

IBT[®]
IBT INSTITUTE PVT. LTD

WEEKLY —
Current
Affairs



NATIONAL NEWS

IIM Bangalore emerged as the top business school in India

- **Global Dominance in Executive Education:** In the QS Executive MBA Rankings 2026, IIM Bangalore emerged as the top-ranked business school in India, securing the 64th position globally. Notably, it remains the only Indian institution to feature in the prestigious global top 100 for this category.
- **Academic and Subject-Specific Leadership:** According to the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026, IIMB is ranked 29th globally for Business and Management Studies. This reflects high scores in academic reputation (\$78.9\$) and employer reputation (\$80.9\$), placing it significantly ahead of most regional competitors in those specific metrics.
- **NIRF and Domestic Standing:** In the latest National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2026, IIM Bangalore maintained its elite status as the #2 business school in India, closely following IIM Ahmedabad.

India's First MLFF Tolling System Launched in Gujarat

- **Location and Scale:** The system was successfully operationalized at the Chorayasi Toll Plaza on the Surat–Bharuch section of NH-48 in Gujarat. On its very first day of implementation, approximately 41,500 vehicles passed through the plaza without stopping.
- **Barrier-less Technology:** Unlike traditional plazas, the MLFF system uses overhead gantries equipped with Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras and advanced FASTag RFID readers. This allows vehicles to maintain highway speeds (\$80\$–\$100\$ km/h) while tolls are automatically deducted, completely eliminating physical boom barriers and stop-start congestion.
- **New Payment & Penalty Rules:** To support this "stop-free" movement, the Ministry has introduced a 72-hour grace period. If a FASTag has insufficient balance, an E-Notice is issued; if the toll is paid within 72 hours, only the normal fee applies.

Footnotes: Gujarat's CM: Bhupendrabhai Patel, Governor: Acharya Devvrat, Capital: Gandhinagar

India Sets Guinness Record with Largest Underwater Tricolour

- **Unprecedented Scale and Location:** The record-breaking Tricolour measured an immense \$60\$ metres by \$40\$ metres. The unfurling took place beneath the turquoise waters of the iconic Radhanagar Beach on Swaraj Dweep (formerly Havelock Island), a site frequently ranked among the world's best beaches.
- **Massive Collaborative Effort:** The operation involved a team of 223 divers, including personnel from the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, Andaman and Nicobar Police, and the Forest Department, alongside private scuba divers. Notably, the Lieutenant Governor

of the islands, Admiral (Retd.) D.K. Joshi, was a member of the diving team that executed the mission.

- **Strategic Objective:** Beyond the record, the initiative was designed to promote the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as a premier global destination for scuba diving and adventure tourism.

Karnataka Launches India's first State-led CoE for Space Tech

- **First-of-its-Kind Collaboration:** Launched on May 1, 2026, the CoESpaceTech Foundation in Bengaluru is India's first state-led Centre of Excellence for space technology. It is established by the Karnataka government through the Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS) in collaboration with the Satcom Industry Association of India (SIA-India).
- **Focus on Societal Impact & Commercialization:** Operating under the theme "Space Tech for Societal Impact," the center aims to bridge the gap between academic research and commercial market readiness. It is designed to drive startup incubation, talent development, and the application of space tech in critical sectors like agriculture, climate monitoring, and disaster management.
- **Global Tech & Research Partnerships:** To accelerate cutting-edge development, the CoE signed multiple high-profile MoUs on launch day, partnering with Dassault Systèmes (for advanced simulation and software tools), Manipal Academy of Higher Education (for space biology and microgravity research), and US-based Helogen Corporation (to explore space-based biomanufacturing).

Footnotes: Karnataka's CM: Siddaramaiah, Capital: Bengaluru, Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot

India's Private Sector Launches 'Mission Drishti' Earth Observation Satellite

- **India's Largest Privately Built Satellite:** Weighing approximately 190 kg, Mission Drishti is the largest privately developed Earth observation satellite in Indian history. It marks a significant shift for India's space ecosystem—moving from small-scale testing to robust, commercial-grade hardware developed entirely by private enterprise.
- **World's First OptoSAR Technology:** Drishti is the first satellite globally to feature SyncFusedOptoSAR technology. By combining Electro-Optical (EO) cameras with Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) on a single platform, it overcomes the limits of traditional imaging. It can capture highly detailed, intuitive color photos while simultaneously using radar to peer through thick clouds, monsoonal rain, and pitch darkness.
- **Onboard AI Edge Computing:** Powering the satellite's "brain" is an NVIDIA Jetson Orin computing platform. Instead of sending massive, raw data streams back to Earth for heavy processing, the satellite uses onboard artificial intelligence to process and compress complex radar data directly in orbit.

