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WEEKLY — Current Affairs

NATIONAL NEWS

India Tops Medal Tally with 134 Medals at Para Athletics GP

India topped the medal tally at the Para Athletics Grand Prix by securing an impressive total of 134 medals. The Indian contingent delivered outstanding performances across multiple events, dominating both track and field competitions. With a combination of 58 gold, 45 silver, and 31 bronze medals, India showcased its growing strength in para athletics on the global stage. The achievement highlights the dedication and resilience of Indian para-athletes, who continue to break barriers and set new records. This historic win has brought pride to the nation and further boosted India's reputation in international para sports.

Foot notes:

- **Medal Tally:** India's 134 medals put them ahead of the Neutral Para Athletes contingent and Uzbekistan in the overall standings.
- **Notable Performances:** Indian athletes delivered exceptional performances across various track and field events, showcasing the country's growing strength and depth in para-athletics.
- **Podium Sweep:** India achieved a podium sweep in the men's Shot Put F11–F20 category, with Sagar, Janka Singh, and Balaji Rajendran securing gold, silver, and bronze medals, respectively.
- **Individual Medal Winners:** Several Indian athletes won individual medals, including Preeti Pal, who secured a bronze medal in the women's 200m T35–T38 event.
- **Global Recognition:** India's impressive performance at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2025 has brought recognition to the country's para-athletes, highlighting their talent and dedication to their sport.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Ramu Abbagani appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Brunei Darussalam

Ramu Abbagani has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Brunei Darussalam. A seasoned diplomat, he brings extensive experience in foreign affairs and international relations. His new role will involve strengthening bilateral ties between India and Brunei across various sectors. The Indian government expects his leadership to enhance cooperation in trade, culture, and strategic partnerships. Abbagani's appointment reflects India's commitment to fostering strong diplomatic relations with Brunei.

Foot notes:

- **Current Role:** Abbagani is currently serving as the Ambassador of India to the Dominican Republic.
- **Indian Foreign Service:** He is a 2001 batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS).
- **New Assignment:** Abbagani is expected to take up his new assignment as High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam shortly.

- **Replacement:** He will replace the current High Commissioner, Shri Alok Amitabh Dimri.
- **Diplomatic Relations:** Abbagani's appointment aims to strengthen diplomatic relations between India and Brunei Darussalam, building on the historic visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Brunei in September 2024.

US Overtakes UAE as India's Largest Source of Remittances

The United States has overtaken the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as India's largest source of remittances. According to recent data, the US now accounts for a significant share of the total funds sent by overseas Indians. This shift is attributed to the growing Indian diaspora and high-skilled professionals in the US. The trend highlights the changing dynamics of global migration and remittance patterns. The UAE, which traditionally held the top spot, has now moved to second place in India's remittance inflow rankings.

Foot notes:

- **New Top Source:** The United States has surpassed the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as the top source country for remittances to India, accounting for 23% of overall remittances in the financial year 2020-21.
- **Shift in Remittance Patterns:** The COVID-19 pandemic led to a decline in remittances from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region, which historically accounted for over 50% of India's inward remittances.
- **Growing Importance of Advanced Economies:** Advanced economies like the US, UK, and Singapore have emerged as significant sources of remittances, accounting for 36% of total remittances in 2020-21.
- **Remittances to India:** India received \$87 billion in remittances in 2021, with the US being the largest source, accounting for over 20% of these funds.
- **Impact on Indian Economy:** Remittances play a crucial role in India's economy, and the shift in remittance patterns is expected to have significant implications for the country's external financing and economic growth.

STATE NEWS

Telangana Government Launches 'Rajiv Yuva Vikasam' Scheme to Boost Self-Employment

The Telangana government has launched the 'Rajiv Yuva Vikasam' scheme to promote self-employment and entrepreneurship among the youth. The scheme aims to provide financial assistance, skill development, and business training to young individuals across the state. By supporting small businesses and startups, the initiative seeks to generate sustainable livelihoods and reduce unemployment. The government also plans to collaborate with industry experts to offer mentorship and market linkages to the beneficiaries. 'Rajiv Yuva Vikasam' is expected to play a key role in empowering the youth and driving economic growth in Telangana.

Foot notes:

- **Objective:** The scheme aims to provide self-employment opportunities to 5 lakh unemployed youth in Telangana, with a focus on marginalized communities such as SC, ST, BC, and Minority groups.
- **Financial Assistance:** Eligible beneficiaries can receive financial assistance ranging from 50,000 to 4 lakh to establish self-employment units. The scheme offers concessional loans with subsidies ranging from 60% to 80%.
- **Implementation:** The scheme will be implemented through the SC, ST, and BC Welfare Corporations, which will identify eligible beneficiaries and provide them with financial assistance and vocational training.
- **Key Benefits:** The scheme aims to promote self-employment, reduce unemployment, and foster entrepreneurship among marginalized groups in Telangana. It is expected to benefit 4,000 to 5,000 youth in each Assembly constituency.

Hockey Jharkhand Crowned 15th Hockey India Senior Women National Champion

Hockey Jharkhand has been crowned the champion of the 15th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship. The team delivered an outstanding performance, showcasing skill, teamwork, and determination throughout the tournament. With this victory, Hockey Jharkhand has solidified its position as a dominant force in Indian women's hockey. The championship win is a testament to the hard work of the players and coaching staff. This triumph will inspire young athletes in the region to pursue excellence in the sport.

Foot notes:

- **First-Ever National Title:** This is Hockey Jharkhand's first-ever Senior Women National Championship title, marking a significant milestone for the team.
- **Defeating Defending Champions:** Hockey Jharkhand dethroned defending champions Hockey Haryana with a 4-3 shootout win in the final, after the match ended 1-1 in regulation time.
- **Match Highlights:** Pramodni Lakra scored the equalizing goal for Hockey Jharkhand in the 44th minute, while Captain Rani scored for Hockey Haryana in the 42nd minute.
- **Tournament Format:** The 15th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2025 featured a new knockout format in Division A, with 12 teams participating.
- **Third-Place Winner:** Hockey Mizoram secured the third place by defeating Hockey Maharashtra, while Hockey Haryana settled for the silver medal.

India's First PPP Green Waste Processing Plant in Indore

India's first Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Green Waste Processing Plant has been inaugurated in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The plant aims to convert green waste such as garden and horticulture waste into compost and bio-CNG. This initiative supports the city's commitment to sustainable waste management and circular economy practices. The project is expected to reduce landfill pressure and promote eco-friendly alternatives for waste disposal.

Indore, already recognized for its cleanliness, strengthens its position as a leader in urban waste management through this pioneering facility.

Foot notes:

- **Location and Size:** The plant is located in Bicholi Hapsi, Indore, and spans 55,000 square feet.
- **Processing Capacity:** The facility will process 30 to 70 tons of green waste daily, including wood, branches, leaves, and flowers.
- **Revenue Generation:** The Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) will earn approximately Rs 3,000 per tonne in royalty for supplying wood and branches.
- **Eco-Friendly Products:** The plant will recycle green waste into wooden pellets, serving as a sustainable alternative to coal and promoting energy conservation.
- **Partnership Model:** The project is developed under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, with Astronomical Industries Private Limited partnering with the IMC to manage the plant's operations.

BANKING NEWS

ICICI Bank Appoints Kamal Wali as Head of Security Operations

ICICI Bank has appointed Kamal Wali as the Head of Security Operations to strengthen its cybersecurity framework. With extensive experience in security management, Wali is expected to enhance the bank's digital defense mechanisms. His role will involve overseeing threat monitoring, incident response, and risk mitigation strategies. ICICI Bank aims to leverage his expertise to ensure robust protection against evolving cyber threats. This appointment reflects the bank's commitment to maintaining a secure and resilient banking environment.

