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WEEKLY Current Affairs

NATIONAL NEWS

Amazon Launches First Kuiper Satellites to Rival Starlink

Amazon has officially entered the satellite internet arena with the successful launch of its first 27 Project Kuiper satellites on April 28, 2025. These satellites were deployed aboard a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral, Florida, marking the commencement of Amazon's ambitious $10 billion initiative to establish a 3,236-satellite constellation aimed at providing global broadband coverage. This move positions Amazon as a direct competitor to SpaceX's Starlink, which currently leads the market with over 8,000 operational satellites.

Foot notes:

- **Competition with Starlink**: Project Kuiper aims to rival SpaceX's Starlink network, which currently dominates the satellite internet market with over 8,000 satellites in orbit and millions of customers. Amazon's entry into the market could potentially disrupt the status quo and offer more options for consumers.
- **Satellite Constellation**: Amazon plans to deploy a constellation of 3,236 satellites in low-Earth orbit, spread across 98 different paths around Earth at three specific heights: 590 km, 610 km, and 630 km. Each satellite will fly at an altitude of about 280 miles (450 kilometers), providing faster and more responsive internet connections.
- **Customer Service and Pricing**: Amazon expects to begin delivering service to customers later this year, with coverage expanding towards the equator as more satellites are launched. However, pricing details have not been announced yet, although Amazon has emphasized affordability as a key principle of Project Kuiper.

Kokborok Language Demanded to be Included in 8th Schedule

The Kokborok language, spoken by indigenous communities in Tripura, is at the center of a movement advocating for its inclusion in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. The Kokborok Sahitya Parishad, a prominent tribal literary organization, has formally petitioned Chief Minister Manik Saha, emphasizing the language's rich cultural heritage and its role in preserving tribal identity. Despite being one of Tripura's official languages and taught from primary to university levels, Kokborok lacks constitutional recognition, which supporters argue is essential for its preservation and national promotion .

Foot notes:

- **Demand for Inclusion**: Tripura's Education Minister, Ratan Lal Nath, has strongly advocated for including Kokborok in the 8th Schedule, emphasizing that it will ensure the language's proper development.
- **Current Status**: Kokborok is already one of the official languages of Tripura and is spoken by 19 tribes, including Tripuri, Reang, Jamatia, Uchoi, and Koloi.
- **Development Initiatives**: The state government has introduced Kokborok language education from primary to university levels, with around 10,000 students currently

studying in Kokborok. Tripura University has also introduced a Ph.D. course in Kokborok, with four students pursuing their Ph.D. in the language.

- **Government's Objective**: The state administration is working to add Kokborok to the Constitution's 8th Schedule, which recognizes 22 different languages. This move aims to promote the language's development and preservation.

FTII Pune Declared 'Deemed to be University' by Union Ministry of Education

The Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) in Pune has been officially notified as an "Institution Deemed to be a University" by the Union Ministry of Education. This designation, granted under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956, empowers FTII to award degrees, including doctoral programs, and to launch innovative academic courses in film and media studies. The move aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, aiming to provide greater autonomy, flexibility, and academic excellence in specialized fields. With this new status, FTII will participate in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) and integrate with the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), enhancing its academic standing and facilitating credit transfers.

Foot notes:

- **Autonomy Benefits**: With this status, FTII can now award academic degrees, start new courses, and has enhanced scope for research, innovation, and international collaboration.
- **Eligibility Criteria**: FTII met strict benchmarks, including NAAC 'A' grade or NBA accreditation, to be considered for deemed university status.
- **Course Upgrades**: Existing post-graduate diploma and certificate programs will be upgraded to formal degree programs, boosting academic and global recognition of FTII qualifications.
- **New Degree Programs**: Details of new degree courses will be announced soon and published in the upcoming academic prospectus.

Kirthiga Reddy Launches 'AI Kiran' to Empower Indian Women in Artificial Intelligence

On April 21, 2025, coinciding with UN World Creativity and Innovation Day, Kirthiga Reddy, former Managing Director of Facebook India and CEO & Co-founder of Verix, launched "AI Kiran," a national initiative aimed at empowering Indian women in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI). This platform seeks to address the underrepresentation of women in AI roles by providing mentorship, access to funding, and blockchain-verified recognition, thereby fostering a supportive ecosystem for women in AI. AI Kiran focuses on key sectors such as healthcare, education, sustainability, and enterprise technology, aiming to build a cross-functional, global AI community for women.

Foot notes:

- **Objective**: The initiative aims to bridge the gender gap in AI by providing women with skills, mentorship, and resources to thrive in the AI ecosystem.

- **Key Features**: AI Kiran offers mentorship, access to funding, blockchain-verified recognition, and cross-sector collaboration, focusing on domains like healthcare, education, and sustainability.
- **Target Audience**: The program is designed for women across all stages of life, including students, early-career professionals, and those seeking a career shift into tech.
- **Global Impact**: With India poised to become a global AI powerhouse, AI Kiran seeks to empower women to shape the ethical future of AI, contribute to policy-making, and develop inclusive technologies.

Government launched Indian Institute of Creative Technology

The Government of India has launched the Indian Institute of Creative Technology (IICT) in Mumbai, marking a significant step towards advancing the country's creative and digital industries. Announced by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw at the WAVES 2025 summit, the institute is established by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in collaboration with FICCI and CII, aiming to become a National Centre of Excellence modeled after IITs and IIMs. With an allocation of 400 crore from the central government and land provided by the Maharashtra government, IICT's first phase is situated at the NFDC Building on Pedder Road, featuring state-of-the-art facilities including gaming labs, animation labs, and immersive studios.

Foot notes:

- **Partnerships and Funding**: The institute has strategic support from major tech companies like NVIDIA, Google, Apple, Microsoft, Meta, Star India, and Adobe. The government has allocated 400 crore for the institute, and the Government of Maharashtra has provided land for its setup.
- **Infrastructure and Phases**: The IICT has started operations in its first phase at the NFDC Building on Pedder Road, Mumbai, with advanced infrastructure like Gaming Labs and Virtual Production Studios. The second phase will witness the development of a 10-acre campus at Film City, Goregaon.
- **Core Focus Areas**: The institute will focus on five core areas: training, incubation, innovation, research & development, and policy formulation. This will create transformative opportunities for creators, technologists, and entrepreneurs in India's creative economy.
- **National and Global Impact**: The IICT aims to strengthen India's position as a global leader in creative and digital content, solidifying Mumbai's status as a global creative capital.

India Remains 4th Largest Economy In World, US at No. 1

India has solidified its position as the world's fourth-largest economy in 2025, with a nominal GDP of $4.19 trillion, matching Japan's economic output. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), India is projected to be the fastest-growing major economy, with an

anticipated growth rate of 6.2% this year . The United States maintains its lead with a GDP of $30.51 trillion, followed by China at $19.23 trillion and Germany at $4.74 trillion. India's robust growth is driven by strong domestic consumption, strategic investments, and a thriving services sector. With this momentum, India is poised to surpass both Germany and Japan to become the world's third-largest economy in the near future.

Foot notes:

- **Global Ranking**: India remains the fourth-largest economy in the world, with the United States at number one, China at number two, and Germany at number three. India's GDP is estimated to be $4.39 trillion in 2025.
- **Growth Rate**: India is projected to grow at a rate of 6.2% in 2025, making it the fastest-growing major economy globally. This growth is driven by significant increases in private consumption, especially in rural areas.
- **Comparison with Other Economies**: India's GDP per capita is estimated to be $4.19 thousand, comparable to Japan's. The United States has the highest GDP per capita at $30.51 thousand.
- **Future Outlook**: India is poised to become the third-largest economy by 2030, according to the IMF's latest World Economic Outlook. The country's growth trajectory is expected to continue, driven by its dynamic economy.

India’s Coal Production Increases by 3.63% to 81.57 Million Tonnes in April 2025

India's coal production reached 81.57 million tonnes in April 2025, reflecting a 3.63% increase from the 78.71 million tonnes produced in April 2024 . This growth was significantly driven by captive and non-Coal India Limited (CIL) mines, which saw a 26.6% rise in output, producing 14.51 million tonnes compared to 11.46 million tonnes the previous year . Coal dispatches also experienced a steady uptick, reaching 86.64 million tonnes in April 2025, up from 85.11 million tonnes in the same month last year . As of April 30, 2025, coal stockpiles stood at 125.76 million tonnes, with CIL alone accounting for 105 million tonnes, marking a 22.1% increase from the previous year's figures.

Foot notes:

- **Coal Production Growth**: Coal India Limited (CIL) has been experiencing growth in coal production, with a notable increase of 8% to 189.3 million tonnes (MTs) in the first quarter of FY 2025, compared to 175.5 MTs in the same period of FY 2024.
- **Production Targets**: CIL has been meeting its production targets, with a goal to produce 838 MTs in FY 2025. In FY 2024, CIL produced 773.6 million tonnes (MTs) of coal, registering a 10% growth over the previous year.
- **Supply to Power Sector**: CIL's supplies to the power sector have also increased, with a 4% growth to 160 MTs during Q1 FY 2025, compared to 154 MTs in the same period of FY 2024.

- **Non-Power Sector Growth**: The company has seen significant growth in supplies to the non-power sector, with a 16% growth to 38.4 MTs during Q1 FY 2025, compared to 33 MTs in the same period of FY 2024.

STATE NEWS

Odisha's Similipal Officially Declared as India's 107th National Park

On April 24, 2025, the Odisha government officially declared Similipal in Mayurbhanj district as India's 107th National Park, covering an area of 845.70 square kilometers. This designation recognizes Similipal's rich biodiversity, including 55 species of mammals, 361 species of birds, and 62 species of reptiles. The park is notable for being home to the world's only population of wild melanistic tigers and shelters 25% of Odisha's elephant population . The declaration was made under Section 35(4) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, after decades of efforts and fulfilling necessary criteria, including relocation of villages from core areas . Similipal's new status as a National Park is expected to enhance conservation efforts and attract both domestic and international tourists.

Foot notes:

- **National Park Status**: Similipal has been officially declared as India's 107th National Park and Odisha's second, after Bhitarkanika National Park, covering an area of 845.70 sq km.
- **Conservation Efforts**: This declaration strengthens Odisha's conservation legacy, uplifts tribal aspirations, and reaffirms the state's commitment to sustainable development and ecological preservation.
- **Biodiversity Hotspot**: Similipal is home to rich biodiversity, including 40 wild tigers, 25% of Odisha's elephant population, 104 orchid species, and over 360 species of birds, making it a significant ecological landscape.
- **UNESCO Recognition**: Similipal is part of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves since 2009, and this national park status will boost conservation efforts, protecting its unique ecosystem and wildlife.

