

Indians must work hard to achieve USD 30 tn economy by 2047: Kant

NEW DELHI, Mar 2 (PTI)

INDIANS must work hard to achieve the ambitious target of making India a USD 30 trillion economy by 2047, former Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant has said.

Joining the ongoing debate on working hours, India's G20 Sherpa said Japan, South Korea and China have achieved economic success through a strong work ethic and suggested that India must cultivate a similar mindset to build a world-class economy.

"I strongly believe in hard work. Indians must work hard, whether it's 80 hours or 90 hours a week. If your ambition is to move from a USD 4 trillion to a USD 30 trillion economy, you can't do it

through entertainment or by following the views of some film stars," he said while speaking at Business Standard's Manthan summit.

Currently, the size of the Indian economy is around USD 4 trillion. "We have made it fashionable to talk about not working hard. Why? India must work hard to deliver projects ahead of time, with world-class excellence, without time and cost overruns," he added. Responding to a question on work-life balance, Kant emphasised that there is enough time for personal well-being within a disciplined work schedule.

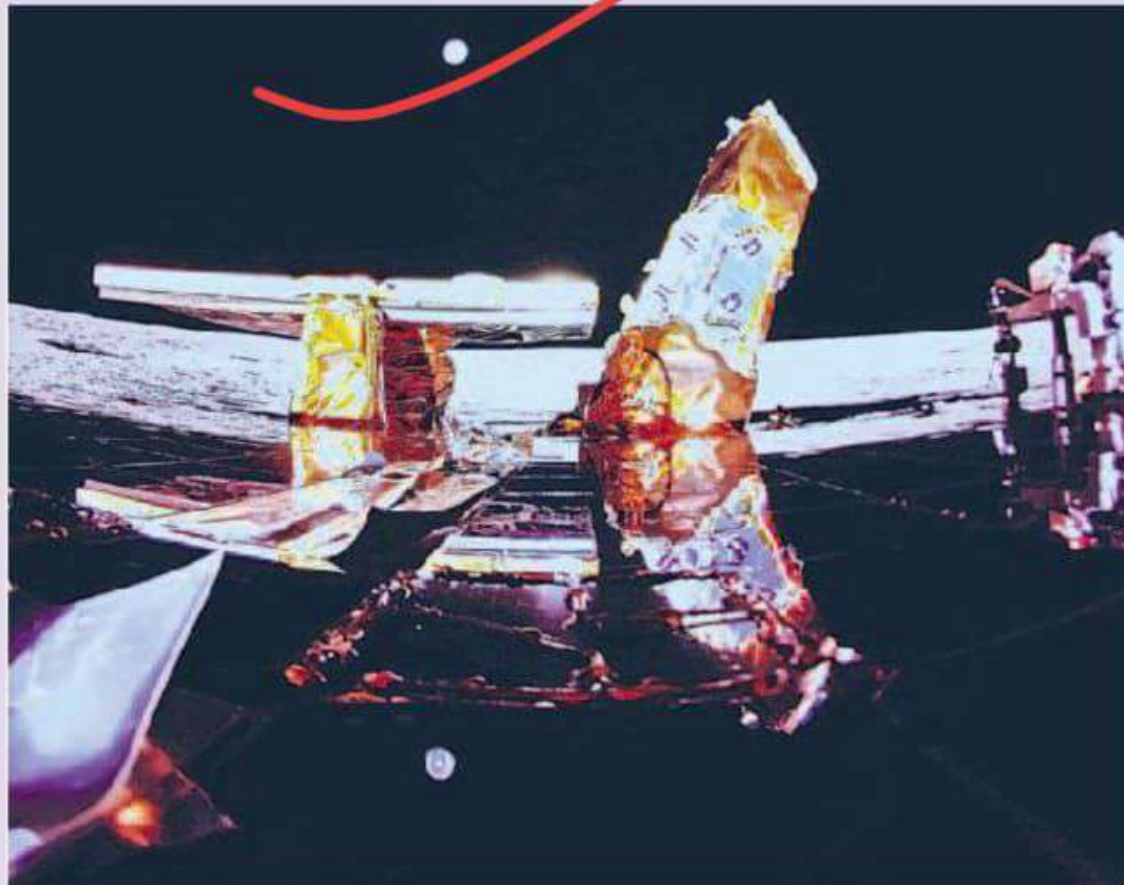
"I work every day. I exercise. I play golf, and I still manage to work hard. Keep aside one-and-a-half-hour for yourself, and you