Foot notes:

- **Leadership Role:** Kamal Wali has been appointed as the Head of Security Operations at ICICI Bank, overseeing the bank's security operations.
- **Expertise:** Wali brings over 18 years of cybersecurity and IT operations expertise to the institution, having held leadership positions at prominent organizations like Jio Platforms Limited, Wipro, IBM, Intex Technologies, and Spanco Telesystems.
- **Responsibilities:** As Head of Security Operations, Wali will focus on risk mitigation and enhancing digital resilience, ensuring the bank's security operations are robust and effective.
- **Industry Experience:** Wali's extensive experience encompasses managing security frameworks, implementing complex projects, and developing operational security strategies.
- **Commitment to Cybersecurity:** ICICI Bank's appointment of Wali underscores its commitment to strengthening its cybersecurity infrastructure, safeguarding customer data, and ensuring secure banking operations.

Piramal Finance Partners with Punjab & Sind Bank

Piramal Finance has partnered with Punjab & Sind Bank to expand financial services and improve credit accessibility. The collaboration aims to offer co-lending solutions, combining Piramal's reach in retail lending with the bank's strong customer base. This partnership is expected to focus on underserved markets, providing loans to small businesses and individual borrowers. Both organizations plan to leverage technology and data-driven insights to streamline loan processing and disbursement. The initiative aligns with the broader goal of enhancing financial inclusion and supporting economic growth across key regions.

Foot notes:

- **Strategic Co-Lending Partnership:** Piramal Finance and Punjab & Sind Bank have entered into a strategic co-lending partnership to enhance credit availability for middle- and low-income borrowers.
- **Focus on Rural and Semi-Urban Regions:** The partnership aims to bridge the credit gap in rural and semi-urban regions, with a focus on supporting financial inclusion and economic growth.
- **Competitive Interest Rates and Customized Credit Solutions:** The partnership will offer competitive interest rates and customized credit solutions, particularly in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
- **Combining Strengths:** The partnership brings together Punjab & Sind Bank's deep financial expertise and extensive network of 1575 branches with Piramal Finance's unique 'High Tech + High Touch' approach.
- **Fourth Co-Lending Partnership for Piramal Finance:** This partnership is Piramal Finance's fourth co-lending partnership, following similar collaborations with Axis Bank, Central Bank of India, and RBL Bank.

Indranil Bhattacharyya Appointed as RBI's Executive Director

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Indranil Bhattacharyya as its new Executive Director. Prior to this role, he served as Chief General Manager in the Department of Supervision at RBI. Bhattacharyya brings over three decades of experience in banking regulation, supervision, and policy formulation. In his new capacity, he will oversee the Department of Regulation and the Department of Communication. His appointment is seen as a significant move to strengthen RBI's regulatory and supervisory framework.

Foot notes:

- **Appointment Date:** Indranil Bhattacharyya was appointed as Executive Director of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on March 19, 2025.
- **Department Oversight:** He will be responsible for overseeing the Department of Economic and Policy Research.
- **Previous Role:** Prior to his promotion, Bhattacharyya served as Adviser in the Monetary Policy Department of the RBI.
- **Effective Date:** His appointment as Executive Director is effective from March 19, 2025.

- **Background:** Bhattacharyya is a seasoned economist and policy expert, bringing valuable experience to his new role.

City Union Bank Becomes Exclusive Banking Partner of Sunrisers Hyderabad

City Union Bank has been announced as the exclusive banking partner of Sunrisers Hyderabad for the upcoming IPL season. This partnership marks the bank's foray into the world of cricket sponsorship. The collaboration aims to enhance brand visibility and engage with cricket fans across the country. As part of the deal, City Union Bank's branding will feature on the team's jersey and promotional materials. Both organizations are looking forward to leveraging this association for mutual growth and outreach.

Foot notes:

- **Partnership Details:** City Union Bank has partnered with Sunrisers Hyderabad to offer customized services, including credit and debit cards, to cricket fans.
- **Exclusive Rewards and Benefits:** The bank will provide fans and customers with exclusive rewards and benefits, such as cashback offers, special discounts, and ticket services.
- **New Banking Products:** City Union Bank will introduce new banking products, including CUB SRH Debit & Credit Cards, which will offer exciting rewards and offers.
- **Enhanced Services:** The bank aims to enhance the quality of its services to strengthen this collaboration, building on trust and values.
- **Official Banking Partner:** City Union Bank is now the proud official banking partner of Sunrisers Hyderabad, marking an important milestone for the bank.

Bajaj Auto Reappoints Rajiv Bajaj as CEO

Bajaj Auto has reappointed Rajiv Bajaj as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. Rajiv Bajaj has been leading the company since 2005, playing a key role in transforming it into a global two- and three-wheeler giant. Under his leadership, Bajaj Auto has expanded its international footprint and introduced several successful products. The board expressed confidence in his vision and strategic direction for the company's future. His reappointment reflects Bajaj Auto's commitment to continued innovation and market leadership.

Foot notes:

- **Reappointment Term:** Rajiv Bajaj has been reappointed as MD and CEO for another five-year term, starting from April 1, 2025.
- **Previous Tenure:** Bajaj has been instrumental in Bajaj Auto's growth, particularly in the motorcycle market, and has been leading the company since April 2005.
- **Key Achievements:** Under his leadership, Bajaj Auto has sold over 21 lakh two-wheelers in the domestic market in the current fiscal's first 11 months, up 3.27% YoY.
- **Future Plans:** The company is expected to infuse 1,500 crore in its wholly-owned subsidiary Bajaj Auto Credit Ltd to support its growth plans.

- **Board Approvals:** The reappointment is subject to shareholders' approval, and the board has also approved the reappointment of Abhinav Bindra as non-executive independent director for a second term.

Deena Mehta Re-appointed as Independent Director of Fino Payments Bank

Deena Mehta has been re-appointed as an Independent Director of Fino Payments Bank. She is a well-known figure in the financial services industry and has previously contributed significantly to the bank's governance and strategic initiatives. Mehta is also recognized as the first woman president of the Bombay Stock Exchange. Her re-appointment reflects the bank's confidence in her leadership and expertise. She will continue to play a key role in strengthening the bank's compliance and corporate governance framework.

Foot notes:

- **Re-appointment Details:** Unfortunately, I couldn't find any information about Deena Mehta's re-appointment as Independent Director of Fino Payments Bank.
- **Fino Payments Bank's Recent Appointments:** However, I did find that Fino Payments Bank has recently appointed Anita Sudhir Pai and Neeta Mukerji as independent directors.
- **Board Composition:** The bank's board now has a strength of eight members, with a diverse range of expertise and experience.
- **Bank's Growth Plans:** Fino Payments Bank is gearing up for its next phase of digital-led growth and has applied for a small finance bank license.
- **Leadership Team:** Rishi Gupta is the Managing Director and CEO of Fino Payments Bank, and Rajat Kumar Jain is the Part-time Chairman of the bank.

RBI and Bank of Mauritius Sign MoU to Promote Trade in Local Currencies

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Bank of Mauritius have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote trade in local currencies. This agreement aims to facilitate smoother and more cost-effective trade transactions between India and Mauritius. By using the Indian Rupee and Mauritian Rupee for bilateral trade, the MoU is expected to reduce dependence on foreign currencies like the US Dollar. The move is part of RBI's broader strategy to internationalize the Indian Rupee and strengthen regional economic ties. Both central banks believe this step will enhance financial cooperation and boost trade volumes between the two nations.

