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# WEEKLY — Current Affairs

## NATIONAL NEWS

### India Launches National Biobank for Health Research

- **Launch and Purpose:** The National Biobank was launched on July 6, 2025, by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh at the CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB) in New Delhi.
- **Personalized Healthcare:** The biobank aims to enable personalized healthcare by generating high-resolution data that can power AI-driven diagnostics and gene-guided therapies. This will help doctors tailor treatments to an individual's genetic makeup, lifestyle, and environment.
- **India-Specific Health Challenges:** The biobank will help decode complex diseases like diabetes, cancer, and cardiovascular conditions, which are prevalent in India.
- **Technologies Used:** The biobank will utilize advanced technologies like genomic sequencing, CRISPR-based genome editing, AI, and machine learning to analyze data and identify genetic variants linked to diseases.

### India's Ranks 3rd Globally in FinTech Startup Funding

- **Global Top 3 Position:** India consistently holds the third position globally in FinTech startup funding, trailing only the United States and the United Kingdom.
- **Significant Funding Despite Decline:** While the overall funding in the Indian FinTech sector saw a decline (e.g., \$1.9 billion in 2024, down 33% from 2023, and \$889 million in H1 2025, down from H2 2024), its global ranking has remained strong.
- **Bengaluru as a Hub:** Bengaluru continues to be the leading city for FinTech funding in India, accounting for a significant portion of the total investments.
- **Dominance of Digital Lending:** Digital lending solutions have consistently attracted the largest share of FinTech funding in India, indicating a strong focus on financial inclusion and access to credit.

### Telangana Launches TGDeX India's First AI Data Infrastructure

- **India's First State-Led AI Digital Public Infrastructure:** Telangana has pioneered the launch of the Telangana Data Exchange (TGDeX), making it the first state in India to establish a state-led digital public infrastructure specifically for Artificial Intelligence.
- **Aims to Boost AI Innovation:** TGDeX is designed to address key challenges in AI development, such as limited access to clean, usable datasets, the need for subsidized compute infrastructure (including GPU resources), and pathways to scale AI solutions beyond proof-of-concept.
- **Collaborative Ecosystem:** The platform fosters collaboration between government departments, startups, industry players, research institutions, and academia. It will provide a secure, scalable environment for accessing high-quality, "AI-ready" datasets and open-source AI/ML models.

- **Strategic Partnerships:** Developed by the Emerging Technologies Wing of Telangana's ITE&C department, TGDeX has received strategic and technical support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency

Foot notes:

#### About Telangana-

- **Chief Minister:** Revanth Reddy
- **Governor:** Jishnu Dev Varma
- **Capital:** Hyderabad

#### Haryana to Develop Asia's Largest Jungle Safari in Aravalli Hills

- **Gigantic 10,000-acre park:** The safari will span roughly 10,000 acres across Gurugram and Nuh districts, making it five times larger than the biggest curated safari outside Africa (Sharjah Safari)
- **Diverse zones & attractions:** It will include four big-cat enclosures, a herpetarium, aviary, herbivore section, exotic animal zone, an underwater world, multiple biomes (equatorial, tropical, coastal, desert), botanical gardens, nature trails, and visitor facilities
- **Eco-friendly & conservation focus:** Designed with sustainable infrastructure and modern eco-tourism practices, the project aims to conserve the rich biodiversity of the Aravallis, home to over 180 bird species, 15 mammal species, 29 reptile/aquatic species, and 57 butterfly species

#### Arthunkal Police Station becomes first in India to achieve IS/ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System Certification

- **First in India:** Arthunkal Police Station in Kerala has become the first police station in India to receive the IS/ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System Certification.
- **Certification Scope:** The certification covers all aspects of the police station's operations, including crime investigation, law and order maintenance, public service delivery, and administrative functions.
- **Improved Service:** This achievement signifies the station's commitment to delivering high-quality, efficient, and citizen-centric services.
- **Rigorous Audit:** The station underwent a stringent audit process to meet the international standards set by ISO 9001:2015 for quality management.
- **Benchmark for Others:** This recognition sets a new benchmark for police stations across India, encouraging others to adopt similar quality management systems for better public service.

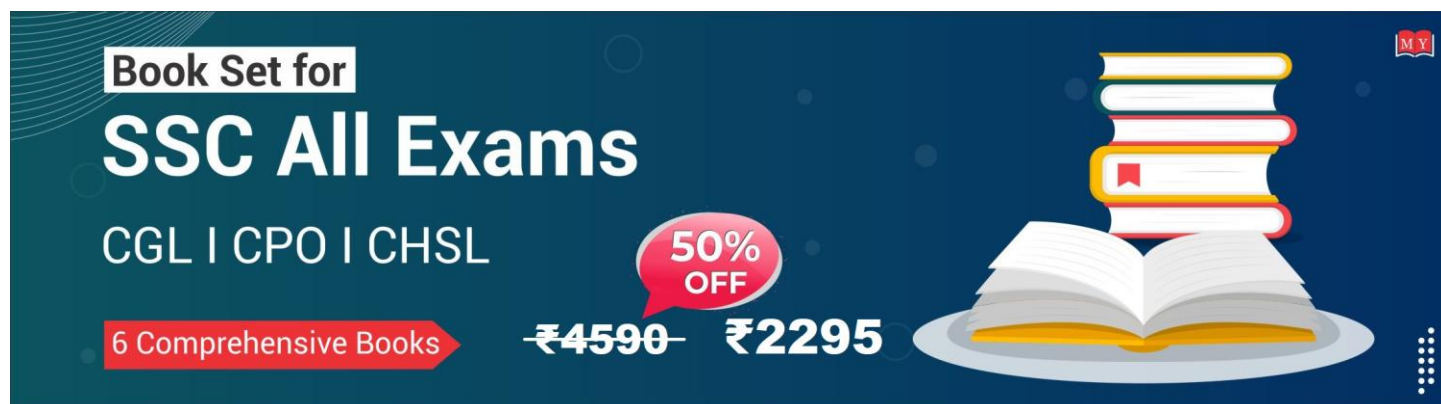
#### Maharashtra Government Declares Ganeshotsav as State Festival

