



International  
Mind-Body  
Wellness Day

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Savitribai  
Phule  
Jayanti

## NATION

Rajnath flags 'alarming trend' of educated people indulging in anti-national activities



## GAMES

*Veteran Australia batter Usman Khawaja set to retire from international cricket after fifth Test*



## Brief

At 26,340, Nifty50 scales lifetime high

Indian equity markets delivered a commanding performance on Friday, scaling fresh lifetime highs intraday before closing firmly higher, as sustained buying in banking, power and metal stocks reinforced confidence in the country's economic and earnings outlook. The benchmark 50-share NSE Nifty rose 182 points to end at 26,328.55, after climbing to a record high of 26,340. The 30-share BSE Sensex also surged 573.41 points to close at 85,762.01, after touching a high of 85,812.27 earlier in the session.

**SEE MONEY**

**EYE ON PAK** | Can't request us to share our water with you and also spread terror in our country: Jaishankar's stern message

## India draws red line with bad neighbours

FPJ News Service

MUMBAI

dealing with what he described as "bad neighbours".

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday sent an unambiguous message on India's neighbourhood policy: cooperation is conditional, and countries that persist with terrorism cannot expect the benefits of good neighbourliness. Speaking at an interaction with students at IIT-Madras, Jaishankar said India has every right to defend its people and will not compromise on security when

“



When you have bad neighbours, and if a country decides that they will deliberately, persistently, unrepentantly continue with terrorism, we have a right to defend our people against terrorism. We will exercise that right.

**S Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister**

“



It also sought an action taken report within 72 hours, detailing compliance action, the role of the chief compliance officer, and steps taken to prevent further hosting, generation or transmission of obscene and sexually explicit material through AI-based services such as Grok.

**Contd on | nation**

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In the letter on Friday issued a stern notice to Elon Musk-led X, asking it to immediately remove all vulgar, obscene and unlawful content, particularly material generated through its artificial intelligence service Grok, failing which strict legal action will follow.

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## Govt trains gun at lewd Grok content

FPJ News Service

MUMBAI

The Centre on Friday issued a stern notice to Elon Musk-led X, asking it to immediately remove all vulgar, obscene and unlawful content, particularly material generated through its artificial intelligence service Grok, failing which strict legal action will follow.

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## MAHA ORDER: STRAY DOGS OFF HIGHWAYS

Ravikiran Deshmukh

MUMBAI

After directing that sports complexes and stadiums be kept free of stray dogs, the state government has now extended the mandate to state and national highways under the jurisdiction of the Public Works Department (PWD).

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In an order issued on Friday, the government instructed all PWD offices responsible for highway maintenance to launch a special drive through the District Road Safety Committees, in line with directions issued by the Supreme Court on November 7 last year.

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Officials have been asked to identify dangerous and sensitive locations where the presence of stray dogs and other animals is frequently reported. As part of the campaign, stray animals will be captured and shifted to shelter homes. Vigilance squads will also be formed to conduct regular inspections along highways.

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Without elaborating.

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Shortly after, Ali Larijani, a former parliament speaker who serves as the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, alleged on X that Israel and the US were stoking the demonstrations.

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## 'Innovation is the backbone of Bull...'

**V. Parthiban,**  
Founder &  
Managing Director  
of Bull Machines,  
on showcasing  
next-gen  
backhoe loaders  
& global CE  
leadership at  
EXCON



## Driving smart infrastructure

**Arvind K Garg**, Advisor to Chairman and Managing Director, Larsen & Toubro, talks about smart machines, digitalisation, and sustainable solutions

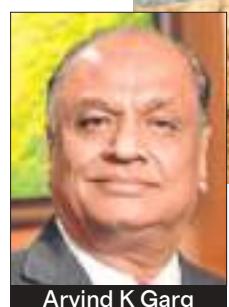
What key products, technologies, or launches will you be showcasing at EXCON 2025, and how do these offerings address the evolving needs of construction, mining, and infrastructure segments such as bridges, flyovers, rural projects and smart cities?