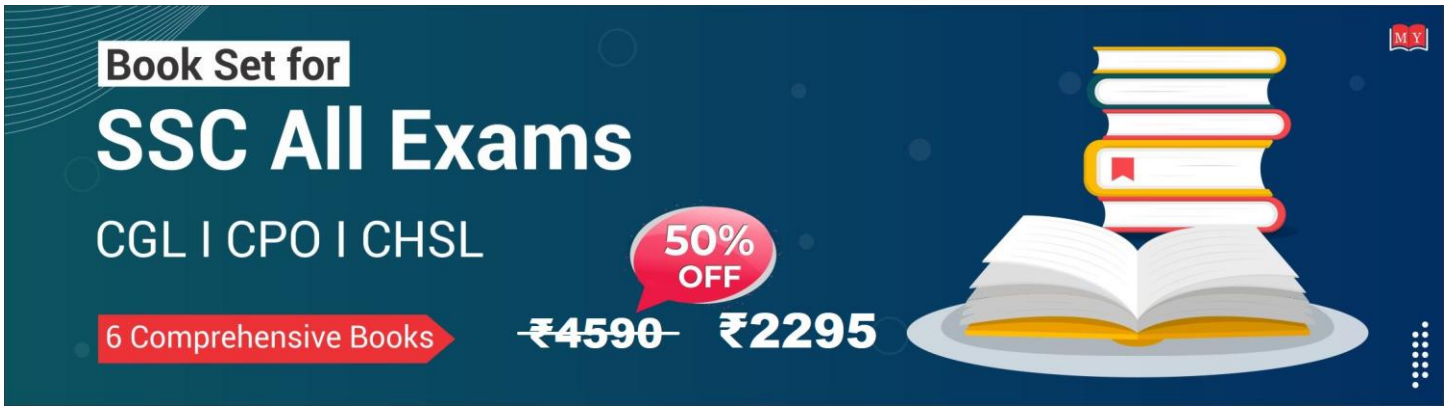
Pondicherry University signs agreement with Central Power Research Institute

Pondicherry University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Central Power Research Institute (CPRI), Bangalore, to foster collaborative research and knowledge exchange in the power sector and renewable energy. The MoU was formalized on April 24, 2025, in the presence of the Honourable Vice-Chancellor of Pondicherry University and the Director-General of CPRI. This partnership aims to enhance academic and technical cooperation between the two institutions, focusing on areas such as power systems, energy efficiency, and sustainable energy solutions. Through this collaboration, both organizations seek to contribute to the advancement of research and development in the energy sector. The MoU signifies a commitment to addressing the challenges of energy demand and sustainability

through joint initiatives and expertise sharing. This strategic alliance is expected to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of India's energy landscape.?

Foot notes:

- **Research Collaboration**: The agreement likely facilitates collaboration between Pondicherry University and CPRI on research projects related to power and energy, leveraging CPRI's expertise in power sector research and development.
- **Knowledge Sharing**: The partnership may enable knowledge sharing between the two institutions, with CPRI potentially providing technical guidance and support to Pondicherry University's research initiatives.
- **Capacity Building**: The agreement could focus on capacity building, including training and development programs for students and faculty members, enhancing their skills in power sector research and development.
- **Joint Projects**: Pondicherry University and CPRI might work together on joint projects, including research studies, pilot projects, or consultancy assignments, to address industry challenges and develop innovative solutions.



MP Introduced India's First AI-Powered Real-Time Forest Alert System

Madhya Pradesh has become the first state in India to implement an AI-based real-time forest alert system, marking a significant advancement in forest management and conservation. This innovative system utilizes satellite imagery, mobile feedback, and machine learning to detect land encroachment, deforestation, and forest degradation. Currently piloted in five sensitive forest divisions—Shivpuri, Guna, Vidisha, Burhanpur, and Khandwa—the system provides live monitoring on the Divisional Forest Officer's dashboard, displaying real-time alerts categorized by beat and field posts, with filters for date, density, and area. Field staff receive these alerts through a mobile app, enabling them to verify and take immediate action on-site, supported by features like GPS-tagged photos and voice notes.

Foot notes:

- **Near Real-Time Monitoring**: The Forest Survey of India (FSI) has launched the Forest Fire Alert System (FAST) Version 3.0, which provides near real-time monitoring of forest fires using MODIS and SNPP-VIIRS satellite data. This system allows for timely detection and response to forest fires.

- **Customized Alerts**: The system provides customized alerts for 20 states at the beat level and 2 states at the range level, ensuring that forest officials receive relevant and actionable information.
- **Forest Fire GeoPortal**: The FSI has also launched a Forest Fire GeoPortal, which provides a centralized platform for visualizing and managing forest fire data.
- **Fire Danger Rating**: The system includes a Forest Fire Danger Rating (FFDR) system, which provides early warnings for potential forest fires. The FFDR is processed and uploaded every Thursday during the fire season and is valid for the ensuing week.

SPORTS NEWS

Animesh Kujur takes 200m gold in record time

Animesh Kujur clinched the gold medal in the men's 200m event, setting a new national record. He clocked an impressive time, surpassing the previous record and showcasing his exceptional speed and determination. The race was part of a national athletics competition where several top athletes participated. Animesh's performance drew widespread praise from coaches and sports enthusiasts alike. His achievement marks a significant milestone in Indian sprinting history.

Foot notes:

- **Record-Breaking Time**: Animesh Kujur shattered the 200m national record with a blistering time of 20.40 seconds, eclipsing Amlan Borgohain's record of 20.52 seconds.
- **Gold Medal Win**: Kujur won the gold medal in the men's 200m event at the Federation Cup 2025, held in Kochi.
- **Previous Attempts**: This achievement comes after Kujur had come close to breaking the record multiple times last season, clocking 20.62 seconds and 20.65 seconds on different occasions.
- **Qualification**: Although Kujur missed the World Championships qualification mark of 20.16 seconds, his record-breaking time has stormed past the Asian Athletics Championships qualifying mark of 20.53 seconds.
- **Future Goals**: Kujur now aims to break the 20-second barrier and become India's fastest sprinter, with a long-term goal to emulate Usain Bolt's achievements.

Rohit Sharma Becomes Second Indian to Reach 12,000 Runs in T20s

Rohit Sharma has become the second Indian cricketer to surpass 12,000 runs in T20 cricket, achieving this milestone during an IPL 2025 match between Mumbai Indians and Sunrisers Hyderabad. He reached the landmark with a commanding 70-run innings off 46 balls, featuring eight fours and three sixes, contributing to Mumbai Indians' seven-wicket victory . This accomplishment places him among an elite group of eight players worldwide who have crossed the 12,000-run mark in T20s, including Virat Kohli and Chris Gayle . Rohit achieved this feat in his 456th T20 appearance, becoming the fifth-fastest player to reach this milestone in terms of innings played .

Foot notes:

- **Milestone Achievement**: Rohit Sharma has become the second Indian batsman to score 12,000 runs in T20 cricket, joining Virat Kohli in this elite group.
- **Record-Breaking Match**: He achieved this feat during the IPL 2025 match against Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium.
- **Ranking Among Global Cricketers**: Rohit Sharma is now the eighth batter overall to surpass 12,000 runs in T20 cricket, behind cricket legends like Chris Gayle, Alex Hales, and Virat Kohli.
- **Consistency in IPL**: A significant portion of his 12,000+ runs has come from the Indian Premier League (IPL), where he has played for Deccan Chargers and Mumbai Indians, providing perfect starts in powerplay overs.

14-Year-Old Vaibhav Suryavanshi Becomes Youngest Player to Hit the IPL's 2nd Fastest Century

At just 14 years old, Vaibhav Suryavanshi has made history by becoming the youngest player to hit the IPL's second-fastest century. His explosive innings captured the attention of cricket fans and experts across the globe. Displaying incredible composure and power, Vaibhav reached his hundred in record time for someone so young. His performance not only broke age barriers but also showcased the bright future of Indian cricket. Many hailed his innings as one of the most thrilling moments of the season. With this remarkable achievement, Vaibhav Suryavanshi has firmly established himself as a rising star in the cricketing world.

Foot notes:

- **Youngest Centurion** : Vaibhav Suryavanshi became the youngest player to score a century in the IPL and T20 cricket, achieving this feat at 14 years and 32 days old.
- **Second-Fastest Century** : His 101 runs off 38 balls is the second-fastest century in IPL history, just five balls slower than Chris Gayle's record.
- **Fastest Indian Century** : Vaibhav's 35-ball ton is the fastest century scored by an Indian player in the IPL, breaking Yusuf Pathan's 15-year record.
- **IPL Debut** : Vaibhav was making only his third appearance in the IPL, having debuted for Rajasthan Royals less than a fortnight ago.
- **Record-Breaking Achievement** : He is the first IPL cricketer born after the tournament began in 2008 and became the youngest player bought in an IPL auction, signed by Rajasthan Royals for £105,000.
- **Impressive Batting** : Vaibhav smashed 11 sixes and seven fours against a strong Gujarat Titans bowling attack, which included Rashid Khan, Mohammed Siraj, and Ishant Sharma.

Manush Shah, Diya Chitale Clinch Mixed Doubles Title At WTT Contender Tunis 2025

Indian table tennis duo Manush Shah and Diya Chitale clinched the mixed doubles title at the WTT Contender Tunis 2025, held from April 22 to 27 at the Salle Omnisport de Rades in Tunis, Tunisia. In a thrilling final, they defeated Japan's Sora Matsushima and Miwa Harimoto with a scoreline of 11-9, 5-11, 14-12, 3-11, 11-6. This victory marks them as only the second Indian pair to win a WTT Contender mixed doubles title, following in the footsteps of Manika Batra and Sathiyan Gnanasekaran. Their triumph not only adds to India's growing stature in international table tennis but also highlights the rising talent within the nation's ranks. The duo's performance throughout the tournament showcased their synergy and resilience against top-tier international competition. Their success in Tunis is a promising sign for Indian table tennis on the global stage.

Foot notes:

- **Mixed Doubles Champions**: Manush Shah and Diya Chitale won the mixed doubles title at the WTT Contender Tunis 2025, defeating the Japanese pair Sora Matsushima and Miwa Harimoto 3-2 in the final.
- **Historic Win**: This victory makes them the second Indian mixed doubles team to win a WTT Contender event, following Manika Batra and Sathiyan Gnanasekaran's win in 2021.
- **Comeback Victory**: Manush and Diya avenged their loss to the same Japanese pair in the final of the 2025 WTT Star Contender Doha event, where they were blanked 3-0.
- **Strong Performance**: In the semifinals, Manush and Diya defeated Tunisia's Wassim Essid and Egypt's Hana Goda 3-0, showcasing their skills and teamwork.
- **Prize Money**: The WTT Contender Tunis 2025 had a prize money of $1 lakh, and winning this title will help Manush and Diya earn valuable ranking points.

