



QUICKLY.

VA Tech Wabag Q3 profit jumps 30% to ₹91 crore



**Chennai:** VA Tech Wabag reported a 30 per cent growth in consolidated net profit for the quarter ended December 2025 (Q3 FY26) at ₹91 crore. Revenue from operations grew 18.5 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) in the quarter and stood at ₹961 crore, boosted by a strong order book. For the nine months period ended December 2025, consolidated revenue from operations stood at ₹2,530 crore, up 18 per cent on-year. Consolidated PAT for the nine-month period stood at ₹242 crore, up by 24 per cent y-o-y. The company said the order book of over ₹16,300 crore, including framework contracts, provides it robust revenue visibility. **OUR BUREAU**

# Tata Motors PV posts loss in Q3, dragged by cyber attack-hit JLR

**TECH FALLOUT.** Revenue of Jaguar Land Rover was down 39 per cent at £4.5 billion

**Our Bureau**  
Mumbai

pact in Q2 was to the extent of 20,000 units and the remaining in Q3.

It saw a negative cash flow of ₹17,900 crore and ended the quarter with a net debt of ₹39,400 crore.

The domestic performance was more robust with a 26 per cent rise at ₹15,268 crore.

The company said it was stepping up its brand-led actions at JLR to drive up demand as well as measures to boost savings and cash flows.

#### EXCITING LAUNCHES

"We will accelerate growth through exciting launches and innovations. Overall, we expect a sharp improvement in Q4, led by normalisation of JLR volumes," it said.

The GST rates reduction resulted in secular growth across vehicle segments, but



The automobile company reported a loss of ₹3,486 cr on a revenue of ₹70,108 crore

in particular, compact and sub-compact SUVs had seen sharp growth, said MD & CEO Shailesh Chandra.

The company delivered 1.7 lakh vehicles to dealers and reported retail sales of over 2 lakh units.

Nexon and Punch continued to be best-sellers in their categories, he said.

"Over the past few

**Scorecard** (in ₹ cr)

	Q3FY25	Q3FY26
Revenue	94,472	70,108
Net profit/ (loss)	5,406	-3,486

consolidated numbers

	Q3FY25	Q3FY26
Revenue	12,141	15,268
Net profit/ (loss)	1,471	-233

standalone

growth trajectory, capitalising on robust demand pipelines for existing products, lead inventories and additional volumes for new launches."

US tariffs and demand weakness in China were headwinds for JLR that reported a £300 million loss before tax and exceptional items.

The global demand was not strong, and the US market was not as buoyant due to continuing uncertainties, he said.

"The cost to acquire customers on a global basis is rising," he added.

He clarified that no exceptional costs related to the cyber incident were expected this quarter.

He, however, maintained EBIT guidance for the full year at 0-2 per cent.

the aforesaid factors have impacted the consolidated net profit.

Meanwhile, the company maintained its average revenue per user (ARPU) growth, reporting ₹259 for the quarter, as compared to ₹245 in Q3 FY25.

"Q3 FY26 marked another strong quarter, with a consolidated revenue of ₹3,982 crore, a growth of 3.5 per cent sequentially, underpinning our strategy of a diversified and resilient portfolio. India revenue including passive infrastructure services increased by 1.4 per cent sequentially," Gopal Vittal, Executive Vice-Chairman, Airtel, said.

He added that Africa delivered yet another quarter of exceptional performance with constant currency revenue growth of 5.8 per cent.

"One of the reasons for our stepped up performance in Africa is the deployment of our home-grown digital stack that has sharpened our go-to-market excellence, the secret sauce of Airtel. India mobile recorded sequential growth of 1.9 per cent, driven by our focus on winning with quality customers and a consistently improving portfolio mix," he said, adding that Airtel added 4.4 million customers.

The Homes business maintained strong growth momentum, crossing a quarterly revenue run-rate of ₹2,000 crore, and added 1.2 million customers, the highest-ever quarterly additions, Vittal noted.

Shares of Airtel closed at ₹1,992.05 apiece on the BSE on Thursday, down 1.65 per cent from the previous close.

## IOCL net up at ₹13,502 cr, aided by refining, marketing margins

**Our Bureau**  
New Delhi

State-run Indian Oil Corporation on Thursday reported a multi-fold growth in consolidated net profit at around ₹13,502 crore in Q3 FY26 aided by better refining and marketing margins even as losses from its petrochemicals business widened.

On a sequential basis, net profit of India's largest oil marketing company (OMC) rose by 65 per cent.

IOCL's total consolidated income during Q3 was higher at around ₹2.37 lakh crore compared to ₹2.07 lakh crore in Q2 FY26 and ₹2.21 lakh crore in Q3 FY26. Its



after offsetting inventory loss/gain stood at \$7.89 per barrel compared to \$2.97 a year ago.

During Q2 FY26, its average GRM in H1 FY26 stood at \$6.32 per barrel against \$4.08 a year ago. Its core GRM or the current price GRM for H1 FY26

quarters. Its refinery throughput for 9M FY26 is 55.719 million tonnes (mt) with 105 per cent capacity utilisation as compared to 53.016 mt in 9M FY25, improving by 5 per cent.

The cross-country pipelines achieved a throughput of 77.90 mt in 9M FY26 compared to 74.70 mt in 9M FY25, improving by 4 per cent.

IOCL also reported its highest ever 9M sales volumes of 77,774 mt in 9M FY26 compared to 74,347 mt in 9M FY25. The company's domestic petroleum sales volume increased by 4.3 per cent over 9M FY25 as against 4.1 per cent of the industry. Increase in (diesel) HSD-

institutional sales volume by 27.9 per cent over 9M FY25 as compared to increase in industry volume by 9.7 per cent.

#### DOMESTIC SALES

IOCL also reported an increase in domestic petrochemical sales volume by 3 per cent on-year to 2,411 mt in 9M FY26 from 2,344 mt in 9M FY25.

However, the losses (before tax, interest income, finance cost, dividend and exceptional items) for the segment widened to ₹361.51 crore in Q3 FY26 compared to a gain of ₹168.42 crore in Q2 FY26 and a loss of ₹154.86 crore in Q3 FY26. In its results filing with

BSE, IOCL stated its cumulative sales volume by 27.9 per cent over 9M FY25 as compared to increase in industry volume by 9.7 per cent.

The Centre has earmarked ₹14,486 crore for LPG subsidy, which will be paid to the OMC in 12 equal monthly instalments, beginning from November 2025.

"In accordance with the letters, instalment for November 2025 and December 2025 aggregating to ₹2,414.34 crore has been recognised as revenue from operations in the books of account of the holding company and the cumulative net negative buffer has been reduced to that extent," the filing added.

## Airtel net down 55% on higher operating costs

### Q3 performance

	Q3 FY25	Q3 FY26	% change
Net profit (₹ cr)	14,781.2	6,630.5	-55
Revenue (₹ cr)	45,129.3	53,981.6	19.6
ARPU (₹)	245	259	5.7

**Our Bureau**  
New Delhi

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## + Hero MotoCorp to invest additional ₹275 crore in Euler Motors

**S Ronendra Singh**  
New Delhi

Hero MotoCorp on Thursday said its board has approved an additional investment of ₹275 crore in Euler Motors, to be completed by April 30, 2026.

The board has also approved for entering into an arrangement with Clean Max Enviro Energy Solutions (CleanMax) to set up a special purpose vehicle (SPV) for the company's plant at Neemrana, Global Parts Centre, Neemrana and Centre for Innovation and Technology, Jaipur, Rajasthan.

**GOOD Q3 NUMBERS**  
The proposed SPV will be incorporated for Solar Power Wheeling project under Group Captive mechanism.

Meanwhile, the company reported a consolidated net profit of ₹1,267.55 crore in the third quarter ended December 31, 2025 (Q3



FY26), a growth of 14.4 per cent year-on-year compared with ₹1,107.55 crore in the corresponding period previous fiscal.

The company has considered the impact of four new labour codes, which came into effect from November 21, 2025, resulting in a one-time charge of ₹119 crore, Hero MotoCorp said adding that the same has been reported as an exceptional item in the financial results.

Driven by higher sales during the festive season, the consolidated rev-

## Godrej Properties posts record Q3 profit; booking value rises 55%

**Anupama Ghosh**  
Mumbai

venue from operations also grew by 21.7 per cent on-year to ₹12,486.82 crore in Q3 FY26 as against ₹10,259.89 crore in Q3 FY25. The company said it sold 16.97 lakh units of motorcycles and scooters during the quarter in review, up 16 per cent on-year as compared with 14.64 lakh units in Q3 FY25.

"Hero MotoCorp delivered a positive growth performance in Q3 FY26 with healthy double-digit growth in volumes and retail momentum. Steady focus on operational excellence, product mix optimisation, consumer centricity and innovation remained our core pillars enabling consistent financial performance during the quarter," Vivek Anand, Chief Financial Officer, Hero MotoCorp, said.

Conducive macroeconomic factors and favourable GST 2.0 tailwind helped in revival of rural demand which further drove consumer traction for motorcycles and growth, he added.

The real estate developer's booking value jumped 55 per cent to ₹8,421 crore in Q3 FY26, driven by the sale of 3,973 homes spanning 6.43 million sq ft. For the nine-month period ending December 31, 2025, the company posted net profit of ₹1,200 crore, up 18 per cent from the previous year.

Nine-month booking value grew 25 per cent to ₹24,008 crore through sales of 12,726 homes.

Mumbai Metropolitan Region contributed ₹3,239 crore to Q3 booking value, led by the Godrej Trilogy project in Worli, which alone generated ₹1,742 crore in

bookings. Collections grew 40 per cent on-year to ₹4,282 crore in the quarter.

#### SALEABLE AREA

Godrej Properties added three new projects during the quarter with an estimated saleable area of 7.30 million sq ft and expected booking value of ₹8,400 crore.

The company has achieved 74 per cent of its annual booking value guidance of ₹32,500 crore and remains on track to exceed the target.

Executive Chairperson Pirojsha Godrej attributed the performance to strong volumes and pricing growth across markets.

The company raised ₹6,000 crore through a qualified institutional placement last financial year to fund growth initiatives. Shares of Godrej Properties were trading at ₹1,686.90, down by ₹24.80 or 1.45 per cent on the NSE at the closing bell on Thursday.

## Data Patterns Q3 profit rises 29% on strong order flow, higher revenues

**Our Bureau**  
Chennai

Defence and Aerospace electronics solutions provider Data Patterns on Thursday reported a 29 per cent rise in net profit for the quarter ended December 2025 at ₹58 crore.

The Q3 FY26 profit growth came from a record order flow as the company's revenue from operations rose 48 per cent and stood at ₹173 crore. The company also saw a healthy gross margin of 77 per cent in the quarter.

Executive Chairman Pirojsha Godrej attributed the performance to strong volumes and pricing growth across markets.

The total order book as on date stood at ₹1,868 crore compared to an order book of ₹730 crore as of April 1, 2025.

For the nine months ended December 2025, revenue from operations increased by 86 per cent from ₹312 crore in the same

period last year to ₹580 crore.

"Healthy growth in revenues and profitability reflects the strength of our operating model," S Rangarajan, Chairman & Managing Director, Data Patterns (India) Ltd, said.

He further noted that the company's order book stands at an all-time high, providing revenue visibility.

"Order inflows during FY26 have been encouraging, reinforcing our growth outlook. With a strong executable pipeline, we remain confident of achieving our full-year guidance," he said.

#### LABOUR CODES

The new labour codes has resulted in estimated one-time increase in provision of ₹3 crore, and has been recognised as an exceptional item.

Data Patterns' competencies include design and development across electronic hardware, software, firmware, mechanical, product prototype besides testing, validation and verification.

Its involvement is spread across radars, electronic warfare suites, communications,

# 'I-T return forms may capture only relevant data'

**MORE CLARITY.** Tax department adopts a new mantra focused on taxpayer trust, supported by simpler forms: CBDT Chairman

## bl.interview

**Shishir Sinha**  
New Delhi

The Chairman of CBDT (Central Board of Direct Taxes) Ravi Agrawal said on Thursday that work is in progress to rationalise the requirement of Form 60. He said in the new rules and forms under new Income Tax Act, the focus is on auto populating more data.

*Edited excerpts:*

### What is the plan for litigation management?

It is a priority area and we have made some notable progress. We started this year with a pendency of 5.4 lakh cases at the first appellate stage, and have disposed of 1,53,000 cases between April and January this fiscal against 1.08 lakh in the corresponding period of the last fiscal, a reduction of 40 per cent.

In this year's Budget, some fundamental changes have been made to curb dependency, minimise litigation and move towards dispute resolution. The first step to

minimise litigation involves clubbing together two separate proceedings — assessment and penalty — into one. Till now, there was a whole process involving first assessment and the appeal process which would take about 4-5 years.

This was followed by penalty proceedings, which would typically take about 7-8 years, and further appeals. By clubbing these proceedings, the litigation number has been halved or near-halved.

The second step has a dispute resolution component, which also leads to litigation. An additional window has been provided now to the taxpayer that even after notice, if the person feels he/she can pay some additional tax and close the issue, that opportunity has been provided.

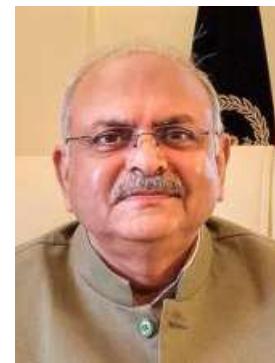
Even after the assessment has been completed, the taxpayer now has an option to pay additional tax and close the proceeding.

We believe taxpayers may prefer to get resolution at an early stage instead of appeals. This also reduces the number of appeals.

66

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**RAVI AGRAWAL**  
Chairman, CBDT



### How will the safe harbour provision in the Budget impact FDI?

India is an attractive country for the software industry. There was an element of uncertainty so far about safe harbour provisions as they were categorised into different verticals. One category was IT-ITES, the other was knowledge processing outsourcing (KPO) and the third was contract R&D. Each of these had different rates. The rate for contract R&D, KPO was 18-24 per cent and 17 per cent for IT-ITES. There was always an apprehension that if they op-

ted for safe harbour, the department might classify them interchangeably — treating them as IT-ITES instead of KPO, or considering part of the activity as IT-ITES and part as KPO. Basically, there was no certainty in the system. These categories have now been brought into one umbrella, and the rate has been kept at 15.5 per cent. That brings a lot of clarity and certainty for the software industry. This will have an impact on the FDI as well.

**Can you share some details of the new rules and forms based on new Income Tax Act 2025?**

They've not been notified, so I will not be giving you specifics. But I can talk about the general philosophy with some examples.

We have leveraged on the processes adopted by agencies outside the department. For example when a person opens a bank account and if he/she does not have a PAN, they file Form 60. This was the requirement when the banks were not in the CBS and the processes were largely manual in nature.

The banks have now been computerised. They are capturing the data attributes of the persons concerned. Therefore, can the Form 60 requirement be rationalised? We are working towards that. Another element is audit reports. Audit is completed, and at the same time, return is also filed.

Can that audit report be designed in a manner that some component of it gets pre-populated in the return itself so that there is a consistency between the audit report and returns?

Essentially, the idea is that the forms you give to the taxpayer are actually smart forms, which capture only

relevant data. Where irrelevant data is identified, it should be excluded. Remaining data points must be converted into a format that supports meaningful analysis, moving beyond mere data collection. Can information reported through one form be auto-populated or included in another form to ensure consistency between different forms, particularly the audit report and ITR form?

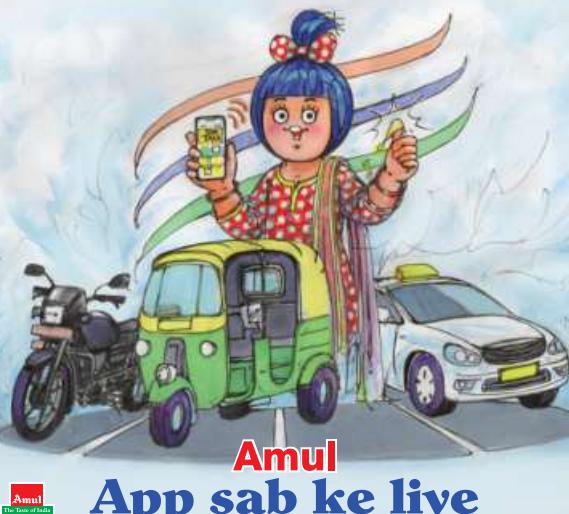
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## Bharat ki Taxi



**Amul**  
**App sab ke liye**

daCunha/AB/1080

Berger Paints Q3 net slips 8.3%

**Press Trust of India**  
New Delhi

ago, according to a regulatory filing from Berger Paints India Ltd (BPIL). BPIL reported an exceptional item (net loss) of ₹53.31 crore in the December quarter, mainly due to the implementation of new Labour Codes. Its profit before exceptional items and tax was ₹405.54 crore in the quarter under review, up 2.82 per cent.

