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NATIONAL NEWS

India's metro network surpasses 1,000 km, becoming the 3rd largest globally

India's metro rail network has achieved a historic milestone by surpassing 1,000 kilometers in total operational length, making it the third-largest in the world. This achievement underscores India's rapid urbanization and commitment to sustainable urban mobility. Cities like Delhi, Bengaluru, and Mumbai have played key roles in this expansion, with ongoing projects in tier-2 cities further boosting the network. The metro systems have significantly reduced traffic congestion and carbon emissions while enhancing public transportation. India now stands alongside nations like China and the United States in advancing efficient and eco-friendly urban transit solutions.

Foot notes:

- The network now boasts an operational length of over 1,000 km, with projects covering 998+ km underway, which will further enhance urban mobility in India.
- India has surpassed Japan in metro rail projects and is now ranked third globally in operational metro network length, with plans to become the second-largest metro network in the world.
- The recent inauguration of the 2.8 km stretch between Janakpuri and Krishna Park of Delhi Metro Phase-IV has contributed to this achievement, with the Prime Minister also laying the foundation stone of the 26.5 km Rithala-Kundli section of Delhi Metro Phase-IV.
- With this growth, India's metro network is poised to continue revolutionizing urban travel, offering fast, safe, and efficient transportation, and becoming the backbone of cities across the country.
- This milestone is a testament to India's commitment to developing its infrastructure and improving the lives of its citizens, with the metro network playing a vital role in shaping the country's urban landscape.

Neeraj Chopra, recognized as best male javelin thrower in World for 2024

Neeraj Chopra has been recognized as the best male javelin thrower in the world for 2024, a remarkable achievement in his stellar career. The Indian athlete continues to dominate the global stage, showcasing exceptional skill and consistency. His performances throughout the year have been lauded by experts and fans alike, further solidifying his reputation as a world-class javelin thrower. Neeraj's dedication and perseverance have made him an inspiration for aspiring athletes around the globe. This recognition adds another feather to his cap, cementing his legacy in the history of athletics.

Foot notes:

- He had a consistent performance throughout 2024, finishing in the top two across various competitions, outperforming Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem and two-time world champion Anderson Peters.

- Chopra's silver medal at the Paris Olympics was a pivotal moment in securing this accolade, with a throw of 89.45m.
- He demonstrated remarkable consistency, finishing in the top two positions in every major competition he entered, including the Doha Diamond League and Lausanne Diamond League.
- Chopra's victory at the Paavo Nurmi Games in Turku, Finland, where he threw 85.97m, further solidified his standing among the world's elite javelin throwers.
- The magazine noted that while Chopra didn't win any Diamond League events, his consistent placements were crucial, and his Olympic success played a significant role in his ranking.
- This recognition is a testament to Chopra's hard work and dedication to the sport, and he continues to inspire countless young athletes in India and beyond.

Shiva Thapa Shines at 8th Elite Men's National Boxing Championship

Shiva Thapa delivered an outstanding performance at the 8th Elite Men's National Boxing Championship, showcasing his exceptional boxing skills. The celebrated boxer, known for his technical prowess and determination, proved why he is regarded as one of India's finest. Thapa's victory at the championship highlighted his relentless training and commitment to the sport. His performance added another prestigious title to his illustrious career, further enhancing his reputation in the boxing world. Fans and experts alike were impressed by his display of strength and precision in the ring.

Foot notes:

- He's representing Assam in the Welterweight category and just secured a 5-0 win over Himanshu Sangwan, showing off his dominant form.
- Thapa's performance has been stellar, and he's now entered the quarterfinals along with Sachin Siwach, who also delivered a commanding win in his respective bout.
- The championship has seen some intense matches, with Devendra Solanki of Rajasthan being one of the standout performers, securing his third straight win in the Flyweight category.
- Thapa's title defence is off to a great start, and he's looking strong in his bid to retain the championship title.
- The tournament has also seen some major upsets, like Abhinash Jamwal's 5-0 win over 2022 Youth World Boxing Champion Vanshaj Kumar.
- With his impressive wins, Thapa is definitely one to watch in the quarterfinals, and we can't wait to see how he performs next.

Tata Steel Develops India's First Hydrogen-Transport Pipes

Tata Steel has developed India's first hydrogen-transport pipes, marking a significant step towards sustainable energy solutions. These pipes are designed to safely transport hydrogen, a clean fuel, supporting the country's transition to a low-carbon economy. The innovation comes

as part of Tata Steel's efforts to enhance its product offerings for green energy applications. The hydrogen-transport pipes are expected to play a crucial role in enabling India's hydrogen infrastructure, fostering the use of hydrogen in various sectors. This development aligns with Tata Steel's commitment to supporting India's climate goals and contributing to the global clean energy transition.

Foot notes:

- Tata Steel has successfully developed India's first hydrogen-transport pipes, marking a significant milestone in the country's transition to cleaner energy.
- Collaboration: The development was done in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- Specialized Steel: The pipes are made from a specialized steel alloy that can withstand the high-pressure and high-purity requirements of hydrogen transportation.
- Reduced Carbon Footprint: The use of hydrogen as a clean energy carrier can significantly reduce India's carbon footprint and help achieve its climate goals.
- Future Applications: The successful development of these pipes paves the way for the widespread adoption of hydrogen fuel cell technology in various sectors, including transportation, power generation, and industrial processes.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau Resigns

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has announced his resignation, marking the end of his nearly decade-long leadership. Trudeau cited a desire to spend more time with his family and explore opportunities outside of politics as key reasons for his decision. During his tenure, he focused on climate action, economic growth, and promoting diversity, leaving a mixed legacy. The Liberal Party will now undergo a leadership race to determine his successor as Canada prepares for the next chapter. Trudeau's departure comes amid challenges such as economic pressures and shifting political dynamics in the country.

Foot notes:

- Trudeau's popularity had been waning due to various issues, including rising costs of living, immigration concerns, and his handling of international pressures.
- A significant factor contributing to his resignation was the ongoing row with India over the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Canadian soil, which led to a diplomatic battle between the two countries.
- The threat of tariffs from US President-elect Donald Trump also played a role, with Trump threatening to impose 25% tariffs on all Canadian goods if Ottawa didn't stem the flow of migrants and fentanyl into the US.
- Trudeau faced criticism from within his own Cabinet, including the resignation of Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, who dealt a significant blow to his leadership.

- The Canadian Prime Minister had been trailing his main rival, Conservative Pierre Poilievre, by 20 points in public opinion polls, making his position increasingly untenable.

Ali Al-Ismail Appointed Country Manager for Saudi Arabia by Snowflake

Ali Al-Ismail has been appointed as the Country Manager for Saudi Arabia by Snowflake, a leading data cloud company. In this role, he will oversee Snowflake's operations, drive business growth, and strengthen its presence in the Saudi market. Al-Ismail brings extensive experience in technology and leadership, making him well-equipped to align Snowflake's innovative solutions with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030. His appointment reflects Snowflake's commitment to expanding its footprint and supporting digital transformation initiatives in the region. This move marks a significant step in enhancing Snowflake's strategic partnerships and delivering data-driven solutions to organizations in Saudi Arabia.

Foot notes:

- Ali will be responsible for driving the company's growth in Saudi Arabia, developing relationships with customers and partners, and expanding the local team.
- He brings nearly 20 years of experience in sales leadership and business development, having held senior roles at companies like Oracle, Microsoft, and Cisco.
- Ali's top priority is to empower customers to harness the full potential of their data to drive successful business outcomes, supporting the Kingdom's digital transformation through Vision 2030.
- He will drive the adoption of Snowflake's AI Data Cloud across various industries, including public sector, financial services, oil and gas, manufacturing, and retail.
- Ali's appointment underscores Snowflake's commitment to growing its local business and supporting the Kingdom's vision to build a data-ready workforce and develop a data-driven economy.

District Court of Western Australia Judge appointed as a Supreme Court Judge

Judge Sarah Meredith from the District Court of Western Australia has been appointed as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Western Australia. Her appointment reflects her extensive legal expertise and commitment to upholding justice. Judge Meredith has garnered respect for her work in criminal, civil, and appellate matters during her tenure in the District Court. She will now contribute to the Supreme Court, the highest judicial body in the state, overseeing complex and significant cases. This elevation highlights her remarkable career trajectory and dedication to the legal profession.

Foot notes:

- She graduated from Murdoch University in 1994 with a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Commerce, and was admitted to practice in December 1996, starting her career in an international accounting firm before joining an international law firm.

- Justice Whitby was a Supreme Court Registrar for 11 years, during which she also served as Principal Registrar and Master of the Court, and as a Magistrate of Stirling Gardens Magistrates Court, gaining valuable insight into the workings of the Supreme Court.
- She was appointed a judge of the District Court of Western Australia in June 2021, where she gained experience in presiding over criminal and civil cases, further developing her judicial skills.
- Justice Whitby's appointment to the Supreme Court is a significant milestone in her career, and she is expected to bring her expertise and experience to the role, contributing to the Court's decision-making process.
- Her appointment is also a testament to the talent and dedication of the judges in the District Court of Western Australia, and demonstrates the opportunities for career advancement and professional growth within the judiciary.

China Unveils World's Longest Tunnel, Enhances BRI Connectivity

China has unveiled the world's longest tunnel, a groundbreaking infrastructure project aimed at enhancing connectivity under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Spanning over 200 kms, the tunnel significantly improves transportation networks between key trade hubs in Asia and Europe. Constructed using cutting-edge technology, the project demonstrates China's commitment to fostering regional economic integration and reducing transit times. The tunnel is expected to play a pivotal role in boosting international trade, further solidifying China's position as a global leader in infrastructure development. This ambitious feat underscores the nation's drive to expand its influence through sustainable and strategic connectivity projects.

Foot notes:

- The tunnel is a game-changer for trade and commerce, allowing for faster and more efficient movement of goods and people between China and other BRI countries.
- The BRI is a vast network of trade routes and infrastructure projects that spans across Asia, Europe, and Africa, aiming to promote economic cooperation and development among participating countries.
- The tunnel's construction is a testament to China's engineering prowess and its commitment to investing in infrastructure that benefits the global community.
- By enhancing BRI connectivity, the tunnel is expected to boost economic growth, create new job opportunities, and improve living standards for millions of people along the route.
- The project also underscores China's vision for a more interconnected and interdependent world, where countries can work together to achieve common goals and shared prosperity.

Harry Brook Appointed Vice-Captain of England's White-Ball Team

Harry Brook has been appointed as the vice-captain of England's white-ball cricket team, reflecting his rapid rise in international cricket. Known for his consistent performances and

explosive batting, Brook has become a key player in England's limited-overs setup. His leadership potential and experience in high-pressure situations make him a valuable asset to the team. This appointment is expected to bolster England's leadership group as they aim for continued success in white-ball formats. Brook's elevation highlights the team's focus on nurturing young talent for future challenges.

Foot notes:

- He'll be serving as Jos Buttler's deputy for the upcoming T20I and ODI series against India, as well as the Champions Trophy 2025.
- Brook brings valuable leadership experience, having captained Yorkshire in the T20 Blast and Northern Superchargers in The Hundred, and even briefly stepping into international captaincy during the ODI series against Australia.
- He replaces Moeen Ali, who retired from international cricket, and was chosen for the role over other strong contenders like Liam Livingstone and Phil Salt.
- Brook has quickly established himself as a key player for England, with impressive performances in ODIs, T20Is, and Test cricket, and will play a crucial role in the upcoming series against India.
- His appointment marks a new chapter for England's white-ball cricket, and fans will be watching closely to see how he shoulders his new responsibilities on the international stage.

Micheal Martin became Ireland's New Prime Minister

Michael Martin has become Ireland's Prime Minister, taking on the role with a vision for national progress and unity. A seasoned politician and leader of Fianna Fáil, Martin brings decades of experience to his new position. His leadership focuses on addressing key challenges, including economic recovery, healthcare reform, and climate action. Martin's appointment marks a significant chapter in Ireland's political landscape, emphasizing collaboration and forward-thinking governance. His tenure is expected to prioritize both domestic stability and Ireland's role on the global stage.

Foot notes:

- He became the Taoiseach on June 27, 2020, as part of a historic coalition agreement between his party Fianna Fáil, the Green Party, and their traditional rivals Fine Gael.
- Martin's leadership has been marked by significant challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on Ireland's economy and society.
- He has also had to navigate complex political relationships, including the rotation of the Taoiseach position with Leo Varadkar, who took over as Taoiseach in December 2022.
- During his tenure, Martin has made notable decisions, such as sacking Barry Cowen as Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and responding to controversies like the Golfgate scandal.

- Martin's party, Fianna Fail, has experienced ups and downs during his leadership, including a significant defeat in the 2021 Dublin Bay South by-election, which led to internal unrest and calls for change within the party.

BMCRI to Set Up South India's First Infectious Disease Research Lab

Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI) is set to establish South India's first Infectious Disease Research Laboratory (IDRL). This lab will focus on cutting-edge research to combat emerging infectious diseases and improve public health outcomes. It aims to develop better diagnostic tools, treatment options, and preventive strategies for diseases like malaria, tuberculosis, and COVID-19. The project will be a collaboration with leading medical institutions and international health organizations. Once operational, the IDRL will position BMCRI as a key player in advancing infectious disease research in the region.

Foot notes:

- The lab will be set up at the Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI), which was selected by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for this project.
- The laboratory aims to enhance local research capabilities and reduce reliance on external laboratories, allowing for faster and more reliable diagnosis of infectious diseases.
- This facility will focus on various infectious diseases, including viral and bacterial infections, and will support scientific research with the permission of the ICMR.
- The establishment of this lab is part of a broader effort by the central government to establish Infectious Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratories (IRDLS) across India, particularly in medical colleges.
- The lab will facilitate collaboration among healthcare professionals and researchers, ultimately contributing to better disease surveillance and control, and will help in the identification of novel biomarkers for early diagnosis and the development of personalised treatment strategies.
- This initiative is expected to strengthen Karnataka's public health response and improve overall healthcare delivery, and is a commendable step towards advancing good governance in public health.

Barcelona Secures Spot in Spanish Super Cup Final

Barcelona has secured its place in the Spanish Super Cup final with a thrilling victory in the semifinals. The team showcased exceptional skill and determination, dominating key moments of the match. Star players delivered impressive performances, with decisive goals sealing the win. Barcelona's coach praised the squad for their tactical discipline and teamwork under pressure. Fans are eagerly awaiting the final, where Barcelona will aim to claim another prestigious title.

Foot notes:

- **Victory Over Opponent:** Barcelona triumphed 3-1 against Real Betis in the semifinals to secure their place in the Spanish Super Cup final.

- **Star Performances:** Key contributions came from Robert Lewandowski and Pedri, who were instrumental in the victory.
- **Lewandowski's Impact:** Lewandowski opened the scoring and displayed his consistent form, boosting the team's momentum.
- **Defensive Strength:** Barcelona's defense held firm despite Real Betis' attempts to equalize in the latter stages.
- **Upcoming Final:** Barcelona will now face either Real Madrid or Valencia, depending on the outcome of the second semifinal.
- **Chasing Glory:** This final offers Barcelona an opportunity to claim their first trophy under coach Xavi Hernández.

Trina Solar Sets World Record for Solar Module Efficiency

Trina Solar has achieved a new milestone by setting a world record for solar module efficiency. The company's Vertex N module reached an impressive efficiency of 24.7%, the highest ever recorded for this technology. This breakthrough underscores Trina Solar's commitment to advancing renewable energy solutions and improving solar power's affordability. The record-breaking efficiency was achieved through innovative cell design and cutting-edge manufacturing techniques. This accomplishment positions Trina Solar as a leader in the industry, paving the way for more efficient and sustainable energy systems worldwide.

Foot notes:

- The company's large surface area n-type fully passivated heterojunction modules demonstrated this exceptional efficiency, surpassing the previous record of 25.40% held by Chinese competitor Longi's back contact (BC) modules.
- Trina Solar's achievement is attributed to its innovative approach, combining advanced passivation techniques, rear-side HJT technology, and multi-frequency RF processes to create superior optical and electrical performance.
- This record-breaking efficiency is expected to have a significant impact on the solar industry, enabling the development of more powerful and efficient solar modules, which can help reduce costs and increase the adoption of solar energy.
- Trina Solar's CEO and chairman, Gao Jifan, emphasized the company's commitment to research and innovation, stating that they will continue to invest in passivated solar technology to maintain their leadership in the industry.
- The achievement underscores Trina Solar's position as a pioneer in solar technology, with HJT technology gaining traction as a high-efficiency alternative to traditional TOPCon and PERC technologies.
- Trina Solar's record-breaking efficiency is poised to play a crucial role in shaping the future of solar energy, enabling the development of more efficient and cost-effective solar module

Anahat Singh Won U-17 British Junior Open

Indian squash prodigy Anahat Singh has clinched the U-17 title at the prestigious British Junior Open 2025. The 16-year-old displayed remarkable skill and composure to defeat her opponent in straight sets during the final match in Birmingham. With this victory, she becomes the youngest Indian to win the U-17 category at the tournament. Anahat's triumph adds to her growing list of accolades, solidifying her position as one of India's brightest squash talents. Her exceptional performance has garnered widespread praise, inspiring a new generation of aspiring squash players.

Foot notes:

- Anahat Singh, a 16-year-old Indian squash prodigy, has won the prestigious U-17 British Junior Open title, defeating Egypt's Malika El Karaksy in a thrilling final with scores of 4-11, 11-9, 6-11, 11-5, and 11-3.
- This victory marks Anahat's third British Junior Open title, following her triumphs in the Under-11 category in 2019 and the Under-15 category in 2023, showcasing her consistent growth and dominance in the sport.
- Anahat's journey to the top was not easy, as she faced tough competition from Egyptian players, but she demonstrated remarkable resilience and skill to overcome them and secure the win.
- The Indian squash player has already made a name for herself on the international circuit, becoming the youngest national champion, the youngest Indian to win a medal at the Asian Games, and the youngest athlete to represent the nation at the Commonwealth Games.
- Anahat's win is a significant achievement, as it breaks the Egyptian stranglehold in junior squash and underscores her growing dominance in the sport, with many expecting her to become a future world champion.
- With this win, Anahat has cemented her position as one of the brightest young talents in squash, and her future prospects look promising, with many exciting tournaments and challenges ahead.

John Dramani Mahama Sworn in as Ghana's President

John Dramani Mahama has been sworn in as the President of Ghana, marking his return to the nation's highest office. The inauguration ceremony, held in Accra, was attended by dignitaries, citizens, and international leaders, symbolizing a new chapter in Ghana's democracy. Mahama pledged to prioritize economic revitalization, job creation, and infrastructure development during his tenure. His administration aims to address pressing challenges such as youth unemployment and improve public services. The event reflects Ghana's commitment to peaceful transitions and the strengthening of democratic governance.

Foot notes:

- Mahama took the oath of office as Ghana's new president, with Professor Naana Jane Opoku-Agyeman being sworn in as the country's first female Vice President.

- The inauguration ceremony was attended by world leaders, including the Presidents of Kenya, Gambia, Nigeria, Namibia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Togo, as well as the Commonwealth Secretary-General.
- He also acknowledged the outgoing President, Nana Addo, and expressed his commitment to serving the people of Ghana, stating "it's the people of Ghana we were elected to serve.
- Mahama's inauguration marks his second non-consecutive term as President, having previously served from 2012 to 2017, and his experience in various roles, including as a Member of Parliament, Deputy Minister, and Vice-President, will likely shape his approach to governance.
- The ceremony was seen as a celebration of Ghana's democratic progress, with the Commonwealth Secretary-General noting that "Ghana's commitment to democratic principles and its ability to implement them effectively make it a cherished member of the Commonwealth.

Indonesia's Addition Strengthens BRICS Alliance

Indonesia's addition to the BRICS alliance has significantly strengthened the group's global influence. As one of Southeast Asia's largest economies, Indonesia brings a strategic position that enhances BRICS' geopolitical presence. The inclusion aims to foster greater economic cooperation, with Indonesia contributing to trade, infrastructure, and technological advancements within the bloc. The move reflects BRICS' broader goal of expanding its membership to represent a more diverse range of developing nations. Indonesia's membership is expected to promote regional stability and accelerate growth through collaborative efforts across key sectors.

Foot notes:

- Indonesia joins BRICS as its 11th member, solidifying the group's presence in Southeast Asia and expanding its global influence.
- As the largest economy in Southeast Asia, Indonesia's membership is expected to create new economic opportunities, including access to the BRICS New Development Bank and increased trade with other member countries.
- Indonesia's addition to BRICS reflects the country's commitment to reforming global governance institutions and deepening cooperation within the Global South, key priorities for Brazil's BRICS presidency.
- By joining BRICS, Indonesia aims to reduce its dependence on traditional trade partners, such as the US and China, and diversify its trade relationships with other emerging economies.
- Indonesia's membership in BRICS is expected to attract new investment in infrastructure development, including transportation, energy, and telecommunications projects.

- Indonesia's decision to join BRICS may have significant geopolitical implications, as it navigates its relationships with other regional powers, including the US, China, and Australia.

Luke Littler Becomes Youngest World Darts Champion

Luke Littler has made history by becoming the youngest World Darts Champion, securing the title at just 18 years old. The young sensation defeated seasoned opponent Michael Smith in a thrilling final, showcasing remarkable skill and composure. Littler's victory breaks records and establishes him as a rising star in the world of darts. His journey to the championship has inspired fans globally, proving that age is no barrier to achieving greatness. Littler's triumph is expected to bring a new wave of youthful energy and interest to the sport.

Foot notes:

- Luke Littler has made history by becoming the youngest World Darts Champion, achieving this feat at just 16 years old.
- He started playing darts at the age of 18 months and scored his first 180 at the age of six, showing incredible talent and dedication to the sport from a very young age.
- Littler's journey to the top has been nothing short of phenomenal, with him winning numerous titles, including the 2023 PDC World Youth Championship and the 2024 Bahrain Darts Masters
- He has also broken multiple records, including the highest average for a debutant at the World Darts Championship and the youngest player to reach the PDC World Darts Championship final
- Littler's success has not gone unnoticed, with him being named the BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year 2024 and finishing as the runner-up for the BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2024.
- With his incredible talent, dedication, and achievements, Luke Littler is certainly a name to watch in the world of darts, and his future prospects look extremely promising.

Kevan Parekh appointed as Apple's new Chief Financial Officer

Kevan Parekh has been named Apple's new Chief Financial Officer, marking a significant leadership change for the tech giant. Known for his strategic acumen and financial expertise, Parekh is expected to play a pivotal role in steering Apple's fiscal strategies and growth. His appointment has been met with optimism, signaling a focus on innovation and financial resilience.

Foot notes:

- Kevan Parekh has taken over as Apple's senior vice president and chief financial officer, replacing Luca Maestri, who will now lead the company's corporate services teams.
- Parekh brings over 20 years of experience in global finance, having worked with major companies like Thomson Reuters and General Motors, and has been with Apple since 2013.

- He has held various key positions at Apple, including Vice President of Financial Planning and Analysis and Vice President of Finance for Sales, Marketing, and Retail, contributing significantly to the company's financial performance.
- Parekh's appointment marks a significant leadership transition at Apple, with Maestri transitioning to a new role, and Parekh overseeing Apple's financial planning and analysis, as well as investor relations.
- With his wealth of expertise in managing financial complexities on a global scale, Parekh is well-equipped to navigate Apple's financial operations and drive growth initiatives.
- Parekh is expected to play a crucial role in sustaining the company's operational excellence, effectively navigating financial challenges, and delivering value to stakeholders worldwide.

Lebanon's parliament has elected General Joseph Aoun as President

Lebanon's parliament has elected General Joseph Aoun as the new President, a significant political development in the country. Aoun, who previously served as the Commander of the Lebanese Army, brings extensive military experience to the presidency. His election comes after a prolonged political vacuum, with the country grappling with economic and social challenges. As President, General Aoun is expected to focus on stability, national security, and navigating Lebanon through its current crises. His leadership is seen as a crucial step in addressing the complex issues facing Lebanon and restoring public trust in the political system.

Foot notes:

- General Aoun secured 99 out of 128 votes in the second round of voting, surpassing the required majority, and he's the 14th president of Lebanon since the country's independence in 1943.
- He's a popular figure in Lebanon, known for his leadership of the Lebanese Armed Forces, and is considered a unifying figure in the country's fragmented political landscape.
- Aoun's candidacy received strong support from both domestic and international stakeholders, including the United States, which views him as a stabilizing force amid Lebanon's ongoing crises.
- The new president will face significant challenges, including a severe economic crisis, political instability, and the need to secure international aid for reconstruction and development.
- Aoun has pledged to work towards regaining the Lebanese state's monopoly on the use of force, securing the country's borders and ports, and strengthening the rule of law.
- His election is seen as a hopeful sign that Lebanon may be moving to exit the Axis of Resistance, and that the country can finally start rebuilding and recovering from years of conflict and instability.

Nawaf Salam Appointed Lebanon's New Prime Minister

Nawaf Salam has been appointed as Lebanon's new Prime Minister, marking a pivotal moment in the country's political landscape. A seasoned diplomat, academic, and former judge at the International Court of Justice, Salam brings a wealth of experience to the role. His appointment comes amid Lebanon's ongoing economic and political crises, raising hopes for effective governance and reform. Salam has emphasized the importance of unity, transparency, and international cooperation in addressing the nation's pressing challenges. His leadership is expected to focus on restoring stability, economic recovery, and rebuilding trust in Lebanon's institutions.

Foot notes:

- Salam, a 71-year-old jurist and diplomat, was appointed by President Joseph Aoun after securing the backing of a significant majority in parliament, with 84 out of 128 members supporting him.
- He will be tasked with forming a government and addressing the country's deepening economic crisis, which has been exacerbated by a two-year political deadlock.
- Salam's appointment is seen as a blow to Hezbollah, which had supported caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati for another term, and reflects growing domestic and international support for political reform in Lebanon.
- As a renowned diplomat and jurist, Salam brings a wealth of experience to the role, having served as Lebanon's ambassador to the UN and president of the International Court of Justice.
- His reformist credentials and international experience offer a pathway toward governance renewal, but he will face significant challenges in forming a government and addressing the country's sectarian divisions.
- Salam's ability to bridge divides between Hezbollah-aligned groups and reformist factions will be crucial in determining whether Lebanon can break free from its cycle of political paralysis and economic decline.

President Zoran Milanovic of Croatia re-elected for five year term

Zoran Milanović has been re-elected as the President of Croatia, securing a second five-year term. Known for his progressive policies and straightforward approach, Milanović's leadership has been marked by efforts to strengthen Croatia's economy and its standing in the European Union. His re-election reflects widespread public support for his vision of modernization and reforms. Milanović has pledged to prioritize economic growth, healthcare improvement, and environmental sustainability during his new term. As Croatia navigates regional and global challenges, his leadership will be pivotal in shaping the nation's future trajectory.

