TODAY's QUOTE

E20 fuel introduced only after scientific validation

"The Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme had been implemented through a phased and scientifically validated process in con-sultation with NITI Aayog, automobile manufacturers, SIAM, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and other technical institutions. Ex-tensive testing and large-scale field experience had found no evidence that E20 petrol causes abnormal engine wear, corro-sion or re-duced vehicle life

- Suresh Gopi, Union Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Gas

HANS BIZZ BUZZ

MONDAY TO SATURDAY www.bizzbuzz.news / www.epaper.bizzbuzz.news BUSINESS DAILY

MARKETS AT A GLANCE

Sensex	77,928.15	0.35%▲
Nifty	24,317.15	0.28%▲
Bank Nifty	57,205.90	0.79%▲
Gold	1,47,000/10gms	1,000▲
Silver	2,24,700/kg	600▼
Rupee	95.67	9ps▲
Crude Oil	85.03/bbl	1%▲

INSIDE

E20 petrol can reduce fuel economy by 2-6%: Nitin Gadkari

Petrol blended with 20 per cent ethanol (E20) can reduce fuel economy by 2 to 6 per cent de-pending on the vehicle category and vintage, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari informed Parliament P2

AP brings in big rule changes to boost building activity

In a significant step towards improving the Ease and Speed of Doing Business, Andhra Pradesh Government has notified comprehensive amendments to the AP Building Rules, 2017, through GO Ms.No.161, Municipal Administration and Urban Development (M) Depart-ment, dated 29.07.2026 P3

Domestic & international macros to drive bond markets in coming week

P6

5G revolution gathers pace; 100 crore users in sight

P8

TWEETY FRUITY

Keep moving forward

Don't let yourself stay stuck when things gets difficult. Setbacks, slow seasons, failed ideas, and unexpected challenges are part of the entrepreneurial journey. They are not always signs that you are on the wrong path. Sometimes, they are simply the price of building something meaningful

Robert Herjavec
@Roberttherjavec, Lead Shark, Shark Tank

Let principles guide you

Most importantly, you need to have principles that deal with reality. Embrace reality, deal with it, and have those core principles. If everyone took the time to write down their principles and think about how to deal with specific situations, the world would operate a lot more effectively

Ray Dalio
@RayDalio, Founder, Bridgewater Associates

Your difference is your strength

Embrace your strangeness. Identify what makes you different. Fuse those things together and be-come an anomaly

Robert Greene
@RobertGreene, Author

STRONG SAVERS, BIGGER INVESTORS

Beyond gold & real estate, equities beckon Telugu investors

Telangana and AP have a solid investor base, but analysts see vast potential for greater stock market participation

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
HYDERABAD

TELANGANA and Andhra Pradesh are home to some of India's most enterprising com-munities, spanning agriculture, industry, IT and now AI — and a new five-year analysis of IPO applications suggests their next big growth story could be in the stock market itself.

Of the 1.83 crore unique IPO applicants recorded nation-ally across 33 states and 785 towns, Telangana contributed 3.99 lakh (2.17%) and Andhra Pradesh 4.41 lakh (2.40%) — a combined 8.4 lakh investors al-ready active in India's primary markets. That's a meaningful base to build on, especially with Maharashtra and Guja-rat's outsized historical share showing just how much room the rest of the country, includ-ing the Telugu states, still has to grow. The per-capita numbers point to the same opportunity from a different angle. Telan-gana logged about 10,490 ap-plicants per million people, and Andhra Pra-desh 8,316, against a national average of 12,841. Rather than a shortfall in ambi-tion, analysts read this as evidence of strong, disci-plined savers — Telugu house-holds save as much as anyone — with substantial headroom to bring more of that saving into listed equity alongside their traditional preference for land and gold.

The state-level patterns hint at where that growth can come from. Hyderabad al-ready drives close to 60% of Telan-gana's participation, with its tech and pharma workforce placing the city 13th nation-ally — a strong base to extend into Wa-rangal, Nizamabad and other growing towns. Andhra Pradesh's participa-tion is already well distributed, spanning Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Guntur, Tirupati, Nellore, Kurnool and Rajah-mundry, giving it a broad foundation to build deeper investor engagement across multiple centres rather than one city alone.

