Education should lead to physical and mental development, but the fundamental purpose of education is emotional development. – Mahasthavir Shanti Muni

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Jaipur | Monday, April 13, 2026

Shivraj Singh Chouhan launches district agri roadmaps to boost farm incomes in Madhya Pradesh

IANS | New Delhi
Business Remedies.

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Sunday unveiled the first set of district-level agriculture roadmaps for four districts of Madhya Pradesh - Sehore, Raisen, Vidisha and Dewas - aimed at making farming more profitable while promoting sustainable practices and efficient use of resources. The roadmaps were released during the second day of the three-day 'Unnat Krishi Mahotsav' being held in Raisen district. The event has brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including farmers, scientists, agronomists, government officials, and companies dealing in agricultural equipment, seeds and inputs. Addressing the gathering, Chouhan emphasised the need for a shift in focus from merely increasing agricultural output to adopting the "right crops" suited to local agro-climatic conditions. He urged farmers to move beyond traditional crops such as wheat, paddy and soybean, and instead embrace diversification through allied activities like animal husbandry, horticulture, beekeeping and organic farming to enhance their incomes. The district-specific plans place strong emphasis on efficient water use, crop diversification, climate-resilient agriculture and better market linkages. With groundwater depletion emerging as a growing concern in parts of these regions, the roadmap prioritises water conservation and optimal utilisation of available resources. Highlighting opportunities in high-value agriculture, the minister pointed to crops such as tomato, onion, garlic and capsicum, along with fruits like pomegranate. He also encouraged farmers to explore newer options including dragon fruit and avocado cultivation. A key feature of the initiative is the development of 'seed villages' at the block level to ensure access to high-quality seeds.

RBI Proposes NBFC Framework Changes

Efforts will be made to simplify processes, enhance transparency, and reduce systemic risk.

NBFCs with assets of Rs. 1 lakh crore or more will be moved to the 'Upper Layer'

BR Team
New Delhi

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently proposed major changes in the classification of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs). The central bank has also invited feedback from NBFCs, the general public, and other stakeholders for the implementation of this proposal. Under the new framework, institutions with assets of Rs. 1 lakh crore or more will be directly placed in the 'Upper Layer,' which will now also include government-owned NBFCs. The objective of this move is to simplify processes, enhance transparency, and reduce systemic risk. Instead of a scoring system, asset size will now be the primary criterion.

What are NBFCs?

NBFCs are classified into four layers based on their size, activities, and risk profile: Base Layer, Middle Layer, Upper Layer, and Top Layer.

Base Layer: Includes entities with assets below Rs. 1,000 crore, such as P2P lending platforms, account aggregators, and non-operative financial holding companies.

Middle Layer: Includes entities with assets above Rs. 1,000 crore, such as deposit-taking NBFCs, core investment companies, and housing finance companies.

Upper Layer: Includes NBFCs from the middle layer that are subject to stricter regulations due to systemic risk.

Top Layer: This layer remains empty and can include upper-layer NBFCs if their systemic risk increases further.

RBI has proposed increasing the Net Owned Fund (NOF) requirement for NBFCs to Rs. 10 crore

Changes in Criteria

RBI has proposed increasing the Net Owned Fund (NOF) requirement for NBFCs to Rs. 10 crore. Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) will be classified as loans overdue for more than 90 days. NBFCs will also be required to have at least one director on their board with experience in banking or NBFC operations.

Several Companies May Enter Upper Layer

Companies such as Tata Sons, Bajaj Finance, Shriram Finance, Tata Capital, and Aditya Birla Finance may directly fall into the 'Upper Layer.' Inclusion in this category will require these companies to adhere to stricter governance and disclosure standards. Increased regulatory oversight of large NBFCs is expected to strengthen financial stability.

India's innovation engine is unstoppable: Piyush Goyal, as patent filings hit record high in FY26

IANS | New Delhi
Business Remedies.

Declaring that 'India's innovation engine is unstoppable,' Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Sunday highlighted the country's remarkable surge in patent activity, with filings touching a historic 1.43 lakh in the financial year 2025-26, marking a sharp 30.2 percent increase over the previous year. Sharing the data in a post on social media platform X, Goyal said the growth reflects a confident and rapidly evolving India that is steadily emerging as a global innovation powerhouse.

He emphasised that more than 69 percent of the total patent filings in FY26 were domestic. "India's Innovation Engine is Unstoppable! Our patent filings soared to a historic over 1.43 lakh in FY 2025-26, marking a 30.2 percent increase over last year," Goyal noted. According to the data, India recorded 1,43,729 patent filings in FY26, up from 1,10,375 in FY25. Domestic filings stood at 98,771, significantly higher than 68,201 in the previous year.

Among states, Tamil Nadu led the chart with 22,995 filings, followed by other major innovation hubs such as Karnataka and Maharashtra.

The minister also pointed to the growing contribution of educational institutions, start-ups, MSMEs, and public research and development bodies. Educational institutions alone accounted for 36.5 percent of total filings, reflecting a strong push from academia in driving innovation.

"We are the world's 6th largest patent filer, reflecting a confident India set to become a global innovation powerhouse," Goyal said.

Rs. 1.53 lakh crore booster shot fast-tracks growth in Indian Railways

IANS | New Delhi
Business Remedies.

Indian Railways is headed for a transformative expansion with the government having approved a total investment of Rs. 1.53 lakh crore across 100 new projects in 2025-26 covering more than 6,000 kilometres of railway network, the Ministry of Railways said on Sunday.

Compared to FY 2024-25, where 64 projects worth Rs. 72,869 crore covering over 2,800 kilometres were cleared, project approvals have increased by 56 percent, route coverage has surged by over 114 percent, and financial commitment has witnessed a remarkable jump of more than 110 percent, according to a factsheet released by the ministry. The 100 sanctioned projects include new lines, doubling and multitracking works, along with bypass lines, flyovers and chord lines. These are strategically aimed at decongesting saturated routes, improving punctuality, and enhancing passenger experience while expanding connectivity to underserved regions. The initiatives are expected to significantly improve operational efficiency and reduce travel time across the network.

These projects span nearly all major states, ensuring a balanced and inclusive expansion of the railway network. Maharashtra (17 projects), Bihar (11), Jharkhand (10), and Madhya Pradesh (9) emerge as key focus states, given their critical role in freight corridors, industrial connectivity, and passenger demand. The concentration of projects in these states will strengthen freight corridors, boost industrial linkages, and improve passenger movement.

All Indian seafarers in Gulf and West Asia region safe, over 2,084 repatriated: Centre

IANS | New Delhi
Business Remedies.

All Indian seafarers in the Gulf and West Asia region are safe and no incident involving Indian-flagged vessels has been reported in the past 24 hours, the government said on Sunday. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, through the Directorate General of Shipping (DG Shipping), has facilitated the safe repatriation of more than 2,084 Indian seafarers so far, including 75 in the last 24 hours from various locations across the Gulf region.

"Port operations across India remain normal, with no congestion reported. The Ministry continues to coordinate with the Ministry of External Affairs, Indian Missions, and maritime stakeholders to ensure seafarer welfare and uninterrupted maritime operations," according to an official statement.

The Shipping Control Room remains operational 24x7 and has handled 6,053 calls and more than 12,787 emails since activation. In the past 24 hours, 80 calls and 112 emails have been received, it added. Across the region, Indian Missions and Posts remain in close contact with the Indian community, while continuing to provide assistance and issue necessary advisories for their safety and well-being. The Ministry of External Affairs said it continues to closely monitor developments in the Gulf and West Asia region.

Over 52.3 lakh domestic LPG cylinders delivered in a day, no dry-outs: Govt

IANS | New Delhi
Business Remedies.

The distribution of domestic LPG in the country remains normal with more than 52.3 lakh domestic LPG cylinders delivered on Saturday and no dry-outs reported at any distributorship, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said on Sunday.

Online LPG bookings have increased to about 98 percent, and deliveries based on the Delivery Authentication Code (DAC) have increased to around 93 percent to prevent diversion at the distributor level, according to an update issued by the ministry.

More than 4.24 lakh PNG connections have been gasified, and about 4.66 lakh additional customers have also registered for new connections. Consumers are encouraged to use alternative fuels such as PNG and electric cooktops. All citizens are urged to conserve energy during the current situation, it reiterated. More than 30,000 PNG consumers have surrendered their LPG connections via MYPNGD.in website.

Women's participation in flexi IT jobs rises to 40% in FY26: Report

IANS | New Delhi
Business Remedies.

Women's participation in contractual and flexible roles in India's IT and ITeS sector has seen a steady rise, reaching 40 percent in FY26, a new report said on Sunday. The report, titled "Women in IT/ITeS: Trends in Contractual/Flexi Roles" by Careernet, showed that women's placements have grown by 10 percentage points, from around 30 percent in FY22 to 40 percent in FY26. The study is based on an annual sample of around 3,000 contractual placements and indicated that flexible work arrangements are becoming more popular among women.

Currently, women make up about 30 percent of the total contractual talent pool in the IT/ITeS sector, which translates to nearly 96,000 professionals out of an estimated 3.2 lakh workforce.

In terms of job roles, women are increasingly choosing core business functions. Finance and Accounting remains the top choice, with 43 percent participation, followed by Data Science and Analytics at 34 percent. Roles in UX, design and architecture have also gained traction, accounting for 31 percent of participation. Other areas like IT and information security and software engineering continue to see steady involvement, while consulting roles still have relatively lower representation, the report said.

Geographically, the participation of women in flexi roles is largely concentrated in major tech hubs.

IMF, World Bank meets to take stock of global economic shocks amid Middle East crisis

IANS | New Delhi
Business Remedies.

Finance ministers and central bankers from the 191 member countries will attend the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank's spring meetings, to be held from April 13-18 in Washington, DC, to take stock of the global economic uncertainties amid the fragile ceasefire between the US and Iran and continuing uncertainties over the outcome of the peace talks.

IMF managing director Kristalina Georgieva has warned that the new economic forecasts, to be published on Tuesday, along with a report on global financial stability, are likely to be downgraded amid the economic shocks of the Middle East conflict. In January, world output was seen rising 3.3 percent this year, with expansions of 2.1 percent in the US, 1.4 percent in the Eurozone and 5.4 percent across emerging Asia. These are likely to be scaled down when the new estimates are announced.