- **Official Recognition:** The Maharashtra government officially declared the 10-day Ganeshotsav as the "Maharashtra State Festival" on Thursday, July 10, 2025.

- **Cultural Significance:** This declaration recognizes Ganeshotsav as a symbol of Maharashtra's cultural pride, identity, social unity, and nationalism, with roots dating back to Lokmanya Tilak's efforts in 1893.
- **Government Support:** The state government has pledged full support, including financial aid, police security, and infrastructure, for grand celebrations across the state, particularly in major cities like Mumbai and Pune.
- **POP Idols Permitted:** Following a comprehensive study by the Kakodkar Committee, restrictions on the making, displaying, and selling of Plaster of Paris (POP) idols have been lifted, ensuring traditional celebrations can continue.
- **Promotion and Themes:** The government aims to promote the festival nationally and internationally. Ganesh mandals are encouraged to incorporate themes honoring armed forces (like "Operation Sindoor"), social initiatives, and national achievements.

**Foot notes:****About Maharashtra-**

- **Capital:** Mumbai
- **Chief Minister:** Devendra Fadnavis
- **Governor:** C. P. Radhakrishnan



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**Carnac Bridge Renamed as Sindoor in Mumbai**

- **New Name:** The newly constructed bridge in South Mumbai, replacing the old Carnac Bridge, has been named "Sindoor Bridge."
- **Colonial Legacy:** The renaming aims to break from colonial ties, as the original bridge was named after James Rivett Carnac, a British governor accused of injustices against Indian rulers.
- **Tribute to "Operation Sindoor":** The new name "Sindoor" is a tribute to "Operation Sindoor," a recent Indian military operation that precisely targeted terrorist bases across the border.
- **Improved Connectivity:** The new bridge, with four vehicular lanes, is expected to significantly ease traffic flow and congestion in South Mumbai, connecting key commercial areas.



- **Inauguration:** Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated the bridge on Thursday, July 10, 2025.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Jennifer Geerlings-Simons Becomes Suriname's First Woman President

- **Historic Election:** Jennifer Geerlings-Simons was elected as Suriname's first woman president on July 6, 2025, marking a significant milestone in the country's history. She will be sworn into office on July 16.
- **Party Affiliation:** Geerlings-Simons represents the National Democratic Party (NDP), which won 18 of the 51 seats in the National Assembly. The party formed an alliance with five other parties, securing a two-thirds majority needed to claim the presidency. Background: The 71-year-old former opposition leader and doctor has previously served as the chairperson of the National Assembly.

### Russia 1st Country to officially Recognise Taliban Govt in Afghanistan

- **First Official Recognition:** Russia has become the first nation to formally recognize the Taliban's leadership in Afghanistan since their takeover in August 2021.
- **Removal from Banned List:** This recognition follows Moscow's decision in April 2025 to remove the Taliban from its list of banned organizations.
- **Diplomatic Credentials Accepted:** The Russian Foreign Ministry confirmed receiving credentials from Afghanistan's new Ambassador Gul Hassan Hassan, signifying official acceptance of the Taliban's diplomatic representation.
- **Strategic & Economic Interests:** The move is largely driven by Russia's strategic interests in Afghanistan's stability, counter-terrorism efforts (particularly against ISIS-K), and potential economic cooperation in areas like energy and trade.

#### Foot notes:

##### About Russia-

- **Prime Minister:** Mikhail Mishustin
- **Capital:** Moscow
- **Currency:** Russian Ruble

### Indonesia will host Artistic Gymnastics World Championships 2025

- **Historic First:** Indonesia will make history by becoming the first Southeast Asian nation to host the Artistic Gymnastics World Championships.
- **Dates and Venue:** The 53rd edition of the championships will take place from October 19 to 25, 2025, at the Indonesia Arena in Senayan, Jakarta.
- **Record Participation:** The event is set to be the largest to date, with a record 86 countries and regions already registered, surpassing the usual attendance of around 70.

- **Individual Focus:** As a post-Olympic year championship, the event will focus on individual competitions across ten apparatus titles (six for men and four for women), crowning new men's and women's All-Around champions.
- **Catalyst for Development:** Hosting this prestigious event is seen as a significant opportunity for Indonesia to boost the development of gymnastics within the country and inspire a new generation of athletes.



