

QUICKLY.

Robert Redford, director and activist, dies at 89



Actor, director and producer Robert Redford, who was both the Hollywood leading man and an influential supporter of independent films through his Sundance Institute, had died at the age of 89, *The New York Times* reported, citing his publicist. In 2001, he won an honorary, or lifetime achievement, Oscar. REUTERS

Dr Reddy's launches Tegoprazan in India

Hyderabad: Dr Reddy's Laboratories launched a novel molecule 'Tegoprazan', for acid-related gastrointestinal diseases in India under the brand name PCAB. Tegoprazan is a next-generation potassium-competitive acid blocker and is used for the treatment of acid peptic diseases. OUR BUREAU

DCC seeking clarity on fee structure of satcom services

CONTENTIOUS ISSUES. TRAI clarifications sought on spectrum proposals, under-pricing

S Ronendra Singh
New Delhi

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on Tuesday sought clarifications from Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on its recommendations related to satellite communications (satcom) spectrum. TRAI is expected to respond within the next 15 days.

Sources close to the development told *businessline* that in the meeting of the Digital Communications Commission (DCC), the highest policy-making body of DoT, there were several points of disagreement with the TRAI on satcom spectrum.

MANY DISAGREEMENTS
"The DCC has disagreed on ₹500 fee imposed by TRAI on urban subscribers. It has also disagreed on the ₹3,500 per MHz recommended by TRAI on unused spectrum. The DoT will wait for the responses," a government official



FEE DISPUTE. The Digital Communications Commission has disagreed on ₹500 fee imposed by TRAI on urban subscribers

cial privy to the meeting said. In May, TRAI in its recommendations to the DoT, had said that operators offering satellite-based broadband Internet services in urban areas should shell out an additional ₹500 per subscriber annually.

It had also said that satcom companies like Starlink should pay 4 per cent of their adjusted gross revenue (AGR) as spectrum charges to the government, a rate steeper than what these firms had been lobbying for. No additional levy should be applicable for telecom

services in rural areas, it said.

CLEAR DEFINITION
However, according to sector experts, there should be a clear definition of urban and rural in case of the ₹500 fee to be imposed on the subscribers. Secondly, if the same spectrum is going to be used for mobile devices, apart from the fixed broadband services, then it would mean as good as any telecom business. Specifically, because Elon Musk has recently announced that Starlink was developing direct-to-device (D2D) satellite

services, which allows mobile phones to connect directly to Starlink satellites for communication, it could mean a direct threat to the incumbent telecom players.

In this context, the DoT's clarifications raise red flags about under-pricing at ₹3,500 per MHz given that spectrum is a valuable resource.

PEGGED HIGHER
DoT believes that these charges should be pegged higher to ensure spectrum doesn't remain utilised.

Companies including Elon Musk-owned Starlink; Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio joint venture with SES and Globalstar; and Sunil Mittal backed Eutelsat OneWeb will be competing with each other in the satcom services as first movers.

The Centre is going to allocate the spectrum for satcom services administratively, for which DoT and TRAI are expected to come out with the final pricing, soon.

Then & now: An update on last year's winner of Changemaker awards

Design for Change plans a teachers' summit to foster critical thinking

2024 WINNER.

Changemaker
Social Transformation

Avinash Nair
Ahmedabad

Kiran Bir Sethi, an Ahmedabad-based educationist — who won the BL Changemaker Award for social transformation in 2025 for her 'Design for Change' initiative — is currently focussed on not only expanding the global reach of her ingenious concept, but is also looking to host the first ever 'I CAN Teachers' Summit' this November.

Design for Change works on a simple formula where children are asked to talk about an issue plaguing them or their surroundings, imagine a solution to that problem, act in a way to bring about a change and share this story of change with the world.

In this way, every idea or solution that the child brings to life not only breaks down barriers of conventional education but also proves that age is not a bar to usher in change.

EXPANDING NETWORK

Having floated an initiative in 2009 that goes beyond teaching and encouraging school-going students to solve everyday problems they face, the visionary founder of Riverside School in Ahmedabad, is now look-



Presents



ing to expand the network of Design for Change (DFC) to 74 countries this year, thus reaching new communities and creating more young changemakers.

