

SHINE JACOB
Kochi, 19 July

The historic feat by Skyroot Aerospace on Saturday, becoming the first private firm to fly an Indian-built rocket to orbit on its maiden attempt, may well be the moment that unlocks upstream space services in India, experts say.

According to the Indian Space Association (ISPA), of the roughly \$9 billion Indian space economy, the downstream segment accounts for around 80 per cent, or \$7.8 billion. Skyroot's success, also dubbed India's SpaceX moment, is key to the growth of the upstream segment, valued at \$1.2 billion, as rocket technology underpins the entire space ecosystem, said Lieutenant General Anil K Bhatt (retired), director general of ISPA. "Launch vehicles are the key that opens all these opportunities. Indigenous private space capability in this domain opens doors for all sectors," Bhatt said.

On Saturday, Mission Aagam, meaning "arrival", lifted off from the first launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. Vikram-1 flew a nominal profile to reach its target low Earth orbit of about 450 kilometres at a 60-degree inclination, where it successfully deployed its payloads. With the mission, Skyroot joined the exclusive group of companies capable of reaching orbit.

“Beyond the engineering marvel of an all-carbon composite rocket, this launch is a masterclass in public-private co-existence. With Skyroot’s validation as India’s first space-tech unicorn, this success is a resounding signal to global sovereign and institutional funds. The Indian private



PHOTO:REUTERS

Vikram-1, launched on Saturday, paves the way for launch vehicles, manufacturing, and commercial space services

space sector is no longer a high-risk bet; it is a highly bankable, globally competitive asset class capable of easing the global small satellite launch bottleneck," Bhatt said.

Vikram-1 is a seven-storey-tall, multi-stage orbital launch vehicle built around an all-carbon composite structure and powered by in-house-developed propulsion systems, including 3D-printed engines and high-thrust solid-fuel motors. It is designed to carry small satellites weighing up to 350 kilograms (kg) into low Earth orbit. Its ultra-low-shock, ground-testable separation systems are engineered to protect the delicate satellites it carries.

On this flight, Vikram-1 carried technology demonstration payloads from Grahaa Space, Cosmoserve, and Dcubed, alongside Skyroot's own Scope satellite, as well as Cosmos Diamonds' artwork, Cosmic Bloom, and a microart piece — a small, human reminder of what access to space can carry.

"Lower-cost and more responsive launch services will enable more Indian satellite operators to deploy and replenish constellations, improving availability, revisit frequency, and timeliness of Earth observation data. Equally important, they lower the barrier for emerging downstream and application-focused space startups to own and operate dedicated satellite assets tailored to specific industry needs," said Krishanu Acharya, cofounder and chief executive officer of Suhora Technologies.

"This milestone beautifully demonstrates how India's space economy is thriving through a truly collaborative ecosystem, where the government, startups, academia, investors, and global industry players are helping build the NewSpace future together," said Gautam Sharma, managing director of Viasat India.

The success of Vikram-1 lays the foundation for Skyroot's commercial launch programme and reinforces India's emergence as a major force in the global space economy. The company's road map includes Vikram-2, capable of carrying payloads of up to 1,000 kg to low Earth orbit, with its maiden flight targeted for 2027, as well as a fully reusable launch vehicle, with both the booster and upper stage engineered for recovery and reuse, to further reduce the cost of reaching orbit.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Chhatarpur, 19 July

Madhya Pradesh (MP) police on Sunday broke up a 17-day protest against the Ken-Betwa Link and other development projects in Chhatarpur district by dispersing protesters and shifting movement leader Amit Bhatnagar, who has been on an 11-day fast, to a hospital.

Bhatnagar, however, remained defiant by stating he

had not ended his fast and would not do so “even if it costs me my life”.

Mainly led by tribal women, the protest had been going since July 3 on the banks of the Barana river near Kupi village, and saw the staging of *jal satyagraha*, *chita* (funeral pyre) *satyagraha* and a symbolic *faansi* (hanging) *satyagraha* by protesters.