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### Sabih Khan Appointed as Apple's Next COO

- **Successor to Jeff Williams:** Sabih Khan has been officially appointed as Apple's new Chief Operating Officer, taking over from the outgoing Jeff Williams as part of a long-planned succession.
- **Long-standing Apple Veteran:** Khan has been with Apple for three decades, joining in 1995. He has steadily risen through the ranks, most recently serving as Senior Vice President of Operations since 2019.
- **Master of Supply Chain:** He is widely recognized as a central architect of Apple's global supply chain, overseeing critical functions like planning, procurement, manufacturing, logistics, and product fulfillment.

### India Becomes World's 4th Largest Biofuel Consumer in 2024

- **Significant Jump in Consumption:** India's biofuel consumption saw a substantial 40% year-on-year increase in 2024, reaching 77 thousand barrels of oil equivalent per day (kbbloe/d).
- **Surpassing China:** For the second consecutive year, India outpaced China in biofuel consumption, becoming the fourth-largest user globally, as per the Statistical Review of World Energy 2025.
- **Policy Driven Growth:** This growth is largely attributed to the Indian government's supportive policies, particularly the Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP), which aims for 20% ethanol blending in petrol by 2025-26.

- **Energy Security & Environmental Benefits:** The increased adoption of biofuels is a key part of India's strategy to enhance energy security by reducing reliance on crude oil imports and to mitigate climate change by lowering greenhouse gas emissions.

### Trump appoints transport secretary Sean Duffy as interim Nasa Chief

- **Interim Appointment:** Sean Duffy, who currently serves as the Secretary of Transportation, has been named the interim administrator of NASA.
- **Withdrawal of Previous Nominee:** This appointment follows Trump's withdrawal of his earlier choice for NASA chief, tech billionaire Jared Isaacman, in late May. The withdrawal was reportedly due to Isaacman's "prior associations" and close ties to Elon Musk.
- **Praise from President Trump:** Trump praised Duffy's work in transportation, highlighting his efforts in improving air traffic control systems and rebuilding roads and bridges, stating he will be a "fantastic leader" for NASA.

## BANKING NEWS

### World Bank ranks India 4th among the world's Most Equal Societies

- **Ranking and Gini Index:** India has secured the 4th position globally in terms of income equality, with a Gini Index score of 25.5. This places India behind only the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, and Belarus.
- **Significant Progress:** India's Gini Index score has improved from 28.8 in 2011 to 25.5, indicating a notable reduction in income inequality over the years. This progress is attributed to the government's focus on poverty reduction, financial inclusion, and direct welfare support.
- **Poverty Reduction:** Between 2011 and 2023, India lifted 171 million people out of extreme poverty, resulting in a significant decline in the national poverty rate from 16.2% to 2.3%.
- **Comparison with Other Countries:** India's Gini Index score is better than that of many advanced economies, including China (35.7) and the United States (41.8), as well as all G7 and G20 nations.

#### Foot notes:

##### About World Bank-

- **CFO:** Anshula Kant
- **Headquarters:** Washington
- **Founded:** 1944

### Mr Nehru Singh B to take charge as Chief Risk Officer of South Indian Bank

- **Appointment:** Mr. Nehru Singh B is appointed as the General Manager and Chief Risk Officer of South Indian Bank, as per the bank's official website.

- **Current Role:** Although specific details about his current role aren't available, his appointment as Chief Risk Officer indicates his expertise in risk management.
- **Responsibilities:** As Chief Risk Officer, Mr. Nehru Singh B will oversee and manage various risks associated with the bank's operations, including credit, market, and operational risks.
- **South Indian Bank Overview:** South Indian Bank is a reputable bank that has received several awards, including the UiPath Automation Excellence Award and the Best MSME Bank Award.

**Foot notes:****About South Indian Bank-**


- **Founded:** 1929
- **Headquarters:** Thrissur
- **Chairman:** V J Kurian

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**Vipan Singh joins as Head Audit & Inspection Vertical of UBI**

- **Vast Banking Experience:** He brings over 28 years of service across various divisions of Union Bank—Branch Banking, Regional Offices, Zonal Offices, and Corporate Office
- **Leadership in Jaipur Zone:** He previously served as the Head of the Jaipur Zone, overseeing regional operations, compliance, and customer engagement
- **Current Designation:** As of 9 July 2025, he has been designated as General Manager (Empaneled Chief General Manager) and now leads the Audit & Inspection Vertical at Union Bank of India
- **Academic Credentials:** He holds a Master's degree in Business Administration and is a Certified Associate of Indian Institute of Bankers (CAIIB)
- **Global Executive Training:** He has completed executive programs on Revenue Management and Dynamic Pricing at IIM Ahmedabad, a Leadership Development Program spanning Switzerland, Germany, and France, as well as a Focused Leadership Development Program at ISB Hyderabad.

**Foot notes:****About UBI-**

- **Managing Director & CEO:** Ashish Pandey



- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Founded:** 1919

### Ujjivan Small Finance Bank appoints Head of Emerging Business

- **New Role:** Umesh Arora has been appointed as the Head of Emerging Business at Ujjivan Small Finance Bank.
- **Effective Date:** His appointment became effective on July 10, 2025.
- **Extensive Experience:** He brings over 25 years of experience in the banking and financial services sector, having held senior leadership roles in retail lending, credit, and asset businesses.
- **Previous Associations:** Arora has worked with reputed institutions like Axis Bank, IDBI Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, and Utkarsh Small Finance Bank.
- **Strong Qualifications:** He holds an MBA from IIM Kozhikode, an Advanced certification in Digital Transformation from IIM Lucknow, is a CAIIB, and a B.Com (Hons.) graduate from Hansraj College, Delhi University.

