



INDIAN STARTUPS

Page 2

Yulu Raises \$93 Million to Accelerate EV Mobility and Battery Swapping Expansion

Yulu raised \$93 million to expand EV fleets, triple battery-swapping infrastructure, improve operations, strengthen urban mobility, and accelerate India's sustainable transportation ecosystem.



VENTURE

Page 3

DeepTech and Enterprise AI Drive Surge in Seed-Stage Startup Investments

India's deepTech and enterprise AI startups are attracting record seed funding, driven by automation demand, strong talent, global markets, and innovation.



GOVERNMENT

Page 6

SIGHT Scheme Expands Incentives to Boost India's Green Hydrogen Hardware Ecosystem

India's expanded SIGHT incentives support electrolyzer and hydrogen storage manufacturers, boosting domestic clean-tech production and reducing import dependence.

StartupTimes



Saturday, August 22, 2026 NEW DELHI, 10 PAGES



River Mobility Secures \$120M in Series C Round to Accelerate EV Expansion

Bengaluru-based electric two-wheeler startup River Mobility has raised \$120 million in a Series C funding round, marking a significant milestone in its growth journey and strengthening its position in India's rapidly expanding electric vehicle (EV) market. The fresh capital will be used to scale the company's manufacturing infrastructure, enhance product development capabilities, and expand its retail footprint across Tier-1 and Tier-2 cities.

The funding comes at a time when demand for electric two-wheelers is witnessing strong momentum, driven by rising fuel costs, supportive government policies, and increasing consumer awareness around sustainable mobility solutions. River Mobility plans to utilize the investment to increase production capacity, streamline supply chain operations, and improve customer service networks nationwide.

The company has been focusing on building durable, high-performance electric scooters tailored for Indian road conditions, while also investing in advanced battery technologies and smart mobility features. With the latest funding, River aims to strengthen its market presence and reach a wider customer base in emerging urban centers.

Industry analysts view the investment as a strong vote of confidence in India's EV ecosystem. As competition intensifies in the electric mobility sector, River Mobility's expansion strategy is expected to play a key role in driving adoption and shaping the future of sustainable transportation across the country.

Sarvam AI Strengthens India's Sovereign AI Infrastructure

Sarvam AI is accelerating its vision of building India's sovereign artificial intelligence ecosystem through continued investments in advanced AI infrastructure, Indic large language models (LLMs), and enterprise-focused API solutions. Backed by a \$234 million funding window, the company is developing AI systems tailored to India's linguistic diversity and business requirements. Its technology aims to help enterprises, government agencies, and startups deploy AI solutions in regional languages while ensuring greater data sovereignty and localization.



Page 9

Indian SportsTech Startups Secure Athlete Performance Contracts Ahead of Global Championships



Yulu Raises \$93 Million to Accelerate EV Mobility and Battery Swapping Expansion

Yulu raised \$93 million to expand EV operations, triple its battery-swapping network, enhance urban mobility, and accelerate sustainable transportation adoption.

Shared micro-mobility platform Yulu has secured a combined financing package of \$93 million, comprising \$63 million in Series C equity funding and \$30 million in debt capital, in a move that significantly strengthens its position within India's rapidly growing electric mobility sector. The equity round was led by GEF Capital Partners, with participation from existing and strategic investors who continue to back the company's vision of creating sustainable urban transportation solutions.

The latest fundraising marks an important milestone for Yulu as it seeks to scale its electric vehicle ecosystem and expand its battery-swapping infrastructure across major cities in India. The company plans to utilize the fresh capital to triple its EV battery-swapping network nationwide, enabling faster vehicle turnaround times, improved operational efficiency, and enhanced accessibility for riders and fleet operators.

Yulu has emerged as one of India's leading shared mobility providers by offering electric two-wheelers designed for short-distance urban

travel. The company's services cater to daily commuters, gig economy workers, and delivery professionals who require affordable and environmentally friendly transportation options. As Indian cities continue to face challenges related to traffic congestion, air pollution, and rising fuel costs, electric shared mobility solutions are increasingly gaining traction among consumers and businesses alike.

