




Current Affairs

05 & 06 July, 2025

Sub Lt Aastha Poonia Becomes First Woman Navy Fighter Pilot Trainee



1. Sub Lt Aastha Poonia Becomes First Woman Navy Fighter Pilot Trainee

- **Historic Milestone:** Sub Lt Aastha Poonia has become the first woman to be inducted into the fighter stream of Naval Aviation, marking a significant step towards gender inclusivity in the Indian Navy.
- **"Wings of Gold" Recipient:** She received the prestigious 'Wings of Gold' on July 3, 2025, after successfully completing the Second Basic Hawk Conversion Course at INS Dega, Visakhapatnam.
- **Paving the Way for "Nari Shakti":** Her achievement is celebrated as a testament to the Indian Navy's commitment to "Nari Shakti" (women power), fostering equality and opportunity for women in combat roles.
- **Future Pilot of Advanced Jets:** Sub Lt Poonia will now undergo further advanced training, potentially qualifying her to fly carrier-based fighter jets like the MiG-29K or the naval Rafale.



2. S.R.N. Mehta School Wins Top Prize in NASA Contest

- **Global Recognition:** S.R.N. Mehta CBSE School from Kalaburagi, India, won the first prize in the NASA-NSS Space Settlement Design Contest 2025, bringing international acclaim to their school and country.
- **Winning Project "IRA":** Their team of 11 Grade 8 students secured the top spot with their project, "IRA,"



which focused on designing a sustainable and future-ready space colony capable of supporting human life.

- **Prestigious Competition:** The NASA-NSS Space Settlement Design Contest is a renowned global competition organized by the NASA Ames Research Center and the National Space Society (NSS), encouraging students worldwide to envision future space living.
- **International Presentation:** The winning team was invited to the International Space Development Conference (ISDC-2025) in Orlando, Florida, where they presented their project via poster and oral presentation to over 250 experts, including space scientists and astronauts.

3. Mashreq Becomes First UAE Bank to Enter GIFT City

- **First UAE Bank in GIFT City:** Mashreq has received in-principle approval to establish an International Financial Services Centre Banking Unit (IBU) in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), making it the first UAE-based bank to do so.
- **Strategic Expansion in India:** This move underscores Mashreq's confidence in India's growing financial ecosystem and its commitment to strengthening trade and investment flows between India, the Middle East, and other global corridors.
- **Broad Range of Services:** The upcoming branch in GIFT City will offer a comprehensive suite of services, including foreign currency loans, trade finance solutions, and treasury and risk management products.
- **Operational by Q4 2025:** The IBU is expected to commence operations by the fourth quarter of 2025, subject to final regulatory clearances from the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA).



4. PM Modi Receives Trinidad and Tobago's Highest Civilian Award

- **Historic First for a Foreign Leader:** On July 4, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with "The Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago," the nation's highest civilian award, becoming the first foreign leader to receive this distinction.



- **Recognition of Global Leadership and Humanitarian Efforts:** The award was bestowed in recognition of PM Modi's influential global leadership, his deep engagement with the Indian diaspora worldwide, and his significant humanitarian contributions, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Strengthening Bilateral Ties:** The award ceremony, held during PM Modi's official visit to Port of Spain, highlighted the enduring friendship and deep cultural and historical ties between India and Trinidad and Tobago.
- **Dedicated to 1.4 Billion Indians:** Upon receiving the honor, PM Modi humbly dedicated it to the 1.4 billion people of India, emphasizing that it symbolizes the shared pride and eternal friendship between the two nations.

5. World Champion D Gukesh wins rapid title at Grand Chess Tour 2025

- **Rapid Victory in Zagreb:** Reigning World Champion D Gukesh clinched the rapid title at the SuperUnited Rapid & Blitz tournament in Zagreb, Croatia, part of the 2025 Grand Chess Tour.
- **Impressive Comeback:** After losing his first-round game to Jan-Krzysztof Duda, the 19-year-old Indian Grandmaster staged a remarkable comeback, winning five consecutive games, including a crucial victory over World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen.
- **Dominant Performance:** Gukesh finished with a commanding 14 points out of a possible 18 in the rapid section, showcasing his strong form, mental resilience, and tactical brilliance.
- **Leading the Overall Tour:** This rapid title puts Gukesh in a strong position for the overall Grand Chess Tour 2025, with the blitz segment still to be played. The combined scores of both rapid and blitz will determine the overall winner.