Foot notes:

- Milanovic's opponent, Dragan Primorac, received nearly 26% of the vote, making it a decisive victory for the incumbent president.
- The first round of the presidential election was held on December 29, 2024, where Milanovic won 49.1% of the votes, necessitating a second round on January 12, 2025.

- Milanovic's re-election is a significant development in Croatian politics, and he will continue to serve as the president for the next five years.
- The presidential election in Croatia is a notable event, and Milanovic's victory has been widely reported.
- With his re-election, Milanovic is expected to continue his policies and work towards the development of Croatia.

Sao Tome and Principe PM Resigns

The Prime Minister of São Tomé and Príncipe has resigned, creating a significant shift in the nation's political landscape. The resignation comes amid ongoing political and economic challenges facing the country. This decision has sparked discussions on the stability and future direction of the island nation. The President is now expected to consult with political stakeholders to appoint a new Prime Minister. The transition will be closely monitored as São Tomé and Príncipe navigates this period of change.

Foot notes:

- She was appointed as the new Prime Minister just a few days ago, following the president's decision to dissolve the previous government.
- Amado Vaz submitted her resignation to the president, stating that her continued leadership would not contribute to the success of public policies and the harmonious development of Sao Tome and Principe.
- The president has since appointed a new Prime Minister, Americo D'Oliveira dos Ramos, who previously served as the governor of the country's central bank.
- The resignation comes amid a period of political turmoil in Sao Tome and Principe, with the previous government being dissolved and the president facing opposition from various factions.
- Amado Vaz's resignation is seen as a significant development in the country's politics, and it remains to be seen how the new Prime Minister will navigate the complex landscape.

Japan Breaks Tourism Record in 2024 with 36.9 Million Visitors

Japan achieved a historic milestone in 2024 by welcoming 36.9 million tourists, setting a new tourism record. The increase in visitors highlights Japan's global appeal and its efforts to promote tourism. Key attractions such as Tokyo, Kyoto, and Hokkaido continue to draw travelers worldwide. Additionally, large-scale events and cultural festivals significantly contributed to the record-breaking numbers. The achievement underscores Japan's position as one of the top destinations for international travellers.

Foot notes:

- The country's tourism industry has seen a significant surge, with a 47.1% increase in visitor numbers compared to the previous year, thanks to a favorable weak yen and strong global travel demand.

- December 2024 alone saw a record-breaking 3.49 million visitors, the highest monthly total ever recorded, with average spending per visitor rising 6.8% year on year to 227,242 yen.
- China led the spending with around 20% of the total, followed by other countries like the US, South Korea, and Taiwan, contributing to a total inbound spending of 8.14 trillion yen.
- The Japanese government has set ambitious targets, aiming to attract 60 million annual visitors and 15 trillion yen in spending by 2030, and this record-breaking year is a significant step towards achieving those goals.
- The tourism industry is playing a pivotal role in boosting Japan's economy, with increased flights, new initiatives, and a series of events and festivals contributing to the growth.
- This achievement is a testament to Japan's appeal as a destination for both business and leisure travellers, with its unique culture, rich history, and world-class amenities making it an attractive choice for visitors from around the world.

Jitender Pal Singh Appointed as India's New Ambassador to Israel

Jitender Pal Singh has been appointed as India's new Ambassador to Israel, reflecting the continued strengthening of bilateral ties between the two nations. A seasoned diplomat with extensive experience, Singh has previously held key positions in the Ministry of External Affairs and various Indian missions abroad. His appointment comes at a time when India and Israel are deepening cooperation in areas such as defense, agriculture, and technology. Singh's expertise is expected to further enhance strategic partnerships and foster cultural exchanges. The Indian government views this appointment as pivotal in advancing shared goals and mutual interests in the region.

Foot notes:

- Singh is a seasoned diplomat with a 2002 Indian Foreign Service batch background, currently serving as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, and has previously led the Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran division.
- He has held significant positions, including Deputy High Commissioner to Pakistan and a posting in Kabul, where he gained firsthand experience in crisis management during terror attacks on the Indian embassy.
- Singh played a crucial role in shaping India's policy towards the Taliban in Afghanistan and has been instrumental in facilitating high-level discussions, including a meeting between Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and the Taliban's acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi.
- His appointment comes at a time when India-Israel relations are on the rise, with trade between the two nations thriving, particularly in areas like diamonds, petroleum, and electronic machinery, and Israel being a key supplier of military hardware to India.

Alexander Lukashenko re-elected as Belarus's President

Alexander Lukashenko has been re-elected as the President of Belarus, extending his long-standing rule since 1994. The election, however, was marred by allegations of fraud and a lack of transparency, sparking widespread protests across the country. Opposition leaders and international observers have criticized the electoral process, calling it neither free nor fair. Despite these concerns, Lukashenko maintains strong support from the security forces and key allies like Russia. His re-election signals a continuation of his authoritarian governance, with potential crackdowns on dissent and tighter control over political opposition.

Foot notes:

- Lukashenko's victory was widely expected, with the opposition calling the election a "farce" and a "sham" due to the lack of democratic freedoms and the repression of opposition candidates.
- The election saw a turnout of 85.70%, with Lukashenko winning 5,136,995 votes, while his closest rival, Sergei Syrankov, received just 189,930 votes.
- The European Union's foreign policy chief, Kaja Kallas, called the election a "blatant affront to democracy", and the exiled Belarus opposition leader, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, described it as a "senseless farce".
- Lukashenko's re-election has been congratulated by Russian president Vladimir Putin and Chinese president Xi Jinping, among others.
- The election has been criticized for its lack of transparency and democratic freedoms, with the opposition claiming that the vote was rigged and that Lukashenko's victory was predetermined.

Scott Bessent appointed as U.S. Treasury Secretary

Scott Bessent has been appointed as the U.S. Treasury Secretary, a key position in overseeing the nation's economic policies and financial systems. Bessent brings with him extensive experience in finance, having held senior roles in both the public and private sectors. His appointment is seen as a move to strengthen economic stability and manage financial matters efficiently in the face of ongoing global challenges. As Treasury Secretary, Bessent will play a crucial role in managing fiscal policies, handling national debt, and guiding the U.S. economy through potential future crises. His leadership is expected to focus on ensuring long-term economic growth and addressing key financial issues in the U.S.

Foot notes:

- He's been confirmed by the Senate with a 68 to 29 vote, making him the first openly gay Cabinet member of a Republican administration.
- As Treasury Secretary, Bessent will play a crucial role in balancing tax cuts and curbing deficits, and he's already pushing for a new universal tariff plan on U.S. imports, starting at 2.5% and increasing gradually.

- Bessent has a strong background in finance, having founded the Connecticut-based hedge fund Key Square Group, and he's been a vocal supporter of President Trump's policies, including tariffs and spending cuts.
- He's committed to eliminating taxes, replacing them with a fair consumption tax, and adopting a gold-backed currency, which he believes will unlock a new era of prosperity for Americans.
- Bessent's appointment is seen as a significant move by the Trump administration to shape the country's economic policy, and his experience in the private sector is expected to bring a fresh perspective to the role.

Google Maps Renames 'Gulf of Mexico' in US

Following an executive order from U.S. President Donald Trump, Google Maps has renamed the "Gulf of Mexico" to the "Gulf of America" for users in the United States. This decision has sparked criticism from Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum, who argues that the U.S. lacks unilateral authority to change the name of a shared body of water. She cites the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which limits a country's sovereignty to 12 nautical miles from its coastline. In response, Google stated that the name change will apply only to U.S. users, while Mexican users will continue to see the original name. For users outside the two countries, both names will be displayed.

Foot notes:

- Google Maps will soon display the 'Gulf of Mexico' as the 'Gulf of America' for users in the United States, following an executive order by the Trump Administration.
- While US users will see the new name, users in other countries, including Mexico, will continue to see the original name 'Gulf of Mexico'.
- The name change will be implemented once the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) is updated, after which Google Maps will reflect the change.
- In countries where the location doesn't have a designated name, both 'Gulf of Mexico' and 'Gulf of America' will be displayed.
- Google's decision to rename the Gulf of Mexico is part of its longstanding practice of following official government sources and complying with executive orders.

STATE NEWS

Jammu Becomes Indian Railways' 69th Division

Jammu has officially been designated as the 69th division of Indian Railways, marking a significant development in the region's railway infrastructure. The new division aims to enhance operational efficiency and improve connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir. It will oversee critical routes, including the upcoming Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link, a vital project for the Union Territory. This move is expected to boost tourism, trade, and local development,

fostering economic growth in the region. The establishment of the Jammu division underscores Indian Railways' commitment to regional integration and progress.

Foot notes:

- Jammu has become the 69th division of Indian Railways, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurating the new division on January 6, 2025.
- The Jammu division will cover a network of 742.1 route kilometers, including key sections such as Pathankot-Jammu-Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla, Bhogpur-Sirwal-Pathankot, Batala-Pathankot, and the narrow-gauge Pathankot-Joginder Nagar line.
- This new division is expected to enhance connectivity and foster socio-economic development in the northernmost regions of India, including Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and the Leh-Ladakh regions.
- The division will oversee iconic infrastructure projects, including the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link, the Anji Khad Bridge, and the Chenab Rail Bridge, the world's highest railway arch bridge.
- The inauguration of the Jammu Railway Division is anticipated to be a catalyst for regional development, boosting tourism, creating employment opportunities, and facilitating the movement of goods and people.

Ashish Naithani appointed as a judge of Uttarakhand High Court

Ashish Naithani has been appointed as a judge of the Uttarakhand High Court, further enhancing the judiciary's strength in the region. His appointment is expected to contribute significantly to the administration of justice in the state.

Foot notes:

- The appointment was recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium in December 2024, and Naithani will take charge of his office as a judge of the High Court of Uttarakhand.
- Naithani is a judicial officer who has been cleared for the appointment by the Central government, and his notification was released on January 6, 2025.
- The Ministry of Law and Justice has issued a notification announcing Naithani's appointment, which will be effective from the date he assumes charge of his office.
- This appointment is a significant development in the Uttarakhand High Court, and Naithani's experience as a judicial officer will likely contribute to the court's operations.
- The Central Government's notification has formally confirmed Naithani's appointment, and he is now set to join the Uttarakhand High Court as a judge.

K. Vinod Chandran of Patna High Court appointed to Supreme Court

Justice K. Vinod Chandran of the Patna High Court has been elevated to the Supreme Court of India. Known for his legal acumen and fair judgments, Justice Chandran has had a distinguished career in the judiciary. His appointment to the apex court is expected to strengthen its bench with his expertise in constitutional and civil law matters. Throughout his tenure, he has been

recognized for delivering landmark rulings and upholding the principles of justice. Justice Chandran's elevation reflects his significant contributions to the Indian judicial system.

Foot notes:

- Justice Chandran is currently the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court, a position he has held since March 29, 2023, and has over 11 years of experience as a high court judge.
- He was appointed as a judge of the Kerala High Court on November 8, 2011, and has acquired significant experience in diverse fields of law during his long tenure as a judge and chief justice.
- The SC Collegium, led by Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna, recommended Justice Chandran's name, considering the fact that there is no representation on the bench of the Supreme Court from the High Court of Kerala.
- Justice Chandran stands at number 13 in the combined all-India seniority list of high court judges and is at serial number 1 in the seniority of judges hailing from the High Court of Kerala.
- His elevation to the Supreme Court will bring the court's strength to 33 judges, compared to the sanctioned strength of 34 judges, and fills the vacancy created by Justice C T Ravikumar's retirement.
- Justice Chandran's appointment is subject to clearance by the Centre, and once approved, he will become a judge of the Supreme Court of India, marking a significant milestone in his judicial career.

Himachal Renames Public Administration Institute After Manmohan Singh

The Himachal Pradesh government has renamed its Public Administration Institute in Shimla after former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. The decision was taken in recognition of Dr. Singh's exceptional contributions to India's economic reforms and governance. The institute, now called the Manmohan Singh Institute of Public Administration, aims to inspire future administrators by honoring his legacy. Officials stated that Dr. Singh's leadership during challenging times, particularly his pivotal role in liberalizing India's economy in 1991, makes this tribute fitting. The move has been welcomed by many, highlighting Dr. Singh's enduring impact on public policy and administration in India.

Foot notes:

- The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet has decided to rename the Himachal Institute of Public Administration (HIPA) after former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, as a mark of respect for his significant contributions to the state and the nation.
- Dr. Singh's tenure was marked by unparalleled progress for Himachal Pradesh, with key institutional developments such as the establishment of IIT Mandi, the Central University in Dharamshala, and the Fashion and Designing Institute in Kangra.
- The Cabinet also approved several other key decisions, including the expansion of the Below Poverty Line (BPL) list to include families with no adult members between 18-59

years, women-headed households, and families with members suffering from chronic illnesses.

- A Special Task Force will be established to combat drug abuse and trafficking, and the Cabinet approved a uniform stamp duty rate of 12% for specific transactions.
- The state government also launched the 'Sarkar Gaon Ke Dwar' program to address grievances in remote areas, and reiterated its demand for a 90:10 funding ratio for the Kishau Multipurpose Project's power component.
- The renaming of the institute is a fitting tribute to Dr. Singh's legacy, and reflects the state government's commitment to honoring the contributions of its leaders and addressing the needs of its people.

Marathi language was officially given classical status

The Marathi language has been officially granted classical language status, recognizing its rich literary heritage and historical significance. The decision celebrates Marathi's profound contributions to Indian culture and its extensive history dating back over two millennia. Scholars and linguists have long advocated for this recognition, citing ancient texts and inscriptions in the language. With this status, Marathi will receive increased funding for research, preservation, and promotion of its literary works. The move has been welcomed by Marathi-speaking communities, emphasizing their pride in the language's legacy.

Foot notes:

- The Marathi language has been officially declared a classical language, joining the ranks of other Indian languages like Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia.
- Marathi has a rich literary tradition, with notable authors like V.V. Shirwadkar, P.L. Deshpande, and Vijay Tendulkar, and its classical status is a testament to its significant contribution to Indian literature.
- The decision to grant classical status to Marathi was taken by the Government of India, recognizing the language's unique characteristics, such as its ancient history, distinct script, and significant body of literature.
- The classical language status will entitle Marathi to various benefits, including financial assistance for research and development, establishment of a Marathi language university, and promotion of the language in education and media.
- Marathi is the official language of the state of Maharashtra and is spoken by over 80 million people worldwide, making it one of the most widely spoken languages in India, and its classical status will help preserve and promote its cultural significance.
- The decision has been welcomed by Marathi speakers and literary figures, who see it as a long-overdue recognition of the language's importance, and celebrations are being held across Maharashtra to mark this milestone.

BHEL commissioned Punatsangchhu-II hydroelectric project in Bhutan

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has successfully commissioned the Punatsangchhu-II hydroelectric project in Bhutan. The project, with a capacity of 1,020 MW, is a significant milestone in strengthening India-Bhutan collaboration in the energy sector. BHEL was responsible for designing, manufacturing, and installing the critical components, showcasing its engineering excellence. The hydroelectric project will play a key role in enhancing Bhutan's power generation capacity and exporting surplus electricity to India. This achievement reinforces BHEL's reputation as a leader in hydroelectric project execution and India's commitment to fostering regional energy partnerships.

Foot notes:

- The project is a greenfield hydroelectric project located in the Wangdue district of Bhutan, and it's expected to generate 4,357 gigawatt-hours of electricity annually once all six units are commissioned.
- BHEL's scope of work in the project includes the design, manufacturing, supply, installation, and commissioning of key components like turbines, generators, and control systems.
- The company has used Francis Turbines designed to operate at a record-breaking head of 241 meters in Bhutan, which will contribute to the project's overall efficiency and power generation capacity.
- With the commissioning of these two units, BHEL's contribution to Bhutan's total installed hydropower capacity now stands at nearly 89 per cent.
- The project is a testament to the strong bilateral cooperation between India and Bhutan, and it will play a significant role in supporting Bhutan's renewable energy goals.
- BHEL has an order book of over Rs 1,60,000 crore and has been maintaining a healthy dividend payout of 27.8 per cent, making it an attractive stock for investors.

Senior IPS officer Vijay Kumar appointed as the new Special Commissioner of Delhi Police

Senior IPS officer Vijay Kumar has been appointed as the new Special Commissioner of Delhi Police. Known for his extensive experience and leadership in law enforcement, Kumar is expected to play a pivotal role in strengthening the city's security and policing efforts. His appointment comes at a time when the Delhi Police is focusing on modernizing its operations and enhancing public safety. Kumar's expertise will be crucial in tackling the evolving challenges faced by the capital's law enforcement. His leadership is anticipated to bring strategic improvements to the functioning of the Delhi Police.

Foot notes:

- He will be responsible for overseeing various aspects of policing in the national capital, including law and order, traffic management, and crime prevention.
- As a senior IPS officer, Vijay Kumar has held several key positions in the past, demonstrating his capabilities and expertise in policing.

- His appointment is expected to bring a new perspective and approach to the Delhi Police, focusing on community policing and citizen-centric services.
- Vijay Kumar will work closely with other senior officers, including the Commissioner of Police, to ensure effective policing and maintain public trust.
- His experience and leadership skills will be invaluable in addressing the complex challenges faced by the Delhi Police, from managing crowds and traffic to combating crime and terrorism.
- With his appointment, the Delhi Police is poised to become more efficient, responsive, and citizen-friendly, making the national capital a safer and more secure place to live and work.

Varanasi division won Sub Junior Girls Hockey Competition

The Varanasi division emerged victorious in the Sub Junior Girls Hockey Competition, showcasing exceptional talent and teamwork. Their players displayed remarkable skill and determination throughout the tournament, defeating strong opponents in a thrilling final. The victory is a testament to the region's growing focus on nurturing young sporting talent. Coaches and supporters lauded the team's effort and strategic play, which secured their place as champions. This achievement is expected to inspire more young athletes from the division to pursue hockey passionately.

Foot notes:

- The team demonstrated exceptional skill and teamwork throughout the tournament, outshining their opponents with impressive wins.
- Varanasi division's victory is a testament to the growing talent and dedication of young hockey players in the region, with many of them showing great promise for future competitions.
- The Sub Junior Girls Hockey Competition has been a great platform for these young athletes to showcase their abilities and gain valuable experience, helping to shape the next generation of hockey stars.
- The competition saw fierce rivalry among various teams, but Varanasi division's consistent performance and strategic gameplay ultimately led them to the top spot.
- This win is not only a proud moment for the team but also a significant achievement for the Varanasi division, highlighting their commitment to nurturing and supporting young hockey talent.

Haryana's men's Kabaddi team won gold medal in 50th Junior National Kabaddi Championship

Haryana's men's Kabaddi team clinched the gold medal at the 50th Junior National Kabaddi Championship with a stellar performance. The team displayed exceptional coordination, agility, and resilience throughout the tournament, defeating formidable opponents in the final match.

Their victory underscores Haryana's dominance in kabaddi, a sport deeply rooted in the state's culture. The players dedicated their win to their coaches and supporters, whose guidance and encouragement played a vital role in their success. This achievement further cements Haryana's reputation as a hub for nurturing kabaddi talent in India.

Foot notes:

- The team defeated Uttarakhand in the final with a convincing score of 51-21, showcasing their exceptional skills and teamwork.
- The women's team also performed well, securing the silver medal with a close margin of 45-44 in their final match.
- Cabinet Minister Krishan Lal Panwar congratulated the players on their achievements, praising their hard work and dedication.
- The championship was held at Roshnabad Stadium in Haridwar, Uttarakhand, and saw participation from various teams across the country.
- The win has elevated Haryana's status in kabaddi, and the team's success is a testament to the state's commitment to nurturing young talent in the sport.
- The players' determination and teamwork have paid off, and their victory is an inspiration to aspiring kabaddi players in the state.

Senior IAS officer Prashant Kumar Singh will be New Chief Secretary of Manipur

Senior IAS officer Prashant Kumar Singh has been appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Manipur. A seasoned administrator, Singh brings extensive experience in governance and policy implementation to his new role. His appointment comes at a crucial time, with a focus on addressing developmental challenges and ensuring administrative efficiency in the state. Singh is expected to prioritize initiatives aimed at fostering socio-economic growth, enhancing infrastructure, and maintaining peace and stability. His leadership is anticipated to strengthen governance and drive inclusive progress across Manipur.

Foot notes:

- He's a senior IAS officer with a wealth of experience, having served as the Secretary of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy earlier.
- Singh belongs to the Manipur cadre, which makes him a great fit for the role.
- As the new Chief Secretary, he'll be responsible for overseeing the administration of the state and implementing key policies.
- His appointment is a significant development for Manipur, which has been dealing with its own set of challenges.
- Singh's experience in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy will likely come in handy as he navigates the complexities of state administration.
- He's expected to bring a fresh perspective and new ideas to the role, which could be just what Manipur needs to move forward.

Kerala Blasters secure a 3-2 victory against Odisha FC in a thrilling match

Kerala Blasters secured a thrilling 3-2 victory against Odisha FC in a recent match, showcasing their determination and skill on the field. The game kept fans on the edge of their seats as both teams put up a spirited fight. Kerala Blasters displayed remarkable teamwork and resilience to clinch the win. The match highlighted the competitive nature of the league and the growing excitement among football enthusiasts. Odisha FC also gave a strong performance, making it a memorable encounter for the spectators.

Foot notes:

- The match was played at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Kochi, with Odisha FC taking the lead in the 4th minute through Jerry Mawihmingthanga.
- Kerala Blasters FC equalized in the 60th minute with a goal from Kwame Peprah, and then took the lead in the 73rd minute through Jesus Jimenez.
- Odisha FC leveled the scores again in the 80th minute with a goal from Dori, but Kerala Blasters FC secured the win with Sadaoui's late goal.
- The win takes Kerala Blasters FC to 8th place in the standings with 20 points from 16 matches, while Odisha FC remains in 7th place.
- Kerala Blasters FC will next play NorthEast United FC on January 18, while Odisha FC will face Bengaluru FC on January 22.

General V.K. Singh sworn in as the Governor of Mizoram

General V.K. Singh has officially taken oath as the Governor of Mizoram, bringing his extensive military and administrative expertise to the role. Known for his distinguished career in the Indian Army and his tenure in public service, his appointment is expected to bolster governance in the state. The swearing-in ceremony marked a significant moment for Mizoram, as it welcomes a leader with vast experience in national and international affairs. As Governor, General Singh is likely to focus on fostering development and strengthening the state's ties with the central government. His leadership is anticipated to contribute positively to Mizoram's progress and regional stability.

Foot notes:

- He was appointed by President Droupadi Murmu, and his experience as a former Chief of Army Staff and Minister of State for External Affairs will likely shape his approach to governance in Mizoram.
- Singh's background in the Indian Army is impressive, having served as the 24th Chief of Army Staff from 2010 to 2012, and he's also a former Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways.
- As Governor, he'll play a crucial role in promoting development and stability in Mizoram, and his experience in handling complex situations will be valuable in this context.
- Singh has also been involved in various initiatives, including Operation Raahat, a rescue mission to evacuate Indian citizens from Yemen during the 2015 crisis, which earned him praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

- With his diverse experience in defence, politics, and governance, General V.K. Singh is well-equipped to take on the challenges of being the Governor of Mizoram, and his appointment is seen as a significant development for the state.

About Mizoram:**Capital:** Aizawl**Chief Minister:** Lalduhoma**Formation:** 1987**Ira Jadhav becomes highest individual scorer in Women's U19 ODI**

Ira Jadhav made history by becoming the highest individual scorer in Women's U19 ODI cricket. Her remarkable innings not only set a new record but also highlighted her exceptional talent and potential in the sport. Jadhav's performance was lauded by fans and experts alike, as she showcased immense skill and composure. This achievement further cements her position as a rising star in Indian women's cricket. It serves as an inspiration to young cricketers aspiring to make their mark in international cricket.

Foot notes:

- Her incredible innings included 42 fours and 16 sixes, leaving the opposition bowlers helpless.
- This feat has shattered the previous record held by Smriti Mandhana, who scored 224 runs in 2013.
- Ira's achievement is even more remarkable considering her age - she's just 14 years old and has already shown immense talent and maturity in her game.
- Her partnership with captain Hurley Gala was also noteworthy, as they added 274 runs for the second wicket and helped Mumbai post a massive total of 563/3.
- Ira's record-breaking knock has not only made her a sensation in the cricketing world but also earned her a spot as a standby player for the Indian team in the upcoming U19 T20 World Cup in Malaysia.
- This young prodigy is definitely one to watch out for in the future, and her achievement is a testament to the growing talent and potential in women's cricket in India.

Jadeja, Rohit, and Kohli Retired from T20Is

India's star cricketers Ravindra Jadeja, Rohit Sharma, and Virat Kohli have officially announced their retirement from T20 Internationals. The trio, known for their remarkable contributions to Indian cricket, made this decision to focus on other formats and mentor the younger generation. Rohit, a dynamic opener, and Kohli, one of the greatest run-scorers, leave behind an unparalleled legacy in T20Is. Jadeja, renowned for his all-round prowess, played a key role in many memorable victories. Their absence will mark the end of an era, but their impact on Indian cricket will continue to inspire future players.

Foot notes:

- Jadeja, Rohit, and Kohli have announced their retirement from T20Is, marking the end of an incredible era for Indian cricket.
- The trio decided to hang up their boots after India's historic win in the T20 World Cup, where they remained unbeaten throughout the tournament.
- Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli were instrumental in India's success, with Rohit finishing as the team's highest run-scorer and Kohli playing a crucial role in the final against South Africa.
- Ravindra Jadeja, on the other hand, was a vital part of the team, providing crucial breakthroughs with his bowling and making significant contributions with his batting.
- With their retirement, Indian cricket has entered a new era, and it will be interesting to see how the team shapes up in the future, with new players taking on the mantle.
- The trio's legacy will continue to inspire future generations of cricketers, and their contributions to Indian cricket will never be forgotten, with Rohit, Kohli, and Jadeja leaving behind a lasting impact on the sport.

India beat Nepal in Kho Kho World Cup 2025 opener

India began their campaign in the Kho Kho World Cup 2025 with a commanding victory over Nepal in the tournament opener. Demonstrating exceptional teamwork and agility, the Indian team dominated the match from the start, securing a comfortable win. Key players showcased outstanding performances, with strategic chases and defenses that left Nepal struggling to keep pace. This win sets a strong tone for India's title aspirations as they aim to defend their championship. Fans and experts praised the team's efforts, highlighting their preparation and determination to excel on the global stage.

Foot notes:

- The match was played at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi, with India's men's team putting up a strong performance to take the lead.
- The Indian team, led by captain Pratik Waikar, showed great skill and strategy, outmaneuvering the Nepalese team to win by a margin of 5 points.
- This win is a great start for India in the tournament, and they will look to continue their winning streak in their next match against Brazil.
- The Kho Kho World Cup 2025 features 20 teams from around the world, competing in a round-robin stage followed by knockout matches.
- The tournament aims to promote Kho Kho as an internationally recognized sport, and India's win in the opener has set the tone for an exciting competition.
- The Indian team's victory has generated a lot of excitement among fans, and they will be looking forward to their next match to see if they can continue their winning run.

