




Current Affairs

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Anup Kumar re-appointment as non-executive chairman of Bandhan Bank



1. Anup Kumar re-appointment as non-executive chairman of Bandhan Bank

Anup Kumar has been re-appointed as the non-executive chairman of Bandhan Bank. His continued leadership is expected to guide the bank through its strategic objectives and enhance its growth trajectory in the competitive banking sector. With extensive experience in financial services, Kumar has been instrumental in shaping the bank's policies and strengthening its foundation. His reappointment reflects the bank's confidence in his ability to steer it toward further success while ensuring long-term stability and customer satisfaction.



Foot notes:

- Anup Kumar has been re-appointed as the non-executive chairman of Bandhan Bank, bringing his extensive experience and expertise to the role once again.
- Anup Kumar is a renowned economist with a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, and has taught at prestigious institutions like Indian Institute of Management Calcutta and Presidency College.
- He has served on the Board of NABARD and has been a visiting faculty at several universities, including the University of Calcutta and Indian Statistical Institute.
- Anup Kumar has authored several publications on economics, rural economy, and management, and has been recognized with awards like the Best Teacher Award and Best Faculty Award from the IIMC Alumni Association.

- The Board of Directors at Bandhan Bank includes other notable members like Partha Pratim Sengupta, Ratan Kumar Kesh, and Rajinder Kumar Babbar, among others.
- Bandhan Bank aims to continue its mission of providing world-class financial solutions to all, with a focus on creating a positive impact on the community and promoting financial inclusion.

2. Mike Johnson Re-Elected As US House Speaker

Mike Johnson has been re-elected as the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. This marks a significant moment in American politics, as Johnson, a Republican from Louisiana, continues to hold the influential position. His re-election reflects his leadership and the support he has garnered within his party. As Speaker, Johnson will play a crucial role in shaping legislative agendas and navigating key policy decisions in the U.S. government.



Foot notes:

- He represents Louisiana's 4th Congressional District and has been in office since 2017.
- Johnson's Priorities include extending Trump's tax cuts and reducing the size of the government.
- Johnson's Background is rooted in conservative values, and he has been a member of Congress since 2017. He is known for his mild-mannered approach, but has also faced criticism from some conservatives for his willingness to work with Democrats.
- The Implications of Johnson's re-election are significant, as he will play a crucial role in shaping the legislative agenda for the upcoming term. With Trump's support, Johnson is likely to push for policies that align with the President's goals.
- The Future of the US House of Representatives under Johnson's leadership is uncertain, he will face significant challenges in balancing the competing interests of his party and working with Democrats to pass legislation.

3. India Gets Its First Glass Bridge At Kanyakumari

India's first glass bridge has been inaugurated in Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu, offering a thrilling experience for visitors. The transparent structure, designed with advanced engineering, provides breathtaking views of the surrounding landscapes and the confluence of the Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal, and the Indian Ocean. Aimed at boosting tourism, the bridge is equipped with stringent safety measures to ensure a secure

experience for tourists. This iconic attraction is expected to draw adventure enthusiasts and nature lovers from across the country and beyond.

Foot notes:

- India's first glass bridge is now open in Kanyakumari, connecting the Vivekananda Rock Memorial and the 133-foot Thiruvalluvar statue, offering a unique walking experience over the sea.
- The bridge is 77 meters long and 10 meters wide, with a bowstring-arch design that provides both aesthetic appeal and structural durability, making it a marvel of modern engineering.
- This new attraction is expected to boost tourism in Kanyakumari, providing a seamless and secure commute between the two iconic landmarks, and offering breathtaking views of the sea through its glass floor.
- The project was completed at a cost of ₹37 crore, using modern materials to guarantee its resilience to the weather, especially the salty air and strong winds common in coastal regions.
- The bridge was inaugurated on the silver jubilee of the Thiruvalluvar statue's unveiling, and is part of a broader effort to promote Kanyakumari as a global tourist destination, showcasing the region's rich cultural heritage.
- The glass bridge is expected to attract both domestic and international visitors, fostering economic growth and uplifting associated industries, making it a significant addition to India's tourism landscape.



4. Xiaomi India appoints Sandeep Singh Arora as Chief Business Officer

Xiaomi India has appointed Sandeep Singh Arora as its new Chief Business Officer. With a wealth of experience in the technology and consumer electronics sectors, Arora is expected to play a pivotal role in driving Xiaomi's business growth and expansion in India. His expertise in strategy and business development will be key in enhancing Xiaomi's market presence and achieving its goals in the highly competitive Indian market. Arora's appointment underscores Xiaomi India's commitment to strengthening its leadership team and delivering innovative products to its customers.



