



Current Affairs

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at All India Chess Masters



1. Kirti Patel won big against Dhairya Yadav at All India Chess Masters

Kirti Patel secured a remarkable victory against Dhairya Yadav at the All India Chess Masters. Displaying sharp tactics and strategic depth, Kirti dominated the board from the early stages. Her opening play put Dhairya on the defensive, forcing several inaccuracies. Midgame pressure and positional mastery led to a significant material advantage. Despite a resilient defense by Dhairya, Kirti converted her lead confidently. This win marks a major highlight in Kirti Patel's growing chess career.



Foot notes:

- **Tournament Name:** The match was held at the All India Chess Masters FIDE Rating tournament in Mumbai.
- **Winner and Loser:** Woman Candidate Master (WCM) Kirti Patel won against Dhairya Yadav with a score of 1-0.
- **Kirti Patel's Profile:** Kirti Patel is a Woman Candidate Master with a FIDE rating of 1695 in standard chess, 1737 in rapid chess, and 1605 in blitz chess.
- **Performance:** Kirti Patel gave a commanding performance to beat Dhairya Yadav in the tournament.
- **Tournament Details:** The All India Chess Masters tournament is one of many chess events happening in India, with various tournaments organized by the All India Chess Federation.

2. World's first commercial scale e-methanol plant opens in Denmark

Denmark has inaugurated the world's first commercial-scale e-methanol plant in Kasso, marking a significant advancement in green fuel technology. Developed by European Energy in collaboration with Japan's Mitsui & Co., the €150 million facility is powered by the adjacent 304 MW Kasso Solar Park and utilizes captured biogenic CO₂ to produce up to 42,000 tonnes of e-methanol annually.



Major companies like Maersk, LEGO and Novo Nordisk have committed to using this green methanol to reduce their carbon footprints in shipping and manufacturing. The plant's excess heat will provide district heating for approximately 3,300 local households, enhancing its environmental benefits.

Foot notes:

- **Production Capacity:** The facility has the capacity to produce up to 42,000 tonnes of e-methanol annually, which will be used as a low-carbon fuel for shipping and as a raw material in the chemical industry.
- **Renewable Energy Source:** The plant uses renewable energy from a nearby 304 MW solar park to power its electrolysis process, which splits water into hydrogen and oxygen. The hydrogen is then combined with biogenic CO₂ to produce e-methanol.
- **Off-Takers:** The e-methanol will be supplied to companies such as A.P. Moller-Maersk for use as a fuel, and LEGO Group and Novo Nordisk for use in producing lower-carbon plastics.
- **Environmental Benefits:** The plant will not only produce green fuel but also provide district heating for around 3,300 local households, showcasing a practical and scalable solution for decarbonizing industries.

3. Sussan Ley becomes first female opposition leader in Australia

Sussan Ley has made history by becoming the first woman to lead Australia's Liberal Party and serve as Leader of the Opposition. Elected on May 13, 2025, following Peter Dutton's electoral defeat, Ley narrowly defeated Angus Taylor in a 29–25 leadership ballot. A member of the party's moderate wing, she brings a diverse background as a former commercial pilot, farmer, and economist. Ley has pledged to modernize the party, emphasizing inclusivity and a clear policy agenda that resonates with Australians.



Foot notes:

- **Historic Achievement:** Sussan Ley has made history by becoming the first woman to lead the Liberal Party in its 80-year history and the first female opposition leader in Australia.
- **Leadership Election:** Ley won the leadership election by defeating Angus Taylor with 29 votes to 25, showcasing her strength within the party.
- **Background:** Born in Nigeria to English parents, Ley grew up in the United Arab Emirates and England before moving to Australia. She has had a diverse career as a commercial pilot, farmer, and public servant.
- **Political Experience:** Ley has held various ministerial roles, including Minister for Health, Sport, and Environment, and has been the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. She was elected to the House of Representatives in 2001, representing the New South Wales division of Farrer.

4. Former Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar Takes Charge at UPSC

Dr. Ajay Kumar, a distinguished 1985-batch IAS officer and former Defence Secretary, has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), effective May 14, 2025. An alumnus of IIT Kanpur and holder of a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota, Dr. Kumar brings a wealth of experience in governance, technology, and strategic policy-making to his new role. During his tenure as Defence Secretary from 2019 to 2022, he spearheaded significant reforms, including the corporatization of the Ordnance Factory Board and the launch of the Agniveer recruitment scheme.