Berger Paints India on Thursday reported a decline of 8.3 per cent in consolidated net profit at ₹271.35 crore for the December quarter of FY26. The company had posted a net profit of ₹295.97 crore in the October-December period a year

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## India, GCC set to resume free trade talks after a long hiatus

**Our Bureau**  
New Delhi

India and the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have formally signed the terms of reference (ToR) to resume negotiations for a comprehensive free trade agreement (FTA), ending a long pause in negotiations that originally began in 2004 but were suspended in 2011.

### A MAJOR STEP

This marks a major step towards a bloc-wide deal with Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain, which will open another major trade corridor, said Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday.

"Together with trade deals with the UAE and Oman, this FTA with the GCC will unleash new opportunities for Indian goods and services, MSMEs, entrepreneurs, skilled youth and professionals and attract massive investments," said the Minister.

"With India deepening its trade engagements with the developed world, the stage is set for unlocking the full potential of a mutually beneficial economic relationship



(from left) Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada, Union Commerce and Industries Minister Piyush Goyal and Raja Al Marzouqi, Chief Negotiator, Secretariat General of GCC, during the signing of ToR on Thursday ANI

with the GCC," the Minister added.

### INDIA-GCC TRADE

The ToR of a trade deal outlines the scope, modalities and the negotiating structure of the agreement. The trade between India and GCC stood at \$178.5 billion in FY25, and around 10 million Indians live and work in GCC nations.

India's exports in FY25 to the bloc were \$56.87 billion, while it imported goods worth \$121.66 billion, per government figures.

The Minister underlined that the FTA will benefit India and GCC, particularly in the context of prevailing global uncertainties," said Al Marzouqi.

professional mobility and collaboration in IT, fintech and digital payments, including the integration of India's UPI with regional systems, was discussed earlier between the two sides in the context of the proposed FTA. The ToR for the India-GCC FTA was signed between Ajay Bhadoo, Additional Secretary and Chief Negotiator, Department of Commerce, and Raja Al Marzouqi, Chief Negotiator, Secretariat General of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

"The FTA will further reinforce relations between India and GCC, particularly in the context of prevailing global uncertainties," said Al Marzouqi.

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## Reality check

CPI overhaul will result in contemporary inflation numbers

**T**here has been criticism that the official CPI (Consumer Price Index) inflation readings are divorced from reality. One key reason for this is the outdated base year of 2011-12, leading to a disconnect between the CPI basket and current household spending patterns. An Expert Group has now come up with detailed recommendations for an overhaul of the basket.

The group has suggested much-needed updates to sources, data collection and measurement methods as well. These will lead to the CPI better reflecting the lived experience of households, and hopefully, lead to better policymaking. The immediate impact of using the latest Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) data to revise CPI, will be a reduction in the combined weight of food items in it and increase in the services contribution. SBI Research estimates that food weights in CPI will fall from over 45 per cent to less than 37 per cent and clothing and footwear from 6.5 per cent to 6.3 per cent. Housing, water and utilities will gain weight (16.9 to 17.7 per cent), as will transport/communication (8.6 to 12.4 per cent) and recreation (1.7 to 4.9 per cent). But whether the latest HCES has accurately captured spends on health (weight up from 5.9 to 6.1 per cent) and education (weight down from 4.5 to 3.3 per cent) remains a question. Lower weight to food items is likely to reduce volatility in monthly CPI prints, while the higher services component could lead to higher inflation prints.

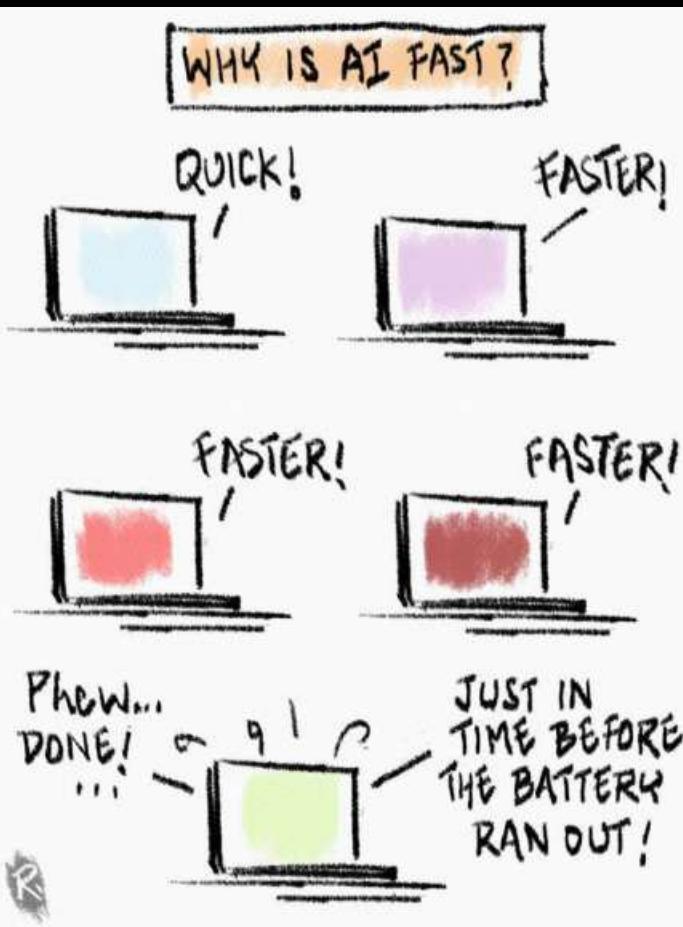
Several methodological changes will lead to a broader base of data. The new CPI will be based on a fresh survey to identify the most popular markets and shops today. The sample size will feature 358 items instead of 288 and price data will be compiled from 1,465 rural markets and 1,395 urban markets, in place of 1,181 and 1,114 so far.

Manual collection and recording of data using pen and paper, will be replaced by tablet-assisted interviews. Classification of items will be harmonised in line with global standards. A key missing piece in the current CPI is incomplete data on house rent. Presently, rent data is only collected from urban centres. In the new series, it will be collected both from urban and rural areas. With rapid digital adoption, online platforms are now an integral part of shopping habits. The new series will collect price data not just from brick-and-mortar shops, but also online platforms. Prices of key services such as OTT streaming platforms and broadband charges will be collected for CPI.

Gold and silver have been among the most contentious components of CPI. The new series tries to standardise their price capture by defining certain standard pieces of jewellery. But it is moot whether gold and silver, which are treated more as assets than as consumption items, should even find place in CPI. Overall, the overhaul of CPI on these lines may usher in greater stability and predictability to official inflation numbers. This will aid better monetary policy making and more realistic Dearness Allowance revisions for employees.

## POCKET

RAVIKANTH

SANKALPA BHATTACHARJEE  
AMARENDRU NANDY

**F**iscal consolidation is a widely accepted objective of macroeconomic policy, especially in an environment of elevated public debt and heightened global uncertainty. A credible consolidation path can strengthen macroeconomic stability by anchoring expectations and preserving debt sustainability. Budget 2026 signals this intent. A fiscal deficit of 4.3 per cent of GDP, a steady commitment to public capital expenditure, and a projected decline in the debt-to-GDP ratio to 55.6 per cent all point to an attempt to rebuild fiscal space after the extraordinary expansion of the pandemic years.

Whether this consolidation plan ultimately proves effective will depend not only on numerical targets but on the composition, financing, and durability of fiscal adjustment. On current evidence, Budget 2026 appears to rest on a more fragile foundation than what the headline numbers imply.

First, if we look at the details of the government's finances in FY27, revenue receipts are budgeted at approximately ₹35.33 lakh crore, while revenue expenditure is estimated at around ₹41.25 lakh crore, implying a revenue deficit of nearly ₹5.92 lakh crore (around 1.5 per cent of GDP). This suggests that a substantial share of government borrowing therefore continues to finance routine consumption — salaries, pensions, and subsidies — rather than asset creation. Although capital expenditure is budgeted at ₹12.22 lakh crore (around 3.1 per cent of GDP), it is partly debt-financed as the revenues do not cover spending. In this sense, the headline fiscal deficit understates the extent to which borrowing supports non-productive expenditure.

Second, fiscal consolidation is increasingly constrained by the arithmetic of past debt. In FY27, interest payments are budgeted at ₹14.03 lakh crore, amounting to nearly 26.3 per cent of central expenditure and absorbing around 40 per cent of revenue receipts. This implies that a substantial share of government revenues is pre-committed to debt servicing. With revenues insufficient to cover interest obligations on their own, adjustment is likely to happen through compression of discretionary spending rather than through a reconfiguration of the expenditure or revenue base.

**QUALITY OF CONSOLIDATION**  
Third, the composition of revenues places further limits on the quality of



# Does fiscal consolidation rest on firm ground?

**PATHWAY.** The Budget looks to achieve consolidation by postponing investment in human capital, weakening the very growth base on which durable fiscal sustainability rests

consolidation. Gross tax collections are projected at about ₹44 lakh crore, but after statutory devolution to States, net tax revenues fall to roughly ₹28.7 lakh crore, accounting for over 80 per cent of total revenue receipts. The effective tax base remains narrow, with collections concentrated in personal income tax and GST, leaving revenues acutely exposed to cyclical fluctuations. Non-tax revenues, budgeted at around ₹6.7 lakh crore (about 19 per cent of total revenue receipts), are increasingly drawn from dividends and profits from public sector enterprises and the RBI, indicating an over-dependence on contingent inflows.

Fourth, the growing reliance on RBI surplus transfers highlights this vulnerability. In recent years, exceptionally large transfers (₹2.69 lakh crore in dividends in FY25) have played a significant role in compressing the revenue deficit and containing

**Non-tax revenues are increasingly drawn from dividends and profits from public sector enterprises and the RBI, indicating an over-dependence on contingent inflows**

borrowing. While such transfers are institutionally legitimate, they are inherently contingent on financial market conditions and the central bank's balance sheet. Treating these windfalls as quasi-structural revenues risks obscuring underlying fiscal weaknesses and introduces an element of balance-sheet dependence into fiscal planning.

Public capital expenditure is meant to be the growth offset to these constraints, and it remains the centrepiece of the Budget's economic narrative. Although capital outlays have increased substantially in absolute terms, as a share of GDP, they remain broadly flat at 3.1 per cent, unchanged from the revised estimates for FY26. In an economy marked by underemployment and hesitant private investment, the growth multipliers from public capex cannot be assumed to rise indefinitely, especially in the absence of complementary institutional reforms and credible demand expansion.

**HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**  
Fifth, the trade-offs become clearer when one turns to human development. Union expenditure on health in FY27 is budgeted at approximately ₹1.06 lakh crore (or about 0.27 per cent of GDP). Even after including State spending, total public health expenditure remains less than 1.4 per cent of GDP, well below

the 2.5 per cent target set by the National Health Policy. Union expenditure on education stands at around ₹1.39 lakh crore (approximately 0.35 per cent of GDP), while combined public spending is between 4.1-4.6 per cent of GDP, far short of the 6 per cent benchmark reiterated in the National Education Policy. With consumer inflation moderating to 4.5-5 per cent over the past two years, nominal increases essentially serve to preserve real spending levels rather than expand them. In effect, consolidation is being achieved by postponing investment in human capital, weakening the very growth base on which durable fiscal sustainability rests.

The projected decline in the debt-to-GDP ratio to 55.6 per cent is therefore best read as a necessary but insufficient condition for fiscal sustainability. Debt levels depend not only on deficit compression, but on the quality of growth that fiscal policy enables. Consolidation built on restrained social spending and reliance on contingent revenues may stabilise ratios in the short run, but without deeper investments in human capital and revenue capacity, it remains exposed to the very growth slowdowns it seeks to guard against.

The writers are faculty members in the Economics & Public Policy Area at IIM Ranchi. Views are personal

## 16th finance panel rewards performance

Formula tweaks will benefit southern States, but Commission could have pushed harder for fiscal reforms

### Govind Bhattacharjee

**F**inance Commission recommendations are based on the three principles of equity, equalisation and efficiency. The last two FCs added a fourth: environment, while overlooking efficiency.

The 16th FC brought back the focus on efficiency, and introduced for the first time a new parameter to measure this in the form of a State's contribution to the national GDP, and assigning 10 per cent weightage to this parameter. Obviously, the southern States, which had lost their shares due to the population base getting changed from 1971 to 2011 from the 15th FC, would be more than compensated for by this change. Indeed, the 16th FC did not alter any other parameter radically, except redefining and making minor adjustments in some, but it corrected the aberrations introduced by the 15th FC in the transfer formula which now seems more legitimate.

The vertical devolution, the share of divisible pool to be shared with the States, has remained unchanged at 41 per cent — but the weightage on parameters to determine the *inter se* share of the States in the horizontal devolution has undergone some changes. While the weightage on a State's share of 2011 population has increased to 17.5 per cent from the current 15 per cent recommended by

the 15th FC, that on the share of a State's area has decreased from 15 per cent to 10 per cent now. Weightage of the equalising parameter, income distance — that is, the distance of per capita income of a State (average of three years) from the average of the three highest per capita income States — has been reduced marginally to 42.5 per cent from 45 per cent.

### CHANGING PARAMETERS

The 16th FC has also expanded the definition of the lone environmental parameter, that is, forest cover, by adding open forests with a canopy density of 10-40 per cent to the earlier definition of medium and dense forest covers with higher canopy densities. Additionally, it has also rewarded the States for increasing their shares of forest areas between 2015 and 2023. The share of a State is now calculated by assigning 80 per cent weightage to its share of national forest cover and 20 per cent weightage to its share in the increase. Thus calculated, this share is then given 10 per cent weightage in the horizontal devolution formula, the same as earlier.

Demographic performance, introduced by the 15th FC, was defined by the inverse of total fertility rate (TFR). The 16th FC has rejected the concept of using the inverse of TFR as a performance indicator, arguing instead that the States which have stabilised their populations are now starting at the

modified this parameter by defining a State's share as the ratio of square root of its GSDP to sum of square root of GSDP of all States, which would moderate the shares of the higher income States. The net result of these changes introduced in the devolution formula is that save Tamil Nadu, all other southern States would now receive a larger share of the devolution, while Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana and Punjab, All Hindi belt States except Jharkhand would see their shares in the total devolution go down and so would be the case with West Bengal, Odisha, and all north eastern States except Assam and Mizoram. But for both groups, the changes would be marginal.

The FC red-flagged the issue of fiscally unsustainable subsidies — especially the unconditional cash transfers, that is, freebies, which are claiming increasing shares of States' revenue expenditure and turning many States' revenue account into red. But perhaps realising its own limitations, the FC only made some general recommendations for better targeting and rationalisation. The previous FCs had forcefully argued for establishing an independent Fiscal Council to restrain the governments' populist tendencies. This recommendation was singularly absent in the 16th FC report.

The writer, a former Director General of the CAG of India, is currently Professor at Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management

prospect of ageing populations without enough workers to support them which will affect future growth, and hence the reward for lower population through TFR need to be phased out. Thus, it has redefined demographic performance as the inverse of population growth rates between 1971 and 2011 and also reduced the weightage of this parameter from 12.5 per cent to 10 per cent.

These adjustments enabled the 16th FC to introduce the new efficiency parameter — State's contribution to the national GDP with 10 per cent weightage, by supplanting the earlier parameter of tax effort with 2.5 per cent weightage. However, these contributions would show wide variation across States, especially at the top and bottom ends, causing huge differences in devolutions to the obvious disadvantage of poorer States. To moderate these differences, the FC

### RED FLAG.

The issue of fiscally unsustainable subsidies

ISTOCK

### 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.

#### Better weather forecasts

This refers to 'Accuracy of severe weather forecast up 30-40% in 10 years' (February 5). The improvement in forecast accuracy comes from better satellites, Doppler radars, ocean buoys, faster computers and Multi-Model Ensemble systems that combine many weather models. Forecasts are usually updated every 6-12 hours, but fast-changing events like heavy rain and cyclones need updates every few hours using live radar, satellite and ground data. New technology should work along

with local weather stations so that regular updates and clear warnings can reduce missed and false rain alerts.