Union Minister Launches 'Cell Broadcast System' For Disaster Warnings

- **Indigenous Collaboration:** The system was developed entirely indigenously by the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), working in close collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Superior "No-Network-Lag" Technology:** Unlike traditional SMS-based alerts—which can suffer from severe network congestion and queuing delays during crises—Cell Broadcast technology bypasses individual phone numbers entirely. It sends localized, near-real-time messages simultaneously to all active mobile devices connected to targeted cell towers, operating seamlessly even without cellular data or active internet connections.
- **Unmissable, Multilingual Safety Alerts:** To ensure maximum visibility and action, the emergency alerts support multiple regional languages and are delivered as high-priority pop-up notifications.

Indian journalists win prestigious US Award

- **The Prestigious Honor:** Indian journalists Anand RK (illustrator) and Suparna Sharma (investigative journalist) won the 2026 Pulitzer Prize—one of the highest honors in global journalism.
- **The Award-Winning Work:** They won in the Illustrated Reporting and Commentary category for their collaborative Bloomberg report titled "trAPPed."
- **The Subject Matter:** Their work used a powerful blend of visuals and words to expose the growing global threat of cybercrime, specifically detailing the harrowing "digital arrest" and financial extortion of a Lucknow-based neurologist.

NITI Aayog Launches Central Prabhari Officer Portal

- **Primary Objective:** Launched by NITI Aayog CEO Nidhi Chhibber on May 5, 2026, the portal aims to strengthen real-time governance, improve stakeholder coordination, and accelerate last-mile delivery under the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP).
- **Real-Time Field Reporting:** The platform acts as a digital interface allowing Central Prabhari Officers to submit real-time field observations, bottlenecks, and policy recommendations directly via their mobile devices.
- **Seamless Administrative Response:** Once submitted, the data goes live instantly. This allows District Magistrates, State Planning Secretaries, and central line ministries to immediately view suggestions, take swift corrective actions, and track implementation progress on a single unified dashboard.

Footnotes: **NITI Aayog's Chairperson:** Narendra Modi, **HQ:** New Delhi, **Estd:** 2015

NSE Launches Electronic Gold Receipts in Gold Market

- **The Launch:** The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) officially introduced Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs) as a new trading segment on May 4, 2026, to digitize and formalize India's fragmented gold market.
- **How It Works:** EGRs are dematerialized, digital securities representing real, physical gold stored in SEBI-accredited vaults. Held directly in investors' demat accounts, they can be traded on the exchange like stocks, with the flexibility to convert the digital receipts back into physical gold.
- **Key Benefits:** Designed to enhance transparent price discovery and build trust, the system allows for trading in smaller denominations (starting as low as 100 milligrams). This opens up secure gold investment to retail investors, jewellers, refiners, and institutional traders alike, while eliminating storage and purity concerns.

Footnotes: NSE's MD & CEO: Ashishkumar Chauhan, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1992

Chief Minister of Assam Himanta Sarma resigns

- **Paving Way for New Government:** The resignation follows the conclusion of the 2026 Assam Assembly elections, where the BJP-led NDA secured a historic third consecutive victory with a landslide 102 seats in the 126-member assembly.
- **Caretaker Role:** The Governor has accepted the resignation and dissolved the current Legislative Assembly but has requested Sarma to continue as the caretaker Chief Minister until the formal swearing-in of the new government.
- **Upcoming Government Formation:** The BJP has appointed central observers (including J.P. Nadda) to oversee the election of the legislature party leader; the new government's oath-taking ceremony is expected to take place after May 11, 2026.

Footnotes: Assam's Governor: Lakshman Acharya, CM: Himanta Biswa Sarma, Capital: Dispur

NLC India Signs Nuclear Agreement with EDF France

- **Technology & Innovation:** The partnership involves a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) to explore the development of advanced nuclear technologies, specifically focusing on European Pressurized Reactors (EPR) and Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).
- **Strategic Diversification:** This marks a major shift for NLC India, traditionally known for lignite mining and thermal power. Simultaneously, the company announced it is shelving its ₹4,400-crore lignite-to-methanol project to focus on large-scale, sustainable energy like nuclear power.
- **National Energy Alignment:** The collaboration supports India's goal of reaching 100 GW of nuclear capacity by 2047. It follows a similar recent pact between NTPC and EDF, signaling a coordinated effort by Indian Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) to integrate international expertise into the domestic energy mix.

