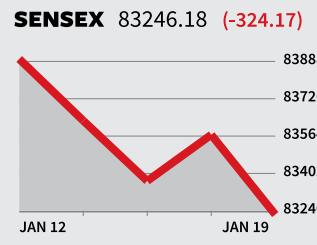


thehindu businessline.

**IN FOCUS**

	LATEST	CHANGE
Nifty 50	25585.50	-108.85
P/E Ratio (Sensex)	22.89	-0.19
US Dollar (in ₹)	90.91	+0.05
Gold Std 10 gm (in ₹)	143370.00	+2344
Silver 1 kg (in ₹)	293975.00	+12085

DIGITAL SHIFT.

Ashok Chandra, Punjab National Bank MD & CEO, said mandatory digital sanction of loans below ₹10 lakh will begin on Feb 1 p7

**GLITTER CONTINUES.**

Indians have to shell out over ₹3 lakh/kg for silver as global prices soar on US-EU tensions p8

BENGALURU - CHENNAI - COIMBATORE - HUBBALLI - HYDERABAD - KOCHI - KOLKATA - MADURAI - MALAPPURAM - MANGALURU - MUMBAI - NOIDA - THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - TIRUCHIRAPPALLI - VIJAYAWADA - VISAKHAPATNAM

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QUICKLY.**STELLAR DEBUT**
Bharat Coking Coal ends 77% above IPO price

Bengalur: Shares of Bharat Coking Coal made a stellar debut on the bourses on Monday, surging nearly 97 per cent over the issue price of ₹23. The stock opened at ₹45.21 on the BSE, a premium of 96.56 per cent, and at ₹45 on the NSE, up 96.65 per cent over the issue price. However, it pared some gains to close at ₹40.66 on the BSE and ₹40.58 on the NSE, still 75 per cent over the issue price. p6

2ND TIME IN A MONTH
₹ breaches key 91/\$ mark

Mumbai: The rupee on Monday breached the key 91/dollar level for the second time in about a month, pressured by corporate dollar demand, sustained FPI outflows from Indian equities and uncertainty over the India-US trade talks. It later recovered, apparently on mild RBI intervention, from an intra-day low of 91.01 to close at 90.91, about 5 paise weaker than the previous close of 90.86. p3

Govt mulls reforms to help SEZs leverage home market

BUDGET PLAN. Commerce Dept pushes move in face of global uncertainties, US tariffs

Amiti Sen
New Delhi

The government is considering announcing a reforms package for Special Economic Zones as part of Budget 2026-27 to boost manufacturing competitiveness and help exporters better leverage the domestic market as they grapple with global uncertainties and the US tariffs, sources said.

Discussions are on between the Commerce and Revenue Departments with a focus on flexibilities, such as easier domestic market access, introduction of reverse job-work and allowing rupee payments for services provided by SEZs to domestic units, a source tracking the matter told businessline.

"The government has been working on SEZ reforms for long and a lot of inter-ministerial discussions have already taken place on many of the proposals proposed by SEZs and backed by the Commerce Department. As tabling of the SEZ Amendment Bill has not yet been possible due to delays des-

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The Budget announcement could speed up reforms, as the proposed SEZ Amendment Bill has faced delays
- Allowing domestic sales on a "duty foregone" basis by giving Customs duty relief being considered
- There are over 276 operational SEZs employing over 31,94,100 people
- Exports from SEZ units in 2024-25 were valued at \$172 billion, up 7.37% over the previous fiscal



pite several attempts by the Commerce Department, the idea is to expedite the reforms through a Budget announcement," the source said.

DTA SALES DEMAND
SEZs have long demanded that units should be allowed to sell in the domestic tariff area (DTA) on a "duty foregone" basis to bring down the burden of duties.

That would mean their duty payable should be based on the duty on the raw materials used to manufacture the goods, and not on the

Customs duty on the final product. Export promotion councils argue that exempting SEZ units from Customs duties would level the playing field with FTA partners such as ASEAN countries, whose goods enter India duty-free.

Another demand being considered on a priority basis for inclusion in the Budget is to allow SEZ exporters to undertake "job work" for domestic clients. "This would help utilise expensive machinery and idle capacities and keep skilled labour employed

when global demand is low," the source explained.

A third demand is that SEZ service units should be allowed to accept rupee payments for services rendered to DTA units.

RUPEE PAYMENTS

"Often, domestic units that want to avail themselves of services from SEZ units are constrained by the rule requiring payments to be made in a foreign currency. If rupee payments are allowed, it will boost demand," the source said.

Safeguards are also being put in all the proposals to address concerns of other Ministries and Departments, the source added.

"The proposed SEZ reforms, which also include measures for ease of doing business and overhaul of the SEZ framework, are seen as mitigating the effects of the Trump tariffs," the source said.

Following US President Donald Trump's imposition of 50 per cent tariffs on most Indian exports, the government is focused on leveraging the domestic market more for exporters.



DIGITAL DRIVE. India will host the 2026 BRICS Summit

RBI moots linking of BRICS' digital currencies for easier trade

Reuters
Mumbai/New Delhi

The Reserve Bank of India has proposed that BRICS countries link their official digital currencies to expedite cross-border transactions and bolster its currency's global usage. It has, however, said its efforts to promote the rupee's global use are not aimed at promoting de-dollarisation.

While none of the BRICS members has fully launched its digital currency, all five main members have been running pilots.

INDIA'S E-RUPEE
India's digital currency — called the e-rupee — has attracted 7 million retail users since its launch in December 2022, while China has pledged to boost the international use of the digital yuan.

The RBI has encouraged the adoption of the e-rupee by enabling offline payments, providing programmability for government subsidy transfers and by allowing fintech firms to offer digital currency wallets.

The RBI's proposal to link BRICS' CBDCs for cross-border trade finance and tourism has not been previously reported.

BUILDING BRIDGES
The RBI's proposal builds on a 2025 declaration at the Rio de Janeiro BRICS summit, which pushed for interoperability between members' payment systems to make cross-border transactions more efficient.

STAR ALLIANCE

AIR INDIA

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ALL NEW DOMESTIC e x p e r i e n c e | THAT'S AIRINDIA NOW



A CH-CHE

QUICKLY.

Satyaki Ghosh is new CEO of Raymond Lifestyle

Mumbai: Raymond Lifestyle has announced the appointment of Satyaki Ghosh as Chief Executive Officer, marking a key leadership change as the apparel manufacturer pursues its next growth phase. Ghosh brings over 25 years of experience. At Aditya Birla Group, Ghosh previously served as CEO of Domestic Textiles and as head of the Thai Acrylic Fibre business. OUR BUREAU

Hatsun Agro Product net rises 48% to ₹61 crore

Chennai: Hatsun Agro Product reported a 48 per cent increase in net profit after tax at ₹61 crore for the quarter ending December 2025 against ₹41 crore for the same quarter last year. Revenue from operations stood at ₹2,367 crore, up 17.6 per cent from ₹2,012 crore. During the quarter, the implementation of the labour codes resulted in an increase of ₹9.42 crore in employee benefit expenses. OUR BUREAU

RIL's timeline on earnings visibility from new energy business 'unclear'

FUND ALLOCATION. Of the total ₹33,800 cr spent in Q3, ₹8,000 cr was for new energy

Janaki Krishnan
Richa Mishra
Mumbai/Hyderabad



POWERING ON. Reliance Industries has already started working on developing its entire green fuels ecosystem from green hydrogen to sustainable aviation fuel

knowledge of the business told *businessline*.

The power generated from solar modules will be used for data centres, refineries petchem, green hydrogen and polysilicon manufacturing. The company has provided no updates on the progress on the green hydrogen project, but sources indicated that pilots are on.

RIL did not respond to queries from *businessline* seeking clarity. RIL has committed sev-

eral billions of dollars to its new energy business that encompasses solar, green hydrogen, batteries and fuel cells. Of the total ₹33,800 crore spent in the third quarter, around ₹8,000 crore went into the new energy business.

SOLAR MODULES

Commercial sales of solar modules will start once a certain scale had been reached, but no timeline has been specified as to when that would

happen, a source said. Sales for captive consumption will be conducted on an arm's-length basis based on commercial considerations, they added.

The modules had to undergo extensive testing before they are used at commercial scale, sources said, adding that deployment would be done in due course.

The company had commissioned its solar cell manufacturing in the June quarter, and is now focused on ramping up to full capacity.

RIL has already started working on developing its entire green fuels ecosystem from green hydrogen to sustainable aviation fuel, and part of the round-the-clock power will be used for such purpose. Pricing of green hydrogen is still uncertain, and there are concerns over securing bulk buyers for the fuel globally.

MRPL looks to tap Venezuelan crude, says CFO

AJ Vinayak

Mangaluru

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) has said it is looking at buying Venezuelan crude for processing.

Answering queries of analysts on crude oil sourcing during the earnings call on Monday, Devendra Kumar, Director (Finance) and CFO of MRPL, said: "We are actively looking at it. We have not decided, but we are looking at it. It depends on the commercial terms."

He explained that freight rates are expected to be on the higher side when the



Devendra Kumar, Director (Finance) and CFO of MRPL

company gets it from Venezuela, and it is also a low API crude. "So, we will look at the total terms and condition and the commercials," he said.

Stating that the company is in strict compliance with all sanctions in place, he said currently Russian crude is not being imported. MRPL will continue to comply with the international sanctions regime or government guidelines, he said, adding that it does not expect anything to stop the export of finished products in the near future.

MRPL has consistently maintained its stance that Russian crudes were oppor-

tional crude. Russian crude played a marginal role in improving the company's bottomline, and it was not kept as a crucial factor, he said.

Initially, MRPL did have a margin on Russian barrels, and it had come down significantly towards the later part of the calendar year. He said the loss of Russian bar-

rels will not make a significant impact. Basically, Russian crude is no longer the part of the slate, he said.

RETAIL STRATEGY

Mentioning that retail is going to be a big game-changer for the refinery from a strategy point of view, Kumar said, "We expect this is the major area where we need to work much smarter, and that is how we are focusing majorly on retail outlets."

Margin available on retail is superior to what it gets at the refinery transfer. He said export sales can be a little volatile. The retail will give a sense of stability going for-

ward. The company, which has around 200 retail outlets now, is planning to take the number to 250 by the end of the current financial year.

"In three years' time, we are planning about 500 outlets and we are keeping this target as reasonable and modest. We don't want to go overboard, and in five years time about 1,000," he added.

To a query, he said any kind of retail expansion requires secondary capacities to come up, and the company is targeting that in the States adjoining Karnataka. In the near future, the company is targeting the establishment of depots, both on the East and West Coasts.

+ Madras Fertilizers awaits govt nod for ₹10,300 crore ammonia-urea project

T E Raja Simhan

Chennai

Madras Fertilizers Ltd, a Government of India undertaking, has initiated plans for a greenfield ammonia-urea complex in Chennai at a proposed investment of ₹10,300 crore.

The plant will have an annual capacity of 1.3 million tonnes of urea, said its CMD Manoj Kumar Jain.

"The pre-feasibility report prepared by Projects & Development India Ltd has been approved by the company's board, and necessary applications have been submitted to the Centre for approval," he told *businessline*.

The plant will come up within the existing complex at Manali in north Chennai, he added.

"Once the project is approved, we will definitely



Manoj Kumar Jain, CMD, Madras Fertilizers Ltd

2025, Jain said the greenfield plant will be aligned with the Centre's Atmanirbhar Bharat vision.

The investment will not only create value and ensure better returns, but also contribute significantly to India's long-term food security.

BEST PERFORMANCE

In 2024-25, MFL delivered its best-ever operational performance. Neem coated urea production reached a record 5,28,400 tonnes, with 109 per cent capacity utilisation and a low specific energy consumption of 6.875 Gcal/tonne, reflecting efficiency and sustainability.

The year saw the highest-ever production of ammonia since inception at 3,26,260 tonnes, he said. Revenue for the fiscal was up 14 per cent at ₹2,542 crore with a net profit of ₹64.25 crore.

Tata Capital Q3 profit jumps 39% to ₹1,285 cr

Press Trust of India

New Delhi

Tata Capital, the NBFC arm of the Tata Group, on Monday reported 39 per cent year-on-year jump in profit after tax (PAT) at ₹1,285 crore for three months ended December 2025. The company had posted a PAT of ₹922 crore in the corresponding period last fiscal.

Net total income rose 33 per cent to ₹3,594 crore during the quarter under review, from ₹2,711 crore a year ago, said Tata Capital in a regulatory filing.

Also, net interest income improved 26 per cent to ₹2,936 crore in Q3FY26, from around ₹2,323 crore a year earlier. Assets under management (net) rose 26 per cent to ₹2,34,114 crore against ₹1,86,404 crore in the year-ago period. "We wit-

nessed sustained business momentum in Q3FY26, with broad-based growth across products. Excluding motor finance, AUM grew 26 per cent year-on-year to ₹2,34,114 crore, and comparable PAT increased by 39 per cent year-on-year to ₹1,285 crore for Q3FY26," said Rajiv Sabharwal, Managing Director and CEO, Tata Capital. The company said that including non-recurring items, PAT grew by 36 per cent year-on-year to ₹1,258 crore.

On the asset quality front, gross non-performing assets and net non-performing assets stood at 1.6 per cent and 0.6 per cent, respectively, as of December 2025.

Sabharwal said credit quality continues to remain robust, with early leading indicators reflecting stable portfolio performance across segments.

IKEA steps into Tamil Nadu with online deliveries for now

Our Bureau

Chennai

Swedish home furnishings retailer IKEA on Monday announced the launch of online deliveries across Tamil Nadu, making its wide range of products accessible to customers in Chennai, Madurai, Coimbatore and Salem. Customers from these cities can now explore and buy from over 6,400 home furnishing products and solutions through the IKEA app.

businessline.

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Patrik Antoni, CEO, IKEA India, and Bhavana Jaiswal, Country E-commerce Integration Manager BIJU GHOSH

ikea.in, or via Shop-by-Phone assistance from January 22.

The State may have wait for its own IKEA store, but the company did not rule out the option of setting up a physical store in Chennai. However, it did not share the specifics of such a store and the timeline for the launch.

IKEA already has around 25,000 customers from Chennai. The company has a 3-7 day delivery timeline in Tamil Nadu. All orders in

Tamil Nadu will be fulfilled through the Bengaluru distribution network. Patrik Antoni, CEO, IKEA India, said the company has been eyeing the Chennai market since 2015, and IKEA resonates with the blend of tradition and modernity in Tamil Nadu. "We see India as one of the most potential markets for IKEA in the world," he said.

EYES EXPANSION

He noted that the company has a 30 per cent local sourcing in India, and aims to grow this. Within the segment contributing to around 30 per cent of IKEA's sales in India, Antoni also sees the omni-channel approach working better in India. The expansion strategy will involve a mix of physical stores (large and small), e-commerce and other channels, he added.

'We are scouting for a buy, will step up focus on injectables'

bl.interview

G Naga Sridhar

Hyderabad

Granules India is on a steady growth path in terms of its focus on new areas with significant investments in the pipeline. It is also evaluating candidates for possible acquisition in key segments, according to Priyanka Chigurupati, Executive Director, Granules India.

Edited excerpts:

What is your primary business focus now?

We are present across three core verticals. First, integrated pharma; second, complex pharma; and third, as a contract development and manufacturing organisation (CDMO).

Integrated pharma involves volume play. There's high-volume APIs, KSMs. The complex segment in-

volves API development, including finished dosage development. Then there is CDMO. We have eight R&D centres — one each in the US and Pune, five in Hyderabad and one in Switzerland. So, considering all this, one of the reasons we wanted to get this site was to integrate R&D into one area.

In the injectables space, what kind of market scenario are you expecting? There are major players in this space, including those from Hyderabad.

VISUALLY.

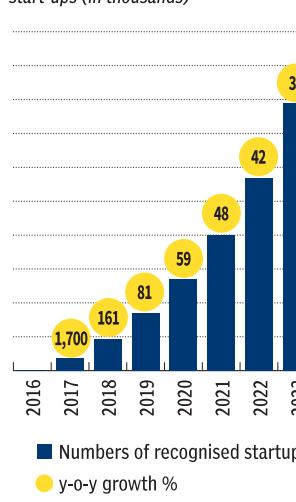
Compiled by Yashaswini Chauhan | Graphic KS Gunasekar

A decade of Start-up India

A decade after its launch, Start-up India shows both progress and gaps. Start-up registrations have grown rapidly, but the pace is slowing, activity is concentrated in a few States, and most start-ups remain at early stages. While government support has helped build scale, the ecosystem has not produced globally competitive names

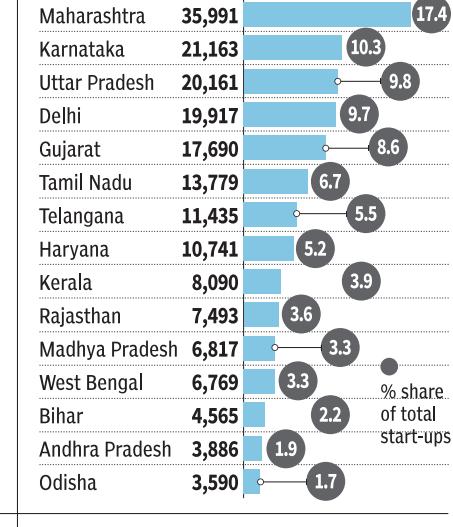
Growth in registrations under Start-up India has slowed

Year-wise growth in DPIIT-recognised start-ups (in thousands)



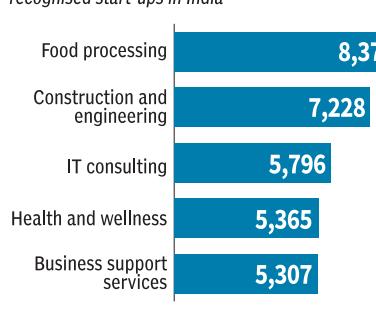
Start-up culture remains limited to major States

Top States/UTs by number of recognised start-ups



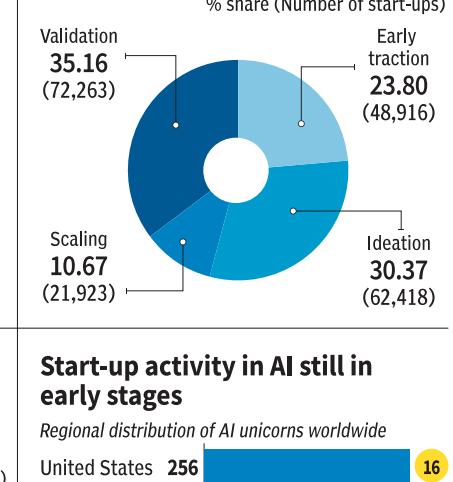
Traditional sectors dominate India's start-up ecosystem

Sectors with the highest number of recognised start-ups in India



Over 65% of start-ups remain in ideation or validation stages

Stage-wise distribution of recognised start-ups



QUICKLY.

