India among world's top 3 with 2.62 lakh startups

Over 1.07 lakh recognised startups have at least one woman director or partner, accounting for 48 per cent of total recognised startups

New Delhi

THE National Entrepreneurship Day, observed on November 9, highlights the growing role of entrepreneurship in India as the country has become the world's third-largest startup ecosystem with over 2.62 lakh government-recognised startups that are creating employment and expanding opportunities for youth, according to an official statement issued.

The government has recognised over 55,200 startups during FY 2025-26- the highest number of startups recognised in a single year since 2016. The shift from job seekers to job creators reflects India's growing entrepreneurial spirit, the statement said.

Startups have been able to create more than 25 lakh jobs up to October 2026. The number of startups recognised increased by 51.6 per cent year-on-year in FY 2025-26 compared to FY 2024-25, while direct jobs created rose by 36.1 per cent during the same period, according to the statement.

Besides, more than 1.07



lakh recognised startups have at least one woman director or partner, accounting for around 48 per cent of total recognised startups as on March 2026. Recognising the importance of entrepreneurship in India's development journey, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship was established on November 9, 2014 and the day is observed as National Entrepreneurship Day.

Government initiatives such as Startup India, Fund of Funds for Startups, CGSS, SISFS, Atal Innovation Mission, and the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) support innovation, access to finance, mentorship and enterprise creation. Nearly half of recognised startups originate from Tier-II and Tier-III cities, alongside expanding rural entrepreneurship, which reflects the inclusive economic growth that is taking place in the country.

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India has made significant strides in building a supportive environment for aspiring entrepreneurs. This progress holds particular significance for a nation where nearly 65 per cent of the population is under 35. Recognising the potential of this demographic dividend, the government has undertaken a range of initiatives to empower young Indians across fields including entrepreneurship.

Notably, startups are present across all States and Union Territories. Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, and Gujarat have emerged as leading regions in terms of the number of recognised startups and direct employment generation as on March 31, 2026.

Through the government's policy support and innovation-focused initiatives, easier access to finance, and digital platforms, entrepreneurship continues to expand across India.



Slowdown in AI investment cycle likely to benefit India

NEW DELHI: The concerns over the sustainability of artificial intelligence-related capital expenditure spending are beginning to reshape global capital flows, potentially benefiting India, a report said.

The report from SBI Funds said artificial intelligence capital expenditure is projected to average around 3.6 per cent of US GDP between 2025 and 2032, significantly exceeding the 1.1 per cent recorded during the dotcom cycle in 2000 and 2.2 per cent during the 19th-century railroad boom.

An unprecedented boom in AI capex has supported strong growth, especially in the US even as massive borrowings by hyperscalers and tech firms pressurise long term bond yields.

"If AI revenues come into doubt, sustaining capex at current financing costs could come under question. The effects would spread to related sectors, US equities, US growth and how money is allocated across asset classes," the report said.

Anthropic releases new Claude models for advanced coding and cybersecurity

Fable 5.2 is designed for general users, including availability through cloud platforms such as Amazon Bedrock

New Delhi

ARTIFICIAL intelligence (AI) giant Anthropic has launched two upgraded models -- Claude Fable 5.2 and Claude Mythos 5.2 -- to advance advanced coding, mathematics, cybersecurity, robotics and scientific research, with capabilities designed to handle complex technical tasks autonomously for extended periods.

Anthropic said Claude Fable and Claude Mythos are based on the same underlying model. "Fable has strong cybersecurity and biology safeguards to guard against misuse, which allows us to make it available to all users. Organisations pursuing beneficial applications in cybersecurity or biomedical research can apply for access to Mythos through our recently expanded Life Sciences and Cyber Verification Programs," the statement said.

Fable 5.2 is designed for general users, including availability through cloud platforms such as Amazon Bedrock. Mythos 5.2 offers



greater access to advanced capabilities involving vulnerability discovery and sensitive scientific research, resulting in tighter access controls.

Autonomous AI operations have improved, with the models capable of working independently for hours or days, coordinating multiple AI agents and managing complex software projects.

