

62% Gen Z and Millennials continue to back gold as safest investment bet, says survey

MUMBAI, Feb 15: Gold remains the most trusted investment for young Indians despite growing access to modern financial products, with 62 per cent of respondents choosing the metal as the first choice for investment, according to a survey.

The survey also revealed that 66.7 per cent of respondents stated that gold purchases are largely their personal decisions, and nearly 62 per cent stated that their most recent gold purchase was below 5 grams, indicating the changing nature of how the GenZ and Millennials look at gold.

The Smytten PulseAI survey, conducted with 5,000 consumers aged between 18-39, captured how tradition-led buying is steadily giving way to a more individual, logic-driven approach.



According to the survey, 61.9 per cent of respondents would choose gold if they had Rs 25,000 to invest today, far ahead of mutual funds (16.6 per cent), fixed deposits (13 per cent), stocks (6.6 per cent) and crypto (1.9 per cent).

During times of eco-

nomie uncertainty, 65.7 per cent said gold feels like the safest option compared to bank savings, mutual funds or equities, it stated.

These findings underline gold's enduring role as the financial fallback across both Gen Z and Millennials. The survey pointed to a

clear move away from large, infrequent purchases toward lighter, more regular buying, as 61.9 per cent of recent purchases were below 5 grams, with 27.5 per cent buying less than 2 grams and 34.4 per cent buying between 2 and 5 grams.

Fundamentals of business is improving in India; Unilever CEO

NEW DELHI, FEB 15: British multinational consumer goods maker said "fundamentals" of its business in India, its second largest market after the US, are improving.

In the fourth quarter, Unilever, in the home care segment, reported a 4.7 per cent underlying sales growth along with a volume growth of 4 per cent, which, according to the company, was supported by "continued strong volume in India".

"India was a key contributor to this momentum, with Home Care delivering mid-single-digit volume growth, led by strong performance in liquids across fabric wash and household care, and reaching its highest ever market share," said its CEO, Fernando Fernandez, in Unilever's earnings calls for the fourth quarter.

Fernandez said across geographies US and India are clear "anchor markets" for Unilever.



Replying to a query over growth, he said: "India, it's improving both in terms of economic backgrounds and the fundamentals of the business, particularly the strengthening of our brand equities... brand superiority scores in India are improving across the board."

Moreover, its execution is also improving, particularly in rural areas and traditional trade, Fernandez added.

"And we are growing shares, particularly in home care. We have

achieved that is, is 40 per cent of our business there. We have achieved the highest ever share there in the last reading," he added.

Its Indian subsidiary has delivered a 5 per cent Underlying Sales Growth (USG) led by 4 per cent Underlying Volume Growth in the December quarter.

While in 2025, its India business has "4 per cent underlying sales growth with 3 per cent volume" which was supported by "gradually improving mar-

ket conditions and a competitive performance with share gains".

Unilever also acknowledged HUL's sales growth of 5 per cent with 4 per cent volume growth "reflected a step up in performance and recovery post Goods and Services Tax related disruption."

"Our focus remains on beauty and wellbeing, and personal care, with emphasis on premium segments, digitally native brands, and dCommerce exposure, particularly in the US and India," he said.

Unilever has reported a turnover of 50.5 billion euros in 2025, which is down 3.8 per cent on account of adverse currency and net disposals.

Hindustan Unilever (HUL) is consistently ranked as Unilever's second-largest market globally by revenue, after the United States, with India contributing around 12-14% of total sales. (PTI)

Lenovo India Q3 revenue grows 7 pc to Rs 8,145 cr on AI, infra demand

NEW DELHI, FEB 15: Lenovo India has reported a 7 per cent rise in revenue to Rs 8,145 crore for the third quarter of FY26, driven by a broad-based digitisation momentum in India, rapid AI adoption, and strong performance across the mobile, PC, and infrastructure business segments.

Shailendra Katyal, Vice President and Managing Director of Lenovo India, stated that the performance reflected sustained demand rather than a one-off spike.

"We are very encouraged by the broader digitisation momentum in India. Lenovo benefits from having a broad portfolio spanning phones, PCs, tablets, and infrastructure solutions. With rapid technology adoption, especially AI, we are seeing strong momentum across businesses," Katyal said in an interview with PTI.

A significant contributor to this growth was Motorola, which captured an 8.3 per cent market share in India in Q3 2025, according to IDC.

Additionally, Lenovo's core PC business and its server and infrastructure division delivered double-digit year-on-year growth during the quarter.

India has emerged as a critical hub for the global tech giant, contributing approximately 4 per cent of



Lenovo's global revenues and 24 per cent of its total revenue in the Asia Pacific region, Katyal noted.