Nalco plans to foray into mining of rare earths

Bhubaneswar: State-owned Nalco is open to venturing into mining of rare earth elements (REEs) with its bid advisor conducting due diligence on domestic auctions for REEs, magnesium and chromite blocks, CMD Brijendra Pratap Singh Monday said. In an interview to PTI here, the Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) said the bid advisor will assess mine viability, optimal acquisition premiums and participation in upcoming auctions. "The bid advisor will assess if we should participate in domestic auctions of REEs," Singh said. PTI

Trump to meet global CEOs in Davos

Davos: Donald Trump is expected to meet global business leaders in Davos on Wednesday, sources familiar with the matter said, as the US President's presence looms large over the annual gathering of the global elite in Switzerland. Business leaders, including CEOs in financial services, crypto and consulting, were invited to a reception after Trump's address to the World Economic Forum's meeting, sources said. REUTERS

India, UAE to double trade to \$200 b by 2032

STRATEGIC TIE-UP. Nations will expand defence cooperation

Our Bureau

New Delhi



TAPPING OPPORTUNITIES. Prime Minister Narendra Modi with UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan during a meeting in New Delhi PTI

The two countries also decided to work together to establish a 'Strategic Defence Partnership Framework Agreement' and expand defence cooperation across a number of areas, including defence industrial collaboration, innovation and advanced technology, training, education and doctrine, special operations, cyber space, and counter-terrorism.

MSME PUSH

"As bilateral trade between India and the UAE already touched an annual \$100 billion, it was decided to set a new target of doubling it to \$200 billion by 2032. The focus will also be on linking MSME units on both sides and promote new markets

through initiatives such as Bharat Mart, Virtual Trade Corridor and Bharat-Africa Setu," Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said in briefing on Monday, following the bilateral meeting between the PM and the UAE President, who arrived in New Delhi on Monday. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd signed a deal to buy 0.5 mmtpa LNG from the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company Gas for 10 years, starting 2028. The

leaders welcomed discussions on a potential UAE partnership for the development of the Special Investment Region in Dholera, Gujarat. The envisioned partnership would include the development of key strategic infrastructure, including an international airport, a pilot training school, a maintenance, repair and overhaul facility, a greenfield port, a smart urban township, railway connectivity, and energy infrastructure.

Piyush Goyal meets US envoy, Senator to discuss bilateral issues

Amiti Sen

New Delhi



FOSTERING TIES. Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal with US Senator Steve Daines and US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor during a meeting in New Delhi PTI

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal met US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor and US Senator Steve Daines in Delhi on Monday and "exchanged views on bilateral relations" amid concerns raised by Daines on India's import tariffs on pulses.

The meeting is significant as talks on the India-US bilateral trade agreement have now resumed virtually after the New Year break and both sides are attempting to iron out thorny issues, which include market access for agriculture.

Daines, who represents the US State of Montana, and Kevin Cramer, US Senator from North Dakota, recently wrote to Trump stating that there should be a push for "favourable pulse crop provisions" in any agreement the US signs with India.

"Delighted to again meet my good friends US Senator Steve Daines and the US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor. Had a productive exchange of views on our bilateral relationship," Goyal posted on social media platform 'X' on Monday.

Daines, who is visiting India, also met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on

Sunday for a "wide-ranging and open discussion" on India-US bilateral relationship and its strategic significance.

IMPORT DUTY

In their letter to Trump on January 16, Daines and Cramer pointed out that India implemented a higher import duty of 30 per cent on yellow peas on November 1, 2025.

"As a result of the unfair Indian tariffs, US pulse-crop producers face a significant competitive disadvantage when exporting their high-quality product to India," the letter noted.

North Dakota and Montana are the top two producers of pulses crops, including peas, and India is the world's largest consumer of these crops, contributing to approximately 27 per cent of the world's consumption, it observed. "Engaging Prime

Minister Modi on pulse crop tariffs to enhance the economic cooperation between our countries would be mutually beneficial to both American producers and Indian customers," they said.

US' DEMAND

The US has also been pushing India to give market access to its soya and corn as part of the BTA. However, India has been hesitating as most of the soya and corn grown in the US is of the genetically modified (GM) variety, which is banned in India.

It is important for India to strike a trade deal with the US as it is facing 50 per cent tariffs on most of its exports but there are "red lines" that New Delhi is not willing to cross, that include protection of sensitive agriculture and dairy commodities.

Despite a relatively firm opening aided by a brief pull-back in the dollar, USD/INR remained well-supported through the session on corporate dollar demand and importer hedging activity, preventing any sustained rupee recovery, he added.

HDFC's Q3 profit grows; CD ratio remains a concern

Nishanth Gopalakrishnan
bl.research bureau



HDFC Bank delivered its Q3 FY26 financial results on Saturday, and it was broadly on expected lines. The bank posted a good 12 per cent rise in earnings year-on-year, while its class-leading asset quality threw no negative surprises. However, the stock ended flat on Monday. Here's an analysis.

ANALYSIS.

Ever since the bank's merger with its erstwhile housing finance NBFC HDFC Ltd, if there was one concern that nagged investors, it was the credit-deposit (CD) ratio. Q2 FY24 was the first quarter after the merger. The CD ratio then was 108 per cent.

With the bank accelerating deposit growth and exercising restraint on credit growth, the CD ratio has been on a consistent downward trend from 105 per cent as of Q4 FY24 to 97 per cent as of Q4 FY25. Management had guided that it will bring down the CD ratio even further, by growing advances only in line with the system in FY26 and slightly above the system in FY27.

Though the ratio fell to 96 per cent in Q1 FY26, it backtracked in Q2 to 99 per cent. Markets might have brushed it off as an exception then. However, with an 11.9-per cent and a 14.4-per cent growth in advances and deposits in Q3, the CD ratio persists at 99 per cent. While there is no regulatory requirement for banks to maintain a certain level of this ratio, a higher level could constrain a bank from growing its loan book or grow at the cost of profitability via market borrowings, which cost more than deposits.

Management in the call with analysts clarified that given the regulator's dovish stance on monetary policy and the systemic nature of the bank, it had to participate in transmitting the same - do its part in making credit available to seekers.

It further expressed its commitment to the guidance above, adding that it expects a CD ratio of about 95 per cent by Q4 FY26 and some-

where between 85 and 90 per cent by end-FY27. The bank's internal assessment is that system level credit growth could be 12-13 per cent for FY27 and pegs its own credit growth at 2 percentage points above that (14-15 per cent).

CD RATIO MATH

Considering the banking system will exit FY26 with a 13-per cent credit growth (12.7 per cent as of Q3 FY26) and HDFC, too, will grow credit in line with the system, to achieve a 95-per cent CD ratio, deposit growth for FY26 should be at least 16 per cent. Further, assuming the bank will report a credit growth of 14 per cent in FY27 (system 12 per cent + 2 per cent) and going with a modest CD ratio expectation of 90 per cent, implies a deposit growth rate of at least 20 per cent for FY27, which seems an uphill task, given its size.

The management though believes the bank has the chops to deliver the same, pointing to its investment in expanding branches in the last five years. It added about 4,250 branches, only in the last five-odd years, accounting for about 44 per cent of the current branch strength. These branches now contribute only to about 20 per cent

of incremental deposits. As their vintage grows, these branches deliver higher productivity. For instance, management claims that 5-10-year-old branches bring thrice the deposits compared to what they brought 5-years ago. Currently, about 1,300 branches are close to becoming 5-year-olds.

While this logic cannot be denied, at this point, the 20-per cent implied deposit growth in FY27 and a subsequent 90-per cent CD ratio does seem difficult. Realistically, either growth should take the backseat or the CD ratio glide path be extended by a year or two.

Nevertheless, fundamentally, the bank is sorted, consistently delivering an RoA of between 1.9 and 2 per cent (post-merger), even when growing in line with the system. A clean balance sheet further makes it attractive.

The stock now trades at a price-to-book value (P/B) multiple of 2.5x on a consolidated basis. Considering there could be some corrections stemming from the bank not meeting its own guidance, long-term investors can accumulate the stock on dips. We had given an 'accumulate' call in July 2024, when it was trading at a P/B ratio of 2.6x.

NSE IPO 'now hinges on SEBI getting SC nod to settle co-location case'

Akshata Gorde

Mumbai

The much-delayed initial public offer of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) will require the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to get the Supreme Court's approval to settle the long-running co-location and dark fibre disputes before securing the no-objection certificate (NOC).

SEBI has in-principle approved the NSE proposal to settle the co-location and dark fibre cases for ₹1,388 crore, a move seen as critical to reviving the listing plans that have remained stalled for nearly a decade.

The proposal will now be examined by SEBI's Internal Committee and High-Powered Advisory Committee before being presented to a panel of Whole-Time Members for approval. Once the settlement amount is paid, SEBI will pass a closure order, without the NSE admitting any wrongdoing.

The settlement is viewed as a step towards removing the regulatory overhang that weighed on NSE's IPO. How-

ever, because SEBI itself has challenged a Securities Appellate Tribunal order before the Supreme Court, legal experts say the regulator cannot treat the settlement as an administrative exercise.

"The correct procedural route is for SEBI to file an affidavit and an interlocutory application seeking permission to withdraw or have the appeal disposed of in terms of the settlement," said B Shravanth Shanker, Advocate-on-Record, Supreme Court. Under SEBI's settlement regulations, where proceedings are pending before a court, the regulator and the settling party need to place the settlement before the court for appropriate orders. The top court will then examine if the settlement is lawful and not contrary to public interest before disposing of the appeal.

Madhura Samant, Managing Partner, Ellarra Law Offices, said: "The court need not revisit the merits, but judicial acknowledgment would lend legal sanctity, ensure procedural finality and eliminate any residual doubt that could potentially affect investor interests."

Electricity (Amendment) Bill likely in Budget session

Our Bureau

New Delhi

Power Minister Manohar Lal said on Monday that the Union government may introduce the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which is aimed at opening up the power distribution sector, in the upcoming Budget Session of Parliament.

The government wants to ensure zero discom losses with the latest amendments to the Electricity Act, 2003, which is expected to be tabled in Parliament in the upcoming session, he said on the sidelines of the inauguration of IIT-Delhi-CERC-Grid India Centre of Excellence.

In October last year, the Ministry released the draft Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2025 for public feedback, which was followed by criticism from Central Trade Unions and power employees' federations attacking the Bill as an attempt to allow backdoor entry of private players and an assault on the federal character of the Constitution.

Following protests last year, the Ministry issued FAQs (frequently asked

questions) emphasising that it is a progressive reform aimed at strengthening the power distribution sector through financial discipline, healthy competition and enhanced efficiency. "The Bill encourages healthy competition between the government and private discoms in electricity supply under the supervision of SERCs. This will mean better service and real choice for consumers," it added.

CONCURRENT LIST

On the issue of a State's autonomy, the Ministry explained that electricity is in the Concurrent List, enabling Centre and States to legislate. The Bill envisages implementation of reforms through a consultative process between them.

The proposed electricity council will serve as a consultative body to build policy consensus. At the same time, SERCs will continue to determine tariffs, issue licences and regulate intra-State activities," it added.

The IIT-Delhi-CERC-Grid India Centre of Excellence is envisaged as a national hub for regulatory research, capacity building and knowledge dissemination.

IMF raises India's GDP growth to 7.3% for FY26

Shishir Sinha

New Delhi

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Monday breached the psychologically crucial 91 to the US dollar for the second time in about a month, weighed down by corporate demand for the greenback, continued outflows on foreign portfolio investments selling Indian equities and uncertainty on India-US trade talks.

However, the rupee pulled back, apparently on mild RBI intervention, from the intraday low of 91.01 to end at 90.91, about 5 paise weaker than the previous close of 90.86.

The rupee breached the 91 mark for the first time on December 16, hitting an intra-day low of 91.14/USD.

Abhishek Goenka, Founder and CEO, IFA Global, said the rupee extended its weakening bias, marking a fourth consecutive session of losses as flow-driven pressures dominated price action.

Despite a relatively firm opening aided by a brief pull-back in the dollar, USD/INR remained well-supported through the session on corporate dollar demand and importer hedging activity, preventing any sustained rupee recovery, he added.

the third quarter of the year and strong momentum in the fourth quarter," IMF said in its latest update to the World Economic Outlook (WEO).

Growth is projected to moderate to 6.4 per cent in 2026 (2026-27) and 2027 (2027-28) as cyclical and temporary factors wane. Inflation is expected to go back to near target levels after a marked decline in 2025, driven by subdued food prices.

Last month, the RBI revised the growth estimates by 50 basis points to 7.3 per

cent. It said domestic factors, such as healthy agricultural prospects, continued impact of GST rationalisation, benign inflation, healthy balance sheets of corporates and financial institutions and congenial monetary and financial conditions, should continue to support economic activity. Continuing reform initiatives would further facilitate growth.

On the external front, services exports are likely to remain strong, while merchandise exports face some headwinds. External uncer-

tainties continue to pose downside risks to the outlook, while speedy conclusion of various ongoing trade and investment negotiations present upside potential, it said while adding that the risks are evenly balanced.

At the same time, the Asian Development Bank raised estimates by 70 bps to 7.2 per cent.

IMF said global economy is projected to remain resilient at 3.3 per cent in 2026 and at 3.2 per cent in 2027: rates similar to the estimated 3.3 per cent out-turn in 2025.



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Substance over form

SC Tiger Global order attacks tax arrangements

The recent Supreme Court ruling in the Tiger Global case is a watershed. The apex court lays down two broad points. First, it has held that a mere shell company in Mauritius cannot be regarded as a Mauritius-based entity for the purpose of claiming tax benefit under the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India and Mauritius, even if it produces a Tax Residency Certificate.

Second, the order says that the tax is payable in India and not in Mauritius, and spells out the reasons for saying so. Tiger Global owes India over ₹14,000 crore in capital gains tax, interest and penalties for its sale of shares in Flipkart Singapore to a Luxembourg entity, as part of the share transfer to Walmart. The two broad principles are sound. To take the first, a company with a Mauritius address must have its effective management in Mauritius as well. It has been established that Tiger Global's Mauritius arm was managed out of its US office. The Mauritian shell entity was created for the purpose of leveraging the DTAA, so it is not a *bona fide* operation. The second strand to this judgment links up to Section 9 (1)(i) of the Income Tax Act (amended post Vodafone verdict of Supreme Court in 2012) — namely, income from indirect transfer of shares in an entity that derives substantial value from assets situated in India shall be deemed to be taxable in India. In this case, Tiger Global, supposedly based in Mauritius, sold its shares in Flipkart Singapore. But the latter derives its value from its Indian operations, and hence the transaction is liable to be taxed in India.

What is perhaps less explicit in the SC ruling is the application of the "grandfathering" clause under the amended DTAA. Prior to 2017, the DTAA capital gains deals were more likely to be taxed in Mauritius than in India. So, grandfathering implies that gains on investments made before 2017 will continue to be taxed in Mauritius, which is fair. But the court makes a crucial distinction between "arrangements" and "investments".

Investments made prior to 2017 will operate under the earlier DTAA provisions. But an "arrangement", as in Tiger Global's case, is subject to examination under the General Anti Avoidance Rules as a tax-avoidance scheme. Investors could now seek a clarification from the government on how it will regard all 'arrangements'. *Bonafide* entities should not be deprived of the grandfathering benefit.

Global investors will be closely watching the government's moves post the Tiger Global judgment. The judgment does shake up comfort derived from DTAAAs but in a global environment where tax avoidance is being frowned upon — witness the OECD moves for basic minimum corporate tax — India is within its rights to question treaty abuse. The Tiger Global case could increase capital costs for Indian companies sourcing foreign capital as investors build in the tax-risk into their calculations. What is important, though, is that the government remains consistent in its application of rules.

POCKET

RAVIKANTH



GIRIRAJ SINGH

India's textile sector has risen from a legacy industry to a powerful job creating, people-centric engine of growth, embodying the true spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat. India's textile resurgence is rooted in strong domestic demand and rising consumption. With a population of over 140 crore, India is one of the world's most resilient textile markets. The domestic textile market grew from about ₹8.4 lakh crore to an estimated ₹13 lakh crore in just five years. Consumption trends reinforce this momentum: per capita textile consumption has almost doubled over the past decade, from around ₹3,000 in 2014-15 to over ₹6,000 in 2024-25 and is projected to double again to ₹12,000 by 2030.

Exports have mirrored this demand-led expansion. Textile and apparel exports rose from ₹2.49 lakh crore in 2019-20, the year Covid struck, to nearly ₹3.5 lakh crore in 2024-25, marking around 28 percent growth in the post-Covid period. This sharp rebound underscores India's ability to scale manufacturing quickly as global demand returns and, crucially, to convert export growth into employment across the textile value chain.

