Kerala's Largest Circulated Business Magazine

Your Business is Our Concern

THE TIMES OF ISLAND

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GOLD LOANS GLITTER !

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EDITORIAL

Gold Loans, the Easy Loans

Gold loans have been the most preferred and easily accessible facility to get money to meet exigencies for people in general and rural folks in particular. Though nationalized banks and cooperative institutions offer gold loans at reasonable interest rates, private players who exact high interest rates have an important role in gold loans because of easy availability and lack of procedural formalities. There has been substantial growth in gold loan sector to the extent that first quarter of the current fiscal saw almost 100% growth in this area as compared to the same period last year.

Gold loans drove a sharp acceleration in personal lending and overall bank credit, with the segment expanding 93.8% year on year at the end of first quarter of this fiscal. Banks added Rs.74171 crore in Q1FY27 to take the gold loan book to Rs.5.4 lakh crore.

Gold maintains a distinct and revered status as a symbol of financial prosperity within a majority of Indian households since it is considered to be a tangible marker of social prestige for many. Gold assets are not merely considered to be a financial asset but are also symbol of cultural heritage often passed down from one generation to the next. This inter- generational transfer establishes a profound emotional connection and a sentimental inclination towards gold. Despite gold's liquidity as an asset, the ingrained affinity of the Indian populace toward this precious metal manifests into a unique financial behaviour. During times of economic adversity, individuals are hesitant to part with their gold assets by selling them. Instead, they turn to the practice of leveraging their gold jewellery as collateral in exchange for short term credit through gold loans. Gold loans, are a secured financial product, offered by banks and nonbanking financial companies (NBFCs) in the regulated environment and local money lenders in the unregulated space. In this arrangement, customers provide their gold jewellery as collateral and, in return, the lending institution disburses the loan based on the prevailing market value of the pledged gold.

While there has been a trend towards the formalisation of gold loans in recent years, a considerable portion of the market remains unorganised. The process of formalisation of gold loans has been significantly influenced by increasing levels of urbanisation. This expansion is facilitated by the establishment of new branches, the introduction of digital products, and, notably, the provision of more attractive interest rates and customer service tailored to the needs of urban and rural customers. The evolving landscape reflects the collaborative efforts of organised entities to bring structure and reliability to gold lending practices, thereby offering a more secure andbeneficial financial alternative for individuals in both urban and rural settings.

COVER STORY

N M PRABHAKARAN

GOLD LOANS JU FUEL BANK CREDIT GRO

Indian households hold approximately 25,000 tonnes of gold — ₹ 350 lakh crore in household wealth sitting in almirahs, cloth bags, and home safes

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Gold Loans more attractive

Gold loan companies in India are trying their best to innovate gold loans. Faster disbursals, more amount per gram of gold, doorstep service, digital apps etc make gold loans more attractive and easier to avail for the common man. The organised gold loan book has crossed ₹ 15 lakh crore, growing at 30%+ annually

Indian households hold

COVER STORY

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approximately 25,000 tonnes of gold — ₹ 350 lakh crore in household wealth sitting in almirahs, cloth bags, and home safes. The largest private gold stock on earth. A March 2025 report confirmed it now surpasses the combined reserves of the world's ten largest central banks. And of all of that, roughly 10% is formally pledged in the organised lending system today.The rest isn't moving. It's dead capital!

The thing found most surprising isn't about gold. It's about why the money won't move. Why families that desperately need credit won't touch their gold even when the product in front of them is better, cheaper, and faster than anything available before. Maybe the answer isn't the loan. It's the infrastructure around it?

The locker problem that needs to be quantified

Almost all of India's household gold is stored at home. Not because people prefer it that way — because there's nowhere else to put it.

There are approximately 6 million bank lockers in India. Here's the part that rarely comes up: banks are not obligated to insure the contents of your locker. RBI's own guidelines make this explicit — in a negligence case, the maximum compensation is 100 times the annual locker rent. A family paying ₹ 3,000 a year gets ₹ 3 lakh in compensation. The average Indian family stores multiples of that in the same box. No insurance. No recourse.

So what's the rational choice? Keep it home. And then live with what that means.

In October 2024, thieves broke into the SBI branch in Nyamati, Karnataka — gas cutter through the strongroom, 17.7 kg of customers' gold ornaments gone. In December 2024, six lockers were drilled open overnight at a Union Bank branch in Surat after CCTV cables were cut. In March 2025, a woman in Bengaluru opened her SBI locker to find 145 grams missing — a bank employee later arrested. Around the same time, a different bank employee in Bengaluru was found to have stolen 2.7 kg of gold from customer lockers to fund a gambling habit.

These are not isolated incidents. The formal safe-keeping infrastructure India has built for gold has a supply problem, an affordability problem and — for the lockers that do exist — an insurance problem. That Godrej almirah at home, whatever its flaws, is at least always there.

The real barrier isn't awareness. The gold loan industry has spent enormous amounts on education campaigns. National print. Celebrity endorsements. The message: gold loans are good, use them.

Here's what those campaigns have never addressed: the people who don't take gold loans aren't avoiding them because they don't know about them. They're avoiding them because the experience requires surrendering privacy. You walk into a branch and someone from your neighbourhood sees you. They know why you're there. Or you call for doorstep service and a stranger comes into your home, sees the jewellery, learns what you own and where it's kept. Any operator who's spent serious time with customers in this category understands this.

The unorganised sector holds roughly 65% of the gold loan market. Moneylenders charging 18% -36% per annum. They shouldn't win on price. They win on speed, zero documentation, and absolute discretion. People will pay a 3x premium to avoid having to explain themselves to a stranger. That might seem like irrational behaviour but that's also customers telling you exactly what they need.

Reasons for availing gold loans may be different in individual cases, but the banks and NBFCs are thriving on gold loans and they make a fast buck without any tension or repayment headache.

HEALTH IS WEALTH

A Healthier Way of Life Comes to the Fore: 21 Years of Authentic Care at Mannam Ayurveda

"Blending two decades of academic excellence, accredited clinical care, and groundbreaking formulation research, Mannam Ayurveda is shaping the future of authentic holistic medicine across Kerala."

The 100+ acre campus in Pandalam, Pathanamthitta—a growing hub for holistic healing, medical education, and drug development.

From Academic Roots to Healthcare Leadership

Mannam Ayurveda, an emerging pioneer in Kerala's wellness and medical landscape, traces its origin back to a visionary diversification project by an industrial co-operative. Establishing its foundational Ayurveda Medical College in 2005, the institution has spent over two decades building an ecosystem centered on authentic healing, rigorous academic training, and clinical integrity.

Today, its premier teaching hospital features a fully equipped 100-bed inpatient facility that achieved prestigious accreditation from the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH) in 2022. Evolving into one of the finest institutions of its kind, Mannam Ayurveda now serves as a benchmark role model for Ayurvedic colleges and hospitals throughout India.

National Recognition & Cashless Healthcare Access

Reflecting its institutional quality and clinical credibility, Mannam Ayurveda has secured key government and public sector empanelment. These partnerships allow retired personnel and current public sector employees to access seamless, cashless treatment facilities:

- **Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS):** Empanelled in 2024 to serve central government retirees and beneficiaries.
- **Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS):** Empanelled in 2025 to extend holistic healthcare to retired defence personnel.
- **Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs):** Key empanelments with major Central Public Sector Enterprises, includingFood Corporation of India (FCI), Air India and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)

Strategic Infrastructure Expansion & Manufacturing

To accommodate the steady surge in demand for specialized inpatient treatments, Mannam Ayurveda is undertaking major expansion projects across its sprawling 100+ acre campus in Pandalam, Pathanamthitta District.

