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MONTHLY — Current Affairs

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NATIONAL NEWS

Rajnath, Yogi inaugurate India's largest aero engine test bed in UP

- **Inauguration:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath jointly inaugurated India's largest aero engine test bed in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Facility Purpose:** The test bed is designed for testing and validating aero engines, crucial for strengthening India's aerospace and defence self-reliance.
- **Strategic Importance:** The facility supports the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, reducing dependence on foreign testing facilities.
- **Key Agency Involved:** Developed under the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) / DRDO collaboration (depending on official details, can confirm exact body).
- **Regional Boost:** The project not only strengthens India's defence ecosystem but also positions Uttar Pradesh as a defence and aerospace hub.

Odisha Ranks 5th in E-Bus Adoption, Plans 1,000+ Fleet

- **National Ranking:** Odisha secured the 5th position in India for electric bus (e-bus) adoption.
- **Current Status:** The state has already introduced e-buses in key cities under the 'Location Accessible Multimodal Initiative (LAccMI)' scheme.
- **Expansion Plan:** Odisha government announced plans to expand its e-bus fleet to over 1,000 buses in the coming years.
- **Objective:** The move aims to promote green public transport, reduce carbon emissions, and improve urban mobility.
- **Significance:** With this step, Odisha is set to become a leading state in sustainable transport, aligning with India's net zero and clean energy goals.

India's First Port-Based Green Hydrogen Project at VOC Port

- **Project Inauguration:** Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, inaugurated the project on September 5, 2025, marking a significant step in India's clean energy transition.
- **Green Hydrogen Production:** The Rs 3.87 crore pilot facility produces 10 Nm³/hr of green hydrogen, powering streetlights and an electric vehicle charging station in the port colony, making VOC Port the first Indian port to generate green hydrogen.

- **Green Methanol Bunkering Facility:** Alongside the hydrogen project, Sonowal laid the foundation for a Rs 35.34 crore Green Methanol Bunkering and Refuelling Facility with a 750 m³ capacity, supporting the proposed Coastal Green Shipping Corridor between Kandla and Tuticorin.
- **Renewable Energy Integration:** The project aligns with India's National Green Hydrogen Mission, aiming to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, promote sustainable energy, and position VOC Port as a key green bunkering hub in south India.

CP Radhakrishnan elected as India's 15th Vice President

- **Election Result:** CP Radhakrishnan won the election with 452 votes, defeating Opposition nominee B Sudershan Reddy who secured 300 votes. A total of 767 votes were cast, with 752 being valid and 15 invalid.
- **Background:** Radhakrishnan is a veteran of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and has deep roots in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He served as the BJP's State President in Tamil Nadu from 2004 to 2007.
- **Political Experience:** Radhakrishnan has been a Member of Lok Sabha from Coimbatore twice and held key positions such as Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Textiles and member of the Parliamentary Committee for Public Sector Undertakings.
- **Governor Roles:** Before becoming Vice President, Radhakrishnan served as the Governor of Maharashtra since July 31, 2024, and previously as the Governor of Jharkhand for nearly one and a half years.

Coal India and NSTFDC Sign MoU to Empower Tribal Students via Eklavya Schools

- **Partnership Details:** Coal India Limited (CIL) and the National Scheduled Tribe Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on September 9, 2025, to support tribal students in Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) across Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha.
- **Objectives:** The partnership aims to bridge the digital divide, promote menstrual health and hygiene, and provide career counseling and mentorship to over 30,000 tribal students in 76 EMRS.
- **Infrastructure Upgrades:** The initiative includes setting up computer labs with 1,200 computers and 1,200 UPS units, as well as providing 110 tablets to enhance digital learning.

- **Health and Hygiene:** The partnership will also provide 420 sanitary pad vending machines and 420 sanitary pad incinerators to promote menstrual health and hygiene among girl students.

PhonePe partners with SIDBI, MSME Ministry on Udyam

- **Simplifying Udyam Registration:** The partnership allows micro-merchants to get an Udyam registration number and certificate digitally through a seamless, end-to-end process on the PhonePe platform, eliminating the need for paperwork and intermediaries.
- **Access to Government Schemes and Benefits:** By formalizing their business identity, micro-merchants can unlock a wide range of government benefits, including subsidies, tax benefits, and easier access to formal credit and financial services.
- **Enhancing Credit Flow:** A key goal of the collaboration is to provide informal businesses with a formal identity that makes them eligible for institutional credit from banks and financial institutions, thereby improving their access to funding for growth.
- **Accelerating Formalization:** With PhonePe's massive merchant base of over 45 million across the country, this initiative is expected to significantly accelerate the formalization of the unorganized micro-enterprise sector in India.

Acharya Devvrat Gets Additional Charge as Maharashtra Governor

- **Temporary Appointment:** This is an additional charge for Acharya Devvrat, meaning he will concurrently serve as the Governor of both Gujarat and Maharashtra. This is a temporary arrangement until a permanent Governor for Maharashtra is appointed.
- **Constitutional Mandate:** The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, made the appointment exercising her powers under the Constitution. When the office of a Governor falls vacant, the President can appoint the Governor of a neighboring state to assume the responsibilities.
- **Vacancy due to Vice-Presidential Election:** The need for this appointment arose after C. P. Radhakrishnan, who was serving as the Governor of Maharashtra, was elected as the 14th Vice-President of India.
- **Experienced Administrator:** Acharya Devvrat is a seasoned administrator, having served as the Governor of Gujarat since 2019. Prior to that, he was the Governor of Himachal Pradesh. His experience is expected to ensure the smooth functioning of the gubernatorial duties in Maharashtra.

Foot notes:**About Maharashtra-**

- **Previous Governor:** C. P. Radhakrishnan
- **Chief Minister:** Devendra Fadnavis
- **Capital:** Mumbai

IIM Ahmedabad Launches First Global Campus in Dubai

- **A Historic First for IIMs:** This is the first time an Indian Institute of Management has established a full-fledged overseas campus. This move is seen as a major step towards the internationalization of Indian education and is expected to enhance the global brand of one of India's most prestigious educational institutions.
- **Strategic Location in a Global Hub:** The choice of Dubai as the location for its first international campus is a strategic one. Dubai's status as a thriving global business and travel hub provides IIM-A with a launchpad to attract a diverse pool of students and forge collaborations with international corporations. The strong bilateral ties between India and the UAE also played a crucial role in this decision.
- **Initial Program Offerings:** The Dubai campus will initially offer a one-year Global MBA program specifically designed for experienced professionals and entrepreneurs. In addition to this flagship program, the campus will also provide a range of executive education courses tailored to the needs of the regional business landscape, with a focus on areas like AI and innovation.
- **Phased Development Plan:** The operations of the IIM Ahmedabad-Dubai campus are commencing in September 2025 at the Dubai International Academic City (DIAC). There is a clear roadmap for future growth, with plans to move to a larger, permanent campus by 2029. This phased approach will allow the institution to establish its presence and scale its operations over time.

Foot notes:**About IIM-**

- **Chairman:** Pankaj Patel
- **Established:** 1961

AIIMS Delhi launched the AI-based mental health program Never Alone

- **AI-Powered Mental Health Support:** "Never Alone" utilizes Artificial Intelligence to offer a comprehensive mental wellness solution. The program is delivered through a secure, web-based application that is accessible 24/7 via WhatsApp. This allows for initial screening, intervention, and consistent follow-up with students who may be struggling with mental health issues.

- **Focus on Suicide Prevention and Stigma Reduction:** The primary goal of the program is to tackle the alarming rate of suicidal tendencies among students by providing early and accessible intervention. By offering a confidential and easily accessible platform, "Never Alone" aims to minimize the stigma that often prevents young people from seeking help for their mental health concerns.
- **Accessible and Affordable for Institutions:** The program has been designed to be highly accessible for educational institutions. The basic screening for mental health issues through the "Never Alone" app is available at a nominal cost of 70 paise per student per day. To facilitate wider reach, AIIMS Delhi will provide the service to all other AIIMS institutions across the country at no cost.
- **Hybrid Model of Care:** While the initial interaction and screening are AI-driven, the program facilitates both virtual and in-person consultations with mental health and wellness experts. This hybrid approach ensures that students receive the appropriate level of care, from initial confidential support to professional psychiatric help when needed.

Foot notes:**About AIIMS-**

- **President:** Mansukh L. Mandaviya
- **Founded:** 1956

TCIL-PNB MoU to Boost IT Infrastructure and Banking Tech

- **Modernizing Banking Infrastructure:** The core objective of this MoU is to upgrade and modernize PNB's existing IT infrastructure. This includes enhancing data centers, improving network security, and implementing more efficient communication systems across the bank's extensive network of branches and offices.
- **Focus on Cutting-Edge Technologies:** The partnership will prioritize the implementation of next-generation banking technologies. This involves exploring and integrating solutions in areas like artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), blockchain, and the Internet of Things (IoT) to improve operational efficiency, customer service, and fraud detection.
- **Enhancing Cybersecurity Measures:** A critical aspect of the collaboration is to strengthen PNB's cybersecurity framework. With the increasing threat of cyberattacks in the financial sector, TCIL will provide its expertise in securing the bank's digital assets, protecting sensitive customer data, and ensuring compliance with regulatory standards.

- **Expanding Digital Services:** The MoU will support PNB in expanding its portfolio of digital banking services. This includes the development of more sophisticated mobile banking applications, seamless online payment gateways.

Foot notes:**About PNB-**

- **MD & CEO:** Ashok Chandra
- **Headquarters:** Delhi
- **Founded:** 1894

About TCIL-

- **Chairman & MD:** Sanjeev Kumar
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi

Udaipur was awarded the Ramsar Wetland City Accreditation in 2025

- **First Indian Cities to Receive Accreditation:** Udaipur, along with Indore, holds the distinction of being the first two Indian cities to be recognized under the Ramsar Convention's Wetland City Accreditation scheme. This marks a significant milestone for India in its efforts toward urban environmental conservation.
- **Recognition of Wetland Conservation Efforts:** The accreditation acknowledges Udaipur's exemplary initiatives in safeguarding its urban wetlands, including the five major lakes: Pichola, Fateh Sagar, Rang Sagar, Swaroop Sagar, and Doodh Talai. The city's nomination was based on its long-standing conservation measures, community engagement in lake protection, and the integration of wetland management into its urban planning.
- **Part of a Global Network:** By receiving this accreditation, Udaipur joins a select group of cities worldwide that are recognized for their sustainable wetland conservation practices. This recognition provides the city with international positive publicity and a platform to share its successful strategies with other global cities.
- **Benefits of the Accreditation:** The status as a "Wetland City" will promote eco-tourism and create sustainable livelihoods for local communities. It also reinforces the city's brand as the "City of Lakes" and a model for balancing urban development with ecological preservation.

NIFT Patna–ABFRL MoU to Empower Jeevika Women

- **Bridging Skills and Employment:** The core objective of the MoU is to provide Jeevika women with specialized, industry-relevant training in garment

manufacturing, quality control, and machinery operation at NIFT Patna's extension centers.

- **Scalable and Inclusive Empowerment:** This large-scale, structured program moves beyond traditional micro-enterprise models, giving rural women access to the organized industrial economy and providing them with greater financial independence and stability.
- **Academia-Industry Synergy:** The collaboration is a prime example of how academic institutions and major corporations can work together for social and economic development. NIFT, with its expertise in fashion and textile technology, will provide the training, while ABFRL, a leading industry player, will provide the employment opportunities, creating a complete and sustainable ecosystem.

Marium Fatima Becomes Bihar's First Female FIDE Master

- **Name and Origin:** Marium Fatima is a talented young chess player from Muzaffarpur, Bihar, who has made history by becoming the state's first Woman FIDE Master (WFM).
- **Achievement:** She achieved this milestone at the recently concluded Commonwealth Chess Championship, where she surpassed the 2000 FIDE rating mark required for the prestigious title, eventually achieving a FIDE rating of 2083.
- **Significance of WFM Title:** The Woman FIDE Master title recognizes Marium's international standard of play, requiring a FIDE rating threshold of 2100+, and marks her as a consistent performer in FIDE-sanctioned events.
- **Recognition and Future Goals:** Marium's achievement has been recognized by the Director General of Bihar State Sports Authority, Ravindran Shankaran.

IIT Kanpur & Vietnam National University Sign MoU

- **Collaboration Areas:** The MoU focuses on enhancing academic and research collaboration in areas such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) in medical diagnosis, AI-powered education and research, infrastructure defect detection, smart city development, and drone technology for rescue missions and agriculture.
- **Knowledge Exchange:** The partnership aims to promote knowledge exchange and drive innovation among researchers, faculty, and students from both universities, fostering mutual development in education and research.
- **Expertise Sharing:** IIT Kanpur will share its expertise in critical research areas important to VNU, such as AI, civil engineering, and material science, to enhance capacity building and tackle pressing problems in both India and Vietnam.

- **Institutional Strengthening:** The MoU marks a significant milestone in strengthening the partnership between IIT Kanpur and VNU, reflecting their commitment to academic and research excellence .

India rises to 38th position among 139 economies in the Global Innovation Index 2025

- **Rank and Performance:** India has climbed to the 38th position among 139 economies in the Global Innovation Index 2025, solidifying its lead in Central and Southern Asia and maintaining its status as an innovation overperformer for the 15th consecutive year.
- **Key Strengths:** India's strengths lie in its scale, entrepreneurial activity, and growing ability to translate scientific knowledge into commercial impact. It ranks 1st in ICT services exports, 4th in Late-stage VC deals, 8th in Intangible asset intensity, and 11th in Unicorn valuation.
- **Innovation Ecosystem:** India's innovation ecosystem is driven by a dynamic startup scene, a growing private sector, and increasing investment in R&D. However, challenges remain, particularly in infrastructure and R&D spending, which stood at only 0.65% of GDP in 2020.
- **Comparison with Other Economies:** India is part of a group of middle-income economies making significant strides in innovation, including China (10th), Türkiye (43rd), Vietnam (44th), and the Philippines (50th).

AP Bagged 'Best State Award' for Silk Development

- **Award Recognition:** The award acknowledges Andhra Pradesh's efforts in promoting sericulture and silk production, creating a significant impact on the livelihoods of farmers and weavers.
- **Sericulture Development:** The state has implemented various initiatives to improve sericulture practices, increase silk production, and enhance the quality of silk fabrics.
- **Benefits to Farmers and Weavers:** The award-winning initiatives have provided better income opportunities for farmers and weavers, improving their socio-economic status.
- **Contribution to Indian Silk Industry:** Andhra Pradesh's contributions to the Indian silk industry have been significant, with the state being one of the leading producers of silk in the country.

- **Government Support:** The state government's support and initiatives have played a crucial role in promoting sericulture and silk development, enabling Andhra Pradesh to receive this prestigious award.

Foot notes:

About AP-

- **Capital:** Amaravati
- **Governor:** Syed Abdul Nazeer
- **CM:** N. Chandrababu Naidu

Justice Pavankumar Bhimappa Bajanthri Takes Oath as CJ Patna High Court

- **Oath Ceremony:** Justice Bajanthri took oath as the Chief Justice of Patna High Court, marking a significant milestone in his judicial career.
- **Appointment:** His appointment as the Chief Justice of Patna High Court was made by the President of India, following the recommendation of the Supreme Court Collegium.
- **Background:** Justice Bajanthri has had a distinguished career in law, serving as a judge in various high courts and handling significant cases.
- **Responsibilities:** As the Chief Justice of Patna High Court, Justice Bajanthri will oversee the administration of justice in Bihar and ensure the efficient functioning of the high court.
- **Significance:** His appointment is expected to bring about positive changes in the judicial landscape of Bihar, with a focus on fairness, transparency, and accountability.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Dinesh K Patnaik Appointed India's Envoy to Canada

- **New Appointment:** Senior diplomat Dinesh K. Patnaik has been appointed as India's High Commissioner to Canada.
- **Previous Role:** He previously served as Director General of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- **Diplomatic Experience:** Patnaik is a seasoned Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of the 1990 batch, with experience in Europe, Asia, and Africa.
- **Context:** His appointment comes at a crucial time, amid strained India-Canada relations over diplomatic and security concerns.
- **Significance:** As High Commissioner, he will play a key role in strengthening bilateral ties, addressing challenges, and expanding cooperation in trade, education, and diaspora engagement.

Singapore ranked safest in Asia, 6th globally in Global Peace Index'25

- **Global Ranking:** Singapore is ranked 6th globally in the Global Peace Index 2025, making it the only Asian country in the top 10.
- **Asian Ranking:** Singapore is the safest country in Asia, followed by Japan (12th globally), Malaysia (13th globally), and Bhutan (not specified globally).
- **Peace Score:** Singapore scored 1.357 in the index, improving from 1.339 in 2024, reflecting its continued commitment to maintaining social stability.
- **Key Factors:** The ranking considers 23 indicators across three domains: societal safety and security, ongoing domestic and international conflict, and degree of militarization. Singapore excelled in societal safety and security.
- **Global Context:** The index highlights a concerning trend of declining global peacefulness, with 87 countries experiencing deterioration and 74 showing improvement in peacefulness.

Dr. Deepak Mittal appointed as India's New Envoy to UAE

- **Appointment:** Dr. Deepak Mittal, an Indian Foreign Service officer from the 1998 batch, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the United Arab Emirates.
- **Background:** As a seasoned diplomat, Dr. Mittal brings extensive experience to his new role, further strengthening India's diplomatic ties with the UAE.
- **Assumption of Office:** He is expected to take up his new assignment shortly, although the exact date hasn't been specified.
- **Strategic Move:** This appointment reflects India's efforts to bolster its strategic partnership with the UAE, a key player in the Middle East region.

Rohit Rathish appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Seychelles

- **Appointment Details:** Rohit Rathish, a 2006 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Seychelles, according to the Ministry of External Affairs.
- **Current Role:** Rathish is currently serving as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs and is expected to take up his new assignment shortly.
- **Diplomatic Relations:** India and Seychelles have historically enjoyed close diplomatic relations, with cooperation in areas like defense, security, and economic development. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Seychelles in 2015 marked a significant milestone in bilateral ties.

- **Strategic Importance:** The appointment highlights India's strategic interest in the Indian Ocean region, where Seychelles plays a crucial role. Strengthening ties with Seychelles is vital for India's maritime security and regional influence.

David Lammy becomes UK Deputy PM after Rayner's exit

- **Reason for Angela Rayner's Exit:** Angela Rayner resigned as Deputy Prime Minister and Labour's deputy leader following a probe into her tax affairs, specifically regarding underpaid stamp duty on an £800,000 flat in Hove.
- **David Lammy's Role:** David Lammy has been appointed as the new Deputy Prime Minister while retaining his position as Justice Secretary, overseeing critical issues like court backlogs, prison capacity, and confidence in the criminal justice system.
- **Responsibilities:** As Deputy Prime Minister, Lammy will stand in for Prime Minister Keir Starmer during his absence and act as a senior sounding board across the government, while also focusing on delivering reforms in the justice department.
- **Labour Party's Next Steps:** Rayner's exit triggers a deputy leadership contest within the Labour Party, which will test the party's coalition and potentially shape its tone and message heading into the next legislative crunch points.

Irfaan Ali re-elected as Guyana President

- **Election Results:** Irfaan Ali won a second term as President, with his People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) securing 36 seats in the National Assembly, an increase of three seats from the 2020 election. The party garnered over 55% of the popular vote.
- **International Observers:** The election process was monitored by several international groups, including the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Carter Center.
- **Opposition Performance:** The We Invest in Nationhood party, a newcomer led by US-sanctioned businessman Azruddin Mohamed, secured 24.87% of the votes and 16 seats, becoming the primary opposition.
- **US Congratulations:** The United States congratulated President Ali on his re-election, expressing commitment to strengthening bilateral ties between the two countries.

Japan PM Shigeru Ishiba Resigns

- **Reason for Resignation:** Shigeru Ishiba resigned as the Prime Minister of Japan and President of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) after the party's historic electoral defeat in the July 2025 polls, where the ruling coalition lost its majority.

- **Tenure and Timeline:** Ishiba took office in October 2024 and served for less than a year, announcing his resignation on September 7, 2025.
- **Implications for Japanese Politics:** Ishiba's resignation may lead to political instability, slowing legislative progress and disrupting diplomatic continuity, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, ahead of the 2026 general elections.

Anutin Charnvirakul Elected Thailand's New PM

- **Election Outcome:** Anutin Charnvirakul secured over 247 votes in the Thai Parliament, winning the majority vote in the House of Representatives, which has 492 active members.
- **Background:** Charnvirakul, 58, is the leader of the Bhumjaithai party and has previously served in the government as Health Minister, where he successfully lobbied for the decriminalization of cannabis in Thailand.
- **Predecessor's Departure:** He succeeds Paetongtarn Shinawatra, who was dismissed from office by the court due to ethics violations, specifically engaging in a phone call with Cambodia's Senate President Hun Sen that led to a conflict between countries.
- **Coalition Experience:** Charnvirakul was part of Shinawatra's Cabinet and has experience working in coalition governments, including with the Pheu Thai party and the military-backed government under former Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha.

Foot notes:

About Thailand-

- **King:** Maha Vajiralongkorn
- **Capital:** Bangkok
- **Currency:** Thai Baht
- **Official language:** Thai

Kokichi Akuzawa sets a Guinness World Record as Oldest man to summit Mount Fuji

- **Record-Breaking Age:** Kokichi Akuzawa, 102 years and 51 days old, became the oldest person to climb Mount Fuji, breaking the previous record held by Ichijiro Araya.
- **Training and Experience:** Akuzawa is an experienced climber and honorary chairman of the Gunma Mountaineering Club, with a habit of climbing mountains almost weekly. He trained specifically for the Mount Fuji climb by walking for an hour every morning.

