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# Telangana thrived under BRS regime, acknowledges State Statistical Abstract

Hyderabad: The Congress government, which has been repeatedly maligning the State by denying the stupendous growth it had achieved after formation in 2014 to 2023 under the BRS government, is now finding itself in a quite embarrassing position after the Telangana State Statistical Abstract (ATLAS), brought out by the State Development Planning Society (TGDPS) of the Planning Department, pointed out in detail the 'remarkable progress' it achieved in the decade after State formation.Interestingly, some of the most significant acknowledgements of this in the report are in the sections pertaining to economic growth, an area repeatedly used by the Congress to criticise the BRS regime. The report says what the new State had received as a legacy in 2014 would have been enough to plant doubts in anyone's mind about its future economic trajectory.Lead Info Percapita 2

The report goes on to say that, however, Telangana's performance in terms of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), which measures the value of all final goods and services produced within state boundaries in a year, reflects the remarkable progress it has achieved since its formation. In the two years preceding State formation, the Telangana region's average rate of growth of GSDP (current prices), at 12.1 per cent was 1.3 per cent less than India's average."After State formation, Telangana's GSDP growth rate has been higher than the growth rate of the country for every single year, and the gap has widened with each successive year. In the year of State formation itself, Telangana achieved a 1 per cent higher growth rate of GSDP (current prices) than India's. On average, Telangana has grown at a 2.2 per cent higher rate than India in the period post 2014-15," the report notes.The report pointed out that Telangana's GSDP increased from Rs 5,05,849 crore in 2014-15 to Rs 15,01,981 crore in 2023-24—an increase of 196.9 per cent, making it the second-ranked NSC State in terms of the overall GSDP increase during this period. However, during this period, the country's GDP increased by only 136.89 per cent."With an average annual growth rate of GSDP of 12.9 per cent from 2014-15 to 2023-24, Telangana surpassed all South Indian States with which it shares similarity in socio-economic circumstances and geographical proximity," the report says.The State's share in national GDP increased from 4.1 per cent in 2014-15 to 5.1 per cent in 2023-24, despite its share in the national population remaining constant at 2.8 per cent throughout this period, it says.As for the agriculture and allied sectors, the report says Telangana started out with a negative 0.7 per cent growth rate in 2014-15, the sector grew at an average annual rate of 14.2 per cent from 2016-17 to 2023-24.The following portion also indirectly acknowledges what the BRS government did for the agriculture sector

through initiatives like the Kaleshwaram project. "Telangana's Agriculture and Allied sector has, in fact, been on an upward growth path for the past ten years, with its growth rate increasing by 6.4 percentage points from 2014-15 to 2023-24," it points out.As for the industrial sector, the report says at the time of Telangana's formation in 2014-15, the industrial sector was growing at a modest rate of 1.5 per cent. "Since then, it achieved an impressive annual average growth rate of 9 per cent. The services sector in the State has grown in double-digit figures in all years since the State formation, barring the Covid year of 2020-21," it says.The report also acknowledges the growth of the per capita income in Telangana, pointing out how it went up from Rs 1,24,104 in 2014-15 to Rs 3,56,564 in 2023-24 – an increase of 187.3 per cent. From 2012-13 to 2023-24, the average annual growth rate (AAGR) of Per Capita Income in Telangana was 12.2 per cent, in comparison to India's AAGR of PCI of 9.4 per cent in the same period.From 2014-15 to 2023-24, the AAGR of Per Capita Income in Telangana was 12.4 per cent, in comparison to India's AAGR of PCI of 9.0 per cent in the same period, the report notes.

# Hyderabad real estate market continues to decline in 2025

However, the assessment's data reveals that the number of residential properties registered in January 2025 stood at 5,444 as against 5,454 registrations in January 2024.

Hyderabad: The growth story of Hyderabad real estate continues to totter with uncertain progression with the beginning of the year 2025 failing to bring in much cheer for the sector. In terms of year-on-year growth, the data on registrations of residential properties for January doesn't show any growth and in fact, records a slight decline.In its latest assessment, Knight Frank India notes that the city's premiumization trend continued, with a notable rise in high-value home sales featuring larger living spaces and enhanced amenities.

However, the assessment's data reveals that the number of residential properties registered in January 2025 stood at 5,444 as against 5,454 registrations in January 2024. The drop might appear small but it apparently reflects the prevailing real estate market sentiments.The Knight Frank India's assessment for Hyderabad released on Tuesday shows that properties priced under Rs.50 lakh dominated registrations, but a strong shift toward premiumisation has emerged with homes priced at Rs.1 crore and above increasing by 12 per cent YoY during January 2025 reflecting a growing preference for higher-value properties.In January 2025, a total of 3,282 residential properties under Rs.50 lakh were registered whereas the same period last year, i.e., January 2024 had 3,387 registrations, a drop of 3 per cent.

However, according to the Knight Frank India data, the registrations of residential properties above Rs.1 crore have gone up from 738 last January to 823 this January, a 12 per cent rise.The assessment points out that majority of the registered properties in Hyderabad were concentrated in the range of 1,000 to 2,000 sft, accounting for 69 per cent of all registrations.At the district level, Medchal-Malkajgiri accounted for 45 per cent of property registrations closely followed by Rangareddy with 41 per cent while Hyderabad district contributed the remaining 14 per cent of total registrations.Shishir Baijal, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India said, "The demand for high-value homes continues to rise, with registrations for properties priced above Rs.1 crore surging by 12 per cent YoY.

# How have Big Tech companies backtracked on their DEI goals? | Explained

When U.S. President Donald Trump returned to the White House, million-dollar donations poured in from Big Tech companies and their CEOs. During Mr. Trump's inauguration, some prominent figures included his unelected adviser and major donor Elon Musk, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg. Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, Apple CEO Tim Cook, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, and TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew. As Trump settled into his role for the second time, notable U.S. companies including Google, Meta, and Amazon announced (or quietly made) changes to their existing DEI initiatives. They either rolled back ongoing programmes and goals, or decided to stop pursuing new DEI plans.

What is DEI?

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) refers to a wide range of principles and practices aimed at enriching a space by making sure all groups of people are represented (diversity), provided with measures to ensure equality by repairing past harms (equity), and given the support they need to thrive alongside their peers (inclusion). DEI reminds employers and employees alike that workplaces of the past often lacked equal rights for all or excluded talented individuals due to factors such as sexism, racism, religious hate, casteism, ableism (discrimination against people with disabilities), queerphobia, or other forms of bigotry.In the U.S., the 2020 murder of George Floyd by a white police officer triggered nationwide outrage and a need to reflect on the inequality affecting Black people across all levels of society. However, some tech companies championed global diversity efforts long before 2020.DEI schemes such as hiring diverse individuals, funding their training, or reserving specific opportunities for them are meant to improve the representation of different communities in the workplace, so that a company's products and services can better reflect their general buyers or users.