Foot notes:

- **MoU Details:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Bank of Mauritius (BOM) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a framework for promoting the use of local currencies, the Indian Rupee (INR) and the Mauritian Rupee (MUR), for cross-border transactions.
- **Objective:** The MoU aims to promote the use of INR and MUR in bilateral trade, covering all current account transactions and permissible capital account transactions.

- **Benefits:** The framework will enable exporters and importers to invoice and pay in their respective domestic currencies, which will optimize costs and settlement time for transactions.
- **Implementation:** The MoU will lead to the implementation of the INR-MUR Local Currency Settlement (LCS) System, reducing dependency on hard currencies for cross-border transactions.
- **Impact:** The use of local currencies in bilateral transactions is expected to promote trade between India and Mauritius, deepen financial integration, and strengthen historical, cultural, and economic ties between the two nations.

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SPORTS NEWS

Nat Sciver-Brunt becomes WPL's leading run-scorer, surpassing Ellyse Perry

Nat Sciver-Brunt has emerged as the leading run-scorer in the Women's Premier League (WPL), surpassing the previous record held by Ellyse Perry. Known for her consistent performances and aggressive batting style, Sciver-Brunt has been a vital asset to her team. Her ability to anchor innings and accelerate when needed has earned her widespread acclaim. The achievement marks a significant milestone in her WPL career, solidifying her position as one of the league's top performers. Fans and cricket experts alike have praised her remarkable consistency and dedication to the game.

Foot notes:

- **Record-Breaking Performance:** Sciver-Brunt has broken Ellyse Perry's record, although the exact number of runs she has scored is not specified.
- **Consistency:** She has been in stellar form, scoring five 50s in the current season, the most by any batter in a single WPL edition.
- **Orange Cap Holder:** Sciver-Brunt currently holds the Orange Cap, awarded to the leading run-scorer in the WPL.
- **Team Performance:** Her impressive batting has helped Mumbai Indians reach new heights, including scoring the highest total ever in a knockout game.
- **Individual Accolades:** Sciver-Brunt was also recognized as the Leading Women's Cricketer in the World in 2023 by Wisden.

Mumbai Indians Won The Women's Premier League 2025 Final

Mumbai Indians clinched the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2025 title with a dominant performance in the final. They outplayed their opponents with both bat and ball, securing a comfortable victory. Star players delivered under pressure, showcasing their experience and composure on the big stage. This marks Mumbai Indians' second WPL championship, reinforcing their reputation as one of the most successful teams in the league. The celebrations were electric, as the team lifted the trophy amid cheers from thousands of fans.

Foot notes:

- **Mumbai Indians' Score:** Mumbai Indians scored 149/7 in 20 overs, with Harmanpreet Kaur leading the charge with a brilliant 66 off 44 balls.
- **Delhi Capitals' Response:** Delhi Capitals, in response, scored 141/9 in 20 overs, falling short of the target by 8 runs.
- **Player of the Match:** Harmanpreet Kaur was awarded the Player of the Match for her outstanding performance.
- **Player of the Series:** Nat Sciver-Brunt was named the Player of the Series.
- **Venue:** The match was played at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai.

India Masters Clinch Historic IML 2025 Title

India Masters clinched the historic IML 2025 title with a thrilling performance in the final match. The team displayed exceptional skill, strategy, and teamwork to outclass their opponents and lift the coveted trophy. This victory marks India Masters' first-ever title in the Indian Masters League (IML), making it a memorable moment in the tournament's history. Star players rose to the occasion, delivering match-winning performances that captivated fans across the country. The win has cemented India Masters' place among the elite teams in the league, sparking celebrations among their supporters.

Foot notes:

- **Dominant Performance:** India Masters delivered an all-round performance, restricting West Indies Masters to 148/7 and then chasing down the target with ease.
- **Ambati Rayudu's Match-Winning Innings:** Rayudu scored 74 runs off 50 balls, including nine boundaries and three sixes, to guide India Masters to victory.
- **Sachin Tendulkar's Elegant Start:** Tendulkar gave India Masters a blistering start, scoring 25 runs off 18 balls, including two fours and one six.
- **Vinay Kumar's Bowling Masterclass:** Vinay Kumar picked up three wickets for 26 runs, helping to restrict West Indies Masters to a modest total.
- **Historic Moment:** The victory marked a historic moment for Indian cricket, with India Masters becoming the first team to win the IML title.

AWARD NEWS

Muthoot Microfin Won Double Gold at SKOCH Awards 2025

Muthoot Microfin has won double gold at the SKOCH Awards 2025, recognizing its excellence in the financial sector. The awards highlight the company's commitment to financial inclusion and innovative microfinance solutions. Muthoot Microfin's efforts in empowering women entrepreneurs and rural communities played a key role in this achievement. The recognition reinforces its position as a leader in the microfinance industry. This milestone reflects the company's dedication to social impact and sustainable growth.

Foot notes:

- **Double Gold Awards:** Muthoot Microfin won two Gold Awards for its excellence in digital financial inclusion and insurance solutions.
- **Award Categories:** The company received awards in two categories: Corporate Excellence for "Best Customer Application on Digital Financial Inclusion" and BFSI Award for "Best Insurance Scheme".
- **Mahila Mitra Initiative:** Muthoot Microfin's Mahila Mitra initiative, a digital platform for women in rural India, has achieved 1.73 million downloads and a 4.2-star rating.
- **Griha Raksha Insurance Scheme:** The company's Griha Raksha Insurance Scheme has provided coverage to 2.66 million beneficiaries, promoting financial security and social empowerment.
- **Commitment to Empowerment:** Muthoot Microfin's win underscores its commitment to empowering women entrepreneurs and bridging the financial inclusion gap in rural India.

Andrew G. Barto and Richard S. Sutton honored with 2024 ACM A.M. Turing Award

Andrew G. Barto and Richard S. Sutton have been honored with the 2024 ACM A.M. Turing Award for their groundbreaking contributions to artificial intelligence. Their pioneering work in reinforcement learning has significantly advanced the field of machine learning. Their research laid the foundation for modern AI systems, influencing robotics, decision-making algorithms, and autonomous systems. The award recognizes their profound impact on both theoretical advancements and real-world applications. This achievement highlights their lasting legacy in the evolution of intelligent computing.

Foot notes:

- **Contributions:** Barto and Sutton's work laid the conceptual and algorithmic foundations for RL, significantly influencing artificial intelligence (AI) and other fields.
- **Reinforcement Learning:** RL is a process where an agent learns to behave successfully by receiving rewards for actions in a stochastic environment.
- **Impact:** Their contributions have enabled breakthroughs like AlphaGo and ChatGPT, and have applications in robotics, network congestion control, chip design, and global supply chain optimization.
- **Awards and Recognition:** The ACM A.M. Turing Award is named after Alan M. Turing, the British mathematician who articulated the mathematical foundations of computing.

- **Background:** Barto is Professor Emeritus of Information and Computer Sciences at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, while Sutton is a Professor of Computer Science at the University of Alberta.

Prasar Bharati Won Hockey India Jaman Lal Sharma Award 2024

Prasar Bharati has been honored with the prestigious Hockey India Jaman Lal Sharma Award 2024. The award recognizes Prasar Bharati's significant contribution to the promotion and coverage of hockey in India. Through its extensive broadcasting network, Prasar Bharati has played a crucial role in bringing the sport to a wider audience across the nation. This recognition highlights the organization's dedication to supporting Indian sports and preserving the legacy of hockey. The award ceremony was marked by appreciation from the hockey fraternity for Prasar Bharati's continued efforts in uplifting the sport.

