

THE DAILY GK DOSE

SAFEENA HUSAIN NAMED TIME WOMEN OF THE YEAR 2026

- **Impact on "Left-Behind" Girls:** The honor recognizes Husain's mission to bring India's most marginalized, out-of-school girls back into the classroom. Her organization has successfully mobilized over 2 million girls for school enrollment across more than 30,000 villages in India, using a community-led model and AI to identify those most at risk.
- **Historic Year of Accolades:** Her selection by TIME follows a landmark 2025, during which Educate Girls became the first Indian organization to receive the Ramon Magsaysay Award (often called Asia's Nobel Prize). She also recently released her book, *Every Last Girl: A Journey to Educate India's Forgotten Daughters*, in January 2026.
- **A "Social Unicorn" Vision:** TIME highlights her data-driven approach to social change. Having surpassed her initial goals supported by the TED Audacious Project, Husain has set an ambitious new target: to reach 10 million learners by 2035, ensuring that geography and gender are no longer barriers to education.

UNION MINISTER ANNOUNCES NEW SEED ACT 2026

- **Digital Traceability & QR Codes:** To combat the menace of fake and substandard seeds, the Act mandates a nationwide traceability system. Every commercial seed packet must carry a QR code that allows farmers to scan and instantly access details regarding the seed's origin, producer, dealer, and quality certification.
- **Stringent Penalties for Spurious Seeds:** The Act adopts a "zero tolerance" policy toward

fraudulent seeds. Penalties have been drastically increased from nominal fines to up to ₹30 lakh and imprisonment for up to three years for deliberate offenses, ensuring much stronger accountability for seed companies and distributors.

- **Protection of Farmers' Traditional Rights:** While the Act mandates the registration of all commercial seed varieties and companies, it explicitly protects the rights of farmers to save, use, exchange, and share traditional, unbranded seeds within their communities without any legal restrictions or registration requirements.

ONGC TRIUMPHS AT INDIA PUBLIC SECTOR ENTERPRISES AWARDS 2025



- **Veteran Leadership:** Thomas Mathew is a retired Principal Chief General Manager of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). During his career at the central bank, he specialized in banking regulation, corporate governance, and financial supervision.
- **Succession Details:** He succeeds Sonali Sen Gupta in this role. The appointment was made by the Central Government under the powers of the Banking Companies Act, 1970, and is effective immediately.
- **Strategic Governance:** His induction is intended to strengthen IOB's regulatory alignment and board oversight.

IMPORTANT FACTS

- *1885 - Establishment of the Indian National Congress*
- *1905 - Partition of Bengal*
- *1906 - Formation of the All-India Muslim League*
- *1909 - Morley-Minto Reforms Act*
- *1913 - Ghadar Movement*
- *1914 - Beginning of the First World War*
- *1919 - Rowlatt Act*
- *1919 - Jallianwala Bagh Massacre*
- *1919 - Khilafat Movement*

IOB APPOINTS THOMAS MATHEW AS RBI DIRECTOR

- **Top Leadership Recognition:** ONGC Chairman and CEO Arun Kumar Singh was honored with the CEO/CMD of the Year – Platinum Award. This recognized his strategic leadership in driving corporate growth and ensuring national energy security.
- **Excellence in Sustainability:** The company secured the Platinum Award for Corporate Social Responsibility & Sustainability. This accolade highlighted ONGC's impact on community development and its commitment to environmental stewardship.
- **Commitment to Inclusivity:** ONGC received the Gold Award for the Contribution of Women & Differently Aabled in PSEs, celebrating the organization's efforts in building a diverse, equitable, and empowering workplace.

AUSTRALIA CAPTAIN ALYSSA HEALY RETIRING AFTER INDIA SERIES

- **A "Fairytale" ODI Finale:** Healy concluded her One-Day International career on March 1, 2026, in spectacular fashion. In her final ODI at Hobart, she smashed a career-best 158 runs off just 98 balls, leading Australia to a 3-0 series whitewash against India. She even bowled two overs in the match for the first time in her international career as a light-hearted farewell gesture.
- **The Pink-Ball "Swansong" in Perth:** Her final appearance in the Australian "baggy green" is set for the one-off Day-Night Test match against India at the WACA in Perth, starting March 6, 2026. She chose to skip the T20I leg of the series to allow the team to prepare for the upcoming T20 World Cup without her, focusing her final energy on the ODI and Test formats.
- **Legacy of an Eight-Time World Champion:** The 35-year-old retires as one of the most decorated players in cricket history, having won eight ICC World Cup titles (six T20 and two ODI). Citing "mental fatigue" and a loss of her "competitive edge" as reasons for stepping away.

MEITY LAUNCHES 30 KW WIDE BAND GAP-BASED INTEGRATED DRIVE SYSTEM

- **Indigenous EV Powertrain:** Developed under the National

Mission on Power Electronics Technology (NaMPET), this system is a collaboration between C-DAC Thiruvananthapuram, IIT Madras, and Lucas TVS. It marks a major milestone in the "Make in India" initiative, aiming to reduce India's heavy reliance on imported semiconductor-based EV components.

- **Integrated Design & Efficiency:** Unlike traditional EVs that use separate units, this technology integrates the electric motor and the inverter into a single, compact, high-power-density unit. By using Wide Band Gap (WBG) semiconductors, the system achieves higher efficiency, better thermal management, and a smaller footprint, making it ideal for compact passenger cars and fleet taxis.
- **Targeting the Passenger Segment:** The 30 kW power class is specifically optimized for India's rapidly growing electric passenger vehicle market.

INDIA'S FIRST AI-DRIVEN SKILL CENSUS 'SAKSHAM' LAUNCHED IN MUMBAI



- **Hyperlocal Skill Mapping:** The census is being piloted in the H-West Ward (Bandra West, Khar West, and Santacruz West), covering approximately 55,000

households. Enumerators use an AI-supported tool called "Arc" to conduct door-to-door surveys, capturing data on educational qualifications, vocational interests, and the specific training needs of youth aged 18 to 40.

- **Creation of a "Livelihood Sovereign AI":** Executed by Sapio Analytics, the project aims to build the world's first decentralized, AI-based Workforce Intelligence model. This model provides a 360-degree view of the local ecosystem by surveying not just residents, but also educational institutions and employers to identify where "skill gaps" exist in real-time.
- **Direct Path to Self-Reliance:** The initiative goes beyond data collection; the government aims to use the findings to train 15,000 candidates by 2027,

VETERAN EDITOR AND FORMER AMBASSADOR HK DUA PASSED AWAY

- **Rare Editorial "Grand Slam":** He held the unique distinction of serving as the Editor or Editor-in-Chief of four of India's leading daily newspapers: The Hindustan Times, The Indian Express, The Times of India, and The Tribune. He was widely respected for his unwavering commitment to editorial independence and ethical journalism.
- **Advisor to Prime Ministers & Diplomat:** Beyond the newsroom, he served as the Media Advisor to two Indian Prime Ministers, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and H.D. Deve Gowda. He also represented India on the global stage as the Ambassador to Denmark (2001–2003) and served as a nominated member of the Rajya Sabha (2009–2015).

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

05.03.2026 / THURSDAY

- **International Day for Disarmament & Non-Proliferation Awareness: 5th March**
- **Theme 2026: "International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness 2026 focuses on raising global awareness and promoting education to build a safer, weapon-free world."**