Georgieva has pointed out that the resilient world economy is being tested again by the war in the Middle East. The conflict has caused considerable hardship around the globe. "When we welcome ministers and central bank governors to our Spring Meetings next week, our focus will be on how best to weather this latest shock and ease the pain on economies and people. This requires understanding the nature of the shock, the channels through which it affects the economy, the size of the impact, and the policies that can mitigate it," she said. The world's daily oil flow has been cut by some 13 percent, and its LNG flow by some 20 percent, resulting in prices shooting up and disruption in supply chains across the world. The annual and spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group each year bring together central bankers, ministers of finance and development, private sector executives, civil society representatives, and academics to discuss the state of the global economy and issues of international concern, such as the growth outlook, financial stability, and poverty reduction.

The Board of Governors consists of a high-level representative from each of the 191 member countries, typically the finance minister, central bank governor, or minister of development. During the Meetings, the Governors participate in a plenary session and discuss the challenges for the global economy.

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Editorial

Rising forex reserves to strengthen India's economy

The recent increase in India's foreign exchange reserves during the ongoing conflict involving Iran, Israel, and the United States indicates a strong possibility of the country's economy becoming more robust in the coming period. Currently, India's forex reserves have reached $723.8 billion, which can be considered a historic high. This will help the country meet its import requirements while also strengthening the rupee against the dollar, thereby benefiting the overall economy.

Foreign exchange reserves are assets held in foreign currencies and maintained by a country's central bank. These reserves are used to meet external liabilities and influence monetary policy. They may include banknotes, deposits, bonds, treasury bills, and other government securities.

Moreover, an increase in forex reserves boosts investor confidence, leading to higher domestic and foreign investments. This reflects India's growing economic self-reliance and helps the country deal with global uncertainties. Strong reserves also help stabilize the rupee's exchange rate against the dollar, making imports cheaper and aiding in controlling inflation. Additionally, a strong financial position enables the government and companies to borrow more easily from international markets at lower interest rates.

Successful organization of women youth parliament under Rajasthan budget quest 2026

BR Team | Jaipur

Under the aegis of Mera Yuva Bharat Rajasthan, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, a Women Youth Parliament was successfully organized at S.S. Jain Subodh P.G. College, Jaipur, under the Budget Quest 2026 - Prime Minister Youth Dialogue Program.

The objective of this initiative was to empower young women and ensure their active participation in democratic processes. The theme of the program was "Women Power: Voice of a Developed India - Strengthening Inclusive Democracy", highlighting the important role of women in nation-building. On this occasion, Member of Parliament from Jaipur, Manju Sharma, attended as the Chief Guest, while Praveen Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Youth Affairs and Sports Department, Government of Rajasthan, attended as the Guest of Honour.

The program was chaired by Principal Dr. Renu Joshi. The event was also graced by the presence of Krishna Lal Parcha, Regional Director (Western Region), MY Bharat, and Devendra Vyas, State Director, MY Bharat Rajasthan. Principal Dr. Renu Joshi stated that under the leadership of the Honorable Prime Minister, the Government of India is giving priority to women empowerment. This program was organized in support of the spirit of the Women's Reservation Bill, providing a strong platform for women to express their views and participate in democratic dialogue.

Chief Guest Manju Sharma described the Women Youth Parliament as an important step toward strengthening women's participation in democracy, further reinforcing their role in building a developed India. Guest of Honour Praveen Gupta interacted personally with the participants, gathered their views on government schemes, and stated that their suggestions would be shared with department heads.

A total of 40 selected participants took part in the Women Youth Parliament. Out of these, 30 participants represented various ministries, while 10 participants played the role of Members of Parliament. The session was chaired by Prachi Sharma.

All participants presented their views effectively in support of the Women's Reservation Bill. A structured parliamentary session of 90 minutes was conducted, followed by a 30-minute open discussion, and finally, a resolution was passed within 30 minutes supporting increased representation of women in legislative institutions.

The successful execution of the program was supported by Ritu Rani (Deputy Director), Pradeep Kumar (Assistant Director), Jayesh Meena (Assistant Director), Vaishali Parihar (Young Professional, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports), Vishal Gautam (NSS Program Officer, Subodh Jain P.G. College Jaipur), and MY Bharat volunteers. The program was smoothly conducted by Kavya and Harshita, with timekeepers assigned for time management and reporters appointed for documentation of key points.

8th Youth introduction conference organized for mass marriage ceremony

BR Team | Jaipur

Jaipur. Under the aegis of Jaipur Mali (Saini) Samaj Vikas Adarsh Sanstha, a mass marriage conference for all communities will be organized on the auspicious occasion of Janaki Navami on April 25. For this ceremony, the 8th youth introduction conference was organized on Sunday, April 12, at Narayan Garh Palace located in Sundar Vihar, Sodala.

The president of the organization, Ramesh Saini, informed that youths and their parents from all communities including Brahmin, Bania (Gupta), Rajput, Sindhi, Punjabi, Chaudhary, Koli, Verma, Kumawat, Rana, Saini, Dhanka, Bairwa, Yadav, Balai, Mahawar and others were present in the event.

In this, all the young men and women introduced themselves one by one. So far, approximately 150 applications from young men and about 60 from young women have been received. The introduction conference was organized in two phases. In the first phase, educated youths were introduced, and in the second phase, less educated young men and women were introduced for marriage. He also informed that another youth introduction conference will be organized on April 19.

The treasurer of the organization, Harish Saini, said that during the program, meritorious students who secured top marks in board examinations were also honored.

Students who scored A and A+ in class 8, more than 80% in class 10, and more than 80% in class 12 were honored with various gifts.

Along with them, teachers and parents were also honored with gifts. All honored students were given chairs and wall clocks as gifts, and parents and teachers were honored with fruit-bearing plants stamped with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Ek Ped Bharat Mata Ke Naam" initiative.

'Vyapar Rajasthan 2026' Concludes Successfully in Jaipur

BR Team | Jaipur

The Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) successfully organized its annual auto retail conclave "Vyapar Rajasthan 2026" at Jaipur Marriott Hotel. The event, themed "Accelerating Developed Rajasthan", witnessed participation from over 500 representatives including automobile dealers, OEMs, financial institutions, policymakers, and government officials. Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma attended as the Chief Guest, while Deputy Chief Minister and Transport Minister Premchand Bairwa was present as the Guest of Honour. The event highlighted the growing importance of the auto retail sector in employment, investment, road safety, and economic growth.

Key Highlights

- Discussions on policy readiness, ease of doing business, and digital transformation
- Focus on AI in auto retail and future-ready dealerships
- Special emphasis on road safety awareness and compliance
- Participation from leading OEMs like Hero MotoCorp, Honda Cars India, and Toyota Kirloskar Motor
- MoU signed between FADA, ASDC, and Rajasthan Government for skill development

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma's Address

"'Viksit Rajasthan' is based on building a transparent, efficient, and advanced mobility retail ecosystem that will serve as the foundation of the state's economic progress. Automobile dealers are the real engines of growth in Rajasthan, enabling citizens' aspirations and spreading prosperity across every corner of the state.

FADA's commendable initiative to provide employment to 10,000 youth annually through on-the-job skilling, along with this MoU, ensures that local youth get meaningful employment opportunities within their own regions. Our government is committed to providing the necessary infrastructure for this sector - including dedicated automobile zones at 20 locations, development of ring roads, paperless registration systems, and a zero-tolerance policy towards corruption.

By adopting 'Vocal for Local' and promoting innovation, we aim to make Rajasthan a preferred destination for global investment and business."

Statement by Sharvik Shah, State Chairperson – FADA Rajasthan

"Vyapar Rajasthan 2026 reflects the emerging strength and resilience of Rajasthan's automobile retail ecosystem. Today, auto retail stands at the intersection of manufacturing, employment, and consumer aspirations, with dealers playing a crucial role in connecting policy, industry, and customers. Despite global challenges and supply chain pressures, our dealer community has shown remarkable adaptability. Going forward, adoption of technology, regulatory readiness, road safety, and skill development will be the key drivers of sustainable growth and achieving a truly 'Viksit Rajasthan'."

PNB Celebrates 132nd Foundation Day at Yashobhoomi; and Launches 22 New Products

BR Team New Delhi

Punjab National Bank (PNB), one of India's most trusted financial institutions, proudly celebrated its 132nd Foundation Day at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi. The milestone event marked over a century of resilience, trust, and nation-building, reaffirming PNB's pivotal role in powering India's economic progress.

Ashok Chandra, MD&CEO, Punjab National Bank, extended heartfelt congratulations to the PNB family for their unwavering dedication and commitment that have shaped the Bank's remarkable journey. The celebration brought together distinguished dignitaries, senior leadership, employees, and stakeholders to honour PNB's rich heritage and its vision for the future.

The event was graced by Chief Guest Shri M. Nagaraju, Secretary, DFS; Shri Hari Har Mishra, Additional Secretary, DFS; other higher officials from DFS, RBI and other esteemed institutions along with senior Bank officials.

The celebrations commenced with a solemn garlanding and lamp-lighting ceremony in honour of the Bank's founder and freedom fighter Late Shri Lala Lajpat Rai, reaffirming PNB's enduring commitment to national development. This was followed by vibrant cultural performances including Ganesh Vandana, Kathak, and Krishna Vandana by artists Aryav Anand and Rishav Joshi, setting an auspicious tone for the celebration.

Key Highlights: Rs. 1 Lakh Crore in Digital Sanctions: Demonstrating its growing digital lending capabilities, PNB announced achieving this landmark figure, underscoring its commitment to faster, technology-enabled credit solutions.

Launch of 22 New Products & Initiatives: Spanning retail banking, MSME and agriculture financing, digital services, employee capability development, and sustainability-focused solutions.

Leadership Address

Chief Guest M. Nagaraju, Secretary, DFS, said: "At the outset, I pay tribute to the visionary legacy of Lala Lajpat Rai, whose ideals continue to guide Punjab National Bank even today. As the Bank celebrates 132 years, its journey-from a modest beginning with Rs. 20,000 to a global business of nearly Rs. 30 lakh crore-mirrors the evolution of modern India itself. The Bank's strong performance reflects an institution moving forward with purpose and confidence, and its meaningful contribution to the transformation of public sector banking is commendable. As India advances towards its development goals, Banks like PNB are not merely participants in the journey, they are its enablers. From financing infrastructure and renewable energy, to supporting MSMEs and first-generation entrepreneurs, from driving digital payments to extending formal finance to remote regions, banking serves as the circulatory system of the economy."