Foot notes:

- **Recognition:** The award acknowledges Prasar Bharati's significant role in promoting hockey in India.
- **Broadcasting Partner:** As the official broadcaster, Prasar Bharati has helped increase the visibility of hockey in India.
- **Global Reach:** The broadcaster's efforts have also contributed to the growth of hockey's global fan base.
- **Hockey India's Gratitude:** Hockey India recognized Prasar Bharati's dedication to the sport and its role in shaping the future of hockey in India.
- **Award Ceremony:** The award was presented at the Hockey India 7th Annual Awards 2024, which celebrated the achievements of Indian hockey players, officials, and legends.

Vantage Wins 'Best Global Broker' at Money Expo Mexico 2025

Vantage has been awarded the title of 'Best Global Broker' at the Money Expo Mexico 2025. This recognition highlights the company's excellence in providing top-tier trading services worldwide. Vantage stood out for its advanced trading platform, customer-centric approach, and innovative financial solutions. The award reinforces the firm's reputation as a trusted and leading broker in global financial markets. The win at such a prestigious event reflects Vantage's ongoing commitment to empowering traders and investors globally.

Foot notes:

- **Award Recognition:** Vantage was honored with the 'Best Global Broker 2025' award, reaffirming its commitment to providing cutting-edge trading solutions, transparency, and client-centric services.
- **Event Participation:** Vantage participated as a Titanium Sponsor at Money Expo Mexico 2025, held on February 26-27, and engaged with industry professionals and showcased its innovative offerings.

- **Thought Leadership:** Vantage played a central role in the conference's thought leadership sessions, contributing to key discussions on community monetization and the future of investment banking.
- **Commitment to Innovation:** Vantage remains at the forefront of innovation, equipping traders with the tools they need to stay ahead in today's dynamic market.

APPOINTMENT & PERSON IN NEWS

Arun Mammen Elected as Chairman of ATMA

Arun Mammen has been elected as the Chairman of the Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA). As a prominent industry leader, he brings valuable experience to the role. His leadership is expected to drive innovation and growth in the Indian tyre industry. ATMA aims to strengthen its initiatives under his guidance, focusing on sustainability and technological advancements. Mammen's appointment reflects the industry's commitment to progress and global competitiveness.

Foot notes:

- **Leadership Role:** Mammen, Vice Chairman & Managing Director of MRF Ltd, will lead ATMA, which is celebrating its Golden Jubilee Year in 2025.
- **New Vice-Chairman:** Hiroshi Yoshizane, Managing Director of Bridgestone India, has been appointed as the new Vice-Chairman of ATMA.
- **Industry Expertise:** Mammen brings extensive experience in the automotive tyre industry, having held various leadership positions at MRF Ltd.
- **Focus Areas:** As Chairman, Mammen will focus on policy enablers to make the industry more competitive and technologically superior, as well as reducing carbon footprint in manufacturing and supply chain.
- **Future Plans:** Mammen aims to upgrade the quality and training of stakeholders in the industry over the next five years.

Axar Patel Appointed as Delhi Capitals Captain for IPL 2025

Axar Patel has been appointed as the captain of Delhi Capitals for the IPL 2025 season. The all-rounder replaces the previous skipper and is expected to bring his experience and leadership skills to the team. Patel has been a key player for Delhi Capitals, contributing with both bat and ball in crucial matches. Under his captaincy, the team aims to strengthen its performance and compete for the championship. His appointment reflects the franchise's confidence in his abilities to lead from the front.

Foot notes:

- **Leadership Role:** Patel, a 31-year-old all-rounder, takes over the leadership role after serving as vice-captain for two seasons.
- **Experience and Performance:** He has been with the franchise since 2019, playing 82 matches, scoring 967 runs, and picking up 62 wickets with an economy rate of 7.09.

- **Captaincy Experience:** Patel has captained Gujarat in 23 matches across formats and led the Capitals in one IPL match previously ². He was also named India's T20I vice-captain earlier this year.
- **Team Dynamics:** The Capitals have assembled a balanced squad, including experienced players like KL Rahul, Faf du Plessis, and Mitchell Starc, who will support Patel in his new role.
- **Season Ahead:** Delhi Capitals will begin their IPL 2025 campaign on March 24, 2025, in Visakhapatnam against Lucknow Super Giants.

Havells India onboards Nayanthara and Vignesh Shivan as brand ambassadors

Havells India has onboarded actress Nayanthara and filmmaker Vignesh Shivan as its brand ambassadors. The power couple will represent the brand across various campaigns, enhancing its connection with consumers. Their association aligns with Havells' vision of innovation, quality, and trust in household electrical products. With their strong influence, the company aims to strengthen its presence in key markets. This collaboration reflects Havells' commitment to engaging with a diverse and dynamic audience.

Foot notes:

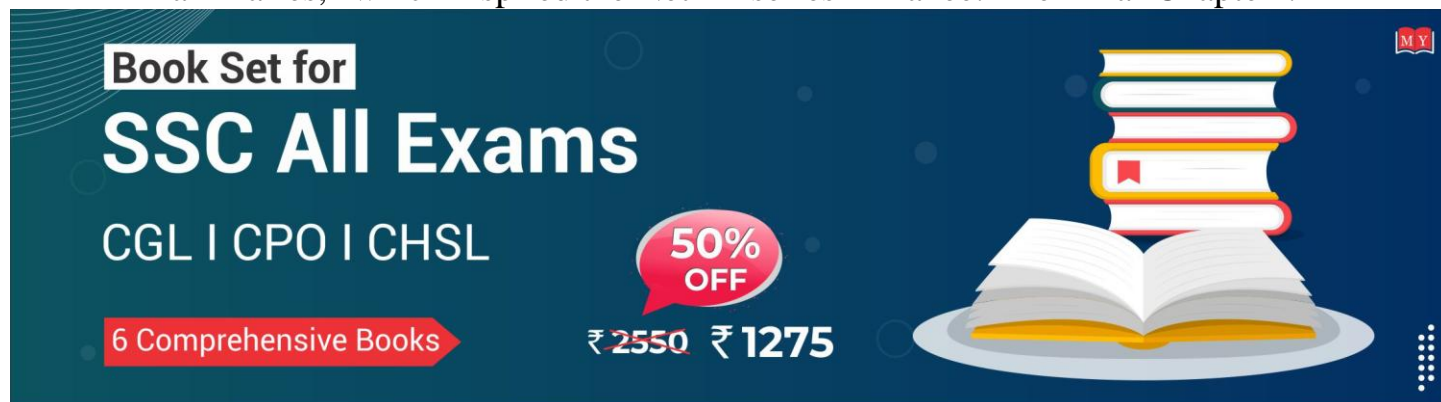
- **Regional Focus:** The couple will promote Havells' diverse product lineup, including premium fans, home appliances, lighting solutions, and more, specifically targeting the South Indian market.
- **Brand Representation:** Nayanthara and Vignesh Shivan's association with Havells aims to strengthen the brand's presence in the South and tap into new avenues of growth.
- **Marketing Campaign:** A new communication campaign featuring the couple will be launched soon, with extensive support across TV, print, digital, outdoor, and BTL platforms.
- **Brand Ethos:** Havells believes the couple's credibility and appeal align with the brand's values, making them ideal representatives for the company.
- **First Joint Endorsement:** This is the first time Nayanthara and Vignesh Shivan will be endorsing a brand together, making it a unique and exciting partnership.