Barcelona Clinch 32nd Copa Del Rey Title

FC Barcelona secured their record-extending 32nd Copa del Rey title with a dramatic 3–2 victory over arch-rivals Real Madrid in the 2025 final at Seville's Estadio La Cartuja. The match saw Pedri open the scoring for Barcelona in the 28th minute, but Real Madrid responded with goals from Kylian Mbappé and Aurélien Tchouaméni to take a 2–1 lead. Ferran Torres equalized in the 84th minute, pushing the game into extra time. In the 116th minute, Jules Koundé delivered the decisive goal, securing the win for Barcelona. The intense match was marred by disciplinary issues, with three Real Madrid players—Lucas Vázquez, Antonio Rüdiger, and Jude Bellingham—receiving red cards for dissent and unsportsmanlike conduct.

Foot notes:

- **Record-Extending 32nd Title**: Barcelona defeated Real Madrid 3-2 in extra time to claim their record-extending 32nd Copa del Rey title, showcasing their dominance in the competition.
- **Dramatic Comeback**: The Catalan giants trailed twice before Ferran Torres equalized in the 84th minute to force extra time, where Jules Kounde scored the decisive goal in the 116th minute.

- **Early Spark from Pedri**: Pedri González opened the scoring in the 28th minute with a brilliant long-range strike, giving Barcelona an early lead.
- **Kylian Mbappe's Impact**: Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe, introduced off the bench, made an immediate impact, equalizing with a stunning free kick in the 70th minute before Aurelien Tchouameni gave Madrid a brief lead.

India dominates Asian Yogasana Sport Championship with record 83 gold

India achieved a historic milestone at the 2nd Asian Yogasana Sport Championship, securing a record-breaking 83 gold medals. The championship, held at the KD Jadhav Arena within the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex in New Delhi, witnessed participation from over 21 countries, including Japan, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Uzbekistan. India's dominance was evident as it topped the medal tally, followed by Japan with 3 golds, 3 silvers, and 4 bronzes, while Mongolia, Oman, and Nepal rounded out the top five. The event concluded with a grand closing ceremony attended by dignitaries such as Shri Harsh Malhotra, Minister of State for Corporate Affairs, and Shri Ajay Chaudhary, Additional Commissioner of Police, Delhi, along with senior officials from the Asian and World Yogasana federations.

Foot notes:

- **Record-Breaking Performance**: India secured a record 83 gold medals, showcasing its remarkable athletic prowess in the sport.
- **Tournament Details**: The championship was held in New Delhi, India, at the KD Jadhav Arena, Indira Gandhi Sports Complex, and featured participants from over 21 countries, including Japan, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Uzbekistan.
- **Medal Tally:** India topped the medal tally with 83 gold, 3 silver, and 1 bronze medal, followed by Japan with 3 gold, 3 silver, and 4 bronze medals.
- **Growing Popularity of Yogasana**: The event highlighted yogasana's growing international popularity and positioned it as a serious competitive discipline on the global stage.



Pankaj Advani Won In CCI Billiards Classic

Pankaj Advani, India’s ace cueist, clinched the title at the prestigious CCI Billiards Classic tournament. He showcased remarkable skill and consistency throughout the competition,

reaffirming his dominance in the sport. Advani outplayed his opponents with tactical brilliance and precision, earning applause from fans and fellow players alike. The win adds another feather to his already illustrious career, which includes multiple world titles. His victory at the Cricket Club of India (CCI) event is seen as a significant achievement in the domestic billiards circuit. With this triumph, Advani continues to inspire young players and elevate the profile of cue sports in India.

Foot notes:

- **Tournament Victory**: Pankaj Advani retained his title at the All India CCI Billiards Classic 2024, showcasing his dominance in the sport.
- **Final Match Performance**: Advani won the final match against David Causier of England with a score of 1836-743, constructing two massive breaks of 801 and 460.
- **Breakdown of the Final**: At the end of the first two-hour session, Advani had a slender lead of 593-570, which he then extended to win the match comfortably.
- **Prize Money:** Advani was awarded a cash prize of Rs 250,000 for winning the tournament and an additional Rs 25,000 for achieving the highest break of 801 in the final.
- **Consistency and Dominance**: This victory marked Advani's fourth successive triumph at the CCI Billiards Classic, solidifying his position as India's most decorated green baize player with 27 World titles.

India's Sudirman Cup 2025 campaign ended with a 1-4 defeat against Denmark

India's Sudirman Cup 2025 campaign commenced with a 1–4 defeat against Denmark in their opening Group D match in Xiamen, China. The tie began with the mixed doubles match, where India's Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto lost to Jesper Toft and Amalie Magelund 13–21, 14–21. In the men's singles, HS Prannoy was defeated by Anders Antonsen with scores of 15–21, 16–21. The men's doubles pair, Hariharan Amsakarunan and Ruban Kumar Rethinasabapathi, suffered a heavy loss to Kim Astrup and Anders Rasmussen, 7–21, 4–21. PV Sindhu, in the women's singles, narrowly lost to Line Kjaersfeldt in straight games, 20–22, 21–23. India's sole victory came in the women's doubles, where Tanisha Crasto and Shruti Mishra defeated Natasja Anthonisen and Alexandra Bøje 21–13, 21–18 .

Foot notes:

- **India's Only Win:** Tanisha Crasto and Priya Konjengbam picked up India's only win in the tie, defeating Denmark's Natasja P Anthonisen and Alexandra Boje 21-13, 21-18 in the women's doubles.
- **PV Sindhu's Narrow Loss**: PV Sindhu put up a tough fight in her singles match but lost to Line Kjaersfeldt 22-20, 23-21 despite having five game points. Sindhu's experience was evident, but Kjaersfeldt's skill ultimately paid off.
- **Strong Danish Performance**: Denmark dominated the match, winning four out of five matches. Their top players, including world No. 3 Anders Antonsen and world No. 1 pair Kim Astrup-Anders Rasmussen, proved too strong for India's lineup.

India Beat England 3-2 In Final Group Match of Sudirman Cup

The Government of India has launched the Indian Institute of Creative Technology (IICT) in Mumbai, marking a significant step towards advancing the country's creative and digital industries. Announced by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw at the WAVES 2025 summit, the institute is established by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in collaboration with FICCI and CII, aiming to become a National Centre of Excellence modeled after IITs and IIMs. With an allocation of 400 crore from the central government and land provided by the Maharashtra government, IICT's first phase is situated at the NFDC Building on Pedder Road, featuring state-of-the-art facilities including gaming labs, animation labs, and immersive studios.

Foot notes:

- **India's Win**: India beat England 3-2 in their final group match, showcasing the team's emerging badminton potential and finishing third in Group D.
- **Young Players Shine**: Youngsters Anupama Upadhyaya and Satish Karunakaran led the charge with crucial singles victories, demonstrating India's bench strength in the singles categories.
- **Key Wins**: Anupama Upadhyaya beat Miu Ngan 21-16, 21-12, while Satish Karunakaran came back from a game down to defeat Harry Huang 18-21, 22-20, 21-13.
- **Women's Doubles Win**: Tanisha Crasto and Shruti Mishra wrapped up the tie for India with a 21-17, 21-17 win over Lizzie Tolman and Estelle van Leeuwen in women's doubles.

Quartet Of Gurindervir, Animesh, Manikanta, Amlan Rewrites Men’s 4x100m National Record

At the 2nd Indian Open Relay Competition in Chandigarh, the men's 4x100m relay team comprising Gurindervir Singh, Animesh Kujur, Manikanta Hoblidhar, and Amlan Borgohain set a new national record of 38.69 seconds, surpassing the previous mark of 38.89 seconds established during the 2010 Commonwealth Games. This achievement is particularly noteworthy as it was the quartet's first competitive outing together, with all members training under the Reliance Foundation's High-Performance Centre. Individually, each sprinter has made significant strides: Gurindervir holds the national 100m record at 10.20 seconds, Animesh recently set the 200m national record at 20.40 seconds, Manikanta boasts a 100m best of 10.22 seconds, and Amlan is renowned for his powerful finishing sprints.

Foot notes:

- **New Record Time**: The Reliance Foundation team comprising Gurindervir Singh, Animesh Kujur, Manikanta Hoblidhar, and Amlan Borgohain achieved a record-breaking time of 38.69 seconds in the men's 4x100m relay.
- **Previous Record**: The previous national record was set in 2010 at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi with a time of 38.89 seconds, which stood for 15 years.

- **Competition Details**: The record-breaking performance took place at the 2nd Indian Open Relay Competition held at the Sector 7 Sports Complex in Chandigarh on April 30, 2025.
- **Team Background**: The quartet is part of the Reliance Foundation's High-Performance Centre in association with the Government of Odisha in Bhubaneswar, highlighting the impact of structured training programs.

India Concludes Asian U-15 & U-17 Boxing Championships

India concluded its campaign at the inaugural Asian U-15 & U-17 Boxing Championships in Amman, Jordan, with a commendable haul of 15 gold, 6 silver, and 22 bronze medals, securing second place overall behind Kazakhstan . The Indian U-15 contingent, particularly the girls' team, delivered an outstanding performance by clinching 10 out of the 15 available gold medals, achieving a perfect record in their finals . In the U-17 category, the girls added four more golds on the final day, with notable victories from Khushi Chand (46kg), Ahaana Sharma (50kg), Jannat (54kg), and Anshika (80+kg) .

Foot notes:

- **U-17 Medals**: In the U-17 category, India won 4 gold medals and a total of 18 medals, showcasing the country's growing boxing talent.
- **Medal Winners**: Although specific names of all medal winners aren't available, notable performances came from Indian boxers like Rudraksh Singh, who advanced to the semifinals in the boys' 46kg category.
- **Championship Highlights**: Indian boxers secured medals in 25 out of 30 weight categories in U-15 and 18 out of 26 weight classes in U-17 across both genders, demonstrating the country's depth in boxing.
- **Future Championships**: The top performers in the championships, including 20 male and female boxers who won gold medals, will qualify for the upcoming Under-19 Asian Boxing Championship 2025.

AWARD NEWS

Akashvani wins six prizes at India Audio Summit and Awards 2025

Akashvani, India's national public broadcaster, achieved remarkable success at the India Audio Summit and Awards 2025 by securing six prestigious awards across various categories. The accolades included 'Best Audio Series of the Year' and 'Best Radio Drama', underscoring Akashvani's excellence in audio storytelling and production. This recognition highlights Akashvani's commitment to delivering high-quality content that resonates with diverse audiences nationwide. The awards ceremony celebrated outstanding contributions to the audio industry, with Akashvani standing out for its innovative programming and impactful narratives. These honors reaffirm Akashvani's pivotal role in shaping India's audio broadcasting landscape and its dedication to cultural enrichment.

