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WEEKLY — Current Affairs

NATIONAL NEWS

India's Coastline Length Revised to 11,098.81 km Following Updated Methodology

India's coastline length has been officially revised to 11,098.81 km following the adoption of an updated measurement methodology. This new calculation offers a more accurate representation of the country's coastal boundaries. The revision was carried out using advanced geospatial techniques to ensure precision. It reflects the dynamic nature of coastal features and aims to support better coastal planning and management. The update is significant for environmental, economic, and strategic coastal initiatives in India.

Foot notes:

- The main reason for the deviation from the previous length is the difference in scale and calculation methods.
- The new measurement uses a scale of 1:250,000, capturing more intricate details like bays and inlets, whereas the 1970s data were likely computed at a scale of 1:4,500,000 or smaller.
- The revised length includes the coastline lengths of 1,298 offshore islands/islets (1,059 islands and 239 islets), which were possibly omitted in earlier calculations due to scale constraints.
- Gujarat has the longest coastline among states with 2,340.62 kilometers, while Goa has the shortest with 193.95 kilometers.

India's Exports Hit Record \$824.9 Billion in FY 2024–25

India's exports reached a record high of \$824.9 billion in the fiscal year 2024–25, marking a 6.01% increase over the previous year. This growth was primarily driven by a significant surge in services exports, which rose 13.6% to \$387.5 billion, with strong performances in IT, financial services, and travel sectors. Non-petroleum merchandise exports also contributed, achieving a new peak of \$374.1 billion, up 6% from the previous year. This milestone underscores India's growing role in global trade and the resilience of its export sectors amid challenging global conditions.

Foot notes:

- Record-Breaking Exports: India's total exports for FY 2024-25 reached an all-time high of \$824.9 billion, marking a 6.01% growth from the previous year's figure of \$778.1 billion.
- Services Export Growth: Services exports drove the surge, witnessing a double-digit growth of 13.6% to reach \$387.5 billion, up from \$341.1 billion in FY 2023-24.
- Merchandise Exports: Merchandise exports (excluding petroleum) grew 6.0% to \$374.1 billion, up from \$352.9 billion, showcasing India's rising competence in non-oil sectors.
- March 2025 Services Exports: Services exports in March 2025 stood at \$35.6 billion, reflecting an 18.6% growth over March 2024.

- **Policy Objectives:** The growth in exports aligns with policy initiatives like Atmanirbhar Bharat and Foreign Trade Policy 2023, aiming to position India as a global trade powerhouse.

ITBP Scales Mt. Makalu Historic Feat in Twin Peak Expedition

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) achieved a historic milestone by successfully scaling Mount Makalu, the world's fifth-highest peak at 8,485 meters, on April 19, 2025. This ascent marks the first-ever summit of Mt. Makalu by any Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) in India, underscoring ITBP's exceptional high-altitude capabilities. The expedition was part of ITBP's ambitious Twin Peak International Mountaineering Mission, which also included an attempt on Mount Annapurna (8,091 meters). Flagged off from New Delhi on March 21, the 12-member team was led by Deputy Commandant Anoop Kumar Negi and divided into two groups.

Foot notes:

- **Mt. Makalu Conquest:** The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) successfully scaled Mt. Makalu, the world's fifth-highest mountain at 8,485 meters, as part of a twin peak expedition. This marks the force's first-ever attempt to summit both Mt. Makalu and Mt. Annapurna.
- **High Success Rate:** The ITBP team achieved an impressive 83% success rate, with five out of six climbers reaching the summit of Mt. Makalu on April 19, 2025.
- **Twin Peak Expedition:** The expedition was a historic dual-peak mission that also attempted to climb Mt. Annapurna (8,091 meters), although the team had to retreat 150 meters short of the summit due to adverse weather conditions.
- **Environmental Efforts:** The ITBP team collected 150 kg of non-biodegradable waste from high-altitude camps, reinforcing their commitment to environmental conservation and the expedition.

India Breaks Records in Mining Production in FY 2024-25

India's mining sector achieved record-breaking production levels in the fiscal year 2024–25, reflecting robust industrial demand and economic growth. Iron ore production reached 289 million metric tonnes (MMT), marking a 4.3% increase from the previous year's 277 MMT. Manganese ore output rose by 11.8% to 3.8 MMT, while bauxite production grew by 2.9% to 24.7 MMT. In the non-ferrous metals segment, primary aluminium production climbed to 42 lakh tonnes (LT), and refined copper output saw a significant 12.6% increase to 5.73 LT. These achievements underscore India's position as the second-largest aluminium producer, among the top ten in refined copper, and the fourth-largest iron ore producer globally.

Foot notes:

- **Iron Ore Production:** India produced 289 million metric tonnes (MMT) of iron ore, a 4.3% increase from 277 MMT in FY 2023-24, accounting for 70% of total MCDR mineral production by value.

- **Non-Ferrous Metal Growth:** Primary aluminium production reached 42 lakh tonnes (LT), up from 41.6 LT, while refined copper production surged 12.6% to 5.73 LT from 5.09 LT.
- **Global Rankings:** India is the world's 4th largest iron ore producer, 2nd largest aluminium producer, and among the top 10 producers of refined copper globally.
- **Key Mineral Production:** Manganese ore production rose 11.8% to 3.8 MMT, bauxite increased 2.9% to 24.7 MMT, and lead concentrate grew 3.1% to 393 thousand tonnes.
- **Economic Impact:** The increased output supports core industries like steel, energy, infrastructure, construction, and automotive manufacturing, aligning with the "Make in India" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat" missions.

India Advances to 130th Rank in 2025 Human Development Report

India has advanced to the 130th position out of 193 countries in the 2025 Human Development Index (HDI), as reported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This marks a three-place improvement from its 2022 ranking of 133, with India's HDI score increasing from 0.676 to 0.685. The rise is attributed to gains in life expectancy, education, and income, driven by national health programs like Ayushman Bharat and educational reforms such as the Right to Education Act and the National Education Policy 2020.

Foot notes:

- **Current Ranking:** According to the 2023/24 Human Development Report, India's HDI rank is 134 out of 193 countries, not 130. This ranking places India in the medium human development category.
- **HDI Value:** India's HDI value has increased from 0.633 in 2021 to 0.644 in 2022, indicating progress in human development.
- **Improvement in Life Expectancy:** Life expectancy at birth in India has risen by 9.1 years since 1990, reaching 67.7 years in 2022.
- **Gender Inequality:** India has shown progress in reducing gender inequality, with a Gender Inequality Index (GII) value of 0.437, which is better than the global average of 0.462 and the South Asian average of 0.478.

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India's Exports to US Hit Record \$11.2 Billion in March

India's exports to the United States reached a record \$11.2 billion in March 2025, marking the first time they surpassed the \$10 billion threshold and representing nearly a 50% increase over the 12-month average . This surge contributed to a total bilateral goods trade of approximately \$15 billion for the month, with India achieving a trade surplus of \$7.4 billion . The spike in exports coincided with a 90-day reciprocal tariff pause announced by U.S. President Donald Trump, which encouraged increased shipments ahead of potential new tariffs . Notably, smartphone exports, particularly Apple iPhones, played a significant role in this growth, with manufacturers expediting shipments to the U.S. before the anticipated tariff changes .

Foot notes:

- Record Exports: Although the provided information doesn't confirm if \$11.2 billion is a record for India's exports to the US in March, India's overall merchandise exports in March 2024 reached \$41.68 billion, the highest monthly exports in FY 2023-24.
- Merchandise Exports: India's merchandise exports in March 2024 were \$41.68 billion, slightly lower than \$41.96 billion in March 2023.
- Key Sectors: Main drivers of merchandise export growth in FY 2023-24 include electronic goods, drugs & pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, iron ore, and ceramic products & glassware.
- Non-Petroleum Exports: Non-petroleum and non-gems & jewelry exports in March 2024 were \$33.67 billion, increasing from \$30.87 billion in March 2023.
- Trade Deficit: India's overall trade deficit improved significantly in FY 2023-24, declining by 35.77% to \$78.12 billion, while merchandise trade deficit decreased by 9.33% to \$240.17 billion.

GRSE delivers first anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft to navy

Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) has delivered the Indian Navy's first Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), INS Arnala, marking a significant milestone in India's naval modernization efforts. Designed and built indigenously, INS Arnala is the lead ship in a series of eight vessels aimed at enhancing the Navy's capabilities in coastal defense and anti-submarine operations. Measuring 77.6 meters in length and equipped with advanced sonar systems, lightweight torpedoes, and ASW rockets, the vessel is optimized for shallow water missions.

Foot notes:

- Delivery of INS Arnala: Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) delivered INS Arnala, the first of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), to the Indian Navy on May 8, 2025.
- Contract Details: The contract for eight ASW-SWC vessels was signed in April 2019, valued at 6,311 crore, with GRSE partnering with Larsen & Toubro (L&T) for fabrication of some hulls.

- **Vessel Capabilities:** INS Arnala is designed for anti-submarine operations in coastal waters, subsurface surveillance, and coordinated ASW operations with maritime patrol aircraft. It can also lay mines and conduct search-and-rescue missions.
- **Indigenous Content:** The ASW-SWC vessels have over 80% indigenous content, showcasing India's growing defense manufacturing capabilities.
- **Project Timeline:** The Indian Navy plans to have all 16 ASW-SWC vessels, being built by GRSE and Cochin Shipyard, in active service by 2026.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Anthony Albanese Re-elected As Australian PM

Anthony Albanese has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of Australia following a decisive electoral victory. His party, the Australian Labor Party, secured a majority, reaffirming public confidence in his leadership. During his previous term, Albanese focused on climate action, healthcare, and strengthening international relations. His re-election campaign emphasized economic stability and social reforms. Voters responded positively to his vision and governance style. The victory ensures continuity in policy and leadership for Australia in the coming years.

