

THE DAILY GK DOSE

META APPOINTED KUNAL SHAH AS GLOBAL HEAD OF WHATSAPP

- **Leadership Transition and Strategy:** Meta has appointed CRED founder Kunal Shah as the new global head of WhatsApp, succeeding long-time chief Will Cathcart. Shah will step down from his operational role as CEO of CRED to bring a founder's mentality and a fresh global perspective to the world's largest messaging platform.
- **Massive Financial Tie-in:** Alongside this high-profile appointment, Meta is making a major \$900 million investment into Shah's fintech startup, CRED. This deal values the Bengaluru-based company at \$4.5 billion, securing Meta a minority stake without granting them access to CRED's user data.
- **Focus on Market Monetization:** This historic move signals Meta's deepening commitment to India, which represents WhatsApp's largest global market with over 500 million users. Leveraging Shah's extensive background in consumer anthropology and fintech, Meta aims to transition WhatsApp from a pure messaging platform into a highly monetized engine for commerce, payments, and digital services.

Footnotes: Whatsapp's Previous CEO: Will Cathcart, Launch: 2009

INDIA TO LAUNCH INDEX OF SERVICES PRODUCTION

- **Introduction of a New Macro Indicator:** The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is set to launch the Index of Services Production (ISP) on July 14, 2026, to track short-term changes in the growth of the country's formal services sector. Functioning as the services-sector counterpart to the long-standing Index of Industrial Production (IIP), this new monthly indicator aims to fill a major statistical gap for a sector that contributes over 50% of India's Gross Value Added (GVA).
- **Base Year and Timeline Dynamics:** The index will use 2024–25 as its base year, aligning it with the

recently revised consumer price inflation data series. While the trial monthly indices for the fiscal year 2025–26 and April 2026 will debut in mid-July, subsequent regular monthly indices will be published with an approximate 60-day lag on the 29th day of every month.

- **Data Utilization and Sectoral Coverage:** To ensure comprehensive tracking, the ISP will initially cover major industries including banking, insurance, telecom, transport, retail trade, real estate. The underlying framework will break new ground by heavily utilizing aggregated, high-frequency GST transaction data alongside administrative records and specific service surveys to estimate real volume growth.

MUANPUIAISAIWI ACCREDITED AS HIGH COMMISSIONER OF INDIA TO SAMOA



- **Dual Diplomatic Responsibilities:** The Ministry of External Affairs announced that Ms. Muanpui Saiawi has been concurrently accredited as the next High Commissioner of India to the Independent State of Samoa. While taking on this new role, she will continue to maintain her primary residence and central base of operations in Wellington.
- **Distinguished Career Background:** As a seasoned diplomat from the 2005 batch of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), Saiawi brings extensive multilateral and strategic experience to the Pacific region. Prior to her current postings, she held significant leadership roles, including serving as India's Joint Secretary for Disarmament and International Security Affairs until early 2026.

IMPORTANT FACTS

- *Suez Canal connects the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea.*
- *Suez Canal is located in Egypt.*
- *Panama Canal connects the Atlantic Ocean with the Pacific Ocean.*
- *Panama Canal was opened in 1914.*
- *Kiel Canal connects the North Sea with the Baltic Sea.*
- *Kiel Canal is located in Germany.*

NORTHEAST'S LARGEST ORGANIC SPICE UNIT INAUGURATED IN MEGHALAYA

- **Inauguration and Infrastructure:** Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated Northeast India's largest organic spice processing plant at Bhoirymbong in Meghalaya's Ri-Bhoi district. Developed with an investment of approximately ₹32 crore by the Eastern Ri-Bhoi Organic Farmer Producer Company, the state-of-the-art facility features modern infrastructure like cold storage, drying units, and pulverizing systems.
- **Capacity and Farmer Benefit:** The plant is equipped to process over 10,000 metric tonnes of high-value local organic spices annually, including ginger, chilli, black pepper, and premium Lakadong turmeric. This massive collective operation is designed to eliminate post-harvest losses and directly benefit around 5,500 local organic farming families across 112 villages.