- **Assistance and Support:** Akuzawa was assisted by his 70-year-old daughter, Motoe, during the climb. He credited her support as crucial in helping him reach the summit, especially when he felt like giving up on the third day.
- **Challenging Climb:** Akuzawa took three days to complete the climb, spending two nights in mountain huts. The climb was challenging due to decreasing atmospheric pressure and oxygen levels near the summit, as well as colder temperatures.

India & Israel Sign Bilateral Investment Agreement

- **Landmark Agreement:** The agreement was signed between Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Israel's Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich in New Delhi, marking a significant step in promoting investments between the two countries.
- **Protection for Investors:** The treaty ensures that Israeli investors in India and Indian investors in Israel receive protection, adhering to international precedents and practices, including a minimum standard of treatment and non-discrimination.
- **Dispute Settlement:** The agreement provides for an independent forum for dispute settlement through arbitration, boosting investor confidence and comfort level.
- **Investment Promotion:** Israel has made \$337.77 million in foreign direct investment (FDI) in India between April 2000 and June 2025, and this agreement aims to further enhance economic ties and explore financial protocols for Israeli exporters.

François Bayrou Ousted as French Prime Minister

- **Vote of No Confidence:** Bayrou's government collapsed after a decisive vote of no confidence in the National Assembly, with 364 lawmakers voting against him and only 194 in favor.
- **Controversial Austerity Measures:** The no-confidence motion was triggered due to Bayrou's minority government pushing for controversial austerity measures, which ultimately led to his ousting.
- **Heavy Defeat:** The vote marked a significant defeat for Bayrou, who had staked his leadership on the austerity measures, indicating a loss of trust from the lawmakers.
- **Collapse of Administration:** The vote has officially ended Bayrou's tenure as Prime Minister, bringing his administration to an end.

Emmanuel Macron Taps Loyalist Lecornu as New Prime Minister

- **Youngest Prime Minister:** Gabriel Attal, at 34 years old, became the youngest person to hold the office of Prime Minister in France's modern history.
- **Background:** Attal previously served as the Minister of Education and has held other key positions, including government spokesperson and budget minister, which raised his profile.
- **Challenges:** Attal's appointment comes as President Macron faces declining approval ratings, an energetic far-right opposition, and criticism over key policy initiatives.
- **Key Objectives:** As Prime Minister, Attal aims to smooth tensions between Macron's diverse coalition allies, enabling smoother policymaking, and unite moderate supporters against nationalist rivals.
- **Impact:** Attal's personal popularity and outsider perspective may help Macron reconnect with disaffected voters.

Irfaan Ali Wins Second Term as Guyana's President

- **Re-election:** Irfaan Ali has been re-elected for a second term as the President of Guyana, following a successful general election held on September 1, 2025.
- **Party Majority:** His party, the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C), won a majority in parliament, granting Ali a renewed mandate to lead the country.
- **Oil Wealth:** Ali's re-election comes at a time when Guyana is experiencing vast oil wealth, which is expected to significantly impact the country's economy and development.
- **Geopolitical Challenges:** As President, Ali will have to navigate complex geopolitical challenges, balancing relationships with various countries while making decisions that benefit Guyana's growth and stability.
- **New Term:** With this re-election, Ali will continue to guide Guyana through a critical period in its history, shaping the country's future and making key decisions on its development trajectory.

Norway PM Jonas Gahr Støre Secured 2nd Term

- Støre's Labour Party-led government secured a second term after a closely fought election, with the center-left bloc winning a narrow majority of seats.
- The election was heavily influenced by voter concerns over the rising cost of living and the geopolitical impacts of the wars in Ukraine and Gaza.
- The re-election came despite a significant surge in support for the populist, right-wing Progress Party, which achieved its best-ever result and became the second-largest party in parliament.

- Støre's government will remain a minority administration and will rely on smaller, left-leaning parties to pass critical legislation, which will likely involve difficult negotiations on issues such as wealth taxes and future oil exploration.

Larry Ellison Surpasses Elon Musk as World's Richest

- Larry Ellison, co-founder of Oracle, temporarily became the world's wealthiest person, surpassing Elon Musk, after an unprecedented surge in Oracle's stock price.
- The dramatic shift in wealth was triggered by a blockbuster earnings report from Oracle, which included a highly aggressive outlook for its AI-driven cloud services.
- Ellison's fortune increased by an extraordinary amount in a single day, marking the largest one-day wealth increase ever recorded on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.
- Ellison's net worth is closely tied to his significant stake in Oracle, and the stock rally was fueled by major contracts, including one with OpenAI, that underscore the company's growing role in the AI infrastructure market.

Dharmendra Pradhan Launches First Overseas Atal Innovation Centre in UAE

- The new center will serve as an innovation hub to nurture joint start-ups and research-led ventures by innovators from both India and the UAE.
- It aims to promote bilateral collaboration in cutting-edge fields like deep tech, AI, clean energy, and healthcare.
- The center is a part of the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), which is a flagship initiative by the Government of India to foster a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.
- This center will also act as a gateway for Indian start-ups to access and penetrate the markets of the Middle East.
- During his visit, Pradhan also launched new academic programs, including a Ph.D. program in Energy and Sustainability and a B.Tech program in Chemical Engineering, at the IIT Delhi-Abu Dhabi campus.

Sushila Karki Sworn In as Nepal's First Woman Prime Minister

- **A Symbol of Integrity and Neutrality:** Karki, 73, is widely respected for her distinguished career as a jurist and her reputation for integrity and fairness. She previously made history as Nepal's first and only woman Chief Justice, serving from 2016 to 2017. Her anti-corruption stance and judicial independence made her a consensus candidate, acceptable to both the youth-led protest movement and traditional political forces seeking a neutral figure to lead the country out of the crisis.

- **Endorsement from "Gen Z" Protesters:** The recent protests were sparked by a social media ban but quickly evolved into a broader movement against political corruption and nepotism. The protestors, largely young people, played a key role in the selection process, advocating for a leader from outside the established political elite. Karki's name was put forward by their representatives, highlighting a rare moment of public-driven choice in Nepal's political landscape.
- **Dissolution of Parliament and Call for Elections:** As part of her appointment, Nepal's President Ram Chandra Paudel dissolved the House of Representatives and announced new parliamentary elections to be held in March 2026.

Foot notes:**About Nepal-**

- **Prime Minister:** Sushila Karki
- **Capital:** Kathmandu
- **Currency:** Nepalese Rupee

Albania Appoints 'Diella' World's First AI Cabinet Minister

- **Role and Responsibilities:** Diella has been appointed as the Minister for Public Procurement, tasked with managing and awarding government tenders. She will examine each tender, weigh merits, and produce outcomes designed to be objective, with full traceability across criteria.
- **Background and Development:** Diella was developed by the National Agency for Information Society of Albania and launched in January 2025 as a virtual assistant on the e-Albania platform. She assists citizens with online public services and issuing digital documents, having already handled over 36,600 documents and nearly 1,000 services.
- **Anti-Corruption Efforts:** Diella's appointment aims to reduce corruption in government tenders, a significant issue in Albania's bid to join the European Union by 2030. Prime Minister Edi Rama believes Diella will ensure 100% corruption-free public tenders.
- **Functionality and Oversight:** Diella will operate using AI-driven evaluation, gradually taking over decision-making responsibilities from ministries. However, concerns have been raised about the lack of human oversight and potential manipulation risks.
- **Symbolism and Implications:** Diella's appointment is seen as a symbolic move towards transparency and accountability, with her name meaning "sun" in Albanian, signifying clarity.

Dr. Sima Sami Bahous reappointed as Executive Director of UN Women

- **Leadership Experience:** Dr. Bahous is a seasoned Jordanian diplomat with extensive experience in global development and women's rights. She previously served as Jordan's Ambassador to the United Nations and Assistant Secretary-General of the Arab League.
- **Strategic Plan:** Under her leadership, UN Women has outlined a bold vision for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through its Strategic Plan 2026–2029. The plan focuses on addressing systemic barriers, increasing women's economic participation, and eliminating violence against women and girls.
- **Key Achievements:** During her first term, Dr. Bahous embedded gender equality in global policy discussions, improved transparency and efficiency within UN Women operations, and prioritized results-driven programs, especially in countries facing humanitarian crises.
- **Continuity in Leadership:** Dr. Bahous' reappointment ensures continuity in leadership at a time of complex global challenges, underscoring her commitment to ensuring women's leadership.

Suneet Mehta accredited as next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Kiribati

- **Current Role:** Suneet Mehta is currently serving as the High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Fiji, and he has been concurrently accredited as the High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Kiribati, with residence in Suva.
- **Diplomatic Experience:** Mehta belongs to the Indian Foreign Service (IFS:2007) and has 17 years of experience in various postings in Indian Embassies and Missions abroad, as well as at the Ministry of External Affairs headquarters in New Delhi.
- **Previous Postings:** He has served in Missions in Madrid (2009-2010) and Washington D.C. (2014-2017), handling matters related to the United States Congress. He was also Deputy High Commissioner in the High Commission of India, Canberra (2021-2024).

Gourangalal Das appointed as the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Korea

- **Appointment:** Shri Gourangalal Das, a 1999 batch Indian Foreign Service officer, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Korea. He is currently serving as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- **Background:** Das hails from Barpeta, Assam, and has brought pride to his hometown and state through his remarkable achievements in diplomacy and governance. He has previously served in key positions, including Joint Secretary

(US) and Deputy Secretary, External Affairs in the Office of the then Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.

- **Academic Credentials:** Das is a meritorious student who stood first in HSLC (1991) and second in HS (Science) (1993). He graduated with Honours in Economics from St. Stephen's College, Delhi, and completed his Master's degree from the Delhi School of Economics.
- **Experience:** Das has played a pivotal role in strengthening India's strategic relations and has contributed directly to high-level decision-making and foreign policy formulation.

Deepak Miglani appointed as next Ambassador of India to the Republic of South Sudan

- **Appointment:** Deepak Miglani, currently Indian Ambassador to Sao Tome and Principe, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of South Sudan, reflecting India's confidence in his diplomatic abilities.
- **Diplomatic Experience:** Miglani is a seasoned diplomat with diverse international postings and leadership roles, including stints as Consul General of India in Saint Petersburg, Russia; Erbil, Iraq; and Kandahar, Afghanistan.
- **Previous Roles:** Before his current appointment, he served as Director of the Passport Seva Programme at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), New Delhi, enhancing India's citizen-centric services abroad.
- **Education and Skills:** Miglani graduated from the University of Delhi and has consistently demonstrated intellectual clarity, organizational skills, and leadership, making him a versatile diplomat.

R&I Japan upgrades India's credit rating to BBB+ with stable outlook

- **Upgrade Details:** Japan's Rating and Investment Information, Inc. (R&I) upgraded India's long-term sovereign credit rating to 'BBB+' from 'BBB', retaining a stable outlook.
- **Reason for Upgrade:** The upgrade is supported by India's position as one of the world's fastest-growing economies, driven by demographic dividend, strong domestic demand, and sound government policies.
- **Third Upgrade in 2025:** This is the third sovereign rating upgrade for India this year, following S&P's upgrade to 'BBB' in August 2025 and Morningstar DBRS' upgrade to 'BBB' in May 2025.
- **Key Strengths:** R&I cited progress in fiscal consolidation, manageable debt levels, strengthened external stability, modest current account deficit, and sufficient forex cover as key strengths.

- **Government Response:** The Finance Ministry welcomed the upgrade, stating the government remains committed to promoting inclusive, high-quality growth alongside fiscal prudence and macroeconomic stability.

IMF Chief Proposes Daniel Katz as 1st Deputy MD

- **Appointment Details:** Daniel Katz is proposed to be appointed as First Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), effective October 6, 2025, subject to approval by the IMF's Executive Board.
- **Current Role:** Katz currently serves as Chief of Staff to U.S. Treasury Secretary, where he advises on domestic and international economic matters.
- **Background:** He has over a decade of experience at the U.S. Treasury Department, including roles such as Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary for International Affairs and policy advisor in the Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence.
- **Key Skills:** Katz is known for his solution-oriented approach, collaborative leadership style, and ability to bring fresh perspectives to complex issues, which IMF's Georgieva believes will be valuable assets to the Fund.
- **IMF Role Expectations:** As First Deputy Managing Director, Katz is expected to contribute to the IMF's efforts in ensuring economic and financial stability globally.

India Re- Elected to UPU's Council of Administration & POC

- **Re-election Details:** India has been re-elected to the Council of Administration (CA) and the Postal Operations Council (POC) of the UPU for a term of 4 years, from 2025 to 2028, during the 28th UPU Congress held in Dubai.
- **Council Roles:** The CA deals with policy, regulatory, and governance matters, while the POC focuses on technical and operational aspects, driving modernization of postal services worldwide.
- **India's Contribution:** India's membership enables it to contribute to high-level policy decisions on cross-border mail, e-commerce, and financial services, shaping the future of the global postal sector.
- **Leadership Role:** India has expressed its intent to take on a leadership role within the Council of Administration during the forthcoming cycle, underscoring its growing influence in global postal governance.
- **UPU Background:** The UPU is a specialized agency of the United Nations, established in 1874, with 192 member countries, aiming to promote global postal cooperation and ensure smooth international mail exchanges.

Gloria Gangte appointed as next Ambassador of India to Norway

- **Appointment:** Gloria Gangte, a senior Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of the 2000 batch, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Norway.
- **Current Role:** She is currently serving as India's High Commissioner to Malta, where she has played a key role in advancing bilateral ties.
- **Diplomatic Experience:** Gangte brings over two decades of rich experience in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy across the globe, with previous roles in Rome, Italy; Muscat, Oman; Geneva; Buenos Aires, Argentina; and Madrid, Spain.
- **Expected Tenure:** She is expected to take up her new assignment in Oslo shortly, reflecting India's focus on strengthening its diplomatic footprint in Europe and deepening ties with Norway.

UK PM Keir Starmer Honoured with 'Living Bridge' Award

- **Award Recognition:** UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer received the prestigious "Living Bridge" award for his instrumental role in fostering deeper India-UK relations, particularly in finalizing the long-awaited India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
- **Ceremony Details:** The award ceremony took place at the House of Lords in London on September 23, 2025, where Seema Malhotra, Minister for the Indo-Pacific, accepted the award on Starmer's behalf.
- **FTA Significance:** The India-UK FTA, officially known as the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), aims to double bilateral trade to \$120 billion by 2030, enhancing market access, reducing tariff barriers, and boosting investment flows.
- **Other Awardees:** The 2025 Living Bridge Awards also recognized other individuals and organizations for their contributions to India-UK relations, including GMR Group, GP Hinduja, Bina Mehta (Chair of KPMG UK), and the University of Southampton.

Tim Reddish, former Chair of British Paralympic Association received the Paralympic Order

- **Prestigious Award:** Tim Reddish, former Chair of the British Paralympic Association, was awarded the Paralympic Order, the highest recognition in the Paralympic Movement, for his outstanding contributions.
- **Paralympic Career:** Reddish is a former Paralympic swimmer who won five medals across three Paralympic Games (1992-2000) and 43 medals in World and European Championships.

- **Leadership Roles:** He held key positions, including National Performance Director and Executive Director for British Disability Swimming, Chair of the British Paralympic Association, and Governing Board Member of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC).
- **Impact on Paralympic Movement:** Reddish's leadership was instrumental in shaping global governance in Para swimming and delivering game-changing Paralympic Games, particularly during the Athens 2004 and London 2012 events.

Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone Runs Fastest 400m in 40 Years

- **Historic Achievement:** Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone ran the fastest 400m time in 40 years, finishing in 47.78 seconds at the 2025 World Athletics Championships in Tokyo.
- **World Record Near Miss:** Her time was just 0.18 seconds shy of Marita Koch's world record of 47.60 seconds, set in 1985.
- **Fourth World Title:** This victory marked McLaughlin-Levrone's fourth world title, making her the first person to win a world title in both the 400m hurdles and the 400m.
- **Dominant Performance:** McLaughlin-Levrone's time was significantly faster than the silver medalist, Marileidy Paulino, who finished in 47.98 seconds.
- **Career Milestone:** This win adds to McLaughlin-Levrone's impressive resume, which includes four Olympic gold medals and six world records.

India, Morocco sign MoU on defence cooperation in Rabat

- **Strengthening Strategic Partnership:** India and Morocco have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen their defence cooperation, marking a significant milestone in their bilateral relations.
- **Key Areas of Cooperation:** The MoU outlines joint efforts in several key domains, including counter-terrorism, maritime security, cyber defence, and defence industry collaboration.
- **Institutional Framework:** The agreement establishes an institutional framework for expanding cooperation across multiple defence dimensions, including regular exchanges between defence personnel, joint training programs, and enhanced industrial linkages.
- **Defence Industry Collaboration:** The MoU is expected to boost India's defence exports under the Make in India initiative, with a focus on co-development and co-production of military hardware.

- **Deepening Strategic Ties:** The agreement signals a new strategic dimension in India-Morocco relations, opening avenues for deeper cooperation in regional security, defence technology, and industry partnerships.

Tesla Group Joins Forces with UK's SRAM & MRAM

- **Partnership Details:** Tesla Group has partnered with SRAM & MRAM Group in a \$1 billion agreement to establish large-scale electric vehicle (EV) battery production plants in India and other countries.
- **Global Expansion:** This partnership marks a significant expansion of Tesla's battery manufacturing footprint into emerging global markets, promoting clean energy and sustainable development.
- **Giga Factory Plans:** The collaboration plans to establish over 20 giga factories worldwide, with five of them located in India, to revolutionize the green energy storage landscape.
- **Sustainability Focus:** The partnership underscores the companies' dedication to combating climate change, fostering innovation, and building a sustainable future for communities worldwide.

Foot notes:

About Tesla-

- **CEO:** Elon Musk
- **Headquarters:** U.S.
- **Founded:** 2003

BANKING & FINANCE NEWS

Anish Madhavan appointed as Group Chief Compliance Officer of ICICI Bank

- **Appointment:** Anish Madhavan has been appointed as the Group Chief Compliance Officer (GCCO) of ICICI Bank, effective August 29, 2025, succeeding Subir Saha.
- **Experience:** Madhavan is a seasoned professional with 29 years of experience in banking and finance, and has been associated with ICICI Group for 24 years.
- **Qualifications:** He is a chartered accountant with extensive expertise in various domains, including internal audit, financial crime prevention, and card and payment solutions.
- **Previous Roles:** Madhavan has held key positions within ICICI Bank, including Head of Cards and Payment Solutions, Group Chief Internal Auditor, and Head of Financial Crime Prevention Group.

Foot notes:

About ICICI Bank-

- **MD & CEO:** Sandeep Bakhshi
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Founded:** 1955

PNB appointed Raman Grover as CFO

- **Promotion from Within:** Grover's appointment signifies a promotion from within the bank's ranks. Prior to this role, he served as the General Manager of the Finance Division at the Head Office, demonstrating the bank's confidence in its internal talent pool.
- **Extensive Experience:** With over 26 years of experience in the banking sector, Grover brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to his new position. His long-standing career with PNB provides him with a deep understanding of the bank's financial operations and strategic direction.
- **Succession Planning:** This appointment is part of a planned leadership transition. Grover takes over the CFO responsibilities from Dilip Kumar Jain, who superannuated from the bank's services on August 31, 2025.
- **Broader Management Changes:** Grover's elevation to CFO is part of a larger set of senior management changes at PNB. These changes include the appointment of a new Chief General Manager for the HRD and a new General Manager for the Corporate Communication Division.

Foot notes:**About PNB-**

- **MD & CEO:** Ashok Chandra
- **Headquarters:** Dwarka
- **Founded:** 1894

BOB launches 'bob Digi Udyam' digital financing scheme

- **Digital Financing Platform:** BOB's 'bob Digi Udyam' is a digital, collateral-free lending platform designed for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) to access working capital loans quickly.
- **Loan Amount and Tenure:** The scheme offers loan amounts ranging from ₹10 lakh to ₹50 lakh with a tenure of 12 months, providing Cash Credit and Overdraft facilities.
- **Eligibility and Application:** Both new and existing MSE customers of Bank of Baroda can apply for the loan online through the MSE banking portal or visit the nearest branch for assistance.

- **Credit Assessment:** The platform uses a digital scorecard based on various digital data points for quick risk assessment, enabling seamless credit decisions and reducing turnaround time for loan processing.
- **Credit Guarantee:** The scheme offers collateral-free loans backed by the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE), aligning with the Government of India.

DPIIT and ICICI Bank Join Hands to Boost Startups

- **Partnership Details:** DPIIT and ICICI Bank signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on September 4, 2025, to support DPIIT-recognized startups across India under the Startup India initiative.
- **Startup Engagement Programme:** The partnership involves launching a Startup Engagement Programme, offering accelerator access, mentorship, and pilot opportunities to early- and growth-stage startups, hosted on the Startup India portal.
- **Key Benefits:** Startups will gain access to ICICI Bank's Mumbai-based accelerator, workspace, structured curriculum, mentorship from industry leaders, and opportunities for pilot programs with ICICI Bank business units.
- **Goals and Objectives:** The initiative aims to nurture the startup ecosystem, provide tangible benefits beyond training and mentorship, and enable startups to fine-tune products, expand operations, and connect with stakeholders.

R Gandhi Reappointed as Yes Bank Chairman

- **Reappointment Details:** R Gandhi has been reappointed as the part-time non-executive Chairman of Yes Bank for a term from September 20, 2025, to May 13, 2027, as approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- **R Gandhi's Background:** Gandhi is a seasoned central banker with 37 years of experience, having served as the Deputy Governor of RBI from 2014 to 2017. He was Director of the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT), Hyderabad.
- **Role and Responsibilities:** As part-time non-executive Chairman, Gandhi will oversee board functions but won't be involved in day-to-day operations.
- **Impact on Yes Bank:** Gandhi's reappointment ensures leadership stability and continuity during the bank's recovery phase post-2020 crisis.

