

THE DAILY GK DOSE

RENOWNED MATERIAL SCIENTIST DR KRISHNAMURTHY BALASUBRAMANIAN HONOURED WITH PADMA SHRI

- **Advancement in Defence & Space Technology:** He has played a pivotal role in strengthening India's strategic capabilities through research in advanced materials. His work includes the development of critical components for cryogenic engines and various defence-related projects.
- **Innovation in Biomedical & Material Engineering:** Beyond aerospace, he has contributed extensively to the development of prosthetic implants and medical devices. His research has also spurred metallurgical innovations that are vital for modern industrial and health applications.
- **Focus on Future Technologies & Sustainability:** He is currently spearheading research into electric mobility solutions and the production of rare earth magnets. These efforts align with the national goal of becoming a global hub for sustainable technology and advanced manufacturing.

CENTRE BLOCKS TELEGRAM ACCESS TILL JUNE 22

- **Preventing Exam-Related Fraud:** The NTA reported that organized cheating syndicates were using Telegram to circulate fake "paper leak" claims to defraud candidates. These groups demanded money from students and families by promising access to the actual examination papers, which the NTA maintains are fully secure.
- **Targeting Misuse of Platform Features:** Authorities specifically identified that scammers were exploiting Telegram's message-editing feature to fabricate evidence of leaks after exams had concluded. Consequently, the government

has mandated that Telegram disable its message-editing functionality in India until June 30 to prevent the manipulation of historical timestamps.

- **Ensuring a Secure Re-examination:** The restriction is a "calibrated and time-bound" action intended to cover the re-test on June 21 and its immediate aftermath. The NTA has advised all candidates to ignore unverified content online and rely solely on official channels for genuine examination updates.

PM NARENDRA MODI RECEIVES SLOVAKIA'S HIGHEST NATIONAL AWARD



- **Recognition of Diplomatic Ties:** The award was conferred by Slovak President Peter Pellegrini in recognition of the Prime Minister's exceptional contributions to strengthening the bilateral partnership between India and Slovakia. It reflects the growing depth of cooperation in areas such as trade, technology, and strategic affairs.
- **A Milestone Achievement:** This prestigious recognition marks the 33rd international honour bestowed upon Prime Minister Modi by a foreign nation.
- **Dedication to the People of India:** In his acceptance, the Prime Minister expressed his gratitude and dedicated the honour to the 1.4 billion people of India. He emphasized that the award stands as a testament to the warmth, trust, and enduring bonds of friendship that unite the two nations.

IMPORTANT FACTS

MAJOR MOUNTAIN RANGES

Jammu & Kashmir (India)

- **Himalayan Region (India):**
Ladakh Range, Zaskar Range, Pir Panjal Range
- **Nanga Parbat (8126 m)**

Nepal

- **Mount Everest (8848 m)**
- **Dhaulagiri (8172 m)**

Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Delhi

- **Aravalli Range**

UK ANNOUNCES SOCIAL MEDIA BAN FOR U-16 USERS

- **Scope of the Social Media Ban:** The ban will apply to major platforms such as TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Snapchat, and YouTube. Essential messaging services like WhatsApp and Signal will remain accessible, as the government intends to protect children's ability to communicate safely with friends and family.
- **Targeting Harmful Online Features:** Beyond a general social media ban, the government is implementing strict regulations to protect users under 18 from "high-risk" digital interactions.
- **Timeline & Enforcement:** The government plans to present the new regulations to Parliament before the end of 2026, with full implementation expected by Spring 2027. Tech companies failing to comply with the new age-verification requirements will face significant financial penalties for violating the safety standards.

INDIAAI MISSION-SUPPORTED AVATAAR.AI LAUNCHES INDIGENOUS AI VIDEO MODEL 'VARYA'

- **Technological Efficiency & Cost:** Varya utilizes an advanced distillation technique that reduces the number of computational steps from 50 to just 4. This breakthrough makes the model significantly faster and allows for video generation at approximately ₹0.48 per second, making it up to 10 times more cost-efficient than leading global models.
- **Deep Cultural Context Awareness:** Unlike global models that may struggle with specific regional nuances, Varya is trained on 40,000 Indian cultural datasets. This enables it to accurately generate visual outputs reflecting Indian festivals, attire, food, architecture, and everyday life, ensuring the content is contextually relevant to the local population.
- **Empowering Indian Creators & MSMEs:** The model is positioned as a tool to democratize AI-driven storytelling for MSMEs, educators, and creators who previously found global AI tools structurally unaffordable.

LEWIS HAMILTON WINS FIRST F1 RACE WITH FERRARI IN BARCELONA

- **Strategic Masterclass:** Ferrari executed a perfect three-stop strategy, which allowed Hamilton

to gain a crucial advantage over his rivals. He successfully capitalized on a well-timed Virtual Safety Car period, which provided him with a "free" pit stop and helped him maintain the lead until the finish line.

- **Historic British Podium:** Hamilton shared the podium with fellow British drivers George Russell (Mercedes) and Lando Norris (McLaren), who finished second and third, respectively. This event marked the first all-British podium in Formula 1 since the 1968 United States Grand Prix.
- **A Milestone for the Veteran Driver:** At 41 years old, Hamilton became the oldest Grand Prix winner since Jack Brabham in 1970. The victory was an emotional breakthrough for the seven-time world champion, ending a nearly two-year winless drought since his last triumph in 2024.

ELIQUO HYDROK WON THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY AWARD



- **Recognition of ELOVAC® Technology:** The award specifically honors the company's ELOVAC® technology, which effectively recovers value from sludge treatment processes. This system provides a practical and measurable way for operators to improve plant performance while significantly reducing waste.
- **Environmental & Operational Benefits:** The technology captures methane that would otherwise be

released into the atmosphere, helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, it enables the recovery of struvite crystals, which can be repurposed as a bioavailable fertilizer, effectively closing the resource loop.

- **Commitment to Sustainability:** This national recognition underscores ELIQUO HYDROK's ambition to be a leader in the water and energy-from-waste sectors. By focusing on circular economy principles, the company continues to help its clients operate more resiliently and sustainably for the future.

RENOWNED MAND FOLK SINGER GAVRI DEVI PASSED AWAY

- **Pioneer of Mand Singing:** Gavri Devi was one of the most prominent exponents of the Mand style, a soulful and traditional folk music form originating from the deserts of Rajasthan. Her rendition of the iconic song "Kesariya Balam" became synonymous with the cultural identity and warm hospitality of the state.
- **Decades of Cultural Contribution:** Throughout her long career, she remained a dedicated practitioner of folk art, performing on prestigious platforms across India and abroad. Her work with All India Radio and Doordarshan helped bring the unique melodies of Rajasthan into the homes of millions, ensuring the survival of the art form for future generations.
- **An Irreparable Loss:** Political leaders, including Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and former CM Ashok Gehlot, expressed deep sorrow over her passing, terming it an irreparable loss to the nation's cultural landscape.

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

16.06.2026 / TUESDAY

- **International Day of the African Child: 16th June**
- **The 2026 Theme is "Ensuring universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene for every child in Africa."**
- **This focus highlights the critical necessity of clean water and proper sanitation as foundational rights for children's health, survival, and educational development.**