still have 22.5 hours in a day. There's plenty of time to manage work-life balance, but don't make it fashionable to say people shouldn't work hard," Kant said. He also asserted that Indians must learn the art of delivering projects with world-class excellence without time and cost overruns.

"We are all sending wrong messages to the young generation of India that India can become a great nation without working hard. No, no country has been able to do this," Kant said.

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Chairman SN Subrahmanyam in January sparked an online outrage with his comments, advocating a 90-hour work week and suggesting that employees should even give up Sundays.

Firefly's lander Blue Ghost touches down on Moon



Private lunar lander Blue Ghost after touching down on the Moon with a special delivery for NASA on Sunday. Moon's surface and Earth are visible on the horizon, Blue Ghost's solar panel, X-band antenna, left, and LEXI payload at right. (AP/PTI)

CAPE CANAVERAL, Mar 2 (AP)

A PRIVATE lunar lander carrying a drill, vacuum and other experiments for NASA touched down on the Moon on Sunday, the latest in a string of companies looking to kickstart business on Earth's celestial neighbour ahead of astronaut missions. Firefly Aerospace's Blue Ghost lander descended from lunar orbit on autopilot, aiming for the slopes of an ancient volcanic dome in an impact basin on the Moon's northeastern edge of the near side. Confirmation of touchdown came from the company's Mission Control outside Austin, Texas, following the action some 225,000 miles

(360,000 kilometers) away.

"We're on the Moon," Mission Control reported, adding the lander was "stable." A smooth, upright landing makes Firefly — a startup founded a decade ago — the first private outfit to put a spacecraft on the Moon without crashing or falling over. Even countries have faltered, with only five claiming success: Russia, the US, China, India and Japan.

Two other companies' landers are hot on Blue Ghost's heels, with the next one expected to join it on the Moon later this week. Launched in mid-January from Florida, the 6-foot-6 (2 meters) tall lander carried 10 experiments to the Moon

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- Firefly is first private outfit to put a spacecraft on the Moon without crashing or falling over
- NASA paid \$101 mn for the delivery, plus \$44 mn for carrying a drill, vacuum and other science experiments

Iran Parlt fires Economy Minister over crashing rial and mismanagement

TEHRAN, Mar 2 (AP)

IRAN'S Parliament on Sunday impeached the country's Economy Minister and voted to remove him from office, amid growing concerns over the crashing rial and accusations of mismanagement.

Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf announced that 182 out of 273 lawmakers voted to dismiss Abdolnasser Hemmati, just six months after President Masoud Pezeshkian's Government took office. Pezeshkian, who defended Hemmati, emphasised that the Government is locked in a tough battle with the West. He called for greater unity and cooperation from Parliament to face these challenges.

The decision comes amid rising tensions over Iran's nuclear

programme and worsening relations with the West.

Iran's economy has been severely affected by international sanctions, especially after the US withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal. In 2015, the rial was worth 32,000 to the dollar, but by the time Pezeshkian took office in July, it had plummeted to 584,000 to the dollar. Recently, it dropped even further, with exchange shops in Tehran trading 930,000 rials for each dollar.

During the impeachment proceedings, Mohammad Qasim Osmani, a lawmaker supporting Hemmati, argued that rising inflation and exchange rates were not the fault of the current Government or Parliament. He pointed to the budget deficit left by the previous administration, which he said contributed to the economic instability.