Operational Wing	Current Standing	Expansion & Strategic Goals
Hospital & Inpatient Care	100-bed accredited facility	Building best-in-class infrastructure to expand patient capacity and elevate comfort.
Pharmaceutical Production	On-campus production unit	Manufacturing both classical Ayurvedic formulations and proprietary institutional preparations.
Medicinal Land Base	100+ acres of campus land	Supporting long-term cultivation, clinical trials, and manufacturing facilities.

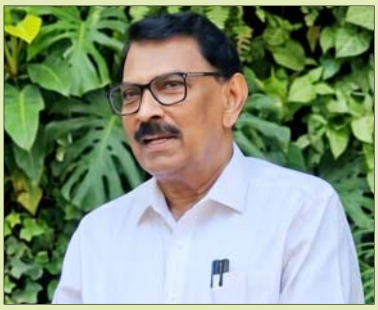
To make authentic Ayurvedic treatments and branded products accessible across every district in Kerala, Mannam Ayurveda is launching an extensive commercial and clinical footprint this year:

1. The Padmasree Ayurveda Clinic Network

- Establishing a widespread network of Padmasree Ayurveda Clinics in key urban centers and rural hubs.
- **Alumni Empowerment:** Preferential franchise opportunities are offered directly to graduates of the Mannam Ayurveda Medical College, fostering entrepreneurship among its alumni.

2. Comprehensive Retail & OTC Distribution

- **Practitioner Supply:** Delivering high-potency, branded Ayurvedic medicines directly to Ayurvedic practitioners throughout the state.
- **Over-The-Counter (OTC) Reach:** Placing proprietary OTC products across major traditional Ayurvedic dispensaries and modern retail pharmacies statewide.



Dr. K Thulaseedharan Nair, Director

R&D Innovation: The 'Yogavahi' Principle

At the core of Mannam Ayurveda's pharmaceutical edge is the active Research & Development (R&D) wing located within its Ayurveda medical college and hospital. Focused heavily on authentic drug formulation and clinical validation, the R&D team specializes in the ancient **'Yogavahi' principle.**

What is 'Yogavahi'?

In classical Ayurveda, 'Yogavahi' refers to substances or formulation techniques capable of acting as targeted catalytic vectors—transporting the active medicinal properties deep into body tissues without altering their original character. This principle forms the Unique Selling Proposition (USP) behind all formulations developed by the institution.

By combining centuries-old textual wisdom with modern scientific drug research, Mannam Ayurveda continues to advance effective, safe, and bio-available treatments for patients across the country. ■

Maharani Wedding Collections Bags World Record with World's Largest 'Saree Pookkalam'

Thodupuzha-based Maharani Wedding Collections, a premium wedding textile destination in Kerala, has secured a world record by creating the world's largest Saree Pookkalam. The record was achieved by creating a 2,000-square-feet Saree Pookkalam - a pookkalam made using sarees instead of the traditional floral arrangement - on the ground floor of Forum Mall, Vyttila, during the Maharani Group's Onam celebrations. The achievement has been recognised by the Universal Records Forum (URF).

The world record certificate was presented to Riyas V.A., Chairman and Managing Director of Maharani Group, by Sunil Joseph, Chief Editor of the Universal Records Forum (URF) and a multiple Guinness World Record holder, during the event. Industry leaders, film and television personalities, public representatives and other distinguished guests attended the function.

Speaking on the occasion, Riyas V.A., Chairman and Managing Director of Maharani Group, said the world's largest Saree Pookkalam was created to celebrate womanhood and encourage women to lead bold and courageous lives while playing a greater role in society. He also said the international recognition earned through the world record was a matter of immense pride for the group.

Sunil Joseph, Chief Editor of the Universal Records Forum (URF) and a multiple Guinness World Record holder, presents the world record certificate to Riyas V.A., Managing Director of Maharani Wedding Collections, for creating the world's largest Saree Pookkalam at Forum Mall, Vyttila. Actress Anusree is also seen.

A total of 2,100 sarees in a vibrant range of colours, including silk and Kanchipuram silk sarees, were used by the group's creative team to create the record-breaking pookkalam. The design was conceived by the Maharani team and executed by renowned artist Da Vinci Suresh along with the Maharani creative team. The initiative was organised to celebrate womanhood and highlight the strength and resilience of women.

Maharani Wedding Collections, Thodupuzha, is known for its wide range of wedding collections, affordable pricing and customer-centric service. The store also offers a distinctive collection of sarees sourced from all 28 States across India.

Give Wings To Your Royal Wedding Dreams

Nestled in Kerala's Idukki district is Thodupuzha's very own Maharani Wedding Collections which reigns supreme as the crown jewel of the textile space across the land. At the helm is Mr. Riyas V. A., Chairman & Managing Director of Atlas-Maharani Group, whose visionary leadership has made it grow into a grand and successful shopping destination for wedding parties.

Maharani Wedding Collections was established in 2017 and within a short span of time it has become a haven for those seeking exquisite attire for their most cherished occasions.

It has earned the people's trust as a destination for affordable fashion that serves up superb quality. The greatest sign of this trust is expressed as the shop uses zero marketing gimmicks, misleading offers or trickery to lure in customers.

Maharani Wedding Collections started out as a humble textile store spanning 25,000 sq. ft. but it now stands proudly as a 65,000 sq. ft. of majestic one-stop-shop for weddings and celebrations. It now employs 400+ staff members. Maharani's new and improved showroom was inaugurated by the gorgeous and talented South Indian actor, Samantha Ruth Prabhu, on March 2, 2024.

The magnificent evolution of Maharani Wedding Collections speaks volumes of its unwavering commitment to providing an unparalleled shopping experience, where every bride and groom is treated like royalty.

BUSINESS NEWS

myG Onam Mass Onam Season 4

Begins with Onam Shopping Celebration that Rewrites History

myG, which has remained a symbol of trust and excellent service in the digital gadgets and home appliances retail sector for more than two decades, has launched myG Onam Mass Onam Season 4, the biggest Onam shopping festival in Keralam.

As part of myG Onam Mass Onam Season 4, myG and myG Future showrooms across Keralam are offering prizes worth over Rs. 30 crore, attractive discounts, and the lowest prices ever seen in Keralam. One of the biggest highlights of the campaign is that customers will receive their prizes within 45 days, eliminating the need to wait for years.

myG Gears Up for Record Sales

Targeting the Onam market, myG aims to achieve Rs.2,500 crore in sales during the Onam season and record revenue of over Rs.7,500 crore in the FY 2026-27 financial year.

In addition, myG plans to open 40 to 50 new showrooms during the current financial year. Through this expansion, the company is preparing to increase its workforce from the current 5,800 employees to 10,000, creating thousands of new employment opportunities.

Highlights of myG Onam Mass Onam Season 4

Customers can enjoy prizes and discounts worth over Rs.30 crore through myG Onam Mass Onam Season 4. Customers who make purchases between August 1 and September 30 will have the opportunity to win exciting prizes through a lucky draw, including 20 cars, 25 scooters, cash prizes of 1 lakh each for 100 winners, international trips for 50 winners (25 couples) and a BMW car as the bumper prize.

Additionally, customers making purchases between August 6 and September 10 stand a chance to win various exciting prizes through Scratch and Win—including 500 Smart TVs, 500 Washing Machines, 500 Refrigerators, 1,000 Mixer Grinders, 250 Smartphones, 500 Party Speakers, 6,000 Trolley Bags, and 4,000 Premium Backpacks. Customers can also avail discounts of up to 100% and price reductions up to 10,000. This lucky draw opportunity is valid for customers making purchases above 5,000.