Textiles continue to be the backbone of India's employment economy. Today, the sector stands as the country's second largest employer after agriculture, directly supporting around 5.6 crore people by the end of 2023-24, a workforce that has nearly doubled since 2014. The post-Covid phase has been especially transformative: export-led growth since 2020 has translated into an estimated 1.5 crore new jobs in the organised sector alone. When the extensive unorganised ecosystem that sustains the industry is accounted for, the employment footprint is far larger, underscoring textiles as one of India's most inclusive and resilient engines of livelihoods.

THE SEWING MACHINE EFFECT
Behind this export resilience lies a decisive shift towards capacity-led growth. The textiles sector's expansion over the past decade has been powered by an unsung hero: the sewing machine. More than a tool, the sewing machine has become a catalyst for growth, proving that sometimes the biggest employment and industrial transformations begin with the smallest machines. Since Covid alone, over 1.8 crore sewing machines have been imported into India's production



Textiles sector driving growth, jobs

RESURGENCE. It is creating first-generation entrepreneurs, stable jobs for women, and opportunities for rural youth

ecosystem. In 2024-25, imports reached a record 61 lakh machines, the highest ever. Each machine supports employment for approximately 1.7 workers across the fabric-to-garment value chain. As a result, the post-pandemic surge in sewing machine imports has translated into the creation of over three crore jobs across the textile sector, firmly anchoring capacity expansion to large-scale employment growth.

This surge in capacity explains why Indian factories were ready when global buyers returned, able to deliver higher output, shorter lead times and stronger compliance. Importantly, job creation does not stop at modern factories. As units upgrade, older machines move into the grey market and are reused by smaller enterprises, tailoring units and home-based businesses, multiplying employment at the grassroots. Women, rural youth and first-generation entrepreneurs remain at the centre of this decentralised expansion.

To recognise and capture the full scale of this employment especially in the

The new FTAs are increasing textile exports and jobs, with the upcoming EU FTA set to open new markets

unorganised segment, the government is advancing the District Led Textiles Transformation (DLTT) initiative. By formalising the workforce and improving data capture, DLTT aims to ensure that employment growth is not only large in numbers, but also supported by skills, social security and long-term stability.

JOB FOR ALL

Our vision for 2030 is unambiguous: to position textiles as one of India's strongest engines of employment and inclusive growth. Fast fashion is emerging as a powerful new driver. Valued at \$20 billion today, the global fast fashion market is expected to reach \$60 billion by 2030. Its demand for agile manufacturing and rapid turnaround positions India favourably and is expected to create an additional 40 lakh jobs over the next four years.

PM MITRA Parks alone have the potential to create over 20 lakh jobs, while the PLI scheme is set to generate more than three lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities through new factories and fresh investments. The wider textile value chain is expected to create around 50 lakh additional livelihoods. The new Free Trade Agreements are increasing textile exports and jobs, with the upcoming India-EU FTA set to open new markets,

boost competitiveness, and create the next wave of employment.

Alongside industrial growth, India's handloom and handicraft sector continues to anchor sustainable employment. Supporting over 65 lakh artisans and weavers, the sector aligns naturally with global demand for environmentally responsible products. Exports currently stand at around ₹50,000 crore, with a clear target to double to ₹1 lakh crore by 2032. Through focused schemes and market access interventions, nearly 20 lakh additional artisans and weavers are expected to be integrated into the workforce by 2030.

India's textile story is ultimately about jobs — large, diverse and inclusive. Since Covid, the decade from 2020 to 2030 is set to redefine Indian textiles and is set to generate more than five crore new jobs across organised and unorganised sectors. It is creating first-generation entrepreneurs, stable jobs for women, and opportunities for rural youth. As India moves towards Viksit Bharat 2047, textiles will remain central to building an *atmanirbhar*, globally competitive economy where modern capacity, skilled workers, and resilient demand come together to deliver growth with dignity.

The writer is Union Minister of Textiles

Turning recognition into protection for gig workers

Apart from documentation, gig workers' digital identity should be linked to benefit schemes to ensure payouts through life

Uttam Prakash

The rapid expansion of gig and platform work reflects a broader transformation underway in labour markets across the world.

According to a NITI Aayog estimate of 2022, nearly 47 per cent of gig work was in medium-skilled occupations, about 22 per cent in high-skilled roles and 31 per cent in low-skilled work. This composition is changing. The share of both high-skilled and low-skilled gig work was estimated to steadily increase.

Seen in this context, the Social Security Code 2020 marks a significant opportunity. By formally recognising gig and platform workers as a distinct category, the Code creates space to design protection that reflects not only the scale of this workforce, but also its diversity in skills, incomes and career trajectories.

India does not need to construct an entirely new system to extend protection to gig workers. The e-Shram portal has already registered over 31.38 crore unorganised workers, each issued a Aadhaar-seeded unique, Universal Account Number (UAN).

This national registry addresses one of the most complex aspects of social protection: identifying and tracking workers who move frequently across employers, platforms and States. The proposed National Social Security Board, with representation for gig and platform workers, offers a forum to deliberate on access, eligibility and portability.

The opportunity now lies in connection. Digital identity has been established on a scale. The next step is to link this identity to benefit-delivery systems in a manner that ensures continuity across a worker's life cycle. If e-Shram identifiers are enabled to interface with established social security institutions, a single, lifelong account could support workers as they move between gig work, short-term contracts and formal employment. Such integration would need to be phased, guided by explicit rulemaking and supported by capacity augmentation within existing institutions.

INSURANCE COVER

One area where design choices can yield immediate gains is insurance. The Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance scheme currently provides life insurance of up to ₹7 lakh to formal workers without requiring any employee contribution. While this applies only to EPFO members at present, the underlying design logic is relevant.

Extending an EDLI-style mechanism to gig workers, through appropriate regulatory adaptation, would allow families to receive protection from the outset of a worker's engagement with platform work, rather than after years of contribution. This need does not result in an open-ended fiscal burden.

Insurance schemes draw strength from scale, and even modest, platform-linked contributions aggregated across a large workforce can create a viable risk pool if transparently designed and carefully calibrated.



SOCIAL SECURITY. Must be portable and accommodate worker mobility

Contribution design must also follow workers' earnings that fluctuate daily. Monthly contribution models built around stable wages and continuous service are ill-suited to this reality.

A transaction-linked contribution model aligns more closely with the structure of platform work. Each completed ride or delivery can trigger a small, automated contribution, with platforms adding their mandated share. Topping it up through other openings as the code envisages is also possible. Such an approach allows protection to accumulate even across fragmented work histories.

Media reports reveal that employment in food delivery alone rose sharply between 2021-22 and 2023-24, reaching 13.7 lakh workers, while the sector's gross value of output crossed ₹1.2 lakh crore. Growth at this scale places social security design within the domain of economic stability rather than welfare supplementation.

India has addressed the needs of a similar workforce. Before digital

platforms, the Mathadi system provided social security to a highly mobile, task-based workforce by registering workers and employers and linking contributions to transactions rather than tenure. What was once administered through labour boards and paper records can now be implemented efficiently using digital infrastructure.

PORTABILITY CRUCIAL

Episodic work and social security are not incompatible. Social security must be portable. Benefits should follow the worker, not the platform, contract type or place of work. Platform workers frequently operate across multiple applications and jurisdictions. Social security systems must accommodate this mobility rather than requiring repeated identity resets.

The Social Security Code allows States significant flexibility in designing schemes. A shared national foundation for identity and contribution accounting can strengthen this autonomy. States can profitably tailor benefits to local labour markets while avoiding duplication and administrative fragmentation. Estonia's "once-only approach" requires citizens to provide information to the state just once, after which public agencies are obliged to reuse it. India need not replicate Estonia's systems, but the principle aligns with the direction of India's digital public infrastructure.

The writer is Regional Provident Fund Commissioner (Kochi & Lakshadweep), with experiences across India and Afghanistan. Views are personal

platforms, the Mathadi system provided social security to a highly mobile, task-based workforce by registering workers and employers and linking contributions to transactions rather than tenure. What was once administered through labour boards and paper records can now be implemented efficiently using digital infrastructure.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Send your letters by email to bleditor@thehindu.co.in or by post to "Letters to the Editor", The Hindu Business Line, Kasturi Buildings, 859-860, Anna Salai, Chennai 600002.

Maharashtra civic polls

This refers to 'Maha conquest' (January 19). BMC and other municipal corporation election results have confirmed the consolidation of the BJP after the 2024 assembly elections. The BJP will take control of Mumbai for the first time in BMC's history, marking the end of almost three decades of rule by the Thackerays. Mumbai's civic fitness is central to Brand India and issues like monsoon flooding, clogged drains, potholed roads and garbage strewn beaches need to be

addressed, and accountability fixed. The incoming corporators will carry the burden of huge expectations and they do not have any choice but to deliver on the promises.

Bal Govind

Noida

Filip to weavers, artisans

This refers to 'Weaving artisans into creating entrepreneurs' (January 19). Hats off to Nivedita Rai and Sourodip Ghosh for starting Kharigewale, to encourage and handhold weavers and artisans. If not

given due attention, our handloom and handicrafts, which represent our traditional culture, will die a slow death. Moreover, a country which is fighting unemployment cannot afford to neglect the handloom and handicrafts industry which generates huge employment in rural areas. The death of the handicrafts industry will push the rural population to already crowded cities, thus worsening the problems relating to migration and urbanisation.

Veeva Shenoy

Thane

US' Greenland push

This refers to US' 'Greenland tariff' a 'red alert' for India to guard its Greenland dispute, even after recent trade pacts, is a stark reminder of how unpredictable US trade policy can be. For India, already facing high tariffs on key exports like textiles and leather since last August, this episode underscores that no deal guarantees protection from future coercion. The concern is real:

strategic concessions today might not shield our core interests tomorrow. New Delhi should stick firmly to its red lines in ongoing negotiations — protecting agriculture, data flows, and energy choices — while pursuing diversified markets to reduce over-reliance on any single partner. A balanced, autonomous approach will serve our long-term economic security best. Let's prioritise resilience over hasty compromises.

A Mylsami

Coimbatore

Managing the small things

GST rules need a tweak to help businesses

Sethuraman V

Swami Vivekananda once said if you really want to judge the character of a man, "Watch a man do his most common actions; those are indeed the things which will tell you the real character of a great man". This holds good for the government too.

After a slew of big bang reforms — New Income Tax Act, GST 2.0, New Wage Code, RBI FEMA Rules relaxation in terms of IDPMs/EDPMs, etc — the test of character of these reforms hinge on how the government manages the micro aspects.

On this count, here are some bottlenecks in the GST system, which if addressed can improve the ease of doing business substantially.

STREAMLINING GST

One, Section 16 of the GST Act stipulates that if the payment for the invoice on which ITC has been taken and not paid to the supplier within 180 days, the ITC should be reversed.

This is a contentious rule, as these are commercial decisions between the buyer and seller and there will be several disputes, quality issues, performance issues etc relating to the purchase and hence payment to vendor might be withheld.

The government on its part should see whether the GST collected has been paid. Reversing the ITC in this case is in a way interfering in the commercial decision of the company. The buyer by not paying the seller the invoice, will not in any way impact the government in terms of GST collection/compliance. Hence this Rule should be scrapped.

Two, Section 17 of the GST Act deals with Blocked Credits specifically, like those relating to (a) purchase of vehicles by a corporate, (b) Food beverages, outdoor catering, health services, (c) club membership etc.

The intention of the government with regard to GST is to ensure that the seamless flow of Input Tax credit (ITC) across the supply chain is not broken. But here the above nature of expenses are disallowed from availing ITC which in many ways leads to breaking the flow of the ITC.

Huge sums of money are also stuck in litigation at various levels as the officers during assessment even disallow expenses relating to telephone expenses of employees, expenses incurred on factory disinfectant etc.



TAX RULES. Aiding business

All the above including those specifically blocked are essential for running a business. Hence blocking ITC in this case fails the spirit of GST. For example, construction of building in a factory is for the purpose of business, then why is ITC is denied? Membership fees paid to a club for an employee is also a way of remuneration, so why is the ITC denied? Moreover if we do not have any blocked credit, it will relieve the system of litigations.

Three, with regard to expenses on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) spend as per the Companies Act 2013, ITC on those are denied. Corporates spend on CSR activities like education, social infrastructure, environment, etc, which otherwise would have had to be spent by the government. Hence this should be encouraged by allowing the ITC and the expenses should be given tax deduction under the Income Tax Act 1961 (Section 37) while computing profits.

This is not a concession but encouragement to corporates. To ensure that corporates are genuinely committed to CSR and do not undertake it just for tax benefits, the government can enact policy guardrails.

Four, Section 79 of the GST Act stipulates deposit of 10 per cent pre-deposit for appeals made to the first level adjudicating authorities. There are several companies especially in the SME sector that may not have the financial wherewithal to deposit such an amount.

There are usually disputes on the interpretation of the law at the initial period of GST assessment.

Hence the Rule can be based on the financial strength and the pre-deposit can be eased to avoid working capital issues.

The writer is a Chennai-based chartered accountant, cost accountant and company secretary

thehindu businessline.

TWENTY YEARS AGO TODAY.

January 20, 2006

Jet Air buys Sahara for \$500 m in all-cash deal

Ending weeks of speculation, Mr Naresh Goyal, Chairman of Jet Airways, today announced the acquisition of Air Sahara for \$500 million (Rs 2,217 crore) in an all-cash deal. "We have valued Air Sahara at \$500 million and we will buy 100 per cent equity in the air line subject to regulatory approvals," Mr Goyal told newsmen after a board meeting.

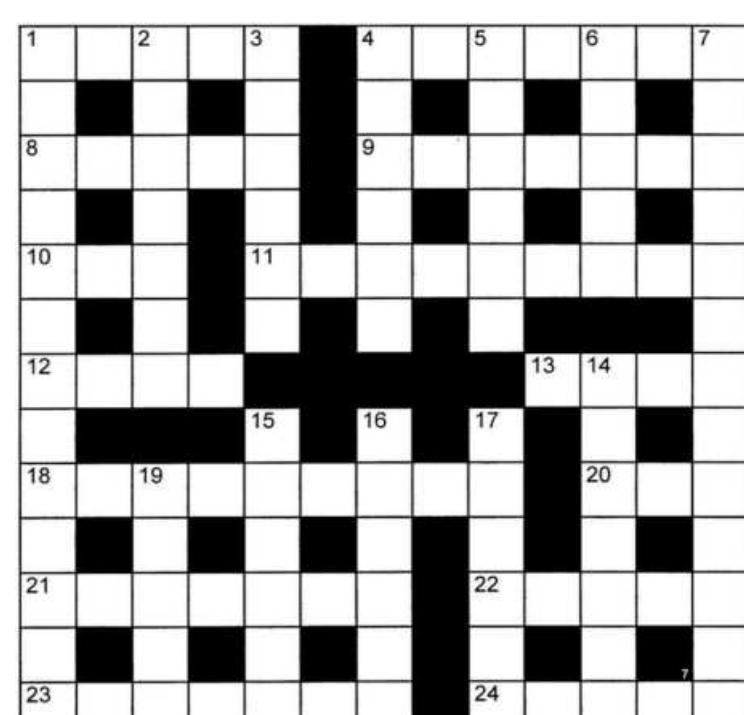
HCL Tech bags Rs 1,500-cr deal from European co

In what is being billed as the biggest contract won by an Indian IT company, HCL Technologies has bagged a Rs 1,500-crore (\$333 million) five year co-sourcing deal to provide total outsourcing services to Europe's leading electrical retailer, DSG International. "This is the biggest deal signed by an Indian IT company, and is also the first total IT outsourcing deal involving the taking over of a department of a large multi-billion dollar corporation," said Mr Vineet Nayar, President, HCL Technologies.

Karnataka: Decision on January 27

The Congress-JD(S) coalition ministry in Karnataka has got a breather with the Governor, Mr T.N. Chaturvedi, giving a week's time to the Chief Minister, Mr Dharan Singh, who decided to prove his majority in the Assembly on January 27.

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China needs to rebalance trade

China posted a record trade surplus despite US tariffs. But it needs to work towards greater trade balance with other nations

MACROSCAN.



CP CHANDRASHEKHAR, JAYATI GHOSH

Early in January, preliminary estimates of China's trade surplus (from the General Administration of Customs of China) placed it at \$1.7 trillion in 2023, as compared with \$993 million in 2024. The sharp 20 per cent rise in the trade surplus occurred because, while China's aggregate exports rose by 5.2 per cent in dollar value, imports rose at a much slower rate of 2.5 per cent.

These trends are surprising as they occurred in a year when, starting April, China has been the special target of US President Trump's effort to weaponize tariffs to achieve multiple goals. Around 15 per cent of China's exports were directed to the US in 2024. Trump did have to walk back on many of the high tariffs he imposed on imports from China, in the wake of China's aggressive response, including a threat of banning exports of rare earths over which it has a near-monopoly in global supply. Even so, the Penn-Wharton budget model from the University of Pennsylvania estimated the effective tariff on Chinese imports into the US to be 37.4 per cent in October, much higher than that on most other trading partners.

One explanation advanced for the counter-intuitive rise in Chinese exports to the US is that Trump's trade war began with his so-called 'Liberation Day' of April which was followed by a brief period of respite for negotiations. Anticipating that they would be the target of high tariffs, Chinese suppliers did frontload exports to the US, leading to a spike around April, which is seen as accounting for the increase over 2025 as a whole.

TARIFF IMPACT
However, that is not a correct explanation, since China's exports to the US over the first 11 months of 2025 fell by 18.8 per cent relative to exports during the corresponding months of 2024. As Chart 1 shows, though there was a spike in the month-on-month increase in China's exports to the US in March 2025, those rates for all subsequent months in 2025 were negative and far below the corresponding rates in 2024.