Tyson Fury Announces Retirement from Boxing

Tyson Fury has announced his retirement from boxing, marking the end of an illustrious career. Known for his charisma and skill, Fury leaves behind a legacy that has inspired countless fans

and athletes. He has held multiple world titles and remains a dominant figure in heavyweight boxing history. His decision to step away from the ring allows him to focus on personal endeavors and family life. Fury's retirement is a significant moment for the boxing community and his loyal supporters.

Foot notes:

- His retirement comes just a month after losing a rematch to Oleksandr Usyk, and many are questioning whether he'll actually stay retired.
- Fury's promoter, Frank Warren, has expressed support for his decision, saying that Fury has done everything he can in his career and has nothing to prove.
- Anthony Joshua's promoter, Eddie Hearn, is skeptical about Fury's retirement, thinking that he might come out of retirement for the right fight.
- Fury's record stands at 34-2-1, with 24 KOs, and he's considered one of the best British heavyweights of his generation.

Indian women's team achieved remarkable victory against Iran

In a proud moment for Indian sports, the Indian women's team delivered an outstanding performance to secure a remarkable victory against Iran. Their achievement underscores their growing dominance on the international stage and reflects the relentless hard work and determination of the players. This victory has not only brought glory to the nation but also serves as an inspiration for aspiring athletes across the country

Foot notes:

- The team dominated the match from the start, eliminating Iran's first batch in just 33 seconds, showcasing their incredible skill and tactical prowess.
- Led by captain Priyanka Ingle, the team demonstrated their championship credentials with another emphatic victory, establishing themselves as the team to beat in the tournament.
- The match saw a remarkable 6-minute-8-second Dream Run in Turn 3, which effectively sealed the match, with Ashwini spearheading the attack and Meenu continuing her brilliant form with multiple touchpoints.
- The team's performance was nothing short of spectacular, with tactical brilliance from players like Nirmala, Priyanka, and Nasreen, and they have now secured their quarter-final berth.
- The Indian women's Kho Kho team is clearly a force to be reckoned with, and their victory against Iran has cemented their position atop their group.

Smriti Mandhana scored fastest ODI century in 70 balls against Ireland

Smriti Mandhana created history by scoring the fastest ODI century in just 70 balls against Ireland. Her exceptional performance showcased her prowess as one of the finest batters in women's cricket. This record-breaking inning added another milestone to her already illustrious

career. Mandhana's aggressive yet composed approach on the field was widely applauded. Her achievement has further cemented her status as a leading figure in international cricket.

Foot notes:

- She broke the previous record held by Harmanpreet Kaur, who scored a century in 87 balls against South Africa last year.
- Mandhana's explosive knock of 135 runs included 12 boundaries and seven sixes, helping India post their highest-ever ODI total of 435/5.
- This total is not only the highest in women's ODIs but also surpasses the men's team's record of 418/5 against West Indies in 2011.
- Mandhana's century is also her 10th ODI ton, making her the first Asian batter to reach this milestone, and she now joins an elite list of players with multiple centuries in the format.

Her partnership with Pratika Rawal, who scored 154, was instrumental in India's massive total, with the two adding 233 runs for the opening wicket.

Mandhana's incredible form has seen her score 996 runs in 16 ODIs since the start of 2024, with four centuries and five fifties, cementing her position as one of the top batters in the world.

Arjun Erigaisi Stuns Chess World with Wins Against Carlsen, Caruana

The chess world witnessed a sensational performance by Arjun Erigaisi, who defeated Magnus Carlsen and Fabiano Caruana, two of the most celebrated players in the sport. His victories against these giants have cemented his position as a rising star in international chess. Arjun's achievements highlight the growing prominence of Indian players in the global chess arena and the immense talent emerging from the country.

Foot notes:

- Arjun won the early Titled Tuesday blitz competition with 10 points from 11 rounds, beating Carlsen with black pieces in round 10 and Caruana in the final round.
- His only loss came against American grandmaster Hikaru Nakamura in round seven, but he still managed to edge out Nakamura with better tiebreaks.
- This win is a huge deal, as Titled Tuesday is an online event for titled players with verified (link unavailable) accounts, and over 900 players participated in the latest tournament.
- Arjun's successful year in chess continued with this win, following his victories in the Menorca Open A, Stepan Avagyan Memorial, and WR Chess Masters Cup in 2024.
- Nakamura, who won the later 11-round event of Titled Tuesday, called the tournament the "world's strongest tournament", and Arjun's win is a testament to his skills and determination.

Novak Djokovic Sets Record for Most Grand Slam Matches

Novak Djokovic has set a remarkable record by playing the most Grand Slam matches in tennis history. This milestone further cements his status as one of the greatest players in the sport. Over his illustrious career, Djokovic has consistently demonstrated exceptional skill, determination, and resilience. His achievement highlights his longevity and dominance in the highly competitive world of tennis. Fans and analysts alike celebrate this new chapter in his legendary journey.

Foot notes:

- Djokovic has won a record 24 Grand Slam men's singles titles, including a record ten Australian Open titles, and has been ranked No. 1 for a record total of 428 weeks.
- He has a remarkable ability to perform under pressure, having won 12 major titles and completing his second and third Career Grand Slams, and has been the reigning champion of all four majors at once across three different surfaces.
- Djokovic's record-breaking win is a testament to his hard work, dedication, and passion for the sport, and he continues to inspire fans around the world with his incredible skills and achievements.
- Throughout his career, Djokovic has faced tough competition from other top players, including Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer, but he has consistently proven himself to be one of the greatest tennis players of all time.
- With his latest record-breaking achievement, Djokovic solidifies his position as one of the most successful tennis players in history, and his legacy continues to grow with each new win.

Bengal Tigers defeat UP Rudras 5-3 in the Hockey India League

The Bengal Tigers secured an impressive 5-3 victory over UP Rudras in a thrilling match at the Hockey India League. The game showcased high-energy performances, with both teams displaying exceptional skill and determination. Bengal Tigers maintained their dominance throughout the match, capitalizing on key opportunities to outscore their opponents. UP Rudras put up a strong fight but fell short in the face of the Tigers' relentless attack and strategic gameplay. This win boosts the Bengal Tigers' standing in the league and highlights their potential as strong contenders for the championship title.

Foot notes:

- The match was an intense one, with the Bengal Tigers showcasing their skills and strategy to outmaneuver their opponents.
- The team's victory is a testament to their hard work and dedication to the sport, and they're definitely a force to be reckoned with in the league.
- The Bengal Tigers have been performing well in the Hockey India League, with a recent win against the Delhi SG Pipers in the Women's Hockey India League.
- The team's success can be attributed to their strong teamwork and coordination on the field, which has allowed them to outscore their opponents and secure crucial wins.

- With this victory, the Bengal Tigers are looking strong and poised to make a significant impact in the Hockey India League, and fans are eagerly waiting to see their next move.

Pankaj Joshi is new Chief Secretary of Gujarat

Pankaj Joshi has been appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Gujarat, bringing extensive administrative experience to the role. Known for his strategic decision-making and leadership, Joshi is expected to play a pivotal role in the state's governance and development initiatives. His appointment highlights the Gujarat government's focus on efficient administration and progressive policies. Joshi's expertise in handling critical assignments will be instrumental in driving key state projects forward. This leadership change marks a new chapter in Gujarat's administrative framework.

Foot notes:

- He is a senior IAS officer from the 1989 batch of the Gujarat cadre, with a strong background in engineering and public administration.
- Joshi has previously served as the Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister of Gujarat and held an additional charge in the Ports & Transport Department.
- He has also served as the Additional Chief Secretary to the Government in the Finance Department, where he played a pivotal role in the financial management and policy-making processes of Gujarat.
- Joshi's appointment comes just ahead of the superannuation of Raj Kumar, the previous Chief Secretary of Gujarat.
- As the new Chief Secretary, Joshi will be responsible for overseeing the administration of the state and implementing key policies and initiatives, and his experience and leadership skills make him well-suited for this critical role.

Assam Announces Dibrugarh as Second Capital

The Assam government has announced Dibrugarh as the state's second capital, a significant move aimed at decentralizing administrative functions. The decision is expected to help ease the pressure on Guwahati, the current capital, by distributing governmental activities across the state. Dibrugarh, located in the eastern part of Assam, will serve as a hub for administration and development in the region. This step is also part of the state government's broader plan to promote balanced growth and better governance in the northeastern regions of Assam. The move has been welcomed by many, as it promises to boost infrastructure, employment, and economic activities in Dibrugarh.

Foot notes:

- Dibrugarh is being upgraded to a full-fledged city, which will not only enhance the ease of living but also improve connectivity within the region.
- The city has come a long way from its complex past, when it was once a center for militancy, particularly for the proscribed group ULFA(I).

- The Assam government is investing heavily in urban development, with the Chief Minister laying the foundation for four major flyovers costing Rs 377 crores to improve infrastructure and connectivity.
- Dibrugarh is being positioned as a hub for investment and business, with the government promoting it as a potential site for semiconductor manufacturing and collaborating with major corporations to develop the energy sector.
- The announcement coincided with Republic Day celebrations, marking a significant transformation for the city and its people, despite recent low-intensity blasts claimed by ULFA(I) on January 26, 2025.

UP Bags the Best State Tableaux Award of Republic Day Parade 2025

Uttar Pradesh's tableau, themed "Mahakumbh 2025 – Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas," was awarded the first prize at the 76th Republic Day celebrations. The tableau showcased the rich cultural heritage and developmental strides of the state, centering on the upcoming Mahakumbh festival. Tripura's tableau, titled "Eternal Reverence: The Worship of 14 Deities in Tripura – Kharchi Puja," secured the second position, while Andhra Pradesh's "Etikoppaka Bommalu – Eco-Friendly Wooden Toys" was awarded third place. In the popular choice category, determined through an online poll on the MyGov portal, Gujarat's tableau, "Swarnim Bharat: Virasat Aur Vikas," emerged as the favorite.

Foot notes:

- Uttar Pradesh's Mahakumbh tableau won the first place award, followed by Tripura and Andhra Pradesh.
- The winning tableau, titled "Mahakumbh 2025 - Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas," showcased the ongoing Mahakumbh festival, highlighting India's rich cultural heritage.
- The tableaux were judged on various parameters, including theme, design, and overall presentation, with a three-member panel assessing the performances.
- Jammu and Kashmir Rifles were recognized as the best marching contingent among services, while Delhi Police Marching Contingent won the best marching contingent among CAPFs/other auxiliary forces.

DEFENCE NEWS

Indian Army Conducts Exercise 'Devil Strike'

The Indian Army recently carried out a high-intensity military drill named 'Devil Strike,' aimed at testing its strategic readiness and operational capabilities. The exercise involved complex maneuvers and showcased the army's ability to adapt to challenging battlefield scenarios, reaffirming its preparedness for modern warfare. This exercise stands as a testament to the Indian Army's commitment to maintaining national security through continuous training and innovation.

Foot notes:

- The exercise aims to enhance the Army's combat readiness and test its high-intensity combat capabilities, with advanced technologies and state-of-the-art equipment being integrated into the exercise.
- The exercise will involve elite airborne soldiers from the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force, and will include complex operations such as troop and equipment insertion in hostile terrain.
- The Army will also assess and refine its logistic sustenance strategies to ensure that troops remain well-equipped and operational in extremely challenging conditions.
- Exercise 'Devil Strike' underscores the Indian Armed Forces' commitment to maintaining operational excellence and adaptability in the ever-evolving military landscape.
- The exercise will enhance the readiness of both the Army and the Air Force, preparing them for future challenges and demonstrating their ability to work together seamlessly.

Defence Ministry Signs Contract for MRSAMs with Bharat Dynamics

The Defence Ministry has signed a significant contract with Bharat Dynamics Limited for the procurement of Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missiles (MRSAMs). This deal aims to bolster India's air defense capabilities, ensuring enhanced protection against aerial threats. The MRSAMs, known for their precision and advanced technology, will play a pivotal role in strengthening the country's strategic preparedness. Bharat Dynamics Limited, a trusted partner in defense manufacturing, will oversee the production and delivery of these state-of-the-art missile systems. This agreement underscores the government's commitment to self-reliance in defense and the modernization of India's armed forces.

Foot notes:

- Indigenous Content is a key aspect of this contract, with the missiles being supplied under the 'Buy (Indian)' category, having largely indigenous content.
- The MRSAM system is already a standard fit on several Indian Naval Ships and is planned to be fitted on most future platforms, making this contract a significant milestone in bolstering India's defence capabilities.
- This deal is expected to generate employment of around 3.5 lakh mandays in the defence industry, including various MSMEs, which is a huge boost to the economy.
- BDL has been working in collaboration with DRDO and foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) for the manufacture and supply of various missiles and allied equipment to the Indian Armed Forces.
- The contract marks a critical step towards achieving the government's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', promoting self-reliance and indigenization of advanced military technology.

Rajnath Singh honours Aryamitra Nath of Morigaon with Defence Minister's medal

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has honoured Aryamitra Nath from Morigaon, Assam, with the prestigious Defence Minister's Medal. The recognition was awarded for Aryamitra's exemplary courage and dedication to societal welfare, showcasing the values upheld by the Indian Armed Forces. Hailing from a small town, Aryamitra's achievements serve as an inspiration to many, reflecting the spirit of patriotism and resilience. The ceremony highlighted the Defence Ministry's commitment to recognizing individuals who contribute to national pride and security. This accolade underscores the importance of young role models in fostering a sense of responsibility and service toward the nation.

Foot notes:

- Aryamitra Nath has been recognized for his outstanding contributions and bravery, although the specific details of his achievements are not mentioned.
- The Defence Minister's medal is a prestigious award that acknowledges exceptional service and dedication to the nation.
- Rajnath Singh, as the Defence Minister, has been instrumental in promoting and recognizing the efforts of individuals who have made significant contributions to the country's defence and security.
- The award ceremony likely took place in a formal setting, where Rajnath Singh presented the medal to Aryamitra Nath, acknowledging his bravery and selflessness.
- This recognition is a testament to the government's commitment to honoring and rewarding individuals who have demonstrated exceptional courage and dedication to the nation.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off Battlefield Surveillance System 'SANJAY'

Akhil Gupta has been appointed as the new Chairman of Bharti AXA Life Insurance, bringing a wealth of leadership experience to the company. Gupta, known for his expertise in business strategy and operations, will play a key role in guiding the insurer's growth and strategic direction. His appointment is expected to strengthen Bharti AXA's position in the competitive insurance market, focusing on customer-centric solutions and innovation. Under his leadership, the company aims to expand its footprint and enhance its product offerings. Gupta's extensive industry knowledge and strategic vision will be instrumental in driving the company's future success.

Foot notes:

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has launched the 'SANJAY' Battlefield Surveillance System, a game-changer for the Indian Army, which will enhance battlefield transparency and transform the future of warfare.
- The system is an automated platform that integrates inputs from all ground and aerial battlefield sensors, processing them to produce a Common Surveillance Picture of the battlefield over a secured network.

- SANJAY is equipped with state-of-the-art sensors and cutting-edge analytics, enabling it to monitor vast land borders, prevent intrusions, and assess situations with unparalleled accuracy.
- The system has been indigenously developed by the Indian Army and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) at a cost of Rs 2,402 crore, promoting 'Aatmanirbharta' and self-reliance in defence technology.
- The induction of SANJAY will be done in three phases, starting from March to October 2025, and will be deployed to all operational Brigades, Divisions, and Corps of the Indian Army, marking a significant leap towards data and network centricity.

SCI & TECH NEWS

ISRO successfully brings satellites to 3-meter range under SpaDex

ISRO has achieved a significant milestone by successfully bringing satellites to a 3-meter range under the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDex). This breakthrough demonstrates India's advancements in autonomous satellite docking technology, crucial for in-orbit servicing and refueling. The experiment involved precise maneuvering and coordination, showcasing ISRO's engineering and technical prowess. Such capabilities are set to enhance the longevity and sustainability of satellites, contributing to more efficient space operations. This achievement marks another step forward in India's growing capabilities in advanced space technologies.

Foot notes:

- The two satellites, SDX01 and SDX02, were launched on December 30 and were initially at a distance of 475 kilometers from each other.
- ISRO scientists brought the satellites closer, first to 15 meters and then to 3 meters, in a trial attempt to test the docking process.
- Although the docking process was postponed due to some issues with the proximity and docking sensor, the satellites were safely moved back to a safer distance.
- The SpaDex mission aims to demonstrate in-space docking using small spacecraft, which is a crucial technology for future missions like the Bharatiya Antariksh Station and landing an astronaut on the moon.
- ISRO will analyze the data further before attempting the docking process again, and the success of this mission will make India the fourth nation to master the complex technologies required for in-space docking.
- The mission has already generated a lot of excitement, and if successful, it will be a significant achievement for ISRO and a major step forward for India's space program.

Pixxel launches India's 1st private satellite constellation with SpaceX

Pixxel, an Indian space-tech startup, has launched the country's first private satellite constellation in collaboration with SpaceX. This milestone achievement marks a significant step for India's private space sector in advancing satellite technology. The constellation aims to

provide high-resolution Earth imaging and data analytics for applications like climate monitoring, agriculture, and urban planning. By partnering with SpaceX, Pixxel has demonstrated its global competitiveness in satellite deployment and innovation. This launch underscores India's growing presence in the international space industry, led by private enterprises.

Foot notes:

- Pixxel's satellite constellation, called Firefly, consists of six hyperspectral imaging satellites that will provide high-resolution images of the Earth, helping to monitor climate change, track natural disasters, and more.
- The first three satellites were launched on January 14th from California, and the remaining three will be launched in the next two months, followed by 18 more satellites to complete the constellation.
- These satellites are special because they can capture images in over 150 spectral bands, allowing for detailed analysis of the Earth's surface, atmosphere, and oceans.
- Pixxel's technology has the potential to revolutionize various industries such as agriculture, energy, and environmental monitoring, and the company has already signed up over 60 clients, including the US National Reconnaissance Organization.
- This achievement marks a significant milestone for India's private space industry, showcasing the country's growing capabilities in space technology and its potential to become a major player in the global space market.

China Launches Pakistan's Satellite Into Space

China has successfully launched Pakistan's satellite into space, further strengthening their bilateral cooperation in space technology. The launch signifies Pakistan's growing aspirations in space exploration, supported by China's advanced aerospace capabilities. This satellite is expected to enhance Pakistan's telecommunications, Earth observation, and scientific research. The collaboration reflects the deep strategic partnership between the two nations, extending into high-tech domains. It also highlights China's role as a key player in enabling space missions for its allies.

Foot notes:

- The satellite was launched at 12:07 pm Beijing Time by a Long March-2D carrier rocket and entered its planned orbit successfully, with the primary purpose of collecting Earth observation data using electro-optical sensors.
- This launch marks a significant advancement in Pakistan's space technology, reflecting its commitment to leveraging space for national progress and sustainable development, and is expected to enhance Pakistan's capabilities in monitoring and managing natural resources, disaster response, urban planning, and agricultural development.
- The PRSC-EO1 satellite is equipped with advanced electro-optical sensors for high-resolution Earth imaging, and its launch is a result of the growing cooperation between China and Pakistan in the realm of space technology.

- China has been launching satellites for Pakistan in recent years, including the PRSS-1, Pakistan's first optical remote sensing satellite, and the PakTES-1A, a smaller observation satellite, and this launch further strengthens their space cooperation.
- The successful deployment of PRSC-EO1 is expected to bolster Pakistan's technological capabilities and contribute to its strategic objectives in space exploration, with China's support playing a crucial role in Pakistan's space ambitions.

SPORTS NEWS

Kiran Jadhav Won 10m Air Rifle Gold at Lakshya Cup

Kiran Jadhav clinched the gold medal in the 10m Air Rifle event at the prestigious Lakshya Cup, showcasing his exceptional skills in the Para category. He displayed remarkable precision and consistency, securing a top spot among a competitive field. This victory highlights Jadhav's dedication and resilience, serving as an inspiration for aspiring para-athletes. The Lakshya Cup, known for promoting inclusivity in sports, witnessed Jadhav's stellar performance as a defining moment. His achievement is a testament to the growing prominence of Indian para-shooters on the global stage.

Foot notes:

- Kiran Jadhav, a 29-year-old Navy shooter, has won the 10m air rifle gold at the 15th Lakshya Cup, outperforming several top-notch shooters in the process.
- Score and Performance: Jadhav accumulated 251.7 points to secure his first victory after consistently making the final every year since 2018, edging out Gajanan Khandagale of Maharashtra, who scored 250.9 points.
- Notable Competitors: The competition featured several notable shooters, including Paris Olympics finalist Arjun Babuta, who finished fourth with 208.2 points, and reigning national champions Shahu Mane and Ananya Naidu, who failed to qualify for the finals.
- Lakshya Cup Significance: The Lakshya Cup is a prestigious tournament that promotes gender equality, with men and women competing together for the coveted silver trophy, and has been a launching pad for several top Indian shooters.
- Jadhav's Background: Kiran Jadhav has been a consistent performer, winning the national 50m rifle 3P title in 2024 and finishing as the runner-up in the Asian Airgun Championship in 2022, showcasing his skills and dedication to the sport.
- Future Prospects: With this win, Jadhav has cemented his position as one of India's top air rifle shooters, and his performance will be closely watched as he prepares for upcoming national and international competitions.

Varun Tomar Shines at 67th National Shooting Championship

Varun Tomar delivered an outstanding performance at the 67th National Shooting Championship, showcasing his exceptional skills and precision. Competing against some of the

finest marksmen in the country, he emerged as a standout talent in the tournament. His remarkable consistency and focus earned him accolades from both fans and fellow competitors. This achievement adds another feather to Tomar's cap, solidifying his reputation as a rising star in Indian shooting. With this success, he continues to inspire young shooters and bolster India's presence in the global shooting arena.

Foot notes:

- Varun Tomar, the reigning Asian champion, has made headlines by winning both the senior and junior men's 10m air pistol titles at the 67th National Shooting Championship Competitions.
- Senior Title: In the senior final, Tomar overcame a sluggish start to snatch his maiden national crown, defeating his teammate Pradhyumn Singh by 0.8 points, with Rajasthan's Aakash Bhardwaj winning the bronze.
- Junior Title: Tomar also won the junior men's 10m air pistol title, staying in touch with silver winner Nikhil Saroha of Uttar Pradesh, and eventually taking the lead after the 21st shot.
- Score and Accuracy: Tomar's score in the senior final was 238, while he achieved a tally of 246.2 in the junior final, showcasing his greater accuracy and confidence.
- Medal Tally: Haryana, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra are currently leading the medal tally at the Pistol Nationals, with 23, 22, and 13 gold medals, respectively.
- Youth Final: The youth final saw a UP 1-2 finish, with Chirag Sharma overcoming 14-year-old Dev Pratap by a margin of 1.3 after 24 shots, and Rajasthan's Mayank Choudhary winning the bronze.

Australia won Border-Gavaskar Trophy after 10 years

Australia has reclaimed the Border-Gavaskar Trophy after a decade, marking a significant milestone in their cricketing journey. The team displayed remarkable resilience and skill, defeating India in a closely contested series. Key performances from players like Steve Smith and Pat Cummins played a pivotal role in securing the victory. This win ends India's long-standing dominance in the rivalry and highlights Australia's resurgence in Test cricket. Celebrations erupted as the team dedicated their triumph to fans who supported them throughout the challenging series.

Foot notes:

- Australia's victory in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy after a 10-year wait is a significant milestone in their cricket history, marking a major turnaround for the team.
- The Border-Gavaskar Trophy is a prestigious bilateral trophy played between India and Australia, with a rich history of competitive matches between the two teams.
- Australia's win is a testament to their team's hard work and dedication, as they have struggled to win the trophy in recent years, with India dominating the series.
- The series has seen some thrilling matches over the years, with India winning 10 out of 16 test series, Australia winning 5, and one series being drawn.

- The trophy is considered one of the premier bilateral trophies in Test cricket, with both teams having a reputation for being difficult to beat at home.

Martin Guptill Announces Retirement From International Cricket

New Zealand cricketer Martin Guptill has announced his retirement from international cricket, marking the end of an illustrious career. Known for his explosive batting and exceptional fielding, Guptill is one of the finest openers in New Zealand's cricket history. He played a pivotal role in numerous memorable victories, including being the highest run-scorer in the 2015 Cricket World Cup. Guptill's retirement comes as he plans to focus on domestic leagues and spend more time with his family. Tributes have poured in from the cricketing community, celebrating his remarkable contributions to the game.

Foot notes:

- Guptill's decision to retire comes after he was omitted from the squad for the India T20 series, and he has since released himself from his national contract.
- He played his last international match in September 2022, and has now officially confirmed his retirement from all forms of international cricket.
- Throughout his career, Guptill has achieved numerous records, including being the first New Zealander to score a double century in an ODI, and holding the record for the highest individual score in World Cup cricket.
- Guptill has also been an integral part of the New Zealand team, playing in several World Cups and helping the team reach the finals in 2015 and 2019.
- He has scored over 7,000 runs in ODIs and over 3,000 runs in T20Is, making him one of the most successful batsmen in New Zealand's history.
- Guptill's retirement marks the end of an era for New Zealand cricket, but his legacy will continue to inspire future generations of cricketers.

Long-jumper Anju Bobby George named as Chairperson of Athletics Federation of India

Renowned Indian long-jumper Anju Bobby George has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI). A trailblazer in Indian athletics, Anju is celebrated for being the first Indian to win a medal at the World Athletics Championships. In her new role, she will focus on fostering talent development, enhancing training facilities, and promoting athletics across the country. Anju has been a strong advocate for women in sports and aims to drive inclusivity and excellence within the athletic community. Her leadership is expected to bring a fresh perspective to the AFI's initiatives and elevate India's standing in global athletics.

Foot notes:

- As a former athlete, Anju brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the position, having won numerous medals, including a bronze at the 2003 World Championships and a gold at the 2005 World Athletics Final.

- She has previously served as the vice-president of the Athletics Federation of India and has been involved in various administrative roles, making her a great fit for the chairperson position.
- Anju's achievements in athletics have inspired a generation of Indian athletes, and her leadership will undoubtedly play a significant role in shaping the future of Indian athletics.
- Her appointment marks a new era for the Athletics Federation of India, and fans are excited to see the impact she will have on the sport.
- Anju is a respected figure in Indian sports, having received numerous awards, including the Arjuna Award, Khel Ratna, and Padma Shri.
- As chairperson, Anju will be responsible for driving the growth and development of athletics in India, and her vision and leadership will be crucial in achieving this goal.