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Ashok Chandra, MD&CEO, PNB said: "For over 132 years, PNB has remained a trusted partner in India's development journey, supporting farmers, MSMEs, entrepreneurs, and millions of customers. Our milestone of Rs. 1 lakh crore in digital sanctions and the launch of multiple digital products reflect our commitment to innovation, speed, and seamless banking experiences. As we look ahead to 'Viksit Bharat 2047,' PNB will continue to drive financial inclusion and technology-led transformation."

Chemistry workshop at Modi University showcases innovation in students' projects

BR Team | Lakshmangarh

A one-day workshop was organized at Modi University of Science and Technology, Lakshmangarh, under the joint aegis of the International Student Chapter of the American Chemical Society and the Department of Chemistry, School of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The workshop was held on April 11 at the university campus on the topic "Competitive Live Demonstration of Project-Based Learning Model." Students of classes 11 and 12 from various schools in the Shekhawati region participated enthusiastically.

Participants presented live demonstrations of projects based on the theme "Long-Term Problems of Society and Their Chemistry-Based Solutions." The program began with a welcome address by University President Prof. (Dr.) Ashutosh Bhardwaj, who introduced students to the academic strengths of the university. Chief Guest Dr. Abhinit Verma from MNIT Jaipur highlighted career opportunities in the field of chemistry. Students presented innovative models on topics such as plastic pollution, harmful effects of cosmetic chemicals, food additives, drug addiction, and the effects of tobacco and alcohol. Additionally, robo cars, radar systems, stain removal techniques, and experiments such as sodium alginate attracted significant attention. In the competition, Modi School Lakshmangarh secured the first position (Rs. 7000), while teams from Bhartiya Public School, Sikar secured second (Rs. 5000) and third (Rs. 3000) positions. The main objective of the program was to increase students' interest in science, promote experimental learning, and inspire them toward higher education and research.

During the program, Dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences Prof. Jitendra Binwal, Prof. Amlan Das, Prof. Harlal Singh, and other faculty members were also present.

"We won't let Parkinson's stop you" - Narayana hospital Jaipur hosts awareness press conference on World Parkinson's Day

BR Team | Jaipur

Narayana Hospital, Jaipur organized a press conference titled "We Won't Let Parkinson's Stop You" on the occasion of World Parkinson's Day, aimed at raising awareness about Parkinson's Disease and highlighting advancements in its treatment and management.

The event was held at Four Points by Sheraton Jaipur, City Square and brought together leading medical experts and healthcare leaders to discuss the growing burden of Parkinson's Disease, the importance of early diagnosis, and the role of advanced therapies in improving patient outcomes.

Parkinson's Disease, a neurological disorder, significantly impacts the quality of life of patients and their families. Experts at the conference emphasized that while the condition is chronic, timely intervention and the right treatment approach can help patients lead active and fulfilling lives.

Narayana Hospital, Jaipur stands as the only hospital in Rajasthan offering advanced Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) surgery, reinforcing its position as a center of excellence in neurological care. Over the past two years, Narayana Hospital, Jaipur has successfully treated over 3,000 Parkinson's patients. Additionally, the hospital has performed 16 Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) procedures, reflecting its advanced neurological expertise and commitment to delivering specialized care.

Highlighting advanced treatment options, Dr. Vaibhav Mathur, Consultant - Neurology, Movement Disorder and DBS Specialist, Narayana Hospital Jaipur, said, "Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) is an advanced neurosurgical treatment that is particularly beneficial for patients who do not respond adequately to medications. It involves implanting electrodes in specific areas of the brain that deliver controlled electrical signals to help manage symptoms such as tremors and rigidity. An even more advanced approach, Adaptive Deep Brain Stimulation (A-DBS), can monitor brain signals in real time and automatically adjust stimulation based on the patient's needs. This makes the therapy more precise, personalized, and effective, ultimately improving patient outcomes and quality of life."

The experts further explained that while conventional DBS works on fixed settings, A-DBS functions like a smart system that adapts dynamically to the patient's condition, marking a significant step forward in Parkinson's care.

Mr. Balwinder Singh Walia, Facility Director, Narayana Hospital Jaipur, said, "At Narayana Hospital Jaipur, our focus is on delivering advanced, patient-centric care. Through such initiatives, we aim to raise awareness and encourage patients to seek timely medical attention. Parkinson's Disease should not be seen as a limitation, but as a manageable condition with the right support and expertise."

Dr. Pradeep Kumar Goyal, Clinical Director, Narayana Hospital, Jaipur, added, "Early diagnosis plays a crucial role in managing Parkinson's Disease. Recognizing the initial symptoms and initiating timely treatment can help slow disease progression and significantly improve quality of life. It is important to address the fear and misconceptions associated with this condition through awareness and education."

The press conference also addressed common myths and stigma associated with Parkinson's Disease, encouraging early consultation and informed decision-making. With advancements in neurological care and personalized treatment approaches, Parkinson's can now be effectively managed over the long term.

This initiative reinforces Narayana Hospital Jaipur's commitment to promoting awareness, enabling early diagnosis, and delivering comprehensive neurological care.

MVK Agro Food Product Limited's proposed project granted "Mega Project" status by Maharashtra government

BR Team | Jaipur

Nanded-based MVK Agro Food Product Limited is engaged in the manufacturing of sugar and related products. The company has informed stock exchanges that its proposed expansion project has been granted "Mega Project" status by the Maharashtra Government. The project is for manufacturing sugar and related products such as ethanol and compressed biogas, to be set up in Nanded, Maharashtra. As per the letter, the project involves a proposed investment of approximately Rs. 275 crore. The project is eligible for certain incentives under the Agriculture and Food Processing Policy.

Business Activities

MVK Agro Food Product Limited was incorporated in February 2018. It is an integrated manufacturer of sugar and related products. The company has a licensed crushing capacity of 2,500 TCD and also sells by-products such as molasses, bagasse, and press mud.

The company sells its products through brokers, who in turn supply to reputed companies such as PepsiCo Holdings India Private Limited, Parle Biscuits Private Limited, and Britannia Industries Limited. Apart from brokers, the company also supplies products to export-oriented traders such as Sakuma Exports Limited, Indian Sugar Exim Corporation, Garden Court, and HRMM Agro Overseas Private Limited.

The company operates a zero-waste manufacturing facility. Generated waste is either sold or used for power generation. The company's manufacturing facility is located in Nanded district, Maharashtra.

Investors can invest in these new mutual fund schemes in the second week of April

Dhairyavardhan Singh Rajawat
Jaipur

The second week of April 2026 is beginning. Let us know which new mutual fund schemes are available for investment this week.

Axis Mutual Fund

Scheme Name: Axis Nifty India Defence Index Fund
Objective of the Scheme: To provide returns, before expenses, that correspond to the performance of the Nifty India Defence Index Fund (subject to tracking error). There is no guarantee that the investment objective of the scheme will be achieved.
Type of Scheme: Open-ended
Scheme Category: Other Scheme - Index Fund
Launch Date of New Fund: 10 April 2026
Closing Date of New Fund Offer: 24 April 2026
Load: Shown separately
Minimum Subscription Amount: Rs. 100 and in multiples of Rs. 1 thereafter
For more information, please visit:
[https://www.axismf.com]

Groww Mutual Fund

Scheme Name: Groww Arbitrage Fund
Objective of the Scheme: The primary investment objective of the scheme is to generate long-term capital appreciation by investing in arbitrage opportunities available in cash and derivative markets, as well as in the derivatives segment, along with investments in debt securities and money market instruments. However, there is no guarantee that the investment objective of the scheme will be achieved.
Type of Scheme: Open-ended
Scheme Category: Hybrid Scheme - Arbitrage Fund
Launch Date of New Fund: 8 April 2026
Closing Date of New Fund Offer: 22 April 2026
Load: Nil
Minimum Subscription Amount: Rs. 500 and in multiples of Rs. 1 thereafter
For more information, please visit:
[https://www.growwmf.in]

Kotak Mahindra Mutual Fund

Scheme Name: Kotak Multi Asset Active FOF
Objective of the Scheme: To generate long-term capital appreciation from a portfolio constructed by investing in units of actively managed equity-oriented schemes, debt-oriented schemes, and commodity-based schemes
Type of Scheme: Perpetual
Scheme Category: Hybrid Scheme - Multi Asset Allocation
Launch Date of New Fund: 8 April 2026
Closing Date of New Fund Offer: 22 April 2026
Load: Shown separately
Minimum Subscription Amount: Rs. 1000
For more information, please visit:
[https://www.kotakmf.com]

Zerodha Mutual Fund

Scheme Name: Zerodha Nifty Large Midcap 250 Plus 8-13 Year G-Sec 70:30 Index Fund
Objective of the Scheme: Passive investment in securities similar to the composition of the Nifty Large Midcap 250 Plus 8-13 Year G-Sec 70:30 Index, subject to tracking error. There is no guarantee that the investment objective will be achieved.
Type of Scheme: Open-ended
Scheme Category: Other Scheme - Index Fund
Launch Date of New Fund: 01 April 2026
Closing Date of New Fund Offer: 15 April 2026
Load: Not applicable
Minimum Subscription Amount: Rs. 100
For more information, please visit:
[https://www.zerodhafundhouse.com]

Note: Investors should consult registered investment advisors before investing. This article is not investment advice.

Trom Industries Limited receives order worth Rs. 1.87 crore

BR Team | Jaipur

Gujarat-based Gandhinagar company Trom Industries Limited, operating in the solar EPC sector, has informed stock exchanges that it has received a purchase order from M/s Zydus Pharmaceuticals Limited for the supply, design, installation, testing, and commissioning of a 710 kW solar rooftop power plant. The value of the order is Rs. 1,87,68,340, and the completion period is 12 months.

Business Activities

Trom Industries Limited is a solar EPC (Engineering, Procurement, and Construction) company specializing in residential rooftop solar, industrial solar plants, ground-mounted solar plants, and solar street lighting. The company was established as a partnership firm in 2011.

Trom is engaged in the comprehensive development of diverse solar projects:

Residential rooftop solar systems tailored for individual homes
Large industrial solar plants
Ground-mounted solar installations on open land
Solar street lighting for public and commercial sectors
The company's operations include engineering design, procurement of materials, on-site construction, project management, and compliance with regulatory standards.
Its solar applications contribute to sustainable energy solutions across residential, industrial, public, and government sectors. Additionally, the company is involved in trading and distribution of various products including solar panels, inverters, and related materials. The company was also engaged in small-scale footwear trading during the stub period. The company is actively working on green hydrogen projects as a significant aspect of its future business plans. Its warehouse is located at Plot No. B/53-A, GIDC Electronics Estate, Sector 25, Gandhinagar - 382024, Gujarat, India. As an ISO 9001:2015, ISO 45001:2018, and ISO 27001:2018 certified company, Trom provides customized solutions to meet customer needs. Its project management team ensures timely completion of projects. The company was founded by promoters Jignesh Patel and Pankaj Pawar.

