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After Skyroot's Big Win, Indian Space Startups Bag \$871 Million Funding

India's private SpaceTech ecosystem has raised a record \$871 million across 241 funding rounds through July 2026, driven by policy reforms that opened the sector to private participation and attracted institutional capital, according to a report released on Tuesday. The report by Tracxn said the ecosystem now comprises 285 companies of which 274 remain active.

A total of 72 startups have secured institutional equity funding across segments including launch vehicles, satellite manufacturing, propulsion systems, space situational awareness, earth observation and downstream analytics, it added. Government-led regulatory reforms have played a pivotal role in enabling private participation, helping India produce its first SpaceTech unicorn and achieve its first privately developed orbital launch.

The report highlighted Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-1 mission — which successfully reached a 450-km low Earth orbit on July 18 — deploying four payloads. The mission made India the third country after the US and China to achieve a privately developed orbital launch capability. It also marked a key milestone for the sector, with India achieving its first private orbital launch within six years of opening the space sector to private players in 2020.

Skyroot plans another test flight later this year before commencing commercial launch operations in 2027. The report further noted that funding in the sector increased from \$43 million across 12 rounds in 2021 to a record \$200 million across 53 rounds in 2025, with 2026 maintaining strong momentum.

Five major funding rounds — including Skyroot Aerospace (\$50 million Series C) and Digantara (\$50 million Series B) and AgniKul Cosmos (\$17 million Series C) — together accounted for \$158 million, representing more than half of the capital raised across 2025 and 2026.

In addition, seed-stage funding rose sharply from \$7 million in 2022 to \$62 million in 2025, while late-stage funding emerged for the first time, reaching \$17 million in 2025 and \$53 million in 2026 so far.

City-wise, Bengaluru continues to dominate India's private SpaceTech landscape, attracting \$495 million across 106 funding rounds. Hyderabad followed with \$205 million, while Chennai secured \$80 million. Together, the three cities account for the bulk of equity funding raised by the country's private SpaceTech companies.

Among startups, Skyroot Aerospace has emerged as the highest-funded company with \$150 million, followed by Pixxel (\$96 million), AgniKul Cosmos (\$76 million), Digantara (\$67 million) and Bellatrix Aerospace (\$34 million).



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Appointments

*Rithwik Rudra (IPS: 1993: HP), Spl. Director, Intelligence Bureau, has been granted Apex pay scale (Level-17 in the pay matrix).

*P Shankar (Retd Sr. PPS CSSS cadre) has been appointed as Private Secretary to the Member, NITI Aayog (Dr. M. Srinivas) in NITI Aayog on contract basis in relaxation of extant guidelines, at the level of Under Secretary for a period of one year.

*Amulya K G (IDAS: 2011) has been appointed as Director (Finance) (Director level), Coffee Board, Bengaluru (a Non-CSS post) under Department of Commerce for a period of three years.

*Rajesh Kumar Singh (IAS: 1989: KL), Secretary, Department of Defence, has been entrusted with additional charge of the post of Secretary, Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare from 26.07.2026 to 11.08.2026 during the period of absence on leave of Sukriti Likhi (IAS: 1993: HY).

*Deepa D Nair (IFoS: 2001: TR) has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer (JS level), Coconut Development Board, Kochi for a period of five years.

*Anoop Khinchi (IAS: 2008: NL) has been appointed as Director General (JS level), Chaudhary Charan Singh National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (CCS NIAM), Jaipur under the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare for a period of five years.

*Anuj Kumar Tripathi, (retired PSO, CSSS cadre) has been appointed as Private Secretary to the Member, NITI Aayog Prof. Abhay Karandikar in NITI Aayog on contract basis in relaxation of upper age limit at the level of Under Secretary for a period of one year.

*Tenure of Abhimanyu Kumar (IAS: 2011: RJ) as Private Secretary to the Minister for Home Affairs & Cooperation Amit Shah in the Ministry of Cooperation has been extended for a period of two years beyond 16.01.2027 and up to 16.01.2029.

*Arun Gupta (ITS: 2001 has been appointed as CVO, Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL), Delhi under the Ministry of Heavy Industries for an initial period of three years.

*Dr K Srikar Reddy (IFS: 2001), presently Consul General, Consulate General of India in San Francisco, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the State of Qatar.

*Rajesh Kumar (CPES: 2001) has been appointed as CVO, GIL/ TCLAWEL/IOL, Kanpur under the Department of Defence Production for an initial period of three years.

*Geeta Mohapatra (IRTS: 2006) has been appointed as CVO, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL), Bengaluru under the Department of Defence Production for an initial period of three years.

*Vatchala Cari (IRS IT: 2005) has been appointed as CVO, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL), Delhi under the Department of Telecommunications for an initial period of three years.

*Katikithala Srinivas (IAS: 1989: GJ), Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, has been appointed as Secretary, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER).

*Vineet Joshi (IAS: 1992: MN), Secretary, Department of Higher Education, has been appointed as Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj vice Vivek Bhardwaj (IAS: 1990: WB) upon his superannuation on 31.07.2026.

*Naresh Pal Gangwar (IAS: 1994: RJ), Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, has been appointed as Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education vice Vineet Joshi upon his appointment as Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

*Piyush Goyal (IAS: 1994: NL), Secretary, Ministry of Mines, has been appointed as Secretary General, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in the rank and pay of Secretary to the Government of India.

*T K Anil Kumar (IAS: 1995: KN), Additional Secretary, Department of Rural Development, has been appointed as Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education.

*Sushil Kumar Lohani (IAS: 1995: OR), Additional Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, has been appointed as Officer on Special Duty, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying in the rank and pay of Secretary to the Government of India. He replaces Naresh Pal Gangwar (IAS: 1994: RJ).

*Archana Varma (IAS: 1996: AM) has been named as Secretary, Department of Official Language vice Ansuli Arya (IAS: 1989: BH) upon her superannuation on 30.09.2026. Currently, she is Mission Director, National Water Mission and has been elevated in the rank and pay of Secretary to the Government of India.

*Keshav Chandra (IAS: 1995: AGMUT) has been appointed as Secretary, Ministry of Mines vice Piyush Goyal (IAS: 1994: NL).

*D Thara (IAS: 1996: GJ), Additional Secretary, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, has been appointed as Secretary, Department of Capital Development, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.

*B Rajender (IAS: 1995: BH) has been appointed as Director, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration in the rank and pay of Secretary to the Government of India. He replaces Sriram Taranikanti (IAS: 1992: TR) upon his superannuation on 31.07.2026.

*Chandra Bhushan Kumar (IAS: 1995: AGMUT) has been appointed as Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment vice Vandana Gurnani (IAS: 1991: KN) upon her superannuation on 31.07.2026.

Dr Srinivasa Kumar Appointed as Secretary Earth Sciences



In a move to entrust domain experts with specific responsibilities, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Dr Srinivasa Kumar Tummala, Head, Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTWMS) Secretariat, UNESCO Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission Secretariat, Perth, Australia, to the post of Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences for a tenure of two years. He is known as architect of India's Tsunami Warning Infrastructure. Dr Tummala had served as Director, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad before taking over the responsibility at IOTWMS in November 2024.

Centre Appoints New Education Secretaries To Navigate NEET Crisis



After the nation-wide students' protest against paper leaks seeking resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, the NaMo administration appears to have sent out a message by appointing a new Secretary for Higher Education by lateral shift and appointing a new Secretary for Primary Education. The post of Secretary, Primary Education was laying vacant while the charge of Secretary, Higher Education was given to Naresh Pal Gangwar (IAS: 1994: RJ) replacing Vineet Joshi who has been given the charge of Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj. T K Anil Kumar (IAS: 1995: KN) has been appointed as the new Primary Education Secretary.

The Centre had already moved to overhaul the administrative framework of the National Testing Agency (NTA) by appointing two Joint Directors and two Joint Secretaries. This was also being looked upon as battling out severe institutional scrutiny over repeated paper leak allegations in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET).

Surprise Exit: Delhi Police Chief Satish Golcha Attached to Delhi LG's Office, Anurag Kumar is New CP



In a sudden administrative realignment that has sent ripples through the capital's bureaucratic and security establishments, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has replaced Delhi Police Commissioner Satish Golcha (IPS: 1992: AGMUT) with seasoned Intelligence Bureau (IB) veteran Anurag Kumar (IPS: 1994: AGMUT). The abrupt transition, executed on Friday, caught senior officials at the Delhi Police Headquarters on Jai In a highly unusual move, Golcha, who was unceremoniously removed from the coveted top post, has been directed to report directly to Delhi's 21st Lieutenant Governor, Taranjeet Singh Sandhu (Retd IFS: 1989), the former Indian Ambassador to the United States. Observers in the capital's power corridors point out that such a direct attachment of a former police chief to the LG's office is rare. The IB Veteran Steps In: The New Delhi police chief, Anurag Kumar, brings deep counter-intelligence and security expertise along with him to his new role. Kumar spent nearly two decades in the Intelligence Bureau, where he most recently served as Special Director. Meanwhile, Golcha's sudden exit has triggered intense speculation within the force. Having assumed charge on August 22, 2025, Golcha's tenure lasted less than a year. He had taken over the reins from SBK Singh, who himself held additional charge for just 20 days before being shunted out following a severe security lapse where an attempt to attack Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta was made by an intruder during a public gathering at her residence.