A key component of Yulu's growth strategy is its battery-swapping model, which addresses one of the most significant challenges in EV adoption—charging downtime. Instead of waiting for batteries to recharge, users can quickly exchange depleted batteries for fully charged ones at dedicated swapping stations. This approach enhances vehicle utilization rates and makes electric mobility more practical for high-frequency users such as delivery riders and logistics partners.

The company's expanded battery-swapping network is expected to

support the growing demand for electric mobility services while strengthening the broader EV ecosystem. By increasing the availability of swapping stations, Yulu aims to improve convenience, reduce operational bottlenecks, and encourage more users to transition from conventional fuel-powered vehicles to electric alternatives. India's electric mobility industry has witnessed substantial growth over the past few years, driven by government incentives, supportive regulatory policies, technological advancements, and increasing environmental awareness. Programs promoting clean transportation and investments in EV infrastructure have created favorable conditions for startups and mobility companies to scale their operations. Yulu's latest funding reflects investor confidence in the long-term potential of electric mobility as a key component of sustainable urban development.

Beyond infrastructure

expansion, the company is also expected to invest in technology upgrades, fleet growth, operational efficiency, and partnerships that can further strengthen its market presence. The integration of data-driven fleet management systems and advanced battery technologies could enhance service reliability and user experience while supporting future scalability.

Industry observers view the funding as a strong endorsement of Yulu's business model and its contribution to India's transition toward cleaner transportation. As cities increasingly prioritize sustainable mobility solutions, Yulu is well-positioned to play a significant role in reducing carbon emissions, improving last-mile connectivity, and making electric transportation more accessible for millions of users.

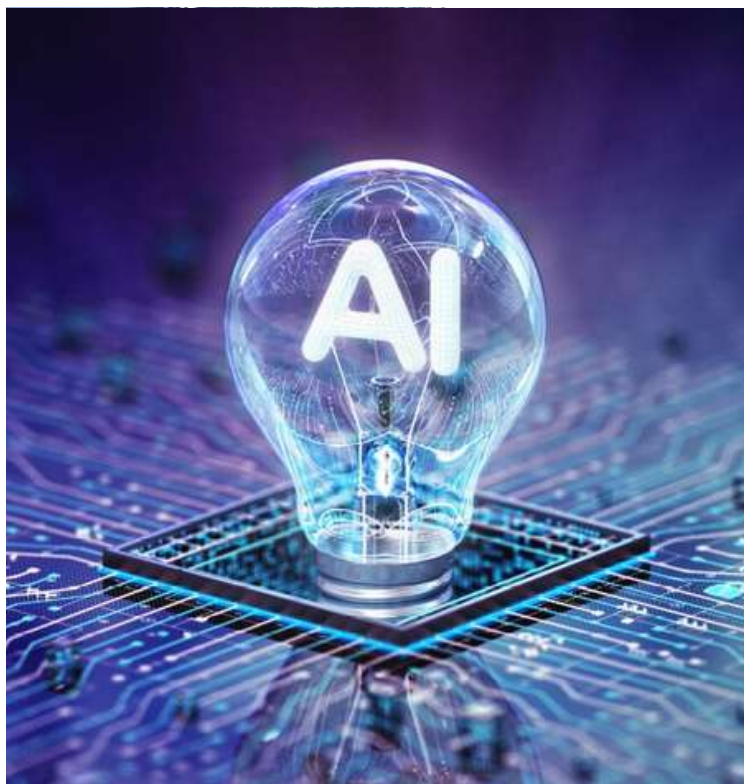
Deeptech and Enterprise AI Drive Surge in Seed-Stage Startup Investments

India's startup ecosystem is witnessing a notable shift in investor focus as deeptech and enterprise artificial intelligence (AI) companies emerge as the leading recipients of seed-stage funding. Recent data indicates that investments in enterprise AI, automation platforms, and advanced technology startups have reached new weekly highs, reflecting growing confidence in the sector's long-term growth potential. The trend highlights how investors are increasingly backing startups developing sophisticated software solutions capable of transforming business operations across industries.

Among the notable beneficiaries of this momentum are startups such as Superleap and Pinegap, which collectively secured more than \$12 million in early-stage funding rounds. These investments underscore the rising demand for AI-powered solutions that help organizations improve productivity, automate repetitive workflows, enhance customer engagement, and generate actionable business insights. As enterprises seek greater efficiency and competitiveness, startups offering intelligent automation tools are attracting significant interest from venture capital firms and angel investors.

