

THE DAILY GK DOSE

INDIAN VIOLIN MAESTRO DR. N. RAJAM CONFERRED WITH PADMA VIBHUSHAN

- **Pioneering "Gayaki Ang":** Dr. N. Rajam is widely celebrated for revolutionizing violin performance by developing the "Gayaki Ang" style, which allows the violin to replicate the nuances and emotional depth of human vocal music.
- **Prestigious Milestone:** Conferred on May 25, 2026, by President Droupadi Murmu, this award adds to her distinguished career, having already been honored with the Padma Shri (1984) and Padma Bhushan (2004).
- **Academic and Musical Legacy:** Beyond her performance career, she served as a professor and Dean of the Faculty of Performing Arts at Banaras Hindu University (BHU), mentoring generations of musicians while bridging Hindustani and Carnatic classical traditions.

RAJNATH SINGH LAUNCHES INDIA'S FIRST 300-KM ROCKET SYSTEM SURYA STRA

- **Indigenous Strategic Milestone:** On May 23, 2026, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off India's first indigenous 300-km Universal Rocket Launching System, "Suryastra," in Shirdi, Maharashtra. This system is designed to significantly enhance India's long-range precision strike capabilities.
- **Private Sector Capability:** Developed by the Pune-based NIBE Group, the system was unveiled during the inauguration of a new private-sector defence manufacturing complex. This

event marks a major shift in the "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" initiative, showcasing the private industry's ability to act as a key innovator and manufacturer of sophisticated weapon systems rather than just a component supplier.

- **Technological Modernization:** The project includes the establishment of a dedicated missile complex and the implementation of indigenous TNT and RDX plant technologies.

BENGALURU TEST PILOT BECOMES FIRST INDIAN SETP FELLOW



- **Historic Global Recognition:** Group Captain K.K. Venugopal, Executive Director and Chief Test Pilot (Fixed Wing) at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), has become the first Indian test pilot to be elected as a Fellow of the prestigious Society of Experimental Test Pilots (SETP).
- **Decades of Expertise:** This fellowship honors his distinguished career spanning over 25 years, during which he has played a critical role in major indigenous aerospace programs, including the Saras Light Transport Aircraft, LCA Mk I, HTT-40, HJT-36, and LCA Mk IA.

Footnotes: Bengaluru's Chief Commissioner: Maheshwar Rao, Estd: 1537

IMPORTANT FACTS

- **Extent of Indus Civilization:** India & Pakistan
- **Main crops:** Wheat & Barley
- **Main occupation of people:** Agriculture
- **Metal not used:** Iron
- **Largest city:** Mohenjo-Daro
- **Discoverer:** Daya Ram Sahni
- **Second largest city:** Harappa
- **Metals known:** Gold, Silver, Copper
- **Kings of Egypt called:** Pharaohs

KERALAM FORMS FIRST EVER ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE MINISTRY

- **Pioneering Governance:** Following a major cabinet reshuffle on May 20, 2026, the Keralam government became the first state in India to create a dedicated cabinet-level portfolio for Artificial Intelligence (AI), aiming to institutionalize AI-driven governance and policy-making.
- **Strategic Oversight:** Veteran leader P.K. Kunhalikutty has been appointed to lead this new department, managing it alongside his responsibilities for Industries, Commerce, and Information Technology to ensure a unified approach to the state's digital and industrial growth.
- **Innovation Ecosystem:** The initiative includes the establishment of twin Centres of Excellence one focusing on Bio-AI in Kochi and another on general-purpose AI at the Digital University in Thiruvananthapuram.

INDIA CREATES HISTORY AT INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ULTRARUNNERS

- **Historic Podium Sweep:** At the 2026 IAU 24H Asia and Oceania Championships in Japan (May 23–24), the Indian men's team made history by achieving a clean sweep of the individual podium—winning Gold (Amar Singh Devanda), Silver (Geeno Antony), and Bronze (Saurav Kumar Ranjan).
- **Team Excellence:** In addition to individual glory, the Indian men's team secured the Team Gold medal with a combined distance of 815.833 km, while the Indian women's team displayed remarkable endurance to claim the Team Bronze medal with an aggregate of 667.722 km.
- **National Record-Breaking Performances:** The event saw new benchmarks set for Indian ultrarunning, with Amar Singh Devanda (282.881 km) and Tenzin Dolma (228.939 km) both shattering national records for the 24-hour run, contributing to India's overall haul of five medals at the championship.

RAGHAV CHADHA APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF RAJYA SABHA COMMITTEE

- **New Leadership:** Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha has been appointed as the Chairman of the Committee on Petitions of the Upper House, effective May 20, 2026.

- **Reconstitution of the Panel:** The appointment followed a formal reconstitution of the committee by Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan, who nominated a 10-member panel to examine petitions related to governance, public policy, and public grievances.
- **Role and Function:** The Committee on Petitions is one of the oldest standing parliamentary committees; it holds the authority to call for evidence, examine witnesses, and recommend corrective measures for public grievances submitted by citizens.

LIONEL MESSI BECOMES BILLIONAIRE IN HISTORIC FOOTBALL MILESTONE



- **Historic Financial Milestone:** As of May 24, 2026, Lionel Messi has officially reached billionaire status according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, becoming only the second footballer in history to achieve this milestone after Cristiano Ronaldo.
- **Diverse Income Streams:** His net worth is built on more than \$700 million in career salaries

and bonuses earned since 2007, supplemented significantly by high-value endorsements, strategic investments, and commercial partnerships facilitated through his time at FC Barcelona, PSG, and now Inter Miami.

TWO INDIAN-ORIGIN SCIENTISTS CONFERRED SOUTH AFRICA'S HIGHEST CIVILIAN HONOUR

- **Prestigious Recognition:** On May 20, 2026, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa conferred the Order of Mapungubwe—the country's highest civilian honour—upon internationally renowned public health scientists Professor Salim Abdool Karim and Professor Keertan Dheda.
- **Categories of Honour:** Professor Salim Abdool Karim was awarded the Order of Mapungubwe in Gold for his monumental research into HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis epidemiology, as well as his leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Significance:** The awards recognize individuals who have achieved exceptional excellence and accomplishment to the direct benefit of South Africa and the global community, specifically highlighting the scientists' contributions toward improving public health and clinical management practices.

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

26.05.2026 / TUESDAY

- **National Memorial Day: May 26**
- **Official Protocol:** By tradition, the U.S. flag is flown at half-staff from sunrise until noon to honor the fallen, and is then raised to the top of the staff for the remainder of the day.