Keshav Chandra Assumes Charge as Secretary, Ministry of Mine



Keshav Chandra, IAS (1995: AGMUT), assumed charge as Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India. Soon after taking charge, Secretary Mines chaired a meeting with senior officials of the Ministry of Mines and reviewed the key initiatives and ongoing activities of the Ministry. During the meeting, senior officials briefed him on various important programmes and initiatives. These included mineral exploration, auction and operationalisation of mineral blocks, critical and strategic minerals, and other key areas of the mining and mineral sector. Secretary Mines emphasised the importance of co-ordinated efforts and effective implementation of the Ministry's key initiatives to strengthen India's mineral sector.

Mohit Aggarwal selected as Deputy Secretary in Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas



Mohit Kumar Aggarwal, ITS (2015), who was recommended for central deputation by the D/o Telecommunications, has been selected for appointment as Deputy Secretary in the M/o Petroleum & Natural Gas, Delhi, under the Central Staffing Scheme for a period of four years from the date of taking over charge of the post or until further orders, whichever event takes place earlier. He would be relieved of his duties immediately with instructions to take up his new assignment in the M/O Petroleum & Natural Gas, Delhi.

Mr. Aggarwal is an Indian Telecommunication Service officer (ITS) of the 2015 batch.

Telangana Govt Wants IPS Cadre Strength To Be Increased to 194

The Telangana government has formally requested the Centre to raise its IPS cadre strength from 151 to 194 posts. This seems to be an attempt to step up its efforts to increase the sanctioned strength of IPS officers for growing administrative responsibilities and the need to strengthen law and order.

The proposal is based on a Mid Cadre Review prepared by the Telangana Police Department. The file is currently pending with the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), and the state police are awaiting its approval.

At present, Telangana has a sanctioned IPS cadre strength of 151 officers. However, the state police have concluded that this number falls short of current operational requirements. The Director General of Police (DGP) had submitted a comprehensive Mid Cadre Review report to the state government on November 10 last year, recommending that Telangana's IPS cadre strength be increased to 194 officers.



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Corridors of Power

CS Sanjay Jaju Making The Rounds



Ms. Laura Williams, US Consul General called on Sanjay Jaju, the new Chief Secretary of Telangana at the Secretariat. They discussed matters of mutual interest and avenues for strengthening bilateral cooperation. The new CS started the word in speed mode from the first day ! He chaired a review meeting on the development of eco-tourism and also chaired a high-level review on mobilizing Central Government funds. The CS visited the Model School & Junior College, Maheshwaram, where he reviewed the facilities and learning environment, and spent time with students and staff. He encouraged everyone to keep striving for excellence and reaffirmed the government's commitment to quality education and the holistic growth of every student. He chaired a review meeting road safety across the State with senior officials and Tele conference meeting with District Collectors, Police Commissioners and SPs, directing all districts to remain on high alert in view of the IMD's forecast of heavy rainfalls.

The FSL family has grown!



57 newly Scientific Officers has took the charge at Telangana Forensic Science Laboratory (TGFSL). Appointment letters were handed over by the Telangana DGP CV.Anand. The DGP urged the recruits to uphold the highest standards of scientific integrity and accuracy in forensic reporting, and assured them of continued support through modern infrastructure and advanced equipment. Increase in FSL's strength from 38 to 95 will reduce pendencies, expedite evidence processing, and improve conviction rates. Director ,

TGFSL Shikha Goel said the highly qualified recruits includes 36 Ph.D , 6 M.Tech, 12 M.Sc & and 3 MCA candidates. Their induction will further strengthen the forensic capabilities of TGFSL, already recognised as one of the finest forensic science laboratories in the country, with among the highest individual productivity.



A Collective Commitment to End Human Trafficking

To mark World Day Against Trafficking in Persons and commemorate three decades of Prajwala's fight against human trafficking, we, in collaboration with key Government of Telangana departments and partner institutions, hosted the State-Level Anti-Human Trafficking Conference in Hyderabad. The conference was inaugurated by Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh Judge, Supreme Court of India. in the presence of Hon'ble Justice Moushumi Bhattacharya, Judge, Telangana High Court, with a special video message from Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, Judge, Supreme Court of India. Sr.IPS officer Mahesh Bhagwat, Shikha Goel, Abhilasha Bisht, IAS officer Divya Devarajan and Harichandana Dasari.

The inaugural session featured insightful addresses by the distinguished dignitaries, followed by engaging deliberations on the Telangana State Anti-Human Trafficking Policy, Human Trafficking for Forced Criminality in Online Scam Operations and the National Victim Protection Plan . The conference also marked the launch of Prajwala's AI-powered awareness film Trapped Behind the Scam, the release of the conference poster, powerful testimonies from lived-experience experts.

ACB records highest second-quarter case registrations



The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) recorded its highest number of cases during the second quarter of a calendar year since 1983, registering 10 disproportionate assets (DA) cases, 34 trap cases and conducting 23 surprise checks, ACB, Director General Charu Sinha said while reviewing the Bureau's performance. During a review meeting, Ms. Sinha expressed satisfaction over the Bureau's performance, stating that the record number of cases reflected renewed focus, sustained vigilance and professional commitment towards tackling corruption. She commended officers and staff across various units for their work and stressed the need to maintain professional, fair and thorough investigations while continuously improving investigative standards and institutional vigilance. ACB Director Avinash Mohanthy also participated in the review meeting.

The ACB also organised a Reward Mela to recognise officers and staff for their performance during the quarter. Commendations and rewards were presented to personnel who were adjudged to have delivered exceptional work in anti-corruption investigations.

'Dedication & Integrity' On Priority



District Collector Dr. Priyanka Ala today handed over compassionate appointment orders to 21 eligible family members of deceased government employees for Junior Assistant posts in various government departments and offices across the district. Congratulating the newly appointed employees, the Collector urged them to treat public service as a sacred responsibility, discharge their duties with dedication and integrity, and strive for excellence in their careers.

Drug-Free Pledge Campaign launched



Hon'ble Governor of Telangana, Shiv Pratap Shukla, launched the '10 Crore Drug-Free Pledge Campaign' in Telangana at Brahma Kumaris Shanti Sarovar, Gachibowli, and administered the Anti-Drug Pledge to youth and students. Joining the nationwide launch of 'Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan' by Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Governor called upon every citizen to become a

partner in building a Drug-Free India. Emphasising that India's youth are its greatest strength, the Governor urged young people to stay away from substance abuse and adopt a life guided by discipline, moral values, yoga, spirituality and social responsibility. The Governor also unveiled the '10 Crore Drug-Free Pledge Campaign' poster and flagged off a mobile awareness vehicle to take the message of Nasha Mukta Bharat across Telangana.



UK India FTA will help create new partnerships

British Deputy High Commissioner for Karnataka and His Majesty's Deputy Trade Commissioner for South Asia (Investments), Chandru Iyer says, "It has been exactly 24 hours since the India-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement entered into force, and I am in Hyderabad to discuss the benefits of this trade deal and what it means for businesses in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. This is an exciting milestone for us." During the visit Chandru Iyer met State IT Minister Sridhar Babu to discuss Telangana's impressive innovation ecosystem & opportunities to strengthen UK-Telangana collaboration. The #UKIndiaFTA will help create new partnerships, investment, & growth opportunities.



New Beginning...!

UK Govt - UK in India convened a technical workshop in Hyderabad on financing freight EVs & EV charging infra. We deliberated on priority financing

and policy pathways for accelerating clean mobility to advance Telangana's net-zero ambitions. In the work shop the versatile IAS officer Jayesh Ranjan, Special Chief Secretary to the Government, MAUD addressed the workshop. Upon the workshop the UK Dy.High Commissioner Gareth Wynn Owen said "we are pleased to support Telangana's work to enhance EV infrastructure and develop a cleaner and more sustainable transport system."



Lovely Farewell

Dr.Nawab Mir Nasir Ali Khan, the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Hyderabad for Telangana & Andhra Pradesh, India hosted a farewell dinner for Turkey Consul General in Hyderabad Orhan Yalman Okan & Aslihan Özmen Okan.

India-Asia Business Conclave



Dr. Nawab Mir Nasir Ali Khan, the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Hyderabad for Telangana & Andhra Pradesh, India participated in the India-Asia Business Conclave (Edition 4), Connecting Markets, Creating Opportunities, held at HITEX, Hyderabad.

"I was privileged to attend this prestigious event in the presence of His Excellency Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla, Hon'ble Governor of Telangana, and to witness the insightful presentation on Business Opportunities in Kazakhstan by Mr. Darkhan Seitenov, Minister-Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan."

As the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Hyderabad for Telangana & Andhra Pradesh, I remain committed to strengthening trade, investment, and cultural ties between India and Kazakhstan, creating new opportunities for mutual growth and prosperity."



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Inter State Bridge Championship ‘On Screen’

The 3rd Shree Cement Inter State Bridge Championship is organised at Jal vihar Grand Lawns, Necklace road, Hyderabad. Hosted by Telangana Bridge Association in association with Bridge Federation of India and Sports Authority of India. It was inaugurated in presence of the President, Bridge Federation of India Shri Prasad Keni, Secretary BFI Shri Debashish Ray and the host being the Honorary President of TBA, Shri Prabhat Kumar Gupta, IRS and Dr Ramesh, organising secretary, TBA.

