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Current Affairs

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COAI reappoints Abhijit Kishore as Chairperson



1. COAI reappoints Abhijit Kishore as Chairperson

- **Re-election for FY 2025-26:** Abhijit Kishore, Chief Operating Officer of Vodafone Idea, has been re-elected as the Chairperson of the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) for the fiscal year 2025-26.
- **Rahul Vatts as Vice Chairperson:** Rahul Vatts, Chief Regulatory Officer of Bharti Airtel, will serve as the Vice Chairperson for the same term.
- **Experienced Leadership:** Kishore brings over three decades of experience in the Indian telecom industry, spanning various functions, organizations, and geographies.
- **Focus on 5G and Digital Connectivity:** COAI expresses optimism about the opportunities with 5G and allied technologies, trusting that the leadership will drive the association and sector's growth.
- **Industry Representation:** COAI is a key industry body for the digital communications sector in India, with members including Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone Idea.



2. India Becomes World's 4th Largest Biofuel Consumer in 2024

- **Significant Jump in Consumption:** India's biofuel consumption saw a substantial 40% year-on-year increase in 2024, reaching 77 thousand barrels of oil equivalent per day (kbbloe/d).

- **Surpassing China (Again):** For the second consecutive year, India outpaced China in biofuel consumption, becoming the fourth-largest user globally, as per the Statistical Review of World Energy 2025.
- **Policy Driven Growth:** This growth is largely attributed to the Indian government's supportive policies, particularly the Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP), which aims for 20% ethanol blending in petrol by 2025-26.
- **Energy Security & Environmental Benefits:** The increased adoption of biofuels is a key part of India's strategy to enhance energy security by reducing reliance on crude oil imports and to mitigate climate change by lowering greenhouse gas emissions.



3. Trump appoints transport secretary Sean Duffy as interim Nasa Chief

- **Interim Appointment:** Sean Duffy, who currently serves as the Secretary of Transportation, has been named the interim administrator of NASA.
- **Withdrawal of Previous Nominee:** This appointment follows Trump's withdrawal of his earlier choice for NASA chief, tech billionaire Jared Isaacman, in late May. The withdrawal was reportedly due to Isaacman's "prior associations" and close ties to Elon Musk.
- **Praise from President Trump:** Trump praised Duffy's work in transportation, highlighting his efforts in improving air traffic control systems and rebuilding roads and bridges, stating he will be a "fantastic leader" for NASA.



4. Indian Navy inducts 'Nistar', first indigenous diving support vessel

- **First Indigenous DSV:** INS Nistar is India's first indigenously designed and built Diving Support Vessel (DSV), marking a significant step towards self-reliance in naval capabilities.
- **Built by HSL:** The vessel was formally delivered to the Indian Navy by Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) in Visakhapatnam on July 8, 2025.
- **Advanced Deep-Sea Capabilities:** Nistar is equipped for highly specialized deep-sea diving and rescue operations, including saturation diving up to 300 meters and the use of Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) for monitoring and salvage up to 1000 meters.



- **"Mother Ship" for DSRV:** A crucial role of INS Nistar is to serve as the "Mother Ship" for the Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV), vital for rescuing personnel from distressed submarines.

5. Spinner Deepti Sharma moves to 2nd spot in ICC Women's T20 ranking

- **Career-Best Ranking:** Deepti Sharma has climbed to her career-best second position in the ICC Women's T20I Bowling Rankings.
- **Close to Top Spot:** She is now just 8 rating points behind Pakistan's Sadia Iqbal, who holds the top spot, putting her on the cusp of becoming the world's No. 1 T20I bowler for the first time.
- **Performance Against England:** This significant rise comes after her impressive performance, including a three-wicket haul, in the ongoing five-match T20I series against England.
- **Consistent Performer:** Deepti has consistently been ranked within the top 10 T20I bowlers for most of the past six years, showcasing her reliability and skill.
- **All-Rounder Impact:** As a prominent all-rounder, her rise in bowling rankings further highlights her overall value to the Indian team in T20 Internationals.



