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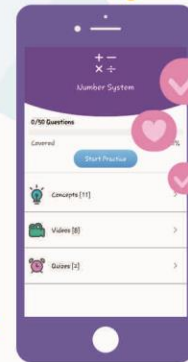
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ARTICLES

Rohit Jain Appointed as RBI Deputy Governor, Replaces T Rabi Sankar

In a significant leadership transition at India's central bank, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed **Rohit Jain** as the new **Deputy Governor** of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Jain officially took charge on **May 3, 2026**, for a three-year term. He succeeds **T. Rabi Sankar**, a career central banker who retired after serving as Deputy Governor since 2021 (including two extensions).



Rohit Jain's Career & Profile

Rohit Jain is a veteran insider with approximately **30 years of experience** at the Reserve Bank of India. His career is marked by deep expertise in risk management and banking supervision.

Professional Journey

- **Executive Director (2020–2026):** Prior to his elevation, Jain served as Executive Director starting in December 2020. In this role, he was the head of the **Department of Supervision**, specifically focusing on Risk, Analytics, and Vulnerability Assessment.
- **Functional Expertise:** Over three decades, he has worked across several critical wings of the RBI, including:
 - Banking Supervision
 - Human Resource Management
 - General Banking Operations
- **Key Advocacy:** Jain has been a vocal proponent of "Security by Design" in the banking sector. During the G20 deliberations in 2023, he emphasized that financial institutions must integrate cybersecurity safeguards directly into their core processes rather than treating them as an afterthought.

Portfolios and RBI Leadership Structure

While the official distribution of portfolios is expected to be finalized this week, Jain is anticipated to take over several key departments previously handled by T. Rabi Sankar, such as:

- **Financial Markets Regulation**
- **Foreign Exchange**
- **Payment and Settlement Systems** (including Fintech and Digital Rupee initiatives)

The Current Deputy Governor Bench

The RBI Act requires four Deputy Governors. With Jain's appointment, the current team is:

Name	Background	Key Focus Areas
Rohit Jain	Internal (RBI)	Expected: Markets, Forex, Payments
S.C. Murmu	Internal (RBI)	Regulation, Enforcement, Communication
Swaminathan J.	External (Commercial Banking)	Supervision, Consumer Protection
Poonam Gupta	External (Economist)	Monetary Policy, Economic Research

V. D. Satheesan Named Kerala's Chief Minister

After ten days of intense discussions and anticipation, the AICC announced senior Congress leader V.D. Satheesan as Kerala's next Chief Minister. Following the UDF's landslide victory with 102 of 140 seats in the 2026 Assembly elections, Satheesan met Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar to stake his claim and is set to take oath on May 18, 2026, in Thiruvananthapuram. The move marks a major generational shift in Kerala politics.

The Rise of V.D. Satheesan: From Grassroots Advocate to Chief Minister

V.D. Satheesan's elevation to the state's top job is seen by many political analysts as a triumph of ground-level performance over high-command favoritism.

Born on May 31, 1964, in Nettoor, Kochi, Satheesan entered public service through the Kerala Students Union (KSU), the student wing of the Congress party. A highly educated leader, he holds a Master's degree in Social Work (MSW) and a Master of Laws (LLM). Before transitioning to full-time politics, he practiced as a lawyer in the Kerala High Court.

The Paravur Stronghold

Satheesan's first foray into legislative politics in 1996 ended in a narrow defeat against the Communist Party of India (CPI) candidate in Paravur—a traditional left-wing stronghold. However, he refused to back down. Returning in 2001, he captured the seat and has since won **six consecutive assembly elections (2001, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2021, and 2026)** from Paravur, turning it into an impregnable Congress bastion.

The Three-Way Race to the Top

Following the UDF's resounding comeback in 2026, the race for the Chief Minister's post quickly turned into a tense, three-way contest between Satheesan, AICC General Secretary (Organisation) K.C. Venugopal, and veteran leader Ramesh Chennithala.

While Venugopal initially commanded significant support among newly elected MLAs, Satheesan held two major trump cards:

The Core Cadre: Ordinary Congress workers and civil society members vocally demanded Satheesan, viewing him as the architect who directly fought and won the election on the ground.

Coalition Allies: The Indian Union Muslim League (IUML)—the second-largest constituent of the UDF



with 22 MLAs—along with smaller allies like the Kerala Congress (Joseph), rigidly backed Satheesan. They argued that denying him the CM post would look like ungrateful political optics.

Yielding to local sentiment and the firm stance of its allies, the Congress central leadership in New Delhi formally declared Satheesan as the Chief Minister-designate.

The Outgoing Era: Pinarayi Vijayan and the Legacy of the LDF

Satheesan succeeds veteran communist titan **Pinarayi Vijayan**, who served as the 12th Chief Minister of Kerala from 2016 to 2026.

Vijayan, a polarizing yet undeniably formidable figure in Indian politics, made history in 2021 by becoming the first Kerala Chief Minister in over four decades to win back-to-back democratic terms, breaking the state's historic "alternate pendulum" voting pattern between the Left and the Congress.

The Downfall: Financial Crisis and Governance Fatigue

However, the later years of Vijayan's second term were severely marred by intense anti-incumbency forces.

- **Economic Bankruptcy:** The state faced an unprecedented fiscal crisis, resulting in routine delays in welfare pensions, severe salary backlogs for public sector employees, and a choking level of public debt.
- **Controversies:** The LDF government was continuously hit by high-profile corruption allegations, cooperative bank scams, and nepotism controversies, all of which V.D. Satheesan and the UDF effectively weaponized during the election campaign.

The 2026 election mandate was ultimately a sharp public rejection of the Left's economic governance, effectively bringing the curtain down on the Vijayan era.

Lionel Messi Hits Billionaire Status, Joins Cristiano Ronaldo in Historic Milestone

Lionel Messi has officially ascended to the billionaire’s club, cementing his legacy not only as one of football’s greatest icons but also as one of its most astute business figures.

According to the *Bloomberg Billionaires Index*, the 38-year-old Argentine superstar has surpassed the \$1 billion net worth threshold, becoming only the second footballer in history to achieve this historic financial milestone after his long-time rival, Cristiano Ronaldo.

While his journey has been characterized by a more measured approach—leveraging family-guided partnerships and strategic investments in the United States and Europe—this achievement marks the convergence of a legendary playing career with a mastery of modern sports economics.

Key Details of the Milestone

- **Career Earnings:** Since his professional debut in 2007, Messi has earned over \$700 million in salary and bonuses.
- **Path to Wealth:** While Ronaldo reached the milestone earlier—boosted significantly by his high-profile move to Saudi Arabia’s Al-Nassr—Messi’s journey has been described as more measured. His wealth accumulation is attributed to a combination of:
 - **Major Contracts:** His current record-breaking contract with Inter Miami CF, which includes innovative revenue-sharing agreements (notably with Apple for MLS Season Pass subscriptions).
 - **Strategic Investments:** A diverse portfolio including real estate, an Argentine restaurant chain, and stakes in



- football clubs like the Spanish side Cornellà and Uruguay's Deportivo LSM.
- **Endorsements:** A long-term, selective commercial strategy that has secured massive global sponsorship deals.

Comparative Financial Context (2026)

While Messi has now entered the ten-figure club, Cristiano Ronaldo remains the highest-paid athlete in 2026, a title he has held for four consecutive years.

Athlete	Primary Sport	2026 Estimated Annual Earnings
Cristiano Ronaldo	Football	\$300 Million
Canelo Álvarez	Boxing	\$170 Million
Lionel Messi	Football	\$140 Million

Note: The annual earnings figure for 2026 represents income over the past 12 months, whereas the "billionaire status" refers to his total lifetime net worth.

This achievement marks a significant point in football history, as both long-time rivals now share the distinction of being the only two players to achieve billionaire status solely through their careers in the sport.

India's New Sprint King: Gurindervir Singh Smashes 100m National Record for Federation Cup Gold

RANCHI — In a historic, adrenaline-fueled showdown at the Birsa Munda Stadium, 25-year-old sprinter Gurindervir Singh stormed to victory in the men's 100-meter final, clocking an astonishing **10.09 seconds**.

With this blazing run, the Punjab athlete, who represents the Reliance Foundation, became the first Indian in history to breach the sub-10.10-second barrier. His gold-medal performance comfortably secured his qualification mark (10.16s) for both the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and the upcoming Asian Games.



The Match: A 48-Hour Speed War

The final on Saturday was the culmination of a dramatic, head-to-head psychological thriller between Gurindervir and his 22-year-old rival, Animesh Kujur. The national record was traded like a hot potato over two days:

- **Friday (Semifinal Heat 1):** Gurindervir clocked **10.17 seconds**, breaking Kujur's long-standing national record of 10.18 seconds.
- **Friday (Semifinal Heat 2):** Just five minutes later, Animesh Kujur stepped onto the track and immediately snatched the record back, blazing through his heat in **10.15 seconds**.

Following Friday's dramatic back-and-forth, Gurindervir's coach, James Hillier (Athletics Director at Reliance Foundation), gave his athlete a strict command: *turn off the smartphone and block out the social media noise.*

About Gurindervir Singh's Career

- Hailing from Patial village near Jalandhar, Punjab, Gurindervir is the son of a retired Punjab Police constable. He began sprinting at the incredibly young age of six or seven.
- Throughout his childhood, he faced immense skepticism from local sports circles, where people told him that Indians "didn't have the genes" for elite 100m sprinting and urged him to switch to the 400m or throwing events.
- Driven by an obsession to prove the naysayers wrong, "Toofan Singh" (as his family affectionately calls him) rose through the youth ranks. He previously set a national record of 10.20 seconds in March 2025 at the Indian Grand Prix.

However, after that breakthrough, his form dipped, and he struggled to run under 10.30 seconds for the rest of that season—a slump coach Hillier attributes to mental fatigue and the sudden pressure of fame.

His 10.09-second run marks a massive mental and physical evolution, ranking as the second-fastest time recorded in all of Asia this season.

About the Rival & Previous Record Breaker: Animesh Kujur

The man who pushed Gurindervir to immortality is 22-year-old **Animesh Kujur** from Odisha.

- Kujur has been a phenomenal catalyst for the sudden rise of Indian sprinting. In July 2025, Kujur had originally taken the national record away from Gurindervir by clocking **10.18 seconds**.
- Kujur entered this Federation Cup as the favorite and proved his world-class caliber by running that breathtaking 10.15s in Friday's semifinal.

While Kujur had to settle for silver this time, the blossoming rivalry between him and Gurindervir is being hailed as the best thing to happen to Indian track and field in decades.

Chandrayaan-3 Wins Prestigious 2026 AIAA Goddard Award

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was honored with the prestigious **2026 Goddard Astronautics Award** by the AIAA on May 21, 2026. This highest accolade recognizes the historic achievement of **Chandrayaan-3**, which became the first spacecraft to successfully execute a soft landing near the Moon's unexplored south pole in August 2023. During its surface exploration, the mission delivered critical scientific breakthroughs, including the first-ever in-situ confirmation of sulfur in the rugged lunar soil. India's Ambassador to the United States, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, accepted the honor on behalf of ISRO in Washington, D.C. Ultimately, this global recognition strongly validates India's expanding deep-space exploration ambitions under its forward-looking "Space Vision 2047" initiative.

The Award Citation & Recognition

The Goddard Astronautics Award is the **highest honor** bestowed by the AIAA for notable achievements in the field of astronautics. It was established in memory of Robert H. Goddard, the pioneer of modern rocketry whose early liquid-fuel rocket engine launches laid the foundation for modern space exploration.

According to the official AIAA citation, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was selected:

India's Ambassador to the United States, **Vinay Mohan Kwatra**, formally accepted the award on behalf of ISRO. This recognition places ISRO alongside an elite group of past recipients, including Blue Origin founder Jeff Bezos and veteran NASA human spaceflight engineer Michael Hawes.

Why Chandrayaan-3 Won: Mission Milestones

The award celebrates the historic triumphs of the mission, which originally launched on July 14, 2023, and culminated in a flawless touchdown on **August 23, 2023**.

- **First to the South Pole:** Chandrayaan-3 made history as the first spacecraft to successfully execute a soft landing near the Moon's rugged and heavily shadowed south pole.
- **Elite Space Club:** The landing made India only the fourth nation in history to successfully land a spacecraft on the Moon (joining the US, the Soviet Union, and China).
- **Crucial Resource Discovery:** The mission's Pragyan rover successfully confirmed the presence of key chemical elements in the lunar south polar soil, including **sulfur, aluminum, calcium, iron, chromium, and titanium**.
- **Sustaining Future Life:** The data gathered provides critical insights into local resources, including water ice locked in permanently shadowed craters, which could help sustain future human bases and manufacturing operations on the lunar surface.

Looking Forward: Space Vision 2047

While accepting the award, Ambassador Kwatra highlighted how the success of Chandrayaan-3 is actively fueling **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Space Vision 2047**.

Padma Shri Awards 2026

The **Padma Awards 2026** were announced on the eve of the 77th Republic Day (January 25, 2026). These prestigious civilian honors are conferred in three categories: **Padma Vibhushan** (exceptional service), **Padma Bhushan** (distinguished service of high order), and **Padma Shri** (distinguished service).



For 2026, the President of India approved the conferment of **131 Padma Awards**, which include 5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri awards. The first Civil Investiture Ceremony for these awards was held on May 25, 2026, at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, where President Droupadi Murmu conferred honors upon several recipients.

Padma Shri Awards 2026: Selected List of Winners

Due to the large number of recipients (113 in the Padma Shri category), a selected list is provided below.

Name of Awardee	Field	State/Country
Shri A. E. Muthunayagam	Science and Engineering	Kerala
Shri Anil Kumar Rastogi	Art	Uttar Pradesh
Ms. Armida Fernandez	Medicine	Maharashtra
Shri Arvind Vaidya	Art	Gujarat
Shri Ashok Khade	Trade and Industry	Maharashtra
Shri Baldev Singh	Sports	Punjab
Ms. Deepika Reddy	Art	Telangana
Ms. Harmanpreet Kaur Bhullar	Sports	Punjab
Shri Juzer Vasi	Science and Engineering	Maharashtra
Ms. Kalamandalam Vimala Menon	Art	Kerala
Ms. Kollakal Devaki Amma G	Social Work	Kerala
Shri Kumar Bose	Art	West Bengal
Shri Prosenjit Chatterjee	Art	West Bengal
Shri Ratilal Borisagar	Literature and Education	Gujarat
Shri Rohit Sharma	Sports	Maharashtra
Ms. S. G. Susheelamma	Social Work	Karnataka
Ms. Savita Punia	Sports	Haryana

Key Facts About the 2026 Awards

- **Total Awardees:** 131 (5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, 113 Padma Shri).
- **Demographics:** The list includes 19 women, 6 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI, and 16 posthumous awardees.
- **Notable Padma Vibhushan/Bhushan Honorees:**
 - **Padma Vibhushan:** Actor **Dharmendra Singh Deol** (posthumous) and violin maestro **Dr. N. Rajam**.
 - **Padma Bhushan:** Industrialist **Uday Kotak** and former Maharashtra Governor **Bhagat Singh Koshyari**.



NATIONAL NEWS

MAY 2026

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.

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.
- 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).

- 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.

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.
- World's First OptoSAR Technology:** Drishti is the first satellite globally to feature SyncFusedOptoSAR technology. 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.

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:** 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.

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.

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. 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.
- **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 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.

APRIL 2026

India begins first fully digital Census 2027

- **First-Ever Digital Census:** This is the first time in India's history that the census is being conducted entirely through digital means. Over 3 million enumerators will collect and submit data directly via mobile applications on smartphones, replacing the traditional paper-based system. This shift is expected to enable near real-time data processing and faster publication of results.
- **Introduction of Self-Enumeration:** For the first time, citizens have the option of self-enumeration. Through a dedicated online portal (available in 16 languages), individuals can fill in their own household details before an enumerator visits.

India approves IBC Amendment Bill 2026

- **Creditor-Initiated Insolvency (CIIRP):** The Bill introduces a new "out-of-court" mechanism called the Creditor-Initiated Insolvency Resolution Process. Unlike the standard process, CIIRP allows specified financial creditors to start resolution proceedings with a faster 150-day timeline.
- **Group & Cross-Border Insolvency:** For the first time, the law provides a formal framework to handle Group Insolvency, allowing interconnected companies within a corporate conglomerate to be resolved together rather than through fragmented, individual cases.
- **Mandatory Admission & Stricter Timelines:** To tackle chronic judicial delays, the Bill makes it mandatory for the Adjudicating Authority (NCLT)

to admit an insolvency application within 14 days if the default is clearly established.

PM Modi launches Kaynes Semiconductor Plant in Gujarat

- **₹3,300 Crore Strategic Investment:** Developed by KaynesSemicon (a subsidiary of Kaynes Technology), the plant was built with an investment of ₹3,300 crore at Sanand GIDC. It is the second major semiconductor unit to become operational in India, following the Micron plant which began production exactly one month prior on February 28, 2026.
- **"Make in India, Make for the World":** Highlighting India's transition into its "Techade," the Prime Minister noted that a significant portion of the chips produced at this facility are already earmarked for export to global markets.

Indian Navy inducts stealth frigate INS Dunagiri

- **Fifth of the Nilgiri-Class (Project 17A):** INS Dunagiri is the fifth of seven advanced stealth frigates being built under Project 17A. It is a "reincarnation" of the erstwhile Leander-class frigate of the same name that served from 1977 to 2010. This new version represents a generational leap in design, featuring significantly improved stealth shaping, reduced radar signatures, and advanced automation.
- **Record Efficiency & Indigenization:** In a boost to Aatmanirbharta, the ship has 75% indigenous content, involving over 200 Indian MSMEs.

AP Science City signs MoU with CSIRNISCPR

- **Strengthening STI Policy & Communication:** The partnership aims to bridge the gap between complex scientific research and public understanding. It focuses on STI policy research to promote evidence-based policymaking in Andhra Pradesh.
- **Capacity Building & Mentorship:** A core component of the agreement is the organization of joint training programs, workshops, and masterclasses.

Punjab govt to build glass bridge over Sutlej Lake

- **North India's First Glass Skywalk:** The proposed bridge will be the first of its kind in North India, designed to offer a "floating" experience over the serene waters of the Nangal Dam lake.
- **Rapid Construction Timeline:** The Chief Minister announced that the project is expected to be completed within six months. This fast-track development is part of a larger ₹75 crore package for Nangal, which includes a new "Centre of Excellence" for skill development (named after Kargil martyr Captain Amol Kalia) and a 500-seat auditorium at the local School of Eminence.

Amaravati declared permanent capital of Andhra Pradesh

- **Statutory Legal Status:** Parliament passed the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which officially grants Amaravati statutory recognition as the sole and permanent capital. This ends

years of legal and political ambiguity by specifically naming Amaravati in the central law that bifurcated the state in 2014.

- **End of the "Three-Capital" Model:** This federal legislation effectively overrides and settles the previous "Three-Capital" proposal (which sought to split functions between Visakhapatnam, Amaravati, and Kurnool).