The adverse impact of the increased tariffs on China's exports to the US over



TRADE BALANCE. Higher Chinese imports will help emerging economies deal with Trump tariffs VIA REUTERS

May to November 2025 (relative to the corresponding months of 2024) were visible in all HS1 product categories, with the decline in exports to the US between the two periods being more than 20 per cent in 12 of 22 HS1 product categories (table 1). Exports to the US in each of three categories (Machinery, appliances and equipment, Textiles and Plastics and rubber), which together accounted for 60 per cent of China's exports to the US, fell by more than 20 per cent over May-November 2025.

Despite this adverse impact, China's aggregate export performance has held up, rising by 5.2 in 2025. In fact, as Chart 2 illustrates, the month-on-month increase in China's aggregate exports has been close to or equal to the increase in 2024 in all months after April 2025, excepting for October 2025. This obviously implies that China has been able to find new markets for its goods, to compensate for loss of exports to the US.

As reflected in Chart 3, China's exports from May to November 2025 to Asia, Africa Oceania and the EU grew

China's exports to the US in the first 11 months of 2025 fell 18.8 per cent year-on-year. But it still posted a 5.2 per cent rise in exports in 2025 due to more exports to Asia, Africa Oceania and the EU

and different regions of the world. But as mentioned, sluggish demand in China and, possibly, the absence of conscious effort to enhance imports from countries not endowed with foreign exchange surpluses of the kind that China has access to, has resulted in a limited growth of imports into China from the rest of the world. China's imports, which had stagnated at \$1.7 trillion in 2023 and 2024, rose only marginally to \$1.8 trillion in 2025, or by 2.5 per cent, resulting in the large trade surplus it has notched up.

While this development may be the result of the immediate responses to US tariff aggression, it is clearly in China's interest to work towards greater balance in its trade relations with the rest of the world. In fact, it might serve China to use its surpluses to finance investments in these countries to diversify their exports to China, yielding the revenues needed to service those liabilities.

As pressure on all countries to reduce dependence on the US rises, not just because of the weaponization of tariffs, but because of that country's bizarre threats and actual resort to military aggression against friends and manufactured enemies alike, this is clearly the best strategy for all other trading nations.

CHART 1

Sharp dip

Annual month-on-month increase in exports from China to US (%)

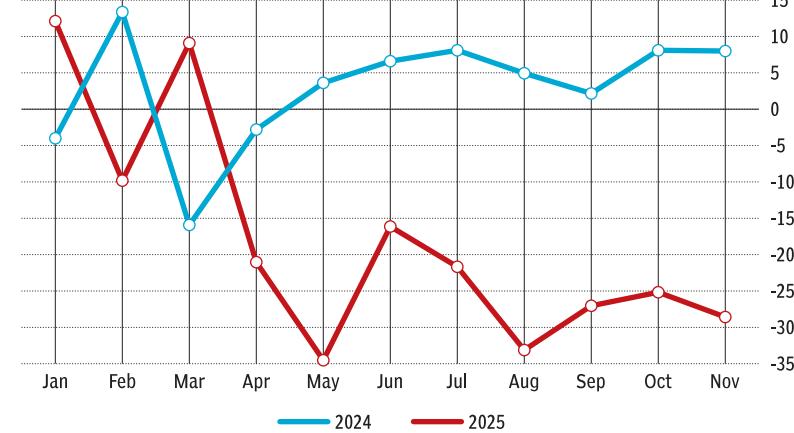


CHART 2

Holding steady

Annual month-on-month increase in total exports from China (%)

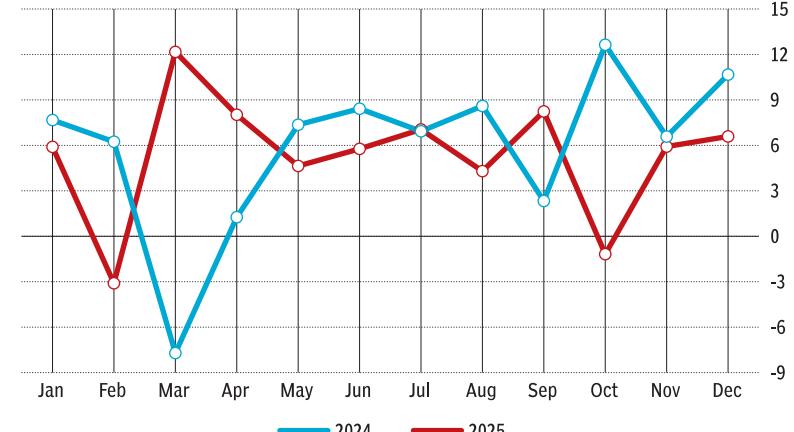
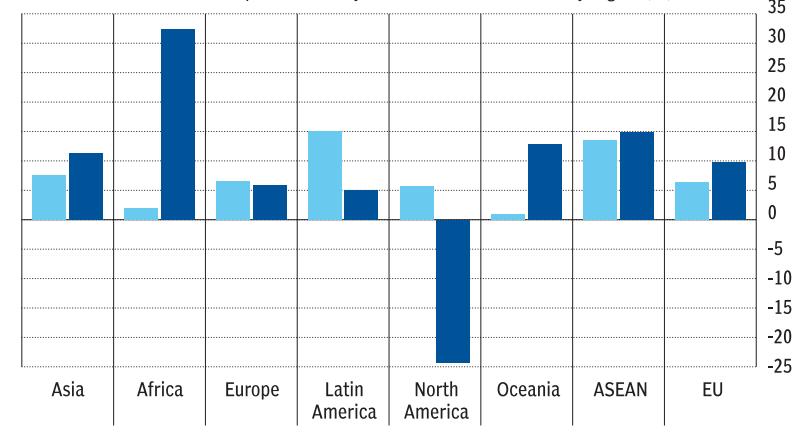


CHART 3

Geographical spread

Annual rate of increase in exports over May to November from China by region (%)



EASY

ACROSS

- 01. The walrus; code inventor (5)
- 04. Concerning the stomach (7)
- 08. Classifying designation (5)
- 09. A lover (7)
- 10. Writing, printing medium (3)
- 11. Upon the whole (9)
- 12. Hops, malt kiln (4)
- 13. Counter-tenor (4)
- 18. Clothing supplier (9)
- 20. Burden imposed (3)
- 21. Put to rights (7)
- 22. That place (5)
- 23. Is confused, perturbed (7)
- 24. Flat circular bodies (5)

DOWNS

- 01. With a diversity of hues (5-8)
- 02. Sternly reprobates (7)
- 03. Speech or writing in praise (6)
- 04. Individual pieces of sand (6)
- 05. Gloomy, melancholy (6)
- 06. Countirified (5)
- 07. Do too much (5,2,6)
- 14. Epistles (7)
- 15. Not much (6)
- 16. Checks in growth (6)
- 17. Ground the teeth (6)
- 19. Close-fitting (5)

NOT SO EASY

ACROSS

- 01. His telegraphic code to a greater extent included seconds (5)
- 04. The stomach's wind produced with no end of artifice (7)
- 08. Give one a tag that's the be-all in manufacture (5)
- 09. He likes her to make maid err (7)
- 10. At home at weekend with what cuttlefish produces (3)
- 11. Heredity factor will come round as a rule (9)
- 12. Nothing like tip-top place to dry (4)
- 13. Male voice changes a lot on breaking (4)
- 18. Clothing supplier dismissed by assembler of machines (9)
- 20. Levy raised by part-time soldiers at ten (3)
- 21. Correct thing reassembled (7)
- 22. At that point article is definite as to the Engineers (5)
- 23. Wavers when it's herd that's involved (7)
- 24. Records a non-u field event (5)

DOWNS

- 01. Dull time our CO could have had with many shades (5-8)
- 02. Busker working around tail of queue tells one off (7)
- 03. Praise for guy with Spanish cry of approval perhaps (6)
- 04. Bits of rice one removes hair from in tanning (6)
- 05. Our rail system is in some circumstances cheerless (6)
- 06. Right on the river in Russia it's countrified (5)
- 07. Cosy car exerts sway, but one can make too much of it (5,2,6)
- 14. With which people correspond to landlords (7)
- 15. As a heroine, Nell didn't have much to offer (6)
- 16. Daredevil performances are a knockout on a backstreet (6)
- 17. Sounded harsh but right in being confined to college (6)
- 19. Too close-fitting to be well oiled (5)

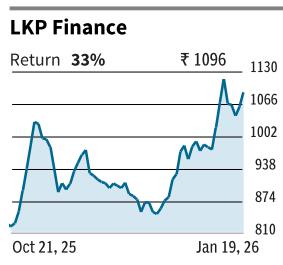
SOLUTION: BL TWO-WAY CROSSWORD 2599

ACROSS 1. Bandmasters 8. Cites 9. Deplete 10. Science 11. Stork 12. Piglet 14. Editor 18. Ledge 19. Replied 21. Charade 23. Cable 24. Shepherdess

DOWN 1. Backs up 2. Netting 3. Meson 4. Sadden 5. Exposed 6. She 7. Freak 13. Elevate 15. Thimble 16. Redness 17. Breech 18. Locks 20. Pacer 22. Ass



QUICKLY.

LKP Finance board okays
4:1 bonus issue

Chennai: The board of LKP Finance on Monday approved a 4:1 bonus issue for existing shareholders and an increase in the company's authorised share capital from ₹30 crore to ₹110 crore. The bonus shares will be issued by capitalising the securities premium account, subject to shareholder approval through a postal ballot, the company said in a statement. Under the proposed bonus issue, shareholders will receive four fully paid-up equity shares of face value ₹10 each for every one existing fully paid-up equity share held as on the record date, which will be announced later. OUR BUREAU

MF distributor AssetPlus raises ₹175 crore

Chennai: AssetPlus, a platform for mutual fund distributors (MFDs), has raised ₹175 crore in a funding round led by Nexus Venture Partners. The fresh capital will be used to deepen AssetPlus' technology stack, expand product offerings and strengthen initiatives that support holistic wealth management. AssetPlus enables MFDs to manage clients end-to-end, while removing operational and compliance friction in the background. The platform works with more than 18,000 MFDs across India with ₹7,250 crore of assets under management. The round also saw participation from Eight Roads Ventures and Rainmatter by Zerodha. OUR BUREAU

Wipro, Reliance lead losses as Nifty drops to lowest level in a month

MARKET SLUMP. Sectoral indices largely closed in the red, with Nifty Realty and Media suffering steep losses

Anupama Ghosh
Mumbai

The markets tumbled on Monday, with the Nifty falling to its lowest level in a month as disappointing quarterly results from blue-chip heavyweights and renewed global trade tensions triggered a broad-based sell-off across sectors.

The Nifty closed at 25,585.50, down 108.85 points, while the Sensex declined 324.17 points to settle at 83,246.18.

The session was marked by persistent selling pressure, with the Nifty briefly touching an intraday low of 25,494 before staging a partial recovery that failed to sustain.

After a brief pause, the Nifty resumed its down-

trend, plunging 108 points to close at 25,585, its lowest level in this ongoing correction. The sharp decline was primarily fuelled by disappointing quarterly results from blue-chip heavyweights," said Nandish Shah, Deputy Vice-President, HDFC Securities.

TOP LOSERS, GAINERS

Wipro led the losers, crashing 8.21 per cent after announcing softer revenue forecasts. Reliance Industries fell 3.07 per cent, while Eternal declined 2.87 per cent. Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles dropped 2.84 per cent and Max Healthcare slipped 2.51 per cent.

On the gainers' side, In- diGo surged 4.16 per cent. Tech Mahindra rose 2.39 per cent, while Hindustan Uni- lever gained 2.29 per cent.



WEAK Q3 GUIDANCE. The Wipro stock crashed 8.21% after the company announced softer quarterly revenue forecasts

Kotak Mahindra Bank and Maruti Suzuki climbed 2.22 per cent and 2.04 per cent respectively.

Market breadth remained sharply negative for the seventh consecutive session, with 3,116 stocks declining against 1,186 advances on the BSE.

Notably, 438 stocks hit 52-week lows, compared with just 97 that hit 52-week highs.

SECTORAL SHOW

All sectoral indices closed in the red except Nifty FMCG, which rose 0.7 per cent, and Nifty Auto, which edged up

0.1 per cent. Nifty Realty shed over 2 per cent, while Media and Oil & Gas indices declined 1.8 per cent and 1.6 per cent respectively. The Nifty Midcap 100 fell 0.37 per cent to 59,647.65, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 dropped 1 per cent to 17,190.70.

"Global cues remained weak as Japanese government bond yields surged, with the benchmark 10-year yield climbing to around 2.3 per cent — the highest level since February 1999. Risk appetite was further dampened after renewed trade-related rhetoric from the US, with Trump reiterating plans to levy taxes on European countries," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head of Research, Wealth Management at Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

Bharat Coking Coal sizzles with 77% gains on Day 1



DEBUT DHAMAKA. Manoj Kumar Agarwal (left), Chairman & MD, Bharat Coking Coal, with Harish Ahuja, Head-Issuer Relationship, NSE, at the listing ceremony on Monday

Madhu Balaji
Bengaluru

Shares of Bharat Coking Coal (BCCL) made a stellar debut on the bourses on Monday, the stock saw over 76.78 per cent listing gains after debuting at ₹45.21, a sharp 96.65 per cent premium over the issue price of ₹23 on the BSE. The stock opened at ₹45 on the NSE, showcasing robust investor confidence in the country's first mainboard IPO of 2026.

However, it ended at ₹40.66 and ₹40.58 on the BSE and NSE, respectively.

tained position, we maintain a target price of ₹50-52, with a disciplined stop-loss below ₹35 to manage downside risk based on current market price of ₹42," he said.

The non-allotted investors may await a phase of post-listing consolidation, he added.

While the firm stands to benefit from robust demand in the steel sector, it remains exposed to commodity price volatility, Om Ghawalkar, Market Analyst, Share. Market (PhonePe Wealth), emphasised.

STRONG SUBSCRIPTION

The strong listing follows an overwhelming response to the ₹1,071-crore IPO, which was subscribed 146.81 times. According to exchange data, the issue received bids for over 50.93 billion shares against 346.4 million shares on offer.

Institutional investors led the subscription, with the qualified institutional buyers' portion subscribed 310.81 times. The non-institutional investors' category was subscribed 258.04 times, while the retail individual investors' segment garnered 49.26 times subscription, highlighting broad-based demand for the issue.

Ahead of the public issue, Bharat Coking Coal had mobilised over ₹273 crore from anchor investors.

Alchemy Capital launches 3rd Long Term Ventures Fund

Our Bureau
Mumbai

sector-agnostic approach.

The portfolio will concentrate on small-cap and mid-cycle, high-growth companies in both listed and private markets. Investment targets include emerging sectors such as data centres, artificial intelligence, defence, green mobility, semiconductors, manufacturing, healthcare and biotech.

Hiren Ved, Co-founder, Director and CIO, Alchemy Capital, will manage the fund. The investment strategy follows the firm's established "Growth at Reasonable Price" philosophy, focusing on companies riding on India's structural growth trajectory.

Investors will commit capital in four tranches of 25 per cent each. The fund can allocate up to 35 per cent of its corpus to private opportunities while maintaining a

TVS Infrastructure Trust closes first tranche of ₹1,100-crore NCD programme

Our Bureau
Chennai

TVS Infrastructure Trust, an Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) sponsored by TVS Industrial & Logistics Parks (TVS ILP), has closed tranche I of its ₹1,100-crore non-convertible debenture (NCD) programme.

The Trust has raised ₹830 crore in tranche 1 through a 20-year, long-tenor bond issuance, anchored by the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID). The bonds are rated AAA by ICRA and carry a coupon rate of 7.42 per cent.

Ravi Swaminathan, Founder and Vice-Chairman, TVS ILP

The Tranche 2 fund raising of the remaining ₹270 crore will be done based on market conditions and strategic requirements of the InvIT.

Ravi Swaminathan, Founder and Vice-Chairman, TVS ILP, said, "This long-

tenor bond issuance, extending up to 2046, is among the first of its kind in India's industrial infrastructure space. It reflects our conviction in building durable, future-ready assets that are aligned with the country's long-term developmental priorities."

Nitin Aggarwal, CEO, TVS Infrastructure Trust, said, "The capital raised through this issuance will enable a meaningful reduction in the Trust's cost of debt while supporting the next phase of growth. As we work towards expanding our portfolio to 20 million sq ft, we remain focused on deepening our presence in emerging tier-2 and tier-3 markets."

SEBI moots ₹20,000 cr AUM limit to define 'significant indices'

Our Bureau
Mumbai

SEBI on Monday proposed a clear quantitative threshold to identify "significant indices" that will fall under its recently-notified Index Providers Regulations, 2024.

Under the proposal, any index that is tracked or benchmarked by domestic mutual fund schemes with a cumulative assets under management (AUM) of more than ₹20,000 crore will be classified as a "significant index".

Index providers administering such benchmarks will be required to seek registration with SEBI and comply with governance, transparency and accountability norms laid down under the regulations.

The regulator has proposed that the cumulative AUM be calculated using the daily average AUM of mutual fund schemes for each month over the past six



enough to warrant direct oversight.

LIST OF INDICES

Along with the draft circular, SEBI has published an indicative list of significant indices based on mutual fund AUM data between January and June 2025.

These include widely-tracked equity benchmarks such as the Nifty 50, Sensex, Nifty Bank, Nifty 500 and BSE 500, as well as several debt and hybrid indices administered by NSE Indices and CRISIL.

Index providers of identified significant indices will have six months from the issuance of the final circular to apply for registration.

However, indices already regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), including those notified as significant benchmarks under the RBI Act, will be excluded from SEBI's purview.

Public comments on the proposal have been invited until February 10, 2026.

BROKER'S CALL.