Protesters alleged that Bhatnagar and others were detained during the police action, a claim



PHOTO: PTI

Hospitalised protest leader Amit Bhatnagar said he would not end his fast

denied by the administration.
Additional Superintendent

HEMANT KUMAR ROUT
Bhubaneswar, 19 July

A massive forest clearance proposal in Odisha's coal-rich Angul district has sparked environmental concerns, with activists warning that the proposed Alakananda coal mine could clear almost the entire tree cover within its lease area.

The Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has recommended Stage-I approval for diversion of about 754 hectares (ha) of forest land for the project, despite records showing that 331,818 of the 334,408 enumerated trees within the lease area are proposed to be felled.

The Alakananda coal mine, allotted to Rungta Sons, spans 1,102 ha, including 754.04 ha of forest, 91.2 ha of government, and 256.76 ha of private land. Located in the Talcher coalfield in Chhendipada tehsil, the coal block with over 500 million tonne of fossil fuel reserve involves diversion of 436.47 ha of reserved forest and 316.21 ha of revenue forest.

Environmentalists say nearly 99 per cent of the trees within the mining area, located about 5 kilometres from the Similipal-Satkosia tiger corridor, could be cut.

Jayakrushna Panigrahi,
working president of the Orissa



The Alakananda coal mine in Angul forest division could clear 99% of the tree cover within its lease area

Environmental Society, said the proposal goes far beyond a routine forest clearance. "The number is staggering... The figures indicate that almost the entire existing tree cover within the lease area is proposed to be destroyed," he said, adding that mining, industrial expansion, roads, railways, and urbanisation have already caused extensive forest loss in Odisha.

The FAC has directed that tree felling be phased and restricted to the minimum necessary. It also asked the state forest department and the project proponent to explore transplantation of trees below 30 centimetre girth, wherever technically feasible, and relocate at least 50 per cent of such trees to suitable nearby sites, in addition to compensatory afforestation. Environmental-

whether replantation and compensatory afforestation can offset the loss of a mature natural forest. "Compensatory afforestation should not become a justification for the destruction of natural forests," said campaigner Prashant Kumar Padhi. The project entails the displacement of 818 families and affects 1,584 families across five villages, raising concerns over the loss of forest resources and traditional livelihoods.

Environmental lawyer Sankar Prasad Pani said Chhendhipada, regarded as the “lungs” of Angul district, has seen a surge in coal mining approvals with little regard for ecological consequences. “Since 2020, at least 30 coal mines have been allotted and are at different stages of development. Five are already operational, with 100,000 trees felled,” he said.

The FAC has directed the state government to implement rehabilitation and resettlement in line with the approved plan at the project proponent's cost. It also made wildlife clearance conditional on a regional wildlife management plan. The state government has argued that the coal block is site-specific because economically mineable coal seams lie beneath the forest.

**IN THE COURT OF MOTOR ACCIDENT
CLAIMS TRIBUNAL
(SPECIAL DISTRICT JUDGE OF DHARMAPURI)
I.A./ 202 IN M.C.O.P.No.41/ 2024**

1. Muthumthal, 2. Kuppnan,
3. Minor Vijayhari,
1st Minor Petitioner Guardian
Petitioner MuthumthalPetitioners

/VS/

Universal Sompoo General Insurance
Company Ltd.,
Unit No.401, 4th Floor,Sangam Complex,
127,Anderi Kurla Road, Andheri (E),
Mumbai-400059, Maharashtra.

.....6th Respondent

NOTICE

The above Petitioners has filed a petition under section 156 MV Act. The above Petition is posted on 17.08.2026 for his objection or counter if have any. Valid objection you may raise it in person or by a pleader before the Special District Judge of Dharmapuri at 10.30 am on that day otherwise the above said matter will be decided as ex parte.

This notice is issued as per the order of the court.