"Our role (in India) goes beyond revenue. India is increasingly central to manufacturing, R&D, capability building, and AI talent development. Government initiatives like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme and AI skilling programmes have further strengthened the ecosystem. So, India is both a revenue market and a capability hub within Lenovo's global strategy," Katyal said.

Lenovo, which has been manufacturing in India since 2005, currently produces a "big majority" of its products sold locally, including Motorola phones, PCs, servers, and tablets, within the country. The company is also exporting phones and tablets from its Indian facilities.

Looking ahead, Katyal said, the company is mov-

ing toward deeper component manufacturing.

"(Manufacturing motherboards and PCBs) is the logical next step and aligned with our PLI commitments. As suppliers build local capacity under the component PLI scheme, we will increase local sourcing wherever commercially viable," he said.

On the AI front, Katyal observed a shift in the Indian market from experimentation to a demand for tangible ROI. Lenovo is pushing a "Hybrid AI" strategy that spans public clouds, private infrastructure, and personal devices (AI PCs).

To support this, Lenovo has significantly scaled its R&D presence in India. The company's India-based engineers work on global server and smartphone programmes, and the firm has filed over 600 patents in recent years. Lenovo's headcount in India has grown five to six times over

the past six years, specifically in engineering and AI roles, Katyal said.

The company currently employs about 3,400 people in India.

At the broader group level, Lenovo Group reached an all-time high revenue of USD 22.2 billion, up 18 per cent year-on-year. However, the Group's net income (profit attributable to equity holders) declined 21 per cent to USD 546 million.

The AI-related revenue grew 72 per cent year-on-year, accounting for nearly a third of the Group's total revenue this quarter, according to a company statement.

Lenovo's Intelligent Devices Group (IDG), the core engine of its personal AI strategy, recorded a revenue of USD 15.8 billion, up 14 per cent year-on-year.

The Infrastructure Solutions Group (ISG), a key contributor to Lenovo's hybrid infrastructure, reported a 31 per cent revenue growth to USD 5.2 billion.

Solutions and Services Group's (SSG) revenue rose 18 per cent to USD 2.7 billion, driven by enterprises moving AI from experimentation to production, and supported by Lenovo's tech-led, labour-light, AI-first model. (PTI)

SNM organises blood donation camp at Dayalachack, donates 123 unit blood

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 15

With the divine blessings of Her Holiness Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj, A Voluntary Blood Donation Camp was organised today at Sant Nirankari Sat-sang Bhawan Dayalachak, Kathua.

The Blood Donation Camp was inaugurated by Ajit Singh Zonal Incharge Jammu.

While speaking on the occasion, he quoted the divine message of Baba Hardev Singh Ji Maharaj, saying, "Blood should flow in veins, not in drains." He further stated that Raktadaan is Mahadaan, and there is no substitute for it.

The Sant Nirankari Mission has been continuously organizing voluntary blood donation camps across India from time to time, rendering selfless service (sewa) for the welfare of society.

The Mission firmly believes in serving humanity and promoting the noble cause of saving precious lives through blood dona-



tion.

Highlighting the core message of the Mission, he said that spirituality is the foundation to enlighten human beings. The Mission spreads the universal message of oneness: "Ek Ko Jaano, Ek Ko Maano, Ek Ho Jao" — Know One, Believe in One, and Become One. He further said that under the divine benevolence and guidance of Her Holiness Satguru Mata

Sudiksha Ji Maharaj, the Sant Nirankari Mission continues uplifting humanity through social and spiritual initiatives, striving to build a peaceful and compassionate society.

Rajesh Kumar Hans mukhi branch Dayalachak presented the vote of thanks and welcomed all presented in the Camp.

Other local dignitaries presented on the occasion were Dr. Soami BMO Hi-

ranagar, Gian Chand Khetriya Sanchalak Jammu, Vijay Kumar Sanchalak Dayalachak.

The blood collection was conducted with complete professionalism and strict safety measures under proper medical supervision by the teams from Government Medical College, Jammu, led by Dr. Abida, and Government Medical College, Kathua, led by Dr. Kavita.

AI adoption leading to moderation in entry-level hiring: Report

NEW DELHI, FEB 15: Artificial Intelligence (AI) adoption has led firms to moderate hiring, primarily at the entry-level, according to a report.

According to a study by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) supported by OpenAI, AI adoption is reshaping hiring priorities across the sector.

The study finds that 63 per cent of firms reported increased demand for candidates with domain expertise and AI or data skills, pointing to a growing premium on hybrid skill sets as AI is integrated into core workflows.

Titled 'AI and Jobs: This Time Is No Different', the study represents one of the most comprehensive firm-level assessments of gen AI adoption in India to date.