**S Balasubramanyan**

Villupuram, TN

#### Tariff clarity needed

Apropos 'Tariff cheer' (February 5), the reported easing of US tariffs on Indian goods is encouraging, but the larger concern lies in the lack of clarity around timing, scope and conditions. What industry and exporters need now is a clear, jointly signed

statement that spells out what has been agreed, what remains under negotiation, and when changes will take effect. The government should also keep Parliament and stakeholders informed, instead of allowing speculation to fill the gaps.

**A Mylismi**

Coimbatore

#### Effect of sin tax

Apropos 'High taxes on cigarettes may fuel illicit trade, hurt collection' (February 5), there is absolutely no denying that in this part of the world, control and corruption go hand in hand. But then, if there is good governance, then taxes on sin goods (for instance, cigarettes) will not lead to illicit trade or corruption. After all, the very purpose of sin tax is to discourage consumption of goods falling in its purview.

**S Ramakrishnasayee**

Chennai

#### Giving farmers a leg-up

'Big vision, but little relief for agriculture' (February 5) rightly underlines the widening gap between the government's long-term technological ambitions and the farmer's immediate economic distress. While initiatives such as the Bharat-VISTAAR AI platform and promotion of high-value crops signal future readiness, they offer little comfort to farmers facing stagnant real incomes and rising input costs today. For "Agriculture 4.0" to be truly inclusive, AI-driven advisories must be matched with credible price assurance and an effective procurement mechanism for non-cereal crops.

**Vidyasagar Reddy Kethiri**

Warangal, Telangana

## Bharat Vistaar's potential

Making digital advisories work for the farmers

Kushankur Dey

The 'Bharat-Vistaar', a virtually integrated system to access agricultural resources, announced in the Budget, is a timely leap in shaping the digital agriculture trajectory.

India AI, government initiative, has revealed that the global AI in agriculture market is projected to grow to \$4.7 billion by 2028 from \$1.7 billion in 2023, a CAGR of 23.1 per cent.

Digital advisory services powered by AI strengthen farmer decision-making and enhance farm productivity by blending insights of supervised language models with the scientific advisory of the agricultural research and extension system.

The Finance Minister made it clear that Vistaar will be an open, federated, multilingual AI platform that will allow farmers to access real-time data, and seamlessly track various government schemes, thereby reducing farming risks.

However, a few policy issues, regarding the framework or design principles to be used to develop the 'Vistaar' platform remain. How will it differ from conventional platforms that offer plain-vanilla and customised digital advisory services, and what checks and balances will the government adopt to maintain service quality?

To curate the Vistaar platform, an inclusive multi-stakeholder pathway for the accelerated convergence of AI technologies (IMPACT) can be adopted. Here are some guiding principles to ensure the responsible use of AI in businesses, which apply to agriculture.

First, prioritising farmers' interests and safety must be considered in AI-enabled large language models. 'Do no harm' principle must guide 'Vistaar' platform development as FaaS.

Second, a risk-based regulatory architecture must be framed, with self-regulation as the standard, except in sensitive areas where strict oversight is required to ring-fence farmers from misuse of their data.

Third, the AI ecosystem needs facilitation, with Central/State governments acting as enablers by enacting legislation, implementing policies, and providing data access.

Fourth, catalysing AI adoption among different categories of farmers requires consideration of their socio-cultural and economic factors, and impact evaluation of



**AGRI OPS.** Digital push

digital agriculture projects nudging farmers' decision-making and the benefits they realise from using timely digital advisories.

A transparent and robust supervised AI system must be in place to enhance trust and reciprocity between farmers and the AI chatbot.

### POLICY SUGGESTIONS

The Centre has already employed AI and IoT-enabled systems to improve crop productivity and farmer livelihoods. However, a concerted effort is needed to understand the digital agri-market and to plug the supply-and-demand gap by linking farmers to AI-chatbot-enabled 'smart' and authentic digital services.

Thus, Vistaar should be developed as a hyper-local platform that on-boards complementers to develop agroecology-mapped solutions and disseminates packaged multilingual crop advisory services to farmers. In this regard, the network of agricultural extension, such as ATMA, must be appropriately leveraged.

Though ₹150 crore was allocated to Vistaar for the first year, it could converge with the digital farm mission project unveiled in 2024-25, which includes the two pillars:

Agri-stack and the Krishi decision support system. The impact of the foundational pillars on digital crop survey and crop loss assessment, and on credit offtake and farm income support, should be assessed using the Vistaar platform. To improve the effectiveness and equitable access of AI-enabled advisory services, model training with reliable big data is needed. Additionally, village-level entrepreneurs or farmer producer organisations (FPOs) and the extension wing of state agricultural universities must be roped in to assess the authenticity of advisory services.

The writer is Associate Professor, IIM Lucknow. Views expressed are personal

thehindu businessline.

### TWENTY YEARS AGO TODAY.

February 6, 2006

#### Ambani brothers clash again

The Ambani brothers have started another round of war of words. The main issue now is almost the same as that of the first round: control of the group's businesses. Mr Anil Ambani on Sunday alleged that even eight months after the announcement of the division of business between the two groups, RIL, the flag ship company controlled by Mr Mukesh Ambani, has not transferred the management and control of the four demerged companies to the Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group (ADAG).

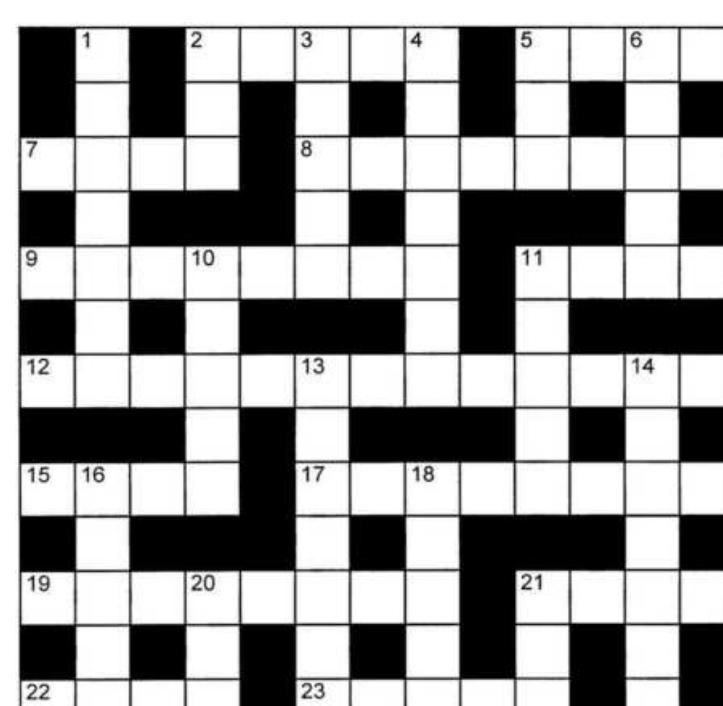
#### Webasto Motherson shifts assembly line to India

Webasto Motherson, a joint venture between Webasto AG and Motherson, has relocated an assembly line from Germany to India and plans to use the facility to increase the sourcing of automotive sun roofs from its India operations.

#### CAs can now take up audit work in US

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has decided to remove the restriction on practising chartered accountants or accountancy firms from taking up audit or certification work in the US even if they are members of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA).

### BL TWO-WAY CROSSWORD 2611



#### EASY

##### ACROSS

- 02. Copy, impersonate (5)
- 05. Inflammatory swelling as in arm pit (4)
- 07. To catch (stocking) (4)
- 08. Humbug (8)
- 09. Opposite of abstract (8)
- 11. No score (cricket) (4)
- 12. Weather expert (13)
- 15. A giant (archaic) (4)
- 17. High pointed rock (8)
- 19. Opening, hole (8)
- 21. Bird's crop (4)
- 22. Decapod crustacean (4)
- 23. Made less constricting (5)

##### DOWN

- 01. Give solace to (7)
- 02. Attack and rob in the street (3)
- 03. Grind meat etc (5)
- 04. Hide (7)
- 05. A pass without contest to next round (3)
- 06. Fundamental (5)
- 10. Remove dirt from (5)
- 11. Doctrine laid down (5)
- 13. Extreme delight (7)
- 14. Rescue of property from fire etc (7)
- 16. Drunkard (5)
- 18. Requires (5)
- 20. Apply friction to (3)
- 21. Fish (3)

#### NOT SO EASY

##### ACROSS

- 02. Copy somebody such as Puccini heroine and lead contralto (5)
- 05. Inflammatory swelling starts below ulna before operation (4)
- 07. Hidden obstacle may start ladder in stocking (4)
- 08. With Ness, none can work out if it's rubbish (8)
- 09. Not being abstract, it can be used in building (8)
- 11. Bob down under eider (4)
- 12. He has his highs and lows and can tell whether it sounds like it (13)
- 15. Old giant of the tennis court (4)
- 17. First lieutenant in a boat to reach the peak (8)
- 19. A hole up a tree could show robin's head in it (8)
- 21. Crop of corn initially uncooked (4)
- 22. Side-walker may frustrate one (4)
- 23. Stopped, took top off, and relaxed the pressure (5)

##### DOWN

- 01. At which organist is seated to give one comfort (7)
- 02. One may be a fool to drink from it (3)
- 03. Carbon in a pit one will chop up small (5)
- 04. Don't show company broken lance (7)
- 05. An extra leg, it might be (3)
- 06. Is in a taxi raised by computer language (5)
- 10. If not carrying a gun, may be guiltless (5)
- 11. Could go mad with this code of belief (5)
- 13. Ecstasy is put out in uncommon surroundings (7)
- 14. Wild about the pounds retrieved from the wreckage (7)
- 16. Habitual drinker gives pot up with hesitation (5)
- 18. Doesn't have requirements such as these (5)
- 20. Difficulty with which one may apply friction? (3)
- 21. Fish is intended as a joke (3)

### SOLUTION: BL TWO-WAY CROSSWORD 2610

**ACROSS** 1. Matter-of-fact 8. Imitable 9. Part 11. Caste 12. Crucial 13. Nerd 15. Seat 19. Outline 20. Sight 22. Apex 23. Fireball 24. Extortionate

**DOWN** 2. Amiss 3. Tracer 4. Relict 5. Avarice 6. Tittle-tattle 7. Disconsolate 10. Fun 14. Retreat 16. Fit 17. Medici 18. Astern 21. Graft

**AGE FACTOR.** States with a high share of youth tend to spend less on higher education, nullifying their demographic dividend



ANAJALIKRISHNA SUDHAKARAN  
ASWATHY RACHEL VARUGHES

India's demographic dividend is often presented as a national asset that can propel growth for decades. The RBI's latest State Finances report urges us to look beyond this optimism.

By classifying States into youthful, intermediate and ageing categories and mapping their fiscal behaviour, the report reveals an uncomfortable truth. While demographic transitions differ sharply across States, education spending responses do not. Worse, where spending does respond to demography, it does so in ways that may weaken, rather than strengthen, the demographic dividend.

**MANY TRANSITIONS**  
The RBI groups States based on the share of population aged 60 and above as youthful States (below 10 per cent), intermediate States (10-15 per cent), and ageing States (above 15 per cent). Kerala and Tamil Nadu have already crossed into the ageing category, and by 2036 more than half of India's States are projected to follow.

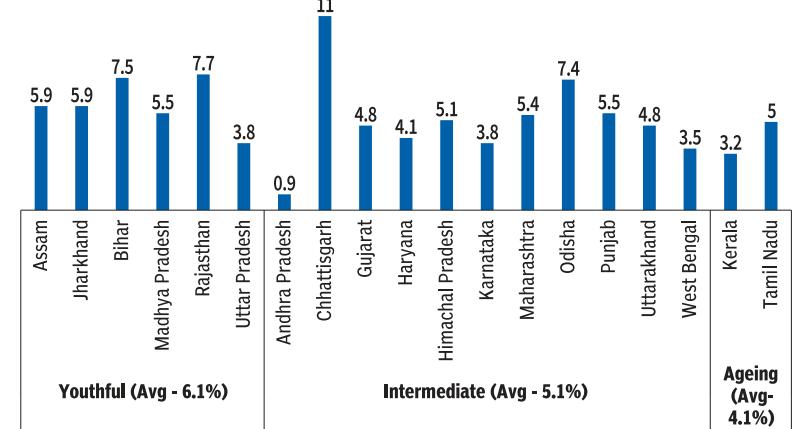
In contrary, States such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand will remain youthful for much longer, supplying labour to the national economy well into the 2040s.

This staggered transition should ideally result in differentiated fiscal strategies. Youthful States need to invest aggressively in human capital to absorb future labour market entrants, while ageing States must balance social security needs with productivity-enhancing expenditure.

The first warning signal emerges from the growth rate of education expenditure itself. Average y-o-y education spending is highest in youthful States at about 6.1 per cent, declines to 5.1 per cent in intermediate States, and falls further to around 4.1 per cent in ageing States during (2014-2024). Individual States, Rajasthan among youthful States, Chhattisgarh among intermediate States, and Tamil Nadu among ageing States do not alter the broader pattern. Education spending growth slows broadly in line with demographic ageing.

#### Demographic dissonance

*Education spending growth slows as States age*



As States age, pension and healthcare obligations rise, compressing discretionary spending. However, this logic ignores a crucial point — demographic ageing does not reduce the need for education rather it changes its nature.

Slower education spending in ageing States risks undermining productivity gains needed to offset labour shortages. More critically, this deceleration sets a benchmark that even youthful States appear to follow.

The real problem lies in what States spend on. If slowing growth were the only issue, it might still be manageable. The deeper concern lies in the composition of education expenditure.

Across all demographic groups, school education overwhelmingly dominates State education budgets. On average, nearly 87 per cent of education expenditure in youthful States is devoted to school education, leaving just over 11 per cent for higher education. Intermediate States show a similar pattern, with around 86 per cent for school education and less than 12 per cent for higher education. Even in ageing States, where higher education shares are marginally better, school education still absorbs about 80 per cent of the total.

A few States, Kerala, Jharkhand and Haryana allocate relatively higher shares to higher education, but these remain

#### If slowing growth were the only issue, it might still be manageable.

The deeper concern lies in the composition of education expenditure

exceptions. Even States with the largest and longest demographic dividends are not prioritising higher education.

#### HIGHER EDUCATION VITAL

This imbalance matters because labour markets reward skills, credentials and adaptability far more than years of schooling alone. School education builds foundational capabilities, but higher education and advanced skilling determine employability, productivity and innovation. Expanding school enrolment without commensurate investment in universities, technical institutions and research systems creates a bottleneck at the point of labour market entry.

International experience reinforces this concern. Economies in East Asia that successfully converted their demographic dividends into sustained growth combined universal schooling with strong investments in tertiary education, vocational training and research. India, by contrast, spends roughly 85 per cent of its education budget on school education and barely 11 per cent on higher education.

The irony is that youthful States are not fiscally helpless. Many of them enjoy better revenue mobilisation and lower committed expenditure ratios than ageing States. In principle, this provides greater fiscal headroom to invest in higher education.

Yet education's share within social sector expenditure has declined even in these States, as budgets tilt towards subsidies, transfers and urban services. The result is a strategic neglect of higher education at precisely the moment when these States should be expanding capacity to absorb millions of future workers. The cost of this neglect will surface elsewhere in educated

unemployment, informality, migration distress and eventually weaker tax buoyancy.

Intermediate States face a narrowing demographic window. They must simultaneously prepare for ageing while still investing in growth. If higher education is postponed during this phase, the opportunity to reap productivity gains may be lost permanently.

Ageing States confront a different trap. Rising pension and healthcare obligations, clearly documented in the State Finances report, compress discretionary spending.

However, cutting back on higher education and research undermines productivity growth, which is essential to sustain revenues with a shrinking workforce.

Healthy ageing, longer working lives and the emergence of a 'silver economy' all depend on continuous skill upgrading.

#### Beyond Deficits

One reason level-wise education spending receives limited attention is institutional and political. School education is visible and decentralised, while higher education is complex, capital-intensive and slower to yield results. Its returns accrue over time and across jurisdictions, making it vulnerable in a fiscal discourse dominated by short-term deficit and debt metrics.

Youthful States must ring-fence and expand higher education spending. Intermediate States must rebalance before ageing pressures harden. Ageing States need efficiency gains and revenue reforms to prevent pensions from crowding out human capital investment.

**WAY FORWARD**  
Ageing is already slowing education spending. Youthful States, instead of compensating, are neglecting higher education. Together, these trends risk squandering India's demographic dividend.

A demographic dividend without higher education is a wasting asset. The fiscal bill lower growth, weaker revenues and higher welfare dependence will arrive with a lag, but it will arrive nonetheless.