SEBI Sets Up 'Cyber-suraksha.ai' Task Force

- **Objective:** Formed in May 2026, this task force is designed to counter emerging cybersecurity risks posed by advanced AI-driven tools (like Mythos) that can rapidly identify and exploit system vulnerabilities.
- **Composition:** The group consists of a diverse range of stakeholders, including representatives from Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs), Qualified Registrars and Transfer Agents (QRTAs), and other regulated financial entities.
- **Core Mandate:** Its primary roles are to develop uniform mitigation strategies, facilitate the sharing of real-time threat intelligence, and establish best practices to protect the interconnected securities market from cascading cyberattacks.

India Opens Pavilion at La Biennale di Venezia 2026

- **Significant Return:** India has officially inaugurated its national pavilion at the 61st Venice Biennale (May 2026), marking its return to the prestigious global art event after a six-year hiatus.
- **Theme & Curation:** Curated by Dr. Amin Jaffer, the exhibition is titled "Geographies of Distance: Remembering Home," focusing on memory, migration, and the evolving meaning of "home" in a rapidly changing world.
- **Artistic Showcase:** The pavilion features diverse works from five contemporary artists—Alwar Balasubramaniam, Sumakshi Singh, Ranjani Shettar, Asim Waqif, and Skarma Sonam Tashi—using organic materials like terracotta, thread, bamboo, and papier-mâché.

Skyroot Aerospace Becomes India's 1st Space-tech Unicorn

- **Valuation Milestone:** Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace officially became India's first space-tech unicorn in May 2026, reaching a valuation of \$1.1 billion after a successful \$60 million funding round.
- **Key Investors:** The funding was co-led by Sherpalo Ventures and Singapore's sovereign wealth fund GIC, with participation from major global players like BlackRock and the founders of Greenko Group.
- **Strategic Goal:** The capital infusion is earmarked for scaling manufacturing and accelerating the upcoming launch of Vikram-1, which is set to be India's first privately developed orbital-class rocket.

MoHFW Launches Swasth Bharat Portal

- **Unified Digital Platform:** Launched by Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda in May 2026, the portal acts as a single aggregator for multiple national health programs, integrating traditionally siloed systems through an API-based federated architecture.

- **Efficiency Gains:** The platform is projected to reduce the administrative burden on frontline workers (like ASHAs and ANMs) by 20–40% by eliminating repetitive data entry and providing a single login for various health reporting tasks.
- **ABDM Integration:** It is fully compliant with the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), allowing for the secure exchange of patient health records via ABHA IDs and supporting evidence-based planning through advanced data visualization tools.

IndiaAI and ICMR Sign MoU to Strengthen AI-Driven Healthcare in India

- **Strategic Collaboration:** Signed on May 7, 2026, this MoU pairs IndiaAI's high-performance computing infrastructure with ICMR's biomedical research expertise to build a nationally integrated and interoperable AI ecosystem for healthcare.
- **Data & Compute Access:** ICMR will provide anonymized, ethics-approved datasets and AI models via the AIKosh platform, while IndiaAI will offer ICMR researchers subsidized access to GPU-based computing resources to scale advanced medical research.
- **Public Health Focus:** The partnership prioritizes the co-development of AI-powered solutions for "priority public health challenges," utilizing ICMR's MIDAS framework to address India-specific disease burdens and diagnostic needs.

Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan appointed as Chief of Naval Staff

- **Extensive Operational Experience:** An expert in Communication and Electronic Warfare, he previously served as the Chief of Personnel and has commanded key platforms, including the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.
- **Educational Credentials:** He is highly decorated and academically accomplished, holding a PhD from Mumbai University in International Studies and having attended the United States Naval War College.
- **Strategic Leadership:** As Vice Chief, his role focuses on the Navy's modernization, operational readiness, and overseeing the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (self-reliance) initiatives in indigenous ship-building.

JGU Becomes India's 1st IoE to Receive Data Science Council of America Accreditation

- **Global Benchmarking:** The accreditation aligns JGU's data science and business analytics programs with international industry standards, ensuring students receive a world-class curriculum that is recognized globally.
- **Career Readiness:** Students at JGU now have access to DASCAs professional certifications, significantly enhancing their employability in high-demand fields like Big Data, AI, and Machine Learning.

- **Interdisciplinary Excellence:** This move highlights JGU's commitment to integrating advanced technology with social sciences and management, reinforcing its status as a leader in innovative higher education within India.

Maharashtra Approves Compressed Biogas Policy 2026

- **Financial Incentives & Outlay:** The government has earmarked ₹500 crore for the 2026–27 fiscal year. It offers Viability Gap Funding (VGF) of up to ₹75 lakh per tonne of capacity (capped at ₹15 crore per project) and a 2.5% SGST reimbursement to ensure commercial sustainability.
- **Innovative Implementation Models:** For the first time, CBG projects will be executed using the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM). This helps de-risk investments for private players and encourages the development of cluster-based projects in every district.
- **Operational & Land Support:** To fast-track development, the policy provides land on a concessional lease (0.7% of the Ready Reckoner rate) and grants CBG units "Priority Infrastructure" status.