Footnotes: AP's Governor: Syed Abdul Nazeer, CM: N. Chandrababu Naidu

Lok Sabha approves Jan Vishwas Bill 2026

- **Mass Decriminalization:** The Bill amends 784 provisions across 79 Central Acts administered by 23 Ministries. Its primary goal is to decriminalize 717 provisions, shifting minor, technical, or procedural defaults from criminal imprisonment to civil penalties or simple warnings.
- **Dual-Purpose Reform:** It is specifically designed to enhance two key government metrics: Ease of Doing Business (by reducing the compliance burden on industries and startups) and Ease of Living (by ensuring citizens are not treated as criminals for minor lapses, such as expired driving licenses).

Delhi launches Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana

- **Revamped "Ladli Scheme":** This scheme replaces and upgrades the older Ladli Yojana (2008). It increases the government's total investment per girl from ₹36,000 to ₹56,000–₹61,000. With accrued interest (managed via SBI Life), the total maturity amount exceeds ₹1.20 Lakh by the time the beneficiary turns 21.

- **Strict Conditionality & Social Reform:** The scheme acts as a tool for social engineering by mandating that the beneficiary must remain unmarried until the age of 18 and complete mandatory immunization as per government norms.

NCERT granted Deemed University status

- **Degree-Granting Authority:** This status transforms NCERT from an advisory body into a full-fledged academic institution. It can now independently design and offer its own undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral (PhD) programmes, as well as innovative certificate and diploma courses in education and pedagogy.
- **Mandatory Academic Standards:** To maintain this status, NCERT must now comply with strict UGC regulations. This includes participating in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), seeking NAAC accreditation, and implementing the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) to facilitate digital credit transfer for its students.

Nyaya Setu AI chatbot launched

- **Multilingual AI Legal Assistant:** Developed by the Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD), Nyaya Setu is a voice-first, multimodal, and multilingual AI platform. It is designed to help citizens understand their legal rights, entitlements, and court procedures in multiple Indian languages, effectively breaking the language barrier in the justice system.
- **Role of Mascot "Dishika":** Dishika serves as the official digital legal guide for the platform. Her role is to act as a

friendly interface that assists first-time users in navigating the chatbot, simplifying complex legal queries, and providing step-by-step guidance on legal actions.

- **Integration with BHASHINI Stack:** The chatbot leverages the BHASHINI AI stack, including Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) and Natural Language Processing (NLP).

UIDAI partners with MapmyIndia



- **Integration with Mapppls App:** UIDAI will integrate its verified database of Aadhaar centres into MapmyIndia's Mapppls App. This will allow residents to easily find and navigate to the nearest authorized Aadhaar Seva Kendras (ASKs) and other certified centres using indigenous mapping technology.
- **Service-Specific Filtering:** The new feature will allow users to identify centres based on the specific nature of their requirements. For example, the app will distinguish between centres offering adult enrolment, child enrolment (Bal Aadhaar), or those providing only demographic updates.
- **Combating Misinformation:** A primary goal of this partnership is to provide a "verified digital map" to prevent citizens from falling victim to unauthorized or fraudulent service providers. By directing users only to official locations.

MARCH 2026

Tripura launched 1st incubation & innovation hub "T-Nest"

- **First-of-its-Kind State Innovation Mission:** Launched under the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM 2.0) by NITI Aayog, this initiative makes Tripura a pioneer in institutionalizing innovation at the state level. It aims to decentralize the startup ecosystem from metropolitan hubs to the grassroots, focusing on "Make from Tripura" solutions and transforming local talent into scalable enterprises.
- **Inclusive "Government-as-First-Customer" Model:** A standout feature of T-NEST is its focus on social and regional inclusion, with dedicated innovation centers planned across all eight districts for women and tribal communities.

Union Minister Launches Upgraded RAJMARG PRAVESH Web Portal

- **Single-Window Digital Approval:** The portal serves as a centralized, "one-stop shop" for obtaining No Objection Certificates (NOCs). It eliminates the need for physical visits to government offices, allowing individuals and businesses to submit documents, pay fees, and receive approvals entirely online.
- **Comprehensive Coverage for Stakeholders:** It streamlines permissions for a wide range of activities, including access to fuel stations, wayside amenities (dhabas/rest areas), and private properties. It also caters to both government and private agencies for laying essential utilities like optical fiber cables, gas

pipelines, and water lines along National Highways.

Jio Finance Launches AI-Backed Mobile App 'Finsider'

- **Hyper-Personalization via Agentic AI:** Moving away from a "one-size-fits-all" model, the app uses 15 AI agents and 70 decision engines to create a dynamic home screen tailored to each user's profile. Instead of scrolling through menus, users can use a Natural Language Interface to simply type their financial needs to get instant, computed recommendations.
- **The 'Finsider' Early Access Program:** To refine the experience before a full public rollout, Jio launched 'Finsider,' an invitation-only program. Members get first access to new features and can earn JioPoints for transactions and feedback, which are redeemable for various rewards.

Footnotes: Jio's Chairman: Akash Ambani, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 2007

Karnataka proposes social media ban for children U-16 in Budget

- **Policy Objective:** The ban targets children under the age of 16 to combat the "adverse effects" of increasing mobile usage, specifically addressing concerns over mental health, digital addiction, and online safety.
- **Wider Educational Context:** The proposal is part of a broader educational strategy that includes the "Mobile Bidi, Pustaka Hidi" campaign. To balance this restriction, the budget also allocated funds for a personalized digital tutoring system developed with IIT Dharwad for students in Classes 8–12.

- **Implementation & Global Trend:** While the budget outlines the intent, specific enforcement mechanisms—such as mandatory age verification or platform penalties—are yet to be finalized.

Tamil Nadu Launches First Dark Sky Park in Kolli Hills

- **Pristine Stargazing Environment:** Located at an altitude of over 1,000 meters, the park is situated in a "no-light-pollution" zone. A 1.5 km radius around the site is strictly protected from artificial light, providing exceptionally clear views of the Milky Way, Saturn's rings, and Jupiter's Great Red Spot.
- **High-Tech & Sustainable Infrastructure:** Established at a cost of ₹1 crore, the facility is equipped with three advanced, GPS-enabled computerized Schmidt-Cassegrain telescopes that gather 820 times more light than the human eye. To maintain its "green" status, the entire observation center is powered by solar energy.

Varanasi Creates Guinness Record for Mega Plantation Campaign

- **World Record for Speed and Scale:** Varanasi successfully planted 2,51,446 saplings within just one hour in the Sujabad Domari area. This feat comfortably surpassed the previous record held by China, which had planted 1,53,981 saplings in an hour back in 2018.
- **The "Namo Van" Urban Forest:** The drive was part of a larger project to develop a 350-bigha (approx. 220 acres) urban forest named 'Namo Van' on the banks of the Ganga.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



MAY 2026

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

Bulgaria parliament approves Rumen Radev as new PM

- **President to PM:** Former President Rumen Radev was approved by the Bulgarian parliament as the new Prime Minister after his "Progressive Bulgaria" party won the snap elections.
- **Ending Instability:** His appointment marks a significant turning point, ending years of political deadlock and frequent elections (eight in five years) in Bulgaria.
- **Policy Focus:** Radev's cabinet aims to dismantle "the oligarchic model," accelerate economic development, and manage the country's transition after joining the eurozone on January 1, 2026.

Footnotes: Bulgaria's President: Iliana Iotova, PM: Rumen Radev, Capital: Sofia

Prashant Pise appointed as next Ambassador of India to Sultanate of Oman

- **Seasoned Diplomat:** Prashant Pise is a 1995-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer. Before this appointment, he served as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, specifically handling Emigration Policy and Welfare matters.
- **Extensive Regional Expertise:** He has a wealth of experience in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, having previously served as the Ambassador of India to Iraq and Tunisia. His earlier diplomatic career also included postings in Egypt, Libya, and London.
- **Succession in Muscat:** He will succeed Amit Narang (who completed his tenure in late 2025/early 2026) and takes over from the interim leadership in Muscat to further strengthen the India-Oman strategic partnership, particularly in maritime security and trade.

Singapore Foreign Affairs Minister Vivian Balakrishnan received highest accolade

- **Recognition of Long-term Service:** The award recognizes Dr. Balakrishnan's more than two decades of steadfast partnership with the Labour Movement. Since 2001, he has served as an advisor to multiple unions across diverse sectors, including oil and petrochemicals,

integrated resorts, and the teaching profession.

- **Advocacy for Workers' Welfare:** He was lauded for his "quiet resolve" and principled approach to industrial relations. Key achievements noted include supporting workers through major transitions at Shell, advocating for responsible employment during divestments, and initiating the Progressive Wage Model for cleaners in 2014.

Dr Vinod J Bahade appointed as next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Colombia

- **New Role:** Dr. Vinod J. Bahade, a career diplomat of the 2007 batch of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), has been officially appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Colombia.
- **Current Transition:** He is currently serving as a Minister at the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in Geneva. He is expected to take up the new assignment in Bogotá shortly.
- **Bilateral Focus:** His appointment comes at a time when India and Colombia are looking to strengthen ties in sectors such as energy, information technology, and pharmaceuticals, marking a strategic move to enhance India's diplomatic footprint in Latin America.

Harvansh Chawla appointed as Chairman of BRICS CCI

- **Transition from BRICS CCI:** Dr. Chawla stepped down as the Chairman of the BRICS CCI to take on this broader mandate. His

move signifies a shift from a focus solely on BRICS+ nations to a more expansive global economic framework.

- **Expanded Global Mandate:** Under his leadership, BRISEC (which is recognized by NITI Aayog) aims to facilitate trade and investment across a wider range of international markets and economic corridors, moving beyond traditional regional blocs to include both emerging and developed economies.
- **Strategic Objectives:** His chairmanship will focus on strengthening cross-border trade opportunities, fostering innovation across key sectors, and facilitating high-level policy dialogues to enable smoother global business engagement and sustainable growth.

Footnotes: BRICS's Chairman: Narendra Modi, Estd: 2009

C Sugandh Rajaram appointed as India's Ambassador to Peru

- **Current Profile:** A 2001-batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), he is currently serving as a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- **Previous Assignment:** Before his current role in New Delhi, he served as the High Commissioner of India to Ghana, where he was instrumental in strengthening bilateral and economic ties.
- **Significance:** His appointment comes at a time when India is looking to expand its footprint in Latin America, particularly in sectors like mining, pharmaceuticals, and digital infrastructure.

Footnotes: Peru's PM: Luis Arroyo Sanchez, President: Jose Maria Balcasar, Capital: Lima

Kevin Warsh appointed as Governor of the Federal Reserve by the US

- **Extensive Experience:** Warsh previously served on the Federal Reserve Board from 2006 to 2011, making him one of the youngest governors in history. His return brings deep institutional knowledge, particularly regarding crisis management and financial market stability.
- **Strategic Role:** His appointment is seen as a move to bridge the gap between Wall Street and Washington. Having served as an advisor during the 2008 financial crisis, he is expected to play a lead role in navigating current global economic uncertainties and modernizing the Fed's communication with the public.

Footnotes: US's President: Donald Trump, Chief Justice: John Roberts, Capital: Washington, D.C.

Yoweri Museveni Sworn In for Seventh Term as Uganda President

- **Four Decades of Power:** The 81-year-old leader, who first took office in 1986, extended his 40-year rule by another five-year term. He remains one of Africa's longest-serving non-royal heads of state, having previously removed constitutional age and term limits to stay in office.
- **Controversial Landslide Victory:** Museveni was declared the winner of the January 2026 elections with 71.65% of the vote. His main challenger, Bobi Wine (Robert Kyagulanyi), secured 24.72% but disputed the results, alleging widespread fraud, intimidation, and an internet blackout during the polls.

APRIL 2026

Japan launches world's first freightonly Shinkansen

- **High-Speed Logistics:** Launched on March 23, 2026, by East Japan Railway Co. (JR East), this is the world's first dedicated freight-only bullet train. Reaching speeds of 275 kmph, it operates on the Tohoku Shinkansen line between Morioka and Tokyo, covering the distance in approximately 3–4 hours.
- **Repurposed Design:** The service uses converted E3 series trains, which were formerly passenger carriages. All 394 seats across seven cars were removed to accommodate up to 1,000 cargo boxes (approx. 17.4 tonnes). The interiors feature reinforced flooring and specialized securing systems to handle high-value, time-sensitive goods like semiconductors, medical supplies, and fresh seafood.

Mongolia elects Uchral NyamOsor as PM

- **Political Ascent:** Uchral Nyam-Osor—the Chairman of the ruling Mongolian People's Party (MPP)—became the 33rd Prime Minister of Mongolia. He was confirmed by the State Great Khural (Parliament) with a strong majority of 88 votes from the 107 lawmakers present.
- **A Reformist Background:** Previously the Minister of Digital Development and Communications, Uchral is known for his "digital-first" approach to governance. He gained prominence for leading transparency reforms and is notably the first Mongolian PM to have had a previous career as a popular hip-hop artist.

- **Mission of Stability:** His immediate mandate is to manage economic pressures, streamline Soviet-era regulatory systems, and restore investor confidence through a newly proposed coalition government with the opposition Hun Party.

Singapore Changi tops Skytrax Airport Awards 2026

- **Global Top 3 Rankings:** Singapore Changi Airport was named the "World's Best Airport," followed by Incheon International Airport (Seoul, South Korea) at 2nd place and Tokyo Haneda Airport (Japan) at 3rd. Notably, Doha's Hamad International Airport dropped out of the top rankings this year due to regional disruptions.
- **Performance of Indian Airports:** Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport maintained its lead in the region, ranking 28th globally (up from 32nd) and winning "Best Airport in India & South Asia."

Myanmar elects Min Aung Hlaing as President

- **Consolidation of Power:** The election formalizes Min Aung Hlaing's control over the state, five years after he led the 2021 coup. To assume the presidency, he officially stepped down as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, appointing his loyalist, Ye Win Oo, as the new military head.
- **A "Sham" Transition:** The vote took place in a parliament dominated by the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) and appointed military legislators. Most international observers and opposition groups have dismissed the process as a

"sham" designed to provide a veneer of civilian legitimacy to continued military rule.

India, South Korea Sign Pact to Boost Skill Development in Shipbuilding Sector

- **Project Objective:** Titled "Support the Establishment of Development Strategies and to Build a Foundation for Skilled and Professional Talents," the pact aims to bridge the skill gap in India's marine engineering sector using South Korea's global expertise.
- **Strategic Vision:** The initiative is a core part of the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, which seeks to position India as a top global shipbuilding hub and drive "Atmanirbhar" (self-reliant) maritime growth.
- **Proposed Infrastructure:** Both nations are in final discussions to establish a 'Shipbuilding Workforce Development and Technology Cooperation Center' in India to provide industry-specific vocational training and boost technical productivity.

Vietnam elects Communist Party chief To Lam as President

- **Dual Leadership:** On April 7, 2026, Vietnam's National Assembly elected To Lam as the State President for the 2026–2031 term. He will simultaneously continue to serve as the General Secretary of the Communist Party, consolidating the country's two most powerful roles.
- **Unanimous Election:** Lam was the sole nominee and received 99% of the vote (495 out of 495

delegates present) during the first session of the 16th National Assembly in Hanoi.

- **Economic Vision:** Upon taking his oath, he emphasized a "new era" for Vietnam, aiming to transform the nation into an upper-middle-income country by 2030 and a high-income developed country by 2045 through administrative reforms and modernization.

Rajeev Kumar accredited as High Commissioner to Solomon Islands

- **Concurrent Accreditation:** Shri Rajeev Kumar, a 2001-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, was concurrently accredited as India's next High Commissioner to the Solomon Islands on April 7, 2026.
- **Dual Responsibility:** He is currently serving as the High Commissioner of India to Papua New Guinea and will manage his new role in the Solomon Islands while continuing to reside in Port Moresby.
- **Diplomatic Strategy:** This appointment strengthens India's diplomatic outreach in the Pacific Islands region, focusing on bilateral cooperation and regional stability.

Launch of the first ever Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises

- **Launch & Authority:** The National Statistics Office (NSO), under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), officially launched the first-ever ASISSE on April 6, 2026, to build a comprehensive

database of India's formal services sector.

- **Coverage & Reference Period:** The survey covers approximately 1.21 lakh enterprises (including IT, hospitality, education, and healthcare) registered under the Companies Act or LLP Act across all States and UTs, with the reference period being FY 2024–25.
- **Data Innovation:** For the first time, the NSO is using the GSTN (Goods and Services Tax Network) database as the sampling frame; together with the ASI (manufacturing) and ASUSE (unincorporated), it completes the data ecosystem for India's non-agricultural economy.

Deep Jariwala appointed as US Governor's Chair

- **Joint Strategic Role:** Jariwala will hold a dual appointment at UT's Tickle College of Engineering and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). This position is designed to bridge the gap between academic research and federal laboratory resources to advance quantum science.
- **Focus on AI and Energy Efficiency:** His primary research aims to solve the massive power consumption issues of modern AI. He is developing "chips of the future" by using novel materials and architectures—including brain-like (neuromorphic) computing and quantum devices—to make hardware significantly more efficient.
- **Academic and Entrepreneurial Background:** Moving from the University of Pennsylvania (where he spent nine years),

Jariwala brings a mix of high-level research—with over 200 publications and 26,000 citations—and industry experience as the co-founder of Agni Semiconductor, a startup focused on memory devices for extreme environments.

Footnotes: US President: Donald Trump, Vice President: JD Vance, Capital: Washington

UAE TDRA Launches World's First U6GHz Network



- **World's First Commercial Rollout:** Announced at the SAMENA Council Leaders' Summit 2026, the UAE became the first nation to transition from U6GHz trials to a full commercial ecosystem.
- **The "Golden Spectrum" & 10Gbps Speeds:** The U6GHz band (6425–7125 MHz) is known as the "golden spectrum" because it perfectly balances wide-area coverage with massive data capacity.
- **Bridge to 6G:** This deployment is a critical step in the UAE's roadmap to becoming a "10 Giga nation." Beyond enhancing 5G-Advanced services, the U6GHz network serves as the foundational layer for the future development and standardization of 6G technology.

MARCH 2026

Balen Shah Set to Become Nepal's PM

- **Landslide Victory for RSP:** Balen Shah's Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) is heading toward a sweeping victory, leading in over 100 of the 165 directly elected seats. This marks a historic rejection of the "old guard" parties that have dominated Nepal for decades.
- **Defeating the Establishment:** In a symbolic "giant-killing" move, Balen Shah secured an unassailable lead in the Jhapa-5 constituency, the longtime stronghold of four-time former Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli, effectively signaling the collapse of the previous political order.

Footnotes: Nepal's President: Ram Chandra Poudel, PM: Sushila Karki, Capital: Kathmandu

Anita Shukla appointed as Ambassador of India to Republic of Ecuador

- **Diplomatic Profile:** Before this appointment, she served as Joint Secretary at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) in New Delhi, where she managed training programs for both Indian and foreign diplomats.
- **Strengthening Ties:** Her appointment comes at a strategic time following the opening of India's permanent embassy in Quito in November 2025.
- **Key Focus Areas:** She is expected to lead bilateral cooperation in sectors highlighted during recent high-level visits, specifically in digital technology, pharmaceuticals, and critical minerals, while overseeing the next round of Foreign Office Consultations

scheduled for the first half of 2026.

Chile Becomes First Country in the Americas to Eliminate Leprosy

- **Historic Milestone:** Chile is now the first country in the Americas and only the second globally (after Jordan in 2024) to receive official WHO verification for eliminating leprosy.
- **Vigilant Surveillance:** Despite the lack of local transmission, Chile never removed leprosy from its public health agenda. It remained a notifiable condition, meaning health professionals were legally required to report suspected cases.
- **Integrated Care Model:** The success is attributed to an inclusive health system that provides universal access to multidrug therapy (MDT) and holistic care.

