

THE DAILY GK DOSE

SUNETRA PAWAR SWORN IN AS MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY CM

- **A Historic First:** Sunetra Pawar has become the first woman to hold the post of Deputy Chief Minister in Maharashtra's history. She was sworn in by Governor Acharya Devvrat at Raj Bhavan in a ceremony attended by CM Devendra Fadnavis.
- **Key Portfolio Allocation:** After moving from the Rajya Sabha, she was given key portfolios like State Excise, Sports and Youth Welfare, and Minority Development, while the Finance portfolio has been temporarily taken over by CM Fadnavis.

Footnotes: Maharashtra's Governor: Acharya Devvrat, Capital: Mumbai

GOVT ISSUES NEW CUSTOMS BAGGAGE REGULATIONS, 2026

- **Significant Hike in Duty-Free Limits:** The duty-free allowance has been raised to ₹75,000 for Indian residents and tourists of Indian origin, and to ₹25,000 for foreign tourists, applicable to personal items in accompanied baggage.
- **Rationalized Jewellery & Laptop Allowances:** For the first time, jewellery allowances are based on weight instead of value, allowing returning residents to bring 40g (females) and 20g (others) duty-free, and permitting one new laptop duty-free for passengers aged 18 or above.
- **Reduced Duty on Excess Goods:** The Union Budget 2026 reduced customs duty on personal imports beyond the free

limit from 20% to 10%, halving the tax burden for travelers carrying high-value goods over ₹75,000.

ADAMPUR AIRPORT RENAMED SRI GURU RAVIDAS MAHARAJ JI AIRPORT



- **Cultural Significance:** The renaming honors Sri Guru Ravidas Ji, a revered social reformer whose teachings on equality and human rights have a profound influence in the Doaba region, where the airport is located.
- **Infrastructure Expansion:** The renaming coincided with the full operationalization of the airport's new terminal building, which was built at a cost of approximately 150 crore. This expansion allows the airport to handle up to 300 passengers during peak hours.
- **Boost to Religious Tourism:** This move is expected to significantly increase domestic and international footfall as the airport serves as a primary gateway for pilgrims visiting the Dera Sachkhand Ballan, a major spiritual center for the Ravidassia community located nearby.

IMPORTANT FACTS

- *Article 112 of the Indian Constitution deals with the Annual Financial Statement (Budget).*
- *Dandiya is a popular folk dance of Gujarat.*
- *The Butterfly Stroke is associated with the sport of swimming.*
- *The liver produces bile in the human body.*
- *Lake Baikal is the world's largest freshwater lake in terms of volume.*

SARVESH RANJAN APPOINTED AS GM AT UBI

- **Succession and Seniority:** Sarvesh Ranjan was promoted from General Manager to fill the post vacated after Shri Bhaskara Rao Kare's retirement on January 31, 2026, ensuring leadership continuity in a major public sector bank.
- **Specialized Expertise:** Ranjan brings nearly three decades of banking experience, specifically excelling in high-stakes areas such as Central Reconciliation, Transaction Monitoring, and Anti-Money Laundering (AML). His background is considered critical as the bank navigates increasing regulatory scrutiny and the rise of digital transaction monitoring.

Footnotes: UBI's MD & CEO: Ashish Pandey, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1919

ELENA RYBAKINA CLINCHES FIRST AUSTRALIAN OPEN CROWN

- **Strategic Redemption:** Rybakina defeated Aryna Sabalenka 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 at Rod Laver Arena, avenging her loss to Sabalenka in the 2023 Australian Open final.
- **The "0-3" Comeback:** In the third set, Rybakina came back from 0-3 down, won five straight games, and clinched the title with an ace on her first match point.
- **Historic Milestone & Ranking:** Rybakina became the first Kazakhstani to win the Australian Open singles title and, along with her WTA Finals win, regained her career-high World No. 3 ranking.

DEVIKA SIHAG WINS MAIDEN BWF SUPER 300 TITLE

- **Elite Company:** With this victory, Devika became only the third Indian woman to win a BWF Super 300 singles title, joining the legendary ranks of Saina Nehwal and P.V. Sindhu.
- **Dominant Path to the Final:** Ranked world No. 63 at the start of the tournament, the unseeded Haryana-born player pulled off several "giant-killing" upsets, including a straight-games victory over the top-seeded local

favorite, Supanida Katethong, in the quarterfinals.

- **The Final Match:** Devika clinched the title after her opponent, Malaysia's Goh Jin Wei (a former two-time junior world champion), was forced to retire due to a hamstring injury. Devika was firmly in command of the match, leading 21-8, 6-3 at the time of the withdrawal.

INDIAN SCIENTIST RAMANATHAN WINS CRAFOORD PRIZE 2026



- **Pioneering "Super-Pollutant" Research:** Ramanathan was honored for discovering in 1975 that CFCs are far more potent greenhouse gases than CO₂, a finding that broadened understanding of global warming and helped pave the way for the Montreal Protocol.
- **Discovery of Atmospheric Brown Clouds:** His research identified atmospheric brown clouds, showing that soot and pollution warm the atmosphere, reduce sunlight, disrupt the Indian monsoon, and accelerate Himalayan glacier melt.
- **Global Policy Influence:** Beyond his 18 Grammys joke aside, he has used decades of

research to advise global leaders and the Vatican, linking climate science with ethics to protect the world's most vulnerable communities.

MAYBELLINE NEW YORK NAMES KIARA ADVANI AS INDIA BRAND AMBASSADOR

- **A "New Era" of Branding:** Kiara Advani has been brought on board to represent a "new chapter" for Maybelline in India. The campaign moves away from traditional "transformative" beauty, instead focusing on self-expression and individuality, aligning the brand with Kiara's authentic and confident public persona.
- **Flagship Product Launch:** The partnership was marked by the debut of the Maybelline Serum Lipstick in India. Kiara is the face of the collection, specifically highlighting the bold matte shade 'Wildcard'. The product is marketed as a hybrid of high-performance color and skincare, infused with Hyaluronic Acid.
- **Focus on Inclusivity:** As part of this new era, the brand emphasized that the product line includes 13 shades specifically formulated to complement the diverse range of Indian skin tones, further cementing Maybelline's goal to be the most inclusive and accessible makeup brand in the country.

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

03.02.2026 / TUESDAY

- 1966 – Indira Gandhi became the 1st woman Prime Minister of India.
- 1994 – The INTACH gained national prominence for heritage conservation efforts.