

FOREIGN INVESTORS PULL OUT ₹24.7K CR FROM EQUITIES IN FIRST WEEK OF MARCH

PEPSICO TO INVEST IN CAPACITY BUILDING, DOUBLE INDIA REVENUE IN FIVE YEARS



'If you take one step forward, govt is there to take 10 steps with you'

Shift Mindset, Revive Animal Spirits, Every Challenge is An Opportunity, Ministers Tell India Inc At ET Awards

Times News Network

Mumbai: As nations fret over the economic fallout of Donald Trump's tariff tactics, India's policymakers urged business leaders to seize the moment, promising "ten steps of support for every one taken", putting national interests first.

"Every challenge — whether it's geo-economic fragmentation, trade wars, deflationary trends, or declining global demand — presents an opportunity. This mindset is something we draw from the Prime Minister, who often says that every challenge contains multiple opportunities," said finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in a fireside chat at the ET Awards on Saturday. She added that a Viksit Bharat would need enhanced trade and exports.

She highlighted the shift from protection to pragmatism, stating, "We must guard against dumping, while ensuring that Indian

Deloitte.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES AWARDS FOR CORPORATE EXCELLENCE



HALL OF FAME: (From left to right) Malika Niver Mehta (Farred Zakaria's niece); Noel Tata, chairman, Tata Trusts; Venu Srinivasan, chairman emeritus, TVS Motor; Ashwini Vaishnav, minister of railways, electronics & IT, and Information & Broadcasting; Kumar Mangalam Birla, chairman, Aditya Birla Group; Akshat Goyal, CEO, Zomato; Vishakhya Mulye, CEO, Aditya Birla Capital; H. Agranwal, MD, Grasim Industries; Anish Shah, MD and CEO, and Rajesh Khurkar, executive director, Mahindra & Mahindra; Peyush Bansal, co-founder, Lenskart



The Times of India's Samir Jain with finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

drives markets, it shapes the economy, warning that "the youth will put us through the grind. If we continue with all the naysaying in spite of all the achievements".

Echoing her sentiments, Aditya Birla Group chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla, a three-time ET Award winner, said: "From the perspective of leading a conglomerate across 40 countries, I'd say there are two regions that we consider permanent bet: India and North America. India's story remains strong. Many of the challenges we face are shared by other large economies, but the way to compete globally is by investing, not waiting."

The 25th ET Awards reflected India's evolving journey — from 90s optimism to global ambitions, post-crisis resilience, startup exuberance, and now a more mature phase — focusing less on numbers and more on national interest and doing good.

Kumar Mangalam captured the essence, quoting his late grandfather G.D. Birla, "How does one judge a company? Does the criteria depend solely on profitability, market share, and product ratings? Or, is there something deeper, more human? We believe what truly matters is how much the company cares, how socially involved it is, and how much it improves the quality of life for the people around it."

Noel Tata, chairman,

CATEGORY	WINNER	DESIGNATION
Emerging Company of the Year	Zomato	-
Entrepreneur of the Year	Peyush Bansal	Co-founder, Lenskart
Businesswoman of the Year	Vishakhya Mulye	CEO, Aditya Birla Capital
Conscious Corporate of the Year	Grasim Industries	-
Company of the Year	Mahindra & Mahindra	-
Global Indian of the Year	Farred Zakaria	Journalist and Geopolitical Commentator
Business Leader of the Year	Kumar Mangalam Birla	Chairman, Aditya Birla Group
Reformer of the Year	Ashwini Vaishnav	Minister of Railways, Electronics & IT and I&B
Lifetime Achievement	Venu Srinivasan	Chairman Emeritus, TVS Motor
The Jewel of India Award	Ratan Tata	-

economic Times award, one might expect a speech about financial achievements — revenues, market capitalisation, profits. But knowing him closely I can say those numbers never mattered to him as much," said Chandrasekaran. The chief of Tata Group recounted an incident during 2017 renovation of iconic Bombay House, when Ratan Tata's primary concern was where the dogs, sheltered there, would go.

Often likened to the Oscars of business, the ET Awards took a more mature turn this year, highlighting the unseen side of business — especially through the women in their lives — coinciding with International Women's Day.

Vishakhya Mulye, CEO of Aditya Birla Capital and winner of Businesswoman of the Year award, highlighted how the stars have to be fully aligned for one half of the country's population to succeed. "There's a famous saying that behind every successful man, there is a woman. But for women to succeed, many things need

to fall into place — from the families they are born into, families they marry into, mentors they work with, and ecosystems they operate in. I consider myself fortunate that all these factors aligned for me". She spoke of how many women executives at IICI were a source of support, while facing challenges in balancing personal life and career.

