The Hans India Business

"The Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme had been implemented through a phased and scientifically validated process in consultation with NITI Aayog, automobile manufacturers, SIAM, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and other technical institutions.

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

STRONG SAVERS, BIGGER INVESTORS

Investors in two Telugu states eye equity boom

TELANGANA AND AP HAVE A SOLID INVESTOR BASE, BUT ANALYSTS SEE VAST POTENTIAL FOR GREATER STOCK MARKET PARTICIPATION

Hans News Service
Hyderabad

- 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

TELANGANA and Andhra Pradesh are home to some of India's most enterprising communities, 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 nationally 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 already active in India's primary markets. That's a meaningful base to build on, especially with Maharashtra and Gujarat's outsized historical share showing just how much room the rest of the country, including the Telugu states, still has to grow.

The per-capita numbers point to the same opportunity from a different angle. Telangana logged about 10,490 applicants per million people, and Andhra Pradesh 8,316, against a national average of 12,841. Rather than a shortfall in ambition, analysts read this as evidence of strong, disciplined savers — Telugu households 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 already drives close to 60% of Telangana's participation, with its tech and pharma workforce placing the city 13th nationally — a strong base to extend into Warangal, Nizamabad and other growing towns. Andhra Pradesh's participation is already well distributed, spanning Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Guntur, Tirupati, Nellore, Kurnool and Rajahmundry, giving it a broad foundation to build deeper investor engagement across multiple centres rather than one city alone.

Encouragingly, the infrastructure 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 investors in April. With access no longer a barrier, market watchers 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 deposits offer predictability, but equities give households a direct share in business growth over the long term-a valuable complement to, not a replacement for, traditional assets.

Costlier gold dampens demand, consumption value soars

WGC says jewellery purchases weakened, but bar, coin and ETF investments remained strong

Mumbai

INDIA'S gold demand fell 6 per cent year-on-year to 131.4 tonnes in the April-June quarter, weighed down by seasonally subdued sales, higher Customs duty and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to reduce purchases of the precious metal, the World Gold Council said in a report.

The total demand was at 139.7 tonnes during the corresponding period last year, according to WGC's 'Q2 2026 Gold Demand Trends' report.

"However, it's been a record in terms of the value of demand. So, consumption was Rs 1,98,100 crores, compared with Rs 1,32,500 crores in the same period in 2025, which is up by 50 per cent compared to the second quarter of 2025, highlighting that consumers continue to prioritise gold even in a high-price environment," WGC Regional CEO, India, Sachin Jain said. Going forward, for the year, WGC estimated the demand to stay between 650 and 750 tonnes.

"We still see demand in the range of 650 to 750 tonnes for this year. However, given the current geopolitical landscape, interest rates, and inflation, I think we should be somewhere in the middle of this range. If there is more correction in gold prices and the customs duty is reduced, then we could get to the upper end of this range," Jain added.

Total Jewellery demand in India during the quarter under review decreased by 15 per cent to 75.1 tonnes as compared to 88.8 tonnes in the same period last year.

"Subdued season, the clarion call of the Prime Minister to buy less gold and hike in Customs Duty, among others, impacted the demand," he added.

Prime Minister Modi, in May this year, urged people to reduce non-essential gold purchases and explore other ways to save foreign exchange reserves amid mounting import bills of the country due to volatile crude oil prices.

Jain expressed concern about a rise in grey marketing after the duty hike, noting reports of illicit gold already making its way into these markets.

"We think smuggling and illicit gold making way into the market is the biggest risk to the industry, and we are already getting reports on this. We will be tracking this in the coming quarters," he added.

Meanwhile, investment demand remained encouraging, with bar and coin demand growing 9 per cent year-on-year to 50.3 tonnes, while Indian Gold ETFs attracted 4.2 tonnes of net inflows despite global outflows.

"These trends reinforce gold's growing appeal not only as a traditional store of wealth but also as a strategic investment that provides stability and diversification in an increasingly uncertain economic environment.

BIZ BRIEFS

AU collaborates with Salesforce

Adamas University (AU) announced a strategic collaboration with Salesforce, an Agentic AI CRM, to establish West Bengal's first Salesforce Academia Centre of Excellence. The collaboration will equip students and faculty with hands-on access to Salesforce technologies including Agentforce, Agentforce 360 Platform, Tableau and Data 360. Prof. (Dr.) Samit Ray, Chancellor, Adamas University, said: "Our collaboration with Salesforce through this Centre of Excellence reflects our commitment to bridging the gap between academia and industry."

Ujjivan SFB gets recognition

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (Ujjivan SFB), a leading small finance bank, announced that it has secured the 8th position among Top 100 India's Best Companies to Work For 2026. Chandralekha Chaudhuri, Head – Human Resources, Ujjivan SFB, said: "This recognition among India's Best Companies to Work For holds special significance because it is earned through employee feedback and experiences. The ranking reflects the trust our people place in the organization and their honest assessment of our culture."