Why do people oppose DEI?

Critics of DEI initiatives come from a range of political backgrounds. While some believe that corporate DEI measures are band-aids on a bullet wound that fail to address systemic injustice, others are convinced that DEI hiring processes unfairly reject talented individuals from majority groups.Mr. Musk, for example, is a vocal critic of DEI. He has frequently used the phrase as a slur as he claims that DEI kills art, promotes racism across industries, and even puts unqualified people in critical/life-saving positions. "DEI means people DIE," he has posted on X in January, despite recently expressing his strong support for the H1B visa category.

Which tech companies are getting rid of DEI measures?

Support for DEI initiatives is frequently perceived as a left-wing or even communist stance, which has alienated many leaders or institutions trying to closely align themselves with U.S. President Donald Trump's right-wing government. Mr. Trump in fact issued an executive order titled, 'Ending Radical And Wasteful Government DEI Programs And Preferencing,' where DEI initiatives were referred to as "illegal and immoral discrimination programs."In the tech sector, Amazon is stopping diversity and inclusion programmes, while a senior executive said that the company still wanted to "foster a more truly inclusive culture," reported Bloomberg. However, the e-commerce giant noted on its website that it was still supporting its employee-led groups, such as 'Amazon People with Disabilities,' 'Black Employee Network,', and 'Glamazon' for all those interested in LGBT+ issues.Meanwhile, Meta scrapped its fact-checking programme, and loosened limits around sensitive topics such as gender/immigration as Mr. Zuckerberg publicly complained about a lack of 'masculine energy' in the workplace. Meta is also getting rid of DEI programmes for employees and diversity efforts for suppliers, apart from ending representation goals for women and ethnic minorities, reported Axios, citing an internal memo. "Instead of equity and inclusion training programs, we will build programs that focus on how to apply fair and consistent practices that mitigate bias for all, no matter your background," said Meta's memo, per Axios.For its part, Google is no longer working to meet its diversity hiring goals, even though Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai previously committed to hiring more leaders from underrepresented communities, reported WSJ. The news outlet also noted that Alphabet's annual report left out a line about its DEI commitments. Furthermore, Google's Calendar removed references to Pride Month and Black History Month from last year, noting that users could add these in if they specifically wanted to.Other tech companies that have edited their DEI policies, or their wording, include Disney, Comcast, GE, Intel, PayPal, and Regeneron, according to NPR. Meanwhile, NASA is also taking down DEI-related terms from its website, per the tech outlet 404 Media.

Which companies still support DEI?

Despite Apple CEO Tim Cook's attendance at Mr. Trump's inauguration, Apple in its 2025 annual meeting notice strongly criticised a think tank's potential proposal to "consider abolishing its Inclusion & Diversity program, policies, department and goals." Apple called the proposal unnecessary and said it was an equal opportunity employer. "The proposal also inappropriately attempts to restrict Apple's ability to manage its own ordinary business operations, people and teams, and business strategies," said the iPhone-maker.Meanwhile, McKinsey's Global Managing Partner Bob Sternfels stated in an employee memo in February that the consulting firm would continue to pursue diversity as well as a system that rewards merit. "The answer is yes. We will continue to boldly pursue both, because these two things together — our diverse meritocracy — is what makes us distinctive and has defined who we are over our nearly 100 years," he was quoted as writing, per Bloomberg.Other companies that have committed to DEI, in spite of popular pressure against it, include Costco, Microsoft, and Pinterest."We continue to believe it's the business of Microsoft to be diverse and inclusive so we can build products, services, and a workforce that empowers the world. The business case for D&I is not only constant but stronger than ever," wrote Microsoft's Chief Diversity Officer and Corporate Vice President of Talent and Learning, Lindsay-Rae McIntyre, on December 20, 2024, in a

LinkedIn post.

What does DEI in tech look like?

Countless tech workers — and their families, by extension — receive numerous benefits from DEI measures already in place at their work. These benefits include visa sponsorship for foreign job applicants (which Mr. Musk himself supports), company cafeteria menus that cater to a range of diet restrictions, wheelchair-friendly elevators and toilets, hybrid work mode for caretakers/parents, remote work options for people with disabilities or medical conditions, and even corporate protection from inappropriate questions about one's body, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital status.DEI measures are meant to protect Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai from racism, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg from antisemitism, and OpenAI CEO Sam Altman from queerphobia and antisemitism, not to mention their employees.On the flip side, DEI does not guarantee a workplace where everyone feels equally respected or protected. For example, many companies that commit to DEI hiring principles on paper may automatically turn down immigrants or refugees who need visas.Furthermore, sweeping DEI measures in one location may fail to take into consideration lesser-known forms of discrimination present in other cultures, such as colourism or casteism. The presence of DEI programmes can also lead to meritorious women, ethnic minority workers, or LGBTQIA+ employees facing more discrimination as others assume they were hired due to their identities, rather than their skills.

# Indie slow-fashion brand myKynd celebrates the mundu

Indie slow fashion brand myKynd elevates the Kerala mundu into something more than an off white every-day piece of garment. It plays with colour, fabric and style, coaxing the unassuming mundu to push its boundaries. Unmesh Dasthakhir launched myKynd with his co-founder and "muse" Senna Rasool in September 2024 as a curated range of hand-woven, locally-produced mundus that lend themselves to the wearer's individual style. Unmesh explores fabric, using the fine Jamdani and even linen. Using bold swathes of colour, and prints, these mundus straddle casual and formal wear worlds with poise. Hand block prints, jacquard, natural-indigo-dyed and reversible styles, the repertoire is fresh. The Kerala kasavu appears too, reimagined in colour and with block prints.While he is the creative head of the brand, Senna, an engineer, is its "left brain". A multidisciplinary artist and photographer with a master's degree in design from NIFT, Delhi, Unmesh was in the corporate sector for over 25 years, working with textile and apparel manufacturers and fashion retail brands in India.

He took a break and ventured into consultancy, working with the Khadi board, offering design support for a campaign to make the Khadi appeal to the younger demographic. "That was how I got reacquainted with Khadi and handloom," says Unmesh. While his work took him to fashion and textile fairs in different parts of the world, he was equally in touch with weavers' societies, artisans and designers across India. The journey to myKynd, he says, was organic. As an initial experiment before the launch of the brand, he got the Kanhirode Weavers' Co-operative Society in Kannur to weave indigo mundus and the end products were refreshingly good.