Encouragingly, the infra-structure for that growth is already in place. NSE data as of July 4 shows 1.24 crore registered trading accounts from Andhra Pradesh and 61 lakh from Telangana, part of a national investor base that crossed 13 crore unique inves-tors in April. With access no longer a barrier, market watch-ers say the next step — turning more savers into active equity participants — is well within reach.

Diversification is the route there. Gold and property offer stability, and bank de-posits of-fer predictability, but equities give households a direct share in business growth over the long term — a valuable com-plement to, not a replacement for, traditional assets. SEBI's investor-education material encourages exactly this kind of balanced approach.

Timing adds to the oppor-tunity. Among 122 IPOs han-dled by lead managers linked to the upcoming Jio Platforms offer, around 70% have listed above issue price, under-lining that a research-led, fundamentals-first approach can work well for investors entering the market. Diversified mutual or index funds offer an even steadier on ramp for those in-vesting for the first time.

With marquee listings such as the NSE and Jio IPOs on the horizon, analysts see a timely moment for Telugu house-holds to put their strong saving culture to work in new ways — starting with an emergency fund and adequate insurance, and then building a diversified, goal-based portfolio across de-posits, bonds, gold and equi-ties that lets their considerable savings work harder for the future.

EQUITY PARTICIPATION

- **Telangana:** 3.99 lakh IPO applicants (2.17% of India)
- **Andhra Pradesh:** 4.41 lakh IPO applicants (2.40%)
- **Combined investor base:** 8.4 lakh IPO applicants
- **Trading accounts:** 1.24 crore (AP), 61 lakh (Telangana)
- Analysts see significant scope for higher equity participation
- Investors urged to diversify beyond gold, property and deposits
- Upcoming IPOs like Jio and NSE could boost participation
- Focus on long-term, diversified, goal-based investing

MeitY to hold high-level talks with Meta next week

NEW DELHI

THE Centre will hold high-level discussions with Meta within the next week to seek policy and technical explana-tions for the brief restriction of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Facebook post last week, Electronics and IT Sec-retary S Krish-nan said on Thursday.

Speaking on the sidelines of a CII conference on semi-conductors, Krishnan said the government had asked Meta's senior leadership to explain what caused the in-cident and outline measures to prevent

a recurrence. "We want to have both a policy-level and a technical understanding of the issues. There are several concerns we have, which we will raise with them," he said.

The government had sum-moned Meta's public policy head after a Facebook post by the Prime Minister on July 23 was briefly restricted before being restored. The post, which was originally shared on Instagram, featured Modi's first direct selfie video addressing India's youth and assuring strict action against exam paper leaks.

Although Meta apologised and attributed the incident to a technical glitch, the Minis-try of Electronics and Infor-mation Technology (MeitY) reportedly found the explana-tion inadequate.

According to sources, Meta has informed the govern-ment that it has strengthened safeguards for posts from the Prime Minister and other prominent accounts.

Gold demand falls, but spending hits record high

MUMBAI

INDIA's gold demand de-clined 6 per cent year-on-year to 131.4 tonnes dur-ing the April-June quarter, as higher prices, increased customs duty and season-ally weak jewellery pur-chases dampened consumer demand, according to the World Gold Council (WGC).

Despite the decline in volumes, the value of gold consumption surged 50 per cent to a record Rs 1.98 lakh crore, reflecting consumers' willingness to buy gold even at elevated prices.

WGC Regional CEO (In-dia) Sachin Jain said the slowdown was driven by a subdued buying season, the increase in customs duty and Prime Minister Naren-dra Modi's appeal to reduce non-essential gold purchases to help curb imports.

Jewellery demand fell 15 per cent to 75.1 tonnes, while investment demand re-mained resilient. Demand for gold bars and coins rose 9 per cent to 50.3 tonnes, and Indian Gold ETFs recorded net inflows of 4.2 tonnes, even as global ETFs wit-nessed outflows.