BNP Paribas

HDB FINANCIAL (NEUTRAL)

Target: ₹870

CMP: ₹754.90

HDB Financial's Q3-FY26 PAT of ₹640 crore (+36.3 per cent y-o-y, +10.7 per cent q-o-q) was 8.5 per cent higher than BBG consensus and 3 per cent below our estimates. The annualised credit cost (calculated) fell to 252 bps (from 271 bps in Q2-FY26) and flat y-o-y. The company maintained its long-term credit cost guidance of 2.2 per cent while noting that its new product mix renders historical comparisons moot.

Q3-FY26 AUM grew 12.2 per cent y-o-y, 2.8 per cent q-o-q owing to healthy growth of consumer finance (18 per cent y-o-y, 4.6 per cent q-o-q). Expectedly, the cost of borrowings (7.43 per cent for Q3-FY26) eased 2 bps q-o-q. The management believes the debt repricing is almost done. Yields improved 2 bps sequentially to 14.1 per cent for Q3-FY26 owing to the shift in loan mix.

Consequently, NIM (on average UPI) improved 15 bps q-o-q to 8.1 per cent. Despite cost-to-income ratio inching up 72 bps q-o-q to 47 per cent, HDB delivered PPOP growth of 23 per cent y-o-y and 3 per cent q-o-q.

As highlighted in our recent initiation, with a mild margin tailwind and some normalisation of credit costs starting from H2-FY26, we expect RoE to cross the 16 per cent threshold in FY27/28. Our TP of ₹870 (2.7x Q3-FY26 BVPS) implies 13 per cent upside potential, which places it in the middle of our NBFC coverage, resulting in our Neutral rating.

Asset-quality outcomes remain the key monitorable.

Elara Capital

TATA TECHNOLOGIES (SELL)

Target: ₹490

CMP: ₹661.35

Tata Technologies' Q3 revenue was aided by non-auto services, while margins were impacted by wage hike and a cyber-security incident at JLR. The company is aiming for sequential growth of 10 per cent in Q4 in the services segment, led by normalisation of revenues at JLR, integration of ES-TEC numbers and continued growth in non-auto services revenues, which should not be challenging in our view.

We maintain our view that in the medium term, due to planned scaling down of product investments by its anchor clients, JLR and Tata Motors, auto services revenue may come under pressure. We raise our USD revenue estimates for FY27-E28 by 1-4 per cent on integration of ES-TEC as well as strong growth in non-auto services revenues.

The mix of non-auto services revenues (catering to R&D need of Aerospace and Industrial heavy machinery clients) has increased from 9 per cent to 15 per cent and this segment has been growing at over 5 per cent CAGR in the past few quarters. This with ES-TEC acquisition has helped pare dependency on anchor clients, TML and JLR. However, as per our view, the contribution of anchor clients is still around 50 per cent and this segment may continue to be weak. We thus retain Sell with a lower TP of ₹490 from ₹515, based on 22x (unchanged) FY28E P/E.

Recovery in anchor client spend and higher-than-expected contribution from BMW JV are key risks to our call.

businessline is not responsible for the recommendations sourced from third party brokerages. Reports may be sent to: blmarketwatch@gmail.com

TODAY'S PICK.

Tech Mahindra (₹1,718.10): BUY

Tech Mahindra K
bl. research bureau

Return 3%

₹ 1718

1730

1636

1542

1448

1354

1260

Jan 20, 25

Jan 19, 26

The short-term outlook is bullish for Tech Mahindra. The stock has surged about 8 per cent in the last two trading days. This rise has taken the share price well above a key resistance level of ₹1,650. It also indicates that the upmove in this stock is gaining momentum.

The region between ₹1,670 and ₹1,650 will now act as a good support zone and limit the downside. Tech Mahindra share price can rise to ₹1,800 in the coming days.

Traders can buy Tech Mahindra shares now at ₹1,718. Accumulate on dips at ₹1,675. Keep the stop-loss at ₹1,635.

Day trading guide

25574 » Nifty 50 Futures

S1 S2 R1 R2 COMMENT

25530 25350 25700 25820 Go short on a break below 25530 with a stop-loss at 25560

₹927 » HDFC Bank

S1 S2 R1 R2 COMMENT

919 906 931 936 Go short now and at 929. Stop-loss can be kept at 933

₹1679 » Infosys

S1 S2 R1 R2 COMMENT

1660 1640 1685 1705 Wait for dips. Go long at 1665 with a stop-loss at 1655

₹333 » ITC

S1 S2 R1 R2 COMMENT

'Mandatory digital sanction for loans below ₹10 lakh from Feb 1'

PERMANENT FIX. Punjab National Bank's MD & CEO believes there will be no impact of the new labour codes on the bank's wage bill as it does not have any contractual workers

bl.interview

Shishir Sinha
New Delhi

Ashok Chandra, Managing Director and CEO of Punjab National Bank, believes there will be no impact of the new labour codes on the PNB's wage bill.

Chandra discussed a range of subjects, including measures to reduce fresh slippage.

Edited excerpts:

Given the government's focus on capex, do you believe you can meet the rising credit demand across various sectors?

Absolutely. As of now also, credit to MSMEs is growing at 19 per cent.

As we are reducing IBPC (Inter-Bank Participation

Certificates), core retail has grown more than 18.5 per cent. Agriculture credit has grown over 11 per cent.

We remain fully aligned with our core strategic objectives for this financial year.

Corporate loan book is now ₹3.12 lakh crore, which is the sanctioned amount till December 31, 2025. Of this, around ₹1 lakh crore is yet to be disbursed in Q4 of this fiscal and Q1 and Q2 of the next financial year.

With what we have been doing, corporate loan book would have grown more than 11 to 12 per cent, except the IBPC, which is at a very, very low rate.

The reported 8-9 per cent growth rate reflects our strategic decision to reduce exposure to IBPC and other low-yielding advances.

We intend to maintain this disciplined approach

through Q4 as we phase out these low-margin assets entirely.

Which sector has the higher share in fresh slippage during the quarter under consideration and also during the nine-month period?

For the current quarter, agriculture accounted for approximately ₹800 crore, while MSME and retail contributed ₹400 crore each.

For the nine-month period, total slippages stood at ₹4,518 crore, down slightly from ₹4,557 crore year-over-year. The MSME sector represented the largest share during this nine-month period, totalling ₹2,500 crore.

What are the plans to further reduce reduce slippages?

66

Our digital transformation strategy is significantly optimising our human resource requirements

ASHOK CHANDRA
MD & CEO, Punjab National Bank



Currently, 70 per cent of our deposit book has already been repriced.

An additional 21 per cent is slated for repricing in the current quarter (Q4FY26), with the remaining 9 per cent following in the first two months of FY27.

While repricing is ongoing, the full benefit to our interest expenses will be most visible starting in the latter half of Q1 and into Q2 of FY27.

And if there is another rate reduction in February, then Q4 and Q1 of FY27 will be affected?

Definitely. Then we need to look into our entire deposit interest rate as well because as of now, 125 basis point rate cut has happened.

But the entire lot has not passed on the deposits. We have passed on hardly 60-70

basis points on deposits.

We have enough cushion for adjustment in our deposit rate. We will see that if any further rate cut happens, then definitely we will have to pass it on to the depositors.

What has been the net increase in headcount over the last nine months, and what are your hiring projections for the remainder of the fiscal year, or the next six months?

Our total headcount has remained stable over the past 18 months, as the volume of retirements has offset new recruitment.

We have maintained a consistent workforce of approximately 1.03 lakh employees since the start of the financial year. Consequently, there has been no net increase in staff strength.

Any particular reason?

Our digital transformation strategy is significantly optimising our human resource requirements.

By automating processes such as the digital sanctioning of loans up to ₹10 lakh, we have reduced the need for manual intervention at the branch level.

Through centralisation and integration of digital tools across all operations, we are able to manage natural attrition and retirements without the need for large-scale replacement hiring.

What will be impact of new labour code on your Wage Bill?

There will not be any impact because we don't have any contractual workers which means all 1.03 lakh are on the regular payroll.

Gift City reinsurance entities flag GST and regulatory hurdles

Avinash Nair
Ahmedabad

Reinsurance entities operating from the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in Gujarat are facing operational hurdles as well as a structural GST disadvantage, said officials at the third edition of the IFSCA-IRDAI-GIFT City Global Reinsurance Summit 2026, held in Mumbai on Monday.

Hasmukh Adhia, Chairman of Gujarat Finance International Tec-City (Gift City) Co Ltd, said the GST issue will be taken up with the Centre for possible relief. Speaking at the summit, Adhia said the problem stems from the application of the forward charge mechanism on premia paid to IFSC-based insurers, unlike sim-

ilar cross-border transactions that are taxed under the reverse charge mechanism.

"I have been told by some of the reinsurance players that there is a GST issue in terms of the burden on the reinsurance entity under the forward charge," said Adhia.

"When an Indian insurance company pays premium to a cross-border insurer, the GST burden is under the reverse charge mechanism. But if the insurer is located in Gift City, the supplier has to pay GST and bear the entire compliance burden," he added.

"We should move the premium paid to the insurance company to a reverse charge mechanism. I am going to Delhi tomorrow and will speak to the Revenue Secretary," said Adhia.



STATUS QUO. Under the GST framework, the default rule is the forward charge mechanism VIJAY SONEJI

Dipesh Shah, Executive Director at the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), said the issue arises when IFSC entities transact with domestic India, even though their operations are offshore in nature. "When business is done from IFSC to overseas, there is no GST because it is essentially offshore to off-

shore. But when it comes to domestic India, domestic transactions have a GST component," said Shah. Under the GST framework, the default rule is the forward charge mechanism, where the supplier is liable to collect and remit tax. The law, however, also provides for a reverse charge mechanism for notified categories of

supply, under which the recipient pays GST directly to the government.

TWO-TIER NOD

GIC Re, India's largest State-owned reinsurer, was the first reinsurance entity to establish operations in Gift IFSC. "Challenges are still there. About 60-80 per cent of the problems have been resolved in terms of the two-tier approval required in Gift IFSC. Whenever any approval is required, it goes to IFSCA and it takes approval from SEZ in the back-end because of certain regulatory and legal framework, which complicates matters. But it is getting sorted out," Hitesh Joshi, Executive Director (Additional Charge of CMD), GIC Re, told *businessline*.

Ajay Seth, IRDAI Chairman, who was also present at

the event, said Gift IFSC is well-positioned to host global reinsurance operations.

"A large number of reinsurance parties have set up, or are in the process of setting up global capability centres in India. If underwriting work needs any regulatory accommodation or changes, we are here. If that requires policy support, we can collectively approach the government," he said.

Seth said reinsurance for emerging areas like civil aviation, shipping and shipbuilding and for MSMEs is the need of the hour.

In Q2FY26, reinsurance activity at Gift IFSC jumped 4x, with gross written premium rising to ₹199.52 million, compared to ₹51.75 million in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

Work on special purpose insurance framework begins'

Avinash Nair
Mumbai

"panding risk mix that now includes wildfire and cyber risks previously not considered suitable for investors," said Rajaraman, emphasising that the IFSC framework enables insurers and reinsurers to innovate with products unavailable onshore, leveraging the offshore structure to tap global capital.

South Africa-based Santam Ltd is the latest overseas player to approach IFSC seeking approval to undertake reinsurance business from Gift IFSC.

KERALA STATE TEXTILE CORPORATION LTD
(A Government of Kerala Undertaking)
Annapoorna, TQ 9/2000-01, Kocher Road,
Sasthamkotta, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 010,
Kerala, India. Phone: 0471 272 6295

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Kerala State Textile Corporation Ltd. invited E-tender for the Supply at site, erection, commissioning & hand overing of 1 number of FINISHER, DWRA FRAME machine for Malabar Spinning & Weaving Mills, Thiruvannamalai, Cauvery. E-Tender ID: 2026_KSTCL_828543_1. For details visit our website- www.kstc.kerala.gov.in, www.tenders.kerala.gov.in. Last date of tender submission: 28.01.2026 16:00 PM., Tender opening: 29.01.2026 16:15 PM., Thiruvananthapuram 19.01.2026 Sd/- GM (Technical)

Priority sector loans purchased via 'securitisation notes' under lens

Our Bureau
Mumbai

To ascertain the priority sector status of the underlying portfolio purchased via 'securitisation notes', banks may rely on a combination of external auditors' certification provided by the originating entity such as a non-banking finance company (NBFC) and conduct of sample check by their own staff or by an auditor for the purpose.

The aforementioned norms may be specified in banks' internal policy, per Reserve Bank of India (Priority Sector Lending — Targets and Classification) (Amendment) Directions, 2026.

These norms come in the wake of the asset quality of PSL-originated banks on their own turning out to be

much better than that purchased via the securitisation/direct assignment route.

PRIORITY SECTOR

Investments by banks in securitisation notes, representing loans to various priority sector categories, except 'others' category, are eligible for classification under the respective categories depending on the underlying assets, subject to certain conditions.

Investment by banks in securitisation notes with loans against gold jewellery originated by NBFCs as underlying are not eligible for priority sector status.

Bank credit to the National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) for on-lending to co-operative societies will be eligible for classification as PSL subject to an aggregate loan limit of ₹20 lakh per borrower, under 'housing' category.

"One would imagine India wanting to wait it out. It may want to see how other invitees react," another source said.

Former Foreign Secretary Kanwal Singh Sibal wrote on X: "There is no UN resolution on the composition of the Board of Peace. It is entirely up to the US to decide. The Board will be chaired by Trump. PM Modi's presence on the Board also does not fit protocol-wise with those listed already as members. Business interests are involved and this can potentially become a source of embarrassment..."

OTHER INVITEES

Trump has reportedly sent invitations to about 60 countries such as Pakistan, Jordan, Hungary, Vietnam, Russia, Canada, Turkey, Egypt and Albania. There are apprehensions that once the board starts functioning, it will extend to other conflicts such as Ukraine and Venezuela, and members may have to end up taking sides.

"Our effort will bring together a distinguished group of nations ready to build lasting peace, an honour reserved for those prepared to lead by example," Trump wrote in his letter addressed to PM Modi. The board will be convened in the near future, he said. It would be chaired for life by Trump and would start by addressing the Gaza conflict and then be expanded to deal with other conflicts.

Member States will be limited to three-year terms unless they pay \$1 billion each to fund the board's activities and earn permanent membership, the letter states.

CIAL COCHIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LTD.
CIAL/CIVIL/688 TENDER NOTICE 20.01.2026

E-tenders are invited from reputed Design & Detailed Engineering and Project Management Consultancy firms for the work mentioned below at Cochin International Airport, Nedumbassery.

Name of Work	EMD	Period of Contract
Appointment of Design & Detailed Engineering and Project Management Consultant for expansion of Terminal 1 and Associated Projects at CIAL	Rs. 10 lakhs	40 Months

For more details visit our website www.cial.aero

Sd/-, Managing Director

GAIL's SAPL gas pipeline connects India's energy heartland with the east

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

State-run GAIL's Srikrishna-Angul pipeline (SAPL) for transporting natural gas is an exercise to re-engineer India's energy map by connecting the eastern and western supply sources, while strengthening the national gas grid (NGG) with new operational flexibility.

ANALYSIS.

The SAPL is part of GAIL's efforts to strengthen the NGG. Other critical pipeline projects include the Mumbai-Nagpur-Jharsuguda Pipeline (MNJPL) and the Gurdaspur-Jammu Pipeline (GJPL).

LARGEST GAS UTILITY Through the 422 km-long pipeline, the country's largest gas utility has created a high-capacity, bi-directional gas corridor through Andhra Pradesh and Odisha



FUELING NETWORK. The Srikrishna-Angul pipeline is part of GAIL's efforts to strengthen the national gas grid REUTERS

Overall, GAIL has an existing 16,848 km of gas pipeline network, with a capacity of 208 million standard cubic meters per day (MSCMD) covering 20 States

for water bodies. Each segment presented a distinct engineering challenge.

For instance, SAPL required 718 permissions from forest, revenue, railways, NHAI, irrigation, district authorities, and local institutions.

Besides, one of its most remarkable engineering achievements while laying the pipeline was the 3.8 km horizontal directional drilling (HDD) under the Mahanadi River, which was completed in 66 days.

It is India's second-longest HDD, showcasing

advanced engineering, including electromagnetic steering, single-shot pipe pull and mud recycling systems, the official noted.

Another official explained that the pipeline unlocks benefits across industry, mobility and households.

For instance, he noted that companies such as Vedanta, NALCO and Utkal Aluminium now have access to consistent, cleaner and more cost-effective energy. Besides, it boosts city gas distribution (CGD) connectivity.

HOW IT'S DONE

What is worth noting, said the official, is that SAPL sets methodological and technological benchmarks for multi-terrain pipelines worldwide, such as the intersection method for long distance HDDs in river systems and monsoon-adaptive construction planning in sub-tropical geographies.

Overall, GAIL has an existing 16,848 km of gas pipeline network with a capacity of

PROJECT DELAY

Earlier this month, GAIL, in a BSE filing, said the project completion date of SAPL has been revised from December 2025 to June 2026. The delay is due to pipeline work getting affected on account of delay in receipt of forest working permission for 56 km length. However, the entire mainline of 422 km was commissioned on September 26, 2025.

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)

It has authorised 82 Natural Gas Pipeline Licences and 30 Petroleum Product Pipeline Licences.

To increase the availability

of natural gas across the country, PNGRB has authorised 34,232 km of NGPL network, of which 25,429 km has become operational (June 2025) and another 10,459 km length is under various stages of construction.

The Tata Power Company Limited

(Corporate Contracts Department)

Sahar Receiving Station, Near Hotel Leela, Andheri (E), Mumbai 400 059, Maharashtra, India

(Board Line: 0

QUICKLY.

