

Tech should empower retail investors to avoid risks

TECHNOLOGY has brought in a paradigm shift in the investors' behaviour in recent years. India has seen a surge in number of participants investing in equities. As per latest available data, the country has more than 21 crore demat accounts by the end of December, 2025. Though multiple demat accounts are being held by individual investor, still the number is higher as compared to a decade back. And such surge in demat account has been possible due to faster and easier demat account opening process.

The whole process has now been undertaken through technology-powered solutions. From eKYC to digital onboarding, now a person can complete the whole process without a physical visit to any financial institution. In addition, fintech startups like Zerodha and Groww have made stock investment extremely easier. The advent of discount brokerage firms has literally moved stock investment into the palms of investors.

Now, crores of investors invest in equities through the mobile apps of brokerage firms. While technology has created a culture of equity investing, it has also prompted lakhs of retail investors to do risky trading. A cursory look at these statistics will make this amply clear. In last financial year (FY26), losses incurred by retail investors in India's equity derivatives market stood at Rs 91,685 crore (around \$9.61 billion). Though it was a decline of around 18 per cent year-on-year basis, close to \$10 billion loss is not a small amount in any measure. These losses could have been

gainfully employed elsewhere by retail investors, which would have helped country's economic growth. In earlier years, losses were higher as compared to FY26.

After the market regulator, Sebi introduced various new norms, discouraging retail investors to trade in future & options (F&O), losses have declined in FY26. And technology-powered trading apps is one of the major factors behind such surge in derivative trading by retail investors.

In future and options trading, which is considered as one of the risky trading instruments in the equities; retail investors are competing against large institutional investors like big banks, NBFCs, pension funds and others. These institutional investors not only have better information sources, but also are powered by cutting-edge technology tools. For instance, algo trading is a widely known practice by institutional investors, where the computer programme automates the trade based on the parameters given. Here, trades are executed in fraction of seconds. Compare this with the kind of trading undertaken by retail investors. This puts retail investors at a distinct disadvantage. With the increasing adoption of artificial intelligence (AI), the speed and accuracy of trades undertaken by institutional investors have increased manifold. So, though technology-powered brokerage firms' apps enable a retail trader to execute a trade, it can't possibly match with an AI-powered platform used by a big investor. Moreover, AI has increased the chances of market

manipulation. For instance, AI can help in creating misleading information about a company or stock or on overall market, which can then be posted in social media platforms. Market manipulators then try to amplify the reach of such posts to trap the retail investors. So, risks have aggravated after the advent of AI-kind of new age technology.

It can be said that technology has emerged as both a boon and a bane for Indian retail investors. In this contest, it will be better if technology can be leveraged to make well-informed decisions about a stock, do research about the market, and undertake hassle free investment than to dabble in risky derivative trade or to get trapped through technology-driven market manipulation tactics.

LETTERS

‘Blanket clemency’ for CJP

THIS is further to your editorial ‘Govt should pronto drop cases against Jantar Mantar protestors’. There are no two views about genuine student protesters at Jantar Mantar who were involved in violent rioting with the police be granted one time pardon, and the police cases against them be quashed. But, there must be genuine remorse on their part, not to repeat the act in future protests, hoping for a similar reprieve. The CJP agitation, if enacted solely on the strength of students, without any out side anti-social elements being part of it would have been a success; in which the general public too would have extended their spontaneous support. But, needless shortcut methods were adopted involving ruffians with criminal elements to be part of the movement in order to intimidate the police. The acts of such characters were amply evident on the ground when the policemen were attacked and the vehicles vandalised. The blanket clemency on accused in the Jantar Mantar incident will further embolden the students who are on a warpath. The government must be tough on those elements involved in the crime; but be considerate of students, whose careers are at stake if a police complaint is filed against them.

S Lakshmi, Hyderabad

Mitigating adverse impacts of Artificial Intelligence



DR P SUBRAMANYACHARY

THE AI for Good Global Commission is a high-level international commission established with the support of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), a specialized agency of the United Nations. It was officially launched during the AI for Good event held in July 2026. The Commission comprises 44 founding commissioners and members, including heads of state, chief executive officers (CEOs) of leading global companies, technology experts, and representatives of international organizations.

The Commission is co-chaired by Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda, and Marc Benioff, Chairman and CEO of Salesforce. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), serves as the Vice-Chair. From India, Mukesh Ambani, Sunil Bharti Mittal, and Lakshmi N. Mittal have been appointed as founding members of the Commission.