Apart from these prizes, customers can also enjoy special Onam offers from leading national and international brands, along with attractive offers from finance institutions, making myG Onam Mass Onam Season 4 the biggest shopping festival Kerala has ever witnessed. These offers are also available to customers who shop through myG's online platform, www.myg.in

The Widest Network of Finance Partners

myG has partnered with the largest number of finance institutions in Kerala, offering customers unmatched financing flexibility. If the services of one finance partner are unavailable to a customer, they can conveniently opt for another finance partner available at myG. In addition to No

Cost EMI, 1 EMI Cashback, and cashback offers on Credit and Debit Cards, myG has partnered with leading finance institutions such as Bajaj Finance, HDB Financial Services, IDFC First Bank, and TVS Credit. Customers can also enjoy instant offers through payment platforms such as Paytm and Pine Labs.

Offering the lowest prices in Kerala along with the best offers has become the hallmark of myG. By purchasing products directly in bulk from leading brands and supplying them to its network of more than 150 showrooms, eliminating intermediaries, myG is able to offer customers the most competitive prices and the best deals in the market. The brand's commitment is to reward customers for the trust and support they have placed in myG by offering unmatched value through attractive prices and exclusive offers.

Value-Added Services That Make Shopping More Rewarding

myG Super EMI: Easy instalment options to purchase any product with maximum convenience.

myG Protection Plan: Insurance - like protection for your gadgets.

myG Extra Warranty: Additional warranty offered by myG over and above the manufacturer's warranty.

myG Care: Transparent, high-tech repair and service facilities available at all myG showrooms.

myG Exchange Offer: Exchange your old products at the best value and upgrade to new ones.

myG My Reward Points: Earn additional benefits and rewards on every purchase.

myG 2 Fast: Products purchased through www.myg.in are delivered within an hour in major cities.

myG Future Expands Beyond Kerala

myG has already initiated its expansion into Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and other Indian states beyond Kerala. At present, myG Future has commenced operations in Mangaluru, Karnataka. In addition, new myG Future showrooms will soon begin operations in Gundlupet, Puttur, and Surathkal in Karnataka.

myG's Own Brands and Future Plans

With the vision of offering customers high-quality electronics, home appliances, and home kitchen products at affordable prices, myG has successfully launched its own range of products under its proprietary brands.

Under its own brand, GADMY, myG has introduced products including TVs, digital accessories, fans, electric irons, kettles, and more. In addition, under its premium brand AKEMI, myG has launched non-stick cookware and digital accessories, including speakers.

Currently available exclusively at myG and myG Future showrooms, these products will soon be introduced to the general market across India. Featuring best-in-class quality, competitive pricing, superior durability, attractive colour themes, stylish designs, and user-friendly functionality, these products are designed to compete with leading global brands.

Brand Ambassadors - Manju Warrier & Tovino Thomas

Continuing the successful association from previous years, beloved actress Manju Warrier and youth icon Tovino Thomas return as the brand ambassadors for myG's Onam campaign this year as well.

'We are committed to making this campaign Kerala's biggest Onam shopping festival by

offering the finest products, maximum savings, exciting rewards, and dependable service-all under one roof, 'said A. K. Shaji, Chairman, myG India Private Limited.

myG believes that their presence will further strengthen the brand's modern, youthful image while helping establish a stronger connection with the new-generation consumers.

A Star-Studded 'Mass Onam Season 4'; Commercial

The spectacular myG Onam Mass Onam Season 4 television commercial was produced over three days with a multi-crore production budget. The commercial features Manju Warrier, Tovino Thomas, Gibin Gopinath, Chippy Devassy, Druvan, and others. It was directed by renowned filmmaker and ad director Mridul Nair, with cinematography by Jomon T. John, screenplay by Ajish Raman, and music composed by Manikandan Ayyappa. The soundtrack has been rendered by Jassie Gift, Thirumali, Himna Hilari, Nihara Harsh, and Manikandan Ayyappa. myG Institute of Technology - Building Tomorrow's Technicians Another noteworthy initiative is the myG Institute of Technology (MIT), established with the objective of developing highly skilled technicians.

MIT is committed to nurturing engineers and technicians through in-depth technical education and practical training. The institute helps students build rewarding careers by equipping them with industry-relevant skills, creating better employment opportunities and sustainable career prospects.

Empowering Women as Technicians myG has set a remarkable benchmark by bringing women into the electronics service industry and establishing India's first all-women-operated electronics service centre, creating a unique model of women empowerment in the technical service sector. Driving Social Progress Through CSR Initiatives

As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, myG continues to implement several impactful programmes across Kerala.

These include the Smart Start programme to promote digital literacy among senior citizens, the Phone Venda campaign to encourage creativity among children by reducing screen dependency, sports sponsorship initiatives, Phoneflix to encourage young filmmakers, and She Start, a programme that empowers women entrepreneurs. Through these and several other initiatives,

myG continues to make meaningful contributions to society. She Start - Her Dreams Start Here

As part of International Women's Day, myG launched 'She Start - Her Dreams Start Here', an initiative aimed at helping women facing financial challenges realise their entrepreneurial dreams.

The programme received an overwhelming public response. Its objective is to identify aspiring women entrepreneurs and support them by providing the equipment required to grow their businesses. The process of evaluating applications and extending the benefits to eligible beneficiaries is progressing rapidly, and the selected beneficiaries will be announced soon.

myG's vision is to make Onam, Kerala's biggest festival, an even more joyful and rewarding shopping experience for customers. As part of this commitment, myG Onam Mass Onam Season 4 brings together over 30 crore worth of prizes, never-before-seen offers, and the best prices in the market. 'We are committed to making this campaign Kerala's biggest Onam shopping festival by offering the finest products, maximum savings, exciting rewards, and dependable service-all under one roof,' said **A. K. Shaji,** Chairman, myG India Private Limited.

BUSINESS NEWS

VINSMERA JEWELS UNVEILS GRAND SHOWROOM IN KOCHI

Kochi's largest jewellery destination

A new chapter has begun in the jewellery landscape of Kochi with Vinsmera opening their flagship grand showroom at KPCC jn., MG Road, with unmatching collections and hitherto never seen fashions and designs. Megastar Mohanlal, the brand ambassador of Vinsmera, formally opened the show room on Independence Day. Vinsmera Chairman Dinesh Kamprath, vice chairman Anil Kamprath, Managing Director Manoj Kamprath, Executive Director Krishnan Kamprath, Director Rajesh Illath, among others, attended the inaugural function.

Having started in Kozhikode and grown to six showrooms across India and the UAE within a year, the Kochi outlet marks Vinsmera Jewels' seventh showroom. World-class facilities and an extensive jewellery collection are the main highlights of the new showroom.

Customers can explore a beautiful range of jewellery here — MANTRA with the sparkle of traditional ornaments, DZIRE with exquisite diamond jewellery, VARNIKA with the elegance of rare gemstones, and TYOHARA with the grandeur of royal polki jewellery — catering to every taste, every generation, and every celebration.

Brands under Vinsmera Jewels represent the many facets of fine jewellery — each with a distinct identity, yet bound by craftsmanship, quality and timeless appeal. Customers can explore the sub-brands and discover jewellery that complements every chapter of their life.

Every piece from Vinsmera Jewels is designed to stay timeless. Their collections are a celebration of grace and exquisite craftsmanship. They believe true elegance never fades. From the initial sketch to the final polish, every detail is considered with utmost care. Find the perfect piece—designed to be treasured and handed down.