Prizor Viztech Limited opens new branch office in Kolkata

BR Team | Jaipur

Ahmedabad-based Prizor Viztech Limited provides security and surveillance solutions with a wide range of CCTV cameras for retail, government, education, and infrastructure sectors.

The company has opened a new branch office at Chittaranjan Avenue, Flat No. 2, Room No. 3, First Floor, 44, Kolkata - 700012, aiming to strengthen its regional presence in Eastern India and expand operational reach.

This branch office will support the company's operational expansion and further strengthen its product capabilities in key sectors.

Business Activities

Established in 2017, Prizor Viztech Limited provides security and surveillance solutions with a wide range of CCTV cameras.

In 2022, the company expanded its product line to include televisions, touch panels, and monitors, all sold under its brand name and manufactured by third parties.

Additionally, the company provides video management software that enables customers to monitor systems from a single screen and location.

Invicta Diagnostic Limited enters Nashik through strategic acquisition

BR Team |Jaipur

Invicta Diagnostic Limited is one of the leading diagnostic service providers in the healthcare sector of Maharashtra. The company has announced its expansion beyond the Mumbai Metropolitan Region after its board approved the acquisition of a majority stake in Nashik-based well-established diagnostic service provider Winchurkar Diagnostics Private Limited.

Details of the Acquisition

The company will acquire up to 95% equity stake in Winchurkar Diagnostics Private Limited in two phases.

The first phase includes acquisition of 51% shareholding by 31 May 2026, followed by the second phase of up to 44% shareholding by 31 October 2026.

The acquisition will be made through cash payment, with a total value of Rs. 7.60 crore.

Business Activities

Winchurkar Diagnostics Private Limited, established in 1993, is a well-established diagnostic service provider based in Nashik, Maharashtra.

The company offers a wide range of diagnostic services including CT scans, MRI, mammography, and other diagnostic tests, and is known for its 24/7 service capability.

It has been a pioneer in the region, being the first private diagnostic center in Nashik to introduce CT scan and mammography in 1995, followed by MRI in 1999 and superconducting MRI in 2004.

Sanket Vinod Jain
Chairman and Non-Executive Director, Invicta Diagnostic Limited

For FY 2025, Winchurkar Diagnostics reported a turnover of Rs. 4.45 crore, reflecting its established operations and strong regional presence in the Nashik market.

Strategic Impact of the Acquisition

Upon completion, the acquisition is expected to support Invicta Diagnostic Limited's expansion in Nashik and strengthen its regional presence beyond the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

This move aligns with the company's strategy to expand its diagnostic network across Maharashtra, enhance service reach, and strengthen its presence in high-potential regional markets.

Commenting on this development, Sanket Vinod Jain, Chairman and Non-Executive Director of Invicta Diagnostic Limited, said: "This acquisition aligns with our strategy to expand beyond the Mumbai Metropolitan Region and strengthen our presence in key markets of Maharashtra. Nashik is a high-potential healthcare market, and our entry into this region supports our long-term growth plans. We are acquiring an established and reputed diagnostic company with a strong legacy and deep roots in the local market. This will help us leverage existing capabilities, enhance service offerings, and drive operational synergies, while continuing to deliver high-quality diagnostic services to a broader patient base."

Business Activities (Invicta Diagnostic Limited)

Incorporated in January 2021, Invicta Diagnostic Limited provides radiology and pathology solutions.Under the brand "PC Diagnostics," the company offers pathology and radiology tests including imaging, radiology, and teleradiology, available through 7 diagnostic centers and one central laboratory in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Invicta Diagnostics Limited is a Mumbai-based diagnostic service company specializing in integrated pathology and radiology solutions.

The company follows a hub-and-spoke model in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, which includes:

A flagship center in Thane West offering full-spectrum pathology and advanced radiology (PET CT, MRI)

Three additional centers (Bhayandar, Byculla, Marol) providing specialized diagnostic services

Three centers in Lower Parel, Sewri, and Kalwa focusing on basic imaging (X-ray, ultrasound) and sample collection

The company offers approximately 60 routine and 487 specialized pathology tests, along with around 96 basic and 130 advanced radiology tests.

Invicta Diagnostics provides a comprehensive range of diagnostic services, including:

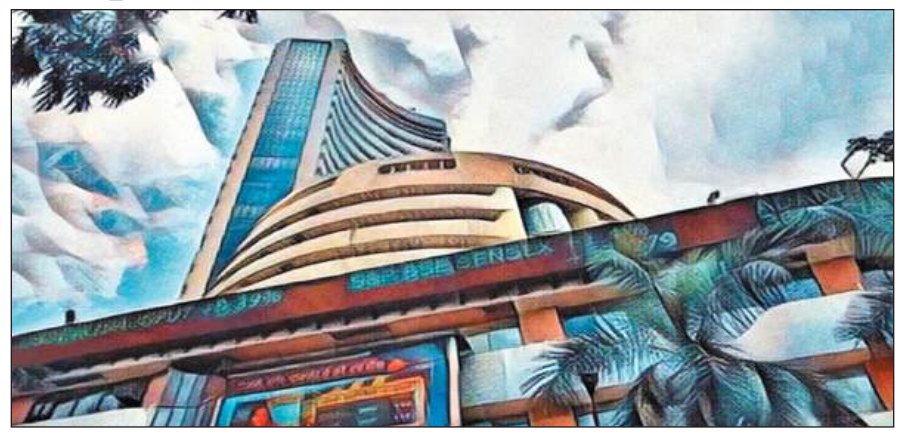
Routine Tests: CBC, lipid profile, liver function test (LFT), kidney function test (KFT), and thyroid panel

Specialized Tests: Molecular diagnostics, immunoassays, infectious disease markers (such as dengue, COVID-19), cancer markers, and genetic panels

Sample Collection Network: Invicta uses phlebotomists and collection partners to reach patients at home or through its spoke centers

Stock market outlook

US-Iran talks, Q4 earnings and oil prices in focus for this week



IANS | Mumbai

Business Remedies. After staging a sharp rebound following six straight weeks of decline, the Indian stock market is heading into the new week with cautious optimism.

While hopes of easing geopolitical tensions and a stable domestic macroeconomic backdrop lifted investor sentiment, global cues, corporate earnings, and currency movements are expected to dictate the market's direction in the coming days. In the previous week, both the Indian equity indices witnessed a strong recovery, with benchmark indices surging nearly 6 per cent to close near their weekly highs. The Nifty settled at 24,050.60, while the Sensex ended at 77,550.25, as investors cheered positive global developments and steady domestic fundamentals. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that a decisive break below the crucial 24,000 level on the Nifty would not only negate the recent breakout but could also trigger a broader shift back to a sell-on-rise market structure.

"The key structural factor this week is the preponed weekly expiry to Monday (April 13) due to the market holiday on April 14," an analyst stated. This week, global geopolitical developments will remain a key monitorable. Reports of potential de-escalation between the United States and Iran had initially lifted sentiment, although uncertainty persists after talks failed to yield a concrete agreement. Another major driver will be the ongoing Q4 earnings season. More than 50 companies are set to announce their results for the quarter ended March 31.

Crude oil prices will also play a crucial role in shaping market sentiment. Oil futures recorded their sharpest weekly decline since 2022, as traders factored in the possibility of a temporary ceasefire and improved supply outlook. Analysts believe that as long as global cues remain supportive and domestic macros stay resilient, the market could sustain its upward bias, although investors are likely to remain cautious amid lingering geopolitical risks.

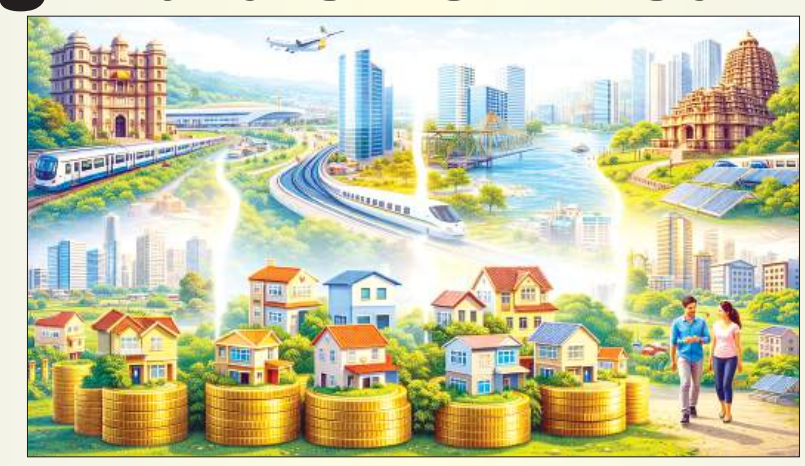
Tier-2 Cities Driving India's Next Real Estate Growth Wave

Charu Bhatia
Jaipur

Business Remedies. India's real estate landscape is undergoing a noticeable shift as homebuyers and investors look beyond crowded metros for better value and long-term returns. A growing number of tier-2 cities are emerging as strong property markets, thanks to infrastructure upgrades, job creation, improved connectivity and comparatively affordable prices. These cities are now attracting both end-users and investors seeking rental income and capital appreciation.

Indore has quickly gained traction as a preferred real estate destination. Known for its strong civic infrastructure and consistent ranking as India's cleanest city, Indore is benefiting from the development of its metro network and expanding industrial base. Property prices remain relatively affordable compared to major metros, while rental yields continue to rise. This combination makes the city appealing to both first-time homebuyers and long-term investors.

Nagpur is positioning itself as a major logistics and industrial hub due to its strategic location within the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor. Landmark projects such as the Multi-Modal International Cargo Hub and Airport at Nagpur (MIHAN) and the expanding metro network are driving demand for housing. Plotted developments and affordable housing projects are especially popular as professionals move to the city for new



employment opportunities.

Surat is another city witnessing rapid real estate growth. With a thriving textile and diamond industry and a fast-growing population, the city is seeing increased demand across residential and commercial segments. Infrastructure projects like the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train are expected to further enhance connectivity, making Surat an attractive option for both investors and end-users.

In the south, Kochi has emerged as a premium lifestyle destination, particularly popular among non-resident Indians. Improved connectivity, smart city initiatives and growing demand for waterfront homes are boosting property values. The city offers strong long-term appreciation potential along with steady rental demand, especially in upscale residential segments.

