMF projections, global growth is expected to slow to 3.1 per cent in 2026 from 3.4 per cent last year, while inflation is projected to rise to 4.4 per cent, largely due to elevated energy prices and supply-side disruptions.

ITC focuses on biodiversity

As the world marks International Day for Biological Diversity, under the theme 'Acting Locally for Global Impact', ITC's large-scale and integrated biodiversity conservation initiatives demonstrate how grassroots action can deliver impactful ecological outcomes, build climate resilience and support livelihoods creation, the company said. ITC's biodiversity programme in collaboration with State Governments cumulatively covers nearly 7.8 lakh acres across 10 states in India till date and the aim is to cover 1 million acres under the initiative by 2030.

BLSe releases FY26 results

BLSe (BLSe), a technology-enabled digital service provider, announced its consolidated audited financial results for the quarter and full year period ended March 31, 2026. The company's total income increased to Rs. 1,142.8 crore in FY26 as compared to Rs 545 crore in FY25, up by 109.7 per cent YoY. EBITDA of the company increased to Rs. 99.9 crores from Rs. 86.1 crore in FY25. PAT rose to Rs. 69.3 crore as compared to Rs 58.8 crore in FY25.

When oil and rain conspire against your wallet

Rising fuel prices, El Niño, weakening rupee, and constrained govt spending create a squeeze on real incomes

CHOLLETT

HERE is a number worth pausing over: 6.7 per cent. That is how fast India Ratings and Research - one of the country's most credible independent credit rating and economic research agencies, affiliated with the global Fitch Group - expects the Indian economy to grow in the financial year 2026-27. Not a bad number by global standards. But it represents a meaningful deceleration from the 7.6 per cent growth recorded in FY26, and the reasons behind that deceleration matter enormously to the ordinary Indian household navigating the crosscurrents of rising prices, a weakening rupee, and a world that seems perpetually on the edge of the next crisis.

Let us translate the economics into plain language - because this forecast is not an abstraction. It will show up in your petrol bill, your grocery basket, your EMI, and your savings account.

The Oil Problem — And Why It Is Your Problem

The single biggest villain in this economic story is crude oil. India imports roughly 85 per cent of its petroleum needs, making it one of the world's most oil-import-dependent large economies. When global oil prices rise - driven, as they currently are, by the ongoing West Asia conflict - the impact on India is swift, broad, and deeply personal.

India Ratings has built its base-case forecast on oil averaging USD 95 per barrel across FY27, with higher prices assumed in the first half of the year before moderating. Under this assumption, GDP growth comes in at 6.7 per cent. But here is the sensitivity analysis that should make policymakers and citizens alike sit up: every USD 10 per barrel increase in crude prices reduces India's GDP growth by 44 basis points - nearly half a percentage point. If oil averages USD 120 per



barrel - not an inconceivable scenario if the West Asia situation deteriorates - growth could fall to 5.6 per cent. That is a significant economic setback.

For the middle-class family, this translates into the cost of a litre of petrol and diesel. The government has already raised retail petrol and diesel prices by Rs. 3 per litre and compressed natural gas prices by Rs. 2 per kg in May 2026, following earlier hikes in March and April. Another round of increases - Rs. 5 more per litre in the first quarter of FY27 under India Ratings' assumptions - is anticipated. The household budget that has been absorbing one inflation shock after another is being asked to absorb yet another. Every additional rupee per litre of petrol is not merely a transport cost - it is a multiplier that raises the price of every good that travels on Indian roads, which means virtually everything you buy.

El Niño - The Weather Risk Nobody is Talking About Enough

The second major headwind is something less amenable to policy intervention: the weather. India Ratings specifically flags the likely emergence of El Niño weather patterns from mid-2026 as a significant risk to agricultural output and food prices. El Niño - a periodic warming of the Pacific Ocean surface temperature - historically



disrupts the Indian monsoon, reducing rainfall below normal levels and damaging crop production.

Agriculture still employs approximately 45 per cent of India's workforce, even as its share of GDP has declined. A bad monsoon does not merely reduce farm incomes - it reduces rural consumption spending, which in turn slows the entire demand-driven economy. India Ratings has assumed rainfall at 92 per cent of the long-period average - already below normal - and projects agricultural GDP growth of only 2.1 per cent in FY27. If El Niño is more severe, even this modest projection could prove optimistic.

For the urban middle-class consumer, the connection is direct: food inflation. Retail inflation is already projected to rise to 4.4 per cent in FY27 from 2.1 per cent in FY26. Wholesale inflation, which is a leading indicator of future retail prices, has already jumped to a 42-month high of 8.3 per cent in May 2026. Vegetables, cereals, pulses, and dairy - already subject to supply pressures - will be



crude oil, fertilisers, electronic components, and the hundreds of goods whose production chains run through imported inputs. For the family that is already absorbing higher petrol prices, a weakening rupee compounds the problem by making the underlying dollar cost of energy even more expensive in domestic currency terms.