The growing popularity of enterprise AI is closely linked to the rapid adoption of generative AI technologies worldwide. Businesses are moving beyond experimentation and actively integrating AI into their day-to-day operations. From customer support automation and sales enablement platforms to predictive analytics and workflow optimization systems, AI is increasingly becoming a core component of enterprise technology strategies. Investors see this shift as a major opportunity for startups building specialized products tailored to specific business needs.

Deeptech startups are also gaining traction because they focus on solving complex technical challenges using advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, computer vision, robotics, cybersecurity, and data infrastructure. Unlike consumer-focused applications, deeptech companies often develop proprietary technologies that create strong competitive advantages and long-term value. As a result, many investors view these startups as attractive opportunities capable of generating substantial returns over time. One of the key drivers behind the surge in seed-stage funding is the growing maturity of India's technology talent



pool. The country has become a major hub for software development, engineering, and AI research, enabling startups to build world-class products at relatively competitive costs. Increasing collaboration between academia, research institutions, technology companies, and startup founders has further strengthened the innovation ecosystem, creating a steady pipeline of deeptech ventures. The rise of sales automation startups has been particularly notable. Companies in this segment are leveraging AI to help sales teams identify prospects, automate outreach campaigns, analyze customer behavior, and improve conversion rates. As businesses continue to prioritize revenue growth while controlling operational expenses, demand for intelligent sales platforms has expanded significantly. Investors believe these solutions have the potential to become critical tools for organizations across multiple sectors, including financial services, healthcare, manufacturing, retail, and software-as-a-service (SaaS). Government initiatives supporting innovation and digital transformation have also contributed to the sector's growth. Programs focused on startup development, digital infrastructure, research funding, and emerging technologies have created a favorable environment for entrepreneurs. Additionally, the increasing availability of cloud computing resources and open-source AI frameworks has lowered entry barriers for startups building advanced technology products.

Another factor encouraging investment activity is the expanding global market for enterprise software. Indian startups are increasingly designing products for international customers from the outset, allowing them to address larger addressable markets and scale more rapidly. This global-first approach has enhanced investor confidence, as companies with strong technology foundations can potentially compete on an international stage.

Industry experts expect funding activity in deeptech and enterprise AI to remain strong in the coming years. As organizations accelerate digital transformation initiatives and seek new ways to improve efficiency, demand for AI-powered solutions is likely to continue growing. Investors are expected to remain particularly interested in startups that demonstrate clear product-market fit, scalable business models, and defensible technology advantages.

Khelo India Revamp Opens New Funding Opportunities for SportsTech Startups

The revamped Khelo India scheme is set to create fresh opportunities for India's growing SportsTech ecosystem, with an enhanced financial outlay focused on strengthening sports infrastructure, digital capabilities, and athlete development. A key component of the initiative is the development of a unified digital platform designed to bring greater efficiency and transparency to sports management, talent identification, and performance monitoring.

The expanded framework also places greater emphasis on private-sector innovation, with grants expected to support SportsTech startups developing solutions in areas such as biomechanics, performance analytics, athlete monitoring, and talent tracking. These technologies can help coaches and sporting institutions make data-driven decisions while identifying promising athletes at an earlier stage.

For startups, government-backed grants could provide valuable capital to develop and test innovative products without relying entirely on private investment. The initiative could also encourage collaboration between technology companies, sports federations, training academies, and athletes.

The move reflects India's broader ambition to build a technology-driven sporting ecosystem and improve its competitiveness at national and international levels. By combining public investment with private innovation, the enhanced Khelo India framework could accelerate the adoption of advanced sports technologies and create a stronger pipeline of digitally enabled athletes and sporting talent.



Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups Gets Major Boost to Support High-Growth Ventures

India's expanded Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups aims to improve collateral-free credit access for recognized startups, helping them manage working capital, scale operations, reduce reliance on equity funding, limit dilution, and strengthen financial resilience through easier institutional lending and stronger bank-startup collaboration.

India is strengthening financial support for startups as the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) moves to improve access to collateral-free credit for recognized startups. The enhanced Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS) is aimed at helping venture-backed companies secure institutional financing during critical growth and scale-up stages, when working-capital requirements can rise rapidly.