As the country progresses towards the long-term vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, infrastructure development is expected to accelerate rapidly; and this will increase demand not only for more machines but also for new technologies, including alternate fuels such as hydrogen, biodiesel and electric, hybrid solutions and advanced remote-control and digital systems.

A major highlight of our participation this time is EarthBrain, Komatsu's Smart Construction ecosystem that connects machines, people and jobsites in a single digital environment. By using drone surveys, IoT sensors, 3D terrain models, machine data and AI-based analytics, EarthBrain creates a digital twin of the jobsite and helps infrastructure development companies plan more accurately, monitor work in real time, optimise material movement and improve safety. One of its most impactful capabilities is secure remote operation.

New launches include the Komatsu PC225, designed for high stability and precise operation in bridges, flyovers and elevated corridors, along with a new 40-tonne hydraulic excavator built for heavy-duty earthwork and high-volume excavation. The Komatsu PC35, our compact champion, serves tight urban and utility applications, while models such as the Komatsu PC81, Komatsu PC136, Komatsu PC205, Komatsu PC210 and Komatsu PC500 address mainstream construction and mining segments. The Komatsu GD535 Motor Grader, the Komatsu D85 dozer and the Komatsu HB365 Hybrid Excavator complete the line-up, with the hybrid model supporting lower emissions and improved energy use.

From L&T's indigenous portfolio, we will showcase the L&T Crusher for quarrying and aggregates, L&T CEV-V compliant vibratory compactors for roads and urban infrastructure, and L&T Wheel Loaders and L&T Skid Steer



Arvind K Garg



Loaders for material handling, road support, municipal operations and solid-waste applications.

How is your organisation integrating advancements in digitalisation, automation, AI, telematics and predictive technologies to enhance productivity, safety, lifecycle value and overall machine performance for customers?

Digitalisation continues to transform how construction and mining projects are planned and executed. Building on the EarthBrain Smart Construction ecosystem introduced earlier, which brings data-led planning, jobsite visualisation and remote operation into mainstream

workflows, our focus now is on strengthening connectivity, predictive insights and operator support across the fleet.

KOMTRAX provides real-time information on utilisation, load behaviour, fuel efficiency and operating trends, while KOMTRAX Plus supports mining-class machines with deeper diagnostics. Predictive maintenance is reinforced through Komatsu Oil Wear Analysis, and Swift Service 360 improves service responsiveness and documentation accuracy.

Indigenous digital solutions complement global platforms. DigiEye, fitted on L&T's CEV-V compliant vibratory compactors, provides supervisors and fleet managers with real-time visibility of compaction quality, machine parameters

and operating behaviour, helping improve utilisation and productivity across diverse jobsite conditions.

Automation and hydraulic intelligence add another layer of efficiency. Hydramind balances engine power and hydraulic demand for smoother cycles and reduced fuel usage, and the Komatsu HB365 Hybrid Excavator supports energy recovery and lower emissions.

To help customers gain full value from these technologies, we continue to strengthen operator and technician capabilities through simulators, IES-certified training and on-site mentoring. The commissioning of a 100-tonne Komatsu HD785-7 dump truck by an all-women L&T team at Tata Steel's Noamundi mine showcases the capability-building efforts underway.

What is your assessment of the market potential for your key product categories in India, and how do you foresee demand trends evolving in 2026 and beyond?

India is entering a sustained phase of infrastructure expansion with strong activity in highways, rail corridors, mining, airports, smart cities and water management. As the country advances towards the goals of Viksit Bharat, demand for construction and mining equipment is expected to remain strong.

Highway development will continue to drive requirements for machines like the Komatsu PC205, Komatsu PC210, compactors and graders. Elevated roads, bridges and flyovers will support demand for models such as the Komatsu PC225 and Komatsu PC300. Urban infrastructure and utility works will benefit from compact machines such as the Komatsu PC35 and Komatsu PC81, and the L&T Trencher for underground utilities and fibre-rollout projects.

