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Volume : 1 No. 295 VISAKHAPATNAM Wednesday, September 16, 2026 Editor: GANTYADA APPARAO Pages : 8 Rs: 5-00

National Engineers' Day: PM Modi pays tribute to M Visvesvaraya, hails engineers as Karmayogis



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday paid tribute to legendary Indian engineer and statesman Sir Moksha gundam Visvesvaraya on the occasion of National Engineers' Day and lauded the contributions of engineers in building, innovating and creating solutions for a better tomorrow. National Engineers' Day is observed across India every year on September 15 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, one of the country's foremost civil engineers and a celebrated statesman whose contribution to engineering and nation-building continues to be remembered.

Born on September 15, 1861, Visvesvaraya, also known by his initials M V, is widely regarded as the 'Father of Modern Mysore'.

country. "Engineers do not merely build machines; they are the Karmayogis who transform dreams into reality. I applaud and commend every engineer of India. India has been home to many such engineers who turned the unimaginable into the imaginable and presented feats that are hailed as marvels in the world of engineering," he said.

In the video, the Prime Minister also recalled Visvesvaraya's remarkable legacy and his contribution to India's engineering heritage.

"In our proud heritage of great engineers, we were also blessed with a priceless gem whose works continue to astonish people even today — and that was Bharat Ratna Dr M. Visvesvaraya. In his honour and memory, September 15 is celebrated as Engineers' Day. Following in his footsteps, the engineers of our nation have carved a distinct identity for themselves across the entire world. On this occasion, I respectfully salute all engineers and bow to their creative power of nation-building," PM Modi added. Visvesvaraya was

honoured with the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, in 1955 in recognition of his monumental contributions to public projects, engineering and society. He was instrumental in the construction of the Krishna Raja Sagara Dam in Mysore and also played a key role in designing and implementing complex flood protection systems. The Government of India officially designated September 15 as National Engineers' Day in 1968, in recognition of Visvesvaraya's extraordinary contribution to engineering and nation-building.

UPI Charges To Be 0.4% For Some Payments Above Rs 2,000. Free For Consumers

New Delhi: For merchant categories like railways, telecom services, insurance, and fuel, a flat rate of Rs 5 will be levied on UPI payments above Rs 2,000. India's click-and-pay UPI services will attract a fractional charge above Rs 2,000 for merchant payments, the government has notified, though it ruled out charges on person-to-person transactions. The new UPI Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) framework will be effective from October 15. The new framework suggests a 0.4% charge will be levied on such transactions.

UPI as they have been doing till now. Person-to-Person (P2P) transactions and Person-to-Merchant (P2M) transactions up to Rs 2,000 remain outside the scope of MDR," it said. In essence, if you make a transaction above Rs 2,000 at a merchant, that seller must pay the 0.4% charge. That makes it a minimum of Rs 8 on a transaction of Rs 2,001. But in case you send money to your friend via UPI, it counts as a person-to-person transaction and remains free even if it is above Rs 2,000.



The charges are lower than other digital payment instruments like credit cards, debit cards, and wallets, the NPCI pointed out. Over the past few weeks, the government had repeatedly asserted that UPI payments would remain free up to Rs 2,000. But it remained a grey area for what happened to higher-value transactions. Today's announcement exactly clarifies that. It allays the fears of the ordinary people who believed the charges would come out of their pockets. The revised framework keeps 95% of low-value UPI transactions, those below Rs 2,000, and

Zero Homework, Hundred Allegations : Minister Atchannaidu Slams Sakshi

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, September 15: Andhra Pradesh Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu lashed out at Sakshi, alleging that the newspaper was spreading poison over employment opportunities for unemployed youth. He criticised the previous YSRCP government for not filling even a single veterinary doctor post during its five-year tenure and said the coalition government had approved the recruitment of 160 veterinary doctors. He alleged that unable to tolerate the government providing jobs, efforts were being made to obstruct the



recruitment through false reports. He questioned whether implementing the procedure sought by the candidates could be considered illegal. He said the unemployed candidates' association had requested

recruitment as no appointments had been made for the past eight years. The Minister said the government had decided to undertake recruitment under the old weightage system for this one-time exercise. He said the recruitment procedure under G.O.Ms.No.52 was based on merit and weightage. A weightage of 60 marks would be given for BVSc marks, 10 for MVSc and 10 for contract service, he said. In addition, four marks per year would be awarded for seniority, with a maximum weightage of 20 marks, he added. Initially, the govern-

ment had decided to fill the posts through the APPSC, but due to the commission's existing workload, recruitment through the weightage system was not possible, Atchannaidu said. Under G.O.Ms.No.22, the recruitment would be carried out through the Animal Husbandry Department on this one occasion, he said. Future recruitments would be conducted through the APPSC examination system, he clarified. Atchannaidu said, contrary to the report published in Sakshi, Damodar Naidu was not currently serving as the Director. He said a woman

Amaravati JAC Member Rama Rao Passes Away



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, September 15: Dhanekula Rama Rao, a member of the Amaravati United Action Committee (JAC), passed away on Tuesday. He breathed his last at his native village of Nelapadu in Guntur district on Tuesday morning. Rama Rao had actively participated in the Amaravati farmers' movement and led

farmers from the forefront. Amaravati JAC members and farmers from the capital region expressed deep grief over his death. During the tenure of the Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy government, Rama Rao played a key role in the legal battle waged by Amaravati farmers. As a leader of the Amaravati movement, he was jailed for 40 days during the

YSRCP government's tenure. Rama Rao earned a strong reputation among farmers as one of the movement leaders who successfully fought a case in the Andhra Pradesh High Court against the three-capitals legislation. He continued his struggle from the beginning of the Amaravati movement until the efforts to retain Amaravati as the state capital.

Suspension Revoked for IPS Officers Kanti Rana Tata, Vishal Gunni

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh government has revoked the suspension imposed earlier on IPS officers Kanti Rana Tata and Vishal Gunni. Orders have been issued reinstating both officers into service. The government clarified that Kanti Rana Tata was reinstated with effect from September 4, while Vishal Gunni was reinstated from September 5.



leged to have conspired with YSRCP leader Vidadala Vamsi Krishna, creating false documents and records under political pressure and registering cases against Kadambari

Jethwani and her family members, causing them harassment. After the matter came to light, the government took action against the officials concerned. Former Intelligence chief P. Seetharam Anjaneyulu, who was also accused in the case, was suspended. He subsequently retired from service in August. Meanwhile, the government has now revoked the suspension of IPS officers Kanti Rana Tata and Vishal Gunni, who were suspended in connection with the same case.

Friends Swept Away in Sokuleru Stream; One Missing

Polavaram, September 15: A tragedy occurred in Chintur mandal of the district when six software employees from Hyderabad, who had gone to Sokuleru stream for a picnic, were swept away while taking a bath. The water flow sud-

denly increased, causing them to be carried away. Forest officials rescued five of them, while one person remains missing. According to the police, the six friends, all software employees from Hyderabad, had visited

Sokuleru stream for a picnic. They entered the stream together to take a bath when the water flow suddenly increased. Unable to withstand the strong current, they were swept away. On noticing the incident, locals alerted Forest Department officials. Forest personnel immediately reached the spot and launched rescue operations. Five of the six friends were rescued, while the whereabouts of a young man identified as Kosturi Nilesh remain unknown.

Flower Exhibition Hall Inaugurated at Tirumala Kalyana Vedika

From Our Staff Reporter Tirupati: A special flower exhibition hall has been inaugurated at Tirumala to attract devotees. The exhibition has been set up across approximately 1.5 acres at Kalyana Vedika. Special designs and themes created with various varieties of flowers have been arranged to attract visitors.



A total of 72,000 flowers belonging to 18 varieties have been used to create different decorations at the exhibition. Special themes reflecting Indian culture, mythology and spirituality have been designed. The four Yugas have been beau-

tifully depicted through floral arrangements. In addition, the exhibition features a total of 14 different

themes. Flowers have been used innovatively in each theme to create attractive and artistic displays.

EDITORIAL

Do Not Turn Telangana Into a Shambles

Legislatures are the highest forums for debate in a democracy. In the past, they were recognised as dignified and sacred platforms where elected representatives discussed public issues, questioned the government and provided direction for sound and people-oriented policies. There was intensity in the arguments that took place in legislatures, but there was also restraint in language, dignity in expression and decorum in attire. However, in recent times, it has become commonplace across the country for elected representatives to use indecent and uncivilised language both inside and outside legislatures. Criticism is growing that standards are gradually declining in several legislatures. Today, we are also witnessing a situation where the media, which is responsible for conveying legislative proceedings to the people, has itself sunk to an extremely low level. What are tomorrow’s citizens supposed to learn from the proceedings of legislatures and from the media that reports them? Once, even if a member from the ruling party or the opposition uttered a single word in the legislature that went against parliamentary conventions, it would lead to considerable discussion. In many instances, the member concerned, irrespective of his or her position, would apologise to the House and withdraw the remark. During the united Andhra Pradesh era, when eminent leaders served as Chief Ministers and Speakers, there were several occasions when any deviation from parliamentary norms was specifically discussed and corrected. When popular leaders such as N.T. Rama Rao and Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy were Chief Ministers, we saw instances where they offered explanations or withdrew remarks when objections were raised to comments they had made unintentionally in the Assembly. Even when society outside was witnessing an extremely tense atmosphere, Assembly sessions in united Andhra Pradesh were conducted with considerable restraint. Whenever members lost their composure or behaved in violation of parliamentary conventions, such conduct was discussed and corrected. There were even occasions when the House debated for hours whether a particular word was appropriate to be used in the Assembly.

Differences between political parties are natural. It is healthy when these differences are ideological or concern policies formulated in the process of working for public welfare and development. However, the frequent use of personal attacks, insulting remarks and abusive language in recent times is a matter of concern. The Telangana Legislative Assembly’s Monsoon Session, which concluded yesterday, appeared to make it clear how much the standards of conduct in our legislatures have deteriorated. Arguments between members of the ruling Congress and the opposition Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) repeatedly disrupted the proceedings. Criticism of the Speaker’s conduct and remarks targeting the Speaker’s Chair led to intense debate. The situation went to the extent of the ruling and opposition parties filing cases against each other. There was criticism that the House, which is meant to discuss people’s problems, had turned into a platform for political allegations. Above all, wasting legislative time, during which public money worth several lakh rupees is spent every minute, is also unforgivable. Criticism means questioning the government or the opposition on the basis of facts. But today, anger, sarcasm and personal targeting appear to dominate public expression. Incidents of breaking microphones, tearing papers, surrounding the podium and going up to the Speaker’s podium to stage protests have become common. At times, members also raise slogans and display posters. Displaying placards carrying slogans inside legislatures is against the rules. Once, even reading out newspaper reports in the Assembly was not permitted. Today, all such rules appear to have been thrown to the winds. If members are told not to enter the House wearing black shirts bearing slogans and they stubbornly insist that they will remove them and enter the House in their undergarments, that is an improper act regardless of the provocation or anger involved. Whether the Speaker is a Dalit or belongs to an upper caste is beside the point. How can members justify abusing the Speaker while forgetting that, irrespective of caste, he is the Speaker of the House? Caste references have no place whatsoever in politics. The ruling party getting people belonging to the same community to beat mourning drums in front of the opposition leader’s farmhouse because the Speaker was abused for being a Dalit, followed by the opposition sprinkling turmeric water at the spot to “purify” it, are all reminders of an uncivilised and primitive culture.

What should we call the newspapers and news channels that prominently published and broadcast, verbatim, the abusive language used by a senior opposition leader—someone with all the qualifications to become Chief Minister in the future—against the present Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, language that decent sensibilities prevent us from repeating here? In the past, when the media did not indulge in sensationalism, even if someone used such harsh language, newspapers would not reproduce it verbatim. Instead, they would write that the person had abused someone in “unprintable language.” Why has that restraint disappeared among political leaders and the media today? Political leaders may believe that the more abusive the language they use, the more popular they will become, while the media may think that publishing and broadcasting such language verbatim will increase its influence among readers and viewers. It would be good if they realised that people do not appreciate this trend; rather, they are disgusted by it. A recent remark by a ruling-party legislator is a stark example of how low and hateful politics has become. The Shadnagar MLA reportedly said, “I wish for the former Chief Minister’s death.” We cannot expect everyone elected to a legislature to be wise, nor can we assume that they will always behave perfectly. But is there anything more reprehensible than the failure of even a single ruling-party leader to reprimand their own member for harbouring such hatred that they would wish for another person’s death? Social media also appears to be one of the reasons for the change in the behaviour of legislators. Since sharp remarks made in the House immediately go viral, some leaders are being criticised for giving greater importance to publicity than to debate. Short video clips of a few minutes have become tools of political campaigning, encouraging sensational remarks. Political observers say that, as a result, viral statements are receiving more importance than the quality of legislative debates.

