# '2026 set to reward disciplined digital transformation over tech hype,' says Forvis Mazars

As enterprises prepare for 2026, the focus of digital transformation is undergoing a decisive shift- from rapid experimentation to

disciplined execution.

According to the DTT
Outlook 2026 released by Forvis Mazars in India, the coming year will favour organizations that balance technological ambition with operational discipline, integrating artificial intelligence thoughtfully while strengthening the digital foundations required for long-term resilience and competitive advantage.

'Forvis Mazars in India is the Indian arm of a global professional services network offering audit, tax and advisory services.



The report underscores that artificial intelligence, cloud modernization, cy-bersecurity imperatives, and data governance are now converging at an unprecedented pace.

While this convergence presents vast opportunities for enterprises, it also introduces growing complexity, making execution capability a key differentiator rather than mere access to advanced technologies.

The past year saw organizations navigating competing priorities as they at-

strengthen fences—often simultaneously. While some entermade notable progress by embedding AI into operational workflows and upgrading core systems, many others struggled to move beyond pilot

The Outlook highlights that success in 2025 was rarely driven by the sophistication of tools adopted. Instead, outcomes were shaped by governance clarity, stakeholder alignment, and a realistic understanding of enterprise-wide transformation.

Budgetary pressures, talent shortages, integra-tion challenges, and rising consistent barriers across industries. These experiences have set the stage for 2026, a year in which organizations must convert ambition into sustained, scal-

At the foundation is data infrastructure, which must evolve from a support function into a strategic enabler. As organizations pursue AI-driven insights, automation, and advanced analytics, weak data quality and fragmented gover-nance continue to limit progress.

Establishing clear own-ership, quality standards, and robust data architectures is critical- not just for AI, but for all digital opera-

# Insurance Bill ushers in a

`mini/regional insurer' with a twist Venkatachari Jagannathan

Chennai, (UNI)

With its earlier idea of allowing regional insurers with lower start up capital evoking strong opposition, the Indian government seems to have decided to bring in a new insurance intermediary called Managing General Agency (MGA). Interestingly, the `mini or regional insurer' with powers to underwrite policies, settle claims upto a certain limit and also ink reinsurance deals. But the ultimate liability lies with that of the primary insurer whom the MGA represents. The MGA seems to be an alternative for the originally planned regional insurance companies, said a couple of in-dustry experts not wanting to be

It should be said the earlier proposal of the government to allow regional insurers with lower start up capital was opposed by several persons including the first Chairman of Insurance Regulatory and Develop-ment Authority of India (IRDAI)

The MGA, the proposed insurance intermediary will be one notch higher than the brokers in the insurance dis-

vidual/corporate agents and brokers Industry experts are also of the view that the Indian market is not yet ready for MGA

Interestingly the International Fi nancial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has allowed MGAs to set up office in the Gujarat International Fi nance Tec-City or GIFT City.

MGA is an insurance intermedi ary in other countries who is allowed to do marketing, underwriting, issuing policies, collecting premiums, ap pointing and supervising other agents, paying claims, and negotiating reinsurance, on behalf of the insurers," explained C.L. Baradhwaj, a practicing a company secretary spe cialising in insurance and corporate laws. He also said MGAs are allowed to negotiate and bind ceding reinsur ance contracts on behalf of the insur derwriting office and thus acts as a Managing Agent for the insurer.

In a way MGAs are 'mini-insurers and take away the burden of the insurers on certain operational matters under outsourced model and car bring cost efficiency and help increas ing the focus on insurers on strategic

#### Airtel Payments Bank in Partnership with NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd Enables EV Wallet **Recharges via Bharat Connect**

Airtel Payments Bank in partnership vith NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited has enabled EV Wallet Recharges via the Bharat Connect (BBPS) platform on Airtel Thanks app. Until now, electric vehicle owners were required to use the wallets that are provided by individual Charging Point Operators (CBOs) for charging pay. Point Operators (CPOs) for charging payments. With the EV Recharge category, Airtel Payments Bank enables customers to top up their EV wallets directly through the Airtel Thanks App, making the process seamless, instant, and interoperable. Customers simply need to log in to the app, select "Recharge EV" under Pay Bills, enter their registered mobile number and recharge amount, confirm and pay securely via Bharat Connect enabled apps, and have the recharge reflected instantly in their wallet.