Russian wheat export prices up on lower supply



Moscow: Russian wheat export prices rose last week on limited supply from the Black Sea region and increased demand from importers, analysts said as they lowered their estimates for January exports due to poor weather conditions at ports. The price for Russian wheat with 12.5 per cent protein content for February was \$227.50 a tonne. REUTERS

Copper bounces on weak dollar, Chinese data

London: Copper prices rebounded on Monday on a weaker dollar and after data from China came in better than expected. Benchmark three-month copper on the LME was up 0.6 per cent at \$12,885 a tonne by 1030 GMT, after two straight sessions of declines. REUTERS

Palm oil flat as China plans canola tariff cut



Kuala Lumpur: Malaysian palm oil was little changed on Monday as China's plans to slash import tariffs on Canadian canola and Indonesia's cancellation of its B50 biodiesel mandate weighed on the market, while upcoming festival demand lent some support. The benchmark palm oil contract for April delivery on the Bursa Malaysia Derivatives Exchange slid 3 ringgit to 4,069 ringgit a tonne at the close. REUTERS

You now have to pay ₹3 lakh for a kg of silver

TARIFF WAR. Metal tops \$94/oz in global market; gold surges over \$4,660 as US-EU tensions lead to more haven purchases

Subramani Ra Mancombu
Chennai

after touching a high of ₹3,04,200.

Silver soared to over \$94 an ounce in the global market before paring its gains to \$93.17 an ounce. Silver March futures were quoted at \$93.225 an ounce.

In China's Shanghai Futures Market, the white precious metal soared to \$105.5 an ounce (23,548 yuan/kg) in the morning before easing to \$103.1 (23,059 yuan) in the evening session.

Along with the white precious metal, gold gained 1.5 per cent, while the platinum group of metals (PGMs) rose by 1.75 per cent.

The latest surge in the precious metals comes on the heels of US President Donald Trump threatening to impose new tariffs on eight European nations in a bid to gain control of Greenland. In turn, European leaders mulled retaliatory measures, including reviving the 2025



SHINING BRIGHT. The silver-gold ratio is 49.99, which means an ounce of gold can get 49.99 ounces of silver against over 100 in April 2025

plan to levy tariffs on US goods.

DUAL DEMAND

French President Emmanuel Macron called on fellow leaders to activate the EU's anti-coercion instrument. All these boosted the demand for haven assets such

as precious metals.

Akshat Garg, Head-Research & Product of Choice Wealth, said silver stands out with its dual demand: monetary protection plus explosive industrial use in solar panels, EVs, data centers, and electrification — now over half of total consump-

tion. "Ongoing supply deficits from lagging mine output and recycling underscore its tightness, positioning it to outperform gold in growth phases while hedging stress periods," he said.

Aamir Makda, Commodity and Currency Analyst, Choice Broking, said: "As of mid-January, silver has delivered nearly 30 per cent returns, mounting on the momentum of 2025... The market faces a structural supply deficit exacerbated by China's strict export licensing and limited mining growth, resulting in a severe drop in inventories. Global deficit of silver has been projected to -230 million ounces so far in 2026," he said.

SILVER UP 30% YTD

Gold ruled at \$4,666 an ounce, while February futures ruled at \$4671.21.

In the Mumbai spot market, the yellow precious

metal closed at ₹1,43,946 per 10 g. On the MCX, gold February futures ruled at ₹1,45,064 per 10 g.

Primary PGMs metal platinum quoted at \$2,372.80 an ounce, while palladium ruled at \$1,858 an ounce.

Gold has increased by 8 per cent this year, silver by over 30 per cent, platinum by 14 per cent and palladium by 11 per cent.

Renisha Chainani, Head of Research at Augmont, said gold is heading towards its next resistance of \$4750-60 (78.6 per cent Fibonacci extension) and \$4,990-5,000 (100 per cent Fibonacci extension).

Silver has touched the 61.8 per cent Fibonacci resistance target of \$93. The next level to watch for is 78.6 per cent Fibonacci extension of \$99.2-100 and 100 per cent Fibonacci extension of \$107.

Strong support lies at \$86.5, she said.

COMMODITY CALL.

Natural gas:

Retain long position at ₹290; stop loss at ₹270



Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau

Natural gas futures, after posting a loss for three consecutive weeks, have begun the current week on the front foot. Now at ₹312 (per mmBtu), it has risen 11 per cent on Monday's early trade.

The rebound has happened on the back of a crucial trendline support at ₹280. Although there is a hurdle ahead at ₹315, the contract is likely to surpass this level.

Even as the trend might not turn bullish, natural gas futures is expected to see a corrective rally, which can lift the price to ₹350. A breakout of this can take the contract to ₹375.

But if the downtrend resumes and the support at ₹280 is breached, natural gas futures can see a fall to ₹250 or ₹230, notable support levels.

Overall, from the current level, the contract is likely to see the prevailing upswing extending to ₹350 and so, traders can remain on the long side of the trade.

TRADE STRATEGY

Last week, we suggested buying natural gas futures (January) at ₹290. Hold on to this trade and maintain stop-loss at ₹270. When the price touches ₹325, raise the stop-loss to ₹300. Book profits at ₹350.

Cotton Corporation sells 1.14 lakh bales from 2025-26 crop

Vishwanath Kulkarni
Bengaluru

candy for 29 mm cotton, almost similar to last year's levels. However, the trade feels CCI prices are slightly on the higher side compared to the market.

UNSUSTAINABLE

"The rates are higher by ₹1,000-₹1,500 per candy than what the market expected. We need to see the quality of the CCI cotton. If the quality offered is good, then CCI will be able to sell slowly. If the quality is poor, then mills will buy imported cotton at ₹58,000-₹59,000 mill delivery, including import duty," said Atul Ganatra, Chairman, Crop Committee of Cotton Association of India, the apex trade body.

On Monday, mills bought 61,000 bales from the 2025-



HIGHER SIDE? The CCI's sale price for the 2025-26 season is in the range of ₹56,300-57,300 per candy for 29 mm cotton, almost similar to last year's levels REUTERS

26 crop from the CCI, while traders bought 51,400 bales.

Ramanuj Das Boob, a sourcing agent in Raichur, also felt that the prices set by

the CCI are slightly on the higher side compared to the market. "Mills, which have immediate requirement, can buy in small quantities. I

don't think these prices will sustain at these levels," he said, adding that ₹54,000-₹55,000 is the ideal range.

CROP ESTIMATE UP

Prevailing cotton prices are at their peak levels in the ongoing season, inching up from early January after the government ended the duty exemption on imports on December 31. Also, the firming trend in cottonseed prices has lent support to raw cotton prices.

"Cotton prices, which were hovering in the range of ₹52,000 levels per candy at the start of the season in early October have inched up gradually and have crossed the ₹56,000 levels. Before January, the price was hovering around the ₹53,000-

₹54,000 levels. This is the highest price of the season," Das Boob said.

Recently, the Cotton Association of India (CAI) revised upwards the crop estimate for 2025-26 by around 2.5 per cent or 7.5 lakh bales of 170 kg each to 317 lakh bales on higher than estimated production in Maharashtra and Telangana.

The CAI projected a year-end surplus of 122.59 lakh bales for the 2025-26 season, up 56 per cent year-on-year on record imports of 50 lakh bales during the year. Imports till December 31 stood higher at 31 lakh bales. For the current cotton year 2025-26 ending September, CAI is expecting imports at a record 50 lakh bales against 41 lakh bales a year ago.

December oilmeals exports down 40%

Our Bureau
Mangaluru

A sharp decline in soybean meal exports during November and December dragged down overall oilmeals exports by 5.5 per cent during April-December 2025-26 and by 40 per cent in December alone.

Data compiled by the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) showed that India exported 29.75 lakh tonnes (lt) of oilmeals during the first nine months of 2025-26 against 31.50 lt in the corresponding period of the previous year.

India's oilmeals exports declined to 2.4 lt in December 2025 from 3.98 lt in December 2024.

BV Mehta, Executive Director of SEA, said the export of soybean meal stood at 2.28 lt during November and December of 2025-26 against 4.61 lt a year ago.

A month-wise breakdown shows that India exported



DEEP DIP. India exported 29.75 lt of oilmeals during the first nine months of 2025-26

1.13 lt in November 2025 (1.83 lt in November 2024), and 1.14 lt in December 2025 (2.78 lt). He attributed this to a loss of price competitiveness in the world market, despite continued support from Europe.

Since the last two years, soybean meal manufacturers have been facing weak demand from domestic livestock feed makers, who are showing preference towards the cheaper distillers dried grains with solubles (DDGS), a byproduct of ethanol production from grains

such as corn and rice, he said.

India's soybean meal exports decreased to 12.47 lt during the first nine months of 2025-26 from 14.85 lt in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

RAPEMEAL WOES

Stating that the recent decline in rapeseed crushing in India had limited processing into oil and meal until new crop arrivals in February-March, he said the latest price increase in the world market would curb China's buying of Indian rapeseed

meal. At present, Indian rapeseed meal price is being quoted at \$250 a tonne FOB compared to the Hamburg ex-mill price of \$247 a tonne.

India exported 6.77 lt in the past week, the overall acreage of rabi crops reached 652.33 lh as of January 16, which is 2.8 per cent higher than 631.45 lh a year ago.

A few additional companies have been approved or their applications are under process by GACC, China, through the Export Inspection Council of India for export of rapeseed meal to that country, he said.

South Korea imported 2.87 lt of oilmeals from India during April-December 2025-26 (5.34 lt in April-December 2024-25).

India exported 6.85 lt of oilmeals to China in the first nine months of 2025-26 (26,327 tonnes).

Bangladesh imported 3.24 lt of oilmeals during April-December 2025-26 (5.47 lt). This included 2.07 lt of rapeseed meal and 1.17 lt of soybean meal.

Rabi acreage up 2.8%; wheat sowing gets over

Our Bureau
New Delhi

With a coverage of 8 lakh hectares (lh) in the past week, the overall acreage of rabi crops reached 652.33 lh as of January 16, which is 2.8 per cent higher than 631.45 lh a year ago.

As wheat, chana, masur and mustard acreage has been completed, the weather until harvesting (in March) will play a critical role in determining a bumper output as winter crops have limitations as winter crops have limitations for withstanding higher temperatures.

GOVT TARGET

The government has fixed a target of 171.14 mt of foodgrains, which include 119 mt of wheat, 15.86 mt of rice, 16.57 mt of pulses, 3.17 mt of nutri cereals, 14.5 mt of maize and 2.05 mt of barley, as well as 15.07 mt of oilseeds (including 13.9 mt of mustard) for the 2025-26 rabi season.

FAVOURABLE WEATHER

Karnal-based Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research (IIWBR) earlier said that wheat sowing had been completed, and favourable weather conditions were supporting vegetative growth and tillering.

Last year had a record wheat acreage of 328.04 lh, which led to an all-time high production of 117.94 million tonnes (mt).

According to the sowing data, pulses acreage reached 137 lh against 133.18 lh a year ago (up by 2.8 per cent), the area under chana (gram) was 95.88 lh against 91.22 lh, up by 5.1 per cent and masur (lentil) acreage was 18.12 lh

Progress card*

	2024	2025	% Chg
Wheat	328.04	334.17	1.9
Paddy	20.98	25.58	11.4
Pulses	133.18	137.00	2.8
Gram	91.22	95.88	5.1
Lentil	17.66	18.12	2.6
Nutri/Coarse cereals	55.93	58.72	3.8
Jowar	23.85	22.54	-5.7
Maize	25.05	27.55	7.4
Barley	6.08	7.37	21.1
Oilseeds	93.33	96.86	3.8
Rapeseed & Mustard	86.57	89.36	3.2
All crops	631.45	652.33	2.8

*Source: Agriculture Ministry

QUICKLY.

Axiscades bags ₹100 cr radar parts supply deal

Bengaluru: Bengaluru-based Axiscades has bagged a ₹100 crore order from the LLTR Ashwini programme, India's indigenous low-level transportable radar system developed by DRDO and BEL. The contract is to manufacture and sell signal and data processing units (SDPU), including associated spares, said the company. OUR BUREAU

Delhi airport to shut one runway for upgrades

New Delhi: The Delhi International Airport Ltd on Monday said its third runway will remain closed for nearly five months, starting February 16, as it plans to carry out resurfacing and upgrades. During the closure period, the scheduled air traffic movement capacity will be maintained at 1,514 per day, it said, adding that airlines and the Air Traffic Control had been briefed and plans are in place to ensure smooth continuity of services. PTI

Govt issues compensation norms on 'Right of Way' for transmission lines

PRICING REFORM. Power Ministry's new norms address landowner concerns over low circle rate compensation

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi



THE OVERHAUL. The revised rules streamline land valuation timelines, committee process & fees under transmission projects

The Power Ministry has issued supplementary guidelines for the payment of compensation in regard to Right of Way (RoW) for transmission lines. These guidelines were introduced in March 2025.

"There have been instances where the land valuer nomination by the representative of landowners and submission of valuation reports to the District Magistrate is taking a long time," the Ministry said in an official note.

In March 2025, the Ministry said it will form a market rate committee (MRC) for fixing the market rate of land for laying of interstate transmission lines in States where a mechanism for the determination of the market value has not been created.

As per the latest amend-

ment to the guidelines, the MRC shall now engage the land valuers empanelled by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).

The valuers should preferably be from the same State or, if an adequate pool of valuers is not available, from adjoining States. The panel shall appoint three valuers — one each nominated by a rep-

resentative of landowners, transmission service provider (TSP) and District Magistrate (DM) — on the same day the MRC meets.

Besides, the representative of landowners in the MRC shall be from among the affected landowners.

The nominated valuers shall submit their reports in sealed envelopes directly to the DM within 21 days of their nomination by the MRC. After all the three reports are received by the DM, two reports shall be opened by selection through the lottery system, the Ministry added.

MARKET RATE

On reference market rate, the Ministry said, "If the difference in the market rates worked out by the selected valuers is less than 20 per cent over the lower value, then the average value of the

two valuations shall be taken as the reference market rate."

Further, if the difference exceeds 20 per cent, then the reference market rate may be determined as 10 per cent higher than the lower valuation. If this is not agreeable, then the report of the third valuer shall be considered, and the reference market value shall be determined as the average of the two lowest valuations, the Ministry said.

The assessed reference market rate shall serve as the basis for determination of market rate by the MRC.

The Ministry said that the amended guidelines specify that land valuers shall be paid an equal professional fee by the TSP, as found out by the MRC through due process. These charges shall form part of the RoW compensation cost.

Centre unlikely to clear West Bengal's pending MGNREGA claims

Our Bureau
New Delhi

The Centre is unlikely to release West Bengal's claims under MGNREGA while it will clear the dues of other States before implementation of the new VB-G RAM G law by June.

Targeting the Congress' ongoing protest against the repeal of MGNREGA, Rural Development Minister Shivaraj Singh Chouhan on Monday said the old law would continue till the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act is notified for implementation.

Responding to a question on the clearance of States'



Rural Development Minister
Shivaraj Singh Chouhan
addressing the media on
Monday PTI

The Centre appealed to the Supreme Court, which sustained the High Court's order in October.

POLITICAL ROW
The Minister also accused Congress leaders Mallikar-

jun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi of spreading misinformation about the VB-G RAM G scheme, and asserted that the new Act would strengthen the Right to Work.

The Congress has launched the "MGNREGA Bachao Sangram" from January 10, a 45-day nationwide campaign against its repeal. Apart from the VB-G RAM G Act, the Congress has sought restoration of MGNREGA as a rights-based law in its original form, the right to work and the authority of panchayats.

POLICY RATIONALE
Chouhan said, "We tried to make MGNREGA better. The proof is that we spent around ₹9 lakh crore while

the UPA government had spent around ₹2 lakh crore. Instead of 100 days, we are now giving 125 days' work, not just the right to work; we have also made provision for giving unemployment allowance within 15 days. You gave the right on paper, we have strengthened it on the ground."

RIGHTS ASSURANCE

Asked about the rationale of increasing the number of days to 125 when the actual job was an average of 50 days, he said as many as 40 lakh people had received 100 days of employment.

He also emphasised that funds would not be a constraint, and the rights would be protected.

Under the new law, there

will be a fixed Budget for the scheme that will be decided by the Centre, even for the States, and the State has to spend money within the allocated fund.

Unlike in MGNREGA,

when the States were actually contributing 10 per cent or even less while the Centre was bearing 90 per cent of the expenditure, the VB-G RAM G law has a 60:40 sharing formula.

NO BURDEN?

Chouhan denied the views of experts who said the States would be financially constrained to share their contribution and said since the funds would be used for rural development, the States would have enough resources to allocate.

In Budget, manpower outsourcing body seeks GST cut to 5% for staffing industry

Our Bureau
New Delhi

Ahead of the Union Budget FY27, the Indian Staffing Federation has urged the Finance Ministry to reduce GST on staffing services to 5 per cent from 18 per cent, classify them as "merit services" and introduce a women-specific slab under Section 80JJAA of the Income Tax Act.

The staffing and manpower outsourcing industry, a key driver of formal employment, currently faces a high GST burden that discourages formalisation, particularly in labour-intensive sectors such as manufacturing. According to the Federation, the high tax rate incentivises informal hiring, constrains women's participation in workforce and weakens retention of migrant workers due to limited support for housing, food and security at worksites.

Reducing GST would lower compliance costs, encourage



ISF says reducing GST would lower compliance costs and encourage formal hiring

formal hiring, and align with the government's employment formalisation objectives, the Federation said. It highlighted that nearly 85 per cent of India's workforce — over 50 crore — are outside formal employment. This perpetuates low productivity and economic vulnerability, limiting inclusive growth.

WORKFORCE PRIORITY
Despite having a young population, with about 65 per cent under the age of 35, India's employment ecosystem remains misaligned with its demographic potential.

The Federation cautioned

that without making labour formalisation a central Budget priority, India risks underutilising its demographic dividend.

ISF also flagged limitations in Section 80JJAA, which offers a 30 per cent tax deduction on additional employee costs for three assessment years to promote formal job creation.