Mining growth will support heavy excavators like the Komatsu PC390 and Komatsu PC500, along with hybrid models such as the Komatsu HB365. Rental demand is also set to rise as SMEs and contractors adopt asset-light models.

Looking towards 2026 and beyond, demand will shift further towards technologically advanced equipment like hybrid and alternate-fuel machines, intelligent and connected equipment and solutions that reduce fuel wastage, emissions and jobsite variability. Our product range positions us well to support these evolving needs.

What are the key highlights of your participation at EXCON this year?

EXCON 2025 is a milestone year for Bull Machines. We are showcasing our next-generation Super Smart High-Speed Series, reinforcing our position as the world leader in performance in the backhoe loader segment. Key highlights include:

- Launch of the Super Smart High-Speed Series backhoe loaders.
- Introduction of new models:
- 74 HP KOEL Super Smart High Speed
- 55 HP "Challenger" model with Ashok Leyland engine
- Grandia - our ultra-luxury backhoe loader
- Display of the all-new AV490 B5 skid loader and AV740 (74 HP) skid loader.
- Showcasing our new mini excavators and telehandlers.

Together, these launches reflect our commitment to global competitiveness, superior performance, and Indian engineering excellence.

How significant is EXCON as a platform for your company in terms of networking, brand visibility, and business opportunities?

EXCON is the most important stage for Indian construction equipment manufacturers, and for Bull, it has been a massive growth catalyst.

- It strengthens our brand visibility, especially as the fastest-growing backhoe loader brand in the world.
- It brings us closer to global customers, OEM partners, and technology suppliers.
- EXCON accelerates opportunities in exports, strategic collaborations, and



channel expansion. With India entering what we believe will be two decades of unstoppable infrastructure growth, EXCON is a platform where Bull demonstrates its capability to lead both India and the world.

How do you view the current demand scenario for construction equipment in India and South Asia?

India is in one of the most exciting periods in its economic history. Infrastructure growth is strong and will continue for the next several decades.

Demand may see occasional dips, but structurally:

- Long-term growth is extremely positive
- India's investment cycle is strengthening
- Government focus on roads, rail, mining, housing, and rural development is accelerating CE demand
- South Asia mirrors this growth with significant opportunities

Overall, we believe this decade—and the next—belong to India.

How are your products evolving in terms of performance, fuel efficiency, safety, and technology adoption?

Bull Machines is continuously pushing the boundaries of performance and efficiency:

- Super Smart Backhoe Loader is one of the most fuel-efficient backhoe loaders in the world.
- We have transitioned to advanced piston pump systems for higher efficiency and reliability.
- Our R&D team focuses on performance optimisation, durability, and operator comfort.
- Safety-focused design and telematics-enabled monitoring continue to evolve.

On EVs, we are evaluating the technology, but currently, we do not see practical usage in heavy earthmoving equipment due to energy density, runtime, and cost constraints.

## Durability and precision

**Alex Tan**, CEO - APAC Region - JOST World, discusses solutions that enhance efficiency and equipment longevity

What does this joint participation at EXCON 2025 represent for the JOST Group?

EXCON 2025 is a significant milestone for the JOST World in India. Though JOST and Hyva have long been global leaders in commercial vehicle, construction, and mining solutions, this is the first time we are presenting an integrated portfolio together on a major international stage in India. It reflects India's increasing strategic relevance in our global roadmap and marks a unified direction as one group.

JOST leads the showcase with its proven range of fifth-wheel couplings, kingpins, towing hitches, landing gears, axles, and suspension systems - engineered for rugged reliability, long service life, and safety in demanding conditions. Hyva complements this with the India debut of the Heavy-Duty Pro (HD-Pro) mining cylinder range, along with hydraulic cylinders, wetkits, SlideKap, and the Digital Tipping System (DTS).