Footnotes: Chile's President: Gabriel Boric, Capital: Santiago

Safeena Husain named TIME Women of the Year 2026

- **Impact on "Left-Behind" Girls:** The honor recognizes Husain's mission to bring India's most marginalized, out-of-school girls back into the classroom.
- **Historic Year of Accolades:** Her selection by TIME follows a landmark 2025, during which Educate Girls became the first Indian organization to receive the Ramon Magsaysay Award (often called Asia's Nobel Prize).
- **A "Social Unicorn" Vision:** TIME highlights her data-driven approach to social change. Having surpassed her initial goals supported by the TED Audacious Project, Husain has set an ambitious new target: to

reach 10 million learners by 2035, ensuring that geography and gender are no longer barriers to education

India's IIP recorded a year-on-year growth of 4.8% in January

- **Manufacturing Momentum:** The manufacturing sector, which carries the heaviest weight in the index (roughly 77.6%), was the primary engine behind this growth. It saw a solid uptick compared to previous months, signaling that factory-floor activity remains robust despite global headwinds.
- **Mining and Electricity Support:** While manufacturing led the way, significant contributions also came from the Mining and Electricity sectors. Mining output remained steady, while electricity generation saw a jump to meet the rising demand from both industrial clusters and domestic consumers.

Scotland Becomes 1st UK Nation to Legalise Water Cremations

- **The Process:** Also known as "resomation" or "aquamation," the process involves placing the body in a pressurized vessel with a mixture of 95% water and 5% alkaline solution. It is heated to around 150°C, dissolving soft tissue over 3–4 hours and leaving only bone fragments, which are processed into a fine white powder and returned to the family in an urn.
- **A UK First:** While already legal in several US states, Canada, and South Africa (famously chosen by Archbishop Desmond Tutu in 2022), Scotland is the first nation in the UK to pass these regulations.



G.K. ONE LINER

NATIONAL NEWS

- Which institution emerged as the top business school in India?
Indian Institute of Management Bangalore
- In which state was India's first MLFF tolling system launched?
Gujarat
- Which country set a Guinness Record with the largest underwater Tricolour?
India
- Which state launched India's first state-led Centre of Excellence for Space Tech?
Karnataka
- What is the name of India's private sector Earth Observation Satellite mission?
Mission Drishti
- Which system was launched for disaster warnings by the Union Minister?
Cell Broadcast System
- Journalists from which country won a prestigious US award?
India
- Which portal was launched by NITI Aayog?
Central Prabhari Officer Portal
- Which organization launched Electronic Gold Receipts in the gold market?
National Stock Exchange of India
- Which Assam Chief Minister resigned recently?
- Which Indian company signed a nuclear agreement with EDF France?
NLC India Limited
- What is the name of SEBI's newly formed AI-based task force?
Cyber-suraksha.ai
- Which event features India's pavilion in 2026?
La Biennale di Venezia 2026
- Which company became India's first space-tech unicorn?
Skyroot Aerospace
- Which portal was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare?
Swasth Bharat Portal
- Which organizations signed an MoU to strengthen AI-driven healthcare in India?
IndiaAI and ICMR
- Who was appointed as the Chief of Naval Staff?
Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan
- Which university became India's first IoE to receive Data Science Council of America accreditation?
O.P. Jindal Global University
- Which state approved the Compressed Biogas Policy 2026?
Maharashtra
- Which organizations conducted the maiden flight-trial of the indigenous TARA glide weapon?
DRDO and Indian Air Force
- Which organization, along with BPCL, developed India's first plastic waste geocell named "Phoenix"?
CSIR-CRRI
- Which Union Minister launched PMGSY-IV?
Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- What are the names of the judiciary initiatives recently launched?
One Case One Data and Su Sahay
- Who was named Kerala's Chief Minister?
V. D. Satheesan
- What rank did India's passport achieve in the Henley Passport Index 2026?
78th
- Which international body's chairmanship was assumed by India?
Common Criteria Development Board
- Which state will implement the Anand Marriage Act, 1909 from June 1, 2026?
Sikkim
- What was released as India's first satellite-tagged specimen recently?
Ganges soft-shell turtle

- Which city introduced India's first solar-powered "Algae Tree"?

Bhopal

- Which ministry launched a pilot programme for out-of-school adolescents?

Ministry of Education

- Which portal was launched by Union Minister Prataprao Jadhav?

Ayush Anudan Portal

- Which state formed India's first AI Ministry?

Kerala

- Who was given charge of India's first AI Ministry in Kerala?

PK Kunhalikutty

- Which app was launched in Haryana to replace the traditional Labour Chowk system?

ShramMitra

- Which state got its first private medical museum in Thiruvananthapuram?

Kerala

- Who became Kerala's second Woman International Master (WIM)?

Swara Lakshmi Nair

- BIT Mesra signed an MoU with which organization to strengthen geospatial innovation and education?

NESAC

- Which Defence Minister launched India's first 300-km rocket system "Suryastra"?

Rajnath Singh

- Which state formed India's first-ever Artificial Intelligence Ministry?

Kerala

- What was launched as India's largest biomedical technology transfer platform?

Biomedical Technology Transfer Platform

- Which mission launched the "Investors Support" Portal along with MeitY?

India Semiconductor Mission

- Which state became India's fifth fully literate state?

Sikkim

- Who released the book on India's first Olympic hockey gold along with Dilip Tirkey?

PT Usha

- What type of currency notes is India set to test under the RBI's revived project?

Plastic (Polymer) Currency Notes

- What is the name of India's first SkyCast system launched at Delhi Airport?

SkyCast

- Which company launched India's first Stratospheric Super Pressure Balloon (SPB)?

Red Balloon Aerospace

INTERNATIONAL

- Which country retained the No. 1 spot in World T20I Rankings?

India

- Which country introduced the first humanoid robot monk named Gabi?

South Korea

- Who was approved by Bulgaria's Parliament as the new Prime Minister?

Rumen Radev

- Who was appointed as India's next Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman?

Prashant Pise

- Which Singapore Foreign Affairs Minister received the highest accolade?

Vivian Balakrishnan

- Who was appointed as India's next Ambassador to the Republic of Colombia?

Dr Vinod J Bahade

- Who was appointed Chairman of BRICS CCI?

Harvansh Chawla

- Who became India's Ambassador to Peru?

C Sugandh Rajaram

- Who was appointed Governor of the US Federal Reserve?

Kevin Warsh

- Who was sworn in for a seventh term as Uganda's President?

Yoweri Museveni

- Who was appointed as India's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain?

Dr. Pradeep Singh Rajpurohit

- Who was appointed as India's High Commissioner to Uganda?

Dr. Ajay Kumar

- Who became Iraq's youngest Prime Minister?

Ali Falih Kadhim al-Zaidi

- Which country's highest civilian honour did PM Modi receive as his 32nd global award?

Norway

- Which two companies launched a \$5 billion AI cloud company?

Google and Blackstone

- Which country became Bangladesh's second-largest trading partner, surpassing the US?

India

- Which medal did PM Modi receive in Rome from FAO?

FAO Agricola Medal

- Which country became Sri Lanka's second-largest export destination in 2026?

India

- Which region's first astronaut launched into space aboard a Chinese mission?

Hong Kong

- Who was appointed as India's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain?

Dr. Pradeep Singh Rajpurohit

- Which football star became a billionaire in a historic milestone?

Lionel Messi

- Which Indian fort was recognized as the world's second-longest continuous wall?

Kumbhalgarh Fort

- Who was appointed as the new Prime Minister of Senegal?

Ahmadou Al Aminou Lo

- Who was appointed as Executive Director at CDSL?

Amit Mahajan

BANKING & FINANCE

- Who was appointed as Head of Mergers & Acquisitions at Citi Bank India?

Raj Rathi

- Which bank appointed Nabin Kumar Dash as Chief Vigilance Officer?

Bank of India

- Which bank signed an MoU with NBCC?

Central Bank of India

- Which bank partnered with IIT Madras to launch the I2SSL Lab?

- IDBI Bank

- Which two institutions renewed their cooperation framework with an updated MoU in Basel?

RBI and ECB

- Which bank partnered with DMRC to launch RuPay NCMC cards?

- Airtel Payments Bank

- Who was appointed Nominee Director of Indian Bank?

Samir Kumar

- India's PSBs achieved record profit for how many consecutive years?

Fourth consecutive year

- Which bank partnered with Visa to launch India's first USD-denominated debit card for NRIs?

ICICI Bank

- Who was appointed as Chief Risk Officer of Union Bank of India?

Sowmya Sridhar

- Who was appointed as Executive Director of RBI?

Gunveer Singh

- Who was appointed as Part-Time Chairman of Federal Bank?

Elias George

- Which bank received a national award for outstanding APY performance?

Karnataka Grameena Bank

- Who was re-appointed as MD & CEO of ICICI Bank?

Sandeep Bakhshi

- Who was re-appointed by RBI as CEO of Fino Payments Bank?

Ketan Merchant

- RBI signed an MoU to boost digital payments with the central bank of which country?

Vietnam

NEW APPOINTMENTS

- Who was named Festival Director for the 57th IFFI?

Ashutosh Gowariker

- Who was appointed as the Chairman of Prasar Bharati?

Prasoon Joshi

- Which actor-turned-politician became the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu?

C. Joseph Vijay

- Who were appointed as Full-Time Members of NITI Aayog?

R. Balasubramaniam and Joram Aniya

- Who reconstituted Parliamentary Committees for 2026–27?

Om Birla

- Who was named as the future successor of Biocon by Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw?

Claire Mazumdar

- Who was appointed as the Non-Executive Chairman of Vodafone Idea Limited?

Kumar Mangalam Birla

- Who was appointed as Chairperson of CBFC?

Shashi Shekhar Vempati

- Who was appointed as the Jute Commissioner of Kolkata?

Dipankar Mahto

- Who took oath as the Chief Minister of West Bengal?

Suvendu Adhikari

- Who was appointed as Puducherry Chief Minister by President Droupadi Murmu?

N Rangasamy

- Who assumed charge as CMD of SAIL?

Dr AK Panda

- Who was appointed CFO by CVC?

John Hourican

- Who succeeded Rajiv Memani as CII President for 2026–27?

R Mukundan

- Who became owner of Dublin Franchise in ETPL?

Rahul Dravid

- Which company partnered with Adani Group for India's first data centre initiative?

Uber

- Who was appointed Managing Director of Jio Platforms?

Akash Ambani

- Who was elected Chairman of IFFCO-MC Crop Science?

Dileep Sanghani

- Who was inducted as DIG in NIA?

Sandeep Kumar Garg

- Who was elected President of the South Asian Weightlifting Federation?

Sahdev Yadav

- Who was appointed Deputy Inspector General in BSF?

Surendra Kumar Jha

- Who took charge as CEO of UIDAI?

Saurabh Vijay

- Who was re-elected Chairman of the Commonwealth Chess Association?

Bharat Singh Chauhan

- Who was appointed Chairperson of the Parliamentary Panel on Science & Environment?

Medha Kulkarni

- Which state partnered with Google Cloud India for Simhastha Kumbh 2028?

Madhya Pradesh

- Who was appointed Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat from Manipur Police?

Rajiv Singh

- Who was appointed as the Chief Electoral Officer of West Bengal?

- *Neelam Meena*

- Who was appointed Chairman of a Rajya Sabha Committee?

Raghav Chadha

- Who was appointed Director of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission?

Piyush Singla

- Who was named the next Chief Minister after Siddaramaiah stepped down?

DK Shivakumar

- Who was appointed as the CEO of Kerala?

A. Kowsigan

OBITUARIES

- Which Paralympic champion passed away recently?

Alex Zanardi

- Which CNN founder passed away recently?

Robert Edward Turner III

- Which former Mohun Bagan FC President passed away?

Tutu Bose

- Which BJP veteran and former Uttarakhand Chief Minister passed away?

B. C. Khanduri

- Which former England captain passed away?

MJK Smith

- Which former Microsoft executive and tech mentor passed away?

Former Microsoft Executive and Tech Mentor

- Which NASCAR legend recently passed away?

Kyle Busch

- Which five-time Olympian shooter recently passed away?

Raja Randhir Singh

- Which veteran Urdu poet passed away at the age of 91?

Bashir Badr

AWARDS

- Who won the South Asia title at the Cambridge Teacher Awards 2026?

Soma Mandal

- Which company won the 4th Edition of the Free Journal & CareEdge Annual Report Awards?

Bharat Electronics Limited

- Which neurosurgeon will receive the AIIMS Lifetime Achievement Award?

V. S. Mehta

- Which refinery won the IMC RBNQA Award 2026?

BPCL Kochi Refinery

- Who conferred the National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026?

Droupadi Murmu

- Who received the Literary Lifetime Achievement Award 2026?

AK Sheram

- Which senior boxing coach received the Lifetime Achievement Award?

Ganesh Purohit

- Which organization won the LEAPS Award 2025?

Paradeep Parivahan

- Which actor was honored by the Indian Armoured Corps' 45 Cavalry?

Ishaan Khatter

- Which state won the WHO No Tobacco Day Award 2026?

Rajasthan

- Which Kantha artist was honored with Padma Shri?

Tripti Mukherjee

- Which bank won the APY Annual Award of Excellence FY 2025-26?

Bank of Maharashtra

- Which mission received the AIAA Goddard Astronautics Award 2026?

Chandrayaan-3

- Which book won the International Booker Prize 2026?

Taiwan Travelogue

- Which Indian space mission received the AIAA Goddard Astronautics Award 2026?

Chandrayaan-3

- Which book won the International Booker Prize 2026?

Taiwan Travelogue

- Scientists of which origin received South Africa's highest civilian honour?

Indian-Origin Scientists

- Which violin maestro was conferred with the Padma Vibhushan?

Dr. N. Rajam

- Which police force received the President's Police Colour?

Sikkim Police

- Which country received two Labbaytum Awards for Haj

coordination and communication?

India

SPORTS

- Who won the Madrid Open 2026?

Marta Kostyuk

- Which athlete broke the national pole vault record?

Kuldeep Kumar

- In which championship did India's young boxers shine in 2026?

Asian U15 & U17 Championships 2026

- Who earned the International Master title in chess?

Apaar Saxena

- Who became the second-youngest Grandmaster in chess history?

Faustino Oro

- Who won bronze in the trap mixed team event?

Neeru and Vivaan

- Which Indian athlete won silver and bronze in Weightlifting?

Gyaneshwari Yadav

- Who slammed a record ninth IPL century?

Virat Kohli

- Which Indian athlete won double bronze at the Asian Senior Weightlifting Championships?

Ajith

- Who won Gold at the 11th Sanda World Cup?

Aparna Dahiya

- Who won bronze at the Asian Weightlifting Championships?

Harjinder Kaur

- Who won silver at Baoji China Masters?

Shriyanshi Valishetty

- Who won the Italian Open men's title?

Jannik Sinner

- Who won the Italian Open women's title?

Elina Svitolina

- Which country's women's team won the Asian Champions League title?

North Korea

- Which club won the Indian Super League title for the first time?

East Bengal

- Which club won the Indian Super League title for the first time?

East Bengal

- Which country's women's team won the Asian Champions League title?

North Korea

- Which Indian cricketer retired from domestic and IPL cricket?

- *Vijay Shankar*

- Who broke the men's 100m national record to win Federation Cup gold?

Gurindervir Singh

- In which event did India create history at the international level?

International Association of Ultrarunners

- Which Mercedes teenager won the Canadian Grand Prix?

Kimi Antonelli

- Who clinched gold medals at the Asian U-23 Wrestling Championships?

Mohit & Chander Mohan

- Which two-time Paralympic champion broke the world record recently?

Sumit Antil

- Which Indian shooter won the Munich World Cup with a 25m pistol world record?

Esha Singh

- Which country will host the 2027 Asian Relays and 2028 Asian Indoor Championships?

India

DEFENCE

- Which joint exercise did the Indian Army leave for in Cambodia?

Exercise CINBAX-II 2026

- Which two countries are participating in Exercise CINBAX-II 2026?

India and Cambodia

- Who was appointed as the new Chief of Defence Staff?

N S Raja Subramani

- Which indigenous Fast Patrol Vessel was commissioned by the Indian Coast Guard?

ICGS ACHAL

- Which indigenous systems were inducted by the Indian Army?

ULPGM and AGNIKAA VTOL-1 Kamikaze Drones

- Which aircraft became India's first privately manufactured military aircraft?

Airbus C-295

- Which indigenous missile was successfully tested by DRDO?

ULPGM-V3 Missile

- Who became the Indian Air Force's first woman Category-A Flying Instructor?

Saanya

- Which multilateral exercise commenced at Umroi?

Exercise Pragati 2026

- Which two platforms were launched by the Indian Army for military innovation?

Kautilya & Q-FORCE

- Who was named UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year?

Major Abhilasha Barak

- Which Bengaluru test pilot became the first Indian SETP Fellow?

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla

- Who was appointed as the 48th Vice Chief of the Indian Navy?

Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

MAY 2026

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.

BPCL Kochi Refinery Wins IMC RBNQA Award 2026

- Recognition of Quality Excellence:** The RBNQA 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.

President Droupadi Murmu conferred National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026

- Recognition of 15 Awardees:** A total of 15 nursing professionals

from across the country were honored this year. The awardees included Registered Nurses, Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM), and Lady Health Visitors. Notable recipients included Sub Inspector Kulwinder Parhi (Ladakh), Poonam Verma (Chandigarh), Dr. Sharwan Kumar Dhaka (Delhi), and Maj Gen Lissamma P.V. (Indian Army).

- Award Components and History:** Instituted in 1973 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, these are the highest national honors for nursing. Each award consists of a Certificate of Merit, a Medal, and a cash prize of ₹1,00,000. They recognize meritorious services that exemplify compassion, dedication, and clinical excellence.
- Theme and Significance:** The awards were presented on the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. This year's ceremony highlighted the theme "Our Nurses. Our Future."

Dr. Thiyam Suresh Literary Lifetime Achievement Award 2026 Conferred on AK Sheram

- Recipient:** The award was conferred on AK Sheram, a prominent Manipuri writer based in Bangladesh. He is widely recognized for his immense contribution to Manipuri literature and for bridging the cultural gap between Manipuri communities in India and Bangladesh.

Senior boxing coach Ganesh Purohit was felicitated with Lifetime Achievement Award

- **Award Organizer & Specific Moniker:** The Lifetime Achievement Award—formally designated as the Jeevan Gaurav Award—was conferred during the 3rd Bhau Kane Memorial Outstanding Coach Award ceremony. The prestigious event was organized jointly by the Navmaharashtra Krida Mandal (NMKM) and the Chaitanya Sports, Yoga and Cultural Foundation in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- **Prize Elements & Event Details:** The recognition carried a substantial cash prize of ₹1 lakh (₹100,000) along with a special memento, a ceremonial shawl, and a coconut. The presentation took place at the Shikshak Sahakari Bank Auditorium on May 14, 2026, marking the birth anniversary of the legendary sports organizer Bhau Kane.
- **Distinguished Background & Mentorship Track Record:** The 70-year-old veteran is an alumnus of the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose National Institute of Sports (NSNIS, Patiala), graduating with his coaching diploma back in 1986.