Timeless Elegance, Designed to Perfection

Forged in the fires of innovation, Vinsmera Jewels stand as a symbol of excellence and elegance. Established in 2008, Vinsmera is a distinguished name in the jewellery industry, carrying forward the legacy of craftsmanship, precision and incomparable expertise to redefine the very essence of luxury.

Supported by a team of 1000+ skilled artisans and highly advanced manufacturing units in India and the UAE, they make sure that each piece is a timeless creation. Their reach spans across 12+ countries, with imminent expansions into the markets of Singapore, Malaysia, UK and the USA. As part of strengthening their presence further in Kerala, Vinsmera Jewels is preparing to open new showrooms in Thiruvananthapuram, Kannur and Payyannur.

As they continue to grow, their commitment remains resolute—to create exquisite gold, diamond, polki, precious stone, platinum and silver jewellery that are synonymous with elegance and sophistication.

At Vinsmera Jewels, they combine tradition with innovation, turning each piece into an exquisite blend of artistry and precision. With a legacy of 16 years of heritage, Vinsmera is synonymous with trust, sophistication, and grandeur.

They bring international quality while staying true to their roots and upholding responsible sourcing and sustainable manufacturing practices. From gold and diamond jewellery to polki and precious stone ornaments, whatever the customer's aesthetic preference be, find it at Vinsmera Jewels.

Visit Vinsmera jewels and experience the wonders in jewellery that is available nowhere else!

Cochin Port Wins Second Prize Under Rajbhasha Shield Scheme 2024–25

Cochin Port Authority has been awarded the Second Prize in Category 'C' under the Rajbhasha Shield Scheme 2024–25 in recognition of its outstanding implementation of the Official Language Policy. Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, presented the award to Cochin Port during the meeting of the Hindi Salahkar Samiti of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), held in New Delhi. Shri Satish Honnakkatte, Deputy Chairperson, Cochin Port Authority, received the award on behalf of the organization. Shri Joydeep Ghosh Dastidar, Secretary, Cochin Port Authority, and Smt. Nazidha Khan S, Hindi Translator, CoPA also attended the meeting.

BUSINESS NEWS

Smt. Deepa D. Nair Takes Charge as CEO of Coconut Development Board

Smt. Deepa D. Nair, an Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer of the 2001-batch Tripura cadre, has assumed charge as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Coconut Development Board (CDB). She has been appointed to the post for a period of five years.

With over two decades of distinguished administrative experience, Smt. Deepa D. Nair, prior to her appointment as CEO of CDB, served as Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Planning & Development) in the Government of Tripura. She has also held several key positions, including Chief Executive Officer of the World Bank Assisted ELEMENT Project; Chief Executive Officer and Project Director of the JICA-assisted SCATFORM Project; and Managing Director of Tripura Nature Trails & Resorts Ltd. (TNTR). She has also led several initiatives in forest conservation and development.

Sree Gokulam Group Celebrates Annual Staff Day

The birthday of Sree Gokulam Gopalan, founder and Chairman of the Sree Gokulam Group of Companies, is celebrated every year as 'Sree Gokulam Staff Day.' This year, the celebration took place on July 23rd at Kamarajar Arangam in Teynampet, Chennai, marking a grand occasion that brought together distinguished guests, employees, and family members. The festivities in Chennai followed a similar prestigious event held in Kochi on July 21st, attended by Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala. The Chennai celebration was graced by Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar, Health Minister K.G. Arunraj, and Ishari Ganesh, Chairman of the Vels Group of Companies, Sri S.A Chandrasekar Actor & Director, Mr.Bobby Simma, Actor, Mr.Aarya, Actor, who all conveyed their warm birthday wishes to Gokulam Gopalan.

During the event, Sree Gokulam Gopalan ceremoniously cut a cake in the presence of his family and employees, sharing sweets with everyone present. The celebration also featured cultural performances by employees and their children, reflecting the group's vibrant community spirit. A highlight of the day was the honoring of employees who have demonstrated exceptional performance at the national level with the prestigious Gokulam Gopalan Gold Medal, continuing the tradition of recognizing excellence within the organization.

Baiju Gopalan, Managing Director and son of the founder, along with V.C. Praveen, Vice Chairman and son-in-law, expressed heartfelt gratitude to all participants and attendees, emphasizing the importance of this annual celebration in fostering unity and motivation among the staff. The event attracted many prominent figures from political and cultural spheres, underscoring the significance of the occasion and the high regard in which Sree Gokulam Gopalan is held. The Sree Gokulam Group's Staff Day celebration remains a key event that not only commemorates its founder's birthday but also celebrates the dedication and achievements of its workforce, strengthening the company's foundation for future success.

BUSINESS NEWS

CSL LAUNCHES SEVENTH ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE SHALLOW WATER CRAFT

Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) has marked another significant milestone in its shipbuilding journey with the launch of the seventh Anti-Submarine Warfare vessel 'Machilipatnam', in a series of eight being constructed for the Indian Navy.

The ship was launched by Smt Goolrukh Anand and the ceremony was graced by Vice Admiral Atul Anand, PVSM, AVSM, VSM as the Chief Guest. Shri Jose VJ, Chairman & Managing Director, Cochin Shipyard Limited, Dr. Harikrishnan S, Dir (Ops) and Shri Rajesh Gopalakrishnan, Dir (Tech), CSL, Rear Admiral Deepak Singhal, VSM, CSO (Trg), HQSNC, Dr. C Pandi Selva Durai, IOFS, CVO, CSL, Senior officials of Southern Naval Command and IHQ MoD(N), Cmde Anup Menon, WPS (Kochi) and representatives of the Classification Society were present.

The launch of the seventh vessel underscores the steady progress of the prestigious project and reflects the close collaboration between Cochin Shipyard Limited and the Indian Navy in strengthening the nation's mari-time capabilities. The ship is being built with a strong focus on quality, safety & timely execution, reaffirming CSL's commitment to supporting the Government of India's vision of self-reliance in defence manufacturing and enhancing indigenous naval shipbuilding capabilities.

The ASW SWC ships are designed to undertake anti-submarine operations in coastal waters, Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO) and Mine Laying Operations including subsurface surveillance. The Yard BY 529 has been named after old port city 'Machilipatnam' along India's east coast located in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh.

The vessel is 78.0 m long, 11.36 m wide with a draught of about 2.7 m. The displacement is about 900 tons, with a maximum speed of 25 knots and endurance of 1800 nautical miles. The ships are designed to fit indigenously developed and built state-of-the-art Hull Mounted Sonar and Low Frequency Variable Depth Sonar for underwater surveillance. ■

Federal Bank Q1 Profit Jumps 36.57% to ₹ 1,177 Cr

Total business nears ₹ 6 lakh crore

Federal Bank has reported net profit of ₹ 1,176.93 crore (record quarterly profit, on an underlying basis) for the quarter ended 30 June 2026 (Q1 FY27), up 36.57% over the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The quarter was defined by the strength of the Bank's core franchise, with net interest income growing 26.06% and fee income 21.71%, even as treasury income remained subdued through a volatile market period.

Commenting on the performance, Mr. KVS Manian, Managing Director and CEO, said: "This quarter demonstrates something important about the franchise we have been building. Our profit grew nearly 37% in a period when treasury had a challenging period, which tells you that the earnings are coming from the core business, not from market gains. Net interest income growing 26% against advances growth of 15% represents the expansion in our NIMs, which has been a core focus for the bank."

"Our net NPA at 0.18% is the lowest in the Bank's recent history, and simultaneously and provision coverage ratio stands at 87%. We are building a resilient balance sheet through a combination of lower credit cost and a strong buffer out of our current earnings."