If demographic change is destiny, then education policy, especially at the higher level, is the instrument through which States can shape that destiny rather than merely react to it.

+ SUDHAKARAN

Anajalikrishna Sudhakaran is a PhD Scholar; Aswathy Rachel Varughese is an Assistant Professor, Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation, Thiruvananthapuram



**EU-US TRADE DEAL.** Has faced a rocky path in European Parliament REUTERS

citing Trump's "coercive" actions over Greenland, a Danish territory.

But after Trump retracted his vow to hit European countries with tariffs until they ceded the Arctic island, European Parliament President Roberta Metsola said she wanted to resume the approval process. The trade deal was initially clinched last July. The

The imbalanced accord prompted criticism in Europe, but EU officials and numerous leaders defended it as a way to stabilise the relationship with the bloc's largest trading partner. The EU was also hoping to keep Trump on its side in Ukraine.

Even before Trump's Greenland tariff threat, the EU-US trade deal faced a rocky path in the European Parliament. A group of EU lawmakers opposed the deal from the start, and criticism mounted after the US extended its 50 per cent metals tariff to hundreds of additional products. The US then demanded changes to EU tech rules in exchange for rolling back the expanded tariffs, drawing further ire from opponents. BLOOMBERG



## QUICKLY.

**Higher tax on F&O trade is 'throwing sand in wheels'**



**New Delhi:** Hiking the tax on futures and options trade is like "throwing sand in the wheels" to ensure that trading does not happen in extremes, NITI Aayog member Arvind Virmani has said. In the Budget for 2026-27, the Finance Minister has proposed raising the Securities Transaction Tax (STT) on Futures and Options (F&O) trading to protect small investors from heavy losses in speculative trades. For futures, the STT is to be raised from 0.02 to 0.05 per cent, and on options premium and exercise of options from 0.1 and 0.125 per cent to 0.15 per cent, respectively. "Restrictive trading is something a market person like me does not like, but what we call throwing sand into the wheels is a well known way of doing it," Virmani said. **PTI**

**Knowledge Realty posts 21% revenue growth in Q3**

**Mumbai:** Knowledge Realty Trust reported strong third-quarter results for fiscal year 2026, with revenue climbing 21 per cent y-o-y to ₹1,178 crore and net operating income rising 19 per cent to ₹1,407.40 crore. It declared distributions of ₹695.3 crore, or ₹1.57 per unit. The REIT leased 0.6 million sq ft during the quarter ended December 31, 2025, bringing cumulative leasing for 9MFY26 to 2.4 million sq ft. Portfolio occupancy stood at 92 per cent, with tenant expansions accounting for more than half of year-to-date leasing activity. The company also reported that its unitholder base has doubled since listing. **OUR BUREAU**

# SEBI mulls removing calendar spread benefits for single stock contracts too

**FUTURE TENSE.** Brokers fear liquidity concern, higher intra-day margin calls for trading in derivatives

**Akhata Gorde**

Mumbai

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is set to tighten margin norms for single-stock derivatives on expiry days by withdrawing the calendar spread benefit, a move that could effectively raise margin requirements by 30-60 per cent for many leveraged traders.

The regulator said offsetting positions across different expiries in single-stock derivatives will no longer receive margin relief on the day a contract expires, bringing the treatment in line with index derivatives.

**MARGIN RELIEF**  
At present, traders running calendar spreads, holding fu-

tures or options across near and far expiries, benefit from lower effective margins as clearing corporations recognise the offsetting risk. Data shows these offsets often reduce margin outgo by one-third to over half in popular stock-futures spreads.

SEBI has already removed this expiry-day benefit for index derivatives last year. The latest step extends the same framework to single stocks, a change aimed at reducing risks that emerge once one leg of a spread expires after market hours.

*businessline* had reported, citing sources, that SEBI was considering removing the expiry-day spread benefits for single stock derivatives in November last year. Under the current system, both legs of a spread can be carried through the ses-



**MARGIN SQUEEZE.** SEBI has already removed this expiry-day benefit for index derivatives last year **PTI**

sion at lower margins. However, when the expiring contract lapses post-close, the remaining open position suddenly attracts full margin requirements.

"This creates a risk window for trading members, as margin shortfalls emerge when markets are already closed," an industry participant said. Any sharp overnight move in the open

leg can translate into losses for brokers if clients fail to top up margins in time.

By withdrawing the spread benefit during the expiry session itself, clearing corporations will collect higher margins intraday, giving brokers time to manage exposures before the close.

SEBI clarified that calendar spread benefits will continue for positions involving

non-expiring contracts, for instance, spreads between next-month and far-month expiries will remain eligible even on the current month's expiry day.

The new framework will come into effect in three months. While the move reduces overnight risk in the system, market participants warn of potential side effects.

Higher intraday margin demands could force leveraged traders to unwind spread positions earlier in the session, leading to thinner order books, wider bid-ask spreads and sharper price moves near expiry. Smaller and cash-constrained traders, who rely heavily on margin offsets to manage capital, may scale back participation, particularly in high-volume single-stock futures.

**Sensex, Nifty end weak amid broad-based profit taking**

**Anupama Ghosh**  
Mumbai

Markets ended lower on Thursday as investors turned cautious after a volatile rally earlier in the week, with metal stocks and small-caps bearing the brunt of selling pressure.

Analysts said stocks witnessed profit taking amidst consolidation.

The BSE Sensex closed at 83,313.93, down 503.76 points from its previous close of 83,817.69, while the NSE Nifty fell 133.20 points to settle at 25,642.80 from 25,776. Market breadth remained negative with 2,447 stocks declining against 1,737 advances on the BSE.

The Nifty Small-cap 100 index emerged as the worst performer, plunging 1.29 per cent to close at 16,983.90, down 221.20 points, underperforming frontline indices. The Nifty Midcap 100 declined 0.28 per cent to

59,517.10, losing 166.50 points. "The Smallcap index was notably the worst performer, declining 1.29 per cent and severely underperforming frontline indices," said Sudeep Shah, Head — Technical and Derivatives Research, SBI Securities.

Among sectoral indices, Nifty Metal led the losses while Nifty Consumer Durables also registered sharp declines. The Nifty Bank fell 0.29 per cent to 60,063.65, while Nifty Financial Services slipped 0.41 per cent to 27,689.35 and Nifty Next 50 declined 0.47 per cent.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments Ltd, said, "Indian equities saw consolidation, as weakness was followed by a sharp rally in recent sessions driven by optimism around the US-India trade deal, suggesting profit booking was at play."

Looking ahead, participants awaiting RBI's policy meeting outcome tomorrow.

## SEBI plans to extend SWP/STP in MF units for demat holders too

**Our Bureau**  
Mumbai



are required to place separate instructions for redemption of units through Delivery Instruction Slip for each withdrawal or transfer.

In phase one, it has been proposed to register investors' requests through one-time registration of standing instructions with depositories/stock exchanges for execution of orders on order entry platform of stock exchanges, which shall facilitate unit-based SWP/STP transactions.

In phase two, standing instructions to be processed through RTA, which will facilitate amount-based and other variants of SWP/STP, said SEBI.

by February 26. In a consultation paper, SEBI on Thursday said by availing facility of SWP, client can place standing instruction with MF or its Registrar and Transfer Agent (RTA) for periodic redemption of specified number of MF units or amount.

Currently, Investors holding MF units in demat form

## NSDL expects all settlement to be cleared by Thursday night after network glitch

**Akhata Gorde**  
Mumbai

National Securities Depository Ltd. (NSDL) expects all delayed equity trades to be settled by Thursday night after a technical network disruption affected inter-depository settlement flows earlier this week, people aware of the matter said.

The issue was caused by instability in NSDL's network systems, which temporarily disrupted connectivity with Central Depository Services (India) Ltd. (CDSL), a key link used for transferring securities across depository

platforms, the people said. Inter-depository functions are a routine but critical part of India's post-trade market infrastructure, used when securities move across different depository platforms.

**ISSUE RESOLVED**  
An NSDL spokesperson said the disruption had been resolved and settlement activity was returning to normal.

"It was a network issue. The network became unstable and the connectivity with CDSL was disrupted. We have resolved it and expect complete normalcy by the end of tonight, with all pending trades being settled," the

spokesperson said. NSDL has also initiated a review of the incident to strengthen network resilience and prevent a recurrence. The depository has begun a deeper evaluation of its network resilience and redundancy frameworks, including an independent assessment.

"We have already started a deep dive into what happened, what we can learn from it, and how to further strengthen our systems," the person added.

Typically, shares purchased are credited by around 10:30 am on the following trading day, while securities sold are debited by about 3:30 pm. Due to the disruption,

shares bought in the cash market on Tuesday and Wednesday were not credited to some investors' demat accounts, market participants said.

Market participants said that even brief settlement disruptions can create operational pressure in high-volume trading environments. This incident adds to the periodic outages faced by exchanges and market intermediaries over the years that have affected trading or post-trade processes, prompting regulators to push for stronger disaster recovery and business continuity frameworks.

## 'Fit and proper' norms may revive deal activity, spur enforcement in MII space

**Akhata Gorde**  
Mumbai

Securities market intermediaries may see lower mechanical regulatory shocks under the Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI's) proposed overhaul of the 'fit and proper person' framework, but enforcement intensity is likely to rise as the regulator shifts towards conduct-based supervision.

By removing rule-based exits triggered merely by FIRs, criminal complaints or charge sheets, SEBI is separating allegation from culpability and tying regulatory consequences more closely to convictions and reasoned regulatory findings, said experts.

"The framework restores primacy to the presumption of innocence and mitigates the risk of commercial annihilation on the basis of untested allegations," said Tushar Kumar, Advocate, Supreme Court of India. "In the

absence of mechanical disqualifications, enforcement will become more intensive and evidence-driven," Kumar said, adding that oversight is likely to deepen rather than dilute.

The move is expected to significantly reduce cliff-edge regulatory risk for promoters and intermediaries, without reducing accountability. "The earlier framework conflated allegation with culpability," said Rishabh Gandhi, Founder, Rishabh Gandhi and Advocates.

"The shift lowers automatic consequences but not regulatory exposure."

**CONTROL CONCERN**  
The discretion-led regime could allow individuals fa-

cing serious economic offence investigations to retain control of market entities for extended periods, given the slow pace of criminal trials, said experts.

"The trigger now moves to conviction or formal regulatory declaration," said Alay Razvi, Managing Partner, Accord Juris. "That potentially extends control windows and raises integrity risks, even though SEBI's hearing-based powers offer safeguards."

Others countered that SEBI's principle-based powers remain sufficient to act in egregious cases.

"The regulatory risk for intermediaries would now ordinarily crystallise only on conviction in the criminal or economic offence-related proceedings," said Vanya Singh, Partner, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas. "In grave cases, SEBI would still have discretion to disqualify applicants under principle-based criteria relating to integrity, honesty and reputation."

## BROKER'S CALL.

**Asit C Mehta Investment**

**EMAMI (BUY)**

Target: ₹620

CMP: ₹503.15

Emami, in its Q3FY26 results, outperformed our estimates across Revenue/EBITDA/PAT levels by 2.2 per cent/6.3 per cent/8.1 per cent. Sequential performance is not comparable due to lower base and seasonality.

The company recorded revenues of ₹1,151.80 crore, growing by 9.8 per cent year on year. This was driven by 11 per cent growth.

The company delivered a strong, broad-based performance in Q3, with a sequential improvement following GST-related disruptions in the early part of the quarter. Strategic subsidiaries, The Man Company and Brillare, together delivered robust growth of 31 per cent. Gross margin expanded 30 bps to 70.6 per cent, reflecting continued cost discipline, calibrated price hikes and benefits from stable input costs.

International business delivered 9 per cent growth, driven by double-digit momentum largely led by SAARC and CIS markets.

The company reiterated its aspiration to return to double-digit growth, while indicating confidence of achieving 8-10 per cent growth in the near term, given that seasonality doesn't turn adverse. The growth strategy is increasingly skewed towards smaller SKUs, reflecting early signs of rural demand reviving. With incremental demand expected to be driven primarily by rural markets, the company sees limited challenges to delivering high single-digit growth. We retain our valuation multiple of 28x to FY28 EPS of ₹22, arriving at a price target of ₹620 (unchanged).

## InCred Equities

**BAJAJ FINANCE (ADD)**

Target: ₹1,200

CMP: ₹964.70

Bajaj Finance reported Q3-FY26 PAT of ₹4,000 crore, down 6 per cent year on year, impacted by accelerated provisioning following the implementation of a minimum LGD floor across asset stages and one-time employee expenses of ₹270 crore relating to labour code. The company sold about 2 per cent stake in Bajaj Housing Finance, resulting in a one-time gain of ₹1,420 crore.

Assets under management expanded 22 per cent to ₹4.8 lakh crore, driven by broad-based traction across

mortgages, consumer B2C, gold loans, securities lending, urban sales finance, commercial lending and rural sales finance segments.. The management reiterated its 20 per cent growth guidance across businesses. The gold loan portfolio is expected to move in line with gold prices.

Gross stage-3 (GS-3) assets, which declined 2 bps on quarter, rose 9 bps to 1.21 per cent because of elevated stress in the SME sector.

We appreciate BAF's proactive approach, although believe that the stricter ECL norms will delay RoE expansion slightly to about 22 per cent by FY28F. We expect other business segments to drive growth, with the ramp-up of B2C lending, sales finance, gold lending and vehicle finance segments. Any correction in stock price sweetens the risk-reward ratio. We maintain our high-conviction Add rating on BAF with a lower target price of ₹1,200 (₹1,250 earlier).

**Downside risks:** Slowing consumption and higher delinquency.

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

## TODAY'S PICK.

**Gallant Ispat (₹596.80): BUY**

**Gurumurthy K**  
bl. research bureau

Return 80%

₹ 596

790

690

590

490

390

290

Feb 5, 25

Feb 5, 26

stop-loss at ₹545. Trail the stop-loss to ₹605 as soon as the stock reaches ₹615. Revise the stop-loss higher to ₹620 and ₹645 when the price touches ₹635 and ₹660, respectively. Exit the long positions at ₹675.

Note: The recommendations are based on technical analysis. There is a risk of loss in trading

## Day trading guide

**25718 ➡ Nifty 50 Futures**

S1 S2 R1 R2 COMMENT

25640 25550 25810 25950 Go long only above 25810.

Stop-loss can be placed at 25770

**₹950 ➡ HDFC Bank**

S1 S2 R1 R2 COMMENT

945 940 958 967 Take fresh shorts below 945. Keep the stop-loss at 947

**₹1521 ➡ Infosys**

S1 S2 R1 R2 COMMENT

1510 1485 1450 1585 Go short only below 1510. Keep the stop-loss at 1515

# LIC's Q3 standalone net up 17% on robust premium growth

**IN CLEAR TERMS.** Insurer not in a hurry to foray into the health insurance segment

**Our Bureau**

Mumbai

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) reported a 17 per cent year-on-year increase in its Q3 standalone net profit at ₹12,958 crore amid robust growth in premium income and income from investments.

India's largest life insurer had logged a net profit of ₹11,056 crore in the year-ago period.

Top LIC officials said they are not in a hurry to foray into the health insurance segment by picking up a strategic stake in a standalone health insurer.

Further, it is planning to optimise its real estate holding (market value estimated at about ₹45,000 crore) by seeking more rental income and exploring structures such as Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs).

**PREMIUM INCOME UP**  
In the reporting quarter, net premium income was up 17.5 per cent at ₹1,25,613 crore. Net income from investments rose 14 per cent to ₹1,07,608 crore.

The assets under management (AUM) increased



Scorecard

	Q3FY26 ₹ cr	Q3FY25 ₹ cr	% Change
Net profit	12,958	11,056	17.20
Net premium income	1,25,613	1,06,891	17.52
Net income from investments	1,07,608	94,366	14.03
Expenses of management	15,576	14,416	8.05
Benefits paid (net)	1,13,283	94,683	19.64

expenses of management, comprising net commission and operating expenses, went up 8 per cent to ₹15,576 crore.

Benefits paid (net) rose 20 per cent to ₹1,13,283 crore. Change in actuarial liability increased about 14.6 per cent to ₹91,561 crore.

The assets under management (AUM) increased

**LIC is planning to optimise its real estate holding (market value estimated at about ₹45,000 crore)** by seeking more rental income and exploring structures such as Real Estate Investment Trusts

mix of individual new business premium. "We are confident of the growth prospects of all segments of our business as we move ahead," he said.