80 Years After Holocaust, A Neo-Nazi-Linked Party Is On The Brink Of Power In Germany

Three years after Germany's intelligence agency declared the Alternative for Germany (AfD) a "confirmed right-wing extremist" for its "numerous anti-Muslim, racist and antisemitic statements," voters in Saxony-Anhalt have elected the party by a landslide. The AfD won 43.8% of the vote, more than double its 2021 result, pushing Chancellor Friedrich Merz's ruling CDU to a distant second position and sending shockwaves across the country and beyond its borders. No party labelled as extreme right in Germany has secured such a big victory in a state election since 1945. The AfD terrifies many people because it reminds them of Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany. It includes people with neo-Nazi backgrounds; its leaders have downplayed the significance of the Holocaust, which killed six million Jews, and have portrayed minorities as second-class citizens. Although the AfD is short of three seats to form a government, it could close the gap through possible defections from the CDU or by forming an alliance with the far-left BSW, which shares some of the AfD's policies. The BSW has won five seats and has said it would help the AfD form a government. That prospect, even in one of Germany's smallest states, would be a major turning point for the country. The fear is that members of the extremist party with neo-Nazi backgrounds might serve in top positions in the state, controlling the police, the domestic spy service (Verfassungsschutz), the judiciary, and education. Even if the party fails to form a government in Saxony-Anhalt, its victory in the state is a major development, as it signals a defeat of

Germany's post-war anti-Nazi and anti-fascist consensus. This was known as a firewall, under which mainstream parties would not work with extremist groups. Merz himself reiterated that policy in 2021.

Humiliation For Merz

The outcome in Saxony-Anhalt is a personal humiliation for Merz, who is now the most unpopular German chancellor since the founding of the Federal Republic. Five years ago, he declared that under his leadership of the CDU, he would cut the extremist party in half. The result has been the opposite. Ulrich Siegmund, the charismatic leader of the AfD, told reporters on Monday that his goal is to significantly widen the gap between his party and the CDU as soon as possible and to bring it to at least 40% by the next federal election, due in 2030. Alice Weidel, co-chairwoman of the AfD, even boasted that the CDU would "never win an election again". Currently, the AfD leads the national polls in Germany, ahead of Merz's CDU by 8%. Two more state elections are due on September 20. One is in the Baltic coastal state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, where the AfD is well ahead. The other election is in the capital, Berlin, where the AfD is seeking to unseat the ruling CDU/CSU-SPD coalition. If the extremist party wins in liberal Berlin, it will be another major setback for Merz. He already looks much weaker politically after last Sunday's results.

The Rise And Rise Of The AfD

The AfD was formed in 2013 by a group of academics and disaffected CDU members. It began as a single-issue, anti-euro party advocating



Germany's exit from the Eurozone. It opposed then-Chancellor Angela Merkel's bailout of southern European countries during the Eurozone crisis. In its early years, it distanced itself from far-right parties in neighbouring countries. However, Merkel's decision to open Germany's borders to more than a million migrants from the Middle East gave it an opportunity to transform itself into an anti-immigration far-right party, as elsewhere in Europe. In the 2017 federal election, it won 12.6% of the vote, secured 94 seats in the Bundestag (German parliament), and became Germany's third-largest party. The AfD also became increasingly extreme. Its former leader, Alexander Gauland, made an outrageous claim in 2018 that Nazi rule was "mere bird shit in over 1,000 years of successful German history". Since then, the party has sought to reframe modern Germany as a continuation of its pre-1933 history, while downplaying the significance of the Hitler era. In last year's federal elections, the

party secured second place and became Germany's de facto opposition in the Bundestag. It has exploited growing economic problems and immigration concerns. Several terror incidents involving migrants in the past few years in the country have also helped boost its support. The AfD has seen a significant rise in eastern Germany, where economic conditions remain worse even after 36 years of German unification. Many people in that part of the country are out of work, and some miss the support they received under communist rule. The rise in energy prices following the Russia-Ukraine war has also been a major factor in public dissatisfaction with the CDU government. The party has exploited this by blaming the government's support for Ukraine for their financial hardships. The party has offered to resume cheaper gas supplies from Russia if it comes to power.

Most Radical In Europe

The AfD is not the only far-right political group in Europe, but it is the most radical among those reaching close to power.

The rise of these groups in Europe is blamed on mainstream parties' failure to address the public's grievances, prompting voters to seek alternatives. All far-right groups in Europe share anti-migrant policies. But the AfD's policy of "remigration" targets not just "illegals" but all immigrants (and their descendants) with unwanted foreign backgrounds. In France, Marine Le Pen's National Rally is leading the polls ahead of the presidential elections due next spring. Her party split from the AfD in the European Parliament in 2024 when a senior AfD figure declared that someone who had been a member of Nazi Germany's SS force was "not automatically a criminal", and a secret plan by the German party emerged for the mass The AfD also considers right-wing Italian leader Giorgia Meloni liberal, despite her neo-fascist roots, because she has sought to move towards mainstream European groups. She now faces a challenge from a more far-right party, Futuro Nazionale.

India's Dollar Windfall Has Now Created A Rs 15 Trillion Problem

The recent surge in foreign currency deposits into Indian banks was, by most measures, a policy success. India has spent much of the past decade building a larger external buffer against the volatility that periodically unsettles emerging markets, including sudden capital outflows, a weakening currency, and deteriorating global risk appetite. The mobilisation of non-resident deposits was intended to add another layer to that protection.

It worked rather well. Banks raised roughly USD 128 billion through overseas deposits, far exceeding initial expectations. Much of this foreign currency was subsequently swapped with the Reserve Bank of India for rupees. The arrangement strengthened the country's forex position and allowed banks to access domestic currency without having to source it elsewhere. But central-bank balance sheets have a habit of ensuring that every successful intervention has a second-order consequence. The dollars can now be safely parked in India's external financial architecture. The rupees issued against them, however, are in circulation in the domestic banking system. The core liquidity surplus is estimated at Rs 14-15 trillion, which is sufficient to affect the conditions in the money markets and is no longer a normal fluctuation.

The Other Side Of Dollar Windfall

The RBI's recent 30-day variable rate reverse repo (VRRR) operation to absorb Rs 7 trillion was a foretaste of the challenge. The banking system is widely touted as being flush with liquidity, but bids from banks came in for just about Rs 2.59 trillion. This was especially remarkable, given the banking industry's call for more flexibility in longer-term liquidity absorption operations, such as early withdrawals.

The RBI seems to have catered to some of those concerns. Demand remained weak. Aggregate surplus liquidity and an individual bank's will-

ingness to surrender liquidity for a certain time are not exactly identical. Bank treasuries deal with the day-to-day payment needs, government cash flows, tax-related outflows, and changing funding needs. This uncertainty has been compounded by the 24X7 payment system. It is debatable whether these factors really make a 30-day liquidity forecast impossible. However, the love for optionality is economically explainable. In a surplus system, cash in is flexible, especially if money-market conditions and the interest-rate cycle are still volatile. This explains why an early-withdrawal option did not materially improve participation. The issue was perhaps never simply the maturity of the VRRR. Banks were reluctant to commit substantial balances when the future path of liquidity, rates, and market opportunities remained uncertain.

Dollar-Rupee Sell-Buy Swaps

The next stage of the RBI's response is beginning to emerge through market activity, although the limits of what is publicly known are worth noting. RBI was likely conducting dollar-rupee sell-buy swaps around September and possibly October maturities, as per reports. The mechanics of such a swap are straightforward. The RBI sells dollars in the spot market in exchange for rupees, thereby absorbing domestic liquidity, while agreeing to reverse the transaction at maturity. For the RBI, the appeal is evident. A sell-buy swap absorbs rupee liquidity without requiring the central bank to immediately sell government securities into the bond market. It can therefore avoid adding pressure to yields and could also help manage the RBI's sizeable forward foreign exchange position.

The more important question concerns duration.

Foreign currency deposits that contributed to the present liquidity overhang are not overnight funds. Many are maturing well beyond the short-term



operations that are being used to neutralise their domestic effects. Sell-buy swaps withdraw rupees from the banking system for a short period of time. Those rupees come back at maturity unless the RBI rolls over the operation or takes the liquidity via another instrument. This doesn't take away from the value of swaps. However, when the source of liquidity is ongoing, repeated temporary operations have more significant consequences. The fine-tuning can slowly turn into an ongoing process of managing liquidity.

Choices With RBI

A higher cash reserve ratio would bind up liquidity for longer, but at the expense of bank balance sheets. Open market sales may permanently remove liquidity, while large-scale sales may exert upward pressure on sovereign yields and make the government's borrowing programme more difficult. The Market Stabilisation Scheme may be the most tailor-made scheme for a scenario like this. But it involves the sovereign directly and involves an interest cost on the public bal-

ance sheet. Meanwhile, VRRR operations pass on a portion of the cost to the RBI, which pays banks to park liquidity.

The distribution of these costs varies with FX swaps. They maintain bank flexibility and do not put immediate strain on the bond market, but they affect forward-market pricing and result in transactions that will ultimately need to be rolled over, offset, or matured.

This is the deeper issue emerging from India's Rs 15 trillion liquidity surplus. The RBI's challenge is not the absence of instruments. It is the distribution of the economic cost associated with using them.

For now, temporary liquidity management operations may be sufficient if the surplus begins to normalise as government spending, currency demand, and broader banking flows adjust. But the situation will look different if Rs 14-15 trillion of surplus liquidity begins to persist.

First The Dollar Deluge, Then The Rupee Flood

Persistent surplus liquidity can weaken monetary transmission by pulling money-market

rates towards the lower end of the policy corridor. Financial conditions may become easier than the policy stance alone would suggest. Excess liquidity can also find its way into credit expansion, non-bank lending, and asset markets before its consequences become visible in conventional inflation measures. This does not mean every rupee of surplus liquidity translates directly into inflation. But with price pressures already an important consideration, the RBI will eventually have to decide how much of the current overhang it is comfortable managing through temporary operations. India's foreign exchange position is unquestionably stronger for the deposits it has mobilised. The resulting domestic liquidity surplus is the price of that success. The next stage of the RBI's response will reveal something important about modern central banking in India. It will show not only which instruments the central bank prefers, but also which balance sheet it is ultimately willing to use to restore monetary equilibrium.

‘We’ve Seen Such Gimmicks Before’ : India Dismisses Pakistan’s Masood Azhar Reward Hike

New Delhi: The Indian government dismissed Pakistan’s decision to increase the reward for information leading to the arrest of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar as a “gimmick”, questioning Islamabad’s intent behind the move. Addressing a regular media briefing, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said such announcements by Pakistan were not new and accused the country of attempting to “hoodwink” people. Jaiswal said Pakistan should take concrete action instead of making what he described as “phoney announcements” that have no meaningful consequence. Pakistan’s Federal Investigation Agency has report-



edly increased the reward for Azhar to PKR 70 lakh (around Rs 24 lakh), up from PKR 50 lakh. He has been listed as a fugitive in the FIA’s 2026 Red Book of most-wanted high-profile terrorists. A reward was first announced for him in 2021. Azhar was designated a global terrorist by the United Nations Security Council in 2019. The US has also announced a \$10 million reward for information leading to his capture. The development comes ahead of the Financial Action Task Force’s October plenary, with Pakistan facing scrutiny over action against UN-designated terrorists. Pakistan has maintained that Azhar is not in the country and has crossed into Af-

ghanistan, a claim rejected by India. Azhar founded JeM after being released from an Indian jail in 1999 in exchange for passen-

gers of hijacked Indian Airlines flight IC-814. The group has been blamed for several major terror attacks in India.

Fadnavis Urges Marathas to Reconsider Ganeshotsav Protest



Mumbai: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said maintaining law and order in Mumbai was the responsibility of the police and that permission had so far been denied for the proposed Maratha agitation in the city. Speaking to the media, Fadnavis said, "Jarange Patil has submitted a fresh application seeking permission for the agitation, and a decision will be taken on its merits."