DRDO, IAF conduct maiden flight-trial of indigenous TARA glide weapon

- **Service & Background:** A 1998-batch officer of the Indian Post & Telecommunication Accounts and Finance Service (IP&TA&FS), Mahto has been appointed at the Joint Secretary level. He succeeds Moloy Chandan Chakraborty (IDAS: 1993).
- **Tenure & Jurisdiction:** His appointment is effective immediately and will continue until his superannuation on December 31, 2028. He will be based at the headquarters of the Office of the Jute Commissioner in Kolkata.
- **Key Responsibilities:** As Jute Commissioner, he will function under the Ministry of Textiles, overseeing the implementation of the Jute Packaging Materials Act, 1987, and managing the balance between the interests of jute farmers, mills, and the growing demand for sustainable, biodegradable packaging.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India Retains No. 1 Spot in World T20I Rankings

- **Sustained Dominance:** India leads the rankings with 275 rating points, sitting 13 points clear of second-placed England (262) and third-placed Australia (258).
- **World Cup Success:** This top ranking follows India's historic achievement earlier in 2026, where they became the first team to successfully defend their T20 World Cup title, defeating New Zealand in the final to claim a record third trophy.
- **Ranking Calculations:** The updated rankings now assign a 100% weightage to matches played since May 2025 and a 50% weightage to matches from the previous two years,

reflecting India's consistent performance across both bilateral series and major tournaments.

South Korea Introduces First Humanoid Robot Monk Gabi

- **Participation in Sacred Rituals:** Standing 130 cm tall and dressed in traditional grey-and-brown monastic robes, Gabi participated in a formal "precept ceremony." It bowed to senior monks, received a 108-bead rosary, and was assigned a Dharma name derived from the Korean word for "mercy" and Siddhartha.
- **The AI Five Precepts:** Instead of the traditional human vows, Gabi pledged to follow a specialized "AI version" of the Five Precepts. These include respecting and not harming life, not damaging other robots or items, obeying humans, avoiding deceptive behavior, and practicing energy conservation (not over-charging).
- **Addressing the Monk Shortage:** Temple officials introduced Gabi as part of a strategic effort to use technology to connect with younger generations and to address the growing shortage of human monks in South Korea's religious institutions.

Footnotes: South Korea's PM: Kim Min-seok, President: Lee Jae Myung, Capital: Seoul

DEFENCE NEWS

Indian Army Leaves for India–Cambodia Joint Exercise CINBAX-II 2026

- **Venue and Scale:** The exercise is being held from May 4 to May 17, 2026, at the Techo Sen Phnom Thom Mreas Royal Cambodian Air Force Training Centre (Camp Basil) in Kampong Speu Province, Cambodia. The Indian contingent consists of 120 personnel, primarily from the Maratha Light Infantry Regiment, while the Royal Cambodian Army has deployed 160 personnel.
- **Focus on Sub-Conventional Operations:** Conducted under the framework of Chapter VII of the UN Mandate, the training focuses on company-level operations in sub-conventional and semi-urban environments. It is specifically aligned with the dynamics of Counter-Terrorism (CT) operations encountered by peacekeeping forces during UN missions.
- **Specialized Skill Training:** The drill includes advanced tactical exercises such as drone operations, mortar handling, and sniper tactics. The primary objective is to enhance interoperability, share best practices, and strengthen the growing strategic defense cooperation between the two nations.

BANKING NEWS

Citi Bank India Appoints Raj Rathi as Head of Mergers & Acquisitions

- **Background of High-Growth Leadership:** Rathi brings over 15 years of investment banking, M&A, and advisory experience to Citi. He joins the firm from Dream Sports (the parent company of Dream11), where he served as Head of Strategy and Corporate

Development, leading key partnerships and deploying approximately \$150 million across strategic inorganic investments.

- **Expanded Strategic Mandate:** Based in Mumbai, Rathi will not only lead Citi's M&A franchise in India but will also assume sector coverage responsibility for high-growth areas, specifically Digital Infrastructure, Electronic Manufacturing Services (EMS), and select B2B commerce companies.
- **Pivotal Timing for Citi's Advisory Franchise:** His appointment comes as Citi aims to solidify its position as a leading financial advisor in the region. The firm recently advised on several major transactions in India, including the 100% stake sale of Royal Challengers Sports Private Limited for United Spirits and the 49% stake sale in Haier India for the Haier Group.