This National championship held at Hyderabad almost after 25 years. 36 teams have represented various states and sports associations of different depts like Income tax, Indian railways, Atomic energy, Petroleum board etc. Also simultaneously a Women Bridge National Championship also held at the venue in which around 18 teams have represented various states and top players of the country are participating in the event. The championship held from 1st August to 4th August. After one and half day of play of qualifying rounds, top eight teams have qualified for the quarter finals. While the Indian Railways has topped the list, income tax team has also made it to the top eight and Telangana”A” team has also made to the top eight.

The President of Telangana Bridge Association Shri Prabhat Kumar Gupta, IRS, also currently working as Principal Commissioner of Income tax at Hyderabad informed that Bridge is an important mind game like chess and played internationally with Indian teams winning medals in Asian games and commonwealth games etc. The national championship hosted by TBA at Hyderabad will help to spread awareness about this intellectually stimulating mind game among the youth and children, ladies and men of Telangana and remove the doubt that Bridge, being a card game, has anything to do with gambling. The TBA in association with BFI is planning to reach out to various schools, colleges, clubs, officers etc to popularise the game in Telangana.



Governor unveils BP Acharya’s ‘Obtuse Angle’



Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla released the new edition of “Obtuse Angle”, a collection of cartoons by former IAS officer BP Acharya, at Lok Bhavan . The book presents cartoons drawn by Acharya reflecting his four-decade-long journey in the bureaucracy, capturing experiences, observations and moments from his public service career.

The latest edition of the book is now available in paperback format, making the cartoon collection accessible to a wider readership.

Through his cartoons, Acharya portrays various aspects of administrative life with humour and social commentary. Acharya, who is also a trustee of the Kakatiya Heritage Trust, presented publications of the Trust to Governor Shukla during the event. Other trustees of the Trust, including Prof Panduranga Rao and Sridhar Rao of Warangal, were also present on the occasion.

The release highlighted the blend of art, public administration and heritage promotion, with Acharya’s cartoons offering a unique perspective on his long association with government service and institutional work.



Applauds ! For the First Time, Crowd Management with AI Technology During Bonalu Festival

For the first time, AI-based crowd management and surveillance systems have been set up at the Bonalu Celebrations. Through this state-of-the-art AI system, team is utilizing ‘facial recognition’ technology to analyze faces via CCTV cameras in the temple premises. This enables the immediate identification of past offenders, chain snatchers, and pickpockets, providing an opportunity to remain vigilant. Said Hyderabad Police Chief VC.Sajjanar.

The CP along with his family, visited and paid obeisance to Sri Ujjaini Mahakali Ammavaru at Secunderabad. On the occasion of the Ashadha month Bonal festivals, he offered silk clothes and a bonam to Ammavaru, and performed special pujas. Afterward, he inspected the security arrangements being implemented there under the aegis of Hyderabad City Police.

He explained Golconda and Balkampet Bonal jatras have already concluded peacefully, the festivals of Sri Ujjaini Mahakali and Lal Darwaza Ammavaru bonalu also concluded peacefully.

* S a t e n d r a Singh (IAS: 1996: JH), Additional Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, has been appointed as Secretary, Department of Urban Development, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.

* S u c h i n d r a Misra (IDAS: 1992), Special Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, has been appointed as Secretary, National Commission for Minorities, Ministry of Minority Affairs in the rank and pay of Secretary to the Government of India.

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Public Sector

NTPC Q1 FY27 PAT Rises 12%; Group Profit Jumps 13% on Operational Gains



NTPC Ltd, India's largest integrated power utility, has reported a strong financial performance for the first quarter of FY2026-27, driven by capacity additions, operational efficiencies and higher profitability. The company posted a 12% increase in standalone Profit After Tax (PAT), reaffirming its leadership in India's power sector.

On a standalone basis, NTPC reported total income of ₹ 44,512 crore during Q1 FY27, registering a 3% year-on-year growth. Profit After Tax rose to ₹ 5,342 crore, compared with ₹ 4,775 crore in the corresponding quarter of FY26, supported by improved operational performance and additional generation capacity. At the group level, consolidated PAT increased 13% to ₹ 6,896 crore, up from ₹ 6,108 crore a year earlier. The company's overall earnings received a significant boost from its subsidiaries and joint ventures, with profit from group companies rising 62% to ₹ 1,832 crore from ₹ 1,131 crore in Q1 FY26.

NTPC continued to demonstrate industry-leading operational efficiency, with its coal-fired power stations recording a Plant Load Factor (PLF) of 76.71% during the quarter. This performance was well above the national average Coal PLF of 70.32%, highlighting the company's efficient power generation capabilities and operational excellence.

The strong quarterly performance reflects NTPC's diversified growth strategy, continuous expansion of generation capacity and sustained focus on operational improvements. The company remains a key contributor to India's energy security while advancing its long-term growth plans across conventional and clean energy segments.

With double-digit profit growth, higher operational efficiency and improved earnings from group companies, NTPC has reinforced its position as India's leading power utility and remains well-positioned to support the country's growing energy demand.

REC Q1 FY27 Profit Jumps 23%, Declares ₹ 4.25 Interim Dividend per Share



ing its commitment to delivering consistent returns to shareholders.

The company posted a 5% increase in net interest income, which rose to ₹ 5,212 crore compared to ₹ 4,961 crore in the previous quarter. REC maintained a healthy Net Interest Margin (NIM) of 3.34%, while delivering an annualised earnings per share (EPS) of ₹ 63.04, highlighting the resilience of its lending business and disciplined financial management.

REC's standalone loan book expanded to ₹ 5.90 lakh crore as of June 30, 2026, making it the largest among Central Public Sector Undertaking Non-Banking Financial Companies (CPSU-NBFCs) in India. The company's net worth grew 15% year-on-year to ₹ 91,836 crore, supported by sustained profitability and a strong balance sheet. The company's focus on sustainable financing continued to gain momentum, with its renewable energy portfolio increasing to ₹ 78,596 crore, representing 13.32% of the overall loan portfolio. Meanwhile, its infrastructure and logistics portfolio reached ₹ 59,289 crore, accounting for more than 10% of total loan assets, reflecting REC's expanding role in India's infrastructure development.

REC further strengthened its asset quality by reducing its Stage-3 loan asset ratio to just 0.11%, nearly eliminating stressed assets from its portfolio.

AP, PNB Partner to Launch India's First Bank-Led Quantum Finance Hub

The Government of Andhra Pradesh and Punjab National Bank (PNB) have signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish India's first bank-led Quantum Finance



Hub at Amaravati Quantum Valley (AQV). The agreement was signed in the presence of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and PNB Managing Director & CEO Ashok Chandra, marking a significant milestone in the country's journey toward next-generation banking and financial technologies.

As part of the collaboration, PNB inaugurated the Quantum Finance Hub, becoming the first Indian bank to partner with a state government to create a dedicated innovation hub focused on Quantum Computing and Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the banking sector. The hub will serve as a collaborative platform connecting industry, academia, startups, research institutions, government agencies, and technology partners to develop practical solutions for cybersecurity, fraud detection, operational efficiency, customer experience, and secure digital financial systems.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said Amaravati is being developed as a global hub for deep technologies and innovation, with Amaravati Quantum Valley forming the foundation of this vision. He noted that the partnership with PNB would accelerate research, skill development, startup growth, and innovation, while reinforcing India's leadership in quantum technologies, artificial intelligence, and digital finance.

PNB MD & CEO Ashok Chandra described the Quantum & AI Finance Innovation Hub as a major milestone in the bank's technology transformation journey. He said the platform would encourage joint research, technology demonstrations, startup incubation, and industry partnerships, enabling the banking sector to adopt future-ready digital solutions while supporting India's vision of a secure, resilient, and innovation-driven financial ecosystem.

REC Limited has reported a strong financial performance for the first quarter of FY2026-27, with its net profit increasing 23% to ₹ 4,149 crore from ₹ 3,362 crore in the previous quarter.

The company's Board of Directors also declared the first interim dividend of ₹ 4.25 per equity share (face value ₹ 10), reaffirm-

Rajesh Pandey Assumes Charge as Chairman of Damodar Valley Corporation

Rajesh Pandey, IAS, a 1995 batch officer of the West Bengal cadre, has officially assumed charge as the 51st Chairman of Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) on July 23, 2026. His appointment brings to DVC a seasoned administrator with decades of experience in governance, public administration, and the power sector. During his 31-year career in the Civil Services, Shri Pandey has held several key positions in the Government of West Bengal, including Additional Chief Secretary for the MSME & Textiles, Personnel & Administrative Reforms, Sports & Youth Services, and Co-operation Departments. He also served as Secretary of the Consumer Affairs Department, contributing significantly to policy formulation and administrative reforms. Academically, Shri Pandey earned his B.Tech. (Hons.) in Mechanical Engineering from IIT Kharagpur in 1993. He was selected as a Fulbright Fellow for Leadership Development in 2008 and later completed a Master's in Public Policy and Management from Carnegie Mellon University, USA, in 2010. His blend of technical expertise, public policy knowledge, and leadership experience is expected to strengthen DVC's role in India's evolving energy landscape.

