

THE DAILY GK DOSE

RBI APPOINTS GUNVEER SINGH AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- **Key Department Portfolio:** This makes him responsible for regulating India's digital payments architecture, scaling platforms like UPI, managing cross-border payment linkages, and strengthening the country's payment infrastructure cybersecurity frameworks.
- **Prior Internal Elevation:** Before this promotion, Singh was already closely tied to this vertical, serving as the Chief General Manager-in-Charge of the exact same department (DPSS) at the RBI.
- **Extensive Background & Qualifications:** He brings over three decades (30+ years) of experience within the RBI, spanning banking supervision, risk monitoring, and government banking operations.

Footnotes: RBI's Governor: Sanjay Malhotra, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1935

DRDO SUCCESSFULLY TESTS INDIGENOUS ULPGM-V3 MISSILE

- **Dual Combat Modes & Purpose:** The Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Launched Precision Guided Missile (ULPGM)-V3 was successfully tested in both Air-to-Ground and Air-to-Air modes at the DRDO test range near Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh. The Air-to-Ground configuration is designed specifically for anti-tank roles, while the Air-to-Air configuration targets drones, helicopters, and other airborne threats.
- **Key Technological Features:** The missile features a 10-kilometer extended range and utilizes a high-definition, dual-channel seeker enabling highly

precise day and night operations. It was operated via an advanced, integrated Ground Control System (GCS) that automates system readiness and launch operations, and it was integrated onto UAVs developed by Bengaluru-based New Space Research and Technologies.

- **Nodal Development & Mass Production Readiness:** Developed by the Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad as the nodal laboratory alongside other DRDO labs, the project heavily involved Indian MSMEs.

SQUADRON LEADER SAANYA BECOMES IAF'S 1ST WOMAN CATEGORY-A FLYING INSTRUCTOR



- **Pinnacle of Flight Instruction:** By earning the Category-A Qualified Flying Instructor (QFI) qualification, Squadron Leader Saanya achieved the absolute highest instructional tier a military pilot can attain in India.
- **A Historic Gender Milestone:** Her achievement marks the first time in the 93-year history of the IAF that a woman officer has broken through to this elite instructional ranking. Trained as an accomplished transport pilot, her certification follows intensive schooling at the prestigious Flying Instructors School (FIS) at Air Force Station Tambaram near Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

IMPORTANT FACTS

PLAYERS & THEIR BOOKS

- *Sania Mirza — Ace Against Odds*
- *Yuvraj Singh — The Test of My Life*
- *Sourav Ganguly — A Century Is Not Enough*
- *Sachin Tendulkar — Playing It My Way*
- *Virat Kohli — Driven*
- *Kapil Dev — Cricket My Style*
- *Sunil Gavaskar — Idols*
- *Roland Perry — Bradman Best*
- *Adam Gilchrist — True Colours*

GOOGLE, BLACKSTONE LAUNCH \$5 BILLION AI CLOUD COMPANY

- **Strategic Core & Compute-as-a-Service:** The primary objective is to commercialize and expand the reach of Google's custom-built AI chips—Tensor Processing Units (TPUs)—providing enterprises with a powerful, non-Nvidia hardware alternative for training and deploying advanced AI models outside the traditional boundaries of Google Cloud.
- **Massive Capital Investment & Scale:** The company aims to leverage Blackstone's vast digital infrastructure and energy portfolio to bring 500 megawatts (MW) of data center capacity online by 2027, with the long-term potential to scale the total compute investment up to \$25 billion using debt financing.

IAS OFFICER SAURABH VIJAY TAKES CHARGE AS CEO OF UIDAI

- **Elite Administrative & Cadre Profile:** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved his appointment to lead UIDAI in the rank and pay of an Additional Secretary to the Government of India. He officially assumed charge of the role on May 18, 2026.
- **Diverse High-Level Portfolios:** An alumnus of IIT-Delhi with a degree in civil engineering, he brings extensive administrative depth to the role. Immediately prior to joining UIDAI, he served as the Principal Secretary in the Finance Department of the Government of Maharashtra.
- **National & Global Deputation Exposure:** He has served on central deputation as a Director at the President's Secretariat in New Delhi and globally as an Advisor to the Executive Director at the World Bank in Washington D.C., representing India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka.

JANNIK & ELINA WON MEN'S & WOMEN'S SINGLES TITLE AT ITALIAN OPEN TENNIS 2026

- **Jannik Sinner's Historic Home Victory:** World No. 1 Jannik Sinner defeated Casper Ruud 6–4, 6–4 in the men's singles final. With this victory, Sinner broke a 50-year title drought for local fans, becoming the first Italian man to

lift the Rome trophy since Adriano Panatta in 1976.

- **Sinner's Rare Career Golden Masters:** He became just the second player after Rafael Nadal (2010) to sweep all three clay-court Masters events in a single season.
- **Elina Svitolina's Resurgent Milestone:** In the women's singles final, Ukraine's Elina Svitolina defeated American Coco Gauff 6–4, 6–7 (3), 6–2 to lift her third career Italian Open title (having previously won in 2017 and 2018).

Footnotes: UIDAI's Previous CEO: Bhuvnesh Kumar, Estd: 2009

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION LAUNCHES PILOT PROGRAMME FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL ADOLESCENTS



- **Targeting the Secondary Dropout Crisis:** The initiative is designed specifically for adolescents in the 14–18 age group. Data from the Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL) highlights a stark retention gap—only 62 out of every 100 children who enter Class I successfully reach Class XII.
- **Flexible Open Learning & Vocational Integration:**

Recognizing that many dropouts cannot return to traditional classrooms, the strategy relies heavily on Open and Distance Learning (ODL).

- **Data-Driven, Phased Pilot Rollout:** The initial phase is launching as a localized pilot across 10 high-dropout concentration districts spanning nine states/UTs.

BJP VETERAN & FORMER UTTARAKHAND CM B.C. KHANDURI PASSED AWAY

- **Decorated Military Career and Transition to Politics:** Khanduri served in the Corps of Engineers of the Indian Army for nearly 36 years, participating in the 1971 India-Pakistan War and retiring as a Major General. He was awarded the prestigious AVSM in 1982.
- **Two-Term Chief Minister of Uttarakhand:** Affectionately known as "General Sahab," he served as the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand twice—first from March 2007 to June 2009, and again from September 2011 to March 2012.
- **Architect of National Highway Expansion:** As a Union Cabinet Minister for Road Transport and Highways under Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Khanduri played a central, visionary role in transforming India's road infrastructure.

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

20.05.2026 / WEDNESDAY

- **World Bee Day 2026: 20th May**
- **2026 Theme: The theme for this year is "Bee Engaged: Protecting the Diversity of Bees and Pollinators".**
- **It focuses on the urgent need to safeguard diverse pollinator species to protect global biodiversity and secure agricultural food chains.**