# Hyd: CIE-IIITH hosts Winter 2025 Demo Day: 13 deep tech startups pitch to investors

Hyderabad, (UNI)

CIE@IIIT Hyderabad hosted its Winter 2025 Demo Day here on Thursday, where 13 research-driven startups pitched their innovations to over 20 leading investors interested in scalable, technology-led

The participating startups spanned Deep Tech, MedTech, AI, Mobility, Language Technologies, Robotics, and Climate Tech, reflecting the growing depth of India's acad-

emic startup ecosystem. ket traction, and stro The startups, drawn investment readiness.



DeepTech Accelerator, areas such as intelligent MedTech Incubator, and sensing, AI-driven diag-AIC-Social Accelerator,

and next-generation in-

strong focus on measurable societal, environmental, and economic A key highlight of the Demo Day was CIE's "Lab-to-Land" ap-

frastructure, with a

proach, which enables founders to co-create with IIIT Hyderabad faculty, research labs, and

Several startups have translated applied reccelerator, nostics, autonomous search from IIIT-H cenvalidated systems, sustainable material ters including CVIT, RRC, technologies, early marterials, energy storage, CVEST, and SPCRC into ket traction, and strong language technologies, deployable products and

#### **Bharti Airtel Announces Leadership Changes** Gopal Vittal to become **Executive Vice Chairman**

New Delhi: Gopal Vittal has led Bharti Airtel as Managing Director C CEO for the last thirteen years. As part of a structured succession



tion process, Gopal will be suc-

ceeded by Shashwat Sharma as

MD and CEO of Bharti Airtel India

on the 1st of January 2026. In his

role as CEO designate, Shashwat

has over the past twelve months,

spent considerable time working

alongside Gopal across the busi

ness in preparation for the role. Shashwat will report to Gopal. Additionally, Soumen Ray currently the Chief Financial Of ficer for Bharti Airtel India, will be appointed as Group Chief Financial Officer reporting to Gopal. Soumen has been on his current role for about 4 years and has been instrumental in guiding Bharti Airtel financial performance. Akhil Garg, currently Financial Controller, Bharti Airtel will be appointed as Chief Financial Officer for Bharti

# International Conference on International Law at VIT Chennai



An International Conference on Protection of Environment under International Law was held at VIT Chennai on Tuesday, with speakers calling for concrete action to protect the environment for future

Leonardo Nemer Caldeira Brant, Judge International Court of Justice, The Hague, Netherlands, was the Chief Guest and delivered the Valedictory Address in the evening. Dr. G.V. Selvam, Vice President, VIT, presided. Justice R. Suresh Kumar, Judge, Madras High Court, delivered his Special Address.

In his address, Brant said a core objective of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) was to take affirmative action to prevent countries from causing environmental damage. "Every State (country) is expected to take due diligence to prevent harm to the climate system,'

Tracing the history and evolution of International Environmental Law, climate change laws, and the ICJ's role, Mr. Brant also cited

over the event, said safeguarding the environment and upholding the law are crucial to protecting the planet tomorrow and in the future. Informed action and responsive international law offer a powerful framework to prevent further environmental damage while fostering sustainable development. "It enables giving legal advice to shared global concerns by bringing to-gether scholars and legal minds," Dr. G.V. Selvam remarked. Stating that VIT firmly believed

that education should be accompanied by responsibility, Dr. Selvam said that responsibility towards environmental protection should be the duty of every student, adding that everyone at VIT School of Law, especially its students, was committed to this en-

In his Special Address, Justice Mr. R. Sûresh Kumar, Judge, Madras High Court, recalled that several attempts had been made to establish a separate international court to address environmental part in the event.