Footnotes: CBI's CEO: K Balasubramanian, HQ: Mumbai, Estd:1902

BOI appoints Canara Bank's Nabin Kumar Dash as CVO

- **The Appointment:** Shri Nabin Kumar Dash, currently serving as the Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of Canara Bank, has been given the additional charge as the CVO of the Bank of India (BOI), effective May 1, 2026.
- **Reason for Transition:** The appointment follows the superannuation of BOI's previous CVO, Shri Vishnu Kumar Gupta, who retired on April 30, 2026.
- **Tenure and Purpose:** This interim, transitional arrangement will remain in place for up to three months, until a full-time CVO is appointed, or until further orders—whichever comes first. This ensures continuity in BOI's governance, risk management, and vigilance operations.

Footnotes: BOI's MD & CEO: Rajneesh Karnatak, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1906

Central Bank of India Signs MoU with NBCC

- **The Agreement:** The Central Bank of India signed an MoU with the state-run Navratna firm NBCC (India) Limited on May 5, 2026, for the planning, design, and construction of its new Regional Office building in Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh.
- **Expanding Infrastructure:** This collaboration is a strategic step aimed at bolstering the public sector bank's corporate infrastructure, improving administrative efficiency, and expanding its operational capabilities in Andhra Pradesh and the surrounding regions.
- **Key Signatories:** The agreement was formally executed by E. Venkateswara Rao (Regional Head of the bank's Vijayawada Regional Office) alongside P. S. Rao (Executive Director, NBCC) and Rajaram (General Manager, NBCC), in the presence of M. Pichayya (Zonal Head of the bank's Hyderabad Zone).

Footnotes: CBI's MD & CEO: Kalyan Kumar, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1911

IDBI Bank Partners with IIT Madras to Launch I2SSL Lab

- **Focus Areas:** The lab will focus on three key technical verticals—Cryptography, Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT), and Secure Systems Engineering—to develop advanced solutions for secure digital banking infrastructure.
- **Industry-Wide Impact:** While led by a banking partnership, the research aims to develop and deploy security solutions for multiple critical sectors beyond finance, including healthcare, aerospace, and telecommunications, with a specific focus on mobile technology security.
- **Research & Commercialization:** The initiative is designed to create market-ready Intellectual Properties (IPs). It will work on developing hardware firewalls, secure point-of-sale (PoS) devices, and automated tools for detecting "Zero-Day Vulnerabilities" in mobile applications.

Footnotes: IDBI Bank's MD & CEO: Rakesh Sharma, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1964

SPORTS NEWS

Marta Kostyuk Wins Madrid Open 2026

- **Career Milestone:** Kostyuk defeated world No. 8 Mirra Andreeva in straight sets (\$6\$–\$3\$, \$7\$–\$5\$) to claim her first-ever WTA 1000 title. This victory marked her third career WTA title and her second consecutive tournament win, following her triumph in Rouen just a week earlier.
- **Rankings Surge:** On the back of an 11-match winning streak on clay, the 23-year-old Ukrainian is set to jump from world No. 23 to a career-high ranking of No. 15. This leap establishes her as a top contender for the upcoming French Open.
- **A "Giant-Slayer" Run:** Entering the tournament as the 26th seed, Kostyuk's path to the trophy was impressive. She defeated high-ranking opponents including world No. 5 Jessica Pegula and saved two set points in the final against Andreeva before sealing the match and celebrating with her signature backflip.

MP's pole vaulter Kuldeep Kumar breaks national record

- **New National Milestone:** The 21-year-old cleared a height of \$5.41\$ metres on his first attempt. This performance surpassed the previous national record of \$5.40\$ metres set last year by his training partner, Dev Kumar Meena.
- **Dual Record Breakthrough:** In addition to the overall national record, Kuldeep's jump also shattered the national indoor record of \$5.30\$ metres, which had been set only two months earlier (March 2026) by Reegan G of Tamil Nadu.
- **Triumph Over Adversity:** This record comes just months after a widely reported incident in January 2026, where Kuldeep and Dev Meena were forced off a train at Pannel station by a TTE for carrying their specialized poles.

Footnotes: MP's CM: Mohan Yadav, Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel, Capital: Bhopal

India's young boxers shine at Asian U15 & U17 Championships 2026

- **The Venue:** The prestigious continental youth tournament is being held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, featuring top young talent from across Asia in both the Under-15 and Under-17 categories.
- **U-15 Standout Performers:** India's Under-15 boxers showed incredible dominance, with Nongpoknganba Meitei Oina (46kg) and Parshant (49kg) registering clean 5:0 victories over Kazakh opponents, while Mohd Yasser (58kg) secured a swift, first-round RSC (Referee Stops Contest) win over Kyrgyzstan's Akbarzhan Nabidzhanov.
- **U-17 Dominant Campaigns:** In the Under-17 division, the Indian boys continued the winning momentum with Pal Nivesh (54kg) securing a dominant 5:0 win, and Lakshay Phogat (75kg) delivering a commanding first-round RSC victory over Sri Lanka's Ranchigodagama Arachchila.