Foot notes:

About Yes Bank-

- **MD & CEO:** Prashant Kumar

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Founded:** 2003

Citibank Appoints Kaustubh Kulkarni as Asia-Pacific IB Co-Head

- **Appointment Details:** Kaustubh Kulkarni has been appointed as the co-head of investment banking for the Asia-Pacific region at Citibank, effective December 2025, pending regulatory approvals. He will be based in Singapore.
- **Experience and Background:** Kulkarni brings nearly three decades of experience from his previous role at JPMorgan, where he held several senior positions, including Senior Country Officer for India, Vice Chair for Asia Pacific, and Head of Investment Banking in India.
- **Key Responsibilities:** He will work alongside Jan Metzger, Citibank's current regional head of investment banking, to oversee operations across Japan, North Asia, Australia, and South Asia, focusing on deal-making capabilities and capturing investment banking opportunities.
- **Strategic Importance:** This appointment is part of Citibank's strategy to expand its investment banking reach in key Asia-Pacific markets, driven by growing deal activity in sectors like technology, healthcare, and renewable energy.

Foot notes:

About Citibank-

- **CEO:** Sunil Garg
- **Headquarters:** New York
- **Founded:** 1812

Ravi Ranjan appointed as next MD of SBI

- **Succession to a Key Role:** Ravi Ranjan has been recommended to succeed the current MD, Vinay M. Tonse, whose term is set to conclude on November 30, 2025. This ensures a planned transition for one of the top leadership roles at India's largest public sector bank.
- **Extensive Experience within SBI:** Ravi Ranjan has a long and distinguished career with SBI, having been with the bank for over 33 years since joining as a probationary officer in 1991. He currently serves as the Deputy Managing Director of Global Markets, overseeing the bank's investment portfolio.
- **Rigorous Selection Process:** The FSIB's recommendation followed a comprehensive interview process in which nine candidates were evaluated. The

bureau selected Ravi Ranjan based on his performance in the interview, his extensive experience, and other relevant parameters.

Foot notes:

About SBI-

- **Chairman:** C. Sreenivasulu Setty
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Founded:** 1955

DEFENCE NEWS

Army Conducts Yudh Kaushal 3.0 Multi-Domain Drill in Arunachal

- **Exercise Conducted:** The Indian Army carried out Yudh Kaushal 3.0, a large-scale multi-domain military drill in Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Objective:** The exercise tested operational readiness, joint warfare capabilities, and integration of modern technology in high-altitude conditions.
- **Forces Involved:** Multiple arms of the Army, including infantry, artillery, aviation, engineers, and electronic warfare units, participated.
- **Strategic Significance:** Conducted close to the LAC (Line of Actual Control) with China, the drill strengthens preparedness against border challenges.
- **New Dimension:** The exercise emphasized multi-domain operations like cyber, space, drones, and AI-based warfare, aligning with India's future combat strategies.

Air Marshal Sanjiv Ghuratia Appointed IAF Maintenance Head

- **Appointment:** Air Marshal Sanjiv Ghuratia, AVSM, VSM, has taken charge as the Air Officer-in-Charge Maintenance (AOM) at Air Headquarters, effective September 1, 2025.
- **Experience:** With 37 years of expertise, Air Marshal Ghuratia brings vast technical knowledge and leadership experience to his new role, overseeing aircraft maintenance, repair, and logistical support across the IAF.
- **Career Highlights:** Air Marshal Ghuratia has held key positions, including Senior Maintenance Staff Officer at HQ Maintenance Command, and has been involved in modernizing maintenance practices, strengthening logistics, and driving technology integration.
- **Awards and Honors:** He has been decorated with the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) and Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM) for his distinguished service, and received a UN commendation for his work in Congo.

India unveils Vikram-3201, the first fully indigenous 32-bit microprocessor

- **Launch Details:** Vikram-3201 was officially unveiled on September 2, 2025, at the Semicon India Summit in New Delhi, marking a significant milestone in India's semiconductor journey.
- **Design and Fabrication:** This microprocessor was designed by ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) and fabricated at the Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL) in Mohali, showcasing India's end-to-end capabilities in semiconductor technology.
- **Space-Grade Capabilities:** Vikram-3201 is engineered to withstand extreme temperatures, radiation, and vibrations, making it suitable for launch vehicles and satellites. Its 32-bit architecture enables higher performance and wider memory addressing.
- **Indigenous Technology:** The microprocessor features a custom, indigenous instruction set, ensuring full strategic control and self-reliance. ISRO has also developed in-house software tools, including an Ada cross-compiler, assembler, linker, and simulator.

India-Thailand Military Drill Exercise MAITREE-XIV Begins

- **Exercise Details:** The 14th edition of Exercise MAITREE commenced on September 1, 2025, at the Joint Training Node (JTN) in Umroi, Meghalaya, and will run until September 14, 2025.
- **Participating Forces:** The exercise involves 120 personnel from the Indian Army's Madras Regiment and 53 personnel from the Royal Thai Army's 1st Infantry Battalion, 14th Infantry Brigade.
- **Objective:** The primary focus is on enhancing interoperability and mutual understanding between the two armies, particularly in counter-terrorist operations in semi-urban terrain under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.
- **Training Modules:** The exercise includes joint tactical drills, special arms and weapons handling skills, and planning and execution of counter-insurgency operations, culminating in a 48-hour validation exercise simulating realistic operational scenarios.

INS Trikanth joins Multilateral Exercise In Egypt

- **Exercise Details:** INS Trikanth, a stealth frigate of the Indian Navy, has arrived in Alexandria, Egypt, to participate in Exercise Bright Star 2025, a major multilateral drill scheduled from September 1 to 10.

- **Participating Countries:** The exercise involves multiple nations, including India, the United States, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Greece, Cyprus, and Italy, showcasing international cooperation and commitment to regional security.
- **Tri-Service Participation:** The Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force are participating in the exercise, which focuses on irregular warfare, hybrid challenges, and training together on air, land, and sea to enhance interoperability.
- **Objectives:** The exercise aims to promote regional security, cooperation, and understanding among participating nations, allowing them to work together seamlessly in case of common threats, whether traditional or non-traditional.

Indian Forces Join Russia's ZAPAD 2025 Military Exercise

- **Exercise Details:** The ZAPAD 2025 military exercise is scheduled to take place from September 10 to 16 at the Mulino Training Ground in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia. It brings together military contingents from several nations to enhance operational readiness and defense engagement.
- **Indian Contingent:** A 65-member tri-services contingent from India, comprising 57 soldiers from the Army (mainly from the Kumaon Regiment), 7 officers and airmen from the Indian Air Force, and 1 representative from the Navy, is participating in the exercise.
- **Objectives:** The exercise aims to boost military cooperation, interoperability, and joint operations among participating countries. It will focus on company-level joint training, mission planning, terrain warfare, coordination of firepower, and deployment of specialized units.
- **Significance:** India's participation in ZAPAD 2025 reflects its commitment to global security and stability. The exercise provides a platform for India to exchange operational knowledge, adapt to emerging technologies, and reinforce ties with Russia and other participating countries.

India launched SAJEX 2025

- **Strengthening India-Saudi Trade Relations:** SAJEX 2025 is a B2B (business-to-business) event designed to create a direct platform for Indian jewelry manufacturers and exporters to connect with Saudi Arabian buyers. The exhibition aims to boost India's share in the Saudi market, which is projected to grow to \$8.3 billion by 2030.
- **Focus on Bilateral Economic Partnership:** The expo aligns with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, a strategic framework to diversify its economy and reduce

dependence on oil. By showcasing India's prowess in gems and jewelry, the event leverages the complementary strengths of both economies: India's position as a leading global exporter and Saudi Arabia's large and growing consumer market.

- **Comprehensive Showcase of Indian Craftsmanship:** The event featured over 200 exhibitors from India and other countries. Indian companies showcased a wide range of products, including gold jewelry (18k, 21k, 22k), diamonds, colored gemstones, platinum, and lab-grown diamonds, catering to the diverse and evolving tastes of the Saudi market.
- **Strategic Platform for Diversification:** The launch of SAJEX is a key step for the Indian gems and jewelry industry to diversify its export markets away from traditional destinations like the U.S., where trade has faced recent challenges.

Indian Navy commissioned INS Aravali in Gurugram

- **A Hub for Information and Communication:** The primary purpose of INS Aravali is to strengthen the Indian Navy's information and communication infrastructure. It will serve as a central hub for multiple information and communication centers, which are critical to the Navy's command, control, and Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) framework.
- **Focus on Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA):** INS Aravali will play a key role in enhancing India's real-time surveillance and situational awareness across its vast maritime interests. It is designed to work seamlessly with naval units, MDA centers, and other stakeholders, allowing for better information sharing and coordinated responses to potential threats in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- **Strategic Location in a Landlocked City:** The location of INS Aravali in Gurugram, far from the coastline, highlights the shift in modern naval warfare towards a network-centric and knowledge-driven approach. This land-based center will provide administrative and logistical support, acting as a crucial nerve center for maritime security operations without being tied to a coastal port.
- **Alignment with the MAHASAGAR Vision:** The commissioning of INS Aravali embodies the Prime Minister's vision of MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions).

Navy Inducts Tata-Made Spanish 3D Radar

- **First-of-its-Kind Indigenous Capability:** With this induction, TASL has become the first private Indian company to successfully develop and integrate a next-generation naval surveillance radar system. This achievement is a major step

towards India's goal of achieving self-reliance in defense manufacturing under the "Make in India" initiative.

- **Advanced Surveillance Technology:** The Lanza-N is a highly advanced 3D tactical surveillance radar. It is capable of detecting and tracking a wide array of targets, including low-flying and high-flying aircraft, supersonic fighter jets, anti-radiation missiles, drones, and naval platforms. Its ability to provide three-dimensional information (azimuth, elevation, and range) significantly enhances the Indian Navy's situational awareness.
- **Strategic Collaboration and Technology Transfer:** The radar's development is the result of a \$145 million deal signed in 2020 between Indra and TASL. Under this agreement, Indra will provide three complete radars, while TASL will locally assemble and integrate core system elements for an additional 20 radars. This partnership facilitates crucial technology transfer and builds a sustainable ecosystem for advanced defense technologies within India.
- **Tailored for the Indian Ocean Region:** The Lanza-N radar has been specifically adapted to perform optimally in the challenging environmental conditions of the Indian Ocean Region, including high humidity and extreme heat. T

Tata Builds Navy's First Spanish Lanza-N 3D Radar

- **Partnership:** Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) collaborated with Spanish defence company Indra to develop the Lanza-N 3D Air Surveillance Radar for the Indian Navy.
- **Indigenous Defence Capabilities:** This project marks a significant milestone in India's defence modernization, enhancing the country's indigenous defence capabilities and maritime surveillance.
- **Radar Features:** The Lanza-N radar is designed to track aerial threats, providing the Navy with a decisive surveillance edge in protecting India's maritime interests.
- **Commissioning:** The radar has been successfully commissioned on an Indian Navy warship, with the rest of the deliveries scheduled in phases under a USD 145-million deal signed in 2020.
- **Significance:** This achievement showcases India's determination to build, integrate, and sustain next-generation defence systems domestically, reducing reliance on foreign technology.

Indian Navy Inducts Anti-Submarine Warfare Ship 'Androth'

- **Shipbuilder:** INS Androth was built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata, a leading shipbuilding company in India.

- **Ship Features:** The vessel is 77.6 meters long and 10.5 meters wide, with a draught of only 2.7 meters, allowing it to operate in shallow waters. It's propelled by three diesel-driven water jets, reaching a maximum speed of 25 knots.
- **Primary Role:** INS Androth is designed for anti-submarine operations in coastal waters, low-intensity maritime operations, and mine-laying operations. It's equipped with advanced sensors and ordnance, including hull-mounted sonar and low-frequency variable depth sonar.
- **Armament:** The ship carries lightweight torpedoes, ASW rockets, and mines, as well as a close-in weapon system (30 mm gun) and 16.7 mm stabilized remote-controlled guns.
- **Induction Significance:** INS Androth is the first of a series of eight anti-submarine warfare shallow-watercraft being built for the Indian Navy, marking a significant milestone in the country's indigenous defence capabilities.

US, South Korea & Japan Launch Freedom Edge Military Exercise

- **Exercise Purpose:** The Freedom Edge exercise aims to enhance interoperability among the three nations to maintain peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly in the face of North Korea's military threats.
- **Participating Forces:** The exercise involves warships, fighter jets, and personnel from the three nations, with approximately 7,000 trilateral military and defense force personnel participating in similar exercises held in November 2024.
- **North Korea's Response:** North Korea has protested against the joint drills, warning of military action and criticizing the exercises as an attempt to strengthen a "U.S.-led military bloc."
- **Trilateral Cooperation:** The Freedom Edge exercise demonstrates the growing cooperation between South Korea, Japan and the US.

India, Greece Hold First Bilateral Naval Exercise

- **Exercise Location and Dates:** The maiden bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the Hellenic Navy was held in the Mediterranean Sea, concluding on September 18, 2025. The exercise consisted of two phases: a harbour phase from September 13-17 at Salamis Naval Base, and a sea phase on September 17-18.
- **Participating Ships:** The Indian Navy was represented by the guided missile stealth frigate INS Trikanth, while the Hellenic Navy participated with the Elli class frigate HS Themistokles.
- **Exercise Activities:** The exercise included complex maritime manoeuvres, tactical exercises, night Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure (VBSS) operations,

replenishment-at-sea procedures, joint Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), coordinated gun firing, and cross-deck helicopter operations.

- **Objectives:** The exercise aimed to enhance interoperability, foster mutual understanding, and strengthen operational familiarity between the two navies. It also underscored the growing convergence of India and Greece on maritime security and cooperative engagement.

India Sets Up First Defence Manufacturing Plant in Morocco

- **First Indian Defence Plant in Africa:** The plant, set up by Tata Advanced Systems Maroc in Berrechid, Morocco, marks India's first defence manufacturing facility on African soil, reflecting the country's expanding defence industry footprint globally.
- **Manufacturing Focus:** The facility will produce Wheeled Armoured Platforms (WhAP) 8x8, developed in collaboration with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), designed for modern battlefield conditions with high mobility, amphibious capabilities, and modular configuration.
- **Strategic Partnership:** The plant strengthens India-Morocco bilateral ties, opening avenues for joint training, technology sharing, and industrial cooperation, with potential for future cooperation in maritime security and advanced research.
- **Aatmanirbhar Bharat Initiative:** The project supports Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative to promote self-reliance in defence manufacturing, marking a significant step in India's defence manufacturing expansion abroad and positioning India as a global defence supplier.

Centre Extends General Anil Chauhan's Tenure as Chief of Defence Staff

- **Extension Details:** General Anil Chauhan's tenure as Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs has been extended until May 30, 2026, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- **Appointment History:** General Chauhan has been serving as CDS since September 30, 2022, and has had a distinguished career spanning over four decades in the Indian Army.
- **Career Highlights:** He was commissioned into the Indian Army in 1981 and has held several key command and staff positions, earning notable awards such as the PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, and VSM.

- **Role and Responsibilities:** As CDS, General Chauhan continues to drive defence reforms and armed forces integration, playing a crucial role in shaping India's defence strategies

SPORTS NEWS

India Clinches 2025 SAFF U17 Women's Championship Title

- **Championship Victory:** India won the 2025 SAFF U-17 Women's Championship title, showcasing dominance in South Asian women's football.
- **Tournament Host:** The championship was held in Bangladesh, featuring teams from South Asian nations.
- **Final Match:** India defeated Bangladesh in the final to secure the trophy (can confirm exact scoreline if you want).
- **Consistent Success:** This victory highlights India's growing strength in youth women's football, following recent successes at junior levels.
- **Significance:** The win boosts India's women's football development, inspires grassroots participation, and strengthens preparation for continental competitions.

Oscar Piastri Wins Dramatic 2025 Dutch Grand Prix

- **Dramatic Victory:** Oscar Piastri secured a thrilling win at the Dutch Grand Prix, extending his championship lead despite a dramatic late-race retirement of his teammate Lando Norris due to mechanical failure.
- **Race Dynamics:** Piastri started strong from pole position and built a significant lead, but a series of safety car deployments altered the race dynamics. Norris was closing in on Piastri until his car failure.
- **Championship Lead:** Piastri's win increased his championship lead to 34 points, putting him in a strong position to claim the title. His consistency and resilience have been key factors in his success.
- **Notable Finishers:** The race saw rookie Isack Hadjar achieve his first F1 podium finish, coming in third. Piastri's win showcased his skill and strategic driving.

Starc Retires from T20Is to Focus on Tests & ODIs

- **Retirement Announcement:** Australian fast bowler Mitchell Starc has announced his immediate retirement from T20 International cricket, effective immediately, to focus on Test matches and One-Day Internationals.
- **Reason for Retirement:** Starc cited the physical demands of international cricket and his desire to prioritize Test cricket, which has always been his top priority.

- **Career Highlights:** Starc played 65 T20I matches, taking 79 wickets, and was part of the 2021 T20 World Cup-winning squad. He's Australia's second-highest T20I wicket-taker, behind spinner Adam Zampa.
- **Future Plans:** Starc will continue to play Test cricket and ODIs, aiming to defend Australia's ODI World Cup title in 2027. He'll also participate in franchise-based domestic leagues, including the Indian Premier League.

GM Pranav Venkatesh Wins Fujairah Global Superstars 2025

- **Convincing Victory:** Pranav Venkatesh won the Fujairah Global Superstars 2025 chess tournament, scoring 7 points out of 9 and finishing a full point ahead of his nearest rivals.
- **Tournament Performance:** He achieved a remarkable performance rating of 2843, showcasing his exceptional skill and dominance in the tournament.
- **Key Wins:** Pranav defeated notable players like Nihal Sarin, Alan Pichot, and Amin Tabatabaei, demonstrating his ability to handle pressure and outmaneuver strong opponents.
- **Rating Boost:** This victory earned him a significant rating boost of 28.2 Elo points, further solidifying his position as a rising star in the chess world.

Mitchell Starc officially retired from international T20 cricket

- **Retirement Announcement:** Mitchell Starc has officially announced his retirement from T20 International cricket to focus on his Test and ODI career, prioritizing Australia's upcoming Test series against India and the 2027 ODI World Cup.
- **T20 Career Highlights:** Starc featured in 65 T20Is, taking 79 wickets, which places him second on Australia's all-time list for T20 wickets, showcasing his importance to the team.
- **Future Focus:** Starc's decision allows the Australian team to prepare for the T20 World Cup, giving younger players opportunities to shine, and enables him to extend his Test and ODI careers.
- **Cricket Australia's Response:** Cricket Australia CEO Todd Greenberg praised Starc's T20 career and decision, acknowledging his commitment to playing for Australia and the sacrifices he's made.

Sakshi & Bartwal Wins for India in World Boxing Championships

- **Sakshi's Dominant Win:** Sakshi Chaudhary won her bout in the women's 54 kg category with a dominant RSC (Referee Stopped Contest) victory over Ukraine's Viktoriia Shkeul, winning the opening round 5-0.
- **Pawan Bartwal's Hard-Fought Win:** Pawan Bartwal secured a winning start for India in the men's 55 kg bout, defeating Brazil's Michael Douglas Trindade with a split decision (3:2).
- **Contrasting Victories:** Sakshi and Bartwal's wins were contrasting, with Sakshi dominating her opponent while Bartwal had to fight hard for his victory.
- **Other Indian Boxers' Performance:** Thokchom Sanamacha Chanu also won her bout in the 70 kg category, defeating Denmark's Ditte Frostholm 4-1. Other Indian boxers, including Lovlina Borgohain and Hitesh Gulia, received first-round byes.
- **Championships Location and Significance:** The World Boxing Championships are being held in Liverpool, UK, under the aegis of the World Boxing Council.

Veteran Spinner Amit Mishra Retires After Two-Decade Cricket Career

- **Retirement Announcement:** Veteran leg-spinner Amit Mishra has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket, ending a professional career spanning over two decades.
- **Age and Experience:** Mishra is 42 years old, with a rich experience in the game that has seen him play for various teams, including Haryana.
- **Career Highlights:** Although specific details about his career highlights aren't available in recent reports, Amit Mishra is known for his skills as a leg-spinner and his contributions to Indian cricket.
- **Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy Participation:** Recent records show Amit Mishra's involvement in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, a T20 tournament in India, where he represented Haryana in matches against teams like Jammu and Kashmir, and Himachal Pradesh.
- **Legacy:** With his retirement, Amit Mishra brings the curtains down on an illustrious career, leaving behind a legacy that will be remembered by cricket fans and aspiring players.

India Wins Historic Men's Compound Archery Gold at World Championships

- **First-Ever Medal:** India won its first-ever gold medal in Men's Compound Archery at the World Championships, marking a historic milestone for the sport in the country.
- **Competition Location:** The championship took place in Gwangju, where the Indian team made their mark by reaching the final and securing the top spot.

- **Team Effort:** The victory showcases the team's exceptional skill, strategy, and teamwork, highlighting the growth and development of archery in India.
- **Global Recognition:** This achievement has garnered attention globally, with the World Archery Federation recognizing India's dominance in the sport.