The Bihar government promoted Amit Lodha (IG) to the rank of ADG of Police

The Bihar government has promoted Amit Lodha, who was serving as Inspector General (IG), to the rank of Additional Director General (ADG) of Police. Known for his sharp leadership and commendable service, Lodha has played a key role in several major policing operations in Bihar. His promotion comes as part of a broader reshuffle within the state police department. Lodha, who is also recognized for his bestselling book "Bihar Diaries," has earned respect both within and outside the police force. The new role will see him take on larger responsibilities in maintaining law and order in the state.

Foot notes:

- **Previous Role:** Prior to his promotion, Lodha served as Inspector General (IG) at the State Crime Records Bureau.
- **Background:** Lodha, a 1998 batch IPS officer, has gained recognition for his crime-fighting efforts in Bihar, particularly during his tenure as Superintendent of Police in Nalanda district.
- **Controversies:** Despite his commendable service, Lodha has faced allegations of corruption and disproportionate assets, leading to an investigation by the Enforcement Directorate.
- **Notable Achievements:** Lodha has received several awards, including the President's Police Medal for Gallantry and the Internal Security Medal, and has authored a book, "Bihar Diaries," which inspired the Netflix series "Khakee: The Bihar Chapter".



Flipkart elevates Akash Jain to Director of Marketing, Head of Media

Flipkart has elevated Akash Jain to the position of Director of Marketing and Head of Media. In his new role, Jain will be responsible for leading Flipkart's marketing strategies and overseeing media planning and execution. His promotion comes as part of the company's efforts to strengthen its brand presence and drive customer engagement. Jain has been a key contributor to Flipkart's growth, bringing valuable insights and leadership to various successful campaigns. This move signals Flipkart's commitment to enhancing its marketing capabilities in an increasingly competitive e-commerce landscape.

Foot notes:

- **Responsibilities:** Jain will drive innovative advertising campaigns and optimize media strategies to strengthen Flipkart's position in India's competitive e-commerce landscape.
- **Experience:** Jain brings nearly a decade of experience within Flipkart, having contributed significantly to the company's media and marketing strategies across various verticals.
- **Previous Role:** Prior to his promotion, Jain served as Head of Media – Associate Director, managing media strategies across digital and ATL channels for key commerce categories.
- **Business Growth:** Jain's appointment comes at a time when Flipkart is experiencing robust growth, with a 21% increase in revenue reported for the financial year 2023-24.

- **New Initiatives:** Jain will also oversee media strategies for Flipkart's emerging verticals, including the recently launched quick commerce initiative, Flipkart Minutes.

Valueattics Reinsurance Becomes India's First Private Reinsurer

Valueattics Reinsurance has made history by becoming India's first private reinsurance company. This milestone marks a significant step in the liberalization and growth of India's insurance and reinsurance sectors. As a private reinsurer, Valueattics aims to offer innovative risk management solutions and strengthen the domestic reinsurance market. The move is expected to enhance competition, drive efficiency, and reduce dependence on foreign reinsurers. Industry experts believe this development will support the broader vision of deepening insurance penetration and boosting resilience in India's financial ecosystem.

Foot notes:

- **IRDAI Approval:** Valueattics Reinsurance received approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) to commence reinsurance operations.
- **Capital Base:** The company will start with a capital base of ₹2.1 billion (US\$21.43 million), backed by Fairfax Financial Holdings and Oben Ventures LLP.
- **Promoters:** Valueattics Reinsurance is promoted by Prem Watsa's Fairfax group and Kamesh Goyal, who also founded Go Digit General Insurance and Go Digit Life Insurance.
- **Competition:** This development ends the monopoly of General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re), the sole public-sector reinsurer in India.
- **Market Impact:** The entry of Valueattics Reinsurance is expected to foster competition and innovation in the Indian reinsurance market.

N. Ganapathy Subramaniam Appointed as Chairman of Tata Communications

N. Ganapathy Subramaniam has been appointed as the new Chairman of Tata Communications. A veteran leader, Subramaniam brings decades of experience in the IT and telecom sectors to his new role. His appointment is expected to drive Tata Communications' strategic growth and innovation initiatives globally. The company is optimistic that under his guidance, Tata Communications will strengthen its position as a global digital ecosystem enabler.

Foot notes:

- **Experience:** Subramaniam brings over 40 years of experience in the IT industry, having worked with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and other organizations.
- **Previous Roles:** He has held significant positions, including Chief Operating Officer and Executive Director at TCS, which he left in May 2024.
- **Expertise:** Subramaniam possesses extensive knowledge in technology, operations, product development, business transformation, and change management.

- **Other Positions:** He currently holds key positions in other companies, including Chairman and Non-Executive Director of Tata Elxsi Limited and Tejas Networks Limited.
- **Tata Communications' Performance:** The company reported a consolidated net profit of 236 crore for the quarter ending December 2024, registering a 424% year-on-year growth.

Angel One appoints Rohit Chatter as Chief Data Officer

Angel One has appointed Rohit Chatter as its new Chief Data Officer. In this role, Chatter will lead the company's data strategy, focusing on leveraging advanced analytics and data-driven insights to enhance customer experience and business operations. He brings a wealth of experience in data science, AI, and technology leadership to Angel One. The appointment aligns with the company's vision to further integrate data and technology into its core offerings. Chatter's leadership is expected to play a key role in driving innovation and accelerating Angel One's digital transformation journey.

Foot notes:

- **Expertise:** Chatter's expertise will play a pivotal role in accelerating Angel One's data-led transformation, strengthening its digital-first approach, and enhancing the overall investing experience.
- **Education and Skills:** Chatter holds a BE in Electronics & Telecom and an MBA in General Management from NMIMS, and has extensive experience in large-scale Oracle databases, Unix, Microsoft technologies, and programming languages like Perl, Python, and Java.
- **Company's Growth Plans:** Angel One aims to leverage Chatter's expertise to redefine digital investing through data-led transformation and a digital-first approach, ultimately empowering millions of investors across India with smarter financial solutions.

Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanaraman Appointed as CEO of ANRF

Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanaraman has been appointed as the CEO of the Advanced Network Research Foundation (ANRF). He is a renowned expert in networking and communication technologies with extensive experience in research and leadership roles. As CEO, Dr. Kalyanaraman will spearhead ANRF's mission to advance next-generation networking solutions and innovation. His appointment is expected to strengthen ANRF's efforts in driving cutting-edge research and fostering industry collaborations. This move marks a significant step in accelerating India's capabilities in advanced network infrastructure and technology development.

Foot notes:

- **ANRF's Mission:** As the CEO, Dr. Kalyanaraman will lead ANRF in its mission to seed, grow, and promote research and development (R&D) and foster a culture of research and

innovation throughout India's universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories.

- **ANRF's Objectives:** ANRF aims to provide high-level strategic direction for scientific research in India, forge collaborations among industry, academia, and government departments, and create an interface mechanism for participation and contribution of industries and state governments.
- **Dr. Kalyanaraman's Vision:** With his extensive experience in technology and research, Dr. Kalyanaraman is expected to steer ANRF towards achieving its ambitious goals, including promoting interdisciplinary research, boosting India's position in global scientific research rankings, and developing advanced infrastructure for research institutions.
- **Allocation and Funding:** ANRF has been allocated Rs. 966 crore for the financial year 2024-25, which will be utilized to support its research and development initiatives.

Intel Appoints Lip-Bu Tan as CEO

Intel has appointed Lip-Bu Tan as its new Chief Executive Officer. Tan, a seasoned semiconductor industry leader, is expected to drive Intel's strategic growth and innovation. He previously served as CEO of Cadence Design Systems and has been a board member at several leading tech companies. Under his leadership, Intel aims to strengthen its position in the chipmaking sector and expand its AI and advanced manufacturing capabilities. The appointment signals Intel's commitment to accelerating technological advancements and market competitiveness.