Further squeezed by the monsoon disappointments. The government has already shown how sensitive it is to food price pressures: import duties on gold were raised to contain the current account deficit, and milk brands like Amul and Mother Dairy have already raised prices by Rs. 2 per litre each. This is only the beginning of what could be a difficult food price environment through the year.

The Rupee - Quietly Losing Ground

There is another tax that falls on every Indian who buys anything imported - and that includes fuel, electronics, edible oils, and medicines among many other goods. It is called currency depreciation, and it is working silently and continuously against the Indian household.

India Ratings projects the rupee-dollar exchange rate to average Rs. 94.28 to the dollar in FY27 - a depreciation of 6.7 per cent from the FY26 average of Rs. 88.35. A weaker rupee makes every import more expensive in rupee terms. It directly inflates the cost of

The trade deficit - the gap between what India imports and exports - is projected to widen to USD 421.2 billion in FY27, the highest since FY13. India's current account deficit (the broader measure of the country's external balance) is expected to deteriorate to 2.6 per cent of GDP. This is manageable but uncomfortable and it places continued downward pressure on the rupee.

The Government's Balancing Act - And Its Limits

The government is attempting to navigate these pressures through a combination of fiscal prudence and targeted support. The fiscal deficit target for FY27 is 4.3 per cent of GDP - tighter than last year's 4.4 per cent. A fiscal stabilisation fund of Rs. 1 trillion created in FY26 will provide some cushion. The Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme 5.0 (ECLGS) has been activated for MSMEs and other borrowers facing liquidity stress from the West Asia-driven disruptions.

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But the government's room for manoeuvre is genuinely constrained. Fuel subsidies, fertiliser subsidies, and the need to support El Niño relief measures - if the monsoon disappoints - will all press against the fiscal deficit target.

India Ratings notes that Niti Aayog has recommended deferring major construction activities for two years to reduce fiscal pressure - a significant recommendation that, if accepted, would slow government capital expenditure and reduce infrastructure investment precisely when private investment remains below its potential. A 10 per cent reduction in government capital expenditure, the report notes, would reduce GFCF (Gross Fixed Capital Formation - a measure of investment in the economy) growth from its current trajectory and pull GDP growth down to 6.0 per cent. This is the capex dilemma at the heart of Indian economic management today: the government needs to invest to sustain growth momentum, but it also needs to consolidate fiscally to maintain credibility with investors and ratings agencies. Threading that needle in a year of high oil prices and potentially poor rainfall will test policymakers considerably.

What This Means for You
At 6.7 per cent, the Indian

economy is still growing faster than almost any other major economy in the world. The structural story - demographics, digital infrastructure, manufacturing expansion, services exports - remains broadly intact. These are not trivial advantages, and they provide genuine reason for medium-term optimism.

But growth at the aggregate level and the experience of growth at the household level are different things. The combination of rising fuel prices, potential food inflation from El Niño, a weakening rupee, and constrained government spending creates a squeeze on real incomes - particularly for salaried and self-employed middle-class families whose nominal incomes are not rising fast enough to offset these pressures.

The practical implication is straightforward: this is a year to be financially conservative. High consumer price inflation, rising borrowing costs, and currency weakness argue for reducing discretionary spending where possible, building a liquidity buffer in household finances, and being cautious about taking on new floating-rate debt. The RBI's tolerance band for inflation (2-6 per cent) means the central bank will not cut rates aggressively in this environment - which means EMIs are unlikely to get cheaper any time soon.

India's economy is resilient and its long-term trajectory is positive. But the year ahead will test that resilience - and the households best positioned to navigate it will be those that see the headwinds clearly rather than those who assume that 6.7 per cent GDP growth means that everything is comfortably fine. It is not, for everyone, and it is important to say so.

(The author is with the Chollett BlackRobe Chambers, Hyderabad, and writes on economy, politics and law)

BUILDING YOUR LINKEDIN PROFILE: A GUIDE FOR EVERY STAGE

Whether you are just starting out or already climbing - your profile must speak the right language



SHILLA SHREE R

A LinkedIn profile is not a one-size-fits-all document. Just as the clothes you wear to a campus interview differ from what you wear to a boardroom, the way you present yourself on LinkedIn must reflect exactly where you are in your career - and where you are headed. Over the past few weeks, we have talked about resumes, interviews, and first impressions. Today, let us go deeper into one of the most powerful tools you carry with you every single day: your LinkedIn profile. And let us talk about it honestly, for three very different kinds of professionals.

For the First-Timer: You Have More to Say Than You Think

If you are a fresher starting at a blank LinkedIn profile and wondering what on earth you have to offer, stop. You have more than you realise - you simply have not learned to frame it yet.

Begin with your headline. Do not write "Fresher"



or "Looking for Opportunities" - these are the two most common mistakes I see, and they immediately signal a lack of confidence. Instead, write what you are: "B.Tech Graduate | Aspiring Data Analyst | Python & SQL Enthusiast" or "Commerce Graduate | Passionate About Finance & Auditing." Lead with identity, follow with direction.