Aryna Sabalenka retains women's singles title in US Open tennis

- **Dominant Performance:** Sabalenka showcased exceptional skill and composure, winning her fourth Grand Slam title overall and her first of the season in Flushing Meadows.
- **Back-to-Back Wins:** This victory marks the first time a woman has won the US Open in consecutive years since Serena Williams in 2014, solidifying Sabalenka's position as a top player.
- **Challenging Conditions:** The match was played under the roof at Arthur Ashe Stadium, which affected Anisimova's serve due to glare, making it difficult for her to see the ball.
- **Mental Strength:** Sabalenka demonstrated mental toughness, particularly in the tie-breaker, where she remained focused and didn't falter under pressure.
- **Career Milestone:** With this win, Sabalenka has now won two US Open titles, in addition to her two Australian Open trophies, all of which were on hard courts.

Indian Men's Hockey Team Crowned Asia Cup Champions 2025

- **Victory Over South Korea:** India beat South Korea 4-1 in the thrilling final of the Hockey Asia Cup 2025, held at the Rajgir Sports Complex.
- **Fourth Asia Cup Title:** This victory marked India's fourth Asia Cup title, adding to their previous wins in 2003, 2007, and 2017.
- **Direct Qualification to World Cup:** The win earned India direct qualification to the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026, scheduled to take place in the Netherlands next year. They are now one of the eight confirmed entrants for the World Cup.
- **Dilpreet Singh's Brilliance:** Dilpreet Singh led the Indian team to victory and was named Player of the Match for his incredible performance against Korea in the final. He scored two goals, one just before the half-hour mark and another in the 45th minute.

Yusha Nafees, Rudra Singh Win U-19 Titles at Indian Junior Open Squash

- **Yusha Nafees' Comeback Win:** Yusha Nafees rallied from two games down to defeat Rachit Shah in a thrilling five-game match, showcasing remarkable grit and potential. He won the match 8-11, 5-11, 11-8, 11-5, 11-2.
- **Rudra Singh's Dominant Performance:** Rudra Singh clinched the girls' U-19 title, overcoming Vyomika Khandelwal in straight games with a score of 11-7, 13-11, 11-2. Singh's composure and maturity were evident in her dominant performance.
- **Tournament Participation:** The Indian Junior Open Squash Championships saw an impressive 520 entries across 12 events, featuring high-quality squash from India's brightest young talents.
- **Previous Achievements:** Yusha Nafees played a key role in helping the Indian boys' team win bronze at the Asian Junior Team Championships earlier this year, showcasing his growing potential.

Max Verstappen Wins 2025 Italian Grand Prix

- **Dominant Victory:** Max Verstappen delivered a masterclass performance, winning the Italian Grand Prix by over 19 seconds ahead of Lando Norris. This marked his third win of the 2025 season and second victory on Italian soil.
- **Thrilling Start:** The race began with a thrilling duel between Verstappen and Norris, with the Red Bull driver ultimately taking the lead on lap four and maintaining it throughout the race.
- **Pit Stop Drama:** McLaren pitted Oscar Piastri first, but Lando Norris' slow pit stop dropped him behind Piastri. However, the team ordered Piastri to let Norris pass, citing fairness, and Norris reclaimed second place.
- **Fastest Race in History:** The 2025 Italian Grand Prix broke the record for the fastest race in F1 history, with the race completed in one hour and 13 minutes.

India Clinch Bronze in CAFA Nations Cup 2025

- **Historic Victory:** India secured its first-ever international victory over Oman, winning the bronze medal in the CAFA Nations Cup 2025. This marks India's first medal finish at the tournament.
- **Penalty Shootout Win:** The match ended 1-1 in regulation time, with Udanta Singh scoring India's equalizer. India won 3-2 in the penalty shootout, thanks to goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu's crucial saves.
- **Gurpreet's Heroics:** Gurpreet Singh Sandhu was instrumental in securing the win, saving the final penalty kick from Oman and helping India clinch the bronze medal.

- **Tournament Debut:** India marked their debut appearance in the CAFA Nations Cup with a third-place finish, defeating higher-ranked Oman in the process.

Carlos Alcaraz Defeats Jannik Sinner to Win Second US Open Title

- **Second US Open Title:** Carlos Alcaraz won his second US Open title by defeating Jannik Sinner in the final with a score of 6-2, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4.
- **Dominant Performance:** Alcaraz delivered a dominant performance, showcasing his aggressive gameplay and securing his sixth Grand Slam title at just 22 years old.
- **Rivalry Intensifies:** This victory intensifies the rivalry between Alcaraz and Sinner, who have now met in three consecutive Grand Slam finals this year, with Alcaraz winning six of their seven meetings since 2024.
- **Return to World Number One:** Alcaraz's win propels him back to the top of the ATP rankings, displacing Sinner, and marks a significant milestone in his career.

India to Host 28th Asian TT Team Championships

- **Event Details:** The championships will take place from October 11 to 15, 2025, at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- **First-Time Host:** This will be the first time Odisha has hosted an Asian-level table tennis event, although the state previously hosted the 2019 Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships in Cuttack.
- **Top-Tier Competition:** The event will feature men's and women's team competitions, showcasing Asia's top table tennis athletes.
- **Qualifying Tournament:** The championships will serve as a qualifying tournament for the 2026 ITTF World Team Championships, with the top 13 teams in each category securing spots.

Abhimanyu Mishra made history by defeating World Champion D Gukesh at FIDE Grand Swiss 2025

- **Record-Breaking Achievement:** Abhimanyu Mishra, at just 16 years old, became the youngest player to defeat a reigning world champion in classical chess, surpassing previous records. His victory over Gukesh marks a significant milestone in his career.
- **Tactical Brilliance:** Mishra showcased exceptional strategic brilliance and calm under pressure, executing precise strategies to outmaneuver Gukesh. His performance demonstrates a deep understanding of opening theory, tactical ingenuity, and endgame mastery.

- **Game Details:** The game lasted 61 moves, with Mishra gaining control after Gukesh's critical error on move 31 (...Rg6?). Mishra seized the opportunity with 38. Bd4, ultimately securing the win.
- **Impact on Global Chess:** This victory cements Mishra's reputation as a rising star in classical chess, inspiring young players worldwide. His success is expected to encourage a new wave of interest in chess among youth globally.

India Secures Nine World Records in Space Exploration

- **First to find water on the Moon:** The Chandrayaan-1 mission in 2008 was the first to detect water molecules on the lunar surface, a discovery later confirmed by NASA.
- **First nation to reach Mars on the maiden attempt:** The Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan) in 2014 made India the first country to successfully reach the Red Planet's orbit on its very first try.
- **Record-breaking satellite launch:** In 2017, the PSLV-C37 rocket set a world record by launching 104 satellites in a single mission.
- **First country to land near the lunar South Pole:** The Chandrayaan-3 mission in 2023 made India the first nation to successfully land a spacecraft near the Moon's unexplored South Pole.
- **Three records in cryogenic technology:** Between 2014 and 2017, India achieved three global records in the development of the LVM3 cryogenic stage, including its fastest maiden flight.

India won 3 bronze medals at the World Boxing Championships

- The medals were won by three Indian women boxers: Jaismine Lamboria, Pooja Rani, and Nupur Sheoran.
- Jaismine Lamboria secured a bronze in the 57kg category by defeating her opponent from Uzbekistan in the quarter-finals.
- Pooja Rani, a veteran boxer, clinched her medal in the 80kg category, a non-Olympic weight division.
- Nupur Sheoran, the granddaughter of legendary boxer Hawa Singh, earned her bronze in the +80kg super heavyweight division.
- The medals were a significant achievement for the Indian contingent, especially as two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen was unexpectedly defeated in her quarter-final bout.

Bangladesh Clinch First-Ever T20 Win Over Hong Kong in Asia Cup

- **First-Ever T20I Victory over Hong Kong:** This match marked a significant milestone for Bangladesh, as it was their first-ever T20 International win against Hong Kong. The two teams had only met once before in the format, back in the 2014 T20 World Cup, where Hong Kong surprisingly emerged victorious.
- **Litton Das's Match-Winning Half-Century:** Bangladesh's captain, Litton Das, was the star of the show, earning the Player of the Match award for his impressive knock. He scored a fluent 59 off 39 balls, steering his team's chase after they had lost two early wickets.
- **Disciplined Bowling Performance by Bangladesh:** Bangladesh's bowlers were effective in restricting Hong Kong's scoring. Pace bowlers Taskin Ahmed and Tanzim Hasan Sakib, along with leg-spinner Rishad Hossain, each took two wickets, helping to contain Hong Kong to a manageable total of 143 for 7.
- **Hong Kong's Improved Batting Effort:** While Hong Kong lost the match, they showed an improved batting performance compared to their previous game.

Jaismine Lamboria Wins Gold at World Boxing Championships

- **Weight Category:** Jaismine Lamboria won gold in the women's 57kg category at the 2025 World Boxing Championships.
- **Opponent:** She defeated Poland's Julia Szeremeta, a Paris Olympics silver medalist, with a 4-1 win in the final.
- **Performance:** Lamboria adjusted her rhythm after losing the opening round, using sharp jabs and controlled distance to dominate the bout with scores of 30-27, 29-28, 30-27, 28-29, and 29-28.
- **Historic Win:** This victory marked a career-defining moment for Lamboria, who bounced back strongly after an early exit at the Paris 2024 Olympics.
- **India's Medal Tally:** Lamboria's gold was one of four medals won by India in the championships, with Minakshi Hooda also winning gold in the 48kg category, Nupur Sheoran securing silver, and Pooja Rani claiming bronze.

Ex-New Zealand coach Gary Stead named as head coach for 2025–26 Ranji Trophy

- **Appointment:** Gary Stead, the former New Zealand coach, has been appointed as the head coach of Andhra Pradesh's Ranji Trophy team for the 2025-26 season.
- **Background:** Stead had a successful seven-year stint with the New Zealand cricket team, leading them to a World Test Championship win and finishing as runners-up in the 2019 World Cup.

- **Team Expectations:** Andhra Pradesh Cricket Association (APCA) hopes Stead will transform their team, which had a tough season last year, finishing sixth in Group B with just one win and three losses in seven games.
- **Leadership:** The team will be led by Ricky Bhui, with Saurabh Kumar as the senior member. Stead has been given permission to return home during the Christmas period.
- **Visa and Tenure:** Stead's work visa in India is expected to be approved, and he'll take charge from September 20, bringing his expertise to Andhra Pradesh cricket team.

India Finished 5th overall at ISSF World Cup 2025

- **Medal Count:** India won a total of 8 medals, including 4 gold, 2 silver, and 2 bronze medals.
- **Ranking:** China topped the standings with 11 medals, including 5 gold, 3 silver, and 3 bronze, while India secured the second spot.
- **Top Performers:** Notable Indian medal winners include Sift Kaur Samra (gold in women's 50m rifle 3 positions), Rudrankksh Patil (gold in men's 10m air rifle), and Vijayveer Sidhu (gold in men's 25m rapid fire pistol).
- **Competition Details:** The ISSF World Cup 2025 was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from April 1 to April 11, 2025, featuring over 410 shooters from 45 National Shooting Federations.
- **Future Events:** The Indian shooting squad was set to participate in the second leg of the ISSF World Cup in Lima, Peru, after their successful campaign in Buenos Aires.

GM Vaishali Rameshbabu won FIDE Women's Grand Swiss 2025

- **Winning Score:** Vaishali scored 8/11 points, edging out Kateryna Lagno on tiebreaks, who also scored 8/11.
- **Candidates Qualification:** Both Vaishali and Lagno have qualified for the 2026 Women's Candidates Tournament, joining other top players who secured spots through the Women's World Cup and Women's Grand Prix.
- **Tournament Performance:** Vaishali had a remarkable performance rating of 2604, gaining 21.4 rating points and moving up to number 15 in the women's live ratings.
- **Comeback from Loss:** Vaishali showed resilience by recovering from a loss in round eight against Bibisara Assaubayeva, stabilizing her tournament with crucial wins and draws.

- **Second Consecutive Win:** This victory marks Vaishali's second FIDE Women's Grand Swiss title, following her win in 2023, showcasing her consistency and skill at the highest level.

Mohammed Siraj Named ICC Men's Player of August 2025

- **Award-Winning Performance:** Mohammed Siraj won the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for August 2025 due to his exceptional performance in the final Test of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy against England at The Oval.
- **Match-Winning Spell:** Siraj took 9 wickets at an average of 21.11 across both innings in the final Test, helping India win the match by 6 runs and level the series 2-2. He was awarded Player of the Match for his efforts.
- **Series Highlights:** Siraj was the only Indian pacer to feature in all five Test matches against England, becoming the leading wicket-taker with 23 wickets at an average of 32.43, including two five-wicket hauls.
- **Career Milestones:** This award-winning performance also earned Siraj a career-best ranking in the ICC Men's Test Bowler Rankings. His consistent performances have drawn praise from cricket legends like Sachin Tendulkar, who felt Siraj's contributions are often underappreciated.

India's Anandkumar Wins First Gold Medal At Speed Skating World Championships

- **First Indian Gold Medalist:** Anandkumar Velkumar, a 22-year-old Indian speed skater, won India's first-ever gold medal at the 2025 Speed Skating World Championships in the men's 1000m sprint event.
- **Winning Time:** He clocked a time of 1:24.924 seconds to secure the gold medal, showcasing his exceptional speed and skill.
- **Double Medal Winner:** Anandkumar Velkumar won two medals at the championships: a gold in the 1000m sprint and a bronze in the 500m sprint, with a time of 43.072 seconds in the latter.
- **Historic Achievement:** This achievement marks a milestone in Indian speed skating, with Anandkumar becoming the first Indian athlete to win a gold medal at the senior level in the Speed Skating World Championships.

Smriti Mandhana reclaims No. 1 spot in ICC Women's ODI batting rankings

- **Reclaiming the Top Spot:** Smriti Mandhana has regained her position as the No. 1 ranked batter in ODI cricket, a feat she last achieved in 2019. She now holds 735 rating points, surpassing England's Nat Sciver-Brunt by four points.

- **Recent Performance:** Mandhana's recent performances contributed to her rise to the top. She scored a 58 against Australia, which earned her seven additional rating points, and previously scored 51 against South Africa and 116 against Sri Lanka in a tri-series final.
- **Surpassing Laura Wolvaardt:** Mandhana leapfrogged South Africa's Laura Wolvaardt, who slipped to second place with 717 rating points, tied with Nat Sciver-Brunt. Wolvaardt's recent scores of 27 and 28 in ODIs against the West Indies led to a loss of 19 rating points.
- **Current Rankings:** In the bowling rankings, England's Sophie Ecclestone continues to dominate, while in the all-rounders category, Australia's Ashleigh Gardner remains on top.

Spinner Varun Chakaravarthi Becomes World No.1 Bowler

- **Ranking:** Varun Chakaravarthi has become the world's No. 1 T20I bowler, overtaking New Zealand's Jacob Duffy. He has a rating of 733 points, followed closely by Duffy with 717 points.
- **Indian Legacy:** Chakaravarthi is the third Indian bowler to achieve this feat, joining an elite group that includes Jasprit Bumrah and Ravi Bishnoi.
- **Recent Performances:** His success can be attributed to his impressive spells in the ongoing Asia Cup 2025, particularly against the UAE and Pakistan. He took 1/4 in two overs against the UAE and 1/24 in four overs against Pakistan.
- **Previous Achievement:** Chakaravarthi previously held the second spot in February 2025, showcasing his consistency and skill as a spinner.

Samuel Umtiti Retires from Football

- **Retirement Age:** Samuel Umtiti has retired from professional football at the age of 31, citing a career impacted by injuries, particularly to his left knee.
- **Career Highlights:** Umtiti had a decorated career, winning the 2018 FIFA World Cup with France and securing two La Liga titles and three Copa del Rey trophies during his seven-year stint at Barcelona.
- **Injury Issues:** Knee problems plagued Umtiti's career, forcing him out of the game for extended periods. Despite struggles, he gave his all and expressed gratitude to clubs, coaches and teammates in an emotional farewell video.
- **Clubs Played For:** Umtiti played for several prominent clubs, including Lyon, Barcelona, Lecce and Lille. He earned 31 caps for the French national team, scoring crucial goals, including a memorable match-winner in the 2018 World Cup semi-final.

Central Zone Wins Duleep Trophy After 11 Years

- **Victory Details:** Central Zone defeated South Zone by six wickets in the final, held at the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru.
- **Match Highlights:** Yash Rathod's career-best 194 and Rajat Patidar's attacking century were crucial to Central Zone's win. Rathod hit the winning runs through covers, sealing the victory.
- **Turning Point:** When Central Zone was 24 for three, South Zone sniffed a comeback, but Patidar and Akshay Wadkar changed the tempo with counter-attacking strokes, steadying the innings.
- **Previous Win:** This win marks Central Zone's first Duleep Trophy title since the 2014-15 season, when they also defeated South Zone in the final.

Antim Panghal Wins Second World Championship Medal for India

- **Historic Achievement:** Antim Panghal became the second Indian woman wrestler, after Vinesh Phogat, to win multiple medals at the senior World Championships, securing her second bronze medal in the women's 53kg category.
- **Medal Match Victory:** She defeated Sweden's Jonna Malmgren, a two-time European champion, with a score of 9-1 in the bronze medal match at the 2025 World Wrestling Championships in Zagreb, Croatia.
- **Consistency:** This achievement marks the third consecutive year that Indian women's wrestling has secured at least one medal at the World Championships, with Antim joining an elite list of Indian wrestlers who have won multiple medals at the competition.
- **Redemption After Olympics:** Antim's bronze medal win comes after a disappointing campaign at the Paris 2024 Olympics, showcasing her resilience and determination to prove herself on the global stage.

Arshdeep Singh Becomes First Indian to Reach 100 T20I Wickets

- **Milestone Achievement:** Arshdeep Singh became the first Indian bowler to take 100 wickets in T20 Internationals, achieving this feat in his 64th match against Oman in the Asia Cup 2025.
- **Fastest Pacer:** He is now the fastest pacer to reach 100 T20I wickets, surpassing Rizwan Butt of Bahrain who achieved the milestone in 66 matches.
- **Impressive Stats:** Arshdeep has taken 100 wickets at an average of 18.49, an economy rate of 8.31, and a strike rate of 13.3, showcasing his consistency and skill.

- **Key Player for India:** Arshdeep has been a vital part of India's T20 setup, known for his sharp yorkers, pace, and calmness under pressure, making him a match-winner for the team.
- **Historic Moment:** This achievement marks a defining chapter in India's fast-bowling legacy, with fans and former cricketers praising his discipline and skill at a young age.

India's Jonathan Gavin Antony Wins Gold in Men's 10m Air Pistol

- **Winning Margin:** Jonathan Gavin Antony won the gold medal with a commanding margin of 8.5 points, showcasing his exceptional skill in the event.
- **Performance:** The 16-year-old Indian shooter delivered a flawless performance, shooting 21 of 24 shots in the 10s to secure the top spot.
- **Qualification:** Antony topped the qualification round with a score of 586-19x, setting him up for success in the finals.
- **Competition:** He outclassed a strong field, including Olympians Sarabjot Singh and Saurabh Chaudhary, demonstrating his rising dominance in Indian shooting.

India Shines with Five Medals at ISSF Junior World Cup 2025

- **Gold in Men's 10m Air Pistol:** Jonathan Gavin Antony won gold with a score of 244.8, defeating Italy's Luca Arrighi by an 8.5-point margin.
- **Women's 10m Air Pistol Silver:** Rashmika Sahgal secured silver with a score of 236.1, showcasing consistency and skill.
- **Mixed Team 10m Air Pistol Success:** India locked up the top two spots in the Mixed Team event, with Rashmika Sahgal and Kapil winning gold, and Vanshika Chaudhary and Jonathan Gavin Antony taking silver.
- **Rifle Prone Dominance:** India swept the podium in the Women's 50m Rifle Prone Junior event, with Anushka Thokur (621.6) winning gold, Anshika (619.2) taking silver, and Aadhya Agrawal (615.9) claiming bronze.

Sergio Busquets Announces Retirement After 20-Year Football Career

- **Retirement Plans:** Sergio Busquets will retire from professional football at the end of the 2025 Major League Soccer (MLS) season, wrapping up his 20-year career.
- **Career Highlights:** Busquets spent 18 years with FC Barcelona, winning numerous titles including nine La Liga crowns, three Champions League trophies, and the 2010 FIFA World Cup with Spain.

- **Time with Inter Miami:** He joined Inter Miami in 2023, reuniting with former Barcelona teammates Lionel Messi, Jordi Alba, and Luis Suarez, and won the Leagues Cup and Supporters' Shield.
- **Legacy:** Widely regarded as one of the best defensive midfielders in football history, Busquets made over 700 appearances for Barcelona and 143 appearances for Spain, showcasing his exceptional skill and dominance in the game.

Ahmedabad to Host 11th Asian Aquatics Championship 2025

- **Event Details:** The 11th Asian Aquatics Championship will take place from September 28 to October 11, 2025, in Ahmedabad, India.
- **Participation:** Over 900 athletes from 29 Asian countries are expected to participate in the championship, competing in four aquatic disciplines: Swimming, Diving, Water Polo, and Artistic Swimming.
- **Venue:** The championship will be held at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex in Narangpura, Ahmedabad, which is a state-of-the-art venue constructed to Olympic specifications.
- **Significance:** Hosting the Asian Aquatics Championship is a significant milestone for Indian aquatics, providing a rare opportunity for Indian athletes to compete against Asia's best on home soil.