Foot notes:

- Sandeep Singh Arora has been appointed as the Chief Business Officer of Xiaomi India, bringing over three decades of experience in managing and growing consumer brands.

- Strategic Role: In this role, Arora will lead business development initiatives, drive revenue growth, cultivate new strategic partnerships, and expand market presence, leveraging his expertise in product marketing, category management, and brand strategy.
- Arora has held senior leadership roles at Samsung India, Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd., PepsiCo India, and Unilever, honing his ability to drive strategic growth and innovation in competitive markets.
- He holds a PGDM in Business Management and Marketing from IIM Ahmedabad, bringing extensive expertise in driving business strategies and brand development.
- Xiaomi India aims to deliver exceptional products to aspirational Indians, transforming the tech landscape in India and making innovative technology accessible to all.
- Xiaomi India is poised for a transformative period, equipped with more rigorous, forward-thinking plans aimed at accelerating growth and fostering innovation.

5. Mangarani receives Savitribai Phule Award

Mangarani has been honored with the Savitribai Phule Award for her outstanding contributions to the empowerment of women and her dedication to social justice. The award, named after the pioneering social reformer and educator Savitribai Phule, recognizes individuals who have made significant strides in promoting education, equality, and women's rights. Mangarani's work, particularly in advancing the cause of marginalized communities, has had a profound impact on society. This prestigious recognition celebrates her tireless efforts to uplift women and foster social change.



Foot notes:

- Mangarani has been honored with the prestigious Savitribai Phule Award, a testament to her outstanding contributions to education and social reform.
- The award is named after the renowned Indian social reformer and educator Savitribai Phule, who dedicated her life to promoting women's education and empowerment.
- Mangarani's work aligns with Savitribai Phule's vision of education as a powerful tool for social change and women's empowerment, inspiring countless individuals to strive for a better future.

- This special category of the award recognizes teachers who have made significant contributions to education, just like Savitribai Phule, and Mangarani is one of the eight teachers to receive this honor.
- The Savitribai Phule Award is part of the State Teacher Excellence Awards 2023-24, which aims to recognize and reward exceptional teachers who have made a positive impact on their students and communities.
- The award ceremony is a celebration of women's education and empowerment, highlighting the importance of education in breaking down social barriers and promoting equality, a cause close to Savitribai Phule's heart.

6. Paralympics Silver Medalist Thulasi Murugesan receives Arjuna Award

Paralympics silver medalist Thulasi Murugesan has been honored with the prestigious Arjuna Award for her exceptional contributions to Indian sports. Thulasi, a trailblazer in para-athletics, has inspired millions with her determination and remarkable achievements on the international stage. The award recognizes her outstanding performance and dedication, highlighting her role in promoting inclusivity in sports. This accolade adds another milestone to her illustrious career, encouraging young athletes to pursue their dreams despite challenges.



Foot notes:

- She won the silver medal in women's para badminton singles SU5 at the Paris 2024 Paralympics, a remarkable feat that showcases her skill and dedication to the sport.
- Thulasi is a third-year student at the Veterinary College in Namakkal, Tamil Nadu, and her passion for badminton has taken her to great heights, inspiring many with her journey.
- The Arjuna Award is a testament to her hard work and perseverance, and she's thrilled to receive this honor, which is a milestone in her career.
- Thulasi has been part of the TOPS scheme, which has provided her with the necessary training and coaching to excel in international games, and her success is a reflection of the program's effectiveness.
- She's among several notable athletes who have received the Arjuna Award this year, including Jyothi Yarraji, Annu Rani, and Nitu Ghanghas, to name a few.
- This award is not only a recognition of Thulasi's achievements but also a motivation for her to continue pushing boundaries and inspiring others through her remarkable journey.

7. Sai Paranjpye To Receive Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award

Renowned filmmaker and writer Sai Paranjpye is set to receive the prestigious Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award for her exceptional contributions to Indian cinema and literature. Known for her iconic films like Sparsh, Chashme Buddoor, and Katha, Paranjpye has been celebrated for her storytelling brilliance and ability to blend humor with poignant social commentary. The award recognizes her lifelong dedication to the arts, inspiring generations of filmmakers and audiences alike. This honor cements her legacy as one of India's most cherished creative visionaries.