Which product categories or technologies is your company showcasing at the event?

JOST is showcasing its full range of trailer

aggregates system, including fifth wheel couplings, kingpins, towing hitches, landing gears, mechanical and air suspensions, and the 16T axle. New technologies such as air suspension with single structured trailing arm and inbuilt bump stopper, remote-operated electric landing gear with high torque which can withstand lifting capacity of 28 Ton bring added convenience, precision, and safety to trailer operations.

Hyva's display focuses on mining and construction. For mining, the centerpiece is the HD-Pro cylinder range, built for high loads and long duty cycles. DTS adds intelligence by giving fleet owners tonnage performance per trip and by preventing unsafe tipping actions. For construction, the emphasis is on safety and turnaround time. SlideKap eliminates manual tarpaulin handling and improves compliance; DTS supports safer tipping; and our hydraulic systems and wetkits ensure consistent lifting performance.

JOST contributes by providing robust axles, suspensions, and fifth wheel coupling systems that improve vehicle stability in uneven or congested terrain - resulting in smoother cycles and lower stress on equipment.

Hyva enhances productivity by ensuring faster, safer operations. SlideKap speeds up loading and unloading while removing manual effort. Our hydraulic systems deliver consistent tipping performance, even under varying conditions. DTS reinforces operational discipline

through early warnings on unsafe tipping angles and helps fleet owners track and improve payload per trip - an increasingly important metric for them.

A key advantage is Hyva's Application Engineering (AE) capability. Our Sales and AE teams collaborate with customers and OEMs to choose the right configuration for aggregates, mining, infrastructure, and construction, ensuring optimized performance and reliable output.

What key technologies or innovations improve performance, reduce downtime, and ensure longer equipment life?

Durability and precision are common to both JOST and Hyva. Hyva's HD-Pro cylinders are engineered for tough mining conditions, with stronger structures, improved sealing systems, and features that reduce maintenance and extend service life.

JOST's axles, suspensions, and fifth wheel coupling devices are designed for stability and longevity in rough-road and off-road conditions. Their precision engineering reduces stress on other vehicle components, minimizes failures and downtime. DTS adds an important preventive layer by warning and stopping unsafe tipping actions. This not only protects equipment but provides accurate daily per-trip payload and performance data - valuable for planning and managing fleet efficiency.

How do your products support OEMs and end-users in lowering operating costs and improving fuel efficiency?

Fuel, maintenance, and downtime are the biggest cost drivers in construction and

mining. Our solutions are addressed comprehensively.

JOST's fifth wheels, axles and suspensions improve load distribution and reduce rolling resistance, leading to better fuel efficiency. Hyva's cylinders enable faster tipping cycles, cutting idling and unnecessary fuel burn.

Our Sales and AE teams work with fleets to evaluate load type, density, and site layout, ensuring the ideal cylinder-body-wetkit combination for lower fuel usage and shorter cycles.

DTS further reduces costs by preventing operator errors and unsafe actions, reducing breakdowns, and providing performance and payload insights to improve productivity and fleet planning.

With rising focus on sustainability, how are your components contributing to energy efficiency, reduced emissions, or environmentally responsible manufacturing?

Sustainability is central to the JOST World strategy. Across our global facilities, we continuously optimize materials, reduce waste, and shift toward renewable energy. Hyva is also advancing electrification-oriented solutions such as EPTO, reflecting our long-term commitment toward lower emissions and readiness for future powertrain technologies.

Operationally, Hyva's efficient tipping cycles and SlideKap help reduce idling and emissions at sites.

DTS minimizes misuse and prevents damage, extending equipment life. Increased durability across JOST and Hyva product portfolio reduces the environmental footprint associated with frequent replacements and raw material.

These are edited excerpts. Read full interviews on **Equipment Times** website.



Alex Tan