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# Current Affairs

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## 1. Delhi's Kushagra Rawat, set a new national record in 1500m freestyle Swimming event

Delhi's Kushagra Rawat has been a prominent figure in Indian swimming, particularly in the 1500m freestyle event. At the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, he qualified for the final and finished eighth with a time of 15:42.67. In 2019, he set a national record in the 1500m freestyle with a time of 15:41.45 during the Senior Nationals in Delhi. His consistent performances have solidified his reputation as one of India's leading distance swimmers.



### Foot notes:

- Kushagra Rawat from Delhi has set a new national record in the 1500m freestyle swimming event with a time of 15:41.45.
- The previous record holder was also Kushagra Rawat, with a time of 15:25.22, which he set at the 2020 NSW Open State Championships.
- The 1500m freestyle swimming event is a long-distance swimming competition that requires endurance, stamina, and technique.
- Kushagra Rawat has been an accomplished swimmer, having won several national and international competitions, including the 400m freestyle event at the 2020 NSW Open State Championships.
- Rawat's achievement is an inspiration to young swimmers in India, showcasing the potential for Indian swimmers to compete at the highest levels.

## 2. Google Maps Renames 'Gulf of Mexico' in US

Following an executive order from U.S. President Donald Trump, Google Maps has renamed the "Gulf of Mexico" to the "Gulf of America" for users in the United States. This decision has sparked criticism from Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum, who argues that the U.S. lacks unilateral authority to change the name of a shared body of water. She cites the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which limits a country's sovereignty to 12 nautical miles from its coastline. In response, Google stated that the name change will apply only to U.S. users, while Mexican users will continue to see the original name. For users outside the two countries, both names will be displayed.



### Foot notes:

- Google Maps will soon display the 'Gulf of Mexico' as the 'Gulf of America' for users in the United States, following an executive order by the Trump Administration.
- While US users will see the new name, users in other countries, including Mexico, will continue to see the original name 'Gulf of Mexico'.
- The name change will be implemented once the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) is updated, after which Google Maps will reflect the change.
- In countries where the location doesn't have a designated name, both 'Gulf of Mexico' and 'Gulf of America' will be displayed.
- Google's decision to rename the Gulf of Mexico is part of its longstanding practice of following official government sources and complying with executive orders.

## 3. Usman Khawaja, first Australian to score a double century in Sri Lanka

Usman Khawaja made history by becoming the first Australian to score a double century in Sri Lanka during the second Test of Australia's tour in 2025. His remarkable innings of 200 runs helped Australia gain a dominant position in the match. Khawaja's performance was a blend of technique and patience, as he negotiated Sri Lanka's spin attack with confidence. His achievement further cemented his reputation as one of Australia's most reliable Test batsmen. The landmark knock was widely celebrated, marking a significant milestone in Australian cricket history.



### Foot notes:

- Usman Khawaja has become the first Australian batsman to score a double century in Sri Lanka.
- Khawaja achieved this milestone in a Test match against Sri Lanka, showcasing his exceptional batting skills.
- This remarkable feat demonstrates Khawaja's ability to adapt and excel in challenging overseas conditions.
- Khawaja's double century is a significant achievement in Australian cricket history, highlighting his importance in the team.
- The accomplishment is a testament to Khawaja's hard work, dedication, and perseverance, solidifying his position as one of Australia's top batsmen.

#### **4. NorthEast United FC secured a dominant 4-1 win over Hyderabad FC**

In a thrilling encounter on December 23, 2024, NorthEast United FC overcame a two-goal deficit to secure a 5-2 victory over Hyderabad FC at the GMC Balayogi Athletic Stadium. Hyderabad FC started strong, with Edmilson Correia netting twice in the opening 12 minutes. However, NorthEast United responded swiftly, with Guillermo Fernández reducing the deficit in the 18th minute. The second half saw an own goal by Lenny Rodrigues, followed by Fernández's second strike, giving NorthEast United the lead. Further goals from Alaaeddine Ajarai and an own goal by Alex Saji sealed the comeback, ending Hyderabad FC's nine-game unbeaten streak against NorthEast United.



