

THE DAILY GK DOSE

MAJOR ABHILASHA BARAK NAMED UN MILITARY GENDER ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

- **Historic Achievement:** She is the first Indian woman peacekeeper to receive the prestigious UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award (specifically for her exceptional work with the UN Mission in South Sudan, UNMISS).
- **Champion for Gender Equality:** Honored for actively integrating gender perspectives into military operations, encouraging local women's participation in peace processes, and enhancing the safety of vulnerable communities.
- **Inspirational Leadership:** Recognized directly by the UN leadership for her dedication to promoting the role of women in peacekeeping and serving as a powerful role model for women worldwide.

KUMBHALGARH FORT RECOGNIZED AS WORLD'S SECOND LONGEST CONTINUOUS WALL BY UNESCO

- **Global Distinction:** A recent UNESCO World Heritage Convention survey officially designated its massive perimeter wall as the second-longest continuous surviving wall in the world, trailing only the Great Wall of China.
- **Architectural Marvel:** Built in the 15th century by Rana Kumbha of Mewar along the rugged Aravalli Hills in Rajasthan, the wall spans an incredible 36 kilometers and features advanced medieval military design.
- **Heritage Status:** While the fort has been a UNESCO World

Heritage Site since 2013 (as part of the Hill Forts of Rajasthan group), this specific global ranking highlights its engineering scale and its moniker as "The Great Wall of India.

KARNATAKA GRAMEENA BANK RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING APY PERFORMANCE



- **Top-Tier Performance:** The bank registered a phenomenal 142% achievement level by enrolling 2,49,185 Atal Pension Yojana (APY) accounts, significantly exceeding the target of 1,75,500 set by the government.
- **National Recognition:** For this exceptional milestone, the bank was conferred with the prestigious National Award by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) in New Delhi.
- **State Leader:** With this performance, Karnataka Grameena Bank clinched the highest enrollment ranking among all competing banks across the state of Karnataka, advancing financial inclusion for the unorganized sector.

Footnotes: KGB's Chairman: Sri Shrikant M Bhandiwad, HQ: Karnataka, Estd: 2025

IMPORTANT FACTS

MOST ABUNDANT ELEMENTS FOUND IN EARTH'S CRUST

TRICK: "OLD SILLY ALIENS FEAR CATS"

- **O ⇒ Oxygen (46%) – Non-metal**
- **Si ⇒ Silicon (28%) – Non-metal / Metalloid**
- **Al ⇒ Aluminium (8%) – Metal**
- **Fe ⇒ Iron (6%) – Metal**
- **Ca ⇒ Calcium (4%) – Metal**

SANDEEP BAKHSHI RE-APPOINTED AS MD & CEO OF ICICI BANK

- **Tenure Extension:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has officially approved his re-appointment as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) for a further period of two years, running from October 4, 2026, to October 3, 2028.
- **Leadership Continuity:** Bakhshi has been steering India's second-largest private sector bank since October 2018; this extension avoids near-term succession uncertainty and ensures strategic stability for institutional investors.
- **Strong Performance Record:** Under his leadership, the bank has undergone a major transformation—significantly strengthening its digital banking framework, improving asset quality, expanding retail loans, and consistently reporting strong earnings growth.

VIJAY SHANKAR RETIRES FROM DOMESTIC & IPL CRICKET

- **Career Transition:** The 35-year-old India all-rounder has officially announced his retirement from all forms of Indian domestic cricket and the Indian Premier League (IPL) to explore opportunities in overseas franchise leagues.
- **International Highlights:** Between 2018 and 2019, he represented India in 12 ODIs and 9 T20Is. He was a key member of the 2019 ODI World Cup squad, famously taking a wicket with his very first delivery in the tournament against Pakistan.
- **Domestic & Franchise Legacy:** Over a 13-year career, he played 77 First-Class matches (primarily for Tamil Nadu before moving to Tripura) and featured in 78 IPL games across four major franchises—CSK, SRH, DC, and the 2022 title-winning Gujarat Titans.

GURINDERVIR SINGH SMASHES 100M NATIONAL RECORD FOR FEDERATION CUP GOLD

- **Historic Landmark:** The 25-year-old sprinter from Punjab clocked a sensational 10.09 seconds at the Athletics Federation Cup in Ranchi, making him the first Indian in history to break the elusive sub-10.10 barrier and reclaiming his title as India's fastest man.
- **Intense Speed Rivalry:** The achievement capped off a dramatic

48-hour "speed war" with prodigy Animesh Kujur; the two athletes continuously traded the national record during the semifinals before Gurindervir decisively crushed the previous record of 10.15 seconds in the final.

- **International Qualification:** By dropping down to 10.09 seconds, he comfortably cleared the strict Athletics Federation of India (AFI) qualification standard of 10.16 seconds, automatically securing his berth for the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

BIT MESRA SIGNS MOU WITH NESAC TO STRENGTHEN GEOSPATIAL INNOVATION & EDUCATION



- **Core Objective:** Birla Institute of Technology (BIT) Mesra and the North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC), Department of Space, signed a 5-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate deeply on advanced geospatial research, remote sensing, and GIS applications.
- **Focus on GeoAI:** The partnership places a strong strategic emphasis on the emerging field of Geospatial

Artificial Intelligence (GeoAI), driving joint national and international research initiatives and Earth observation image analysis.

- **Academic Integration:** The agreement enables joint supervision of PhD and Master's scholars, specialized elective courses, and student internships. Additionally, NESAC scientists will serve as guest faculty at BIT Mesra, while NESAC researchers can pursue higher education at the institute.

NASCAR LEGEND KYLE BUSCH PASSED AWAY

- **Sudden and Tragic Passing:** The 41-year-old two-time NASCAR Cup Series champion passed away suddenly on Thursday, May 21, 2026, after a severe bout of pneumonia rapidly progressed into life-threatening sepsis.
- **Unparalleled Racing Legacy:** Widely regarded as a generational talent, "Rowdy" Busch retired as the winningest driver in NASCAR history across its top three national divisions, accumulating a record-shattering 234 total victories.
- **Motorsports Community Tributes:** His unexpected death sent shockwaves through the sporting world, prompting massive, heartfelt tributes across major race weekends, including black No. 8 decals worn by all field drivers at the Coca-Cola 600 and special honors at the Indianapolis 500.

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

25.05.2026 / MONDAY

- **World Thyroid Day: 25th May**
- **The Theme for World Thyroid Day 2026 is "Thyroid and Nutrition."**
- **Focus on Prevention: Emphasizes thyroid education, specifically highlighting role of proper iodine intake in preventing thyroid-related conditions.**