Foot notes:

- **Experience:** Lip-Bu Tan, a veteran tech executive, has been appointed as the new CEO of Intel. He has previously served as the CEO of Cadence Design Systems and has over 40 years of experience in the tech industry.
- **Background:** Tan has a strong background in the semiconductor industry, having worked with companies like Cadence, Broadcom, and IBM. This experience will be valuable in leading Intel's efforts to regain its footing in the highly competitive chip market.
- **Current Role:** Tan has been serving as the chairman of the board at Cadence Design Systems and has been a member of Intel's board of directors since 2006.
- **Challenge Ahead:** As the new CEO, Tan faces the challenge of reviving Intel's fortunes, which have been impacted by increased competition from companies like AMD and NVIDIA.
- **Market Expectations:** Investors and analysts will be watching Tan's leadership closely, expecting him to outline a clear strategy for Intel's growth and competitiveness in the rapidly evolving tech landscape.

Hilton Gurugram Bani City Centre appoints Abishek Chandran as Cluster Director of Marketing & Communications

Hilton Gurugram Baani City Centre has appointed Abishek Chandran as the Cluster Director of Marketing & Communications. In his new role, Chandran will oversee the marketing strategies and communication initiatives for the property and its associated cluster. He brings a wealth of experience in brand management, digital marketing, and public relations within the hospitality industry. His appointment is expected to strengthen the hotel's market presence and enhance guest engagement. The leadership team is confident that Chandran's expertise will drive impactful campaigns and elevate the brand's positioning in the region.

Foot notes:

- **Role and Responsibilities:** As Cluster Director of Marketing & Communications, Abishek will lead marketing and communication strategies across the cluster, working closely with the cluster commercial director, general managers, and Hilton brand's teams.
- **Key Objectives:** Abishek's primary objectives will include developing and executing innovative campaigns, advancing brand growth, and cultivating robust relationships with key stakeholders to elevate Hilton Gurugram's reputation and market position.
- **Previous Successes:** Abishek has a proven track record of successfully driving marketing and communication strategies, boosting brand visibility, and executing impactful campaigns that have contributed to the growth of Hilton's portfolio.
- **Leadership's Expectations:** Harkaran Singh, General Manager, Hilton Gurugram Baani City Centre, expressed his excitement about Abishek's appointment, citing his passion for excellence and deep understanding of the domain as key factors in driving marketing initiatives and reinforcing the brand's presence.

Skechers onboards Jasprit Bumrah as Brand Ambassador

Skechers has announced Indian cricket star Jasprit Bumrah as its new brand ambassador. The partnership aims to strengthen Skechers' presence in the Indian market by connecting with sports and fitness enthusiasts. Known for his athleticism and performance, Bumrah embodies the brand's values of comfort, innovation, and high performance. As the face of Skechers, he will feature in upcoming campaigns promoting the brand's athletic and lifestyle footwear. This collaboration highlights Skechers' commitment to engaging with India's growing sports and active lifestyle community.

Foot notes:

- **Partnership Details:** As part of the agreement, Bumrah will compete in Skechers cricket footwear and feature in the brand's marketing campaigns, promoting both performance and lifestyle collections.
- **Alignment with Skechers' Values:** Bumrah's relentless pursuit of excellence aligns with Skechers' commitment to innovation and performance, making him an ideal fit for the brand.
- **Skechers' Cricket Presence:** This partnership strengthens Skechers' presence in Indian cricket, with the brand also serving as the official kit sponsor of the Mumbai Indians team.

- **Bumrah's Comments:** Bumrah expressed his enthusiasm for joining the Skechers family, citing the brand's blend of comfort and innovation as a perfect fit for athletes like him.
- **Expanded Ambassador Roster:** Bumrah joins Skechers' roster of ambassadors, which includes Indian cricketers Yastika Bhatia and Ishan Kishan.

Prashant Sharma appointed as General Manager of FCI, Lucknow

Prashant Sharma has been appointed as the new General Manager of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in Lucknow. With extensive experience in food distribution and supply chain management, Sharma is expected to play a key role in streamlining operations in the region. His appointment comes at a crucial time as FCI focuses on enhancing food security and improving storage and distribution networks in Uttar Pradesh. Sharma emphasized his commitment to ensuring efficient procurement and delivery of food grains to meet the needs of the public. Under his leadership, FCI Lucknow aims to strengthen coordination with state agencies and boost transparency in its operations.

Foot notes:

- **Appointment Details:** Prashant Sharma, an IAS officer of the 2012 batch from the Uttar Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as General Manager (Region) of the Food Corporation of India (FCI), Lucknow.
- **Tenure:** His tenure is for three years on a deputation basis, starting from the date of taking charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- **Current Role:** Prior to this appointment, Prashant Sharma was serving as Special Secretary to the Government of Uttar Pradesh's Energy Department.
- **Central Staffing Scheme:** This appointment is under the Central Staffing Scheme, which allows for the deputation of officers from the All India Services or Organized Services of the Government of India to various ministries and departments.
- **Responsibilities:** As General Manager (Region) of FCI, Lucknow, Prashant Sharma will oversee the regional operations of the Food Corporation of India, including food procurement, storage, and distribution.

Ayushmann Khurrana Named 'Fit India Icon' by Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya

Ayushmann Khurrana has been named the 'Fit India Icon' by Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya. The actor was recognized for his commitment to promoting fitness and a healthy lifestyle through his personal choices and public influence. This honor aligns with the objectives of the Fit India Movement, which aims to encourage citizens to adopt healthier habits. Ayushmann expressed gratitude for the recognition and highlighted the importance of regular exercise and mental well-being. As the new Fit India Icon, he will actively participate in campaigns to inspire the youth and general public to prioritize fitness.

Foot notes:

- **Appointment as Fit India Icon:** Ayushmann Khurrana has been officially appointed as the 'Fit India Icon' by Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, joining Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Fit India Movement
- **Ayushmann Khurrana's Role:** As the Fit India Icon, Ayushmann Khurrana will lead by example, motivating Indians to adopt a healthier and more active lifestyle.
- **Inaugural Ceremony:** The appointment was made during the inaugural ceremony of the Fit India Movement in New Delhi, where Ayushmann Khurrana was felicitated by the Union Minister.
- **Ayushmann Khurrana's Response:** The actor expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, emphasizing the importance of good health in overcoming life's challenges.



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HerKey appoints Wasim Sayed as Vice President of Growth and Marketing

HerKey has appointed Wasim Sayed as the Vice President of Growth and Marketing. In this role, Sayed will focus on accelerating the company's expansion and strengthening its brand presence in the women's career development space. He brings extensive experience in scaling businesses and leading successful marketing strategies across various industries. Sayed's appointment aligns with HerKey's mission to empower women through professional opportunities and community engagement. Under his leadership, the company aims to enhance user engagement and drive impactful growth initiatives.

Foot notes:

- **New Role:** Wasim Sayed has been appointed as the Vice President of Growth and Marketing at HerKey, India's largest AI-powered platform for women professionals.
- **Key Responsibilities:** In his new role, Sayed will lead strategic initiatives focused on driving user growth, enhancing customer acquisition, and strengthening brand positioning.
- **Experience and Expertise:** Sayed brings over 17 years of experience in digital and product marketing, having worked across growth-stage startups, unicorns, and Fortune 500 companies.
- **HerKey's Mission:** HerKey aims to empower women professionals by providing them with opportunities for career advancement and growth, and Sayed's appointment is expected to further this mission.