The eligibility thresholds — such as the ₹25,000 monthly wage cap and the minimum employment period of 240 days (150 days for select sectors) — have remained unchanged since 2016, reducing their effectiveness amid rising wages and inflation. This particularly limits incentives for higher-wage formal women hires.

The proposed reforms aim to reduce the cost of formal employment, promote gender-inclusive hiring, and improve safety and retention for migrant and women workers, in line with government goals.

Electronics, mobile manufacturers push for uniform tax on imported parts in Budget

Our Bureau
New Delhi

Electronics manufacturers, particularly mobile phone makers, on Monday called for the rationalisation of basic customs duty on a wide range of items, including printed circuit board (PCBs), microphones, hearables and wearables in the Budget to help reduce handset manufacturing costs.

The microphone and receiver together account for around one per cent of the bill of materials (BoM) of a mobile phone. Although their cost share is modest, the current 15 per cent duty adds to the overall price of the finished product.

CUMULATIVE IMPACT
Therefore, the sector recommended rationalising the rate to 10 per cent, in line with other sub-assemblies, to enhance cost competitiveness and strengthen the do-

mestic electronics manufacturing ecosystem.

"As mobile phone production continues to expand and scale, this duty rationalisation will generate significant cumulative cost advantages, improve competitiveness, and encourage further investment in local component manufacturing. A reduced duty will support scale, sufficient duty differential, stabilise supply chains, discourage arbitrage, and further consolidate India's position as a trusted global manufacturing

base," the India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA), which represents the sector, said in its proposal to the Finance Ministry.

It added that lowering the basic Customs Duty (BCD) on hearables and wearables to 15 per cent from 20 per cent would better align this high-growth segment with India's broader tariff rationalisation and competitiveness roadmap. A moderate reduction will not adversely affect domestic manufacturing but will enhance India's

image as a progressive, market-oriented economy.

"With China's recent export restrictions on manufacturing machinery increasing supply-chain risks, India's dependence on imported equipment has become a strategic vulnerability. It is, therefore, recommended that the government extend the existing zero-duty benefit on capital equipment to all constituent components, sub-assemblies, and assemblies imported specifically for their manufacture," it noted.

It also said that there is no formally recognised wastage norm for mobile phone and its parts' manufacturing, leading to procedural inefficiencies in assessing routine production losses, and therefore, it has urged for a uniform wastage norm of up to 2 per cent of input quantity for finished mobile phones and its parts, to be treated as normal manufacturing loss not attracting duties.

"We will definitely interfere. Just see the exploitation of passengers done during the 'Kumbh' and other festivals. Just look at the fares to Prayagraj and Jodhpur from Delhi," the Bench told Additional Solicitor General Anil Kaushik appearing for the Centre.

Justice Mehta, in a lighter vein, told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who was in the courtroom, that maybe airfares for Ahmedabad may not have increased, but they have shot up for other destinations like Jodhpur.

The top court listed the matter for further hearing on February 23 after Kaushik sought time to file a reply on behalf of the Centre.

ABB consolidates Gamesa Electric buy with first wind power converter dispatch post-acquisition

Our Bureau
New Delhi

ABB announced on Monday the dispatch of its first wind power converter in India after the acquisition of Gamesa Electric's power electronics business in December 2025.

Manufactured and shipped from its Nelamangala facility in Bengaluru, "the dispatch represents a significant step in integrating Gamesa Electric's power electronics proven wind energy conversion technologies into ABB's portfolio," it added.

WIND FOCUS
ABB is solidifying its Indian footprint in the renewable energy sector with a strengthened focus on wind



RE PUSH. India is expected to meet around 10% of global wind demand and scale installed wind capacity to 107 GW by 2030

power, supported by a broader portfolio spanning utility-scale solar and battery energy storage systems.

"By delivering advanced power conversion technologies that are manufactured in India and engineered for effective grid integration, we

are strengthening the integration of wind power into the grid and supporting the scale-up of renewable energy worldwide," said Anoop Anand, President of Motion High Power Division at ABB India. This also reinforces India's position as a global

hub for renewable energy manufacturing and deployment, he added. India is rapidly consolidating its position as a global renewable energy manufacturing and deployment hub, with wind power at the heart of this transformation.

Now, as the world's third-largest wind manufacturing base, India is expected to meet around 10 per cent of global wind demand and scale installed wind capacity to 107 GW by 2030, underscoring its growing importance in the global renewable energy ecosystem.

ABB India's comprehensive renewable portfolio spans utility-scale solar inverters, power conversion systems (PCS) for battery energy storage systems (BESS), and converters for wind power.

Lokpal seeks more time from HC to decide on letting CBI prosecute Mahua

Our Bureau
New Delhi

The Lokpal on Monday urged the Delhi High Court to give it more time to consider allowing the CBI to file a chargesheet against Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra in the alleged cash-for-query scam under provisions other than those that were struck down by the judges earlier.

A Bench of Justices Vivek Chaudhary and Renu Bhagat directed that Lokpal's application seeking two more months to comply with the Court's direction be listed on January 23 before the bench which passed the previous order. On the Lokpal's counsel urging that the application sought the extension of the time frame for considering the issue of sanction, the

court observed, "It amounts to modification (of the order). List before the appropriate bench."

On December 19, 2025, the High Court set aside a plea by Moitra challenging the November 12, 2025, order of the Lokpal granting sanction to the CBI to file the chargesheet against her in the alleged cash-for-query scam. The CBI in July 2025 submitted its report to the Lokpal in connection with the case involving Moitra and businessman Darshan Hiranandani.

Justices Anil Kshetrapal and Harish Vaidyanathan Shankar had reprimanded the Lokpal for erring in its understanding and interpretation of the provisions of the Lokpal and Lokayukta Acts and said there was a "clear departure" from procedure.

CASH-FOR-QUERY SCAM
Moitra was allegedly involved in a scam over raising questions in the Lok Sabha in exchange for cash and gifts from a businessman. The verdict came on a plea by Moitra challenging the November 12, 2025, order of the Lokpal granting sanction to the CBI to file a chargesheet against her in the alleged cash-for-query scam. The CBI in July 2025 submitted its report to the Lokpal in connection with the case involving Moitra and businessman Darshan Hiranandani.

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thehindu businessline.

Fog eases, but polluted air continues to smother Delhi-NCR



GASPING FOR BREATH. Thick smog blanketed New Delhi with the average AQI in the 'severe' category SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Our Bureau
New Delhi

Delhi choked under a blanket of smog on Monday morning, with the average Air Quality Index (AQI) at 419 (under the 'severe' category), but marginally improved to 414 by 2 pm, even as there was respite from fog. Both PM10 and PM2.5 exceeded the maximum level of 500. The higher the AQI, the worse the air quality.

The air quality was above 400 AQI at 25 monitoring stations, including 13 where it was above 450 (severe-plus category), out of 39 stations for which data were available at 2 pm, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data. Vivek Vihar in East Delhi recorded the worst AQI of 475. The average for the day in Delhi was 410, while Ghaziabad and Noida were other places in the NCR that recorded average over 400 AQI on Monday.

The air quality was above 400 AQI at 25 monitoring stations, including 13 where it was above 450 (severe-plus category), out of 39 stations for which data were available at 2 pm, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data. Vivek Vihar in East Delhi recorded the worst AQI of 475. The average for the day in Delhi was 410, while Ghaziabad and Noida were other places in the NCR that recorded average over 400 AQI on Monday.

The review of actions taken during GRAP Stage-III and Stage-IV (invoked earlier) reveals serious deficiencies and wide gaps in implementation, with shortfalls ranging from 7 per cent to 99.6 per cent across key mandated actions. There are high dependency of unresolved complaints 47-100 per cent, indicating weak enforcement and grievance redressal mechanisms," CAQM said.

It said that such recurring gaps and failure in implementation of actions under the extant GRAP, particularly during periods of 'Severe' and 'Severe+' air quality in the region, seriously compromise the collective efforts towards abatement of air pollution.</p

Discretionary tech spending shows early signs of recovery despite tight budgets

RESOURCE PIVOT. Companies are funding new projects largely through internal cost reallocation rather than fresh capital infusion

Sanjana B
Bengaluru

Discretionary technology spending is beginning to show signs of recovery after a prolonged slowdown but enterprises remain cautious, keeping overall budgets tight and funding new projects largely through internal cost reallocation rather than fresh capital.

Jimit Arora, CEO of Everest Group, noted that there was a growing realisation among clients across industries, with many wanting to position themselves as technology companies. But while technology budgets are expected to grow faster than the broader economic out-



AI MOMENTUM. Discretionary spending in the financial services segment is showing momentum, driven by AI-led deals

look, growth is likely to remain in the low-to-mid single digits.

BOUNCE-BACK

"Discretionary spending had taken a step back over the past couple of years, and a bounce-back is expected this year. However, in many

cases, this recovery is not being funded through new capital and instead is driven by a rotation of spend between business as usual (BAU) and what is considered new.

Much of the large and mega deal activity is focused on compressing BAU costs to create funding for discretionary capital requirements," he said.

Echoing this assessment, Infosys MD and CEO Salil Parekh commented during the company's Q3 earnings call that discretionary spending in the financial services segment is showing momentum, driven largely by growing traction for AI-led deals in the industry.

"The next financial year is expected to deliver better outcomes than the current one, supported by strong performance in financial services. In energy and utilities as well, we are seeing a healthy pipeline of deals across the vertical, which is helping sustain momentum. We are not seeing any deterioration, which is a positive sign. From a macro perspective,

markets are factoring in the possibility of interest rate cuts, particularly in the US, though we will have to see how that plays out. Some of our expansion initiatives, including programmes focused on smaller clients, are performing well. Overall, as we look into the next year, these things support our growth," he said.

REGULATORY COST

Still, the broader environment remains cautious, with the current quarter's results shaped by regulatory cost adjustments rather than demand conditions.

Biswajeet Mahapatra, Principal Analyst, Forrester, noted that the rise in wage-linked statutory outflows may prompt companies to

carefully manage cost structures in the near term.

However, because the margin hit is expected to taper and stabilise after Q3, discretionary spending could recover once clients gain more confidence in the macroeconomic conditions and once the wage structures settle, even though no explicit signals were provided this quarter.

At the same time, some IT services leaders argue that waiting for a broad-based discretionary rebound may be counterproductive. C Vijayakumar, CEO & MD of HCLTech, argued that the focus should instead be on proactively identifying where new spending is occurring and targeting opportunities accordingly.

NITES moves Labour Ministry over Wipro's onboarding delays

Sanjana B
Bengaluru

The Nascent Information Technology Employees Senate (NITES) has filed a complaint with the Union Labour Minister against Wipro, alleging that more than 250 fresh graduates selected across multiple States are yet to be onboarded.

Reportedly, the candidates, who were selected through campus hiring, received letters of intent and, in several cases, confirmed onboarding emails with joining dates and locations.

FORMAL REJECTION

NITES alleged that despite completing the formalities, including background verification, Wipro kept the selected candidates waiting for six to eight months without any written explanation, joining date or formal rejection.

Wipro did not respond to businessline's mail seeking comments regarding this matter till the time of going to press.

According to NITES, repeated follow-ups were met with silence or automated replies citing vague business requirements.

Harpreet Singh Saluja, President of NITES, alleged that during this period, the company continued onboarding other candidates, leaving these selected students in uncertainty.

In the complaint, he further shared that the letters of intent issued by the company did not clearly or transparently disclose that the onboarding could be delayed indefinitely at the company's discretion without any outer time limit.

"Critical conditions affecting the commencement of employment were not communicated upfront.



The pan-India nature of the complaints indicates a systemic recruitment issue rather than an isolated administrative lapse

Consequently, candidates formed a legitimate expectation of timely onboarding, which has been unjustly defeated. This is not an isolated grievance. More than 250 affected candidates have approached NITES from multiple States, including Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and other regions.

According to NITES, repeated follow-ups were met with silence or automated replies citing vague business requirements.

Harpreet Singh Saluja, President of NITES, alleged that during this period, the company continued onboarding other candidates, leaving these selected students in uncertainty.

In the complaint, he further shared that the letters of intent issued by the company did not clearly or transparently disclose that the onboarding could be delayed indefinitely at the company's discretion without any outer time limit.

"Critical conditions affecting the commencement of employment were not communicated upfront.

SEEKING EXPLANATION NITES has requested the Minister to seek an explanation from Wipro regarding the prolonged onboarding delays and the lack of transparent communication, and direct the company to issue clear written decisions to all affected candidates either by confirming onboarding timelines within a defined period or by providing a reasoned closure.

Air India pledges product reset amid ongoing scrutiny

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

Under sustained scrutiny over service lapses and delayed upgrades since its return to the Tata fold, Air India Chief Executive Campbell Wilson has promised a long-awaited reset of the airline's product this year, built around more wide-body aircraft, faster retrofits, upgraded seating and new lounges.

The airline's reset is expected to become visible from 2026 as new aircraft begin entering the fleet and refurbished planes are inducted at an accelerated pace.

Speaking to businessline, Wilson said the airline envisioned under the transformation plan will begin to ma-



Campbell Wilson, Air India Chief Executive Officer

terialise as key fleet and product milestones are achieved.

RETROFIT INDUCTIONS

According to Wilson, the induction of factory-fitted wide-body aircraft, combined with a faster cadence of retrofit inductions, is expected to address inconsistencies in the onboard experience and lift product standards across the fleet.

The airline's own lounges are also slated to become operational this year.

Progress under the Vihaan AI programme, Air India's multi-year turnaround plan, remains largely on track, he said.

A majority of the 22 identified lines of improvement are expected to be completed within the originally envis-

aged FY27-28 timeline. However, he noted that three to four initiatives could extend beyond the planned schedule as they are dependent on external factors not entirely within the airline's control, including airspace access and supply chain-related issues, among others.

Even so, Wilson said the service standards achieved so far and the scale of work underway provide a base for sustained improvement and growth.

He added that the reset was irreversible, with no roll-back envisaged from the path already taken.

The Tata Group-led airline is targeting more than 55 per cent of its wide-body fleet to comprise new and refreshed aircraft by the end of 2026.

Notably, the airline aims to fully retrofit at least 12 Boeing 787 aircraft.

On the whole, the wide-body fleet is expected to be close to 60 aircraft. Meanwhile, around 20 new narrow-body aircraft are expected to be inducted alongside the wide-body jets.

FLAT FLEET

However, the overall fleet size is expected to remain flat due to the return of some older leased jets.

At present, Air India operates six upgraded Boeing 777 aircraft, six Airbus A350 aircraft, and six Boeing 787-9 aircraft that were earlier operated by Vistara.

Moreover, the airline has commenced a Boeing 787 retrofit programme under its broader cabin upgrade plan.

The retrofit work involves installing new seats across cabins, upgrading in-flight entertainment systems, refreshing cabin interiors, and improving lighting and lavatories.

Presently, two Boeing 787-8 aircraft are in Victorville in the United States, where they are being retrofitted. The first two aircraft are expected to return to service in February 2026. Thereafter, two to three aircraft will be sent for retrofit every month.

The airline has 26 Boeing 787-8 aircraft, and the retrofit programme is expected to be completed by mid-2027.

Additionally, the retrofit programme includes the introduction of Wi-Fi connectivity across the Boeing 787 fleet, with timelines aligned to aircraft availability and network requirements.

At the same time, the airline has 26 Boeing 787-8 aircraft, and the retrofit programme is expected to be completed by mid-2027.

Moreover, the airline has commenced a Boeing 787 retrofit programme under its broader cabin upgrade plan.

The retrofit work involves installing new seats across cabins, upgrading in-flight

Despite upgraded ranking, India's passport allows few visa-free options

Rohan Das
Chennai

India's growing economic stature does not appear to be translating into a corresponding increase in global mobility power for its citizens.

According to the research firm Henley & Partners' Passport Index 2026, India ranks 80th in the world on passport power. The index ranks countries based on the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa and other additional research.

While the ranking by itself has seen an increase from the 90th position in 2021, the number of countries with visa-free access for Indian citizens has gone down from 58 to 55 in the same period.

According to Varun Singh, MD, XIPHIAS Immigration,

despite the marginal improvement in rankings, the underlying strength of India's passport remains constrained when measured by actual visa-free access.

In terms of long-term mobility, including work, residence or family relocation, Indian citizens still face higher documentation, processing time and uncertainty compared to nationals of similarly sized economies," he said.

In fact, India's economic

mobility score, a percentage of the global GDP that its citizens have visa-free access to, is a mere 7.5 per cent as of January 2026, the lowest among the top 10 economies of the world and significantly behind its peers of similar economic size.

TALENT MOBILITY Singh suggested that this significant gap had implications beyond just travel inconvenience with talent mobility, business competitiveness and diplomatic leverage impacted.

Meanwhile, Singapore secured the top rank with visa free access to 192 countries with its Asian peers Japan and South Korea following with access to 188 destinations each.

The US ranked 10th with access to 179 countries while China ranked 59th with 81 visa-free locations.

'8.9% annual GNI growth needed for high-income status'

Our Bureau
Mumbai

If the per capita gross national income (GNI) threshold for high-income countries is raised to \$18,000, India's per capita GNI will need to grow at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of around 8.9 per cent over the next 23 years for it to become a high-income country by 2047, according to the SBI's Economic Research Department.

To reach the current per capita GNI threshold of \$13,936 for high-income status by 2047 (as envisaged in the Viksit Bharat Vision), India's per capita GNI must grow at a CAGR of 7.5 per cent, said Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Adviser, SBI, in the report.

"This seems achievable as India's per capita GNI has

grown at a CAGR of 8.3 per cent during the last 23 years (2001-2024). However, the threshold for high-income country will also rise by then. If the threshold rises to \$18,000, India's per capita GNI will need to grow at a higher CAGR of around 8.9 per cent over the next 23 years [for it] to become a high-income country by

2047," Ghosh said. Assuming average population growth of 0.6 per cent and an average deflator of 2 per cent (based on China, Japan, the UK, the US and Euro area averages between 1992-2024), this translates into a nominal gross domestic product (GDP) growth in dollar terms of around 11.5 per cent over the next 23 years.