The inaugural meeting of the AI for Good Global Commission was held on July 8 in Geneva, Switzerland. Although the Commission's first meeting took place on that day, it formed part of the broader AI for Good Global Summit 2026, which was held from July 7-10. The four-day summit featured more than 300 sessions, including conferences, exhibitions, training workshops, demonstrations, and high-level discussions.

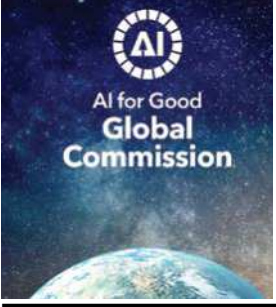
The deliberations focused primarily on AI governance, technological innovation, and

the role of artificial intelligence in achieving sustainable development, along with strategies to maximize AI's benefits while mitigating its potential risks and adverse impacts.

More than 40 founding commissioners participated in the inaugural meeting of the AI for Good Global Commission. During the meeting, the Commission adopted several key resolutions. Among the most significant were strengthening trustworthy and ethical AI governance and expanding global access to artificial intelligence, with particular emphasis on the needs of developing countries. The Commission also resolved to promote international collaboration among governments, industries, academic and research institutions, civil society organizations, and international organizations.

It emphasized the effective use of AI to help achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in critical sectors such as healthcare, education, climate change, and agriculture. Another key priority identified by the Commission was reducing the digital divide by investing in digital infrastructure, skill development, and capacity building.

In addition, the Commission reaffirmed that the development of human-centric artificial intelligence that safeguards human rights, promotes inclusiveness, and enhances public welfare is of paramount importance. It further emphasized that its primary objective is to ensure that the benefits of AI are shared equitably by all countries and all sections of society. However, the AI for Good Global Commission is not a regulatory body. Rather, it serves primarily as an advisory and coordinating platform. Consequently, for its recommendations to have a meaningful and lasting impact, they must be adopted and implemented by national governments and other relevant institutions around the world.



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AI: Impact on employment and sustainable development

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is bringing about significant transformations in the global economy. Its impact is particularly evident in the areas of employment and sustainable development. According to the Future of Jobs Report 2025 published by the World Economic Forum (WEF), AI and other emerging technologies are expected to create approximately 170 million new jobs worldwide by 2030.

At the same time, around 92 million jobs are projected to disappear, leading to major changes in the global labour market. Routine and repetitive tasks in sectors such as manufacturing, customer service, administration, and data processing are particularly vulnerable to automation. As a result, millions of workers will need to undergo re-skilling and upskilling to adapt to the changing nature of work. According to estimates by the International Labour Organization (ILO), nearly one-quarter (25%) of global employment is likely to be affected by generative AI.

Clerical and administrative occupations, in particular, are expected to experience the greatest impact due to the increasing automation of routine office tasks. If the benefits of AI are concentrated primarily among highly skilled workers and technology-driven enterprises, there is a significant risk that income inequality will widen further.

Therefore, governments, industries, and educational institutions must work together to ensure that the gains from AI are distributed more equitably through inclusive policies, workforce development, and access to digital skills.

From the perspective of sustainable development, AI systems require large-scale data centres that consume substantial amounts of electricity and water for their operation and maintenance. If these facilities are not powered by renewable or clean energy sources, they can place additional pressure on the environment and contribute to higher carbon emissions.

Developing countries may also face significant challenges due to limited digital infrastructure and a shortage of AI-related skills, increasing the risk of falling behind in the global digital economy. This could further widen the technological and digital divide between developed and developing nations. At the same time, the responsible and ethical use of AI offers immense opportunities.

AI can improve energy efficiency, enable more accurate climate change forecasting, enhance the accessibility and quality of healthcare services, and increase agricultural productivity through precision farming and data-driven decision-making.

Therefore, it is essential to implement effective AI governance, strengthen quality education, promote skill development, and invest in reskilling and upskilling initiatives. These measures are crucial to ensuring that the benefits of AI are inclusive, sustainable, and contribute positively to long-term economic and social development.

Significance of AI for Good Global Commission for India

The AI for Good Global Commission is of great significance to India. It supports the development of responsible and ethical artificial intelligence, promotes digital inclusion, and helps the country effectively address the economic and social challenges arising from the rapid adoption of AI.

India's AI ecosystem is expanding rapidly. Recognizing its strategic importance, the Government of India approved the IndiaAI Mission in 2024 with a budget of ₹10,371.92 crore. The mission aims to strengthen AI infrastructure, skill development, innovation, and research, thereby positioning India as a global leader in artificial intelligence. AI has the potential to deliver substantial benefits across several key sectors in India, including healthcare, agriculture, education, disaster management, and public service delivery.