Fadnavis said most of the Maratha community’s demands had been accepted. "Twelve out of 13 demands have been accepted so far, while some issues are pending before the court," he added. Referring to Maratha reservation activist Manoj Jarange Patil’s decision to travel to Mumbai with his supporters for an agitation, Fadnavis said, "They should decide whether to

hold the agitation during Ganeshotsav." He said Mumbai and Pune witness large crowds during Ganeshotsav and expressed concern that the arrival of a large number of protesters in Mumbai could pose law and order challenges. Meanwhile, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said the State Government had taken a positive approach towards the matter and was working to address the demands at the earliest. Speaking to the media earlier in the day, Shinde said, "I urge the protesters to be positive on the matter as the government is working on your requirements and has taken the matter positively. Similarly, I request you to have patience and not disrupt Ganeshotsav in the city."

He urged protesters planning to travel to Mumbai not to disrupt the celebrations or create law and order problems during the festive period. Jarange has left Antarwali Sarati in Jalna district for Mumbai as his indefinite hunger strike entered its 18th day. His departure comes amid uncertainty over permission for his proposed hunger strike at Azad Maidan. Speaking to reporters, Jarange accused politicians, particularly those in the government, of "cheating" the Maratha community and appealed to his supporters to remain united and maintain peace. He reiterated that he would not surrender before the government and said his fight was for the welfare and future of children from the Maratha community.

Bandra Fair Stall Closure Row: Vendors Allege Premature Police Action At Mount Mary Steps, Cops Deny Charges

Mumbai: A dispute has erupted over the closure of stalls at and around the Mount Mary Steps during the annual Bandra Fair, with community groups and vendors alleging that the shops were shut “prematurely and arbitrarily” and that police action was discriminatory. The Bandra police, however, denied the allegations, saying the stalls were required to close at 10pm as per the prescribed rules. In a complaint to the police, Watchdog Foundation trustees Nicholas Almeida and Godfrey Pimenta alleged that police powers were being exercised arbitrarily, with stallholders being compelled to close substantially before what they claimed were traditionally permitted timings. They said the move caused inconvenience to devotees, pilgrims, visitors, local residents and stallholders. Irin Polly, a stall owner, said stalls were asked to shut down as early as 9pm on Sunday and Monday, the first two days of the eight-day fair. “Last year we could keep the stalls open till 11.00pm,” said Polly. Pimenta said there had been no such police action in the past. “Visitors come to the fair after work and these



are temporary stalls, with a limited number of days,” said Pimenta. According to Pimenta, police can shut down such establishments after 10pm only if the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, are violated. “There is no question of noise pollution in this case. If the police are shutting down the stalls for some other reason, such as security, they should communicate it to the public in writing,” said Pimenta. The stall owners have sought immediate clarification from the police on the officially sanctioned closing time for stalls and establishments at the Mount Mary Steps during the Bandra Fair. Responding to the allegations, an official from Bandra police station said the stalls were not forced to close before the permitted

timing. “This has been the case every year. Stalls shut down at 10.00pm. It was raining and there were very few visitors. The stall owners were closing their stalls earlier on their own,” the police official said. The Bandra Fair developed over centuries around devotion to Our Lady of the Mount. The history published by the Basilica records the existence of an oratory at the Mount as early as 1570, when the Jesuits brought a wooden statue of Our Lady from Portugal and installed it at the shrine. The present Basilica was completed in 1904 and has since become one of Mumbai’s important religious landmarks. The Basilica records that the approximately 136 Mount Mary Steps traditionally become lined with stalls on both sides

during the annual fair following the nine-day religious services at the church. The Watchdog Foundation said that if there was a specific police order, licence condition, traffic restriction, security assessment or law-and-order direction requiring an earlier closure, it should be formally disclosed and communicated to stallholders and the public rather than being imposed informally or selectively. The organisation said the alleged premature closure disrupted a longstanding religious and cultural tradition and caused financial loss and hardship to stallholders who had obtained permissions and invested substantial amounts in their stalls. It has demanded an inquiry into the circumstances in which the alleged premature closure was ordered.

BJP Largest Party in Rajasthan Civic Polls

Jaipur: The ruling BJP emerged as the largest party in Rajasthan’s civic body elections, but with less than one percentage point difference in vote share with Congress, it failed to get an outright sweep. The BJP secured 35.18 percent of the votes against 34.24 percent for the Congress, a difference of just 0.94 percentage points. Of around 1.06 crore votes polled across the state, the BJP received about 37.35 lakh votes, the Congress 36.35 lakh, and independents 29.06 lakh. In terms of wards, the BJP won 566 more seats than the Congress.

The elections were the first to be held simultaneously across all 309 urban local bodies under the “one state, one election” initiative and were considered a major test for the BJP government led by Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma. While the BJP remained ahead of the Congress in overall vote share, wards won, and the number of civic bodies where it secured a clear majority, the results showed that the party did not enjoy an overwhelming advantage in urban Rajasthan.

The Congress outperformed the BJP in cities such as Ajmer, Pali, and Bikaner, traditionally considered BJP strongholds. In Jaipur, the state capital, the BJP secured a majority by just two seats. Of the major municipal corporations, the BJP secured clear majorities in



Jaipur, Udaipur, Bhilwara, and Kota, while the Congress won a clear majority in Bikaner. The Congress emerged as the largest party in Pali and Ajmer, while the BJP was the single largest party in Alwar. The two parties won an equal number of seats in Jodhpur, while independents emerged as the largest group in Bharatpur. The BJP won a majority in 12 of the state’s 47 municipal councils, compared with six for the Congress and one for the Aam Aadmi Party. No party secured a majority in the remaining 28 councils, leaving independents in a crucial position.

The near-dead heat between BJP and Congress becomes even more significant in the context of the independent vote, which accounted for more than a quarter of the statewide vote. Local candidates, rebel nominees, and independent contestants com-

manded a substantial share of the electorate and secured 2,273 of the 10,245 ward seats and now are all set to play a decisive role in the formation of boards in around 143 urban local bodies, prompting both the BJP and Congress to reach out to them. Rajasthan Congress president Govind Singh Datasara described the results as a setback for the BJP, saying the party’s “magic” had failed to work in the civic polls and that voters had “shown the government a mirror”. Datasara said voters generally tended to favour the ruling party in local elections because they expected elected representatives to facilitate development work through the state government. “This time, the reverse has happened,” he said. He also pointed to the BJP’s vote share in previous elections, saying it had secured around 41.7 per cent in the Assembly election

and 50.14 per cent in the Lok Sabha election, while its vote share in the civic polls had fallen to around 35 per cent. He attributed the decline to public dissatisfaction with the BJP government over its two years in office. In counter to Datasara, BJP state president Madan Rathore termed the results a “historic victory” for the party and said the people of Rajasthan had given it a strong mandate. Rathore claimed the BJP’s performance had improved by nearly two-and-a-half to three times compared with the previous civic polls and said the results reflected public support for the party’s policies, development work and leadership. The results, however, also underline the fragmented nature of Rajasthan’s urban electorate, with the narrow BJP-Congress vote gap and the strong showing by independents leaving several civic bodies open to post-poll negotiations.

Shinde Urges Marathas Not to Disrupt Ganeshotsav

Mumbai: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said the State Government was working towards providing reservation to the Maratha community without affecting the rights of Other Backward Classes (OBC) or any other community. Speaking to the media, Shinde said, "The government has made its position on Maratha reservation very clear. The process of providing reservation began when Devendra Fadnavis was the Chief Minister, but the government changed, and the reservation was scrapped." Shinde said that when he became the Chief Minister, his government provided 10 per cent reservation to the Maratha community under the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) category and that members of the community continue to benefit from it.

"At the time of providing the reservation, the Justice Shinde Committee also began the process of issuing Kunbi certificates to those whose records establish their Kunbi status. Lakhs of people have received these certificates. The 10% reservation is also in place, and work on the SARTHI scheme and scholarships has begun. In addition, the government has taken steps to fill 5,300 vacant posts under the reservation," he said. Shinde, however, highlighted that the demand for Maratha reservation comes at a time when Ganeshotsav celebrations are underway in Mumbai, with thousands of people visiting pandals for darshan and prayers. He urged protesters who are planning to come to Mumbai not to disrupt the celebrations or create law and order problems during the festive period.

"I urge the protesters to



be positive on the matter as the government is working on your requirements and has taken the matter positively. Similarly, I request you to have patience and not disrupt Ganeshotsav in the city," Shinde said. Meanwhile, Maratha reservation activist Manoj Jarange Patil has left Antarwali Sarati in Jalna district for Mumbai as his indefinite hunger strike entered its 18th day. His departure comes amid uncer-

tainty over permission for his proposed hunger strike at Azad Maidan. Speaking to reporters, Jarange accused politicians, particularly those in the government, of "cheating" the Maratha community and appealed to his supporters to remain united and maintain peace. He reiterated that he would not surrender before the government and said his fight was for the welfare and future of children from the Maratha community.

Rinku Singh Set To Marry Samajwadi MP Priya Saroj On December 4 In Lucknow: Report

Lucknow: Indian cricketer Rinku Singh is reportedly set to marry Samajwadi Party MP Priya Saroj on December 4 in Lucknow. The wedding is expected to bring together prominent names from cricket, politics and Uttar Pradesh’s social circles. According to reports, the ceremony will take place at the prestigious Ramada Hotel in the state capital. Preparations for the high-profile wedding are reportedly underway in both families as the December date approaches. Priya Saroj represents the Machhlishahr constituency in Uttar Pradesh and is among the younger faces of the Samajwadi Party. She is also the daughter of former MP Toofani Saroj, who has been active in Uttar Pradesh politics for several years. Rinku Singh and Priya Saroj held their engagement ceremony last year at the Centrum Hotel in Lucknow. The couple is now preparing for the next chapter of their relationship with the wedding ceremony expected to be



held in the presence of their loved ones.

Given the couple’s public profiles, the wedding is expected to attract considerable attention across both cricket and political circles. Several dignitaries from sports, politics and wider society are reportedly likely to attend the ceremony in Lucknow. The union of a popular Indian cricketer and a young political leader has already generated significant interest among fans and followers. Rinku Singh has emerged as a prominent name in Indian cricket, while Priya Saroj has established herself as a young

political representative from Uttar Pradesh. Their reported wedding date of December 4 is therefore expected to be closely followed by supporters from both fields. Further details about the celebrations and guest list are likely to emerge as the wedding day draws closer.

CBI Case In Sushant Singh's Ex-Manager's Death Creates Political Battle Lines



Mumbai: The Central Bureau of Investigation filing a case into the death of Disha Salian, the former manager of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, has led to new political battle lines being drawn, with Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut terming the development a "media trial" and a "conspiracy" to defame the Thackeray family "at the behest of Delhi", alluding to the ruling BJP at the Centre. The CBI filed the first information report (FIR) after going through complaints by Disha Salian's father, Satish Salian, and has the names of Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray and actor Dino Morea, among others. Maharashtra minister and BJP leader Chandrashekhar Bawankule, responding to the Opposition's allega-

tions of political vendetta over the woman's death, said the CBI probe will eventually reveal the "absolute truth". "Whatever the facts are, they will be brought to light. It won't be appropriate for me to say anything else because the matter is in court," Bawankule, the state Revenue Minister, said. Nationalist Congress Party (SP) leaders added firepower to Raut's allegations that the FIR was a conspiracy "out of sheer desperation." NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar, taking a swipe at the Centre, said the government "pulls out the CBI weapon whenever elections approach." "Will the 2029 elections be held early?" he said. Pawar said this case too will end with a "clean chit" as happened in the Sushant Singh Rajput case. "I am sure Aaditya Thackeray will come out

unscathed and strong from this malicious attack. Politics is being played in this matter, just as it was in the Sushant Singh Rajput case," Pawar said. Maharashtra Minister of State for Home and Shiv Sena MLA Yogesh Kadam rubbished the allegations of a political vendetta behind the CBI filing the FIR. He said the case was handed over to the CBI on the court's direction. "The investigation is proceeding strictly under the court's directives. Appropriate action, in accordance with the rules, is being taken against anyone whose role in the matter appears suspicious or whose questioning and investigation are deemed necessary," Kadam said. Raut told reporters in Mumbai that a closure report in Disha Salian's death case was filed when

Devendra Fadnavis was the home minister. "The report clearly stated that Aaditya Thackeray had absolutely no connection to the matter. Raising this issue repeatedly is politically motivated," he said. The reason behind bringing up this case again, Raut alleged, was linked to the Shiv Sena election symbol case in the Supreme Court. "Those in power fear that if the verdict goes against them, the Thackeray family will return to the centre stage of Maharashtra's politics. All this is being done out of that very desperation," Raut alleged. "The fact that only one page out of the 16-page FIR was leaked proves that news coverage is being managed. Two senior leaders scripted this," he said, without naming them. NCP (SP) leader Supriya Sule said it was "wrong to engage in the politics of vendetta by once again using investigative agencies for a case that had already been investigated and closed." Disha Salian was found dead on June 8, 2020, days before Sushant Singh Rajput was found dead in a Bandra flat. Her death was earlier recorded as an accidental death report (ADR). Subsequently, the Bombay High Court directed the CBI to file an FIR and investigate the circumstances surrounding her death.