Foot notes:

- **Total Awards Won**: Akashvani won a total of six awards in various categories at the India Audio Summit and Awards 2025, recognizing excellence in radio and audio content production.
- **Series of the Year**: The program "Nai Soch Nai Kahani – A Radio Journey with Smriti Irani" was named Series of the Year on radio, featuring stories of women's determination and grit.
- **Best Produced Audio Streaming Programme**: Akashvani's News Services Division won the Best Produced Audio Streaming Programme in the Health and Fitness category for its popular weekly phone-in show "Public Speak".
- **Other Winning Shows**: Other award-winning programs include "Chhayageet" (Best Late Night Show), "Ujale Unki Yadon Ke" (Best Celebrity Show on Air), and "Safarcast" (Best Travel Show).

Pradip Kurbah Wins Best Director and Best Film at Moscow Festival

Pradip Kurbah, a self-taught filmmaker from Meghalaya, achieved international acclaim by winning Best Director and Best Film at the 47th Moscow International Film Festival for his Khasi-language film Ha Lyngkha Bneng (The Elysian Field). The film, which explores themes of community resilience and migration in a remote village, also received the NETPAC Award for Best Asian Film, marking a historic moment for Indian regional cinema. Kurbah dedicated the awards to the people of Meghalaya and his film crew, expressing gratitude for their support and collaboration. This recognition highlights the global appeal of stories rooted in local cultures and the growing prominence of Northeast Indian cinema on the world stage. Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma congratulated Kurbah, noting the state's support of 30 lakh for the film's production.

Foot notes:

- **Double Win**: Pradip Kurbah's film "Ha Lyngkha Bneng" won Best Film, and he was awarded Best Director at the 47th Moscow International Film Festival.
- **International Recognition**: The awards were presented by the Network for Promotion of Asian Cinema (NETPAC), recognizing outstanding feature films from the Asia-Pacific region.
- **National Award Winner**: Kurbah is a National Award winner (2014) and a self-taught filmmaker who promotes local talent and showcases Meghalaya's picturesque landscape.
- **Government Support**: The Meghalaya government supported Kurbah's film with 30 lakh funding, and Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma congratulated him, saying the win promotes local culture and showcases the state's abilities.

Payal Kapadia Receives Prestigious French Honour

Acclaimed Indian filmmaker Payal Kapadia has been honored with France's prestigious civilian award, the Officier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Officer of the Order of Arts and

Letters), in recognition of her outstanding contributions to cinema and the cultural ties between France and India. The award was presented by Jean-Marc Séré-Charlet, the Consul General of France in Mumbai, during a ceremony held at the French residence in Mumbai. ?Kapadia's debut fiction feature, All We Imagine as Light, an Indo-French co-production, garnered international acclaim by winning the Grand Prix at the 77th Cannes Film Festival in 2024, marking the first Indian film in three decades to receive a major award in Cannes' main competition.

Foot notes:

- **Award Details**: Payal Kapadia was conferred with the Officier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters) award by the French government for her outstanding contributions to cinema and cultural ties between France and India.
- **Historic Achievement**: Kapadia's film "All We Imagine As Light" won the Grand Prix at the 77th Cannes Film Festival, making her the first Indian director in 30 years to win an award in the festival's main competition.
- **Global Recognition**: "All We Imagine As Light" was also nominated for a Golden Globe and shortlisted as France's official entry for the Oscars' international category, showcasing Kapadia's growing international stature.
- **Previous Accolades**: Kapadia has previously won the Golden Eye award for her debut feature documentary "A Night of Knowing Nothing" and gained international recognition for her short film "Afternoon Clouds" at Cannes.

NICDC Honored with Udyog Vikas Award

The National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC) has been honored with the Udyog Vikas Award at the Udyog Vikas 2025 event organized by Janmabhumi Daily in Palakkad, Kerala. This prestigious recognition highlights NICDC's pivotal role in transforming India's industrial landscape, particularly through the development of the Palakkad Industrial Smart City. The project spans 1,710 acres across Pudussery Central, Pudussery West, and Kannambra, and is strategically located 21 km from Palakkad city, 120 km from Cochin, and 50 km from Coimbatore, offering excellent connectivity via road, rail, and air.

Foot notes:

- **NICDC's Achievement**: The National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC) was honored with the Udyog Vikas Award for its outstanding contributions to industrial development, particularly in creating Greenfield Industrial Smart Cities.
- **Award Event**: The award was presented at a prestigious event organized by Janmabhumi Daily, a leading newspaper in Kerala, highlighting NICDC's pivotal role in India's industrial transformation.
- **Palakkad Industrial Smart City**: NICDC's development of the Palakkad Industrial Smart City was specifically recognized, showcasing its potential to become a key industrial hub in South India, driving regional innovation and employment.

- **Government Commitment**: Minister of State for Heavy Industries, Public Enterprises, and Steel, Shri Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa Varma, emphasized the Union Government's commitment to developing state-of-the-art Greenfield Industrial Smart Cities across India.
- **NICDC's Objectives**: As a premier government body, NICDC aims to develop futuristic industrial cities integrated with smart technologies, create globally competitive manufacturing hubs, and foster industrial investments and innovation.

President Honored 71 Individulas With Padma Awards

On April 28, 2025, President Droupadi Murmu conferred the prestigious Padma Awards to 71 distinguished individuals during the Civil Investiture Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. The awards were distributed across three categories: four Padma Vibhushan, ten Padma Bhushan, and fifty-seven Padma Shri, recognizing exceptional contributions in various fields such as art, public affairs, science, sports, and social work. Notable recipients included violinist Dr. L. Subramaniam and gastroenterologist Dr. D. Nageshwar Reddy, both honored with the Padma Vibhushan for their outstanding achievements in music and medicine, respectively.

Foot notes:

- **Padma Awards Ceremony**: President Murmu conferred the prestigious Padma Awards on 71 distinguished individuals during the Civil Investiture Ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhawan's Durbar Hall in New Delhi.
- **Award Categories**: The awardees included four Padma Vibhushan, 10 Padma Bhushan, and 57 Padma Shri recipients, recognizing outstanding contributions across arts, medicine, sports, public affairs, and social work.
- **Notable Recipients**: Renowned violinist L. Subramaniam received the Padma Vibhushan, while notable Padma Bhushan recipients included actor Nandamuri Balakrishna, filmmaker Shekhar Kapur, and former Indian hockey goalkeeper P.R. Sreejesh.
- **Diverse Achievers**: The awardees comprised individuals from various fields, including art, sports, science, and public service.

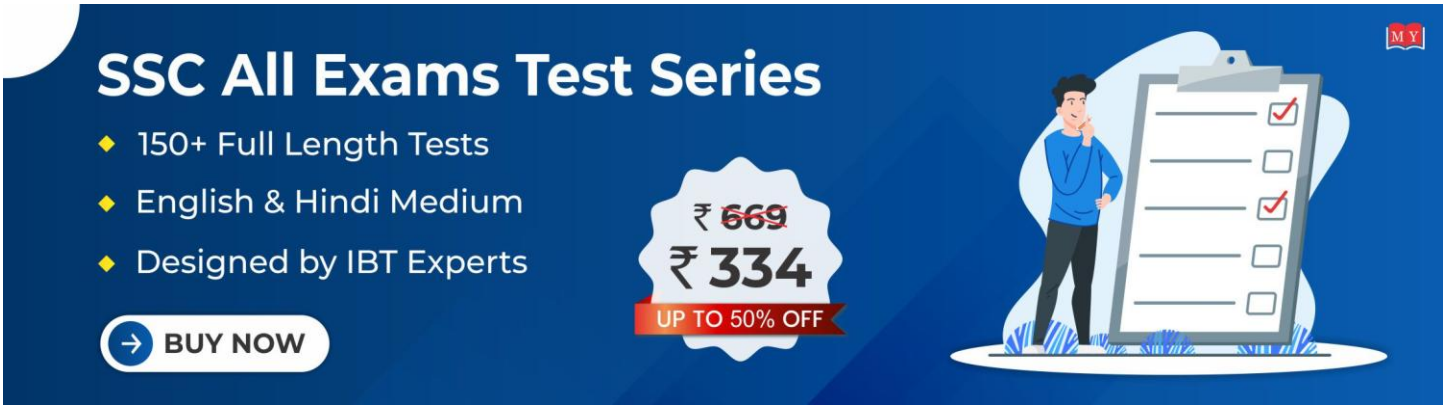
PR Sreejesh, coach of the Indian Junior Men's Team, honoured with Padma Bhushan award

PR Sreejesh, the former Indian hockey goalkeeper and current coach of the Indian Men's Junior Hockey Team, has been conferred with the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian award, for his outstanding contributions to sports. The award was presented by President Droupadi Murmu at a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan on April 28, 2025. Sreejesh's illustrious career includes 336 international caps and pivotal roles in securing bronze medals for India at the Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 Olympics. Notably, he is the only hockey goalkeeper globally to have won the FIH Goalkeeper of the Year award three times. Following his

retirement after the Paris Olympics, Sreejesh transitioned to coaching, leading the Indian junior team to victory at the Junior Asia Cup in November 2024.

Foot notes:

- **Award Ceremony**: PR Sreejesh received the Padma Bhushan award from President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on April 27, 2025.
- **Second Hockey Player**: Sreejesh is only the second hockey player after Major Dhyan Chand to receive the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian honor, with Major Dhyan Chand receiving it in 1956.
- **Career Highlights**: Sreejesh had an illustrious 18-year international career, earning 336 caps for India and winning numerous accolades, including the FIH Goalkeeper of the Year award three times (2021, 2022, and 2024).
- **Current Role**: Sreejesh is currently the coach of the Indian Junior Men's Team, leading them to a memorable Junior Asia Cup title win in November 2024.
- **Achievements**: He won two Asian Games gold medals (2014 and 2022), an Asian Games bronze medal (2018), and two Commonwealth Games silver medals (2014 and 2022).



Chirag Shetty, Satwik Rankireddy Honoured With Khel Ratna 2023

Indian badminton stars Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy were honored with the prestigious Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award for 2023 in a ceremony held in New Delhi on May 1, 2025. The duo had been announced as recipients last year but missed the original ceremony due to tournament commitments and personal reasons, including the passing of Satwik's father . Their achievements include becoming the first Indian men's doubles pair to reach the world No. 1 ranking, winning gold at the 2022 Asian Games, and clinching the 2023 Asian Championships title . Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya presented the award, praising their dedication and exceptional performances on the court .

Foot notes:

- **Award Details**: Satwik-Chirag received the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award, India's highest sporting honor, from Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya on May 1, 2025.