"The weavers took some time to warm up to the idea and my designs, but they delivered," adds Unmesh. The brand believes in ethical labour practices.

The designs are edgy and contemporary, yet classy. They can be styled with shirts, tees, denim jackets and sneakers. They are light-weight and come in single and double versions as well, not to mention that they are gender fluid. "The sartorial sensibilities of the younger population has undergone a shift and this is largely inspired by the new wave films, hip-hop music, gender discourses, climate consciousness and social awareness," says Unmesh.When he showcased his collection at the music festival Kappa Cultr in Kochi recently, Unmesh received a bunch of prospective buyers curious about the fabric and interested in tracing its journey.

# Canon India celebrates World CSR Day with student beneficiaries from 'Adopt a village' initiative, hosts digital art workshop at Canon India workplace


Hyderabad :As part of its commitment to foster development for children from its adopted communities, Canon India celebrated World CSR Day with the students of Nandrampur Bass in Haryana, the adopted village under its flagship 'Adopt a Village' initiative. With the aim to nurture curiosity and creativity among the children of Nandrampur Bass village, Canon organized an interactive digital art session, offering them a hands-on creative experience while fostering engagement with Canon employees. Centered around the theme of "What Makes Me Happy, My School, and My Favorite Place", the activity paired each employee with two students, guiding them in exploring digital tools to bring their ideas to life.

By engaging these young minds at Canon's workplace for a day, the activity provided them with a unique opportunity to experience Canon's environment with meaningful connections, further solidifying Canon's commitment to community. With youth as the foundation of a nation's growth, the brand endeavours to provide the young bright minds, right environment and exposure leading to holistic development and inclusivity, leading them towards a brighter, more promising future."

As part of the 'Adopt a Village' initiative launched in 2012, Canon India has been undertaking the overall development of villages across India for a certain period. The initiative has brought a widespread impact in the last decade through its 4Es CSR policy as well as infrastructural development, in the adopted villages. At present, Canon India has a total of four adopted villages which includes Nandrampur Bass in Haryana, Parivali in Maharashtra, Annadodi in Karnataka, and Kalyanpur in Kolkata. Encompassing the corporate philosophy of 'Kyosei', Canon India aims at contributing to the sustainable future of the community, thereby aiming to strengthen the social fabric of the country.About Canon's corporate philosophy 'Kyosei'

Canon India's CSR endeavors are driven by their corporate philosophy of 'Kyosei', which indicates the 'spirit of living and working together for the common good', which is considered foremost in the organization's way of working and day-to-day operations. However, their definition of the word is much broader and encompasses "all people-regardless of their race, religion or culture, harmoniously living and working together for the common good." Moving forward with this philosophy, they believe in standing in unison when it comes to their commitment to the community and strive to make a positive impact in the society and the environment. The organization is involved in various community welfare programs aligned with their 4Es CSR policy implying Education, Eye Care, Environment and Empowerment, to build progressive self-reliant communities. Along with 'Adopt a Village' project, the organization is also associated with SOS Children's Village across the country to encourage and support the overall development of children in these villages.

# Telangana HC seeks State government report on food in government hostels

Hyderabad: The PIL bench of the Telangana High Court comprising Acting Chief Justice Sujoy Paul and Justice Renuka Yara on Wednesday directed the State government to submit a report within two weeks detailing the food menu provided to students in government hostels across the State. The court issued the orders while hearing petitions related to the condition and management of government-run hostels and educational buildings in the State.

The court also emphasized that the report should reflect the actual conditions in these hostels, and it instructed the formation of a committee of experts to compile the report. The committee will assess the current state of facilities in government hostels, gurukul schools, and other educational institutions, focusing on the adequacy of the living conditions, facilities provided to students, and the overall management of these establishments. Petitioner counsel Chikkadu Prabhakar argued that more than 9,000 hostels and schools across the State lack proper facilities for students. He stated that the government had failed to provide adequate living conditions and facilities in these institutions, which were critical for the welfare of students.In response to these concerns, the High Court decided to set up an expert committee to look into the issue and submit a comprehensive report. The court has assured that necessary actions would be taken based on the findings of the report. The bench was dealing with a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by K Akhil Sri Guru Teja, which raised concerns about the deficiencies in the facilities offered to students residing in these institutions.On an earlier occasion, Prabhakar had pointed out that the State's compliance report was inadequate, failing to address key issues such as the provision of essential items including mattresses, bed sheets, pillows, blankets, mosquito nets, and cotton towels. He further highlighted the report's omission of details regarding toiletries, the supply of purified RO water, and the food menu for the children, in violation of the guidelines set forth in the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2018.Further concerns were raised about the absence of psychiatric support or counsellors in the hostels and residential schools.


Hyderabad resident and native of Satna, Madhya Pradesh, poet, writer, and literary figure Acharya Pratap's first song collection 'Swratmika - Geet Manjari' has been published. This collection is now available on Amazon and Flipkart, while its e-copy can be purchased from Kindle Book Store and Google Book Store.""This collection includes almost all of Acharya Pratap's representative songs, which reflect various dimensions of his literary life. 'Swratmika - Geet Manjari' is expected to prove an important link in the Hindi literary world.""The renowned Sanskrit scholar Shastri Rekha Singh has written the introduction to this collection, in which she has highlighted the depth of Acharya Pratap's songs and his literary contribution. Her critical perspective has given this work a new dimension.""The publisher Book Clinic Publication's director Hitesh Singh Rajput says, "Acharya Pratap's songs deeply influence readers. His language, while simple, is emotional and touches readers' hearts. Through this collection, we want to reach his works to more readers."""Acharya Pratap has established his special identity in Hindi literature right from his first collection. His language style, subject matter, and distinctive expression have given him a separate place among contemporary poets.

""The songs included in 'Swratmika - Geet Manjari' highlight various aspects of life - love, nature, nationality, spirituality, and social consciousness. The specialty of the collection is that it shows a beautiful synthesis of traditional and modern ideologies.""Currently, advance booking for this book is ongoing, with readers showing enthusiasm. Initial reactions to the book from literature lovers have been extremely positive.""According to literary critic Dr. Om Nischal (Delhi), "Acharya Pratap's songs encompass various colors of life. In this collection, he presents Indian culture, challenges of modern life, and human sensitivities very naturally."""A book launch ceremony is proposed to be held soon, where several prestigious literary figures and cultural workers are expected to attend.""In an interview, Acharya Pratap said, "My effort has always been to contribute to the enrichment of Hindi language and literature. In 'Swratmika - Geet Manjari', I have expressed various experiences of my life through songs. I hope this collection will be liked by readers and will inspire them."""Many universities and literary institutions are planning to organize discussion sessions on this book after its launch, which will give the younger generation an opportunity to connect with Hindi literature."