Plea In Court Over Karnataka's Power To Restrict Vande Mataram To 2 Stanzas

Bengaluru: A public interest litigation has been filed before the Karnataka High Court challenging the State Government's order dated September 8, mandating that only the first two stanzas of the National Song 'Vande Mataram' be sung at state functions, except those attended by the President, Vice-President, Prime Minister or Governor. The plea, filed by Advocate Girish Bharadwaj through Advocate Angad Kamath, is expected to be mentioned today for listing. The order, issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms following a Cabinet decision on September 3, is alleged to conflict with the Union Government's protocol. The petitioner points to a July 9 letter from the Ministry of Home Affairs that mandates the official six-stanza version be sung on all occasions. The PIL argues that 'National Song' does not fall under List II or List III of the Seventh Schedule, and hence is within Parliament's exclusive domain under Entry 97 of List I read with Article 248. What the State Legislature cannot do by statute, the Government cannot do by executive order under Article 162, it contends. It further argues the order violates Articles 256, 257(1) and the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Act, 2026,



which extends protection to the National Song. The plea also alleges procedural lapses, claiming the Cabinet decided an 'Informal Discussion' without a Cabinet Note or Law Department advice, violating the Transaction of Business Rules, 1977, and infringing Article 19(1)(a). Earlier, on September 10, the Karnataka government issued an order directing the singing of the first two stanzas of Vande Mataram at all state government programmes. However, the order underlines that all six verses of the national song will be sung at events attended by the President, Vice President, Prime Minister, and Governor. The decision was taken based on the guidelines issued by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs through a letter. In the order, the state government said that

Vande Mataram played a significant role in India's national movement and helped instil the spirit of nationalism, unity, and patriotism among citizens. The Ministry of Home Affairs has issued the official version of the National Song 'Vande Mataram' along with guidelines regarding its playing and singing at various official and public functions. The guidelines separately specify provisions for playing and mass singing of the song. The Karnataka government, while emphasising the need to maintain uniformity, dignity and proper decorum in connection with the singing and playing of Vande Mataram at government programmes and celebrations, issued the directions following a Cabinet decision.

Copies of the order have been sent to all Additional Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, Secretaries, Legislature Secretariat, Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC), Director General of Police and Inspector General of Police (DGP & IGP), Private Secretaries to all Ministers, Special Secretary to the Governor, Regional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officers, heads of departments, Vice Chancellors of universities and others. The order comes amid a political controversy between the Congress and the BJP over the singing of Vande Mataram at official events, with the Centre mandating the singing of the full six-stanza rendition of the National Song at its programmes.

Kerala Woman Vlogger Says Solo Trip Led to Arrest Threat In Afghanistan



New Delhi: "It's 100 per cent case of dismissal," the Supreme Court said on Tuesday while hearing the second bail plea of sus-

pended Punjab Police DIG Harcharan Singh Bhullar who was arrested by the CBI in October last year in connection with a corrup-

tion case. A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana posted the matter for hearing after four weeks, and also indicated that it would examine the bail plea after certain material witnesses had been examined. "It's 100 per cent case of dismissal! You want dismissal now or later?" the CJ asked. Bhullar's counsel submitted that the complainant and some material witnesses had not

yet been examined, while statements of some were recorded. Bhullar has challenged the dismissal of his bail plea by the Punjab and Haryana High Court on August 10. On April 10, the top court refused to entertain his bail plea in the case. It granted Bhullar the liberty to approach the high court for bail if the trial in the case did not begin within two months. A complaint was filed in October last year.

Was Scared Of Being Lynched": Lawyer On Why Gurugram Hit-And-Run Driver Fled

"New Delhi: A car strikes a woman biker from the side and throws her off the two-wheeler. The motorcycle drags along the road for a few meters. The woman skids across the road and suffers minor injuries to her hands and legs. The driver, identified as Kalyan Bainsla, flees the scene. Two days later, the man behind the wheel emerges as a 'victim'. Bainsla's lawyer has alleged that his client was provoked by the woman (Sia) and other riders, harassed and manipulated, making him the victim. In a conversation with NDTV, Naveen Bainsla, representing Kalyan Bainsla in the Gurugram hit-and-run case, said his client was not at fault. Blaming the riders, he said, "My client is not at fault. These riders were speeding. The accident happened because of them." When asked why his client didn't stop to help the woman, the advocate said: "He feared being lynched by a mob. He fled to prevent any untoward incident from occurring to him or his family." Bainsla claimed that the riders outnumbered his client and were speeding. He also alleged that the video evidence shared by Sia and another rider was "edited and planted" to suit their narrative. "There were 25-30 riders. These videos are edited and planted... The riders were more in numbers. They were riding at 120-160 kmph," he told NDTV. "Who gives permis-



sion to these riders to cover an entire stretch of road, to perform stunts on the road, overspeed and risk people's lives?" Bainsla questioned, adding that his client will face whatever comes up in the police investigation. When questioned again about the dashcam footage which shows the car moving from the first lane to the third lane, towards the motorcycle, and striking it from the side, Bainsla said he had seen the video four times and that it is evident that the woman rider was speeding. "My client came from behind. He saw a U-turn ahead of him and to protect himself, he took a left," the advocate said. "Riders were provoking him, harassing him, and manipulating him. He didn't say anything. He just said you ride well, ride safely. He didn't hit them. Kalyan took left to save himself," he reiterated. Lawyer Bainsla argued for legal proceedings against the bikers who, according to him, don't follow

the law. The accused, Kalyan Bainsla, was detained from Dausa in Rajasthan on Tuesday morning, two days after the incident occurred. Bainsla was in hiding because he was "scared", the lawyer said. **What Happened On Golf Course Road On Sunday** The woman, known as "Rebel Wheels Sia" on Instagram, was riding her Aprilia RS 457 sports motorcycle with a group of bikers on Gurugram's plush Golf Course Road on Sunday morning. A white Maruti Suzuki Ciaz started following her. Sia alleged that the occupants of the vehicle repeatedly approached her motorcycle and made inappropriate gestures. Sia asked the driver to maintain a distance, but instead, she was asked to stop. According to Sia, there were four people in the car, and they appeared to be intoxicated. Sia, however, continued riding before the white se-

dan overtook, hit her and drove away. Sia fell on the road and rolled several times. The action camera mounted on her bike captured sparks coming from her vehicle after the metal parts hit the road and skidded. When Sia's friend, who was riding with her, chased the car and confronted the driver at a traffic signal, Bainsla denied responsibility and drove away from the spot. In an interview with a media house, Bainsla said he did not know a woman was riding the motorcycle and "felt very sorry for that girl". Responding to him, Sia said, "If you really felt sorry for me, then why didn't you stop? It was your responsibility. If you hit me, you should have stopped and checked whether I was injured." Based on video evidence, Gurugram police have added 'attempt to murder' charge against Bainsla. This offense carries a punishment of up to 10 years' imprisonment.

Vijay-Themed Ganesh Idols Spark Huge Political Row In Tamil Nadu

Chennai: Tamil Nadu BJP chief Nainar Nagenthran on Tuesday demanded the immediate removal of Ganesha idols allegedly modelled on the ruling Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam president and Chief Minister Vijay at Korukkupet in Chennai, saying it "cheapens the spiritual sentiments of the people". TVK sources say the workers have been instructed to remove the statues. Reportedly, local fans have been installing such statues for last eight years. "Transforming the divine form revered and wor-

shipped by millions of devotees in this manner-for personal glorification and political advertisement-is an act deserving the strongest condemnation. It cheapens the spiritual sentiments of the people," the Tamil Nadu BJP chief said. Accusing the TVK leadership of tacitly allowing party workers to use religious festivities as an election campaign tool, Nagenthran questioned the silence of Vijay over such incidents. "By turning a sacred festival into a platform for political self-interest and degrading

divine worship into an election campaign, the silence maintained by Chief Minister Mr Joseph Vijay from the very beginning on those who commit such acts is the reason these boundary-crossing actions continue," the BJP leader alleged. Demanding swift administrative and legal intervention, Nagenthran called on authorities to remove the controversial idol immediately and arrested the organisers. "I strongly urge and demand that the TVK government immediately remove such statues placed

in a manner that disrupts people's religious sentiments and worship traditions. Appropriate legal action must be taken against the misguided administrators who used divine images for their self-promotion, and they must be arrested," he added. The controversy has brought renewed attention to the use of political imagery during public festivals in Tamil Nadu, where large Vinayagar (Ganesha) idols are installed by local groups and taken out in processions before immersion.

Kerala Woman Vlogger Says Solo Trip Led to Arrest Threat In Afghanistan



Kochi: A Keralite woman travel vlogger, who had earlier claimed that she was arrested by the "Mujahideen" in Afghanistan, has now said that local authorities threatened to arrest her in Bamyan, citing the country's law that women cannot travel without a male companion or guide. "According to the law of this country, a woman cannot travel alone," the vlogger, who runs the Facebook page Backpacker Arunima,

said in a fresh social media post. She added that she had earlier been denied a permit in Jalalabad because she was travelling alone. The authorities in Bamyan told her that she had violated the law and would be arrested, the vlogger claimed. Recounting the incident, she said she reached Bamyan around 7 pm and was questioned about her passport, visa and permit. She became extremely frightened after being told that she had violated the

law. So she contacted a man who had earlier helped her reach Bamyan, and he spoke to the authorities on her behalf, the vlogger said. According to her account, the authorities insisted that she obtain a permit and travel with a guide. She said she was eventually allowed to proceed towards the next country after discussions. "I had to go through all this only because I am a woman," the vlogger

said, adding that she planned to travel around 500 kilometres towards the Uzbekistan border and expected to encounter several checkpoints on the way. The woman said she was extremely frightened and feared that something might happen to her, and hence posted an Instagram story hoping that someone would come to her rescue. In an earlier post, she had sought help to contact the Indian embassy, saying, "I am in trouble in Afghanistan. I am in Bamyan." In the post, she had also shared what she described as a translation of an official communication from local authorities, according to which she had been arrested by the "Mujahideen". PTI could not independently verify her claims.

Hawkins Cookers FD opens on September 16; Check interest rates, minimum deposit and other details



Hawkins Cookers FD: Hawkins Cookers Ltd is set to open a fresh fixed deposit (FD) scheme on September 16, offering interest rates of up to 8% per annum for a 36-month tenure, according to the company's fixed deposit circular. Applications will open from 9:30 am on September 16 and will be considered on a first-

come, first-served basis. The unsecured deposit scheme has been assigned an [ICRA] AA- (Stable) rating, which indicates high credit quality with low credit risk. The rating was obtained on July 22, 2026, according to the circular. Hawkins Cookers has also stated that it has no default on statutory

dues or on any loan from a bank or financial institution, or on any interest thereon.

Hawkins Cookers FD: Interest rates and maturity amounts

The new FD scheme offers 7.5% per annum for 13 months, 7.75% for 24 months and 8% for 36 months. The circular also states that the 8% rate for

36 months gives a compounded yield of up to 8.3% per annum.

The minimum deposit is Rs 25,000, while additional amounts can be invested in multiples of Rs 1,000. The maximum amount that an investor can place in new or renewed fixed deposits under the scheme is Rs 50 lakh.

Under the cumulative option, interest is compounded monthly. A Rs 25,000 deposit will mature at Rs 27,109 after 13 months, Rs 29,177 after 24 months and Rs 31,756 after 36 months.

What are the Hawkins Cookers FD tenure options?

Investors can choose from three tenure options under the new scheme:

13 months: 7.5% per annum
24 months: 7.75% per annum
36 months: 8% per annum

The maximum deposit tenure under the scheme is three years.

How will Hawkins Cookers FD interest be paid?

Investors can choose between cumulative and non-cumulative options.

Under the cumulative option, interest is compounded monthly and paid along with the principal amount at maturity.

Under the non-cumulative option, interest is paid half-yearly. The circular lists the same rates of 7.5%, 7.75% and 8% for the 13-month, 24-month and 36-month tenures, respectively.

Interest payments and repayment of deposits will be made through ECS, direct credit, RTGS or NEFT, subject to applicable SEBI and RBI regulations.

Hawkins Cookers FD rates lower than 2019 offering

The latest FD rates are

lower than those offered by Hawkins Cookers under some of its earlier deposit schemes.