"Our chosen advance segments are delivering as intended, and the NR and CASA franchises continue to deepen. We enter the rest of the year with our capital position strong, our asset quality at its decadal best, and good momentum in our core business."

Key Highlights - Q1 FY27

- Profitability: Net profit at ₹ 1,176.93 crore, up 36.57% YoY. Earnings per share rose 36.06% to ₹ 19.15.
- Core Earnings Engine: Net Interest Income grew 26.06% to ₹ 2,945.89 crore - well ahead of advances growth of 14.94%.
- Margin Expansion: NIM expanded 39 bps YoY to 3.33%, as Cost of Funds fell 60 bps against a 44 bps compression in asset yield. Cost of Deposits declined 57 bps YoY to 5.21%. ■

Cuticura Unveils Brand Refresh with Priya Prakash Varrier as New Brand Ambassador

Unveils a refreshed brand identity and new TVC marking a fresh phase of growth

Cuticura, one of Kerala's most trusted personal care brands and a true daughter of the soil, has unveiled actress **Priya Prakash Varrier** as its new brand ambassador at a grand launch event held in Kochi. The event marked the official unveiling of Cuticura's refreshed brand journey, introducing a renewed freshness proposition, a new brand film, and an upgraded product experience curated for a younger cohort of consumers. The event also commemorates the silver jubilee year for Cuticura.

Bringing together consumers, business leaders, industry partners, and content creators all under one roof, the launch celebrated Cuticura's enduring relationship with Kerala while signalling its ambitions for the future. The event was attended by Pradeep Cholayil, Chairman & Managing Director, Cholayil Group; Anupam Katheriya, CEO, Cholayil Pvt. Ltd.; Rupa Murudkar, Vice President – Marketing, Cholayil Pvt. Ltd., besides leading content creators from across the state.

The highlight of the event was the premiere of Cuticura's new brand film featuring Priya Prakash Varrier, directed by acclaimed filmmaker V.K. Prakashwith music composed by Gopi Sundar. Centred around the confidence that comes from staying refreshingly fresh through the day, the campaign reflects the evolving aspirations and lifestyles of today's young consumers while staying rooted in the trust that has defined the brand for generations.

The event also marked the introduction of the new and improved Cuticura Talc, now powered by Fragrance Encapsulation Technology, delivering up to 8 hours of long-lasting freshness. Developed through consumer-led innovation, the enhanced formulation reinforces Cuticura's commitment to creating products that meet the evolving needs of modern consumers without compromising on the quality and trust the brand has built over the decades.

Anupam Katheriya, CEO, Cholayil Pvt. Ltd., said, "This launch is much more than the unveiling of a new campaign. It reflects our long-term vision for Cuticura as a contemporary personal care brand that continues to evolve alongside its consumers. From product innovation to modern storytelling, every aspect of this refresh has been designed to reinforce Cuticura's relevance while preserving the trust that consumers have placed in the brand over the years."

BUSINESS NEWS

Enfield hunterhood rolls into Kochi

Royal Enfield's Street culture platform, Hunter Hood, made its debut in Kochi bringing together music, art, skateboarding, urban sport and creative expression in a celebration shaped by the city's own cultural pulse. The sixth edition of HunterHood followed successful editions across Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai, Shillong and Lucknow that drew tens of thousands of participants, transforming the coastal city of Kochi into a playground for riders, artists, musicians, skaters, creators and street culture enthusiasts.

Inspired by the Hunter 350, a motorcycle built for urban agility and self-expression, Hunterhood has carved out a distinct space celebrating street-inspired cultures and bringing together communities beyond motorcycling. Shaped by the people who live these cultures- artists, musicians, dancers, painters, urban sports enthusiasts, and designers, each community adds its own touch to a festival as raw, unfinished and ever-evolving as the streets it celebrates.

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T3 Expansion

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CIAL Golf Resort and Sports Centre

The state's only 18 hole golf course, spanning 136 acres, will be utilized for hospitality services featuring waterfront cottages, sporting facilities, a party/conference hall, and a motel aiming to unlock the full potential of golf tourism.

'Insurance For All': Consumer Awareness Book Series Unveiled

Life insurance leaders unite to advance the vision of Insurance for All by driving greater awareness, understanding & adoption of life insurance among consumers

In a significant step towards advancing the vision of 'Insurance for All', Shri Ajay Seth, Chairman, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), unveiled a Consumer Awareness Comic Book Series aimed at simplifying life insurance concepts and enhancing awareness among consumers. The initiative brought together leaders from the life insurance sector to strengthen the focus on making life insurance more accessible, understandable and relevant for individuals and families across India.

The educative comic book seriesaims to simplify and democratize understanding of life insurance. Rooted in the insight that both prospective buyers and those who avoid the category often perceive it as complex; the initiative aims to address the key concepts, includingMWP (Married Women's Property Act), Waiver of Premium (WoP) and Critical Illness riders. The concepts unique are explained through relatable storytelling rather than technical explanation. The idea of using comics as a medium reflects a shift towards narrative-led learning that resonates across age groups and geographies. Centred around the journey of a young Life insurance advisor, Supriya, the series translates real-life situations into "story memories," helping individuals understand how decisions taken earlier can shape financial security in the future.

While unveiling the comic book series, Shri. Kamlesh Rao, Chairperson, IAC-Life, said, "India's growth story is being shaped by the aspirations, progress and resilience of its people. As the nation advances towards a more inclusive and sustainable economy, strengthening the financial preparedness of households will be a key pillar in building long-term economic resilience. The vision of 'Insurance for All' represents a transformative journey - one that goes beyond expanding insurance penetration to embedding protection as an integral part of financial planning for every Indian family."

GAIL Inks Pact with KABIL to Strengthen Collaboration in Critical Minerals

GAIL (India) Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) to collaborate in the field of critical and strategic minerals, supporting India's long-term resource security. The MoU has been signed by Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Executive Director (R&D & E&P), GAIL, and Shri Sunil Kumar Singh, Chief Executive Officer, KABIL, in the presence of Shri R. K. Singhal, Director (Business Development), GAIL, and other senior officials from both the organizations.

The partnership provides a framework for cooperation in identifying and evaluating opportunities in critical and strategic minerals, facilitating the exchange of technical expertise, capacity building, and exploring joint initiatives across the mining value chain to help strengthen India's long-term supply of these vital resources and clean energy transition.

BUSINESS NEWS

IndianOil Launches Express Delivery of 10 Kg and 5 Kg LPG Cylinders

Mr A. S. Sahney, Chairman, IndianOil, has launched Indane XTRALITE NOW, an innovative 10 kg composite LPG cylinder offering with an express delivery service at a function held in Pune, in the presence of Mr Saumitra P. Srivastava, Director (Marketing) and senior officials of the Corporation.

Designed to meet the evolving expectations of modern households, Indane XTRALITE NOW combines lightweight, rust-free composite cylinder technology with a digitally enabled service ecosystem to deliver greater convenience, safety and transparency. The cylinder features a translucent body for easy LPG level monitoring and is supported by express delivery within four hours of booking, preferred time delivery, and minimal documentation.

During the event, the Chairman of IndianOil also launched express home delivery service for the popular 5 Kg Chhotu cylinder, which will now be delivered within four hours of booking. This initiative further strengthens IndianOil's commitment to providing flexible, convenient LPG solutions tailored to the needs of urban households, professionals, and small families.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr A. S. Sahney, Chairman, IndianOil, said:"Innovation is meaningful only when it enriches the lives of our customers. Indane XTRALITE NOW combines advanced composite cylinder technology with a seamless and enhanced service model to offer a smarter, safer and more convenient LPG experience. The launch reaffirms IndianOil's commitment to delivering future-ready energy solutions while setting new benchmarks in customer service."

