

THE DAILY GK DOSE

R VIJAY ANANDH NAMED CEO OF CITY UNION BANK

- Tenure and Start Date:** His appointment is for a period of three years, effective from May 1, 2026. This follows the retirement of the current MD & CEO, N. Kamakodi, whose 15-year tenure concludes on April 30, 2026.
- Professional Background:** Vijay Anandh is an internal successor, currently serving as the Executive Director of the bank. He has over 28 years of banking experience, with previous senior roles at RBL Bank, Barclays, and ICICI Bank, specializing in retail assets and risk management.
- Remuneration:** The RBI has sanctioned a fixed annual remuneration of ₹2.50 crore (including perquisites) for his role. While regulatory approval is secured, the appointment is still subject to formal approval by the bank's shareholders.

RAJASTHAN BECOMES LARGEST WOOL PRODUCER IN INDIA

- Market Dominance:** Rajasthan contributes approximately 47.5% of India's total wool production. In the 2023–24 fiscal year, the state produced about 16.1 million kg of wool, far outpacing the second-ranked Jammu & Kashmir.
- Specialization in Carpet Grade:** The state is the primary source of "Carpet Grade" wool (which makes up 85% of India's total wool profile). Indigenous breeds like Chokla and Marwari are prized for yielding the coarse

wool essential for high-quality carpets, rugs, and blankets.

- Strategic Infrastructure:** Rajasthan's leadership is supported by the largest sheep population in India and dedicated hubs like Bikaner, which hosts the biggest wool market in Asia, and Jodhpur, a major center for woollen thread mills.

INDIA NAMED COUNTRY OF THE YEAR AT BIOFACH 2026



- Global Spotlight and Scale:** Coordinated by APEDA, India returned to the center stage as the featured country after a gap of 14 years. The India Pavilion spanned over 1,074 square meters, making it one of the largest national exhibitions at the event.
- Diverse Representation:** The pavilion hosted 67 co-exhibitors from more than 20 States and Union Territories. This included Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), cooperatives, and exporters showcasing products ranging from organic spices and oilseeds to medicinal herbs.
- Heritage Showcase:** India used the platform to highlight its unique agricultural legacy by serving five GI-tagged rice varieties (such as Black rice and Navara rice) and offering live samplings of organic basmati biryani to international buyers.

IMPORTANT FACTS

- Max Planck is considered the father of quantum theory.*
- The Dr. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary is located in Goa.*
- Kerala was the first state in India to prepare a bird atlas.*
- Madhya Pradesh is known as the pulse bowl of India.*
- India has won the ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup six times.*

ADITYA PANDYA BECOMES INDIA'S YOUNGEST MALE ANALOG ASTRONAUT

- The Mission:** Aditya completed an eight-day lunar habitat simulation (from February 1 to 8, 2026) in the white salt desert of Dholavira, Gujarat. The location was chosen for its geographical resemblance to the Moon's surface.
- Dual Role (Engineer-Astronaut):** Unlike typical participants, Aditya served as the lead systems engineer for the mission. He spent six months designing the mission's technological backbone, including IoT-based environmental sensors, biometric health trackers, and 3D-printed modular components.
- Strategic Organization:** The mission was conducted by AAKA Space Studio, a registered ISRO Space Tutor. It utilized "digital twin" technology, allowing mission control to monitor the habitat's internal environment and the crew's physiological data in real-time.

AAKRITI DAHIYA CLINCHES SILVER IN ASIAN SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

- Individual Achievement:** The 24-year-old shooter clinched the silver medal in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions event with a score of 354.2. This was her first-ever individual continental medal, where she notably outperformed two-time Olympian and teammate Anjum Moudgil (who took bronze).
- Team Success:** In addition to her individual silver, Aakriti teamed up with Anjum Moudgil and Ashi Chouksey to win the team silver medal for India. They posted a combined score of 1,756, finishing just four points behind Kazakhstan.
- Competing Against a World Record:** Aakriti's performance was highlighted by the high level of competition; the gold medal was won by Kazakhstan's 18-year-old Sofiya Shulzhenko, who set a new world record with a score of 358.2 in the newly updated 35-shot final format.

CRICKETER SHIKHAR APPOINTED AS BRAND AMBASSADOR OF DELHI KHEL MAHAKUMBH

- Grassroots Talent Identification:** The initiative, launched by the Directorate of Education and Sports (Delhi Government), aims to create a structured platform for school and community-level athletes to transition into professional sporting pathways.

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

National Productivity Day—Celebrated to promote productivity and efficiency awareness across sectors.

- Theme for 12TH Feb 2026:** "Clusters as Growth Engine: Maximizing Productivity in MSMEs."
- Celebrated to mark the foundation of the National Productivity Council.**

- Scale and Participation:** The inaugural event is scheduled to begin on February 13, 2026, featuring thousands of young athletes from all 12 districts of Delhi. Competitions will be held across 16 venues in sports like kabaddi, wrestling, football, and athletics.
- A "Native" Role Model:** As a Delhi native, Dhawan's appointment is intended to inspire local youth. He has committed to using his experience and his venture, Da One Sports, to help mentor participants and elevate Delhi's status as a major sports hub in India.

INDONESIAN PYTHON SETS GUINNESS WORLD RECORD AS LONGEST WILD SNAKE



- Record Dimensions:** The female reticulated python (*Malayopython reticulatus*), nicknamed "Ibu Baron" (The Baroness), measures 7.22 meters (23 feet 8 inches). To put this in perspective, her length spans the entire width of a standard FIFA football goal.
- Discovery and Conservation:** Discovered in the Maros region of South Sulawesi in late 2025, she was rescued by local conservationist Budi Purwanto.

His quick intervention protected her from being killed or sold into the illegal wildlife trade, allowing for formal scientific measurement.

- Scientific Verification:** Experts weighed her at 96.5 kg (213 lbs) and used a surveyor's tape for measurement. While historical anecdotes claim snakes reaching 10 meters exist, Ibu Baron is now the highest verifiably measured wild snake, surpassing previous records that often lacked photographic or expert proof.

UNION MINISTER INTRODUCES INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026

- Legal Continuity:** The primary objective of the Bill is to ensure a smooth transition from the old labor laws to the new Industrial Relations Code, 2020 (which took effect on November 21, 2025). It formally clarifies that authorities under the repealed acts (like the Trade Unions Act, 1926) remain valid until new ones are appointed.
- Preventing Administrative Voids:** The amendment seeks to avoid "legal voids" by validating actions, investigations, and settlements currently being handled by existing statutory bodies. This prevents ongoing industrial disputes from falling into a legal limbo during the changeover.