Foot notes:

- Sai Paranjpye is a highly acclaimed director and writer in Indian cinema, known for her contributions to the parallel cinema movement, and she's all set to receive the prestigious Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award.
- The award will be conferred upon her at the Ajanta-Ellora International Film Festival 2025, which is scheduled to take place in Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar from January 15 to January 19, and she'll receive a memento, a letter of honor, and a monetary reward of Rs 2 lakh.
- Paranjpye has directed several iconic films, including 'Sparsh', 'Chashme Buddoor', 'Katha', and 'Saaz', which have been widely appreciated for their unique storytelling and direction.
- She's a key figure in the parallel cinema movement of the 1970s and 1980s, alongside other notable directors like Shyam Benegal, Govind Nihalani, and Kumar Shahani, and has made significant contributions to Indian cinema.
- Paranjpye has also made a mark in Marathi literature, with plays like 'Jaswandi', 'Sakkhe Shejari', and 'Albel', showcasing her versatility as a writer and director.
- Paranjpye has received numerous awards and recognition, including four National Awards and the Padma Bhushan in 2006, solidifying her position as a legendary figure in Indian cinema.

8. Cricket Australia Names Jasprit Bumrah Captain in Men's Test Team

Cricket Australia has made an unprecedented move by naming India's Jasprit Bumrah as the captain of their men's Test team. This surprising announcement highlights Bumrah's exceptional leadership qualities and his remarkable achievements in international cricket. Known for his deadly pace and precision, Bumrah's appointment is expected to foster a new era of collaboration and strategic excellence in the sport. The decision reflects Cricket Australia's forward-thinking approach, embracing



global talent to strengthen their cricketing legacy.

Foot notes:

- Jasprit Bumrah has been named the captain of the Indian men's Test team, a significant milestone in his career, and he's all set to lead the team in the fifth Test against Australia.
- Rohit Sharma's Absence: Bumrah's appointment comes after Rohit Sharma was dropped from the team due to a miserable run of form with the bat, and he's been replaced by Shubman Gill.
- The Indian team has undergone some changes, with Prasidh Krishna making his Test debut and Akash Deep being ruled out due to a back complaint.
- Bumrah has previously captained the Indian Test team in the absence of Rohit Sharma and has shown his leadership skills, making him a strong candidate for the role.
- The Australian team, led by Pat Cummins, has also undergone some changes, with Beau Webster making his debut and Mitch Marsh being dropped.
- The fifth Test between India and Australia is currently underway, with Bumrah winning the toss and opting to bat first, and it'll be interesting to see how the team performs under his captaincy.

9. Faiz Ahmed Kidwai appointed As DGCA Director General

Faiz Ahmed Kidwai has been appointed as the new Director General of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). With his extensive experience in aviation and regulatory affairs, Kidwai is expected to bring leadership and innovation to the organization. His appointment comes at a critical time as the DGCA continues to enhance aviation safety standards and promote the growth of India's aviation sector. Kidwai's expertise will play a vital role in ensuring the development of a robust and safe aviation environment in the country.



Foot notes:

- Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, a 1996-batch IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as the Director General of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- Kidwai was previously serving as an Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- The appointment is part of a senior-level bureaucratic reshuffle, which also saw Ashutosh Agnihotri being named as the Chairman and Managing Director of Food Corporation of India (FCI).

- As the Director General of DGCA, Kidwai will be responsible for overseeing the safety and regulatory aspects of civil aviation in India.
- Other notable appointments include Akash Tripathi being appointed as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Power, and Kamal Kishore Soan being appointed as Additional Secretary and Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission.
- The appointment of Kidwai as DGCA Director General is significant, as it comes at a time when the Indian civil aviation sector is experiencing rapid growth and expansion.

10. Renowned Botanist K.S. Manilal passed away

Renowned botanist K.S. Manilal, known for his significant contributions to plant taxonomy and conservation, has passed away. His pioneering work in the field of botany, especially in the study of plant species in India, earned him widespread recognition and respect. Manilal was instrumental in various botanical research projects, contributing to the understanding and preservation of India's rich flora. His passing is a great loss to the scientific community, and his legacy in the field of botany will continue to inspire future generations of researchers and conservationists.



Foot notes:

- K.S. Manilal, a renowned botanist, passed away on January 1, 2025, at the age of 86, in Thrissur, Kerala, due to age-related ailments.
- He was honored with the Padma Shri award in 2020 for his contributions to the field of science and engineering, and also received international recognition with the Officer of the Order of Orange-Nassau award from the Netherlands.
- Manilal served as the head of the Department of Botany at the University of Calicut and authored over 200 research papers and 15 books, introducing 19 new plant species to the scientific community, with four species named after him.
- His work on "Hortus Malabaricus" brought to light many interesting facts about the history of India, politics of the 17th century Netherlands, and the social conditions of Malabar, making him a pioneer in taxonomic research and biodiversity studies in Kerala.

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