PARUL CHAUDHARY HONORED WITH BEST FEMALE ATHLETE OF YEAR AWARD

- **Inaugural Award Ceremony:** Long-distance running star Parul Chaudhary was named the Best Female Athlete of the Year at the inaugural edition of the Indian Athletics Awards held in New Delhi on June 20, 2026. Instituted by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) and presented by Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, the historic event celebrated top performances alongside Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra, who claimed the men's counterpart.
- **Recognition of Global Excellence:** The award serves as a powerful recognition of Chaudhary's exceptional international consistency and achievements during the stellar 2025 season. As India's premier distance runner, she won historic gold medals in both the 3000m steeplechase and the 5000m events at the Asian Athletics Championships.
- **Financial Reward and Statistical Legacy:** Alongside the prestigious trophy, Chaudhary was awarded a cash prize of ₹10 lakh by the federation to support her future training endeavors. The distinction highlights her standing as a pioneer in Indian track and field, where she continues to hold multiple national records in long-distance categories.

MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS ANNOUNCES HAJ POLICY 2027

- **Early Launch and Digital Application:** Union Minister Kiren Rijiju announced the early release of the Haj Policy 2027 to ensure meticulous, timely preparations in

alignment with Saudi Arabia's strict timelines. Prospective pilgrims can immediately submit their applications digitally through either the Haj Committee of India portal or the updated Haj Suvridha App to ensure a simpler, more accessible registration process.

- **Quota Allocation and Support Enhancements:** The distribution quota between the Haj Committee of India and private tour operators remains unchanged at a 70:30 ratio, setting aside 1,22,518 seats for the committee out of India's baseline quota of 1,75,025 pilgrims. To elevate the quality of on-ground assistance, the policy improves the deployment ratio of State Haj Inspectors from one inspector for every 150 pilgrims to one for every 135 pilgrims.
- **AI Integration and Stricter Health Checks:** The policy pioneers advanced, multilingual conversational AI assistants to offer round-the-clock support across multiple regional languages for document verification, flight demand modeling, and real-time grievance tracking.

CAB APPOINTS ASHOK DINDA AS HEAD OF VISION 2028 & FAST BOWLING COACH



- **Dual Leadership Appointment:** The Cricket Association of Bengal has officially appointed former Indian fast bowler and state legend Ashok Dinda as the Head of the Vision 2028 programme.
- **Scope of Vision 2028:** Set to launch in July 2026, Vision 2028 is

a critical grass-roots and development project designed to scout, promote, and refine cricket talent across West Bengal. To streamline progression, the comprehensive framework will absorb the head coaches and assistant coaches from all of Bengal's men's and women's age-group categories, including the Under-16, Under-19, Under-23, and senior squads.

- **Balancing Political Duties:** Despite recently being sworn in as a Minister of State in the West Bengal government, Dinda committed to the project after turning down the full-time senior Bengal team coaching offer due to his political schedule.

IOA PRESIDENT P.T. USHA CONFERRED WITH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- **Inaugural Award Recognition:** Legendary sprinter and Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President P.T. Usha was conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award at the inaugural Indian Athletics Awards held in New Delhi on June 20, 2026. Conceptualized by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI).
- **Shared Honors and Surprised Reaction:** Usha shared the prestigious lifetime honor alongside three other prominent Indian sporting icons: Gurbachan Singh Randhawa, Bahadur Singh Chauhan, and Anju Bobby George.
- **Celebration of an Unmatched Legacy:** Often referred to as the "Queen of Indian Track and Field," the award celebrates Usha's historic career, which includes winning 11 Asian Games medals and becoming the first Indian woman to reach an Olympic track final.

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

25.06.2026 / THURSDAY

- **World Vitiligo Day: 25th June 2026**
- **Theme: "From Stigma to Strength" (accompanied by the slogan "Many Shades, One Voice"), which focuses on transforming fear and social misconceptions into confidence, self-acceptance, and empowerment.**