Zeno India appoints Anmol Jalta as Digital and Creative Lead

Zeno India has appointed Anmol Jalta as the new Digital and Creative Lead. In this role, Jalta will be responsible for driving digital strategy, creative campaigns, and brand storytelling across various platforms. With his extensive background in digital marketing and creative leadership, he is expected to strengthen Zeno India's client offerings and enhance its digital footprint. The appointment reflects Zeno's focus on blending creativity with data-driven insights to deliver impactful campaigns. Jalta will work closely with cross-functional teams to foster innovation and deliver value to clients across industries.

Foot notes:

- **New Role:** Anmol Jalta has been appointed as the Digital and Creative Lead at Zeno India, a leading global integrated communications agency.
- **Key Responsibilities:** In her new role, Jalta will drive the agency's creative vision, digital strategy, and innovation, focusing on delivering insight-driven campaigns that connect brands with audiences.
- **Expertise:** Jalta brings extensive expertise in creative strategy, digital marketing, and brand storytelling, having worked on campaigns for prominent brands like Reckitt, Adobe, Mastercard, Motorola, and Intel.
- **Previous Experience:** Prior to joining Zeno, Jalta built the Content Marketing practice at B2B tech firm MathCo, leading impact-driven omni-channel marketing campaigns.
- **Agency's Expectations:** Zeno India expects Jalta's leadership to help craft innovative, culture-driven storytelling that delivers tangible value for brands, aligning with the agency's mission of driving audience-focused, business-impacting communications.

Anuj Kumar Singh appointed as Joint Secretary in UPSC

Anuj Kumar Singh has been appointed as the new Joint Secretary in the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). He is a senior officer with extensive experience in public administration and governance. Singh is expected to contribute to key policy decisions and the smooth functioning of UPSC's operations. His appointment comes as part of the government's efforts to strengthen the administrative framework of the commission. He will play an important role in overseeing various recruitment and examination processes.

Foot notes:

- **Background:** Singh is an Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers (IRSEE) officer from the 2009 batch.
- **Appointment Details:** He has been appointed as Joint Secretary (Director level) in the UPSC under the Central Staffing Scheme for a tenure of five years or until further orders.
- **Previous Role:** Before his appointment, Singh was recommended for Central deputation by the Ministry of Railways.

- **New Role:** As Joint Secretary, Singh will play a crucial role in the UPSC, which is responsible for conducting civil services examinations and selecting candidates for various government positions.
- **Date of Appointment:** Singh's appointment was announced on March 18, 2025, and he is expected to take charge of his new role immediately.

Goibibo onboards Rishabh Pant as Brand Ambassador

Goibibo has onboarded cricketer Rishabh Pant as its new brand ambassador. The partnership aims to strengthen Goibibo's connection with young and tech-savvy travelers across India. Pant, known for his energetic and dynamic persona, aligns well with the brand's youthful and adventurous spirit. As part of the collaboration, he will feature in Goibibo's marketing campaigns and promotional activities. The company expects this association to enhance its visibility and customer engagement in the competitive travel booking industry.

Foot notes:

- **Youthful Energy:** Pant's spontaneous style of play, playful attitude, and vibrant personality make him an ideal fit to represent Goibibo, bringing energy and enthusiasm to travel.
- **Campaign Details:** The company has launched a new campaign featuring Pant alongside cricket legend Sunil Gavaskar, adding a fun spin to Gavaskar's iconic phrase "Stupid, Stupid, Stupid".
- **Resonance with Youth:** Pant's association with Goibibo aims to resonate with the youth, crafting a memorable experience for both cricket fans and avid travelers.
- **Brand Values:** Goibibo's Chief Marketing Officer, Raj Rishi Singh, believes Pant's fearless and vibrant personality aligns perfectly with the brand's values.
- **Partnership Impact:** This partnership is expected to enhance Goibibo's brand presence, leveraging Pant's massive fan following and appeal to the younger generation.

Krishnamachari Srikkanth Named Goodwill Ambassador of VISION 2020

Krishnamachari Srikkanth has been named the Goodwill Ambassador of VISION 2020, a global initiative focused on the prevention of avoidable blindness. As a former Indian cricket captain and a prominent sports personality, Srikkanth's involvement is expected to raise greater awareness about eye health. He will play a key role in advocating for accessible and affordable eye care services, especially in underserved communities. His association with VISION 2020 aims to inspire public participation and support for eye health programs. The initiative is part of a broader effort to eliminate avoidable blindness and improve vision care worldwide.

Foot notes:

- **Cricket Legend:** Srikkanth is a renowned cricket player and former captain of the Indian cricket team.
- **VISION 2020:** VISION 2020 is an initiative that aims to eliminate avoidable blindness by the year 2020.

- **Goodwill Ambassador Role:** As a goodwill ambassador, Srikanth will likely be involved in promoting eye health awareness and supporting initiatives to prevent avoidable blindness.
- **Community Service:** Srikanth has been involved in various community service initiatives, including a vision screening and free spectacles distribution campaign.
- **Inspiring Others:** Through his association with VISION 2020, Srikanth aims to inspire others to support the cause of eye health and prevent avoidable blindness.

Finland Tops the World Happiness Rankings for the Eighth Consecutive Year

Finland has topped the World Happiness Rankings for the eighth consecutive year. The country continues to lead due to factors such as strong social support, trust in government, low corruption levels, and a high quality of life. The rankings are based on metrics like GDP per capita, life expectancy, social freedom, and generosity. Finland's consistent performance highlights its focus on community well-being and sustainable living. Other Nordic countries like Denmark and Iceland also secured top positions in this year's report.

Foot notes:

- **Consistent Top Spot:** Finland has held the top spot in the World Happiness Report since 2018, with the other Nordic countries consistently ranking high as well.
- **Key Factors:** The report evaluates happiness levels based on factors such as social support, income, health, freedom, generosity, and absence of corruption.
- **Global Rankings:** The 2024 report ranked Denmark second, Iceland third, and Sweden fourth, while Afghanistan remained the unhappiest country in the world.
- **India's Ranking:** India ranked 126th out of 143 countries in the 2024 report, with its neighboring countries ranking higher.
- **Report's Significance:** The World Happiness Report is released annually on March 20, the International Day of Happiness, and provides insights into the factors that contribute to happiness globally.

Dr. Lakshmi Venu Appointed as Vice Chairman of TAFE

Dr. Lakshmi Venu has been appointed as the Vice Chairman of Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited (TAFE). She has played a crucial role in the company's growth and innovation, especially in expanding its global footprint. As Vice Chairman, Dr. Venu will focus on driving TAFE's strategic initiatives and strengthening its leadership in the agricultural machinery sector. Her appointment reflects the company's vision of fostering innovation and sustainability in farm equipment manufacturing. Dr. Venu brings a wealth of experience and leadership that is expected to further enhance TAFE's impact on the agricultural economy.

Foot notes:

- **Leadership Expertise:** Dr. Lakshmi Venu brings her expertise in farm mechanization, auto components, and strategic leadership to the role.

- **Academic Background:** She holds a degree from Yale University and a Doctorate in Engineering Management from the University of Warwick, UK.
- **Recognition and Awards:** Dr. Lakshmi Venu has been recognized as one of Business Today's "Most Powerful Women in Business" in 2023.
- **TAFE's Global Presence:** As Vice Chairman, Dr. Lakshmi Venu will play a key role in strengthening TAFE's global presence, with the company exporting tractors to over 80 countries.
- **Leadership Style:** Her leadership style focuses on building for the future, leveraging TAFE's collaborative and value-based approach to achieve its vision of "Cultivating the World".