Anthropic mentioned progress in mathematical reasoning of its models, including a case of formalising a proof of Fermat's Last Theorem using nearly 1,000 AI agents within 30 hours, with limited human intervention.

The models also reportedly designed three functioning electronic devices, improved performance in simulated robotics tasks and contributed to research that contained previously unresolved theoretical physics problems related to black holes.

For both models, Anthropic has set standard pricing at $8 per million input tokens and $40 per million output tokens. "Fable 5.2 and Mythos 5.2 also come with an optional fast mode, which speeds up token generation by up to 2.5 times. Fast mode is available for $16 per million input tokens and $80 per million output tokens," the statement noted.

Anthropic is likely to formally start marketing its IPO from November 10, 2026, according to multiple reports, and the offering size could be as large as SpaceX's record debut.

The reports mentioned potential investors eyeing $1.1 trillion to $1.3 trillion valuation, down from the $1.5 trillion to $2 trillion range discussed earlier this month.

Anthropic has filed for an initial public offering in the US, with preparations to list on the Nasdaq under the symbol "ANT".

The San Francisco-based company's revenue reached $16.3 billion in the six months ended June 30, 2026.

TCS completes 50 Tech Days across institutions in 27 cities

Bizz Buzz Bureau
Hyderabad

TATA Consultancy Services (TCS), a global leader in IT services, consulting, and business solutions, has completed 50 TCS Tech Days across 50 academic institutions in 27 cities, engaging over 23,000 students and 912 faculty members as part of its efforts to strengthen industry-academia collaboration and help students build skills aligned with the evolving technology landscape.

TCS Tech Days bring industry practitioners, tech-



nology experts and business leaders directly to campuses to give students practical exposure to how emerging and enterprise technologies are being applied to real-world business challenges. The initiative combines practitioner-led masterclasses, hackathons, hands-on challenges, leadership interactions and student project showcases.

The first 50 Tech Days brought together more than 620 TCS leaders and technology experts to conduct 92 masterclasses and 48 hackathons. During the Tech Days, students, under the mentorship of TCS leaders and technology experts, applied AI to address real-world challenges across industries, including production disruptions and maintenance planning in manufacturing, customer experience and inventory optimisation in retail, branch services in banking, claims triage in insurance, patient discharge planning in healthcare, and citizen grievance resolution in public services, translating classroom learning into practical industry solutions.

Sudeep Kunnumal, Chief Human Resources Officer, TCS, said, "The skills that will define the future are evolving rapidly, and preparing young talent for this change requires industry and academia to work more closely than ever. We believe our role goes beyond creating opportunities for talent within the organisation. It is also about strengthening the larger talent ecosystem.

Cleaner air during sleep may help manage blood sugar

New Delhi

USING portable filters which clean particulate matter from air, or air purifiers, during sleep may help improve blood sugar control among prediabetics, a new study suggests.

The study, published in the American Heart Journal, found that using portable filters to reduce exposure to air pollution during sleep stabilised large spikes in blood sugar experienced by people with prediabetes, a condition in which sugar or glucose levels are higher than normal.

Researchers led by those at New York University, US, assessed more than 150 men and women with prediabetes who did not have any known buildup of cholesterol in their arteries, a condition called atherosclerosis.

Prediabetes raises the risk of heart disease and diabetes, and large swings in blood sugar during the day are tied to worsening disease.

Air pollution has been linked to both prediabetes and cardiovascular disease. However, it is unclear whether using high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters at home could improve blood



Prediabetes raises risk of heart disease, diabetes, and large swings in blood sugar during day are tied to worsening disease

sugar control, the researchers said.

HEPA filtration systems can remove more than 99 per cent of airborne particles sized 0.3 microns in diameter. "Our findings suggest that (a) cleaner air at home, especially in the bedroom, may help people with prediabetes keep their blood sugar steady and blunt morning spikes," lead author and cardiologist Sharine L. Wittkopp, a clinical instructor in New York University's school of medicine's department of medicine and its division of cardiology, said.

"Installing HEPA filters offers an easy, low cost tool to help protect heart and metabolic health along with healthy eating, regular exercise, and prescribed medications," Wittkopp said.