For startups, access to debt has traditionally been challenging. Unlike established businesses, young companies often have limited operating history, fewer physical assets, and uncertain cash flows. Conventional lenders may therefore hesitate to extend loans without sufficient collateral or guarantees. The expanded credit-guarantee framework is designed to address this gap by reducing the risk faced by participating financial institutions and encouraging them to lend to eligible startups.

The initiative is particularly relevant for venture-backed companies that have already demonstrated market potential but require additional capital to expand operations. Equity funding can provide resources for product development, hiring, technology, and market expansion, but startups often need working capital to manage inventory, vendor payments, salaries, infrastructure costs, and other operational expenses. Access to credit can help companies bridge these requirements without immediately raising another equity round.

Under the streamlined framework, recognized startups can access credit through scheduled commercial banks and other eligible lending institutions, subject to the scheme's applicable conditions. The government-backed guarantee mechanism provides greater confidence to lenders by covering a specified portion of the credit risk. This can encourage banks to consider startups that may otherwise struggle to qualify for traditional business loans.

The timing is significant because India's startup ecosystem has expanded beyond consumer internet businesses into sectors such as enterprise software, fintech, deeptech, healthcare, climate

technology, manufacturing, logistics, and artificial intelligence. Many companies in these sectors require substantial capital before achieving profitability. While venture capital remains an important source of funding, the availability of institutional debt can provide startups with greater financial flexibility.

A stronger debt ecosystem can also help founders manage dilution. When companies rely exclusively on equity financing for every stage of expansion, founders and early investors may face significant ownership dilution. Appropriate debt financing can provide an alternative source of capital for working-capital requirements and asset-light expansion, allowing businesses to use equity primarily for long-term strategic investments.

The enhanced CGSS framework could be particularly useful during scale-up phases. Startups often experience a mismatch between expenses and revenue collection. For example, an enterprise technology company may sign a large customer contract but receive payments only after several weeks or months. Similarly, a manufacturing startup may need to purchase raw materials and build inventory before receiving customer payments. A working-capital facility can help bridge such gaps and maintain operational continuity.

For banks, the scheme could also create a pathway to better understand and serve the startup segment. As more recognized startups build credit histories through formal lending relationships, financial institutions may develop specialized underwriting models that evaluate technology businesses based on factors beyond traditional collateral requirements.

The initiative is also aligned with the government's broader objective of creating a supportive environment for entrepreneurship and innovation. India has built one of the world's largest startup ecosystems, with companies increasingly contributing to employment, technology development, exports, and economic growth.

IndiaAI Mission Accelerates GPU Subsidies to Cut AI Development Costs



IndiaAI Mission’s second GPU subsidy tranche aims to cut AI model training costs by up to 40%, giving startups, researchers, and enterprises affordable high-performance computing access while strengthening India’s sovereign AI capabilities, domestic innovation, and competitiveness in the global artificial intelligence ecosystem.

IndiaAI Mission’s second GPU subsidy tranche aims to cut AI training costs by up to 40%, expanding affordable high-performance computing access for startups, researchers, and enterprises. The initiative supports domestic foundational AI models, strengthens sovereign computing capabilities, encourages innovation, and reduces dependence on overseas infrastructure and resources.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has accelerated the rollout of subsidized high-performance computing under the IndiaAI Mission, marking another important step toward strengthening India’s domestic artificial intelligence ecosystem. The second tranche of GPU support is expected to improve access to advanced computing infrastructure for startups, researchers, enterprises, and institutions developing AI models within the country. High-performance GPUs are among the most expensive resources required to train and deploy modern artificial intelligence systems. Developing large language models and other foundational AI technologies requires significant computing power, often involving thousands of GPU hours. For early-stage startups and research organizations, these costs can become a major barrier to innovation. Through the IndiaAI Mission, subsidized access to high-performance compute resources aims to reduce this financial burden. The latest support could lower the cost of training domestic foundational AI models by up to 40%, enabling more organizations to experiment, train, fine-tune, and deploy advanced AI

systems without making massive upfront infrastructure investments. The initiative is particularly significant as India seeks to develop AI capabilities that reflect the country’s linguistic, cultural, and business diversity. Domestic developers are working on models capable of understanding Indian languages and addressing applications across sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, education, financial services, governance, and enterprise technology. Affordable compute access can help accelerate this development by allowing startups and researchers to dedicate more resources toward model architecture, data preparation, experimentation, and product development rather than infrastructure expenses. It could also encourage more companies to build foundational AI technologies locally instead of depending entirely on foreign cloud providers and overseas infrastructure. The second tranche represents a broader effort to build a stronger national AI computing ecosystem. As global competition around artificial intelligence intensifies, access to advanced compute has become a strategic resource.