Dinesh Pant, MD, noted that given that the equity market gained almost 10 per cent, the corporation was able to book a good amount of profit without disturbing the intrinsic value of the particular portfolio.

"Our portfolio appreciation is, currently, more than the market appreciation seen in the last nine months," he said.

LIC's profit from equities was around ₹24,000 crore in Q3FY26 (₹20,000 crore).

On the expenditure side,

## Delay implementation of LCR rule: Banks tell RBI

**Our Bureau**

Mumbai

With deposit growth lagging credit growth, banks have reportedly requested the RBI to delay implementing the amended liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) framework, which will come into effect from April 1, 2026. They also want a portion of the cash reserve ratio (CRR) to be recognised as high quality liquid assets (HQLA) for the computation of LCR.

This ask comes at a time when banks are veering towards short-term resources via bulk deposits, which attract run-off rate of 100 per cent, implying that the entire deposit could be withdrawn by the depositor during a crisis, thereby affecting the statutory LCR level.

So, to offset the aforementioned impact to an extent, banks have requested the RBI to delay implementing the amended LCR framework. This framework has assigned additional run-off rates of 2.5 per cent to internet and mobile banking enabled retail and small business customer deposits.

LCR promotes short-term resilience of banks to potential

liquidity disruptions by ensuring that they have sufficient HQLAs such as cash including cash reserves in excess of required CRR and government securities in excess of the minimum Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) requirement to survive an acute stress scenario lasting 30 days.

**FINANCIAL STRESS**

Effective January 1, 2019, banks are required to have minimum LCR of 100 per cent (on an ongoing basis because the stock of unencumbered HQLA is intended to serve as a defence against the potential onset of liquidity stress.

During a period of financial stress, however, banks may use their stock of HQLA, and the LCR can fall below 100 per cent. Banks are required to immediately report to the RBI such an instance along with reasons for such usage and corrective steps initiated to rectify the situation.

The head of treasury of a private sector bank observed that when SLR securities are included in HQLA, there is no reason why cash parked as CRR should not be included in it.

Under the current framework, clearing corporations are required to conduct standardised stress testing using peak historical price movements over a 15-year period, with extreme returns capped at a Z-score of 10.

Market participants have argued that the threshold is overly conservative and that

## SEBI to ease stress test, settlement guarantee fund for commodity derivatives

**Our Bureau**  
Mumbai

SEBI has proposed to ease the stress testing and coverage of settlement guarantee fund for commodity derivatives market to promote ease of doing business and align risk management with global standards.

In a consultation paper, it has proposed reducing the Z-score used for historical stress testing in commodity derivatives to five from the existing 10 and revising the coverage requirement of the core settlement guarantee fund to account for the simultaneous default of the top three clearing members, instead of factoring in 50 per cent of the credit exposure arising from the default of all clearing members.

Under the current framework, clearing corporations are required to conduct standardised stress testing using peak historical price movements over a 15-year period, while continuing to ensure adequate protection against systemic risk.

Public comments on the proposals are invited until February 26.



a Z-score of five would still adequately cover "extreme but plausible" market scenarios.

**SYSTEMIC RISK**

SEBI noted that in equity derivatives segment, clearing corporations follow a coverage-based approach focused on the default of the largest clearing members, rather than assuming widespread market.

The proposed changes will align the commodity derivatives framework more closely with global practices for central counterparties, while continuing to ensure adequate protection against systemic risk.

Public comments on the proposals are invited until February 26.

### MUTHOOT HOUSING FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Registered Office: Muthoot Centre, TC No 14/ 2074-7, Muthoot Centre, Punnad Road, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala - 695 039  
CIN: U65922KL2010PLC025624

Tel: +91 471 4911550; Email: muthoot@muthoot.com; Website: www.muthoothousing.com

#### EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER & NINE MONTHS ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2025

(All amounts are in INR Lakhs, unless otherwise stated)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended		Nine Month ended		Year ended	
		31-Dec-2025 (Unaudited)	30-Sep-2025 (Unaudited)	31-Dec-2024 (Unaudited)	31-Dec-2025 (Unaudited)		
1.	Total Income from Operations	12,267.47	12,214.35	10,651.59	36,323.75	28,347.45	40,135.84
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	386.24	1,297.24	1,192.15	3,654.43	3,518.25	5,667.02
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	242.29	1,297.24	1,192.15	3,510.48	3,518.25	5,667.02
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	181.31	970.79	893.92	2,627.06	2,632.88	4,240.92
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	32.70	1,024.66	893.92	2,518.78	2,655.00	4,206.83
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face value of Rs. 10/- each)	8,503.09	8,503.09	8,160.62	8,503.09	8,160.62	8,160.62
7.	Reserves (excluding revaluation reserve)	-	-	-	-	30,855.81	
8.	Securities Premium Account	15,649.64	15,649.64	13,492.11	15,649.64	13,492.11	13,492.11
9.	Net Worth	44,071.21	44,015.95	37,458.68	44,071.21	37,458.68	39,016.43
10.	Paid Up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	275,271.11	273,488.73	208,913.50	275,271.11	208,913.50	226,418.07
11.	Oustanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.	Debt Equity Ratio	5.90	5.90	5.47	5.90	5.47	5.46
13.	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) - not annualized for the quarters:						
	1. Basic (in Rs.)	0.22	1.21	1.11	3.22	3.32	5.33
	2. Diluted (in Rs.)	0.22	1.20	1.11	3.21	3.31	5.30
14.	Capital Redemption Reserve	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
15.	Debenture Redemption Reserve	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
16.	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
17.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Notes:  
a) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Financial Results filed with the BSE Limited under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Unaudited Financial Results are available on the website of BSE Limited ([www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com)) where the Securities of the Company are listed and the website of the Company at [www.muthoothhousing.com](http://www.muthoothhousing.com)  
b) For the other line items referred in Regulation 52(4) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, pertinent disclosures have been made to BSE Limited and can be accessed at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com)

By and on behalf of the Board of Directors  
Muthoot Housing Finance Company Limited

Sd/-  
Suzannah Muthoot  
Whole-time Director  
DIN: 09972874

Place: Kochi  
Date: 5 February, 2026

PhonePe logs 60% rise in active merchant ratio

**Our Bureau**

Mumbai

PhonePe, India's largest digital payments platform, has made considerable progress towards profitability with the contribution margin remaining stable while it has seen its indirect costs decline from 173 per cent of revenue to 100 per cent in FY25, as it reaped the benefits of operating leverage, as per Bernstein's pre-IPO Research report.

PhonePe has seen a healthy revenue growth led by an improving monetisation, illustrated by the rising Revenue/Total Payment Volume ratio. This trend has resulted in the EBITDA and PAT margins improving from FY23 to FY25, with the company generating positive operating cash flow in FY25.

The ratio of Daily Active Merchants/ Monthly Active Merchants has inched up from 44 per cent in FY23 to 60 per cent in H1FY26, which is likely to have helped in driving better engagement, said the report. The healthy growth in GMV (from ₹7,710 crore to ₹14,770 crore in FY25 and ₹8,221 crore in H1FY26) and improved monetisation has put PhonePe on a profitability trend, which has taken a pause in H1FY26 due to revenue headwinds from regulatory actions.

## businessline's 'Decoding the Budget 2026-27' in Delhi today

**Our Bureau**

Hyderabad

businessline will be organising a post-Budget event — a deep dive into the impact of the Budget — on Friday at Federation House in New Delhi, where V Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor (CEA); V Vuvalam, Expenditure Secretary; and Anuradha Thakur, Economic Affairs Secretary, will explain the Budget and its key highlights.

The event, called Decoding the Budget 2026-27, will have a keynote address by the CEA and special addresses by the two Secretaries in the Ministry of Finance. The two senior bureaucrats and the CEA will demystify various aspects of the Union Budget, while also deliberating on how these proposals take steps towards Viksit Bharat, given the geopolitical developments.

Apart from insightful addresses, there will be a panel discussion on the impact of the Budget proposals across sectors, including how they affect the common man. The two panels, 'Micro-economic impact of Budget' and 'Budget and Trade', will discuss on the tone set by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech: "India will continue to take confident steps towards Viksit Bharat, balancing ambition with inclusion. As a growing economy with expanding trade and capital needs, India must also remain deeply integrated with global markets, exporting more and attracting stable long-term investment."

**TWO PANELS**  
Panellists include a mix of economists and CEOs. The first panel comprises R Kavita Rao, Director, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP); Praveen K Jha, Professor of Economics and Chairperson of the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning (CESP), School of Social Sciences, JNU;

**NABARD**  
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[ DECODING THE BUDGET ]  
2026-2027

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# SEBI proposes reforms to broaden ambit of REITs, InvITs

**WHY THIS MOVE.** Regulator wants parity between public and private instruments

**Our Bureau**

Mumbai

Securities and Exchange Board of India has proposed measures for real estate investment trusts and infrastructure investment trusts to provide operational and financial flexibility, reduce concentration and refinancing risk, expand their investible universe and bring in parity between public and private InvITs.

In a consultation paper floated on Thursday, the markets regulator has suggested allowing privately listed InvITs to invest up to 10 per cent of their asset value in pure greenfield projects to bring them on par with public InvITs.

To lower the cost of capital for InvITs and support long-term asset quality, the paper has proposed expanding the utilisation of funds when leverage exceeds 49 per cent to cover uses such as capacity augmentation, performance enhancement,



**MF FORAY.** Another proposal in the draft paper allows REITs and InvITs to invest in liquid mutual fund schemes with higher risk levels with credit risk value of 10 or above SIDDHANT THAKUR

non-routine, concession mandated maintenance and refinancing of existing debt subject to it being limited to the principal only and no increase in net borrowings.

Under the existing regulations, if the total consolidated borrowings of the InvIT exceeds 49 per cent of the value of its assets then any additional debt can be utilised only for acquisition or

development of infrastructure projects. However, there is no clarity whether such additional loans can be used to refinance existing loans or for improvements.

**LIQUID SCHEMES**

Another proposal in the draft paper allows REITs and InvITs to invest in liquid mutual fund schemes with higher risk levels with credit

risk value of 10 or above.

At present they are allowed to invest in liquid schemes with a credit value risk rating of over 12, which represents the lowest risk of default. The draft paper has also recommended amending the definition of special purpose vehicle (SPV) to allow InvITs to continue holding such entities even after their concession periods have been terminated, with the rider that this would apply only to projects that are under public-private partnership.

Currently, when the concession period of the infrastructure project expires, then the SPV no longer holds the asset and it ceases to qualify as such.

The proposal is subject to conditions that the InvIT must exit or repurpose the SPV within a year of the termination, while there would be enhanced disclosures for both InvIT and the SPV.

Public comments on the proposals have to be submitted by February 26.

ive's status, subject to compliance with prescribed norms.

**PROPOSALS**

"These proposals are premised on the principle that while entry into the securities market is subject to specified eligibility criteria, the regulatory framework for exit, where an entity seeks to discontinue its activities, should be clear, predictable and operationally efficient," SEBI said in its consultation paper.

The regulator noted that AIFs often need to retain some money to meet residual operational expenses such as consultant and retainers fees, legal costs, registrar and transfer agent (RTA) payments, and filing of PPM audit reports.

Industry participants have pointed out that such retained amounts are typically small relative to the overall fund size.

Moreover, as many expenses crystallise towards the end of the financial year or during the surrender process, it becomes difficult for AIFs to achieve a nil bank

balance by the end of the permissible fund life.

Currently, surrender of registration is allowed only after all liabilities are discharged. As a result, such AIFs are required to continue complying with all regulatory requirements despite having no active fund management activity.

To address this, SEBI has proposed "AIF schemes may be permitted to retain liquidation proceeds beyond the permissible fund life for meeting operational expenses".

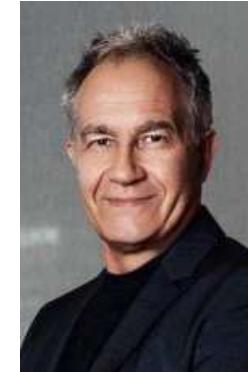
balance by the end of the permissible fund life.

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'Rado is witnessing strong growth in tier-1 and tier-2 markets'

**Meenakshi Verma  
Ambwani**  
New Delhi



Adrian Bosshard, Global CEO, Rado

industry," he added.

The brand is sold through a network of 34 mono brand stores, multi-brand stores and through the online channel.

**QUALITATIVE MOVE**

The watchmaker said it will also continue to look at qualitative growth strategy for its mono-brand stores.

Adrian Bosshard, Global CEO, Rado told businessline, "We have been witnessing a strong double-digit growth in the Indian market. We expect to continue to witness similar levels of growth in the coming years. With rising incomes, demographic evolution and digitalisation, we expect our potential consumer base to continue to grow in India."

**CUSTOM DUTIES**

The bullishness also comes as India will gradually phase out custom duties on Swiss watches in the coming years.

"We expect to see a similar evolution of the luxury market in India as was seen years ago in China. I believe, in the next 5-10 years, India without doubt will be among the top 10-12 markets for the luxury

"We are not just focusing on large metros and tier-1 cities. Tier-2 and tier-3 cities are also very important for us. Today, over one-third of our business comes from these cities. The consumers in these regions also have high disposable incomes and aspirations for premium and luxury watches. So, we are also strengthening the quality of the distribution network in the tier-2 and tier-3 markets," Bosshard noted.

Redington India and HP launch Centre of Excellence

**Our Bureau**  
Chennai

Redington India, in partnership with HP, has announced the inauguration of a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for printing technologies in Chennai.

The facility is designed to showcase customers the full suite of HP Indigo's digital printing

solutions. It will also help in professional training, process optimisation and industry consulting in order to educate brands and print buyers on how to use digital printing more effectively and stay competitive.

The centre was inaugurated on Thursday by Arnon Goldman, General Manager, Industrial Print GTM, Asia Pacific and Japan, HP Inc, alongside others.

**Alembic Pharmaceuticals Limited**  
CIN: L24230GJ2010PLC061123  
Regd. Office: Alembic Road, Vadodara - 390 003  
Tel.: 0265 6637000  
E-mail: apl.investors@alembicpharmaceuticals.com  
Website: www.alembicpharmaceuticals.com

**Extract of statement of Consolidated Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2025**

Particulars	(₹ in Crores except per share data)		
	Quarter Ended	Year Ended	
	31.12.2025 (Unaudited)	31.12.2024 (Unaudited)	31.03.2025 (Audited)
Total Income from Operations	1,876.31	1,692.74	6,672.08
Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items)	203.73	177.78	694.31
Net Profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items)	161.50	177.78	707.18
Net Profit for the period after tax attributable to shareholders of the company (after Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items)	132.97	138.42	583.42
Total Comprehensive Income for the period	139.90	139.71	587.54
Equity Share Capital	39.31	39.31	39.31
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of previous year	—	—	5,151.63
Earning Per Share (Face Value of ₹2/- each) Basic & Diluted	6.76	7.01	29.68

**Notes:**

1. Standalone details	Quarter Ended			Year Ended
	31.12.2025 (Unaudited)	31.12.2024 (Unaudited)	31.03.2025 (Audited)	
Income from Operations	1,642.24	1,406.09	6,032.63	
Profit Before Tax	181.02	103.81	595.72	
Profit After Tax	114.47	85.81	503.12	

2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of the unaudited financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges. The detailed Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange's website at [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) and [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and Company's website (URL: <https://alembicpharmaceuticals.com/quarterly-results>). The same can also be accessed by scanning the Quick Response (QR) Code provided below.



For Alembic Pharmaceuticals Limited  
Sd/-  
Pranav Amin  
Managing Director



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Bengaluru | New Delhi | Mumbai

**Regional Finale - Kochi**

February 07, 2026

Time : 09.00 am Onwards

Venue : St. Teresa's College, Kochi, Park Avenue,  
Marine Drive, Ernakulam, Kerala 682011.

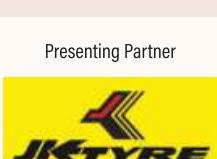
**Regional Finale - Bengaluru**

February 08, 2026

Time : 09.00 am Onwards

Venue : Kristu Jayanti University, K.Narayananapura,  
Kothanur, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560077.

Presenting Partner



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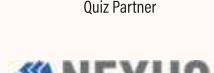


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\*T&C Apply

Centre scraps wheat stocks limit on higher inventories

Our Bureau  
Chennai

The Centre on Thursday said the stock limit for wheat has been scrapped as inventories with the government are over 3 million tonnes (mt) higher y-o-y and the cereal's prices are trending lower.

The government had imposed a cap on the stocks that traders, wholesalers and big retailers could hold on May 27, 2025, in all States. But, all wheat stocking entities should declare the stock position every Friday on the food stock portal, a Food Ministry statement said.