Story TV's biz expansion

Story TV, a microdrama platform from Eloelo Group, announced a full-scale expansion into South India, with the launch of original vertical series in Telugu. GSN Aditya, COO, Story TV, said: "Entertainment has moved to the mobile screen and viewing habits have moved with it. Audiences today want stories they can binge instantly and see themselves in their language, their culture, their world. Microdrama answers both."

Amazon sale from Aug 7

Amazon India announced that its annual Great Freedom Sale 2026 will go live from August 7, bringing together top deals across categories including smartphones, fashion, beauty, home, kitchen, large appliances, groceries, everyday essentials and more. During the sale, customers can look forward to exciting savings through curated offer windows, including, Top 100 Deals, Blockbuster Deals, Trending Deals, 8 PM Deals, etc. Additionally, customers can avail a discounts and EMI transactions.

Formal credit gains traction

India's formal credit penetration more than doubled over nine years, with 74 per cent of credit-eligible consumers having accessed formal credit by March 2026, up from 35 per cent in 2017, according to a TransUnion CIBIL report. Credit growth was driven by women, younger borrowers and non-metro regions, with Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar outpacing traditional western and southern markets. The report also highlighted significant scope to bring more new-to-credit consumers and MSMEs into the formal credit ecosystem.

Olectra becomes first in India to deploy 4,000 electric buses

Hans Business
Hyderabad

OLECTRA Greentech Limited has become the first company in the country to deploy 4,000 electric buses on Indian roads, marking a significant milestone in India's transition towards sustainable public transportation.

The company achieved the milestone with the symbolic handover of its 4,000th electric bus to Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu during the flagging off of 297 Olectra electric buses inducted into the Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) fleet.

Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri, senior officials of the State government, HRTC and Olectra were present on the occasion.

With electric buses operating across several States and cities, Olectra has emerged as India's leading electric bus manufacturer. The company said its buses are transporting millions of passengers while offering reliable performance, lower operating costs and significant environmental benefits.

Olectra team handing over company's 4,000th electric bus to Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu during the flagging off of 297 Olectra electric buses inducted into the Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) fleet

Vivo Ignite garners over 38,000 registrations

Hans Business
Hyderabad

Vivo India announced that vivo Ignite 2026, its flagship nationwide innovation initiative for school students, has received over 38,000 registrations. This year's edition witnessed registrations from more than 12,000 schools across 705 districts and over 4,500 cities. Students from Grades 8-12 submitted more than 6,100 ideas, applying technology to address challenges across themes aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). Compared to the previous edition, vivo Ignite expanded its national footprint from 9,000 schools across 668 districts and more than 3,000 cities to more than 12,000 schools across 705 districts and more than 4,500 cities.

Markets rally for 2nd day on blue-chip rally, FII inflows

MUMBAI:Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty ended higher on Thursday, driven by a rally in blue-chip stocks Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank and foreign fund inflows.

In a volatile session, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 273.55 points, or 0.35 per cent, higher at 77,928.15, helped by fag-end buying. During the day, it hit a high of 78,007.09 and a low of 77,440.91, gyrating 566.18 points. The 50-share NSE Nifty advanced by 66.95 points, or 0.28 per cent, to end at 24,317.15.

From the Sensex pack, Maruti Suzuki, Mahindra & Mahindra, Reliance Industries, State Bank of India, HDFC Bank and Power Grid were among the major winners. Adani Ports, InterGlobe Aviation, Bajaj Finserv and Bharat Electronics were among the laggards. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 2,981.87 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

"The Fed's decision to maintain the status quo on rates was largely anticipated, but hawkishness remained due to continued emphasis on inflation control. A sharp uptick in US bond yields signalled growing pressure for a possible rate hike in the near future, keeping global investors on edge, while renewed crude oil volatility amid West Asian tensions added to external uncertainty," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd, said.

As a result, domestic equities stayed range-bound with sharp intraday swings, as investors weighed global headwinds against resilient domestic fundamentals, he said. "Nonetheless, strengthening FII inflows, a firmer rupee, and encouraging Q1FY27 supported sentiment, prompting investors to treat dips as selective buying opportunities," Nair added.

"Markets traded in a volatile yet narrow range and settled marginally higher amid mixed cues. Sentiment remained mixed as the US Fed kept rates unchanged but signaled a hawkish stance, boosting rate hike expectations later this year. Further, Brent crude nearing the $90 mark with renewed geopolitical concerns kept markets on edge," Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said. However, stability in the rupee and stock-specific buying across sectors due to the ongoing earnings season outcomes continue to support the recovery, he added.

The BSE SmallCap Select index dipped 0.66 per cent and the MidCap Select index edged lower by 0.36 per cent. Among sectors, Auto climbed 1.58 per cent, Energy 0.73 per cent, Consumer Discretionary 0.48 per cent, Oil & Gas 0.38 per cent, Top 10 Banks 0.20 per cent, Metal 0.17 per cent and Consumer Durables 0.13 per cent. Realty declined 2.10 per cent, Services 1.14 per cent, MidSmall Private Banks Quality Tilt 0.82 per cent, Insurance 0.69 per cent, Capital Goods 0.61 per cent, Industrials 0.42 per cent and Commodities 0.39 per cent.