"The price of 'Swratmika - Geet Manjari' has been set at Rs. 210 for the printed copy and Rs. 51 for the e-book. The book's presentation and design have also been excellent, for which the publisher is being praised.""This collection could prove to be an inspiration not only for literature lovers but also for the younger generation, who will get an opportunity to become familiar with the rich tradition of Hindi literature.

# Fifteen years on, city's 'Ferris Wheel' project stuck on paper

Story so far: In its biggest-ever budget, Mumbai's civic body – the Brihanmumbai Municipal corporation (BMC), unveiled its plan to construct a 'Mumbai Eye' similar to the London Eye. An ode to the 443-feet Ferris Wheel called the 'Millennium Wheel' located on the River Thames in London, the Mumbai Eye has been in the works since 2008 but is yet become reality.In the budget document, the BMC states that it intends to erect 'Mumbai Eye' in line with 'London Eye' at a suitable location under public private partnership (PPP) Model. The proposed Ferris wheel will feature air-conditioned passenger units capable of holding 25 people at a time. As per previous estimates, the structure is likely to attract 70 lakh visitors per year. In comparison, the London Eye, which offers a 30-minute Ferris wheel ride and a panoramic view of the city, attracts 35 lakh visitors per year.

Previously, two locations progressed till the feasibility study were Bandra Bandstand and Bandra Reclamation – both of which are sea-facing and offers a bird's eye view of the city's coastline."We don't oppose the project. But it should not be in our Bandra Reclamation area," says Maharashtra Information Technology minister Ashish Shelar to The Hindu. The Bandra West MLA had protested against the project in 2023 when it had zeroed in on Bandra Reclamation as a suitable site. The project was scrapped as recently as September last, due to the unavailability of a suitable location.The project, which was first proposed by the BMC in 2008, travelled a full circle passing to state authorities – MSRDC and MMRDA – before coming back to the BMC.

Long journey of Mumbai EyeIn 2008, undivided Shiv Sena's corporator Ravindra Waikar, who headed the BMC's Standing Committee, had proposed the idea of the Mumbai Eye. Envisioned as a 650-feet tall Ferris Wheel, the BMC initially zeroed in on the 14,000 square-metre land near Bandra Bandstand as a suitable site. Aimed at attracting tourists and additional revenue for the BMC, the project got delayed as it needed clearance for the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) from the Centre.

Three years later, it was the Congress-NCP state government which revived the project. In a weekly cabinet meeting, deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar proposed building the 'Mumbai Eye' close to the Bandra-Worli Sea Link, off the toll plaza. Tasking the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation Limited (MSRDC) with the task, Mr. Pawar assured that the necessary CRZ clearances will be sorted before going ahead with the project. However, the project never took off the ground. Almost a decade later, in 2020, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government revived the project with an aim to promote tourism in Mumbai. Tapping the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA), the government kicked off the feasibility studies, identification of site and preparation of detailed project report, tenders and consultancy bids in October that year. However, as COVID-19 spread worsened in the state, the project once again lay dormant.

Two years later, power changed hands from the MVA to the BJP-NCP-Shiv Sena 'Mahayuti' coalition. BMC corporators' term also expired, leading to an administrator taking control of the BMC. In 2023, the project was revived with Congress MLA Zeeshan Siddique raising the same in the Budget session of the Maharashtra Assembly that year. "Mumbai is a place which attracts a lot of tourists but lacks enough tourist spots. I believe that Mumbai eye should be constructed in my constituency's Bandra-Kurla complex area," said Mr. Siddiqui in March 2023.

Soon enough, MMRDA zeroed in on the Bandra Reclamation area as a suitable spot for the Mumbai Eye. On May 10, the authority began carrying out technical feasibility study at the Bandra Reclamation for the project.

However, they hit a hurdle soon as Bandra residents, along with Mr. Shelar had opposed the project. Citing traffic congestion fears, the residents sought to shift the project to alternate non-residential areas. Mumbai Port Trust, Bandra-Kurla Complex, space behind National Centre for Performing Arts (NCPA) and Ballard Estate were suggested as alternate locations for the Mumbai Eye. Finally, on September 28, 2024, the MMRDA scrapped the project in entirety.

Despite the tourism and revenue opportunities, Mumbai Eye's Road to reality seems nowhere near the end. Though the BMC has listed it in the budget document, it is unclear which department will head this project. Details of its allocation, type of PPP model to be used, the tender process, potential locations are unclear.

# Why is a new bill on foreigners coming? | Explained

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is all set to introduce the Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025 in the second half of the Budget session that begins on March 10. The bill repeals all the four existing legislations that deal with immigration and movement of foreigners.

Why are fresh terms being drawn up?

According to the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill, matters relating to foreigners and immigration are administered through the Foreigners Act, 1946, the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 and the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 and The Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000. Three of these laws are from the "pre-Constitution period" brought during "extraordinary times" of World Wars I and II.The statement notes that while there is an underlying continuity and commonality of objectives among the four Acts, there are some overlapping provisions and a necessity to repeal the Acts and enact a new comprehensive legislation — The Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025.The proposed legislation is to be enacted to avoid multiplicity and overlapping of laws on passports or other travel documents in respect of persons entering into and exiting from India and for regulating matters related to foreigners including the requirement of visa and registration.

What are the significant provisions?

The Bill has six chapters comprising 35 clauses and bunches of existing laws into a single document. It clearly defines the functions of the Immigration Officer, the requirements of passport and visa, and matters relating to foreigners and their registration. Though the Bureau of Immigration (BoI) already exists, the Bill seeks to provide legal backup for immigration functions, the Immigration Officer and the BoI.It defines provisions relating to the obligations of universities and educational institutions, hospitals, nursing homes, and medical institutions to admit any foreigner. There was no defined rule earlier for such institutions; foreigners were asked to register with the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO). Presently, it is mandatory for hotels and guest houses to share the passport details of foreigners with the police.The Bill also has provisions relating to foreigners whose movements are restricted, the power of civil authority to control places frequented by foreigners and the provisions relating to the liability of carriers and their obligations. The Bill retains the provision on the "burden of proof" to prove that a person is not a foreigner on the person.

What is the provision for entry and stay of foreigners?