Foot notes:

- **Trump Factor:** The election outcome was influenced by a backlash against Donald Trump's policies, particularly his tariffs, with Albanese's party accusing opposition leader Peter Dutton of copying Trump's policies.
- **Key Policies:** Albanese's Labor Party campaigned on embracing renewable energy and improving Australia's healthcare system, which resonated with voters.
- **Dutton's Loss:** Opposition leader Peter Dutton lost his seat of Dickson to Labor, and his party's choice of Trump-like policies was seen as a factor in their defeat.
- **International Relations:** Albanese's win may impact Australia's relations with the US and China, with the Prime Minister expected to navigate a tightrope in dealing with Trump's tariffs and China's desire for a stronger partnership.

Yemen Appoints Finance Minister Salem Bin Braik as New Prime Minister

On May 3, 2025, Yemen's Presidential Leadership Council appointed Salem Saleh Bin Braik as the country's new Prime Minister, following the resignation of Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak. Bin Mubarak stepped down citing political obstacles, including his inability to implement a cabinet reshuffle due to internal disputes within the council. Bin Braik, who previously served as Finance Minister since 2019, brings extensive experience in financial and administrative roles to his new position. His appointment aims to revitalize the Yemeni government, which has faced paralysis amid ongoing civil conflict and economic challenges. The leadership transition occurs as Yemen continues to grapple with a decade-long civil war, with Houthi rebels controlling significant portions of the country, including the capital, Sanaa.

Foot notes:

- **Previous Prime Minister's Resignation:** Bin Braik's appointment follows the resignation of Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak, who stepped down citing constitutional constraints and obstacles hindering his reform efforts.
- **Bin Braik's Background:** Bin Braik has served as Yemen's Finance Minister since 2019 and held various key financial and administrative roles prior to his appointment.
- **Current Government:** All existing ministers will retain their positions, with bin Mubarak being appointed as an advisor to the PLC president.
- **Challenges Ahead:** Bin Braik's leadership will be crucial in navigating Yemen's challenging socio-economic and political landscape, potentially implementing reforms and policies to stabilize the country amidst ongoing civil war since 2014.



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Friedrich Merz elected as new German chancellor

Friedrich Merz, leader of Germany's conservative CDU/CSU alliance, has been elected as the new German Chancellor following a dramatic parliamentary session. In an unprecedented event in post-war German history, Merz failed to secure the required majority in the first round of voting, receiving only 310 out of 316 necessary votes. Merz will head a coalition government formed between his center-right CDU/CSU and the center-left Social Democrats (SPD), aiming to stimulate economic growth through corporate tax cuts and reduced energy prices.

Foot notes:

- **Election Outcome:** Friedrich Merz, leader of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), won the February 2025 election with 28.6% votes, becoming Germany's next chancellor.
- **Shift in U.S.-Germany Relations:** Merz has advocated for redefining Germany's relationship with the United States, focusing on strengthening Europe's ability to act independently from American influence, particularly in matters of security.
- **Challenges Ahead:** Merz's leadership will determine whether Germany emerges as a stronger and more united force within Europe or whether internal and external challenges complicate this vision.

Manoj Kumar Mohapatra appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Romania

Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra has been appointed as the Ambassador of India to Romania, succeeding Ms. Manika Jain, who has been serving in this capacity since 2024. Dr. Mohapatra

is an experienced Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer with a distinguished career spanning over two decades. Prior to this appointment, he served as the Ambassador of India to Guatemala, concurrently accredited to El Salvador and Honduras.

Foot notes:

- **Previous Postings:** Before his appointment to Guatemala, Mohapatra held several prestigious positions, including Minister (Commerce) at the Embassy of India in Washington D.C., Deputy Consul General at the Indian Consulate in New York, and Counsellor at the High Commission of India in Dhaka.
- **Diplomatic Experience:** Mohapatra has over two decades of diplomatic experience, with a strong background in international cooperation, trade, and cultural diplomacy. He is known for his proactive engagement, strategic clarity, and people-centric approach in diplomacy.
- **Academic Background:** Mohapatra holds a Master's degree in Veterinary Science (M.V.Sc.) and a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management (PGDIBM), reflecting a rare combination of scientific training and managerial competence.

SMLME 2025 Kicks Off in Dubai

The Seatrade Maritime Logistics Middle East (SMLME) 2025 commenced on May 6 at the Dubai World Trade Centre, drawing over 7,500 professionals from more than 90 countries. This premier maritime event, held under the patronage of the UAE Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, focuses on key industry themes such as digitalisation, decarbonisation, and the integration of STEM skills to align with the UAE Vision 2031. The conference features four main forums: Business Excellence, Logistics Excellence, ShipTech, and Offshore Marine & Workboats, addressing topics like AI-driven supply chains, alternative fuels, and predictive maintenance.

Foot notes:

- **Industry Platform:** SMLME is a biennial maritime and logistics industry platform that brings together professionals and experts in the Middle East.
- **Key Features:** The event features a diverse trade show, informative conference tracks, and strategic networking opportunities.
- **Part of UAE Maritime Week:** SMLME is part of the larger UAE Maritime Week, which runs from May 5-9, 2025, and includes other maritime events and discussions.
- **Expected Outcomes:** The event aims to drive progress in maritime and logistics, with a focus on future-shaping leadership discussions, solutions for tomorrow's challenges, and showcasing products and services.

STATE NEWS

University of York to Open Its First Indian Campus in Mumbai

The University of York, a prestigious UK-based Russell Group institution, has announced plans to establish its first overseas campus in Mumbai, India. This initiative follows the signing of a

Memorandum of Understanding with the Maharashtra government and discussions between Vice-Chancellor Professor Charlie Jeffery and Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the WAVES Summit in Mumbai. The Mumbai campus is set to commence operations in the 2026/27 academic year, initially offering undergraduate and postgraduate programs in computer science with AI and cybersecurity, business, economics, and creative industries.

Foot notes:

- **Location and Start Date:** The University of York's first Indian campus will be located in Mumbai and is expected to welcome students from the academic year 2026/27.
- **Licensing and Accreditation:** The university is working on obtaining the necessary license from the University Grants Commission (UGC) in India to develop the campus.
- **Campus Development:** The campus will initially operate from an existing building in a business quarter of Mumbai, with plans to develop a full campus complex over the coming years.

Rajasthan to join India's first cheetah conservation corridor with MP

Rajasthan is set to join India's first interstate cheetah conservation corridor in collaboration with Madhya Pradesh, aiming to facilitate the natural movement of cheetahs between the two states. This initiative follows instances where cheetahs from Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park strayed into Rajasthan, highlighting the need for coordinated management. A joint corridor management committee has been established, comprising senior forest officials from both states, to oversee the development of suitable habitats and the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for corridor development.

Foot notes:

- **Area Coverage:** Madhya Pradesh will cover 10,500 square kilometers, while Rajasthan will cover 6,500 square kilometers of the corridor area.
- **Districts Involved in Rajasthan:** The Rajasthan districts involved in the corridor are Kota, Bundi, Baran, Jhalawar, Sawai Madhopur, Karauli, and Chittorgarh.
- **Objectives:** The corridor aims to ensure safe passage and migration of cheetahs, promote genetic diversity, boost eco-tourism and biodiversity conservation, and strengthen inter-state cooperation in wildlife preservation.
- **Project Background:** This initiative is part of Project Cheetah, India's ambitious effort to reintroduce and conserve cheetahs, with the first group of cheetahs translocated from Namibia and South Africa to Kuno National Park in 2022.

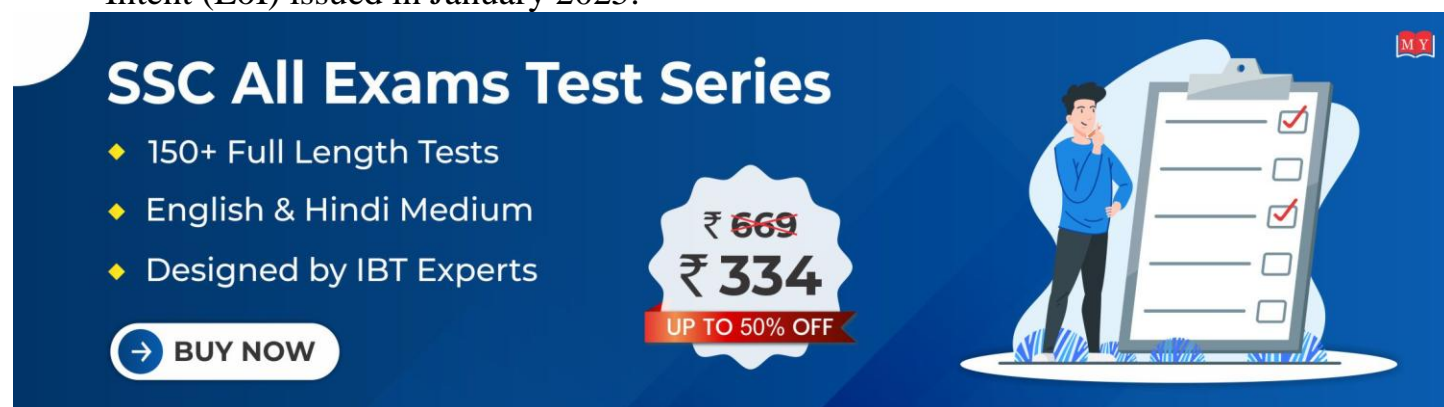
IIFT to Open New Campus at GIFT City, Gujarat with Education Ministry's Approval

The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) is set to establish a new international campus at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in Gandhinagar, following approval from the Ministry of Education. This initiative aligns with the government's vision to internationalize higher education and position GIFT City as a hub for global academic institutions. Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has advocated for the establishment of this

campus, emphasizing the importance of equipping Indian students with global competencies in trade and finance.

Foot notes:

- **Academic Programs:** The campus will offer IIFT's flagship MBA (International Business) program, along with specialized short-term training courses and research opportunities in international trade and related fields.
- **Alignment with NEP 2020:** The initiative aligns with the goals of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which aims to promote multidisciplinary learning and expand access to high-quality education.
- **Expected Contribution:** The GIFT City campus is expected to significantly contribute to India's trade education ecosystem and support the nation's aspiration of becoming a global export powerhouse.
- **Approval and Accreditation:** The Ministry of Education, Government of India, has approved the establishment of the off-campus center under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956, after IIFT's successful compliance with the conditions laid out in the Letter of Intent (LoI) issued in January 2025.