Meanwhile, Bhubaneswar is gaining attention as a smart city with expanding IT and industrial sectors. Planned urban development, affordable land prices and increasing job opportunities are driving real estate demand. The city's focus on infrastructure and technology positions it as a promising market for future growth.

As urbanisation accelerates and remote work reshapes housing preferences, buyers are increasingly seeking cities that offer quality living without metro-level costs. These emerging markets provide a balance of affordability, infrastructure and economic opportunity, making them attractive for both homeownership and investment.

With demand for quality housing rising and infrastructure projects gaining momentum, tier-2 cities are expected to play a crucial role in shaping the next phase of India's real estate growth story.

Fuel Relief Today, Economic Pressures Tomorrow: Understanding India's Oil Shock Strategy

BR Team | Jaipur

India has taken a decisive policy route to protect consumers from the recent global energy surge by cutting fuel taxes and keeping petrol and diesel prices largely stable. While this approach has cushioned households from immediate inflationary pressure, economists warn that the strategy may be quietly building long-term macroeconomic risks.

Global oil markets have been shaken by geopolitical tensions in West Asia, triggering what analysts describe as one of the largest energy shocks in recent history. With nearly 90% of its crude oil imported, India remains highly exposed to global price volatility. To shield consumers, the government reduced excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs. 10 per litre, even as oil marketing companies absorb significant under-recoveries.

The move has brought relief at the pump but comes with a substantial fiscal cost. Estimates suggest the Centre could lose around Rs. 1.1 lakh crore in revenue in FY27 due to the excise cuts. Meanwhile, oil marketing companies continue to bear losses as global crude prices remain elevated. Interestingly, state governments could see higher VAT collections due to increased crude prices, raising the possibility of further tax adjustments to share the burden.

The global backdrop adds to the complexity. Supply disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, rising LNG prices and surging shipping costs have intensified the pressure on energy-importing economies. Freight rates for oil tankers have jumped sharply, and rerouted shipping routes are increasing logistics costs and delivery times.

Economists say the challenge lies in balancing consumer protection with fiscal stability. If high energy prices persist, the combined burden on government finances and corporate balance sheets could grow. In a stable scenario, India's GDP growth is expected to remain around 7%, but a prolonged crisis could slow growth while widening the current account deficit.

Currency pressures are also emerging. Rising oil import bills tend to weaken the rupee and increase inflationary risks across sectors such as transport, fertilisers and manufacturing. At the same time, tighter global financial conditions could keep borrowing costs elevated, potentially affecting investment and corporate earnings.

Despite these risks, India retains several buffers. Strong domestic consumption, resilient manufacturing and steady inflows from domestic investors continue to support economic momentum. Policy measures such as diversifying crude sourcing and expanding renewable energy capacity are also aimed at strengthening long-term resilience.

Still, experts caution that policy support can only buy time. As multiple risks, from currency pressures to global slowdown, begin to converge, the coming months will test how long India can maintain this delicate balancing act between protecting consumers and preserving macroeconomic stability.

Maharashtra Govt Open to MoUs with Institutions to Boost Equine Sector; Experts Call for Structured Growth at Equestrian Forum 2026

Pankaja Munde and Jaykumar Rawal inaugurated The Equestrian Forum 2026 organised by The Equine Collective

BR Team | Pune

Stressing the need for a structured and collaborative approach to develop India's equine sector, Hon. Smt. Pankaja Munde, Minister of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of Maharashtra, said that the state government is open to collaborating with institutions and engaging with universities to support the growth of the equine ecosystem. The announcement was made at the inauguration of The Equestrian Forum 2026, a national-level conference organised by The Equine Collective in Pune.

The forum was inaugurated by Hon. Smt. Pankaja Munde and Hon. Shri Jaykumar Rawal, Minister of Marketing and Protocol, Government of Maharashtra, in the presence of industry experts, academicians, and stakeholders from across the country.

Organised by The Equine Collective under the aegis of MIT World Peace University (MIT-WPU), the forum brought together riders, breeders, veterinarians, policymakers, and industry leaders to deliberate on building a structured, sustainable, and globally competitive equine ecosystem in India.

Welcoming the gathering, Ms. Gayatri Rahul Karad, Founder of The Equine Collective and Convenor of the forum, highlighted the need for formalisation of the sector.

She said, "India's equine sector, despite being part of a global equine ecosystem valued in the hundreds of billions of dollars, remains largely unstructured, with a significant portion of the workforce lacking formal training and certification. Through The Equestrian Forum, we aim to bridge this gap by building a unified platform that supports skill development, standardisation, and long-term career pathways. This is not just a conversation; it is a commitment to transforming the ecosystem and creating sustainable opportunities for thousands engaged in this sector."

Addressing the audience, Hon. Smt. Pankaja Munde emphasised the importance of innovation and collective action. Praising the initiative by Ms. Gayatri Karad, Munde said, "New ideas are always challenging, but they are also very powerful. The concept of a collective approach for the equine sector is both timely and necessary. The sector has strong potential, not just in sports, but also in rural development, environment, and employment generation. We are committed to supporting initiatives related to animal welfare, scientific breeding, veterinary care, and skill development. The state government is open to collaborating with institutions and engaging with universities to support the growth of the equine ecosystem."

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Economic Discourse

Should CSR Be Mandatory for Companies?

India's Unique Experiment - The Real Picture After a Decade

BR Team | Jaipur

India is the first-and still the only-major country in the world where it is legally mandatory for large companies to spend on social responsibility. Under Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013, implemented in 2014, companies that meet any one of three criteria-net worth above Rs. 500 crore, turnover above Rs. 1,000 crore, or net profit above Rs. 5 crore-must spend at least 2% of their average net profit of the last three years on social causes.

Countries like the European Union only require companies to report social spending-actual spending is not mandatory. India went a step further by making spending itself a legal obligation. A decade later, more than Rs. 1.22 lakh crore has been directed into the social sector. But has this experiment truly succeeded? The answer is not as simple as it appears.

A Decade, Rs. 1.22 Lakh Crore - But Where Did the Money Go?

Between FY 2015 and 2024, CSR spending figures are impressive. Of this, 63%-around Rs. 77,000 crore-came in just the last five years. In FY 2024 alone, more than Rs. 19,000 crore was spent.

More than two-thirds of companies now spend above the mandatory 2% threshold, and the spending ratio has increased from 1.8% to 2.65%. On paper, this is a success-but the ground reality tells a different story.

Hidden Problems Beneath the Numbers

Two major issues lie beneath these figures. The first is geographical inequality. Maharashtra alone receives 34% of total CSR spending. Delhi gets 12%. The top 10 states together absorb 95% of the total amount-and these are already the most economically developed states. Meanwhile, the government's 'Aspirational Districts'-the most backward regions-receive only 12% of CSR funds.

This contradiction arises from the law's 'local area preference'. While the intention was noble-to benefit communities around companies-in practice, it meant money stayed in already industrialized regions. The areas that needed it the most-remote rural regions-were left behind.

The Silent Decline of the NGO Ecosystem

The second major issue is the weakening of the NGO sector. Initially, CSR funds were channeled through NGOs. But soon, fake organizations began targeting this "easy money". Companies found it difficult to identify credible and transparent NGOs-especially in rural areas.

The result?

Companies created their own in-house foundations. In 2020, 78% of companies worked through external agencies. Today, that number has dropped to just 28%. A 2025 CRISIL report identified this as a serious concern. Money increased-but the organizations with grassroots connections were cut off from the flow.

When Law Took Away the Spirit of Generosity

Another unintended consequence emerged. Companies that voluntarily spent heavily on social causes before 2014 reduced their spending after the law.

"According to a 2021 study by Rajgopal and Tantri, companies that earlier spent an average of 10.8% of profits on social causes reduced it to just 3.6% after the law." The reason is simple.

When every company spends 2%, spending 10% no longer sets you apart. The reputational incentive disappeared. The 2% minimum effectively became the maximum. When spending becomes a 'duty', where does 'goodwill' remain?

Financial Literacy - The Most Neglected CSR Dimension

Across all CSR sectors-education, health, environment, rural development-one crucial area remains overlooked: financial literacy.

Even today, millions of Indians lack basic understanding of banking, insurance, investments, and digital payments. Reports from RBI and SEBI indicate that a large population-especially rural youth and women-falls victim to financial fraud due to lack of awareness.

This is precisely the gap where CSR funds can be most effectively utilized. And this is exactly the work being done by SAFE (Sodhani Academy of FinTech Enablers Limited).

Criticism and Support - Both Sides

Critics argue that this law is essentially a "hidden tax". Wipro Chairman Azim Premji-who has donated more than half of his wealth-said that for companies trying to scale, 2% can be a significant burden.

Industry bodies like FICCI have suggested tax incentives instead of mandates. On the other hand, supporters argue that inequality in India is too deep to rely on voluntary action.

In 2009 and 2011, voluntary guidelines were introduced-but industry largely ignored them.

Without legal enforcement, this money may never have reached society. Rs. 1.22 lakh crore-wherever it went-is still better than zero.

What Next? - The Need for Reform

Experts believe the CSR law should not be removed, but improved. The 'local area preference' should be replaced with a 'need-based priority' so funds reach aspirational districts.

A transparent system should be developed to strengthen and certify independent NGOs.

Companies spending above 2% should be given incentives like tax benefits. Most importantly, CSR should not become a 'tax-saving tool' but remain a 'nation-building instrument'. And focusing on financial literacy is one of the most critical needs today.

Conclusion - A Story of Partial Success

India's CSR experiment is unique. It has proven that legal mandates can channel private capital into social causes.

But it has also revealed that without proper direction, this money does not reach those who need it the most. Financial literacy-directly impacting everyday lives-is one of the most suitable CSR areas.

And organizations like SAFE, working at the grassroots with government partnerships, are the most effective bridge to close this gap. Responsibility cannot be forced-but it can certainly be guided in the right direction.

Sodhani Academy of FinTech Enablers Limited (SAFE)

A Trusted CSR Partner in Financial Literacy

SAFE is a leading organization that helps companies fulfill their CSR obligations in the field of financial literacy in a practical and impactful way. SAFE not only conducts training and awareness programs but also ensures that every rupee creates visible impact on the ground.

One of SAFE's biggest strengths is its MoU with the Rajasthan Government's Education Department. Under this agreement, SAFE is working to integrate financial literacy into government school curricula-ensuring future generations become financially aware and self-reliant.