#### **Foot notes:**

- The match took place on January 29, 2025, at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati, India, with NorthEast United FC emerging as the clear winners.
- NorthEast United FC's goals were scored by Guillermo (17'), Alaaeddine Ajarai (45'), Asheer Akhtar (79'), and Mohammed Ali Bemammer (89'), while Hyderabad FC's sole goal was scored by Manoj Mohammed (70').
- The match had an attendance of 14,897 spectators, and was refereed by Crystal John.
- Following the win, NorthEast United FC holds the 4th position in the Indian Super League standings with 28 points, while Hyderabad FC is at the 12th position with 13 points.
- NorthEast United FC's dominant win showcases their strong performance in the Indian Super League, with the team demonstrating impressive skills and teamwork throughout the match.

#### **5. Tamil Nadu's Narmada Nitin Raju clinched gold in 10m air rifle shooting**

On January 30, 2025, at the 38th National Games in Dehradun, Tamil Nadu's Narmada Nithin Raju clinched the gold medal in the women's 10m air rifle event, setting a new national record with a score of 254.4. This performance narrowly missed the world record by just 0.1 points. Narmada's consistent high scores, including three perfect 10.9s, kept her ahead of competitors like Maharashtra's Arya Borse, who secured silver with 252.5 points, and Haryana's Ramita Jindal, who took bronze with 230.4 points. Reflecting on her achievement, Narmada emphasized the importance of self-belief and perseverance for young athletes. This victory marks a significant milestone in her shooting career, highlighting her dedication and skill.



**Foot notes:**

- Narmada Nithin Raju from Tamil Nadu won the gold medal in the women's 10m air rifle event at the 38th National Games, setting a new national record with a score of 254.4.
- Raju's performance was remarkable, surpassing the national record set by Olympian Apurvi Chandela in 2019 and narrowly missing the world record held by China's Huang Yuting.
- Representing Tamil Nadu, Raju topped the podium, outclassing competitors like Maharashtra's Arya Borse and Asian Games bronze medallist Ramita Jindal.
- This achievement adds to Raju's impressive resume, which includes winning the 2023 Cairo and Bhopal World Cups.
- Raju's win was part of the 38th National Games, a prestigious sporting event that brings together top athletes from across India.

**6. UP Bags the Best State Tableaux Award of Republic Day Parade 2025**

Uttar Pradesh's tableau, themed "Mahakumbh 2025 – Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas," was awarded the first prize at the 76th Republic Day celebrations. The tableau showcased the rich cultural heritage and developmental strides of the state, centering on the upcoming Mahakumbh festival. Tripura's tableau, titled "Eternal Reverence: The Worship of 14 Deities in Tripura – Kharchi Puja," secured the second position, while Andhra Pradesh's "Etikoppaka Bommalu – Eco-Friendly Wooden Toys" was awarded third place. In the popular choice category, determined through an online poll on the MyGov portal, Gujarat's tableau, "Swarnim Bharat: Virasat Aur Vikas," emerged as the favorite.



**Foot notes:**

- Uttar Pradesh's Mahakumbh tableau won the first place award, followed by Tripura and Andhra Pradesh.
- The winning tableau, titled "Mahakumbh 2025 - Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas," showcased the ongoing Mahakumbh festival, highlighting India's rich cultural heritage.
- The tableaux were judged on various parameters, including theme, design, and overall presentation, with a three-member panel assessing the performances.
- Jammu and Kashmir Rifles were recognized as the best marching contingent among services, while Delhi Police Marching Contingent won the best marching contingent among CAPFs/other auxiliary forces.

### **7. Maruti Suzuki Board approves re-appointment of Hisashi Takeuchi as MD & CEO**

The board of Maruti Suzuki has approved the re-appointment of Hisashi Takeuchi as the Managing Director and CEO of the

company. Takeuchi, who has been leading Maruti Suzuki, will continue to drive the company's growth and strategy. His re-appointment reflects the board's confidence in his leadership and vision for the future. Under his leadership, Maruti Suzuki has focused on expanding its product portfolio and strengthening its market presence. Hisashi Takeuchi's continued leadership is expected to further enhance the company's position in the competitive automotive industry.



#### **Foot notes:**

- The Maruti Suzuki Board has approved the re-appointment of Hisashi Takeuchi as Managing Director and CEO.
- Takeuchi's re-appointment is subject to shareholder approval at the company's next Annual General Meeting.
- Hisashi Takeuchi has been leading Maruti Suzuki since April 2022.
- Under his leadership, the company aims to continue its growth momentum and strengthen its position in the Indian automotive market.
- The re-appointment is a testament to Takeuchi's strategic vision and leadership capabilities, which have contributed significantly to Maruti Suzuki's success.