"This year we are hosting the very first 'I CAN Teachers' Summit — a unique celebration of how teachers are using the FIDS (Feel, Imagine, Do and Share) process not just for service projects, but as a powerful pedagogical tool to foster critical thinking, agency, and active learning in classrooms. We are proud to collaborate with our Japan team as they lead preparations for the annual global Be The Change Celebration this November — a beautiful moment to showcase changemaker journeys from across the world and celebrate the impact of the DFC movement. These strategic areas reflect our shared

vision of a world where every child believes in their ability to make a difference," says Sethi.

Today, this concept has spread to more than 30,000 schools in 70-odd countries where 1.11 lakh teachers and 20 lakh children have participated.

PROVEN METHODS

"We have also compiled 15 innovations as our DFC Innovation playbook — practical, proven methods that expand the ways DFC is implemented across different contexts. We are redesigning our global resource platform to be a vibrant space where our partner educators can share the rich resources they have created, learn from one another, and collaborate to co-create new tools that deepen the DFC experience," she added.

Airtel's anti-fraud drive cuts cybercrime losses by 68.7%: MHA data

Our Bureau
New Delhi

Bharti Airtel on Tuesday said that its anti-fraud initiatives have resulted in a significant decline in cybercrime complaints, and that this has been further endorsed by recent information from the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) — Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

According to the MHA-I4C, there has been a 68.7 per cent decrease in the value of financial losses and a 14.3 per cent drop in overall cybercrime incidents on the telecom company's network, thereby validating the efficacy of Airtel's fraud detection solution in curbing cybercrime and creating a safe network for its customers, the company said.

The data analysed by MHA-I4C compares key cybercrime indicators from September 2024 — prior to the launch of Airtel's fraud and spam detection solution — with those from June 2025. "We are on a mission of eliminating spam and financial frauds for our custom-

ers. In the past one year, our AI-powered network solutions have identified over 48.3 billion spam calls and blocked 3.2 lakh fraudulent links. However, we see this as small steps in a much larger fight. We will continue to innovate and invest heavily in this area until our networks are free of digital spam and scam," Gopal Vittal, Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Bharti Airtel, said.

CURBING SPAM
In September 2024, Airtel launched India's first network-based AI-powered spam detection solution to curb the country's spam menace. It made a significant contribution to solving the growing menace of spam calls and messages.

The solution remains a first-of-its-kind solution by a telecom service provider in the country, to alert customers in real-time to all suspected spam calls and SMSes. In continuation of this, in May this year, Airtel unveiled the world's first solution that detects and blocks malicious links across all forms of communication on its network, in real time.

Cricketers, actors called for money laundering probe

Our Bureau
New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is widening the ambit of its money laundering investigation, deciding to summon more Bollywood actors and former cricketers as it seeks to uncover the extent of celebrity involvement in promoting illegal online betting platforms like 1xBet.

As part of the intensified probe, the agency has summoned actor Sonu Sood and former Indian cricketers Yuvraj Singh and Robin Uthappa for questioning at its New Delhi headquarters.

HEARING DATES
Uthappa has been asked to appear on September 22, Singh on September 23 and Sood on September 24. The ED is focusing on how high-profile endorsements may have lent legitimacy to 1xBet — a betting platform banned in India but allegedly operating through surrogate websites and offshore entities. Authorities believe such promotions may have played a key role in attracting millions of users, potentially violating the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and other financial regulations.

SpiceJet to expand network, eyes Vietnam

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

Budget airline SpiceJet is eyeing network expansion to Vietnam, as well as destinations in West Asia, on the back of new leased aircraft induction.

Speaking to *businessline*, sources said that the airline has approached the regulator for permission to start new domestic as well as international flights from the winter schedule. "While most of the 18 Boeing 737 aircraft will be deployed on domestic routes, some have been earmarked for international expansion," industry sources said.

NEW DESTINATIONS
"The airline has sought permissions for flights to Vietnam, Sharjah, Jeddah and a few other destinations. These flights include new operations and frequencies." Accordingly, Vietnam will be a new destination for the airline, sources said, adding that operations to Sharjah will be restarted after many years.

"Frequencies will be increased to Jeddah, and flights from some new domestic destinations will be

started to Jeddah," sources said.