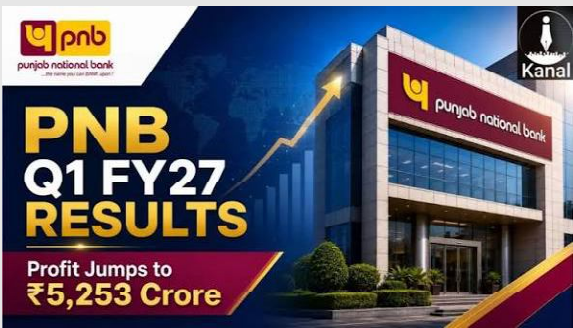


Rahul Himalian Takes Additional Charge as IRCTC CMD

The Ministry of Railways has entrusted Rahul Himalian with the additional charge of Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) following the resignation of Sanjay Kumar Jain. The appointment will take effect from July 20, 2026, ensuring continuity in the leadership of the Navratna public sector enterprise. A 1999-batch Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) officer, Rahul Himalian brings more than 26 years of extensive experience across the Indian Railways and IRCTC. His expertise spans railway operations, tourism, administration, infrastructure, and strategic management, making him well suited to lead the organisation during this transition.

Since February 16, 2024, Himalian has served as Director (Tourism & Marketing) and a Whole-Time Functional Director on the Board of IRCTC, a Schedule 'A' Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Railways. He currently oversees Tourism, Information Technology, Human Resource Development, Infrastructure, Administration and Rajbhasha, playing a key role in the corporation's growth initiatives.

PNB Q1 FY27 Profit Jumps Nearly Threefold to Rs 5,253 Crore as Asset Quality Improves

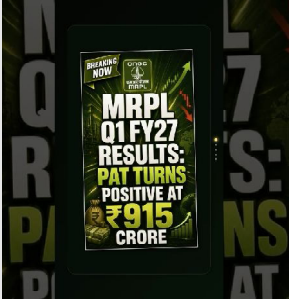


State-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 5,353 crore for the April-June quarter (Q1 FY27), registering a nearly three-fold increase from Rs 1,832 crore recorded in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year. On a sequential basis, profit also improved by over 2% compared to Rs 5,225.12 crore reported in the January-March quarter, reflecting the

bank's continued operational strength. According to the bank's regulatory filing, consolidated total income stood at Rs 37,953.75 crore during the quarter, representing a 2.9% quarter-on-quarter increase from Rs 36,878.02 crore. Although total income was marginally lower than Rs 37,998.84 crore reported in the same quarter last year, the bank maintained healthy profitability through improved operational efficiency and better asset quality.

PNB's global business expanded to Rs 29.98 lakh crore as of June 30, 2026. Total deposits increased 8.5% year-on-year to Rs 17.24 lakh crore, while global advances grew 12.7% to Rs 12.73 lakh crore. The bank also witnessed robust growth across key lending segments, with vehicle loans rising 34.4% and MSME advances increasing 19.8%, indicating broad-based credit expansion. The bank reported a significant improvement in asset quality during the quarter. Its Gross Non-Performing Asset (GNPA) ratio declined by 100 basis points year-on-year to 2.78%, while gross NPAs reduced by Rs 7,292 crore to Rs 35,381 crore. The Net NPA ratio further improved to 0.28%, highlighting the bank's continued focus on strengthening its balance sheet and improving recovery performance.

MRPL Q1 Results: Profit Surges to Rs 915 Crore as Revenue Doubles to Rs 41,609 Crore



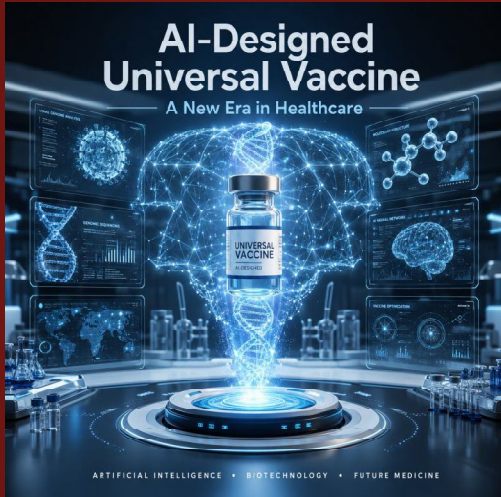
Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL), a subsidiary of ONGC and a Schedule 'A' Mini Ratna Category-I PSU, has reported a sharp turnaround in financial performance for the first quarter of FY2026-27. The company's Board of Directors, at its 276th meeting held on July 15, 2026, approved the standalone and consolidated financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2026.

The company posted revenue from operations of Rs 41,609 crore, almost doubling from Rs 20,989 crore recorded in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year. Profit Before Tax (PBT) stood at Rs 1,215 crore, compared to a loss of Rs 403 crore a year earlier, while Profit After Tax (PAT) surged to Rs 915 crore, marking a significant recovery from the Rs 272 crore loss reported in Q1 FY2025-26. Operationally, MRPL processed 4.43 million metric tonnes (MMT) of crude and other feedstock during the quarter, compared with 3.52 MMT in the same period last year. The improved throughput supported higher refining activity and contributed to the company's strong financial performance. On a consolidated basis, PAT attributable to the company's shareholders rose to Rs 946 crore, compared with a loss of Rs 271 crore in the year-ago quarter. MRPL also achieved several strategic milestones during the quarter. The company received PNGRB authorisation for the Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) pipeline connecting Devangonthi Terminal to Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru. It also commenced product loading at Aegis Terminal in Mangaluru, Hindupur depot in Andhra Pradesh, and Ennore terminal in Tamil Nadu, while executing lease agreements for storage tank facilities at JNPA, Kakinada and Krishnapatnam.

In a major sustainability initiative, MRPL secured ISCC CORSIA certification for the co-processing of Used Cooking Oil (UCO) to produce Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF).



‘World-first’ vaccine designed by AI tested on humans: Will it live up to the hype?



The world’s first human vaccine designed by artificial intelligence (AI) and developed by scientists at the University of Cambridge has passed its initial testing successfully and is currently undergoing further testing. What makes this vaccine different from traditional vaccines is that, instead of being developed in response to current strains, it uses a predictive design. To achieve that, scientists used AI to analyze multiple coronaviruses to create a “super antigen”. With this super antigen, they were able to target the common features of viruses in the coronavirus family and, in a sense, future-proof the vaccine against current and future coronavirus mutations.

The vaccine also has a needle-free design, using a specialized jet injector via the PharmaJet Tropis system. Rather than piercing the skin with a traditional metal syringe, it uses fluid dynamics to deliver the vaccine ingredients exactly where they need to go. However, the technology remains highly experimental, and the first human trial included only 39 people. The results of the trial were published in the Journal of Infection.

What the phase 1 trial results show

The trial was small, with only 39 people as participants, and was designed to test the vaccine’s safety. A second trial involving 200 participants is currently underway to determine how effective it is.

The vaccine produced what scientists described as a “modest” immune response in humans. This, compared to a higher result in mice Trusted Source, shows that the real test will be whether it can trigger a robust, lasting immune response in a highly diverse human population.

“The trial achieved what phase 1 trials are mainly meant to test: early safety and tolerability. It also showed some evidence that the design can focus responses on conserved sarbecovirus regions,” Boubnovski said. He also reiterated that the vaccine needs to undergo much larger trials before it is deemed safe and effective for the real world.

“[The trial] did not yet show the strong, broad immune response you would want before calling it a protective universal coronavirus vaccine,” Boubnovski said. Meanwhile, Gandhi pointed out an important fact regarding individual and herd immunity against SARS-CoV-2.

“I was not surprised that the population [in the trial] already had good immune responses to SARS-CoV-2 by the time the study was conducted. The COVID-19 pandemic started in 2020, and virtually every adult across the planet has been exposed to the virus already, generating strong immune responses, or has received a vaccine,” she said.

How was this AI vaccine designed?

“The computational design platform is sophisticated and ambitious, but the paper does not let us judge whether the AI algorithm itself is exceptionally advanced compared with other state-of-the-art antigen-design methods,” Boubnovski told MNT. “It’s not ‘pure AI’ in the sense of a system that designs a vaccine end-to-end by itself. It’s more like computer-aided engineering for vaccines,” he explained.

“The researchers used computational biology to compare related coronaviruses, identify conserved parts of the spike receptor-binding domain, and design a synthetic antigen intended to focus the immune system on shared weak spots across that virus family,” he continued.

“The computer helps generate and prioritize candidates, but biology still gets the final vote through lab testing, animal studies, and human clinical trials,” he added. The intellectual property for the vaccine is owned by DIOSynVax Ltd, University of Regensburg, and Cambridge Enterprise Ltd.

Designing a vaccine for a virus yet to exist?

Boubnovski urged caution in overinterpreting the abilities of AI-designed vaccines to protect against viruses that are not yet known. The science shows that AI employs advanced pattern recognition to identify how viruses in a particular family operate. “[This technology] cannot design a guaranteed vaccine for an entirely unknown virus. What it can do is design against a family of related viruses. That is why the claim should be limited. It is plausible for related future variants or related viruses, not for a completely unrelated new pathogen,” he underscored.

Gandhi explained how scientists set their target for the vaccine.