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Haryana approves scheme to provide Rs 10,000 monthly honorarium to artistes

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced a monthly pension of 10,000 for Padma awardees from the state, including recipients of the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Vibhushan. In addition to the pension, awardees will receive free travel facilities on the state's Volvo bus service, enhancing their mobility and access to resources. The scheme underscores the state's commitment to recognizing and supporting its distinguished citizens, fostering a culture of excellence and inspiration for future generations.

Foot notes:

- **Scheme Objective :** The scheme aims to improve the socioeconomic and financial status of senior artists and art scholars in Haryana who lack a stable income source due to their age.
- **Eligibility Criteria :** Artists and art scholars must be 60 years or older, have worked in the arts field for at least 20 years, and be permanent residents of Haryana with a valid Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP ID).

- Monthly Honorarium : Eligible beneficiaries receive Rs 10,000 per month if their annual income is up to Rs 1.80 lakh, and Rs 7,000 per month if their income is between Rs 1.80 lakh and Rs 3 lakh.
- Covered Art Forms : The scheme covers various art forms, including singing, acting, dance, drama, painting, sculpture, theatre, playing musical instruments, and other visual arts.
- Application Process : Beneficiaries can apply offline through the District Office of the Art and Culture Affairs Department,

About Haryana:**Capital:** Chandigarh**Largest City:** Faridabad**DEFENCE NEWS****India-Maldives Strengthen Defence Ties through HADR Exercise**

India and the Maldives have reaffirmed their defence partnership through the 13th edition of the joint military exercise 'Ekuverin', held from February 2 to 16, 2025, at Maafilaafushi in the Maldives. This 14-day exercise focused on enhancing interoperability in counter-insurgency, counter-terrorism, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operations. 'Ekuverin', meaning 'friends' in Dhivehi, symbolizes the camaraderie between the two nations and has been conducted alternately in India and the Maldives since 2009.

Foot notes:

- Exercise Details: The joint HADR exercise between the Indian Navy and the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) is currently underway in Maafilaafushi Atoll, Maldives, from May 4 to May 10, 2025.
- Objective: The exercise aims to enhance interoperability between the Indian Navy and MNDF, strengthen disaster response coordination, and facilitate medical assistance, search and rescue operations, and logistical support.
- Key Activities: The exercise includes joint drills, rescue simulations, medical aid provision, team mobilization, community engagement, and capacity building, simulating a coordinated response to a major natural disaster.
- Strategic Significance: This exercise underscores India's commitment to regional cooperation and maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region, aligning with the "MAHASAGAR" vision of Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions.

BANKING NEWS**SBI Launches Largest Staff Engagement Initiative to Empower Workforce**

The State Bank of India (SBI) has launched its most extensive employee engagement initiative, 'Nayi Disha' (New Path), aiming to enhance work-life balance and rejuvenate its 2.6 lakh-strong workforce. This program involves over 350 trained staff conducting interactive sessions that

focus on employee well-being and include family participation, even allowing spouses to notify the bank if an employee consistently works late. Employees are encouraged to sign a pledge committing to personal health, environmental responsibility, and timely departure from work at least once a week.

Foot notes:

- **Objective:** The initiative aims to prevent employees from working mechanically, boost morale, and enhance customer service by promoting a healthy work-life balance and involving immediate family members.
- **Implementation:** Over 350 trained experts conduct sessions with employees, including a team dinner with spouses, to foster engagement and motivation.
- **Unique Feature:** The pledge card includes a special bar code that allows an employee's spouse to alert the employee's boss if they're spending excessive time at work, enabling corrective action.
- **Participation and Impact:** In a similar initiative, "Abhivyakti" recorded participation from 1,91,881 employees, showcasing SBI's commitment to employee engagement and development.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Launches All New Solitaire Credit Card

Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched the Solitaire Credit Card, a premium offering tailored for its high-net-worth Solitaire banking customers. Valued at 50,000, the card provides annual benefits worth up to 2.5 lakh, including complimentary access to exclusive travel experiences, a "book two nights, pay for one" offer at ITC Hotels, and the ability to redeem rewards for up to six domestic and two international flight tickets. Additional perks encompass zero forex markup, unlimited lounge access, and a generous reward structure of 10 air miles per 100 spent, capped at 100,000 miles monthly.

Foot notes:

- **Kotak IndiGo 6E Rewards XL Credit Card:** Offers 6 reward points per Rs. 100 spent on IndiGo flights, 3 reward points per Rs. 100 spent on dining, grocery, and entertainment, and 2 reward points per Rs. 100 spent on other categories.
- **Kotak Myntra Credit Card:** Provides 7.5% off up to Rs. 750 per transaction on Myntra, 5% cashback up to Rs. 1,000 per month on Swiggy, Swiggy Instamart, PVR, Cleartrip, and Urban Company, and 1.25% cashback on other spends.
- **Kotak Zen Signature Credit Card:** Offers 10 Zen points per Rs. 150 shopping spends, 5 points on others, and 3 international Priority Pass and 8 domestic Dream Folks lounge visits per year.
- **Kotak PVR INOX Credit Card:** Features flat 5% off on movie tickets at PVR INOX, flat 20% off on food and beverages, and complimentary access to premium PVR INOX in-cinema lounges.

About Kotak Mahindra Bank:

CEO: Ashok Vaswani

Founded: 2003

HQ's: Maharashtra

SPORTS NEWS

Suryakumar Yadav, Becomes First Player In The World To Achieve Elusive IPL Feat

Suryakumar Yadav has made history by becoming the first player in the world to achieve a rare and elusive feat in the Indian Premier League (IPL). Known for his aggressive stroke play and consistency, he has been a key performer for the Mumbai Indians. This unique achievement sets him apart as a trailblazer in the T20 format. His contribution has not only strengthened his team's performance but also elevated his status on the global cricket stage. Fans and experts alike have praised his remarkable skill and dedication to the game.

Foot notes:

- **IPL Team and Role:** He plays for the Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League (IPL) and is a batter.
- **Awards and Accolades:** He has won the ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year award in 2022 and 2023.
- **Career Highlights:** Yadav has been a consistent performer for both his IPL franchise and the Indian team, and was part of the team that won the 2024 T20 World Cup. He is currently the captain of the Indian National T20 side.
- **Net Worth and Salary:** Suryakumar Yadav has a net worth of 45 crores and earns 8 crores per annum in the IPL.

Sai Sudharsan becomes fastest Indian to reach 2000 T20 runs

Sai Sudharsan has etched his name into cricketing history by becoming the fastest Indian to reach 2,000 runs in T20 cricket. The 23-year-old Gujarat Titans opener achieved this milestone during an IPL 2025 match against SunRisers Hyderabad, reaching the landmark in just his 54th innings—surpassing the previous Indian record held by Sachin Tendulkar, who took 59 innings to achieve the same. Globally, Sudharsan stands second only to Australia's Shaun Marsh, who reached the 2,000-run mark in 53 innings. In the match, Sudharsan played a brisk innings, scoring 48 runs off 23 balls, which included nine boundaries, contributing to Gujarat Titans' formidable start.

Foot notes:

- **Record-Breaking Milestone:** Sai Sudharsan became the fastest Indian to reach 2000 T20 runs, achieving this feat in just 54 innings, surpassing Sachin Tendulkar's record of 59 innings.
- **Global Ranking:** Sudharsan is now the second-fastest player globally to reach 2000 T20 runs, with only Shaun Marsh (53 innings) ahead of him.
- **IPL 2025 Performance:** Sudharsan's achievement came during the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 season while playing for Gujarat Titans. He scored 48 runs off 23 balls against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

- Orange Cap Leader: Sudharsan leads the Orange Cap race in IPL 2025 with 504 runs in 10 matches, including five half-centuries, showcasing his consistency and form.
- Classical Batting Style: Sudharsan's success is attributed to his classical batting approach, prioritizing technique and timing over brute force, making him a unique talent in T20 cricket.

India Women's Hockey Team Won In Final Match Of Australia

The India Women's Hockey Team secured a thrilling victory in the final match against Australia. The match was intense, with both teams displaying exceptional skill and determination. India's defense remained strong, effectively blocking several Australian attacks. A crucial goal in the second half gave India the lead. The team maintained composure under pressure and held on to their advantage. This win marks a significant achievement for Indian women's hockey on the international stage.

Foot notes:

- Match Result: The Indian women's hockey team secured a 1-0 victory over Australia in the fifth and final game of their tour at the Perth Hockey Stadium.
- Goal Scorer: Navneet Kaur scored the only goal of the match, a field goal in the 21st minute, which proved to be the decisive moment in the tightly contested game.
- Strong Defense: India's defense held strong against the Australian attack, denying them the opening goal despite winning two penalty corners in the first quarter. The team successfully defended their slim lead in the second half.
- Series Performance: This win marked a significant improvement after the team lost four consecutive matches, including two against the Australia A side and two against the senior team.

Rajasthan Won Gold In 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team At Khelo India Youth Games

Rajasthan clinched the gold medal in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team event at the Khelo India Youth Games 2025, held at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi. The duo of Mayank Choudhary and Prachi delivered a stellar performance, taking an early lead in the match. Despite a strong comeback by Uttar Pradesh's team, comprising Dev Pratap and Urva Choudhary, who managed to level the scores at one point, Rajasthan maintained their composure and secured the top spot. Uttar Pradesh settled for the silver medal after a closely contested final. In the bronze medal match, Delhi's Niyamicka Rana and Hardik Bansal showcased exceptional skill to defeat Haryana's Kanak and Partik Sheokand.

Foot notes:

- Youngest Gold Medalist: Abhinav Shaw, a 10-year-old shooter, teamed up with Mehuli Ghosh to win the gold medal in the 10m air rifle mixed team event in the Khelo India Youth Games, becoming the youngest gold medalist at Khelo Games.

- **Rajasthan's Performance:** Rajasthan secured 22 gold medals in the Khelo India Para Games 2025, which was held in New Delhi from March 20 to 27, 2025. However, it's unclear if this is related to the specific event mentioned.
- **Top Shooters:** In a related event, seasoned star Vijay Singh Kuntal from Rajasthan won the 10m air rifle gold in the SH2 category with an aggregate score of 618.3 in the Khelo India Para Games.
- **Khelo India Initiative:** The Khelo India programme provides annual financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh per annum for eight years to young athletes, aiming to develop sports in the country.