Half the study participants slept with real bedroom air filters for about a month, while the other half used sham filters that did not clean air. The real filters cut levels of tiny, harmful air particles by 36 per cent, the researchers said.

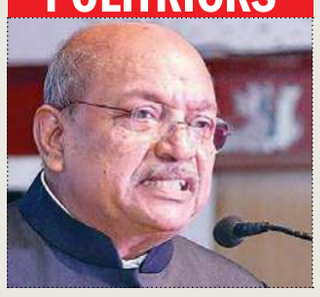


THE POLITICA
Nothing political about it

NAMASTE AMERICA!

American midterm verdict offers lessons for democracies worldwide, exposing cost of arrogance, hate and diversion, while reaffirming our enduring faith: DEMOCRACY ZINDA HAI

POLITRICKS



BN Kumar

THE American voter has spoken. Loudly. Unmistakably.

Donald Trump, the man who treats the White House as an extension of his ego, has received a political reality check of monumental proportions. The Democrats have stormed back, capturing both chambers of Congress. Republican bastions have crumbled. States once beyond the opposition's reach have delivered stunning reversals.

Namaste America!

This is not merely an American story. It is a democratic moment: a reminder that electoral victories are not permanent licences to rule. Arrogance has consequences. Hate has its limits. The ballot remains the people's ultimate weapon—provided the neutral umpire does not doze off during the political match or dodge questions after the final whistle.

The Democrats' victory reached deep into Republican territory. Adam Hamilton in Kansas. Annie Andrews in South Carolina. James Talarico in Texas. Sherrod Brown in Ohio. Roy Cooper in North Carolina. Josh Turek in Iowa. A resurgent coalition has delivered a sweeping rebuke to Trumpism. The results expose the fragility of Trump's MAGA coalition. Working-class voters. Hispanic voters. Young voters. Suburban women. Not necessarily Democrats by conviction. But voters who have had enough.

Trump's arrogance has been his political Achilles heel. He governs as though disagreement is disloyalty, criticism treason and opposition an enemy to be crushed. The press is vilified. Institutions are bullied. Immigrants are targeted. Hate has become a governing instrument. America has just presented the bill.

The Iran war emerged as a defining issue in the electoral revolt. Its fallout hit fuel prices, household budgets and economic confidence. Trump's foreign-policy adventurism turned into a domestic liability. His polit(r)icks finally bit the dust.

JD Vance, the Vice-President, was unusually blunt. "The reason we lost is the war," he said in a remarkable post-election admission. He pointed to voters' anger over the conflict, cost of living, inflation and America's relationship with Israel. Trump, meanwhile, insists the war was necessary and that he would do it again.

That is the arrogance talking.

America's political and military support for Benjamin Netanyahu's government has also become a source of voter disquiet. The Iran conflict and wider Middle East crisis have raised uncomfortable questions about Washington's priorities. Whose interests are being served? At what cost to the American taxpayer? Why should ordinary citizens' economic anxieties take a back seat to military adventurism?

The Democrats brought the conversation back to the kitchen table.

Jobs. Prices. Healthcare. Education. Affordability.

Not complicated. Not glamorous. But democratic politics at its most essential. Republicans spent considerable energy on culture wars and demonising opponents; Democrats focused on everyday concerns. The contrast was telling.

Diversion versus delivery. Hate versus hope.

And here is where America meets India.

The political parallels are difficult to miss—even for an ostrich.

Trump's politics of polarisation, vilification and diversion finds familiar echoes in India.

Hindu versus Muslim. Us versus Them. The constant search for an enemy. The attempt to turn a citizen's identity, faith, language or attire into a political weapon.

Remember the infamous rhetoric about identifying those indulging in violence by their clothes? A revealing, dangerous message. When a citizen's attire becomes a political identifier, constitutional equality begins to tremble.

The Modi government's political messaging has repeatedly pushed the national conversation towards identity and polarisation. Employment questions remain. Prices bite. Public health and education demand attention. Yet discourse is frequently hijacked by communal anxieties and manufactured confrontations.

One Nation, One Election is the latest big-ticket proposition.



