




Current Affairs

02 & 03 Aug, 2025

Sindhu B Rupesh appointed as Director
in the Department of Space



1. Sindhu B Rupesh appointed as Director in the Department of Space

- **Bureaucratic Restructuring/Central Staffing Scheme:** Her appointment as an IAS officer (2011 batch, Karnataka cadre) under the Central Staffing Scheme highlights the government's approach to bringing experienced administrative talent.
- **Reinforcement of Space Sector:** The Department of Space (DoS) is crucial for India's space program, primarily executed through ISRO. Her administrative background suggests a focus on strengthening organizational efficiency and coordination within this vital strategic sector.
- **Governance & Administration in Key Sector:** Her prior roles as Deputy Commissioner, Director of Information and Public Relations, and Commissioner in BBMP demonstrate a strong background in public administration, citizen-centric governance, and potentially digital transformation.
- **Strategic Appointment Location (Bengaluru):** The appointment is specifically in Bengaluru, which is a major hub for India's space activities, housing key ISRO centers.



2. Vortex Engineering Signs Service Level Agreement with UCO Bank

- **"Make in India" and Atma Nirbhar Bharat:** Vortex Engineering, an India-based company incubated by IIT-Madras, emphasizes domestic design, development, and manufacturing of ATMs. This agreement with UCO Bank

directly supports the "Make in India" initiative and the "Atma Nirbhar Bharat" (self-reliant India) vision by fostering local innovation and employment in critical banking infrastructure.

- **Financial Inclusion and Digital Banking:** The deployment of 300 new ATMs, particularly energy-efficient models, is crucial for enhancing banking accessibility and financial inclusion, especially in underserved regions.
- **Technological Advancement in Banking Infrastructure:** Vortex's focus on innovative ATM solutions, including low-power ATMs and their remote monitoring platform "PERFO," highlights the ongoing technological upgradation in India's banking sector.
- **Public Sector Bank Modernization:** This partnership signifies UCO Bank's commitment to modernizing its banking infrastructure. For public sector banks, strategic agreements with technology providers like Vortex are essential to keep pace with evolving digital banking needs and compete effectively in the financial landscape.



3. RBI approves merger of NICBL with Saraswat Co-operative Bank

- **Consolidation in Co-operative Banking Sector:** This merger is a significant step in the ongoing consolidation trend within India's urban co-operative banking (UCB) sector. The RBI encourages such mergers to create stronger, more resilient entities and address the financial fragilities observed in some smaller UCBs.
- **Protection of Depositors' Interests:** A primary reason for such mergers, especially when a weaker bank (like NICBL, which had a negative net worth and was under moratorium due to fraud) is absorbed by a stronger one (Saraswat Co-operative Bank), is to protect the interests of depositors.
- **RBI's Regulatory Role and Powers:** The RBI's approval, exercised under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, highlights its active role as the regulator of co-operative banks. It demonstrates the RBI's commitment to maintaining financial stability.
- **Strengthening Financial Stability & Governance:** Mergers help in improving the overall financial stability of the co-operative banking segment by combining weaker balance sheets with stronger ones.



4. Magnus Carlsen Wins 1st Ever Chess Esports World Cup

- **Mainstreaming of Traditional Games in Esports:** Carlsen's victory in the inaugural Chess Esports World Cup signifies a major milestone in the convergence of traditional intellectual games like chess with the rapidly growing esports industry.
- **Magnus Carlsen's Continued Dominance and Adaptability:** As the world's top-ranked grandmaster and a multi-time World Champion in various formats (classical, rapid, blitz), Carlsen's win in an entirely new esports setting underscores his exceptional skill, adaptability, and enduring dominance across different competitive chess environments.
- **Expansion of Esports Landscape and Prize Pools:** The inclusion of chess in the Esports World Cup, with its substantial prize pool (\$1.5 million overall for chess, with \$250,000 for Carlsen), highlights the increasing financial scale and diversifying nature of the esports ecosystem.
- **Technological Integration and Fan Engagement:** The event showcased chess in a dynamic, high-production esports environment, including live stages, commentary, and fan interaction.



5. Khalid Jamil appointed as Head Coach of Indian Senior Men's Football Team

- **Return of a Homegrown Coach after a Decade:** Khalid Jamil's appointment marks a significant shift in the All India Football Federation (AIFF)'s policy, as he is the first Indian to be appointed as the full-time head coach of the senior men's national team in over 13 years (since Savio Medeira in 2011-12). This signals a renewed faith in domestic coaching talent.
- **Focus on "Indian Football Ecosystem":** The AIFF's decision to appoint an Indian coach like Jamil, who has extensive experience across various tiers of Indian club football (I-League, ISL), suggests an intent to leverage a deeper understanding of Indian players, their strengths, weaknesses, and the overall domestic footballing environment.
- **Proven Domestic Track Record:** Jamil is widely recognized for his remarkable achievements in Indian club football, most notably leading Aizawl FC to a historic I-League title in 2017 against significant odds, and guiding Jamshedpur FC to the ISL playoffs and Super Cup semifinals.



- **Strategic Shift Amidst Performance and Financial Challenges:** His appointment comes at a time when the Indian national team has seen a period of underwhelming performances under foreign coaches.