6. Achal Sinha appointed as Non-Official Independent Director of NMDC Ltd

- **New Board Appointment:** Shri Achal Sinha has been appointed as a Non-Official Independent Director on the Board of NMDC Limited, a prominent Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Steel.
- **Term of Appointment:** His tenure as a Non-Official Independent Director will be for a period of three years, effective from July 3, 2025.
- **Extensive Experience:** Shri Sinha brings over 35 years of extensive experience, particularly in the fields of agriculture and social service, with a focus on rural development and sustainable farming.



- **Background in Agriculture and Social Service:** A Botany graduate from Patliputra University, Patna, he has been instrumental in promoting innovative agricultural models, supporting farmers, and facilitating eco-friendly techniques in Bihar.

Foot notes:

About NMDC-

- **Chairman-Cum-Managing Director:** Amitava Mukherjee
- **Headquarters:** Hyderabad
- **Founded:** 1958

7. Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar, launches high capacity SAKSHAM-3000

- **Indigenously Developed High-Capacity Switch-Router:** Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar, Minister of State for Communications and Rural Development, launched SAKSHAM-3000, a state-of-the-art data center switch-cum-router developed by the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT).
- **Impressive Throughput:** SAKSHAM-3000 boasts a high capacity of 25.6 Terabits per second (Tbps) throughput, making it a powerful solution for modern digital infrastructure.
- **Future-Ready for Digital India:** This device is designed to power large-scale computing clusters, cloud infrastructure, 5G/6G networks, and AI workloads, positioning India for advanced digital growth and global competitiveness.



8. Sarada Bhushan Mohanty to Be Next CMD of IREL (India) Limited

- **Selected for Top Post:** Sarada Bhushan Mohanty, currently serving as Director (Finance) at IREL (India) Limited, has been chosen by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) to be the next Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the company.
- **Internal Promotion:** This is a significant internal promotion, recognizing his "strong financial skills and long-term contributions to IREL's growth," as he was already a functional director within the company.



- **Rigorous Selection Process:** His selection came after a competitive interview process conducted by the PESB on July 4, 2025, which included 12 candidates from various public sector undertakings and government departments.

Foot notes:

About IREL-

- **Chairman & MD:** D. Singh
- **Headquarters:** 1207
- **Founded:** 1950

9. International Day of Cooperatives celebrated on July 5

- **Annual Global Celebration:** The International Day of Cooperatives (CoopsDay) is celebrated annually on the first Saturday of July, which falls on July 5, 2025, this year.
- **Theme for 2025:** The official theme for CoopsDay 2025 is "Cooperatives: Driving Inclusive and Sustainable Solutions for a Better World."
- **Part of UN International Year of Cooperatives:** This year's celebration holds extra significance as it falls during the United Nations International Year of Cooperatives (IYC2025), a once-in-a-decade opportunity to highlight the cooperative model's contributions.



10. Julian McMahon, Star of 'Fantastic Four', passed away

- **Passed Away at 56:** Australian-American actor Julian McMahon, known for his charismatic roles, died on July 2, 2025, at the age of 56.
- **Private Battle with Cancer:** His wife, Kelly Paniagua, confirmed that he passed away peacefully in Clearwater, Florida, after a private and courageous battle with cancer.
- **Iconic Role as Doctor Doom:** McMahon was widely recognized for his portrayal of the iconic villain Doctor Doom in the 2005 film Fantastic Four and its 2007 sequel, Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer.
- **Versatile Career in TV and Film:** Beyond Fantastic Four, he had a significant career in television, with lead roles in popular series like "Nip/Tuck" (for which he received a Golden Globe nomination), "Charmed," and "FBI: Most Wanted."



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