- **Reason for Honor**: The duo was recognized for achieving the World No. 1 ranking in the Badminton World Federation (BWF) rankings in 2023 and clinching the Asian Games gold medal in Hangzhou.
- **Government Support**: Chirag Shetty and Satwik Rankireddy credited the Government of India's support for their success, highlighting initiatives like Khelo India and Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).
- **Delayed Ceremony**: Although they were shortlisted for the Khel Ratna award in 2023, they couldn't receive it then due to tournament commitments and finally got the award in 2025.
- **Future Tournaments**: The Indian badminton pair is set to participate in upcoming tournaments, including the Singapore Open (May 27 - June 1) and Indonesia Open (June 3-8).

IGCC Dhaka honors Ustad Zakir Hussain with a music tribute

The Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) in Dhaka, under the High Commission of India, recently hosted a musical tribute to the legendary tabla maestro Ustad Zakir Hussain. The event featured a captivating tabla recital by Pallav Sanyal and his ensemble, followed by performances from renowned sarodist Rajrupa Chowdhury and accompanying tabla artists. Their intricate rhythms and soulful melodies paid homage to Hussain's unparalleled contributions to Indian classical music. Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Pranay Verma, lauded Ustad Zakir Hussain as a global icon and national treasure, emphasizing his role in elevating Indian classical music on the world stage.

Foot notes:

- **Celebrating 70 Years of India-Bangladesh Diplomatic Relations**: The event was part of the celebrations marking 70 years of diplomatic relations between India and Bangladesh.
- **Musical Tribute:** The event featured a musical tribute to Ustad Zakir Hussain, showcasing his contributions to Indian classical music and his legacy.
- **Cultural Exchange**: The event highlighted the strong cultural ties between India and Bangladesh, with Ustad Zakir Hussain being a prominent figure in promoting Indian classical music globally.
- **Honoring a Legend**: The tribute event was a fitting recognition of Ustad Zakir Hussain's achievements and contributions to music, both in India and internationally.

Sonia Bompastor and Catarina Macario nominated for WSL awards

Chelsea FC Women’s manager Sonia Bompastor and forward Catarina Macario have been nominated for the Women's Super League (WSL) Manager of the Month and Goal of the Month awards for April 2025, respectively. Bompastor guided Chelsea to two victories in April, including a decisive 1-0 win over Manchester United that clinched the WSL title in her debut

season . Macario's nomination follows her impressive goal against Crystal Palace, where she skillfully finished from a Sandy Baltimore cross during Chelsea's 4-0 triumph .

Foot notes:

- **Sonia Bompastor's Nomination**: Sonia Bompastor has been nominated for the Women's Super League Manager of the Month award for April, after securing the league title with two wins from two WSL games in April.
- **Catarina Macario's Nomination**: Catarina Macario's strike against Crystal Palace is up for the Goal of the Month prize, where she scored Chelsea's second goal with a smart finish from Sandy Baltimore's cross.
- **Chelsea's Wins:** Chelsea defeated Crystal Palace 4-0 at Kingmeadow and clinched the trophy with a 1-0 win over Manchester United, showcasing their dominance in the league.
- **Voting Details**: Voting for Manager of the Month and Goal of the Month is open until May 3, 12 noon, with the winner announced on May 6.

APPOINTMENT & PERSON IN NEWS

VOC Automotive onboards Ravichandran Ashwin as brand ambassador and investor

VOC Automotive, a leading multi-brand two-wheeler service network in India, has announced the appointment of cricketer Ravichandran Ashwin as its brand ambassador and strategic investor. Founded in 2019 by Venkatesh B M and Lokesh S, the company has expanded to over 150 stores nationwide and aims to reach 300 outlets with a projected revenue of 50 crore by FY26 .? This collaboration marks a significant milestone for VOC Automotive as it continues to redefine the two-wheeler service landscape across the country. As the company gears up for its next phase of expansion, Ashwin's endorsement and strategic insight are anticipated to boost the brand's visibility and influence, setting new standards in the two-wheeler service sector.

Foot notes:

- **Cricket Career**: Ravichandran Ashwin is a renowned Indian cricketer, widely regarded as one of the most prolific spinners of all time, with over 500 wickets in Tests.
- **Awards and Recognition**: He was awarded the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civilian honor, in April 2025, for his contributions to Indian sports.
- **International Cricket**: Ashwin represented the Indian cricket team in various formats, including Tests, ODIs, and T20Is, and was part of the team that won the 2011: IPL Success: Ashwin played for the Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in the Indian Premier League (IPL), winning two IPL titles (2010, 2011) and the 2014 Champions League Twenty20.
- **Test Cricket Achievements**: He became the fastest bowler to reach 300 Test wickets in terms of innings and holds the record for the second-highest rating points by an Indian bowler in Test cricket.

Kamla Persad-Bissessar's Comeback as PM of Trinidad and Tobago

Kamla Persad-Bissessar has made a remarkable political comeback, reclaiming the position of Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago after a decisive victory in the 2025 general elections. Her party, the United National Congress (UNC), in alliance with the Coalition of Interests, secured 26 out of 41 seats in the House of Representatives, defeating the ruling People's National Movement (PNM), which won 13 seats. This election was prompted by the dissolution of Parliament by Prime Minister Stuart Young, who had recently succeeded Keith Rowley, amid public discontent over his unelected appointment. At 73, Persad-Bissessar, the nation's first female prime minister who previously served from 2010 to 2015, has pledged to address the country's escalating crime and economic challenges.

Foot notes:

- **Election Victory**: Kamla Persad-Bissessar's United National Congress (UNC) secured a decisive victory in the snap elections, winning 26 out of 41 seats in the House of Representatives.
- **Comeback After a Gap**: Persad-Bissessar, 73, previously served as Prime Minister from 2010-2015 and has now made a remarkable comeback, marking a significant shift in the country's politics.
- **Key Challenges**: Persad-Bissessar has pledged to address pressing issues such as crime and economic instability, promising reforms in salaries and pension protections for public workers and the elderly.
- **Economic Revival Plans**: Her administration plans to revive Petrotrin, Trinidad and Tobago's defunct state-owned oil company, which was shuttered in 2018 due to governance concerns.
- **International Congratulations**: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Persad-Bissessar on her election victory, looking forward to working with her to strengthen the partnership between the two nations for shared prosperity and well-being.

IndusInd Bank CEO Sumant Kathpalia Resigns

IndusInd Bank CEO Sumant Kathpalia has officially resigned from his position. His resignation comes after serving the bank in a key leadership role for several years. Under his tenure, the bank saw steady growth and expansion across various financial sectors. The resignation has been submitted to the board and is currently under review. The bank is expected to initiate the process of appointing a new CEO soon. Kathpalia’s exit marks a significant change in the bank’s leadership landscape.

Foot notes:

- **Accounting Lapses**: The lapses resulted in a loss of nearly ?2,000 crore, prompting the bank to seek approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to constitute a committee of executives to oversee CEO duties temporarily.

- **Investigation**: Grant Thornton, appointed by the bank to investigate the discrepancies, identified incorrect accounting of internal derivatives trades as the root cause of the issue.
- **Tenure**: Kathpalia's term as MD & CEO was recently extended by one year by the RBI in March 2025, despite the bank's board clearing him for a three-year extension.
- **Career Background**: Kathpalia, a chartered accountant, joined IndusInd Bank in 2008 and was instrumental in developing the bank's consumer loans portfolio. He took over as MD & CEO in March 2020.

About IndusInd Bank:
Senior Vice President: Vishal Ukarde
Founded: 1994
Headquarters: Mumbai

Anant Ambani appointed as Executive Director of Reliance Industries Ltd

Anant Ambani, the youngest son of Mukesh Ambani, has been appointed as Executive Director of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) for a five-year term starting May 1, 2025, pending shareholder approval . Previously serving as a non-executive director, Anant has been actively involved in RIL's energy and sustainability initiatives, aligning with the company's goal to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2035 . He also holds positions on the boards of several Reliance subsidiaries, including Jio Platforms, Reliance Retail Ventures, Reliance New Energy, and Reliance New Solar Energy . Anant's appointment marks a significant step in the Ambani family's succession planning, with his siblings Akash and Isha Ambani already holding key roles in Reliance's telecom and retail divisions, respectively .

Foot notes:

- **Role and Responsibilities** : As a whole-time director, Anant will assume executive responsibilities within RIL's leadership team, focusing on the company's energy and sustainability initiatives, aiming to make Reliance a net-zero carbon company by 2035.
- **Leadership Experience** : Anant has been on the boards of several RIL subsidiaries, including Jio Platforms Ltd, Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd, Reliance New Energy Ltd, and Reliance New Solar Energy Ltd, showcasing his growing leadership role within the Reliance group.
- **Family Succession Plan** : Anant's appointment is part of the Ambani family's succession planning, with his siblings Akash Ambani and Isha Ambani Piramal already holding key roles in Reliance Jio Infocomm and Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd, respectively.
- **Educational Background** : Anant Ambani holds a Bachelor's degree from Brown University in the United States, bringing international academic exposure to his executive responsibilities at RIL.

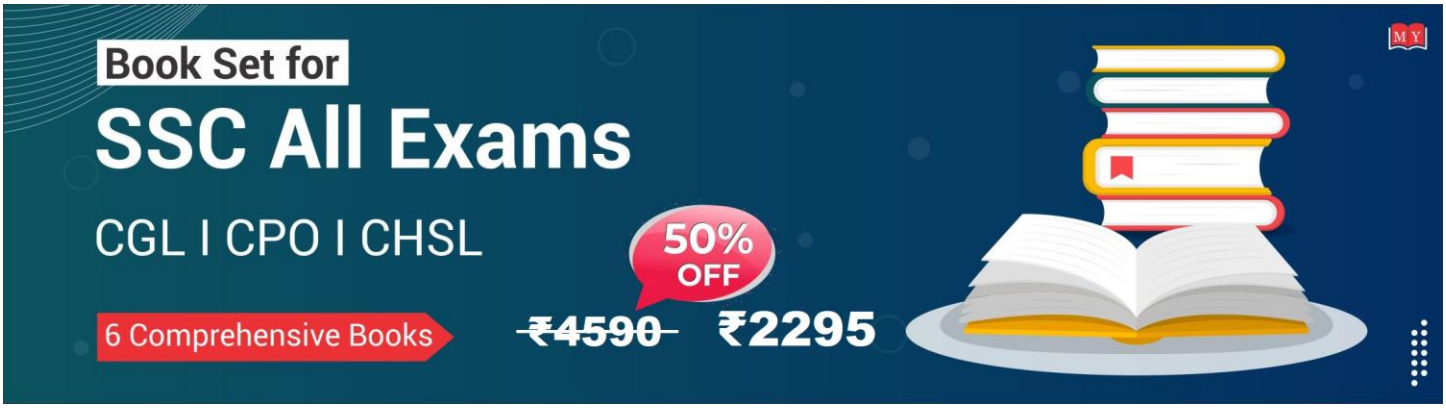
Amit Kumar appointed as Private Secretary to the Minister for Tribal Affairs Jual Oram

Amit Kumar, a 2010-batch IAS officer from the Jharkhand cadre, has been appointed as the Private Secretary to Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Jual Oram. The appointment, approved

by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, is at the Director level for a tenure of five years or until further orders . This move follows Minister Oram's request for the replacement of his previous Private Secretary, Dr. Parag Harshad Gavali, citing personal reasons and issues related to unauthorized absence from duty . In January 2025, Oram had written to the Prime Minister's Office seeking Gavali's replacement and later requested disciplinary action against him under the All-India Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules.