“[The research] was heartening in that immune responses were generated to SARS, SARS-CoV-2, and related Sarbeco-Coronaviruses by this AI-generated vaccine because common elements from each virus were quickly determined by the AI platform, and then a vaccine was generated against those common elements. This is exactly how this technology could design a vaccine against a virus that doesn’t exist yet,” she said. Gandhi said that a vaccine that can generate an immune response against common elements of coronaviruses would help provide broader protection, including “even ones that have not evolved yet in nature.” “These elements are called ‘conserved’ and that just means that they are pieces of the viruses (often buried deep in the virus) that are the same across species, or common, and don’t change much even when a new coronavirus emerges,” she said.

And could this vaccine technology help against other diseases?

The researchers behind this vaccine are currently applying the same AI technology to develop universal vaccines for influenza (the flu) and Ebola.

“If we know that influenza viruses and coronaviruses are the two types of viruses that have the most pandemic potential because they are easily transmitted from human to human by respiratory contact, we know a novel coronavirus (such as SARS-CoV-2 in 2020) can be very dangerous to a non-immune public,” Gandhi said, highlighting how this technology could be helpful in preventing future outbreaks.

“I think an AI-derived vaccine for viral infections is an excellent idea because AI has the power to scan sequences of viruses quickly to determine common elements that allow for cross-protection to different viruses. This was illustrated in the case of [this] vaccine, which provided cross protection against more than one virus in the sarbecovirus family, including both SARS and

Given the global resistance to mRNA vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic, how will the public accept an AI-designed vaccine?

“I think the public would accept this type of vaccine design as this vaccine is needle-free, provided by a transdermal patch, which will increase acceptability,” Gandhi told MNT.

“mRNA vaccines seemed to the public to be developed too quickly, and misinformation on their safety surrounded their rollout, which brought down trust in the public.” “Hopefully, misinformation will not accompany the roll-out of AI-generated vaccines, and public health officials can explain their derivation and why AI helps generate vaccines more quickly in an accessible, trust-generating manner,” she explained.

ADHD in women: Breaking the stereotypes



Research has shown that women with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, or ADHD for short, are likely to receive their diagnosis later in life. On average, women with ADHD receive their diagnosis 5 years later than their male peers.

Often they receive a misdiagnosis, such as anxiety or other mental health conditions, before a specialist accurately identifies ADHD. Many women with ADHD are missed altogether. Why exactly is that? And how can we improve our understanding of this often misrepresented condition?

I am Maria Cohut, Features Editor at Medical News Today.

And I am Yasemin Nicola Sakay, Global News Editor at Medical News Today.

Today we will delve into these and other questions around the difficulty of receiving an ADHD diagnosis as a woman on our latest podcast episode In Conversation.

Why it’s important to better understand ADHD in women

Yasemin Sakay: So Maria, I know this is a topic you’ve been very keen to tackle on the podcast. Do you feel comfortable sharing why that is?

Maria Cohut: Yeah, that’s basically because to be completely honest, full disclosure, I’m one of the many women who received an ADHD identification as adults.

Yasemin Sakay: Did that come as a surprise to you?

Maria Cohut: Not really. I think I’d always realized that my way of being in the world of interacting with things was a little bit different. Plus, I’ve had people make comments about the way in which I do things that have really struck me. For instance, working in an office, we had this little snack table and I remember, I very specifically remember this moment when I got up from my desk carrying my laptop with one hand, typing with another, walking towards the snack table and talking to one of my colleagues. And my colleague was like, how can you do that? I was like, do what? How can you do five things at the same time? How can you walk and type and talk at the same time? To me, I realized that is just how my brain works. That is just how I function normally.

Yasemin Sakay: So why would you say you only received your diagnosis so late in life?

Maria Cohut: Well, first of all, think when I was growing up, say ADHD or neurodiversity wasn’t really a thing. People weren’t very aware of what that might be and how it might manifest. And on top of that, I had this image of being a quiet, a shy kid. I did very well in school. Insofar as the people around me were concerned, I guess I didn’t really fit that hyperactive jumping off the wall profile that people might expect with something like ADHD or that would catch somebody’s eye. That’s why probably because I didn’t fit the template. People weren’t necessarily aware of the hyperactivity that was going on inside my brain.

Yasemin Sakay: Interesting. So do you feel like you learned to hide this very early on?

Maria Cohut: For sure I did, because I think really early on I managed to get an understanding of what was deemed socially acceptable and what wasn’t socially acceptable, or what would get me in trouble, for instance.

So I wouldn’t, I was a daydreamer, I was struggling to pay attention in class, but I would never own up to that, right? Because I figured out that people would just think that I’m being a bad student. I would like perform focus, which is a very weird thing to say, but that’s what I did.

Yasemin Sakay: Yeah, and they will present differently. So on that note, I think it’s time to welcome our special guest who will help us unpick some of these issues further. Joining us today In Conversation is Professor Davida Hartman, Chartered Educational and Child Psychologist with the Psychological Society of Ireland, Adjunct Professor in the University College Dublin School of Psychology, as well as Clinical Director at The Adult Autism and ADHD Practice, and Co-director and Principal Psychologist at The Children’s Clinic.

Davida, welcome!

Prof. Davida Hartman: Thank you so much!

Maria Cohut: Do you mind if we start by asking you what got you interested in specializing in ADHD in the first place? Is it okay if you talk to us a little bit about that?

Prof. Davida Hartman: You know, it’s very interesting. It’s just, I often talk to a lot of my friends and colleagues who are working in this area and a lot of us that are currently working in this area have now discovered our own neurodivergence, have partners who are neurodivergent and children who are neurodivergent but when we started off at the beginning of our careers that wasn’t the case. None of us knew we were neurodivergent or had children at that stage.

And it really was just honestly, it started off by chance in that one of the jobs that I got was with, was supporting autistic children. Well, now I would know they were autistic and ADHD in schools and I really loved the work and then it flowed from there that I loved that work and then I sought out more experience in that area and then I focused on that in my college years. So it led on to that.



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New Pain & Palliative Care Services Inaugurated

Former Vice President of India M.Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the new Pain & Palliative Care Services for cancer patients at STAR Hospitals in Nanakramguda, Hyderabad. This launch marks the facility as the first private hospital in Hyderabad to integrate full-scale palliative care into its oncology department. Mainly Dr. Gopichand Mannam (Chairman & Founding Promoter) and Dr. Ramesh Gudapati (Director & Founding Promoter) of the Hospital were present at the moment. Clinical Director and Head of Department Dr. Vipin Goel stated that “this is not just the launch of another department. It is a promise that no cancer patient should have to suffer in pain, and that every patient deserves dignity, comfort, and compassion.”



World Mithai & Namkeen Convention

The World Mithai & Namkeen Convention (WMNC) Purchasing 2026 officially commenced at the HITEX Exhibition Centre, Hyderabad, marking the beginning of one of India’s largest business gatherings for the mithai, namkeen, bakery and allied food industries. The three-day convention has brought together manufacturers, retailers, distributors, suppliers, technology providers and industry leaders from across the country under one roof.

The convention was inaugurated by leading personalities from the industry, including Rajesh Dadu, Managing Director, Dadu Mithai Vatika; PVVS Mallikharjuna Rao, Managing Director, Suruchi Foods; Chaitanya Muppala, CEO, Almond House; Rajesh Ramnani, Managing Partner, Karachi Bakery; and Firoz H. Naqvi, Organiser, AIM Events and Director General, Federation of Sweets & Namkeen Manufacturers (FSNM).

Designed around the theme “A Perfect Start to the Festive Season,” WMNC Purchasing 2026 serves as a dedicated pre-festive sourcing platform, enabling businesses to strengthen procurement, discover innovations and prepare for the country’s busiest sales season. The event covers the entire supply chain, from raw materials and dry fruits and nuts to ingredients, flavours, food processing machinery, packaging equipment and materials, gifting solutions, automation technologies, and business services.

The convention also witnessed the participation of several respected entrepreneurs and business leaders from South India’s food industry, including Anumula Babu Rao of Café Niloufer, Mohammed Abdul Majeed of Pista House, Nagarjuna Muppala of Almond House, Poonamchand Panwar of Balaji Ratanlal Mithai Bhandar, and Sudhir Shah of Scoops Ice Cream, reflecting the industry’s strong support for the platform.



Maha Tambola

Hoonar Creations Director Dimple Shah Presents Maha Tambola in aid of girl child education season 3 at Nimantran Banquet Paradise Secunderabad. Many groups have participated with joy and enthusiasm.



Cure SMA India Announces 4th Edition of Run

Cure SMA Foundation of India, a parent-led registered non-profit organization dedicated to supporting individuals and families affected by Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), announced the 4th edition of Run for SMA 2026, scheduled to be held on 9 August 2026 at Gachibowli Stadium, Hyderabad.

The event was formally launched at the Cyberabad Commissionerate in the presence of Dr. M. Ramesh, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Cyberabad, who unveiled the official Run for SMA 2026 poster and run T-shirt and extended his support to this important public health awareness initiative.

The launch was attended by leading experts and dignitaries including Dr. Radha Rama Devi, Senior Geneticist and Pediatrician, Rainbow Children’s Hospital; Dr. Surya Prabha, Professor & Head, Department of Neurology, NIMS; Mr. Naved Alam Khan, CEO, Society for Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC); Srilakshmi Nalam and Archana Panda, Co-founders of Cure SMA India; Vijay Vavilala from Microsoft; along with representatives from supporting organizations.