Indian Duo Won U-19 Boys Doubles Title At WTT Youth Star Contender

Indian table tennis duo Ankur Bhattacharjee and Abhinandh Pradhavadhi clinched the U-19 Boys' Doubles title at the WTT Youth Star Contender 2025 in Bangkok. In the final, they defeated South Korea's Lee Jungmok and Choi Jiwook with a score of 3-1 (11-8, 8-11, 11-8, 11-7), showcasing exceptional teamwork and resilience. Their journey to the title included a comeback victory in the quarter-finals against Japan's Kazuki Yoshiyama and Iran's Benyamin Faraji, where they overturned a 0-2 deficit to win 3-2. This triumph marks India's fourth consecutive year securing at least one title at the WTT Youth Star Contender events, highlighting the nation's growing prowess in youth table tennis. The duo's performance underscores the depth of talent in India's junior ranks and sets a promising tone for future international competitions.

Foot notes:

- **Match Details:** The Indian pair won the sets 11-8, 8-11, 11-8, and 11-7, showcasing their tactical superiority and composure under pressure. The match lasted just over 30 minutes.
- **Strong Comeback:** In the quarterfinals, Bhattacharjee and Pradhivadhi made a remarkable comeback from 0-2 down to beat Japan's Kazuki Yoshiyama and Iran's Benyamin Faraji 3-2.
- **Ankur's Singles Performance:** Ankur Bhattacharjee also participated in the singles event, winning his first match against Korea's Lee Seungsoo 3-0 but losing to Japan's Yoshiyama 0-3 in the quarterfinals.
- **India's Dominance:** This win extends India's streak of winning at least one title at the WTT Youth Star Contender events for the fourth consecutive year, highlighting the country's growing presence in international table tennis.

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China Clinches 14th Sudirman Cup Title

China secured its 14th Sudirman Cup title with a dominant performance in the prestigious mixed team badminton championship. The final match saw China defeating South Korea with a clean 3-0 victory, showcasing their depth and skill across all disciplines. With this win, China further cemented its legacy as the most successful nation in Sudirman Cup history. Star players delivered stellar performances, reflecting the country's strong badminton infrastructure and consistent talent development. The victory also highlighted China's strategic prowess and team unity, crucial in such a high-pressure tournament. This triumph reinforces China's position at the pinnacle of world badminton and boosts their momentum ahead of future global competitions.

Foot notes:

- Record 14th Title: China won a record 14th Sudirman Cup title by defeating South Korea 3-1 in the 2025 final, further solidifying their dominance in badminton.
- Fourth Consecutive Win: This victory marks China's fourth consecutive Sudirman Cup title, showcasing their consistency and depth in the sport.
- Final Match Details: The final match against South Korea lasted 229 minutes, with China ultimately emerging victorious.
- Tournament Legacy: China's first Sudirman Cup title was in 1995 in Lausanne, Switzerland, and they've gone on to win 13 more titles since then.
- Venue: The 2025 Sudirman Cup final was held in Xiamen, China, where the host nation put on a stellar performance to claim the championship.

Karnataka leads medal tally with four gold & five silver medals in Khelo India Youth Games

Karnataka has surged to the top of the medal tally at the Khelo India Youth Games 2025, currently underway in Bihar. The state's athletes have clinched a total of nine medals—four gold and five silver—demonstrating exceptional performances across multiple disciplines. Delhi follows in second place with six medals, including two golds, while Rajasthan holds third with three medals, two of which are gold. The Games, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, are being hosted across Bihar, with shooting, cycling, and gymnastics events taking place

in New Delhi . Karnataka's early dominance underscores the state's growing investment in youth sports and grassroots development.

Foot notes:

- **Top Performances:** Karnataka's swimmers have been dominating, securing four gold medals in the BIPARD Swimming Pool in Gaya. Krish Sukumar won the boys' 100m Breaststroke, Manvi Verma won the girls' 100m breaststroke and 50m butterfly events, and Sri Charani Tumu won the girls' 800m Freestyle.
- **Other Medal Winners:** Delhi is in second place with 2 gold medals, 1 silver, and 1 bronze, while Maharashtra is in third place with 1 gold, 1 silver, and 5 bronze medals.
- **Competition Progress:** The Khelo India Youth Games are being held in multiple venues, with events in shooting, cycling, gymnastics, swimming, and other sports. The games feature athletes from across the country, showcasing India's diverse sporting talent.
- **Medal Events:** Various medal events have been concluded, including the Mixed Team 10m Air Pistol, where Rajasthan won gold, and the archery competitions, where Maharashtra has shown dominance in several categories.

Indian Railways Triumphs in 6th Arjan Singh Memorial Hockey Tournament 2025

Indian Railways clinched the title at the 6th Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Memorial Hockey Tournament 2025, held at the Raghbir Singh Bhola Hockey Stadium in Chandigarh. In a gripping final against Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala, the match ended in a 1-1 draw during regulation time, leading to a penalty shootout where Indian Railways triumphed 3-1 . The tournament, conducted from April 29 to May 6, featured 12 teams, including international participants, and was organized to honor the legacy of Marshal Arjan Singh, a revered figure in Indian military history .

Foot notes:

- **Tournament Details:** The 6th edition of the Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Memorial Hockey Tournament 2025 was held from April 29 to May 6, 2025, at the Raghbir Singh Bhola Hockey Stadium in Chandigarh.
- **Participating Teams:** Twelve elite teams, including 11 from India and one from Bangladesh, participated in the tournament.
- **Importance:** The tournament provides a platform for teams to showcase their skills and compete for the coveted title, promoting the sport of hockey in India.

Shambhavi Kshirsagar won Gold in 10m Air Rifle at Khelo India Youth Games

Maharashtra's Shambhavi Shravan Kshirsagar clinched the gold medal in the 10m Air Rifle Women Youth final at the Khelo India Youth Games, scoring 251.3 points at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi. She narrowly edged out Punjab's Lavanya Rawat, who secured silver with 249.6 points, while Karnataka's Hrudya Shri Kondur took bronze with 228.8 points. This victory adds to Shambhavi's impressive achievements, including a double gold at the 23rd Kumar Surendra Singh Memorial Shooting Championship, where she triumphed over

seasoned competitors like Olympic finalist Ramita and world championship medallist Mehuli Ghosh.

Foot notes:

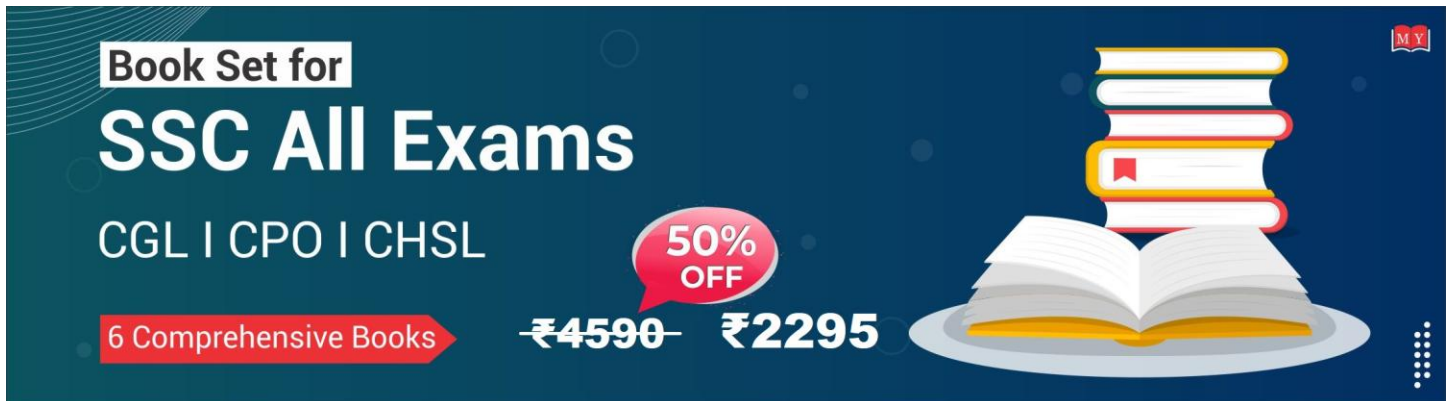
- **Actual Achievement:** Shambhavi Kshirsagar won a bronze medal in the 10m Air Rifle Women Junior category at the ISSF Junior Rifle/Pistol 10m Finals in Granada, Spain, not gold in the Khelo India Youth Games as stated.
- **Competition Level:** She has competed at the international level, showcasing her talent in events like the ISSF Junior World Cup and ISSF Junior Rifle/Pistol 10m Finals.
- **Medal Wins:** Shambhavi has won medals in prestigious competitions, including a bronze in the 10m Air Rifle Women Junior category and potentially other medals in team events.
- **Team Success:** As part of the Indian women's 10m air rifle team, she contributed to setting a new junior world record with a combined score of 1894.8, winning gold in the process.
- **Sporting Excellence:** Shambhavi's achievements demonstrate her dedication and skill in shooting sports, making her a notable figure in Indian junior shooting.

Ayush Kumar's Grit Shines in Bihar's Silver Triumph at Khelo India Youth Games

Fourteen-year-old Ayush Kumar showcased remarkable resilience at the Khelo India Youth Games 2025, leading Bihar to a historic silver medal in Sepak Takraw just hours after the passing of his 78-year-old grandfather. Despite the personal tragedy, Ayush competed in the third regu of the men's team final against Manipur, demonstrating unwavering focus and determination. His 19-year-old sister, Khusbu, also a Sepak Takraw player, supported him from the sidelines, managing her grief to ensure Ayush remained composed during the match.

Foot notes:

- **Ayush Kumar's Resilience:** 14-year-old Ayush Kumar showed remarkable grit and determination in the Khelo India Youth Games 2025, contributing significantly to Bihar's silver medal win in Sepak Takraw despite learning about his grandfather's passing.
- **Sepak Takraw Debut:** Sepak Takraw made its debut in the Khelo India Youth Games, drawing packed crowds and showcasing the sport's rising popularity in Bihar.
- **Men's Final:** Bihar's team, led in part by Ayush's efforts, narrowly lost to Manipur in the men's final, securing a silver medal.
- **Inspiring Others:** Ayush, who has been practicing Sepak Takraw for only four years, hopes his achievement will inspire others to pursue the sport as a career.