For instance, Hawkins Cookers offered 10.5% per annum on three-year deposits in 2019. At 8%, the highest rate under the latest scheme is therefore 2.5 percentage points lower than the rate offered for the same tenure in 2019.

Hawkins Cookers has been raising fixed deposits for more than a decade, making the latest offering part of its established funding programme. How will Hawkins Cookers use the FD money?

Hawkins Cookers has said that the funds raised through the deposit scheme will be used for working-capital requirements, research and development, further expansion of production capacity and unforeseen contingencies.

The company intends to raise up to Rs 37.12 crore

from members and Rs 92.80 crore from the public, taking the total proposed amount to Rs 129.92 crore.

As of July 29, 2026, Hawkins Cookers had Rs 27.30 crore of deposits outstanding, including deposits covered under the Companies (Acceptance of Deposits) Rules. The company can raise fresh deposits of up to Rs 102.62 crore, in addition to the deposits already held.

The circular also states that Rs 8.95 crore of deposits are repayable within the next 12 months.

Hawkins Cookers financial performance

Hawkins Cookers' financial performance provides further context for its latest FD offering.

The company's profit after tax rose to Rs 131.19 crore in FY26, compared with Rs 114.69 crore in FY25 and Rs 109.84 crore in FY24.

However, cash generated from operating activities declined from Rs 174.26 crore in FY24 to Rs 101.91 crore in FY25 and Rs 87.59 crore in FY26.

The company's interest coverage ratio stood at 42.03 times in FY26, compared with 44.05 times in FY25 and 27.05 times in FY24.

The application form is available physically at the company's premises.

Disclaimer: Company fixed deposits are different from bank fixed deposits and are unsecured. The circular specifically states that compliance with the Companies Act and related rules does not imply that repayment of deposits is guaranteed by the Central Government. Investors should review the scheme's rating, terms, repayment conditions and associated risks before investing.

Data Hub Vision to 99.97% Institutional Delivery: A look at 5 years of Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel's administration

September 13, 2026, marks the completion of five years of governance under Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. During this period, the state has taken several initiatives across healthcare, education, industry, technology, infrastructure, urban development and social welfare. Building on several initiatives undertaken during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tenure as Chief Minister of Gujarat, the state government under Patel has focused on expanding public services, strengthening infrastructure, promoting investment and developing emerging sectors.

Gujarat's development anchored in future-ready growth

Over the past five years, Gujarat has implemented 19 significant policies aimed at supporting growth in emerging and strategic sectors. These include semiconductors, renewable energy, green hydrogen, electronics, space-tech, Global Capability Centres (GCCs), data centres, shipbuilding and advanced manufacturing. The state has also presented its largest-ever budget of Rs 4.08 lakh crore, with development focused on five key pillars.

To promote regional investment and industrial development, Gujarat organised four Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conferences. These conferences resulted in MoUs worth a total of Rs 17.4 lakh crore.

The state has also prepared a roadmap for 'Viksit Gujarat @2047', aligning it with PM Modi's vision of 'Viksit Bharat @2047'.

Gujarat emerges as India's semiconductor hub

Gujarat has attracted investments worth more than US\$13.66 billion in the semiconductor sector. Of the 12 semiconductor projects approved by the Government of India, six are located in Gujarat. Sanand and Dholera have emerged as key locations for the state's semiconductor ecosystem. Micron Technology's ATPM facility for DRAM and NAND memory chips is operational at commercial scale in Sanand. OSAT facilities by CG Power, Renesas, Stars Microelectronics and Kaynes Semicon are also operational at commercial scale in Sanand. In Dholera, Tata Electronics is building India's first commercial semiconductor fab, where CMOS logic chips using 110

to 28-nanometre process nodes will be manufactured. Dholera is also witnessing the development of a commercial mini and micro-LED display fabrication and packaging unit by Crystal Matrix. In Surat, Suchi Semicon is expanding its operations from small-scale production to a full-fledged OSAT facility. The Dholera Special Investment Region is being developed with infrastructure for the semiconductor industry, including land, power and water supply, plug-and-play facilities and connectivity to ports, airports, expressways and the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor.

The state has also announced incentives for semiconductor projects, including additional capital investment assistance, a subsidy on land for the FAB project, reimbursement of stamp duty and registration fees, and power tariff support. Alongside investment and infrastructure, Gujarat is developing skills and research capabilities for the sector. Initiatives include an ATPM training centre being developed by PDEU in collaboration with Micron Technology, a 'ChipIN' extension centre and Centre of Excellence at GTU, an UHP welding training programme at Dholera ITI, and the 'SAMARTH' centre for advanced semiconductor manufacturing research and training at IIT Gandhinagar.

Gujarat set to become a leading data centre hub

The Gujarat Government has announced the 'Viksit Gujarat Data Centre Policy 2026-29' with the aim of developing the state as a leading data centre hub.

The policy targets the development of data centres with a total capacity of 7.5 GW. Companies have submitted proposals for projects with a combined proposed capacity of 10 GW in Gujarat. Sustainability is a key component of the policy. Data centres will be required to use 51 per cent green energy, while water requirements will be met through desalination plants so that the water needs of farmers and other industries are not affected. The policy provides incentives including additional capital assistance for setting up data centres in Dholera, exemption from stamp duty, interest assistance and electricity tariff support. Data centres have also been recognised as 'essential services', with a mechanism for simplifying

and speeding up project approvals through a single-window system. Sanand and Dholera are expected to develop as major locations for high-tech data centres, while Dholera is also being positioned as a future destination for Global Capability Centres.

Quality and accessible healthcare for every citizen

Healthcare has remained a key area of focus during the five-year period. Coverage under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana-Mukhyamantri Amrutam (PMJAY-MA) scheme has been increased from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh.

More than 2.92 crore citizens have been issued Ayushman cards. Gujarat has also provided digital health cards to school students, with more than 1.15 crore cards issued so far.

The state has recorded an institutional delivery rate of 99.97 per cent. Under the Nammo Shri Yojana, financial assistance of Rs 540 crore has been provided to more than eight lakh women. The 'Healthy Gujarat, Obesity-free Gujarat' campaign was launched on World Obesity Day to promote awareness about obesity and healthier lifestyles.

Under the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan, 31,021 Nikshay Mitras have been registered on the Nikshay portal, while 5,76,344 nutrition kits have been distributed to TB patients. Across all phases of Mission Indradhanush conducted so far, 9,95,395 children and 2,25,960 pregnant women have been vaccinated in the state. Technology-enabled healthcare infrastructure has also expanded. AIIMS Rajkot was inaugurated by PM Modi, while the country's first tele-rehabilitation centre was launched at Sola Civil Hospital. The Aarogya Samiksha Kendra was dedicated to the public to bring the monitoring and review of health-related services and facilities under one roof. A total of 617 new ambulances have been added to the 108 emergency ambulance service, taking the total number of 108 ambulances in Gujarat to 1,455, alongside existing hospital-based ambulances. Gujarat has also launched a Tribal Genome Sequencing Project focused on the health of tribal citizens. The initiative is intended to support health-related research and facilitate timely diagnosis of diseases in tribal regions.

Dropout rates decline as inclusive education expands

The dropout rate for Classes 1 to 8 declined from 37.22 per cent in 2001-02 to 2.35 per cent in 2024-25. An AI-based Early Warning System has been implemented to identify students who may be at risk of dropping out. Around 1.68 lakh students have been identified through the system so far and guided to continue their education. To promote inclusive education, 37 new resource rooms have been established across the state. These facilities include therapy equipment, digital panels, ramps, railings and CwSN toilets. In addition, 1,141 new teacher posts have been created for yoga and health education in government primary schools.

Education gets a technology and infrastructure boost

The education sector has also seen the expansion of financial support, infrastructure and technology-based initiatives.

Under the Nammo Lakshmi Yojana, more than 25 lakh girl students have received financial assistance of over Rs 2,110 crore since the scheme was launched in 2024. Under the Nammo Saraswati Vigyan Sadhana Yojana, more than 3.54 lakh students have received financial assistance of Rs 290 crore from 2024-25 till date. Under the Mukhyamantri Gyan Sadhana Merit Scholarship Yojana, more than Rs 176 crore has been provided in financial assistance from 2023-24 till date.

Under Mission Schools of Excellence, 13,353 new classrooms, 21,000 computer labs, 1,09,000 smart classrooms and 5,000 STEM labs have been completed so far.

In the 2024 recruitment drive, 9,400 Shikshan Sahayaks and 470 principals were recruited in government and non-government aided secondary and higher secondary schools. In addition, 2,230 existing teachers were recruited or transferred.

For 2026-27, approval has been granted for 200 new composite schools, 95 new government secondary schools and three new higher secondary schools.

The 24th edition of Kanya Kelavani Mahotsav and Shala Praveshotsav was organised in 2026. The No Detention Policy has also been abolished in schools across the state, while the income limit for admission to Class 1 under the Right to Education provisions has been increased.

Dropout rates decline as inclusive education expands

The dropout rate for Classes 1 to 8 declined from 37.22 per cent in 2001-02 to 2.35 per cent in 2024-25.

An AI-based Early Warning System has been implemented to identify students who may be at risk of dropping out. Around 1.68 lakh students have been identified through the system so far and guided to continue their education. To promote inclusive education, 37 new resource rooms have been established across the state. These facilities include therapy equipment, digital panels, ramps, railings and CwSN toilets. In addition, 1,141 new teacher posts have been created for yoga and health education in government primary schools.

Higher education, research and startups get a push

To expand access to higher education, 41 new government colleges have been established over the last five years - 24 in non-tribal areas and 17 in tribal areas. New streams have also been introduced in 15 government colleges.

Under the Mukhyamantri Yuva Swavalamban Yojana, 3,97,415 students have received assistance of Rs 2,068.67 crore over the last five years. Under the Mukhyamantri Kanya Kelavani Nidhi Yojana, 24,802 girl students have received assistance of Rs 797.01 crore.

Under the SHODH Scheme for Ph.D. students, assistance of Rs 113.52 crore has been provided over the past five years.

Innovation and entrepreneurship have also received support through SSIP 2.0. A total of 6,077 Proofs of Concept have received assistance of up to Rs 2.50 lakh, contributing to the establishment of 962 startups based on students' innovative ideas.

Administrative reforms strengthen citizen-centric governance

The state government has undertaken administrative reforms aimed at making government services simpler, faster and more transparent.

Through the Sugam Digital Gujarat initiative, efforts have been made to expand paperless, cashless and faceless delivery of government services.

The Gujarat State Institute for Transformation (GRIT) has been established along the lines of NITI Aayog, while the Gujarat Administrative Reforms Commission (GARC) has been constituted to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the administrative machinery. Revenue reforms have also focused on simplifying government procedures and accelerating citizen services through technology-enabled processes.

The Gujarat Assembly has passed the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, with the state government describing the move as part of its commitment to equality, justice and unity.

Gujarat expands urban infrastructure and global presence

Gujarat declared 2025 as the 'Gujarat Development Year', with a focus on modern infrastructure, urban transport, civic amenities and improving the ease of living in cities.

Hero Motors IPO to Open on September 16: 7 key things you need to know

Hero Motors IPO: The Hero Motors IPO will open for subscription on Wednesday, September 16, 2026. The issue will remain open until September 18. The company plans to raise Rs 1,000 crore through the public issue. Here are seven key things investors should know about the IPO.

1. Hero Motors IPO size

The Hero Motors IPO is a book-built issue of Rs 1,000 crore. The issue includes a fresh issue of 7.14 crore shares worth Rs 600 crore. It also has an offer for sale of 4.76 crore shares worth Rs 400 crore.

2. Price band and lot size

The price band has been fixed at Rs 79 to Rs 84 per share. The lot size is 178 shares. Retail investors can apply for at least one lot. At the upper price band of Rs 84, the minimum investment will be Rs 14,952. The face value of each share is Rs 10.

3. IPO dates and listing

The IPO will open on September 16 and close on September 18. The allotment is expected to be finalised on September 21. Refunds and credit of shares are expected on September 22. The shares are expected to list on BSE

and NSE on September 23.

4. Who can apply?

The IPO has a separate reservation for different investor categories. Qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) can get up to 50 per cent of the offer. Retail investors have a reservation of at least 35 per cent. Non-institutional investors (NIIs) have a reservation of at least 15 per cent.

5. How will the money be used?

Hero Motors plans to use part of the IPO proceeds to repay or prepay certain outstanding borrowings. Around Rs 190 crore has been earmarked for this purpose. The company also plans to spend around Rs 200 crore on capital expenditure. This will be used to buy equipment for expanding its facility in Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.