#### Foot notes:

#### About Ujjivan Small Finance Bank-

- **MD & CEO:** Sanjeev Nautiyal
- **Headquarters:** Bengaluru
- **Founded:** 2017

## SPORTS NEWS

### Harvinder Singh Wins Gold in Recurve Men's Open at Asian Para-Archery Championships

- **Double Gold Medalist:** Harvinder Singh won two gold medals at the championships, one in the Recurve Men's Open and another in the Recurve Open Mixed Team event with teammate Bhawna.
- **New Competition Record:** Singh set a new competition record and personal best score of 663 points in the Recurve Men's qualifying round, showcasing his exceptional skill.
- **Dominant Performance:** In the Recurve Men's Open final, Singh outclassed Thailand's Hanreuchai Netsiri with a commanding 7-1 victory, demonstrating his dominance in the sport.
- **India's Medal Haul:** Singh's efforts contributed significantly to India's second-place finish in the overall medal standings, with a total of nine medals - three gold, three silver, and three bronze.

### India secures AFC Women's Asian Cup Qualification for the first time

- **Historic Qualification:** India qualified for the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026 for the first time through the qualification route, marking a significant milestone in Indian women's football.
- **Winning Performance:** The Indian women's team defeated hosts Thailand 2-1 in the final group match, with Sangita Basfore scoring both goals, to top Group B with a perfect record of four wins from four matches.
- **Perfect Record:** India's campaign included impressive wins against Mongolia (13-0), Timor Leste (4-0), and Iraq (5-0), showcasing the team's growing strength in women's football.
- **Tournament Details:** The 2026 AFC Women's Asian Cup will be held in Australia, and India's qualification marks their first appearance since 2022, when they participated as hosts but withdrew due to a COVID-19 outbreak.

### Boxer Sakshi Wins India's First Gold at Second World Boxing Cup


- **First Gold for India:** Sakshi secured India's inaugural gold medal at the Second World Boxing Cup in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- **Dominant Performance:** She achieved a unanimous 5-0 decision victory in the women's 54kg final against Yoseline Perez of the USA, showcasing her attacking style, speed, and sharp combinations.
- **Two-Time Youth World Champion:** Sakshi's win at the World Boxing Cup adds to her impressive record, as she is also a two-time youth world champion.
- **Part of Historic Indian Haul:** Her gold contributed to India's best-ever medal haul at the World Boxing Cup in Astana, with the contingent finishing with 11 medals (3 gold, 5 silver, 3 bronze).
- **Significant Return to Form:** This victory marks a strong return to form for the 24-year-old from Bhiwani, Haryana, who had been working to regain her elite-level performance.

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### Aryaveer Dewan Won U17 Title at Asian Junior Squash Championships

- Ends 13-Year Drought: Aryaveer Dewan's victory in the U17 boys' category ended India's 13-year wait for a gold medal in this specific division at the Asian Junior Squash Championships.
- Dominant Final Performance: He defeated the defending champion, Nickhileswar Moganasundharam of Malaysia, in straight games (11-5, 11-8, 11-3), showcasing a strong and confident performance.
- Part of India's Strong Showing: His gold medal contributed significantly to India's best-ever medal haul at the 32nd Asian Junior Individual Championships 2025, where India clinched two golds, two silvers, and three bronze medals.
- Team India's Success: Along with Aryaveer, Anahat Singh also secured a gold medal in the Girls Under 19 category, further highlighting India's rising talent in junior squash.

### **Magnus Carlsen Wins SuperUnited Chess 2025**

- Dominant Victory: Magnus Carlsen won the SuperUnited Rapid & Blitz 2025 in Zagreb, Croatia, securing the title with a round to spare.
- Blitz Prowess: Despite starting the rapid section in third place, Carlsen showcased exceptional form in the blitz portion, ultimately clinching the overall victory.
- Consistency Pays Off: Carlsen finished with a total of 22.5/36 points, maintaining a significant lead over his competitors.
- Sixth Consecutive Win: This win marked Carlsen's sixth straight tournament victory in 2025 and his tenth Grand Chess Tour rapid and blitz title out of twelve appearances.
- Podium Finish for Gukesh: Indian World Champion D. Gukesh, who initially led the rapid section, finished impressively in third place overall.

### **India Finish 3rd At World Police and Fire Games 2025**

- Impressive Overall Performance: India secured a remarkable third position in the overall medal tally at the World Police and Fire Games 2025 held in Birmingham, Alabama, USA.
- Significant Medal Haul: The Indian contingent amassed a total of 588 medals (some sources state 560), including 280 gold, 178 silver, and 130 bronze, showcasing exceptional athletic prowess across various disciplines.
- Key Contributors: Personnel from various Indian police and paramilitary forces, including the Border Security Force (BSF) and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), and notably the Uttar Pradesh Police, were major contributors to the medal count.
- UP Police's Outstanding Contribution: The Uttar Pradesh Police contingent alone secured a record 95 medals, the highest by any Indian unit, including 45 gold, highlighting their strong performance in disciplines like athletics, swimming, wrestling, and more.