Personal tributes replaced conventional introductions. Malika Srinivasan, CEO of Tata, reflected on her husband, Venu Srinivasan, chairman emeritus, TVS Motor. Ananya Birla, founder of Svaantara Microfin, spoke of her father, Kumar Mangalam Birla, whose delight at winning a third ET Award prompted the family to clear their schedules. Nithi Bansal highlighted Lenskart co-founder Peyush Bansal's commitment to family, teamwork, and social impact. Malika Noor Mehta, niece of Farred Zakaria, offered a portrait of her uncle as a man of rare intellect and generosity, adept at distilling complexity into clarity.

Panel readies 23-point best practices for states

Cab Secy-Led Task Force To Cover Areas For Reforms, Deregulation To Ease Rules For Biz

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New Delhi: The Centre is readying a 23-point template for reforms and deregulation, including some related to land, labour, utilities and permits at the state level, as it seeks to make life easier for businesses to operate across the country.

The moves are being piloted by a taskforce on deregulation and compliance reduction led by cabinet secretary TV Senthupathi. Following PM Narendra Modi's call for reforms at the state level, which he flagged during a meeting of chief secretaries, and was subsequently flagged in the Economic Survey. The panel is in addition to the Deregulation Commission, which is in the pipeline.

While seeking to usher in a single window clearance mechanism for companies, the committee, which met on Friday, is also looking at areas where inspections can be reduced and how no-objection certificates can be issued without inspection, which often delays and complicates matters.

The committee of secretaries is looking at procedural

TO OFFER GREATER FLEXIBILITY

- The committee is looking at areas where inspections can be reduced
- It is looking at possibility of issuing no-objection certificates without inspection, which often delays and complicates matters
- It is also looking at procedural changes and greater

use of technology to reduce need to visit govt offices

- The panel has proposed validity of permits and licences to be made longer to cut wastage of time
- The task force is also examining how greater flexibility can be provided in working hours

changes and greater use of technology to reduce the need to visit govt offices.

The validity of permits and licences is proposed to be made longer so that time is not wasted. "The idea is to provide for self-certification and third-party certification so that it is simpler for businesses," said an officer.

When it comes to land, which has been a major area of concern for investors, the proposals being looked at include ways to deregulate land use changes and allowing for changes in floor area ratio in a more transparent manner. The panel is also trying to look at land use patterns for industrial projects and represent them on GIS.

In the case of labour regulations, the task force is examining how greater flexibility can be provided in working hours and over-time within the current legal parameters. For instance, while allowing workers to work a maximum 48 hours a week, businesses may be allowed to flexibly in daily working hours.

Similarly, a key issue that is sought to be addressed is making it easier for women to work by making it flexible and ensuring that working conditions suit them.

Sources said that the plan is to share the best practices many of which are being implemented in some of the states already.

Brokers bet on March revival in sensex, Nifty

Times News Network

Mumbai: Is a revival in the stock market expected this month? Historical data shows there's a strong chance of the same happening in March.

Past data going back a decade shows that excluding the Covid year of 2020, March is typically the best time for Indian equities, with Nifty 50, Nifty midcap 100 and Nifty smallcap 100 indices posting average returns of 2.3%, 2.9%, and 2.6%, respectively, a report by Yes Securities showed.

Another report by Samco Securities said that most of the bad news relating to the ongoing tariff wars between the US, China, Mexico, Canada and some other countries and blocks have already been priced in.

The best Nifty return in March of any year in the past 10 years was 11% in 2016 and the worst was 4.5% in 2015. "Analyzing data from the last

So far this year, the Nifty is down 5%, while the Nifty midcap 100 index is down 14%

10 years (excluding the Covid year), a clear revival trend emerges across key indices. Most sectoral indices also post positive returns, except Auto and IT, which typically remain flat," the report by Yes Securities said. However, during the Jan-March quarter of every year, Indian indices typically underperform, the study warned.

So far this year the Nifty is down 5%, while the Nifty midcap 100 index is down 14% and the Nifty smallcap 100 has lost 17.4%. On the BSE, the sensex has lost 5.3% so far in 2025. On Friday, Nifty closed at 22,583 points, while the sensex closed at 74,333 points.

"While seasonality provides a strong directional cue,

we do not rely on it blindly. Additional supporting factors strengthen the case for a turnaround," the report said. Analysts at Yes Securities pointed out that market breadth, the ratio of the number of stocks that are closing higher to the ones closing lower, is of late improving across broader indices. They also said that financial stocks, one of the key sectors, is showing sustained strength.