Mr Saumitra P. Srivastava, Director (Marketing), IndianOil, added:"Consumers today expect speed, convenience and a seamless experience. Indane XTRALITE NOW reflects Indian Oil's customer-centric approach by combining innovative technology with swift, reliable delivery. It marks another significant step in redefining the domestic LPG experience."

The offering will initially be available in Pune, Gurugram, Indore and Coimbatore, before expanding to 25 additional cities by mid-August 2026 and major cities across the country by the end of October 2026.

Customers can register for new connections and book refills through the IndianOil ONE App and the IndianOil Customer website (https://cx.indianoil.in), with WhatsApp (7588888824) booking facility to be introduced shortly.

The new offering will be available through IndianOil's extensive Indane distributor network and select IndianOil Retail Outlets, ensuring wide accessibility and unmatched convenience.

SIB Posts Robust Net Profit of Rs. 377.63 Cr. in Q1 FY 2026-27

South Indian Bank has declared net profit of Rs. 377.63 Cr. for Q1 FY 2026-27 registering a growth of 17.29% compared to Rs. 321.95 Cr. in Q1 FY 2025-26.

While announcing the financial results,Shri P R Seshadri, MD&CEO, said that their strategy continued to centre around sustained profitability, superior asset quality, a resilient loan book, and a robust retail liability portfolio. We are sharpening our organizational structure and leveraging digital technology to effectively achieve our business objectives.

During the reporting period, the Bank witnessed consistent growth across all targeted segments, with a sharp focus on acquiring quality assets in verticals such as Corporate Lending, Auto Loans and Gold Loans.

Aligned with our strategic intent of *'Profitability through Quality Credit Growth'*, we have successfully onboarded new advances with low-risk profiles, ensuring a well-balanced and healthy credit portfolio.

The Bank's financial results include the financial results of its wholly owned subsidiary SIBOSL.

Key Highlights of Q1 FY 2026-27

- GNPA came down by 177 bps from 3.15% to 1.38% on Y-o-Y basis
- NNPA dropped by 42 bps from 0.68% to 0.26% on Y-o-Y basis
- PCR excl. write- off increased by 247 bps from 78.93% to 81.40% Y-o-Y basis
- PCR including write off increased by 569 bps from 88.82% to 94.51% Y-o-Y basis
- Highest ever Net Interest Income of Rs. 1,025 Cr. with a growth of 23.05% on Y-o-Y basis.

LG Celebrates Onam with Exclusive Festive Offers

LG Electronics India Ltd. ("LG") has announced exclusive offers for its customers in Kerala to celebrate Onam this festive season. With the campaign themed "Technology that Upgrades Celebrations," LG aims to assist every household across the state. The Onam offers will be available till 30th September 2025.

As part of the festive celebrations, LG has introduced a Lucky Draw Contest, where customers stand a chance to win LG products every 10th day. Over the campaign period, 500 lucky winners will be rewarded with LG products, including Solo Microwave Ovens, Mini Refrigerators, Semi-Automatic Washing Machines & Water Purifiers.

Customers can also avail exclusive offers, including cashback of up to 26% (maximum up to ₹ 45,000), 1 EMI free on select models, and fixed EMI options starting as low as ₹ 888. In addition, buyers can ask for extended warranty benefits under the LG Best Care program.

LG is offering a range of benefits across home appliances. These include a free glass bowl kit on select microwave oven models, free maintenance worth ₹ 4,200 on select water purifiers, and a mini refrigerator worth up to ₹ 13,999 or ₹ 11,999 free with the purchase of select side-by-side refrigerators. Customers purchasing split & window air conditioners can also avail a 5-year warranty on PCB & motors.

In the home entertainment category, LG is offering over 100 free LG Channels, a 3-year warranty which includes 1-year standard warranty and next 2 years free of cost promotional warranty in which labour cost is chargeable on select LG OLED TVs, and up to 30% off on LG Sound bars when purchased with select 4K TVs.

Speaking about the Onam campaign, Mr. Hong Ju Jeon, Managing Director, LG Electronics India, said "Onam is a time of joy and togetherness in Kerala, and LG Electronics is delighted to be part of this celebration. . We look forward to making this festive memorable for our consumers."

Muthoot FinCorp Receives RBI's Perpetual AD-II Forex Licence

Muthoot Fincorp Limited has been granted the Perpetual Authorised Dealer Category-II (AD-II) Forex Licence by the Reserve Bank of India, licence enables the Company to offer a comprehensive suite of regulated foreign exchange services to better serve the evolving needs of retail customers, MSMEs, SMEs, corporates, travellers, and its partner ecosystem. Backed by one of India's largest AD-II forex networks, with across the country, Muthoot Fincorp is well-positioned to expand customer access to forex services nationwide.

The perpetual nature of the licence removes the requirement for periodic renewal, providing Muthoot Fincorp with long-term operational continuity, subject to continued compliance with RBI regulations, and reinforcing the Company's governance and regulatory standing. It authorises a full suite of RBI-regulated forex solutions, including foreign currency exchange, multi-currency forex cards, Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) remittances, family maintenance remittances, trade remittances, and forex business correspondent services as a principal agent. The licence also enables the Company to expand its authorised forex network by establishing additional branches across the country, in accordance with RBI guidelines, improving access to regulated forex services for retail customers, MSMEs, SMEs, corporates, students pursuing overseas education, business travellers, NRIs, partner institutions, and individual customers nationwide.

Commenting on the development, Mr. Shaji Varghese, Chief Executive Officer, Muthoot Fincorp Limited, said: "The licence allows us to offer a wider portfolio of regulated forex services including trade & family maintenance remittances to retail customers, MSMEs, SMEs, corporates, travellers, and our partner ecosystem, through our nationwide network. This milestone aligns with our long-term vision of supporting India's growing trade, travel, education, and remittance ecosystem, and we will continue to invest in technology and distribution to deliver secure, compliant, and customer-centric forex solutions that create lasting value for our customers, partners, and stakeholders."

BUSINESS NEWS

N M PRABHAKARAN

Govt Sells 6.5% LIC stake, Eyes Rs 31,000 Cr

At the floor price, the government could raise more than Rs 31,000 crore, making it one of the country's largest share sales

The Government of India has decided to sell a portion of the its stake in the insurance giant, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), which will bring a huge amount to the government's kitty. Though rumours about sale of shares of LIC has been in the air for quite some time with the Government postponing a decision, finally the time has come as a formal decision has been taken in this regard.

Sale of LIC shares is deemed as one of the biggest disinvestment exercises in recent years, the central government will offload up to 6.5% stake in LIC through the offer-for-sale (OFS) route. The floor price has been fixed at Rs 382 a share. At the floor price, the government could raise more than Rs 31,000 crore, making it one of the country's largest share sales.

The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) said, "The government offers to disinvest 2.5% equity with an additional 4% as a greenshoe option. The floor price has been fixed at Rs 382 per share. This will help achieve minimum public shareholding (MPS) milestones ahead of schedule."

The OFS will open for non-retail investors initially followed by retail investors. The Centre currently holds 96.5% in LIC and, if the entire greenshoe option is exercised, its stake will fall to 90%.

The government has also earmarked 50 lakh shares for eligible LIC employees under a separate employee reservation. Eligible employees can apply for shares worth up to Rs 5 lakh.

At least 10% of the offer has been reserved for retail investors, while 25% of the non-retail portion has been earmarked for mutual funds and insurance companies, subject to valid bids at or above the floor price. The government said it would decide whether to exercise the greenshoe option after the close of trading on the first day of the OFS.