6. Union Sports Minister felicitates FIDE Champion & Grandmaster Divya

- **Historic Win in Women's Chess World Cup:** Divya Deshmukh, at just 19 years old, made history by becoming the first Indian woman to win the FIDE Women's World Cup 2025.
- **Attainment of Grandmaster Title:** Her victory in the World Cup automatically earned her the coveted Grandmaster (GM) title, making her the 88th Indian and only the 4th Indian woman to achieve this highest chess honor. This highlights the rare combination of a major tournament win with the direct awarding of the GM title.
- **All-Indian Final and Inspiration:** The FIDE Women's World Cup 2025 featured an all-Indian final between Divya Deshmukh and veteran Grandmaster Koneru Humpy.
- **Government Support for Sports Ecosystem:** The felicitation by the Union Sports Minister, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, underscores the government's recognition and support for excellence in sports.
- **Role Model for Youth and Gender Parity in Sports:** Divya Deshmukh's achievement at a young age, coupled with the Minister's emphasis on her serving as an inspiration, highlights the potential for greater participation of youth and women in sports.



7. Dr. Mayank Sharma Assumes Office as Financial Advisor (Defence Services)

- **Key Appointment in Defence Finance:** Dr. Mayank Sharma's assumption of charge as Financial Advisor (Defence Services) is a crucial appointment within the Ministry of Defence. This role is central to managing the substantial defence budget, ensuring financial prudence, and advising on all financial matters related to the armed forces and defence procurement.
- **Senior Bureaucratic Role (IDAS):** As an officer of the Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS), his appointment highlights the specialized expertise required for defence finance.



- **Financial Oversight and Expenditure Management:** The Financial Advisor (Defence Services) is instrumental in the effective management of defence expenditure, which is one of the largest components of the Union Budget.
- **Procurement and Modernization Support:** A significant part of the role involves providing financial advice on defence procurement, including major acquisitions and modernization projects.

8. Ajay Kumar Jaiswal appointed as CVO, Northern Coalfields Ltd.

- **Strengthening Vigilance in PSUs:** The appointment of a CVO like Ajay Kumar Jaiswal (an IRSME officer of the 2008 batch) in a major Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) like Northern Coalfields Ltd (NCL) underscores the government's continuous emphasis on improving vigilance and anti-corruption mechanisms within public enterprises.
- **Role of the CVO:** The CVO acts as the extended arm of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) within the PSU. Their primary responsibility is to oversee vigilance activities, promote transparency, and ensure ethical practices, playing a crucial role in both preventive and punitive vigilance.
- **Governance in the Coal Sector:** NCL is a significant coal-producing company under the Ministry of Coal. The appointment of a CVO is particularly important in sectors like coal mining, which are often susceptible to issues of corruption and malpractice due to large-scale operations and resource allocation. This aims to enhance good governance.
- **Tenure and Independence:** CVOs are typically appointed for a fixed tenure (often three years, extendable by two), and they function as an independent authority directly reporting to the Chief Executive of the undertaking.



9. Cloves Syndrome Awareness Day observed on 03rd August, 2025

- **Focus on a Rare Congenital Disorder:** CLOVES Syndrome Awareness Day highlights a very rare congenital (present at birth) disorder. Its acronym stands for Congenital Lipomatous Overgrowth, Vascular Malformations, Epidermal Nevi, and Spinal/Skeletal Anomalies/Scoliosis, signifying its multi-systemic nature.
- **Importance of Early Diagnosis and Research:** With fewer than 200 identified cases worldwide, CLOVES Syndrome is often misdiagnosed. Awareness days



are crucial to educate healthcare professionals and the public, leading to earlier and accurate diagnosis, which is vital for effective management and improving the quality of life for affected individuals.

- **Genetic Basis (PIK3CA Mutation):** CLOVES Syndrome is caused by spontaneous mutations in the PIK3CA gene during fetal development. Understanding its genetic origin is key for potential future gene therapies, even though there are no known risk factors for these mutations currently.
- **Multidisciplinary Management Challenge:** Due to its diverse symptoms affecting various body parts (fatty overgrowths, blood vessel malformations, skin lesions, skeletal issues), managing CLOVES Syndrome requires a multidisciplinary approach involving numerous medical specialists (e.g., surgeons, radiologists, orthopedists, geneticists).

10. Veteran Actor KPAC Rajendran passed away

- **Veteran Theatre and Television Artist:** KPAC Rajendran was a renowned figure in Malayalam theatre and television, with a career spanning over five decades. He was particularly associated with the Kerala Peoples Arts Club (KPAC), a legendary theatre troupe.
- **Iconic Role in "Ningalenne Communistakki":** He gained significant recognition for his powerful role in the acclaimed play "Ningalenne Communistakki" (You Made Me a Communist), a landmark production in Malayalam progressive theatre.
- **Popularity through "Uppum Mulakum":** Despite his extensive theatre background, he became a household name across Kerala, especially among the younger generation, for his portrayal of Padavalam Kuttanpillai in the highly popular Malayalam sitcom "Uppum Mulakum" (Salt and Pepper).
- He passed away on July 31, 2025, at the age of 74, while undergoing treatment at Government Medical College Hospital, Alappuzha, reportedly due to kidney-related ailments.



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