It said as per the wheat stock declaration by private entities on the Department of Food and Public Distribution portal for the year 2025-26, stock availability with private entities is higher compared with the year-ago period. "The total stock reported stands at approximately 8.1 mt, which is about 3 mt higher y-o-y, indicating a comfortable supply position in the country," the statement said.

Data from the Department of Consumer Affairs show that prices have dropped from ₹2,970.10 a quintal a year ago to ₹2,852.30.

# India ready to compete with the world: PM

**BATTLE READY.** Modi lauds Operation Sindoor, defence sector

Our Bureau  
New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday hailed the emerging India-US trade deal and other significant trade pacts, including the India-EU FTA, surging economic growth and a strong defence sector, while simultaneously mounting a scathing attack on the Opposition. He said the new world order is leaning towards India.



**REPLYING TO DEBATE.** PM Narendra Modi in the Rajya Sabha during the Budget session of Parliament on Thursday PTI

cause, as per Speaker Om Birla, he advised the PM not to come to the Lower House as there was "concrete information that Congress MPs could carry out unexpected act", an assertion strongly denied by the Congress.

**REFORMS RUN**

In the Rajya Sabha, both Houses of Parliament approved the motion.

Modi did not reply to the debate in the Lok Sabha be-

ment opened the treasures of the country for the jawans, claiming that this is why "they (the opposition) want to dig Modi's grave".

He said the country has been moving forward on the basis of policies, and reforms have been undertaken. "Today, India is ready to compete with the world. Our industrialists are seen as equals in the world now," Modi added. Further, the world is discussing the global south, and India is becoming its representative."

Aside from reseller norms, Piyush Prakashchandra Somani, Promoter, MD and Chairman, ESDS, pushed for zero customs duty on AI and cloud infrastructure and zero income tax on all international revenue. "Where does India make money [from]? Personal income tax from 50,000+ high-paid employees per major company is ₹11,000-15,000 crore annually per company. If we attract 3-4 major companies that is ₹40,000-60,000 crore in personal income tax alone — far more than any corporate tax from deemed margins," said Somani.

**COMPETITION**

"Whether domestic cloud providers like ESDS, Yotta, CtrlS, or others receive direct tax benefits from this provision is secondary. The

Amazon bets on Amit Agarwal to steer global seller ecosystem

Our Bureau  
Bengaluru

Amazon has expanded the mandate of Senior Vice President Amit Agarwal, placing him in charge of the company's worldwide selling partner services (SPS) organisation, one of the e-commerce giant's most strategically important global businesses.

The move follows a leadership transition within SPS, which anchors Amazon's fast-growing third-party seller ecosystem and a significant share of its monetisation engine.

Dharmesh Mehta, Vice President of Worldwide Selling Partner Services, will transition into the role of technical adviser to Amazon chief executive Andy Jassy from March.

With the change, Agarwal will lead SPS as well as customer trust teams, while continuing to oversee Amazon's international emerging stores (IES) business in India, Brazil, Mexico, several West Asian markets, South Africa and Australia. Agarwal will report to Doug Herrington, CEO of Worldwide Amazon Stores.

# 100% bonus for Cognizant staff

Our Bureau  
Chennai

Closing 2025 with a 6.4 per cent growth and on the back of six straight quarters of organic revenue rise, Cognizant Technology Solutions has approved 100 per cent bonus payout for its employees.

The company's CEO S Ravi Kumar, in an internal email sent to employees, seen by *businessline*, credited employees for its positive performance in the recent quarters.

"Our 2025 results are a direct outcome of your hustle, disciplined execution and commitment to our clients and to Cognizant. To recognise this effort, I am pleased to share that we have



probably the only reason why we have done this extraordinary performance and we wanted to reward them, so we have accrued the highest bonus this year," he then said.

**BETTER THAN PEERS**

The company, on Wednesday, reported its December quarter results — a 18.7 per cent increase in net at \$648 million. Revenue for Q4CY25 came in at \$5.33 billion, a 3.8 per cent cc growth. This was higher than three of its top-tier Indian IT services peers — TCS, Infosys and Wipro.

Cognizant reported a headcount of 3,51,600 as of December 31, 2025 — an increase of 14,800 on a year-on-year basis and 1,800 on a sequential basis.

# DPIIT revises definition of start-up, introduces deep-tech category

Rohan Das  
Chennai

The Centre now explicitly recognises 'deep-tech' start-ups and will allow such companies to be considered as start-ups for 20 years after incorporation.

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry Of Commerce has issued a notification modifying its erstwhile 2019 Rules for recognition of start-ups.

The new rules define a deep-tech start-up as an entity operating on new scientific or engineering knowledge with high R&D spend and creating intellectual property (IP). It also adds that such entities must have long gestation periods, high capex infrastructure needs, and some level of technical/scientific uncertainty.

As per the notification dated February 4, the maximum annual turnover for such ventures to be classified as deep-tech will now be ₹300 crore and the maximum time period is to be 20 years from its incorporation.

As for non-deep-tech start-ups, the maximum annual turnover has been revised from ₹100 crore to ₹200 crore. The time period is unchanged at 10 years.

Moreover, it adds that co-

operative societies can be recognised as start-ups, in addition to entities such as private limited companies, partnership firms, and limited liability partnerships.

**BOOST FOR SCIENCE**

Experts told *businessline* that by revising both the time period and revenue limits for recognition, the government now acknowledges that deep science ventures such as those in semiconductors, space, biotech, energy, materials, quantum, etc., take longer to mature.

Experts suggest that the notification is expected to

## NAGPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, NAGPUR NOTICE FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Executive Engineer (DPDC), NMC, Nagpur Invites EXPRESSION OF INTEREST From The Reputed Agencies working in the field of Urban Housing/infrastructure Development Sector For 1] Preparation of Detailed Project Reports,(DPR) i.e Pre-Tender Activity 2] Post Tender Activity - Overall Project Management Consultancy of Project. These E-EOI can be downloaded from Govt. of Maharashtra portal ([www.mahatenders.gov.in](http://www.mahatenders.gov.in)) The sale and purchase of E-EOI can be done through internet

Name of work	Processing Fees	EMD
Invitation for EOI for Appointment of Project Management consultancy for proposed Construction of Samaj Bhavan Near Krantiyoti Savitribai Phule at Dasara Road in Pr No. 18	Rs. 2360/-	Rs. 150000/-

Note :- 1) Tender Sale Start Date : 06.02.2026. 2) Last date of Submission (Up to 3.00pm) : 20.02.2026. 3) Opening of EOI (if possible) (Up to 4.00pm) : 23.02.2026. 4) All rights are reserved with NMC to accept or reject the EOI

Advt No. 1001 PR Date 05.02.2026

Executive Engineer (DPDC)  
Nagpur Municipal Corporation

# 'Allow direct cloud services to avail of tax exemption'

Vallari Sanzgiri  
Mumbai

Bharath Digital Infrastructure Association, a representative body for data centres, has sought the removal of the requirement for foreign companies to route their domestic revenue through an Indian reseller to avail of the tax exemption proposed in the Budget.

Among the four conditions proposed for foreign companies to avail of cloud services-related tax exemption is the requirement that such companies provide services to Indian users through an Indian reseller entity. Arguing that this move does more harm than good to the ecosystem, Abhishek Bhatt, Secretary General, BDIA, said, "The mandatory rout-



**PRESENT SYSTEM.** Companies are now required to go through Indian reseller entity, which taxes the latter's margins

ing through an Indian reseller creates friction and additional tax incidence on Indian revenue. If the objective is to get these companies to set up operations in India, allow them to serve Indian customers directly from their Indian entity with clear, competitive tax treatment."

Currently, companies are

required to go through an Indian reseller, which taxes the reseller's margins. However, this is an increase compared to the current offshore billing. Wrapping the tax holiday in conditions, notifications, deemed margins, and reseller requirements still discourages investment decisions, as per BDIA.

According to Sachin Tayal, MD, Protiviti Member Firm for India, the tax holiday for cloud services can attract global cloud players to India while also sparking greater competition among sovereign and foreign players.

**THE ANDHRA SUGARS LIMITED**  
REGISTERED OFFICE: VENKATRAYAPURAM, TANUKU-534215 (A.P)  
PHONE: 08819-224911 Email: [info.tnk@theandhrasugars.com](mailto:info.tnk@theandhrasugars.com)  
website: [www.theandhrasugars.com](http://www.theandhrasugars.com) CIN: L15420AP1947PLC000326  
**Extract of Un-audited Financial Results for the Quarter / Nine Months Ended 31.12.2025**  
(As per Regulation 33 read with Regulation 47(1) of SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015)  
The Board of Directors of the Company, at its meeting held on 05th February, 2026 approved the unaudited financial results of the Company, for the quarter and nine months ended 31st December, 2025  
The results along with the Limited review reports given by the Statutory Auditors, has been posted on the Company's website at [www.theandhrasugars.com](http://www.theandhrasugars.com) and can also be accessed by Scanning the QR Code.

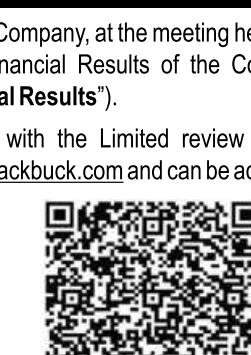
For and on behalf of the Board of Directors  
P.NARENDRANATH CHOWDARY  
Chairman & Managing Director  
DIN:00015764

**BLACKBUCK LIMITED**  
Formerly known as Zinka Logistics Solutions Limited  
Corporate Identity Number: L63030KA2015PLC079894  
Registered Office: Vaswani Presidio No 84/2, II Floor, Panathur Main Road Kadubeesanahalli Off Outer Ring Road, Bengaluru - 560103, Karnataka.  
Tel: Phone Number: +91 80461 22800 E-mail: [cs@blackbuck.com](mailto:cs@blackbuck.com)  
Website: [www.blackbuck.com](http://www.blackbuck.com)

**STATEMENT OF UN-AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS (STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED) FOR THE QUARTER ENDED ON DECEMBER 31, 2025**

The Board of Directors of the Company, at the meeting held on Thursday, February 05, 2026, approved the Un-Audited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter ended on December 31, 2025 ("Financial Results").

The Financial results along with the Limited review report have been hosted on the Company's website at [www.blackbuck.com](http://www.blackbuck.com) and can be accessed by scanning the QR code.



For and on behalf of the Board of Directors  
BlackBuck Limited  
(Formerly known as Zinka Logistics Solutions Limited)  
Sd/-  
Barun Pandey

Dated : 06.02.2026

Place : Bangalore

Note: The above intimation is in accordance with Regulation 33 read with Regulation 47 (1) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

## Hitachi Energy India Limited

Corporate Identification Number (CIN): L31904KA2019PLC121597  
Registered Office: 8th Floor, Brigade Opus 70/401, Kodigehalli Main Road, Bengaluru 560092  
Phone No.: +91 80 6847 3700  
Website: [www.hitachienergy.com/in](http://www.hitachienergy.com/in)  
E-mail: [investors@hitachienergy.com](mailto:investors@hitachienergy.com)

### Extract of unaudited results for the quarter and nine months ended 31/12/2025

(₹ in Crores)

	Particulars	Quarter ended 31/12/2025	Nine months ended 31/12/2025	Corresponding quarter ended 31/12/2024
1	Total income from operations	2,082.21	5,393.66	1,620.27
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items)	402.02	931.81	184.06
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items)	347.78	877.57	184.06
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items)	261.42	657.38	137.38
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	263.72	659.44	136.78
6	Equity Share Capital (Face value per share ₹2/- each)	8.92	8.92	8.48
7	Earnings per share (of ₹2/- each)			
1.	Basic	58.65	147.49	32.41
2.	Diluted	58.65	147.49	32.41

Notes:  
The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites: [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) and [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and company's website: [www.hitachienergy.com/in/en/investor-relations/financial-results](http://www.hitachienergy.com/in/en/investor-relations/financial-results). The same can be accessed by scanning the Quick Response (QR) code provided below.



Place : Bengaluru

Date : February 05, 2026

## HITACHI

### For Hitachi Energy India Limited

Sd/-  
Nuguri Venu  
Managing Director & CEO  
DIN: 07032076

Dexian India opens new Chennai office

Rohan Das  
Chennai

Dexian India (formerly DISYS), a Chennai-headquartered workforce solutions company that also provides IT services and GCC consulting globally, inaugurated its new office here on Thursday.

With the new facility, the company plans to scale its team in Chennai from 650 to over 870.

Speaking to *businessline*, Kumar Rajagopal, India Head, Dexian said that the office will host teams from various verticals including IT and managed services, GCC consulting and the complete back office of Dexian's global operations.

He added that Dexian plans to expand its India teams by 500-2,000 employees over the next 1-2 years. The company, which began operations in 2011



QUICKLY.

Govt invites application  
for SAIL CMD post

New Delhi: Government headhunting Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) on Thursday invited applications for the post of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL). The top post will fall vacant as the term of the present CMD, Amarendu Prakash, is ending on April 2, 2026. Prakash assumed the charge of SAIL Chairman on May 31, 2023. The appointment will be for a period of five years from the date of joining or upto the date of superannuation or until further orders, whichever is earlier, as per the notification issued by PESB. PTI

Blackstone gets nod to buy Federal Bank stake

The Reserve Bank of India has approved private equity firm Blackstone's acquisition of up to a 9.99 per cent stake in Federal Bank, the private lender said on Thursday. The deal, which would make Blackstone the largest shareholder in the bank, adds to the growing list of large investments by marquee investors in the financial services sector in India. Blackstone in October had agreed to invest around \$700 million in Federal Bank for a 9.99 per cent stake. REUTERS

# GE Aerospace expands India ops amid higher deliveries

GATHERS MOMENTUM. Top engine maker to boost local manufacturing capabilities

Rohit Vaid  
New Delhi

Global aeronautical engine manufacturer GE Aerospace is scaling up its India presence in line with the expansion of the country's aviation market.

Speaking to *businessline*, Vikram Rai, Chief Executive Officer - South Asia, GE Aerospace, said a sizeable pipeline of engine deliveries is lined up for India-based airlines and defence customers over the next few years.

Currently, the company has more than 1,400 GE Aerospace and CFM (A 50/50 joint venture between GE Aerospace and Safran Aircraft Engines) commercial engines and over 200 defence engines in operation in India.

"Another 2,500 commercial engines and 220 defence engines are on order and expected to reach our customers here in the next few years," he said.

At present, India-based airlines have ordered over 1,700 aircraft.

Citing the expanding presence of the company in India,



FACILITY UPGRADE. GE Aerospace has announced more than \$44 million in new investments over the past two years at its Pune manufacturing unit

he said that GE Aerospace has announced more than \$44 million in new investments over the past two years at its Pune manufacturing facility.

The facility produces complex components for several high-volume commercial engine programmes.

SUPPLY CHAIN  
Besides, GE Aerospace works with 13 Indian com-

panies that are integrated into its global supply chain and collaborates with over 2,000 suppliers supporting its local operations.

On the commercial aviation front, Rai said GE Aerospace engines support narrow-body aircraft operations through CFM LEAP engines powering the A320neo, A321 and 737 MAX families.

## FLEET EXPANSION

At the same time, wide-body engines such as GE90 and GEnx, along with the GE9X, which is expected to enter service, are aligned with the fleet expansion plans of Indian airlines, Rai noted.

Apart from this, Rai said the company is observing progress in regional aviation as connectivity expands into tier-2 and tier-3 cities, supported by rising passenger demand and airport infrastructure development under the UDAN scheme.

Looking ahead, the Chief Executive Officer stated that the development of wide-body operations at scale will require predictable operations, high dispatch reliability and strong maintenance support across the aviation ecosystem.

Amit Shah launches Bharat Taxi, pan-India rollout in three years

Our Bureau  
New Delhi

Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Thursday launched 'Bharat Taxi', India's first cooperative-led ride-hailing platform, after a successful two-month pilot operation.

The service has been initially launched in Delhi-NCR and Gujarat, and will be expanded across all States and Union Territories within the next three years.

Shah emphasised that Bharat Taxi is giving ownership to drivers, which no other ride-hailing platform can offer.

"From today, Bharat Taxi has been commercially launched in Delhi-NCR and Gujarat. In three years, Bharat Taxi will be rolled out across the country, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari (Kanyakumari) and Dwaraka to Kamakhya," he said after launching the platform.

He said the profits will be shared with drivers associated with Bharat Taxi. "The four core mantras of 'Bharat Taxi' are — ownership, security cover, dignity, and 'everyone's wheel, everyone's progress,'" he added.