Foot notes:

- **Appointment:** Ajay Kumar has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) by the President of India.
- **Background:** Kumar is a retired IAS officer from the 1985 batch and has had a distinguished career in the Indian Administrative Service.
- **Previous Role:** Before joining UPSC, Kumar served as the Defence Secretary of India from August 2019 to October 2022, playing a crucial role in shaping the country's defence industry ecosystem.
- **Key Initiatives:** During his tenure as Defence Secretary, Kumar was instrumental in implementing initiatives like Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) and advancing the Digital India program.

5. Jeevan Tara won a gold medal in 13th Senior National Pencak Silat Championship 2025

Jeevan Tara from Arunachal Pradesh clinched the gold medal in the 45kg category at the 13th Senior National Pencak Silat Championship 2025, held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. This victory marks a historic milestone, as he became the first athlete from Arunachal Pradesh to secure a gold medal in the senior national Pencak Silat competition. The championship featured participation from over 30 states, highlighting the competitive nature of the event. Alongside Jeevan's achievement, fellow Arunachali athletes Meko Liyak and Atta Tayung earned bronze medals in the 60kg and 50kg categories, respectively.



Foot notes:

- **Historic Win:** Jeevan Tara from Arunachal Pradesh made history by becoming the first athlete from the state to win a gold medal in the Senior National Pencak Silat Championship.
- **Championship Details:** The 13th Senior National Pencak Silat Championship 2025 was held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, from May 9 to 13, 2025.
- **Weight Category:** Jeevan Tara won the gold medal in the 45 kg category, showcasing his exceptional skills in Pencak Silat.
- **Achievement:** This achievement marks a significant milestone in Arunachal Pradesh's sporting history and serves as an inspiration for aspiring martial artists across the state.
- **State Pride:** Jeevan Tara's win has brought pride to Arunachal Pradesh, with officials and sports enthusiasts lauding his dedication, discipline, and rigorous training.

6. India Seal Top Spot In Group B With 4-0 Win Over Nepal in SAFF U19 C'ship

India's U19 football team secured the top position in Group B of the 2025 SAFF U19 Championship with a commanding 4-0 victory over Nepal at the Golden Jubilee Stadium in Yupia, Arunachal Pradesh. Rohen Singh Chaphamayum led the charge with goals in the 28th and 76th minutes, while local talent Omang Dodum and Danny Meitei added to the tally in the 29th and 84th minutes, respectively. The hosts dominated the match, scoring two goals in each half, and concluded the group stage with a perfect record of six points and a goal difference of +12. This victory highlights India's strong performance and sets the stage for an exciting semi-final clash.



Foot notes:

- **Comprehensive Victory:** India sealed the top spot in Group B with a convincing 4-0 win over Nepal in the SAFF U19 Championship.
- **Goal Scorers:** Rohen Singh Chaphamayum scored a brace, while Omang Dodum and Danny Meitei added one goal each to India's tally. Rohen scored in the 28th and 76th minutes, Omang in the 29th minute, and Danny in the 84th minute.
- **Group B Standings:** India finished Group B with perfect six points from two matches, boasting a goal difference of 12. Nepal finished second with three points.
- **Semi-Final Matchup:** India will face Maldives, the runners-up of Group A, in the semi-finals on May 16. Nepal, on the other hand, will play against Bangladesh, the winners of Group A.
- **Tournament Performance:** India's dominant performance showcased their strength in the tournament, setting the stage for a strong semi-final appearance.

7. LIC hikes stake in Bank Of India to 8.38

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has increased its stake in Bank of India (BoI) to 8.38% as of May 9, 2025, up from 6.35% in September 2021. This acquisition of an additional 2.026% stake over nearly four years reflects LIC's continued confidence in BoI's performance and growth prospects. Following the announcement, BoI shares rose by 2.27%, closing at 112.55 on the Bombay Stock Exchange on May 13, 2025. The bank recently reported an 82.5% year-on-year increase in profit after tax for the March quarter, reaching 2,626 crore, alongside a 2.1% rise in net interest income to 6,063 crore. LIC's strategic investment underscores its role as a key institutional investor in India's public sector banking landscape.