- MoU signed with Rajasthan Government, Education Department.
- Financial literacy programs in government schools.
- Practical training on FinTech, banking, insurance, and investments.
- Support in meaningful CSR implementation.

Why Choose SAFE for CSR?

Today, CSR is mandatory-but using it effectively is an art. By partnering with SAFE, companies can not only fulfill legal obligations but also contribute to one of India's most urgent needs-financial literacy for every citizen. SAFE offers government partnerships, experienced trainers, and transparent processes that ensure accountability in CSR spending. Whether your company is small or large-SAFE can make your CSR journey meaningful.

-:: Contact SAFE ::-

Connect your company with SAFE for financial literacy CSR initiatives:
Email:- safe.fintech3105@gmail.com
Website: www.safefintech.in
Organization: SAFE-Sodhani Academy of FinTech Enablers Ltd.
If your company wants to work in financial literacy under CSR-SAFE is your most trusted partner.

Emerging Entrepreneur

Ashish Godghate's Awayddings' journey : Building affordable destination weddings platform

Rajshree Upadhyaya
Jaipur

Business Remedies. The journey of Ashish Godghate and his startup Awayddings began with a deep understanding of how complex and expensive destination weddings in India can become. Founded in 2021 by Ashish Godghate along with Vijay Kumar, the idea emerged from Ashish's prior experience in the wedding industry, where he closely observed the chaos couples faced while planning weddings across cities. From dealing with multiple vendors to navigating unclear pricing and last-minute surprises, the process often became overwhelming. This insight led to the creation of Awayddings as a platform designed to simplify and organize destination weddings.

Built as a tech-enabled service, Awayddings focuses on curating seamless wedding experiences across popular destinations such as Goa, Jaipur, Udaipur, and Rishikesh. The brand positioned itself not as a luxury-only service but as an accessible platform for couples who aspire to host destination weddings without losing financial control. Its offerings include end to end destination wedding planning, venue discovery and booking, decor and theme execution, guest hospitality management, and catering and logistics coordination. By bringing everything under one roof, the company aimed to eliminate fragmentation and provide a single, reliable touchpoint for customers.

A key differentiator for Awayddings has been its focus on transparency and affordability. In an industry often dominated by opaque pricing and negotiations, the startup introduced a more structured approach, helping customers understand costs upfront. This positioning helped the brand gain early traction, particularly among young, urban couples looking for curated yet cost-conscious wedding experiences.

The company gained national visibility after appearing on Shark Tank India Season 5 in 2026. During the pitch, the founders asked for Rs. 2 crore for 5% equity, valuing the business at Rs. 40 crore. They highlighted their early growth, including revenue close to Rs. 2 crore and a steadily increasing number of weddings executed across destinations. While the Sharks acknowledged the potential of the market, they also raised concerns about the operational intensity and scalability of a service-driven model.

After negotiations, a deal was secured with Aman Gupta, who offered Rs. 1 crore for 10% equity along with Rs. 1 crore as debt. The agreement not only brought in capital but also added strategic backing and credibility to the brand. This exposure significantly boosted Awayddings' recognition among potential customers and partners.

At the time of its television appearance, the company had demonstrated promising traction, with Gross Merchandise Value reportedly exceeding Rs. 10 crore. A large share of its business came through referrals, reflecting customer satisfaction and trust, which are critical in the wedding services space. The founders focused on building a dependable vendor network and ensuring consistent execution across different locations, which helped strengthen their market position.

As of 2026, Awayddings is operational and continues to serve customers across multiple wedding destinations in India. The company maintains an active presence and is gradually expanding its reach while refining its service model. Its growth strategy revolves around improving technology integration, expanding destination options, and enhancing the overall customer experience.

Awayddings stands as an example of how traditional industries like wedding planning are evolving with the integration of technology and structured services. By addressing inefficiencies and prioritizing transparency, Ashish Godghate and his team are working to reshape how destination weddings are planned in India, making them more accessible, organized, and experience-driven for a new generation of couples.

Private Labels vs Cooperative Giants

Who Will Shape the Future of India's Dairy Market?

Charu Bhatia
Jaipur

Business Remedies. India's dairy industry, the world's largest by milk production, is entering a new competitive phase. For decades, cooperative giants such as Amul, Mother Dairy and Nandini have dominated the market, building trust through farmer-led models and strong distribution networks. But the rapid rise of private labels and retail-led dairy brands is reshaping the competitive landscape, setting up a high-stakes battle for the next decade.

Cooperatives still enjoy a powerful advantage: scale and trust. Built on farmer networks and backed by decades of brand loyalty, they have deep penetration across urban and rural markets. Their strength lies in affordability, wide distribution and the ability to stabilise milk procurement prices for farmers. This structure has helped cooperatives maintain a stronghold over staple products like milk, butter and curd.

However, the market is changing as private dairy brands and retailer-owned labels expand aggressively. Supermarket chains and quick-commerce platforms are launching in-house dairy products that compete on pricing and convenience. With direct access to consumer data, these players can quickly adapt to demand, experiment with smaller batches and launch niche products faster than traditional cooperatives.

The real battleground is shifting towards value-added dairy products. Segments such as cheese, yogurt, lactose-free milk, high-protein beverages and premium ice creams are growing far faster than liquid milk sales. Private brands are capitalising on this trend by positioning themselves as premium, innovative and health-focused. Their ability to target urban consumers with specialised offerings gives them a strong edge in higher-margin categories.

Technology is another factor reshaping the competition. Private players are investing heavily in supply-chain analytics, cold-chain logistics and direct-to-consumer delivery models. Subscription milk services and app-based ordering are reviving the traditional "milkman" model in digital form, allowing new entrants to bypass conventional distribution barriers.

That said, cooperative giants are far from passive observers. Many have begun expanding their premium portfolios, investing in automation and launching direct-to-consumer channels. Their vast procurement networks and strong farmer relationships remain difficult for new entrants to replicate, giving them resilience in a price-sensitive market.

The next decade is unlikely to produce a single winner. Instead, the industry may split into two parallel growth tracks. Cooperatives are expected to retain dominance in staple dairy products and rural markets, while private labels could gain ground in premium, niche and urban segments.

For consumers, this competition is likely to bring more choice, innovation and better pricing. For the dairy industry, it signals a transformation from a largely commodity-driven sector into a dynamic, brand-driven marketplace where both legacy giants and agile newcomers will shape the future.

Lifestyle

Is Your Honey Real?

Simple At-Home Checks To Spot Adulteration

BR Team
Jaipur

With food adulteration becoming a growing concern, many everyday staples, from ghee to cooking oil, are under scrutiny, and honey is no exception. Often marketed as a natural and healthy sweetener, honey can sometimes be diluted or mixed with sugar syrups and other additives. The good news is that a few simple at-home tests can help you check whether the honey in your kitchen is pure or not.

One of the easiest ways to begin is with the water test. Add a spoonful of honey to a glass of water and observe how it behaves. Pure honey is dense and typically settles at the bottom in a thread-like form, while adulterated honey dissolves quickly or spreads through the water.

Another popular method is the flame test. Dip the tip of a dry matchstick into honey and try to light it. Pure honey usually ignites because it contains very little moisture. If the matchstick fails to burn, the honey may contain added water or other impurities.

You can also try the swirl test. Mix a small amount of honey in water and gently stir. Pure honey tends to create a honeycomb-like pattern when swirled, while impure honey dissolves evenly without forming distinct shapes.

Texture can provide another clue. For the texture test, rub a drop of honey with a pinch of sand between your palms. If it moves smoothly without sticking, it is likely pure. Sticky clumps, however, may indicate the presence of added sugars or syrups.

The cloth test is equally simple. Drop a small amount of honey onto a clean cloth. Pure honey will remain on the surface in small bead-like drops, while adulterated honey is more likely to get absorbed into the fabric.

While these home methods are not a substitute for laboratory testing, they can offer a quick and practical way to check for obvious adulteration. Being mindful of quality is important because impure honey is not only disappointing but may also reduce the health benefits people expect from this natural sweetener.

Next time you bring home a jar of honey, taking a few minutes to test its purity can help ensure you are getting the real thing, and making a healthier choice for your kitchen.

Step Count Or Sport?

Why Fun Workouts Are Redefining Everyday Fitness

BR Team | Jaipur

For years, the idea of walking 10,000 steps a day has been treated as the gold standard of staying active. It is simple, easy to track and achievable for most people. But as fitness trends evolve, experts are questioning whether counting steps alone is enough to maintain overall health and fitness. Increasingly, engaging activities such as pickleball are emerging as popular alternatives that offer more comprehensive benefits.

Health professionals say the main issue with step counting is that it measures movement, not intensity. A slow stroll and a brisk walk may look identical on a fitness tracker, even though their impact on the body can be very different. Many people hit their daily step goals through routine movement that may not significantly improve cardiovascular fitness, strength or metabolism.

This is where sports like pickleball are gaining attention. A one-hour session of the fast-growing racquet sport combines cardio, agility, reflexes and coordination. It offers a full-body workout that not only burns calories but also improves endurance and muscle strength. Experts estimate that a typical hour of pickleball can burn around 500 calories while boosting cardiorespiratory fitness and balance.

Another reason for the sport's rising popularity is its social appeal. Fitness is no longer just about discipline and routine; it is increasingly about enjoyment and community. Activities that feel fun and interactive tend to be easier to maintain over the long term, especially for younger audiences who prefer experiences over strict workout regimens.

That said, walking still plays a vital role in overall wellness. Research suggests that even 7,000 to 8,000 steps a day can deliver significant health benefits. Walking remains one of the most accessible and sustainable forms of exercise, particularly for beginners, older adults or those returning to fitness after a break.

The real difference between walking and sports lies in intensity. While daily steps help build consistency and reduce sedentary behaviour, moderate-to-vigorous activities like pickleball push the body further, improving aerobic capacity and strength. Experts caution, however, that sports can carry injury risks such as joint strain or sprains, making warm-ups and proper technique essential.

So, which is better, 10,000 steps or an hour of pickleball? Fitness professionals suggest a balanced approach. A practical routine might include 6,000 to 7,000 daily steps as a baseline, combined with 150 to 300 minutes of moderate exercise each week.

Ultimately, the fitness conversation is shifting from "move more" to "move better." The most effective routine is not the one that looks best on a tracker, but the one people enjoy enough to stick with consistently.