The Bill introduces the clause — "threat to national security, sovereignty and integrity of India and relations with a foreign State" — among the grounds to refuse the entry or stay of a foreigner in the country.The proposed law states, "... no foreigner shall be allowed to enter into or stay in India if he is found inadmissible to do so on account of threat to national security, sovereignty and integrity of India, relations with a foreign State or public health or on such other grounds as the Central Government may specify," adding that the decision of the Immigration Officer shall be final and binding. Earlier too, foreigners have been denied entry but the reasons were not explicitly mentioned in any legislation or rules. Many foreigners and persons of Indian origin have been denied entry based on executive orders. According to Foreigners Order, 1948, a foreigner may be denied entry if he or she is a threat to public safety, if the foreigner carries an infection or is affected by mental illness, if the passport or visa is invalid, faces extradition or has been previously denied entry into the country. The Bill mentions the power of the Centre to issue orders for the removal of foreigners, to delegate and exempt. Presently, Section 3 of the Foreigners Act 1946 empowers the Central government to prohibit, regulate or restrict the entry of foreigners into India or, their exit or stay. Section 5 of the Passport Act 1920 also has the provision for the removal of a foreigner who has entered without documents or a visa.

What are the penal provisions in the Bill?

The penalty for entering India without a passport or travel document in the proposed legislation is imprisonment for five years or a fine up to ?5 lakh or both.Using or supplying forged or fraudulently obtained passports or other travel documents or visas shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term not less than two years, but may extend to seven years, and a fine of not less than ?1 lakh but which may extend to ?10 lakh, the Bill proposes.Overstaying beyond the visa limit shall be punishable by three years and a fine up to 3 lakh.Does the Bill allow States to detect and deport undocumented migrants?Yes. The Ministry of Home Affairs informed the Jharkhand High Court last year that since the "Central Government does not maintain a separate federal police force exclusively dedicated to the task of detection and deportation of foreigners staying illegally, action in this regard has been entrusted to the State police."According to guidelines issued on April 24, 2014, and July 1, 2019, a foreigner can be deported after completion of the sentence/court proceedings by the State government if he/she has a valid travel document/passport and no other court case pending. In case the foreigner does not have a valid travel document, it should be obtained from the embassy or High Commission.

What about detention centres?

The Bill does not use the term 'detention centres'. Clause 13 says foreigners are "required to reside at a place set apart for the residence under supervision." Such places will be subject to conditions of maintenance, discipline and the punishment of offences and breaches of discipline as the Central Government may from time to time determine. The Centre may regulate access to places in India where foreigners whose movements are restricted are lodged. In 2019, following a Supreme Court directive, the MHA finalised the "Detention Centre Manual" for restricting the movement of foreign nationals who are awaiting deportation due to non-possession of valid travel documents and to ensure that they are physically available at all times for expeditious repatriation and deportation. The manual notes that States require "no specific approval" from the Home Ministry to set up "detention centres / holding centres/camps." It lays down that centres should be set up outside the jail premises and their numbers and size should be decided by the States keeping in view the actual number of foreigners to be housed as well as the progress in deportation proceedings.

What are the other mechanisms in place to track the movement of foreigners?

The MHA has asked States to constitute two committees to identify foreigners who entered India pre- and post-January 1, 2011, and have stayed on beyond the visa period. The details of foreigners who entered legally and are said to be flouting visa regulations are uploaded on the e-FRRO portal, which can be accessed by the local police. Their details are also shared with government departments running flagship welfare schemes, driving licence, and PAN databases so that action can be taken if documents have been obtained fraudulently. The MHA asked the Unique Identification Authority of India to create a negative list of Aadhaar cards if a police investigation shows that they were procured fraudulently.The MHA has also operationalised a Foreigners Identification Portal, which is accessible by the State police to upload the biometrics and other details of "illegal foreigners." The purpose of the portal is to enable the States to identify illegal migrants for deportation and to prevent them from procuring documents such as Aadhaar.

# R.N. Ravi: In pursuit of controversies

Neither Tamil Nadu nor its Governor Ravindra Narayan Ravi is a stranger to controversies. However, the last three-odd years of the tenure of the 72-year-old Governor, a retired IPS officer of the Kerala cadre (1976 batch), has all along been full of controversies.

As an officer of the Intelligence wing in the police initially and an interlocutor subsequently for the Naga peace process for seven years, Mr. Ravi, who was also Nagaland Governor during August 2019-September 2021, must have used his diplomatic skills greatly. This could be seen from the fact that he, as the Union government's representative, signed a framework agreement with one of the rebel Naga groups in New Delhi on August 3, 2015. It was another matter that he later courted one controversy after another as the Governor of the northeastern State.But, in the case of the southern State, the trouble began more than 40 months ago even before Mr. Ravi became the 26th Governor of Tamil Nadu. The then chief of Tamil Nadu Congress Committee, K.S. Alagiri, questioned the motive behind Mr. Ravi's shift and recalled how another retired police officer Kiran Bedi, as Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry (May 2016-February 2021), and the former Congress government, headed by V. Narayanasamy, had fractious ties.The first sign of trouble between the Governor and the DMK government, led by M.K. Stalin, was visible over the issue of clearance to the legislation seeking exemption from the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to undergraduate medical courses. The latter gradually found that Mr. Ravi was not acting as a facilitator for sending the Bill to the President for assent. It was then — January 2022 — that the DMK began making its demand for his ouster. After Mr. Ravi sent back the Bill on the ground that it was against the interests of students from rural areas and economically weaker sections, the State Assembly in February 2022 re-adopted it and returned it to him. Eventually, the Governor had referred the Bill to the President, leaving the matter pending. On many other Bills, the State government had to seek remedy from the Supreme Court, which, in November 2023, described as a "serious concern" the "constitutional deadlock" created by Mr. Ravi. On February 7, 2024, the top court asked whether the Governor referred to the President 10 Bills repassed by the State legislature only to avoid having to give consent to them.

# Middle Class 2.0: Changing employment sector in India, and its one big challenge

India's middle class after Independence was largely created by the public sector.Employment in the public sector stood at 194.7 lakh and that in the organised private sector only at 80.6 lakh as on March 31, 1995. The former — employees in the central and state governments plus quasi-governments (public sector undertakings) and local bodies — fell to 176.1 lakh and the latter rose to 119.7 lakh by March 31, 2012.The Ministry of Labour & Employment doesn't seem to have compiled or released statistics on organised public and private sector employment after 2011-12 (April-March). Even the data last published in the Finance Ministry's Economic Survey for 2018-19 stops at 2011-12.But it is fair to assume that the trend of organised employment shifting from the public to private sector — especially post the economic reforms of 1991 — has gathered pace after 2011-12.