Run for SMA is more than a marathon—it is a movement to create awareness, promote prevention, and stand in solidarity with families affected by SMA. The event features four categories: 21K Half Marathon (Timed), 10K Timed Run, 5K Timed Run, and 5K Non-Timed Fun Run/Walk. Participants will receive a Run T-shirt, finisher medal, certificate, breakfast, and free event photographs, while winners in the timed categories will receive attractive cash prizes.



India's Biggest 3-Month Weight Loss Challenge Concludes

LivLife Hospitals has successfully concluded India’s Biggest 3-Month Weight Loss Challenge, a unique health initiative aimed at promoting healthy weight loss and sustainable lifestyle transformation. Conducted under the expert guidance of Dr. Nandakishore Dukkupati, Managing Director of LivLife Hospitals and President-Elect of the Obesity and Metabolic Surgery Society of India (OSS), the program witnessed overwhelming participation from thousands of individuals across multiple states in India. Over the course of three months, thousands of participants successfully achieved significant weight loss through a structured, scientifically designed program focused on balanced nutrition, lifestyle modification, physical activity, and expert medical guidance. Participants also reported remarkable improvements in gut health, energy levels, daily physical activities, overall fitness, and quality of life.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Nandakishore Dukkupati emphasized that obesity has become one of the biggest health challenges due to unhealthy eating habits, sedentary lifestyles, and increasing stress levels. He stated that with proper medical guidance, healthy nutrition, and consistent lifestyle changes, obesity can be effectively managed and prevented. The initiative was further strengthened by the valuable contributions of Dr. S. Nadeemuddin, CEO of Active Life, and Professor Adrian Kennedy, who provided expert guidance and continuous encouragement to the participants throughout the challenge.



MR Star Edition released by IRS Officer N. Balram

Midnight Reporter’s Star edition is out with a bang released by hardcore & versatile IRS officer Mr.N.Balram, the new Addl. Commisisoner of Customs & CGST, Vizag.

The former CMD of SCCL is endorsed as ‘Tree Man of Telangana’ for his remarkable sapling plantation challenge. At the same time, he has consistently gone extra mile to support deserving & needy students. Highly appreciated!!

Click the link for epaper : [https://midnightreporter.com/June 2026.pdf](https://midnightreporter.com/June%202026.pdf)



Dhanya Prasad Kuchipudi Rangapravesham held

Dhanya Prasad Kuchipudi Rangapravesham held at Shilpakala Vedika, Madhapur, drew appreciation from an audience of art enthusiasts and dignitaries. Former Vice President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu attended the programme as the chief guest, along with Lok Sabha Member of Parliament Daggubati Purandeswari. The dignitaries inaugurated the program by lighting the ceremonial lamp.

Former Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu emphasized that India’s arts, culture, and traditions are the nation’s greatest heritage and an invaluable treasure. India is home to 64 traditional art forms, and it is essential to recognize and appreciate the contributions of gurus and artists who have mastered these disciplines and are dedicated to transmitting them to the next generation. Former Union Minister and Member of Parliament D. Purandeswari, addressing the gathering, described Natya Shastra as not only a remarkable treatise but also a divine blessing bestowed upon humanity.

Dhanya Prasad began her debut Kuchipudi performance after receiving the blessings of renowned Kuchipudi exponents Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan awardees Dr. Raja Reddy and Dr. Radha Reddy, Kuchipudi guru Kaushalya Reddy, and her guru Yamini Reddy.



Sabine Marcelis’s Rotterdam loft apartment is “forever evolving” with her life

Sabine Marcelis’s self-designed resin bathtub and three-metre-tall lava lamp feature in her Rotterdam family home, which she continuously reconfigures with her architect partner Paul Cournet.

“Our house is really a metaphor for how we like to live our lives,” explained the designer, who spoke to Dezeen about the latest updates to the Coolhaven loft apartment she shares with Cournet and their two young children.

“It’s forever evolving and very flexible,” Marcelis added.

Set within a 500-square-metre space that was formerly a paper factory and then a bank, the apartment has been steadily designed by the couple over the last decade.

The light-filled, single-level home features a mix of pieces by Marcelis and Cournet, alongside bespoke furniture they commissioned from friends.

On one side of the space, the duo’s bed is characterised by a blocky frame made of swirly timber. It is encircled by a netted curtain, which is suspended from the ceiling and can wrap around the furniture for privacy.

“We designed the bed just after our first baby as we needed a backrest,” explained Marcelis. “Our previous one was more of a futon.”

Marcelis and Cournet carved a cavernous, orange-coloured nook into the wall next to the sleeping area, which was fitted with an angular and stepped resin bathtub.

“At first, the bathroom was going to be behind a glass wall, but we decided to tear that wall down again and keep it open to the space,” said Marcelis. “We live in that tub!”

An Osaka sofa, originally conceived by French designer Pierre Paulin in 1967, snakes across the floor opposite the bed.

Previously clad in a pink textile, the couch was recently reupholstered in a more pared-back beige.

“I felt that there was too much colour in the house,” reflected Marcelis. “We still have the pink cover and we may go back to it again at some point. As our bed is in the main space, even when we change the sheets it feels like a totally different colour palette.”

The designer placed a cylindrical lava lamp she created for British brand Mathmos next to the Osaka sofa. Measuring 2.96 metres in height, the oversized lighting encases rising and sinking “lava” rendered in a delicate shade of green.

On the other side of the loft, a squidgy, conversation pit-style sofa was positioned opposite a custom steel bookshelf by local designer Phil Proctor.

This living area can be sectioned off from the rest of the loft via a 10-metre-wide, floor-to-ceiling curtain printed with scans of pages from the notebooks of Berlin designer Ehsan Morshed Sefat.

“I love that it’s functional, blocking the light and creating a more intimate space when we have our projector on, but it’s also an artwork in itself,” said Marcelis, who commissioned Morshed Sefat to design bedsheets for Germany’s VitraHaus loft in the same way.



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New Store at Road No. 12, Banjara Hills

पीएम मोदी बने इंस्टाग्राम किंग, 105 मिलियन फॉलोअर्स के साथ दुनिया के सबसे ज्यादा फॉलो किए जाने वाले नेता बने



पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी प्देजहंतं पर सबसे ज्यादा फॉलो किए जाने वाले नेता बन गए हैं। उन्होंने एक हफ्ते में 4 मिलियन नए Followers जुड़े हैं। इससे उनके फॉलोअर्स की संख्या 10.1 करोड़ (101 मिलियन) से बढ़कर 10.5 करोड़ (105 मिलियन) हो गई। इसके बाद अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप 4.32 करोड़ (43.2 मिलियन) फॉलोअर्स के साथ दूसरे स्थान पर हैं। Instagram पर मोदी अन्य भारतीय राजनीतिक नेताओं से आगे हैं। दूसरे स्थान पर उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ हैं, जिनके लगभग 1.61 करोड़ (16.1 मिलियन) फॉलोअर्स हैं।

पीएम मोदी ने बीते हफ्ते बैठक के दौरान अपने साथियों को सलाह दी है कि वे इंस्टाग्राम रील्स के जरिए युवाओं से जुड़ने की बात कही है। उन्होंने कहा कि, 'युवा Instagram पर ही हैं। करोड़ों युवा रोजाना इस प्लेटफॉर्म का इस्तेमाल करते हैं। यह नागरिकों का एक ऐसा संभावित वर्ग है जिससे हम सभी को जुड़ने की जरूरत है।' पीएम मोदी ने कहा कि केंद्र सरकार द्वारा किए जा रहे कामों के बारे में लोगों को बताने के अलावा, मंत्रियों को इस प्लेटफॉर्म पर युवाओं के साथ इंटरैक्टिव सेशन भी करने चाहिए। दूसरी ओर 'कॉकरोच जनता पार्टी' के Instagram पर 2.6 करोड़ (26 मिलियन) से ज्यादा फॉलोअर्स हैं।

'हम हरियाणवी हैं, डरते कौन्या!' हरियाणवी दादाजी ने 80 की उम्र में तोड़ा खुद का रिकॉर्ड, 18,000 फीट से स्काईडाइविंग कर रचा इतिहास



कहते हैं कि अगर हौसला बुलंद हो तो उम्र का हर आंकड़ा महज एक संख्या बनकर रह जाता है। सोशल मीडिया पर इन दिनों एक ऐसा ही दिल छू लेने वाला और रोंगटे खड़े कर देने वाला वीडियो वायरल हो रहा है, जिसमें हरियाणा के रहने वाले एक 80 वर्षीय बुजुर्ग ने ऑस्ट्रेलिया में 18,000 फीट की ऊंचाई से स्काईडाइविंग कर इतिहास रच दिया है। डरता कौन है? पूछने पर दिया कड़क हरियाणवी जवाब—

यह वायरल वीडियो अंकित (@ankitrnanabigmouth) नाम के एक युवक ने अपने इंस्टाग्राम अकाउंट पर शेयर किया है, जो अपने दादाजी को स्काईडाइविंग कराने ऑस्ट्रेलिया ले गया था। विमान में बैठने से ठीक पहले जब पोते अंकित ने मजाकिया लहजे में पूछा 'बाबा, डर तो नहीं लग रहा?' तो हरियाणवी ठाठ वाले दादाजी ने मुस्कराते हुए कड़क अंदाज में कहा, डरता कौन है, मैं? हम हरियाणवी हैं, किसी से नी डरते!'