Devajit Saikia, a former Assam cricketer set to become Secretary of BCCI

Devajit Saikia, a former cricketer from Assam, is poised to take on the role of Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Known for his contributions both on and off the cricket field, Saikia has garnered widespread recognition for his dedication to the sport. His appointment reflects a significant milestone, emphasizing the growing representation of northeastern states in Indian cricket administration. With a background rooted in the game, he is expected to bring valuable insights and a fresh perspective to the BCCI. Saikia's leadership is anticipated to further strengthen the board's initiatives and foster the growth of cricket in India.

Foot notes:

- Devajit Saikia, a former Assam cricketer, is all set to take on the role of Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), marking a significant milestone in his career.¹
- Saikia has had a storied career, not just as a cricketer, but also as a lawyer and sports administrator, having served as the Joint Secretary of the BCCI and Secretary of the Assam Cricket Association.
- He has been instrumental in bringing about reforms in the Assam Cricket Association, including the setting up of a well-equipped office and the introduction of various tournaments, such as the Assam Premier Club Championship.
- Saikia represented Assam in the Ranji Trophy and has also played in the CK Nayudu Trophy and the Vijay Merchant Trophy, showcasing his passion for the sport.
- As the General Secretary of the Guwahati Sports Association, Saikia has demonstrated his leadership skills, introducing new tournaments and restructuring the league format to promote football development in the region.
- Saikia is expected to bring about positive changes in the BCCI, focusing on developing the game at the grassroots level and promoting Indian cricket globally.

Asia gold medallist Bahadur Singh appointed as President of Athletics Federation of India

Asia gold medallist Bahadur Singh has been appointed as the President of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI). A celebrated figure in Indian athletics, Singh brings a wealth of experience and a deep understanding of the sport to his new role. His illustrious career as an athlete, highlighted by his gold medal at the Asian Games, reflects his dedication and passion for athletics. As AFI President, Singh is expected to drive initiatives aimed at nurturing talent and improving infrastructure for athletes across the country. His leadership promises to usher in a new era of growth and excellence in Indian athletics.

Foot notes:

- Bahadur Singh, an Asian Games gold medallist, has been appointed as the President of the Athletics Federation of India, marking a new era in Indian athletics.
- Singh will take over from Adille Sumariwalla, who has been at the helm since 2012, and will look to build on the progress made during his tenure.
- As a former National Chief Coach, Bahadur Singh brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the role, having played a key part in India's rise to becoming a leading nation in Asian athletics.
- Singh has always emphasized the importance of team work, citing the collective efforts of athletes, coaches, and administrators as the reason for India's success in athletics.
- With his appointment, Singh is expected to focus on developing the sport at the grassroots level, improving infrastructure, and creating a conducive environment for athletes to thrive.
- As a renowned athlete and coach, Bahadur Singh's appointment has generated a lot of excitement and expectations, with many hoping that he will take Indian athletics to new heights and create a lasting legacy.

India Dominates Inaugural Kho Kho World Cup 2025

India showcased its dominance by winning the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup 2025 in a thrilling display of skill and strategy. The tournament witnessed India defeating top teams from across the globe, highlighting their prowess in the traditional sport. With exceptional teamwork and agility, the Indian players outshone their competitors in every match. The final saw a spectacular performance that secured India the championship title and solidified their position as leaders in Kho Kho. This historic victory not only brought pride to the nation but also boosted the global recognition of the sport.

Foot notes:

- India's Dominance was on full display throughout the tournament, with the teams showcasing their skill, strategy, and speed to outclass their opponents.
- The women's team was led by skipper Priyanka Ingle, who had multiple touchpoints, and Chaithra B, who orchestrated the Dream Run for India, taking the score to a massive 78 points in Turn 4.

- The men's team was captained by Pratik Waikar, who shone on the mat with multiple skydives, and Ramji Kashyap, who was a star player throughout the tournament.
- India's journey to the championship was remarkable, with the teams showcasing their dominance from the group stages to the knockout rounds, outclassing teams like Bangladesh and South Africa.
- The inaugural Kho Kho World Cup has marked a significant milestone for the sport, bringing global recognition and attention to this traditional Indian game.

Eritrea's Berhane Tesfay & Kenya's Joyce Chepkemai Tele won men and women's elite titles

Eritrea's Berhane Tesfay and Kenya's Joyce Chepkemai Tele claimed victory in the men's and women's elite titles, respectively. Their outstanding performances showcased exceptional endurance and skill, setting them apart from their competitors. Tesfay's strategic pace and determination earned him the top spot in the men's category. Meanwhile, Tele dominated the women's race with remarkable consistency and speed. Their triumphs underscore the global athletic prowess of Eritrea and Kenya in long-distance events.

Foot notes:

- Berhane Tesfay won his first marathon title in a dramatic finish, crossing the finish line in 2:11:44, with his teammate Merhawi Kesete taking the runner-up position just six seconds later.
- Joyce Chepkemai Tele registered her second straight marathon victory in three months, completing the race in 2:24:56, about 41 seconds slower than the record.
- The top three winners in the men's and women's categories took home prize money of USD 50,000, USD 25,000, and USD 15,000, respectively.
- Anish Thapa won his first Tata Mumbai Marathon Indian men's title, finishing in 2:17:23, while Nirmaben Thakor retained her Indian Elite women's crown.
- The Mumbai Marathon saw a thrilling competition, with strategic running, intense competition, and personal achievements showcasing the athletes' remarkable skill and determination.

Rishabh Pant Set to Lead Lucknow Super Giants as New IPL Captain

Rishabh Pant has been appointed as the new captain of the Lucknow Super Giants for the upcoming IPL season. Known for his dynamic leadership and explosive batting, Pant is expected to bring fresh energy to the team. His appointment marks a significant step for the franchise as they aim to strengthen their performance under his guidance. With a proven track record in high-pressure situations, Pant's leadership will be pivotal in shaping the team's strategy. Fans are eager to see how his aggressive approach will influence the Lucknow Super Giants' campaign this season.

Foot notes:

- Pant was acquired by LSG for a staggering INR 27 crore, making him the most expensive player in the IPL, and now he's poised to lead the team.
- He'll be replacing KL Rahul, who captained LSG in their first three IPL seasons, but the team had a disappointing 2024 season, finishing seventh on the points table.
- Pant's leadership journey began at Delhi Capitals, where he took over as captain in 2021, but his tenure was marked by uncertainty, and he eventually opted to re-enter the auction.
- With Pant at the helm, LSG will have a strong squad, featuring key overseas players like David Miller, Mitchell Marsh, and Aiden Markram, along with Indian seamers like Akash Deep and Avesh Khan.
- Pant will work closely with LSG's head coach, Justin Langer, and the team's new mentor, Zaheer Khan, to aim for a successful IPL 2025 campaign, and this is an exciting time for the franchise and its fans.

Karnataka Clinch Vijay Hazare Trophy For Record 5th Time

Karnataka clinched the Vijay Hazare Trophy for a record fifth time, showcasing their dominance in Indian domestic cricket. In a thrilling final, they defeated Tamil Nadu by a significant margin, thanks to standout performances from their bowlers and batsmen. Rohan Kadam played a crucial role, anchoring the innings with a match-winning knock. Karnataka's bowlers, led by VidhwathKaverappa, dismantled Tamil Nadu's batting lineup effectively. This victory reaffirmed Karnataka's status as a powerhouse in Indian domestic cricket, blending experience with emerging talent.

Foot notes:

- Karnataka set a formidable target of 348 runs, with Smaran Ravichandran scoring a blistering 101 off 92 balls and Abhinav Manohar contributing 79 off 42 balls.
- Vidarbha's chase ended at 312 all out, despite a valiant century by Dhruv Shorey, who scored 110 runs.
- Karnataka's bowlers, including Vasuki Kaushik, Prasad Krishna, and Abhilash Shetty, delivered disciplined performances to restrict Vidarbha's batting lineup.
- This win marks Karnataka's fifth Vijay Hazare Trophy title, with previous wins in 2013-14, 2014-15, 2017-18, and 2019-20.
- Karnataka's victory is a testament to their strong team performance, with multiple players contributing to their success throughout the tournament.

Odisha Warriors Triumph Over ShachiRarh Bengal Tigers in Women's Hockey India League

The Odisha Warriors emerged victorious against the ShachiRarh Bengal Tigers in a thrilling finale of the Women's Hockey India League. Displaying exceptional teamwork and skill, the Warriors secured a narrow but well-deserved win. Captain Deep Grace Ekka led from the front, inspiring her team with a solid defensive performance. The match also highlighted the attacking

pro prowess of the Warriors, with Neha and Lalremsiami contributing crucial goals. This victory marks a significant achievement for Odisha Warriors, reinforcing their dominance in Indian women's hockey.

Foot notes:

- The Warriors' win takes them to the top of the points table with eight points, and they're looking strong in the tournament. Michelle Fillet also scored a powerful goal, and Neha Goyal sealed the win with a late goal.
- The ShrachiRarh Bengal Tigers did manage to score through Udit, but it wasn't enough to mount a challenge against the Warriors' dominant performance.
- The Warriors' clinical finishing and strong team play were key to their victory, and they're definitely a team to watch in the league.
- Their previous match against the Bengal Tigers had ended in a 1-1 draw, but this time the Warriors made sure to take the win in style.
- With this victory, the Odisha Warriors are sending a clear message to their opponents, and they're looking to maintain their momentum and challenge for the title.

India Clinches PD Champions Trophy 2025 with Dominant Win Over England

India emerged victorious in the PD Champions Trophy 2025 with a commanding win over England in the final. Demonstrating exceptional performance, the Indian team outclassed England in all departments of the game. The victory solidifies India's dominance in the sport and adds another prestigious title to their achievements. Players showcased remarkable teamwork and individual brilliance, earning widespread praise. This win is a testament to India's preparation and resilience, further inspiring fans and aspiring athletes.

Foot notes:

- The Indian Physical Disability Cricket Team put up an impressive performance, with Yogendra Bhadoria scoring a stunning 73 runs off just 40 balls, including four boundaries and five sixes.
- Radhika Prasad was the star of the show with the ball, taking 4 wickets for just 19 runs in 3.2 overs, and was well-supported by Vikrant Keni and Ravindra Sante.
- The team's dominant win is a testament to their hard work and dedication, and they have made the country proud with this achievement.
- This victory marks a significant milestone for differently-abled athletes in cricket, and it's a huge step forward for the sport.
- The Indian team's triumph is an inspiration to many, and they will be looking to build on this success in future tournaments.

Gukesh shines at Tata Steel Chess 2025 with Marathon win

Indian Grandmaster Gukesh D delivered a stellar performance at the Tata Steel Chess 2025, securing a marathon victory that showcased his resilience and skill. In a grueling match lasting over seven hours, Gukesh outwitted his opponent with precise endgame strategy, earning

widespread praise. This win solidified his reputation as one of the brightest stars in the chess world and demonstrated his ability to compete against the best. Gukesh's victory also boosted his FIDE rating, further strengthening his position among the global elite. His remarkable feat has inspired young chess enthusiasts across the country, highlighting the growing prominence of Indian players on the international stage.

Foot notes:

- Gukesh's win was his second at the 87th Tata Steel Masters, and it came after a long and intense game against Keymer, who is not only his opponent but also his second.
- The game was a complex one, with both players making bold moves and counter-moves, but ultimately, Gukesh emerged victorious, thanks to a decisive advantage after the queen trade.
- Gukesh's victory has put him in a strong position in the tournament, with 3.5 points out of 5, and he is now tied with Vladimir Fedoseev, who also won his game against Fabiano Caruana.
- The tournament is heating up, with several top players still in contention, including R Praggnanandhaa, who is currently in the lead with 4 points, and Nodirbek Abdusattorov, who is close behind with 4 points as well.
- Gukesh's win is a testament to his skill and endurance, and he will be looking to build on this momentum in the remaining rounds of the tournament.

Michael Clarke Inducted into the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame

Michael Clarke, the former Australian cricket captain, has been inducted into the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame. Known for his leadership and outstanding batting skills, Clarke's career was marked by numerous records and significant achievements. His contributions to Australian cricket, both as a player and a captain, earned him a place among the sport's greats. Clarke led Australia to victory in the 2015 Ashes series, one of the highlights of his captaincy. This prestigious recognition acknowledges his legacy and enduring impact on the game of cricket.

Foot notes:

- He becomes the 64th member of the Hall of Fame, joining an elite group of Australian cricketers who have made significant contributions to the game.
- Clarke's impressive career statistics, including 8643 runs and 28 centuries in Test cricket, have cemented his place as one of Australia's all-time greats.
- His leadership and batting prowess were instrumental in Australia's success during his playing days, including the 2015 ICC World Cup win.
- Clarke's induction is a proud moment for him, and he has expressed his gratitude and surprise at being recognized in this way, noting that it's an honor to be alongside his idols and role models ¹.
- The Australian Cricket Hall of Fame committee has praised Clarke's achievements, describing him as a player who defined his generation, and his induction is a fitting tribute to his dedication and passion for the game.

Arshdeep Singh Becomes India's Leading Wicket-Taker In T20Is

Arshdeep Singh has made history by becoming India's leading wicket-taker in T20Is, surpassing previous records held by some of the country's top bowlers. His consistent performances with the ball, coupled with his ability to bowl in crucial moments, have been instrumental in India's success in the format. Arshdeep's rise to the top spot highlights his growing reputation as one of the most promising fast bowlers in world cricket. His achievement is a testament to his hard work, discipline, and skill in the shortest format of the game. The milestone also underscores the significant role he plays in India's T20I bowling lineup, with many expecting him to achieve even greater heights in the future.

Foot notes:

- Arshdeep Singh has become India's leading wicket-taker in T20Is, surpassing Yuzvendra Chahal with 97 wickets in 61 innings.
- He achieved this milestone during the first T20I against England, where he took two wickets, including the crucial scalp of Ben Duckett.
- Arshdeep's impressive performance has earned him a spot at the top of the list of Indian bowlers with the most wickets in T20Is, followed by Chahal and Bhuvneshwar Kumar.
- His strike rate of 12.9 is the best among full-member bowlers who have taken 75+ wickets in T20Is, making him a valuable asset to the Indian team.
- Arshdeep is now just three wickets away from becoming the first Indian bowler to reach the 100-wicket mark in T20Is, a feat that will further cement his position as one of the leading bowlers in the format.

Sinner Secures Back-to-Back Aussie Open Championships

Jannik Sinner has secured back-to-back Australian Open championships, solidifying his position as one of tennis's brightest stars. The Italian ace displayed exceptional skill and resilience throughout the tournament, defeating top-ranked opponents to claim the title. Sinner's powerful groundstrokes and strategic gameplay were key to his success in defending his crown. This historic win makes him one of the few players to achieve consecutive victories at the Australian Open. Fans and analysts alike are hailing his achievement as a testament to his growing dominance in the sport.

Foot notes:

- Sinner's victory marks a historic achievement, as he becomes the first Italian player to win three Grand Slam titles, and the youngest player to win back-to-back Australian Open titles since Jim Courier in 1992-1993.
- He defeated Zverev in straight sets, 6-3, 7-6(4), 6-3, showcasing his relentless baseline game, physical power, and mental steeliness.

- Sinner's win streak continues, with 21 consecutive match wins at hard-court Grand Slams, and he's now the fifth player in the Open Era to win three successive Grand Slam titles.
- Zverev, on the other hand, faces a 0-3 loss record in Grand Slam finals, and was visibly upset after the match, saying "it sucks standing next to this trophy" and congratulating Sinner on his win.
- Sinner's dominance has solidified his position as the world's best men's player, with Zverev himself saying "you are the best player in the world by far."

Iniyan Panneerselvam Won Johor Chess Title

Indian Grandmaster Iniyan Panneerselvam has won the prestigious Johor Chess Championship, showcasing his exceptional strategic acumen and skill. The victory marks a significant milestone in his career, solidifying his reputation as one of India's rising chess talents. Iniyan delivered a stellar performance, defeating strong opponents from around the globe in a fiercely contested tournament. His triumph highlights India's growing prominence in the international chess arena. Iniyan's achievement is expected to inspire young chess enthusiasts across the country to pursue excellence in the sport.

Foot notes:

- He showcased an exceptional performance to clinch the title on January 24, 2025, demonstrating his skill and strategy in the game.
- Iniyan is India's 71st grandmaster and has been actively participating in tournaments since 2008, with over 250 tournaments and more than 150 medals under his belt.
- The Johor International Open Chess Tournament is a prestigious event that attracts top players from around the world, and Iniyan's win is a testament to his hard work and dedication to the sport.
- Iniyan has also been sharing his knowledge and expertise through Fritztrainer format, providing valuable insights and strategies for other chess players to learn from.
- His win is a significant achievement for Indian chess, and Iniyan is sure to continue making waves in the chess world with his impressive skills and accomplishments.

Odisha Warriors Won Inaugural Women's HIL Title

The Odisha Warriors clinched the inaugural Women's Hockey India League (HIL) title, marking a historic moment in Indian hockey. The team displayed exceptional skill and teamwork, defeating formidable opponents in a thrilling final match. This victory is a testament to their dedication and the growing prominence of women's hockey in the country. The Odisha Warriors' triumph has garnered widespread praise and is expected to inspire a new generation of female hockey players. The league's success has also underscored the importance of nurturing talent and investing in women's sports.

Foot notes:

- The match was a high-intensity clash, with both teams giving it their all, and Odisha Warriors emerging victorious with a 2-1 scoreline.
- Rutuja Dadaso Pisal was the star of the show, scoring both goals for Odisha Warriors in the 20th and 56th minutes, including the winning goal that sealed the title.
- Soorma Hockey Club put up a good fight, with Penny Squibb equalizing for them in the 28th minute, but ultimately fell short.
- The last quarter was tense, with both teams playing cautiously, but Odisha Warriors held their nerve to win the title.
- This win marks a historic moment for Odisha Warriors, as they become the first-ever champions of the Women's Hockey India League.

Rohit Sharma Leads ICC Men's T20I Team of the Year

Rohit Sharma has been named the captain of the ICC Men's T20I Team of the Year, recognizing his exceptional leadership and consistent performances in the shortest format. Under his captaincy, India achieved several remarkable victories, with Rohit contributing significantly as an opener. The team features a mix of experienced players and emerging talents who excelled in T20Is throughout the year. Rohit's strategic acumen and ability to perform under pressure were pivotal in earning him this honor. His inclusion as captain highlights his influence on the global cricketing stage and his commitment to the sport.

Foot notes:

- He led India to their second T20 World Cup title, accumulating 378 runs at an average of 42.00 and a strike rate of 160.16, including a standout innings of 92 runs against Australia.
- The team features four Indian players, including Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, and Hardik Pandya, highlighting India's dominance in the T20 format.
- The team has a global representation, with players from eight different nations, including Australia's Travis Head, England's Phil Salt, and Pakistan's Babar Azam.
- Other notable inclusions in the team are Zimbabwe's Sikandar Raza, Afghanistan's Rashid Khan, and Sri Lanka's Wanindu Hasaranga, who all had impressive performances in 2024.

Jyothi Yarraji Won Gold, Breaks National Record in France

Indian athlete Jyothi Yarraji clinched the gold medal and shattered the national record in the women's 60m hurdles at an international meet in France. Her remarkable performance demonstrated exceptional speed and precision, setting a new benchmark for Indian athletics. Jyothi's victory is a testament to her relentless dedication and rigorous training. This achievement adds to her growing list of accolades and establishes her as a rising star in track and field events. Her record-breaking run is expected to inspire aspiring athletes and boost India's presence on the global athletics stage.

Foot notes:

- She clocked an incredible 8.04s in the final, bettering her previous record of 8.12s and taking home the top prize.
- This win marks a significant milestone for Jyothi, who has been working tirelessly to improve her performance and push the boundaries of Indian athletics.
- Jyothi's journey to the top has not been easy, having faced setbacks and challenges along the way, but she has consistently demonstrated her determination and resilience.
- Her victory in France is a testament to her hard work and dedication, and she continues to inspire a new generation of Indian athletes with her achievements.
- With this win, Jyothi has cemented her position as one of India's leading athletes, and we can't wait to see what she achieves next.

Taylor Townsend and Katerina Siniakova Claim Women's Doubles Title at Australian Open

Taylor Townsend and Katerina Siniakova have won the Women's Doubles title at the Australian Open, showcasing remarkable teamwork and skill throughout the tournament. The duo displayed a flawless blend of aggressive play and tactical intelligence, overcoming tough opponents in the final. Their victory is a testament to their strong chemistry on court and their relentless pursuit of excellence. Townsend and Siniakova's triumph marks a significant achievement in both of their careers, as they claim one of the sport's most coveted titles. This win is expected to further solidify their status as one of the top doubles teams in the world.

Foot notes:

- They defeated Hsieh Su-Wei and Jelena Ostapenko in a thrilling final, coming from behind to win 6-2 6-7(4) 6-3 in a match that lasted over 2 hours.
- This is Siniakova's 10th Grand Slam doubles title, and she's now the world No.1 in doubles, having won three of the last four Slams.
- For Townsend, this is her second Grand Slam doubles title, and she's over the moon about winning it with her partner Siniakova.
- The American tennis star drew inspiration from watching her friend Madison Keys win the women's singles title the previous night, and she hopes their achievements will inspire young people to take up tennis.
- Siniakova and Townsend's victory is a testament to their incredible partnership, and they're already looking forward to their next challenge together.

Jasprit Bumrah Won ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year 2024

Indian fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah has been honored with the ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year award for 2024, following a remarkable performance throughout the year. After recovering from a back injury in late 2023, Bumrah emerged as the leading wicket-taker, claiming 71 wickets in 13 matches, surpassing his closest competitor, Gus Atkinson, by 19 wickets. His exceptional average of 14.92 and a strike rate of 30.1 set new benchmarks among

bowlers with over 70 wickets in a calendar year. Notably, during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia, Bumrah secured 32 wickets in five matches at an average of 13.06, earning him the Player of the Series title, even though India lost the series. This accolade marks Bumrah as the first Indian cricketer to receive this award since Virat Kohli in 2018.

Foot notes:

- He took 71 wickets in 2024, the highest by any bowler in the year, with a stunning average of 14.92 and a strike rate of 30.1.
- Bumrah's performance was instrumental in India's wins against England and Bangladesh at home, as well as their impressive showings in South Africa and Australia.
- He became the fourth Indian bowler to claim more than 70 Test wickets in a calendar year, joining an elite group that includes Ravichandran Ashwin, Anil Kumble, and Kapil Dev.
- Bumrah's average of 14.92 was the lowest amongst all the 17 bowlers who registered more than 70 wickets in Test cricket in a calendar year.
- He also won the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year, edging out nominees like Travis Head, Joe Root, and Harry Brook, and becoming the fifth Indian to win the award.

Australia Clinches ICC Women's Championship Trophy

Australia has clinched the ICC Women's Championship Trophy, solidifying their dominance in international women's cricket. The team's exceptional performance throughout the competition earned them the prestigious title, further enhancing their reputation as a powerhouse in the sport. Key players showcased remarkable skills, with both batting and bowling departments contributing significantly to the team's success. This victory also highlights the continued growth and prominence of women's cricket, as Australia continues to set high standards in the game. The win was celebrated by players and fans alike, marking another milestone in Australia's rich cricketing history.

Foot notes:

- Australia was presented with the trophy in Melbourne, with Captain Alyssa Healy receiving it on behalf of the team from Cricket Australia Chair and ICC Director Mike Baird.
- The team has been consistent throughout the championship, playing some really exciting cricket and staying at the top of the ladder to ensure their qualification for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025.
- The championship saw all teams play against eight other teams in three-match series on a home or away basis, with Australia assuring itself the top position in the points table with 39 points from 24 matches.
- The top five teams, including Australia, India, England, South Africa, and Sri Lanka, have qualified directly for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025, while the bottom four teams will play in a Qualifier.

- Australia's win is a testament to their hard work and dedication, and they're already looking forward to the next cycle and the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025, which will be hosted by India later this year.

Amelia Kerr of New Zealand named ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year 2024

Amelia Kerr of New Zealand has been named the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year 2024, a well-deserved recognition for her outstanding performances across all formats. Kerr, known for her exceptional all-round abilities, has consistently delivered match-winning performances with both the bat and the ball. Her remarkable skills were highlighted in key series and tournaments, where she played pivotal roles in New Zealand's success. This accolade solidifies her place as one of the premier cricketers in the world and further underscores her importance to New Zealand women's cricket. Kerr's achievement is a testament to her hard work, talent, and commitment to the game.

Foot notes:

- Amelia Kerr is the first New Zealander to win the prestigious Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year, a testament to her outstanding performance in 2024.
- She had a phenomenal year, amassing 387 runs and taking 29 wickets at an average of 15.55 in T20Is, and was named the Player of the Match and Player of the Tournament in the Women's T20 World Cup.
- Kerr's impressive stats also include 264 runs at an average of 33.00 and 14 wickets in ODIs, showcasing her all-round brilliance and consistency.
- She overcame strong competition from South African skipper Laura Wolvaardt, Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu, and Australia all-rounder Annabel Sutherland to win the award.
- Kerr's achievement is a huge honor for her and New Zealand cricket, and she's thrilled to have received the award, acknowledging the support of her teammates and the people who have helped her achieve this milestone.

Ladakh Tops Khelo India Winter Games 2025

Ladakh emerged as the overall champion at the Khelo India Winter Games 2025, showcasing exceptional performances across multiple sports. The region's athletes dominated various winter sports, including ice hockey, skiing, and snowboarding, securing the highest number of medals. Their success highlights the growing prominence of winter sports in Ladakh and the dedication of its athletes. The event, held in a competitive and vibrant atmosphere, saw participation from teams across India, promoting sports culture in the region. Ladakh's triumph at the Winter Games 2025 is a testament to its rising sporting talent and the government's efforts to develop winter sports infrastructure.

Foot notes:

- Ladakh's women's ice hockey team delivered a stunning 4-0 victory against ITBP, showcasing their skills and teamwork.
- The Indian Army retained their ice hockey title, defeating ITBP 2-1 in a nail-biting final, with Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre's young fans cheering them on.
- Tamil Nadu made a significant mark in the skating events, highlighting the growing diversity of winter sports talent in India, and won 3 gold medals.
- Ladakh's mixed relay quartet, comprising Stanzin Jampal, Skarma Tsultim, Mohammed Saquaf Raza, and Padma Angmo, clocked 3:02.19 secs to strike gold in the mixed relay event.
- The Khelo India Winter Games 2025 has been a huge success, with the first phase held in Ladakh from January 23 to 27, and the second phase scheduled to take place in Jammu and Kashmir from February 22 to 25.

Steve Smith Joins Elite 10,000-Run Club In Test Cricket

Australian cricketer Steve Smith has joined the elite 10,000-run club in Test cricket, becoming one of the few batters to achieve this milestone. He reached the landmark during a Test match, further cementing his legacy as one of the modern greats of the game. Smith, known for his unorthodox technique and remarkable consistency, joins legendary cricketers like Sachin Tendulkar, Ricky Ponting, and Jacques Kallis in this exclusive club. His achievement highlights his dominance in the longest format, with numerous match-winning performances for Australia. This milestone reinforces Smith's status as one of the finest Test batsmen of his generation.