Chandrayaan-3 honored with AIAA Goddard Astronautics Award 2026

- **Highest AIAA Honor:** The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) presented its highest astronautics honor to ISRO for the Chandrayaan-3 mission during the ASCEND conference in Washington, D.C.

- **Historic Achievement Recognized:** The award directly recognizes India's historic August 23, 2023 achievement as the first nation to successfully execute a soft landing near the Moon's challenging south polar region.
- **Scientific Contribution:** The citation honors the mission for significantly deepening global scientific understanding of the Moon and providing critical resource and soil data to support future human lunar exploration.

Taiwan Travelogue Wins International Booker Prize 2026

- **Historic Double Milestone:** Awarded on May 19, 2026, at London's Tate Modern, Taiwan Travelogue made history as the first-ever book originally written in Mandarin Chinese, and the first by a Taiwanese author (Yáng Shuāng-zǐ), to win the prestigious prize.
- **The Narrative & Themes:** Set in 1938 during the Japanese colonial rule of Taiwan, the novel uses an experimental, metafictional format (disguised as a rediscovered Japanese travel journal) to follow a Japanese author and her local female interpreter on a culinary tour.
- **Prize Distribution & Publisher Success:** The £50,000 prize money will be split equally between the author and the translator, Lin King. The victory also marks an impressive consecutive win for the independent publisher And Other Stories, which also published the 2025 winner (Heart Lamp).

Two Indian-Origin Scientists Conferred South Africa's Highest Civilian Honour

- **Prestigious Recognition:** On May 20, 2026, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa conferred the Order of Mapungubwe—the country's highest civilian honour—upon internationally renowned public health scientists Professor Salim Abdool Karim and Professor Keertan Dheda.
- **Categories of Honour:** Professor Salim Abdool Karim was awarded the Order of Mapungubwe in Gold for his monumental research into HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis epidemiology, as well as his leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Indian Violin Maestro Dr. N. Rajam conferred with Padma Vibhushan



- **Pioneering "Gayaki Ang":** Dr. N. Rajam is widely celebrated for revolutionizing violin performance by developing the "Gayaki Ang" style, which allows the violin to replicate the nuances and emotional depth of human vocal music.
- **Prestigious Milestone:** Conferred on May 25, 2026, by President Droupadi Murmu, this award adds to her distinguished career, having already been honored with the Padma Shri (1984) and Padma Bhushan (2004).
- **Academic and Musical Legacy:** Beyond her performance career, she served as a professor and Dean of the Faculty of Performing Arts at BHU, mentoring generations of musicians while bridging Hindustani and Carnatic classical traditions.

APRIL 2026

Jupally Krishna Rao receives World Peace Grand Prize

- Prestigious Recognition:** Telangana's Minister for Tourism, Culture, and Archaeology, Jupally Krishna Rao, was conferred with the "Grand Prize for Contribution to World Peace" on March 27, 2026. The award was presented by the International Interchange Development Association (IIDA) during the International Buddhist Peace Conference held in Hyderabad.
- Focus on Buddhist Heritage:** The award recognizes Rao's significant efforts in preserving spiritual heritage and promoting international cultural exchange. He has been a key driver in developing Buddhavanam (Nagarjuna Sagar) into a global center for Buddhist learning and a "World Peace Centre."

Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay selected for Saraswati Samman

- Prestigious Honor:** Eminent Bengali writer Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay has been selected for the 35th Saraswati Samman (2025). Instituted by the K.K. Birla Foundation in 1991, it is one of India's highest literary awards, carrying a cash prize of ₹15 lakh, a citation, and a plaque.
- Award-Winning Work:** He is being recognized for his 2020 novel "Hara Parvati Katha." The book is noted for reinterpreting Indian mythology through a modern lens, blending spiritual depth with contemporary social and environmental themes through the journey of the deities Shiva and Parvati.

- Prolific Literary Career:** Born in 1956 in Kolkata, Mukhopadhyay is a highly decorated author with a body of work including nine novels and 11 short story collections.

PAN Health wins Excellence in Manufacturing Award

- Manufacturing Scale & Location:** PAN Health operates India's largest manufacturing facility for disposable personal hygiene products. The state-of-the-art facility is spread across 30 acres (700,000 sq. ft.) in Rajkot, Gujarat, and has an annual production capacity of over 3.7 billion units.
- Key Portfolio Brands:** The company is a leading player in the disposable hygiene segment with three flagship brands: Little Angel (baby care), Liberty (adult care), and Everteen (women's hygiene). The award recognizes their excellence in maintaining international quality standards across these eight product categories.
- Strategic Alignment:** Established in 2017, the company follows the philosophy of "Make in India, Made for India and the World."

Ranveer Singh won Best Actor at the Screen Awards 2026 in Dhurandhar

- Dominance at the Awards:** Dhurandhar: The Revenge emerged as the biggest winner of the night, bagging a total of 14 awards. While the film won for Best Actor (Ranveer Singh) and Best Director (Aditya Dhar), the title of Best Film went to the Oscar-nominated gritty drama, Homebound.

- A Box Office Juggernaut:** Released on March 19, 2026, the film has become a historic success, surpassing the ₹1,000 crore mark in net collections in India. It is currently the highest-grossing Indian film of 2026 and the fourth-highest-grossing Indian film of all time globally, with earnings exceeding ₹1,600 crore.
- Complex Character Portrayal:** In this sequel to the 2025 hit Dhurandhar, Ranveer Singh plays a dual-identity role as Hamza Ali Mazari / Jaskirat Singh Rangji.

MCL's Keshav Rao Wins Professional CSR Person of the Year 2026

- Top Recognition:** Shri Keshav Rao, Director (Human Resources) of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), was honored with the "Professional CSR Person of the Year 2026" award on April 6, 2026.
- The Conclave:** The accolade was presented during the State CSR Corporate Awards & Conclave, recognizing his exemplary leadership in driving impactful Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and HR initiatives.

GAIL Executive Shri A. K. Tripathi Conferred CIDC Vishwakarma Achievement Award 2026

- Award Category & Event:** The honor was conferred during the 17th CIDC Vishwakarma Awards held in New Delhi in March/April 2026. Shri Tripathi received the "Achievement Award for Public Officer" for his exceptional contribution to the

growth of India's construction and infrastructure sector.

- **Infrastructure Impact:** The award recognizes his leadership in executing large-scale energy infrastructure, notably the commissioning of over 1,600 km of pipelines in the 2025–26 fiscal year and the management of projects worth approximately ₹18,900 crore.
- **Engineering Excellence:** Under his guidance, GAIL successfully implemented complex engineering feats, including the Dabhol–Breakwater project and high-difficulty Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) river crossings.

A. K. Tripathi Conferred CIDC Vishwakarma Achievement Award 2026

- **Award Recognition:** Shri A. K. Tripathi, Executive Director (Projects) at GAIL (India) Limited, was honored with the CIDC Vishwakarma Achievement Award (Public Officer) at the 17th edition of the awards held in New Delhi in April 2026.
- **Key Contributions:** The award recognizes his leadership in advancing India's energy infrastructure, including the execution of over 3,300 km of pipeline projects since 2023 and a record 1,612 km commissioned in the 2025–26 financial year.
- **Institutional Significance:** Established by the Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC), these awards celebrate organizations and individuals who contribute significantly to nation-building and engineering excellence in the Indian construction and infrastructure sectors.

HUDCO CMD Sanjay Kulshrestha Conferred with CIDC Vishwakarma Award 2026

- **Award Category:** Sanjay Kulshrestha, the Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of HUDCO, was conferred with the Achievement Award for Public Officer (Government & Public Sector) at the 17th CIDC Vishwakarma Awards 2026.
- **Recognized Excellence:** The award, presented by the Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC), recognizes his leadership in sustainable urban development, affordable housing, and strengthening public sector housing finance.
- **National Alignment:** The honor highlights HUDCO's contribution to nation-building initiatives and its alignment with India's long-term vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 through urban infrastructure financing.

Footnotes: HUDCO's CMD: Sanjay Kulshrestha, HQ: New Delhi, Estd: 1970

Sayani Gupta Honoured with Harvard South Asian Person of the Year Award 2026

- **The Recognition:** Indian actress and producer Sayani Gupta has been named the "South Asian Person of the Year" 2026 by the Harvard University South Asian Association (SAA).
- **Significance:** The award honors her influential role in cinema and storytelling, specifically her commitment to authentic representation and challenging traditional South Asian stereotypes on a global platform.

- **Context of Honor:** She joins an elite list of previous recipients, including Vikas Khanna (2025) and Avantika Vandanapu (2024); the ceremony coincides with the premiere of her directorial debut film, Aasmani.

ONGC Wins Global Safety Award for Corporate HSE Excellence



- **The Award:** Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has been honored with the Global Safety Award (Platinum Category) for Corporate HSE (Health, Safety, and Environment) Excellence by the Energy and Environment Foundation (EEF) in April 2026.
- **Triple Recognition:** This marks ONGC's third consecutive Platinum recognition during the 2025–26 period, underscoring its consistent global leadership in safety standards and environmental stewardship.
- **Presented By:** The award was presented by Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, recognizing the company's "Safety-First" culture and its robust systems for mitigating operational risks in high-stakes energy production.

Footnotes: ONGC's Chairman & CEO: Arun Kumar Singh, HQ: New Delhi, Estd: 1956

MARCH 2026

Bank of Maharashtra Wins "Best Mid-Sized Bank" Award

- **Consistent Growth & Performance:** The award recognizes Bank of Maharashtra's exceptional performance across key financial metrics, including robust asset quality, high credit growth, and maintaining the lowest Net NPA (Non-Performing Assets) among public sector banks.
- **Leadership in Transformation:** Under the leadership of MD & CEO Nidhu Saxena, the bank was lauded for its successful digital transformation and "customer-first" initiatives, which have helped it transition from a regional player to a high-performing national institution.

Indian Women's Cricket Team Shortlisted for Laureus World Team of the Year Award 2026

- **Maiden World Cup Triumph:** The nomination is a direct result of the team's historic victory at the 2025 ICC Women's ODI World Cup. Led by Harmanpreet Kaur, India clinched their first-ever title by defeating South Africa in the final, a victory that prompted the BCCI to announce a landmark ₹51 crore reward for the squad.
- **A Global First for Cricket:** India has become the first-ever women's cricket team to be shortlisted for this prestigious category in the 26-year history of the Laureus Awards. Their campaign was highlighted by a record-breaking semi-final performance where they pulled off the highest successful run chase in women's ODI history (339 runs) to eliminate Australia.

KV Subramanian becomes 1st Indian Economist to Win Chicago Alumni Award

- **Historic First:** Prof. Subramanian is the first Indian economist to receive this distinction in the award's 85-year history (established in 1941). This recognition places him alongside an elite group of past recipients, including 14 Nobel laureates and global thinkers like Paul Samuelson and Milton Friedman.
- **Recognition of Indian Policy:** The University specifically cited his "landmark" Economic Surveys of India (2018–2021) as providing the intellectual foundation for India's self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat). It also highlighted his early diagnosis of the COVID-19 crisis as a supply-side disruption and his successful articulation of a V-shaped recovery.

Kriti K. Karanth received a major conservation award in UK

- **Historic Achievement:** Dr. Karanth is the first Indian and the first Asian recipient of the Esmond B. Martin Royal Geographical Society Prize. She was named the joint winner of the 2026 award alongside Professor Alexandre Antonelli, Director of Science at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.
- **Recognition of Impact:** The award recognizes her "crucial contributions to the human understanding of ecosystems" and her work in protecting biodiversity. Specifically, she was praised for changing the narrative around conservation by creating holistic, science-based interventions that support both wildlife and local communities.

ONGC Triumphs at India Public Sector Enterprises Awards 2025

- **Veteran Leadership:** Thomas Mathew is a retired Principal Chief General Manager of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). During his career at the central bank, he specialized in banking regulation, corporate governance, and financial supervision.
- **Succession Details:** He succeeds Sonali Sen Gupta in this role. The appointment was made by the Central Government under the powers of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970, and is effective immediately.
- **Strategic Governance:** His induction is intended to strengthen IOB's regulatory alignment and board oversight. His deep expertise in risk management and compliance is expected to support the bank's commitment to sound corporate governance and public sector banking standards.

Rashmika Mandanna won Best Actress Award

- **Telangana Gaddar Awards 2025:** Rashmika Mandanna won the Best Actress award at the prestigious Telangana Gaddar Film Awards, announced in March 2026. These awards were instituted by the Government of Telangana to recognize excellence in Telugu cinema.
- **Winning Performance:** She received the honor for her role as Bhooma Devi in the 2025 romantic drama *The Girlfriend*, directed by Rahul Ravindran. Her portrayal of a woman navigating a controlling relationship was widely praised for its emotional depth and authenticity.



NEW APPOINTMENTS

MAY 2026

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 strengthening the think tank's interdisciplinary approach.

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 Bajjayant 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 Praseon Joshi:** Vempati succeeds renowned lyricist and screenwriter Praseon 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

APRIL 2026

Dr Thomas Pucadyil appointed Director of BRIC-NCCS



- **Expertise in Cell Biology:** Dr. Pucadyil is a world-renowned molecular biologist and biochemist specializing in membrane biochemistry and vesicular transport. His research specifically focuses on how cell membranes undergo regulated fission to form organelles—a process critical to understanding cellular health and disease mechanisms.
- **Transition from IISER Pune:** Prior to this appointment, Dr. Pucadyil served as a Professor and Chair of Biology at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune. He takes over the leadership mantle from Dr. Manisha Inamdar, who had been serving as the interim director since the superannuation of the previous additional director in late 2025.
- **Highly Decorated Career:** He is a recipient of the prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize (2018), India's highest multidisciplinary science award. He is also an International Research Scholar of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) and a Fellow of both the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) and the Indian Academy of Sciences (IAS).

Senior Bureaucrat Vir Vikram Yadav appointed

New Aviation Body Chief

- **New Leadership at DGCA:** Vir Vikram Yadav, a 1996-batch IAS officer of the Odisha cadre, has been appointed as the Director General of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). He replaces Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, who has been moved to the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).
- **Transition from Environment Ministry:** Prior to this appointment, Yadav served as the Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. He also held additional charge as the Chairman of the CPCB.
- **Critical Sector Challenges:** Yadav takes charge at a time when the aviation sector is facing intense scrutiny following major safety incidents in 2025 and operational disruptions at major carriers like IndiGo. His immediate focus is expected to be on strengthening regulatory oversight, pilot rest norms, and air safety standards.

IndiGo appoints William Walsh as New CEO

- **Global Aviation Heavyweight:** William Walsh is a veteran with over four decades of experience. He is currently the Director General of the International Air Transport Association (IATA). He previously served as the CEO of British Airways and was the founding CEO of International Airlines Group (IAG).
- **Succession Timeline:** Walsh succeeds Pieter Elbers, who resigned on March 10, 2026. While the appointment is immediate, Walsh will officially join IndiGo by August 3, 2026, following the completion of his tenure at IATA on July 31.

- **Strategic Mandate:** His appointment comes at a critical time as India's largest airline navigates operational challenges, including a major flight cancellation crisis in late 2025 related to new pilot duty norms.

IAS Chanchal Kumar Takes Charge as I&B Secretary

- **Cadre and Background:** Chanchal Kumar is a 1992-batch IAS officer of the Bihar cadre. He holds a strong academic background with B.Tech and M.Tech degrees from IIT Kanpur and a Ph.D. in Economics from Patna University.
- **Direct Role Swap:** His appointment was part of a major bureaucratic reshuffle by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). He swapped positions with Sanjay Jaju (1992-batch, Telangana cadre); while Kumar moved from the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) to I&B, Jaju took over as the new Secretary of DoNER.
- **Diverse Administrative Experience:** Prior to this role, he served in high-level positions including Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Managing Director of the NHIDCL (National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd), and Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister of Bihar.

Ashwini Bhide Becomes First Woman BMC Commissioner

- **Historic Appointment:** Ashwini Bhide, a 1995-batch IAS officer of the Maharashtra cadre, is the first woman to lead the BMC, which is India's richest civic body. She succeeded Bhushan Gagrani following his retirement.

- **"Metro Woman" of Mumbai:** She earned this nickname for her pivotal role as the Managing Director of the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation (MMRC), where she spearheaded the execution of the Mumbai Metro Line 3 (Aqua Line)—the city's first underground metro corridor.
- **Extensive Civic Experience:** Before this top role, she served as the Additional Municipal Commissioner in the BMC (2020–2024), where she was instrumental in managing the COVID-19 pandemic response and overseeing the Mumbai Coastal Road Project.

Sand Artist Sudarshan Pattnaik appointed Brand Ambassador for India Census 2027

- **Public Awareness through Art:** As a Padma Shri awardee known for his socially relevant sand sculptures, Pattnaik will use his art to educate citizens about the importance of the census. His role is to mobilize public participation and ensure accurate data collection for what is being called a "People's Census."
- **Support for India's First Digital Census:** This 16th National Census (and 8th since Independence) is the first to be conducted entirely digitally. Enumerators will use smartphone-based apps, and for the first time, a self-enumeration portal will allow citizens to fill in their own details online.
- **Phased Rollout and Mascots:** The awareness campaign led by Pattnaik supports a two-phase process: Phase I (Houselisting) begins in April 2026, followed by Phase II (Population Enumeration) in February 2027. The official mascots for the exercise are "Pragati" (female) and "Vikas" (male).

Narendra Bhooshan appointed Secretary, Department of Land Resources

- **Appointment Details:** Shri Narendra Bhooshan, a 1992-batch IAS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, officially assumed charge as the Secretary of the Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development) on April 6, 2026.
- **Diverse Experience:** He has over three decades of administrative experience, previously serving as the Additional Chief Secretary (Energy) in Uttar Pradesh and the CEO of Greater Noida Authority. At the Centre, he has served in the UIDAI and as Joint Secretary in the Department of Agriculture.
- **Academic Profile:** Bhooshan holds a Master's degree in International Development Policy from Duke University (USA), a postgraduate degree in Economics, and a graduate degree in Electronics.

Krishna Kumar Singh Takes Additional Charge as SAIL CMD

- **Interim Leadership:** Singh was appointed to the role following the completion of Amarendu Prakash's tenure as CMD on March 31, 2026. He will hold the additional charge for a period of three months (until July 1, 2026) or until a full-time regular incumbent is appointed, whichever is earlier.
- **Decades of Domain Expertise:** A veteran of the steel industry, Singh joined SAIL in 1987 as a Management Trainee. He has nearly four decades of experience across diverse functions, including ten years in technical operations at the Bhilai Steel

Plant before transitioning into Human Resource Development and Personnel.

- **Strategic Continuity:** As Director (Personnel) since 2022, Singh has been a key architect of SAIL's "people-centric" growth. His appointment is intended to ensure operational stability and the continued implementation of progressive welfare schemes as the company navigates its next phase of expansion under the new fiscal year.

Menaka Guruswamy Becomes India's First Openly Queer MP



- **Historic Milestone:** Senior Advocate Menaka Guruswamy took her oath as a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha on April 3, 2026, becoming the first openly queer (LGBTQ+) person to serve in India's Parliament.
- **Political Representation:** She was elected as a candidate of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) representing the state of West Bengal, following the Rajya Sabha elections held in March 2026.
- **Legal Legacy:** Guruswamy is renowned for her pivotal role as a lead lawyer in the landmark Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India (2018) case, which resulted in the Supreme Court decriminalizing consensual same-sex relationships by reading down Section 377.