Foot notes:

- **Appointment Details**: Amit Kumar, a 2010-batch IAS officer of the Jharkhand cadre, has been appointed as Private Secretary to Minister for Tribal Affairs Jual Oram.
- **Tenure**: The appointment is for a period of five years from the date of taking over charge or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- **Role and Responsibilities**: As Private Secretary, Amit Kumar will serve at the Director level, handling key responsibilities and supporting the Minister in policy decisions.
- **Appointment Committee Approval**: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Amit Kumar's appointment, as per an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).
- **Effective Date**: Although the exact date of taking charge isn't specified, the DoPT order was issued on February 25, 2025, marking the beginning of the formal process.



James Taylor appointed as MD of Nissan GB

James Taylor has been appointed as the new Managing Director of Nissan Great Britain. With extensive experience in the automotive industry, Taylor is expected to bring strong leadership and strategic vision to the role. He takes over at a crucial time as Nissan continues to expand its electric vehicle offerings and strengthen its market position. Prior to this appointment, Taylor held several senior roles within the company, showcasing his expertise in sales, marketing, and operations. His leadership is anticipated to drive growth and innovation for Nissan GB in the coming years. Taylor's appointment reflects the company's commitment to nurturing talent from within and pushing forward its ambitious plans for the future.

Foot notes:

- **Background**: Torres has over 10 years of experience at Nissan, holding various global, regional, and market roles, including positions in North America and Latin America.

- **Previous Roles**: Before joining Nissan, Torres worked in the aviation and banking industries across Europe. Her first role with Nissan was as a senior finance controller at the Sunderland assembly plant.
- **Replacing Andrew Humberstone**: Torres succeeded Andrew Humberstone, who became the Managing Director of Nissan's Oceania region after serving as UK MD since 2020.
- **Key Focus Areas**: Torres aims to build a culture of collaboration, partnership, and innovation to drive growth and success in the UK market, focusing on design, electrification, and connectivity.
- **Leadership**: Torres reports to Mayra Gonzáles, Divisional Vice President of Marketing and Sales in Europe, and is leading a highly capable team with valued dealer partners who have delivered fantastic results in recent years.

About Nissan:
CEO: Ivan Espinosa
Founded: 2005
Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Dr Manoj Kumar Jhawar Appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of PTC India Limited

Dr. Manoj Kumar Jhawar has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director of PTC India Limited. With a distinguished career spanning several decades in the power and energy sector, Dr. Jhawar brings deep industry expertise to his new role. His appointment comes at a critical time as PTC India focuses on strengthening its position in energy trading and expanding its renewable energy initiatives. Prior to this, Dr. Jhawar held key leadership positions, where he played a pivotal role in driving operational excellence and strategic growth. His vision and leadership are expected to steer PTC India towards greater innovation and sustainability. The company believes that under Dr. Jhawar's guidance, it will achieve new milestones in the evolving energy landscape.

Foot notes:

- **Background**: Dr. Manoj Kumar Jhawar is a Ph.D. in Management Sciences from Devi Ahilya University, Indore, with a strong background in mechanical engineering and industrial engineering and management.
- **Appointment**: He has taken additional charge as Chairman and Managing Director of PTC India Limited, following Rajib Kumar Mishra's cessation as CMD due to a SEBI bar.
- **Experience**: Dr. Jhawar has over three decades of work experience in commercial, IT management, finance, and engineering domains, including senior leadership roles in the power distribution sector.
- **Previous Roles**: Before joining PTC India Limited, he served as Director (Finance) in KIOCL Ltd. and held various positions in Madhya Pradesh Paschim Kshetra Vidyut Vitaran Company Ltd., including Director (Finance) and Director (Commercial).

- **Responsibilities**: As Chairman and Managing Director, Dr. Jhawar will exercise powers delegated by the Board, overseeing the company's operations and strategic direction.

About PTC India Limited:
CEO: Neil Barua
Founded: 1985
Headquarters: U.S.

Keshav Kumar Pathak appointed as Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat

Keshav Kumar Pathak, a 1990-batch IAS officer from the Bihar cadre, has been appointed as Special Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. This appointment involves the temporary upgradation of a vacant Joint Secretary post to the rank and pay of Secretary, a measure personal to the officer. Prior to this, Mr. Pathak served as the Chairman of the Bihar Revenue Board, where he was recognized for his administrative acumen and commitment to reform. His central deputation marks a significant transition from state to national service, bringing his extensive experience to the Union government. Mr. Pathak's career has been characterized by a strong focus on discipline and accountability, notably during his tenure as Principal Secretary of the Education Department in Bihar.

Foot notes:

- **Rank and Pay:** Pathak will hold the rank and pay of Secretary to the Government of India, following the temporary upgrade of a vacant Joint Secretary post in the Cabinet Secretariat.
- **Background**: Before this appointment, Pathak was appointed as Additional Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat on April 18, 2025, and later empaneled for Secretary-level posts on April 21, 2025.
- **Previous Role**: Pathak is presently the Chairman of the Bihar Revenue Board and has been appointed to this new role as part of major bureaucratic changes aimed at reinforcing administrative efficiency.
- **Empanelment**: The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) modified an earlier posting order to reflect Pathak's empanelment for Secretary-level posts, allowing him to take on the Special Secretary role.

Shilpa Dyavaiah inducted as Superintendent of Police (SP) in CBI

India's Sudirman Cup 2025 campaign commenced with a 1–4 defeat against Denmark in their opening Group D match in Xiamen, China. The tie began with the mixed doubles match, where India's Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto lost to Jesper Toft and Amalie Magelund 13–21, 14–21. In the men's singles, HS Prannoy was defeated by Anders Antonsen with scores of 15–21, 16–21. The men's doubles pair, Hariharan Amsakarunan and Ruban Kumar Rethinasabapathi, suffered a heavy loss to Kim Astrup and Anders Rasmussen, 7–21, 4–21. PV Sindhu, in the women's singles, narrowly lost to Line Kjaersfeldt in straight games, 20–22, 21–23. India's sole

victory came in the women's doubles, where Tanisha Crasto and Shruti Mishra defeated Natasja Anthonisen and Alexandra Bøje 21–13, 21–18

Foot notes:

- **Background and Experience**: Dyavaiah has a commendable career in law enforcement, serving as Assistant Superintendent of Police in Kasaragod and Kannur, and later as Commandant of the Kerala Women Police Battalion. She was also the first woman SP of Kasaragod.
- **Notable Achievements**: She effectively handled critical investigations, including the Kood andathi cyanide murder case, and led law enforcement operations during the COVID-19 pandemic as the District Police Chief of Kottayam.
- **Appointment Order**: The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) issued an order on March 28, 2025, for her induction as SP in CBI, recognizing her investigative acumen and experience in handling law-and-order challenges.
- **Professional Background**: Before joining the IPS, Dyavaiah worked as a Business Analyst with Tata Consultancy Services, bringing strong analytical skills to her policing career.

DIG Ashish Mehrotra assumed office as Commander of the Indian Coast

DIG Ashish Mehrotra has officially assumed office as the Commander of the Indian Coast Guard. He brings with him extensive experience in maritime operations and coastal security. His appointment comes at a crucial time when coastal surveillance and maritime law enforcement are of increasing national importance. As Commander, he will be responsible for overseeing operations, safety, and strategic preparedness along India’s vast coastline. Mehrotra is known for his leadership skills and commitment to strengthening coastal defense mechanisms. His new role is expected to enhance the operational efficiency and coordination of the Indian Coast Guard.

Foot notes:

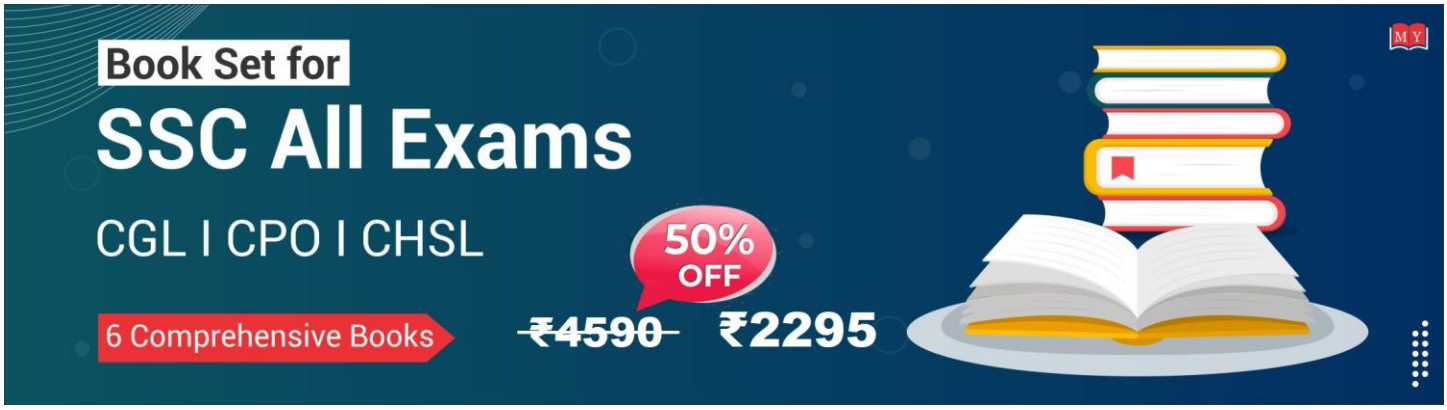
- **Designation**: Although the exact position is unclear, a DIG Ashish Tellicherry is mentioned as the District Commander CGDHQ-16. It's uncertain if this refers to the same person, as there's a slight discrepancy in the surname.
- **Operational Experience**: Ashish Mehrotra has been involved in significant operations, including search and rescue missions. In 2014, he was mentioned as Commandant Joint Director (Ops & SAR).
- **Rescue Operations**: Under his involvement in operations, the Indian Coast Guard has conducted several rescue missions, including a notable joint rescue operation with forest personnel in Tugapur flood-affected areas in 2013.
- **Administrative Role**: As a senior officer, Ashish Mehrotra likely oversees administrative tasks, including managing coast guard stations and coordinating with other authorities.