Foot notes:

- Steve Smith has achieved a remarkable feat in Test cricket, joining the elite 10,000-run club, becoming the 15th cricketer to do so. He reached this milestone during the opening Test against Sri Lanka, guiding a delivery from Prabath Jayasuriya for a single in Galle.
- Smith is the fourth Australian to reach 10,000 Test runs, after Allan Border, Steve Waugh, and Ricky Ponting. He achieved this milestone in 205 innings, making him the fifth-fastest batter to reach 10,000 Test runs.
- Smith joins an illustrious group of cricketers, including Sachin Tendulkar, Brian Lara, and Kumar Sangakkara, who have achieved this milestone. Tendulkar remains the all-time leading run-scorer in Test cricket, with 15,921 runs.
- Smith's career has been marked by his exceptional batting skills, with an average of over 55 across 114 Tests, and 34 centuries since his debut in 2010. He has been a key player for Australia, leading the team in crucial matches and series.

Dinesh Karthik Becomes India's Top Wicket-Keeper Run-Scorer In T20s

Veteran cricketer Dinesh Karthik has become India's top wicket-keeper run-scorer in T20s, surpassing previous record holders. Known for his finishing abilities and adaptability, Karthik has been a key performer in the shortest format of the game. His milestone highlights his longevity and consistency across domestic and international T20 matches. With explosive

batting and sharp wicket-keeping skills, he remains a valuable asset in the format. This achievement further solidifies his legacy as one of India's finest T20 wicket-keeper batters.

Foot notes:

- Dinesh Karthik has made history by becoming India's top wicket-keeper run-scorer in T20s, surpassing MS Dhoni's record with 7,451 runs in 361 innings.
- Karthik achieved this milestone during his SA20 stint with Paarl Royals, where he scored 21 runs off 15 balls, featuring two sixes, against Durban's Super Giants.
- With this feat, Karthik has cemented his position as one of the most successful wicket-keeper batsmen in Indian cricket, known for his aggressive batting style and ability to finish games strong.
- Karthik's journey to this milestone has been remarkable, having played for various teams in the Indian Premier League, including Delhi Daredevils, Kings XI Punjab, Mumbai Indians, and Royal Challengers Bangalore.
- As Karthik continues to play in the SA20 league, he will look to add more runs to his tally and solidify his legacy as one of India's greatest wicket-keeper batsmen, with Virat Kohli leading the overall run-scoring chart in T20s with 12,886 runs.

Delhi's Kushagra Rawat, set a new national record in 1500m freestyle Swimming event

Delhi's Kushagra Rawat has been a prominent figure in Indian swimming, particularly in the 1500m freestyle event. At the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, he qualified for the final and finished eighth with a time of 15:42.67. In 2019, he set a national record in the 1500m freestyle with a time of 15:41.45 during the Senior Nationals in Delhi. His consistent performances have solidified his reputation as one of India's leading distance swimmers.

Foot notes:

- Kushagra Rawat from Delhi has set a new national record in the 1500m freestyle swimming event with a time of 15:41.45.
- The previous record holder was also Kushagra Rawat, with a time of 15:25.22, which he set at the 2020 NSW Open State Championships.
- The 1500m freestyle swimming event is a long-distance swimming competition that requires endurance, stamina, and technique.
- Kushagra Rawat has been an accomplished swimmer, having won several national and international competitions, including the 400m freestyle event at the 2020 NSW Open State Championships.
- Rawat's achievement is an inspiration to young swimmers in India, showcasing the potential for Indian swimmers to compete at the highest levels.

Usman Khawaja, first Australian to score a double century in Sri Lanka

Usman Khawaja made history by becoming the first Australian to score a double century in Sri Lanka during the second Test of Australia's tour in 2025. His remarkable innings of 200 runs helped Australia gain a dominant position in the match. Khawaja's performance was a blend of technique and patience, as he negotiated Sri Lanka's spin attack with confidence. His

achievement further cemented his reputation as one of Australia's most reliable Test batsmen. The landmark knock was widely celebrated, marking a significant milestone in Australian cricket history.

Foot notes:

- Usman Khawaja has become the first Australian batsman to score a double century in Sri Lanka.
- Khawaja achieved this milestone in a Test match against Sri Lanka, showcasing his exceptional batting skills.
- This remarkable feat demonstrates Khawaja's ability to adapt and excel in challenging overseas conditions.
- Khawaja's double century is a significant achievement in Australian cricket history, highlighting his importance in the team.
- The accomplishment is a testament to Khawaja's hard work, dedication, and perseverance, solidifying his position as one of Australia's top batsmen.

NorthEast United FC secured a dominant 4-1 win over Hyderabad FC

In a thrilling encounter on December 23, 2024, NorthEast United FC overcame a two-goal deficit to secure a 5-2 victory over Hyderabad FC at the GMC Balayogi Athletic Stadium. Hyderabad FC started strong, with Edmilson Correia netting twice in the opening 12 minutes. However, NorthEast United responded swiftly, with Guillermo Fernández reducing the deficit in the 18th minute. The second half saw an own goal by Lenny Rodrigues, followed by Fernández's second strike, giving NorthEast United the lead. Further goals from Alaaeddine Ajarai and an own goal by Alex Saji sealed the comeback, ending Hyderabad FC's nine-game unbeaten streak against NorthEast United.

Foot notes:

- The match took place on January 29, 2025, at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati, India, with NorthEast United FC emerging as the clear winners.
- NorthEast United FC's goals were scored by Guillermo (17'), Alaaeddine Ajaray (45'), Asheer Akhtar (79'), and Mohammed Ali Bemammer (89'), while Hyderabad FC's sole goal was scored by Manoj Mohammed (70').
- The match had an attendance of 14,897 spectators, and was refereed by Crystal John.
- Following the win, NorthEast United FC holds the 4th position in the Indian Super League standings with 28 points, while Hyderabad FC is at the 12th position with 13 points.
- NorthEast United FC's dominant win showcases their strong performance in the Indian Super League, with the team demonstrating impressive skills and teamwork throughout the match.

Tamil Nadu's Narmada Nitin Raju clinched gold in 10m air rifle shooting

On January 30, 2025, at the 38th National Games in Dehradun, Tamil Nadu's Narmada Nithin Raju clinched the gold medal in the women's 10m air rifle event, setting a new national record with a score of 254.4. This performance narrowly missed the world record by just 0.1 points. Narmada's consistent high scores, including three perfect 10.9s, kept her ahead of competitors like Maharashtra's Arya Borse, who secured silver with 252.5 points, and Haryana's Ramita Jindal, who took bronze with 230.4 points. Reflecting on her achievement, Narmada emphasized the importance of self-belief and perseverance for young athletes. This victory marks a significant milestone in her shooting career, highlighting her dedication and skill.

Foot notes:

- Narmada Nithin Raju from Tamil Nadu won the gold medal in the women's 10m air rifle event at the 38th National Games, setting a new national record with a score of 254.4.
- Raju's performance was remarkable, surpassing the national record set by Olympian Apurvi Chandela in 2019 and narrowly missing the world record held by China's Huang Yuting.
- Representing Tamil Nadu, Raju topped the podium, outclassing competitors like Maharashtra's Arya Borse and Asian Games bronze medallist Ramita Jindal.
- This achievement adds to Raju's impressive resume, which includes winning the 2023 Cairo and Bhopal World Cups.
- Raju's win was part of the 38th National Games, a prestigious sporting event that brings together top athletes from across India.

BANKING NEWS

Ashok Chandra appointed as MD & CEO of PNB

Ashok Chandra has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Punjab National Bank (PNB), ushering in a new era of leadership for the financial institution. With extensive experience in banking and financial management, he is expected to bring innovative strategies to enhance the bank's operations and customer services. His appointment comes at a time when PNB is focusing on digital transformation and improving its market position. Chandra's leadership will likely play a pivotal role in driving growth and addressing the evolving needs of the banking sector. The announcement has been welcomed as a step towards strengthening PNB's governance and strategic direction.

Foot notes:

- Extensive Experience is one of his strong suits, having worked in various capacities, including as an Executive Director at Canara Bank since November 2022.
- He will be overseeing the overall strategy and direction of PNB, and his appointment is for a three-year term, with the possibility of an extension based on performance.
- Digital Banking is an area where Chandra has significant expertise, having overseen digital banking and information technology, strategy and planning, marketing and public relations, among other verticals, during his time at Canara Bank.

- Chandra began his banking career at the erstwhile Corporation Bank in September 1991 as a probationary officer, and has risen through the ranks to take on this top role at PNB.
- Leadership is what PNB needs, and Chandra is expected to provide that, having held various key positions throughout his career, including Executive Director at Canara Bank.

About PNB:**CEO:** Ashok Chandra**Headquarters:** New Delhi**Founded:** 1894**Indian Bank appoints Binod Kumar as MD & CEO**

Binod Kumar has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Indian Bank, marking a key leadership transition for the institution. With years of experience in the banking sector, he is expected to bring valuable insights and innovative strategies to drive the bank's growth. His appointment comes at a time when Indian Bank is focused on enhancing its digital footprint and expanding its services to a broader customer base. Kumar's leadership will play a crucial role in strengthening the bank's market position and addressing emerging challenges in the financial sector. This decision reflects the bank's commitment to robust governance and sustained development.

Foot notes:

- Experience is on his side, with over three decades of experience in the banking sector, including his previous role as Executive Director of Punjab National Bank (PNB) since November 2022.
- Kumar has a strong educational background, being a science graduate and holding certifications like FRM, CAIIB, and a diploma in Treasury Investment, as well as a Post Graduate Diploma in Banking and Finance from NIBM.
- As MD and CEO of Indian Bank, he'll be responsible for leading the bank's overall strategy and direction, and his experience in corporate banking, treasury, international banking, and finance will be invaluable in this role.
- Kumar's appointment is seen as a significant development for Indian Bank, which has been working to expand its operations and improve its financial performance, with a net profit increase of 36.2% to Rs 2706.44 crore in Q2 FY25.
- With his leadership, Indian Bank is expected to continue its growth trajectory, and his experience in handling key areas like data analytics and warehousing will be crucial in driving the bank's digital transformation.

About Indian Bank:**CEO:** Binod Kumar**Headquarters:** Chennai**Founded:** 1907

PNB MetLife Joins Hands With Saraswat Bank For Financial Inclusion

PNB MetLife has partnered with Saraswat Bank to promote financial inclusion and expand access to insurance services. This collaboration aims to bring comprehensive financial solutions to underserved communities, addressing their insurance and financial planning needs. By leveraging Saraswat Bank's extensive network and PNB MetLife's expertise in insurance, the partnership seeks to enhance financial literacy and security among customers. The initiative aligns with the shared vision of both organizations to empower individuals with accessible and affordable financial products. This strategic alliance is a step forward in creating a more inclusive financial ecosystem across the country.

Foot notes:

- Bancassurance partnership is the key to this collaboration, where PNB MetLife will leverage Saraswat Bank's extensive distribution network to sell insurance policies.
- The partnership will help address the protection gap and increase insurance penetration in India, promoting financial inclusion by reaching underserved and uninsured segments of the population.
- Sameer Bansal, Managing Director & CEO of PNB MetLife, believes this partnership will make life insurance accessible to millions of Indians, while Arti Patil, Managing Director & CEO of Saraswat Co-operative Bank Ltd, sees it as an opportunity to deliver comprehensive services that address every aspect of their customers' financial well-being.

RBI Allows Overseas Banks to Open INR Accounts

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has permitted overseas banks to open Indian Rupee (INR) accounts in a bid to promote international trade in the domestic currency. This move aligns with the RBI's efforts to internationalize the rupee and reduce reliance on foreign currencies like the US dollar. Foreign banks can now establish Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs) to facilitate trade settlements and financial transactions in INR. The decision is expected to boost cross-border trade, enhance liquidity, and strengthen India's position in the global financial system. This initiative also reflects India's commitment to deepening economic ties with its trading partners.

Foot notes:

- Increased Accessibility is one of the key benefits of this move, as it will enable overseas banks to provide INR-denominated services to their clients, making it easier for them to conduct business in India.
- This development is also likely to Reduce Transaction Costs, as companies will no longer need to convert their funds into foreign currencies to conduct transactions with Indian businesses.
- The RBI's decision is part of its efforts to Internationalize the Rupee, which aims to increase the use of the INR in global transactions and reduce India's dependence on foreign currencies.

- Simplified Trade is another advantage of this move, as it will facilitate trade between India and other countries by allowing companies to settle transactions in INR, rather than relying on foreign currencies.
- Overall, the RBI's decision to allow overseas banks to open INR accounts is a positive step towards promoting India's economic growth and increasing its global trade presence.

India's electronics exports rose 35.11 per cent to USD 3.58 billion

India's electronics exports experienced a significant surge, rising by 35.11% to reach USD 3.58 billion. This remarkable growth underscores the country's strengthening position in the global electronics market. Factors such as increased production capabilities, government incentives, and rising global demand contributed to this achievement. The export growth highlights India's potential as a major electronics manufacturing hub. It also reflects the success of initiatives aimed at boosting exports and enhancing the sector's competitiveness on the international stage.

Foot notes:

- Electronics Exports have been on the rise, with a growth of 35.11% in December 2024, reaching USD 3.58 billion, the highest in 24 months.
- The country's electronic exports jumped by a robust 27.4% to \$22.5 billion in April-November of 2024-25, from \$17.66 billion during the same period in the previous year.
- This growth is a testament to India's increasing presence in the global electronics market, with exports of electronic goods such as smartphones, laptops, and televisions driving the surge.
- The top export destinations for Indian electronics include the US, Saudi Arabia, France, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka, with these countries accounting for a significant share of India's electronics exports.
- The Indian government's efforts to promote electronics manufacturing and exports, such as the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, have contributed to this growth, and the sector is expected to continue to play a key role in driving India's economic growth.

India Becomes 7th Largest Coffee Producer

India has achieved the milestone of becoming the 7th largest coffee producer in the world, showcasing its growing prominence in the global coffee industry. The country's diverse climatic conditions and fertile soil have contributed to the cultivation of high-quality coffee beans, particularly in regions like Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu. Indian coffee, renowned for its unique flavors and aroma, has seen increased demand in international markets. This achievement highlights the efforts of Indian coffee growers and the government's initiatives to boost coffee production and exports. India's ascent in the rankings reinforces its position as a significant player in the global coffee trade.

Foot notes:

- India's coffee production is dominated by the southern states, with Karnataka accounting for 71%, followed by Kerala with 21%, and Tamil Nadu.

- The country has a long history of coffee production, dating back to the 17th century when it was first introduced by a Muslim saint named Baba Budan.
- Indian coffee is known for its high quality and is grown in the shade, which gives it a unique flavor and aroma.
- The majority of India's coffee production is exported, with countries like Italy, Germany, and the US being major importers.
- India's coffee industry is expected to continue growing, with the government and coffee board taking steps to promote sustainable coffee production and increase exports.

India Slips To Third Place In Edelman Trust Barometer 2025 Rankings

India has slipped to the third position in the Edelman Trust Barometer 2025 rankings, reflecting a shift in public trust dynamics. The annual survey measures trust across key institutions such as government, business, media, and NGOs globally. Despite the drop, India remains among the top countries with high trust levels, highlighting the resilience of its institutional framework. The rankings are influenced by factors such as economic performance, governance, and public perception of transparency. This development underscores the need for continued efforts to strengthen public trust and address emerging challenges.

Foot notes:

- India has slipped to third place in the Edelman Trust Barometer 2025 rankings, which is a significant drop from its previous position.
- The survey reveals that Indians are losing faith in their institutions, with a significant decline in trust in the government and media.
- Trust Levels have also decreased among the informed public, with only 45% of respondents saying they trust the government, down from 52% last year.
- The Edelman Trust Barometer 2025 rankings are based on an annual survey conducted by the global communications firm Edelman, which measures public trust levels in institutions across the world.

Elon Musk Tops the Forbes Billionaires List for 2025

Elon Musk has secured the top spot on the Forbes Billionaires List for 2025, reaffirming his position as the wealthiest person in the world. The surge in his wealth is attributed to the exceptional growth of his ventures, including Tesla, SpaceX, and Neuralink. Tech moguls dominated the list, reflecting the sector's continued expansion and influence on global wealth. Musk's innovative contributions have not only transformed industries but also solidified his status as a leader in technological advancement. This milestone highlights the growing impact of the tech sector on the global economy.

Foot notes:

- His wealth comes from his successful ventures, including SpaceX, Tesla, and X, formerly known as Twitter, as well as his AI firm xAI and the Boring Company.

- Musk's net worth increased by \$91 billion since December 1, largely due to a significant increase in SpaceX's valuation following a deal to buy back insider shares, making SpaceX the most valuable private company in the world.
- He is followed by Jeff Bezos, with a net worth of \$233.5 billion, and Larry Ellison, with a net worth of \$209.7 billion, in the top 3 spots on the list.
- The top 10 richest people in the world, according to Forbes, also include Mark Zuckerberg, Bernard Arnault, Larry Page, Sergey Brin, Warren Buffett, Steve Ballmer, and Jensen Huang, with a combined net worth of over \$2 trillion.
- These individuals have made significant contributions to their respective industries, including technology, finance, and luxury goods, and continue to shape the global economy with their innovative ideas and investments.

Harvard University Tops Times Higher Education Rankings 2025 for Engineering

Harvard University has topped the Times Higher Education Rankings 2025 for Engineering, solidifying its position as a global leader in technological education and research. The university's engineering programs have been recognized for their cutting-edge research, innovation, and contributions to solving complex global challenges. Harvard's commitment to fostering interdisciplinary collaborations and investing in state-of-the-art facilities has played a significant role in securing this top spot. The ranking reflects the strength of its faculty, research output, and the quality of its graduate programs. Harvard's continued excellence in engineering underscores its role in shaping the future of technology and industry worldwide.

Foot notes:

- **Engineering Rankings:** Harvard University has been crowned the best global university for Engineering and Technology by THE World University Rankings for the fourth time in a row, with a ranking of #1.
- **Subject-wise Rankings:** Harvard University has also topped the rankings for various engineering subjects, including Mechanical Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, and Computer Science, according to QS World University Rankings by Subject.
- **Global Reputation:** Harvard University's engineering programs are highly regarded globally, with the university ranking #1 in the world for Engineering and Technology, and #4 in the QS World University Rankings 2025.
- **Research Quality:** Harvard University's research quality is one of the key factors contributing to its high ranking, with the university scoring 99.9 for Research Environment and 99.4 for Research Quality in the THE World University Rankings.
- **Industry Outlook:** Harvard University's strong industry connections and outlook also play a significant role in its ranking, with the university scoring 84.2 for Industry Outlook in the THE World University Rankings.

IDFC FIRST Bank Launched UPI-enabled FIRST EARN Credit Card

IDFC FIRST Bank has introduced the FIRST EARN Credit Card, which comes with UPI-enabled functionality for seamless digital payments. This innovative card allows users to link their credit accounts to UPI for hassle-free transactions, combining the flexibility of UPI with the benefits of a credit card. Customers can enjoy enhanced spending limits, reward points, and cashback offers while making payments directly from their UPI apps. The card is designed to cater to the evolving needs of tech-savvy customers, ensuring secure and convenient usage. With this launch, IDFC FIRST Bank aims to revolutionize the credit card market by integrating advanced digital payment solutions.

Foot notes:

- The FIRST EARN Credit Card is a digital credit card that can be used to make payments at over 60 million merchants via UPI, and it also offers cashback on every spend, with 1% cashback on spends via the IDFC FIRST Bank mobile app and 0.5% cashback on UPI spends via other apps and online spends.
- The credit card has a joining fee of 499 + GST and an annual fee of 499 + GST from the second year onwards, with an interest rate starting from 0.75% per month (9% p.a.).
- To apply for the FIRST EARN Credit Card, users need to register and verify their details, create a fixed deposit with IDFC FIRST Bank, and complete their KYC process.
- The credit card offers several benefits, including a 25% discount up to 100 on movie tickets booked on District by Zomato, complimentary roadside assistance worth 1,399, and a personal accident cover of 200,000.
- The FIRST EARN Credit Card is linked to the IDFC FIRST mobile banking app for UPI payments, and users can also link it to other UPI apps to make payments.

RBI Directs Use of '1600xx' Series for Transactional Calls

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated the use of the '1600xx' series for transactional calls to enhance consumer safety and prevent fraud. This directive ensures that calls related to financial transactions are easily identifiable, promoting transparency and trust among customers. The move is part of the RBI's ongoing efforts to combat phishing scams and unauthorized access to sensitive information. All financial institutions and entities are required to implement this standardized series for their transactional communication. The initiative underscores the RBI's commitment to safeguarding consumer interests in the evolving digital economy.

Foot notes:

- The RBI has instructed banks to use the '1600xx' series for all transactional calls, including those related to debit/credit card transactions, net banking, and mobile banking.
- This move is expected to help customers easily identify genuine calls from their banks, reducing the risk of phishing and other frauds.
- The '1600xx' series will be used for all outgoing calls from banks, including calls related to transaction alerts, account updates, and customer support.

- Banks have been given a deadline to implement this directive, and customers can expect to see the new number series in use soon.
- The RBI's directive is part of its ongoing efforts to improve customer protection and enhance the overall security of banking transactions, and is expected to bring greater transparency and trust to the banking system.

P. Suriaraj Appointed Executive Director of Dhanlaxmi Bank

P. Suriaraj has been appointed as the Executive Director of Dhanlaxmi Bank, marking a significant leadership addition to the organization. With over three decades of experience in the banking sector, Suriaraj brings extensive expertise in operations, risk management, and strategic planning. His appointment is expected to drive the bank's growth initiatives and strengthen its operational efficiency. The leadership change aligns with Dhanlaxmi Bank's focus on expanding its customer base and enhancing financial services. Suriaraj's vision and leadership skills will be instrumental in navigating the bank through evolving industry challenges.

Foot notes:

- Suriaraj brings over 28 years of experience in the banking industry, having worked with prominent banks such as State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, and Axis Bank.
- He has held various leadership positions, including Head of Retail Banking, Head of Credit, and Head of Risk Management, and has a strong background in areas like credit, risk, and retail banking.
- Suriaraj is an expert in areas like credit appraisal, risk assessment, and portfolio management, and has a deep understanding of the banking regulatory framework.
- As Executive Director of Dhanlaxmi Bank, Suriaraj will be responsible for driving the bank's growth strategy, overseeing risk management, and improving operational efficiency.
- The bank has been undergoing a transformation under the leadership of its Managing Director and CEO, Shakti Chakraborty, and Suriaraj's appointment is expected to further strengthen the bank's leadership team and support its growth plans.

AGREEMENT & MOU's NEWS

Indian Bank Partners with ACE Limited to Empower Farmers with Easy Financing Solutions

Indian Bank has partnered with ACE Limited to provide farmers with easy and accessible financing solutions. This collaboration aims to empower farmers by offering tailored financial products, including loans for purchasing agricultural machinery and equipment. By integrating ACE Limited's expertise in farm equipment with Indian Bank's robust financial network, the partnership seeks to enhance agricultural productivity and rural development. The initiative aligns with the government's vision of fostering financial inclusion and strengthening the

agricultural sector. Through this collaboration, farmers will benefit from simplified loan processes, competitive interest rates, and improved access to modern farming tools.

Foot notes:

- The partnership will offer farmers access to affordable loans, helping them to purchase essential equipment, seeds, and other inputs, thereby increasing their productivity and income.
- Indian Bank will leverage ACE Limited's expertise in agricultural financing to design customized loan products that cater to the specific needs of farmers, making it easier for them to manage their finances and grow their businesses.
- The collaboration will also focus on providing farmers with digital financial solutions, enabling them to access credit, make payments, and manage their accounts effortlessly, reducing the burden of traditional banking methods.
- By joining forces, Indian Bank and ACE Limited aim to reach a large number of farmers across the country, promoting financial inclusion and contributing to the growth of the agricultural sector.
- This partnership is expected to have a positive impact on the farming community, enabling them to improve their livelihoods and contribute to the country's food security.

Ashok Leyland Partnered with ESAF Bank for Vehicle Financing

Ashok Leyland has partnered with ESAF Small Finance Bank to provide vehicle financing solutions. This collaboration aims to offer customers attractive financing options for purchasing Ashok Leyland's commercial vehicles. The partnership will focus on making vehicle ownership more accessible, especially for small and medium enterprises. ESAF Bank's extensive network and Ashok Leyland's strong market presence are expected to drive growth in the commercial vehicle segment. Together, they aim to enhance financial inclusion and support the transportation sector's expansion.

Foot notes:

- The partnership aims to offer easy and affordable financing options to Ashok Leyland's customers, particularly in the small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) segment.
- ESAF Bank will provide financing options for Ashok Leyland's range of vehicles, including trucks, buses, and other commercial vehicles.
- The partnership will enable customers to avail of loans with competitive interest rates and flexible repayment terms, making it easier for them to own and operate Ashok Leyland vehicles.
- Ashok Leyland and ESAF Bank will work together to provide a seamless and hassle-free financing experience for customers, with a focus on digitalization and doorstep service.
- The partnership is expected to increase vehicle sales and expand Ashok Leyland's customer base, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas where ESAF Bank has a strong presence, and will also help ESAF Bank to expand its loan portfolio and deepen its penetration in the commercial vehicle financing segment.

UNESCO And MeitY Partner On AI Readiness Assessment In India

UNESCO has partnered with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to conduct an AI Readiness Assessment in India. The collaboration aims to evaluate the country's preparedness for adopting and integrating artificial intelligence across various sectors. This initiative will focus on identifying gaps, building capacities, and formulating strategies to leverage AI for sustainable development. By aligning with global AI ethics and governance standards, the partnership seeks to ensure inclusive and responsible AI implementation in India. The assessment will serve as a blueprint for strengthening India's position as a global AI leader while addressing socio-economic challenges.

Foot notes:

- The partnership aims to develop an India-specific AI policy report that identifies strengths and growth opportunities within the country's AI landscape, using the AI Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).
- The RAM is a diagnostic tool that assesses a country's AI ecosystem, including infrastructure, legislation, components, and key stakeholders, to provide actionable insights for responsible and ethical AI adoption.
- The initiative has already seen a two-day stakeholder consultation, which brought together participants from government, academia, industry, and civil society to explore strategies for aligning India's AI ecosystem with ethical principles.
- The consultation also focused on startups, recognizing their pivotal role in India's AI innovation landscape, and featured expert presentations and discussions on responsible AI adoption.
- The partnership is part of India's ambitious INDIAai Mission, which is backed by over 0,000 crore in funding and aims to promote safe and trusted AI, with a focus on ethical governance and responsible AI practices.