The company also plans to use funds for unidentified acquisitions, strategic initiatives and general corporate purposes.

6. Hero Motors financial performance

Hero Motors reported growth in both revenue

and profit in the financial year ended March 31, 2026. Its total income rose to Rs 1,216.74 crore from Rs 1,111.23 crore in FY25. Profit after tax increased to Rs 41.17 crore from Rs 32.80 crore. EBITDA also increased to Rs 147.78 crore from Rs 114 crore. The company's total borrowings stood at Rs 400.79 crore as of March 31, 2026.

7. What does Hero Motors do?

Hero Motors was incorporated in April 1998. It is an automotive technology company. The company designs, develops, manufactures and supplies powertrain solutions to automotive original equipment manufacturers. Its products cover both electric and non-electric powertrains. Hero Motors serves several segments. These include two-wheelers, e-bikes, off-road vehicles, electric and hybrid cars, heavy-duty vehicles and eVTOL applications.

Who is the book-running lead manager and registrar? ICICI Securities is the book-running lead manager for the IPO. Kfin Technologies is the registrar.

What's so special about Xi Jinping's car? Hongqi N701 arrives in Delhi under black covers

Chinese President Xi Jinping's arrival in Delhi for the 18th BRICS Summit has put the spotlight not just on his visit, but also on his highly secretive official limousine, the Hongqi N701. A day before Xi arrived in the national capital, images and videos showed vehicles from his official convoy being transported through Delhi under large black covers. The unusual sight quickly went viral on social media, with many wondering what was hidden underneath. At the centre of the curiosity is the Hongqi N701, a heavily protected state limousine used by Xi Jinping. The Chinese president's official vehicles were brought to India ahead of his arrival, as is common with specially protected state cars during overseas visits.

Why was Xi Jinping's car covered in black?

The black cover is understood to be part of the transportation and security arrangements for the presidential vehicle. Official cars used by heads of state are often transported separately when leaders travel overseas. During unloading, movement through airport premises and transportation on flatbed carriers, vehicles can be covered to protect them from dust, rain, sunlight and accidental damage. For highly secured state vehicles, keeping them covered can also reduce unnecessary photographs and public scrutiny before they are deployed. The black covering seen in Delhi therefore appears to have been part of the vehicle's transportation arrangements rather than a response to any extraordinary security threat.

The cover was removed before Xi began his official movements in Delhi. What is the Hongqi N701?

The Hongqi N701 is a bespoke presidential limousine made by Chinese automobile manufacturer FAW's luxury marque Hongqi. The name Hongqi translates to "Red Flag", and the brand has a long association with China's political leadership. Hongqi was established in 1958 and has historically produced vehicles for senior Chinese officials.

The N701 is not a regular production sedan available to the public. It was developed for China's top leadership, with its detailed technical specifications kept largely undisclosed. The limousine has a distinctive large grille and the red-flag emblem associated with the Hongqi brand.

How big is Xi Jinping's Hongqi N701?

The Hongqi N701 is around 5.5 metres long, or roughly 18 feet, according to foreign media reports. Automotive publication AutoUA, citing media reports, has described the N701 as approximately 5.5 metres long. Automotive outlet CarNewsChina has also described the state limousine as being well over five metres in length.

Steel Slag Roads Can Cut Construction Cost by 40%, Deliver Four Times Higher Strength: Dr Jitendra Singh

Steel Slag Road Technology can reduce road construction costs by around 40 per cent while delivering four times the strength of conventional roads, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh, said today. He said the technology can also substantially extend the maintenance cycle, with maintenance required only after about 15 years in suitable applications, making it a breakthrough with implications not only for road engineering but also for the overall infrastructure economy. Dr Jitendra Singh called for the indigenous technology to move from one project to many projects and from one State to many States, with its adoption extending beyond the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to Railways, other Government departments, State Governments and private builders, contractors and infrastructure operators.

Dr Jitendra Singh was speaking at the conferment of the Guinness World Record for the “World’s Longest Road Built with Processed Steel Slag Aggregates”, jointly pursued by CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI) New Delhi and Jindal Steel Limited. The 1.85-km road at Raigarh, Chhattisgarh, marks a major scale-up of an indigenous technology that converts processed steel slag, a by-product of steel production, into aggregates for road construction. The programme also witnessed the virtual inauguration of the road, release of a scientific documentary, signing of a Technology Transfer Agreement between CSIR-CRRI and Jindal Steel, launch of the “Steel Grit” brand and recognition of the project team.

Dr Jitendra Singh, said

this successful initiative simultaneously lives up to more than one flagship priorities of this government including PM Shri Narendra Modi’s repeated emphasis on “Waste to Wealth” recycling options.

Among those present were Shri Naveen Jindal, Member of Parliament, Chairman, Jindal Steel and President, Indian Steel Association; Dr N. Kalaiselvi, Secretary, DSIR and Director General, CSIR; Dr V.K. Saraswat, former Member, NITI Aayog and former Director General, DRDO; Dr Ch. Ravi Sekhar, Director, CSIR-CRRI; representatives of Guinness World Records, scientists, engineers, industry leaders and members of the media.

Dr Jitendra Singh said the achievement demonstrates how industrial waste can be transformed into infrastructure wealth through Indian science, technology and industry working together. He said India’s rapidly expanding highways, expressways, industrial corridors, ports and urban infrastructure also bring a growing responsibility to conserve natural resources; particularly natural aggregates obtained through mining and quarrying. The Steel Slag Road initiative provides a technology-driven pathway to address both challenges, productive utilisation of an industrial by-product and conservation of natural resources.

The Minister said the significance of the technology becomes even greater in a geographically diverse country like India, where conventional roads often face durability challenges in difficult terrain and high-rainfall regions. Recalling his seven-year association with the Northeast, he said road construction in several areas is restricted to four or five months because of heavy rainfall, while portions constructed during one season can suffer damage before the next construction cycle begins.

Stronger and more durable road technologies can therefore provide particular value in such challenging geographies.

Dr Jitendra Singh also referred to the changing traffic profile of rural roads. Roads originally constructed to connect villages and cater primarily to light vehicles can, with economic development, find themselves carrying heavy trucks and commercial traffic when the surrounding areas evolve into industrial zones. He said such changes reinforce the need for road technologies capable of meeting higher loads and longer durability requirements.

Calling for a concerted awareness drive, Dr Jitendra Singh said road construction is not confined to MoRTH. Railways and several other Government departments also construct roads and heavy-duty infrastructure, while private builders, contractors and infrastructure operators represent another major area for adoption. He called for greater inter-ministerial and inter-State engagement, including dedicated awareness programmes, so that engineers and implementing agencies are familiar with the technology and can assess its suitability for their respective projects.

The Minister said the objective should now be to take the technology “from one project to many projects, from one State to many States” and eventually make proven indigenous innovations part of mainstream infrastructure practice. CSIR-CRRI’s scientific guidelines, processing protocols and quality-control framework provide the basis for technically sound adoption, while Government agencies, scientific institutions, industry and infrastructure developers can work together to accelerate implementation wherever the technology is technically and economically

appropriate.

Dr Jitendra Singh described the initiative as an example of “whole-of-government plus whole-of-nation” collaboration, bringing together Government, research institutions, industry and engineers. He said the technology is indigenous in both its conception and application, and that the next phase must focus on creating greater awareness and stronger pathways for home-grown technologies to move from laboratories and demonstration projects to large-scale field implementation.

The Minister placed the Steel Slag Road initiative within the larger Waste to Wealth and circular economy vision. He said India must increasingly move away from the mindset that any material is simply waste, as science and technology can unlock new economic value from such resources. Referring to CSIR initiatives involving biofuels from used cooking oil and the recovery of value from electronic scrap, he said recycling and resource recovery will form an increasingly important part of the next phase of industrial development.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also congratulated Dr Satish Pandey and the CSIR-CRRI team for their sustained work and passion in taking the technology from research to the field. He said scientific talent requires an opportunity to demonstrate its potential, and credited Jindal Steel for providing the scale and platform through which the technology could be demonstrated in real-world infrastructure. He expressed hope that more steel companies would come forward to collaborate with scientific institutions on similar technology-led solutions.

The technology has already travelled through a series of landmark applications. Beginning with a major demonstration at Hazira,

Gujarat, processed steel slag aggregates were used in a six-lane road connecting the industrial area with Hazira Port. It subsequently reached the NH-66 Mumbai-Goa Highway, where approximately 80,000 tonnes of steel slag were converted into processed aggregates for a one-kilometre, four-lane road section. The technology was also deployed for heavy-duty road infrastructure in Arunachal Pradesh, including the strategic border region.

The technology has also entered port infrastructure through a 1.1-km steel slag road inside Hazira Port, connecting the multi-Purpose Berth with the coal yard. The application demonstrates the potential of processed steel slag aggregates for demanding industrial and logistics environments when supported by appropriate processing, pavement design and quality control.

The 1.85-km Guinness World Record is already paving the way for a much larger milestone. Dr N. Kalaiselvi, Secretary, DSIR and Director General, CSIR, said the achievement comes as CSIR prepares to enter its 85th year and represents a particularly significant milestone for the organisation. She announced that CSIR-CRRI has received a work order for a 40-km road in Odisha from Jindal Steel’s Angul plant, taking the technology from the present 1.85-km Guinness record towards a 40-km implementation. She said CSIR-CRRI and Jindal Steel are now poised to break their own record with this next milestone. Dr Jitendra Singh said the Guinness World Record should be regarded not as the destination but as the beginning of the next phase of adoption. He said the real success would come when the technology is replicated across the country wherever technically and economically suitable.

SECL Transformation Since 2014

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, since 2014, India’s coal sector has undergone a far-reaching transformation, propelled by a series of policy and structural reforms of the Government of India aimed at enhancing transparency, efficiency, technology adoption, infrastructure development, ease of operations and energy security. These reforms have accelerated decision-making, modernised mine planning, strengthened evacuation infrastructure and lifted productivity across the sector. The outcome is visible at the national level: India’s domestic coal production crossed the landmark 1-BT (Billion Tonne) mark for the second consecutive year in FY 2025-26, reaching 1.04 BT (prov.), as coal continues to power about 73% of the nation’s electricity generation and ensuring energy security for the nation. South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), a Mini Ratna subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL) operating across the coalfields of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, has been one of the principal architects of this national achievement. From an ordinary coal production of 34.2 MT in its year of inception i.e. FY 1985-86, SECL has transformed itself into a major coal behemoth producing 176.28 MT coal in FY 2025-26. Contributing approximately 23% of CIL’s output and around 17% of India’s total coal production in FY 2025-26. Its operations sustain more than 36000 regular employees and 24000 contractual workers, along with a large ecosystem of transporters, suppliers and service providers.

Building the capacity to deliver

At the centre of SECL’s operations are Gevra, Kusmunda and Dipka in Korba, together, these three mega mines represent 185 million tonnes of capacity, a major centre of coal mining and electricity generation, often described as India’s powerhouse. SECL’s operational growth over the past decade tells a clear story of scale and efficiency. Coal production has risen from 124.26 Million Tonnes (MT) in 2013-14 to 176.28 MT in 2025-26, a year in which the Company also recorded coal offtake of 178.63 MT across 13 states, up from 122.03 MT in 2013-14, a growth of over 46%. What stands out most is the leap in productivity. Output per Man-Shift (OMS), the key measure of mining efficiency has more than doubled, from 7.23 tonnes in 2013-14 to 16.47 tonnes in 2025-26.

SECL is developing the Chhattisgarh East Railway and Chhattisgarh East-West Railway corridors with IRCON and the Government of Chhattisgarh, involving a total investment of around 713,685 crore and approximately 342.6 kilometres of railway lines. The network links remotest corners of the Mand-Raigarh and Korba coalfields with the national railway system, enabling efficient movement of goods as well as people in near future.

Further, eleven First Mile Connectivity (FMC) projects, with a combined annual capacity of 156 million tonnes, have been operationalised at an investment of about 72,700 crore reducing carbon footprints associated with coal evacuation. Seven future projects are also planned to add 85 MT of mechanized loading capacity. Dispatch through FMC systems grew by 28 per cent during FY 2025-26 and accounted for 41.3 per cent of total dispatch, showing the increasing role of mechanised infrastructure in delivering coal to consumers.

Changing how mines work

Inside the mines, the spread of surface miners and Continuous Miners reflects a sustained shift towards mechanisation. More than 88 % coal is being produced using Surface miners without conventional drilling and blasting, reducing the associated vibration and dust. Continuous Miners support underground mass-production and contributes 76 % of SECL’s UG Coal production.