MARCH 2026

Deepak Gupta Takes Over as Chairman & MD of GAIL



- **Vast Sector Expertise:** A mechanical engineer from Delhi College of Engineering, Gupta brings over 35 years of experience across the entire oil and gas value chain. Before his elevation to CMD, he served as GAIL's Director (Projects) since February 2022, where he was instrumental in expanding the company's 20,000 km pipeline network.
- **Focus on Energy Transition & Digitalization:** His tenure, which runs until February 28, 2029, is expected to focus on India's goal of increasing natural gas in the energy mix to 15% by 2030.

Footnotes: GAIL's Chairman & MD: Sandeep Kumar Gupta, HQ: New Delhi, Estd: 1984

Saba Shawl appointed 1st DWoman Superintendent of Srinagar Central Jail

- **A Historic First:** Saba Shawl has become the first Kashmiri woman to head the Srinagar Central Jail, the Union Territory's oldest and largest high-security correctional facility. This facility is particularly sensitive, housing over 900 inmates, including high-profile political prisoners and convicts.

- **Merit-Driven Career:** A 2012-batch officer, Shawl was the only candidate to secure an open-merit position for Superintendent of Police (Prisons) in her qualifying year. She holds a Master's degree in Social Work, which informs her approach to prisoner welfare, recreational programming, and correctional policy.
- **Vast Operational Experience:** Before this role, she served in various capacities across the UT, including as a Staff Officer to the Director General of Prisons and in field postings at Kot Bhalwal Jail (Jammu) and Kupwara Jail.

Jio Platforms appoints Dan Bailey as President

- **Global Expansion Mandate:** Based in London, Bailey will spearhead Jio's international business initiatives. He will report directly to Akash Ambani, Chairman of Reliance Jio Infocomm, and join the company's Executive Committee to lead the export of Jio's 5G, AI, and digital platform capabilities beyond India.
- **Deep Industry Pedigree:** Bailey is a veteran with over 35 years of experience in investment banking and consulting. He previously held senior leadership roles at Schrodgers, Citigroup, Morgan Stanley, and HSBC.

Footnotes: Jio's MD: Isha Ambani, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 2007

President Justice Dharmadhikari as Madras Cj

- **55th Chief Justice:** Justice Dharmadhikari was sworn in by Governor R.N. Ravi on March 6, 2026, at the Lok Bhavan in Chennai. He succeeds Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava, who retired on March 5 after

reaching the mandatory retirement age of 62.

- **Judicial Trajectory:** His parent High Court is the Madhya Pradesh High Court, where he was first elevated as a judge in 2016. Before his current elevation to Chief Justice, he was serving as a judge of the Kerala High Court, a position he held since April 2025.
- **Legal Background:** Born in Raipur, he practiced law for over 24 years before joining the bench. During his career as an advocate, he notably served as the Standing Counsel for the Union of India for 15 years (2000–2015).

Pieter Elbers Steps Down as IndiGo CEO

- **Leadership Change:** Pieter Elbers, who joined the airline in 2022, has announced his decision to step down as the CEO of India's largest carrier, IndiGo.
- **Major Milestone:** Under his leadership, IndiGo saw massive international expansion and placed a historic order for 500 Airbus aircraft in 2023.
- **Succession:** The airline is expected to initiate a global search for a successor to maintain its dominant 60%+ market share in the Indian aviation sector.

Dr. Partha Biswas Joins NCSC

- **Constitutional Role:** Dr. Biswas has officially assumed charge as a Member of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC).
- **Advocacy:** His role involves investigating and monitoring matters relating to the safeguards provided for Scheduled Castes in India.



MAY 2026

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 Panvel 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.

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.

Faustino Oro become second youngest GM in chess history

- **Historic Feat:** 12-year-old Argentine prodigy Faustino Oro achieved the title of Grandmaster (GM) at the Sardinia International Chess Festival in Italy.
- **The Record:** At 12 years, 6 months, and 26 days, he became the second-youngest GM ever, trailing only US player Abhimanyu Mishra.
- **Undefeated Run:** He secured his final GM norm by remaining unbeaten in the tournament, drawing his final round against elite Russian GM Ian Nepomniachtchi.

Neeru & Vivaan win bronze in trap mixed team event

- **ISSF World Cup:** The Indian pair of Neeru Dhanda and Vivaan Kapoor won the bronze medal in the trap mixed team event at the ISSF World Cup in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- **Performance:** They matched the score of the top Italian pair in the final but settled for bronze based on their qualification ranking.
- **Milestone:** This marks India's second medal in this specific Olympic shooting event since it was officially added to the program.

India's Gyaneshwari Yadav bags silver & bronze in Weightlifting

- **Double Medal Haul:** Competing in the women's 53kg category, Gyaneshwari won two medals: a Silver in the snatch section (lifting 88kg) and an Overall Bronze with a total combined lift of 194kg.
- **Narrow Margin:** She missed out on the overall silver medal by a whisker, finishing just 1kg behind Vietnam's Hoai Huong Nguyen (195kg), while China's Jinlan Zhao secured the gold with a dominant 216kg.
- **CWG 2026 Qualifier:** This championship serves as a crucial qualifying event for the 2026 Commonwealth Games. Gyaneshwari's success, following Komal Kohar's bronze earlier in the week, significantly boosts India's standing in the continental rankings.

Virat Kohli slams record 9th IPL century

- **Undisputed Century Record:** With this unbeaten 105 off 60 balls*, Kohli became the first

player in history to hit nine IPL centuries. He further extended his lead over Jos Buttler (7) and Chris Gayle (6), solidifying his status as the most prolific centurion in the tournament's history.

- **The Ultimate "Chase Master" Comeback:** Coming into the match following two consecutive ducks, Kohli orchestrated a successful chase of 193. This was his 10th T20 century overall, and the victory propelled RCB to the top of the IPL 2026 points table.

India's Ajith clinches double bronze at Asian Senior Weightlifting Championships

- **Double Bronze Finish:** Competing in the men's 71kg category, Ajith secured a bronze medal in the Clean & Jerk section and another bronze in the Overall standings. Separate medals are awarded for Snatch, Clean & Jerk, and the total combined lift in continental championships.
- **Performance Metrics:** He registered a total lift of 314kg, which included a 140kg Snatch and a strong 174kg in the Clean & Jerk. He narrowly edged out Uzbekistan's Matrasulov Khusinboy by a single kilogram to claim his spot on the overall podium.

Aparna Dahiya secures Gold medal at the 11th Sanda World Cup

- **Dominant Performance:** Aparna clinched the gold medal in the women's 52kg category. She defeated the reigning world champion, Thi Phuong Nga Ngo of Vietnam, in a decisive straight-sets victory during the final.

- **A Historic "First":** This was India's first gold medal at the 11th edition of the Sanda World Cup. The tournament, which began on May 12, features only the top-ranked fighters from the previous World Wushu Championships, making it one of the most elite competitions in the sport.
- **Redemption Victory:** The win served as personal redemption for Aparna; she had previously lost to the same Vietnamese opponent in the finals of the 2025 World Wushu Championships in Brazil, where she had settled for silver.

Harjinder Kaur wins bronze at Asian Weightlifting Championships

- **Progressive Lifting Breakdown:** In the snatch event, Harjinder secured the bronze on her final attempt. She opened with a smooth lift of 93 kg, suffered a failed second attempt at 96 kg, but showed immense grit to successfully clear 96 kg on her third and final try.
- **Narrow Miss for Overall Podium:** In the clean and jerk section, she registered three flawless consecutive lifts of 115 kg, 118 kg, and 121 kg. This gave her an overall total of 217 kg, leaving her agonizingly close—just 2 kg short—of Japan's Yui Miyagoe (219 kg), who took the overall bronze.
- **Competing Against a World Record Field:** The 69 kg category was historically dominated by North Korea's Song Kuk Hyang, who won gold with a massive total of 263 kg. Song's clean and jerk lift of 151 kg broke both the IWF World Record and the Asian Record.

APRIL 2026

Kimi Antonelli wins Japanese Grand Prix 2026

- **Youngest Championship Leader:** By winning the Japanese Grand Prix on March 29, 2026, 19-year-old Mercedes driver Kimi Antonelli became the youngest driver in Formula 1 history to lead the World Drivers' Championship.
- **Strategic Masterclass:** Despite a slow start from pole position, Antonelli secured his second consecutive victory of the season (after China). He capitalized on a Safety Car on Lap 22 (caused by Ollie Bearman's crash) to pit from the provisional lead and re-emerge in P1, eventually finishing 13.7 seconds ahead of Oscar Piastri.
- **Historic F1 Milestone:** Antonelli's victory marked the 500th win from pole position in the history of the F1 World Championship, dating back to the first-ever race in 1950. He now heads the 2026 standings ahead of teammates and rivals like George Russell and Max Verstappen.

Sunil Narine becomes most capped overseas IPL player

- **Surpassing a Legend:** Narine achieved this feat during KKR's IPL 2026 opener against Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede Stadium. By stepping onto the field, he earned his 190th IPL cap, officially overtaking former Mumbai Indians icon Kieron Pollard, who held the record with 189 appearances.
- **Unparalleled Franchise Loyalty:** Much like Pollard, Narine's record is defined by singular loyalty; he has played all

190 matches for the Kolkata Knight Riders. Since his debut in 2012, he has been a cornerstone of the franchise, playing a pivotal role in their three title-winning campaigns (2012, 2014, and 2024).

- **Elite "Firsts" and All-Round Impact:** Narine remains the only player in IPL history to be named Most Valuable Player (MVP) three times (2012, 2018, and 2024). Entering the 2026 season, he also holds the unique record of being the first player to achieve a "double" of 500 runs and 15 wickets in a single season.

Anahat Singh & Abhay Singh named ASF Players of the Year

- **Individual Top Honours:** Abhay Singh was named the ASF Men's Player of the Year 2025 (Dato Alex Lee Award), while Anahat Singh secured the ASF Girls' Player of the Year 2025. This marks the first time since 2022 (Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa) that Indian players have swept these top continental awards.
- **Youngest to Top 20:** 18-year-old Anahat Singh recently became the youngest Asian woman ever to enter the world's top 20 rankings, surpassing the long-standing record held by Malaysian legend Nicol David. Both Anahat (World No. 20) and Abhay (World No. 25) also recently clinched the Indian Open 2026 titles in their respective categories.
- **Team of the Year:** The Indian Boys' Team was recognized as the ASF Men's Team of the Year following their bronze medal finish at the World Junior Team Championships 2025 in Egypt.

Shyam Sunder Swami wins bronze in para archery



- **Podium Finish:** Shyam Sunder Swami clinched the bronze medal by defeating his opponent in a closely contested third-place play-off. This victory adds to India's growing tally in international para-archery and reaffirms his position as a top-tier competitor in the compound event.
- **Ranking Points:** This performance is significant for the World Rankings, providing crucial points that will influence seedings for upcoming major tournaments, including the 2026 Asian Para Games.
- **Consistent Excellence:** Hailing from Rajasthan, Swami continues his streak of international success. His bronze win in Dubai follows a series of strong performances on the world stage.

Gurung & Shrestha win NNIPA awards

- **Top Honors for Gurung and Shrestha:** Karate star Arika Gurung and table tennis player Santoo Shrestha were crowned the "Best of the Best" Female and Male Athletes, respectively. Shrestha was recognized for his historic feat as the first Nepali table tennis player to qualify for the Olympics, while Gurung was honored for her multiple international medals, including

silver at the World Karate 1 Youth League.

- **Historic Venue:** For the first time in its 20-edition history, the awards ceremony was hosted outside the Kathmandu Valley. The event took place at the Chandeshwari Temple premises in Banepa Municipality to promote sports culture across different regions of Nepal.
- **Wide Recognition and Prizes:** The "Best of the Best" winners each received a cash prize of NPR 100,000. In total, 26 athletes from different sports were recognized as the best in their respective disciplines, while Abhishek Baral (Taekwondo) and Swastika Tiruwa (Boxing) were named the "Talented Players of the Year."

Bhuvneshwar Kumar Becomes First Fast Bowler to 200 IPL Wickets

- **The Milestone Match:** He reached the 200-wicket mark playing for Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) against Chennai Super Kings (CSK) at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. His 200th victim was young CSK opener Ayush Mhatre.
- **Elite Company:** He is only the second bowler overall in IPL history to reach this landmark, following leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal (who currently leads with 224 wickets).
- **Unrivaled Consistency:** Known as the "Swing King," Bhuvneshwar remains the only bowler in the league's history to win back-to-back Purple Caps (2016 and 2017) and played a pivotal role in RCB's maiden title win in 2025.

Murali Sreeshankar wins men's long jump at

Indian Athletics Series 2026

- **Dominant Season Opener:** Sreeshankar clinched the gold medal with a best jump of 8.15m, achieved on his fourth attempt. He showed remarkable consistency throughout the series, clearing the 8-meter mark in five out of his six attempts (8.03m, 7.99m, 8.13m, 8.15m, 8.12m, and 8.10m).
- **Asian Games Qualification:** With this performance, he became the first Indian athlete to breach the Asian Games qualifying standard of 7.91m in this competition. His winning mark also improved upon his 2025 season-best of 8.13m, signaling a strong return to peak form following previous injury concerns.
- **Elite Continental Standing:** Sreeshankar is now only the third Asian long jumper to breach the 8m mark in the ongoing 2026 season. He joins fellow Indian Lokesh Sathyanathan (8.21m) and Japan's Yuki Hashioka as the early leaders in the continental rankings for the year.

Payal Nag: First Quadruple Amputee Archery Champion

- **Historic International Debut:** At 18 years old, Payal Nag became the world's first quadruple amputee (limbless) archer to compete internationally, making her debut at the 2025 Asian Youth Para Games in Dubai.
- **Major Gold Medal Victory:** In April 2026, she secured the gold medal at the World Archery Para Series in Bangkok by defeating her teammate and world No. 1,

Sheetal Devi, with a score of 139-136 in the compound women's final.

- **Unique Shooting Technique:** Hailing from Odisha, she was discovered by coach Kuldeep Vedwan; she uses customized prosthetic legs to hold the bow and a mouth-operated trigger mechanism to aim and release her arrows.

Indian shooters Palak & Mukesh win Gold medal at the ISSF World Cup



- **World Record Achievement:** On April 7, 2026, the Indian duo of Palak Gulia and Mukesh Nelavalli clinched the gold medal in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event at the ISSF World Cup in Granada, Spain, with a record-breaking score of 487.7.
- **Double Record Holders:** Their performance shattered both the senior and junior world records, surpassing the previous mark of 481.3 held by Uzbekistan; they defeated the reigning Chinese world champions to secure the top spot.
- **Rising Shooting Stars:** This victory marked Mukesh's first senior international medal and Palak's first ISSF World Cup gold, further solidifying her reputation following her 10m Air Pistol individual gold at the 2023 Asian Games.

MARCH 2026

J&K Clinches First Ranji Trophy Title 2025-26

- **Maiden Title in Maiden Final:** After 67 years of competing in domestic cricket (since 1959-60), J&K reached their first-ever summit clash and emerged as champions. They became only the 10th team in the 92-year history of the tournament to win the title in their very first final appearance.
- **Victory by First-Innings Lead:** The final ended in a draw, but J&K were crowned winners based on a massive 291-run first-innings lead. They posted a mammoth 584 in their first innings (led by Shubham Pundir's 121) and restricted a star-studded Karnataka side—featuring KL Rahul and Mayank Agarwal—to just 293.

Footnotes: J&K's Governor: Manoj Sinha, CM: Omar Abdullah, Capital: Srinagar

Australia captain Alyssa Healy retiring after India series

- **A "Fairytale" ODI Finale:** Healy concluded her One-Day International career on March 1, 2026, in spectacular fashion. In her final ODI at Hobart, she smashed a career-best 158 runs off just 98 balls, leading Australia to a 3-0 series whitewash against India. She even bowled two overs in the match for the first time in her international career as a light-hearted farewell gesture.
- **The Pink-Ball "Swansong" in Perth:** Her final appearance in the Australian "baggy green" is set for the one-off Day-Night Test match against India at the WACA in Perth, starting March 6, 2026. She chose to skip the

T20I leg of the series to allow the team to prepare for the upcoming T20 World Cup without her, focusing her final energy on the ODI and Test formats.

India's D Gukesh defeats Spain's David Anton Guijarro

- **Ending the Winless Streak:** This victory was significant as it ended Gukesh's difficult winless run in the tournament. Before this final round, he had struggled with three losses and a series of draws, placing him at the bottom of the standings.
- **Creative Endgame:** Gukesh showcased his trademark creativity and precision in a well-played game, outclassing Guijarro specifically in the endgame. For Guijarro, this was a third consecutive loss to end the festival.

George Russell Wins Australian Grand Prix 2026

- **Mercedes 1-2 Finish:** George Russell converted his pole position into a season-opening victory, leading teammate Kimi Antonelli to a dominant Mercedes one-two finish.
- **Decisive Strategy:** The race turned on lap 12 when Mercedes capitalized on a Virtual Safety Car (caused by Isack Hadjar's Red Bull) to pit both cars, while Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and Lewis Hamilton stayed out, ultimately cost them the lead.

Gary Kirsten Named Head Coach of Sri Lanka Men's Cricket Team

- **Two-Year Tenure & Core Goal:** Kirsten has signed a two-year contract starting April 15, 2026, which runs until April 2028. His primary mandate is to

overhaul the team's performance and lead them through the 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, which will be hosted in his home country, South Africa (alongside Namibia and Zimbabwe).

- **Replacing a Legend:** He succeeds former Sri Lankan captain Sanath Jayasuriya, who resigned following the team's disappointing Super Eight exit at the 2026 T20 World Cup. Kirsten's arrival is seen as a move to bring in "blockbuster" international expertise to stabilize a side that has struggled for consistency in recent global tournaments.

Smriti Mandhana Retains No.1 Spot, Jemimah Rodrigues Slips to 12th

- **Top Performance:** Indian opener Smriti Mandhana has maintained her position as the World No.1 in the latest ICC Women's ODI Batting Rankings following consistent performances.
- **Ranking Shift:** Middle-order batter Jemimah Rodrigues saw a slight decline, slipping out of the top 10 to the 12th position after a quiet series.

Iran Pulls Out of FIFA World Cup 2026

- **Major Decision:** Iran has announced its withdrawal from the 2026 FIFA World Cup due to escalating geopolitical tensions and security concerns.
- **Reason for Withdrawal:** The decision is linked to rising diplomatic and regional conflicts, particularly tensions involving the host nation, the United States.
- **The Tournament:** The 2026 FIFA World Cup will be jointly hosted by US, Canada, and Mexico from June 11 to July 19, 2026.



BANKING NEWS

MAY 2026

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

RBI & ECB renew cooperation framework with updated MoU in Basel

- **New MoU in Basel:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the European Central Bank (ECB) signed an updated Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on May 10, 2026, on the sidelines of the BIS meetings in Basel.
- **Market Recognition:** A key focus is helping Indian clearing corporations gain formal recognition from the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), reducing friction in cross-border transactions.
- **Scope of Pact:** The agreement replaces a 2015 framework and expands cooperation to include policy dialogues, technical exchanges, and seminars on central banking.