Counsel for the Petitioners
K. TAMILRAJ, B.A., B.L.,
MS. 558/2001
ADVOCATE,
DHARMAPURI
Cell:-949430 56185

**Gujarat International Finance
Tec-City Company Limited (GIFTCL)**

Notice for Invitation to Bid

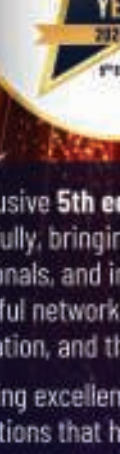
Gujarat International Finance Tec-City Company Limited invites bids from reputed, qualified experienced and financially sound Bidders for the following Assignment:

Name of Assignment	Online Availability of RFP Document	Last Date of Online & Physical Bid Submission
Appointment of agency for Curation & Execution of Navratni festival as Global brand in GIFT City (RFP Reference No.: GIFT/RFP/MRKT/2026/08)	18th July 2026 to 30th July 2026 up to 17:00 hrs	31st July 2026 up to 15:00 hrs

RFP document may be downloaded online from website at <https://tender.nprocure.com>
Tender fee of RFP document is Rs. 10,000/- payable in the form of Demand Draft / Banker's Cheque / Pay Order in favor of "Gujarat International Finance Tec-City Company Limited" payable at Ahmedabad. For further details and updates please log on to our Website www.giftgujarat.in & <https://tender.nprocure.com>

Contact Person: **General Manager (P&C)** **Sd/-**
Managing Director & Group CEO
 Tel: 079-61708300 E-mail: contract@giftgujarat.in

Gujarat International Finance Tec-City Company Limited (GIFTCL)
 EPS Building No. 49A, Block 49, Zone 04, Gyan Marg, GIFT City, Gujarat, INDIA. Pin-382050.
 Tel.: +91 79 61708300, CIN:U75100GJ2007SGC051160



BRAND OF THE YEAR
2026-27
1ST EDITION

POST EVENT COVERAGE

03 JULY 2026 | Novotel Mumbai International Airport

Intelligent by Design Creating Experiences That Anticipate Celebrating Visionary Brands, Shaping the Future of Excellence

The exclusive **5th edition of Brand of the Year 2026-27** hosted by Team Marksmen Network, concluded successfully, bringing together India's most admired brands, visionary business leaders, marketing professionals, and industry pioneers for an inspiring event of celebration, thought leadership, and meaningful networking. More than an awards ceremony, the platform fostered insightful conversations, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas that are shaping the future of branding.

Celebrating excellence in brand leadership, innovation, and customer trust, the event honoured organizations that have redefined industry benchmarks and built lasting brand value. The event featured engaging keynote addresses, thought-provoking fire-side chat, and powerful perspectives on brand strategy, consumer engagement, innovation, and the evolving landscape of brand excellence.

The highlight of the event was the prestigious awards ceremony, celebrating brands that have demonstrated exceptional excellence, innovation, and leadership.

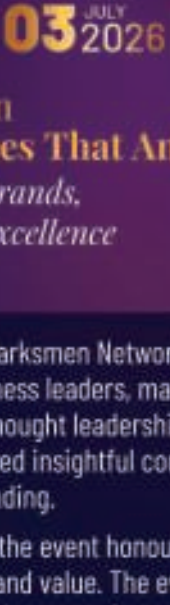
BRANDS HONOURED AT THE GALA CEREMONY 2026 INCLUDED

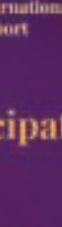
x u v 7 x o

And more...

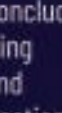
CELEBRATING BRANDS SETTING NEW BENCHMARKS IN EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION



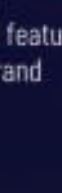
Presented by



Televised on



Magazine partner



Media partners




Brought to you by



To know more about such brand initiatives,
write to us at: info@teammarksmen.com or visit our website: www.teammarksmen.com