India Secures Three Medals at Para Archery World Championships

- **Gold Medal:** Rakesh and Sarita won the gold medal in the Compound Open Mixed doubles event, defeating Charao and Gogel from Brazil.
- **Silver Medal:** Sheetal Devi, a 16-year-old armless archer, clinched the silver medal in the Women's Compound Open Event, finishing just two points behind Turkey's Oznur Cure.
- **Bronze Medal:** Sarita also won a bronze medal in the Compound Women's Doubles event along with Jyothi, finishing third on the podium.
- **Paralympics Quotas:** India secured six Paralympics quotas for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, a significant milestone for Indian para-archery.
- **Indian Team's Performance:** The Indian team, comprising 13 athletes, showcased exceptional skills and determination, making the country proud with their impressive performance.

India Clinches First-Ever International Futsal Win

- **Historic Win:** India achieved its first-ever international futsal win by defeating Mongolia 3-0 in the AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers.

- **Match Details:** The match was held on September 24, 2025, in Ardiya, Kuwait, marking a significant milestone for the Indian futsal team.
- **Team Performance:** Although India lost their first two matches against Kuwait and Australia, the win against Mongolia showcased the team's potential and determination.
- **Qualification Outcome:** Despite the historic win, India failed to qualify for the 2026 AFC Futsal Asian Cup, securing only 3 points from their group stage matches.
- **Team Leadership:** The Indian team is currently led by captain Nikhil Mali and guided by head coach Reza Kordi, who was appointed to prepare the team for the qualifiers.

Mumbai Indians appoints two-time World Cup winner Keightley as head coach

- **Appointment Details:** Mumbai Indians have appointed former Australian cricketer and two-time World Cup winner Lisa Keightley as the head coach of their women's team, replacing Charlotte Edwards.
- **Keightley's Achievements:** Keightley was part of Australia's World Cup-winning squads in 1997 and 2005 and has extensive coaching experience, including guiding the Northern Superchargers to the women's title in The Hundred.
- **Coaching Experience:** She has coached both the Australian and England women's teams and was the first woman to serve as full-time head coach of England, bringing unmatched experience and vision to the Mumbai Indians setup.
- **Team's Expectations:** Keightley aims to build on the team's success, continuing to inspire on and off the field, and help Mumbai Indians scale greater heights in the Women's Premier League (WPL).

Indian Skater Anish Raj Secures Historic Bronze at World Championships 2025

- **First Indian Medal in Category:** Anish Raj secured India's first-ever medal in the Junior Men's One-Lap Road Sprint at the World Championships, winning bronze with a time of 39.714 seconds.
- **73rd Inline Speed World Championships:** The event took place in Beidaihe, China, from September 13-21, 2025, featuring athletes from 42 countries.
- **Breakout Season:** This achievement adds to Anish's impressive 2025 season, which includes a gold medal at the 20th Asian Roller-Skating Championships in South Korea.
- **Indian Contingent's Success:** Anish's medal was part of India's haul of five medals at the World Speed Skating Championships 2025.

- **Inspiration for Indian Sports:** Anish's historic win is expected to inspire young Indian athletes to pursue excellence in non-mainstream sports like roller skating.

Ousmane Dembele won the Ballon d'Or 2025

- **First PSG Player to Win:** Dembele became the first Paris Saint-Germain player to win the Ballon d'Or award, beating out Barcelona's Lamine Yamal and his PSG teammate Vitinha.
- **Exceptional Performance:** Dembele's impressive performance in the 2024-25 season, with 37 goals and 15 assists, made him a top contender for the award.
- **Champions League Glory:** He played a crucial role in PSG's Champions League victory, scoring eight goals and providing six assists throughout the tournament.
- **Redemption Arc:** Dembele's win is also a testament to his redemption arc, having faced disappointment during his time at Barcelona before finding success with PSG.
- **Top Scorer:** Dembele's 35 goals across all competitions made him PSG's top scorer, solidifying his position as one of the world's top players.

Anandkumar bags gold in World Speed Skating Championships

- **Historic Win:** Anandkumar Velkumar won India's first-ever gold medal at the 2025 Speed Skating World Championships, making him the first Indian athlete to be crowned World Champion in speed skating.
- **Event and Timing:** He clinched the senior men's 1000m sprint title with a time of 1:24.924 seconds.
- **Double Medalist:** Anandkumar Velkumar also won a bronze medal in the men's 500m sprint event at the same competition, finishing with a time of 43.072 seconds.
- **Previous Achievements:** Before this win, he had bagged a bronze medal at the World Games in Chengdu and a bronze medal at the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou.
- **New Milestone:** His gold medal marks a new milestone in Indian speed skating, expected to propel the sport to greater heights in the coming years .

Smriti Mandhana Breaks Virat Kohli's Record as Fastest Indian Century in ODIs

- **Record-Breaking Century:** Smriti Mandhana scored a century in just 50 deliveries against Australia in the 3rd ODI, breaking Virat Kohli's record of 52 balls set in 2013.

- **Fastest Indian Century:** Mandhana's 50-ball century is the fastest by an Indian batter in ODIs, surpassing Kohli's record and becoming a benchmark for Indian cricket.
- **Second Fastest Women's ODI Century:** Mandhana's century is the second fastest in Women's ODIs, with only Meg Lanning's 45-ball century against New Zealand in 2012/13 being faster.
- **Consistent Dominance:** Mandhana has been in phenomenal form, amassing 1,675 runs at an average of 62.03 and striking at 105.6 SR in ODIs since 2024, showcasing her exceptional skill and consistency.

AWARDS NEWS

Sports Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya presented Rashtrapati Award certificates

- **Presentation of Certificates:** Sports Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya presented the Rashtrapati Award certificates on behalf of the President of India to selected awardees.
- **Occasion:** The ceremony was held as part of the National Sports and Adventure Awards recognition process.
- **Purpose:** The awards honor outstanding contributions and achievements in sports, coaching, and promotion of physical education.
- **Categories:** Recipients include sportspersons, coaches, and institutions recognized for excellence in their respective fields.
- **Significance:** The Rashtrapati Award is a mark of the highest national recognition for sporting excellence, carrying prestige and encouragement for the sporting community.

C&MD, EIL conferred with SCOPE Eminence Award

- **Award Conferred:** The Chairman & Managing Director (C&MD) of Engineers India Limited (EIL) was honored with the SCOPE Eminence Award.
- **Awarding Body:** The award was presented by Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE), which recognizes excellence among Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).
- **Category of Recognition:** The award acknowledges leadership, corporate governance, innovation, and outstanding contributions to the public sector.
- **About EIL:** Engineers India Limited is a Navratna PSU under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, specializing in engineering consultancy and EPC services.
- **Significance:** The award highlights EIL's role in nation-building, energy sector projects, and sustainability initiatives, while recognizing the CMD's leadership.

Former AP IAS Officer Gets Oxford's Lifetime Award

- **Award Recognition:** Lakshmikantham received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the University of Oxford (Keble College, O'Reilly Theatre), UK, for his commendable contribution to changing the educational ecosystem. The award was presented at the 14th World Leaders Summit 2025.
- **Background:** Lakshmikantham is a retired collector and former Joint Executive Officer (JEO) of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD). He has served as the Vice Chair of International Trade and Business Alliances, Europe India Centre for Business and Industry in India.
- **Awards and Accolades:** This is not Lakshmikantham's first recognition; he has received over 100 international, national, and state awards, including Guinness World Records and India Book of Records. He has also been cited in the India Book of Records for his contributions.

NTPC Kanti Wins Prestigious Global Water Tech Award 2025

- **NTPC's Achievements:** NTPC Limited has received several awards and recognitions for its efforts in sustainability and water resource management, such as the Forward Faster Sustainability Award 2025 in the Water Resilience category.
- **Water Conservation Efforts:** NTPC has been recognized for its water conservation efforts, including NTPC Barauni being ranked #1 in water resource conservation in the national awards.
- **Global Recognition:** NTPC Limited has gained international recognition, including being ranked 433 in Forbes' Global 2000 list in 2023, showcasing its prominence in the energy sector.

Foot notes:

About NTPC-

- **Chairman & MD:** Gurdeep Singh
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Founded:** 1975

Dr. Meenakshi Pahuja awarded The Prestigious Nari Shakti Puraskar

- **Award Details:** Dr. Meenakshi Pahuja was awarded the Nari Shakti Puraskar in 2018 by President Ram Nath Kovind for her remarkable achievements in open-water swimming.
- **Achievements:** She's a renowned open-water swimmer who has completed numerous marathon swims globally, including crossing rivers, lakes, and oceans in countries like the US, UK, Samoa, and South Africa.
- **Record-Breaking Feats:** Dr. Pahuja is the first Indian to swim across Key West in Florida and complete the Lake Travis Solo in Texas. She's also the first Indian to finish the Tex Robertson Highland Lakes Challenge.

- **Academic Background:** Dr. Pahuja is an Associate Professor of Physical Education at Lady Shri Ram College for Women, University of Delhi, where she inspires students and promotes sports and fitness.

Anand V. Patil to Receive Prof. V.K. Gokak Award

- **Award Details:** Anand V. Patil will receive the Prof. V.K. Gokak Award on September 7, 2025, in Bengaluru for his significant contributions to Indian literature, particularly children's literature.
- **Award Namesake:** The award is named after Prof. Vinayaka Krishna Gokak, a renowned literary figure and Jnanpith Award winner who made monumental contributions to Kannada literature.
- **Patil's Achievements:** Anand V. Patil is a distinguished name in Indian literature, especially in children's literature, and has been honored with the Kendra Sahitya Akademi's Bal Sahitya Award for his impactful work.
- **Prof. Gokak's Legacy:** Prof. V.K. Gokak was a champion of Kannada literature, serving as a professor, academic leader, and writer across multiple genres, and enriching both Kannada and English literature with his scholarly and creative output.

Anuparna Roy wins Best Director Award at Venice Film Fest

- **Historic Win:** Anuparna Roy made history by winning the Orizzonti Award for Best Director at the 82nd Venice Film Festival, a prestigious honor in the film industry.
- **Debut Feature Film:** The award was given for her feature debut film "Songs of Forgotten Trees", showcasing her talent and potential as a filmmaker.
- **Presentation:** The film was presented by renowned Indian filmmaker Anurag Kashyap, highlighting the recognition she received from within the industry.
- **Achievement for Indian Cinema:** Roy's win marks a significant achievement for Indian cinema on the global stage, bringing attention to emerging talent in the country's film industry.
- **Breakthrough Moment:** This award serves as a breakthrough moment for Roy, potentially opening doors to new opportunities and collaborations in the film world.

Leela Upadhyay to receive Kavya Prabha National Award

- **Recognition of a Multifaceted Career:** Leela Upadhyay, a correspondent of Dainik Janambhumi, is being recognized for his long and impactful career as a poet, journalist, and lawyer. The award highlights his literary depth, which is reflected in his poems and articles that capture the essence of rural life, cultural roots, and human values in contemporary Assamese literature.

- **Date and Location of Conferment:** The Kavya Prabha National Award will be officially conferred upon Upadhyay during the International Poetry Conference, which is scheduled to be held on November 1, 2025, at Barekuri in the Tinsukia district of Assam.
- **A Voice for the Community:** Upadhyay's work is celebrated for its social sensitivity and its strong connection to the communities he represents. He has been a notable voice in Assamese literature, using his writing as a "mirror of people's lives," and has also earned recognition for his contributions to grassroots journalism.
- **Past Recognition:** This is not the first time Upadhyay has been honored for his work. In 2017, he received the Robin Moran Rural Journalism Award, which recognized his efforts to amplify the voices of ordinary people through his journalistic endeavors.

Camel International Award to Younus Ahamed

- **Award Recognition:** Younus Ahamed has been recognized for his outstanding contributions to global business leadership with the Camel International Award 2025.
- **Current Role:** Ahamed serves as the Executive Director of Dotspace Coworking in the Middle East, showcasing his expertise in leadership and business management.
- **Research Background:** As a researcher in Computer Vision and Deep Learning, Ahamed has worked on object detection and medical image analysis, publishing papers on pediatric bone age prediction and satellite detection using deep learning techniques.
- **Academic Affiliation:** Ahamed is a PhD student in Computer Science at West Virginia University, focusing on digital health using machine learning and deep learning under Dr. Donald Adjeroh's guidance.

Union Minister Conferred Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan Awards To Winners

- **Award Ceremony:** The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change organized the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan Awards & Wetland Cities Recognition Ceremony 2025, where Union Minister Bhupender Yadav conferred awards to the best-performing cities under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).
- **Winners:** Eleven cities were awarded for their outstanding commitment to improving air quality, with winners categorized based on population size. Indore, Jabalpur, Agra, and Surat were among the top performers.

- **Ranking and Cash Awards:** Cities were ranked based on their performance, with cash awards provided to each winner. For example, Indore secured the top rank in its category with a score of 200 out of 200 and received a cash award of ₹1.5 crore.
- **National Clean Air Programme:** The NCAP aims to improve air quality in 130 cities across India, with a target to achieve a 40% reduction in PM10 levels by 2025-26.

PRIO-GRID wins data innovation award

- **Prestigious Recognition:** PRIO-GRID received the J. David Singer Data Innovation Award, which is a highly esteemed honor in the field of political science and conflict research. The award recognizes "the best data contribution to the study of any and all forms of political conflict, either within or between nation-states."
- **What PRIO-GRID Is:** PRIO-GRID is a widely used and open-access data framework. It is a spatial grid structure that divides the entire terrestrial surface of the world into small, consistent grid cells. Each cell contains specific information on a variety of variables, including armed conflicts, socio-economic conditions, ethnic groups, physical attributes, and climatic conditions.
- **Facilitating Research and Analysis:** The key innovation of PRIO-GRID is that it harmonizes and organizes diverse geographical data in a unified, grid-based format. This makes it easier for researchers to manage and analyze a wide range of spatial data, allowing for more precise and disaggregated research on topics like civil war, population movements, and environmental factors.
- **Open-Source and Accessibility:** A crucial aspect of PRIO-GRID is that it is open source and freely available to the public. Since its release in 2012, it has been downloaded over 20,000 times, indicating its significant impact on the academic and research communities.

Manmohan Singh Posthumously Honoured with PV Narasimha Rao Award for Economics

- **Posthumous Recognition:** The award was conferred upon the late former Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, after his passing. This honor recognizes his monumental contributions to India's economic landscape and nation-building.
- **Received by His Wife:** At a ceremony held in New Delhi, the award was formally received on his behalf by his wife, Gursharan Kaur. The event was a solemn occasion that brought together a number of academics, policymakers, and supporters of both leaders.

- **Presented by Montek Singh Ahluwalia:** The award was presented by Montek Singh Ahluwalia, a prominent economist and former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission. Ahluwalia's involvement is particularly significant as he worked closely with Dr. Singh during the period of India's economic liberalization in the early 1990s.
- **Instituted by PVNMF:** The P.V. Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for Economics was established by the Hyderabad-based P.V. Narasimha Rao Memorial Foundation (PVNMF).

Goa Shipyard Wins Rajbhasha Kirti Award 2024–25

- **Award Background:** The Rajbhasha Kirti Award is a prestigious honor given by the Ministry of Home Affairs to recognize outstanding contributions in promoting the use of Hindi as an official language.
- **Previous Wins:** Goa Shipyard has previously won the Rajbhasha Kirti Award, indicating their consistent efforts in promoting Hindi in official communication.
- **Other Recipients:** Other organizations, like Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), have also received this award for their exceptional work in promoting Hindi.
- **Significance:** This award highlights Goa Shipyard's commitment to implementing the Official Language Policy and promoting Hindi usage across its sections and offices.

Muzaffarpur Tops Inspire Award 2025 for Student Innovation

- **Top Ranking:** Muzaffarpur district in Bihar has ranked first in the country in the Inspire Award 2025, submitting 7,403 innovative student ideas. This achievement surpasses major urban centers like Bengaluru, Jaipur, and Lucknow.
- **Bihar's Double Success:** Muzaffarpur's triumph is accompanied by another notable success from Vaishali, which secured the sixth position with 5,805 ideas submitted, highlighting the growing emphasis on science education and grassroots innovation in Bihar.
- **Inspire Award Scheme:** The Inspire Award – MANAK is a flagship initiative by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, aiming to identify young scientific talent and encourage innovation at the school level among students of classes 6 to 10.
- **Key to Success:** Muzaffarpur's success is attributed to systematic planning and dedicated implementation, with schools running special science innovation sessions

led by headmasters and science teachers, and administrative support from the District Education Officer and nodal officers.

Baba Kalyani Awarded ASME Holley Medal for Engineering Excellence

- **Award Details:** Baba Kalyani, Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Forge, has been honored with the prestigious ASME Holley Medal by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) on September 15, 2025.
- **Recognition:** The award recognizes Kalyani's exceptional engineering leadership, delivering significant public benefits, and strengthening global supply chain resilience amid contemporary challenges.
- **Bharat Forge's Achievements:** Under Kalyani's leadership, Bharat Forge has become a global leader in forging and precision engineering, serving key sectors like defense, automotive, and aerospace. The company has also pioneered digital manufacturing, green energy components, and lightweight technologies.
- **Global Impact:** The ASME Holley Medal highlights India's growing influence in advanced manufacturing and strategic industrial innovation globally. Kalyani's initiatives provide viable alternatives to overdependence on conventional supply chains and support manufacturing capabilities in India and abroad.
- **Award Significance:** The ASME Holley Medal, established in 1924, is one of the oldest and most esteemed awards in engineering worldwide, recognizing individuals or teams for pioneering engineering achievements.

Indian Bank receives Rajbhasha Kirti award

- **Award Details:** Indian Bank has been honored with the Third Prize in the Rajbhasha Kirti Awards for the year 2024-25, recognizing its outstanding efforts in implementing the official language policy.
- **Consecutive Recognition:** This is the second consecutive year Indian Bank has received the Rajbhasha Kirti Award, showcasing its consistent commitment to promoting Hindi in its operations.
- **Award Ceremony:** The award was presented during the Hindi Diwas celebrations at the 5th All India Rajbhasha Conference 2025 held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- **Significance of Rajbhasha Kirti Award:** The award acknowledges Indian Bank's efforts in implementing the Official Language Policy across various categories, highlighting its dedication to enhancing the use of Hindi in banking and financial services.

- **Other Winners:** Indian Overseas Bank received the First Prize in the Rajbhasha Kirti Awards for the third consecutive year, demonstrating its strong commitment to promoting Hindi.

Vantage Secures Triple Win at the 2025 Global Forex Awards

- **Best Range of Markets:** Vantage won this award for offering a broad range of tradable instruments, including forex pairs, shares, cryptocurrencies, commodities, indices, ETFs and bonds.
- **Strong Market Coverage:** Vantage's platform provides access to multiple markets, supporting diverse trading strategies and asset classes.
- **Comparison with Other Brokers:** Vantage outperformed other notable brokers in this category, such as IG, CMC Markets and Saxo Markets.
- **Awards Recognition:** Although specific details about the "2025 Global Forex Awards" aren't available, Vantage has received recognition in similar categories, showcasing its commitment to providing a robust trading environment.

Journalist Amshi Prasannakumar Wins Krishi Media Award 2025

- **Experience and Expertise:** He has worked as the Executive Editor of Kannada Prabha and has authored 25 books, showcasing his expertise in journalism and writing.
- **Awards and Honors:** Prasannakumar has received several prestigious awards, including a special award from the Karnataka Media Academy and the District Rajyotsava Award.
- **Leadership Roles:** He has served as the President of the District Journalists' Association and as a member of the academic council of the University of Mysore's Department of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Heritage Foods won the Golden Peacock Award for Excellence

- **Award and Category:** Heritage Foods has won the Golden Peacock Award for Excellence in Corporate Governance 2025, instituted by the Institute of Directors (IOD), India.
- **Evaluation Process:** The award is a result of a rigorous evaluation process, where Heritage Foods demonstrated exemplary corporate governance practices across its operations, meeting all requirements of the Golden Peacock Excellence Model and standards.

- **Ceremony Details:** The award will be presented at a specially organized ceremony on November 4, 2025, in London, during IOD India's 2025 Annual London Global Convention on Corporate Governance & Sustainability.
- **Significance:** This recognition reinforces Heritage Foods' position as a leader in corporate governance within India's dairy and FMCG sector, enhancing its brand reputation, employee morale, and stakeholder trust.

Dr. Akanksha Baheti Honoured with Excellence in Esthetic Dentistry

- **Award and Category:** Dr. Akanksha Baheti has been honored with the Excellence in Esthetic Dentistry award at the Global Excellence Awards 2025, organized by Brand Empower.
- **Global Excellence Awards:** The Global Excellence Awards recognize and honor exceptional performance and accomplishments in various industries, including healthcare and wellness.
- **Brand Empower:** Brand Empower is a multi-award-winning market research, branding, and creative PR agency that hosts the Global Excellence Awards annually.
- **Previous Winners and Events:** The Global Excellence Awards have been held annually since 2018, with previous events featuring prominent guests like Madhuri Dixit Nene, Anupam Kher, and Shilpa Shetty Kundra.
- **Dr. Akanksha Baheti's Achievement:** Dr. Baheti's recognition for Excellence in Esthetic Dentistry highlights her outstanding contributions to the field of dentistry, demonstrating her expertise and commitment to delivering exceptional patient care.

Vikrant Massey wins National Award for Best Actor

- **Award Details:** Vikrant Massey won the Best Actor award at the 71st National Film Awards for his outstanding performance in the film "12th Fail", directed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra.
- **Film's Inspiration:** The movie "12th Fail" is based on the real-life story of IPS officer Manoj Kumar Sharma, whose journey from a small town to cracking the UPSC exams is inspiring and emotional.
- **Vikrant's Performance:** Massey's portrayal of Manoj's struggles, including poverty, failure, and self-doubt, resonated with audiences nationwide, showcasing his ability to deliver heartfelt and realistic performances.
- **Career Impact:** This National Award marks a significant milestone in Vikrant Massey's career, solidifying his reputation as a talented actor known for choosing meaningful roles.