LIC was listed in May 2022 through a Rs 20,500-crore IPO, the largest in India's capital market history. The government had diluted 3.5% stake through the issue, although the original plan was to divest at least 5%.

LIC had earlier received regulatory approval to retain a promoter holding of 96.5%, well above the mandated 75%, for an additional three years. Under the revised timeline, the insurer is required to achieve 10% public shareholding by May 16, 2027. Listed companies are generally required to maintain a minimum 25% public float under public shareholding norms.

The proposed stake sale is expected to provide a much-needed boost to the government's finances. The Centre has budgeted Rs 80,000 crore in disinvestment receipts for FY27 and has so far mobilised about Rs 21,000 crore, largely through the OFS route.

The OFS mechanism enables promoters and existing shareholders to sell their holdings in listed companies without the issuance of fresh equity.

LIC is the leading life insurance company in India with over 56% market share based on premium income. As of the end of March 2026, the firm had assets under management of 57.29 trillion rupees (about $600 billion).

The government had sold a 3.5% stake in the insurer during its IPO in 2022, which was among the largest share issues in the Indian markets at that time, raising over $2.7 billion.

Earlier this year, the government sold stakes in several companies such as Cochin Shipyard, Indian Railways Finance Corp, NHPC, and Coal India, raising a total of 210 billion rupees.

Most of these stake sales were issued at a discount to improve absorption of large volumes and ensure successful disinvestment of government shareholdings.

Bank of India Q1 FY27 profit surges 36%

Bank of India ha unveiled its Q1 FY 2026-27 performance showcasing one of its strongest quarters in recent years with net profit climbing 36% year-over-year to ₹ 3,068 crore. The state-owned lender, celebrating 126 years of operations, demonstrated broad-based growth across all business segments while maintaining robust asset quality metrics.

The bank's global business crossed the ₹17.50 lakh crore milestone, growing 16.57% year-over-year, supported by strong momentum in retail, agriculture, and MSME lending. Despite some margin pressure from elevated funding costs, Bank of India sustained its return on assets above 1%, a critical profitability threshold for public sector banks.

The bank achieved double-digit growth across virtually all key metrics.

Quarterly Performance Highlights

Bank of India reported operating profit of ₹ 5,051 crore, up 25.99% year-over-year, while net interest income rose 12.61% to ₹ 6,833 crore. The bank's cost-to-income ratio improved significantly to 46.33%, reflecting better operational efficiency and scale benefits from business growth.

Non-interest income grew 19.07% to ₹ 2,579 crore, driven by higher recovery in written-off accounts (₹ 609 crore, up 89% YoY) and improved treasury gains. The bank's return on equity reached 16.12%, while return on assets held steady at 1.01%.

Bank of India's Q1 FY27 Net Profit rises 36.23% YoY to ₹ 3,068 crore

Mumbai, 24th July 2026: Bank of India announced its financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2026. The Bank's net profit increased by 36.23% YoY to ₹ 3,068 crore in Q1 FY27. Return on Assets and Return on Equity improved to 1.01% and 16.12%, respectively.

Bank's Operating Profit for Q1 FY27 grew to ₹ 5,051 crorewith a growth of 25.99%.

Bank's Global Business Mix registered a growth of 16.57% YoY from ₹ 15,06,142 Cr in Jun'25 to ₹ 17,55,699 Cr in Jun'26. Global Deposits increased by 14.90% YoY from ₹ 8,33,698 Cr in Jun'25 to ₹ 9,57,924 Cr in Jun'26. Global Advances increased by 18.64% YoY from ₹ 6,72,444 Cr in Jun'25 to ₹ 7,97,775 Cr in Jun'26. Overseas Deposits increased by 7.73% YOY to ₹ 1,32,961 Cr and Overseas Advances increased by 15.67% YOY to ₹ 1,23,942 Cr in Jun'26.

Domestic Deposits increased by 16.15% YoY from ₹ 7,10,277 Cr in Jun'25 to ₹ 8,24,963 Cr in Jun'26. Domestic CASA went up from ₹ 2,81,846 Cr in Jun'25 to ₹ 3,02,085 Cr in Jun'26 and CASA ratio stood at 36.68%. Domestic Advances increased by 19.20% YoY from ₹ 5,65,297 Cr in Jun'25 to ₹ 6,73,833 Cr in Jun'26.

RAM Advances increased by 19.75% YoY from ₹ 3,28,048 Cr in Jun'25 to ₹ 3,92,833 Cr in Jun'26, constituting 58.30% of domestic Gross Advances in Jun'26. Retail Credit increased by 20.60% YoY from ₹ 1,37,782 Cr in Jun'25 to ₹ 1,66,170 Cr in Jun'26. MSME Advances increased by 19.34% YoY from ₹ 92,908 Cr in Jun'25 to ₹ 1,10,881 Cr in Jun'26. Agriculture Credit increased by 18.92% YoY from ₹ 97,358 Cr in Jun'25 to ₹ 1,15,782 Cr in Jun'26.

Bank's Gross NPA ratio improved by 111 bps from 2.92% in Jun'25 to 1.81% in Jun'26. Net NPA ratio improved by 24 bps from 0.75% in Jun'25 to 0.51% in Jun'26.

Bank's quarterly slippage ratio improved by 9 bps YoY to 0.24%. Bank's Credit Cost improved from 0.17 for Q1 FY26 to 0.15 for Q1 FY27. Capital Adequacy Ratio (CRAR) as on 30.06.2026 stands at 18.69%. Bank's total number of Digital Transactions improved by 22% YoY from 1.70 billion in Jun'25 to 2.08 billion in Jun'26.

Jawa Yezdi kicks-off 2026 festive season with new Yezdi range

Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles has unveiled Yezdi's 2026 range just in time for India's festivities. Named as the 'Untamed Trinity', three purpose-built motorcycles - Yellow Falcon Adventure, Green Mamba Roadster and Grey Panther Scrambler - continue Yezdi's evolution, where every new expression answers a genuine rider need. The trio begins its national rollout from Kerala as India enters its festive season starting with Onam.

Leading the range is the Yellow Falcon Adventure, introducing cross-spoke wheels that combine the strength of traditional spoke wheels with the convenience of tubeless tyres, one of the most requested upgrades from riders. It also introduces a unique grey and yellow colourway with signature decals. The new wheel option will be available across the Yezdi Adventure range. Powered by the 334-cc liquid-cooled Alpha2 engine producing 29.6 PS power and 29.9 Nm torque, it continues with traction control and ABS modes (Road, Rain and Off-road).

The Green Mamba Roadster receives a distinctive matte green finish complemented by a quilted Arabica-brown seat and signature copper decals. It retains the Roadster's 334-cc liquid-cooled Alpha2 engine, six-speed gearbox, assist-and-slipper clutch, and modular seating. The Grey Panther Scrambler wears a sophisticated metallic grey finish with ribbed Arabica-brown seats and matching tank pads and is powered by the 334-cc liquid-cooled KATAR engine, delivering a perfect 30-30-30 balance of 30 PS power, 30 Nm torque and 30 km/l efficiency while retaining its agility and everyday usability.

With Onam ushering in India's festive season, Kerala sets the stage for the national rollout of the 2026 Yezdi range. It is also one of India's largest markets for mid-cc motorcycles, where Yezdi has long been part of culture, touring traditions, personal stories, and even cinema.