6. Eternal appoints Aditya Mangla as CEO

- **New CEO for Food Delivery Business:** Eternal (formerly Zomato), has appointed Aditya Mangla as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of its food ordering and delivery business.
- **Successor to Rakesh Ranjan:** Mangla takes over from Rakesh Ranjan, who stepped down from the role after completing his two-year tenure in April.
- **Internal Elevation & Experience:** Mangla has been with Eternal since March 2021, holding multiple leadership roles within the food delivery business, including head of supply and head of customer experience, making this an internal promotion.
- **Strategic Shift in Leadership:** Eternal founder and CEO Deepinder Goyal emphasized that this appointment signals a need for leaders who focus on building the right culture and taking hard calls, indicating a strategic shift in the company's approach.



7. Sarankumar Limbale Wins Chintha Raveendran Award 2025

- **Award Recipient:** Renowned Marathi writer and literary critic Sarankumar (Sharankumar) Limbale has been honored with the prestigious Chintha Raveendran Award 2025
- **Award Benefits:** The accolade includes a ₹50,000 cash prize, a crafted sculpture (silpam), and a certificate of recognition .
- **Presentation Ceremony:** The award will be formally presented on July 26, 2025, at 10 AM, during the memorial event for Chintha Raveendran at the K.P. Keshavamani Hall in Kozhikode, Kerala Selection Committee: The jury included notable literary figures such as K. Sachidanandan, K.C. Narayanan, and M.P. Surendran, under the coordination of N.K. Ravindran from the Chintha Raveendran Foundation
- **Event Theme & Host:** The memorial speech titled “Manuvadi Hindutva: Samskaravum Charitravum Tulyavakasyalum Polich Ezuthukappetumpol” (“Manuvadi Hindutva: Culture, History, and Equal Rights”) will be delivered by Subhashini Ali, with N.S. Madhavan presiding over the ceremony .



8. India, Namibia ink key MoU in entrepreneurship health

- **Dual MoUs Signed:** During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Namibia, two significant Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were exchanged: one on setting up an Entrepreneurship Development Centre and another on Cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine.
- **Boosting Entrepreneurship:** The Entrepreneurship Development Centre aims to foster skills development and innovation, particularly among Namibia's youth and women, to boost their economic participation.
- **Strengthening Healthcare:** The health and medicine MoU focuses on improving access to medical services, facilitating training, and promoting technology sharing between the two nations, aligning with Namibia's goal to enhance domestic health production capacity.
- **"Pharmacy of the World" Initiative:** Namibia has expressed strong support for India's proposal to establish a pharmaceutical manufacturing hub in the country under India's "Pharmacy of the World" initiative, which will improve regional health security and local medicine production.



9. Global Energy Independence Day observed on 10th July

- **Date and Purpose:** Global Energy Independence Day is observed annually on July 10th to raise awareness about the



urgent need to transition from fossil fuels to sustainable, renewable energy sources.

- **Focus on Renewables:** The day highlights the importance of alternative energy forms like solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal power, encouraging individuals, communities, and governments to embrace them.
- **Historical Context:** The concept of energy independence gained prominence during the 1970s oil crisis. The day was established by Michael D. Antonovich in 2005, and it coincides with the birthday of renowned inventor Nikola Tesla (July 10, 1856), who made significant contributions to electric power.
- **Environmental and Economic Benefits:** Achieving energy independence through renewables helps combat climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhances energy security.

10. International Umpire Bismillah Jan Shinwari passed away

- International cricket umpire Bismillah Jan Shinwari, from Afghanistan, passed away on July 8, 2025, at the age of 41.
- Reports indicate he died due to complications following weight loss surgery he underwent in Pakistan.
- Shinwari was a respected member of the ICC International Panel of Umpires, having officiated in 25 One Day Internationals (ODIs) and 21 Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is) during his career.
- He made his international umpiring debut in December 2017 in a match between Afghanistan and Ireland in Sharjah.



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