Countries and technology companies are investing heavily in GPU infrastructure to support increasingly sophisticated models, making domestic access essential for long-term technological competitiveness. For Indian AI startups, subsidized computing could also improve the economics of experimentation. Generative AI companies often need to test multiple models, datasets, and training techniques before finding an effective solution. Lower compute costs can allow smaller teams to conduct more experiments and bring products to market faster. The initiative may also benefit academic institutions and independent researchers working on specialized AI applications. Increased access to computational resources can support research into multilingual AI, computer vision, robotics, speech recognition, and other emerging fields. Beyond immediate cost savings, the IndiaAI Mission could help create a more sustainable AI innovation pipeline in India.

GOVERNMENT

SIGHT Scheme Expands Incentives to Boost India's Green Hydrogen Hardware Ecosystem

India is strengthening its green hydrogen manufacturing ecosystem as the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) scheme expands its focus to include clean-tech hardware manufacturers involved in electrolyzer components and hydrogen storage systems. The move is aimed at accelerating domestic manufacturing, reducing import dependence, and creating a stronger supply chain for the country's emerging green hydrogen industry.

Electrolyzers are a critical component of green hydrogen production. They use electricity to split water into hydrogen and oxygen, with the hydrogen classified as "green" when the electricity comes from renewable sources. As India seeks to scale green hydrogen production, developing a reliable domestic ecosystem for electrolyzers and their components will be essential for reducing costs and improving supply security.

The expanded incentive framework could provide important support to early-stage manufacturers that are working to localize specialized components, systems, and technologies. Producing these components domestically can help Indian companies reduce exposure to global supply-chain disruptions and fluctuations in imported equipment prices.

Storage infrastructure is another important part of the hydrogen value chain. Because hydrogen has unique storage and transportation requirements, developing efficient storage technologies will be necessary for large-scale adoption. Incentives for companies working on storage systems could encourage innovation in areas such as high-pressure storage, advanced materials, and other technologies designed to safely handle hydrogen.

For clean-tech startups and emerging manufacturers, government incentives can play a critical role in reducing the financial risks associated with developing new hardware. Hardware businesses typically require significant investment in research, testing, manufacturing facilities, equipment, certification, and workforce development before reaching commercial scale. Policy support can help bridge this gap and encourage private investment.

The expansion of SIGHT also reflects India's broader strategy under the National Green Hydrogen Mission, which seeks to establish the country as a major producer and exporter of green hydrogen and related technologies. Building domestic manufacturing capacity is important not only for meeting domestic demand but also for positioning Indian companies within the global clean-energy supply chain.

The development of an indigenous electrolyzer ecosystem could have benefits across several industries. Green hydrogen is being explored for applications in sectors that are difficult to decarbonize through direct electrification, including steel, chemicals, refining, shipping, and heavy transportation. As demand increases, manufacturers of electrolyzers, storage systems, power electronics, control systems, and other components could become important contributors to the clean-energy economy.

The incentives could also encourage collaboration between startups, established engineering companies, research institutions, and renewable energy developers. Such partnerships may help accelerate technology commercialization and improve the efficiency and reliability of domestically manufactured equipment.

Another potential benefit is job creation. Expanding clean-tech manufacturing can generate demand for engineers, technicians, researchers, manufacturing specialists, and skilled workers. Over time, a larger domestic ecosystem could also help Indian companies develop expertise that can be exported to international markets.

However, scaling green hydrogen hardware will require more than financial incentives. Manufacturers will need access to advanced technology, skilled talent, reliable renewable power, testing facilities, financing, and consistent demand.