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Rohit Sharma retires from Test Cricket

Rohit Sharma, India's Test captain, has announced his retirement from Test cricket at the age of 38, effective immediately. This decision follows the selectors' move to replace him as captain ahead of the upcoming England tour, after a period of declining form that saw him average just 10.93 over the past year. Sharma's Test career spanned 67 matches, during which he amassed 4,301 runs at an average of 40.57, including 12 centuries. Despite stepping away from the longest format, he will continue to represent India in One-Day Internationals, aiming to contribute to the team's success in the 2027 World Cup. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) acknowledged his contributions, calling it the end of an era.

Foot notes:

- **Retirement Announcement:** Rohit Sharma announced his retirement from Test cricket on May 7, 2025, via an Instagram post, sharing a picture of his Test cap.
- **Reason and Timing:** The retirement comes ahead of India's Test series against England, starting on June 20, 2025, and follows Rohit's underwhelming performance in the 2024-25 Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia.
- **Career Statistics:** Rohit played 67 Test matches, scoring 4,301 runs with 12 centuries and 18 fifties at an average of 40.57. He also captained India in 24 Tests.
- **Continuing ODI Career:** Rohit confirmed he will continue to represent India in the ODI format, ensuring his presence in the team for upcoming limited-overs matches.

Graham Arnold Appointed as Iraq's New Football Coach

Graham Arnold, former head coach of Australia's national football team, is set to be officially appointed as the new head coach of Iraq's national team this weekend, according to the Iraqi Football Association (IFA). Arnold, who led Australia to the round of 16 at the 2022 World Cup, will replace Spaniard Jesus Casas, who was dismissed in March following a 2-1 defeat to Palestine. That loss left Iraq in third place in their group for the 2026 World Cup qualifiers, just outside the automatic qualification spots. Arnold will bring a full technical staff of seven coaches, including a notable assistant with English Premier League experience.

Foot notes:

- **Appointment and Objective:** Graham Arnold has been appointed as the new coach of Iraq's national team, aiming to guide the team through the 2026 World Cup qualifiers.

- Experience: Arnold brings extensive experience, having previously coached Australia's national team, leading them to the Round of 16 at the 2022 World Cup.
- Contract Details: His contract will reportedly run through the 2027 AFC Asian Cup, with a monthly salary structure and potential termination if Iraq fails to qualify for the World Cup.
- Upcoming Challenges: Arnold's first tests will be crucial World Cup qualifiers against South Korea and Jordan, scheduled for June.
- Team's Potential: Arnold believes Iraq has the quality to compete on the global stage and is motivated to help realize that potential.

Sabalenka beats Gauff to win Madrid Open 2025

World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka clinched her third Madrid Open title by defeating Coco Gauff 6–3, 7–6(3) in the 2025 women's singles final. This victory marks Sabalenka's 20th career WTA singles title and her third WTA 1000 title of the year, equaling Petra Kvitová's record for the most Madrid Open titles in the tournament's history. Sabalenka showcased her dominance by taking an early lead in the first set and overcoming a 3–5 deficit in the second to win the tiebreak. With this win, Sabalenka improved her 2025 record against top-10 players to 6–0, solidifying her position at the pinnacle of women's tennis.

Foot notes:

- Final Score: Sabalenka defeated Coco Gauff with a score of 6-3, 7-6(3) in the WTA 1000 final, held on May 3, 2025.
- Third Madrid Title: This victory marked Sabalenka's third Madrid Open title, tying Petra Kvitova's record for the most women's singles wins in the tournament's history.
- 20th WTA Singles Title: The win was Sabalenka's 20th career WTA singles title, solidifying her position as a top player.
- Strong Performance: Sabalenka dominated the first set, winning 17 consecutive points at one stage to build a 4-1 lead, and eventually sealed the win in a closely contested second set tie-break.
- Seasonal Lead: With this title, Sabalenka leads the season with 31 match wins, ahead of Jessica Pegula's 27 wins, and also became the second player to win both Miami and Madrid in the same season, after Serena Williams in 2013.

AGREEMENT & MOU'S NEWS

GAME and NITI Aayog collaborated to boost local entrepreneurship

The Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship (GAME) and NITI Aayog have formed a strategic partnership to strengthen local entrepreneurship ecosystems across India. Announced on May 2, 2025, the collaboration will commence with pilot projects in Nagpur, Visakhapatnam, and select districts of Uttar Pradesh, aiming to empower entrepreneurs in underserved regions. The initiative focuses on a bottom-up approach, bringing together

stakeholders such as government bodies, corporates, educational institutions, financial entities, and community organizations to address region-specific challenges.

Foot notes:

- **Partnership Objective:** GAME and NITI Aayog have partnered to foster vibrant entrepreneurship ecosystems across multiple states in India, focusing on region-specific interventions.
- **Pilot Locations:** The initiative will start with pilot projects in Nagpur, Visakhapatnam, and select locations in Uttar Pradesh, aiming to create localized solutions for each region's unique challenges.
- **Key Stakeholders:** The partnership brings together government bodies, corporations, educational institutions, financial entities, successful entrepreneurs, and community organizations to support local entrepreneurs.
- **Methodologies:** GAME's proven methodologies will be implemented, including access to finance, capacity-building programs, policy advocacy, and community-driven initiatives to enable entrepreneurs to start and scale businesses.

India-Vietnam Strengthen Buddhist Ties with New MoU

India and Vietnam have further strengthened their cultural and spiritual ties by signing a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) focused on Buddhist heritage and cooperation. Announced during Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh's visit to India in August 2024, the MoU includes India's commitment to assist in the conservation of the F-block temples at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of My Son, a historic center of Cham civilization with deep Indian cultural influences. Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized Buddhism as a shared spiritual heritage that continues to connect the people of both nations, inviting Vietnamese citizens to explore India's Buddhist Circuit and encouraging Vietnamese youth to engage with institutions like Nalanda University.

Foot notes:

- **MoU Signing:** The MoU was signed between the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) and the National Vietnam Buddhist Sangha (VBS).
- **Establishment of Vietnam Chapter:** The MoU led to the establishment of the Vietnam Chapter of the IBC, which aims to promote Buddha Dhamma in Vietnam and beyond, focusing on global peace, harmony, and sustainable development.
- **Cultural Significance:** The MoU reinforces India's cultural diplomacy and Buddhist heritage, enhancing people-to-people ties between India and Vietnam.
- **Strategic Importance:** This agreement promotes India's soft power and Buddhist diplomacy, supporting regional unity and spiritual collaboration through Buddhist channels.

GDAI, SEPC sign pact to boost gaming industry

The Game Developers Association of India (GDAI) and the Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to bolster India's gaming industry. This partnership aims to enhance policy frameworks, foster innovation, and promote skill development within the sector. By collaborating, GDAI and SEPC intend to create a sustainable ecosystem that supports game developers and positions India as a global leader in video game development. This strategic alliance underscores a unified effort to drive growth and international recognition for India's burgeoning gaming sector.

Foot notes:

- **Partnership Objective:** GDAI and SEPC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote collaboration, innovation, and growth in India's gaming and esports sectors, aiming to position the country as a leader in video game IPs.
- **Key Focus Areas:** The partnership will focus on boosting India's gaming industry through collaboration, investment, and global outreach, fostering a supportive framework for growth and innovation.
- **Industry Impact:** This collaboration is expected to drive industry advancement, partnerships, and policy development, enhancing the technical and creative skills of Indian game developers.
- **Strategic Milestone:** The MoU was signed at the WAVES Summit 2025 in Mumbai, marking a significant milestone in promoting India's gaming and esports sectors.

Bhutan Signs MoU with Adani for 5000 MW hydropower

Bhutan has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Adani Group to develop a 570 MW green hydroelectric plant in the Chukha province, marking a significant step in the nation's renewable energy initiatives. This project aims to harness Bhutan's vast hydro potential, contributing to sustainable energy production and strengthening bilateral ties between the Adani Group and Bhutan. The hydroelectric plant is expected to supply power domestically and export surplus electricity to India, enhancing energy cooperation between the two countries.

Foot notes:

- The MoU is for a 570 MW green hydroelectric power plant, not 5000 MW, in Chukha province, Bhutan.
- **Partnership Details:** Adani Group signed the MoU with Bhutan's Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) to develop the hydroelectric facility, aligning with Bhutan's goal of sustainable development.
- **Renewable Energy:** The project will utilize Bhutan's natural resources to generate clean and reliable energy, contributing to the country's economic growth and job creation.
- **Infrastructure Development:** The collaboration may extend beyond the hydroelectric plant, with potential partnerships in transportation infrastructure, tourism, and green energy management.

- Meetings and Discussions: Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani met with Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay to discuss the project and other potential collaborations

About Bhutan:

Capital: Thimphu

Currencies: Bhutanese Ngultrum

Official language: Dzongkha

AWARD NEWS

Subhasish Bose Named Men's Player Of The Year At All India Football Federation

Awards 2025

Subhasish Bose, captain of Mohun Bagan Super Giant and a key defender for the Indian national team, has been honored as the AIFF Men's Player of the Year for the 2024–25 season. The award was presented during the AIFF Awards ceremony held on May 2, 2025, in Bhubaneswar, recognizing his exceptional contributions to both club and country. Bose's leadership and defensive prowess were instrumental in Mohun Bagan's Indian Super League triumph, where the team achieved 15 clean sheets. Notably, he also contributed offensively, scoring six crucial goals throughout the season. This accolade marks a significant recognition for defenders in Indian football, as Bose becomes only the second defender in the last 11 years to receive this honor, following Sandesh Jhingan's win in the 2020–21 season.