IMPORTANT DAY NEWS

World Consumer Rights Day observed on 15th March

World Consumer Rights Day is observed annually on 15th March to raise awareness about consumer rights and protection. The day highlights the importance of fair trade, ethical business practices, and consumer empowerment. Various organizations and governments conduct campaigns, discussions, and initiatives to promote consumer awareness. It also serves as a reminder of the need for strong consumer protection laws and policies. The global observance reinforces the significance of safeguarding consumer interests in an evolving marketplace.

Foot notes:

- **Theme:** Each year, WCRD is celebrated with a specific theme; the theme for 2025 focuses on "Empowering Consumers Through Better Digital Access".
- **History:** The first WCRD was observed in 1983, inspired by President John F. Kennedy's address to the US Congress on March 15, 1962, in which he outlined the basic rights of consumers.
- **Objectives:** The day aims to promote consumer rights, raise awareness about consumer protection, and mobilize consumer movements worldwide.
- **Celebrations:** WCRD is celebrated through various events, campaigns, and activities, such as rallies, seminars, and workshops, organized by consumer organizations, governments, and other stakeholders.
- **Global Significance:** WCRD is an opportunity to recognize the importance of consumer rights and protection, and to promote a fair and just marketplace for all consumers worldwide.

OBITUARY NEWS

RSS Pracharak Dr. Shankar Rao Tatwawadi passed away

RSS Pracharak Dr. Shankar Rao Tatwawadi has passed away, marking the loss of a dedicated figure in the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). He played a significant role in the organization's ideological and social initiatives. Throughout his life, he was actively involved in

various nationalist and service-oriented activities. His contributions to social work and nation-building efforts were widely respected. His passing is a great loss to the RSS and its followers.

Foot notes:

- **Dedicated Life:** Dr. Tatwawadi dedicated his entire life to the RSS, contributing significantly to nation-building and India's cultural regeneration.
- **Global Outreach:** As the International Coordinator of the Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh, he expanded the organization's global footprint, promoting its heritage and values worldwide.
- **Academic Pursuits:** Dr. Tatwawadi was a renowned scholar, holding a Ph.D. from Banaras Hindu University. He taught pharmacy at BHU and was a distinguished academician.
- **Tributes:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah have paid tributes to Dr. Tatwawadi, acknowledging his immense contributions to the nation and the RSS.
- **Legacy:** Dr. Tatwawadi's legacy will be remembered for his selfless dedication to the RSS, his academic pursuits, and his efforts to promote India's cultural heritage globally.

Renowned Odia Poet Ramakanta Rath passed away

Renowned Odia poet Ramakanta Rath has passed away, leaving a profound void in Indian literature. Rath was celebrated for his modernist approach and deeply philosophical poetry that reshaped Odia literature. A recipient of numerous prestigious awards, including the Jnanpith Award and the Sahitya Akademi Award, he was regarded as one of the greatest poets of contemporary Odia poetry. His notable works, such as Sri Radha and Saptama Ritu, continue to inspire readers and writers alike. The literary community mourns his loss and remembers his invaluable contribution to Indian and regional literature.

Foot notes:

- **Literary Contributions:** Rath was a celebrated modernist poet, known for his philosophical and thought-provoking works that explored existential themes.
- **Awards and Recognition:** Rath was a recipient of numerous prestigious awards, including the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian award, in 2006. He also received the Sahitya Akademi Award, Saraswati Samman, and Sahitya Akademi Fellowship, among others.
- **Administrative Career:** Apart from his literary pursuits, Rath had a distinguished career in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), serving as the Chief Secretary of Odisha from 1990 to 1992.
- **Tributes and Legacy:** Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi expressed deep condolences over Rath's passing, acknowledging his immense contribution to Odia literature.
- **Impact on Odia Literature:** Rath's passing marks the end of an era in Odia literature, but his works will continue to inspire generations of readers and writers.

Maharana Pratap's Descendant Arvind Singh Mewar passed away

Arvind Singh Mewar, a direct descendant of Maharana Pratap, has passed away. He was a prominent royal figure and the 76th custodian of the Mewar dynasty, known for preserving the legacy and cultural heritage of Udaipur. Arvind Singh Mewar played a key role in promoting tourism and heritage conservation through the management of the HRH Group of Hotels. His contributions to Rajasthan's historical and cultural landscape were widely respected. His passing marks the end of an era for one of India's most prestigious royal lineages.

Foot notes:

- **Lineage and Family:** Arvind Singh Mewar was the younger son of Bhagwant Singh Mewar and Sushila Kumari, and the brother of the late Mahendra Singh Mewar, who passed away in November 2024.
- **Education and Career:** Mewar was educated at Mayo College in Ajmer and later pursued hotel management studies in the UK and the US. He worked in Chicago before establishing the HRH Group of Hotels.
- **Business Ventures:** As the chairman of the HRH Group of Hotels, Mewar played a significant role in promoting tourism and hospitality in Rajasthan.
- **Personal Life and Interests:** Mewar was an avid cricketer and made his Ranji Trophy debut as the captain of Rajasthan in the 1945-46 season. He also engaged in polo during the 1970s.
- **Legacy:** Mewar's passing has been met with an outpouring of grief from the people of Udaipur and Rajasthan, who remember him as a respected member of the royal family and a pioneering figure in the state's tourism industry.

Dr. Senkalong Yaden, an esteemed Naga scientist and academician, passed away

Dr. Senkalong Yaden, an esteemed Naga scientist and academician, has passed away. He was widely respected for his significant contributions to scientific research and education in Nagaland and beyond. Dr. Yaden played a pivotal role in advancing scientific knowledge and mentoring young scholars in the region. His work in promoting science and technology earned him recognition and admiration within academic and research circles. The scientific community and the people of Nagaland mourn the loss of a dedicated visionary and mentor.

Foot notes:

- **Academic Achievements:** He began his teaching career as a Biology Teaching Assistant at the University of Minnesota in 1961 and went on to hold prestigious positions in several academic institutions in the United States.
- **Recognition and Honors:** Dr. Yaden was recognized as the first Naga scientist and was listed in "American Men and Women of Science". He was also a member of the International Platform Association and was featured in "Who's Who in America" and "Who's Who Among America's Teachers".


- **Contributions to Society:** Dr. Yaden was actively involved in peace efforts, serving as a Peace Mission Volunteer at Peace Camp Chedema from 1966 to 1967.
- **Legacy:** The Ao Senden declared March 17, 2025, as a day of mourning to honor Dr. Yaden's extraordinary life and legacy. He will be remembered for his dedication to education, science, and his community.



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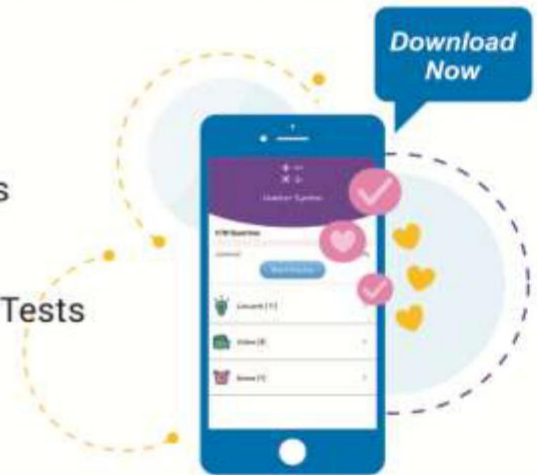
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