How Abhisar Wahi Is Building a More Personal and Purpose-Driven Approach to Wealth Management

StartupTimes
Empowering Young Entrepreneurs.

Money is priority®
CREATING AWARENESS, BUILDING WEALTH

ABHISAR WAHI
FOUNDER OF MONEY IS PRIORITY

With 15+ years of experience in financial services, Abhisar Wahi founded **Money Is Priority** to make financial planning more personal, accessible, and aligned with individual goals. His mission is to help people achieve **financial fitness and financial resilience** through the right balance of wealth creation and wealth protection.

WEALTH CREATION
Helping clients build wealth through disciplined planning, smart investments, and a long-term perspective.

WEALTH PROTECTION
Safeguarding what matters most through risk management, insurance solutions, and financial security.

15+ Years of Experience in Financial Services

1000+ Families Guided Towards Financial Wellness

Personalized Strategies
Tailored to Individual Goals & Aspirations

Vision 2029
Cross ₹1,000 Crore AUM and Touch More Lives

Our Mission
To create awareness, build wealth, and help individuals live a financially confident and independent life.

“Financial success is not about products, it's about understanding people, their goals, and helping them build a secure tomorrow.”

That philosophy has been reflected in his own journey—from beginning his career as a call centre representative, developing into a successful financial services professional, spending more than a decade learning the industry, and eventually taking the entrepreneurial leap to create Money Is Priority.

His answer comes back to the same principle that has defined much of his own career: consistency matters. Entrepreneurship does not require having every answer on the first day. There will be challenges, mistakes, uncertainty, and periods when progress feels slower than expected. According to Wahi, what matters is continuing to show up, learning from experience, improving, and moving forward.

SURAT, INDIA —For Abhisar Wahi, wealth management has never been just about investments, numbers, or financial products. After spending more than 15 years in the financial services industry, he has come to believe that meaningful financial advice begins with understanding the person behind the money. That belief now sits at the centre of Money Is Priority, the venture he founded to make financial planning more personal, accessible, and aligned with the individual goals of clients.

Wahi's professional journey began more than 15 years ago at Bajaj Capital, one of India's established financial advisory firms. He started his career as a call centre representative and gradually worked his way through different roles and responsibilities. Over the years, he developed a deep understanding of financial services and eventually became one of the organization's best-performing sales professionals. But while performance and professional growth were important milestones, the most valuable lesson from that period came from interacting with clients every day.

Those conversations showed him that financial decisions are rarely just about money. Behind every investment is a personal objective—a family planning for the future, a professional building financial independence, parents thinking about their children's education, or an individual preparing for retirement. Every client has a different income, lifestyle, responsibility, risk appetite, and definition of financial success. For Wahi, understanding those differences became

fundamental to the way he viewed wealth management.

That experience eventually led him to build something of his own.

The Idea Behind Money Is Priority

The motivation behind Money Is Priority comes from Wahi's desire to help people become what he describes as financially fit and financially resilient. In his view, financial fitness is not simply about earning more or accumulating wealth. It is about having the knowledge, discipline, planning, and confidence to make sensible financial decisions at different stages of life.

India's growing economy has brought with it growing aspirations. People are thinking about home ownership, children's education, retirement, lifestyle goals, business opportunities, and long-term financial independence. Yet for many individuals, financial planning can still feel complicated or difficult to approach.

This is the gap Wahi wants Money Is Priority to address.

The company's philosophy is built around helping clients understand where they currently stand financially, where they want to go, and what kind of strategy may be appropriate for their circumstances. Instead of treating financial planning as a standard process where the same solution is presented to everyone, the company emphasizes personalized conversations and one-on-one guidance.

India's Manufacturing PMI Signals Strong Private Investment and Capacity Expansion

India's manufacturing sector continues to show signs of resilience, with strong domestic demand and rising electronics production supporting overall industrial growth. The latest Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) indicates sustained expansion, reflecting improving business activity and continued confidence among manufacturers.

A key driver of momentum is the steady increase in electronics output, supported by growing domestic consumption and expanding production capabilities. The automotive and industrial goods segments are also witnessing capacity expansion as companies invest in new facilities, equipment, and production lines to meet rising demand.