Besides the newly-leased 737 aircraft, the airline plans to lease out A340 aircraft for international destinations with heavy traffic volume.

SpiceJet has signed lease agreements for the induction of 18 Boeing 737 aircraft, strengthening its fleet ahead of the Winter Schedule 2025. The decision to lease aircraft has been linked to meeting the rising demand for air travel during the upcoming festive and winter season.

Some of these aircraft are scheduled to join the fleet starting October 2025.

Furthermore, the airline plans to bring back grounded aircraft after conducting required servicing and maintenance work. SpiceJet has secured an \$89.5 million liquidity boost through a settlement agreement with Carlyle Aviation Partners.

SEBI rents luxury flat for chairman

Aishwarya Kumar
Bengaluru

Market regulator SEBI has leased a luxury apartment in south Mumbai's Prabhadevi for its chairman, Tuhin Kanta Pandey, with a monthly rent of ₹7 lakh, according to data sourced from Zapkey.

The five-BHK apartment is located in tower A of Rustomjee Crown, comes with four car parks. The agreement, signed on September 3, 2025, has a tenure of three years with an annual escalation of 5 per cent.

The regulator will pay a



SEBI Chairman
Tuhin Kanta Pandey

per cent escalation for the third year.

Additionally, SEBI has paid stamp duty of ₹69,500 along with the applicable registration fees, and deposited ₹42 lakh as security for the lease. The apartment will serve as the official residence of the SEBI chairman and his family for the 36-month lease period.

GATED ESTATE

Rustomjee Crown is spread across around 3,000 sq ft, and is among Mumbai's premium residential developments, located on a 5.75-acre gated estate in Prabhadevi.

Building start-up community is a walk in the park

Hyderabad's start-up enthusiasts use the morning routine to seed a millionaire mindset

KV Kurmanath
Hyderabad

Gundala Nagaraju, who heads IIT-Kharagpur's Hyderabad Alumni Chapter, is animatedly addressing a small group of start-up enthusiasts on the importance of AI/GenAI governance.

His extempore speech is not happening in a hall, but in the sprawling Botanical Garden, a green lung in the backyard of Madhapur and Gachibowli IT hubs, on a breezy Sunday morning.



FRESH IDEAS. A group of TG10x start-up ecosystem members gather at the Botanical Gardens, a key lung space near the IT hubs of Madhapur and Gachibowli, in Hyderabad

the city and towns of Telangana, from where casual exchange of ideas to purposeful mentoring takes place. TG10x aims at boosting the start-up ecosystem in the State to grow 10 times.

"The idea is to have meaningful conversations over 'Millionaire by Health' morning walks. Start-up founders, mentors, investors and other ecosystem players are joining the walks in groups of 8-10," serial entrepreneur Chenapaneni Naidu Darapuneni told *businessline*.

What starts off online during the walks often carries over into the com-

munity's WhatsApp groups.

HEALTH AND WEALTH

When a member posted in one of the groups, "An investor is looking to invest in start-ups in the seed stage or later. Excellent pre-seed start-ups can reach out. Though chances are really less for investment," pat came a response from serial entrepreneur Aditya Vuchi, demanding clarity on who the investors are and their intent.

"Having a sense of their cheque size, who the investors are, website is really important before founders

send in their decks. Otherwise, it will be a wild goose chase or too blind an effort. Founders' time has to be protected fiercely," he said. Vuchi, whose MediaMint was acquired by Singapore-based Everstone Capital and US-based Recognize for a reported \$100 million two years ago, started an early-stage venture capital fund.

HEALTHY ROUTINE

"The idea behind starting this morning walk initiative is to facilitate the start-up ecosystem, an informal knowledge-sharing mechanism over a healthy routine. Start-ups can have friendly conversations with mentors, investors and entrepreneurs," said Naidu.

He said a website and an app are on the anvil to take this initiative across the IT hubs in the country. "We set up a not-for-profit organisation to manage this campaign," he said. They roped in Sateesh Andra, MD of VC firm Endiaya Partners; Phani Sama, founder of RedBus; Srinivas Kolli-para, founder of Biome; and Millets Bank CEO Vishala Reddy to the advisory board.