Foot notes:

- **Stake Increase:** Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has increased its stake in Bank of India (BoI) to 8.38% as of May 9, 2025.
- **Additional Stake Purchase:** LIC acquired an additional 2.026% stake in BoI between September 2, 2021, and May 9, 2025, raising its holding from 6.35% to 8.38%.
- **Investment Rationale:** As India's largest institutional investor, LIC's stake hike reflects its strategic interest in the banking sector, emphasizing financial sector consolidation and performance-driven investment.

- **Bank of India's Performance:** BoI shares saw a modest uptick, ending 2.27% higher at 112.55 apiece on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) following the announcement.

8. Harvansh Chawla appointed as Chairman of BRICS CCCI

Harvansh Chawla, a distinguished senior lawyer and expert in international trade law, has been appointed as the Chairman of the BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BRICS CCI). With over three decades of experience, Chawla has served as a legal advisor to global corporations including Northrop Grumman, Singapore Airlines, Denso Corporation, and Alcatel . He holds a master's degree in International Law from Georgetown University Law Center, USA . In his new role, Chawla aims to strengthen economic ties, promote sustainable growth, and create new opportunities for collaboration among BRICS and BRICS Plus nations . His leadership will focus on reducing trade barriers, fostering innovation, and enhancing the global competitiveness of BRICS economies .



Foot notes:

- **Background:** Chawla brings decades of experience in legal advisory and strategic corporate governance to his new role, with expertise in international law and trade policy.
- **Leadership Focus:** As Chairman, Chawla aims to drive cross-border trade partnerships, reduce trade barriers, and promote innovation in key sectors like technology, agriculture, and manufacturing among BRICS nations.
- **BRICS Chamber's Role:** The BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry is a non-profit organization that fosters partnerships, trade, and economic cooperation among BRICS member countries, including Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- **Goals and Vision:** Chawla's vision is to strengthen economic ties, promote sustainable growth, and create new opportunities for collaboration among BRICS nations, positioning the Chamber as a global leader in trade and innovation.

9. Ashish Vachhani appointed as Additional Secretary of PMO

Ashish Vachhani, a 1997-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the Tamil Nadu cadre, has been appointed as Additional Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) as of May 13, 2025. Prior to this appointment, he served as Additional Secretary (Budget) in the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) under the Ministry

of Finance, where he played a significant role in formulating and executing the Union Budget . He also contributed to civil service training as a faculty member at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration from 2008 to 2012.

Foot notes:

- **Appointment:** Ashish Vachhani, a 1997-batch IAS officer from Tamil Nadu, has been appointed as Additional Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).
- **Background:** Vachhani was previously serving as Additional Secretary (Budget) in the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- **Replacement:** He will replace Arvind Shrivastava, a 1994-batch IAS officer from Karnataka, who was recently appointed as Revenue Secretary.
- **Tenure:** The appointment is on a lateral shift basis and will continue until the completion of his current deputation tenure or until further orders, whichever is earlier.



10. Padma Shri scientist Subbanna Ayyappan passed away

Dr. Subbanna Ayyappan, a distinguished aquaculture scientist and Padma Shri awardee, was found deceased in the Cauvery River near Srirangapatna, Karnataka, on May 10, 2025. At 70, he was the first non-crop scientist to lead the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), serving as its Director-General from 2010 to 2016. Ayyappan was instrumental in India's Blue Revolution, significantly enhancing fish production through scientific aquaculture practices. Preliminary investigations suggest the possibility of suicide, though authorities have not ruled out other causes, and a post-mortem examination is underway .



Foot notes:

- **Renowned Scientist:** Dr. Subbanna Ayyappan was a distinguished aquaculture scientist who played a pivotal role in India's Blue Revolution, advancing fisheries science and aquaculture development.
- **Investigation:** Preliminary investigations suggest that he may have died by suicide, but authorities are still investigating the exact cause of death.
- **Career Highlights:** Dr. Ayyappan held several key positions, including Director-General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Secretary of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE).

- **Awards and Recognition:** He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2022 for his significant contributions to the field of science and engineering, and was also recognized as one of the Asian Scientist 100 in 2023.



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