Footnotes: RBI's Governor: Sanjay Malhotra, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1935

DMRC partners with Airtel Payments Bank to launch Rupay NCMC cards

- **Interoperable "One Nation, One Card" Vision:** These open-loop cards allow commuters to pay for travel across multiple transit systems nationwide, including metros and buses, using a single card. This is a major upgrade from the traditional DMRC-issued smart cards, which were restricted to the Delhi Metro network.
- **Flexible Card Options:** The partnership introduces two types of co-branded cards: Debit Cards

and PPI-MTS (Prepaid Payment Instrument for Mass Transit Systems). These cards will be made available at all DMRC stations within 10 days of the launch.

- **Digital Convenience & Discounts:** Users can recharge their cards digitally via the DMRC or Airtel apps, reducing physical queues. Additionally, commuters using these NCMC cards continue to benefit from DMRC's existing fare incentives, such as a 10% discount during peak hours and a 20% discount during non-peak hours.

Indian Bank appoints Samir Kumar as Nominee Director

- **Government Representation:** Samir Kumar, a 1995-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, has been appointed as a Nominee Director by the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance. His role is to ensure alignment between the bank's operations and the government's financial policies.
- **Professional Background:** He currently serves as a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Finance. With extensive experience in public administration and financial governance, he brings high-level expertise in policy implementation and regulatory oversight to the board.

Footnotes: Indian Bank's MD & CEO: Binod Kumar, HQ: Chennai, Estd: 1907

India's PSBs Achieve Record Profit for 4th Consecutive Year

- **Record-Breaking Profitability:** The aggregate net profit grew by 11.1% year-on-year, reaching an all-time high of ₹1.98 lakh crore.

This surge was driven by robust credit growth (15.7%) and a significant increase in total business, which crossed ₹283 lakh crore.

- **Historic Low NPAs:** Asset quality reached its best level in years. The Gross NPA (Non-Performing Assets) ratio dropped to 1.93%, while the Net NPA ratio fell to a record low of 0.39%. This drastic reduction reflects stricter credit discipline and more effective recovery mechanisms.
- **Strong Capital Buffers:** PSBs have significantly strengthened their financial resilience, maintaining an aggregate Capital to Risk (Weighted) Assets Ratio (CRAR) of 16.6%. All 12 public sector banks also maintained a Provisioning Coverage Ratio (PCR) above 90%, ensuring they are well-protected against future risks.

RBI Cancels Sarvodaya Co-operative Bank Licence



- **Financial Insolvency:** The RBI revoked the license because the bank lacked adequate capital and viable earning prospects. The regulator stated that the bank's current financial position made it impossible for it to repay its depositors in full, and continuing operations would have been prejudicial to public interest.
- **Cessation of Operations:** With the cancellation, the bank is strictly prohibited from conducting any "banking" business. This includes the immediate halt of accepting fresh deposits and the processing of withdrawals or repayments.

APRIL 2026

Central Bank of India Signs Landmark MoU with EPFO

- National Salary Account Hub:** The Central Bank of India will now serve as the primary banker for opening and managing salary accounts for EPFO employees across all its offices in India. This move centralizes their banking, which was previously fragmented across various institutions.
- Enhanced Employee Benefits:** Beyond standard banking, the MoU provides EPFO staff with exclusive benefits, including comprehensive insurance coverage, preferential loan rates, and specialized digital banking services tailored to their needs.
- Operational Efficiency:** By using a single national public sector bank, the EPFO aims to eliminate delays in salary disbursements and streamline financial reconciliation across its massive nationwide network, ensuring "same-day" salary credits for all staff.

Footnotes: CBI's Executive Director: Praveen Sood, HQ: New Delhi

Vinay Tonse Takes Charge as MD & CEO of YES Bank

- Appointment Details:** Vinay Muralidhar Tonse officially took charge as the MD & CEO of YES Bank on April 6, 2026, for a tenure of three years. He succeeds Prashant Kumar, who completed his term on April 5.
- SBI Veteran:** Tonse brings nearly four decades of experience from the State Bank of India (SBI), where he most recently served as Managing Director (Retail Business & Operations).

He also previously served as the MD & CEO of SBI Mutual Fund.

- Strategic Focus:** His appointment, approved by the RBI, is seen as a shift for YES Bank from "stabilization" to "growth and expansion," specifically focusing on strengthening retail banking and the bank's digital platform.

Footnotes: YES Bank's Previous MD: Prashant Kumar, HQ: Mumbai, Founded: 2004

BoB Launches AI-based 'bob SAMVAD' Platform

- Multilingual Support (22 Languages):** Developed entirely in-house, the platform uses AI-driven speech and language technology to provide real-time, two-way translation across 22 Indian languages. This is designed to eliminate language barriers between customers and branch staff.
- Dual-Mode Interaction:** At service counters, customers can either speak or type their queries in their preferred local language. The system instantly translates the input into the staff member's language (and vice-versa) as text on a screen, with an optional voice-to-speech mode for better accessibility.
- Phased Deployment:** The initial rollout covers 250 branches across five linguistically diverse states: Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra. Following this pilot phase, the bank plans a large-scale deployment across its entire national network.

Footnotes: BoB's MD & CEO: Debadatta Chand, HQ: Vadodara, Estd: 1908

Canara Bank appoints Hardeep Singh

Ahluwalia as MD & CEO



- Interim Leadership Role:** Effective January 1, 2026, Hardeep Singh Ahluwalia took over as the Interim MD & CEO of Canara Bank. He succeeded K. Satyanarayana Raju, who retired on December 31, 2025.
- Recent Tenure Extension:** Originally appointed for three months, his additional charge was recently extended by the Government of India through June 30, 2026, ensuring leadership stability during the transition.
- Extensive Banking Background:** A career banker with over 30 years of experience, Ahluwalia previously served as the bank's Executive Director. His background includes a start as an Agricultural Field Officer in 1992 and significant leadership roles at Indian Bank (formerly Allahabad Bank), including international exposure in Hong Kong.

Footnotes: Canara Bank's Previous MD & CEO: K. Satyanarayana Raju, HQ: Bengaluru, Estd: 1906

UCO Bank appoints Rajeev Gupta as Chief Risk Officer

- Appointment Details:** Kolkata-based public sector lender UCO Bank has appointed Rajeev Gupta as its new Chief Risk Officer (CRO), with the appointment taking effect on April 14, 2026.
- Succession:** Gupta, previously a General Manager within the bank, succeeds Shashi Kant

Kumar, who has been reassigned to a new role as the Zonal Head in Mumbai.

- **Experience & Profile:** With over 29 years of experience in domestic and international banking, Gupta's background spans risk management, treasury, and core banking; he holds an MBA in Finance and is a Certified Associate of the Indian Institute of Bankers (CAIIB).

Footnotes: UCO Bank's MD & CEO: Ashwani Kumar, HQ: Kolkata, Estd: 1943

CSB Launches 'SMART SAVE ACCOUNT', its 1st Retail Offering

- **First Retail Launch:** This marks CSB Bank's first retail product offering following the successful upgrade of its Core Banking Platform. It is available in Savings, Current, and NRO variants.
- **Auto-Sweep Facility:** The account features an automated "auto-sweep" mechanism that transfers surplus funds into Fixed Deposits (FDs) in multiples of ₹25,000 once the balance reaches ₹75,000, ensuring higher returns on idle money.
- **Key Benefits:** It offers up to 7% interest on 13-month sweep-in deposits with no lock-in period (ensuring anytime liquidity) and includes a complimentary RuPay Platinum debit card.

Footnotes: CSB's MD & CEO: Pralay Mondal, HQ: Kerala, Estd: 1920

Bank of Baroda Launches Feature Phone Banking Service via JioPhone Devices

- **Launch of "bob World Lite":** Bank of Baroda introduced "bob World Lite", a lightweight, low-

bandwidth version of its mobile banking app. It is specifically designed to work on the JioPhone Prima 4G and other JioPhone devices, utilizing physical keypad navigation.

- **Inclusive Interoperability:** Unlike standard banking apps, this service is open to everyone. Users who are not Bank of Baroda customers can also use the app via a simple self-onboarding process to perform digital transactions, making it an "industry-first" in terms of accessibility.
- **Key Digital Features:** Despite being on a feature phone, the app supports high-end functions including UPI-enabled Scan & Pay, money transfers, mobile recharges, and bill payments. It aims to reduce reliance on physical branches for the millions of users in rural and semi-urban India.

Footnotes: BOB's MD & CEO: Debadatta Chand, HQ: Alkapuri, Estd: 1908

Bank of Maharashtra appoints Sushanta Kumar Mohanty as Executive Director

- **The Appointment:** Shri Sushanta Kumar Mohanty officially assumed charge as the Executive Director (ED) of the Bank of Maharashtra on April 15, 2026, following a notification from the Department of Financial Services.
- **Tenure & Background:** He has been appointed for a period of three years. Prior to this role, he served as the Chief General Manager at Bank of Baroda, where he led Treasury and Global Markets.

- **Experience:** An industry veteran with over 30 years of experience, Mohanty has expertise in International Banking, Forex Management, and Treasury Operations, including a significant posting in New York, USA.

Footnotes: BOM's MD & CEO: Nidhu Saxena, HQ: Maharashtra, Estd: 1935

LIC Launches 'MyLIC' & 'Super Sales Saathi' Mobile App



- **Dual-Targeted Solutions:** The apps create a "dual-engine" digital model; MyLIC is designed for the 260 million policyholders for self-service, while Super Sales Saathi is a dedicated tool for agents and intermediaries to enhance their sales productivity and customer engagement.
- **Powered by DIVE:** Both applications are delivered through LIC's DIVE (Digital Innovation & Value Enhancement) platform, which aims to transform the insurer from a service utility into a strategic, technology-first distribution ecosystem.
- **Advanced Features:** Key capabilities include real-time benefit tracking, paperless policy loans, and online policy revival for customers, alongside AI-driven nudges, digital sales kits, and performance dashboards for agents.

MARCH 2026

SBI announces exit of Nitin Chugh as Deputy MD

- **Completion of Contractual Tenure:** Chugh's departure is not a resignation but the result of his three-year contract coming to an end. He originally joined SBI in March 2022 as a high-profile lateral hire from the private sector to spearhead the bank's digital evolution.
- **Architect of Digital Transformation:** During his tenure, Chugh was instrumental in driving the bank's "Digital-First" strategy. Most notably, he led the development and recent launch of YONO 2.0, a revamped version of SBI's flagship app designed to compete directly with major fintech players like PhonePe and Google Pay.

Footnotes: SBI's Chairman: C. Sreenivasulu Setty, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1955

IOB appoints Thomas Mathew as RBI Director

- **Top Leadership Recognition:** ONGC Chairman and CEO Arun Kumar Singh was honored with the CEO/CMD of the Year – Platinum Award. This recognized his strategic leadership in driving corporate growth and ensuring national energy security.
- **Excellence in Sustainability:** The company secured the Platinum Award for Corporate Social Responsibility & Sustainability. This accolade highlighted ONGC's impact on community development and its commitment to environmental stewardship.
- **Commitment to Inclusivity:** ONGC received the Gold Award for the Contribution of Women & Differently Abled in PSEs, celebrating the organization's

efforts in building a diverse, equitable, and empowering workplace.

YES Bank appoints Vinay Muralidhar Tonse as MD & CEO

- **Effective Dates:** Mr. Tonse will join as MD & CEO (Designate) on March 12, 2026, to facilitate a smooth handover. He will formally take full charge as MD & CEO on April 6, 2026, for a three-year tenure.
- **Succession:** He succeeds Prashant Kumar, who is credited with stabilizing the bank post-2020 and will demit office on April 5, 2026, following the completion of his extended term.
- **SBI Background:** Continuing the trend of leadership from India's largest lender, Mr. Tonse brings nearly four decades of experience from the State Bank of India (SBI), where he most recently served as MD (Retail Business & Operations).

Footnotes: YES Bank's MD & CEO: Prashant Kumar, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 2003

Axis MF elevates R Sivakumar as its CIO

- **Internal Succession:** Effective March 5, 2026, R Sivakumar succeeds Ashish Gupta, who stepped down to pursue other interests. Under this new structure, core investment heads—Shreyash Devalkar (Equity), Devang Shah (Fixed Income), and Nandik Malik (Equity & Hybrid SIF)—will report directly to him.
- **Founding Member:** A veteran with over 25 years of experience, Sivakumar has been with Axis AMC since its inception in 2009. Prior to this elevation, he served as the Head of Products and Corporate Strategy and spent 14 years leading the Fixed Income division.

SBI Emerges as Strongest Indian Bank Globally

- **Global Strength Leader:** SBI is ranked as the 16th strongest banking brand in the world (up from 24th in 2025). It is the only Indian bank to receive the prestigious AAA+ brand strength rating, the highest accolade for brand resilience and stakeholder trust.
- **Dominant Market Share & Scale:** As of March 2025, SBI has solidified its position as a "proxy for the Indian economy" with a massive balance sheet of ₹66.76 Lakh Crore (approx. \$781 billion), commanding a 22.5% market share in deposits and nearly 20% in advances.
- **Digital & Financial Resilience:** The bank's "strongest" status is fueled by its digital transformation (87 million+ YONO users) and improved asset quality. Its Gross NPA ratio fell to 1.82% in FY2025, while standalone net profit grew 16% to a record ₹70,901 Crore.

Ketan Merchant appointed as CEO of Fino Payments Bank

- **Reason for Appointment:** The leadership change follows the arrest of the bank's MD & CEO, Rishi Gupta, by the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) in connection with an investigation into alleged GST evasion by third-party program managers.
- **Tenure and Transition:** Merchant, who was serving as the bank's Chief Financial Officer (CFO), will hold the interim post for a period of three months. His appointment is intended to ensure operational continuity while the board reassesses the "fit and proper" status of the regular CEO.



DEFENCE & TECHNOLOGY

MAY 2026

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.

Lieutenant General N S Raja Subramani appointed new Chief of Defence Staff

- Succession:** The Government appointed Lieutenant General N S Raja Subramani (Retd) as India's next Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), succeeding General Anil Chauhan.
- Timeline:** He is set to take charge on May 30, 2026, after General Chauhan completes his tenure.
- Strategic Experience:** A graduate of the NDA and IMA, he previously served as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff and currently serves as a Military Adviser in the National Security Council Secretariat.

Indian Coast Guard Commissions Indigenous FPV 'ICGS ACHAL'

- Make in India Milestone:** ICGS Achal is the first in a series of eight FPVs designed and built entirely indigenously by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL). It reflects the "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" initiative, featuring nearly 70% indigenous content in its construction and machinery.
- Advanced Capabilities:** This 50-meter-long vessel is equipped with state-of-the-art navigation and communication equipment, including a 30mm CRN-91 Naval Gun and advanced sensors. It is designed to achieve a maximum speed of 33 knots, making it highly effective for high-speed interceptions.
- Operational Role:** The vessel will be primarily deployed for Coastal Surveillance, Anti-Smuggling, Anti-Poaching, and Search and Rescue (SAR) operations. It will operate under

the administrative and operational control of the Commander, Coast Guard Region (West).

Indian Army Inducts Indigenous ULPGM and AGNIKAA VTOL-1 Kamikaze Drone

- Capabilities of ULPGM:** The UAV-Launched Precision Guided Munition (ULPGM) is India's first indigenous loitering munition in its category. It features an Imaging Infrared (IIR) seeker for day-and-night precision, a strike range of 2.5 km, and a 2 kg warhead with an accuracy of one meter (Circular Error Probable).
- Features of AGNIKAA VTOL-1:** This is India's first First-Person View (FPV) kamikaze drone in its class. It is designed for vertical take-off and landing (VTOL), making it ideal for rugged terrain and confined urban spaces. It has a 5 km range, 30-minute endurance, and a 5-meter lethality radius against personnel and soft-skinned vehicles.
- Operational Resilience:** Both systems have been rigorously tested for high-altitude performance and resilience in GPS-denied and electronic warfare (EW) environments.

India's first privately manufactured military aircraft Airbus C-295

- Historical First for Indian Private Sector:** It marks the first time a complete military aircraft is being manufactured and

assembled in India by a private company—Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL)—breaking the long-standing monopoly of state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

- **Production Split & Facility:** Out of the 56 aircraft ordered under the ₹21,935-crore deal, 16 are delivered directly from Spain in a "fly-away" condition, while the remaining 40 aircraft are being fully manufactured at the newly established Tata-Airbus Final Assembly Line (FAL) in Vadodara, Gujarat.
- **Role & Indigenization:** The C-295 is a new-generation tactical transport aircraft with a 9.5-tonne payload capacity introduced to replace the Indian Air Force's ageing Avro HS-748 fleet. It significantly boosts the Make in India initiative, featuring an indigenous Electronic Warfare Suite and sourcing up to 75% of its structural components locally.

Indian Army Inducts Indigenous ULPGM & AGNIKAA VTOL-1 Drones

- **Procurement Framework & Delivery Command:** Both cutting-edge combat systems were fast-tracked and acquired under the Emergency Procurement (EP-6) program. They were officially handed over in Hyderabad to officials from the Army's Western Command following rigorous live precision-strike, electronic warfare (EW), and high-altitude trials.
- **ULPGM Technical Capabilities:** Co-developed by the DRDO and Adani Defence & Aerospace, the UAV-Launched Precision Guided Munition (ULPGM) is India's first indigenous system in its category. Launched from a mother UAV with an operational

radius of 20 km, the munition itself has a standalone strike range of 2.5 km.

- **AGNIKAA VTOL-1 Tactical Profile:** Described as India's first indigenous First-Person View (FPV) kamikaze drone in its class, the AGNIKAA VTOL-1 is designed specifically as an anti-personnel precision platform for urban combat and confined spaces. It operates efficiently within a 5 km range, boasts a top speed of 60 km/h, and maintains a 30-minute flight endurance.

DRDO Successfully Tests Indigenous ULPGM-V3 Missile

- **Dual Combat Modes & Purpose:** The Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Launched Precision Guided Missile (ULPGM)-V3 was successfully tested in both Air-to-Ground and Air-to-Air modes at the DRDO test range near Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh.
- **Key Technological Features:** The missile features a 10-kilometer extended range and utilizes a high-definition, dual-channel seeker enabling highly precise day and night operations.
- **Nodal Development & Mass Production Readiness:** Developed by the Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad as the nodal laboratory alongside other DRDO labs, the project heavily involved Indian MSMEs.

Squadron Leader Saanya Becomes IAF's 1st Woman Cat-A Flying Instructor

- **Pinnacle of Flight Instruction:** By earning the Category-A Qualified Flying Instructor (QFI) qualification, Squadron Leader Saanya achieved the absolute highest instructional tier a military pilot can attain in India.

- **A Historic Gender Milestone:** Her achievement marks the first time in the 93-year history of the IAF that a woman officer has broken through to this elite instructional ranking. Trained as an accomplished transport pilot, her certification follows intensive schooling at the prestigious Flying Instructors School (FIS) at Air Force Station Tambaram near Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- **Stellar Career Trajectory:** Commissioned into the Flying Branch of the IAF on June 20, 2015 (from the 42 Short Service Commission Flying Pilot Course), her progression reflects consistent excellence. She was promoted to Flight Lieutenant in 2017 and Squadron Leader in 2021 before being formally felicitated for this historic milestone by Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh.