Your About section is where you tell your story. Write three to four sentences about what you studied, what excites you professionally, and what kind of work you are looking for. Mention a college project, an internship, a competition you participated in, or a skill you taught yourself.

Recruiters hiring freshers are not looking for experience - they are looking for curiosity, initiative, and the potential to grow. Show them that. Add your education, any internships, certifications from platforms like Coursera or LinkedIn Learning, and at least five relevant skills. Ask a professor or

internship manager for a recommendation. Even one genuine recommendation on a fresher profile is worth a hundred self-descriptions.

For the One-to-Two Year Professional: Move From Potential to Proof

You have crossed the first milestone. You have real experience now - projects completed, problems solved, lessons learned. Yet many professionals at this stage still carry a LinkedIn profile that looks like it was set up in college and never touched again. That is a missed opportunity.

At this stage, your profile must shift from potential to proof. Update every role with specific achievements, not just responsibilities. There is a critical difference between "Handled social media accounts" and "Grew Instagram engagement by 40 per cent in six months through targeted content strategy." Numbers, results, and outcomes are what make recruiters lean forward.

Revisit your headline. You are no longer an aspir-

Today, let us go deeper into one of the most powerful tools you carry with you every single day: your LinkedIn profile. And let us talk about it honestly, for three very different kinds of professionals

ing professional - you are a working one. "Digital Marketing Executive | SEO & Content Strategy | Driving Organic Growth for B2B Brands" is a headline that commands attention. Your About section should now open with your professional identity, describe your area of expertise, highlight a key result from your work, and close with what kind of next step you are looking for.

For the Mid-Level Professional: Your Profile Must Lead, Not Follow

At four to six years of experience, you are entering the most competitive and most exciting phase of your career. You are no longer being judged purely on skills - you are being evaluated on leadership, judgement, and vision. Your LinkedIn profile must reflect that shift completely.

At this level, your headline should position you as a specialist or a leader in your domain. "Supply Chain Manager | End-to-End Logistics Optimisation | Delivered 20% Cost Reduction Across 3 Plants" is a headline that opens doors. Your About section should read like a professional manifesto - what you stand for, what you have built, and where you are taking your career next.

At this stage, activity on LinkedIn carries real weight. Share your professional perspective on industry developments. Write a short post about a challenge you solved at work. Comment meaningfully on articles by leaders in your field. Mid-level professionals who are visible on LinkedIn are consistently the ones who receive the best unsolicited opportunities - because they have built a reputation, not just a resume. Remember: at this stage of your career, recruiters are not just reading your profile. They are watching how you think.

Wherever you are in your journey - start today. Open your profile, read it as a stranger would, and ask yourself honestly: does this person sound like someone I would want to hire? If the answer is not an immediate yes, you know what to do.

(The writer is the Founder of Search Partners)

Kadamba gets 2026 Monde Selection Gold Medal

Kadamba Indian single-malt whisky from Goa-based luxury spirits conglomerate valued at Rs1,200 crore Cheers group led by Dr Mohan Krishna Balivada, received 2026 Monde Selection Gold Medal recently. And, receiving Monde Selection Gold medals continuously year on year is a significant achievement that serves as a powerful testament to 'Kadamba Indian Single-malt' brand's commitment to sustained quality and excellence. Since 1961, the Brussels-based International Institute for Quality Selections has provided this independent, expert-driven evaluation, often referred to as the "Olympics of Food Products".

The 65 year-old Monde Selection is one of the oldest and most respected international quality institute, that evaluates products using over 120 independent experts - including Michelin-starred chefs, chemists, and oenologists - across over 30 criteria, including sensory evaluation, taste, packaging, and composition. A yearly, consecutive award means the product has repeatedly passed these strict international standards. It is a powerful "360° Quality" validation, indeed.

"We are thrilled to announce a monumental milestone for Kadamba Single-malt whisky, team and for our dedicated community of consumers and Single-malt global enthusiasts. Our flagship



Kadamba has been officially granted the prestigious Gold Quality Award at the 2026 World Selection by Monde Selection" says Ashwin Balivada CEO of Cheers Group and alumnus of Cambridge University Business Management graduate school.

Kadamba Indian Single Malt whisky continues its winning streak, earning the prestigious 2026 Monde Selection Gold Medal and being crowned "Best World Whisky" at the 2026 John Barleycorn Awards in the USA. It has Pan-India presence and expanding internationally to USA, Canada, Europe, UAE, Asia, and is currently expanding on high demand its Goa distillery into a carbon-neutral facility with international visitor centre to pop up Goa tourism.

Indian single malt whiskies are rapidly transforming India from a historical whisky consumer into a premium global exporter. Premium liquor exports generate over \$400 million. By earning foreign exchange and beating global giants, distilleries are proving that "Made in India" premium spirits hold commanding power internationally, the company said.