The WGC also expressed concern over the possible rise in gold smuggling fol-lowing the customs duty hike, de-scribing illicit trade as one of the biggest risks facing the industry. Gold imports dur-ing the quarter declined 23 per cent to 98.1 tonnes, while recy-cled gold supply fell 17 per cent.

Heavy rains forecast: IT companies urged to go remote

HYDERABAD: In view of the heavy rains forecast for the next two days, Hy-derabad police have appealed to people not to step out of their homes during rains unless absolutely necessary, while Cyberabad Police have advised IT companies to consider work from home wherever possible.

Companies and organi-sations within the limits of Cyberabad Police Commis-sionerate have also been re-quested to follow early log-out in a staggered manner on Thursday from 2 p.m. so as to minimise travel-related risks, reduce pressure on road infrastructure, and sup-port smooth functioning of essential services dur-ing the adverse weather conditions.

Cyberabad police issued the traffic advisory consider-ing the safety, productivity, likelihood of severe traffic congestion, and for the un-interrupted emergency ser-vices.

THE REAL GEN Z

How young entrepreneurs are building the India of tomorrow

From spacetech to healthcare and e-commerce, a new generation is powering economic growth

SRIKANTH GODAVARTHI

INDIA's Gen Z is often seen through the prism of social media, influencers and cam-pus activism. But beyond the hashtags and sloganeering, a quieter and far more pow-erful story is unfolding. Across col-lege campuses, co-working spaces and even hostel rooms, thousands of young Indians are building companies, creating jobs and devel-oping technolo-gies that could shape India's future.

The numbers tell an inspir-ing story. As of the DPIIT's lat-est count, India has more than 1.25 lakh DPIIT-recognized start-ups. Of these, 15,000-20,000 are estimated to have at least one founder from Gen Z, making them 12-15 percent of the overall start-up ecosystem. Their presence is especially visible in AI, deep-tech, SaaS, fintech, healthcare and quick commerce.

Leading this wave are Aadit Palicha, 23, and Kaivalya Vohra, 22, the founders of Zepto, who built one of India's fastest-growing quick-com-merce companies while still in their twenties. Healthcare en-trepreneur 24-year-old Arjun Deshpande, founder of Generic Aadhaar, is another example of how young Indians are solving real-world prob-lems through innovation.

Hyderabad is rapidly becom-ing one of India's leading hubs for budding entrepre-neurs. The city's vibrant innovation landscape, driven by institu-tions like T-Hub, T-Works, IIIT Hyderabad, IIT Hyderabad, and BITS Pilani Hyderabad, is nurturing a new wave of founders in fields such as deep-tech, defense, and space technology. Among these innovators are 21-year-olds Jay-ant Khatari and Sourya Choud-hury, who established Apollyon Dynamics. Their defense-tech startup has successfully raised Rs 4 crore in pre-seed funding and provided advanced drones to the Army. The achievement of Skyroot Aerospace, founded by Pawan Kumar Chandana and Naga Bharath Daka, serves as an inspiration for numerous young engineers to dream big. Although Skyroot's founders are from an earlier generation, the company has an av-erage employee age of around 28 years, highlighting the vital role of young talent in advancing India's private space sector.

Srinath Ravichandran, co-founder of Agnikul Cosmos, exemplifies the new wave of tech entrepreneurs bringing India to the global arena. Es-tablished during his 20s, Ag-nikul has showcased India's prowess in privately develop-ing and launching rockets with a single-piece, 3D-printed semi- cryogenic engine. Remarkably, the average age of Agni-kul's workforce is just 23 years, making it one of India's young-est high-tech teams and high-lighting Gen Z's role in spear-heading innovation within the burgeon-ing space economy. Industry estimates indicate that between 250,000 and 400,000 Gen Z entrepreneurs in India are running direct-to-consumer brands, e-commerce platforms, digital agencies, and small businesses. Even more noteworthy is the emer-gence of the side-hustle economy. A Mastercard-LinkedIn study re-vealed that over 45% of young Indians are either managing or aim to start side ventures, which in-clude AI content stu-dios, app development, con-sulting, freelancing, and digital com-merce. This trend trans-lates into an estimated 1.5 to 2 million Gen Z solopreneurs.