One indicator of that is the number of regular employees with the Indian Railways. Between 1990-91 and 2022-23, these plunged from 16.5 lakh to 11.9 lakh. Even after accounting for the increase to 12.5 lakh last fiscal, the drop from the 1990-91 peak works out to 4 lakh or almost a quarter. Still sharper is the reduction in employment with Central public sector enterprises: From 22.2 lakh in 1990-91 to just over 8.1 lakh in 2023-24 (see chart).On the other hand, take the information technology (IT) industry, the symbol of India's post-reform "second middle class". Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Infosys already had 45,714 and 36,750 employees respectively at the end of 2004-05, which soared to 4,48,464 and 2,42,371 fifteen years later.The real boom, though, took place after Covid-19. As the pandemic triggered increased demand for digitisation even among businesses that were hitherto slow in adoption, it had a beneficial impact on India's exports of software services and also employment in IT companies.The total headcount in the big-five firms — TCS, Infosys, Wipro, HCL Technologies and Tech Mahindra — went up from below 11.5 lakh in end-March 2020 to above 16 lakh in end-September 2022.Although the numbers have dipped slightly since, the big-five IT companies together had 15,34,708 employees as on December 31, 2024 (table 1). That's more than the 12,52,180 regular employees with the Indian Railways as of 2023-24. It is also more than the currently estimated 14.2 lakh officers, soldiers, airmen and sailors in the three defence services.Banking sector transformation

Another, not as much highlighted, Middle Class 2.0 story is the banking industry.In 1991-92, scheduled commercial banks in India had a total employee strength of about 9.8 lakh. Public sector banks had a lion's share of nearly 8.5 lakh or 87% in that. The latter number registered a decline to 7.7 lakh by 2020-21, but still exceeded the 6 lakh employees in private sector banks.The period 2022-23 was a landmark, when private sector banks, for the first time, overtook their state-owned counterparts in employment. At the end of 2023-24, their employee strength was 8.74 lakh, as against the less than 7.5 lakh of public sector banks. This, even as the banking industry overall today employs roughly twice what it did in 1991-12 (table 2).A better idea of the private sector-led transformation can be had at an individual bank level.The big-five private sector banks — HDFC, ICICI, Axis, Kotak Mahindra and Bandhan Bank — together had 6.1 lakh-plus employees in 2023-24. HDFC's employee strength of 2,13,527 was marginally lower than the 2,32,296 of the State Bank of India. The numbers at ICICI (141,009) and Axis Bank (104,332) were higher than the 1,02,349 of the second largest public sector lender Punjab National Bank. The employee strength at Kotak Mahindra (77,923) and Bandhan Bank (75,748), too, was comparable to that in other state-owned banks: Canara Bank (82,643), Union Bank of India (75,880) and Bank of Baroda (74,886).Employment challengeSimply put, liberalisation and globalisation opened up new industries and opportunities for private enterprise.

That, in turn, led to unprecedented employment generation – whether in IT and finance (banking, insurance, mutual funds, market intermediation/brokerages, etc) or accountancy, legal, health, hospitality and tourism, transportation and logistics, aviation, media, advertising, sports and entertainment, real estate and retail services.The private sector-led Middle Class 2.0's expansion happened just when the post-Independence government-created Middle Class 1.0 started shrinking with the initiation of reforms.The above job generation, however, has had a major limitation. It has been mainly in services. India, unlike China and most industrialised countries, has not experienced "structural transformation" involving the large-scale transfer of surplus labour from agriculture to sectors — particularly manufacturing and modern services — where productivity (output value per worker) and average incomes are higher.Official Periodic

Labour Force Surveys (PLFS) show the farm sector's share in India's workforce decreasing from 64% in 1993-94 to 48.9% in 2011-12 and further to 42.5% in 2018-19, but subsequently going up to 46.2% in 2023-24.

Manufacturing's share climbed initially from 10.4% in 1993-94 to 12.6% in 2011-12, only to come down to 11.4% in 2023-24. The latest 2023-24 PLFS report reveals the 11.4% share of manufacturing in the total employed labour force to be below that of construction (12%), trade, hotel & restaurants (12.2%) and "other services" (11.9%).Thus, while the services sector has expanded, with India even becoming a "back office to the world" (like China is its "factory"), the well-paying jobs have been more for the better educated. Not everyone can be a software programmer, doctor, financial analyst, accountant or lawyer.Most services sector jobs are informal and low-paying: Construction and headload labour, sanitation, security staffing, domestic help, shop assistant, petty retailing and gig work.Uber has over 10 lakh drivers using its platform, as per the cab aggregator's 2024 India Economic Impact report. Zomato engaged 4,80,000 average monthly active food deliverers and 1,45,000 quick-commerce riders during October-December 2024. Its rival Swiggy had 5,43,562 average "transacting delivery partners" for the same quarter.

# How porters became first line of rescue in New Delhi stn stampede

As the crowd swelled and word about the stampede spread at the New Delhi Railway Station (NDLS), "coolies" (porters)—often overlooked as the backbone of the station—were among the first to respond, rushing to rescue unconscious passengers from the overcrowded platforms 14 and 15.The stampede, triggered by an unprecedented rush of passengers boarding trains for Kumbh, saw people collapsing under pressure. With no time to wait for official aid, porters carried victims on their shoulders, crossed railway tracks, and used private vehicles to transport them to hospitals.

"There was an unprecedented crowd. Ever since Kumbh started, such a rush was never witnessed," said Ram Avtar, 42, a porter from Bihar. "I remember carrying at least seven or eight people, including women and children. The staircase was jammed, so we had to cross tracks and a static train to get them out."Ram Kumar, 35, another porter, said he and his colleagues stopped private cabs and autos when ambulances were not available. "There was no time to wait. People had already been waiting for help for 30-40 minutes," he said.


Similarly, Rajinder Kumar Meena, an 18-year veteran porter at NDLS, likened the chaos to the Chhath rush—but far worse. "Usually, the platforms are packed during Chhath, but this kind of crowd is not even seen during that festive period. People fell and got trapped. They were crying out for help, but no one could do anything. Once the crowd thinned, we pulled people from train bogies and loaded them onto carts used for goods," Meena said.Another porter, who witnessed the tragedy, Vikas Yogi, 22, said the rush intensified with the announcement of the Prayagraj train. "I never imagined carrying lifeless bodies on my shoulder. After their relatives tried to resuscitate them, we rushed the victims to the ambulances stationed in the parking lot. People were already terrified... If not us, who would have helped them?" he added.