He emphasised that India must continue its reform agenda to secure the higher incremental growth required to enter the high-income bracket. India can and will transition to upper middle-income status, which has a threshold per capita GNI of around \$4,500.

He said the nominal GDP growth in dollar terms required to achieve this is around 11.5 per cent; this is achievable as it averaged around 11 per cent in the pre-pandemic period (FY04-FY20) and around 10 per cent during FY04-FY25.

"India is likely to achieve \$5 trillion in another two years. India reached \$1,000 per capita income in 62 years since independence in 2009. It achieved \$2,000 per capita in another 10 years in 2019 and \$3,000 per capita in another seven years in 2026," he said.

Ghosh assessed that India is set to touch \$4,000 per capita in another four years in 2030, enabling it to transition to the upper middle-income status and join China and Indonesia in the current classification.

JioHotstar revamps subscription plans, starting at ₹79/month

Vallari Sanzgiri
Mumbai

Reliance's content platform JioHotstar on Monday announced an updated subscription model with cost-effective plans for new subscribers, effective January 28.

JioHotstar will introduce monthly plans across its Mobile, Super and Premium tiers, starting at ₹79 per month, allowing greater flexibility. The tiers will be divided into monthly, quarterly and annual options.

PREMIUM PACK "Monthly plans are being introduced specifically to make access to JioHotstar much easier for both individuals looking to stream on their smartphones, and also

Travel portals roll out AI-based solutions to simplify bookings

Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai

Online travel portals are stepping up the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to simplify bookings and drive better customer engagement.

The mobile plans will range from ₹79-₹499 for a single mobile device at a time and add-on prices for Hollywood content.

For the other two tiers, Hollywood entertainment will be included for new subscribers.

Existing subscribers can continue their current plans and prices, as long as auto-renewals remain active.

Super tier will range between ₹149 and ₹1,099 and premium offers will include ₹299-₹2,199 depending on the timeframe chosen. Further, only premium plans will include an ads-free experience.

said its new feature will reduce customer anxiety while booking flight tickets. The feature analyses whether current prices are lower, typically priced or higher than usual by analysing 30 days of pricing data. The trends can be seen for flights booked 60 days in advance.

ACTIONABLE VIEW "By combining historical data with trend analysis, we are giving travellers a clear actionable view of pricing," said Manoj Awasthi, Chief Technology and Products Officer, Cleartrip.

These measures have been put in place as travel companies see growth across various segments. According to Union Tourism Ministry data, domestic tourism saw a CAGR of 9.9 per cent between 2011 and 2024, driven by improved connectivity and development of new hotels.

Online portal Cleartrip

Syngene and Bristol Myers Squibb extend collaboration until 2035

Our Bureau
Mumbai

Syngene International has extended its collaboration with Bristol Myers Squibb by another five years to 2035, a development that reinforces its position as a strategic partner, said the contract research, development and manufacturing organization (CRDMO).

The expanded agreement broadens the scope of integrated services across the drug development lifecycle, spanning discovery, translational sciences, pharmaceutical development and manufacturing, clinical trials, data and information technology services to enable seamless progression from research to commercialisation, a note on the development said.

On expanding the 25-year-old collaboration, Peter Bains, Syngene's MD and

looks to advance innovative science through integration of research and manufacturing capabilities to accelerate the delivery of transformative medicines, she added.

RESEARCH CENTRE Syngene and BMS' collaboration started in 1998, culminating in the establishment of the Biocon Bristol Myers Squibb Research and Development Centre (BBRC), Syngene's first dedicated research and development centre. The centre was fully commissioned in 2009, the

Company	Prev	Close	Open	High	Low	Qty	52 W	52 WL	PE	BSE CI	Company	Prev	Close	Open	High	Low	Qty	52 W	52 WL	PE	BSE CI	Company	Prev	Close	Open	High	Low	Qty	52 W	52 WL	PE	BSE CI																					
20 Microns [5]	185.11	185.43	186.00	186.00	183.00	81,65	284.10	158.80	172	185.40	Capitalind [1]	33.28	32.58	33.16	33.99	32.05	101,26	44.50	29.25	463.95	GNC [1]	47.40	46.45	46.00	46.95	46.15	11	163.13	584.80	440.00	41.11	6529.05	KALVANI INV [1]	483.10	464.40	460.00	460.00	460.00	41.11	42 464.90													
300 One Way [1]	139.77	139.70	139.51	139.51	122.00	116.20	470.83	127.80	79.00	-	CapUN POI [2]	1820.20	1820.20	1820.00	1820.00	1808.10	30,00	289.00	95.15	101,80	SNS Elect [1]	284.05	275.20	280.00	284.00	274.00	91.41	401.70	272.00	-	17.25	KALVANI ST [5]	693.05	689.00	689.00	689.00	689.00	27.35	103 109.95	667.15	12 687.80												
31 Infotech [5]	15.18	15.15	15.16	15.16	15.22	15.28	182.58	57.00	31.10	14.60	CarbonInd [1]	181.10	809.50	802.50	812.55	801.00	41,34	124.36	78.15	47.44	GO Digit [1]	236.05	235.95	236.00	235.95	235.95	21,25	23.26	21.25	21.25	21.25	KAMDHENU [1]	23.16	22.36	22.36	22.36	22.36	23.25	21.25	21.25	21.25	21.25											
31 India [5]	3529.00	3444.00	3500.00	3515.00	3425.00	1,971	373.84	85.27	145.35	3425.00	Care Rating [1]	161.00	162.30	159.00	165.20	159.00	40,25	19.64	10.50	31,627.80	JainCorp [1]	396.90	385.00	394.10	398.40	385.25	60.07	1006.15	385.25	-	13 161.50	Kamdhenu Ven [1]	191.37	188.97	181.05	181.05	181.05	23.05	22.05	22.05	22.05	22.05											
31 India [5]	147.70	147.45	147.45	147.45	147.50	147.50	147.50	147.50	147.50	147.50	Carrao Ind [1]	53.05	51.63	51.50	53.30	51.20	51.60	59.00	52.15	-	GOCL Corp [2]	281.55	273.60	280.25	280.25	271.25	35.12	417.00	245.25	13	272.60	Kansai Nero [1]	213.43	212.74	213.00	213.00	213.00	23.19	209.85	213.00	213.00	213.00											
31 India [5]	374.70	378.95	371.00	376.00	365.40	365.40	365.40	365.40	365.40	365.40	Carryind [1]	177.50	769.05	776.00	780.00	755.00	67.25	197.00	43.75	-	Godavari [1]	584.00	578.00	578.00	578.00	578.00	14	193.85	578.00	-	28 232.70	Kansai Nero [1]	213.43	212.74	213.00	213.00	213.00	23.19	209.85	213.00	213.00	213.00											
31 India [5]	63.00	65.65	67.00	68.00	65.00	65.00	65.00	65.00	65.00	65.00	Carryind [1]	84.70	181.00	180.00	180.00	179.00	31,00	281.55	10.00	-	Godrej Agro [1]	171.00	197.00	197.00	198.00	198.00	92.00	100.00	197.00	-	14 178.70	KarvyPS [2]	267.50	267.00	267.00	267.00	267.00	20.00	250.00	267.00	-	12 266.80	KarvyPS [2]	267.50	267.00	267.00	267.00	267.00	20.00	250.00	267.00	-	12 266.80
31 India [5]	67.80	67.80	67.80	67.80	67.80	67.80	67.80	67.80	67.80	67.80	Carryind [1]	161.00	161.00	161.00	161.00	161.00	16.00	161.00	161.00	-	Godrej Ind [1]	257.55	250.20	250.00	250.00	250.00	12.00	127.40	227.40	127.40	127.40	KarvyPS [2]	267.50	267.00	267.00	267.00	267.00	20.00	250.00	267.00	-	12 266.80	KarvyPS [2]	267.50	267.00	267.00	267.00	267.00	20.00	250.00	267.00	-	12 266.80
31 India [5]	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	CEAT Info Sys [1]	177.50	178.00	177.50	178.00	177.50	14.00	171.11	145.11	-	Godrej Ind [1]	101.50	102.00	101.00	101.00	101.00	95.00	95.00	101.00	-	14 178.70	KarvyPS [2]	267.50	267.00	267.00	267.00	267.00	20.00	250.00	267.00	-	12 266.80	KarvyPS [2]	267.50	267.00	267.00	267.00	267.00	20.00	250.00	267.00	-	12 266.80
31 India [5]	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	CEAT Info Sys [1]	177.50	178.00	177.50	178.00	177.50	14.00	171.11	145.11	-	Godrej Ind [1]	101.50	102.00	101.00	101.00	101.00	95.00	95.00	101.00	-	14 178.70	KarvyPS [2]	267.50	267.00	267.00	267.00	267.00	20.00	250.00	267.00	-	12 266.80	KarvyPS [2]	267.50	267.00	267.00	267.00	267.00	20.00	250.00	267.00	-	12 266.80
31 India [5]	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	CEAT Info Sys [1]	177.50	178.00	177.50	178.00	177.50	14.00	171.11	145.11	-	Godrej Ind [1]	101.50	102.00	101.00	101.00	101.00	95.00	95.00	101.00	-	14 178.70	KarvyPS [2]	267.50	267.00	267.00	267.00	267.00	20.00	250.00	267.00	-	12 266.80	KarvyPS [2]	267.50	267.00	267.00	267.00	267.00	20.00	250.00	267.00	-	12 266.80
31 India [5]	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	CEAT Info Sys [1]	177.50	178.00	177.50	178.00	177.50	14.00	171.11	145.11	-	Godrej Ind [1]	101.50	102.00	101.00	101.00	101.00	95.00	95.00	101.00	-	14 178.70	KarvyPS [2]	267.50	267.00	267.00	267.00	267.00	20.00	250.00	267.00	-	12 266.80	KarvyPS [2]	267.50	267.00	267.00	267.00	267.00	20.00	250.00	267.00	-	12 266.80
31 India [5]	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	CEAT Info Sys [1]	177.50	178.00	177.50	178.00	177.50	14.00	171.11	145.11	-	Godrej Ind [1]	101.50	102.00	101.00	101.00	101.00	95.00	95.00	101.00	-	14 178.70	KarvyPS [2]	267.50	267.00	267.00	267.00	267.00	20.00	250.00	267.00	-	12 266.80	KarvyPS [2]	267.50	267.00	267.00	267.00	267.00	20.00	250.00	267.00	-	12 266.80
31 India [5]	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	CEAT Info Sys [1]	177.50	178.00	177.50	178.00	177																																					

Company	Prev	Close	Open	High	Low	Qty	52 WH	52 WL	PE	BSE CI
ORIENT C [1]	169.72	169.23	168.0	170.53	167.55	41.20	362.05	190.50	11	169.40
Orient Corp.	45.55	43.33	45.47	45.47	43.00	121.36	55.64	52.00	-	-
Orient Elec.	171.51	166.96	170.00	170.00	169.57	24.90	190.50	15.53	-	-
Orient Hotel [1]	114.91	105.87	113.70	113.70	108.10	206.28	180.75	98.35	32	108.75
Orient Paper [1]	21.63	20.87	21.84	21.84	20.52	348.31	34.40	20.39	-	20.84
Orion Tech	368.41	355.64	370.00	375.95	407.00	671.00	254.00	170.00	-	474.03
Orissa Metal [1]	40.40	39.00	40.40	40.40	37.00	105.00	47.00	35.00	-	-
Orkha India [605]	600.00	605.00	603.40	605.95	595.80	77.88	750.00	587.05	-	-
OswalGmTch	29.38	28.71	29.18	29.34	28.50	165.42	53.10	28.50	-	-
OswalPump [1]	450.50	433.50	450.50	450.50	421.10	367.59	88.40	431.10	-	-
P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PGC Health	177.49	175.50	175.98	176.80	173.79	190.20	231.00	175.00	-	-
Page Indgts	34365.00	3428.00	3435.00	34565.00	34565.00	9.81	5047.00	340.95	53.00	34253.50
Palika [1]	96.36	95.35	96.28	97.44	95.44	76.36	306.65	92.72	-	-
Panacea Bio [1]	402.00	391.65	403.00	403.00	385.95	138.51	280.15	28.15	-	392.05
Panamec [2]	301.00	292.90	301.40	303.00	280.05	50.38	411.15	263.40	19	295.10
ParadeepTech	13.19	12.50	13.19	13.19	12.50	34.00	10.00	12.50	-	-
Parag Milk	26.45	26.40	27.29	26.37	26.50	37.77	23.10	22	26.35	-
PARAMOUN [2]	34.47	34.32	34.87	35.40	35.24	31.88	77.99	34.00	14	34.34
Paras Defen	662.24	654.55	659.00	663.70	650.00	40.46	194.50	606.60	-	-
Park Hotels	125.51	125.36	131.60	131.60	125.00	163.00	202.00	125.10	-	-
PARCO [1]	15.61	15.50	15.61	15.61	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	-	-
Parupuru Agri	48.02	48.39	47.10	51.11	41.63	63.50	48.64	-	-	-
Patanjali [2]	521.60	521.25	520.85	525.55	51.00	912.31	2011.00	515.00	-	-
Patel Engg [1]	28.83	30.15	30.00	30.49	29.17	319.20	18.57	26.16	8	30.15
Patel Retail	181.31	174.56	180.90	180.90	173.30	99.88	305.00	173.30	-	-
PASHAK [1]	47.00	46.50	47.00	47.00	46.50	67.00	100.00	46.50	-	-
Patel Indgts	20.43	20.43	21.00	21.00	18.75	116.40	10.00	21.00	-	-
PayTM	134.20	131.40	133.16	130.40	130.80	180.19	181.80	161.50	-	-
PB Fintech	162.00	168.10	162.00	168.00	169.70	212.18	19.74	181.30	135.35	-
PC Jeweller [1]	10.26	10.51	10.23	10.56	10.05	10524.79	19.65	8.65	-	10.51
PCB [1]	274.60	272.35	270.00	275.60	265.00	106.50	44.50	270.15	-	-
PCDS [2]	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45	-	-
PENNAR IND [1]	178.35	169.32	173.25	175.50	164.84	104.07	275.80	163.60	23	169.45
PERSISTENT [603]	643.00	638.00	639.00	646.70	625.00	70	6436.00	-	-	-
Petronet LNG	284.61	280.05	284.00	286.20	277.15	223.94	332.24	263.70	12	279.90
PHOPPER ST [5]	369.75	365.45	370.00	375.95	352.00	30.60	30	469.73	-	-
PICO Electro [1]	47.00	46.50	45.40	45.70	45.00	47.00	47.00	45.00	-	-
PGL [5]	145.60	141.50	141.50	141.50	140.50	142.50	48.14	199.30	88.00	102.15
Phoenix Mill [2]	1859.00	1841.00	1848.00	1841.00	1809.00	213.63	195.60	1403.00	23	183.60
PhysicalW	127.24	121.30	127.37	127.48	118.00	347.45	161.00	188.00	-	-
PI INDUSL [1]	327.60	322.00	321.60	327.10	318.80	106.51	432.99	295.05	28	321.70
PiccadillyAgr	58.87	58.33	58.87	58.87	58.00	58.00	58.00	58.00	-	-
PIL INDUSL [1]	327.90	322.00	321.60	327.10	318.80	106.51	432.99	295.05	28	321.70
PILARO [1]	147.60	147.40	147.60	147.60	146.00	45.00	100.00	147.60	-	-
Pokarna Ltd [2]	119.47	123.36	123.15	123.50	118.50	147.00	147.00	120.00	-	-
Poly Medicu [5]	164.90	164.50	164.80	164.80	160.00	149.30	236.70	160.00	48	161.50
Ponni Engg [5]	71.85	71.00	70.00	71.20	71.00	71.00	71.00	71.00	-	71.00
Potli Engg [5]	22.94	23.00	22.94	23.00	21.00	68.00	21.00	21.00	-	-
Platinum [1]	39.10	38.58	39.03	38.98	38.16	46.96	37.72	38.11	-	-
Plaza Wires	5.70	5.70	5.70	5.70	5.70	5.70	5.70	5.70	-	-
PNT Gadjl [1]	588.75	583.83	589.30	585.75	515.00	37.05	71.00	581.00	-	-
PNB Gilts	70.84	83.45	82.55	87.99	81.50	151.04	116.42	119.84	7.35	6.38
PNB NDTL [1]	96.15	96.05	95.70	95.95	93.25	100.00	96.00	96.00	-	-
POLARIS [1]	147.60	147.40	147.60	147.60	146.00	45.00	147.60	147.60	67	147.80
POM [1]	23.67	23.67	23.67	23.67	23.67	23.67	23.67	23.67	-	-
Poornima [2]	27.75	27.55	27.75	27.75	27.00	40.00	27.00	27.00	-	-
POREX [1]	12.70	12.50	12.70	12.70	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	-	-
Power Grids	10.47	10.47	10.47	10.47	10.47	10.47	10.47	10.47	-	-
Pondy Oides	147.60	137.70	170.10	140.00	137.80	137.80	137.80	137.80	-	-
Power Veh	117.34	122.58	114.90	112.50	112.10	43.06	163.00	86.75	-	-
PPC [1]	375.35	372.5	370.85	370.75	365.00	14.75	370.00	365.00	-	-
PREMCO [1]	15.78	15.78	15.78	15.78	15.78	15.78	15.78	15.78	-	-
PREMCO [1]	15.78	15.78	15.78	15.78	15.78	15.78	15.78	15.78	-	-
PREMCO [1]	15.78	15.78	15.78	15.78	15.78	15.78	15.78	15.78	-	-
PREMCO [1]	15.78	15.78	15.78	15.78	15.78	15.78	15.78	15.78	-	-
PREMCO [1]	15.78	15.								