### **Lando Norris Steals The Win At British Grand Prix**

- **Home Soil Triumph:** Lando Norris secured his first-ever win at his home race, the British Grand Prix, in front of a cheering Silverstone crowd, making a long-held dream come true.
- **Dramatic Wet-Dry Conditions:** The race was highly eventful, with mixed wet and dry conditions creating chaos, multiple safety car periods, and strategic challenges for all drivers.
- **Capitalized on Opportunities:** Norris, starting third, expertly navigated the changing conditions, taking advantage of a spin by Max Verstappen and a controversial 10-second penalty for his teammate Oscar Piastri to seize the lead.
- **McLaren 1-2 Finish:** The victory also marked a strong 1-2 finish for McLaren, with Oscar Piastri coming in second despite his penalty, showcasing the team's strong performance.
- **Championship Gap Narrowed:** Norris's win significantly narrowed the championship gap to his teammate Oscar Piastri, making the title fight even more intense with 12 races remaining in the season.

### **Spinner Deepti Sharma moves to 2nd spot in ICC Women's T20 ranking**

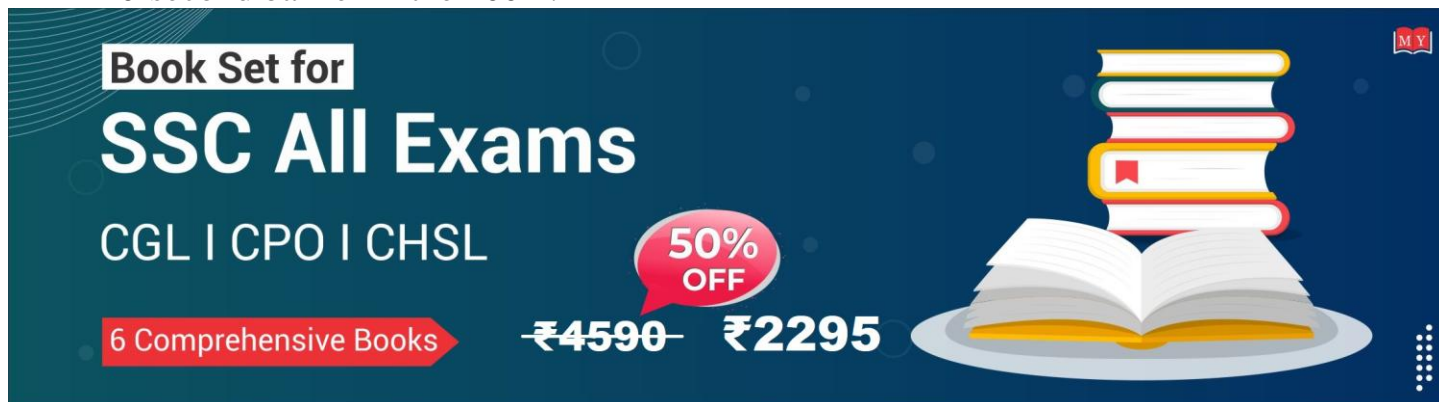
- **Career-Best Ranking:** Deepti Sharma has climbed to her career-best second position in the ICC Women's T20I Bowling Rankings.
- **Close to Top Spot:** She is now just 8 rating points behind Pakistan's Sadia Iqbal, who holds the top spot, putting her on the cusp of becoming the world's No. 1 T20I bowler for the first time.
- **Performance Against England:** This significant rise comes after her impressive performance, including a three-wicket haul, in the ongoing five-match T20I series against England.
- **Consistent Performer:** Deepti has consistently been ranked within the top 10 T20I bowlers for most of the past six years, showcasing her reliability and skill.
- **All-Rounder Impact:** As a prominent all-rounder, her rise in bowling rankings further highlights her overall value to the Indian team in T20 Internationals.

### **Animesh Kujur breaks invisible barrier with new 100m record**

- **New National Record:** Animesh Kujur set a new national record in the men's 100m, clocking an impressive 10.18 seconds.
- **First Indian under 10.2s:** This performance makes him the first Indian athlete to run the 100m sprint in under 10.2 seconds, breaking a significant "invisible barrier" in Indian athletics.
- **Location of Achievement:** The record was set at the Dromia International Sprint and Relays Meeting 2025 in Vari, Greece, on July 5, 2025.



- **Triple National Record Holder:** Kujur now holds national records in three events: the 100m (10.18s), 200m (20.32s), and is also part of the 4x100m relay national record team (38.69s).
- **Future Aspirations:** The 22-year-old sprinter is confident of further improving his timings, with his ultimate goal being to break the 10-second barrier in the 100m and the 20-second barrier in the 200m.



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## AWARD NEWS

### Sarankumar Limbale Wins Chintha Raveendran Award 2025

- **Award Recipient:** Renowned Marathi writer and literary critic Sarankumar (Sharankumar) Limbale has been honored with the prestigious Chintha Raveendran Award 2025
- **Award Benefits:** The accolade includes a ₹50,000 cash prize, a crafted sculpture (silpam), and a certificate of recognition .
- **Presentation Ceremony:** The award will be formally presented on July 26, 2025, at 10 AM, during the memorial event for Chintha Raveendran at the K.P. Keshavamani Hall in Kozhikode, Kerala Selection Committee: The jury included notable literary figures such as K. Sachidanandan, K.C. Narayanan, and M.P. Surendran, under the coordination of N.K. Ravindran from the Chintha Raveendran Foundation
- **Event Theme & Host:** The memorial speech titled “Manuvadi Hindutva: Samskaravum Charitravum Tulyavakasyalum Polich Ezuthukappetumpol” (“Manuvadi Hindutva: Culture, History, and Equal Rights”) will be delivered by Subhashini Ali, with N.S. Madhavan presiding over the ceremony .