Apaar Saxena Earns International Master Title

- **Achievement:** 10-year-old Apaar Saxena has officially earned the International Master (IM) title, making him one of the youngest players in chess history to achieve this milestone.
- **Final Norm:** He secured his third and final IM norm at the Mesa Chess Open in Arizona, surpassing the required FIDE rating threshold of 2400.
- **Historic Pace:** By earning the title at such a young age, he joins an elite group of prodigies and is now on a direct path toward breaking the record for the world's youngest Grandmaster.

AWARD NEWS

Soma Mandal Wins South Asia Title at Cambridge Teacher Awards 2026

- **Climate Change Advocacy:** She was recognized for her exceptional work in integrating climate education into the school curriculum, empowering her students to become active participants in environmental sustainability and the global fight against climate change.
- **Highly Competitive Selection:** Soma Mandal was chosen as one of only nine regional winners worldwide from a massive pool of over 12,000 nominations spanning 126 countries.
- **Global Recognition & Rewards:** As a regional winner, she receives a trophy and £500 worth of books for her classroom. Additionally, her name will be featured on a "Thank You" page in new Cambridge University Press textbooks releasing in November 2026.

BEL Wins 4th Edition of the Free Journal & CareEdge Annual Report Awards

- **Top Recognition:** Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) was declared the "Winner" in the Aerospace & Defence category at the ceremony held in Mumbai on May 6, 2026.

- **Award Criteria:** The awards recognize Indian companies across various sectors for excellence in annual reporting, transparency, and stakeholder accountability, encouraging higher standards of corporate disclosure.
- **Corporate Milestone:** The award was received by BEL's senior management (AGM Finance and Deputy Company Secretary), highlighting the company's commitment to robust governance and clear financial communication.

Neurosurgeon V S Mehta to receive AIIMS lifetime achievement award

- **Recognition of a Storied Career:** The award will be presented during the 51st Annual Convocation of AIIMS at Bharat Mandapam on May 12, 2026. Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan is slated to attend as the chief guest for the ceremony.
- **A Pillar of AIIMS History:** Dr. Mehta served as the former Head of the Department of Neurosurgery and Chief of the Neurosciences Centre at AIIMS. His leadership was instrumental in establishing the institute's Gamma Knife Centre, transforming the department into a global center of excellence.
- **Pioneer in Neurosurgery:** Renowned as a "Legend in Neurosciences," he is a pioneer in treating low-grade gliomas and was among the first in India to introduce image-guided brain tumor navigation technology.

BPCL Kochi Refinery Wins IMC RBNQA Award 2026

- **Recognition of Quality Excellence:** The RBNQ award is considered one of India's most rigorous and prestigious quality awards, modeled after the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award of the USA. It recognizes organizations that demonstrate world-class standards in operational efficiency and business results.
- **Sustainability and Innovation:** The award highlights Kochi Refinery's successful integration of the Propylene Derivative Petrochemical Project (PDPP) and its commitment to "Net Zero" targets through green hydrogen initiatives and energy-efficient refining processes.
- **Operational Leadership:** Under the leadership of the current Executive Director, the refinery was lauded for its strategic focus on digital transformation and maintaining a record-breaking safety standard while achieving its highest-ever crude oil processing throughput during the previous fiscal year.

APPOINTMENT & PERSON IN NEWS

Filmmaker Ashutosh Gowariker Named Festival Director for 57th IFFI

- **A Historic Legacy Continues:** Gowariker succeeds acclaimed filmmaker Shekhar Kapur (who led the 55th and 56th editions). His appointment is a full-circle moment, as he first attended the festival as a participant in 1984 and most recently served as the Jury President for International Cinema in 2024.

- **Strengthening Global Outreach:** As Festival Director, Gowariker will lead the 57th edition scheduled for November 20–28, 2026, in Goa. His role involves curating a diverse global cinematic experience, fostering international collaborations, and overseeing the "WAVES" Film Bazaar.
- **Focus on Evolution:** The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting selected Gowariker to bridge IFFI's 74-year history (founded in 1952) with modern cinematic technologies and storytelling.