Pelvic Floor Exercises During Pregnancy

May Lower Risk of Severe Birth Injuries

Charu Bhatia
Jaipur

A structured pelvic floor muscle training (PFMT) programme during pregnancy may significantly reduce the risk of severe perineal trauma during childbirth, according to a new clinical study. The findings offer fresh evidence that targeted antenatal exercises could play a key role in improving delivery outcomes for first-time mothers.

Perineal trauma, especially obstetric anal sphincter injury (OASI), remains one of the most concerning complications of vaginal birth. Such injuries can lead to long-term health issues, including chronic pain, bowel dysfunction and urinary or faecal incontinence.

Although pelvic floor exercises are widely recommended to prevent urinary leakage during and after pregnancy, their impact on preventing birth-related injuries has been uncertain until now.

The prospective patient-preference controlled trial followed 300 low-risk first-time mothers across two tertiary medical centres between December 2024 and September 2025. From the 28th week of pregnancy onward, half of the participants chose to join a structured PFMT programme, while the remaining women received standard antenatal care. The training included supervised sessions twice a week alongside daily home-based exercises focused on repeated maximal pelvic floor contractions.

Results showed a striking difference in the rate of severe perineal trauma. Only 4% of women in the PFMT group experienced serious injury, compared with 14.7% in the standard-care group. Researchers calculated that the exercise programme reduced the odds of severe trauma by around 76%.

In addition to lowering injury risk, the training appeared to shorten the second stage of labour. Women who followed the PFMT routine delivered in about 50 minutes on average, compared with nearly 59 minutes among those receiving routine care. A shorter second stage of labour can reduce maternal exhaustion and the likelihood of complications.

Importantly, the programme did not increase the risk of other complications. Rates of episiotomy, minor tears, postpartum urinary incontinence and low Apgar scores in newborns were similar in both groups, suggesting the exercises are safe for mothers and babies.

Researchers believe the benefits may stem from improved pelvic floor strength, coordination and awareness. Stronger muscles may help women control pushing more effectively and allow tissues to stretch gradually during delivery, reducing the likelihood of severe tears.

However, the study authors caution that the research was not fully randomised and relied on participant preference, which may introduce bias. They emphasise the need for larger randomised trials and longer follow-up to confirm the findings and evaluate long-term maternal health benefits.

If future research supports these results, structured pelvic floor training could become a simple, low-cost addition to routine prenatal care, potentially helping thousands of women avoid serious birth-related complications.

Do Artificial Sweeteners Leave a Generational Footprint? New Mouse Study Raises Questions

BR Team
Jaipur

Artificial sweeteners such as sucralose and stevia have long been promoted as healthier substitutes for sugar, particularly for people looking to manage weight or blood sugar. However, a new study conducted on mice suggests that their effects may extend beyond the individual consumer and could influence the next generation through changes in metabolism, gut health and gene expression.

Researchers from the University of Chile found that the consumption of these sugar substitutes altered gut microbiota and certain metabolic markers in mice, with some of these changes persisting in their offspring. The findings, published in Frontiers in Nutrition, add to a growing body of research linking artificial sweeteners to gastrointestinal discomfort, headaches, and metabolic risks such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

Lead author Francisca Concha Celume noted that despite the rising popularity of low-calorie sweeteners, rates of obesity and metabolic disorders continue to climb worldwide. While the study does not establish a direct cause-and-effect relationship, it raises questions about whether artificial sweeteners may influence metabolism in ways that are not yet fully understood.

In the experiment, 47 mice were divided into three groups and given either plain water or water containing sucralose or stevia in amounts comparable to typical human consumption. The animals were then bred for two generations, with the offspring receiving only plain water. Researchers assessed insulin resistance through glucose tolerance tests and analysed faecal samples to examine gut bacteria and short-chain fatty acids, important compounds produced by healthy gut microbes.

The results revealed that sucralose had the most consistent and long-lasting effects. It altered glucose tolerance, triggered genes linked to inflammation, and changed the balance of gut bacteria. These changes were passed down for up to two generations. Stevia showed milder effects, primarily in the first generation.

Notably, the first generation of male mice born to sucralose-consuming parents showed impaired glucose tolerance. By the second generation, higher fasting blood sugar levels were detected in male descendants of the sucralose group and female descendants of the stevia group. Although the animals did not develop diabetes, researchers described these findings as early warning signs of metabolic vulnerability.

Both sweetener-exposed groups also showed a drop in beneficial short-chain fatty acids and shifts towards more harmful gut bacteria, suggesting reduced production of protective metabolites. According to the researchers, these biological signals could increase susceptibility to metabolic disorders, especially when combined with unhealthy diets.

Experts caution that the study was conducted in mice, meaning the results cannot be directly applied to humans. Still, the findings highlight the need for further long-term research on the metabolic and intergenerational effects of artificial sweeteners, especially as their consumption continues to rise globally.

From AI Homes to Astrology Trips: The Travel Trends Set to Define 2026

Charu Bhatia
Jaipur

Travel continues to evolve as one of the most powerful ways people express identity, curiosity and personal goals. According to new research based on insights from 29,000 travellers across 33 countries, 2026 is shaping up to be the year of hyper-personalised journeys. Instead of traditional sightseeing checklists, travellers are now seeking experiences that reflect their passions, relationships and lifestyle choices.

One of the biggest trends is the rise of fantasy-inspired romantic getaways, or "romantsy retreats." Travellers are increasingly drawn to destinations that feel like stepping into a fairytale, from castle stays to medieval-style feasts and immersive storytelling experiences. A large number of Indian travellers say they are eager to visit romantic destinations that feel cinematic and magical.

At the same time, the opposite end of the spectrum is gaining traction: futuristic vacation homes powered by robotics and AI. High-tech rentals with cleaning bots, smart assistants and even robotic chefs are becoming appealing, with most travellers open to staying in technology-enhanced homes.

Travel is also becoming a relationship litmus test. Trips are now seen as a way to test compatibility with partners, friends or even colleagues. Travelling together reveals how people manage budgets, stress and unexpected challenges, making vacations a real-world measure of teamwork and compatibility.

When it comes to souvenirs, travellers are moving beyond fridge magnets and postcards. The trend of "shelf-ie souvenirs" highlights a growing preference for meaningful keepsakes such as artisan pantry items, handcrafted kitchenware and design-led home décor that bring travel memories into everyday life.

Road trips are undergoing a social transformation too. Flexible carpool adventures are on the rise, with travellers open to sharing journeys with new companions and embracing spontaneity along the way.

Spirituality is also influencing itineraries through astrology-led travel, where destinations are chosen based on zodiac signs, moon cycles and energy-rich locations. This shift reflects a growing desire for journeys that feel spiritually aligned.

Wellness travel is evolving into "glow-cations," where trips focus on skincare, sleep optimisation and personalised health experiences. Resorts offering advanced spa therapies and wellness diagnostics are becoming increasingly popular.

Meanwhile, travellers are rediscovering slower, quieter pursuits through hobby-focused escapes like bird-watching, fishing and foraging. These mindful experiences offer a break from digital overload and encourage deeper connection with nature.

Nostalgia-driven travel is another emerging trend, with people revisiting childhood destinations or tracing family roots with the help of AI tools.

Finally, travel is no longer reserved for traditional milestones. From career achievements to personal growth, modern milestone trips are redefining why people pack their bags. In 2026, journeys are less about ticking destinations off a list and more about celebrating who we are and who we are becoming.

Hop On A Hassle-Free Pilgrimage: Bharat Gaurav Summer Trains Unveiled

BR Team
Jaipur

Planning a spiritual journey often comes with the stress of booking tickets, arranging hotels, coordinating transport and managing meals. To simplify the process, Indian Railways, in collaboration with IRCTC Tourism and South Central Railway, has introduced a series of Bharat Gaurav tourist trains for summer 2026. Operating between April and June from Secunderabad, these curated journeys are designed to offer pilgrims a seamless travel experience across some of India's most revered destinations.

These special trains are built around the idea of all-inclusive travel. Once passengers choose their route, the package takes care of train travel, accommodation, meals, sightseeing transfers, tour escorts and even travel insurance. With CCTV-equipped coaches and onboard security, the initiative aims to make group and family pilgrimages more comfortable and organised.

One of the highlight itineraries is the Ayodhya-Kashi with Baidyanath Dham tour, scheduled from April 28 to May 7. This 10-day circuit covers sacred destinations such as Puri, Konark, Baidyanath Dham, Varanasi, Ayodhya and Prayagraj. Fares start at 16,700 for sleeper class, 26,100 for 3AC and 34,100 for 2AC, offering multiple comfort options for travellers.

Another major journey, the Haridwar-Vaishno Devi-Rishikesh tour, will run from May 12 to May 21. The route includes stops at Mathura and Vrindavan before heading to the shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi and the spiritual hubs of Haridwar and Rishikesh. Ticket prices begin at 16,500 for sleeper class, 25,700 for 3AC and 33,400 for 2AC.

For those interested in South India's temple circuit, the Divya Dakshina Yatra, scheduled from May 24 to May 31, offers an eight-day journey to Tiruvannamalai, Rameswaram, Madurai, Kanyakumari, Trichy, Thanjavur and Chidambaram. This package is slightly more economical, with fares starting at 14,500 for sleeper class, 21,700 for 3AC and 27,900 for 2AC.

A second run of the Ayodhya-Kashi Special, planned from June 3 to June 12 during Yamuna Pushkaralu, will repeat the popular northern pilgrimage circuit at the same price points.

Each tour includes accommodation, bus transfers for sightseeing, three daily meals, drinking water and professional tour escorts, ensuring travellers can focus on the spiritual experience rather than logistics. Booking is available through IRCTC Tourism's official channels.

For travellers who have long wanted to embark on a temple tour without the usual planning headaches, the Bharat Gaurav trains offer a convenient and cost-effective way to explore India's sacred destinations this summer.

Maruti Suzuki to Launch Four New Electric Vehicles by 2031

MARUTI SUZUKI

Amid rising exports and growing EV demand, the company has set a target to achieve market leadership

BR Team | Hyderabad

Maruti Suzuki India Limited, one of the country's leading car manufacturers, will introduce four new electric vehicles by 2031. This information was shared by Partho Banerjee, Senior Executive Officer (Marketing and Sales) at the company. The company achieved a significant milestone in the electric vehicle segment by delivering 108 units of the e-Vitara to customers in a single day during an event. Partho Banerjee said that this reflects growing customer trust, as the company is rapidly moving towards clean transportation. He also stated that by 2031, the company aims to become a leader in the battery electric vehicle segment and will shape its strategy based on market demand.