Multilateral Exercise Pragati 2026 Commences At Umroi

- **The Event:** PRAGATI 2026, a prominent two-week multilateral military exercise, commenced on May 20, 2026, at the Umroi Military Station in Meghalaya. Hosted by the Indian Army, it brings together armed forces from 13 nations in total (India and 12 friendly partner countries, including Bhutan, Malaysia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam).
- **Core Focus & Framework:** The acronym PRAGATI stands for "Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation in the Indian Ocean Region." Conducted in a spirit of mutual respect, the drill specifically focuses on tactical-level drills and joint counter-terrorism operations across challenging semi-mountainous and jungle terrains.

APRIL 2026

IAF to equip MiG29 with ASRAAM missiles

- **Significant Range Boost:** The ASRAAM (Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missile) will replace the Soviet-era R-73 missile. It offers an engagement range of over 25 km, effectively doubling the 10–15 km reach of the legacy system.
- **Advanced Combat Tech:** Developed by MBDA, the ASRAAM is a "fire-and-forget" heat-seeking missile. It can travel at speeds exceeding Mach 3 and features Lock-On After Launch (LOAL) capability, allowing pilots to engage agile targets with high precision in close-combat dogfights.
- **Standardization & Indigenization:** The IAF is standardizing the ASRAAM across multiple platforms, including the LCA Tejas, Sukhoi Su-30MKI, and Jaguar. Under the "Make in India" initiative, Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) has partnered with MBDA to assemble and test these missiles at a facility in Hyderabad.

Launch of NGOPV 'Shachi'

- **First of the NGOPV Class:** Shachi is the first of 11 Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVs) being built for the Indian Navy. The project is a joint effort between two shipyards: Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), which is building seven vessels, and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), building the remaining four.
- **High Indigenous Content:** In line with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, the vessel features approximately 76% indigenous content. This includes

the ship's design, advanced engineering systems, and critical equipment sourced entirely from the Indian defense industry.

- **Multipurpose Operational Role:** These ships are designed for diverse missions, including anti-piracy, counter-infiltration, search and rescue (SAR), and the protection of offshore assets. Notably, they are equipped with modular payloads for mine warfare and have a helipad capable of hosting multi-role helicopters or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs).

INS Dunagiri delivered to Indian Navy

- **Project 17A Milestone:** 'Dunagiri' (Yard 3023) is the fifth ship of the Nilgiri-class (Project 17A) and the second built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata. It is a follow-on to the Shivalik-class frigates, featuring improved stealth, advanced weapons, and upgraded sensor suites.
- **Technological Prowess:** The warship is equipped with state-of-the-art systems, including BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, MFSTAR (radar), and MRSAM (air defence). It is powered by a CODOG (Combined Diesel or Gas) propulsion system, allowing for high-speed multi-dimensional operations across air, surface, and sub-surface domains.
- **Aatmanirbharta (Self-Reliance):** The frigate boasts approximately 75% indigenous content, involving over 200 Indian MSMEs. Notably, the construction period was compressed to 80 months, demonstrating India's maturing expertise in advanced "Integrated Construction" methodologies.

Lt Gen Sandeep Jain takes charge of Southern Command

- **Succession and Background:** Lt Gen Sandeep Jain succeeds Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth, who has moved on to become the Vice Chief of the Army Staff. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy (NDA), Lt Gen Jain was commissioned into the MAHAR Regiment in June 1988 and has nearly four decades of distinguished service.
- **Operational Expertise:** He brings extensive experience from diverse environments, having previously commanded an Infantry Battalion in the UN Mission in South Sudan, a Counter Insurgency Force, and a Pivot Corps in the Northern Command. He also served as the Chief of Staff at the Southern Command headquarters prior to this promotion.
- **Strategic Priorities:** Upon taking charge, he emphasized a focus on operational readiness across the Southern Command's vast geography (including deserts, coastlines, and island territories).

Lt Gen Pushendra Pal Singh leads Western Command

- **Transition from Vice Chief:** Prior to this appointment, Lt Gen Singh served as the 48th Vice Chief of the Army Staff (VCOAS). He succeeds Lt Gen Manoj Kumar Katiyar, who superannuated on March 31, 2026.
- **Special Forces Expertise:** He is a highly decorated officer from the Parachute Regiment (Special Forces), commissioned in 1987. His extensive operational background includes participation in Operation Pawan

(Sri Lanka), Operation Meghdoot (Siachen), and counter-insurgency operations. He is currently the third Special Forces officer to lead the Western Command in its history.

Union Minister Commissioned Advanced Stealth Frigate 'INS Taragiri'

- Pinnacle of Project 17A (Nilgiri-class):** INS Taragiri is the fourth stealth frigate delivered under Project 17A. Designed by the Warship Design Bureau and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), this 6,670-tonne vessel features advanced stealth architecture, including a reduced radar cross-section and radar-absorbent materials, making it a "lethal ghost" in contested maritime environments.
- High Indigenous Content & Economic Impact:** The warship boasts over 75% indigenous content, utilizing Indian-made DMR 249A steel from SAIL. Its construction integrated a network of over 200 Indian MSMEs, directly supporting the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. Notably, it was delivered in a significantly compressed timeline of 81 months, demonstrating India's maturing industrial capability in complex warship production.
- Multi-Role Combat Punch:** Equipped for three-dimensional warfare (Air, Surface, and Sub-surface), its weapons suite includes BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, Barak-8 Surface-to-Air missiles (MRSAM), and the indigenous HUMSA-NG sonar system.

India-Egypt Joint Special Forces 'Cyclone-IV' Begins

- Edition and Venue:** The 4th edition of the exercise, known as Cyclone-IV, is being conducted from April 9 to 17, 2026, at Anshas, Egypt. This exercise is conducted annually on a rotational basis between the two nations.
- Participating Contingent:** The Indian Army has deployed a specialized contingent of 25 personnel from its elite Special Forces units to train alongside their Egyptian counterparts.
- Operational Focus:** The training emphasizes joint mission planning and tactical operations specifically designed for desert and semi-desert terrain, aimed at enhancing interoperability in unconventional warfare and counter-terrorism scenarios.

Australia appointed Susan Coyle as its first-ever female Army Chief

- Historic First:** Announced in April 2026, Lieutenant General Susan Coyle will become the first-ever female Chief of Army in the Australian Army's 125-year history. She is also the first woman to lead any service branch of the ADF.
- Extensive Military Career:** She joined the military in 1987 and has served for nearly 40 years. Her career includes senior command roles in major operations across Afghanistan, the Solomon Islands, East Timor, and the Middle East, where she was the first woman to command Joint Task Force 633.

- Strategic Leadership:** Prior to this appointment, she served as the Chief of Joint Capabilities, overseeing critical domains like space and cyber warfare. She will officially assume her new role in July 2026, succeeding Lieutenant General Simon Stuart.

Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-1 Signals New Era for India's Private Space Industry



- First Private Orbital Launch:** Vikram-1 is India's first privately developed multi-stage orbital launch vehicle. While Skyroot's previous mission (Prarambh) was sub-orbital, Vikram-1 is designed to place satellites into Low Earth Orbit (LEO), officially ending the era where satellite launches were the exclusive domain of ISRO.
- Technological Innovation:** The rocket features a full-carbon-fiber body and 3D-printed liquid engines. Its "plug-and-play" design allows it to be assembled and launched within 24 hours from any location, offering a highly flexible and cost-effective solution for the global small-satellite market.
- Strategic Impact:** This mission is a direct result of the 2020 Space Sector Reforms. It positions India as a competitive hub for commercial space activities, shifting the role of ISRO toward deep-space exploration and R&D.

MARCH 2026

India Participates in Sea Dragon Naval Exercise 2026

- **Multi-National Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW):** Hosted at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, the exercise brings together five key Indo-Pacific partners: the USA, India, Australia, Japan, and New Zealand. It focuses on advanced "submarine hunting" drills, progressing from tracking simulated targets to detecting and monitoring a live submarine in deep-water environments.
- **The "Dragon Belt" Competition:** The exercise features a competitive format where participating aircrews are graded on their speed, tracking accuracy, and seamless coordination. The highest-scoring unit is awarded the prestigious Dragon Belt. Notably, the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) is the defending champion, having won the belt in 2025.

Indian Navy launches IOS SAGAR 2026

- **Expanded Participation (IONS Chairmanship):** This edition coincides with India assuming the chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) in February 2026. Consequently, the program has expanded significantly, featuring participation from naval personnel of 16 IONS member nations, up from 10 countries in the inaugural 2025 edition.
- **Operational Training Model:** The initiative is designed as a "living" operational engagement. It begins with professional training at naval establishments in Kochi, followed by a sea phase where international

personnel are embedded onboard an Indian Naval Ship. They train and sail alongside Indian crews, participating in real-time navigation, seamanship, and maritime security drills.

Indian Army Conducts Exercise 'Amogh Jwala' at Babina Field Firing Ranges

- **Technology-Driven Mechanised Warfare:** The 13-day exercise was executed by the White Tiger Division to validate "multi-domain" operational capabilities. It focused on the seamless integration of traditional mechanised forces with advanced technologies, including Apache attack helicopters, fighter aircraft, and unmanned aerial systems (UAS).
- **Focus on the "Future-Ready" Force:** The culmination was witnessed by Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth (GOC-in-C, Southern Command). He emphasized that the drills successfully fused Electronic Warfare (EW), Air Defence (AD), and night-fighting capabilities.

Indian Navy warship Nilgiri joins Exercise KAKADU 2026

- **Scale and Scope:** Exercise KAKADU is Australia's premier multilateral maritime exercise. The 2026 edition is the largest to date, involving over 6,000 personnel, 30 warships, and multiple aircraft from 18 partner nations. The exercise area has been expanded this year to cover the vast waters from Darwin to Sydney, including the eastern coast of Australia.
- **Strategic Participation:** INS Nilgiri is operating as part of a combined task group alongside ships from Australia, Malaysia,

Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines.

The Ministry of Jal Shakti organized 'World Water Day conclave 2026'

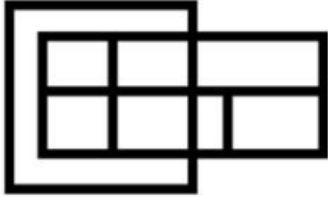
- **Joint Industry Declaration:** A core highlight was the transition of industries from "water users" to "water stewards." Major industry associations (including FICCI, CII, and ASSOCHAM) committed to a Joint Declaration targeting Water Neutrality and a 50% reduction in water footprint by 2030.
- **Innovation and Technology Integration:** The conclave emphasized "Ideas, Innovation, and Action" by felicitating 19 winners of the Jal Shakti Hackathon. The sessions focused on leveraging emerging technologies like AI and IoT for smart monitoring and circular water use.

Agnikul test-fires first-of-its-kind 3D-printed booster engine

- **Revolutionary Manufacturing Speed:** The Agnite engine is manufactured as a single-piece structure using Inconel (a high-strength superalloy). While traditional rocket engines take several months to assemble from thousands of parts, Agnikul's 3D-printing process produces a fully functional engine in just seven days, reducing production time by approximately 90–97%.
- **World's Largest Single-Piece Design:** Standing at one metre in height, Agnite is the largest rocket engine ever built as a single integrated component without any welds, joints, or fasteners. This "single-shot" printing significantly improves structural integrity, reduces weight, and minimizes potential failure points during high-temperature combustion.

REASONING ABILITY

1. How many lines are there in the given figure?



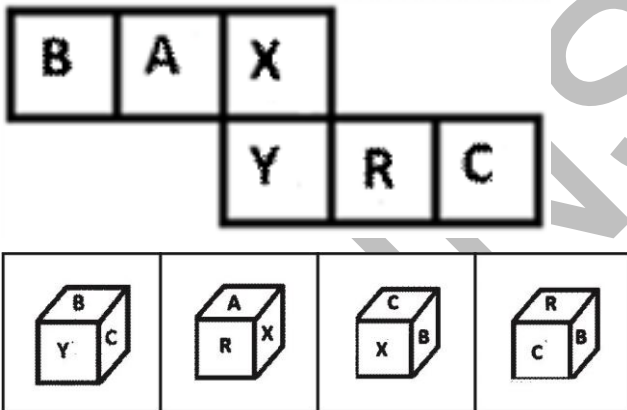
- (A) 21 (B) 24
(C) 23 (D) 22

2. Which of the following represents a logical and meaningful sequence of the given words?

Kilogram, Gram, Milligram, Tonne, Microgram

- (A) Microgram, Milligram, Gram, Kilogram, Tonne
(B) Milligram, Microgram, Gram, Kilogram, Tonne
(C) Microgram, Milligram, Kilogram, Gram, Tonne
(D) Tonne, Kilogram, Gram, Microgram, Milligram

3. Which of the following cube in the answer figure can be made based on the unfolded cube in the question figure?



- (A) A (B) B
(C) C (D) D

4. A series is given with two terms missing. Select the correct alternative from the given ones that will complete the series.

52, ____, 59, 32, 96, ____, 187

- (A) 33 and -52 (B) 31 and -29
(C) 33 and -54 (D) 51 and -29

5. Three of the following words are alike in some manner and hence form a group. Which word does NOT belong to that group? (The words must be considered as meaningful English words and must not be grouped based on the number of letters/number of consonants/vowels in the word).

- (A) Massive
(B) Substantial
(C) Ponderous
(D) Fluffy

6. In the question given below there are some statements followed by three conclusions I, II, and III. You have to take the given statements to be true even if they seem to be at variance from commonly known facts. Read all the conclusions and then decide which of the given conclusions logically follows from the given statements disregarding commonly known facts.

Statements:

- All Mouse are Monitor
Some Monitor are Keyboard
Some Joystick are Keyboard

Conclusions:

- I. Some Keyboard are Mouse
II. Some Joystick are not Mouse
III. Some Monitor are Mouse
(A) Only conclusions I and III follow
(B) Only conclusion II follows
(C) Only conclusions I and II follow
(D) Only conclusion III follows

7. Which two signs should be interchanged to make the given equation correct?

$$15 \div 5 + 90 - 12 \times 4 = 162$$

- (A) '÷' and '+' (B) '+' and '-'
(C) 'X' and '÷' (D) '÷' and '-'

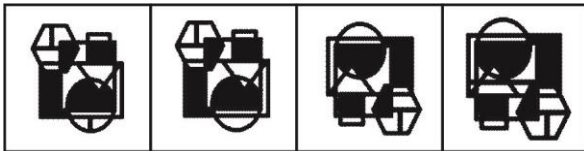
8. In a code language, 'SERVER' is coded as '1010', 'AUTUMN' is coded as '24242'. What is the code for 'BENEVOLENT' in that code language?

- (A) 10303010 (B) 10103010
(C) 10101810 (D) 10103030

9. Select the correct mirror image of the given combination when the mirror is placed at line MN as shown.



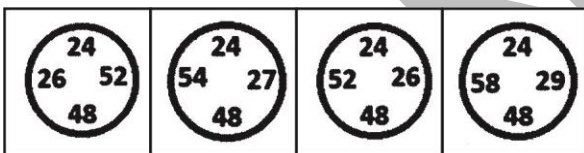
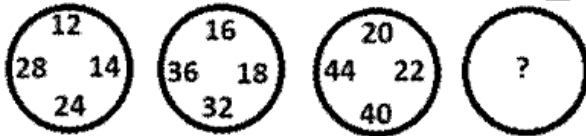
M N



(A) (B) (C) (D)

(A) A (B) B
(C) C (D) D

10. Select the figure that will come next in the following figure series.



(A) (B) (C) (D)

(A) A (B) B
(C) C (D) D

11. Select the combination of letters that when sequentially placed in the blanks of the given letter series will complete the series.

z _ y a b _ z x y _ b c _ x y a _ c z x _ a b _

(A) x, c, a, z, z, y, z (B) x, c, c, z, c, y, c
(C) x, c, a, z, b, y, c (D) x, b, a, z, b, y, b

12. Select the option that represents the correct order of the given words as they would appear in an English dictionary.

1- Navigate

2- Natural

3- Nail

4- Name

5- Navy

6- Naval

(A) 3, 4, 2, 5, 1, 6

(B) 3, 4, 2, 6, 1, 5

(C) 3, 4, 2, 1, 6, 5

(D) 3, 4, 2, 6, 5, 1

13. Which letter cluster will complete the given series?

MTOQ, NSQO, ORSM, _____, QPWI, ROYG

(A) PRUK

(B) PQUJ

(C) PQUK

(D) PQVK

14. In the following question, four number pairs are given. In each pair the number on left side of (-) is related to the number of the right side of (-) with some Logic/Rule/Relation. Three pairs are similar on basis of same Logic/Rule/Relation. Select the odd one out from the given alternatives. (NOTE: Operations should be performed on the whole numbers, without breaking down the numbers into its constituent digits. E.g., 13 - Operations on 13 such as adding/ subtracting/ multiplying etc. to 13 can be performed. Breaking down 13 into 1 and 3 and then performing mathematical operations on 1 and 3 is not allowed)

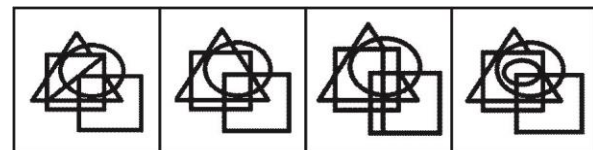
(A) 15 - 65

(B) 18 - 76

(C) 20 - 84

(D) 25 - 104

15. Select the option in which the given figure is embedded (rotation is not allowed).



(A) (B) (C) (D)

(A) A

(B) B

(C) C

(D) D

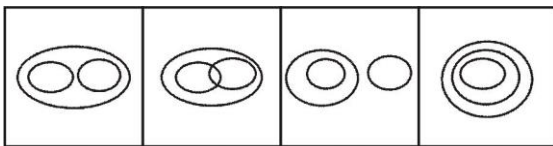
16. Select the option that is related to the fifth element in the same way as the second element related to the first element and the fourth element is related to the third element.

SOURCE: EOUCRS::COMMON: OOCMMN:: DELIVER: ?

- (A) EEIVDRL (B) EEIDVRL
(C) EEIDRLV (D) EEIDLRV

17. Select the Venn diagram that best illustrates the relationship between the following classes.

Sun, Moon, Star



- (A) (B) (C) (D)

18. If MIND X GAME = 20, then PARCEL X PACKED = ?

- (A) 48 (B) 42 (C) 45 (D) 36

19. Select the set in which the numbers are not related in the same way as are the numbers of the following set.

(NOTE: Operations should be performed on the whole numbers, without breaking down the numbers into its constituent digits. E.g., 25 - Operations on 25 such as adding/ subtracting/ multiplying etc. to 25 can be performed. Breaking down 25 into 2 and 5, and then performing mathematical operations on 2 and 5 is not allowed)

(24, 48, 144)

(16, 32, 96)

- (A) (48, 96, 288) (B) (22, 44, 132)
(C) (18, 36, 108) (D) (14, 28, 112)

20. In a certain code language 'powerful agent working' is coded as 'em, pt, li', 'some are powerful' is coded as 'jk, ti, em', and 'agent are smart' is coded as 'pt, ti, kp', then, what is the code for 'some' in the same code language?

- (A) pt (B) kp
(C) jk (D) ti

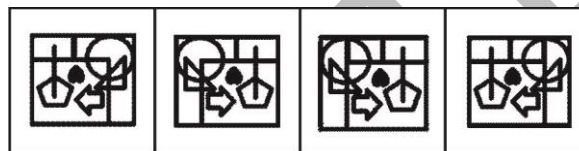
21. Information given below represents the number codes for the given letters. Select the combination of numbers so that the letters arranged accordingly will form a meaningful word.