The study, conducted between November 2025 and January 2026, has received responses from 650 IT



firms across 10 cities in India.

"Firms report a modest moderation in hiring, primarily concentrated at the entry level, alongside stability at mid and senior levels. Researchers note that this moderation aligns with broader post-pandemic trends in the IT industry and cannot be attributed to AI adoption alone," it said.

Roles commonly perceived as most exposed to AI, such as software developers and database administrators, are also among those experiencing the

strongest growth in demand, indicating that gen AI is primarily functioning as a productivity-enhancing complement to technical and analytical work, rather than a substitute, it said.

Across the 1,900-plus business divisions identified as being most affected by AI, productivity gains significantly outnumber declines, the report said.

"On average, divisions reporting higher output with stable or reduced team sizes outnumber those experiencing produc-

tivity declines by a ratio of 3.5 to 1. Nearly one-third of divisions report both increased output and reduced costs, indicating that AI is enabling firms to scale output more efficiently without corresponding reductions in employment," it said.

More than half of surveyed firms report that they are already supporting AI adoption through awareness or training initiatives, with an additional 38 per cent planning to do so.

However, it said, training coverage remains limited, with only a small share of firms reporting that more than half of their workforce has received AI-related training in the past year.

Key challenges cited include difficulty finding qualified trainers, high costs and uncertain returns, ethical and legal concerns, and organisational readiness, it added. (PTI)

Not satisfied with its India growth, revised strategic plan in place: L'Oreal CEO

NEW DELHI, FEB 15: French cosmetics major L'Oreal is "not satisfied" with its performance in the Indian market, where it has not gained any market share in 2025 despite recording high single-digit growth, said its global CEO Nicolas Hieronimus.

India, which currently contributes roughly one per cent of L'Oreal's turnover, is very small and needs a lot of effort, both financial and human, to change gears in India, Hieronimus said while responding to a query on the fourth-quarter earnings call last week.

"India, though, is not meeting expectations, and we have a new setup there starting this year," said Hieronimus in his opening remarks.

Hieronimus said he is "optimistic, ambitious" that the company will start doing better in 2026.

L'Oreal, which last year appointed a new team, with Jacques Lebel as its India country manager, expects a growth revival in India, where beauty products are witnessing faster growth, riding on tailwinds as a

growing economy, rising disposable income, and an expanding number of millennials.

When asked how L'Oreal is changing India going forward, he said the company has revised its strategy and is looking for major growth opportunities. The company expects to do better in the Indian market in 2026, he said.

"As far as India is concerned, when I say that, I am not satisfied. We had high single-digit growth, but we did not gain a lot of market share, if any. And in the end, I think it's just because we are setting up a new team, a new organisation," Hieronimus said.

Hieronimus, who took the board of directors to India at the end of October, has revised the strategic plan for the country.

"We have revised the strategic plan. We see where we have major growth opportunities. LDB (L'Oreal Dermatological Beauty), for example, is fantastic. We just launched CeraVe and La Roche-Posay. It's starting very well, but it's still very small," he said.

However, he also mentioned that L'Oreal had great positions in some categories like hair care, where its brand Garnier is number one, or hair colour, where it has "great products".

"But overall, we have to be more ambitious. We have a new CEO for L'Oreal India who was previously in charge of CPD Mexico, and he delivered a very strong performance there. We have new capacities. We have invested in our factories," he said.

The French company has announced the opening of its first dedicated Beauty Tech centre at Hyderabad in India, which will support the development and deployment of digital platforms and AI-led solutions across its international businesses.

"Let's say that today, India is roughly one per cent of our turnover, which is very small. So, you know, it can only go up, and we have really put a lot of effort, both financially and humanly, in terms of talents, to change gears in India," he said.

Omar Hajeri, president

of the Professional Products Division, said emerging markets in the segment remain the strongest engine. It had double-digit growth, notably in Gulf countries, India, Brazil, and Mexico.

L'Oreal India, a wholly-owned subsidiary of L'Oreal SA, has been operating since 1994. It operates here with 26 brands, such as L'Oreal Paris, Garnier, Maybelline New York, and NYX Professional Makeup, which are mass market products. In the hair and beauty salon channel, it has — L'Oreal Professionnel, Matrix, Kerastase, Redken and in selective distribution — Kiehl's, Lancome, Yves Saint Laurent.

It sells fragrances via L'Oreal International Distribution, with brands such as Ralph Lauren, Armani, Prada, Valentino, Diesel, Viktor & Rolf, Maison Margiela, Mugler, Azzaro, and Guy Laroche.

Besides, it has two manufacturing facilities in Chakan (Maharashtra) and Baddi (Himachal Pradesh), and Research and Innovation facilities in Mumbai and Bengaluru. (PTI)