# InvITs & REITs post robust growth in distributions in Q2 FY2026: ICRA Analytics

Mumbai, (UNI)

India's InvIT ( (Infra-Investment Trusts) and REIT (Real Estate Investment Trusts) market delivered robust growth in distributions for Q2 FY2026, driven by strong operating metrics across roads, power & energy, commercial real estate, telecom infrastructure, and warehouse & logistics. Fresh entrants contributed additional momentum, amplifying the gains delivered by seasoned trusts.

Distributions by public trusts surged significantly, recording a quar-ter-on-quarter growth of 34.32 percent crossing Rs

Power & Energy assets re-mained stable, consis-tent with predictable

The recent listings of TVS Infrastructure Trust and Knowledge Realty



period last year, this marks a robust 55.42 pc year-on-year increase. REITs led the perfor-

Compared to the same

mance, driven by healthy leasing momentum, higher rentals, and improved collections. Road InvITs also posted robust growth, sup-

ported by strong toll traf-fic and seasonal uplift.

cash-flow behaviour. Private InvITs recorded distributions of over Rs 4,700 crore, reflecting a 13.44 pc quarter-onquarter growth over Q1

tributions expanded by 27.53 pc relative to Q2 Telecommunication assets continued to perform strongly, with better tower usage and digital infrastructure expansion.

FY26. Year-on-year, dis-

Roads and logistics trusts saw healthy QoQ increases, while Power & Energy remained largely

The recent listings of

Trust in Q2 FY 2026, followed by Anantam Highways Trust in Q3 FY 2026, underscored the growing investor confidence and signal increasing market maturity across both public and private plat-

"Spurred by traction in leasing in the commercial real estate segment, festive season tailwind on traffic revenue, and expanding requirements in telecom infrastructure, solar power and energy, the outlook for Q3FY2026 remains positive," Madhubani Sengupta, Head edge Services, ICRA Ana-

## Cement Manufacturers' Association (CMA) Announces Parth Jindal as President; Dr Raghavpat Singhania Named Vice President

New Delhi: Cement Manufacturers' Association (CMA), the apex body for Cement Manufactures in India, has elected Mr Parth Jindal, Managing Director, JSW Cement Limited as the new President of CMA at its Annual General Meeting held on December 18, 2025. Dr Raghavpat Singhania, Managing Director, J K Cement Limited took over as the Vice President of the Association. Mr Jindal takes over from Mr Neeraj Akhoury, Managing Director of Shree Cement Limited. CMA Members unanimously endorsed the new President and Vice President, reaffirming their confidence in the Association's leadership.



sustainability agenda. Parth Jindal is the Managing Director of JSW Cement Limited. At CMA, Mr Jindal is the youngest elected President in the Association's 60 years history and is expected to bring in new energy and perspective to address key challenges facing the Indian Cement Industry. In his role as President, Mr Iindal will be responsible for driving CMA's policy agenda with the policy makers, regulators and other stakeholders,

with an emphasis on sustainable manufacturing practices, energy transition (decarbonisation) and logistics optimisation, to present the collective voice and priorities of the Cement Industry at CMA. Enlarging the CMA membership base would al-

so be a key priority. On his election, Parth Jindal, President, Cement Manufacturers' Association (CMA), said, "I am delighted to take on the responsibility of President of CMA. The Cement Industry is currently balancing rapid infrastructure growth with sustainability imperatives. My focus will be on deepening collaboration with the policy makers at the Centre and State level, ensuring that the Indian Cement Industry remains globally competitive while staying steadfast in its contri-bution to India's long term develop-