Dr Naidu honoured with Vaidya Vibhushana Award

- **Award Recognition:** Dr. Mahesh Gurappa Naidu, Managing Director and Radiologist of Maiya Multi Speciality Hospital, received the prestigious "Karnataka Health Care Vaidya Vibhushana Award" for his exceptional contributions to healthcare, diagnostic radiology, and hospital leadership.
- **Transformative Role:** Dr. Naidu played a significant role in advancing diagnostic radiology, patient care, and healthcare administration across Karnataka, showcasing his visionary leadership and commitment to medical excellence.
- **Ceremony Details:** The award ceremony was attended by esteemed personalities, including Mrs. Revathi Kamath, Dr. B.T. Rudresh, and Dr. Anjanappa, who praised Dr. Naidu's compassionate approach and innovative expertise.
- **Words of Gratitude:** Dr. Naidu dedicated the award to his colleagues, staff, and well-wishers, acknowledging their support in his journey and emphasizing the team's commitment to delivering world-class healthcare with compassion, ethics, and innovation.

CONCOR wins prestigious SKOCH Gold ESG award 2025

- **Recognition for Green Initiatives:** CONCOR has been honored with the 2025 SKOCH Gold ESG Award for its outstanding "Green Initiatives" aimed at fostering a sustainable and environmentally responsible logistics ecosystem.
- **Award Ceremony:** The award was presented at a ceremony held in New Delhi on September 20, where Shri Swayambhu Arya, Executive Director (P&S), accepted the accolade on behalf of the company.
- **Commitment to Sustainability:** CONCOR's initiatives focus on reducing carbon emissions, promoting energy efficiency, and integrating renewable energy solutions into its logistics network, demonstrating its commitment to aligning growth with environmental stewardship.
- **Industry Leadership:** This recognition strengthens CONCOR's position as a key driver of sustainable logistics, setting new standards for the industry and contributing to India's broader environmental and economic objectives.

Foot notes:

About CONCOR-

- **Chairman & MD:** Sh. Sanjay Swarup
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Founded:** 1988

Mohanlal Honoured with 2023 Dadasaheb Phalke Award

- **Award Recognition:** Mohanlal has been selected for the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2023 for his outstanding contribution to Indian cinema, recognizing his iconic status as a Malayalam superstar with a career spanning over 40 years.
- **Award Ceremony:** He will be formally conferred with the award on September 23, 2025, at the 71st National Film Awards ceremony in New Delhi, a momentous occasion celebrating his exceptional artistic achievements.
- **Contribution to Cinema:** Mohanlal has acted in over 400 films across multiple languages, including Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Hindi, and Kannada, showcasing his versatility and unmatched talent, and earning him numerous accolades.
- **Previous Honors:** He has won five National Film Awards, including two for Best Actor, and has been honored with the Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan, India's fourth and third-highest civilian awards, respectively.

President Droupadi Murmu presented 71st National Film Awards

- **Award Ceremony:** President Droupadi Murmu presented the 71st National Film Awards at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on September 23, 2025.
- **Best Feature Film:** The award for Best Feature Film went to "12th Fail", a Hindi film directed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra.
- **Dadasaheb Phalke Award:** The prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award was conferred upon Mohanlal, recognizing his outstanding contributions to Indian cinema.
- **Notable Winners:** Other notable winners included Shah Rukh Khan and Vikrant Massey, who shared the Best Actor award for their performances in "Jawan" and "12th Fail", respectively.
- **Total Awards:** The awards ceremony honored films, actors, and technicians from across India, with a total of 44 awards presented in various categories.

APPOINTMENT & PERSON IN NEWS

Shri Sanjay Kumar Singh Gets Additional Charge as CMD of NHPC

- **New Role:** Shri Sanjay Kumar Singh has been given the additional charge of Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of NHPC Limited, India's leading hydropower company.
- **Reason for Appointment:** He assumes the role following the retirement/vacancy of the previous CMD, ensuring continuity in leadership.
- **Experience:** Singh has vast experience in hydropower project planning, execution, and management, contributing to NHPC's growth.

- **Significance:** His appointment is crucial for driving clean energy initiatives, hydropower expansion, and renewable energy diversification under India's green energy mission.

OpenAI names ex-Coursera chief Raghav Gupta as Education Head for India and APAC

- **New Appointment:** Raghav Gupta, former Managing Director of Coursera India & APAC, has been appointed as Education Head for India and Asia-Pacific at OpenAI.
- **Role & Responsibility:** He will lead OpenAI's education initiatives in the region, focusing on integrating AI tools into learning, teaching, and skill development.
- **Professional Background:** Gupta has over two decades of experience in edtech, consulting, and business leadership, with stints at Coursera, Aon Hewitt, and Technopak.
- **Strategic Importance:** His appointment comes at a time when AI in education is becoming a key driver for digital learning and workforce upskilling in India & APAC.
- **Significance:** This move strengthens OpenAI's regional presence and aligns with its goal of making AI-powered learning more accessible to students, educators, and institutions.

T.C.A. Kalyani appointed as New CGA of India

- **Appointment:** T.C.A. Kalyani, a 1991-batch officer of the Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS), has assumed charge as the 29th Controller General of Accounts under the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, effective September 1, 2025.
- **Experience:** Kalyani brings over 34 years of experience in public financial management, accounting, and governance, having served in various key ministries, including Defence, Telecom, Fertilizers, Finance, and Home Affairs.
- **Academic Background:** She is a gold medalist in Political Science from Lady Shri Ram College, University of Delhi, and holds an M.A. in International Politics and M.Phil. in West European Studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Arun Kumar, appointed as Judge of the Allahabad High Court

- **Appointment Notification:** The President of India has appointed Advocate Arun Kumar as a Judge of the Allahabad High Court, effective from the date he assumes charge of his office.

- **Collegium Recommendation:** The Supreme Court Collegium recommended Kumar's appointment on May 9, 2023, after initially deferring the decision due to an Intelligence Bureau report. The Collegium later reiterated its belief that Kumar was "eminently fit and suitable" for the position.
- **Experience and Credentials:** Arun Kumar, about 51 years old, has over 25 years of experience practicing at the Bar, handling cases in constitutional, civil, and revenue jurisdictions before the High Court.
- **Delay in Appointment:** Kumar's appointment comes nearly 27 months after the Supreme Court Collegium's recommendation, highlighting concerns over delays in notifying Collegium recommendations.

Foot notes:**About Allahabad-**

- **Mayor:** Ganesh Kesarwani

Ariser onboards Ravindra Jadeja as brand ambassador

- **Partnership Announcement:** Ariser, a smart-casual clothing label, announced Ravindra Jadeja as its brand ambassador, leveraging his popularity and style to promote the brand.
- **Brand Fit:** Jadeja's all-round brilliance on the field resonates with Ariser's promise of style that fits right, feels right, and moves with you, making him a perfect fit for the brand.
- **Quality and Comfort:** Ravindra Jadeja praised Ariser for its focus on quality, comfort, and craftsmanship, stating that the brand delivers on all fronts without a hefty price tag.
- **Marketing Campaign:** A 360-degree campaign across TV, digital, outdoor, and retail touchpoints will feature Jadeja and Ariser's latest collection, showcasing smart-casual menswear.

Kavinder Singh Negi inducted as Superintendent of Police in CBI

- **Appointment Details:** Kavinder Singh Negi, a 2015-batch IRS (Income Tax) officer, has been inducted as Superintendent of Police in the CBI for a period of four years.
- **Current Role:** Before joining CBI, Negi was serving as Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax in Delhi Headquarters, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- **Induction Alongside Others:** He was inducted alongside another officer, Vedant Kanwar (IRS IT: 2016), who was appointed as Superintendent of Police in CBI for a period of three years.

- **Background:** The CBI has been recruiting officers from various government services, including IRS and IDAS, as superintendents of police or deputy inspector general, bringing diverse expertise to the agency.

Rajit Punhani appointed as CEO of FSSAI

- **Appointment Details:** Rajit Punhani, a 1991-batch IAS officer of the Bihar cadre, has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for a specific term, succeeding Ganji Kamala V. Rao.
- **Background:** Punhani brings over three decades of administrative experience across various sectors, including public policy, finance, social security, taxation, health, energy, and governance.
- **Previous Role:** Before joining FSSAI, Punhani served as Secretary in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, where he oversaw initiatives to align skilling with industry demands and global competitiveness.
- **Key Contributions:** Punhani has launched impactful initiatives, such as a pension and insurance scheme for over 450 million unorganized sector workers and the world's largest maternal messaging program to improve maternal health outcomes.

Foot notes:

About FSSAI-

- **CEO:** Rajit Punhani
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Formed:** 2008

Bhupender Gupta, a power sector veteran, appointed as Chairman & MD of NHPC

- **Appointment Approval:** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved Bhupender Gupta's appointment as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of NHPC Limited, a Schedule 'A' Navratna CPSE.
- **Background and Experience:** Gupta is a power sector veteran with over 33 years of experience. He currently serves as Director (Technical) at THDC India Limited and has also been holding the additional charge of CMD at SJVN Limited.
- **Previous Role and Achievements:** Before joining THDC, Gupta worked as Director (Technical) at Punatsangchhu Hydroelectric Project Authority in Bhutan and held senior leadership roles at REC Limited, including Additional Chief Executive Officer in its subsidiaries.
- **Selection Process:** Gupta was selected after a rigorous interview process involving nine candidates from various public sector undertakings (PSUs). The Public

Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) recommended his name for the top position at NHPC.

- **Expected Contribution:** With his extensive experience and technical acumen, Gupta is expected to bring continuity and strategic direction to NHPC's ambitious growth plans, focusing on expanding its renewable energy portfolio.

IIFL Home Finance appoints Ajay Sachdewa as Group CBO

- **Appointment Details:** IIFL Home Finance has appointed Ajay Sachdewa as Group Chief Business Officer, effective recently, as part of a strategic move to strengthen its business leadership.
- **Experience:** Sachdewa brings over two decades of experience in financial services and housing finance, having held senior roles at Axis Bank, HDFC Limited, and HDFC Sales.
- **Responsibilities:** As Group CBO, Sachdewa will focus on driving business strategy, expanding distribution networks, enhancing sales productivity, and strengthening customer relationships.
- **Leadership Role:** His appointment highlights IIFL Home Finance's commitment to building a future-ready organization with a strong leadership team.
- **Company Goals:** With Sachdewa on board, IIFL Home Finance aims to scale operations, foster a people-first culture, and support its mission of financial inclusion and accessible home ownership.

Arvind Kumar Rawat appointed as Director of Sugarcane & Vegetable Oil

- **Appointment Details:** Arvind Kumar Rawat, a 2008 batch IRSS officer, has been appointed as Director in the Directorate of Sugarcane and Vegetable Oil under the Department of Food & Public Distribution.
- **Tenure:** The appointment is for a period of five years from the date of assumption of charge or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- **Approval:** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved Rawat's appointment based on the recommendation of the Civil Services Board.
- **Background:** As an IRSS officer, Rawat brings significant experience and expertise to his new role, which focuses on sugarcane and vegetable oil development.

Piyush Goyal Assumes Charge as Mines Secretary

- **Appointment Details:** Piyush Goyal, a 1994-batch IAS officer of the Nagaland cadre, has officially taken charge as the Secretary of the Ministry of Mines on September 4, 2025, replacing V.L. Kantha Rao.
- **Previous Role:** Before this appointment, Goyal served as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, where he played a key role in strengthening data and intelligence integration for national security.
- **Key Responsibilities:** As Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Goyal will lead efforts to expand exploration, modernize mining operations, and attract investments while ensuring sustainability and community welfare.
- **Expected Impact:** Goyal's appointment is seen as crucial in advancing sustainable mining practices, attracting private investment, and boosting India's self-reliance in mineral resources, leveraging his experience in data-driven governance.

Vivek Chaturvedi appointed as New CBIC Member

- **Appointment Approval:** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved Vivek Chaturvedi's appointment as a Member of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).
- **Background and Experience:** Chaturvedi is a 1990-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer with extensive experience in taxation and customs, having served as Principal Director General of Vigilance and Chief Vigilance Officer at CBIC.
- **Tenure and Predecessor:** He succeeds Vivek Ranjan, whose tenure as Board Member for Tax Policy & Legal ended on August 31, 2025.
- **Expected Impact:** Chaturvedi's appointment is expected to bring significant leadership changes within the CBIC, particularly with the upcoming retirement of the CBIC Chairperson in November 2025.

Skechers Signs Mohammed Siraj as Brand Ambassador

- **Partnership Details:** Skechers has signed Indian fast bowler Mohammed Siraj as its newest brand ambassador to strengthen its presence in India's growing cricket footwear market. Siraj will represent Skechers cricket footwear and feature in the brand's performance and lifestyle campaigns.
- **Siraj's Role:** As a brand ambassador, Siraj will wear Skechers cricket footwear during matches, including those for Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League. He'll also participate in marketing campaigns across Skechers' performance and lifestyle divisions.

- **Existing Roster:** With this partnership, Siraj joins fellow cricketers Jasprit Bumrah, Ishan Kishan, and Yastika Bhatia on Skechers' athlete roster, further strengthening the brand's presence in Indian cricket.

Justice Shree Chandrashekhar Sworn in as Bombay HC Chief

- **Swearing-in Ceremony:** Justice Shree Chandrashekhar was officially sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court on September 5, 2025, at a formal ceremony held at Raj Bhavan, Mumbai, where the oath was administered by Maharashtra Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan.
- **Background and Experience:** Justice Chandrashekhar had previously served as the Acting Chief Justice after Justice Alok Aradhe's elevation to the Supreme Court of India, giving him valuable experience in managing the High Court's caseload and administrative responsibilities.
- **Judicial Significance:** The Bombay High Court, established in 1862, is one of India's oldest and most influential, with jurisdiction over Maharashtra, Goa, and Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. As Chief Justice, Chandrashekhar will oversee judicial efficiency, uphold constitutional values, and guide legal reforms.
- **Expectations from Tenure:** Justice Chandrashekhar's tenure is expected to strengthen judicial administration and delivery in the High Court, focusing on digitization, reducing case backlog, and improving public access to justice.

Alia Bhatt Becomes Global Brand Ambassador for Levi's

- **New Era of Denim:** Alia Bhatt's partnership with Levi's marks a new era for the brand, focusing on comfort, style, and self-expression in denim fashion.
- **Cultural Alignment:** The partnership is seen as a cultural alignment, with Alia embodying the effortless balance between global recognition and personal style, resonating across generations.
- **Shift in Silhouette:** The collaboration coincides with a shift in women's fashion towards relaxed, style-led, and comfort-first denim fits, reflecting a broader cultural pivot.
- **Denim as Self-Expression:** Levi's and Alia Bhatt share a belief that denim is not just fashion but a canvas for individuality, celebrating personal stories and memories associated with jeans.

Harshavardhan Chitale Named Hero MotoCorp CEO from Jan 2026

- **Effective Date:** Harshavardhan Chitale will take over as CEO of Hero MotoCorp on January 5, 2026, as announced by the company in a filing after its board meeting on September 8, 2025.
- **Background:** Chitale brings over 30 years of global leadership experience, having previously served as Global CEO of Signify's €4 Billion Professional Business, overseeing 12,000 employees across 70 countries.
- **Previous Roles:** Before Signify, he was Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Philips Lighting India, successfully spinning off the business into a standalone public company.
- **Transition:** Current Acting CEO Vikram Kasbekar will resign from his role but continue as Executive Director and Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of the company after Chitale takes over.

Manoj Shashidhar appointed to the post of Special Director in CBI

- **Appointment Details:** Manoj Shashidhar, a 1994-batch IPS officer of the Gujarat cadre, has been appointed as Special Director in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) till the date of his superannuation, November 30, 2030.
- **Current Role:** Shashidhar is currently serving as Additional Director in the CBI and has been elevated to the rank of Special Director, restoring the post which operates at the grade of Additional Director.
- **Leadership Strengthening:** This appointment aims to strengthen the leadership structure of the CBI, enabling the agency to tackle modern-day crime, cyber threats, and corruption-related investigations more effectively.
- **Experience and Skills:** Shashidhar brings decades of policing experience, commitment to integrity, and a proven record of service in investigative and administrative roles, making him a suitable candidate for the position.

Dr. Geetha Vani Rayasam Takes Over as NIScPR Director

- **New Appointment:** Dr. Geetha Vani Rayasam officially took charge as the Director of CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (NIScPR) on September 9, 2025. She emphasized a future-ready vision for science communication, focusing on agile Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) policies and global partnerships.
- **Key Focus Areas:** Dr. Rayasam's priorities include aligning science communication with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), leveraging emerging technologies like AI and digital media, and promoting inclusive science communication to bridge the science-society gap.

- **Major Initiatives:** She highlighted initiatives such as SMCC and SVASTIK, aiming to strengthen India's role in the knowledge economy through global collaborations and science-society linkages.
- **Background:** Dr. Rayasam has vast experience in academia, industry, and government, holding a PhD in Biochemistry from IISc Bengaluru and post-doctoral experience in IGBMC, France, and NIH, USA. She previously headed the Science Communication and Dissemination Directorate (SCDD) at CSIR HQ.

Abhishek Maheshwari joins IARC as MD & CEO

- Maheshwari brings over 25 years of experience in financial services, with a strong background in distressed asset resolution and corporate finance.
- He previously held leadership roles at SBI Capital Markets, where he served as President and Head of Stressed Assets Resolution Group.
- His appointment is expected to strengthen IARC's position in the stressed asset market and enhance its capabilities in resolving non-performing assets (NPAs).
- Maheshwari's expertise is seen as crucial for IARC's strategy to acquire and resolve large NPAs, which is a key focus for the company.
- This leadership change aims to drive growth and efficiency within IARC, helping it achieve its long-term goals in the Indian asset reconstruction sector.

Civil Servant Baldeo Purushartha appointed as Government Nominee Director of HUDCO

- **Role and Background:** Baldeo Purushartha is a 2002-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the Punjab cadre. He currently serves as the Joint Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, which gives him a significant position to influence economic policy.
- **Government Representation:** As a Government Nominee Director, his primary role is to ensure that HUDCO's decisions and policies align with the objectives and interests of the Government of India, particularly in housing and urban development.
- **Previous Experience:** He has extensive experience in various administrative and secretarial roles within both the central and state governments. His diverse background is expected to bring valuable insight to HUDCO's board.
- **Strategic Fit:** His appointment is aimed at strengthening the synergy between HUDCO and the government's initiatives, such as funding and developing infrastructure projects, as evidenced by a recent MoU with the Nagpur Development Authority for a significant funding agreement.

Tribal Affairs Ministry Launches Adi Sanskriti Digital Learning Platform

- **Pioneering Digital University:** Envisioned as the world's first digital university for tribal art and culture, the platform aims to be a one-stop solution for learning, documentation, and market access for tribal communities.
- **Three-Pillar Approach:** The platform is built on three main components: Adi Vishwavidyalaya (a digital academy offering courses on tribal arts), Adi Sampada (a socio-cultural repository with over 5,000 documents), and Adi Haat (an online marketplace for tribal artisans).
- **Focus on Livelihoods:** By creating an online marketplace, "Adi Sanskriti" seeks to empower tribal artisans by directly connecting them with national and global consumers, thereby fostering sustainable livelihoods and reducing the role of middlemen.
- **Collaborative Development:** The platform was developed in close partnership with Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) from 15 states, ensuring the authenticity and a grassroots approach to its content and design.

Sipra Bajpai appointed as Independent Director of Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd

- **Appointment Date and Term:** Ms. Sipra Bajpai was appointed as an Independent Director on the Board of RCF with effect from September 11, 2025. Her term is for a period of three years from the date of her appointment.
- **Professional and Educational Background:** Ms. Bajpai brings a diverse background to her new role. She holds a Master's degree in Commerce and a Bachelor's degree in Law from F.M. University, Balasore, Odisha. This combination of commercial and legal expertise is expected to be a valuable asset to the company's governance.
- **Political Experience:** In addition to her educational qualifications, Ms. Bajpai has a notable political background. Since 2019, she has been serving as the State Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Odisha. Her experience in public service is seen as a way to bring a fresh perspective to RCF's leadership.
- **Compliance with Regulations:** RCF has confirmed that Ms. Bajpai's appointment complies with the regulations set forth by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Srinivas Injeti appointed as Chairperson of NSE Governing Board

- **Filling a long-term vacancy:** His appointment, effective September 9, 2025, comes after a year-long vacancy for the chairperson position on the NSE's governing board. This move, which was approved by the Securities and Exchange

Board of India (SEBI), is seen as a key step in strengthening the exchange's governance.

- **Extensive regulatory experience:** A retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the 1983 batch, Srinivas Injeti brings over four decades of experience in corporate regulation, financial services, and public policy. This deep knowledge of regulatory frameworks is expected to be a major asset to the NSE.
- **Key previous roles:** His distinguished career includes serving as the Union Secretary in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (2017-2020), where he spearheaded significant reforms in insolvency, competition, and company laws. He was also the founding Chairperson of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) from 2020 to 2023, where he played a pivotal role in establishing India's first international financial regulator.
- **Strengthening governance:** Injeti's appointment is part of the NSE's focus on enhancing its corporate governance structure, particularly as the exchange prepares for a potential initial public offering (IPO).