"Considering above mentioned rationale, ignoring the potential for a market rebound in March would be difficult. As history suggests, this seasonal tailwind, coupled with improving market dynamics, offers a compelling opportunity," the report noted.

Another report by Samco Securities also pointed out that tariff wars, between the US and some of its biggest trading partners, have already been priced in and it's time to buy big.

भारत सरकार / Government of India
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग / Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
अरुण बिहारी वाजपेयी आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान एवं डॉ. राम मनोहर लोहिया अस्पताल, नई दिल्ली
ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES & Dr. RML HOSPITAL, NEW DELHI
File No: eGov-11014/1/2023-E-Gov. Dept.-Dr. RMLH/

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

ABVIMS & DR. RML HOSPITAL Invite Expression of Interest (EOI) from all experienced Central PSUs for IT Security Expert/Information Security Officer. The last date for submission of proposal is 23.03.2025 by 4:00 PM.

The detailed EOI/Advertisement is available on Dr. RML website (<https://rmlh.nic.in>)

Interested Participants may please refer to Dr. RML Hospital website for further details.

For Director & Medical Superintendent
Chairman, E-Governance

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
Commissioner & Member Secretary
Maharashtra Tribal Public School Society
Commissionerate of Tribal Development
Maharashtra State, Nashik, Advani Vikas Bhavan, Gadkari Chawk, Old Agra Road, Nashik-422002
Telephone: 0253-2577510/2542335,2575615
Email: ctd.nsk-mh@gov.in

No. sha-2025/P.F. No. 71/D-12/2/1738 Date: 07.03.2025
E-Tender Notice No 1) 2025-26/1) 2) 2025-26/82
Selection of a Service Provider to operate & maintain Central Kitchen at Nandurbar (ITDP, Nandurbar) and Jawhar (Vivral), ITDP, Jawhar thereby delivering meals to Government Ashram Schools attached to the said Central Kitchens for a period of three (3) years.

The Commissioner, Tribal Development, Maharashtra State, Nashik, invites sealed competitive bids for selection of a Service Provider to operate & maintain Central Kitchen at Nandurbar (ITDP, Nandurbar) and Jawhar (Vivral), ITDP, Jawhar thereby delivering meals to Government Ashram Schools attached to the said Central Kitchens for a period of three (3) years.

For tender documents, interested bidders are requested to visit the website <https://gem.gov.in>.

The tenders will only be accepted online. The deadline for submitting online tenders is from 11.03.2025 to 02.04.2025 by 5:00 PM.

Sd/-
Leena Bansod (I.A.S.)
Commissioner,
Tribal Development Maharashtra State, Nashik

DG/PR/2024-2025/69661

Women remain under-represented in VC industry

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Bengaluru: Women remain significantly under-represented in India's venture capital (VC) industry, especially in decision-making roles, despite growing conversations about diversity and inclusion. An analysis of the investment teams at India's most active VC firms, in terms of volume across years 2020 to 2025 so far, reveals how stark the gender gap remains.

Among the 20 most active VC investors that TOI analysed, several firms have no women at all in their investment teams, including Z47, Stellaris Venture Partners, and Nexus Venture Partners. Peak XV Partners has the highest absolute number of women investors, with 13 out of 44, while firms such as Blume Ventures (5 out of 25) and Acel India (5 out of 26) have relatively better representation. However, firms like Lightspeed Ventures (4 out of 16) and Elevation Capital (7 out of 35) still reflect the broader industry-wide challenge: women are outnumbered at nearly every major firm.

This lack of diversity in VC teams has consequences beyond representation. "Peer networks play a huge role in hiring and decision-making in VC," said Ankita Vashista, founder and managing partner at Arise Ventures. "Most senior hiring is based on referral. Investment committees and general partners are predominantly male, and unconscious biases can shape what they hire and fund. This has a direct impact on the startup ecosystem, as male-dominated VCs are more likely to back women-led startups."

Karika Mayar, partner at Vertex Ventures, echoed this sentiment. "The problem isn't just at the top. We need more women entering the investment space at all levels, so there is a strong pipeline for leadership roles. Firms need to be intentional about hiring and retaining women in VC. It's not just about numbers; it's about building an ecosystem that actively supports diverse perspectives."

According to PitchBook, in the US, women make up 38.4% of investment decision-makers at VCs in 2023. In Europe, the situation is starker, with only 36% of investment partners being women.

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