#### protection exclusively, but nothing had yet fructified. Prof. T. Thya-garajan, Pro Vice Chancellor, VIT several cases of international dis-Marking a first in CMA's history, the Association is led by a President putes among countries over the use of natural resources, environand Vice President from the younger mental damage, and the protection Chennai, Prof. Dr. C. Rabbiraj, generation, whose dynamic outlook and forward looking ideas are expected to further strengthen CMA and its of marine and wildlife. Dean, VIT School of Law also took Dr. G.V. Selvam, who presided

Scholarships 2026–27 for Indian students the UK's international organization for cultural relations and educational opportunities, announced the GREAT Scholarships 2026–27 in partnership with the UK government's GREAT Britain campaign . The scholarships support ambitious Indian students with a lege of Art, Royal Conservatoire proven record of academic ex-

ate studies in the UK year, 12 postgraduate scholar-ships are being offered by lead-University of Reading, the Uniing UK universities across a versity of Surrey, and UWE wide range of subjects. The Bristol . Each scholarship proparticipating higher education vides a minimum of £ 10,000 institutions include Anglia towards tuition fees for a one-Ruskin University, Norwich year taught postgraduate University of the Arts, Queen's course, enabling academically University Belfast, Royal Col-



**British Council announces GREAT** 

of Scotland, Royal Northern College of Music, the University of Bristol, Trinity Laban Con-For the 2026–27 academic servatoire of Music and Dance, outstanding students from In-

dia to access world-class education and internationally rec-

ognized expertise. The scholarships span a diverse range of disciplines, in-cluding Finance, Marketing, Business, Psychology, STEM, Design and Humanities, as well as Arts, Music and Dance programs . Notably, four participating universities are offering GREAT Scholarships specifically in creative and performing arts disciplines, underscoring the UK's strength in arts education alongside academic and professional fields.

The GREAT Scholarships are jointly funded by the UK government's GREAT Britain Campaign, the British Council, and participating UK higher education institutions.

#### Cipla launches Yurpeak® (tirzepatide) for the treatment of **Obesity & Diabetes**

Cipla Limited (BSE: 500087; NSE: CIPLA; and cipla") today announced the launch of Yurpeak® (tirzepatide), a one-weekly injectable therapy for managing obesity and type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) — two of the country's most pressing health challenges. Cipla has the rights to distribute and promote Yurpeak® — the second brand of Lilly's tirzepatide in India, after Lilly received DCGI approval. Commenting on the launch, Achin Gupta, Global Chief Operating Officer, Cipla Limited, said: "The launch of Yurpeak® marks a transformative moment in the fight mative moment in the fight against obesity and type 2 di-abetes mellitus, two of India's chronic conditions with a heavy burden.

## Dr. Batra's® Healthcare reopens its state-of-the-art homeopathic & international aesthetic solutions clinic

Healthcare, India's leading company with the largest network of homeopathic clinics globally, announced the reopening of its state-of-the-art clinic in Bhopal. The clinic will provide evidence-based homeopathic treatments for over 100 acute and chronic conditions, as well as safe, noninvasive, and side-effect-free, advanced international hair and skin beauty treatments. All treatment procedures and

protocols are in line with global medical standards. Present at the inauguration ceremony were Vishwas Sarang, Minister of Cooperation, Sports and Youth Welfare, Government of Madhya Pradesh, and Dr. Akshay Batra, Fellow in Homeopathic Cosmetology and Aesthetics and Managing Director of Dr. Batra's® Healthcare. According to the World Health Organization, homeopathy



effective care.

medicine globally, and over 100 million people in India rely on it for their health and wellness needs. Backed by scientific and technological innovations, the Batra's® Dr. synonymous

homeopathy. Founded in 1982 by Padmashree Dr. Mukesh Batra as a patient-centric healthcare institution, Dr. Batra's® Healthcare has successfully treated over 1.5

million patients with a success rate of 91%, as certified by US quality assessors. The Bhopal clinic is a testament to the brand's commitment to personalized, safe, and

Dr. Batra's® Bhopal clinic will offer sciencebacked treatments that not only treat the root cause of the problem but also deliver faster results by combining homeopathy with advanced hair and skin beauty treatments.