दादाजी ने ट्रेनर के साथ 18,000 फीट की डरावनी ऊंचाई से खुले आसमान में छलांग लगाई, उनका उत्साह देखने लायक था। हवा में तेजी से नीचे आते वक्त (Freefall) उनके चेहरे पर डर का कोई नामोनिशान नहीं था। अंकित ने सोशल मीडिया पर बताया कि उनके दादाजी के लिए यह पहला मौका नहीं था। इससे पहले भी वह 15,000 फीट की ऊंचाई से सफलतापूर्वक स्काईडाइव कर चुके हैं। लेकिन इस बार दादा-पोते की जोड़ी ने अपने ही रिकॉर्ड को पीछे छोड़ते हुए सीधे 18,000 फीट की ऊंचाई से छलांग लगाने का फैसला किया।

पुर्तगाल में बुर्का-नकाब पर सख्ती, फेस कवरिंग पर लगेगा मोटा जुर्माना, जबरदस्ती करने वालों को होगी जेल



पुर्तगाल की संसद ने सार्वजनिक स्थानों पर चेहरा पूरी तरह ढकने वाले परिधानों, जैसे बुर्का और नकाब, पर प्रतिबंध लगाने वाला विधेयक पारित कर दिया है। हालांकि यह कानून अभी लागू नहीं हुआ है। इसके प्रभावी होने के लिए राष्ट्रपति की मंजूरी या संवैधानिक समीक्षा की प्रक्रिया पूरी होना बाकी है। पारित विधेयक

के अनुसार सार्वजनिक स्थानों पर चेहरा पूरी तरह ढकने पर 200 से 4,000 यूरो तक का जुर्माना लगाया जा सकता है। वहीं यदि किसी महिला को जबरन ऐसा फेस कवरिंग पहनने के लिए मजबूर किया जाता है, तो दोषी को अधिकतम तीन वर्ष की जेल की सजा हो सकती है।

धेयक का समर्थन करने वाले दलों का कहना है कि इसका उद्देश्य सार्वजनिक सुरक्षा, पहचान सत्यापन और महिलाओं के अधिकारों की रक्षा करना है। अंतिम मसौदे में किसी एक धर्म का नाम नहीं लिया गया और इसे सामान्य रूप से सार्वजनिक स्थानों पर चेहरा ढकने पर लागू किया गया है। दूसरी ओर, मानवाधिकार संगठन एमनेस्टी इंटरनेशनल ने इस कानून की आलोचना करते हुए कहा है कि यह मुस्लिम महिलाओं की धार्मिक स्वतंत्रता, अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता और व्यक्तिगत अधिकारों को प्रभावित कर सकता है।

संगठन ने राष्ट्रपति से कानून पर हस्ताक्षर न करने और इसकी संवैधानिक समीक्षा कराने की मांग की है। इससे पहले फ्रांस, बेल्जियम, ऑस्ट्रिया, डेनमार्क और कुछ अन्य यूरोपीय देशों में भी सार्वजनिक स्थानों पर चेहरा पूरी तरह ढकने को लेकर विभिन्न प्रकार के प्रतिबंध पहले से लागू हैं। पुर्तगाल भी अब इसी दिशा में आगे बढ़ता दिखाई दे रहा है।

लोकसभा में Public Examinations Amendment Bill को मिली मंजूरी



लोकसभा ने बुधवार को श्लोक परीक्षा (अनुचित साधन निवारण) संशोधन विधेयक, 2026 के मंजूरी दे दी। नीट प्रश्नपत्र लीक की पृष्ठभूमि में लोक परीक्षा (अनुचित साधन निवारण) अधिनियम, 2024 में सख्त प्रावधान शामिल करने के लिए लाए गए इस संशोधन विधेयक पर हुई चर्चा के दौरान नेता प्रतिपक्ष राहुल गांधी की कुछ टिप्पणियों को लेकर सत्तापक्ष और विपक्ष के बीच तीखी नोकझोंक हुई। इस कारण सदन की कार्यवाही पहले एक बार करीब 40 मिनट के लिए अपराह्न ढाई बजे तक और फिर तीन बजे तक स्थगित कर दी गई। तीन बजे सदन की बैठक शुरू होने पर कांग्रेस के सांसद 'एलओपी को बोलने' दो के नारे लगाते हुए हंगामा कर रहे थे।

हंगामे के बीच ही प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय में राज्य मंत्री जितेंद्र सिंह ने विधेयक पर हुई चर्चा का जवाब दिया और उनके जवाब के बाद सदन ने ध्वनिमत से विधेयक को मंजूरी प्रदान कर दी। विधेयक पारित होने के बाद कांग्रेस सांसदों की नारेबाजी के बीच ही अध्यक्ष ओम बिरला ने कार्यवाही दिनभर के लिए स्थगित कर दी। चर्चा का जवाब देते हुए जितेंद्र सिंह ने कहा कि नीट प्रश्नपत्र लीक के मामले में सरकार ने फौरन कार्रवाई की और 12 जुलाई को जांच सीबीआई को सौंप दी गई। उन्होंने कहा कि कल इस मामले में आरोपपत्र दायर कर दिया गया है और आज से सुनवाई शुरू हो गई है। सिंह ने कहा कि नए संशोधन विधेयक के प्रभाव में आने के बाद फास्ट ट्रैक अदालत में सुनवाई के साथ इस मामले में पांच महीने में फैसला आ जाएगा। सिंह ने कहा कि प्रश्नपत्र लीक के विरुद्ध कड़े प्रावधान के साथ मूल कानून 2024 में लागू किया गया था और आज प्रश्नपत्र लीक संबंधी खामियां सामने आने के बाद सरकार ने माना कि कानून को और कड़ा बनाने की जरूरत है।

महिला सशक्तिकरण में वाराणसी नंबर-1, यूपी आजीविका मिशन रैंकिंग में किया टॉप



उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य आजीविका मिशन की नवीनतम रैंकिंग में वाराणसी ने एक बार फिर पहला स्थान हासिल किया है। मई के बाद जून माह की रैंकिंग में भी जनपद ने अपनी शीर्ष स्थिति बरकरार रखी है। इस सूची में अबेडकर नगर दूसरे और बिजनौर तीसरे स्थान पर रहे, जबकि अयोध्या और आगरा ने उल्लेखनीय सुधार करते हुए टॉप-5 में जगह बनाई है।

राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण आजीविका मिशन के तहत हर महीने विभिन्न प्रदर्शन मानकों के आधार पर जिलों का मूल्यांकन किया जाता है। समूह गठन, ग्राम संगठन, क्रेडिट लिंकेज, स्टार्टअप फंड, आंतरिक अंकेक्षण, बीसी सखी, विद्युत सखी, उत्पादक समूह और वार्षिक कार्ययोजना के अनुरूप कार्य जैसे मापदंडों पर वाराणसी ने सबसे बेहतर प्रदर्शन किया। जिले में स्वयं सहायता समूहों के माध्यम से महिलाओं को रोजगार, स्वरोजगार और आर्थिक रूप से आत्मनिर्भर बनने के अवसर मिले हैं। वाराणसी में प्रेरणा मार्ट, आजीविका संवर्धन केंद्र, 12 इंटीग्रेटेड फार्मिंग क्लस्टर और फूड कार्ट जैसी पहल महिलाओं की आय बढ़ाने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा रही हैं। महिलाओं द्वारा तैयार उत्पादों को बाजार उपलब्ध कराया जा रहा है, वहीं मिलेट्स को बढ़ावा देने के लिए भी विशेष प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं। पिछले वर्ष भी उत्कृष्ट प्रदर्शन के लिए मिशन की टीम को सम्मानित किया गया था।

यूरेनियम से ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन तक, भारत-ऑस्ट्रेलिया ने ऊर्जा सहयोग को दिया नया आयाम

ऑस्ट्रेलिया और भारत ने गुरुवार को न्यूक्लियर एनर्जी इंडस्ट्री में इस्तेमाल के लिए भारत को ऑस्ट्रेलियाई यूरेनियम एक्सपोर्ट करने के लिए एक डील की, साथ ही रिन्यूएबल एनर्जी, जरूरी मिनरल और ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन में सहयोग बढ़ाने पर भी सहमति जताई। भारत लंबे समय से ऑस्ट्रेलिया के यूरेनियम रिजर्व पर नजर रखे हुए है ताकि 2047 तक 100 गीगावाट न्यूक्लियर एनर्जी कैपेसिटी का टारगेट पूरा करने में मदद मिल सके, जबकि ऑस्ट्रेलिया अपने टॉप पार्टनर चीन पर अपनी निर्भरता से आगे बढ़कर व्यापार में विविधता लाना चाहता है।