Foot notes:


- Award Winner: Subhasish Bose was named the AIFF Best Men's Player of the Year 2024-25, recognizing his outstanding performance in the Indian football season.
- Historic Achievement: Bose became the seventh defender to win the AIFF Men's Player of the Year Award, following notable players like Sandesh Jhingan and Syed Rahim Nabi.
- Leadership: Bose captained Mohun Bagan Super Giant to a historic Indian Super League double, winning both the League Winners' Shield and the ISL Cup in the same season.
- Team Success: Under Bose's leadership, Mohun Bagan SG secured a 2-1 win over Bengaluru FC in the final, making them only the second team in ISL history to achieve this feat after Mumbai City FC in 2020-21.

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TCS, IBM partner to build India's largest Quantum Computing Hub

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and IBM have partnered with the Government of Andhra Pradesh to establish India's largest quantum computing hub at the upcoming Quantum Valley Tech Park in Amaravati. This initiative will feature IBM's Quantum System Two, equipped with a 156-qubit Heron processor, marking a significant advancement in the nation's quantum technology capabilities. The collaboration aims to accelerate the development of quantum algorithms and applications across various sectors, including life sciences, materials science, cryptography, energy optimization, and logistics. TCS will play a pivotal role in co-developing these solutions, leveraging its expertise in hybrid computing architectures that integrate classical and quantum systems.

Foot notes:

- **Largest Quantum Computer in India:** The IBM Quantum System Two will be the largest quantum computer in India, providing access to cutting-edge quantum computing capabilities for researchers, developers, and industry experts.
- **Cloud Access:** TCS and IBM have signed an agreement to provide cloud access to IBM's cloud-based quantum computers to scientists and technologists in the region, enabling them to develop quantum algorithms and applications.
- **Quantum Algorithm Development:** TCS will partner with IBM to support the development of algorithms and applications that will help Indian industry and academia solve complex problems.
- **Job Creation and Talent Development:** The Quantum Valley Tech Park aims to create high-end jobs, attract top-tier talent, and drive global investments in India's emerging quantum industry. The partnership is expected to accelerate the development of India's quantum ecosystem.

Tanzanian President receives UAE's 'Mother of Nation Order'

President Samia Suluhu Hassan of Tanzania has been honored with the United Arab Emirates' prestigious 'Order of the Mother of the Nation' award. This accolade recognizes her significant contributions to social development, women's empowerment, and community welfare. The award is part of the Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak Programme for Excellence and Community Intelligence, which celebrates individuals and institutions that have made impactful efforts in

promoting social cohesion and innovation. President Hassan's leadership has been instrumental in advancing initiatives that uplift communities and foster inclusive growth.

Foot notes:

- **The Award:** The 'Mother of the Nation' Order is a prestigious award in the UAE, named after Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak Al Ketbi, the mother of the UAE's current president, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and wife of the UAE's founder, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.
- **Recipient:** Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan was awarded this honor, although the exact date of receiving the award isn't specified in the search results provided.
- **President Samia's Background:** Samia Suluhu Hassan is the first female president of Tanzania and has implemented various reforms, including promoting democracy, expanding infrastructure, and globalizing the Tanzanian economy.
- **Significance:** This award might signify the strong diplomatic ties and mutual respect between Tanzania and the UAE, considering Sheikha Fatima's contributions to women's rights and education in the UAE.

The New York Times Wins Four Pulitzer Prizes in 2025

The New York Times secured four Pulitzer Prizes in 2025, highlighting its excellence in journalism across diverse fields. Photographer Doug Mills earned the Breaking News Photography award for his striking image capturing a bullet passing near former President Donald Trump during an assassination attempt . In International Reporting, Declan Walsh and the Times' staff were recognized for their in-depth investigation into Sudan's conflict, shedding light on foreign influences and the gold trade fueling the unrest . The Explanatory Reporting prize was awarded to Azam Ahmed, Christina Goldbaum, and contributing writer Matthieu Aikins for their comprehensive analysis of U.S. policy failures in Afghanistan .

Foot notes:

- **Finalists:** The New York Times also had four finalists, including Dave Philipps for Public Service and Times Opinion staff for Editorial Writing.
- **Pulitzer Prize Ceremony:** The 2025 Pulitzer Prizes were awarded on May 5, 2025, recognizing works created during the 2024 calendar year.
- **Significance:** This win highlights The New York Times' commitment to quality journalism and its ability to cover a wide range of topics, from local issues to international conflicts.
- **Number of Awards:** The New York Times won four Pulitzer Prizes in 2025, showcasing its excellence in journalism.

Ferdous Ara to receive Lifetime Achievement Award

Renowned Bangladeshi Nazrul Sangeet artist Ferdous Ara has been honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2023–2024 Babisas Awards, recognizing her exceptional contributions to music and culture. This accolade adds to her illustrious career, which includes

the prestigious Ekushey Padak, the second-highest civilian award in Bangladesh, bestowed upon her in 2025 for her outstanding work in music . Ara's musical journey began in 1973, and she has since released numerous albums, authored influential books on Nazrul Sangeet, and founded the music school 'Sur Saptak' in 2000 .

Foot notes:

- **Previous Honors:** Ara has previously received the Ekushey Padak, the second-highest civilian award in Bangladesh, and the Nazrul Award in 2017, showcasing her impact on Bangladeshi culture.
- **Music Career:** With a career spanning over four decades, Ara has released numerous albums of Nazrul Sangeet, contemporary, and patriotic songs, and has performed at prestigious venues like the Royal Albert Hall in London.
- **Teaching and Mentoring:** Ara teaches Nazrul songs at the Nazrul Institute, University of Dhaka, and Dhaka Music College, and has founded a music school called Sur Saptak, highlighting her commitment to music education.
- **Recent Recognition:** Ara was recently honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by BCDF in their 'Bijoy Sommanona' program, alongside other notable cultural personalities, filmmaker Ahsanullah Moni and actress Lucky Enam.



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Russia honoured the legendary Indian leader and aviator Biju Patnaik

Russia honored legendary Indian leader and aviator Biju Patnaik for his pivotal role during World War II, recognizing his contributions to the Soviet Union's efforts against Nazi Germany. As a pilot in the Royal Indian Air Force, Patnaik undertook daring missions, including delivering arms and supplies to Soviet troops near Stalingrad, aiding their resistance against Hitler's forces. In acknowledgment of his bravery, Russia awarded him honorary citizenship and paid tribute during his funeral by draping his coffin with the Russian flag, alongside those of India and Indonesia. This rare honor underscores Patnaik's international legacy, highlighting his commitment to global freedom movements and his enduring impact on international relations.

Foot notes:

- **Awards and Honors:** Patnaik received the Order of Lenin from Russia and the Bintang Jasa Utama, Indonesia's highest national award, for his bravery and contributions.

- **Role in Indonesian Freedom Struggle:** He played a crucial role in Indonesia's freedom struggle, flying a daring rescue mission to save Indonesian leaders, including Sukarno and Sjahrir, from Dutch colonizers in 1947.
- **Aviation Career:** Patnaik was a skilled pilot who served in the Royal Indian Air Force and later became an entrepreneur, setting up Kalinga Airlines and other businesses.
- **Indian Politics:** He served as the Chief Minister of Odisha twice and was a Union Minister for Steel, Mines, and Coal in the Morarji Desai and Charan Singh governments.

APPOINTMENT & PERSON IN NEWS

Lt. Gen. Pratik Sharma has assumed charge as the Northern Army Commander

Lt. Gen. Pratik Sharma has officially assumed charge as the Northern Army Commander, one of the most critical positions in the Indian Army. He succeeds Lt. Gen. Upendra Dwivedi, who has now moved on to a higher command role. Lt. Gen. Sharma brings with him extensive operational experience, especially in high-altitude warfare and counter-insurgency operations. He is expected to play a pivotal role in overseeing security along the sensitive borders with Pakistan and China. His leadership is seen as crucial for maintaining stability and readiness in one of the army's most strategic commands.

Foot notes:

- **Command Responsibility:** The Northern Command, headquartered in Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir, is responsible for defending the country along the border with Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir and contiguous portions of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, as well as securing the Ladakh region along the border with China.
- **Experience and Background:** Lt. Gen. Pratik Sharma is a highly decorated officer with over 37 years of service, having commanded various units, including the 80 Infantry Brigade in Jammu and Kashmir, the 25th Infantry Division, and II Corps.
- **Previous Role:** Before taking over as the Northern Army Commander, Lt. Gen. Sharma served as the Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy) from November 1, 2024, to April 30, 2025.
- **Awards and Decorations:** Lt. Gen. Sharma has been awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, and Sena Medal for his distinguished service.

Warren Buffett Step down As CEO of Berkshire

Warren Buffett, the legendary investor and long-time CEO of Berkshire Hathaway, has announced his decision to step down from his role at the end of 2025. After leading the conglomerate for over six decades, Buffett will hand over the reins to Greg Abel, Berkshire's Vice Chairman of non-insurance operations. The announcement was made during Berkshire's annual shareholder meeting in Omaha, marking a significant transition in the company's history. Greg Abel, a Canadian-born executive with a background in accounting and energy, has been with Berkshire Hathaway since 2000, following the company's acquisition of MidAmerican

Energy. He has been overseeing Berkshire's non-insurance businesses, including notable subsidiaries like BNSF Railway, Dairy Queen and Duracell.

Foot notes:

- Reason for Stepping Down: Buffett's decision to step down comes after six decades at the helm of Berkshire Hathaway. His age and desire to pass on the reins to a capable successor likely played a role in this decision.
- Greg Abel's Credentials: Abel, 62, has been a longtime Buffett deputy and currently serves as chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway Energy. Buffett praised Abel, saying, "Greg can do better at many things."
- Berkshire's Stability: Despite Buffett's departure, Berkshire Hathaway's stability and diversified business model are expected to endure. The company operates over 60 subsidiaries across various sectors and has significant investments in 40+ publicly traded companies.
- Investment Philosophy: Buffett's investment philosophy will continue under Abel's leadership. Abel has shown his ability to act on investment opportunities and shares Buffett's value investing approach.

Birendra Kumar Mishra appointed as OSD to the Minister for Panchayati Raj and Fisheries

Birendra Kumar Mishra, a 2012-batch officer of the Indian Statistical Service (ISS), has been appointed as the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, who oversees the Ministries of Panchayati Raj, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying. The appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) and formalized through an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). Mishra's tenure as OSD is set to continue until March 31, 2028, which aligns with his date of superannuation. However, the tenure is subject to change if it becomes co-terminous with the Minister's term or until further orders are issued. In his role, Mishra will assist Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh in administrative coordination and policy implementation across the aforementioned ministries.