Jitendra Asati to serve as Director on Board of Punjab & Sindh Bank

- **Government Nominee:** Jitendra Asati's appointment is a direct nomination from the Central Government of India. This makes him a government nominee director on the public sector bank's board.
- **Immediate Effect and Replacement:** The appointment is effective immediately and he replaces Ms. M.G. Jayasree. This change reflects the government's ongoing effort to strategically place senior officials with relevant expertise in key leadership positions.
- **Extensive Experience:** Mr. Asati is a seasoned Indian Economic Service (IES) officer from the 2010 batch. He has held multiple high-profile roles, including as a Director in the Department of Financial Services (DFS) under the Ministry of Finance. His career also includes roles at India's Mission in Washington, D.C., and the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- **Academic and Professional Excellence:** Asati was the All-India topper of his IES batch. He holds an M. Phil. in Economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and has a strong background as an economist-bureaucrat. His professional work includes shaping policies on external commercial borrowings and regulations under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).
- **Strengthening Governance:** His appointment is aimed at leveraging his deep experience in financial and economic policy to guide Punjab & Sind Bank.

Foot notes:

About Punjab & Sindh Bank-

- **MD & CEO:** Swarup Kumar Saha
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Founded:** 1908

ACC approves Ashutosh Dwivedi appointment as Technical Director at NCL

- **Approval of a Key Leadership Role:** The ACC's approval is the final step in appointing Dwivedi to a critical board-level position at NCL, a subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL). As Director (Technical), he will be responsible for overseeing all technical operations, including mining, project execution, and safety.
- **Selection from a Pool of Candidates:** Dwivedi was recommended for the post by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) on May 28, 2025. He was chosen after a rigorous selection process from a pool of 12 shortlisted candidates, demonstrating his strong qualifications and merit.
- **Extensive Experience in the Coal Sector:** Prior to this appointment, Ashutosh Dwivedi served as the Executive Director (Safety & Rescue) at Coal India Limited. His experience in implementing safety protocols and optimizing mining efficiency in high-risk environments has positioned him as a leading expert in the field.
- **Term of Appointment:** The appointment is effective from the date he assumes charge of the post and will continue until his superannuation on October 31, 2028. This tenure provides stability and a clear mandate for him to implement strategic and technical changes at NCL.
- **Strategic Importance of the Role:** Dwivedi's leadership comes at a crucial time for the coal sector, which is navigating the dual challenges of meeting rising energy demands while also addressing environmental responsibilities.

Foot notes:**About NCL-**

- **CEO:** Harry Sommer
- **Headquarters:** U.S.
- **Founded:** 1966

Professor Pradeep Kumar Prajapati Becomes Director of AIIA

- **Appointment:** Professor Pradeep Kumar Prajapati formally assumed charge as the Director of AIIA, New Delhi, on September 13, 2025, after his appointment was approved by the Union Cabinet.

- **Background:** Prior to this appointment, Prof. Prajapati served as the Vice-Chancellor of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Rajasthan Ayurved University, Jodhpur, and was also associated with Gujarat Ayurved University, Jamnagar.
- **Leadership Role:** As Director, Prof. Prajapati will play a crucial role in strengthening AIIA's position as a premier institute for Ayurveda, aligning with the Indian government's focus on promoting traditional medicine systems under the AYUSH mission.
- **Institute's Focus:** AIIA is dedicated to advancing Ayurveda education, research, and healthcare, and Prof. Prajapati's leadership is expected to further enhance the institute's capabilities in these areas.

Vishakha Mulye Named MD & CEO of Aditya Birla Capital

- **Leadership Strategy:** Mulye's leadership strategy is driven by the "One ABC, One P&L" approach, focusing on breaking down silos between verticals like loans, insurance, investments, and payments to offer a seamless customer experience.
- **Digital Initiatives:** Under her leadership, ABCL has introduced key digital initiatives, including the ABCD App, a direct-to-customer unified financial platform, and Udyog Plus, a digital B2B lending platform catering to MSMEs.
- **Experience and Expertise:** Mulye brings over three decades of experience in banking and finance, previously serving as Executive Director at ICICI Bank and MD & CEO of ICICI Venture Funds Management Company Limited.
- **Awards and Recognition:** Vishakha Mulye has received numerous awards and recognitions, including the World Economic Forum's Young Global Leader, Forbes Asia Power Businesswomen List, and Fortune Asia Most Powerful Women List.

Justice M Sundar Sworn in as Chief Justice of Manipur High Court

- **Background:** Justice Sundar was born on July 19, 1966, in Chennai and has a distinguished legal career spanning over three decades. He graduated from Madras Law College and was elevated as a permanent judge of the Madras High Court in October 2016.
- **Appointment:** His appointment as Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court was recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium, comprising the Chief Justice of India and senior judges. President Droupadi Murmu appointed him, and Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla administered the oath of office.
- **Previous Experience:** Before becoming the Chief Justice of Manipur High Court, Justice Sundar was the second senior-most judge at the Madras High Court, showcasing his extensive experience and seniority in the judiciary.

- **Significance:** Justice Sundar's appointment brings continuity and stability to the Manipur High Court, particularly amid ongoing law-and-order concerns and governance issues in the region.

Former diplomat Preeti Saran elected as chair of the UN Committee

- **Background and Experience:** Saran has a 36-year-long illustrious career with the Indian Foreign Service, operating in diverse global missions across Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas.
- **Role and Responsibilities:** As chair of the CESCR, Saran will oversee the committee's work in monitoring the enactment of international covenants related to economic and social rights among member nations.
- **Election and Significance:** Saran's election acknowledges her expertise in handling sophisticated multilateral issues and reflects India's global leadership in human rights advocacy.
- **Current Session:** The CESCR's 78th session, which began on September 8, 2025, and will run until September 26, 2025, will focus on reviewing reports of six countries, adopting lists of issues for seven countries.

Carlos Felipe Jaramillo appointed as World Bank VP for EAP

- **New Role:** Carlos Felipe Jaramillo has been appointed as the Vice President for East Asia and Pacific at the World Bank, effective September 15, 2025. He will oversee the Bank's relations with 23 countries in the region and manage a portfolio of over \$32 billion.
- **Experience:** Jaramillo brings over two decades of leadership experience, having previously served as Vice President for Latin America and the Caribbean, where he managed a portfolio of \$41.5 billion. He has also worked as Country Director for East Africa and Senior Director of the Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment Global Practice.
- **Focus Areas:** As Vice President for EAP, Jaramillo aims to focus on job creation, digitalization, energy, and human capital development in the region. He emphasizes the importance of collaboration to create stronger impacts and ensure prosperous societies.
- **Regional Significance:** The East Asia and Pacific region is a dynamic growth hub and a source of knowledge on development for many countries.

Amit Khare appointed as Secretary to Vice-President Radhakrishnan

- **Appointment Details:** Amit Khare, a retired 1985-batch IAS officer of the Jharkhand cadre, has been appointed as Secretary to the Vice-President of India for a period of three years from the date he assumes charge.
- **Background:** Khare has extensive experience in public service, having served in various key positions in central and state governments, including Secretary of Information & Broadcasting, School Education and Literacy, and Higher Education.
- **Role in National Education Policy:** He played a crucial role in formulating and implementing the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 as part of the core team.
- **Previous Role:** Before his current appointment, Khare served as Advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi since October 12, 2021, handling matters related to the social sector.

Astha Modi inducted as Superintendent of Police in CBI

- **Appointment Details:** Astha Modi, a 2013-batch IPS officer of the Haryana cadre, has been appointed as Superintendent of Police in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for a period of five years on deputation basis, effective from the date she assumes charge.
- **Experience and Background:** Modi's extensive background in various administrative and law enforcement roles within Haryana is expected to be a considerable asset to the CBI, enhancing the agency's leadership cadre and contributing to its mandate of handling high-profile and complex cases.
- **Strategic Induction:** The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) issued an order on September 12, 2025, approving her induction, reflecting the government's strategy to fortify key national institutions with experienced and proficient officers.
- **CBI Strengthening:** Astha Modi's appointment, along with the extension of IPS officer Raguramarajan A's tenure, aims to bolster the CBI's investigative capabilities, ensuring stability, continuity, and expertise in managing sensitive and ongoing investigations.

Foot notes:

About CBI-

- **Director:** Praveen Sood
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Formed:** 1963

PNB Extends Shri M. Paramasivam's Term as Executive Director

- **Extension Details:** Shri M. Paramasivam's term as Executive Director of Punjab National Bank (PNB) has been extended until March 31, 2027, or until further orders, whichever comes first.
- **Original Term:** His original term was set to end on November 30, 2025, but the government has approved an extension to ensure leadership continuity.
- **Experience:** Shri M. Paramasivam is a veteran banker with over 34 years of experience, making him a valuable asset to the bank.
- **Role in PNB:** As Executive Director, Paramasivam plays a crucial role in shaping the bank's strategic growth, governance, and financial inclusion initiatives.

Amaresh Kumar appointed as CVO of CMPFO

- **Appointment Details:** Amaresh Kumar, a 2011 batch IRTS officer, has been appointed as the Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of the Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization (CMPFO) in Dhanbad.
- **Appointment Date:** The appointment was made on September 13, 2025, as per the Department of Personnel and Training's circular.
- **Previous CVO:** The previous CVO, Shri Ajay Kumar, was prematurely repatriated on January 23, 2025, making way for Amaresh Kumar's appointment.
- **Role and Responsibilities:** As CVO, Amaresh Kumar will oversee vigilance activities, ensuring transparency and accountability within the organization.
- **Background:** Amaresh Kumar's appointment is part of a series of recent appointments and transfers of officers in various government organizations.

P&G Health Names Shashank Srowthy as CFO

- **Appointment Details:** Shashank Srowthy has been appointed as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Procter & Gamble Health Ltd, effective October 1, 2025, subject to regulatory approvals.
- **Background:** Srowthy brings 14 years of finance experience, primarily within P&G, making him a suitable candidate for the CFO role.
- **Predecessor:** He will replace Lokesh Chandak, who will transition to a regional finance position within P&G Asia, effective September 30, 2025.
- **Leadership Transition:** This appointment reflects P&G Health's commitment to building a resilient finance structure, enabling sustained growth and operational excellence in the healthcare segment worldwide.
- **Regulatory Framework:** The appointment is subject to regulatory approvals, as per Section 196 of the Companies Act, 2013, ensuring compliance with governance standards.

Praveen Kumar gets appointed as DG of ITBP

- **Appointment Details:** Praveen Kumar, a 1993-batch IPS officer from the West Bengal cadre, has been appointed as the Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).
- **Current Role:** Kumar currently serves as Special Director at the Intelligence Bureau and will take over as ITBP DG from Rahul Rasgotra, who is set to retire.
- **Tenure:** Praveen Kumar's tenure as ITBP DG will last until September 30, 2030, the date of his superannuation.
- **Simultaneous Appointment:** His appointment comes alongside Praveer Ranjan's appointment as the chief of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), marking significant leadership changes in India's security forces.
- **New Responsibilities:** As ITBP DG, Kumar will oversee the security of the India-China border and lead the force in maintaining national security and integrity.

Naresh Pal Singh appointed as the new GM of North Central Railway

- **Appointment Details:** Naresh Pal Singh, currently General Manager of Banaras Locomotive Works, Varanasi, has been appointed as General Manager of North Central Railway, Prayagraj, as part of a broader reshuffle of Indian Railway Management Service officers.
- **Assumption of Charge:** Singh took charge as General Manager of North Central Railway on September 1, 2025, succeeding Upendra Chandra Joshi who retired.
- **Background:** Singh is an officer of the 1988 batch of the Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers, bringing extensive knowledge and expertise to his new role.
- **Key Responsibilities:** As General Manager, Singh will oversee the operations and development of North Central Railway, guiding the zone towards growth and improvement.
- **Government's Focus:** This appointment underscores the government's emphasis on aligning experienced officers with critical responsibilities in the Railway Board and zonal railways, ensuring continuity and efficiency in Indian Railways' functioning.

Ansuli Arya entrusted with additional charge of Secretary, Inter State Council Secretariat

- **Additional Charge:** Ansuli Arya, Secretary, Department of Official Language, has been given additional charge of Secretary, Inter State Council Secretariat, effective from September 20, 2025.

- **Tenure:** Her tenure in this additional role will last until October 12, 2025, during the absence of the current Secretary, Ashish Srivastava.
- **Background:** Arya is a 1989-batch IAS officer from the Bihar cadre, bringing extensive experience to her new role.
- **Current Position:** She currently serves as Secretary, Department of Official Language, and has been empaneled as Additional Secretary, Government of India.
- **Responsibilities:** As Secretary, Inter State Council Secretariat, Arya will oversee the coordination and implementation of decisions taken by the Inter-State Council, promoting cooperation among states and the central government.

Varun Kumar Shukla to be next CMD of Hindustan Salts Ltd

- **Appointment:** Varun Kumar Shukla has been selected as the next CMD of Hindustan Salts Limited, a Schedule 'C' Central Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB).
- **Current Role:** Shukla is currently serving as General Manager at Richardson & Cruddas Limited, bringing valuable experience to his new role.
- **Selection Process:** The PESB conducted interviews for the position on September 17, 2025, and recommended Shukla's name for the post after considering seven candidates.
- **Expected Outcomes:** His appointment is expected to drive growth and innovation in Hindustan Salts Limited, leveraging his expertise to enhance the company's performance.
- **Background:** The post of CMD at Hindustan Salts Limited was advertised by PESB on March 7, 2025, and would fall vacant on August 5, 2025, prompting a thorough selection process.

Mukesh Singh appointed as Additional Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police

- **Appointment Details:** Mukesh Singh, a 1996-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the AGMUT cadre, has been appointed as Additional Director General (ADG) of ITBP, as per an office memorandum from the Ministry of Home Affairs dated September 18, 2025.
- **Previous Role:** Before his appointment as ADG, Singh held the position of Inspector General (IG) in ITBP and previously served as Additional Director General in the Jammu Zone and IG of Police for the Jammu Zone.

- **Tenure:** Although the initial information mentioned Singh's appointment as IG for a specific role, his recent appointment as ADG solidifies his position within ITBP, showcasing trust in his leadership abilities.
- **Experience:** With over 27 years of service, Singh has demonstrated extensive experience in handling security and administrative roles, making him a suitable candidate for the position of ADG in a critical force like ITBP.

Mithun Manhas Elected Unopposed as 37th BCCI President

- **Election Details:** Mithun Manhas was elected unopposed as the 37th President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on September 28, 2025, after other candidates failed to file their nomination papers by the deadline.
- **Background:** Manhas has a rich cricketing background, having played first-class cricket for Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir, and was also a regular in the Indian Premier League (IPL) for teams like Delhi Capitals, Pune Warriors India, and Chennai Super Kings.
- **Administrative Experience:** Before becoming BCCI President, Manhas held various roles, including assistant coach for Kings XI Punjab, batting consultant for the Bangladesh U19 team, and director of cricket operations for the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association.
- **Previous President:** Manhas took over from Roger Binny, who resigned earlier this year, and will lead the BCCI in a new term starting from 2025.

Ravichandran Ashwin Becomes First Indian to Join BBL

- **Historic Signing:** Ravichandran Ashwin has become the first-ever Indian international player to feature in the men's Big Bash League, signing with Sydney Thunder for the upcoming season.
- **Team and Role:** Ashwin will join Sydney Thunder in early January, playing under the leadership of David Warner. He'll provide world-class bowling and leadership to the team, particularly in the second half of the season.
- **Schedule:** Ashwin's first game with Sydney Thunder is expected to be against Brisbane Heat on January 10, followed by a match against Melbourne Renegades on January 12. A highlight of his stint will be against Sydney Sixers on January 16.
- **Career Highlights:** Ashwin brings an impressive cricketing pedigree, having taken 765 international wickets, including 537 Test wickets, and winning the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup and 2013 Champions Trophy with India.

India Govt. Appoints First Mushroom Scientist to Lead BSI

- **Appointment:** Dr. Kanad Das has been appointed as a scientist, currently holding the position of Scientist-F and Head of Office at BSI.
- **Field of Specialization:** His expertise lies in the diversity and systematics of wild mushrooms, with a special interest in molecular phylogeny of Himalayan mushrooms.
- **Research Focus:** Dr. Das is presently working on the exploration of caterpillar fungi in the Himalayas, focusing on morpho-taxonomy, molecular phylogeny, and chemical and nutraceutical properties.
- **Notable Projects:** Some of his notable projects include studies on Russulales of Sikkim Himalaya, wild mushrooms of North Sikkim, and wild mushrooms of East and South Sikkim.

Sudhanshu Vats appointed as President of ASCI, Subramanyeswar Vice Chair

- **Appointment:** Sudhanshu Vats, Managing Director of Pidilite Industries Ltd, has been appointed as the new President of the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI), succeeding Partha Sinha.
- **Leadership Team:** S Subramanyeswar, Group CEO of MullenLowe Global, has been named Vice Chairman, and Paritosh Joshi, Principal at Provocateur Advisory, has been appointed Honorary Treasurer.
- **Initiatives:** ASCI has announced several initiatives under Vats' leadership, including the AdWise program to train over one million school students in advertising and media literacy, and an ethnographic study on Gen Alpha to design a framework for responsible advertising.
- **Expansion Plans:** ASCI plans to expand its presence in Bengaluru and New Delhi to strengthen its reach across key markets and promote responsible advertising practices.

Rajendra Kumar Soni entrusted with additional charge of CVO, RCIL

- **Appointment Details:** Soni, a 1994 batch Indian Railway Stores Service (IRSS) officer, will hold the additional charge for a period of six months.
- **Current Role:** He is currently serving as Executive Director, Railway Board, New Delhi.
- **Additional Responsibility:** As CVO of RCIL, Soni will oversee vigilance-related matters and ensure transparency in the organization's operations.
- **Career Background:** Soni has previously served in various roles, including premature repatriation to his parent cadre to avail promotion benefits.

- **Organization Overview:** RailTel Corporation of India Ltd. (RCIL) is a Miniratna PSU focusing on providing broadband and telecom services to the Indian Railways.

Anand Piramal Named Chairman of Piramal Finance

- **Leadership Transition:** Anand Piramal has taken over as Chairman of Piramal Finance, succeeding his father Ajay Piramal, after the merger of Piramal Enterprises with Piramal Finance.
- **Merger Background:** The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approved the merger on September 10, 2025, which aims to consolidate the group's financial services under a single NBFC platform.
- **Anand Piramal's Role:** As Chairman, Anand Piramal will oversee the company's strategic direction, building on his experience in driving the group's shift from wholesale real estate lending to a diversified retail-focused NBFC.
- **Key Milestones:** Under Anand Piramal's leadership, Piramal Finance has achieved significant milestones, including the ₹34,250 crore acquisition of DHFL and a 50% CAGR growth in the retail business over three years.

IRS Amrutha Varshini Palla appointed as Deputy Secretary in Economic Affairs

- **Appointment Details:** Amrutha Varshini Palla, an IRS (IT) officer of the 2014 batch, has been appointed as Deputy Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs for a combined tenure of four years up to March 2028.
- **Department of Economic Affairs:** The Department of Economic Affairs is a crucial arm of the Ministry of Finance, responsible for advising the government on economic policies and matters.
- **Central Deputation:** Palla's appointment is part of the central deputation process, which allows officers from various services to work in different ministries and departments of the central government.
- **Tenure and Responsibilities:** As Deputy Secretary, Palla will serve for four years, overseeing various aspects of economic policy-making and implementation.
- **Background and Qualifications:** Amrutha Varshini Palla is a 2014 batch IRS-IT officer, bringing her expertise in taxation and economic policy to her new role.

OCBC Appoints New Group Chief Risk Officer

- **Appointment Details:** Carina Lee Pei Queng will take over as Group Chief Risk Officer (GCRO) and a member of the management committee, effective January 1, 2026, succeeding Noel Gerald DCruz who is retiring.

- **Current Role:** Lee currently serves as Group Chief Credit Officer for OCBC's wholesale banking arm, overseeing credit risk for SMEs, large corporates, financial institutions, sovereigns, and counterparties.
- **Experience:** She brings over 28 years of experience spanning both business and risk functions, having joined OCBC in January 2021 and previously serving as a director of OCBC China.
- **Retirement of Predecessor:** Noel Gerald DCruz is stepping down on December 31 after 36 years with the bank, having served as GCRO since January 2023 and contributing significantly to building a strong risk management foundation.

Nykaa names Deepika Padukone as brand ambassador

- **Partnership Details:** Nykaa has appointed Deepika Padukone as its global ambassador, leveraging her international appeal and star power to enhance brand visibility and reach a broader audience.
- **Brand Alignment:** Deepika's authenticity and versatility perfectly complement Nykaa's vision to lead the transformation of beauty in India and beyond, emphasizing inclusivity, accessibility, and celebrating individuality.
- **Campaign Focus:** The partnership coincides with Nykaa's campaign, "Sirf bahar jaane ke liye kaun tayar hota hai? Tum hi ho, Nykaa," highlighting everyday beauty routines and personal care, showcasing that beauty isn't just for special occasions.
- **Ambassadorial Role:** As brand ambassador, Deepika will be part of Nykaa's major initiatives, including the Pink Friday Sale, Nykaaland, the Nykaa Best in Beauty Awards, and festive campaigns, inspiring women to define beauty on their own terms.

Olectra Greentech Appoints ex-Switch Mobility CEO as new MD

- **Appointment Details:** Mahesh Babu has been appointed as the Managing Director of Olectra Greentech for a three-year term, effective September 27, 2025, subject to shareholder approval.
- **Experience and Background:** Babu brings over 30 years of experience in the mobility and EV sector, having previously served as CEO of Switch Mobility and COO of Mahindra Electric, with a strong educational background including a postgraduate degree from BITS Pilani.
- **Leadership Team:** Alongside Babu's appointment, Olectra Greentech has restructured its Key Managerial Personnel team, which includes P. Rajesh Reddy as Whole Time Director, B. Sharat Chandra as CFO, and P. Hanuman Prasad as VP, Company Secretary & Head Legal.