New paste fill technology at Singhali Underground Mine, by filling mined-out spaces with an engineered mixture, is intended to support underground stability and enable extraction beneath surface areas that constrain conventional mining. Mine Developer and Operator arrangements and revenue-sharing agreements offer additional ways to develop resources and bring specialist operating capabilities into the company. Digital systems are increasingly supporting these changes. DigiCOAL brings together machinery monitoring, drone surveys, video analytics and worker-safety applications. DigiCOAL’s presentation at the Central Vigilance Commission’s national workshop in February 2026 also highlighted the role of digital systems in strengthening transparency and accountability. A network of over 1,600 CCTV cameras across mines, sidings and dispatch points are building an intelligent, digitally connected mining ecosystem, with AI-enabled surveillance analytics planned as the next step.

Opening new roles for women

Modernisation is also widening opportunities within SECL’s workforce. Project Dharashakti, an initiative of SECL management to empower women employees, provides skill training and pathways into technical and operational roles, including Heavy Earth Moving Machinery (HEMM) operations. It supports women recruited as landowners and dependants in taking up work suited to their qualifications and abilities. A group of 19 women trainees has been undertaking HEMM operator training using advanced simulators, creating a route into occupations where women’s participation has traditionally been limited. SECL has also established Coal India’s first all-women-operated dispensary at Vasant Vihar, Bilaspur, and its first all-women-operated Central Store Unit at the Central Workshop, Korba.

A stronger financial contribution

SECL’s financial base has grown alongside its operating capabilities. Reported net worth increased from about Rs.9,544 crore in March 2015 to Rs.20,457 crore in March 2026, a rise of nearly 114% per cent. Its contribution to public revenues is substantial. In FY 2025-26, SECL contributed about Rs.11,830 crore to Central and State government exchequers through direct taxes, royalty and other taxes and levies. Royalty payments alone increased from about Rs.2,075 crore in FY 2014-15 to Rs.3,485 crore in FY 2025-26, a rise of nearly 70 per cent. These payments extend the company’s economic contribution beyond coal supply and employment.

Creating opportunities around the coalfields

SECL’s CSR journey has evolved from need-based infrastructure and basic amenities to large-scale, outcome-oriented and sustainable interventions across Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. CSR expenditure by the company has grown from Rs.43.91 Crore in FY 2013-14 to over Rs.127 Crore in FY 2025-26 (growth of approx. 188%). SECL has invested about Rs.1,078 crore since 2014-15 in mining-affected communities, focusing on healthcare, education, skill development, livelihoods, rural infrastructure, water conservation and social inclusion.

Digital India BHASHINI CEO Addresses Lattice 2026 at IIM Calcutta; Highlights AI Ecosystems for Population-Scale Impact

Lattice 2026, the annual business conclave of the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta (IIM Calcutta), was held in Kolkata today under the theme ‘The Capability Decade’. The conclave brought together students, industry leaders and professionals for discussions on artificial intelligence, technology, innovation, leadership and the capabilities required to create impact in a rapidly evolving technology landscape.

The conclave featured Shri Amitabh Nag, Chief Executive Officer, Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD), Digital India Corporation, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), as Chief Guest. He shared insights from India’s experience of building and deploying language technology as Digital Public Infrastructure, with a focus on the challenges of taking AI from models and experimentation to real-world adoption at scale.

Speaking on the challenges of reaching a diverse population, Shri Nag described the digital, language and literacy divides as interconnected challenges and stressed that technology must adapt to people and their contexts. He highlighted the importance of voice-first and multilingual technologies in expanding access, while noting that India’s diversity requires AI systems to account for differences in language, dialect, domain and context. The practical application of this approach was also demonstrated during the session, with BHASHINI’s Shrutlekha deployed live as Shri Nag spoke, enabling real-time language translation and transcription. The demonstration showcased how language AI can operate in a live setting and support multilingual communication beyond controlled or experimental environments. The interaction also touched upon the organisational and product choices that shape the success of emerging technologies. Drawing from BHASHINI’s experience, Shri Nag spoke about building with people and for people, including community participation in creating language resources through BhashaDaan. He also underlined the importance of clear use cases, rapid experimentation, learning from failure and short feedback loops in moving from ideas to deployable solutions, while bringing research and product teams closer to real-world requirements. Reflecting on the experience of building BHASHINI, he said, “The hardest problems we faced were almost never about the model. They were about market design, incentive design, organisational design, and ecosystem design. He further said “Diversity is new normal “ and we need to adapt fast and quick. The discussion further highlighted the role of partnerships, open infrastructure, co-creation and teamwork in taking technology beyond individual products. He noted that organisations working with emerging technologies need to build a culture of conversation, experimentation, brainstorming and partnership, while creating infrastructure that enables multiple participants to contribute to a larger ecosystem.

COLOMBO SECURITY CONCLAVE TABLE TOPEXERCISE CONCLUDES AT EASTERN NAVAL COMMAND, VISAKHAPATNAM



The three-day Table Top Exercise (TTX) conducted under the aegis of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) successfully culminated on 11 Sep 2026 at Eastern Naval Command (ENC), Visakhapatnam. The exercise commenced on 09 Sep 2026 with the opening address by RAdm Manoj Jha, Chief Staff Officer (Operations), Eastern Naval Command, focused on developing a ‘Coordinated Response to Illicit Maritime Activities in the Indian Ocean Region

(IOR). Delegations and maritime security experts from CSC member states and observer nations engaged in intensive simulated operational scenarios for over 72 hours. The interactions focused on addressing complex, non-traditional security challenges, including maritime terrorism, narcotics smuggling, human trafficking and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Participants reviewed existing Standard Operat-

ing Procedures (SOPs) and streamlined information sharing arrangements to enhance collective Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA).

The exercise reaffirms the collective resolve of the Colombo Security Conclave nations to foster peace, stability and prosperity in the region and is aligned with the vision of MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions).



Designer Atelier’ Exhibition-cum-Sale to be held at CCIC till October 1, 2026

The ‘Designer Atelier’ Exhibition-cum-Sale, showcasing designer creations that bring together India’s rich textile heritage, traditional craftsmanship and contemporary design, is being held from September 12 to October 1, 2026, at the Central Cottage Industries Emporium, Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan, Janpath, New

Delhi. The exhibition will remain open from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM. The exhibition was jointly inaugurated today by Shri Akhilesh Kumar, DDG (Textiles), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India and Chairman, Central Cottage Industries Corporation (CCIC), and Shri Bimal Gopalachari, Managing Director, CCIC, in

the presence of senior officials and other dignitaries. The ‘Designer Atelier’ aims to promote India’s rich textile heritage and encourage the use of authentic handloom and handwoven products representing the diverse craft traditions and cultural ethos of the country. It also provides artisans and weavers with a wider

platform to showcase their creations and connect directly with consumers. The exhibition brings together traditional techniques, indigenous craftsmanship and contemporary design, showcasing intricate handloom weaves, traditional prints, modern silhouettes and designer collections. It offers a diverse

range of creations for both traditional and contemporary fashion enthusiasts. With the festive and upcoming wedding season, the exhibition provides an opportunity for visitors to explore distinctive Indian textiles and handcrafted fashion, while supporting the country’s weavers, artisans and craft communities.

Ex-BCCI Selector Explains Why Jasprit Bumrah May Not Pick Wickets At The Start vs Afghanistan



T20I cricket returns to Delhi with the India vs Afghanistan match on Sunday. Before the game, highlighting the conditions at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi, former BCCI selector Sarandeep Singh expected high-scoring encounters to be the norm in the three-match series, while adding that India should look to play Varun Chakaravorthy, Washington Sundar, and Axar Patel as their spin-bowling combination. "The way Delhi Premier League games were played some time ago and how Arun Jaitley Stadium wickets usually behave, they support batting a lot. We have seen big scores on these pitches in the T20 World Cup and domestic season. As far as spinners are concerned, India always likes to go with all-rounders." Ravi Bishnoi was in the scheme of things but was not able to perform as well. Varun Chakaravorthy is a regular spinner; Washington Sundar and Axar Patel can bat and bowl as well. I feel it will be a good combination for India, as there should be variation too. There should be a left-arm spinner and an off-spinner, and

India will definitely go with them," he added. Turning to the fast-bowling unit, Sarandeep recalled how he met Jasprit Bumrah during his recovery from a left knee injury at the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Bengaluru, and the big boost India gets from his return. "It is a big advantage for India to have Bumrah back because you get a confidence boost. I was conducting a high-performance camp at the Centre of Excellence and was also there with the North Zone team as their coach during the Duleep Trophy. I saw Bumrah doing his fitness work there. "He was getting fully fit and was bowling his heart out. Whenever he comes back, he bowls his heart out. He never plays if he is not fit, as he returns only when he is fully fit. He did well in the Centre of Excellence practice games, performed strongly in the match simulations, and looked fully fit. I met him there every day. Bumrah being fully fit and his return to the Indian team is a big boost for us, as the other fast bowlers start looking better." Addressing the pace-

bowling additions following Harshit Rana being ruled out due to a fresh thigh strain, Sarandeep highlighted Yash Thakur's progression through domestic cricket and India A tours. Nagpur-based Thakur made his T20I debut in July against Zimbabwe and picked up two wickets in as many games. "Yash Thakur had a very good time with Punjab Kings in the IPL, but when Vidarbha won the Vijay Hazare Trophy, he played really well. He has been performing consistently in domestic cricket over the past two to three years and has earned this opportunity as a result. "He performed well in Sri Lanka in the India A games and then on the Zimbabwe tour. He got a chance here because Harshit is currently unfit. Hopefully, he can cement his place in the Indian team. We have a lot of injury concerns. The advantage is that any fast bowler who is fit will get more opportunities." Analysing Shreyas Iyer's task as India's captain to build some winning momentum for his team after winning just three out of 10 games, Sarandeep

pointed to tactical adjustments and managing bowlers during high-pressure situations as key challenges. "In T20 cricket, it's really difficult to say which areas he should improve because the game moves so quickly. But there are some crucial aspects, such as bowling changes, which are very important. Should the spinners be brought on during the powerplay or not? "Also, who will bowl at the death? Harshit Rana is not there now, and Yash Thakur has come in. Nitish Reddy is returning after injury, and where he fits in is important. Making crucial bowling changes at the right time is equally important. Your batting line-up is set and the batting order is established. But when you go into the field, you have to know who will bowl in each phase of the game. "Even though Jasprit Bumrah is one of the world's finest fast bowlers across all three formats, he is still returning from injury. So it might take some time for him to find his rhythm, because we expect Jasprit Bumrah to come in and start taking wickets immediately. But he still needs time, as he is coming back from injury. "So it is possible that Jasprit Bumrah doesn't take wickets right away, but your other bowlers should be ready, and Yash Thakur should also do well. You already have Arshdeep Singh, who consistently takes wickets for you. The main thing is how you rotate Varun Chakaravorthy, Washington Sundar, and Axar Patel. They have so much experience and have won many matches for India. So, managing these three spinners will be a major challenge for Shreyas Iyer," he concluded

Wasim Akram Praises Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, And Blasts Pakistan Super League: "Has A Single Batter Been Produced?"

Pakistan great Wasim Akram referred to India's batting prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi while comparing the growth of the Indian Premier League (IPL) with that of the Pakistan Super League (PSL). Sooryavanshi, who is just 15 years old, has already taken the cricketing world by storm with his explosive batting performances. After two successive stellar IPL seasons, he earned his India debut against England, becoming the youngest international debutant. Akram, who has worked extensively in both leagues, criticized the PSL for its failure to produce emerging stars at the same rate as the IPL. Akram served as the bowling coach and mentor of the Kolkata Knight Riders from 2010 to 2017, helping the franchise win two IPL titles. In the PSL, he has held coaching and mentoring roles with Islamabad United, Multan Sultans, and Karachi Kings.

"It has been 10 years since the PSL started, but has a single batter been produced by



the PSL? Yes we have produced a few bowlers but tell me we have produced any noteworthy batting talent. I think when we produce a batting talent like the 14-year old (Sooryavanshi, 15) then we will see improvement coming through," said Akram during an interview with YouTuber Furqan Bhatti. The legendary fast bowler stressed that Paki-

stan must revive its club cricket culture to unearth raw talent and strengthen the PSL's talent pipeline, which could ultimately contribute to the growth of Pakistan cricket.

"Club cricket needs to be revived if we want improvement in red ball cricket. The PCB should spend 100 million rupees each in Karachi and Lahore, as talent comes from

club cricket," he said.