E = 1, U = 2, R = 3, D = 4, S = 5, C = 6

- (A) 3, 1, 4, 2, 5, 6 (B) 3, 1, 4, 2, 6, 5

- (C) 3, 4, 1, 2, 6, 5 (D) 3, 5, 1, 2, 6, 4

22. Figure A is related to B following a certain pattern. Following the same pattern, figure C is related to D. Study the pattern and select the figure which should be placed in place of D.



- (A) A (B) B (C) C (D) D

23. If 'A + B' means 'A is the mother of B'.

'A - B' means 'A is the son of B'.

'A ÷ B' means 'A is the daughter-in-law of B'.

'A X B' means 'A is married to B'.

In the given expression 'Q ÷ R + H X P ÷ S - Y', then how is H related to Y?

- (A) Son (B) Brother
(C) Brother-in-law (D) Grandson

24. If 'A @ B' means 'A - B', 'A \$ B' means 'A X B', 'A & B' means 'A ÷ B' and 'A % B' means 'A + B', then what is the value of '225 & 15 \$ 12 % 20 @ 35 \$ 2'?

- (A) 130 (B) 160 (C) 132 (D) 170

25. 'Brazil' is related to 'Rio De Janeiro', in the same way as 'Chile' is related to '___'. (The word must be considered as meaningful English words and must NOT be related to the number based on the number of letters/number of consonants/vowels in the word)

- (A) Milan (B) Santiago
(C) Warsaw (D) Athens

GENERAL AWARENESS

26. The Padma Awards are announced annually on the eve of which day?

- (A) Republic Day (B) Independence Day
(C) Constitution Day (D) Good Governance Day

27. Ustad Bismillah Khan is a noted _____ player.
(A) Tabla (B) Flute
(C) Shehnai (D) Sitar
28. The Banaras tabla gharana was developed by whom?
(A) Abdul Karim Khan
(B) Goswami Lalji Maharaj
(C) Nathan Pir Baksh
(D) Pandit Ram Sahai
29. The festival of Akshaya Tritiya is observed in which Hindu month?
(A) Vaishakha (B) Chaitra
(C) Shravana (D) Magha
30. Mrinalini Sarabhai was a renowned Indian classical dancer known for Bharatnatyam and which other dance form?
(A) Manipuri (B) Odissi
(C) Sattriya (D) Kathakali
31. In which year did Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman receive the Bharat Ratna award?
(A) 1954 (B) 1962
(C) 1970 (D) 1988
32. Which of the following output devices is used for creating physical copies of documents?
(A) Monitor (B) Printer
(C) Microphone (D) Keyboard
33. The Thar Desert lies to the west of which mountain range?
(A) Vindhya Range (B) Pir Panjal Range
(C) Aravalli Range (D) Satpura Range
34. Which district recorded the highest population in the 2011 Census?
(A) Dibrugarh (B) Pune
(C) Bangalore Urban (D) Thane
35. The Satluj River originates from which lake?
(A) Pangong Tso (B) Chandra Taal
(C) Rakas Tal (D) Tso Moriri
36. The office of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker originated under which legislative act?
(A) Government of India Act, 1858
(B) Government of India Act, 1919
(C) Government of India Act, 1935
(D) Indian Councils Act, 1909
37. Which of the following is NOT included under the Fundamental Right to Equality in the Indian Constitution?
(A) Abolition of Untouchability
(B) Equality before Law
(C) Abolition of titles
(D) Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour
38. In the Indian political system, the President exercises powers on the advice of which body?
(A) Supreme Court (B) Prime Minister alone
(C) Council of Ministers (D) Parliament
39. NABARD was set up in the year _____.
(A) 1990 (B) 1982
(C) 1994 (D) 1987
40. Which plan had the theme of 'Food, Work & Productivity'?
(A) Seventh Plan (B) Fifth Plan
(C) Fourth Plan (D) Eighth Plan
41. The Jain book "Kalpasutra" was written by whom?
(A) Bhadrabahu (B) Hemachandra
(C) Haribhadra Suri (D) Kundakunda
42. Which southern kingdom did Muhammad bin Tughluq defeat in 1323?
(A) Hoysalas (B) Kakatiyas
(C) Cholas (D) Rashtrakutas
43. Who was referred to as the "Manas Putra" (protégé son) of Justice Mahadev Govind Ranade?
(A) Bal Gangadhar Tilak (B) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
(C) Dadabhai Naoroji (D) Mahatma Gandhi
44. During the anodising process, which acid is commonly used?
(A) Hydrochloric acid (B) Nitric acid
(C) Sulphuric acid (D) Acetic acid
45. Which of the following is the correct formula for momentum?
(A) $p = mv$ (B) $p = m/a$
(C) $p = v^2/2$ (D) $p = F/t$
46. Beta-carotene is a precursor to which vitamin?
(A) Vitamin B12 (B) Vitamin D
(C) Vitamin C (D) Vitamin A

47. Which community traditionally observes Basava Jayanthi as a major festival?

- (A) Brahmins (B) Jains
(C) Lingayats (D) Buddhists

48. An app was launched to provide a comprehensive digital solution for the healthcare needs of the people of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. What is the name of the app?

- (A) e-Swasthya (B) HealthConnect
(C) JK Arogya (D) e-SEHAT

49. Who is the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) ?

- (A) Girish Chandra Murmu
(B) Vinod Rai
(C) Rajiv Mehrishi
(D) K. Sanjay Murthy

50. The Odisha government launched the Mission Shakti Scooter Scheme to empower women. How much interest-free loan is provided under this scheme?

- (A) Rs. 50000 (B) Rs. 1 lakh
(C) Rs. 1.5 lakh (D) Rs. 2 lakh

QUANTITATIVE APTITUDE

51. Find the mean proportion of 20 and 51.2 ?

- (A) 36 (B) 32
(C) 28 (D) 34

52. Table given below shows the number of cars and bikes manufactured in different years.

Year	Number of cars manufactured	Number of bikes manufactured
2024	750	300
2023	900	800
2022	600	700
2021	675	600
2020	525	450

Number of bikes manufactured from 2022 to 2024 is what percent more than the number of cars manufactured in 2020 and 2021 together?

- (A) 75% (B) 40%

- (C) 50% (D) 30%

53. If $(p - 1) \sin A = \cos A$, then find the value of $(\operatorname{cosec}^2 A)$.

- (A) $p^2 - 2p + 1$ (B) $p^2 + 2p + 2$
(C) $p^2 + 2p + 1$ (D) $p^2 - 2p + 2$

54. Simplify the following expression:

$$(35 - 108 \div 9 + 9 \times 3) \div 2.5 + 8 \times 4 - 24$$

- (A) 24 (B) 28
(C) 32 (D) 26

55. Average weight of 20 students in a class is 45 kg. When weight of teacher is also included, their average weight increases by 2 kg. Find the weight of teacher.

- (A) 83 kg (B) 89 kg
(C) 87 kg (D) 81 kg

56. Gunjan spent 25% of income on rent, 20% of income on food, 30% of income on travelling and saves the rest. If his savings is Rs. 10,500, then find the amount spent by her on food.

- (A) Rs. 9,200 (B) Rs. 8,400
(C) Rs. 8,200 (D) Rs. 9,600

57. A customer gets two items free when he buys seven items. Find the discount percentage offered to the customer.

- (A) $28\frac{4}{9}\%$ (B) $22\frac{2}{9}\%$
(C) $28\frac{2}{7}\%$ (D) $22\frac{4}{9}\%$

58. An article is sold at 20% loss for Rs. 8,400. If the article is sold at 10% profit, then find the selling price of article.

- (A) Rs. 12,500 (B) Rs. 11,750
(C) Rs. 12,240 (D) Rs. 11,550

59. Find the remainder on dividing equation $x^3 - 3x^2 + 2x + 5$ by $(x - 2)$.

- (A) 6 (B) 3
(C) 5 (D) 8

60. Find the total surface area (in cm^2) of a hemisphere whose diameter is 35 cm. (Use $\pi = 22/7$)

- (A) 2,887.5 (B) 1,925
(C) 2,947.5 (D) 2,075

61. How many values of 'a' are possible such that $8954a8$ is always divisible by 8.

- (A) 4 (B) 3 (C) 2 (D) 1

62. Parallel sides of a trapezium are 20 cm and 24 cm, respectively. If perpendicular distance between parallel sides of trapezium is 15 cm, then find the area of trapezium.

- (A) 480 cm² (B) 420 cm²
(C) 360 cm² (D) 330 cm²

63. Length of a tangent of a circle of radius 10 cm is 16 cm. Find the distance between centre of circle and origin point of tangent.

- (A) $\sqrt{89}$ cm (B) $2\sqrt{91}$ cm
(C) $2\sqrt{89}$ cm (D) $\sqrt{91}$ cm

64. Opposite angles of a cyclic quadrilateral are $(x + 10)^\circ$ and $(2x - 25)^\circ$ respectively. Find the value of $(x - 18)$.

- (A) 59 (B) 45
(C) 53 (D) 47

65. Aman goes from 'A' to 'B' at speed of 60 km/h and comes back from 'B' to 'A' at speed of 90 km/h. Find the average speed of Aman.

- (A) 75 km/h (B) 72 km/h
(C) 80 km/h (D) 77.5 km/h

66. Find the value of following trigonometric expression:

$$\frac{\sin 30^\circ \tan^2 60^\circ - \operatorname{cosec}^2 60^\circ \cos 60^\circ}{\cot^2 30^\circ - \tan 45^\circ}$$

- (A) (5/12) (B) (7/3)
(C) (5/3) (D) (7/12)

67. If $(a - 3) = a^2$, then find the value of $[a^3 + (27/a^3)]$.

- (A) - 9 (B) 8
(C) 9 (D) - 8

68. 36 workers working 15 hours a day construct a wall in 32 days. How many workers working 8 hours a day are required to construct the wall in 72 days.

- (A) 32 (B) 25
(C) 30 (D) 24

69. Five years ago from now, age of 'A' was 25% less than that of 'B'. Five years hence from now, age of 'B' will be 20% more than that of 'A'. Find the age of 'A' two years ago from now.

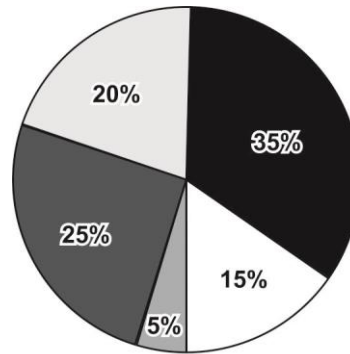
- (A) 16 years (B) 22 years
(C) 18 years (D) 24 years

70. Rate of interest offered by a bank on simple interest for the first 4 years is 10% p.a., for next 2 years is 15% p.a., and beyond that

time period is 20% p.a. If a person invests Rs. 4,000 in the bank, then find the interest earned by him in 8 years.

- (A) Rs. 4,400 (B) Rs. 4,200
(C) Rs. 4,600 (D) Rs. 4,800

71. Pie chart given below shows the percentage distribution of number of students in schools.



- A □ B ■ C ■ D □ E

Find the central angle corresponding to the number of students in 'B' and 'D' together.

- (A) 108° (B) 144°
(C) 126° (D) 162°

72. Population of city increases by 24% every year. If present population of the city is 53,816, then find the population of the city two years ago from now.

- (A) 30,000 (B) 45,000
(C) 35,000 (D) 40,000

73. If $n + \frac{1}{n} = 25$, then find the value of $\left(\frac{n^{10} + 5n^9 + n^8}{n^{10} - 5n^9 + n^8}\right)$.

- (A) (6/5) (B) (3/2)
(C) (5/4) (D) (4/3)

74. 30% of a number is 66 less than 52% of the same number. Find the number which is 20% more than the given number.

- (A) 250 (B) 480
(C) 240 (D) 360

75. Speed of a boat along the stream is 12 km/h more than speed of boat against the stream. If speed of boat in still water is 24 km/h, then find the upstream distance covered by boat in 4.5 hours.

- (A) 81 km (B) 72 km
(C) 90 km (D) 63 km

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

76. Select the sentence that uses the given idiom correctly.

Bite the bullet

- (A) He had to bite the bullet and apologize to his friend even though it wasn't his fault.
- (B) She bit the bullet when she received a wonderful surprise party on her birthday.
- (C) The teacher bit the bullet when the students performed exceptionally well in their exams.
- (D) The athlete bit the bullet when he won the gold medal in the competition.

77. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word in the following sentence.

Tedious

The famous speaker's engaging presentation kept the audience interested throughout the seemingly endless session.

- (A) famous (B) engaging
(C) seemingly (D) endless

78. Select the most appropriate synonym of the bracketed word given in the sentence.

The detective needed to _____ (ascertain) the suspect's whereabouts before proceeding with the case.

- (A) conceal (B) determine
(C) fabricate (D) overlook

79. Select the word which means the same as the group of words underlined in the sentence.

The scientist's unwillingness to change or compromise hindered progress in the research project.

- (A) obstinacy (B) optimism
(C) obscurity (D) obligation

80. Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined idiom/phrase in the given sentence.

Despite the initial excitement, the manager decided to pull the plug on the project due to budget constraints.

- (A) to fund something generously
(B) to abruptly stop or cancel something
(C) to give final approval

(D) to make a minor adjustment

81. Some words in the following sentence have been underlined and given as options. Select the option that contains a spelling error.

The scientist presented a fascinating theory that challenged the traditional perspective on climate change, but some experts dismissed it as ridiculous and lacking credibility.

- (A) fascinating (B) perspective
(C) ridiculous (D) credibility

82. Sentences with spelling errors are given. Select the sentence with NO error.

- (A) The company's manuever to enter the global market was strategically planned but faced unexpected regulatory hurdles.
- (B) The company's maneuver to enter the global market was strategically planned but faced unexpected regulatory hurdles.
- (C) The company's maneuver to enter the global market was stratagically planned but faced unexpected regulatory hurdles.
- (D) The company's maneauver to enter the global market was strategically planned but faced unexpected regulatory hurdles.

83. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.

The teacher urged the students to follow the rules and not take the warnings lightly, or they would be brought to _____.

- (A) task (B) door (C) mind (D) rule

84. The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.

The committee has decided to postpone the meeting as neither of the members were available.

- (A) has decided (B) to postpone
(C) members (D) were

85. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.

TENACIOUS

- (A) persistent (B) judicious
(C) yielding (D) pressing

86. Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.

A person who opposes or fights against the government

- (A) Patriot (B) Insurgent
(C) Bureaucrat (D) Conformist

87. Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the italicised word in the given sentence.

The scientist was *elated* when her research was recognized internationally.

- (A) indifferent (B) ecstatic
(C) hesitant (D) irritated

88. Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in a correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.

- A. But amidst all this, a new trend is emerging - sustainable fashion.
B. The fashion industry has long been associated with wastefulness and environmental harm.
C. Consumers are becoming more conscious of their choices, opting for ethically sourced and eco-friendly clothing.
D. That is why many brands are now focusing on reducing waste, using organic materials, and ensuring fair wages for workers.

- (A) BCAD (B) ABCD
(C) BACD (D) CBDA

89. Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in a correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.

- A. However, scientists now believe that certain environmental factors can influence the genetic code.
B. For many years, it was assumed that DNA was the sole determinant of an organism's traits.
C. This discovery has led to a new field of study known as epigenetics.
D. These factors can turn genes on or off without changing the DNA sequence itself.

- (A) BACD (B) BCDA
(C) BDAC (D) BADC

90. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.

The teacher advised the students to _____ in mind the importance of regular practice.

- (A) bare (B) bear
(C) beer (D) bore

91. Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the given word.

Erratic

- (A) stable (B) inconsistent
(C) deliberate (D) ordinary

92. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.

Colours had been splashed on the canvas by the artist.

- (A) The artist splashes colours on the canvas.
(B) The artist had splashed colours on the canvas.
(C) The artist is splashing colours on the canvas.
(D) The artist splashed colours on the canvas.

93. The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.

The teacher gave us / many advices / on how to improve / our writing skills.

- (A) The teacher gave us
(B) many advices
(C) on how to improve
(D) our writing skills.

94. Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.

Each of the students in the class were given a certificate.

- (A) Each of the students in the class was
(B) Every of the students in the class were
(C) Each of the students in the class have
(D) Every student in the class were

95. Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word in the given sentence.

The government announced a new scheme to provide financial assistance to small businesses.

- (A) government (B) announced
(C) scheme (D) assistance

Directions [96-100]: Select the most appropriate options to fill in the blanks.

The global food supply chain is under (A) ___ due to various factors, including climate change, geopolitical tensions, and economic instability. In many regions, farmers struggle to (B) ___ their crops due to unpredictable weather patterns and a lack of resources. As a result, food prices have been (C) ___ rising, making it harder for lower-income families to afford basic necessities. To address this issue, governments and organizations are working to

(D) ___ agricultural technology and infrastructure. Experts believe that sustainable farming practices will play a crucial role in ensuring food security for (E) ___ generations.

96. The global food supply chain is under (A) ___ due to various factors

- (A) consensus (B) tranquility
(C) disguise (D) pressure

97. In many regions, farmers struggle to (B) ___ their crops due to unpredictable weather patterns

- (A) harvest (B) provoke
(C) hinder (D) manipulate

98. As a result, food prices have been (C) ___ rising, making it harder for lower-income families

- (A) steadily (B) abruptly
(C) doubtfully (D) dreadfully

99. To address this issue, governments and organizations are working to (D) ___ agricultural technology and infrastructure

- (A) deter (B) promote
(C) abandon (D) weaken

100. Experts believe that sustainable farming practices will play a crucial role in ensuring food security for (E) ___ generations.











- (A) forgotten (B) ancient
(C) temporary (D) future

ANSWER KEY

1. (C)	2. (A)	3. (D)	4. (D)	5. (D)	6. (D)	7. (C)	8. (B)	9. (B)	10. (C)
11. (C)	12. (B)	13. (C)	14. (A)	15. (B)	16. (D)	17. (C)	18. (A)	19. (D)	20. (C)
21. (B)	22. (B)	23. (D)	24. (A)	25. (B)	26. (A)	27. (C)	28. (D)	29. (A)	30. (D)
31. (A)	32. (B)	33. (C)	34. (D)	35. (C)	36. (B)	37. (D)	38. (C)	39. (B)	40. (A)
41. (A)	42. (B)	43. (B)	44. (C)	45. (A)	46. (D)	47. (C)	48. (D)	49. (D)	50. (B)
51. (B)	52. (C)	53. (D)	54. (B)	55. (C)	56. (B)	57. (B)	58. (D)	59. (C)	60. (A)
61. (B)	62. (D)	63. (C)	64. (D)	65. (B)	66. (A)	67. (D)	68. (C)	69. (C)	70. (A)
71. (B)	72. (C)	73. (B)	74. (D)	75. (A)	76. (A)	77. (B)	78. (B)	79. (A)	80. (B)
81. (C)	82. (B)	83. (A)	84. (D)	85. (C)	86. (B)	87. (B)	88. (C)	89. (D)	90. (B)
91. (B)	92. (B)	93. (B)	94. (A)	95. (C)	96. (D)	97. (A)	98. (A)	99. (B)	100. (D)

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