### **8. Wellbeing Nutrition ropes in Sharvari as brand ambassador**

Wellbeing Nutrition, a prominent Indian nutraceutical brand, has appointed Bollywood actress Sharvari as its new brand ambassador. Known for her dedication to fitness and health, Sharvari aligns with the brand's mission to make wellness accessible and

effective for all. She will actively promote Wellbeing Nutrition's sports performance products and daily essentials, incorporating them into her fitness regimen, especially as she prepares for her role in the upcoming film "Alpha." This collaboration aims to inspire individuals to prioritize their health and make informed choices for a balanced lifestyle.

**Foot notes:**

- Wellbeing Nutrition has announced Bollywood actress Sharvari as its new brand ambassador, marking a significant milestone in the brand's journey to make nutrition more accessible and sustainable.
- Sharvari embodies the brand's philosophy of combining science and simplicity to promote well-being, making her a perfect fit for the role. She believes in nourishing the body from within and cultivating a lifestyle that supports long-term well-being.
- As part of the collaboration, Sharvari will promote Wellbeing Nutrition's sports performance products, which are designed to help individuals achieve their fitness goals. She will also promote the brand's daily wellness essentials.
- Through this partnership, Wellbeing Nutrition aims to inspire individuals to prioritize their health and well-being by adopting healthy habits and mindful routines. Sharvari's influence and passion for fitness will help drive this message.
- With Sharvari on board, Wellbeing Nutrition is set to expand its reach and inspire millions of individuals worldwide to adopt a more holistic approach to health and wellness.



### 9. Tata Steel Develops India's First Hydrogen-Transport Pipes

Tata Steel has developed India's first hydrogen-transport pipes, marking a significant step towards sustainable energy solutions. These pipes are designed to safely transport hydrogen, a clean fuel, supporting the country's transition to a low-carbon economy. The innovation comes as part of Tata Steel's efforts to enhance its product offerings for green energy applications. The hydrogen-transport pipes are expected to play a crucial role in enabling India's hydrogen infrastructure, fostering the use of hydrogen in various sectors. This development aligns with Tata Steel's commitment to supporting India's climate goals and contributing to the global clean energy transition.



**Foot notes:**

- Tata Steel has successfully developed India's first hydrogen-transport pipes, marking a significant milestone in the country's transition to cleaner energy.

- **Collaboration:** The development was done in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- **Specialized Steel:** The pipes are made from a specialized steel alloy that can withstand the high-pressure and high-purity requirements of hydrogen transportation.
- **Reduced Carbon Footprint:** The use of hydrogen as a clean energy carrier can significantly reduce India's carbon footprint and help achieve its climate goals.
- **Future Applications:** The successful development of these pipes paves the way for the widespread adoption of hydrogen fuel cell technology in various sectors, including transportation, power generation, and industrial processes.

### 10. Documentary Filmmaker Tapan K Bose passed away

Renowned documentary filmmaker and human rights activist Tapan Kumar Bose passed away on January 30, 2025, at his residence in New Delhi. He was 78 years old. Born on June 8, 1946, Bose began his career as a journalist before transitioning to filmmaking under the mentorship of S. Sukhdev. Since 1971, he produced impactful documentaries highlighting human rights violations and social injustices. Notable among these is "An Indian Story" (1981), which exposed the blinding of undertrial prisoners in Bhagalpur.




#### Foot notes:

- Bose was known for his impactful documentaries that shed light on significant human rights issues in India, including the Bhopal gas tragedy and the Bhagalpur blindings.
- Bose was a fearless advocate for human rights, particularly in Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir, where he stood in solidarity with victims of state oppression.
- Bose authored several books and articles on human rights, forced migration, and statelessness in South Asia, and co-authored the SAGE Series on Human Rights Audits of Peace Processes in South Asia.
- Bose's documentary "An Indian Story" (1982) received the National Award for Best Documentary in 1983 and was a Critic's Choice at the London Film Festival in 1983.
- Bose's commitment to justice, peace, and human rights has left an indelible mark on the human rights movement in South Asia, inspiring countless individuals to fight for a just and equitable world.

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