

THE DAILY GK DOSE

KANTHA ARTIST TRIPTI MUKHERJEE HONORED WITH PADMA SHRI

- **Massive Grassroots Women's Empowerment:** Over her 40-year career, Mukherjee has traveled to nearly every village in West Bengal's Birbhum district, establishing a specialized training center in Suri. She has personally trained more than 20,000 rural and marginalized women in the art of Nakshi Kantha.
- **Global Promotion of Cultural Heritage:** Sponsored by the Government of India and the Ministry of Textiles, she has conducted high-profile exhibitions and live craft demonstrations internationally, including major showcases in Birmingham, UK (2017) and Tokyo, Japan (2025).
- **A Highly Decorated Master Artisan:** Her unique creations—which vividly depict rural life, historical figures like Mahatma Gandhi, and mythological themes—previously earned her the National Award, the West Bengal government's Bangashree Award, and the coveted Shilp Guru Award, the highest honor for craftspeople in India.

KERALA FORMS INDIA'S FIRST AI MINISTRY, PK KUNHALIKUTTY GETS CHARGE

- **India's First Dedicated AI Portfolio:** Kerala has become the first state in India to establish a cabinet-level portfolio for Artificial Intelligence (AI). The department has been strategically structured under the broader umbrella of the Industries and Commerce department to reshape state

administration and technology governance.

- **Key Leadership Charge:** Senior IUML leader P. K. Kunhalikutty has been given formal charge of the newly formed AI ministry. His portfolio forms a massive technology and trade cluster that also includes Information Technology, Industries, Start-ups, and Mining & Geology.

SHRAMMITRA APP LAUNCHED IN HARYANA TO REPLACE TRADITIONAL LABOUR CHOWK SYSTEM



- **Digital Replacement for "Labour Chowks":** Launched by Haryana Labour Minister Anil Vij, the app functions as a free, multilingual "Electronic Employment Exchange." It is specifically designed to phase out the state's 135 traditional, informal physical labour chowks (crossroads where daily-wage earners gather), allowing unorganized and skilled workers to find jobs safely from their homes.
- **Geo-Mapping and Direct Negotiation:** Developed by the Haryana Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board, the app features built-in geo-mapping technology that gives workers and employers live data regarding each other's location, distance, and travel time. It also features communication tools for direct, transparent negotiations on wages and work duration, completely bypassing middle-men.

IMPORTANT FACTS

- *The pH value of an alkaline solution is more than 7.*
- *Graphite is used to make the "lead" of a pencil.*
- *The structure of benzene is ring-shaped.*
- *The fuel used in rockets is called propellant.*
- *An electric bulb is made of crown glass.*
- *The common type of coal is bituminous.*
- *Among halogens, iodine has the largest atom.*
- *When iron rusts, its weight increases.*

DR AJAY KUMAR APPOINTED AS HIGH COMMISSIONER OF INDIA TO REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

- **Transition from the Washington Embassy:** Dr. Ajay Kumar was serving at the Embassy of India in Washington, D.C., prior to this assignment. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) officially announced his transfer and new leadership role in Kampala.
- **Strengthening Strategic and Economic Ties:** Dr. Kumar takes charge of the mission at a pivotal time, following recent high-level diplomatic milestones. This includes India's strong presence at the 19th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit in Kampala and celebrating over 60 years of formal India-Uganda diplomatic relations, with a core focus on expansion in bilateral trade, infrastructure investment, and public-private business collaboration.

MP PARTNERED WITH GOOGLE CLOUD INDIA FOR SIMHASTHA KUMBH 2028

- **AI-Driven Smart Event Management:** The collaboration focuses heavily on deploying Google Cloud's advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) for large-scale security and analytics during the Ujjain Kumbh. This includes real-time crowd density monitoring, predictive traffic routing, and automated emergency response coordination to handle millions of incoming devotees safely.
- **Multilingual "Sahayak" Pilgrim App:** To assist visitors directly, the state is co-developing an AI-powered voice assistant app called Sahayak. Operating in multiple local regional languages, it will provide pilgrims with real-time updates regarding crowd congestion, step-by-step route guidance, and dynamic safety alerts.
- **Indore AI Center of Excellence:** A key component of the upcoming Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is the creation of a specialized tech hub in Indore. Backed partially by Google's funding, the facility aims to upskill and connect more than 10,000 AI developers to support automated governance projects across central India.

MANIPUR POLICE CHIEF RAJIV SINGH APPOINTED AS SECRETARY IN CABINET SECRETARIAT

- **New National Security Role:** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) officially appointed senior IPS officer Rajiv Singh as the Secretary (Security) in the Cabinet Secretariat in New Delhi. He takes over the crucial post that was previously being handled as an additional charge by R&AW chief Parag Jain.
- **Administrative Head of the SPG:** In this elite role, Singh will function as the administrative head of the Special Protection Group (SPG). He will directly oversee the specialized security arrangements, protocols, and VIP protection frameworks tasked with safeguarding the Prime Minister of India and their immediate family.
- **Transition from Manipur Command:** A 1993-batch IPS officer of the Tripura cadre, Singh moves to the Centre after serving as the Director General of Police (DGP) of Manipur since June 2023.

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA WINS APY ANNUAL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FY 2025-26



- **Recognition for Target Excellence:** BoM was honored with the prestigious APY Annual Award of Excellence for the Financial Year 2025-26. The

award acknowledges the bank's exceptional performance in significantly exceeding its enrollment targets under the central government's flagship pension program.

- **Top Leadership Presentation:** The award was officially presented at a national felicitation ceremony by M. Nagaraju (Secretary, Department of Financial Services) and Sivasubramanian Ramann (Chairperson, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority).
- **Top Leadership Presentation:** The award was officially presented at a national felicitation ceremony by M. Nagaraju (Secretary, Department of Financial Services) and Sivasubramanian Ramann (Chairperson, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority).

FORMER ENGLAND CAPTAIN MJK SMITH PASSED AWAY

- **Passing of a Cricket Legend:** Former England cricket captain Michael John Knight Smith, popularly known as "MJK" Smith, passed away at the age of 92 following a long illness.
- **A Rare Double International:** Beyond his elite cricket career, he was an accomplished rugby union player who represented England as a fly-half/outside centre in a match against Wales in 1956, making him England's most recent male double international in major sports.

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

22.05.2026 / FRIDAY

- **International Day for Biological Diversity: May 22**
- **Theme for 2026 is "Acting locally for global impact."**
- **Purpose – To spread awareness about conserving natural resources and maintaining ecological balance.**