Prasoon Joshi appointed as Prasar Bharati Chairman

- **Transition of Leadership:** Prasoon Joshi succeeds retired bureaucrat Navneet Kumar Sehgal, who resigned from the position in December 2025. His appointment fills a critical leadership vacuum in India's public service broadcaster, which oversees both Doordarshan and Akashvani (All India Radio).
- **Diverse Professional Expertise:** Joshi brings a unique blend of experience to the role, having served as the Chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) since 2017. He is also a globally recognized figure in advertising, formerly serving as the CEO of McCann World Group India and Chairman of McCann World Group Asia Pacific.
- **Vision for Digital Transformation:** The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, led by Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, emphasized that Joshi's "creative spirit" is expected to revitalize Prasar Bharati.

Footnotes: Prasar Bharati Previous Chairman: Dr. A. Surya Prakash, **HQ:** New Delhi, **Estd:** 1997

C. Joseph Vijay, actor-turned-politician & founder of TVK, became Tamil Nadu's CM

- **Historic Disruption of Dravidian Duopoly:** TVK's stellar debut disrupted nearly half a century of bipolar political dominance held by the DMK and AIADMK. By securing 108 seats (emerging as the single largest party) and capturing a massive 34.9% vote share, Vijay positioned himself to become the state's first non-DMK, non-AIADMK Chief Minister since 1967.
- **Dual-Constituency Victory:** In a major personal and political statement, Vijay contested and won from two separate assembly seats—Perambur in Chennai and Tiruchirappalli (East).
- **Navigating a Hung Assembly to Form Government:** Because the 234-member assembly requires a simple majority of 118 seats to form a government, TVK fell just short of the magic number on its own.

Footnotes: TN's Previous CM: M. K. Stalin, **Capital:** Chennai, **Governor:** Rajendra Arlekar

R. Balasubramaniam & Joram Aniya Appointed Full-Time Members of NITI Aayog

- **Distinguished Governance & Grassroots Expertise:** Dr. R. Balasubramaniam is a highly regarded public policy expert, physician, and founder of the Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM) and the public policy think tank GRAAM. He has served as a member of the Capacity Building Commission (driving the digital civil service training initiative Mission Karmayogi) and brings deep-rooted expertise in state capacity building, institutional reform, and grassroots development.
- **Historic Northeast Representation:** Dr. Joram Aniya's appointment marks a historic milestone as she is the first person from Arunachal Pradesh to be named a full-time member of India's premier policy think tank.
- **Completion of a Revamped Core Think Tank:** These two appointments expand NITI Aayog's team of full-time members to seven. They join the newly reconstituted board—which includes recently appointed Vice-Chairman Ashok Kumar Lahiri and other full-time members like Rajiv Gauba and Abhay Karandikar—strengthening the think tank's interdisciplinary approach to national development and cooperative federalism.

Om Birla Reconstitutes Parliamentary Committees for 2026–27

- **Committee on Estimates:** BJP MP Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal was reappointed as Chairperson. This crucial panel, composed of 30 members exclusively from the Lok Sabha, reports on what economies, organizational improvements, or administrative reforms can be effected.
- **Committee on Public Undertakings (COPU):** BJP MP Baijayant Jay Panda will continue to head this 22-member committee (15 from Lok Sabha and 7 from Rajya Sabha) to review the working and efficiency of public sector undertakings (PSUs).
- **Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:** BJP MP Faggan Singh Kulaste was reappointed as the Chairperson of this 30-member committee (20 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha) to monitor the implementation of constitutional safeguards for vulnerable communities.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw Names Claire Mazumdar as Future Successor of Biocon

- **The Succession Announcement:** Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, the founder and chairperson of Biocon, has formally named her 37-year-old niece, Claire Mazumdar, as her future successor to lead the biotechnology giant into its next phase of AI-driven and innovation-led growth.
- **A Highly Qualified Successor:** Claire Mazumdar is a distinguished scientist-entrepreneur holding a PhD in cancer biology from Stanford and a degree from MIT. She has already proved her corporate leadership as the founder and CEO of Bicara Therapeutics, a NASDAQ-listed oncology biotech firm (incubated by Biocon) with a market valuation exceeding \$1.5 billion.
- **Gradual, Planned Transition:** The handoff will be highly structured and gradual over the next few years. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw clarified that she is not "hanging up her boots" immediately, and Claire will systematically transition into the role—moving from

director to vice-chair, and eventually to chairperson—to ensure long-term leadership stability.

Footnotes: Biocon's Executive Chairperson: Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, **HQ:** Bengaluru, **Estd:** 1978

Kumar Mangalam Birla appointed Non-Executive Chairman of Vodafone Idea Limited

- **Return to Leadership:** Kumar Mangalam Birla returns to the position of Chairman after a five-year hiatus. He previously stepped down in 2021 during a period of extreme financial stress for the company; his return is seen as a move to bolster investor and lender confidence.
- **Board Restructuring:** He replaces Ravinder Takkar, who has stepped down from the Chairman's role but will continue to serve the company as the Non-Executive Vice Chairman. Both appointments were disclosed in regulatory filings to the NSE and BSE.
- **Timing Amid Financial Relief:** The transition follows a major regulatory breakthrough where the government reduced the company's Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) dues by approximately ₹23,600 crore. This relief, combined with Birla's leadership, is intended to help the company secure critical bank financing for its \$5 billion capital expenditure plan and 5G rollout.