Rolls-Royce signs landmark Unity contract with UK Ministry of Defence

Rolls-Royce has signed a landmark Unity contract with the UK Ministry of Defence, marking a significant milestone in their long-standing partnership. The contract aims to enhance the efficiency and sustainability of the UK's naval fleet through advanced propulsion systems and integrated support services. It reflects the Ministry's commitment to modernizing defense capabilities while prioritizing environmental considerations. Rolls-Royce will leverage its cutting-edge technology and expertise to deliver innovative solutions tailored to the needs of the Royal Navy. This agreement not only strengthens national security but also underscores Rolls-Royce's role as a key player in defense innovation.

Foot notes:

- The contract, known as the Unity contract, brings together all aspects of nuclear reactor development and support for the Royal Navy's submarines, including design, manufacturing, and in-service support.

- This landmark deal is expected to create over 1,000 new jobs, mostly in Derby, and will also support the build and commissioning of new Dreadnought Class submarines.
- The Unity contract represents a significant investment in the UK's defence capabilities and workforce development, and is seen as a major boost to British business and national security.
- The contract is the first of its kind between the UK government and industry, and is expected to deliver better outcomes for the Royal Navy while creating thousands of highly skilled jobs across the country.
- The deal has been hailed as a key milestone in the partnership between Rolls-Royce and the UK Ministry of Defence, and is expected to play a critical role in supporting the UK's nuclear deterrent and Defence Nuclear Enterprise.

APPOINTMENT & PERSON IN NEWS

P Renukadevi IPS appointed as DIG in CBI

P. Renukadevi, an IPS officer, has been appointed as the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Renukadevi, known for her exemplary service and integrity, brings extensive experience in law enforcement to her new role. Her appointment reflects the agency's focus on strengthening its leadership to tackle complex investigations effectively. As DIG, she is expected to contribute significantly to upholding the CBI's reputation for impartiality and efficiency. This marks another milestone in her distinguished career in public service.

Foot notes:

- P Renukadevi, an IPS officer from the Uttarakhand cadre, has been appointed as the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), a significant development in the country's premier investigative agency.
- Renukadevi is a 2008 batch IPS officer, with a proven track record of handling complex cases and leading high-profile investigations, making her an ideal candidate for this critical role.
- Her appointment is part of a series of recent inductions in the CBI, including the appointment of Raman Kumar Meena as SP, highlighting the agency's efforts to strengthen its team and enhance its investigative capabilities.
- As DIG, Renukadevi will be responsible for overseeing various investigations, coordinating with other law enforcement agencies, and ensuring that cases are handled efficiently and effectively.
- Throughout her career, Renukadevi has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills, a strong work ethic, and a commitment to upholding the law, earning her the respect of her peers and superiors alike.
- With her appointment as DIG in the CBI, Renukadevi is poised to play a crucial role in shaping the agency's future and contributing to the country's fight against corruption and

crime, and her expertise and experience will undoubtedly be valuable assets to the organization.

Air Commodore Sahu Takes Charge at Tughlakabad Depot

Air Commodore Sahu has officially assumed command of the Tughlakabad Depot, a key logistical and operational hub for the Indian Air Force. With his extensive experience and expertise in strategic operations, Sahu is expected to enhance the depot's efficiency and readiness. The depot plays a vital role in supporting the IAF's supply chain, ensuring seamless operations across various units. Under his leadership, the focus will be on modernization, resource optimization, and fostering innovation in logistics. This appointment marks a significant step in strengthening the IAF's operational infrastructure.

Foot notes:

- Air Commodore Debakinandan Sahu has taken over as the commanding officer of the Base Repair Depot at Tughlakabad, succeeding Air Commodore Rishi Seth in a ceremonial handing-over parade.
- Experience and Expertise: Sahu brings over three decades of experience and expertise in aviation systems and Guided Weapon Missile technologies, having been commissioned into the Aeronautical Engineering branch of the Indian Air Force in 1994.
- Key Appointments: Throughout his career, Sahu has held several key appointments, including serving as the Chief Engineering Officer at a premier Air Force base and in staff appointments at Operational Command Headquarters and Air Headquarters.
- Awards and Recognition: He was awarded the Vishisth Seva Medal by the President of India on January 26, 2023, in recognition of his distinguished service.
- Vision for the Depot: As the new commanding officer, Sahu is expected to leverage his technical knowledge and leadership experience to enhance the depot's operational efficiency and contribute to the Indian Air Force's combat readiness.
- Significance of the BRD: The Base Repair Depot at Tughlakabad plays a critical role in maintaining and upgrading the Indian Air Force's aviation assets, and under Sahu's command, it is poised to achieve new milestones in innovation and technical excellence.

State Bank of India names Baldev Prakash as Group Chief Risk Officer

State Bank of India (SBI) has appointed Baldev Prakash as its Group Chief Risk Officer (GCRO). With over three decades of experience in the banking sector, Prakash is known for his expertise in risk management and strategic planning. He previously served as the Managing Director and CEO of Jammu & Kashmir Bank, where he played a pivotal role in streamlining operations and enhancing financial performance. As GCRO, Prakash will oversee SBI's risk management framework, ensuring compliance with regulatory standards and mitigating financial risks. His leadership is expected to strengthen the bank's resilience and support its long-term growth objectives.

Foot notes:

- State Bank of India has appointed Baldev Prakash as its new Deputy Managing Director and Group Chief Risk Officer. Prakash's experience will undoubtedly be valuable in his new role.
- The bank also announced that Shiva Om Dikshit will take on a new responsibility as Deputy Managing Director, Operations-Channel Management. This change is part of the bank's efforts to strengthen its leadership team.
- Prakash's appointment is a significant development for the bank, and his expertise will help navigate the complex risk landscape. His background in managing risk will be crucial in this new position.
- The State Bank of India is one of the largest banks in India, and this appointment reflects its commitment to maintaining the highest standards of risk management.
- Prakash's new role will involve overseeing the bank's risk management strategies, ensuring that the bank is well-equipped to handle potential risks and challenges. His experience and expertise will be invaluable in this regard.

Puravankara appoints Deepak Rastogi as Group CFO

Puravankara Limited has announced the appointment of Deepak Rastogi as its Group Chief Financial Officer (CFO). With extensive experience in financial management and strategic planning, Rastogi brings a wealth of expertise to his new role. He has previously held key leadership positions in prominent organizations, demonstrating his proficiency in driving financial performance and operational excellence. As Group CFO, Rastogi will oversee Puravankara's financial strategy, risk management, and compliance initiatives. His appointment is expected to enhance the company's financial governance and support its ambitious growth plans.

Foot notes:

- Rastogi brings over 30 years of experience in finance and strategy to the table, having held prominent leadership roles at companies like Deepak Fertilisers and Petrochemicals Ltd. and TATA Autocomp Systems Ltd.
- His expertise spans profit and loss management, growth strategies, mergers and acquisitions, and digital transformation, which will be invaluable in driving Puravankara's growth and expansion.
- Rastogi's appointment is effective January 15, 2025, and he is expected to play a pivotal role in enhancing financial controls and operational efficiency as the company embarks on ambitious expansion plans.
- With his extensive experience in financial strategy and leadership, Rastogi is well-equipped to navigate the complex financial landscape of the real estate industry.
- Puravankara's decision to appoint Rastogi as Group CFO reflects the company's commitment to strengthening its financial leadership and driving growth.

- As the new Group CFO, Rastogi will be responsible for overseeing the company's financial operations and driving strategic growth initiatives, and his appointment is seen as a positive development for the company.

Akshay Kumar joins POCO India as brand ambassador

POCO India has announced Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar as its new brand ambassador. Known for his dynamic personality and versatility, Akshay resonates with POCO's youthful and energetic brand image. This collaboration aims to strengthen POCO's market presence and connect with a broader audience, particularly the younger demographic. As brand ambassador, Akshay will feature in the company's marketing campaigns, promoting its innovative and performance-driven smartphones. POCO India sees this partnership as a step forward in reinforcing its commitment to delivering cutting-edge technology with style.

Foot notes:

- POCO India has made a bold move by roping in Akshay Kumar as its brand ambassador, just ahead of the launch of its X7 series on January 9th.
- Akshay Kumar's fearless energy and mass appeal make him the perfect fit for POCO's 'Made of MAD' philosophy, which emphasizes innovation and accessibility in smartphones.
- The partnership is expected to amplify the launch of the POCO X7 series, which promises to redefine technological standards for India's youth with features like advanced batteries and AI capabilities.
- This announcement marks an era of innovation and growth for POCO India, and Akshay Kumar's collaboration will play a crucial role in shaping the brand's strategy to dominate India's tech landscape.
- The X7 series campaign, 'Xceed Your Limits,' invites users to break convention and aim for extraordinary feats, reflecting Akshay Kumar's personality and the brand's philosophy.
- The partnership aims to amplify POCO's market presence and marks a crucial milestone in the brand's strategy to scale new heights and deliver transformative experiences in 2025.

TATA AIG General Insurance Company appoints Amit Ganorkar as MD & CEO

TATA AIG General Insurance Company has appointed Amit Ganorkar as its new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. Ganorkar, a seasoned professional with extensive experience in the insurance sector, is set to lead the company into its next phase of growth and innovation. His strategic vision and leadership skills are expected to strengthen TATA AIG's position in the competitive insurance market. Ganorkar's appointment underscores the company's commitment to delivering exceptional service and value to its customers. Under his guidance, TATA AIG aims to expand its offerings and enhance operational excellence in the industry.

Foot notes:

- Amit Ganorkar has taken over as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of TATA AIG General Insurance Company, effective January 1, 2025, bringing over two decades of experience in the general insurance industry.
- Ganorkar has previously worked as the Managing Director of Royal Sundaram General Insurance and as the Chief Operating Officer at TATA AIG, where he played a key role in improving operations and introducing new technologies.
- He has expertise in key areas such as sales, marketing, product development, operations, and technology, and has also co-founded a digital insurance startup, giving him valuable experience in the rapidly growing digital insurance space.
- Ganorkar's appointment signals a new phase for TATA AIG as the company works to adapt to new challenges in the insurance industry, with a focus on technology and customer experience.
- TATA AIG General Insurance Company is a joint venture between the TATA Group and American International Group (AIG), and has been operating in India since 2001.
- With Ganorkar at the helm, the company is expected to strengthen its position in the competitive general insurance market and improve its digital capabilities, with a focus on sustainable growth and customer-centric approach.

Alpex Solar ropes in Rahul Dravid as Brand Ambassador

Alpex Solar has announced the appointment of cricketer legend Rahul Dravid as its brand ambassador. Known for his resilience and dependability, Dravid perfectly embodies the values of trust and sustainability that align with Alpex Solar's vision. This collaboration aims to strengthen the company's brand identity while promoting the adoption of renewable energy solutions in India. As a respected figure in Indian cricket, Dravid's association is expected to inspire greater awareness and enthusiasm for solar energy. Together, Alpex Solar and Dravid aim to champion a greener and more sustainable future.

Foot notes:

- Alpex Solar has appointed cricket legend Rahul Dravid as its first brand ambassador, a move that's expected to enhance the company's outreach and promote awareness about renewable energy.
- Dravid's role will involve endorsing Alpex Solar's initiatives to encourage the shift to solar power, leveraging his massive fan base and reputation as a sports icon.
- As a former captain and head coach of the Indian national cricket team, Dravid is known for his adaptability, resilience, and commitment to excellence, values that align perfectly with Alpex Solar's vision for a sustainable future.
- The company aims to become a leading player in the global solar landscape, and Dravid's association is seen as a significant step towards achieving this goal.

- With his humble and persevering nature, Dravid is expected to inspire generations and help Alpex Solar connect with a broader audience, from environmentally conscious homeowners to large enterprises.
- Overall, this partnership is a win-win for both Alpex Solar and Dravid, as they work together to promote renewable energy and create a better future for all.

Abhishek Bachchan joins European T20 Premier League as co-owner

Abhishek Bachchan has joined the European T20 Premier League as a co-owner, marking his foray into the world of sports ownership. The Bollywood actor expressed his excitement about being a part of the league, which aims to bring top-tier T20 cricket to Europe. Bachchan's involvement is expected to elevate the league's profile and attract a global audience. His experience in entertainment and business will likely play a key role in the league's growth and success. The partnership reflects Bachchan's growing interest in cricket and sports ventures beyond his acting career.

Foot notes:

- Abhishek Bachchan has joined the European T20 Premier League as a co-owner, marking a significant milestone for the league and Indian cricket.
- The European T20 Premier League is a privately-owned franchise tournament in partnership with three member cricket nations - Ireland, Scotland, and the Netherlands, and has been sanctioned by the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- Bachchan's investment in the league is expected to bring substantial global appeal and stature to the tournament, which will feature six teams from Dublin, Belfast, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Edinburgh, and Glasgow.
- The league's development has been spearheaded by an interim working group comprising representatives from the participating cricket boards, alongside strategic partner Rules Sport Tech, on behalf of the funding partners.
- Bachchan's involvement in the league is seen as a significant boost to European cricket, with the goal of making cricket a major sport in the region and building a legacy that players, fans, and stakeholders can proudly celebrate.

Sanjeev Kumar Sharma Appointed CFO of Signature Global

Sanjeev Kumar Sharma has been named the Chief Financial Officer of Signature Global, a leading player in the real estate sector. His extensive financial expertise is expected to drive the company's strategic growth and strengthen its financial operations.

Foot notes:

- Sanjeev Kumar Sharma has been appointed as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Signature Global, a real estate development company in India, effective January 7, 2025.

- Sharma brings nearly 30 years of expertise in financial planning and analysis, mergers and acquisitions, investor relations, financing, reporting, taxation, and strategic decision-making to his new role.
- He has extensive experience across diverse sectors, including real estate, asset management, oil and gas, manufacturing, and banking, having worked with prominent organizations such as Brookfield Properties, Blackstone, and ICICI Bank.
- Signature Global announced Sharma's appointment in a stock filing, stating that he will oversee the company's financial operations and contribute to its growth strategy.
- The company has been performing well, with its pre-sales soaring to Rs 2,770 crore in Q3 FY25, a 120% increase from the same period last year.
- Sharma's appointment is expected to further strengthen Signature Global's financial management and support.

BrandPulse Global appoints Mona Jain as Chief Growth Officer

BrandPulse Global has appointed Mona Jain as its new Chief Growth Officer. In this pivotal role, Jain will focus on driving the company's growth strategies, expanding its market presence, and enhancing client relations. With her extensive experience in business development and strategic planning, Jain is well-equipped to contribute to BrandPulse's ambitious goals. Her leadership is expected to help the company explore new opportunities and strengthen its competitive edge. This appointment signals BrandPulse Global's commitment to innovation and continued growth in the global market.

Foot notes:

- Jain brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to her new role, having worked with top advertising agencies, publishers, broadcasters, and client-side roles.
- Jain has been instrumental in launching some of the country's most iconic brands, including Pepsi, Whirlpool, Nestle, McDonald's, and Samsung, and has played key roles in launching channels like Zindagi and &TV.
- Before joining BrandPulse Global, Jain served as the Chief Revenue Officer at Zee Media Corporation Limited (ZMCL) and ABP Network, where she made significant contributions to driving revenue growth.
- BrandPulse Global boasts of the largest primary research infrastructure in India, covering over 3,300 urban towns, and 5,90,000 villages, and engaging with a respondent base of over 3.5 lakh individuals, fluent in over 22 regional languages.
- BrandPulse Global is poised to continue its growth trajectory, delivering unparalleled insights into consumer behavior and market trends, and solidifying its position as a leader in the industry.

M. Mohan Appointed as Director of ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre

M. Mohan has been appointed as the Director of ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), taking charge on January 27, 2025. He succeeds Dr. V. Narayanan, who was recently

appointed as the ISRO Chairman. Mohan has held key leadership roles in ISRO, including Director (Projects) at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) and Project Director for major GSLV missions. His contributions include leading the Moon Impact Probe on Chandrayaan-1, which placed the Indian flag on the lunar surface. As LPSC Director, he will oversee the development of liquid propulsion systems for India's space missions.

Foot notes:

- M. Mohan has been an integral part of ISRO's propulsion initiatives and has significantly contributed to various projects over the years, with expertise in liquid propulsion systems.
- He has held several key positions, including Director of Projects at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, and has been recognized with prestigious awards like the ISRO Performance Excellence Award.
- The Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre is a crucial center for ISRO, focusing on the development of liquid propulsion stages for launch vehicles and spacecraft, and has contributed to missions like the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle and Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle.
- With M. Mohan at the helm, LPSC is expected to continue its trajectory of innovation and excellence, further strengthening ISRO's propulsion capabilities and contributing to upcoming missions like Gaganyaan.
- M. Mohan joins a lineage of distinguished directors who have propelled India's space missions, including Dr. A.E. Muthunayagam, Dr. K. Sivan, and Dr. S. Somanath, and is poised to make a significant impact in his new role.

Team Marksmen Network appoints Rishi Kapoor as CEO and Director

Team Marksmen Network has appointed Rishi Kapoor as its new CEO and Director. With a wealth of experience in the business and sports sectors, Kapoor is expected to drive the company's strategic growth and innovation. His leadership will focus on expanding the company's footprint and creating new opportunities within the sports ecosystem. Prior to this role, Kapoor has held various leadership positions, gaining a reputation for his business acumen and industry insights. His appointment marks a significant milestone in the company's mission to strengthen its position in the market and enhance its operational capabilities.

Foot notes:

- Kapoor will lead Team Marksmen Network's strategic growth initiatives, overseeing all aspects of business operations, with a focus on expanding the company's market presence and developing innovative client solutions.
- He brings over 20 years of extensive expertise in building and managing sustainable verticals within the media industry, with a proven record of helping organizations achieve their strategic objectives.
- Kapoor's appointment marks a significant milestone in the company's journey, as Team Marksmen Network aims to strengthen its position as an industry leader, expand its portfolio of offerings, and accelerate its international expansion plans.

- He's passionate about driving innovation, and his track record in creating multiple successful media business verticals aligns perfectly with Team Marksmen Network's vision for the future.
- The co-founders of Team Marksmen Network, Rajesh Khubchandani, Aakash Tiwari, and Sharad Gupta, have expressed their confidence in Kapoor's ability to drive the company's next phase of growth, citing his deep understanding of the media landscape and proven ability to build sustainable businesses.

Fleishman Hillard appoints Madhulika Ojha as MD for India

Fleishman Hillard has appointed Madhulika Ojha as the Managing Director for its India operations, effective January 27, 2025. Based in Mumbai, Ojha will oversee strategy, operations, and growth across the agency's India offices, reporting directly to Joanne Wong, Asia Pacific President and Senior Partner at Fleishman Hillard. Ojha brings nearly 20 years of strategy consulting experience, having previously served as an Executive Director in the Strategy and Transactions advisory team at EY in India. Her career includes roles at Capgemini, Deloitte, TCS, and Tech Mahindra, advising Fortune 500 companies across various sectors. Joanne Wong stated that Ojha's expertise in post-merger integration and financial communications will strengthen the agency's position as a trusted advisor in India's evolving business landscape.

Foot notes:

- She'll be overseeing the strategy, operations, and growth of the agency's India offices, reporting directly to Joanne Wong, Asia Pacific president and senior partner at Fleishman Hillard.
- With nearly 20 years of strategy consulting experience, Ojha brings a wealth of expertise in designing and implementing large-scale transformation programs to help businesses grow and thrive.
- Her background includes stints at top global business advisory and technology consulting firms like EY, Capgemini, Deloitte, TCS, and Tech Mahindra, where she advised C-level leaders across various industries.
- Ojha's appointment is a significant move for Fleishman Hillard, as the agency looks to solidify its position as a trusted advisor in the Indian market, offering both high-level strategic counsel and robust implementation for clients.
- As she takes on this new role, Ojha is poised to drive growth, strategy, and innovation for Fleishman Hillard's India operations, and we can't wait to see the impact she'll make.

JM Financial appoints Ankur Jhaveri as MD & CEO of Institutional Equities

JM Financial has appointed Ankur Jhaveri as the Managing Director and CEO of its Institutional Equities division, effective January 15, 2025. In this role, Jhaveri will be responsible for strengthening the firm's sales, trading, research, and derivatives businesses. He brings nearly two decades of experience in institutional equities and derivatives, having

previously served as Managing Director at Axis Capital. Jhaveri holds an MBA in Finance from NL Dalmia Institute of Management Studies and Research, and a Master's degree in International Finance from ICAI University. Chirag Negandhi, Managing Director at JM Financial, expressed confidence that Jhaveri's expertise will leverage emerging market opportunities and accelerate growth in the company's equities business.

Foot notes:

- Jhaveri will be responsible for overseeing the strategy, operations, and growth of JM Financial's institutional equities business, which is a crucial part of the company's overall operations.
- With his extensive experience in the financial industry, Jhaveri is well-equipped to drive growth and innovation in JM Financial's institutional equities business, and his expertise will be invaluable in navigating the complex landscape of the financial markets.
- This appointment is a significant move for JM Financial, as the company looks to expand its presence in the institutional equities space and capitalize on emerging growth opportunities in the market.
- JM Financial has been performing well, with its consolidated revenue increasing by 46% year-over-year in Q4FY24, and its net profit rising by 90% year-over-year in FY24, making it an exciting time for Jhaveri to join the team.
- With Jhaveri at the helm, JM Financial's institutional equities business is poised for continued growth and success, and we can expect to see some exciting developments in the coming months and years.

Amitabh Bachchan ropes in as brand ambassador for India Gate Basmati Rice

KRBL Ltd., the parent company of India Gate Basmati Rice, has announced a partnership with renowned actor Amitabh Bachchan as the brand ambassador for India Gate Basmati Rice. This collaboration aims to strengthen the brand's connection with consumers and reaffirm its position as a leader in the basmati rice market. With a legacy spanning over 130 years, KRBL has consistently set benchmarks in quality and innovation, making India Gate Basmati Rice a preferred choice for millions of households globally.

Foot notes:

- Bachchan's association with the brand is a huge deal, highlighting India Gate's focus on strengthening its consumer engagement and presence in the global basmati rice market.
- According to Ayush Gupta, India Business Head at KRBL Limited, Bachchan's stature, integrity, and timeless appeal perfectly resonate with the brand's core values and rich heritage.
- With Bachchan on board, India Gate aims to deepen its consumer engagement and take the brand's story to every corner of the country and the world, catering to varied tastes and culinary traditions.
- Bachchan's versatility and iconic roles throughout his career blend seamlessly with India Gate's legacy, delighting households worldwide with its unmatched offerings.

- The partnership was announced on January 25, 2025, and is expected to further establish India Gate Basmati Rice as a leading brand in the global market.

Channel Factory appoints Amit Rathi as Managing Director

Channel Factory has appointed Amit Rathi as its new Managing Director, marking a significant leadership change for the company. Rathi brings with him a wealth of experience in the media and technology sectors, having held senior roles in various organizations. In his new role, he will be responsible for driving the company's growth strategy and overseeing operations across markets. Channel Factory, known for its innovative solutions in video content management and analytics, aims to further strengthen its position under Rathi's leadership. His appointment is expected to enhance the company's capabilities in delivering cutting-edge solutions to clients and expanding its global footprint.

Foot notes:

- **Leadership Role:** Rathi will spearhead Channel Factory's Indian operations, focusing on scaling business opportunities, fostering client relationships, and AI-powered solutions for advertisers worldwide.
- **Development Center in Pune:** The company is also setting up a new development center in Pune, which will leverage cutting-edge AI technologies to enhance product development, data science, and engineering.
- **AI-Driven Contextual Advertising:** Channel Factory is committed to creating a safe, AI-driven, brand-suitable video ecosystem, and Rathi's leadership will be instrumental in driving this vision forward.
- **Industry Expertise:** Rathi brings a wealth of experience in digital advertising and technology, with a proven track record of driving growth in competitive markets.
- **Growth Strategy:** The appointment of Rathi and the establishment of the Pune development center underscore Channel Factory's commitment to India's burgeoning digital advertising sector and its bullish growth strategy for the region.

Route Mobile appoints Rajeshwar Singh Gill as Group CFO

Route Mobile has appointed Rajeshwar Singh Gill as its new Group Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Gill brings extensive financial expertise and experience in managing large-scale financial operations, having held key leadership roles in the past. As the Group CFO, he will play a crucial role in shaping the company's financial strategy, ensuring robust growth, and managing financial risks. His appointment comes at a time when Route Mobile is focusing on expanding its global presence and enhancing its product offerings. Gill's leadership is expected to bring greater financial efficiency and strategic direction to the company's growth plans.

Foot notes:

- **Leadership Role:** Gill will lead the finance function, supporting Route Mobile's growth by driving financial strategy and ensuring value coordination between the company and its parent entity, Proximus Global.

- **Industry Expertise:** He brings extensive experience in transformation and business partnering across sales, marketing, and operations, having held various finance executive positions in the telecommunications industry, including a stint at Virgin Media O2 in the UK.
- **Financial Strategy:** Gill's wealth of experience in financial strategy will be instrumental in driving Route Mobile's ambitious growth agenda, and his leadership will ensure a strong financial foundation for the company.
- **Background:** Gill holds an Honors Degree in Economics from Brunel London University and is a Chartered Accountant, certified by the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA).
- **Company Performance:** Route Mobile's revenue has risen, with a 15.56% increase in revenue from operations, totaling Rs 1,183.7 crore, despite a decline in profits, with a 21.9% decline in net profit for Q3 FY24.

Intuitive appoints Rohitt Mahajan as Vice President and General Manager in India

Intuitive has appointed Rohitt Mahajan as the Vice President and General Manager for its operations in India. In this role, Mahajan will be responsible for leading the company's strategic initiatives and expanding its presence in the Indian market. With a strong background in the healthcare and technology sectors, Mahajan brings valuable experience in driving growth and operational excellence. His leadership is expected to accelerate Intuitive's growth trajectory, particularly in the field of robotic-assisted surgery, where the company is a key player.

Foot notes:

- **Leadership Role:** Mahajan will lead Intuitive's India operations, driving growth, strategy, and customer engagement, and will be responsible for expanding the company's presence in the country.
- **Industry Expertise:** He brings over 20 years of experience in the medical device industry, with a strong background in sales, marketing, and business development, having worked with companies like Medtronic and Johnson & Johnson.
- **Robotic-Assisted Surgery:** Intuitive is a pioneer in robotic-assisted surgery, and Mahajan's appointment will help drive the company's mission to make minimally invasive care more accessible to patients in India.
- **India Market:** The Indian market is a key focus area for Intuitive, and Mahajan's leadership will be instrumental in driving the company's growth strategy in the region, with a focus on increasing adoption of robotic-assisted surgery.
- **Global Experience:** Mahajan has a global perspective, having worked in multiple countries, including the US, Europe, and Asia, which will be valuable in driving Intuitive's growth in India and expanding the company's presence in the region.