## REDUCED COMMISSION

Shah said the rival ride-hailing platforms have reduced commission and are offering



OWNERSHIP VOW. Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah during the launch of the 'Bharat Taxi' App at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on Thursday ANI

many other incentives, including free rides to customers, seeing the success of Bharat Taxi during the pilot operation.

BANK ACCOUNTS  
The Ministry said the platform would keep ₹20 out of every ₹100 earned, and ₹80 would go to the drivers' bank accounts.

Customers can hail cars, three-wheelers and two-wheelers through the platform. Registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002, and established on June 6, 2025, Bharat Taxi operates on a zero-commission and surge-free pricing model with direct profit distribution among drivers.

Backed by eight top co-

operative organisations, the platform began pilot operations in December in Delhi-NCR and Gujarat.

According to the Cooperation Ministry, Bharat Taxi has emerged as the world's first and largest cooperative-based ride-hailing platform, and the world's largest driver-owned mobility platform.

BRIGHT FUTURE  
Expressing confidence in Bharat Taxi's bright future, the Minister said that "so far, more than 2.5 lakh drivers in Delhi-NCR have joined Bharat Taxi; more than 8.5 lakh passengers have become part of this family, and our agreements with several big companies are also in the final stage."

## 'Bengaluru airport passenger traffic tops 400 m by mid-year'

Aishwarya Kumar  
Bengaluru



Girish Nair, Chief Operating Officer of BIAL

We will work with partners, because we will not be able to develop everything in-house," Nair said, adding that the airport is looking to collaborate with strong partners to build differentiated technology capabilities.

### REVENUE SURGE

On revenues, Nair said aeronautical income continues to dominate.

"More than 70 per cent of our revenues still come from aeronautical sources," he said, adding that while airports typically aspire to grow non-aeronautical revenues, the objective is balance rather than substitution.

"Our aim is to make the airport a destination in itself," Nair said.

"We want the city to come and experience the airport, alongside the passenger journey."

He pointed to initiatives such as movie screenings and curated events, noting that BIAL's efforts are directed towards striking the right balance between aeronautical and non-aeronautical streams, each of which brings a differentiated advantage to the airport.

Nair said this rapid scale-up has pushed the airport to shift from reactive expansion to forward planning.

### CAPACITY CREATION

"Airports have long gestation cycles. If you plan only when congestion becomes visible, you are already late," he said, adding that capacity creation and operational preparedness must move in tandem.

He said BIAL has an Vision 2030, anchored by multiple projects, with a strong emphasis on the use of technology.

"One of our biggest focus areas is how we bring in absolute usage of technology.

emption applies across multiple aircraft categories.

### AIRCRAFT LEASING

The Budget also proposed steps to deepen aircraft leasing activity at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City). Simplification of regulations and improvements in the tax framework at the International Financial Services Centre are expected to enhance the competitiveness of India's leasing ecosystem and help lower airline operating costs over time.

Apart from manufacturing and leasing, the Budget outlines initiatives to promote the seaplane ecosystem in India. The seaplane specific proposals cover both manufacturing and route development.

Notably, the Centre plans to incentivise the indigenisation of seaplane manufacturing, along with the introduction of a Seaplane Viability Gap Funding scheme to support operations aimed at enhancing last-mile and remote connectivity and promoting tourism.

Furthermore, the discussions, sources said focused on how to fully leverage recent policy measures, including lower duties on aircraft parts, easing of leasing norms, expansion of MRO facilities, and steps to promote manufacturing within the country.

The Budget for 2026-27, presented on February 1, announced several initiatives to promote civilian aircraft manufacturing, maintenance and leasing, while also aiming to improve last-mile and regional air connectivity.

Among the key measures, the basic customs duty has been fully exempted on components and parts required for the manufacture of civilian, training and other aircraft. Additionally, the ex-

## Sri Lanka plans Udan-type scheme to boost domestic air links

Aneesh Phadnis  
Mumbai

Sri Lanka is formulating a domestic air connectivity scheme on lines of India's Udan scheme and is keen to attract investment from international airlines including those from India, the island country's Deputy Tourism Minister Ruwan

Ranasinghe said on Thursday. While SriLanka Airlines operates international flights, domestic air connectivity is limited with only four commercial aircraft serving within country.

### DOMESTIC AVIATION

The Sri Lanka government is looking to promote domestic aviation with a view to boost high value tourism.

The government along with World Bank is preparing a feasibility report. Six airstrips are also being upgraded with government funds.

Udan stands for Ude Desha Aam Nagrik and is flagship regional connectivity scheme of Indian government.

"We are looking to provide government support to

private airline operators in the form of a subsidy for domestic routes. We see a good potential for regional aviation especially to attract high spending tourists. Although ours is a small country, it still takes five to six hours to travel from one end to another and thus air connectivity will help," Ranasinghe said on the sidelines of OTM travel show in Mum-

bai. "Foreign airlines including those from India are welcome to invest in domestic aviation business in Sri Lanka in partnership with local companies," he added.

Sri Lanka received 2.33 million foreign visitors in 2025. India is the largest source market for Sri Lanka and over a half millions visited the island nation last year.

## Government seeks industry roadmap for aviation push

Rohit Vaid

New Delhi

The Centre has asked the aviation industry to submit proposals on measures to boost domestic manufacturing, aircraft leasing and related activities by effectively utilising provisions announced in the Budget.

Senior officials from the Ministry of Civil Aviation held a consultative meeting with industry leaders on Thursday to discuss a roadmap for the sector's growth.

IMPORT DUTY  
Speaking to *businessline*, sources said that a key question during the discussions was how to utilise the reduction in import duty on components and raw materials to promote the maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) as well as manufacturing sectors. Besides, the government sought industry inputs on improving financing options for emerging segments such as electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) air-



craft and helicopters.

Furthermore, the discussions, sources said focused on how to fully leverage recent policy measures, including lower duties on aircraft parts, easing of leasing norms, expansion of MRO facilities, and steps to promote manufacturing within the country.

The Budget for 2026-27, presented on February 1, announced several initiatives to promote the seaplane ecosystem in India. The seaplane specific proposals cover both manufacturing and route development.

Notably, the Centre plans to incentivise the indigenisation of seaplane manufacturing, along with the introduction of a Seaplane Viability Gap Funding scheme to support operations aimed at enhancing last-mile and remote connectivity and promoting tourism.

**इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड**  
**Indian Oil Corporation Limited**  
(CIN - L2201MH1959G01138)  
Regd. Office : IndianOil Bhavan, G-9, Ali Yavar Jung Marg, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051  
Website: www.iocl.com, Email ID: investors@indianoil.in

## Proudly Energising INDIA'S ECONOMIC ACCELERATION

### STATEMENT OF STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2025

(₹ in Crore)

PARTULARS	STANDALONE						CONSOLIDATED					
	FOR QUARTER ENDED		FOR NINE MONTHS ENDED		FOR THE YEAR ENDED		FOR QUARTER ENDED		FOR NINE MONTHS ENDED		FOR THE YEAR ENDED	
	31.12.2025	30.09.2025	31.12.2024	31.12.2025	31.12.2024	31.03.2025	31.12.2025	30.09.2025	31.12.2024	31.12.2025	31.12.2024	31.03.2025
1 Revenue from Operations	2,31,769.04	2,02,992.34	2,16,649.47	6,53,369.08	6,27,787.17	8,45,512.61	2,36,257.24	2,06,447.11	2,19,522.35	6,64,553.37	6,38,002.49	8,59,362.73
2 Other Income	1,222.44	1,522.83	1,881.73	3,358.42	3,790.42	4,963.84	1,160.45	644.33	1,021.57	2,388.03	2,275.89	3,513.73
3 Total Income	2,32,991.48	2,04,515.17	2,18,531.20	6,56,727.00	6,31,577.59	8,50,476.45	2,37,417.69	2,07,091.44	2,20,543.92	6,69,941.40	6,40,278.38	8,62,876.46
4 Total Expenses	2,16,999.92	1,94,449.60	2,15,740.79	6,23,265.46	6,26,318.94	8,36,432.13	2,20,057.35	1,96,899.02	2,18,691.61	6,31,586.61	6,36,577.36	8,49,411.46
5 Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Share of Profit/(Loss) of Associates and Joint Ventures, Exception												

QUICKLY.

Crude oil falls as US, Iran agree to talks



**TOKYO:** Crude oil prices fell on Thursday after the US and Iran agreed to hold talks in Oman on Friday, easing concerns of a potential military conflict between them that could disrupt supply from the key Middle East-producing region. Brent crude futures fell \$1 to \$68.47 per barrel at 0152 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate crude prices fell 91 cents to trade at \$64.23. REUTERS

Copper dips on stronger \$, rising inventories

Copper fell for a second session tracking losses in the precious metals complex, as rising inventories and a stronger US dollar weighed on prices. Benchmark three-month copper on the London Metal Exchange was down 0.7 per cent at \$12,950 a tonne as of 1011 GMT. Copper inventories also continued to rise, with LME stocks touching 180,575 tonnes, the most since May 2025. Aluminium fell 0.9 per cent to \$3,041.50, zinc shed 0.5 per cent to \$3,290.50. Lead dipped 0.5 per cent to \$1,956, while nickel lost 1.9 per cent to \$17,035 and tin slid 2.9 per cent to \$46,605. REUTERS

SOLITAIRE PRICE INDEX	
6th February, 2026	
<b>4,414*</b>	
0.51% ↓ Over last Month	2.60% ↓ Over last Year
Nationwide Standard & Transparent Pricing since 2006. Released on the 1st of every month. *This is an average of Divine Solitaires Price List	
Divine SOLITAIRES	

## Water storage in major reservoirs drops further to 67% of capacity

Our Bureau

Chennai

Storage in India's 166 major reservoirs dropped further this week to 67 per cent of the capacity even as the level in all the five regions dropped below 80 per cent this week.

According to the Central Water Commission (CWC), the level dropped to 66.63 per cent of the 183,565 billion cubic metres (BCM) capacity at 122,313 BCM.

It was, however, 8.5 percentage points higher than a year ago and 25 percentage points more than normal (last 10 years storage).

Four reservoirs continued to be filled to capacity, while storage in 53 reservoirs was above 80 per cent of the capacity. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), 71 per cent of the 727 districts received deficient or no rainfall since the

## Precious metals snap 2-day rising streak

GLITTER FADES. Silver crashes by over 15%; gold ETFs drop 5% and silver funds plunge over 15%

Suresh P Iyengar  
Mumbai

ing signs of US-China trade tensions.

## GEOPOLITICAL WOES

"Further, Iran and the US have agreed to hold talks in Oman on Friday reducing safe haven demand," it said.

Renisha Chainani, head of research at Augmont, said, "China's gold ETFs (exchange-traded funds) witnessed record daily outflows, with nearly \$1 billion withdrawn from major bullion-backed funds after the sharp price correction unsettled investor confidence."

Ratish Gupta, Director of Wealth Wisdom India, said, "When the rupee strengthens against the dollar, it reduces the landed cost of gold in India. This can temper domestic buying interest as investors expect the prices to go down further and add downward pressure on local gold prices, thereby impacting gold ETF returns."

Gold and silver zig-zagged by over \$200 and \$16 an ounce, respectively, as the market swung wildly through the day. As a result, gold ETFs were down up to 5 per cent and silver funds fell between 15 per cent and 20 per cent.

ICICI Direct said gold showed signs of dipping amid a strong dollar and eas-



RISK-OFF MODE. Precious metals slipped as a stronger dollar and the US Fed's hawkish tone offset early-week bargain hunting

\$4,900 an ounce in early trade. On COMEX, gold April futures ruled at \$4,841.04, trading between \$4,809.56 and \$5,045 an ounce.

In the Mumbai spot market, gold ended at ₹1,52,502 per 10 gm on Thursday against ₹1,56,625 the previous evening. On MCX, gold April futures were down over 1.5 per cent ₹1,50,550

against ₹1,53,046 on Wednesday evening.

Silver slumped by over 15 per cent and below ₹75 to ₹74.14 an ounce. On COMEX, silver March futures were quoting at ₹73.80 an ounce, swinging between ₹73.38 and ₹89.80.

In the Mumbai spot market, silver ended the day at ₹2,54,339 a kg against ₹2,54,339 at close on Wednesday.

niday. On MCX, silver March futures were quoted at ₹2,51,800 against ₹2,68,850.

On the Shanghai futures market, silver March futures ruled at 22,407 yuan per kg (\$100.39 an ounce).

Platinum declined by over 7 per cent to \$2,007.40 an ounce, while palladium dipped by over 3.5 per cent to \$1,677 an ounce.

## ETFs SLIDE

Among gold ETFs, Nippon India Gold BeES dropped 4 per cent, while DSP Gold declined nearly 5 per cent. Similarly, Axis Gold fell 4 per cent and Tata Gold ETF slipped 3 per cent, while Aditya Birla Sun Life Gold declined 2 per cent.

Among silver ETFs, the HDFC Silver, Nippon India Silver and SBI Silver declined between 9 per cent and 11 per cent. While Kotak Silver ETF slipped 13 pc, ICICI Prudential Silver and Axis Silver were down 11 per cent each.

(with inputs from Subramani Ra Mancombu, Chennai)

## SOPA opposes GM soybean imports, says domestic supplies enough

Our Bureau  
Bengaluru

The Soybean Processors Association of India (SOPA) has urged the Centre to not permit import of genetically modified (GM) soybean meal, while stating that there's adequate domestic supply and that allowing such imports would hurt millions of farmers.

In a representation, to the Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, SOPA said the poultry sector's demand for GM soybean meal imports on the grounds of high domestic prices ignores market realities and threatens the country's agricultural sector.

## SOYBEAN COSTS

Soymeal prices have risen over the past few months, following the trend in the soybean prices. While the soybean prices at the Indore market stood at ₹56,900 per tonne on January 31, up from ₹46,000 on April 17, 2025, the meal prices have increased to ₹43,872 a tonne from ₹32,713 during the same period.

The ex-factory crude soybean oil prices have increased to ₹1,31,000 per tonne from ₹1,21,000 during the same period.

SOPA said soybean meal prices are market-driven and not controlled by processors. Raw material costs account for 96 per cent of soymeal production expenses. The cost of soybean meal is linked to the price of raw soybean and international soybean oil prices, it said.

"Fresh water is a resource that is often discounted in rice cultivation, as it's considered free. DSR technology will reshape the way rice is being cultivated and demonstrate resolve to sustainably feed the world. The vision is to cultivate rice like wheat, and in a decade, it's going to be a reality," he said.

As of January 31, plant delivery soybean prices stood at ₹54,900 per tonne, with processing costs at ₹2,000 a tonne. After accounting for soybean oil realisation at ₹1,31,000 per tonne, the resulting meal cost came to ₹43,872, based on 82 per

cent recovery, SOPA said.

The industry has limited control over raw material costs, as soybean prices are influenced by domestic supply and global edible oil markets, it said.

## ADEQUATE SUPPLY

For the 2025-26 oil marketing year (October-September), the soybean supply is comfortable with projected carryover stocks of 3 lakh tonnes (lt), after meeting the domestic demand and exports.

SOPA estimated total supply at 117.02 lt for 2025-26, comprising 8 lt carryover, 105.36 lt production, and 7 lt imports. Total disposal is projected at 114 lt, including 12 lt for exports and seeds, and 97 lt for crushing.

"There is clearly no physical shortage of the commodity in India; the issue is strictly regarding price, which is temporary and cyclical," it said.

SOPA warned that allowing imports would create dependency risks similar to those in the edible oil sector, resulting in foreign exchange outflows running into billions of dollars and worsening the trade deficit.

"In an economy where 50 per cent of the population depends on agriculture, allowing imports of a commodity that is locally abundant is anti-farmer," the association said, adding that such a move would discourage farmers from growing soybeans.

## Study flags direct-seeded rice as climate-smart priority

Vishwanath Kulkarni  
Bengaluru

Targeted investment in direct seeded rice (DSR) research can help reshape India's future of climate-resilient farming, according to a study by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).

The IRRI study, in partnership with Indian research organisations and supported by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), demonstrates how targeted investment in DSR research can help address constraints such as water

shortage and farm labour costs and provide benefits for farmers and the environment.

Rice cultivation in India is facing growing pressures from increasing water shortages, rising farm labour costs, and the effects of climate change.

The IRRI study, in partnership with Indian research organisations and supported by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), demonstrates how targeted investment in DSR research can help address constraints such as water

shortage and farm labour costs and provide benefits for farmers and the environment.