Talking about the Pakistan cricket team, Babar Azam and Co. are on the brink of a humiliating clean sweep against England in the three-match Test series. Having already lost the first two matches, the visitors are staring at yet another defeat in the third and final Test at Edgbaston, Birmingham.

CSK Finally Breaks Silence On Explosive MS Dhoni 'Asking For Stake' Report



Recently, a report suggested that former Chennai Super Kings captain MS Dhoni asked for a 25 per cent stake in the team before reducing it to 20 per cent. He was then apparently offered a 5.5 per cent stake by the franchise. CSK have finally opened up on the issue. Dhoni is still part of CSK and led them to five IPL titles. "MS has never asked us about it. We never discussed the mat-

ter. We also don't have any information about him having discussed this with Mr N Srinivasan either," a senior CSK functionary told Cricbuzz. The report added that Dhoni has some shares in the franchise. As CSK shares are not traded in the open market, with the company being unlisted, "they can be acquired privately through off-market transactions," the report added.

Dhoni has more than one lakh shares, stated the report. It's not huge, as "more than 30 crore outstanding shares are held by the public, accounting for close to 40 per cent of the franchise's total share capital," as per the report. Former BCCI chief N Srinivasan's family holds a controlling stake of more than 55 per cent.

Dhoni's stake could be worth Rs 2.6-3 crore, based on the current market valuation of an IPL franchise (an IPL team was last sold for over Rs 16,600 crore). Dhoni's estimated net worth is around Rs 1,200 crore.

Former India player Aakash Chopra, who also played for Kolkata Knight Riders, said the claim of Dhoni asking for a stake was unrealistic and even called it a planted story.

"There was talk of 1.7 to 1.8

billion when RCB were bought just now. Chennai Super Kings is the same kind of franchise. You can do the valuation however you want, but this is the franchise that has five trophies and has multiple franchises outside India as well," Chopra said while speaking on his YouTube channel.

"They have got a legacy and a lot going for them. Chennai Super Kings is a serious, serious brand. If it's worth 1.8 billion and Dhoni has asked for a 25 per cent stake in that, it is unrealistic. This isn't possible. No one gives 400 million to anyone. In fact, you have to invest 400 million to get a 25 per cent stake. It is a bizarre number. Nobody is going to give anyone 25 per cent in an IPL team."

Shreyas Iyer Gives Big Verdict On Gautam Gambhir's Coaching Skills, Reveals His 'Amazing' Quality



Gautam Gambhir's working style has polarised opinion since he took over the reins of the Indian team but skipper Shreyas Iyer says the head coach is a fantastic man-manager, an attribute he admired while working with him at Kolkata Knight Riders in 2024. India's new T20 skipper gave a thumbs up to Gambhir from his personal experience. "He builds a lot of trust and confidence within the team. And every player knows what their role is and has clarity. So, I think all these alignments are very much important when it comes to coaching skills," Iyer said at pre match press conference ahead of first T20I against Afghanistan. "He (Gambhir) has got an amazing one-on-one player management approach. So, that is essential going forward in the tournament when you have that kind of relationship with every player. "Because all of us are different in our own ways and you need to understand a certain player," said Iyer, insinuating that their previous association means he understands the coach's thinking and approach.

"And the more matches we win, the more we would be getting to know each other closely. And I have worked with him in the past in KKR. So, I definitely know how his mind works and how his approach is going to be." Asked about his captaincy

philosophy Iyer said he doesn't believe in burdening players with specific roles rather he wants them to develop game awareness intrinsic to T20 format. "When you say that this is your role in the team, that puts immense pressure on the player. And if you could probably phrase it in a better way, saying that your team requires you in this particular role, you feel needed and you feel wanted for the team." On injuries affecting the team's plans, Iyer said players should not be blamed for setbacks suffered while putting in intense efforts.

Are you frustrated? "It's not frustrating. We need to understand, first of all, the amount of matches a player is playing continuously, rigorously. He is prone to get injured in some way or the other because the intensity is pretty high.

"And then we also need to understand that not every player thinks of getting injured deliberately. It is because they are putting in efforts for the team and if that effort turns out to be on the negative side, you can't control it." Iyer acknowledged injuries can affect combinations but backed the replacements to contribute when given an opportunity.

"And talking about the combination, I feel that it certainly impacts the combination, but we know how all the players are. Even if there is a backup,

he is equally important for the team and we know that they can deliver as well." On Jasprit Bumrah's return from injury, Iyer stressed the importance of game time and confidence.

"Definitely, I interacted with him yesterday and he is in that mindset where he wants to come and perform for the team and see to it that we win championships." On the selection dilemma involving the three opening options between Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma, Iyer said having all of them in the squad was a luxury and whoever gets the opportunity would have the team's backing.

"Whoever gets the opportunity, definitely it's for the team's benefit. And the players sitting outside, it's important that I have an interaction with them along with the coach and give them that confidence. No matter what, you will get your opportunity when the day comes." On Ishan Kishan, Iyer said the batter was comfortable after suffering a minor niggle.

"Well, Ishan, I feel that he is comfortable at the moment. I interacted with him after the practice session. It was just a small niggle and he has been playing continuous cricket. We all know the knock he played.

"So, definitely a bit of fatigue, but today he got that rest and I am sure that he will be fine for tomorrow."

India Stars Fail To Recognise AI-Generated Vaibhav Sooryavanshi In Viral 1980s Makeover



With a wave of nostalgia taking over social media, people are using artificial intelligence to imagine themselves in the 1980s. The Indian cricket team has also joined the trend. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) shared AI-generated images of the Indian players, recreating the fashion, hairstyles, and photography styles associated with the 1980s, and recorded their reactions. As the players went through the pictures, they failed to recognise the AI-generated image of 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. The popular photo-editing trend going viral has seen users turn ordinary selfies into retro portraits that look as though they were pulled straight from an old family album or a Bollywood studio shoot.

The Indian cricket team players will be in action from Sunday, with the first T20I of the three-match series against Afghanistan.

India face a dilemma over whether to opt for 'Boy

Wonder' Sooryavanshi's no-holds-barred aggression or stick with the experience and unmatched flair of Sanju Samson as they take on Afghanistan in the opening game.

While Sooryavanshi was drafted into the playing XI in England at the expense of Samson, it is only fair to mention that, by the last match of the series, the 15-year-old had to make way for his senior partner's return.

It is not a straightforward choice, although Samson-Abhishek Sharma is a more stable T20I pair that has done fairly well. One can only hope that Gambhir and skipper Shreyas Iyer will give equal chances to both Samson and Sooryavanshi, if possible, before finalising the XI for the Asian Games matches in Japan.

During Friday's evening net session, Samson did look slightly more in control compared to Sooryavanshi, who got a masterclass from Jasprit Bumrah on how to face quick bowling with

movement off the surface. It could have been a case of the youngster taking time to adjust after playing three back-to-back red-ball games.

Also, Sooryavanshi could take the Afghan attack to the cleaners, with none of the opposition bowlers remotely close to Bumrah's quality. The pace at which they bowl could also suit Sooryavanshi's minimal footwork and stand-and-deliver game.

In Samson's case, dropping him in England after just three failures in a high-risk format seemed unfair. But the Sooryavanshi euphoria had reached such a stage that the team management had to listen to popular demand, despite its stated resolve to remain insulated from outside noise.

But there could be a scenario where both Sooryavanshi and Samson end up playing if Ishan Kishan, who had a back injury scare during Friday evening's net session, is ruled out of the game.

Nani Caught Between Two Sides Of Paradise!

Natural Star Nani and Kayadu Lohar are playing the leads in ‘The Paradise’. Directed by Srikanth Odela, the film is hitting the screens on the 24th, with paid premieres on the 23rd. With only a week left for the release, the team is caught between completing the final post-production work and planning the promotions.

The team is currently busy with multiple tasks, including post-production, re-recording and patchwork. Since Srikanth and his assistants are occupied with different responsibilities, Nani seems to have stepped in to supervise the post-production work and keep track of the deliverables.

Nani mentioned that they could not manage their time well during the press meet. However, he also assured that everyone is juggling multiple responsibilities to give the best possible experience to the audience. The director is reportedly sitting with Anirudh to complete the re-recording, while Srikanth’s assistants are taking care of the patchwork.

With Nani also involved in



the post-production work, the film’s promotional plans have now become a little unclear. There are reports that the team may begin promotional interviews shortly, while another plan is to keep the promotions limited before the release and focus more on the pre-release event. Since ‘The Paradise’ is a

prestigious project for everyone involved, the team is giving utmost priority to finishing the film properly. The film already has strong hype, and even if full-fledged promotions are difficult at this stage, Nani could focus on digital promotions and ramp them up closer to the release. The team has al-

ready decided not to release a trailer, making the promotional strategy even more interesting. With just one week to go, it remains to be seen how Nani manages these two sides of The Paradise and whether the limited promotions will have any impact on the film’s advance sales.

FL: Sivagami Turns Kamala Reddy!

Remember Sivagami from Baahubali? Ramya Krishnan is now set to surprise audiences once again with her powerful look as Kamala Reddy in David Reddy. The makers celebrated her birthday by unveiling a striking special poster, and her fierce royal avatar has already grabbed attention.

With a sword in her hand and a fearless expression, Ramya Krishnan looks every bit like a warrior queen. Her powerful screen presence instantly reminds fans of Sivagami, but Kamala Reddy appears to be a completely different character with her own strength, authority and emotional depth.

Starring Manchu Manoj in the lead, David Reddy is a grand period action drama set during the British rule. The teaser already showcased Manoj’s explosive transformation as a rebel, while Ramya Krishnan’s birthday poster has added more curiosity about the powerful characters in the film.

Produced by Venkat Reddy Nallagangula and Bharat Motukuri, the film is directed by Hanuma Reddy Yakkanti, with music by Ravi Basrur. Maria Ryaboshapka stars opposite Manoj, while Samuthirakani, Abhay Deol, Kanchana and Ramya Krishnan are part of the ensemble cast. The multilingual pan-India film is gearing up for a theatrical release soon, and Ramya Krishnan’s Kamala Reddy is certainly one of the characters to watch out for.



Disha’s Revealing Dress At Ganesh Pooja Triggers Severe Backlash

Disha Patani recently made headlines for attending the Ambani Family’s Ganesh Chaturthi Celebrations at Antilia in Mumbai on September 14, 2026. However, the outfit she wore for the event sparked a lot of uproar on social media. Disha wore a red ghagra with intricate embroidery, a matching blouse featuring a plunging neckline, and a red dupatta draped over one shoulder. However, the look attracted trolls, as many commented that it was not the right way to present herself at a devotional event. Many people commented that Disha lacks basic sense and that she does not know how to carry herself. Some opined that Disha cannot treat every event as glamorous and should dress according to the situation. Moreover, this is not the first time actors have dressed up like this for events, and we have seen it before too, but some feel it is not appropriate styling. On the other hand, a lot of other celebrities like Salman Khan, Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal, Kiara Advani and Siddharth Malhotra, Genelia and Ritesh, Saif Ali Khan and Kareena Kapoor and many more from Bollywood visited Ambani’s residence for the celebrations. Every year, the Ambani family celebrate the event in a grand manner, in the presence of celebrities from different walks of lives. On the work front, was recently seen in Awarapan 2 and she is set to make her debut in Hollywood soon.



Pranitha Subhash Sets SIIMA Stage On Fire

Pranitha Subhash turned heads at the SIIMA event in a wine-red sequined gown that instantly grabbed attention. The plunging halter neckline and cutout waist detailing gave the look a bold, glamorous edge, while the fitted silhouette and flowing train added red-carpet drama. Soft curls and subtle glam makeup completed the elegant appearance. On the work front, Pranitha was last seen in Ramana Avatara, released in 2024, with no update on her next project.

First Look: Sathibabu Paraloka Yatra!



A pair of sunglasses is enough to kickstart the mystery in Sathibabu Paraloka Yatra. Santosh Sobhan’s stylish first look has been unveiled, and the interesting visual has immediately become the talking point. The reflection in the goggles showcases two different religious worlds, a church and a temple hinting at a hilarious multiverse journey that has never been explored in Telugu cinema before. The concept itself feels fresh and intriguing. After delivering a clean entertainer with Couple Friendly, Santosh Sobhan teams up once again with director Lakshman K Krishna for another comedy-driven adventure packed with fantasy and entertainment. Presented by UV Creations and produced by AR Films, the film features Preethi Asrani and Maanasa Chaoudhary as the heroines. Sathibabu Paraloka Yatra is gearing up for a fun-filled December theatrical release.