### Telangana Wins National Award for Battery Manufacturing

- **Award Received:** Telangana secured the India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA) Industry Excellence Award 2025 in the "State Leadership – Battery Manufacturing" category.
- **Award Ceremony:** The award was presented on July 10, 2025, during the 11th India Energy Storage Week (IESW) in New Delhi.
- **Recognition:** The award acknowledges Telangana's proactive efforts in fostering a robust ecosystem for battery production and new energy technologies.

- **Supportive Policies:** This achievement is attributed to the state's forward-thinking policies, such as the Telangana EV and Energy Storage Policy and the Telangana Renewable Energy Policy.
- **Growth Hub:** Telangana has emerged as a significant hub for advanced energy manufacturing, attracting major investments and establishing a comprehensive supply chain for battery and EV components.

**Foot notes:****About Telangana-**

- **Capital:** Hyderabad
- **Chief minister:** Revanth Reddy
- **Governor:** Jishnu Dev Varma

## APPOINTMENT & PERSON IN NEWS

### Priya Nair to Take Over as CEO and MD of HUL

- **Historic Appointment:** Priya Nair will become the first woman CEO and MD of Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) in its 92-year history.
- **Effective Date:** She will assume the role of CEO and MD from August 1, 2025, for a five-year term.
- **Successor to Rohit Jawa:** She will replace Rohit Jawa, who will step down on July 31, 2025, after a two-year tenure.
- **Extensive HUL/Unilever Experience:** Nair is a veteran of Unilever, having joined HUL in 1995. She has held diverse leadership roles across home care, beauty & wellbeing, and personal care, both in India and globally, most recently as President, Beauty & Wellbeing, Unilever.
- **Board Membership:** She will also join the HUL Board and continue to be a member of the Unilever Leadership Executive (ULE).

**Foot notes:****About HUL-**

- **CEO and MD:** Priya Nair
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Founded:** 1933

### ICC appoints Sanjog Gupta as its new CEO

- **Appointment:** Sanjog Gupta has been appointed as the new CEO of the ICC, effective July 7, 2025, becoming the seventh CEO in the history of the global governing body. He succeeds Geoff Allardice.
- **Background:** Gupta brings over two decades of experience in the sports and media industry. He currently serves as CEO of Sports & Live Experiences at JioStar and has held multiple leadership roles in content, programming, and strategy.

- **Key Objectives:** Gupta's goals include expanding cricket's global presence, establishing the sport in the Olympics, and leveraging technology to enhance the fan experience. He aims to work closely with ICC Member Boards to build on the sport's strong foundations.
- **Global Recruitment Process:** Gupta's appointment follows a global recruitment process launched by the ICC in March, which attracted over 2,500 applications from candidates across 25 countries. The Nominations Committee unanimously recommended Gupta for the role.

#### Foot notes:

#### About ICC-

- **Chairman:** Jay Shah
- **Headquarters:** Dubai
- **Founded:** 1909

### Sukanya Sonowal Becomes Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassador

- **Historic Achievement:** Sukanya Sonowal, a fourth-year BTech student in Biosciences and Bioengineering at IIT Guwahati, has been selected as the Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassador, a leadership position in the Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassadors Network (CYPAN) Executive Committee.
- **Leadership Role:** Sukanya will serve as Lead - Communications & Public Relations for the 2025-2027 term, promoting peace, respect, and understanding among young people across 56 Commonwealth countries.
- **Background:** Sukanya is from Lakhimpur district in Assam and has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills through her involvement in various initiatives, including STEMvibe, a STEM outreach program she co-founded, and The Integral Cup, a national mathematics competition.
- **Selection Process:** Sukanya was chosen after a rigorous three-stage selection process, which included an initial application and two rounds of interviews, evaluating her commitment to peacebuilding, community service, and leadership experience.

### Sahil Kini Named New CEO of RBI Innovation Hub

- **Appointment:** Sahil Kini has been appointed as the new CEO of the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), effective July 2, 2025. He succeeds Rajesh Bansal, who completed his four-year term in April 2025.
- **Background:** Kini is the co-founder of Setu, a Bengaluru-based API FinTech that was acquired by Pine Labs in 2022. He has also worked with McKinsey, Aspada Investments, and Titan Industries, showcasing his expertise in finance and technology.
- **Key Objectives:** As CEO, Kini will drive innovation in the finance sector, build next-level leadership, shape organizational excellence, and focus on research and execution. He will also prioritize consumer protection, financial inclusion, and public engagement.

- **RBIH's Role:** The Reserve Bank Innovation Hub is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India, established to promote innovation in financial services and support public-private collaboration.