Anupam Thareja, Co-Founder, Classic Legends, said: "As Onam marks the start of India's festive season, there could be no better place or time to reaffirm our commitment to Kerala and its riders. Kerala hasalways been close to my heart as a rider,and it has made Yezdi its ownfrom its past glory to the new launch.We are proud to unveil the 2026 range for India, from Kerala, as we continue bringing the brand closer to riders across the country"

BUSINESS NEWS

Aster DM Quality Care Limited Q1 FY27 Results

Q1 FY27 Revenues up by 20% to RS. 2,597 Cr; Op. EBITDA up by 30%

Aster DM Quality Care Limited, one of the leading integrated healthcare service providers in India, has announced its financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2026.

Dr. Azad Moopen, Executive Chairman, said: "The coming together of Aster DM Quality Care marks a defining milestone in our nearly four-decade journey of building world-class healthcare institutions. We aspire to create one of India's leading integrated healthcare platforms, bringing together Aster, CARE, KIMS India, and Evercare into a unified network with over 10,800 beds across 28 cities, positioning Aster Quality Care among the top three hospital chains in India. Over the coming years, we expect to expand this network to more than 15,000 beds.

As we embark on this new chapter, our philosophy is simple: greater scale, greater clinical excellence, and greater impact. By combining exceptional medical talent with advanced technology, artificial intelligence, robotics, research, and innovation, we will redefine the future of healthcare delivery.

Mr. Varun Khanna, Managing Director & Group CEO, said:"The recent merger and formation of Aster DM Quality Care, marks a significant moment for the companies, our patients, our doctors and clinical staff, and for the industry overall. In this new chapter we are committed to keeping our core and value system unchanged, with continued focus on patient care, enabling doctors and hospital operations through technology, and best-in-class clinical outcomes.

Aster DM Quality Care on a combined proforma basis achieved a revenue of INR 2,597 Cr, a growth of 20% YoY, with an EBITDA Margin expansion of +170 bps at 22.2%, on the back of an operating EBITDA increase of 30% to INR 576 Cr. We had the privilege of serving 2 million people in our OP and IP in Q1 FY27, which is 13% more people than in the previous year. Our focus in the coming quarters is on disciplined execution – enhancing patient care, unlocking the full potential of our combined platform, and driving long-term value through operational excellence."

Key Financial Highlights

- Revenue for Q1 FY27 grew by 20% YoY to Rs. 2,597 Cr
- Operating EBITDA grew by 30% YoY to INR 576 Cr; (excl. Kasargod up by 31% Cr).
- Operating EBITDA margin at 22.2%, increased by 170bps YoY
- Excl. Kasargod Op. EBITDA margin stood at 22.4%, increased by 190bps YoY
- Kasargod Hospital achieved Monthly EBITDA break-even within 9th month of operations
- ROCE stood at 22.9%, increased by 246 bps YoY

Muthoot Microfin Registers Rs. 81 cr profit in Q1

Muthoot Microfin Limited,one of India's leading Non-Banking Financial Company-Micro Finance Institutions, focused on providing micro-loans to women entrepreneurs with a focus on rural regions of India, has announced its unaudited financial performance for the first quarter of the financial year 2026-27.

Business Highlights – Q1 FY27

Gross Loan Portfolio (GLP) grew 18.0% YoY and 3.2% QoQ to Rs. 14,457 crore, reflecting strong business momentum. Disbursements stood at Rs. 2,645 crore, registering a growth of 48.9% YoY; marking the highest-ever first quarter disbursements in the Company's history

Portfolio diversification continued, with the Non-JLG portfolio increasing to 24%, driven by sustained growth in the Small and Micro Enterprise Individual Loan segment

Commenced gold loan disbursements under the referral and co-lending partnership with Muthoot Fincorp Limited during the quarter.CRISIL upgraded long-term credit rating to CRISIL AA-/Stable from CRISIL A+/Positive, while reaffirming the CRISIL A1+ rating on its Commercial Paper

Digital collections increased to 40.5%, compared with 23.1% in Q1 FY26, reflecting continued customer adoption of digital payment channels. Active customer base stood at 32.5 lakh, supported by a pan-India network of 1,671 branches and 15,639 employees.

Financial Highlights – Q1 FY27

Total Income grew 20.0% YoY and 5.0% QoQ to Rs. 670.6 crore; Net Interest Margin (NIM) remained stable at 12.0%.

Pre-Provision Operating Profit (PPOP) increased 43.3% YoY and 2.9% QoQ to Rs. 198.5 crore.

Profit After Tax (PAT) stood at Rs. 81.3 crore, registering a growth of 12x YoY and 14.4% QoQ.

Commenting on the performanceMr. Thomas Muthoot, Chairman & Non-Executive Director of Muthoot Microfin, said"FY27 marks an inflection point for the microfinance sector, with improving collection trends and a more stable operating environment.

Despite the seasonally softer first quarter, Muthoot Microfin delivered a strong start to the year, with Assets under Management growing 18% year-on-year to ₹ 14,457.2 crore. The steady strengthening of our credit profile, reflected in the recent CRISIL credit rating upgrade, reinforces the strength of our business fundamentals & enhances our ability to access diversified funding at competitive costs.

At the same time, we are also steadily transforming into a more diversified lending franchise. The improvement in our JLG and Non-JLG portfolio mix, the expansion of Small Enterprise Loan segment and the launch of gold loans through co-lending partnerships are important milestones in this journey. Together these initiatives help in building a portfolio that is more resilient across cycles." ■

BUSINESS NEWS

myG Future Epic opens at Kochi Marine Drive

myG Future Epic Showroom has started operations at Marine Drive, Kochi with the concept of 'Experience First Then Shop', which Kochi has never seen before in digital retailing. Home Minister Mr. Ramesh Chennithala, myG Brand Ambassador and popular Malayalam star Manju Warrier, famous actor Asif Ali, and myG India Private Limited Chairman A. K. Shaji jointly inaugurated the show-room. Mr. Hibi Eden (MP), Mr. Muhammed Shias (MLA), and V. K. Minimol (Kochi Mayor) attended the function as chief guests.

Unlike regular shopping, this showroom offers the opportunity to experience each product and shop. This is the largest digital gadgets & home appliances showroom spread over two floors, covering 35,000 square feet. It is also the second Epic showroom in Kerala after Kozhikode. The first 500 people to visit the showroom will get the opportunity to purchase products at the biggest discount, a cashback of Rs. 1,600 for every purchase of Rs. 10,000, and valuable gifts for 2 lucky winners selected from those who purchase every hour. "Shopping is no longer limited to just looking at products and buying them. myG Future Epic envisions a new shopping culture where you can directly operate whatever you want to buy, whether it's a gadget or an appliance, understand its technology and features through your own experience, and choose with confidence," said A. K. Shaji, Chairman, myG India Private Limited.

"With the latest technology and extensive collections from world-class brands under one roof, myG Future Epic is not just a regular electronics & home appliances showroom, but also an ultimate experience hub where you can get up close and personal with technology," he added.

The showroom is designed to the standards of world-class cities. Customers get a shopping experience like in malls here. Along with digital gadgets, an innumerable collection of Home & Kitchen Appliances, Small Appliances, Glass & Crockery, Accessories, IT & Personal Care Products, Security Systems, Custom Made Computers, Home & Office Automation Systems, Kitchen Utensils imported from various countries, etc. will be available here. Ample car parking facilities have also been provided here to enjoy shopping without any rush.

On the occasion of the inauguration, myG had prepared an opportunity to acquire everything from smartphones to home appliances at the best prices. Along with providing the latest technology in the world at low prices, myG Future Epic provides premium service & world-class ambience. myG Chairman A. K. Shaji announced that myG will expand its operations with Epic showrooms to other districts of Kerala in the future, providing an extraordinary experience. ■


Muthoot Finance
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