Electoral reform is legitimate. Simultaneous elections may have administrative and financial arguments in their favour. But when sweeping proposals are projected as a panacea for India's governance challenges, one must ask: Is this institutional efficiency—or an attempt to reshape the political landscape while citizens' everyday concerns remain unresolved?

The question is not whether India needs electoral reform. It is whether reform becomes a diversion from accountability.

Rahul Gandhi's "Nafrat ki Bazaar Mein, Mohabbat ki Dukaan" offers a different political vocabulary. The metaphor is simple. The message is not. It calls for replacing communal hostility with social solidarity, reminding Indians that a Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Christian, Dalit, tribal or citizen of any identity is first and foremost an Indian. The Bharat Jodo Yatra took this message to the streets. The shop of love in a marketplace of hatred challenges politics that keeps communities suspicious of each other.

But Rahul Gandhi and the opposition must learn from America. Personal attacks on Modi cannot become their principal political currency. Mohabbat must translate into a credible governance programme.

Democrats did not win merely by shouting against Trump. They brought core issues back to the dining table. That is precisely what India's opposition must do.

Vote Chori is serious. Allegations of electoral manipulation deserve rigorous investigation, transparent evidence and institutional accountability. The opposition must pursue the issue, while explaining why electoral integrity matters to voters, their children's future and representative democracy.

Opposition parties must close ranks. Congress, regional parties and other democratic forces need a Common Minimum Programme—not merely seat-sharing, but a policy compact on employment, inflation, education, public health, farmers' concerns, economic inequality and constitutional safeguards.

An evidence-based record of economic offenders, corruption cases and political-business nexuses could be part of it. Allegations must be substantiated. Accountability cannot become vendetta.

The opposition must also produce a report card on the Modi government's promises. Make in India. Smart Cities. Employment. Infrastructure. Ease of living. What was promised? What delivered? Where were the goalposts shifted? What remains unfinished? How has the common citizen benefited?

The electorate deserves answers, not another slogan or diversion.

These answers must reach people through media platforms, public meetings, digital campaigns and sustained engagement—not merely parliamentary speeches or occasional press conferences. Voters need to understand how government decisions affect household budgets, children's education, healthcare and employment.

A credible opposition must apply the brakes, build speed breakers and steer the nation towards issues that matter.

The US result should not be mistaken for a sudden conversion of every Republican voter into a Democrat. It is a warning that even a loyal political base can recoil when the cost of policy choices lands on its own doorstep. Voters may tolerate ideological battles for a time. They are less forgiving when the bills keep rising and answers remain elusive.

Nor is the Democrats' mandate a licence for triumphalism. They will have to demonstrate that congressional oversight can be firm without becoming a theatre of revenge, and that their promises on affordability can survive the hard arithmetic of governing. The test now is delivery.

The Democrats' victory shows that an opposition cannot be a collection of parties united by dislike of the ruling establishment. It must be a credible government in waiting.

Rahul Gandhi's mohabbat must be accompanied by economic and governance reform. Love cannot substitute for jobs. Social harmony cannot replace affordable healthcare. A united India must also be prosperous and equitable.

The American verdict warns leaders in Washington, New Delhi and elsewhere: majorities are not permanent. Polarisation can backfire. Economic distress can overwhelm ideological loyalty. Demonising opponents can alienate the very voters a leader claims to represent.

The presidency is not a monarchy. The White House is not a personal fiefdom. The Constitution is not a political prop. The electorate is not captive.

The same holds true for India.

Never underestimate the ballot. Never assume the people have surrendered. Never mistake silence for consent.

The powerful may command the microphone, control the spectacle, manufacture enemies and manipulate anxieties. The household budget extends far beyond the kitchen shelves. Voters look beyond the spectacle to the essentials of life: jobs, healthcare, nutritious food and education. The American voter has delivered a blunt reminder: rhetoric cannot indefinitely substitute for results.

Democracy has spoken.

DEMOCRACY ZINDA HAI!

(The writer is a Mumbai-based award-winning author and independent media veteran, running websites and a youtube channel, known for his thought-provoking messaging)

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