Tata Steel Q1 profit up 19% at ₹2,385 cr; board approves ₹33,873 cr for NINL expansion

NEW DELHI: Tata Steel on Thursday reported a 19 per cent year-on-year rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 2,385.24 crore in the June quarter on account of growth in revenues from India operations.

It had posted a net profit of Rs 2,007.36 crore in the first quarter of the preceding financial year, the company said in an exchange filing.

Total income rose to Rs 61,026.97 crore in Q1 FY27 from Rs 53,466.79 crore in the same quarter a year ago.

The company's board also approved the core project of steelmaking capacity expansion by 4.8 MTPA in NINL for an estimated capex of Rs 33,873 crore.

This will enable Tata Steel to further expand its long products portfolio, especially in the retail space where the company's branded products are in high demand.

NINL is currently going through the process of amalgamation into Tata Steel Ltd.

Sid's Farm raises ₹81-cr in Pre-Series B Funding round

Hans Business
Hyderabad

SID'S Farm, a D2C brand in the dairy and foods segment, announced that it raisedthe capital of over Rs81 crorein its Pre-Series B funding round. The latest round saw participation from major investors including, Omnivore, NSFO, Dodla Dairy, Next Bharat Ventures, and LIO along with a consortium of other investors.

Dr.Kishore Indukuri, Founder, Sid's Farm, said:"Modern Indian consumers are extremely quality conscious and demand transparency, quality and safety in the food they and their families consume. This investment is a vote of confidence by our partners in our long-term vision of establishing India's most trusted dairy brand that embodies safety as an inseparable ingredient of our products at every step of the value chain — from the farm to the family's doorstep." The company will deploy the fresh capital for strengthening its supply chain along with expansion of its manufacturing and distribution capabilities. Sid's Farm will also be investing in product innovation, bolstering and reinforcing its partnership with the farmers along with accelerating its expansion into virgin territories.

According to the company: "Sid's Farm has differentiated itself by adopting a scientific approach to food safety, wherein each batch is subjected to testing across more than 45 quality and safety parameters, with more than 10,000 quality tests conducted on a daily basis."

Centre launches first sovereign-backed maritime P&I insurance

New Delhi

THE Department of Financial Services (DFS) on Thursday launched India's first sovereign-backed Protection and Indemnity (P&I) insurance product under the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP), a move aimed at strengthening the country's maritime risk management framework, reducing dependence on foreign insurers and boosting self-reliance in specialised marine insurance.

As part of the launch, the DFS Secretary handed over the first PI insurance policy issued under BMIP by The New India Assurance Company to the Shipping Corporation of India Ltd.

The policy provides financial protection against third-party liabilities, including crew and cargo claims, pollution liability and wreck removal, while also offering access to a 24x7 global port correspondent network.

The insurance cover provides an indemnity limit of up to $1.5 billion through the combined underwriting capacity of the insurance pool.

The government said the launch marks a significant milestone for India's maritime sector by expanding the scope of the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool beyond war-risk coverage to include Protection and Indemnity insurance, thereby strengthening the country's maritime insurance ecosystem.

The BMIP, operational since May 12, 2026, under a sovereign guarantee, was established to ensure uninterrupted availability of maritime war-risk insurance for Indian shipping stakeholders during periods of geopolitical uncertainty.

According to the Department of Financial Services, the pool has witnessed strong market acceptance since its launch and has successfully achieved its objective of providing uninterrupted war-risk insurance capacity.

The introduction of BMIP has also helped reduce war-risk insurance premiums by around 35-40 per cent compared with the peak levels witnessed during the West Asia conflict.

As of July 29, 2026, the pool had issued 1,608 policies covering cargo war-risk and hull war-risk insurance.

The government said the addition of P&I coverage would further enhance India's maritime risk management capabilities by broadening domestic underwriting capacity and improving the resilience of the country's marine insurance sector.

Officials said the initiative aligns with the government's broader vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' by building indigenous capabilities in specialised insurance products, reducing reliance on overseas insurance markets and ensuring that a greater share of value generated from India's maritime trade remains within the domestic economy.

iQoo Z11 Lite goes on sale

Hans Business
Hyderabad

SMARTPHONE brand iQoo, has announced that its recently launched iQoo Z11 Lite is available for sale on Amazon.in and the iQOO e-store,select vivo exclusive stores and major retail stores from Thursday. The Z11 Lite is available in three storage variants, 4GB + 128GB, 6GB + 128GB, and 6GB + 256GB. It is available in two colour options, Midnight Blue and Solar Flame. The device is powered by the MediaTek Dimensity 6300, it also features the segment's brightest 6.74-inch 120Hz display with up to 1200 nits brightness, for an immersive viewing and audio experience. It packs a 6500mAh BlueVolt Battery paired with 44W FlashCharge. It also comes with IP65 dust and water resistance, Swiss SGS Five-Star Drop Resistance, Military-Grade durability, and an AirSpring technology drop-resistant protective case for enhanced reliability.