The trend points toward sustained private capital expenditure, with businesses increasingly committing resources to long-term manufacturing capacity. Strong order books and improving production expectations are encouraging companies to expand operations while strengthening supply chains. The continued manufacturing momentum could support employment, exports, and industrial investment in the coming months.



UPI Expands Cross-Border Reach, Boosting India's Digital Export Economy

India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) ecosystem is expanding its international footprint as NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) deepens real-time payment and settlement corridors across Southeast Asia and Gulf markets. The development is expected to make cross-border transactions faster, simpler, and more cost-efficient for Indian businesses serving international customers.

The expansion is particularly relevant for direct-to-consumer (D2C) brands and software-as-a-service (SaaS) companies, which increasingly rely on digital payments to serve customers outside India. By strengthening real-time payment connectivity, UPI can reduce transaction friction, simplify payment experiences, and potentially improve settlement efficiency for exporters.

For Indian D2C businesses, smoother international payments could support expansion into overseas consumer markets without requiring customers to navigate complicated payment processes. SaaS companies can similarly benefit from easier digital collections, particularly when serving smaller businesses and consumers across emerging markets.

Southeast Asia and the Gulf represent strategically important corridors because of their growing digital economies, strong India-linked business networks, and expanding demand for Indian technology and consumer products. Deeper payment integration can therefore complement India's broader efforts to increase digital exports and strengthen its global fintech presence.

The development also highlights UPI's evolution from a domestic payment platform into an important component of India's international digital infrastructure. As more countries explore interoperability with India's payment ecosystem, Indian exporters could gain access to faster and more seamless payment rails.

For startups and smaller exporters, reduced payment complexity can be particularly valuable. Lower operational friction can improve cash-flow management, customer conversion, and international scalability, strengthening the competitiveness of India's digital-first businesses in global markets.



RBI Maintains Balanced Policy Stance to Support Growth and Control Inflation



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) continues to focus on maintaining a careful balance between controlling inflation and supporting economic growth. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has maintained a stable interest-rate framework, aiming to keep inflation expectations anchored while ensuring adequate liquidity remains available across the financial system.

A key priority is supporting credit availability for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and emerging businesses. Sufficient liquidity can help lenders extend working-capital facilities and expansion loans to companies that require funding for hiring, inventory, technology, infrastructure, and new investments. At the same time, maintaining vigilance over core inflation remains important for preserving macroeconomic stability. Stable underlying price pressures can provide policymakers with greater flexibility to support economic activity without creating excessive inflationary risks.

For startups and smaller businesses, a predictable monetary environment can improve financial planning and investment decisions. Easier access to credit can support business expansion, while stable borrowing conditions can reduce uncertainty around financing costs.

The RBI's approach reflects the broader objective of sustaining India's economic momentum while protecting price stability. By balancing liquidity conditions with inflation management, monetary policy can create a supportive environment for investment, entrepreneurship, employment generation, and long-term economic growth.

SPORTS

Indian SportsTech Startups Secure Athlete Performance Contracts Ahead of Global Championships



Indian SportsTech startups are gaining institutional contracts to support elite athletes with wearables, AI-powered motion tracking, and performance analytics. These technologies enable data-driven training, personalized coaching, injury prevention, and better workload management, while strengthening India's domestic sports innovation ecosystem and creating opportunities across professional, amateur, and grassroots sports.

India's wearable technology and SportsTech ecosystem is gaining momentum as homegrown device manufacturers and AI-powered motion-tracking startups secure institutional mandates to support athletes preparing for major international competitions. The growing adoption of technology in professional training reflects a broader shift toward data-driven sports performance, where coaches and athletes increasingly rely on real-time insights to improve preparation and reduce injury risks.

Indian wearable companies are developing devices capable of monitoring parameters such as movement, heart rate, workload, recovery, speed, and training intensity. When combined with advanced analytics, these devices can provide coaches with a more detailed understanding of an athlete's physical condition and performance patterns.

AI-driven motion-tracking platforms are adding another layer of intelligence to the training ecosystem. Using cameras, sensors, computer vision, and machine-learning algorithms, these systems can analyze an athlete's movements and identify technical inefficiencies. Such insights can help coaches refine technique, improve biomechanics, and design more personalized training programs.