# Struggling with PCOS? PGI study shows how the right diet can change everything

A young woman in her early 20s sits in the busy OPD of the Department of Endocrinology, PGI, Chandigarh, writing affirmations in her notebook: "I want to lose weight. I will eat healthy and exercise." Dr Rama Walia, an additional professor, encourages her to read them aloud, reinforcing positive thinking to help her stick to treatment plans. She is part of a study exploring a holistic approach to managing polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS).PCOS occurs when a woman's ovaries fail to release mature eggs on time, producing excess androgens or male hormones like testosterone, and causing hormonal imbalances that impact the menstrual cycle. If left unchecked, it can lead to diabetes, heart disease, and infertility. While it has no cure, PCOS can be managed by controlling triggers such as poor diet, obesity, and stress. Experts like Dr Walia emphasize lifestyle modifications, counselling and individualized discipline in treatment plans, so that young women, already troubled by body consciousness issues, do not feel they are sick.

Counselling: A crucial toolDr Walia highlights how PCOS negatively affects body image, with patients experiencing irregular periods, acne, facial hair, and weight gain. To motivate them, she records their affirmations and transformative journeys. "Seeing their progress, from underconfidence to joy, provides a psychological boost," she says. Unlike diabetes patients, who prioritize health changes, PCOS patients often lack motivation. By combining medication with lifestyle changes, Dr Walia helps patients regain control over their health.PGI study insights

A PGI study involving 300 women found that PCOS disproportionately affects young, well-educated women from upper-middle-class backgrounds. Most participants were under 25, and more than half were students. Another study estimates PCOS prevalence among Indian women at 3.7% to 41%, with hormonal imbalance being a key factor. The study revealed that 79% of participants were overweight, 77.1% belonged to the upper-middle class, and nearly all had poor lifestyles, eating junk food, avoiding exercise, and experiencing high stress. Around 80% were overweight or obese.Dr Swapna Misra, Director of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Fortis, Mohali, explains that while PCOS is a hormonal disorder, its symptoms are aggravated by poor lifestyle choices and obesity. "When obesity rises, testosterone increases and progesterone decreases, leading to irregular cycles and other symptoms," she says.The role of dietDr Vanita Jain, HOD, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, PGI, emphasizes that nutrition and PCOS are directly linked. "Losing just 5% of body weight can significantly ease symptoms, sometimes reducing the need for medication," she states. She stresses that oral contraceptives, often prescribed, are not a long-term solution; lifestyle changes are more effective.One patient in her mid-20s suffered from acne, thinning hair, and weight gain. Despite taking birth control pills and metformin to control blood sugar, she saw no improvement. Instead of changing medication, doctors focused on counselling, encouraging movement throughout the day, hydrating with beetroot and cucumber water, eating fibre-rich home-cooked meals, swapping sweets for fruits, having early dinners, and attending regular follow-ups. After losing 25 kg, she was able to stop medication, proving that holistic management works.

Dr Walia starts with small dietary adjustments to prevent hunger pangs. "We make weight loss easier by incorporating seasonal vegetables, salads, seeds, nuts, sprouts, green tea, and whole grains. We also use visualization techniques, replacing cravings for chocolate with images of carrots or dates. Patients write affirmations like 'I am happy while eating this carrot,'" she explains.A study by PGI's Department of Community Medicine and School of Public Health found that dietary deficiencies were the top risk factor for PCOS among girls aged 12-19, followed by unhealthy lifestyles and lack of awareness. Adolescent girls were particularly vulnerable, struggling with menstrual irregularities and cosmetic concerns like facial hair due to obesity. Dr Ishwarpreet Kaur, who worked on the study, advocates for a multidisciplinary approach rather than relying solely on medication. "We focused on portion control, avoiding processed foods, and eating local, seasonal produce. As patients lost weight and saw aesthetic improvements, incorporating exercise became easier," she says.

Balanced breakfast: The first stepDr Nancy Sahni, HOD of Dietetics at PGI, observes that many young women rely on processed and genetically modified foods high in preservatives. "For many, a 'homemade' breakfast means white bread with commercial spreads, while lunch is from a college canteen. Given their budgets, we recommend fresh, seasonal produce over imported items," she explains.To address this, she eliminates processed foods and sugar, introduces twice-daily salads, encourages hydration over snacking, and promotes post-meal walks. "A well-balanced diet with macronutrients, antioxidants, low glycaemic index foods, and controlled calories helps manage weight, insulin sensitivity, inflammation, and menstrual cycles," she states.She also implemented a "seed break" to prevent cravings. "For the first 14 days of the month, patients consume a teaspoon each of pumpkin and flaxseeds.

The rest of the month, they switch to sunflower and sesame seeds. This helps balance hormones and provides satiety," she says. According to Dr. Sahni, diet accounts for 70% of the effort, while exercise makes up the remaining 30%. When packaged like a life lesson, a holistic approach works for young women.

# HPV vaccine may finally be making its way into the government's Universal Immunisation Programme

The Union ministry of health and family welfare has announced plans to introduce the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine under the national immunisation programme this year. Minister of state for health Anupriya Patel, in the recent Budget session of Parliament, said that modalities are being worked out for its rollout.The health ministry introduces vaccines under its Universal Immunisation Programme, implemented through the National Health Mission. Each time discussions about the HPV vaccine surface, they generate excitement in the medical community. This enthusiasm stems from the vaccine's potential to prevent one of the most common and deadly cancers among women in India—cervical cancer.HPV is a common virus that can lead to several types of cancer later in life, particularly cervical cancer. According to government estimates, cervical cancer is the second most common cancer among Indian women after breast cancer and is one of the few vaccine-preventable cancers. Globocan 2020 data shows that breast cancer accounts for 13.5% of cancer cases in Indian women, with 1,78,361 new cases and 90,408 deaths in 2020. Cervical cancer follows, with around 1.24 lakh new cases and 77,348 deaths annually. Oral cancer, the third most common, accounts for 10.3% of all cancers, with 1,35,929 new cases and 75,290 deaths.

Cervical cancer occurs when abnormal cells in the cervix grow uncontrollably, forming a tumour. "Education, awareness, and proactive measures are crucial in combating this disease. Importantly, cervical cancer is largely preventable through regular screenings, such as Pap tests, and HPV vaccinations," said Dr Indu Bansal Aggarwal, group director and head of radiation oncology at Paras Health, Gurugram.To promote awareness, the World Health Organization (WHO) marks January as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. "Unfortunately, many women remain unaware of the risk factors and protective measures. Raising awareness about symptoms such as unusual vaginal discharge, irregular bleeding, postmenopausal bleeding, pelvic pain, or difficulty urinating can help women seek timely medical attention," added Bansal Aggarwal.India screens women for cervical cancer as part of a government programme that also includes testing for non-communicable diseases like diabetes and hypertension. While most HPV infections—9 out of 10—clear up on their own within two years, persistent infections can lead to cancer.