In particular, the Commission can support India by: Promoting ethical and trustworthy AI standards, strengthening international cooperation on AI governance and innovation, enhancing cybersecurity and digital resilience and facilitating access to global best practices in AI development and regulation.

Furthermore, the Commission can help developing countries, including India, bridge the digital divide by encouraging equitable access to AI technologies and digital infrastructure. It also promotes the extension of AI's benefits to rural areas and socially disadvantaged communities, ensuring that technological progress is more inclusive.

In addition, the Commission can play a crucial role in helping India mitigate the potential adverse impacts of AI on employment, society, and the environment through responsible AI governance, capacity building, and sustainable policy frameworks. This will enable India to harness the transformative potential of AI while ensuring that its benefits are shared broadly across all sections of society.

To achieve its objectives, the AI for Good Global Commission promotes global collaboration among governments, technology companies, researchers, and civil society organizations. By fostering cooperation among these key stakeholders, the Commission seeks to ensure that artificial intelligence is developed and deployed in a responsible, inclusive, and sustainable manner.

The Commission also plays a vital role in maximizing the benefits of AI for individuals and societies worldwide while minimizing its potential risks and adverse impacts. It aims to encourage the adoption of ethical AI practices, strengthen international coordination, and support policies that ensure AI serves the broader public interest. If governments, industry, academia, and civil society work together to implement the Commission's recommendations, the AI for Good Global Commission can make a significant contribution to building a safer, more equitable, and AI-driven global economy that promotes sustainable development and shared prosperity for all.

(The writer is Professor, School of Commerce and Management, Mohan Babu University, Tirupati)

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RSS members in NCERT panel

WHILE the din over irregularities in the conduct of national examinations, particularly NEET by the National Testing Agency (NTA), and the student protests that followed may be dying down, another matter of serious concern has emerged. It is reported that the NCERT has reconstituted the Textbook Development Team for Classes 11 and 12 Political Science, with at least four members having direct or indirect links with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). There have long been allegations that some CBSE textbooks reflect RSS ideology, distort history, and glorify Hindutva figures who had little or no role in India's Freedom struggle. The new panel is reportedly tasked with reviewing textbooks and integrating themes such as cultural rootedness and Indian Knowledge Systems. Given the availability of eminent scholars and academics in education and political science, why were individuals reportedly associated with the RSS chosen for such an important task? One cannot help wondering whether this is part of a deliberate attempt to reshape the political narrative presented to future generations.

Tharcus S Fernando, Chennai

TN CM should act fast on DMK ‘misrule’

THE Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay said he had evidence of corruption in the previous DMK Government, and would reveal it when necessary. The people of State have every right to clear the cloud by the CM since the matter is concerning much and involves public money. The Chief Minister has sworn an oath to faithfully and conscientiously discharge his duties and to do right to all people in accordance with the Constitution and the law, without fear or favour. If he possesses credible evidence of corruption committed under the previous government, does that constitutional oath permit him to simply keep the evidence “on his table” and wait indefinitely for a politically convenient time? The oath may not require him to disclose every piece of evidence publicly before due process. But it surely requires him to act upon credible evidence through the lawful constitutional and investigative mechanisms available to the State. Otherwise, allegations of corruption risk being reduced to political rhetoric while potential offences involving public money remain uninvestigated. If the evidence exists, let the appropriate authority investigate it, let those responsible answer it, and let the law take its course.

A P Thiruvadi, Chennai

T N largesse could be contagious

PROPOS, “A car, driver and Rs 1L allowance: TN MLAs’ windfall from CM Vijay,” (THI, Aug 20). The reported decision of the Vijay-led TVK government to provide cars, ₹75,000 monthly allowance to each of Tamil Nadu's 234 MLAs, and another ₹25,000 for an assistant deserves strong public criticism. Such a generous package raises serious questions about priorities and financial responsibility. At a time when citizens demand better roads, healthcare, education, jobs and basic services, public money should not be spent on expanding political privileges. Elected representatives enter public life to serve people, not to treat politics as a source of comfort and personal benefits. Moreover, such concessions could set a dangerous precedent, with legislators in other States demanding similar facilities. Governments must promote austerity, accountability and responsible spending.

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BENGALURU ONLINE

Viral video puts woman police officer in spotlight

BENGALURU: A video allegedly showing a woman police officer engaging in an inappropriate conversation with a jailed inmate through a WhatsApp video call has gone viral on social media, triggering controversy within the police department. The officer featured in the video has now approached the Cubbon Park police, alleging that the footage was recorded and circulated without her consent.