The institutional contracts represent an important opportunity for Indian SportsTech startups because partnerships with sports academies, federations, training centers, and professional teams can provide access to large groups of athletes. These collaborations also allow technology companies to test their products in demanding real-world environments and collect valuable performance data for further product development.

The trend comes as Indian athletes increasingly prepare for high-level international championships, where small improvements in

performance can have a significant impact on results. Traditional coaching remains central to athlete development, but technology can complement human expertise by providing objective measurements that are difficult to capture through observation alone.

Wearable and motion-tracking technologies can also play an important role in injury prevention. Monitoring training loads and movement patterns may help coaches identify signs of excessive fatigue or biomechanical stress before they develop into serious problems. This can enable more informed decisions about training intensity, recovery periods, and workload management.

For Indian startups, the growing sports technology market presents opportunities beyond elite competition. Technologies developed for professional athletes can eventually be adapted for fitness centers, schools, sports academies, amateur athletes, and consumers. This could create larger commercial markets while improving access to advanced performance tools.

The sector is also benefiting from advances in artificial intelligence, computer vision, sensor technology, cloud computing, and data analytics. As these technologies become more affordable, startups can build sophisticated solutions without requiring the massive infrastructure previously associated with professional sports science.

Government-backed sports development initiatives and increasing investment in athlete training are further supporting the ecosystem. Institutions seeking measurable outcomes may increasingly look toward technology to track athlete progress, evaluate training programs, and improve resource allocation.

Tata Power Steps Up Investment in Pumped Hydro Storage for 24/7 Clean Energy



Tata Power is expanding pumped hydro storage to support round-the-clock renewable power for industries and data centers. The investment will strengthen grid flexibility, enable long-duration energy storage, reduce renewable curtailment, and accelerate India’s transition toward reliable, low-carbon electricity infrastructure.

Tata Power is accelerating investments in pumped hydro storage and renewable energy infrastructure as demand for reliable, round-the-clock clean electricity continues to grow across India. The company’s latest capital allocation toward large-scale storage projects reflects the increasing importance of energy storage in supporting industrial consumers, commercial facilities, and rapidly expanding data-center infrastructure. Pumped hydro energy storage works by using surplus electricity to move water to an elevated reservoir. When electricity demand rises, the stored water is released through turbines to generate power. This allows renewable energy generated during periods of strong solar or wind output to be stored and supplied later, helping address the intermittent nature of renewable generation. For Tata Power, expanding pumped hydro capacity can strengthen its ability to provide firm renewable power contracts to large electricity consumers. Industrial companies and data centers require consistent power availability around the clock, making conventional renewable generation alone insufficient for many applications. Energy storage can bridge this gap by ensuring electricity remains available even when solar or wind generation declines. India’s rapidly growing data-center sector is creating additional demand for dependable and increasingly low-carbon electricity. Data centers operate

continuously and require substantial power for computing, cooling, and network infrastructure. As companies seek to reduce emissions from their operations, renewable energy combined with storage is becoming an increasingly attractive solution. Pumped hydro also offers advantages for long-duration energy storage. Unlike short-duration battery systems, which are generally designed for limited periods, pumped hydro can store large quantities of electricity for longer durations. This makes it particularly suitable for balancing renewable-heavy power systems and managing demand peaks. The expansion of storage infrastructure is aligned with India’s broader renewable energy ambitions. As the country adds significant solar and wind capacity, the need for flexible generation and storage will increase. Without adequate storage, renewable electricity generated during periods of low demand could be curtailed or underutilized. Tata Power’s investments could therefore contribute to the development of a more resilient and flexible electricity grid while supporting industrial decarbonization.

Key Highlights

- **Major Investment:** Tata Power is increasing capital allocation toward large-scale pumped hydro storage projects.
- **24/7 Clean Energy:** Storage will help deliver reliable renewable electricity to industrial customers and data centers.
- **Long-Duration Storage:** Pumped hydro can store large amounts of renewable energy for extended periods.
- **Renewable Integration:** It helps balance intermittent solar and wind generation and reduce energy wastage.
- **Data Center Demand:** India’s expanding data-center sector requires reliable, low-carbon electricity around the clock.
- **Grid Stability:** Large-scale storage can improve flexibility, resilience, and peak-demand management.