Foot notes:

- Ministerial Portfolio: Mishra will work under Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, who holds the portfolios of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, but notably, Panchayati Raj is not mentioned in the sources as part of Singh's portfolios.
- Role and Responsibilities: As OSD, Mishra will likely provide support to Minister Singh in policy matters, decision-making, and other official responsibilities related to the ministry.
- Background: Birendra Kumar Mishra is an experienced bureaucrat, and his appointment reflects the government's efforts to ensure efficient governance and policy implementation in the fisheries and animal husbandry sectors.

Prakash Magdum Appointed as New MD of NFDC

On May 5, 2025, Shri Prakash Magdum, a seasoned officer of the Indian Information Service (IIS) from the 1999 batch, assumed charge as the Managing Director of the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC). His previous roles include serving as the Additional Director General at the Press Information Bureau and Central Bureau of Communication in Ahmedabad, Director of the National Film Archive of India (NFAI), Registrar of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), and spokesperson for the Ministry of Defence in Thiruvananthapuram.

Foot notes:

- **Background:** Magdum has over two decades of experience in film, communication, and cultural preservation, having served in various roles, including Director of the National Film Archive of India and Additional Director General of Press Information Bureau.
- **Key Contributions:** As Director of NFAI, Magdum played a pivotal role in executing the National Film Heritage Mission, overseeing preservation, digitization, and restoration of vintage Indian films.
- **NFDC's Role:** The National Film Development Corporation, established in 1975, aims to promote Indian cinema, especially regional and parallel cinema, through financing, co-productions, and international film festivals.

Anish Prasad appointed as Inspector General in BSF

Senior IPS officer Anish Prasad, from the 2003 Tripura cadre, has been appointed as Inspector General (IG) in the Border Security Force (BSF) on a lateral deputation basis. Prior to this, he served as the Executive Director (Vigilance – Police) in the Railway Board. His deputation to the BSF will continue until June 21, 2026, or until further orders, aligning with the end of his five-year central deputation tenure. With over a decade of experience in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), his appointment is expected to strengthen the BSF's capabilities in vigilance, cyber security, and investigative operations.

Foot notes:

- **Current Posting:** According to available data, Anish Prasad is currently posted as Director, Vigilance (Police), Railway Board of India, not as Inspector General in BSF.
- **BSF Connection:** However, another officer from the same cadre, Puneet Rastogi (TR:1995), is serving as Inspector General in the Border Security Force (BSF).
- **Rank and Role:** As Director, Vigilance (Police), Anish Prasad likely oversees vigilance and anti-corruption activities within the Indian Railways.
- **IPS Career:** Anish Prasad's career progression can be tracked through official IPS officer listings, which provide details on postings, promotions, and cadre allocations.

Parameswaran Iyer appointed as India's Nominee Director

Parameswaran Iyer has been appointed as India's temporary nominee director on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board, succeeding Krishnamurthy V.

Subramanian, whose term was unexpectedly terminated six months early. Iyer, currently serving as India's Executive Director at the World Bank, assumes this role ahead of a crucial IMF meeting on May 9, which will discuss a \$1.3 billion loan to Pakistan under a climate resilience program and review an ongoing \$7 billion bailout package.

Foot notes:

- **Background:** Iyer is a seasoned civil servant with a distinguished career, having led the Swachh Bharat Mission and served as the CEO of NITI Aayog. His experience spans water resources management, sanitation, and policy implementation.
- **Swachh Bharat Mission Achievements:** As the mission's leader, Iyer played a crucial role in achieving India's goal of eliminating open defecation. Under his guidance, India built over 100 million toilets in rural areas and 6.3 million in cities, significantly improving sanitation and public health.
- **Expertise in Water Resources:** Iyer's work at the World Bank focused on water resources management, and he was instrumental in implementing the Jal Jeevan Mission in India, aiming to provide piped water supply to all households by 2024.
- **Leadership Experience:** As the CEO of NITI Aayog, Iyer worked on shaping India's development agenda and policy framework, further demonstrating his leadership capabilities and commitment to public service.

Praveen Sood extended as Director, CBI for a period of one year

The Central Government has extended the tenure of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director Praveen Sood by one year, effective beyond May 24, 2025. This decision was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) after a high-level selection committee meeting—comprising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi—failed to reach a consensus on his successor. Sood, a 1986-batch IPS officer from the Karnataka cadre, was appointed as CBI Director in May 2023 for an initial two-year term. Before this role, he served as the Director General of Police in Karnataka and has held several key positions, including Police Commissioner of Bengaluru and Mysuru.

Foot notes:

- **Extension:** Praveen Sood, the current Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), has been granted a one-year extension.
- **Tenure:** His extended tenure will likely conclude on May 25, 2025.
- **Leadership:** As Director, Sood has been leading high-profile investigations and reforms within the agency.
- **Background:** Praveen Sood is an IPS officer of the 1986 batch from the Karnataka cadre.
- **CBI:** The CBI is India's premier investigative agency, handling cases of corruption, economic offenses, and serious crimes.

Praksah Magdum take charge as MD of NDFC

Prakash Magdum, a 1999-batch Indian Information Service officer, has been appointed as the Managing Director of the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC). Prior to this role, he served as the Additional Director General at the Press Information Bureau (PIB) and the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) in Ahmedabad. Magdum has also held significant positions such as Director of the National Film Archive of India (NFAI) in Pune, where he played a pivotal role in preserving India's cinematic heritage through the National Film Heritage Mission. His extensive experience in film preservation and communication is expected to contribute significantly to NFDC's mission of promoting Indian cinema.

Foot notes:

- **Film Industry Experience:** He has also held key positions, including Director of the National Film Archive of India (NFAI) in Pune, where he oversaw the preservation and digitization of vintage Indian films, and Registrar of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII).
- **Key Contributions:** As Director of NFAI, Magdum played a pivotal role in executing the National Film Heritage Mission, focusing on film preservation, conservation, and restoration.
- **NFDC Role:** As Managing Director of NFDC, Magdum is expected to boost the cultural outreach of the organization, enhance film restoration, and promote Indian cinema globally, aligning with India's growing focus on soft power diplomacy through cinema.

About NFDC:

CEO: Shri Ravinder Bhakar

HQ's: Mumbai

Founded: 1975

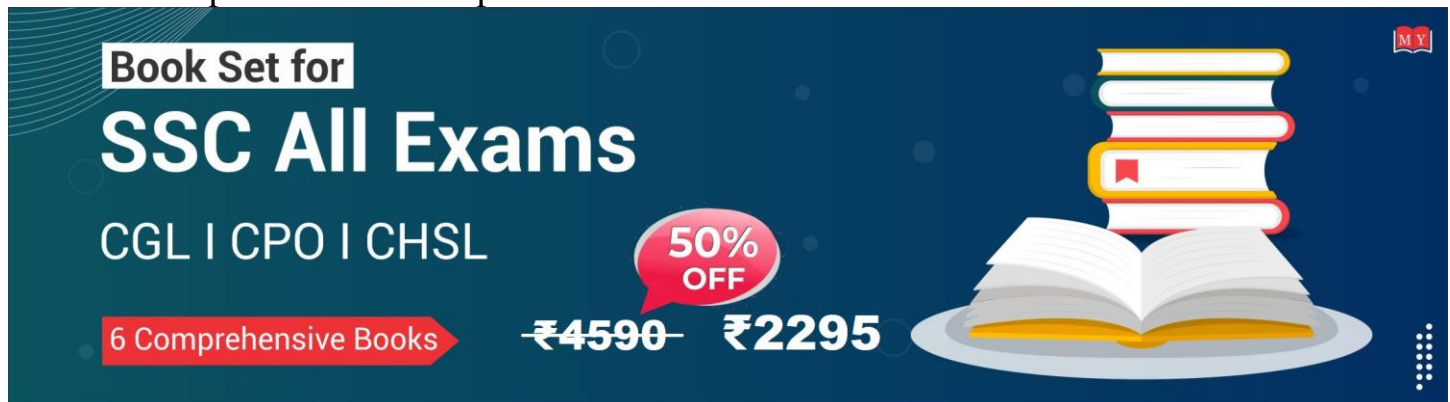
Titan names Tanishq CEO Ajoy Chawla as next MD

Titan Company has announced that Ajoy Chawla, the current CEO of its jewellery division, will succeed C.K. Venkataraman as the next Managing Director by the end of 2025. Chawla, a Titan veteran with over three decades of experience, has led the jewellery segment—which includes brands like Tanishq, Zoya, Mia, and CaratLane—to contribute over 80% of the company's revenue in FY24. His leadership during the pandemic was marked by digital innovation and retail expansion, including the launch of new stores and a significant boost in online sales. Titan aims to continue its growth trajectory under Chawla's strategic vision and deep understanding of the company's operations.

Foot notes:

- **Appointment:** Ajoy Chawla, currently the CEO of Titan's Jewellery Division, will succeed C.K. Venkataraman as the Managing Director, effective January 1, 2026.
- **Background:** Chawla joined Titan in 1991 and has held key roles across watches, accessories, and jewellery segments, including chief strategy officer and CEO of the Jewellery Division since October 2019.

- Achievements: Under Chawla's leadership, the Jewellery Division has grown 2.5 times in sales and profits, reinforcing its market leadership.
- Retirement of Predecessor: C.K. Venkataraman will retire on December 31, 2025, upon reaching the Tata Group's superannuation age.
- Shareholder Approval: Chawla's appointment is subject to shareholder approval, with the formal process to be completed in due course.



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The advertisement features a dark blue background with a stack of books on the right. A red speech bubble with '50% OFF' is positioned above the price. The text 'Book Set for SSC All Exams' is prominently displayed in white, with 'CGL | CPO | CHSL' below it. A red banner at the bottom left states '6 Comprehensive Books'. The price is shown as '₹4590' crossed out and '₹2295' in bold.