**Foot notes:**

**About RBI-**

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Established:** 1935
- **Governor:** Sanjay Malhotra

### **Datania Dineshbhai Ramjibhai appointed as Non-Official Director of HMT Ltd**

- **Appointed as Non-Official Director:** Datania Dineshbhai Ramjibhai has been appointed to the Board of Directors of HMT Limited as a Non-Official Director.
- **Three-Year Term:** His tenure is set for a period of three years, starting from the date his appointment is officially notified, or until further orders are issued, whichever occurs earlier.
- **Approval by Competent Authority:** The appointment has been approved by the Competent Authority of HMT Ltd.
- **Compliance with Regulations:** HMT Ltd is in the process of completing all necessary appointment formalities in accordance with the Companies Act, 2013, and SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

**Foot notes:**

**About HMT-**

- **Chairman & MD:** S. Girish Kumar
- **Headquarters:** Bangalore
- **Founded:** 1953

### **Aastha Lakshmi appointed as Chief Vigilance Officer , New Delhi Municipal Council**

- **New Chief Vigilance Officer:** Aastha Lakshmi has been appointed as the Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC).
- **IRS Officer:** She is an officer of the Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax) from the 2008 batch.
- **Initial Three-Year Term:** Her appointment is for an initial period of three years.
- **Focus on Transparency and Ethics:** As CVO, her role will involve ensuring institutional transparency, promoting ethical governance, and strengthening anti-corruption vigilance mechanisms within the NDMC.
- **Key Role in Civic Body:** The CVO plays a crucial role in preventing and addressing corruption and malpractices within a public body like the NDMC, which provides essential civic services in the national capital.



### Priyanka Kakkar appointed Co-President of BRICS CCI Women's Wing


- **Key Appointment:** Priyanka Kakkar, the chief spokesperson of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), has been appointed as the Co-President of the BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Women's Wing.
- **Two-Year Term:** Her appointment is for a two-year period, specifically for the financial years 2025 to 2027.
- **Recognition of Leadership:** The BRICS CCI cited her "remarkable leadership, passion for inclusivity, and steadfast commitment to empowering women" as the reasons for this significant appointment.
- **Role in Women's Empowerment:** In her new role, she will be instrumental in guiding the strategic direction of the Women's Wing, mentoring emerging women leaders, and promoting an equitable and opportunity-driven ecosystem across BRICS+ nations.
- **AAP's Growing Global Presence:** This appointment marks a significant milestone for the Aam Aadmi Party, as it now gains representation at a prominent multilateral economic platform like BRICS.

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### Hardeep Singh Brar named President & CEO of BMW India

- **New Leadership Role:** Hardeep Singh Brar has been appointed as the President and Chief Executive Officer of BMW Group India, effective September 1, 2025.
- **Successor to Vikram Pawah:** He will be taking over from Vikram Pawah, who is moving to lead BMW Group Australia and New Zealand as CEO.
- **Extensive Automotive Background:** Brar brings over 30 years of experience in the Indian automotive industry, having held senior leadership roles at various major brands including Kia India (most recently as Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing), Maruti-Suzuki, Volkswagen, General Motors, and Nissan.
- **Strategic Appointment for India:** His appointment underscores India's importance as one of the fastest-growing markets for BMW Group, and his deep understanding of the local industry is expected to strengthen BMW's operations.

- **Educational Background:** He holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology, Punjab, and is an alumnus of Harvard Business School's Senior Executive Leadership Program.

### COAI reappoints Abhijit Kishore as Chairperson

- **Re-election for FY 2025-26:** Abhijit Kishore, Chief Operating Officer of Vodafone Idea, has been re-elected as the Chairperson of the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) for the fiscal year 2025-26.
- **Rahul Vatts as Vice Chairperson:** Rahul Vatts, Chief Regulatory Officer of Bharti Airtel, will serve as the Vice Chairperson for the same term.
- **Experienced Leadership:** Kishore brings over three decades of experience in the Indian telecom industry, spanning various functions, organizations, and geographies.
- **Focus on 5G and Digital Connectivity:** COAI expresses optimism about the opportunities with 5G and allied technologies, trusting that the leadership will drive the association and sector's growth.
- **Industry Representation:** COAI is a key industry body for the digital communications sector in India, with members including Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone Idea.

### Eternal appoints Aditya Mangla as CEO

- **New CEO for Food Delivery Business:** Eternal (formerly Zomato), has appointed Aditya Mangla as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of its food ordering and delivery business.
- **Successor to Rakesh Ranjan:** Mangla takes over from Rakesh Ranjan, who stepped down from the role after completing his two-year tenure in April.
- **Internal Elevation & Experience:** Mangla has been with Eternal since March 2021, holding multiple leadership roles within the food delivery business, including head of supply and head of customer experience, making this an internal promotion.
- **Strategic Shift in Leadership:** Eternal founder and CEO Deepinder Goyal emphasized that this appointment signals a need for leaders who focus on building the right culture and taking hard calls, indicating a strategic shift in the company's approach.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Global Energy Independence Day observed on 10th July

- **Date and Purpose:** Global Energy Independence Day is observed annually on July 10th to raise awareness about the urgent need to transition from fossil fuels to sustainable, renewable energy sources.
- **Focus on Renewables:** The day highlights the importance of alternative energy forms like solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal power, encouraging individuals, communities, and governments to embrace them.