## BETTER ALTERNATIVE

Traditional transplanted puddled rice (TPR) is resource-intensive, while dry direct-seeded rice (DSR) offers a promising alternative.

Adoption of dry DSR, however, has been limited as most popular rice varieties were not bred for direct

seeding. "Direct-seeded rice only works if farmers can rely on it year after year," said Pallavi Sinha, IRRI rice breeder.

## NEW FOCUS

The new research focuses on improving widely grown rice varieties for direct seeding so they can establish quickly, grow vigorously, and deliver stable yields, while remaining resilient to pests and diseases.

Field trials conducted over multiple seasons showed that the top-performing lines yielded about 15 per cent more under the DSR method of cultivation,

while also performing well in conventional transplanting conditions.

## DUAL ADAPTABILITY

This dual adaptability provides farmers with flexibility and resilience under changing environmental conditions. Vikas K Singh, Regional Breeding Lead for South Asia at IRRI, said:

"Farmers won't adopt DSR if the varieties aren't reliable. By upgrading popular rice varieties for direct seeding, we can help farmers achieve higher yields with less water and labour, without forcing them to shift away from varieties

that they trust."

"Investing in DSR-oriented research enhances India's capacity to achieve food security while tackling climate change," said Sanjay Kalia, Scientist and Program Officer for this project at the Department of Biotechnology.

"Fresh water is a resource that is often discounted in rice cultivation, as it's considered free. DSR technology will reshape the way rice is being cultivated and demonstrate resolve to sustainably feed the world. The vision is to cultivate rice like wheat, and in a decade, it's going to be a reality," he said.

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# 'I had concrete info that Cong MPs could carry out an unexpected act'

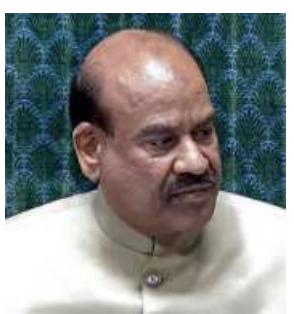
Shishir Sinha  
New Delhi

The Lok Sabha on Thursday passed a motion of thanks on the President's address, but without the customary reply by the Prime Minister.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla later said that he had requested the Prime Minister not to attend the House, as he had "concrete information that Congress MPs could carry out an unexpected act".

## 'AVERTED CHAOS'

"When the Prime Minister was to respond to the motion on the President's address, I had concrete information that Congress members could indulge in unforeseen acts. Had any incident occurred, it would have been unfortunate. To avert any incident, I requested the Prime Minister not



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla PTI

to come to the House. By agreeing not to come to Lok Sabha, the Prime Minister averted unpleasant scenes," Om Birla said amid protests from opposition members.

After three unsuccessful attempts to resume proceedings, Birla adjourned the house following the passage of the motion through a voice vote.

The Speaker said the conduct of some members in his office on Wednesday was inappropriate and described it

as "a black spot". "With sadness, I have to inform you that some members displayed behaviour in the House on Wednesday that had never been witnessed in its history," he said.

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday witnessed dramatic scenes as women opposition MPs rushed towards the Prime Minister's seat holding banners ahead of his scheduled speech, leading to the adjournment of proceedings for the day.

Modi was not present in the House, and BJP member PP Chaudhary was speaking on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address when opposition members trooped into the Well of the House.

## SHARP REBUTTAL

In a sharp response to Birla's remarks in the House, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra alleged that

Prime Minister Modi is "hiding behind" the Speaker and termed an "absolute lie" the claim that there was any plan to hurt Modi.

"The women MPs were standing in front of the Treasury Bench. So what? There is no question of anybody raising any hands on the Prime Minister or hurting him or any such thing.

There is no question. So, it is absolutely wrong for anybody to say that there was any such plan. There was no such plan," Vadra said while talking to the media. She also said: "If you are going to allow your members to quote books, talk nonsense, the opposition benches are going to protest. I am sorry, the prime minister is hiding behind the Speaker. They are making the speaker say all this because yesterday he did not have the guts to come to the House," she said.

The investments include advanced manufacturing of electronics by Kaynes Circuits India Pvt Ltd; automotive electronics components by Johnson Electric Pvt Ltd; footwear and sports shoes by Everan Kothari Footwear Pvt Ltd, the makers of Adidas brands footwear; ship structure construction and shipbuilding by Chennai-based Radha Engineering Works (CREW) Group; electronic components by Yeemak Group; aerospace and defence components by Jeanus Group; and automotive components by Yazaki India Pvt Ltd are among the other projects, he said.

# TN Cabinet clears ₹34,000 cr industrial investments, to create 55,000 jobs

Our Bureau  
Chennai

The ₹9,000-crore JLR plant, spread over 470 acres, will initially assemble Range Rover's Evoque and Velar models.

For the JLR project, government officials were locked in a

marriage hall in Ranipet for nearly a month, sitting there to complete land acquisition and convince Tata to invest.

The ground-breaking to vehicle roll-out is happening in

under 15 months, he said. For VinFast's e-vehicle manufacturing plant in Thoothukudi, land allocation happened within two months of the initiation of talks, he said.



## FOCUS: BUDGET 2026

What Changed? What Matters?

### SPECIAL ADDRESS

**Mr. K. Balasubramanian**  
Joint Secretary, Dept. of Revenue  
Ministry of Finance, Government of India

### PANEL DISCUSSION

**Mr. Krishnan Iyer, CEO - NDR InvIT Managers**  
**Mr. M.R. Venkatesh, Advocate**  
**Mr. K.R. Sekar, Partner - Deloitte & Member - Finance Committee, SCSVMV**  
**Mr. N. Muthuraman, Co-Founder, Swarajya Magazine**  
**Moderator: Mr. Sriram Veeraghavan, Partner - Sammati Consulting and Analytics LLP**

Saturday,  
7th Feb. 2026

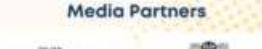
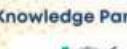
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## Chennai leads air cargo growth as traffic rises 6%; Kolkata alone slides among major airports

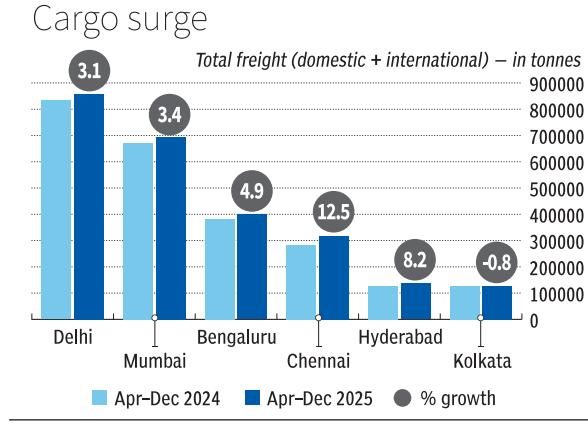
T E Raja Simhan  
Chennai

Domestic and international air cargo traffic across the major airports grew by 6 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) during April-December 2025.

Chennai reported the highest growth, driven by increased handling of mobile phones and machinery during the period, sources said. This growth happened despite the US tariffs that impacted major export segments, including textiles and leather.

Imports also rose across several airports, including Chennai, said sources.

**TOP AIRPORTS**  
Except Chennai, the other



five airports recorded growth of less than 10 per cent, according to the Airports Authority of India data. Hyderabad narrowly surpassed Kolkata, which reported a decline y-o-y to secure the fifth position.

On Chennai airport's growth in cargo handling, J Krishnan of S Natesa Iyer Logistics LLP, a Chennai-

based freight forwarder, said mobile phone shipments have been a critical driver of the jump in throughput. Dedicated freighter landings as non-scheduled operators from China have seen a significant increase, boosting the tonnage, he said.

The growth in Chennai has been because of strong industrial belts around the city manufacturing phones, engineering and automotive goods, said Dinesh Krishnan, Chairman, The Air Cargo Agents Association of India, South Region.

"We expect more tonnage of the traditional cargoes (textile/leather) to rebound in the next six months, in Chennai, on account of the EU FTA and the US lowering of tariffs," he added.

Our sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister for achieving the landmark trade agreement !

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Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

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**Shri Vijay Agarwal** | **Shri Ravi Sam**  
Chairman Vice Chairman

&

the Committee of Administration of TEXPROCIL and the entire cotton textiles fraternity are also immensely grateful to the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India for signing of the India – US Trade Agreement !

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# [ DECODING THE BUDGET ]

## 2026-2027

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Chief Economic Advisor  
Government of India

### SPECIAL ADDRESS



**V. Vualnam**  
Secretary, Department of  
Expenditure

### SPECIAL ADDRESS



**Anuradha Thakur**  
Secretary, Department of  
Economic Affairs

### MICRO ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE BUDGET



**R. Kavita Rao**  
Director, National Institute of  
Public Finance and Policy



**Praveen K Jha**  
Professor of Economics and Chairperson of the  
Centre for Economic Studies and  
Planning, School of Social Sciences, JNU



**Rajani Sinha**  
Chief Economist, CareEdge Ratings



**Sitikantha Pattanaik**  
Chief Economist, NABARD



**Shishir Sinha**  
Associate Editor, businessline  
(Moderator)

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**Biswajit Dhar**  
Trade and Economic Policy Expert  
and Former Professor, JNU



**Prerna Prabhakar**  
Fellow, Centre for Social and  
Economic Progress



**Jyoti Vij**  
Director General, FICCI



**Bharat Kaushal**  
Corporate Officer, Hitachi, Ltd.,  
Executive Chairman, Hitachi India



**Amiti Sen**  
Associate Editor, businessline  
(Moderator)

Friday, February 06, 2026 | 4:00 PM onwards

Federation of Indian Chambers of  
Commerce and Industry.  
Federation House, New Delhi



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20 Microns [S]	170.52	165.34	171.41	173.49	166.91	101.43	284.10	158.80	10	16.685	CCL PRODU [2]	1002.85	990.00	1042.85	1059.00	982.20	1476.08	1072.65	475.00	72	98.870	Greaves Cat [2]	172.44	169.40	172.44	173.47	168.00	624.95	305.50	155.20	18	16.295	KPL Energy [2]	315.85	318.05	314.85	339.15	311.60	550.43	583.70	274.80	-	-
36 One Water [A]	1116.50	1140.80	1166.80	1171.90	1131.20	879.72	1273.80	790.50	-	-	Green pu [2]	107.5	103.30	109.50	110.59	102.30	102.35	3425.29	15.80	9.68	-	10.36	KPN Corp Ent [4]	412.20	405.25	411.50	411.90	404.10	576.48	563.00	336.00	-	-										
3M India [A]	3756.00	3540.00	3765.00	3585.00	3510.00	314.78	3784.85	2571.54	72	3519.50	CFI Info Sys [2]	1368.00	1264.00	1285.00	1287.60	1260.00	2176.60	1292.60	-	-	KPTC Ph [1]	981.40	959.50	981.40	989.50	955.50	813.03	1043.00	953.70	-	-												
SPALSA [2]	341.25	333.90	358.10	339.20	330.25	53.84	431.30	247.35	24	335.00	CEATEC [2]	3909.70	3878.00	3970.00	3938.60	3846.00	4341.60	2322.05	22	3870.20	KRBL [1]	363.90	358.00	363.90	365.29	345.40	288.07	495.00	225.50	13	355.95												
63 MoonsTe [2]	653.50	643.85	652.00	656.00	635.95	75.98	1130.00	575.05	72	649.20	Geigal Ind [1]	281.00	288.40	281.70	290.00	281.05	503.44	302.95	222.61	-	-	KRISHNA DEF [1]	947.70	941.70	945.00	954.30	935.00	743.00	1477.00	1178.50	-	-											
A ***	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Greenpanel I [1]	230.08	226.80	230.90	230.90	226.50	249.21	255.00	219.35	126.25	30	KRBL [1]	49	25.65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-											
Audhar Hsg [A]	472.60	472.55	476.00	476.00	472.20	253.73	547.80	361.60	-	-	Gridr Ind [5]	164.00	168.40	168.40	167.30	164.00	164.00	164.00	164.00	165.00	30	KRISHNA DEF [1]	947.70	941.70	945.00	954.30	935.00	743.00	1477.00	1178.50	-	-											
Aarti Drugs [D]	370.90	374.90	377.85	377.85	366.05	248.66	574.95	247.35	24	337.80	KRISHNA DEF [1]	100.50	102.00	102.00	102.00	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	30	KRISHNA DEF [1]	947.70	941.70	945.00	954.30	935.00	743.00	1477.00	1178.50	-	-											
Aarti Ind [5]	442.90	453.60	442.90	450.40	439.05	216.20	494.00	338.20	45	453.45	KRISHNA DEF [1]	100.50	102.00	102.00	102.00	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	30	KRISHNA DEF [1]	947.70	941.70	945.00	954.30	935.00	743.00	1477.00	-	-												
Aarti Pharm [A]	776.65	783.30	776.65	780.80	772.55	73.47	917.00	571.95	-	-	KRISHNA DEF [1]	100.50	102.00	102.00	102.00	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	30	KRISHNA DEF [1]	947.70	941.70	945.00	954.30	935.00	743.00	1477.00	-	-												
Aarun Enviro [A]	129.10	127.77	130.20	131.30	127.35	14.73	152.50	88.00	-	-	KRISHNA DEF [1]	100.50	102.00	102.00	102.00	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	30	KRISHNA DEF [1]	947.70	941.70	945.00	954.30	935.00	743.00	1477.00	-	-												
Aarun Power [A]	1426.20	1430.50	1427.00	1430.80	1427.00	1375.00	1428.00	1375.80	18	1376.80	KRISHNA DEF [1]	100.50	102.00	102.00	102.00	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	30	KRISHNA DEF [1]	947.70	941.70	945.00	954.30	935.00	743.00	1477.00	-	-												
AAB Capital [A]	466.00	344.00	466.00	466.00	466.00	75.13	409.00	254.44	25	344.00	KRISHNA DEF [1]	100.50	102.00	102.00	102.00	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	30	KRISHNA DEF [1]	947.70	941.70	945.00	954.30	935.00	743.00	1477.00	-	-												
AAB InfraBuild [A]	19.14	20.99	18.00	21.05	19.30	43.85	244.94	178.50	-	-	KRISHNA DEF [1]	100.50	102.00	102.00	102.00	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	30	KRISHNA DEF [1]	947.70	941.70	945.00	954.30	935.00	743.00	1477.00	-	-												
AAB Real Est [A]	1218.80	1305.50	1219.90	1314.40	1210.10	758.15	2537.70	1186.00	-	-	KRISHNA DEF [1]	100.50	102.00	102.00	102.00	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	30	KRISHNA DEF [1]	947.70	941.70	945.00	954.30	935.00	743.00	1477.00	-	-												
AAB Sun Life [B]	823.35	809.75	820.50	805.00	811.00	61.11	908.00	556.45	-	-	KRISHNA DEF [1]	100.50	102.00	102.00	102.00	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	30	KRISHNA DEF [1]	947.70	941.70	945.00	954.30	935.00	743.00	1477.00	-	-												
AACI [D]	575.00	577.00	575.00	575.00	566.00	105.40	623.90	599.00	45	567.00	KRISHNA DEF [1]	100.50	102.00	102.00	102.00	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	30	KRISHNA DEF [1]	947.70	941.70	945.00	954.30	935.00	743.00	1477.00	-	-												
Abdullah [D]	110.00	127.00	127.00	127.00	127.00	12.00	127.00	127.00	-	-	KRISHNA DEF [1]	100.50	102.00	102.00	102.00	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	30	KRISHNA DEF [1]	947.70	941.70	945.00	954.30	935.00	743.00	1477.00	-	-												
Abbasi [D]	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	10.00	100.00	100.00	-	-	KRISHNA DEF [1]	100.50	102.00	102.00	102.00	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	30	KRISHNA DEF [1]	947.70	941.70	945.00	954.30	935.00	743.00	1477.00	-	-												
Abbott [D]	171.00	272.00	172.00	272.00	172.00	27.00	273.00	172.00	-	-	KRISHNA DEF [1]	100.50	102.00	102.00	102.00	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	30	KRISHNA DEF [1]	947.70	941.70	945.00	954.30	935.00	743.00	1477.00	-	-												
Abdullah [D]	68.84	70.89	69.50	71.20	66.50	114.74	57.80	107.71	59.82	-	KRISHNA DEF [1]	100.50	102.00	102.00	102.00	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	30	KRISHNA DEF [1]	947.70	941.70	945.00	954.30	935.00	743.00	1477.00	-													