ऑस्ट्रेलिया के प्रधानमंत्री एंथनी अल्बानीज ने गुरुवार को मेलबर्न में रिपोर्टर्स से कहा, ऑस्ट्रेलिया और भारत करीबी पार्टनर और उससे भी ज्यादा करीबी दोस्त हैं। उन्होंने भारत के प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के साथ डील फाइनल करने के बाद यह बात कही यह अरेंजमेंट भारत को ऑस्ट्रेलियाई यूरेनियम एक्सपोर्ट को आसान बनाता है ताकि नॉन-फॉसिल फ्यूल पावर कैपेसिटी में हिस्सेदारी बढ़ाने में मदद मिल सके, जिससे ऑस्ट्रेलियाई रिसोर्स सेक्टर के लिए एक एक्स्ट्रा मार्केट मिलेगा। एक्सपोर्ट के वॉल्यूम, वैल्यू या टाइमिंग के बारे में कोई डिटेल्स तुरंत उपलब्ध नहीं थीं। हालांकि दोनों देश 2014 में एक न्यूक्लियर कोऑपरेशन पैक्ट पर सहमत हुए थे, लेकिन यूरेनियम एक्सपोर्ट इस चिंता के कारण सीमित रहा है कि वे भारत के न्यूक्लियर वेपन प्रोग्राम में जा सकते हैं। नया एग्रीमेंट यह पक्का करता है कि न्यूक्लियर फ्यूल का इस्तेमाल सिर्फ शांतिपूर्ण मकसदों, जैसे एनर्जी जेनरेशन के लिए किया जाए। मोदी ने गुरुवार को कहा कि ऑस्ट्रेलिया के साथ भारत के रिश्ते दोनों देशों के लिए कई एरिया में कोऑपरेट करने के ऐतिहासिक मौके देते हैं। मोदी ने कहा कि ऑस्ट्रेलिया की टेक्नोलॉजी, कैपिटल और रिसोर्स भारत के एनर्जी ट्रांजिशन को तेज करने में मदद कर सकते हैं। उन्होंने लो-कार्बन एल्युमीनियम प्रोजेक्ट्स में संभावित कोऑपरेशन का भी संकेत दिया।

मोदी ने कहा, 'हम इस फील्ड में सहयोग करेंगे और ऑस्ट्रेलिया की बिजनेस कम्युनिटी से भारत के रोड, पोर्ट, रेल और अर्बन इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर प्रोजेक्ट्स में लंबे समय के लिए इन्वेस्ट करने की अपील की। उन्होंने कहा, भारत आपके फंड्स के लिए एक सुरक्षित, स्थिर और टिकाऊ ग्रोथ ऑप्शन देता है। ऑस्ट्रेलिया के सबसे बड़े पेंशन फंड, ऑस्ट्रेलियनसुपर ने गुरुवार को कहा कि वह भारत के नेशनल इन्वेस्टमेंट एंड इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर फंड में और 1+500 मिलियन (+347 मिलियन) इन्वेस्ट करेगा। लिविंग ब्रिज बिजनेस इवेंट में मोदी से मिलने के बाद, अल्बानीज ने भारतीय लीडर को ऑस्ट्रेलिया और भारत के बीच एक लिविंग ब्रिज कहा, और कहा कि मोदी के विजन ने भारत के साथ ऑस्ट्रेलिया के इकोनॉमिक एंगेजमेंट के रोडमैप को नया आकार देने में मदद की है।



Kerala aims for Rs 25,000 crore economic impact from Arab tourists

Arab tourists are an important part of Kerala's tourism economy. Majority of Arab tourists seek premium and luxury travel, and Kerala is a capable destination, equipped with a large inventory of premium accommodation. Almost all major destinations across the state, including Kochi, Munnar, Kumarakom, Thekkady, Wayanad and Kovalam, offer a wide range of five-star hotels, luxury resorts and wellness retreats that cater to the expectations of affluent GCC travellers.

Arab tourists, particularly from the GCC region prefer destinations that are family friendly,

safe and culturally comfortable. While planning holidays to India and especially Southern India, they typically look for spacious family accommodation with interconnected rooms and private villas, availability of Arab dining options, premium transportation, and personalised and luxury experiences. Kerala comes as an attractive destination for Arabs for its cooler climate and nature-based destinations such as Munnar, Wayanad and Thekkady. Middle eastern travellers seek premium shopping opportunities and wellness experiences coupled with flexible itineraries suited for multi-generational family travel.

Karnataka Wins 'Best Nature & Wildlife Tourism Destination' Honour



Karnataka has strengthened its position as one of India's premier travel destinations after being honoured with the 'Best Nature & Wildlife Tourism Destination' award at the 26th India International Travel Mart (IITM) Bengaluru 2026. The recognition highlights the state's sustained efforts in promoting eco-tourism, wildlife conservation, and sustainable tourism while showcasing its rich natural and cultural heritage. As the Host State of IITM Bengaluru 2026, held from July 23 to 25 at

the Tripura Vasani Palace Grounds, Karnataka Tourism used the three-day event to engage with tourism professionals, travel companies, and international delegates. The state's pavilion presented a wide range of attractions, including wildlife, heritage monuments, coastal destinations, wellness tourism, adventure activities, cultural experiences, and the rapidly expanding Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) sector.

The Karnataka Tourism pavilion was inaugurated by K.J. George, Minister for Energy and Tourism, Government of Karnataka, in the presence of senior officials from the Department of Tourism, Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC), Jungle Lodges and Resorts, and representatives from the tourism and hospitality industry.

IITM Bengaluru 2026 attracted more than 850 exhibitors representing over 25 international destinations and 20 Indian tourism destinations, making it one of the country's largest travel trade events. Karnataka participated alongside 16 tourism stakeholders, including hotels, resorts, tour operators, and tourism service providers, who actively interacted with domestic and international travel buyers.

Germany sees rise in Indian overnight stays, spotlights four tourism themes for 2026



Germany recorded continued growth in Indian visitor arrivals during the first five months of 2026, with overnight stays by Indian travellers reaching 350,488 between January and May, up 0.1 per cent year-on-year. Overall, Germany registered 174.9 million overnight stays during the period, a 1.3 per cent increase over the previous year, while international overnight stays remained stable at 28.7 million. The German National Tourist Office (GNTO) India said the figures reflect Germany's resilience as a preferred destination despite ongoing geopolitical challenges affecting global travel. Domestic tourism has also surpassed pre-pandemic 2019 levels, highlighting sustained demand.

To build on this momentum, GNTO India has announced four key themes that will shape its tourism promotion strategy for the Indian market in 2026 - culture, cities, cuisine, and family, friends and nature. Commenting on the strategy, Romit Theophilus, Director - Marketing & Sales Office, India, GNTO, said, "Despite ongoing geopolitical uncertainty across the world, Germany continues to hold its own as a stable and dependable travel destination, and India remains one of the markets driving that momentum. What we're witnessing is a clear shift in how Indian travellers engage with Germany; they're spending more time, going deeper into a region, and choosing experiences that connect them to a place rather than simply passing through it."

New Zealand Invests in AI to Boost Global Tourism Reach



New Zealand is investing NZ\$800,000 to help its tourism industry become more visible through artificial intelligence, making it easier for international travellers to discover and book local experiences as AI-powered travel planning continues to grow.

Tourism and Hospitality Minister Louise Upston said more people are now using AI tools to research destinations and organise holidays, making it essential for New Zealand to have a stronger presence in AI search results.

Making tourism businesses easier to discover

The funding, provided through the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL), will upgrade Tourism New Zealand's digital systems so tourism products, accommodation providers and visitor experiences are easier for AI platforms to find and present to potential travellers.

The improvements will also help ensure information delivered through AI searches is accurate and includes direct booking options, giving visitors a smoother journey from planning their trip to making reservations.

A key part of the project will make Tourism New Zealand's tourism database "AI-ready" by improving how information about thousands of tourism and hospitality businesses is organised. Better data structure allows AI search tools to identify and display relevant businesses more effectively when users ask for personalised travel recommendations.

Supporting businesses across the country

The Government believes many tourism operators, particularly smaller businesses, are not appearing as prominently in AI-generated travel results as they could. The investment is designed to improve their visibility and connect them with travellers who are already searching for experiences that match what they offer.

Andaman tourism suffers due to high fares



The Navy's air station INS Baaz at Campbell Bay is set to be extended to 10,000 feet, as authorities look for ways to ease the islands' persistent connectivity troubles.

Officials in the Andaman and Nicobar Administration say the island chain is steadily losing tourists to destinations like Thailand. High fares and unpredictable flight operations at Veer Savarkar Airport in Sri Vijaya Puram (formerly Port Blair) are cited as the main reasons.

An ANA official said the Andamans currently handle only 60-65 per cent of the tourist traffic the islands can sustainably support. A one-way economy ticket from Kolkata costs around INR 8,000, while a Kolkata-to-Bangkok fare is only marginally higher, at INR 9,000-9,500. With Thailand offering visa-on-arrival facilities,

many travellers choose the foreign destination over the Andamans, despite the islands having much more to offer visitors, the official noted. Airlines such as Air India Express say unpredictable weather over Sri Vijaya Puram forces flights to turn back to the mainland, pushing them to keep fares high as a buffer against these disruptions.

Compounding the problem, the archipelago lacks an alternative airport for commercial jets. INS Baaz's 4,500-foot runway remains too short for Boeing 737s or Airbus A320s, the aircraft domestic carriers use to fly the mainland-Andaman route