According to the complaint, the officer had been acquainted with a rowdy-sheeter identified as Dharma several years ago. She allegedly spoke to him through a video call, during which he recorded the conversation. The officer has alleged that Dharma subsequently shared the recording with another rowdy-sheeter, Saikumar, who circulated it on social media.

The officer has sought action against Dharma, Saikumar and others allegedly involved in making the video public. She has claimed that the circulation of the footage has damaged her reputation and caused considerable embarrassment. In her complaint, the officer stated that she was working as an officer in charge of security at a Metro station. She also referred to her family and social standing while seeking legal action against those responsible for circulating the video.

Read more at
<https://epaper.thehansindia.com>

Why Lenin still remains relevant in modern times



ANJANI KUMAR

WHEN a special show was organised for screening of the new super hit movie of Akkineni Akhil – Lenin - at a private theatre, there was much excitement in the air. A select few were invited to watch the movie. It was an elite gathering of Hyderabad. The Akkinenis played a perfect host.

As the movie started, it was clear that the genes of the legendary Nageswara Rao and the ever-green Nagarjuna was speaking loudly in the outstanding performance of this young hero. The maturity of Akhil's acting skill and his successful effort to live in the role of a rural young man was

appreciated by all. Akhil has graduated from a hero to a fine artist now.

As violence depicted the prevailing mood of the Indian filmdom, earlier epitomised by Dhurandhar, one wonders if cinema represents the thought process of the contemporary society. If it does, then we need to do introspection about our society. The chat with Amla on the subject of violence in society and its impact on movies was interesting. Bhagyashri and Akhil together sparked a good on screen chemistry.

As we watched the movie, something which struck me was the title of the movie – Lenin. Man searches deep meaning in everything. During the interval while conversing with Akhil and Amla (whom age refuses to touch) the title Lenin was discussed. This part of the country has fascination with this name as there are many Lenin Babus here.

It was understandable in the decades of our independence and thereafter, when young



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boys were named after global leaders like Gandhi, Lenin, Stalin, Bose, Nehru, Patel, and other icons of those periods. But now in the third decade of the 21st century choosing Lenin as title of a movie has perhaps a special significance.

When the name Lenin appeals to us even after 100 years of Vladimir Lenin's death, it conveys many meanings. The irony of history is that Lenin and Mahatma Gandhi were contemporaries. Lenin brought the Bolshevik revolution in 1917, and Gandhi came to India from South Africa in 1915 after spending 21 years there. Both giants in their own way in liberating their respective countries from the then existing decadent systems.

Russia under the Tsar had stagnated as a country and as a civilization. India under the British exploitative rule had transformed itself from being the richest country in the world to one of the poorest country in just 200 years. Inequality was the hallmark of both the countries when Lenin and Gandhi took the reins of leadership.

The closest Gandhi came to Russia was through Leo Tolstoy in whose name he had developed a farm in South Africa. Tolstoy's quote: "There is only one thing in this world which is worth dedicating all your life is creating more love and breaking barriers between people" impacted Gandhi all throughout.

Lenin and Gandhi with their diametrically opposite pathways of Ahimsa versus

the Communist violent revolution, brought an end to an exploitative system. India and Russia threw away their respective existing yokes. The Tsarist Russia and the British India primarily represented an unequal society where the few were exploiting the toiling masses. Lenin like Gandhi had kindled a ray of hope with an underlining principle of equality.

When Lenin carried forward the slogan "workers of the world, unite", it was a global message for unity and struggle against oppression and inequality. Has this slogan lost its relevance now? The Gen Z have to find an answer to this.

While Gandhi remains father of our nation, Russia threw away the communist path in the early 1990s. Gandhi too is facing difficulties as many scholars of WhatsApp University find it fashionable to criticise the Mahatma before whom the world leaders still bow with utmost reverence. India still has to discover a better export than Gandhi.

The misdeeds and purges

of Stalinist regime, and the failure of Soviet economy to modernise could not be attributed to Lenin. USSR failed as a State not because of the concept of Lenin but because of the application of a faulty state repressive policy. So far as the inequality in any society looms large, so far as the few controls the vast wealth of the nation, depriving the majority to struggle for daily bread and butter, Lenin would remain relevant.

These names would keep lurking in our minds and would compel the State for a real socialistic pattern of governance and society. It would yearn us to go beyond token doles but a systemic reform within a time bound limits. Giants like Lenin and Gandhi would remain icons of selfless service and inspiring leadership. Such title of a super hit movie reminds us of the harsh realities of economic disparity and an urgent need to address the issue.

(The author is a former Director General of Police, Telangana.)