- **Board Restructuring:** The company has also re-appointed Chintalapudi Lakshmi Kumari as an Independent Director for five years starting January 9, 2026, who brings 38 years of experience in law.

Vandana Gupta Assumes Charge as Controller General of Communication Accounts

- **Appointment:** Ms. Vandana Gupta, a 1990 batch officer of the Indian Post & Telecommunication Accounts and Finance Service (IP&TAFS), assumed charge as Controller General of Communication Accounts in New Delhi on September 22, 2025.
- **Elevation to Apex Grade:** This appointment marks her elevation to the Apex Grade, reflecting her extensive experience and expertise in handling key positions across various departments.
- **Previous Roles:** Gupta has served in crucial roles across Maharashtra, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat Circles, as well as at DoT Headquarters and in DoP. She has also held important assignments on central deputation, including Principal Director at GASAB, Joint Secretary in MoWCD, and Controller of Finance at GGSIPU.
- **Additional Charge:** According to the Controller General of Communication Accounts' directory, Ms. Vandana Gupta also holds the additional charge of CGCA, overseeing key administrative and coordination functions.

B Sairam selected for Coal India Next CMD

- **Background:** B Sairam is currently the Chairman and Managing Director of Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) and has over 33 years of experience in the energy sector, with expertise in mine operations, planning, logistics, and corporate strategy.
- **Selection Process:** He was recommended by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) after a detailed interview process, where 11 candidates competed for the top post.
- **Leadership Experience:** Sairam has demonstrated exemplary leadership in his previous roles, driving operational efficiency, fostering innovation, and ensuring a balance between business growth and environmental stewardship.
- **Academic Credentials:** He is a distinguished graduate in Mining Engineering from NIT Raipur and holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Management (PGDM) in Energy Management from NTPC School of Business, Delhi.

IRTH Bags onboards Twinkle Khanna as brand ambassador

- **Brand Ambassador:** Twinkle Khanna, known for her wit and humor as "Mrs. Funnybones," has been appointed as the first-ever brand ambassador of IRTH Bags, a women's accessories brand under Titan Company.
- **Campaign Launch:** The brand has launched a new campaign featuring Khanna, which includes a series of short films highlighting common issues women face with handbags, such as unreliable zippers and impractical designs.
- **IRTH's Design Philosophy:** The campaign promotes IRTH's design philosophy, "Perfect design isn't just seen, it's felt," showcasing the brand's focus on functional and stylish designs.
- **Initials Collection:** Khanna introduces IRTH's new monogram collection, "Initials," which includes a range of handbag styles with thoughtful designs that emphasize functionality alongside aesthetic appeal.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Literacy Day observed on 08th September

- **Significance:** International Literacy Day highlights the importance of literacy as a fundamental human right and a key component of lifelong learning, emphasizing its role in personal and societal development.
- **History:** The day was officially declared by UNESCO in 1965 and first celebrated on September 8, 1966, to emphasize the need for concerted international efforts to combat illiteracy.
- **Global Challenges:** Despite progress, about 773 million adults worldwide still lack basic literacy skills, with women accounting for two-thirds of this number, underscoring the ongoing challenges in promoting literacy globally.
- **Digital Literacy:** In today's digital era, literacy extends beyond traditional reading and writing skills to include digital literacy, which enables people to access, understand, and engage with digital content safely and critically.

National Forest Martyrs Day observed on 11th September

- The date was chosen by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in 2013 to commemorate the Khejarli Massacre of 1730.
- The Khejarli Massacre was an event where 363 members of the Bishnoi community in Rajasthan sacrificed their lives to protect sacred Khejri trees from being cut down on the orders of a king.

- The day serves as a tribute to the countless forest guards, rangers, officials, and local activists who have lost their lives while on duty, protecting India's natural resources.
- It highlights the crucial and dangerous work of frontline forest personnel who face threats from illegal logging, poaching, and encroachment.
- The observance of this day aims to raise public awareness about the importance of forest conservation and to inspire citizens to take part in environmental protection efforts.

Hindi Diwas observed on 14th September

- **Commemoration of a Historic Decision:** Hindi Diwas is celebrated to mark the day, September 14, 1949, when the Constituent Assembly of India adopted Hindi, written in the Devanagari script, as one of the official languages of the Union. This decision was later formalized under Article 343 of the Indian Constitution, which came into effect on January 26, 1950.
- **Symbol of National Unity and Identity:** Hindi Diwas emphasizes Hindi's role as a unifying force in a linguistically diverse country like India. It serves as a reminder of the language's contribution to national integration and cultural pride. The day also highlights the importance of preserving and promoting India's rich linguistic heritage.
- **Initiated by Jawaharlal Nehru:** The decision to celebrate Hindi Diwas was made in 1953 by India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, to instill a sense of pride and awareness about the Hindi language. The date was also chosen to coincide with the birth anniversary of Beohar Rajendra Simha, a prominent Hindi scholar who was instrumental in advocating for Hindi's official status.
- **Distinct from World Hindi Day:** It is important to note the distinction between Hindi Diwas and World Hindi Day. While Hindi Diwas is a national observance held on September 14 to celebrate the official adoption of the language in India, World Hindi Day is an international event celebrated on January 10 to promote the language globally.
- **Official and Public Observances:** On this day, various events and programs are organized across the country, especially in schools, colleges, and government offices.

International Day of Democracy observed on 15th September

- **Purpose:** The day promotes and upholds the principles of democracy, encouraging governments to support democratic values and citizen participation.

- **History:** The United Nations General Assembly established International Day of Democracy in 2007, marking the 20th anniversary of the first International Conference of New or Restored Democracies.
- **Theme:** Each year has a specific theme; for 2024, it was "Navigating AI for Governance and Citizen Engagement," while 2025's theme is "Achieving Gender Equality, Action by Action," focusing on promoting parity in parliament and politics, encouraging gender-sensitive institutions, and combating gender-based violence.
- **Global Events:** The UN hosts events, such as panel discussions and conferences, to raise awareness about democracy and its importance in promoting peace, sustainable development, and human rights.

World Ozone Day observed on 16th September

- **Purpose:** The day aims to promote global efforts to protect the ozone layer and combat climate change, highlighting the importance of collective action in preserving the ozone layer.
- **History:** World Ozone Day commemorates the signing of the Montreal Protocol on September 16, 1987, a landmark international treaty to phase out ozone-depleting substances.
- **Theme:** The theme for World Ozone Day emphasizes the importance of science-driven global action to protect the ozone layer and the environment, such as "Safeguarding Ozone, Preserving Life, Ensuring Sustainability".
- **Ozone Layer Recovery:** According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the ozone layer is on track to recover to 1980s levels by the middle of this century, thanks to concerted international action under the Montreal Protocol.
- **Importance:** Protecting the ozone layer is crucial for safeguarding human health, ecosystems, and the environment, as ozone depletion can lead to increased risks of skin cancer, cataracts, and ecosystem damage due to excessive UV exposure.

World Patient Safety Day observed on 17th September

- **Theme for 2025:** The theme for World Patient Safety Day 2025 is "Safe care for every newborn and every child," emphasizing the need for child-friendly healthcare systems and safe pediatric care practices to prevent harm in pediatric healthcare settings.
- **Purpose:** The day aims to promote global solidarity and action to improve patient safety, reducing medical errors and harm, and ensuring safer healthcare for everyone. It highlights the importance of quality and trust in healthcare systems.

- **History:** World Patient Safety Day was established by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2019, recognizing patient safety as a global health priority. The day has been observed annually on September 17 since then, with a different theme each year to focus on specific patient safety issues.
- **Global Observance:** The day is marked by various activities worldwide, including educational campaigns, workshops, webinars, and policy dialogues. Landmarks are lit up in orange, symbolizing hope and solidarity for patient safety.

World Bamboo Day observed on 18th September

- **Date and Purpose:** World Bamboo Day is celebrated annually on September 18 to raise awareness about the importance of bamboo in environmental protection, sustainable development, and cultural heritage.
- **History:** The day was officially established in 2009 during the 8th World Bamboo Congress in Bangkok, Thailand, initiated by the World Bamboo Organization.
- **Theme:** The theme for World Bamboo Day 2025 is "Next Generation Bamboo: Solution, Innovation, and Design" or alternatively stated as "Bamboo for People, Planet, and Climate Action", focusing on sustainable innovation and environmental protection.
- **Significance:** Bamboo is recognized for its rapid growth, versatility, and eco-friendly benefits, including absorbing large amounts of carbon dioxide, releasing high levels of oxygen, and preventing soil erosion.

International Day of Peace 2025 observed on 21st September

- **Date and Theme:** International Day of Peace is observed on September 21, 2025, with the theme "Act Now for a Peaceful World," emphasizing collective action to address challenges threatening global peace.
- **Purpose and Significance:** This day promotes peace, non-violence, and global harmony, encouraging individuals, communities, and nations to work together to prevent conflicts and foster a culture of understanding and respect.
- **UN's Role:** The United Nations plays a significant role in promoting peace through its Peacebuilding Commission, Sustainable Development Goals, and peacekeeping missions, supporting countries in conflict resolution and post-conflict recovery.

National Ayurveda Day observed on 23rd September 2025

- **New Fixed Date:** The Government of India has officially designated 23rd September as the permanent date for National Ayurveda Day, replacing the earlier tradition of celebrating it on Dhanteras, which falls on a different date every year.

- **Autumnal Equinox Significance:** The chosen date coincides with the autumnal equinox, symbolizing balance in nature, which aligns perfectly with Ayurveda's core principle of balance and harmony between body, mind, and spirit.
- **Theme:** Ayurveda for People & Planet: The 10th National Ayurveda Day carries the theme "Ayurveda for People & Planet", emphasizing the importance of Ayurveda in promoting health, wellness, and sustainable living.
- **Objectives:** The Ministry of Ayush aims to promote Ayurveda as a scientific, evidence-based, and holistic system of medicine, focusing on preventive healthcare, education, research, and international cooperation.
- **Global Celebrations:** National Ayurveda Day is now a global event, with celebrations and awareness campaigns taking place not only in India but also around the world, promoting Ayurveda's universal appeal and relevance.

Antyodaya Diwas observed on 25th September

- **Date and Purpose:** Antyodaya Diwas is observed annually on September 25 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, a prominent Indian leader and thinker.
- **Philosophy of Antyodaya:** The day emphasizes Upadhyaya's philosophy of "Antyodaya," which means the upliftment of the last person, prioritizing the poorest and most marginalized members of society in development programs.
- **Key Contributions:** Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya was a co-founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, developed the philosophy of Integral Humanism, and advocated for a just and equitable society grounded in truth, justice, and non-violence.
- **Government Initiatives:** The government of India organizes several programs on Antyodaya Diwas, including the Antyodaya Anna Yojana, a food security program for the poorest of the poor, and other initiatives focusing on livelihood opportunities and dignity of life.’’

World Environmental Health Day Celebrated on 26th September

- **Theme for 2025:** The theme for World Environmental Health Day 2025 is "CLEAN AIR, HEALTHY PEOPLE," focusing on the importance of clean air for public health and well-being.
- **Objective:** The day aims to create awareness about environmental health, promote sustainable practices, and encourage individuals to take action to reduce their environmental footprint.

- **Global Celebrations:** World Environmental Health Day is celebrated globally, with various events, campaigns, and activities organized by governments, NGOs, and individuals.
- **Importance of Environmental Health:** Environmental health is a critical aspect of public health, and this day highlights the need to protect the environment to prevent diseases and promote well-being.
- **International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH):** The IFEH is the global organization that coordinates World Environmental Health Day celebrations, providing a platform for individuals and organizations to share their experiences and best practices.

World Tourism Day observed on 27th September

- **Date:** World Tourism Day is observed annually on September 27, commemorating the adoption of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Statutes in 1970.
- **Purpose:** The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political, and economic value globally, promoting sustainable tourism practices.
- **Theme:** Each year, World Tourism Day has a specific theme, such as "Tourism and Sustainable Transformation" for 2025, highlighting current trends and challenges in the tourism industry.
- **Significance:** Tourism is a significant sector, contributing around 10% to global GDP, employing one in ten people worldwide, and fostering cross-cultural understanding and peace.

OBITUARY NEWS

Prem Sagar, FTII alumnus and 'Ramayan' cinematographer, passed away

- Veteran cinematographer Prem Sagar, best known for his work on Ramanand Sagar's epic TV series 'Ramayan', has passed away.
- He was an alumnus of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, and contributed significantly to Indian television and cinema.
- Apart from 'Ramayan', he worked on several other mythological and devotional serials produced by Sagar Arts.
- Prem Sagar was the son of legendary filmmaker Ramanand Sagar, who created iconic TV shows in the 1980s and 1990s.
- His passing marks the loss of a pioneering cinematographer who played a key role in shaping the visual storytelling of Indian television's golden era.

Actor Priya Marathe, famed for Pavitra Rishta role, passed away

- Priya Marathe passed away on August 31, 2025, after a long battle with cancer at her residence in Mira Road, Mumbai. She was 38 years old.
- Marathe was best known for her role as Varsha in the popular TV series "Pavitra Rishta". She also appeared in other notable shows like "Kasamh Se", "Bade Achhe Lagte Hain", "Saath Nibhaana Saathiya", and "Tu Tithe Me".
- Priya Marathe was a versatile actress who worked in both Marathi and Hindi television. She was also a stand-up comedian and participated in shows like "Comedy Circus Ke SuperStars".
- Marathe was married to actor Shantanu Moghe, whom she tied the knot with in 2012.

Italian Fashion Icon Giorgio Armani passed away

- Giorgio Armani passed away on September 4, 2025, at the age of 91, as announced by the Armani Group.
- The official cause of Armani's death has not been publicly disclosed. However, he had been recovering from an undisclosed condition and missed Milan Fashion Week in June for the first time in 50 years.
- Armani was a renowned fashion designer who built a \$12.1 billion empire with his eponymous brand, expanding his influence from fashion to various aspects of life.
- A funeral chamber was set up from September 6-7 at Via Bergognone 59 in Milan, where fans and admirers could pay their respects. A private funeral was held for close family and friends.

Veteran Journalist Sankarshan Thakur, passed away

- **Journalistic Legacy:** Thakur was known for his fearless reporting style and commitment to fieldwork, distinguishing him from his peers. He covered major events like the Bhopal Gas Tragedy, the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, and the conflict in Sri Lanka.
- **Editorial Roles:** Thakur held key editorial positions in prominent publications, including The Telegraph, Indian Express, and Tehelka. At the time of his passing, he was the editor of The Telegraph.
- **Bihar's Political Landscape:** Thakur's reporting brought Bihar's politics to national attention, and his books, such as "Subaltern Saheb" and "The Brothers Bihari," are considered seminal works on the subject. His writing combined rigorous field research with engaging storytelling.
- **Awards and Recognition:** Thakur received the Prem Bhatia Award in 2001 and the Appan Menon Fellowship in 2003, recognizing his excellence in journalism.

BJD Leader & MLA Rajendra Dholakia passed away

- **Death Details:** Rajendra Dholakia, a senior leader of the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and three-term MLA for the Nuapada constituency, passed away on Sunday at the age of 68 due to a prolonged kidney-related illness at a private hospital in Visakhapatnam.
- **Tributes and Condolences:** Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik expressed profound grief, describing Dholakia's passing as an "irreparable loss" for both the party and the state. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, along with leaders from opposition parties like BJP and Congress, also conveyed their condolences.
- **Legacy and Career:** Dholakia was a dedicated public servant and efficient organizer who worked tirelessly for the welfare of his constituents. He served as the Minister of State for Planning and Convergence in the Odisha government and was known for his grassroots connection and accessibility to the people of Nuapada.
- **By-Election:** Dholakia's death will trigger a by-election in the Nuapada constituency, which will be a significant test for the BJD's influence in western Odisha. The Election Commission of India will announce the schedule for the by-poll in due course.

Former Meghalaya CM D.D. Lapang passed away

- D.D. Lapang, fondly known as 'Maheh', passed away due to age-related ailments at Bethany Hospital in Shillong.
- Lapang served as the Chief Minister of Meghalaya four times from 1992 to 2010 and was a member of the Congress party before joining the National People's Party (NPP) in 2018.
- He played a significant role in the formation of the Ri-Bhoi district in 1992 and implemented various initiatives for Meghalaya's development and social justice.
- The Meghalaya government announced a state funeral in his honor, which was attended by leaders, citizens, and supporters, paying homage to his legacy.

Boxing Legend Ricky Hatton passed away

- **Boxing Record and Titles:** Hatton's professional boxing record stood at 45 wins and 3 losses. He held multiple world championships in the light-welterweight division, including the IBF, Ring, and lineal titles, and one at welterweight.
- **Notable Fights:** Some of his most notable fights include victories over Kostya Tszyu, Carlos Maussa, and Juan Urango.
- **Awards and Recognition:** Hatton was named Fighter of the Year by The Ring magazine, the Boxing Writers Association of America, and ESPN in 2005. He was also inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame as part of the class of 2024.
- **Career Highlights:** Hatton's fight against Kostya Tszyu in 2005 was considered one of the best victories by an English boxer in the last 20 years. He also had a remarkable win against Juan Lazcano in 2008.

Sarada Hoffman, Kalakshetra Bharatanatyam Guru passed away

- **Life and Legacy:** Sarada Hoffman, a renowned Bharatanatyam dancer and guru, passed away on September 14, 2025, at the age of 96. She was a pivotal figure in codifying and refining the Kalakshetra style of Bharatanatyam.
- **Association with Kalakshetra:** Hoffman was closely associated with Kalakshetra Foundation, one of India's most prestigious dance institutions, where she trained under Rukmini Devi Arundale. She played a crucial role in standardizing the teaching system, shaping the way Bharatanatyam is taught globally.
- **Notable Students:** Hoffman trained many prominent dancers, including Yamini Krishnamurthy, C.V. Chandrasekhar, V.P. Dhananjayan, and Shanta Dhananjayan. Her teachings continue to influence Bharatanatyam stages worldwide.
- **Awards and Recognition:** Hoffman received several prestigious awards, including the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1996 and the Rukmini Devi Medal for Excellence in the Arts. These honors acknowledge her contributions as a performer, teacher, and guardian of the classical tradition.

Robert Redford, Iconic Actor and Director, passed away

- Robert Redford passed away at his home in the mountains of Utah, surrounded by loved ones.
- Redford's career spanned decades, with iconic roles in films like "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" (1969), "The Sting" (1973), and "All the President's Men" (1976). He won an Academy Award for directing "Ordinary People" (1980).
- Redford's impact on the film industry extends beyond his own work, with the Sundance Film Festival and Sundance Institute continuing to support emerging artists and innovative storytelling.

Tamil actor-comedian Robo Shankar passed away

- Robo Shankar passed away on September 18, 2025, at the age of 46, just a day after collapsing on a film set in Chennai.
- He had been battling jaundice recently, which left him visibly weak, but had returned to work before his sudden passing.
- Robo Shankar was a household name in Tamil cinema and television, known for his roles in films like "Idharkuthane Aasaipattai Balakumara," "Maari," "Velainu Vandhutta Vellakaran," and "Visvasam".

Assamese singer Zubeen Garg passed away

- Zubeen Garg, 52, passed away in Singapore due to a scuba diving accident, where he fell into the sea and lost consciousness.

- He was rushed to the hospital after the incident and breathed his last in the intensive care unit.
- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, former Rajya Sabha MP Ripun Bora, and Cabinet Minister Ashok Singhal expressed shock and sadness over his demise, calling him a cultural icon and a pride of Assam.
- Zubeen Garg was known for his iconic song "Ya Ali" and had a profound impact on Assam's music scene, inspiring generations with his voice and music.

Legendary Cricket Umpire Dickie Bird passed away

- **Cricketing Career:** Bird played first-class cricket for Yorkshire and Leicestershire from 1956 to 1964, scoring 3,314 runs, including two centuries. His career best was 181 not out for Yorkshire against Glamorgan in 1959.
- **Umpiring Legacy:** He umpired 66 Test matches and 69 One-Day Internationals between 1973 and 1996, including three World Cup finals.
- **Awards and Honors:** Bird received an MBE in 1986 and an OBE in 2012 for his services to cricket and charity. He was also awarded the Freedom of the Borough of Barnsley in 2000 and honorary doctorates from several universities.
- **Philanthropy:** Bird was a dedicated philanthropist, donating £1 million to children's charities throughout his life.

Renowned Kannada Novelist Dr. S. L. Bhyrappa passed away

- Dr. S. L. Bhyrappa, the celebrated Kannada novelist, passed away at the age of 94 in Bengaluru.
- He is known for his iconic novels like "Parva" and "Avarana", which have been widely acclaimed for their literary merit and thought-provoking themes.
- Dr. Bhyrappa's works have left a lasting impact on Kannada literature, exploring complex social, philosophical, and cultural issues.

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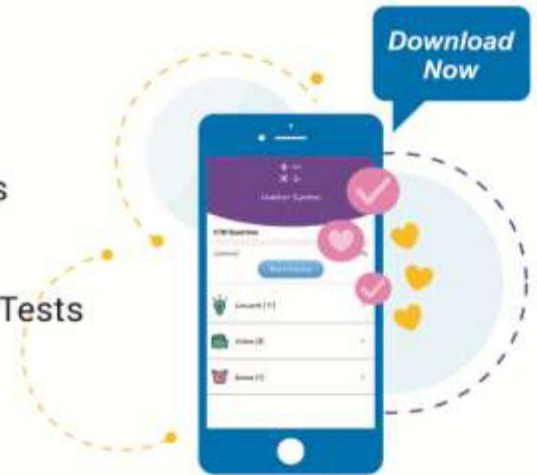
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