Vedanta Resources Names Deshnee Naidoo as First CEO

Vedanta Resources has appointed Deshnee Naidoo as its first-ever Chief Executive Officer (CEO), marking a significant leadership change. Naidoo, a seasoned mining executive, previously held key positions at companies like Vale Base Metals and Anglo American. Her appointment is expected to drive Vedanta's strategic growth and operational efficiency across its global mining and resources portfolio. She will focus on sustainable development, technological advancements, and financial performance. This move aligns with Vedanta's vision to strengthen its global presence in the metals and mining industry.

Foot notes:

- **First CEO Appointment:** Vedanta Resources has named Deshnee Naidoo as its first Chief Executive Officer (CEO), marking a significant milestone in the company's history.
- **Leadership Change:** This appointment brings in a new leadership era for the company, with Naidoo expected to drive strategic growth and expansion.
- **Global Expertise:** As CEO, Deshnee Naidoo will leverage her global experience and expertise to enhance Vedanta Resources' operational efficiency and competitiveness.
- **Growth Strategy:** Naidoo's appointment is part of the company's efforts to achieve new heights and consolidate its position in the industry through a well-planned growth strategy.
- **New Chapter:** With Deshnee Naidoo at the helm, Vedanta Resources is poised to embark on a new chapter of growth, innovation, and success, driven by her vision and leadership.

Sony Group Corporation appoints Hiroki Totoki as CEO

Sony Group Corporation has appointed Hiroki Totoki as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective April 2024. Totoki, who previously served as the company's President and COO, succeeds Kenichiro Yoshida in the top leadership role. With extensive experience in corporate strategy and finance, he is expected to drive Sony's growth across entertainment, gaming, and technology sectors. His leadership will focus on innovation, business expansion, and strengthening Sony's competitive edge in the global market. This transition marks a strategic move to reinforce Sony's position as a leading technology and entertainment conglomerate.

Foot notes:

- **New Leadership:** Sony Group Corporation has appointed Hiroki Totoki as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), marking a significant change in the company's leadership.
- **Succession Plan:** Totoki's appointment is part of the company's succession plan, aimed at driving growth and innovation in the ever-evolving technology and entertainment landscape.
- **Experience and Expertise:** As CEO, Hiroki Totoki will bring his extensive experience and expertise in finance, strategy, and operations to lead Sony Group Corporation's diverse businesses.

- **Growth Strategy:** Totoki's appointment is expected to accelerate the company's growth strategy, focusing on emerging technologies, digital transformation, and expanding its global footprint.
- **Future Directions:** Under Totoki's leadership, Sony Group Corporation is poised to explore new opportunities, enhance its competitive edge, and shape the future of the technology and entertainment industries.

Rajesh Nirwan Appointed Director General of BCAS

Rajesh Nirwan has been appointed as the new Director General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS). With a strong background in law enforcement and aviation security, Nirwan brings valuable expertise to the role. He will oversee the implementation of safety measures and protocols to ensure the security of civil aviation in India. His appointment is crucial in strengthening the country's air security infrastructure, especially in light of evolving global threats. Nirwan's leadership is expected to further enhance the effectiveness of BCAS in safeguarding Indian air travel.

Foot notes:

- Rajesh Nirwan has been appointed as the Director General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), marking a significant change in the organization's leadership.
- Nirwan, a 1991-batch IPS officer, brings extensive experience in aviation security, having served in various capacities, including as the Additional Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).
- As the Director General of BCAS, Nirwan will be responsible for overseeing the security of India's civil aviation sector, including airports, airlines, and other related infrastructure.
- Nirwan's appointment is expected to enhance the security of India's civil aviation sector, with a focus on implementing new technologies, strengthening intelligence gathering, and improving collaboration with international partners.
- As the Director General of BCAS, Nirwan will face several challenges, including the need to stay ahead of emerging threats, managing the increasing demand for air travel, and ensuring the safety and security of passengers and staff in the aviation sector.

Primus Partners appoints Vinay Singh as Managing Director in US

Primus Partners has appointed Vinay Singh as the Managing Director for its U.S. operations. With a wealth of experience in business strategy and management, Singh will play a key role in expanding the firm's presence in the U.S. market. His leadership will focus on driving growth, enhancing client relationships, and identifying new business opportunities. Singh's extensive background in consulting and international business aligns with Primus Partners' vision to strengthen its global footprint. This appointment is expected to further solidify the company's position in the competitive U.S. market.

Foot notes:

- Primus Partners has appointed Vinay Singh as its Managing Director in the United States, marking a significant expansion of the company's presence in the North American market.
- Vinay Singh brings over 20 years of experience in investment banking, private equity, and management consulting, having worked with top-tier firms such as KPMG, Ernst & Young, and JP Morgan.
- As Managing Director, Singh will be responsible for leading Primus Partners' US operations, driving business growth, and building strategic relationships with clients and partners in the region.
- Singh's appointment is part of Primus Partners' broader strategy to expand its global footprint, with a focus on providing innovative advisory services to clients in the technology, healthcare, and financial services sectors.

ibis India appoints Vivek Agarwal as Director of Finance

Ibis India has appointed Vivek Agarwal as the Director of Finance. In this role, Agarwal will be responsible for overseeing the financial operations and strategy of the hotel chain across India. With his extensive experience in finance and business management, he is expected to drive growth, optimize financial performance, and ensure strategic investments. Agarwal's expertise will contribute to the company's ongoing efforts to enhance profitability and maintain a strong financial foundation. His appointment marks a significant step in strengthening ibis India's leadership team and overall financial operations.

Foot notes:

- ibis India has appointed Vivek Agarwal as its new Director of Finance, responsible for overseeing the company's financial strategy and operations.
- Agarwal brings over 15 years of experience in finance, having worked with leading hospitality companies such as Accor, Marriott, and InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG).
- As Director of Finance, Agarwal will be responsible for managing ibis India's financial planning, budgeting, and forecasting, as well as driving business growth through strategic financial decisions.
- Agarwal's appointment is part of ibis India's broader strategy to expand its presence in the country, with a focus on increasing revenue, improving profitability, and enhancing the overall financial performance of the company.

Maruti Suzuki Board approves re-appointment of Hisashi Takeuchi as MD & CEO

The board of Maruti Suzuki has approved the re-appointment of Hisashi Takeuchi as the Managing Director and CEO of the company. Takeuchi, who has been leading Maruti Suzuki, will continue to drive the company's growth and strategy. His re-appointment reflects the board's confidence in his leadership and vision for the future. Under his leadership, Maruti Suzuki has focused on expanding its product portfolio and strengthening its market presence.

Hisashi Takeuchi's continued leadership is expected to further enhance the company's position in the competitive automotive industry.

Foot notes:

- The Maruti Suzuki Board has approved the re-appointment of Hisashi Takeuchi as Managing Director and CEO.
- Takeuchi's re-appointment is subject to shareholder approval at the company's next Annual General Meeting.
- Hisashi Takeuchi has been leading Maruti Suzuki since April 2022.
- Under his leadership, the company aims to continue its growth momentum and strengthen its position in the Indian automotive market.
- The re-appointment is a testament to Takeuchi's strategic vision and leadership capabilities, which have contributed significantly to Maruti Suzuki's success.

Wellbeing Nutrition ropes in Sharvari as brand ambassador

Wellbeing Nutrition, a prominent Indian nutraceutical brand, has appointed Bollywood actress Sharvari as its new brand ambassador. Known for her dedication to fitness and health, Sharvari aligns with the brand's mission to make wellness accessible and effective for all. She will actively promote Wellbeing Nutrition's sports performance products and daily essentials, incorporating them into her fitness regimen, especially as she prepares for her role in the upcoming film "Alpha." This collaboration aims to inspire individuals to prioritize their health and make informed choices for a balanced lifestyle.

Foot notes:

- Wellbeing Nutrition has announced Bollywood actress Sharvari as its new brand ambassador, marking a significant milestone in the brand's journey to make nutrition more accessible and sustainable.
- Sharvari embodies the brand's philosophy of combining science and simplicity to promote well-being, making her a perfect fit for the role. She believes in nourishing the body from within and cultivating a lifestyle that supports long-term well-being.
- As part of the collaboration, Sharvari will promote Wellbeing Nutrition's sports performance products, which are designed to help individuals achieve their fitness goals. She will also promote the brand's daily wellness essentials.
- Through this partnership, Wellbeing Nutrition aims to inspire individuals to prioritize their health and well-being by adopting healthy habits and mindful routines. Sharvari's influence and passion for fitness will help drive this message.
- With Sharvari on board, Wellbeing Nutrition is set to expand its reach and inspire millions of individuals worldwide to adopt a more holistic approach to health and wellness.

Arun Mohan Joshi appointed as DIG

Arun Mohan Joshi has been appointed as the Deputy Inspector General (DIG), marking a significant milestone in his law enforcement career. Known for his dedication and expertise, Joshi has held various key positions in the police force, earning widespread recognition for his service. As DIG, he is expected to focus on enhancing public safety, improving law enforcement strategies, and fostering community-police relations. His leadership is anticipated to bring innovative approaches to tackling modern challenges in policing. The appointment reflects his proven track record and commitment to upholding justice and order.

Foot notes:

- Arun Mohan Joshi, a 2006 batch IPS officer of the Uttarakhand cadre, has been appointed as the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of the Border Security Force (BSF) on a deputation basis for a period of 5 years.
- Joshi has also made history by becoming the youngest Inspector General of Police in India, a testament to his exceptional skills and dedication to his work.
- Before his current appointment, Joshi has served in various roles, including as the Superintendent of Police (SP) in Dehradun and as the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Vigilance and DIG of the Provincial Armed Constabulary/Anti-Terrorist Cell (PAC/ATC) in Uttarakhand.
- With over 15 years of experience in the police force, Joshi brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to his new role, having worked in various capacities and handled several high-profile cases.
- As per the Uttarakhand Police official website, Joshi is currently serving as the IG/Dir. Traffic & IG Chardham Yatra Management.
- Joshi's achievements are a reflection of his hard work and commitment to his profession, and he continues to be an inspiration to his colleagues and aspiring officers.

IAS officer Azimul Haque appointed as CEO of Delhi Waqf Board

IAS officer Azimul Haque has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Delhi Waqf Board. A 2007-batch IAS officer, Haque brings extensive administrative experience to his new role. As CEO, he will oversee the management and development of Waqf properties, ensuring transparency and efficient governance. His appointment aims to address longstanding issues and revitalize the Board's operations for the benefit of the Muslim community. Haque's leadership is expected to drive reforms and foster better utilization of resources to serve the public effectively.

Foot notes:

- IAS officer Azimul Haque has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Delhi Waqf Board, a move approved by Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena.
- The post of CEO had been vacant since November 28, 2024, and the AAP government was criticized for not appointing a CEO, resulting in Imams and Mutawallis not receiving their salaries.

- Saxena approved Haque's appointment in addition to his current role as a member of the Delhi Jal Board, citing the need to address the hardship faced by Imams and Mutawallis due to the non-payment of salaries.
- The AAP government was slammed for procedural lapses, and Saxena advised that in the future, proposals should be sent for consideration strictly as per provisions of law.
- The appointment is expected to bring relief to Imams and Mutawallis who have been struggling due to non-payment of salaries, and Haque's experience as an IAS officer is likely to bring stability to the Delhi Waqf Board
- With Haque at the helm, the Delhi Waqf Board is expected to function more efficiently, and the appointment is seen as a positive step towards addressing the issues faced by the Board and its stakeholders.

V. Narayanan Takes Over As ISRO Chief And Space Secretary

V. Narayanan has taken over as the Chief of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and as the Space Secretary. His appointment marks a new chapter for ISRO, as he brings years of experience in the space sector. Narayanan is expected to lead the organization towards achieving new milestones in space exploration, satellite technology, and national space missions. His leadership is anticipated to play a crucial role in enhancing India's position in global space exploration.

Foot notes:

- V. Narayanan has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Secretary of the Department of Space, taking over from S. Somanath on January 14, 2025.
- He brings nearly four decades of experience in rocket and spacecraft propulsion, having joined ISRO in 1984 and worked on several key projects, including the development of the GSLV Mk III and Chandrayaan-3 propulsion systems.
- Narayanan is a distinguished scientist with expertise in liquid and cryogenic propulsion systems, and has served as the Director of the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC).
- He has been instrumental in the development of several landmark ISRO missions, including the GSLV Mk-III Cryogenic Project and the Gaganyaan mission.
- Narayanan's leadership is expected to drive ISRO's strategic vision for the next decade, with a focus on upcoming missions such as Gaganyaan and strengthening international collaborations.
- He has received several prestigious awards for his contributions to India's space sector, including the ASI Award for Rocket and Related Technologies and the Gold Medal from the Astronautical Society of India (ASI).

Microsoft Deepens AI Collaboration with India

Microsoft has announced an expansion of its AI collaboration with India, focusing on empowering key sectors like education, healthcare, and agriculture. The tech giant plans to

invest in AI research and development hubs across the country, fostering innovation and upskilling the workforce. Collaborations with Indian startups and enterprises will aim to create scalable AI solutions tailored to local challenges. Additionally, Microsoft will work with government agencies to integrate AI into public services, enhancing efficiency and accessibility. This partnership reflects Microsoft's commitment to India's digital transformation and global leadership in artificial intelligence.

Foot notes:

- Microsoft has formed partnerships with key organizations such as RailTel, Apollo Hospitals, Bajaj Finserv, Mahindra Group, and upGrad to drive AI transformation in various sectors, including public sector, healthcare, financial services, automotive, and education.
- The company is establishing an AI Center of Excellence to promote rural AI innovation and support AI innovators and developers through hackathons, community-building solutions, and an AI marketplace.
- Microsoft Research Lab has launched an AI Innovation Network to accelerate the transition from research to real, usable business solutions.
- Microsoft has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with India AI to collaborate on advancing AI and emerging technologies in India, focusing on skilling, innovation, and responsible AI development.
- The company will expand its cloud and AI infrastructure across datacenter campuses in India, with a fourth datacenter region ready to go live in 2026, to meet the growing demands of India's rapidly expanding AI start-ups and research community.

MRPL Partners with ISPRL to Enhance Crude Oil Storage Capacity

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) has partnered with Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL) to boost crude oil storage capacity. This collaboration aims to strengthen India's energy security by increasing strategic reserves to cushion against supply disruptions. MRPL will utilize ISPRL's underground storage facilities, ensuring efficient crude oil management and sustained refinery operations. The partnership aligns with the government's vision to expand the country's crude oil reserves and reduce dependency on imports during crises. This strategic move is expected to enhance India's resilience in the global energy market.

Foot notes:

- Chawla, a 1992-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Bihar cadre, was previously serving as the Revenue Secretary, a position he held since December 25 last year.
- He will also hold additional charge of the post of Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Finance, and Secretary, Ministry of Culture, until a regular incumbent is appointed.

- Tuhin Kanta Pandey, who was serving as the Secretary of DIPAM, has been appointed as the new Revenue Secretary, replacing Chawla.
- Chawla's appointment as DIPAM Secretary is seen as a strategic move, given his experience in managing public assets and investments.
- As DIPAM Secretary, Chawla will oversee the department's efforts to manage and monetize public assets, including disinvestment of state-owned enterprises.
- This reshuffle in the Ministry of Finance is significant, coming just ahead of the Union Budget, and is expected to have a significant impact on the government's economic policies and decisions.

Arunish Chawla appointed as Secretary of DIPAM

Arunish Chawla has been appointed as the Secretary of the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM). A seasoned IAS officer, Chawla brings extensive experience in public administration and financial management to his new role. As DIPAM Secretary, he will oversee the government's strategic disinvestment plans and the management of public sector assets. His leadership is expected to drive the department's efforts to achieve fiscal targets and enhance the efficiency of asset monetization. Chawla's appointment comes at a crucial time as the government focuses on economic reforms and privatization initiatives.

Foot notes:

- Chawla, a 1992-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Bihar cadre, was previously serving as the Revenue Secretary, a position he held since December 25 last year.
- He will also hold additional charge of the post of Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Finance and Secretary, Ministry of Culture, until a regular incumbent is appointed.
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- This reshuffle in the Ministry of Finance is significant, coming just ahead of the Union Budget, and is expected to have a significant impact on the government's economic policies and decisions.

India-U.S. Collaboration On Sonobuoy Production For Indian Navy

India and the United States have announced a collaboration on the production of sonobuoys for the Indian Navy, a significant step in defense technology cooperation. Sonobuoys are essential underwater sensors used for anti-submarine warfare, enhancing maritime security and surveillance capabilities. This initiative aligns with the broader framework of the India-U.S.

defense partnership and the "Make in India" program, promoting indigenous manufacturing. The collaboration will involve technology transfer and joint production, bolstering India's self-reliance in critical defense equipment. This partnership reflects the growing strategic ties between the two nations, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region.

Foot notes:

- The partnership involves U.S.-based Ultra Maritime and India's public sector enterprise, Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), co-producing sonobuoys to U.S. Navy standards, with production split across the U.S. and India, in accordance with 'Make in India' principles.
- These sonobuoys are sophisticated devices used in maritime operations for underwater detection and monitoring, playing a critical role in anti-submarine warfare and oceanographic research.
- They are expendable, electro-mechanical acoustic sensors that relay underwater sounds emitted from ships and submarines, and can be deployed from aircraft or ships.
- This collaboration will help augment the Indian Navy's capability to detect and track underwater objects, particularly submarines, and enhance undersea domain awareness.
- The sonobuoys will be produced at a facility in Visakhapatnam, which is expected to go operational by 2027, and the co-produced sonobuoys in India are interchangeable and interoperable between the U.S. Navy, Indian Navy, and allied aircraft.
- This initiative is part of the growing strategic and technological ties between India and the U.S., which also includes cooperation on joint efforts between the U.S. Defense Innovation Unit and India's Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX).

Shri Himmat Singh Chauhan Appointed as Head of Project, NTPC Mouda

Shri Himmat Singh Chauhan has been appointed as the Head of Project at NTPC Mouda, a significant milestone in his illustrious career. With extensive experience in power project management, he is expected to lead the plant's operations efficiently. NTPC Mouda, located in Maharashtra, plays a vital role in India's power generation infrastructure. Under Chauhan's leadership, the project aims to enhance operational efficiency and contribute to sustainable energy initiatives. His appointment reflects NTPC's commitment to fostering experienced leadership in driving its strategic goals.

Foot notes:

- As the Head of Project, Chauhan will oversee the overall direction and strategy of NTPC Mouda, leveraging his expertise to drive growth and excellence.
- NTPC Mouda Overview: NTPC Mouda is a major power plant located in Maharashtra, with a total installed capacity of 1,980 MW, and plays a crucial role in meeting the region's energy demands.
- Although specific details about Chauhan's background are not available, his appointment suggests that he possesses the necessary skills and experience to lead NTPC Mouda effectively.

- As Head of Project, Chauhan will be responsible for managing the plant's operations, ensuring safety and efficiency, and implementing strategies to enhance productivity and profitability.
- Chauhan's appointment is a significant development in the power sector, as NTPC Mouda is a major player in the Indian energy landscape, and his leadership will have a direct impact on the company's performance and growth.
- With Chauhan at the helm, NTPC Mouda is poised to continue its trajectory of growth and excellence, and his leadership will be crucial in navigating the challenges and opportunities in the rapidly evolving energy sector

Captain Fresh appoints Rupali Gupta as Group CHRO

Captain Fresh has appointed Rupali Gupta as the Group Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO). With extensive expertise in HR strategy and organizational development, Gupta is expected to play a pivotal role in driving talent acquisition and fostering a strong corporate culture. Her appointment comes as Captain Fresh expands its operations, focusing on scaling its workforce and enhancing employee engagement. Gupta's leadership will be instrumental in aligning HR practices with the company's growth objectives and innovation-driven approach. This move underscores Captain Fresh's commitment to investing in its people and building a robust organizational framework.

Foot notes:

- As Group CHRO, Gupta will oversee the development and implementation of Captain Fresh's human resources strategy, driving talent acquisition, retention, and development across the organization.
- Rupali Gupta brings over 15 years of experience in human resources, having worked with prominent companies such as Microsoft, IBM, and Infosys, and holds a degree in Psychology and an MBA in HR.
- Gupta will be responsible for building a high-performing team, fostering a positive work culture, and driving organizational growth through strategic HR initiatives.
- Captain Fresh is a rapidly growing e-commerce company that specializes in delivering fresh seafood and meat products to customers across India, and has established itself as a leader in the online meat and seafood market.
- With her expertise in talent management, organizational development, and cultural transformation, Gupta is well-equipped to drive Captain Fresh's people-centric initiatives and support the company's aggressive growth plans.
- Under Gupta's leadership, Captain Fresh aims to build a strong and agile workforce, enabling the company to scale new heights and maintain its position as a market leader in the e-commerce space.

Emami onboard Kartik Aaryan as brand ambassador

Emami has onboarded Bollywood actor Kartik Aaryan as its new brand ambassador, marking a strategic collaboration. The popular actor, known for his successful roles in films and strong fan following, will now represent Emami's diverse range of products. This partnership aims to tap into a wider audience, especially the younger demographic, through Aaryan's relatable image and influence. Emami's decision to bring Aaryan on board aligns with its marketing strategy to reinforce its position in the market. Kartik Aaryan's charm and popularity are expected to elevate Emami's brand presence and consumer engagement.

Foot notes:

- The rebranding reflects a shift towards holistic, confidence-boosting grooming solutions, with a new positioning statement "Har Roz Handsome Code" that captures the brand's commitment to providing men with grooming solutions that enhance both their confidence and personality.
- Aaryan is known for his youthful energy, style, and charisma, and he perfectly represents the brand's ethos of empowering men to look and feel their best daily.
- The male grooming market is currently valued at Rs 18,000 crores and is projected to grow to Rs 32,000 crores in the next five years, making it a huge opportunity for Emami to expand its focus from fairness to holistic male grooming.
- Emami is poised to address the entire male grooming sector, valued at Rs 17,850 crores, by expanding into categories such as hair care, shave care, and fragrances.
- Emami is launching an extensive multilingual advertising campaign to ensure seamless recognition of the new name, followed by the rollout of new products addressing evolving needs.
- Revenue Goals: Emami aims to reach Rs 1,000 crores in revenue within the next three to four years, with price points starting at Rs 10 to make grooming aspirational and accessible for all Indian men.

Retired SCJ B.N. Srikrishna appointed as Chairman of Advisory Board for Equal

Retired Supreme Court Justice B.N. Srikrishna has been appointed as the Chairman of the Advisory Board for Equal, marking a significant addition to the organization. Known for his judicial acumen and contributions to legal reforms, Justice Srikrishna's appointment underscores the board's commitment to fostering equality and justice. His vast experience in interpreting and shaping legal frameworks will provide invaluable guidance to Equal's initiatives. As Chairman, Justice Srikrishna is expected to steer the board towards promoting inclusivity and upholding human rights principles across various sectors. His leadership is poised to strengthen Equal's role in advocating for fairness and equity in society.

Foot notes:

- Srikrishna will guide Equal and its strategic investee OneMoney in advancing secure, consent-driven data sharing and ensuring compliance with regulatory norms.
- He brings decades of legal expertise and a profound understanding of how to harmonize individual rights, economic growth, and national interests.

- The Advisory Board, comprised of distinguished leaders across law, finance, technology, and public policy, will guide Equal and OneMoney in key areas, including regulatory compliance, ethical data practices, and governance frameworks.
- Srikrishna's appointment is a testament to Equal's commitment to enabling secure, compliant, and consent-driven data sharing, and he will steer the company's efforts to uphold the highest standards of security and compliance.
- As Chairman, he will collaborate with other members of the Advisory Board, including Jagdish Capoor, Rakesh Mohan, and J. Satyanarayana, to create frameworks that drive innovation and set global benchmarks for ethical data usage and business practices.
- Srikrishna's experience as a former Supreme Court Judge and his work in shaping India's data protection framework make him an ideal candidate to lead Equal's Advisory Board.

Comscore appoints Jackelyn Keller as Chief Marketing Officer

Comscore has appointed Jackelyn Keller as its new Chief Marketing Officer (CMO). Keller brings a wealth of experience in marketing strategy and brand management, making her a valuable addition to the leadership team. In her new role, she will focus on driving Comscore's global marketing initiatives and strengthening its market presence. Keller's appointment aligns with Comscore's vision to innovate and expand its offerings in media measurement and analytics. Her leadership is expected to enhance brand visibility and foster stronger connections with clients and industry stakeholders.

Foot notes:

- Keller will be overseeing Comscore's marketing strategy, using her expertise to drive growth and increase brand awareness.
- Extensive Experience: She brings a wealth of experience in linear TV, streaming, and other areas, which will be invaluable in her new role.
- Global Leader: Comscore is a global leader in measuring and analyzing consumer behaviors, so Keller's appointment is a significant move for the company.
- New Chapter: This appointment marks a new chapter for Comscore, and Keller's leadership will be crucial in shaping the company's marketing efforts.
- Filled Key Position: Keller's appointment fills a key position at Comscore, and her skills and experience make her a great fit for the role.
- Exciting Times Ahead: With Keller on board, Comscore is poised for exciting times ahead, and her marketing strategy will be closely watched by industry insiders

Varun Aaron Announces Retirement from All Forms of Representative Cricket

Varun Aaron has officially announced his retirement from all forms of representative cricket, bringing an end to his career at the highest level. The fast bowler, known for his raw pace and aggressive style, made significant contributions to Indian cricket over the years. Aaron's announcement marks the conclusion of a journey that saw him representing India in both domestic and international formats. Despite injuries limiting his appearances, Aaron's impact

on the game, especially in limited-overs cricket, remains noteworthy. His decision to retire allows him to focus on new ventures and leave behind a legacy of dedication and passion for the sport.

Foot notes:

- International Career: Aaron played 9 Tests and 9 ODIs for India, taking 18 and 11 wickets respectively, with his last appearance for the national team coming in 2015.
- Domestic Career: He had a successful domestic career, playing for Jharkhand and taking 173 wickets in 66 first-class matches at an average of 33.27.
- Injuries: Aaron's career was plagued by injuries, including stress fractures in his back and knees, which forced him to retire from first-class cricket in 2024.
- IPL Career: He played for several IPL teams, including Royal Challengers Bangalore, Delhi Daredevils, and Gujarat Titans, taking 44 wickets in 52 matches.
- Legacy: Aaron was known for his pace and ability to bowl consistently over 150km/h, earning him a reputation as one of India's fastest bowlers.
- Post-Retirement Plans: After retiring from cricket, Aaron plans to stay connected to the sport and may take up coaching or mentoring roles, having already worked with the MRF Pace Foundation.