Footnotes: Vodafone Idea's CEO: Abhijit Kishore, **HQ:** Gandhinagar, **Estd:** 2018

Shashi Shekhar Vempati appointed as Chairperson of CBFC

- **Succession of Prasoon Joshi:** Vempati succeeds renowned lyricist and screenwriter Prasoon Joshi, who stepped down from the CBFC after being elevated to the position of Chairman of Prasar Bharati.
- **Technocratic Background:** An alumnus of IIT Bombay and former CEO of Prasar Bharati (2017–2022), Vempati is recognized as a "technocrat-administrator." His appointment signals a move toward integrating modern technology and digital governance into the film certification process.
- **Tenure and Scope:** He has been appointed for a period of three years. He takes charge at a time when the CBFC is navigating complex regulatory challenges involving evolving content standards across both theatrical and digital ecosystems.

Footnotes: CBFC's Chairperson: Shashi Shekhar Vempati, **HQ:** Mumbai, **Estd:** 1951

Dipankar Mahto appointed as Jute Commissioner of Kolkata

- **Stand-off Precision Capability:** TARA is a modular "glide kit" that converts conventional unguided ("dumb") bombs into precision-guided, stand-off weapons. This allows pilots to release munitions from a safe distance (up to 150–180 km), keeping the aircraft outside the range of enemy air defenses.

- **Cost-Effective Indigenization:** Developed primarily by the Research Centre Imarat (RCI) in Hyderabad, it is the first indigenous system to utilize high-performance but low-cost subsystems. This reduces India's reliance on expensive imported kits like the American JDAM or Israeli Spice.
- **Successful Platform Validation:** The maiden trial was carried out using an IAF Jaguar fighter aircraft off the coast of Odisha. The test successfully validated the kit's aerodynamic glide performance, structural integrity, and high-precision terminal accuracy.

Suvendu Adhikari takes oath as West Bengal CM

- **Historic Electoral Win:** The BJP secured a decisive majority with 207 seats in the 294-member Assembly, ending 15 years of Trinamool Congress (TMC) rule. Notably, Suvendu Adhikari defeated former CM Mamata Banerjee in her traditional stronghold of Bhabanipur by a margin of over 15,000 votes.
- **The Swearing-In Ceremony:** The oath of office and secrecy was administered by Governor R.N. Ravi at the Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata. The event was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and several other top NDA leaders.
- **Cabinet Formation:** Along with the Chief Minister, a five-member initial Council of Ministers took the oath, including prominent leaders like Dilip Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul, Ashok Kirtania, Nisith Pramanik, and Kshudiram Tudu, reflecting a strategy of regional and social balancing.

OBITUARY NEWS

Paralympic Champion Alex Zanardi Passed Away

- **The Passing of a Legend:** Former Formula 1 driver and celebrated Paralympic gold medalist Alex Zanardi passed away peacefully in Italy on May 1, 2026, at the age of 59. His passing followed years of health complications stemming from a serious handcycling road accident in 2020.
- **The Miraculous Turnaround:** Already a two-time CART/IndyCar champion (1997, 1998) in the United States, Zanardi survived a horrific, near-fatal crash at Germany's Lausitzring in 2001 that resulted in the amputation of both of his legs. Demonstrating legendary resilience, he returned to racing less than two years later using custom, self-designed prosthetics and hand controls.
- **A Paralympic Icon:** Transitioning his focus to handcycling, Zanardi went on to become a global symbol of determination. He won four Paralympic gold medals and two silver medals across the 2012 London and 2016 Rio Paralympic Games, alongside multiple World Championship titles.

CNN Founder Robert Edward Turner III Passed Away

- **Passing of a Legend:** Philanthropist, environmentalist, and media mogul Robert Edward "Ted" Turner III passed away on May 6, 2026, at the age of 87 at his home in Lamont, Florida.
- **Media Revolution:** Known as the "Mouth of the South," he transformed global journalism by founding CNN in 1980, the world's first 24-hour live news network, and creating the first cable "superstation."
- **Philanthropy & Conservation:** Beyond media, Turner was a massive philanthropist who pledged \$1 billion to the United Nations and became one of the largest private landowners in the U.S., dedicated to preserving millions of acres and restoring the bison population.