Commenting on the impact of the West Asia crisis, he said that rising raw material costs may force the company to increase vehicle prices, although the extent of the hike will be announced soon. He added that the company exported around 450,000 vehicles in the previous financial year, while the impact of the West Asia crisis is still being assessed. According to the company, more than 25,000 units of the e-Vitara have already been exported to 44 countries, and there are plans to expand exports to over 100 countries.

Ceasefire Boosts Luxury Car Market Hopes

Improvement seen in market sentiment

Likely easing of supply chain pressure

The possibility of growth in sales for companies

BR Team | New Delhi

Following the ceasefire in West Asia, a positive atmosphere is emerging in India's luxury car market. Leading automakers believe that this will strengthen market sentiment and revive consumer demand. Due to uncertainty over the past few months, buyers had adopted a cautious approach, but now expectations of stability are increasing. Industry experts say that global stability directly impacts demand in the premium segment, strengthening the possibility of improved sales in the coming period.

Expectation of customer return

BMW Group India President and CEO Hardeep Singh Brar said that the ceasefire has come at a time when customers were uncertain about global developments. Many potential buyers had postponed their purchases in the first quarter and were waiting for stability in the market. With improving conditions, companies are confident that these customers will return to showrooms and complete their pending purchases, directly boosting sales. There is also a possibility of new customer additions.

Deferred orders likely to be fulfilled

Mercedes-Benz India Managing Director and CEO Santosh Iyer stated that the company received its highest-ever orders in March. However, due to prevailing uncertainty, customers postponed deliveries instead of cancelling orders. Now, companies expect these orders to convert quickly in April and the coming months.

Additionally, festive demand and improved sentiment may lead to an increase in fresh bookings, strengthening overall sales.

Improved market sentiment

Audi India Head Balbir Singh Dhillon said that the ceasefire has brought greater stability and confidence to the market. He noted that most luxury car buyers belong to the business community, which is directly affected by global developments. With improving conditions, both their spending capacity and willingness are increasing. Companies believe that the passenger vehicle market will remain strong in 2026, and if global conditions remain stable, the luxury segment is also expected to witness strong growth.

Supply disruptions are expected to ease, with companies anticipating faster deliveries and increased production

Launch of the New Volkswagen Taigun

BR Team | Mumbai

Volkswagen India has introduced the new Taigun premium SUV. The vehicle has been designed for customers who value an excellent driving experience, safety, and practical design. The new Taigun combines an attractive design, user-friendly technology, enhanced comfort, and the brand's signature safety features. It delivers an engaging driving experience while also being well-suited for everyday use.

The bold new front design, a first-in-segment illuminated logo, and a newly styled interior reflect Volkswagen's global design language. Core brand attributes such as German engineering, high safety standards, and the power of turbo engines have been retained in this SUV.

On this occasion, Nitin Kohli, Brand Director, Volkswagen Passenger Cars India, said, "The Taigun has proven to be a key model in our India portfolio. Since its introduction, it has played a significant role in our SUVW journey. Its strong build quality, high safety standards, and engaging driving experience have contributed to the brand's growth. Building on this strong foundation, the new Taigun has been introduced with a more attractive design and improvements in key areas. With this launch, we are reinforcing our commitment to bringing desirable and well-engineered products to Indian customers while strengthening our SUVW portfolio and making German engineering more accessible."

Volkswagen's design philosophy is based on three core values: stability, instantly appealing design, and a distinctive identity. These principles are reflected in every design decision, which is why Volkswagen cars appear stable, attractive, and unique. The new Taigun is a reliable vehicle for daily use. It has a strong presence and a confident yet warm and welcoming personality. Its design is inspired by the pace of modern life and the spirit of continuous progress.

Redmi A7 Pro 5G to Launch in India Today

BR Team | New Delhi

Redmi A7 Pro 5G will launch in India today. The phone features a 6.9-inch HD+ display. It comes with an LCD panel that supports a 120Hz refresh rate. The company has used an octa-core 5G chipset in this device. The phone is equipped with a massive 6300mAh battery along with fast charging support. It also features a waterdrop notch design.

The company has teased the phone on its official website. Apart from this, it has also been teased on Amazon, where a dedicated microsite has gone live. The phone will be available for purchase on Amazon.

Redmi A7 Pro 5G Price in India

The price of the Redmi A7 Pro 5G has not been officially revealed yet. According to leaks, the base variant of the phone could be priced around Rs 10,000, while the top variant may go up to Rs 13,000. The phone is expected to be a slightly upgraded version of the Redmi A7 Pro 4G, which the company launched in the global market on April 1.

Redmi A7 Pro 5G Specifications

Most of the key specifications of the Redmi A7 Pro 5G have already been revealed. The phone features a 6.9-inch HD+ display with an LCD panel and supports a 120Hz refresh rate. The company claims it will offer the smoothest and largest display in its segment. While the processor details have not been officially disclosed, it is confirmed to feature an octa-core 5G chipset. The base variant will come with 4GB RAM and 64GB storage, along with another variant offering 128GB storage. It will run on Android 16 out of the box with the HyperOS 3 skin. On the rear, the phone is expected to feature a 32-megapixel dual camera setup with AI features. For selfies and video calling, it will have an 8-megapixel front camera. The device packs a 6,300mAh battery with support for 15W fast charging.

Poco M8s Spotted on NBTC, Launch Expected Soon

BR Team | New Delhi

Chinese smartphone maker Poco is preparing to launch a new smartphone in its Poco M series soon. Earlier this year, the company launched the Poco M8 in India. This smartphone comes with a Snapdragon 6 Gen 3 processor and a 5,520mAh battery. Now, the Poco M8s may soon be added to this lineup. The Poco M8s has been listed on Thailand's National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) website with the model number Poco 26067PC09G. The listing reveals that the smartphone will support connectivity options such as 4G, 5G, NR, and GSM. It also indicates that the device is manufactured in China and carries the certification number B38253-26. The upcoming smartphone is expected to be priced lower than the Poco M8. The series already includes the Poco M8 Pro. In India, the Poco M8 5G is priced at Rs 18,999 for the 6GB RAM + 128GB storage variant, Rs 19,999 for the 8GB + 128GB variant, and Rs 21,999 for the 8GB + 256GB variant. It is available in Frost Silver, Glacier Blue, and Carbon Black color options.

Poco M8 Specifications

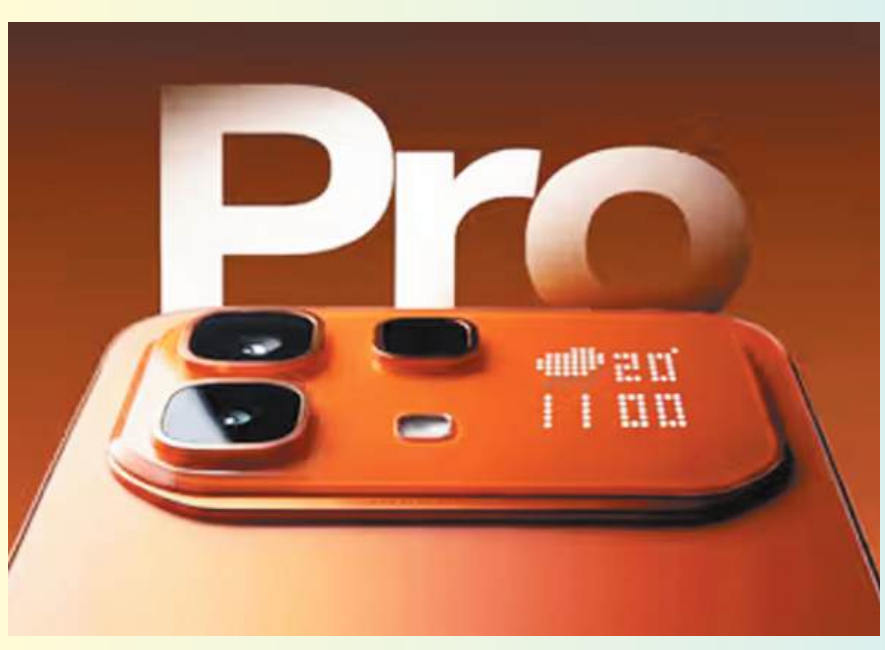
The Poco M8 features a 6.77-inch Full HD+ (1,080 x 2,392 pixels) 3D curved AMOLED display with a 120Hz refresh rate and a peak brightness of 3,200 nits. It is powered by the Snapdragon 6 Gen 3 chipset and runs on Android 15-based HyperOS 2.0.

For photography, the Poco M8 5G comes with a dual rear camera setup, including a 50-megapixel primary camera and a 2-megapixel depth sensor. On the front, it has a 20-megapixel camera for selfies and video calls. The camera supports video recording up to 4K resolution.

Connectivity options include 4G, 5G, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and a USB Type-C port. The device is backed by a 5,520mAh battery with support for 45W wired fast charging and 18W wired reverse charging.

Infinix Note 60 Pro

to Launch Today with AMOLED Display



BR Team | New Delhi

Infinix is set to launch its new smartphone, the Infinix Note 60 Pro, in India today. The company has revealed key specifications and color options. This will be the first smartphone in this series to launch in the country.

The smartphone will feature a dual rear camera setup with a 50-megapixel primary sensor. It will be available in Solar Orange, Deep Ocean Blue, and Mocha Brown colors. The international variant will also come in Frost Silver, Mist Titanium, and Torino Black.

The Infinix Note 60 Pro will sport a 6.78-inch 1.5K (1,208 × 2,644 pixels) AMOLED LTPS display with up to a 144Hz refresh rate and 4,500 nits peak brightness. It will have Corning Gorilla Glass 7i protection and be powered by the Snapdragon 7s Gen 4 chipset with an Adreno A810 GPU. The device will run on Android 16-based XOS 16.

The dual rear camera setup includes a 50-megapixel primary sensor with OIS and an 8-megapixel ultra-wide lens. It will have a 13-megapixel front camera and support 4K video recording. The phone will feature dual stereo speakers tuned by JBL with DTS support.

The device will support dual SIM and include an Active Matrix Display with LED notifications on the rear, similar to the Glyph interface seen on Nothing smartphones. It is expected to pack a 6,500mAh battery with support for 90W wired and 30W wireless fast charging.

Recently, the Infinix Note 60 Ultra was also launched, featuring a design developed in collaboration with Italy's Pininfarina. It comes with a 200-megapixel primary camera and is powered by the MediaTek Dimensity 8400 Ultimate chipset.

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