Robert Prevost elected as 1st American pope & takes the name Leo XIV

Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost has made history by becoming the first American-born pope, taking the name Pope Leo XIV following his election on May 8, 2025. Born in Chicago in 1955, Prevost is also a Peruvian citizen and served extensively as a missionary in Peru, where he was known for his humanitarian efforts and closeness to the poor. In his first address from St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Leo XIV emphasized peace, unity, and inclusivity, speaking in Italian and Spanish, and expressing gratitude to the late Pope Francis.

Foot notes:

- First American Pope: Robert Francis Prevost became the first American pope in history, marking a significant shift in the papacy's global representation.
- Papal Conclave: Prevost was elected on the fourth ballot during the papal conclave held from May 7-8, 2025, succeeding Pope Francis, who passed away on April 21, 2025.
- Chosen Name: After accepting his election, Prevost chose the papal name Leo XIV, signifying a connection to the legacy of previous popes with the same name.
- Background: As the prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops and president of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, Prevost brought significant experience to his new role.

IMPORTANT DAY NEWS

World Press Freedom observed on 03rd May

World Press Freedom Day is observed annually on May 3 to celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom, evaluate its state worldwide, and honor journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty. Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993, the day commemorates the adoption of the Windhoek Declaration, which laid the foundation for a free, independent, and pluralistic press. The 2025 theme, "Reporting in the Brave New World:

The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Press Freedom and the Media," focuses on how AI affects press freedom, the free flow of information, media independence, and the global goal of ensuring access to information for all .

Foot notes:

- History: The day was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993, inspired by the Windhoek Declaration of 1991, which advocated for a free, independent, and pluralistic press.
- Theme: The 2025 theme is "Reporting in the Brave New World: The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Press Freedom and the Media," highlighting the challenges journalists face with AI-generated content and digital disinformation.
- Significance: The day emphasizes the importance of press freedom, journalist safety, and access to accurate information, aligning with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (SDG 16) and Climate Action (SDG 13).
- Awards and Recognition: UNESCO confers the Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize on individuals or organizations that have made outstanding contributions to defending and promoting press freedom.

World Asthma Day observed on 06th May 2025

On May 6, 2025, World Asthma Day was observed globally with the theme “Make Inhaled Treatments Accessible for ALL,” highlighting the urgent need for equitable access to essential asthma medications like inhalers. Organized annually by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA), this day aims to raise awareness about asthma management and the importance of accessible treatment options . In India, where asthma-related deaths account for over 15% of the global total, health experts emphasized the critical need for improved access to inhaled medications, especially in rural and low-income areas . The Vidarbha Chest Association (VCA) in Nagpur advocated for universal access to affordable asthma care, noting that despite the availability of effective treatments, many individuals remain deprived of essential care.

Foot notes:

- Global Significance: This day aims to raise awareness about asthma, promote early diagnosis and treatment, advocate for access to essential medications, and educate the public on asthma management strategies.
- Asthma Impact: Over 260 million people worldwide live with asthma, which can cause recurring episodes of breathlessness, wheezing, chest tightness, and coughing, with approximately 455,000 deaths globally in 2019.
- Importance of Inhaled Treatments: Inhaled medications like short-acting bronchodilators and inhaled corticosteroids provide direct delivery to the lungs, minimizing systemic side effects and improving long-term outcomes in asthma management.

- Global Initiatives: World Asthma Day is marked by public engagement events, including free asthma screening clinics, inhaler education sessions, awareness walks, and digital campaigns to strengthen community knowledge and encourage timely treatment.

World Athletics Day observed on 07th May

World Athletics Day is celebrated annually on May 7 to promote physical fitness and encourage youth participation in athletics. Established in 1996 by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), now known as World Athletics, the day aims to inspire young individuals to engage in track and field sports, fostering a culture of health and discipline. Activities on this day include school and community athletic events, workshops, and awareness campaigns that highlight the benefits of regular physical activity.

Foot notes:

- History: World Athletics Day was introduced by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), now known as World Athletics, in 1996.
- Global Events: Various events and activities are organized worldwide on this day, including sports competitions, fitness sessions, and coaching clinics.
- Promoting Healthy Lifestyle: The day emphasizes the significance of physical activity and a healthy lifestyle, encouraging people to engage in sports and fitness activities.
- Youth Engagement: World Athletics Day focuses on engaging young people in athletics, providing them with opportunities to develop their skills and pursue careers in sports.

World Thalassaemia Day observed on 08th May

World Thalassaemia Day is observed annually on May 8 to raise awareness about thalassemia, an inherited blood disorder that affects haemoglobin production and can lead to severe anaemia and other health complications. The theme for 2025 is “Together for Thalassaemia: Uniting Communities, Prioritising Patients,” emphasizing the importance of a patient-centered approach and collective action in addressing the challenges faced by those living with the condition. This year's observance highlights the critical role of genetic screening and early diagnosis in preventing the transmission of thalassemia, especially in regions with high carrier rates like India. Established in 1994 by the Thalassaemia International Federation, the day also serves to honor individuals affected by the disorder and to advocate for improved healthcare policies and support systems.

Foot notes:

- Theme 2025: The theme for World Thalassaemia Day 2025 is "Together for Thalassaemia: Uniting Communities, Prioritising Patients," focusing on patient-centered care and support.
- Importance: This day aims to promote prevention, early diagnosis, and comprehensive support systems for individuals affected by thalassemia, while also advocating for improved healthcare policies.

- Awareness and Education: It emphasizes the need for public education, genetic screening, and prenatal diagnosis to reduce the prevalence of thalassemia, particularly in high-risk regions.
- Global Impact: Thalassemia affects millions worldwide, with over 56,000 pregnancies globally impacted each year, highlighting the need for continued awareness and research efforts.



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World Portuguese Language Day observed on 05 May 2025

Portuguese ranks among the most widely spoken languages globally, with over 265 million speakers across continents, making it the most spoken language in the Southern Hemisphere. The 2025 celebrations featured a variety of events, including musical performances, literature readings, art exhibitions, and cultural shows, highlighting the language's role in uniting diverse cultures.

Foot notes:

- Global Significance: The Portuguese language is spoken by over 265 million people worldwide, making it the sixth most spoken language globally and the most widely spoken language in the Southern Hemisphere.
- Cultural Celebration: The day is marked with cultural events, literature readings, music performances, and traditional culinary experiences, showcasing the rich heritage of Portuguese-speaking countries.
- Language Origins: Portuguese originated from Galician, a mix of local dialects and Latin, and has evolved over time with regional variations and influences from other languages, including Arabic.
- Global Reach: Portuguese is an official language in nine countries, including Portugal, Brazil, Angola, Mozambique, and East Timor, and has contributed to the development of creole languages in regions like Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau.

OBITUARY NEWS

Vishnu Prasad Versatile Malayalam Actor passed away

Malayalam actor Vishnu Prasad passed away on May 1, 2025, at the age of 49, due to complications from liver disease. He was undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Kochi

and was in critical condition during his final days. His daughter had volunteered to donate a part of her liver, but the family faced challenges in raising the 30 lakh required for the transplant. The Association of Television Media Artistes (ATMA) initiated a fundraising campaign to assist with the medical expenses, but unfortunately, his condition deteriorated before the surgery could take place.

Foot notes:

- **Financial Struggle:** Vishnu Prasad's family faced significant financial hardship during his treatment, requiring 30 lakhs for a liver transplant, which they struggled to arrange despite his daughter's willingness to donate her liver.
- **Support from Industry:** The Association of Television Media Artists (ATMA) and fellow actors like Kishore Sathya and Seema G. Nair extended support for his treatment, showcasing the industry's solidarity.
- **Notable Works:** Vishnu Prasad was known for his roles in Malayalam films like "Runway", "Lion", "Kaiyethum Doorath", "Ben Johnson", "Pathaka", and "Lokanathan IAS", as well as several television serials.
- **International Rankings and Records:** Yadav was ranked first in the ICC T20I rankings for batsmen and is the fastest Indian player to score 1000 runs in T20Is, achieving this feat in 573 balls.

Literacy Crusader Padma Shri K.V. Rabiya passed away

KV Rabiya, a renowned literacy activist and Padma Shri awardee, passed away on May 4, 2025, at the age of 59 in Vellilakkad, Malappuram, Kerala. Confined to a wheelchair since contracting polio at 14, she defied immense challenges to become a beacon of hope and education. In 1990, she began teaching literacy classes from her home, later establishing the Chalanam Charitable Society in 1994 to promote education, women's empowerment, and support for differently-abled children. Her unwavering dedication earned her several accolades, including the Padma Shri in 2022 and the National Youth Award in 1994. Despite battling cancer and a spinal injury, Rabiya continued her mission, authoring books like *Dreams Have Wings* and inspiring countless individuals. Her legacy lives on as a testament to resilience and the transformative power of education.

Foot notes:

- **Literacy Campaign:** Rabiya's most notable contribution was her role in the Kerala State Literacy Campaign in Malappuram district in 1990.
- **Awards and Recognition:** Rabiya received several awards for her contributions, including: Padma Shri (2022), National Youth Award (1994), Kannagi Sthree Sakthi Puraskar (2001) & Ten Outstanding Young Indians award by Junior Chamber International (1999).
- **Social Work:** Rabiya founded the volunteer organization "Chalanam," which runs six schools for physically or intellectually disabled children and promotes health awareness, education, and rehabilitation.

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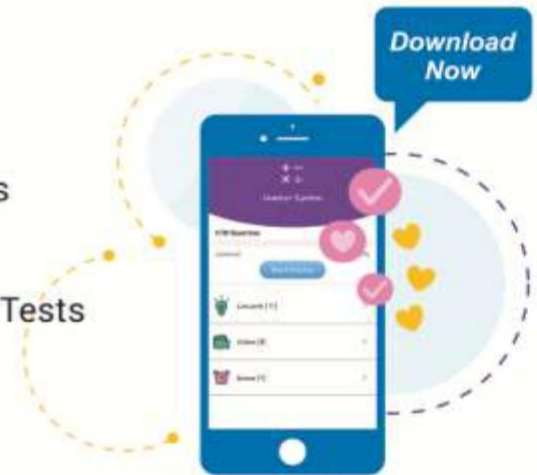
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