President Appoints Justice Gavai As 52nd CJI Of India

The President of India has appointed Justice Gavai as the 52nd Chief Justice of India (CJI). This marks a significant milestone in the Indian judiciary, as Justice Gavai brings decades of legal experience to the highest judicial office. He has previously served with distinction in various capacities within the judicial system. Known for his fairness and deep understanding of constitutional law, Justice Gavai is expected to uphold the integrity of the Supreme Court. His appointment reflects the government's confidence in his ability to lead the judiciary during challenging times. As Chief Justice, he will play a crucial role in shaping key legal and constitutional decisions for the country.

Foot notes:

- **Background**: Born on November 24, 1960, in Amravati, Maharashtra, Justice Gavai joined the bar in 1985 and practiced mainly in constitutional and administrative law.
- **Judicial Experience**: He was elevated to the Supreme Court on May 24, 2019, and has been part of several significant verdicts, including upholding the central government's 2016 demonetization decision and declaring the electoral bonds scheme unconstitutional.
- **Historic Significance**: Justice Gavai's appointment marks a notable moment, as he becomes only the second Dalit judge to hold the position after Justice K G Balakrishnan.



IAS Vinod Kumar Gunjiyal Assumes Charge as the Chief Electoral Officer of Bihar

IAS officer Vinod Kumar Gunjiyal has been appointed as the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Bihar by the Election Commission of India, ahead of the state's Assembly elections scheduled for October-November 2025. A 2007-batch officer from the Bihar cadre, Gunjiyal succeeds H R Srinivas, a 1996-batch IAS officer. Born on January 4, 1979, he holds a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. Throughout his administrative career, Gunjiyal has held several key positions, including Secretary of the Prohibition, Excise & Registration Department, where he was instrumental in strengthening regulatory frameworks and enhancing departmental efficiency.

Foot notes:

- **Current Responsibilities**: As CEO, he ensures the smooth conduct of elections, updates electoral rolls, and implements the Election Commission of India's directives.

- **Background**: Gunjiyal is a 2007-batch IAS officer from the Bihar cadre, previously serving as Director of Student and Youth Affairs.
- **Electoral Roll Updates**: Under his supervision, the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Bihar, has been updating electoral rolls, including draft and final rolls with respect to specific dates.
- **Transparency and Accessibility**: The CEO's office provides information on various electoral processes, including voter registration, polling stations and election results, through its official website.

About Bihar:
CM: Nitish Kumar
Capital: Patna
Official languages: Urdu, Hindi

Viplav Kumar Choudhry appointed as Special Director of Enforcement in Directorate of Enforcement

Viplav Kumar Choudhry, a 1997-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the AGMUT cadre, has been appointed as Special Director in the Enforcement Directorate (ED) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) . Prior to this appointment, Choudhry served as the Special Commissioner of Police (Vigilance) in the Delhi Police . These Special Directors are responsible for overseeing regional offices in cities such as Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, and Chandigarh, as well as special units at the ED headquarters in Delhi.

Foot notes:

- **Current Role**: Before his appointment, Choudhry was serving as Special Commissioner of Police (CP) Vigilance in Delhi Police and had recently returned from central deputation after serving for seven years.
- **Appointment Approval**: The Department of Personnel & Training, Secretariat of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, approved his appointment, waiving the mandatory cooling-off period.
- **Notification**: The government notified his appointment on April 21, 2025, along with other officers, including T. Sankar, N. Padmanaban, Rajnish Dev Barman, and Manu Tentiwal.
- His new role places him among five senior officers recently appointed as Special Directors in the ED, a move that brings the agency's leadership to its full sanctioned strength of eight Special Directors .

LG Electronics India onboards Vantika Agrawal as brand ambassador

LG Electronics India has appointed Vantika Agrawal, a distinguished Indian chess player, as its new brand ambassador. Agrawal, who holds the titles of Woman Grandmaster and International Master, has achieved significant milestones, including securing two gold medals at the 45th Chess Olympiad in Budapest (2024) and receiving the prestigious Arjuna Award in 2025 .?This

collaboration reflects LG's commitment to aligning with individuals who exemplify excellence, strategic thinking, and a forward-looking mindset. Hong Ju Jeon, Managing Director of LG Electronics India, expressed enthusiasm about the partnership, stating that Agrawal's relentless pursuit of excellence mirrors LG's dedication to innovation and improving consumer lives .

Foot notes:

- **Achievements**: She's a three-time Chess Olympiad gold medalist, including two golds at the 45th Chess Olympiad in 2024, and a silver medalist at the Hangzhou 2022 Asian Games.
- **Partnership Significance**: The partnership underscores LG Electronics India's commitment to empowering young achievers and enhancing lives through innovative products.
- **Brand Alignment**: Vantika's relentless pursuit of excellence and forward-thinking mindset align with LG's values and aspirations for a new, ambitious India.
- **LG's "Life's Good" Promise**: Vantika resonates with LG's brand promise, emphasizing creating a better quality of life for all, reflecting her own journey of continuous learning and evolution.

About LG:

CEO: Jo Seong-Jin
Founded: 1947
Headquarters: South Korea

Crocs onboards Rashmika Mandanna as global ambassador

Crocs has appointed Indian actress Rashmika Mandanna as its global brand ambassador from India, marking a strategic move to deepen its presence in the Indian market. The collaboration kicks off with the "Your Crocs. Your Story. Your World." campaign, which emphasizes the brand's Classics collection and customizable Jibbitz™ charms as tools for personal expression. The campaign features a visually rich film that blends CGI and live-action to depict Mandanna's daily life, showcasing how Crocs can be a canvas for individuality and style. Mandanna expressed her enthusiasm for the partnership, highlighting her connection to Crocs' fun colors, quirky silhouettes, and the brand's celebration of unapologetic individuality.

Foot notes:

- **Campaign Launch**: The collaboration launches with the "Your Crocs. Your Story. Your World." campaign, promoting the Classics collection and Jibbitz charms as everyday style essentials that celebrate individuality.
- **Brand Alignment**: Rashmika Mandanna embodies the values of Crocs, including authenticity, confidence, and personal expression, making her a perfect fit for the brand. She loves the brand's fun colors, quirky silhouettes, and unapologetic individuality.
- **360-Degree Campaign**: The campaign will roll out across digital, social, retail, and exclusive brand experiences, showcasing Crocs as a canvas for self-expression and

individuality. It features magical surrealism and CGI visuals, highlighting the customization options with Jibbitz charms.

About Crocs
CEO: Andrew Rees
Founded: 2002
Headquarters: United States

Ex-RAW Chief Alok Joshi Appointed Head of Revamped National Security Board

Former Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief Alok Joshi has been appointed as the Chairman of the reconstituted National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) by the Indian government. This strategic move follows the recent Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir, which resulted in 26 fatalities and heightened tensions with Pakistan. The revamped NSAB comprises seven members, including retired senior officers from the military, police, and foreign services, such as Air Marshal PM Sinha, Lt Gen AK Singh, Rear Admiral Monty Khanna, IPS officers Rajiv Ranjan Verma and Manmohan Singh, and former diplomat B Venkatesh Varma. The board's primary role is to provide long-term assessments and policy recommendations on national security issues to the National Security Council, which is headed by the Prime Minister.

Foot notes:

- **Background**: Joshi has a distinguished career in intelligence, having served as the Secretary of R&AW from 2012 to 2014 and holding various positions in the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and RAW.
- **NSAB Revamp**: The NSAB has been revamped with six new members inducted, including retired military officers like Air Marshal P.M. Sinha, Lieutenant General A.K. Singh, and Rear Admiral Monty Khanna, as well as retired IPS officers Rajiv Ranjan Verma and Manmohan Singh.
- **Security Context**: The appointment comes after a recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, which killed 26 civilians, and a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to review the situation.
- **Expertise**: As head of NSAB, Alok Joshi will leverage his experience in counter-terrorism and strategic intelligence to advise the government on national security matters, enhancing India's security apparatus.

Sujata Chaturvedi Appointed as a UPSC Board Member

Sujata Chaturvedi has been appointed as a member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). She is a retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the 1989 batch of the Bihar cadre. Before this appointment, she served as the Secretary of the Department of Youth Affairs in the Government of India. Her vast administrative experience across various ministries makes her a valuable addition to the UPSC. Chaturvedi’s appointment is expected to enhance the commission’s functioning in conducting prestigious civil service examinations.

Foot notes:

- **Appointment as Sports Secretary**: She was appointed as Secretary, Department of Sports in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in September 2021, taking over from Ravi Mittal.
- **Background**: Chaturvedi has previously served as an Additional Secretary in the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).
- **Tenure as SAI DG**: She has been entrusted with the additional charge of DG, SAI on an interim basis, effective October 1, 2024, until a regular incumbent is appointed or further orders.
- **Experience**: With over three decades of experience in governance, Chaturvedi has held key positions, showcasing her expertise in administration and sports development.



OPG Mobility appoints Ajay Dhiman as President

OPG Mobility, formerly known as Okaya EV, has appointed Ajay Dhiman as President, Chief Operating Officer (COO), and Chief Technology Officer (CTO) to spearhead its Electric Vehicle and EV Components division. In this strategic leadership role, Dhiman will oversee core operational and technological functions, including manufacturing, research and development, product development, quality assurance, strategic sourcing, supply chain management, and business strategy. With over two decades of experience in the automotive and EV industry, Dhiman previously served as Senior Vice President at Revolt Motors, where he led operations, R&D, product engineering, strategic sourcing, supply chain, and P&L management.

Foot notes:

- **Appointment Details**: Unfortunately, the search results don't provide specific details about Ajay Dhiman's appointment as President, including the date and his background.
- **OPG Mobility's Vision**: The company aims to lead India's transition to a zero-emission and smart transportation ecosystem, delivering innovative, reliable, and safe electric mobility solutions.
- **Product Range**: OPG Mobility offers a diverse range of high-quality electric vehicles, including:
- **FAAST F4**: Ex-showroom price 1,099,999, top speed 70 km/hr, range 160 km

- **DEFY 22**: Introductory price 99,999, top speed 70 km/hr, range 80 km
- **FAAST F3**: Ex-showroom price 1,049,999, top speed 70 km/hr, range 120-130 km

Paul & Shark appoints KL Rahul as Global Brand Ambassador

Italian luxury clothing brand Paul & Shark has appointed Indian cricketer KL Rahul as its first-ever global brand ambassador from India, marking a significant milestone in the brand's 15-year presence in the country. Rahul will lead the Spring/Summer 2025 campaign, which launched globally on May 2, 2025, across Paul & Shark's platforms and his own social media channels, with a special focus on the Indian market. The collaboration reflects shared values of authenticity, adventure, and contemporary elegance, aligning Rahul's distinctive style with the brand's commitment to Italian craftsmanship and innovation.