- **Historical Context:** The concept of energy independence gained prominence during the 1970s oil crisis. The day was established by Michael D. Antonovich in 2005, and it coincides with the birthday of renowned inventor Nikola Tesla (July 10, 1856), who made significant contributions to electric power.
- **Environmental and Economic Benefits:** Achieving energy independence through renewables helps combat climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhances energy security.

### World Population Day observed on 11th July

- **Date and Origin:** Celebrated every year on July 11th, established in 1989 by the UN Development Programme, inspired by "Five Billion Day" on July 11, 1987.
- **Purpose:** Aims to raise global awareness about population issues, including their connections to sustainable development and the environment.
- **Key Issues:** Focuses on topics like family planning, gender equality, maternal health, human rights, and the challenges of population growth and decline.
- **2025 Theme:** "Empowering young people to create the families they want in a fair and hopeful world," emphasizing youth empowerment and reproductive rights.
- **Global Impact:** Serves as a platform for governments, organizations, and individuals to discuss and implement solutions for a sustainable and equitable future.



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## OBITUARY NEWS

### Former MP and father of MoS Kirti Vardhan Singh passed away

- **Passed Away:** Kunwar Anand Singh passed away at the age of 87 in Lucknow due to sudden health deterioration. He was rushed to the hospital but was declared dead.
- **Political Legacy:** Singh was a four-time MP from Gonda and held significant influence in eastern Uttar Pradesh politics. He was known as the "UP Tiger" due to his strong presence in the region.
- **Early Life and Education:** Born on January 4, 1939, Singh hailed from the erstwhile royal family of Mankapur. He completed his schooling at Colvin Taluqedar College in Lucknow and earned a BSc in Agriculture from the Agriculture Institute in Prayagraj.

- **Political Career:** Singh entered politics after his father's death and was elected to the Uttar Pradesh Assembly in 1964, 1967, and 1969.

### **Nigeria Football Legend Peter Rufai passed away**

- Peter Rufai, the legendary Nigerian goalkeeper, passed away on July 3, 2025, in Lagos at the age of 61, after battling an illness.
- **Key Figure in Golden Era:** He was a central figure in Nigerian football's "golden era" of the 1990s, serving as the first-choice goalkeeper for the Super Eagles.
- **AFCON Winner & World Cup Star:** Rufai was a member of the squad that won the 1994 Africa Cup of Nations and represented Nigeria at two FIFA World Cups, USA '94 and France '98.
- **Over 60 International Caps:** Affectionately known as "Dodomayana," he earned over 60 caps for the Nigerian national team, making him one of the most celebrated goalkeepers in the country's history.

### **Former HUL Chairman SM Datta passed away**

- Susim Mukul (S.M.) Datta, a former chairman of Hindustan Unilever (HUL), passed away in Mumbai at the age of 89 on Saturday, July 5, 2025.
- He was widely known as the "merger magician" for spearheading major mergers and acquisitions during his tenure, significantly expanding HUL's portfolio.
- Datta oversaw the landmark merger of Tata Oil Mills Company (TOMCO) with HUL in 1994, and also led acquisitions of brands like Kissan, Brooke Bond, and Lipton, diversifying HUL into the foods segment.
- Datta served as Chairman of Hindustan Lever Limited (HLL, now HUL) and all Unilever companies in India and Nepal from 1990 to 1996, having started his career as a management trainee with HUL in 1956.

### **International Umpire Bismillah Jan Shinwari passed away**

- International cricket umpire Bismillah Jan Shinwari, from Afghanistan, passed away on July 8, 2025, at the age of 41.
- Reports indicate he died due to complications following weight loss surgery he underwent in Pakistan.
- Shinwari was a respected member of the ICC International Panel of Umpires, having officiated in 25 One Day Internationals (ODIs) and 21 Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is) during his career.
- He made his international umpiring debut in December 2017 in a match between Afghanistan and Ireland in Sharjah.

### **Veteran Socialist Leader Charupara Ravi passed away**



- **Dedicated Socialist:** He was a lifelong socialist, deeply influenced by the ideologies of leaders like Jayaprakash Narayan, Ram Manohar Lohia, and Mahatma Gandhi, and began his political career at 18 with the Samyukta Socialist Party.
- **Prominent Trade Unionist:** Ravi was a significant figure in the trade union movement, particularly in the plantation sector, leading numerous agitations for workers' rights, including those for minimum wages by Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS). He also served as the founding president of the Voice of Mathrubhumi Employees.
- **Emergency Resistance:** He actively opposed the Emergency period, leading to his arrest and four months of imprisonment, where he endured police brutality.

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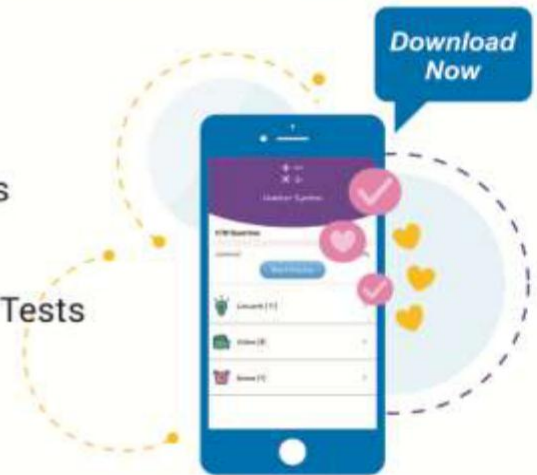
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