# Goldiam stock surged 12x, but does it still hold rerating potential?

For centuries, diamonds have been symbols of pride and wealth — and for good reason. Their rarity and high price made them coveted possessions, often displayed as markers of affluence.But new technology is challenging that legacy. The rise of lab-grown diamonds (LGDs), which replicate the properties of natural diamonds at a fraction of the cost, has shaken up the industry. This shift has created a growing divide between those who swear by natural diamonds and those embracing these more affordable alternatives.

The impact is undeniable. Over the past decade, demand for LGDs has surged. To compound the issue, the gems and jewellery industry is grappling with declining prices of natural diamonds due to this customer shift. Falling diamond prices further dented its image.In 2023 alone, LGDs quadrupled their market share, climbing to 15.4%. With this rapid growth, companies are rushing to establish themselves in this booming sector.Among the many players, one name stands out: Goldiam International. The company has attracted attention not just for its ambitious plans but also because prominent investor Ramesh Damani holds a 1.58% stake — a detail that hasn't gone unnoticed.As Goldiam gears up for a significant expansion in 2025 and beyond, one question remains: What's its master plan? Let's find out.Betting big on LGDsGoldiam began its journey in 1986 as a diamond exporter, specialising in cutting and polishing stones for the global market. As the industry evolved, the company shifted focus to value-added diamond jewelry and set up operations in the US to sell directly to international retailers. Recognising the growing popularity of lab-grown diamonds (LGDs), Goldiam made an early entry into the market. Today, it is a leading LGD supplier with an omnichannel sales strategy designed to stay in sync with changing market trends.Story continues below this adLGDs contribute 80% to Goldiam's revenue, with 49% of its revenue coming from this segment. However, the majority of its revenue still comes from exports to the US, with limited domestic sales — a gap the company is now actively working to bridge, with its brand ORIGEM.goldiam revenue 49% of Goldiam's Revenue Comes from LGD. (Source: Q3FY25 Investor Presentation)ORIGEM operates both physical stores and an online platform.As of January, the company has opened four stores under the company-owned, company-operated (COCO) model. These stores have already achieved monthly sales of ?3 million, with an average selling price of ?40,000-50,000 per piece. The company is focusing on opening these stores in micro markets with high purchasing power.In the next 3-5 years, the company plans to open 150-200 new stores, with the goal of doubling the ORIGEM business over the next 4 years. The company will finance this expansion through internal accruals as its cash and cash equivalents stand at Rs 2.75 billion.The company believes that this expansion will help it increase LGD Jewellery's contribution to its total revenue to 20%, amounting to ?0.9-1.2 billion over the next four to five years.Goldiam's EBITDA margin on LGD sales is 25%, well above the 15% from natural diamonds. As LGD sales make up a larger share of total revenue, both growth and profitability are likely to rise.Goldiam also has a strong order book of ?1.75 billion for supplying LGDs.The company continues to maintain a strong global presence. It generates 51% of its revenue from international markets, with the US contributing 90% and Europe and other regions contributing 10%.It exports designer luxury diamond jewellery to major retailers, department stores, and wholesalers across the US, tapping into a $3-3.5 billion export market.The company is also enhancing its e-commerce presence with a dedicated website and plans to maintain a 25-30% revenue contribution from online sales.To sustain growth over the next 3-5 years, Goldiam is exploring new geographies beyond the US. It plans to enter new markets like Australia and the Middle East, where rising disposable incomes and strong demand for luxury goods present significant opportunities.

The bottom line: How it adds upGoldiam has shown consistent growth over the last five years, with its revenue, profits, and margins maintaining a healthy upward trajectory.Its revenue has grown at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 16% to ?6.14 billion in FY24, a 13% increase compared to the last year. Its profit increased at a CAGR of 20% to 0.91 billion in FY24.goldiam profit Goldiam's Revenue and Profit has Grown at 16% and 20% CAGR. (Source: Q3FY25 Investor Presentation)This has allowed earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation (EBITDA) to expand 2.9 times to ?1.28 billion. The EBITDA margin now stands at 20.8%, significantly higher than 11.9% five years ago.Additionally, the company reported a robust return on equity of 14.8% and an impressive return on capital employed (ROCE) of 37%.As a result of its strong growth, Goldiam's share price has been re-rated.The share price has increased 12-fold to ?402,

driven by price-to-equity expansion from 7x to 39x.goldiam share price Goldiam's share price

Despite this surge, Goldiam's valuation remains significantly lower than industry leaders like Titan and Kalyan, which trade at P/E multiples of 89x and 82x, respectively.This potentially leaves more room for its stock price to rise if the company sustains its growth momentum.However, the discount might also be justified. Titan and Kalyan operate diversified, time-tested business models with expansive retail footprints. In contrast, the LGD market is relatively nascent, with considerable uncertainty surrounding its future.Then, there is this issue of LGD's price decline due to excess supply, which is a significant concern. If this continues, Goldiam's margins may be severely impacted. And if LGD were to become truly commoditised, this could also affect demand and growth.In its Q3FY25 conference call, the company said that LGD prices have stabilised and that they do not expect the price to fall further. One will need to wait and see whether this plays out as the management expects.The broader industry is thriving, with the global LGD market having more than doubled to about $25.9 billion in 2024, up from about $11 billion in 2011.However, the Indian LGD market remains relatively small, currently valued at $2.7 billion.It will be interesting to see whether Goldiam's LGD story retains its shine.Note: We have relied on data from http://www.Screener.in throughout this article. Only in cases where the data was not available, have we used an alternate, but widely used and accepted source of information.Madhvendra has been tracking equity markets for over seven years, combining his passion for investing with his expertise in financial writing.

# Eating vegetables can help reduce risk of liver cancer by 65 per cent

New Delhi: Eating vegetables can help reduce the risk of liver cancer by 65 per cent, according to a study.The study, led by researchers from the INSERM, the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research, focused on patients diagnosed with cirrhosis — scarring (fibrosis) of the liver caused by long-term liver damage. They examined the benefits of eating vegetables and or fruits among these patients Of the 179 patients analysed, 20 were diagnosed with hepatocellular carcinoma (liver cancer). The team found that a total of 42.5 per cent of patients with cirrhosis had insufficient fruit and/or vegetable consumption.

"A 65 per cent reduction in the incidence (new cases) of liver cancer (hepatocellular carcinoma) was observed in patients diagnosed with cirrhosis consuming more than 240 gram per day of vegetables," the researchers said.The researchers, however, found no evidence of an association between fruit consumption and hepatocellular carcinoma. The team said that the association between fruit and vegetable consumption and the risk of HCC is poorly documented in the population of cirrhotic patients. However, "such knowledge is crucial for adapting HCC prevention messages," they noted, in the paper published in the journal JHEP Reports.