

THE DAILY GK DOSE

NOVAK DJOKOVIC BROKE A 53-YEAR-OLD AUSTRALIAN OPEN RECORD

- Oldest Finalist in Open Era:** By defeating Jannik Sinner in the 2026 semifinals, Djokovic became the oldest man in the Open Era to reach an Australian Open final.
- Broke a 54-Year-Old Record:** He surpassed the mark previously held by Australian legend Ken Rosewall, who was 37 years and 2 months old when he reached (and won) the 1972 final.
- Remarkable Longevity:** The victory also marked the longest time span between a player's first and latest Grand Slam final appearance—over 18 years since his first major final at the 2007 US Open.

PATNA BIRD SANCTUARY IN UP DESIGNATED AS RAMSAR WETLANDS

- Smallest Sanctuary, Huge Impact:** Spanning only about 1.09 square kilometers, Patna Bird Sanctuary is the smallest bird sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh. Despite its size, it is a biodiversity hotspot that hosts over 180 species of birds and more than 250 plant species.
- Critical Habitat on the Central Asian Flyway:** The site serves as a vital wintering ground for over 60,000 migratory birds annually. It is particularly known for supporting significant populations of the Northern

Pintail, Rosy Pelican, and the endangered Sarus Crane.

- Boosting India's Conservation Tally:** With this addition (alongside Gujarat's Chhatri-Dhand), India's total number of Ramsar sites has reached 98. This designation also makes it the 11th Ramsar site in Uttar Pradesh, the second-highest count for any Indian state.

MAHARASHTRA WON BEST TABLEAU CATEGORY



- Winning Theme:** The tableau, titled "Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharta," depicted the festival as a symbol of community unity and economic self-reliance, beyond its religious significance.
- Cultural Highlights:** The display showcased tradition and energy, featuring a powerful Dhol-Tasha performance by Nagpur's Gajavakra troupe—its first appearance on Kartavya Path—and a vibrant Lezim dance by women performers.
- Judges' Choice:** Maharashtra secured the first prize in the States/Union Territories category (Judges' Choice), followed by Jammu & Kashmir (Handicrafts and Folk Dances) in second place and Kerala (Water Metro) in third.

IMPORTANT FACTS

- One heartbeat takes about 0.8 seconds.*
- A bat uses sound as its eyes.*
- The sky appears blue due to scattering of light.*
- A dynamo converts mechanical energy into electrical energy.*
- The chemical name of baking soda is sodium bicarbonate.*
- The function of quartz crystal in a watch is based on the piezoelectric effect.*

INDIA DIGITISES VINTAGE PECHORA MISSILE SYSTEM

- Indigenous Digital Overhaul:** Led by Alpha Design Technologies, the upgrade replaced old analogue electronics with digital systems, improving target detection, tracking accuracy, and resistance to electronic jamming.
- Cost-Effective Life Extension:** The ₹591.3 crore project extends the 50-year-old system's life till 2030, providing cost-effective, high-readiness point defence for critical installations like airbases.
- Integration into "Mission Sudarshan Chakra":** The digitized Pechora is integrated with the IAF's IACCS, enabling it to operate within India's layered air-defence network against modern threats like drones and cruise missiles.

PFRDA LAUNCHED NPS SWASTHYA PENSION SCHEME

- Integrated Medical Corpus:** The scheme creates a separate fund for medical expenses, usable for OPD and IPD care, and allows non-government NPS subscribers above 40 to transfer up to 30% of their existing contributions.
- Flexible Withdrawal Rules:** PFRDA has eased withdrawal rules, allowing up to 25% partial withdrawal after a ₹50,000 corpus, with no limit on frequency or waiting period.
- Critical Illness Safeguard:** For major medical emergencies exceeding 70% of the corpus, the scheme allows 100% lump-sum exit, with payments made directly to hospitals or TPAs.

SAURABH JOSHI ELECTED AS MAYOR OF CHANDIGARH

- Clean Sweep for BJP:** Saurabh Joshi secured 18 votes to defeat the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate, Yogesh Dhingra (11 votes), and the Congress candidate, Gurpreet Singh Gabi (7 votes). The BJP also won the posts of Senior Deputy Mayor (Jasmanpreet Singh) and Deputy Mayor (Suman Sharma), consolidating full control over the municipal leadership.
- Historic "Show of Hands" Voting:** For the first time since

1996, Chandigarh's mayoral election used a show of hands instead of a secret ballot to ensure transparency and prevent cross-voting.

- Legacy and Experience:** Joshi, a second-generation politician, lawyer, and former Panjab University student leader, has been a councillor since 2011; his one-year term completes the 2022–2026 municipal cycle.

NITIKA PAWAR APPOINTED AS GM OF FCI



- Breaking a Six-Decade Tradition:** Her appointment is significant as it breaks a long-standing administrative practice where the GM of FCI Punjab was almost exclusively an IAS officer from the Punjab cadre. Nitika Pawar is a 2012-batch IAS officer of the AGMUT cadre, leading to formal objections from the Punjab state government.
- Strategic Role in Food Security:** Based in Chandigarh, she will oversee procurement, storage, and distribution in Punjab—one of India's most critical agricultural zones. The role is vital for coordinating the National Food Security Act

operations between the Centre and the state.

- Lateral Shift and Tenure:** Pawar was appointed on a lateral shift basis from her previous posting as Deputy Financial Advisor for the Border Security Force (BSF). Her tenure in this new role is set for three years, or until further orders.

INDIAN NAVY WON BEST MARCHING CONTINGENT AWARD

- Elite Composition & Leadership:** The contingent consisted of 144 young sailors and was led by Lieutenant Karan Nagyal. He was supported by Platoon Commanders Lieutenant Pawan Kumar Gandi and Lieutenant Priti, showcasing the Navy's commitment to gender-neutral leadership.
- Symbolism of Strength:** The Navy's performance was praised by the panel of judges for its flawless synchronization and discipline. It was officially described as a representation of a "modern, progressive, and powerful maritime force" capable of protecting India's vast maritime interests.
- Judges' Choice vs. Popular Choice:** While the Indian Navy secured the top spot in the Judges' Choice category (Armed Forces), the Assam Regiment won the "Popular Choice" award through public voting on the MyGov portal.

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

Indian Coast Guard Day: 1st February

- Theme 2026:** "Five Decades of Resilient Maritime Guardianship"
- Acts as the primary agency for anti-smuggling, protecting offshore oil assets and monitoring EEZ**