Research by CyberMedia Research (CMR) and iQOO reveals that 9% of Indian Gen Z prioritize entrepreneurship over traditional corporate ca-reers. In line with this, LinkedIn has noted a 104% year-on-year increase in Indians adding "Founder" to their profiles, with Gen Z at the forefront as technology and AI reduce entry barriers. Additionally, a Titan Capital-Hurun analysis shows that founders under 30 are 1.75 times more likely than those aged 31-40 to establish software companies and 1.44 times more likely to start healthcare ven-tures, highlighting the areas where India's next wave of innovation is emerging.

THE RISE OF INDIA'S GEN Z ENTREPRENEURS

- 1.25 lakh+ DPIIT-recognised startups
- 15,000–20,000 startups have at least one Gen Z founder
- 12–15% of active tech startups have a Gen Z co-founder
- 2.5–4 lakh Gen Z entrepreneurs run D2C and e-commerce businesses
- 1.5–2 million Gen Z solopreneurs and side-hustlers
- 45% of young Indians run or aspire to run a side business (Mastercard-LinkedIn)
- 9% want entrepreneurship as their primary career (CMR-iQOO)
- 104% YoY rise in Indians adding "Founder" on LinkedIn
- 1.75x more likely than older founders to build software startups
- 1.44x more likely to launch healthcare ventures

Jayant Khatari and Sourya Choudhury, Co-founders, Apollyon Dynamics

Roshni Nadar crowned top wealth multiplier

NEW DELHI

HCLTECH chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra is the top Wealth Multiplier in the Candere Hurun India Women Leaders List un-veiled on Thursday, while Hindu-stan Unilever CEO and managing director Priya Nair leads the Profes-sional CEOs category, head-ing a company valued at Rs 5,06,600 crore.

The 2026 Candere Hurun India Women Leaders List features 117 honourees, up

from 97 in 2025, marking a 21 per cent year-on-year in-crease.

Interestingly, Scorpio re-mains the most common zo-diac sign, shared by 12 hon-ourees.

The list has widened its scope from nine categories in 2025 to twelve in 2026, capturing a broader spec-trum of women's leadership.

Together, the honourees represent a combined valua-tion of Rs 39 lakh crore, sur-passing Finland's GDP. The average honouree is 48 years old, with the list span-ning seven decades, from 19 to 86.

Biocon Founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and Nykaa Founder Falguni Nayar are some of the other notable names on the list. Apollo Hospitals' Preetha Reddy (68) and Suneeta Reddy (67) jointly lead the Veterans cat-egory, backed by a group val-uation exceeding Rs 1,21,000 crore. Vaishali Nigam Sinha (56), co-founder and chair-person - sustainability at ReNew Power, leads the New Economy cate-gory, with the company valued at Rs 22,230 crore. At just 19, para-archer Sheetal Devi is the youngest woman featured on the list, whereas 86-year-old veteran entrepreneur Rajni Bector is the list's oldest honouree.

Apple faces pressure over China chip sourcing

NEW DELHI

A bipartisan group of US lawmakers has urged Ap-ple Inc. to abandon plans to source memory chips from Chinese semiconductor companies CXMT Corp. and Yangtze Memory Technolo-gies Co. (YMTC), warning that such a move could pose long-term national security risks and increase the com-pany's dependence on sup-pliers linked to Beijing.

In a letter addressed to Apple CEO Tim Cook, the lawmakers asked the iPhone maker not to use chips from the two companies, even in products meant exclusively for the Chinese market.

The senators, led by Re-publican Jim Banks and Democrat Chuck Schumer, noted that both CXMT and YMTC are included on the Pentagon's updated list of Chinese entities believed to sup-port China's military.

The lawmakers argued that sourcing chips from these companies could eventually expose Apple's global supply chain to strategic risks, even if the components were ini-tially limited to devices sold in China.

SECURITY CONCERNS

- Bipartisan US lawmakers write to Apple
- Security concerns over Chinese chip firms
- CXMT and YMTC named
- AI demand fuels chip shortage
- Apple asked to respond by Aug. 21