Foot notes:

- **Recent Partnerships**: In November 2024, Rahul partnered with Police Lifestyle for a two-year term, launching a collection of leather goods. He also introduced a premium cricket equipment line, KLR x SG, with Sanspareils Greenlands.
- **Diverse Endorsements**: Rahul's endorsements span various sectors, including sports, fashion, and technology. He has worked with Hublot, a luxury Swiss watch brand, and NUMI Paris, a French luxury eyewear brand.
- **Entrepreneurial Ventures**: Rahul has invested in and become a brand ambassador for HyugaLife, a health and wellness platform, and Gully, a streetwear brand he co-founded.
- **Fitness and Wellness**: He has also partnered with Cure.fit and ARC Athlete Recovery, highlighting his interest in fitness and wellness.

Air Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari assumed the role of 49th Vice Chief of the Air Staff

Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari assumed the role of the 49th Vice Chief of the Air Staff on May 2, 2025, succeeding Air Marshal S P Dharkar, who retired on April 30. Prior to this appointment, he served as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the South Western Air Command in Gandhinagar. Commissioned into the fighter stream in June 1986, Air Marshal Tiwari is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy and a recipient of the President's Gold Medal. A qualified flying instructor and experimental test pilot, he has extensive experience flying various aircraft, notably the Mirage-2000, and played a significant role during the Kargil conflict.

Foot notes:

- **Background and Experience**: Tiwari is a seasoned officer with over 37 years of flying experience, including more than 3,600 hours on various fighter jets. He has served as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the South Western Air Command and Deputy Chief of the Air Staff.
- **Notable Roles**: He has held key positions such as Chief Test Pilot at the Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment (ASTE) and Air Attaché at the Embassy of India in

France. Tiwari has also been instrumental in test flying HAL Tejas and extensive weapons testing on Mirage 2000.

- **Awards and Decorations**: Air Marshal Tiwari has been awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal in 2025, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2022, and Vayu Sena Medal in 2008 for his exceptional service.

IMPORTANT DAY NEWS

World Intellectual Property Day is observed on April 26

World Intellectual Property Day is celebrated every year on April 26 to raise awareness about the role that intellectual property (IP) rights play in encouraging innovation and creativity. The event was established by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in 2000. Each year, the day focuses on a specific theme, highlighting the importance of patents, copyrights, trademarks, and designs in promoting technological and artistic advancements. It also recognizes the contributions of inventors, artists, and entrepreneurs to the growth of economies and societies. Educational campaigns, exhibitions, and discussions are organized worldwide to mark the occasion.

Foot notes:

- **Establishment**: World Intellectual Property Day was established by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in 2000, with April 26 chosen to commemorate the date the WIPO Convention entered into force in 1970.
- **Annual Themes**: Each year, WIPO selects a theme for World Intellectual Property Day, such as "Intellectual Property and Music: Feel the Beat of IP" for 2025, to highlight specific aspects of intellectual property.
- **Global Celebrations**: The day is celebrated worldwide with events like conferences, exhibitions, workshops, and webinars, organized by IP offices, law firms, and private companies to promote understanding of intellectual property rights.

International Dance Day observed on 29 April

International Dance Day is celebrated annually on April 29 to honor the art of dance and its universal appeal. Established in 1982 by the International Theatre Institute (ITI) in partnership with UNESCO, the date commemorates the birth anniversary of Jean-Georges Noverre (1727–1810), a French dancer and ballet master regarded as the creator of modern ballet .? The day aims to raise awareness about the value of dance as an art form, a means of cultural expression, and an educational tool. It encourages participation and education in dance through events and festivals held worldwide, promoting inclusivity and cultural diversity .?

Foot notes:

- **Date and Purpose**: International Dance Day is celebrated annually on April 29 to promote dance and encourage people to appreciate its beauty and significance.

- **Founder and Significance**: The International Dance Council (CID) of UNESCO established International Dance Day in 1982 to recognize dance as a universal language that transcends cultural boundaries.
- **Global Celebrations**: The day is marked with dance performances, workshops, and events worldwide, showcasing diverse dance styles and traditions.
- **Theme**: Each year, International Dance Day may have a specific theme, highlighting different aspects of dance, such as its role in culture, education, or community building.

World Veterinary Day is observed on 30th April

World Veterinary Day is observed every year on 30th April to recognize and celebrate the crucial role veterinarians play in animal health, public health, and environmental protection. The day highlights the dedication of veterinary professionals who work tirelessly to ensure the well-being of animals and prevent zoonotic diseases. It also aims to raise awareness about the importance of animal care in maintaining food safety and global health. Various events, seminars, and outreach programs are organized worldwide to honor veterinary contributions. Each year, the day is observed with a specific theme that addresses a current challenge or goal in the veterinary field. The celebration fosters collaboration between animal health workers, governments, and the public to build a healthier future for both animals and humans.

Foot notes:

- **Purpose**: The day recognizes the crucial role veterinarians play in animal health, public health, and environmental protection.
- **Theme**: Each year, World Veterinary Day has a specific theme, highlighting various aspects of veterinary work, such as promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in the profession.
- **Global Impact**: Veterinarians contribute to global health by ensuring food safety, controlling zoonotic diseases, and promoting animal welfare.
- **Veterinary Profession**: The day acknowledges the dedication and hard work of veterinarians worldwide, who often work behind the scenes to protect animal and human health.



International Labour Day observed on 1st May

International Labour Day, also known as May Day, is observed on 1st May every year to honour the contributions and achievements of workers worldwide. It originated from the labour union movement in the late 19th century, especially the Haymarket affair in Chicago, which advocated for fair working conditions and an eight-hour workday. In India, Labour Day was first celebrated in 1923 in Chennai by the Labour Kisan Party. The day is marked by rallies, seminars, and public events highlighting workers' rights and welfare. Governments, trade unions, and organizations use this occasion to reaffirm their commitment to improving labour standards and ensuring social justice.

Foot notes:

- **Global Significance**: International Labour Day, also known as May Day or Workers' Day, is celebrated worldwide to recognize the contributions and achievements of workers and the labor movement.
- **Historical Roots**: The day originated from the labor union movement in the late 19th century, particularly the Haymarket affair in Chicago in 1886, where workers protested for an eight-hour workday.
- **Indian Context**: In India, Labour Day is also celebrated as Antarrashtriya Shramik Diwas or Kamgar Din, acknowledging the hard work and dedication of Indian workers.
- **Themes and Events**: The day is marked by various events, rallies, and campaigns, often focusing on workers' rights, fair wages, safe working conditions, and social justice.

OBITUARY NEWS

Renowned Historian M G S Narayanan passed away

Renowned historian Dr. M.G.S. Narayanan passed away on April 26, 2025, at the age of 93 due to age-related ailments at his residence in Malaparamba, Kozhikode. Born on August 20, 1932, in Ponnani, Kerala, he earned his Ph.D. from the University of Kerala in 1973. His doctoral thesis, later published as Perumals of Kerala, is considered a seminal work in reconstructing Kerala's political and cultural history during the Chera period. Dr. Narayanan served as the head of the Department of History at the University of Calicut from 1976 to 1990 and was the Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) from 2001 to 2003. He was known for his empirical approach to history, emphasizing the use of inscriptions and literature to understand the past. His contributions have left a lasting impact on Indian historiography, and he is survived by his wife, son, and daughter.

Foot notes:

- **Academic Contributions**: He headed the Department of History at Calicut University from 1976 to 1990 and served as the Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research from 2001 to 2003.

- **Notable Works**: Narayanan's notable works include "Cultural Symbiosis in Kerala" (1972), "Perumals of Kerala" (1972), and "Calicut: The City of Truth Revisited" (2006), showcasing his expertise in ancient history and cultural studies.
- **Research Focus**: His research focused on interpreting inscriptions and literature from ancient periods, particularly studying ancient scripts like Brahmi, Vattezhuttu, and Grantha, as well as Tamil and Sanskrit languages.
- **Legacy**: Narayanan was known for his Brahmin Oligarchy model and was a critic of Burton Stein's "segmentary state" model for the Chola Empire, contributing significantly to Indian historiography.

Veteran filmmaker Shaji N Karun passed away

Veteran Malayalam filmmaker Shaji N. Karun passed away on April 28, 2025, at the age of 73 after a prolonged battle with cancer. He died at his residence in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, leaving behind his wife Anasuya Devaki Warrier and sons Anil and Appu .?

Shaji N. Karun was renowned for his contributions to Indian cinema, particularly in Malayalam filmmaking. His debut film, Piravi (1988), garnered international acclaim, winning the Caméra d'Or – Mention d'honneur at the Cannes Film Festival. He was the inaugural chairman of the Kerala State Chalachitra Academy and the executive chairman of the International Film Festival of Kerala from 1998 to 2001.

Foot notes:

- **Awards and Recognition**: Shaji N Karun is a renowned Indian filmmaker and cinematographer who has won several awards, including the Best Director award at the 2014 Kerala State Film Awards.
- **Notable Works**: He is known for his work on films like "Piravi", which won the Caméra d'Or at the 1989 Cannes Film Festival.
- **Contribution to Indian Cinema**: Shaji N Karun has made significant contributions to Malayalam cinema, exploring themes of social justice, human relationships, and cultural heritage.
- **Career Span**: With a career spanning several decades, he has worked on various film projects, showcasing his versatility as a director and cinematographer.

Former national shooting coach Prof Sunny Thomas passed away

Former national shooting coach Prof. Sunny Thomas passed away on April 30, 2025, at the age of 84 in Kottayam, Kerala, following a cardiac arrest. A former English professor and accomplished shooter, Thomas served as India's national shooting coach from 1993 to 2012, during which Indian shooters secured 108 gold, 74 silver, and 53 bronze medals at major international events, including the Olympics, World Championships, Asian Games, and Commonwealth Games. He mentored several of India's top shooters, including Abhinav Bindra, Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Vijay Kumar, and Gagan Narang, and was honored with the Dronacharya Award in 2001 for his contributions to the sport.

Foot notes:

- **Coaching Legacy**: Thomas was the national coach of the Indian shooting team for 19 years (1993-2012) and played a pivotal role in shaping Indian shooting. He mentored Olympic champion Abhinav Bindra and other top shooters.
- **Achievements**: Under his leadership, Indian shooters won medals at the Olympics, World Championships, Asian Games, and Commonwealth Games. Notably, Abhinav Bindra won India's first individual Olympic gold medal in 2008 under Thomas's guidance.
- **Awards and Recognition**: Thomas was honored with the Dronacharya Award in 2001, India's highest sporting honor for coaches, recognizing his contributions to Indian sports.



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