Iranian Parliament holds an impeachment hearing of the Economy Minister Abdolnasser Hemmati in Tehran on Sunday. (AP/PTI)

Yunus: Need to document Hasina regime crimes

Ahsan Tasnim

Dhaka: Bangladesh chief adviser **Muhammad Yunus** Sunday stressed the importance of documenting all atrocities committed during the regime of ousted PM Sheikh Hasina, including the crackdown on student movement participants, police brutality against protesters following the verdict against Islamist leader Delwar Hossain Sayeedi, and all extrajudicial killings over the years.

“There is a need for proper documentation of all atrocities committed against the people. Without such documentation, it is difficult to uncover the truth and ensure justice,” Yunus said when Gwyn Lewis, the UN resident co-ordinator in Bangladesh, and Huma Khan, senior human rights adviser at Lewis’s office, called on him. Lewis informed Yunus that the UN high com-

missioner for human rights, Volker Turk, will brief member states about its findings on March 5 during the 55th session of the Human Rights Council. UN secretary-general António Guterres will visit Bangladesh from March 13 to 16.

Lewis also said the UN is ready to provide technical support and help the people of Bangladesh build their capacity in this regard. “This is part of the process of healing and establishing truth,” Yunus’s press



wing quoted Lewis as saying. Lewis hoped that the upcoming visit of Guterres will bring the Rohingya crisis back to global attention amid dwindling aid supplies. “We are very concerned about the funding situation,” she said, adding that every month, \$15 million is needed just to ensure food supplies for the Rohingya people, along with other basic needs.

UK, France, Ukraine agree to work on **CEASEFIRE PLAN**, to present it to US

LONDON, Mar 2 (AP)

BRITAIN, France and Ukraine have agreed to work on a ceasefire plan to present to the United States, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said on Sunday before a summit with European leaders to discuss ending the war.

The meeting has been overshadowed by the extraordinary scolding by US President Donald Trump of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the White House on Friday for being ungrateful for US support against the invasion by Russia.

But Starmer said he's focused on being a bridge to restore peace talks, whose collapse he used as an opportunity to re-engage with Trump, Zelenskyy and French President Emmanuel Macron rather than "ramp up the rhetoric."



British Prime Minister Keir Starmer with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy

"We've now agreed that the United Kingdom, along with France and possibly one or two others, will work with Ukraine on a plan to stop the fighting, and then we'll

discuss that plan with the United States," Starmer told the 'BBC'. Starmer and Macron have both spoken to Trump since Friday.

Sunday's meeting is an important step.

The London meeting has taken on greater importance in defending the war-torn ally and shoring up the continent's defences.

Sunday's summit is likely to include talks on establishing a European military force to be sent to Ukraine to underpin a ceasefire. Starmer said it would involve "a coalition of the willing."

Starmer said he does not trust Russian President Vladimir Putin but does trust Trump. "Do I believe Donald Trump when he says he wants lasting peace? The answer to that is yes," he said. Starmer said there are "intense discussions" to get a security

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Child dies of Ebola in Uganda, raising concern over disease surveillance

KAMPALA, Mar 2 (AP)

A 4-YEAR-OLD child became the second person to die of Ebola in Uganda, the World Health Organisation has said, in a setback for health officials who had hoped for a quick end to the outbreak that began at the end of January.



The child had been hospitalised at the main referral facility in Kampala, the capital of the East African country, and died Tuesday, the WHO office in Uganda said

in a brief statement on Saturday. The statement said WHO and others are working to strengthen surveillance and contact tracing. There were no other details about the death and local health officials were not commenting on the case.

The death undermines Ugandan officials' assertions of an outbreak under control after eight Ebola patients were discharged earlier in February. The first victim was a male nurse who died the day before the outbreak was declared on January 30. He had sought treatment at multiple facilities in Kampala and in eastern Uganda, where he also visited a traditional healer in trying to diagnose his illness, before later dying in Kampala.

The successful treatment of eight patients who had been contacts of that man, including some of his relatives, had left local health officials anticipating the end of the outbreak. But they are still investigating its source.