Mo Farah Named Ambassador for Mumbai Marathon

Mo Farah has been named the ambassador for the prestigious Mumbai Marathon, further elevating the event's global profile. The British long-distance running legend, known for his Olympic and World Championship victories, brings a wealth of experience to the role. Farah's involvement will inspire athletes and fans alike, adding an extra layer of excitement to the marathon. His presence in Mumbai highlights the event's growing international appeal and commitment to promoting sports in India. As ambassador, Farah will play a crucial role in motivating participants and raising awareness about fitness and well-being.

Foot notes:

- Mo Farah is a four-time Olympic gold medalist and six-time world champion, making him one of the most successful distance runners in history.
- He will be flagging off the Mumbai Marathon from the iconic Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, and is expected to inspire the 60,000 runners participating in the event.
- Farah has expressed his enthusiasm for being part of the Mumbai Marathon, saying that when he runs, he feels free and happy, and is looking forward to sharing this feeling with his fellow runners.
- The Mumbai Marathon is one of Asia's most prestigious marathons, and has grown into a symbol of commitment, adaptability, resilience, and empathy, inspiring participants to achieve their personal bests.

- The event will feature some of the world's best runners, including defending champions Hayle Lemi Berhanu and Srinu Bugatha in the men's category, and Aberash Minsewo and Thakor Nirmaben leading the women's pack.
- Farah's involvement in the Mumbai Marathon is a testament to the event's growing global stature, and is expected to promote health and fitness, as well as support charitable causes.

Shri Bhuwan Chandra Pathak, CMD got Addl. Charge of Director (Finance), NPCIL

Shri Bhuwan Chandra Pathak, the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of NPCIL (Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited), has been entrusted with the additional charge of Director (Finance). This dual role highlights his proven leadership and expertise in managing complex responsibilities. As Director (Finance), he will oversee financial operations, ensuring efficient resource management and fiscal discipline within NPCIL. The appointment reflects the organization's confidence in Pathak's ability to lead both strategic and financial functions. This move is expected to strengthen NPCIL's operational efficiency and support its ongoing projects in nuclear energy development.

Foot notes:

- As CMD, Pathak has been leading NPCIL since February 2022, and his new role as Director of Finance will give him even more oversight over the company's financial operations.
- With his rich experience in implementing nuclear power projects, Pathak is well-equipped to handle the financial aspects of NPCIL, ensuring the company's continued growth and success.
- Under Pathak's leadership, NPCIL has been expanding its nuclear power generation capabilities, and his additional role as Director of Finance will help the company navigate the financial complexities of these projects.
- As Director of Finance, Pathak will be responsible for managing NPCIL's financial planning, budgeting, and accounting, as well as ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements.
- With over three decades of experience in the nuclear power sector, Pathak has a deep understanding of the industry's financial nuances and will be able to make informed decisions to drive NPCIL's growth.
- In his new role, Pathak will face new challenges, such as managing the financial risks associated with nuclear power generation and ensuring the company's financial sustainability in a rapidly changing energy landscape.

Vineet Joshi Takes Charge As Secretary Of Higher Education

Vineet Joshi has officially assumed the role of Secretary of Higher Education, taking charge of one of the most critical positions in the education sector. With a wealth of experience in academic administration and policy formulation, his leadership is expected to bring

transformative changes to India's higher education landscape. Joshi's focus will likely include enhancing the quality of education, promoting innovation, and strengthening global collaborations. His appointment comes at a pivotal time, as the sector aims to implement reforms aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP). Under his guidance, the ministry is poised to address key challenges and drive progress in higher education across the country.

Foot notes:

- Background is key to understanding his appointment, as Joshi has previously served as the Chief Secretary of Manipur, bringing a wealth of experience to his new role.
- His appointment is expected to bring a fresh perspective to the Department of Higher Education, aligning with the government's vision for education.
- Joshi assumed charge at Shastri Bhawan in New Delhi, marking the beginning of a new era in higher education.
- As Secretary, he will play a crucial role in shaping the country's higher education policy and implementing reforms.
- This development is a positive step towards strengthening the education sector, and Joshi's leadership is expected to have a significant impact on the future of higher education in India.

Bonzer7 onboards Vaani Kapoor as brand ambassador

Bonzer7 has announced Bollywood actress Vaani Kapoor as its brand ambassador. Known for her elegance and style, Vaani will represent the brand across various campaigns, aiming to enhance its visibility and connect with a broader audience.

Foot notes:

- Vaani Kapoor has been signed as the brand ambassador of Bonzer7, and she'll be featuring in their campaigns, including the recently launched 'Kya Baat Hain' campaign.
- Bonzer7 is a distinguished tiles brand under the banner of Asian Granito India, and they're proud to have Vaani Kapoor on board to promote their products.
- Vaani Kapoor is a popular Bollywood actress, known for her stunning looks and talented performances, making her a great fit for the brand.
- The 'Kya Baat Hain' campaign featuring Vaani Kapoor has been launched, and it's expected to create a buzz in the market.
- This partnership is a significant move for Bonzer7, as it aims to increase brand awareness and reach a wider audience through Vaani Kapoor's massive fan following.
- With Vaani Kapoor as their brand ambassador, Bonzer7 is likely to come up with more exciting campaigns and promotions in the future, so stay tuned.

Lemma appoints Siddharth Dabhade as Chief Business Officer

Lemma has appointed Siddharth Dabhade as its new Chief Business Officer, marking a strategic move to accelerate its global growth. With extensive experience in scaling businesses, Dabhade is expected to play a key role in driving Lemma's expansion and market leadership. His

appointment aligns with the company's vision of innovating in the advertising technology space and strengthening partnerships. Dabhade's proven expertise in strategy and execution is anticipated to bring transformative results. This leadership addition underscores Lemma's commitment to fostering innovation and achieving long-term success.

Foot notes:

- He'll be leading the expansion of Lemma's outcome-centric OOH solution across markets, focusing on identifying new opportunities and driving revenue growth.
- Dabhade joins Lemma from MIQ, where he successfully launched and scaled the company's commercial business in India and China.
- As Chief Business Officer, he'll be responsible for driving strategic growth and leading the performance business at Lemma.
- With his expertise, Lemma aims to strengthen its position as a leading omni-channel platform for emerging media.
- Dabhade's appointment is a significant move for Lemma, and his experience in the industry will undoubtedly help the company achieve its goals.
- He's expected to play a crucial role in shaping Lemma's future, and his leadership will be instrumental in taking the company to the next level.

Devajit Saikia Appointed BCCI Secretary

Devajit Saikia has been appointed as the new Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Known for his administrative acumen, Saikia brings a wealth of experience to the role, aiming to further strengthen Indian cricket's global presence. His appointment comes at a time when the BCCI is focusing on expanding grassroots cricket and enhancing infrastructure. Saikia has expressed his commitment to fostering young talent and promoting the game across diverse regions. His leadership is expected to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of Indian cricket.

Foot notes:

- He has been serving as interim secretary since December 1 and was officially elected at the BCCI's Special General Meeting (SGM).
- Saikia had a short cricketing career, playing just four first-class matches for Assam, but has been involved in cricket administration for several years.
- He has served as the joint secretary of the BCCI since 2022 and has been a key figure in the organization's decision-making process.
- Saikia's appointment is seen as a significant development in Indian cricket, and he is expected to play a crucial role in shaping the sport's future in the country.
- He will be working closely with other BCCI officials, including Vice-president Rajeev Shukla, to take Indian cricket to new heights.
- Saikia's experience as a cricket administrator and his passion for the sport make him an ideal candidate for the role, and he is expected to bring a new perspective to the BCCI.

OP Singh appointed as new Chairman of Indian Police Foundation

Former IPS officer OP Singh has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Indian Police Foundation (IPF), a premier think tank focused on police reforms and public safety in India. Singh, known for his exemplary leadership during his tenure as the Director General of Uttar Pradesh Police, brings a wealth of experience to his new role. His appointment underscores the IPF's commitment to driving strategic discussions and initiatives to modernize India's policing framework. Under his leadership, the foundation aims to foster greater collaboration between law enforcement agencies, academia, and civil society. Singh's vision includes prioritizing transparency, accountability, and community engagement in policing.

Foot notes:

- He brings a wealth of experience to the position, having served as the Director General of Uttar Pradesh Police, Central Industrial Security Force, and National Disaster Response Force.
- Singh is known for his innovative approach to law enforcement and has introduced the police commissionerate system in UP, making him an ideal candidate to lead the Indian Police Foundation.
- As Chairman, he will focus on promoting professional policing, improving law and order, and enhancing the overall efficiency of the police force.
- Singh has also been recognized for his role in rescue operations during the 2015 Nepal earthquake and has received several awards, including the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service and Police Medal for Gallantry.
- He is expected to leverage his expertise to drive reforms and modernization in the police force, making it more effective in addressing the complex challenges of modern policing.
- With his strong background and experience, OP Singh is poised to make a significant impact as the new Chairman of the Indian Police Foundation, and his leadership will be closely watched by the law enforcement community.

Vineet Agarwal Appointed Director at Impact Infracap

Vineet Agarwal has been appointed as a Director at Impact Infracap, marking a significant milestone in his professional journey. With extensive experience and expertise in the industry, he is expected to bring valuable insights and leadership to the organization. His appointment aligns with Impact Infracap's vision of strengthening its leadership team and driving growth in its sector. Agarwal's track record of success and strategic thinking will play a pivotal role in shaping the company's future initiatives. This development underscores Impact Infracap's commitment to fostering excellence through experienced leadership.

Foot notes:

- He brings over 11 years of extensive experience in the infrastructure and energy sectors across India, South-East Asia, and Latin America, with expertise in equity fund raising, mergers and acquisitions, and portfolio management.

- Prior to joining Impact Infracap, Agarwal served as Assistant Vice President – M&A at Sterlite Power, where he led significant transactions, including the establishment of a joint venture platform with GIC and the divestment of assets worth over \$1.5 billion.
- Agarwal will be instrumental in driving strategic initiatives and enhancing the firm's investment management services, and his appointment is seen as a significant development in the Indian infrastructure sector.
- He holds a Post Graduate Program in Management from the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad, with majors in Strategy and Finance, and a Bachelor of Engineering from Delhi College of Engineering.
- The appointment of Vineet Agarwal as Director at Impact Infracap is expected to bring new expertise and leadership to the firm, and help drive growth and success in the Indian infrastructure sector.

AiDASH appoints Amresh Mehra as Director of People and Culture

AiDASH has announced the appointment of Amresh Mehra as the Director of People and Culture, a key addition to its leadership team. With a wealth of experience in human resource management and organizational development, Mehra is set to play a vital role in enhancing workplace culture and employee engagement. His appointment reflects AiDASH's commitment to fostering a positive and inclusive environment for its workforce. Mehra's strategic expertise will be instrumental in aligning the company's people-centric initiatives with its long-term goals. This move underscores AiDASH's focus on strengthening its talent framework to support its growth trajectory.

Foot notes:

- Amresh Mehra brings over 20 years of experience in human resources, with a strong background in cultural transformation, talent strategy, and organizational development.
- In his new role, Mehra will be responsible for leading AiDASH's people and culture function, focusing on creating a work environment that fosters innovation, collaboration, and growth.
- Mehra's previous experience includes leadership positions at companies like Qwest Communications, Zendrive, and Recoup Health, where he has developed and implemented successful people strategies that drive business outcomes.
- At AiDASH, Mehra will work closely with the leadership team to develop and execute a comprehensive people strategy that aligns with the company's business objectives and supports its rapid growth.
- Mehra is excited to join AiDASH and is looking forward to contributing to the company's mission of revolutionizing the satellite industry through innovative technologies and solutions.
- The appointment of Amresh Mehra as Director of People and Culture is a significant step for AiDASH, demonstrating the company's commitment to investing in its people and

creating a world-class work environment that attracts and retains top talent in the industry.

TransBnk appoints Govind Dichwalkar as Chief Operating Officer

TransBnk has appointed Govind Dichwalkar as its new Chief Operating Officer (COO). In this role, Dichwalkar will be responsible for overseeing the company's operations and driving strategic growth initiatives. With his extensive experience in operational management and innovation, he is expected to enhance TransBnk's efficiency and operational excellence. His leadership will play a crucial role in scaling the company's services and strengthening its market presence. This appointment marks a significant step as TransBnk continues to expand its footprint in the financial technology sector.

Foot notes:

- Operations Expertise is one of his strong suits, with a background in optimizing operations, IT deployment, and organizational excellence from his 21-year stint at the Aditya Birla Group.
- His focus will be on building robust governance frameworks, enhancing operational efficiency, and fostering a culture of collaboration and innovation at TransBnk.
- As a world-renowned leader, he's delivered some of India's largest and most innovative operations, and his expertise will drive TransBnk to new levels of growth.
- Dichwalkar aims to solidify TransBnk's position as a leader in India and expand its footprint globally, leveraging his experience in establishing large operations.
- With his leadership, TransBnk is poised for sustainable growth and global success, and his appointment is a significant step forward for the company.

Nidhi Khare appointed as Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

Senior IAS officer Nidhi Khare has been appointed as the Secretary of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. She brings extensive administrative experience, having previously served in various key roles, including in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. Her appointment aligns with India's commitment to advancing its renewable energy sector and achieving ambitious clean energy targets. Khare will focus on policy implementation and fostering innovation to support India's transition to sustainable energy solutions. Her leadership is expected to play a pivotal role in driving green energy initiatives and strengthening India's position in global renewable energy efforts.

Foot notes:

- She's a 1992 batch IAS officer from Jharkhand, bringing a wealth of experience to her new assignment.
- This move is likely to strengthen the ministry's efforts in promoting renewable energy and reducing the country's dependence on fossil fuels.
- As Secretary, Khare will oversee the implementation of policies and programs aimed at increasing the use of solar, wind, and other forms of renewable energy.

- Her appointment is seen as a significant development in the government's push for sustainable energy and reducing carbon emissions.
- Khare will hold the additional charge until a regular incumbent is appointed, and her leadership is expected to make a positive impact on the ministry's initiatives.

David Kim has been appointed as the head of Korea business

David Kim has been appointed as the Head of Korea Business, bringing a wealth of experience in strategic leadership and market expansion. Known for his expertise in driving growth in competitive markets, he is expected to play a crucial role in enhancing the company's presence in South Korea. His appointment reflects the organization's focus on leveraging local insights to achieve sustainable success in the region. Kim will oversee key operations, partnerships, and business development initiatives in Korea. This leadership change aims to further strengthen the company's position in one of Asia's most dynamic economies.

Foot notes:

- He brings over 25 years of experience in the insurance industry, having held leadership roles such as CEO of Marsh Korea and founder of Johnson and Higgins Korea.
- Kim's team at Miller Korea includes Andrew Kim, Youngkum Yoon, and Tae Hoon Kim, all of whom have extensive experience in the Korean insurance market.
- The launch of Miller Korea is part of the firm's expansion into Asia, with the goal of delivering specialized solutions for the local market.
- Kim is excited to build a strong team and work with clients to address their unique needs, and he sees a significant opportunity for Miller to grow in the Korean market.
- Miller's growth in Asia is a key part of the firm's international growth objectives, and the establishment of Miller Korea is a major step forward in this effort.
- The firm's leadership is confident that Kim's experience and relationships will help drive the adoption of Miller's technology and accelerate business in the region.

PUMA became 'PVMA' to onboard PV Sindhu as brand ambassador

PUMA, the global sportswear brand, has creatively rebranded itself as 'PVMA' to celebrate the onboarding of badminton champion PV Sindhu as its brand ambassador. This unique initiative highlights the brand's commitment to honoring Sindhu's exceptional achievements in the world of sports. By associating with one of India's most celebrated athletes, PUMA reinforces its dedication to promoting excellence and inspiring the youth. PV Sindhu will represent the brand in campaigns and initiatives that align with PUMA's ethos of performance and innovation. This partnership is expected to further elevate PUMA's presence in the Indian market and beyond.

Foot notes:

- PUMA swapped its iconic name to 'PVMA' across multiple billboards and store signage, sparking curiosity and conversations nationwide.
- The campaign was a clever play on the brand's name, combining it with the initials of the celebrated Indian badminton star, PV Sindhu.

- The 'PVMA' logo was used to unveil Sindhu as PUMA's new brand ambassador, and she will be promoting the brand during the India Open 2025 by wearing their sportswear products.
- This is the first time PUMA has brought a badminton sporting star on board, and Sindhu's association is expected to inspire a new generation of sports enthusiasts.
- The partnership will debut at the India Open 2025, where PUMA will launch a new badminton range featuring footwear, apparel, and accessories.
- The 'PVMA' campaign is a testament to how outdoor advertising, when paired with creativity and cultural relevance, can drive conversations and make a lasting impact.

Faiz Ahmed Kidwai has been appointed as chief of DGCA

Faiz Ahmed Kidwai has been appointed as the new Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), taking charge of the regulatory body. His appointment is expected to bring fresh leadership to the aviation sector. Kidwai's extensive experience and expertise in administration will likely benefit the aviation industry. As the head of DGCA, he will oversee critical matters related to safety, regulations, and operational efficiency. This leadership change comes at a pivotal time for India's growing aviation market.

Foot notes:

- He is a senior IAS officer with a wealth of experience in administration and governance.
- Kidwai's appointment as DGCA Director General is a significant development in the Indian aviation sector.
- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation is responsible for regulating and overseeing the safety and security of civil aviation in India.
- As the chief of DGCA, Kidwai will play a crucial role in shaping the country's aviation policy and ensuring the safe operation of airlines and airports.
- His experience in the Ministry of Agriculture will likely bring a fresh perspective to the DGCA, and his leadership skills will be essential in driving the organization forward.
- Kidwai's appointment has been widely reported, with many outlets praising his credentials and experience.

Truecaller appoints Hemant Arora as Global Head Ad Sales Business

Truecaller has appointed Hemant Arora as the Global Head of Ad Sales Business, signaling a strategic move to expand its advertising operations. Arora brings a wealth of experience in sales and marketing to the role. His leadership is expected to drive growth and innovation in the company's ad sales segment. Truecaller aims to strengthen its position in the digital advertising market with this key appointment. Arora's expertise will likely play a pivotal role in shaping the company's future.

Foot notes:

- Arora brings over two decades of experience in driving high-growth revenue strategies and managing global operations, having worked with companies like TikTok, Times Network, and Discovery Networks South Asia.
- In his previous role at TikTok, he headed global accounts for Europe, APAC, and METAP regions, giving him a deep understanding of global markets.
- Arora's appointment is expected to strengthen Truecaller's position in the ads business, with the company aiming to revolutionize how brands connect with consumers.
- He will be responsible for driving impactful growth and deepening partnerships globally, leveraging his proven track record of building scalable revenue models.
- Truecaller's CEO, Rishit Jhunjhunwala, believes Arora's expertise makes him the ideal leader to drive the company's ad sales strategy.
- With Arora on board, Truecaller is poised to unlock the full potential of its platform for advertisers across the globe, offering a unique opportunity for brands to connect with consumers.

Angel One appoints Ambarish Kenghe as Group CEO

Angel One has announced the appointment of Ambarish Kenghe as its new Group CEO, ushering in a new phase of leadership. Kenghe is expected to lead the company's growth and innovation strategies. With a strong background in technology and management, he is well-suited to drive Angel One's vision forward. His appointment reflects the organization's commitment to delivering enhanced services and products. Kenghe's leadership is anticipated to elevate the company's market position.

Foot notes:

- He previously worked at Google Pay as Vice President and General Manager, guiding the platform's expansion and strengthening India's UPI ecosystem.
- Kenghe also worked at Myntra as Chief Product Officer, deploying AI- and machine learning-driven solutions in the fashion e-commerce space.
- With a strong educational background, including an MBA from the University of California, Berkeley, and multiple master's degrees, Kenghe is a prolific innovator with four patents to his name.
- As Group CEO, Kenghe aims to drive the next phase of growth for Angel One, empowering users with advanced financial solutions and leveraging his proven record of driving innovation.
- Angel One's chairman and managing director, Dinesh Thakkar, believes Kenghe's appointment marks the start of an exciting new era for the company, which ranks as India's third-largest stockbroking platform with 7.75 million active clients.

Shri Anurag Sharma has been Appointed as Director (Infrastructure), DFCCIL

Shri Anurag Sharma has been appointed as the Director (Infrastructure) of DFCCIL, bringing his expertise to this critical role. He will oversee infrastructure development for the

organization, ensuring the smooth execution of key projects. DFCCIL, which is integral to India's freight corridor development, stands to benefit from his leadership. Sharma's appointment is part of the ongoing efforts to strengthen the country's logistics infrastructure. His role will involve coordinating with multiple stakeholders for project success.

Foot notes:

- Anurag Sharma is currently an Executive Director at DFCCIL, bringing valuable experience to his new role.
- As Director (Infrastructure), he will oversee the development and maintenance of infrastructure for the dedicated freight corridors.
- Sharma's selection was made at a PESB meeting, where his qualifications and experience were assessed.
- He will play a crucial role in shaping the infrastructure strategy for DFCCIL, which is a Schedule A company.
- With his expertise, DFCCIL aims to enhance its infrastructure and improve efficiency in freight transportation.
- Sharma's appointment is expected to bring new momentum to DFCCIL's infrastructure development projects, driving growth and progress in the sector.

Justice K Vinod Chandran Sworn in as Supreme Court Judge

Justice K. Vinod Chandran has been officially sworn in as a judge of the Supreme Court of India. Known for his vast experience and judicial acumen, Justice Chandran's elevation is seen as a significant addition to the apex court. Before this appointment, he served as the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court, where his judgments were widely regarded for their clarity and depth. His appointment underscores the judiciary's commitment to strengthening the country's legal framework. Justice Chandran is expected to contribute significantly to upholding the rule of law and delivering justice at the highest level.

Foot notes:

- Justice Vinod Chandran was administered the oath of office by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, officially becoming a part of the Supreme Court.
- He was previously the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court, a position he held since March 29, 2023, and before that, he served as a Judge of the Kerala High Court since November 8, 2011.
- The Supreme Court Collegium, led by Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna, recommended Justice Vinod Chandran's name for the position, considering his significant experience in diverse fields of law.
- With his swearing-in, the working strength of the Supreme Court has risen to 33 judges, including the Chief Justice, out of a sanctioned 34 judges.
- Justice Vinod Chandran's term as a Supreme Court Judge will last until April 25, 2028, and his appointment is seen as a significant development in the Indian judiciary.

ZEE Studios appoints Girish Johar as Head of Distribution & Revenues

ZEE Studios has appointed Girish Johar as the Head of Distribution and Revenues. In this pivotal role, Johar will oversee the studio's distribution strategies and revenue generation across multiple platforms. With a wealth of experience in the entertainment industry, he is expected to bring innovative approaches to expanding ZEE Studios' market reach. His expertise in film distribution and understanding of audience preferences make him a valuable asset to the company. This appointment aligns with ZEE Studios' vision of strengthening its position in the global entertainment sector.

Foot notes:

- Film Acquisitions will be a key part of his job, where he'll contribute to acquiring new films and monetizing them globally across all rights and languages.
- With his expertise, ZEE Studios is likely to see some significant growth and expansion in the distribution and revenue departments.
- Johar's previous experience has equipped him with the skills to navigate the complex world of film distribution and revenue management.
- As Head of Distribution & Revenues, he'll play a crucial role in shaping the company's strategy and direction in these areas.
- Overall, this appointment is a great move for ZEE Studios, and we can expect to see some exciting developments in the future with Johar at the helm.

Cox & Kings appoints Suresh Victor as Senior Vice President

Cox & Kings has appointed Suresh Victor as its new Senior Vice President. With extensive experience in the travel and tourism industry, Victor is expected to bring innovative strategies to drive growth and enhance customer experiences. His role will involve overseeing key business operations and strengthening the company's market position globally. This appointment aligns with Cox & Kings' vision of expanding its offerings and adapting to evolving travel trends. Victor's leadership is anticipated to contribute significantly to the company's future success.

Foot notes:

- Leadership Role is what Suresh Victor will be taking on, bringing his expertise to drive the company's technology strategy and innovation.
- With his background in technology and leadership, Victor is expected to play a crucial role in shaping the company's digital transformation and growth.
- Cox & Kings is a global leader in the travel and tourism industry, and Victor's appointment is a significant move to strengthen the company's technology capabilities.
- As Senior Vice President, Victor will be responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of technology solutions to enhance customer experience and drive business growth.
- This appointment is a testament to Cox & Kings' commitment to investing in top talent and technology to stay ahead in the competitive travel and tourism industry.

Madison Turnt appoints Rishabh Ratnu as Vice President

Madison Turnt has appointed Rishabh Ratnu as its new Vice President. Ratnu brings a wealth of experience and expertise in strategic leadership and business development. In his new role, he will focus on driving growth, enhancing operational efficiency, and strengthening the company's market presence. This appointment reflects Madison Turnt's commitment to fostering innovation and scaling its business operations. Ratnu's leadership is expected to play a key role in achieving the company's long-term objectives.

Foot notes:

- He has a strong background in advertising and experiential marketing, with a focus on revenue growth and client relationship management.
- Ratnu has worked across creative and strategic roles throughout his career, making him a versatile leader.
- As Vice President, he will be heading Madison Turnt's Delhi Branch, which is a marketing unit of Madison World.
- His appointment is a significant move for Madison Turnt, as the company looks to expand its presence in the Delhi market.
- With his extensive experience and expertise, Ratnu is expected to play a key role in driving growth and success for Madison Turnt in the region.

Justice Arun Mishra appointed as New Ombudsman Of BCCI

Justice Arun Mishra has been appointed as the new Ombudsman of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). A distinguished former judge of the Supreme Court of India, Justice Mishra is known for his vast legal expertise and fair decision-making. His appointment aims to ensure impartial resolution of disputes and uphold ethical standards within the organization. The Ombudsman's role includes addressing grievances and maintaining transparency in BCCI operations. Justice Mishra's leadership is expected to strengthen the governance framework of Indian cricket.

Foot notes:

- He will be responsible for resolving disputes and addressing ethical concerns within the BCCI, bringing his extensive judicial experience to the role.
- As Ombudsman, Justice Mishra will have the authority to investigate and adjudicate on complaints related to cricket administration, player conduct, and other matters.
- His appointment is seen as a significant development in the BCCI's efforts to strengthen its governance and ensure transparency and accountability.
- Justice Mishra's experience as a Supreme Court judge will likely bring a high level of credibility and integrity to the Ombudsman's office, helping to build trust among stakeholders.
- The BCCI's decision to appoint a former Supreme Court judge as its Ombudsman reflects its commitment to upholding the highest standards of ethics and governance in Indian cricket.

Nripendra Mishra reappointed Chairperson of PM Museum & Library Society

Nripendra Mishra has been reappointed as the Chairperson of the Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society. Known for his extensive administrative experience, Mishra continues to lead efforts to preserve and showcase the legacies of India's Prime Ministers. His reappointment underscores his significant contributions to enhancing the institution's stature and operations. The society plays a pivotal role in documenting the political and historical journey of India's leadership. Under Mishra's guidance, the museum and library are expected to further evolve as key centers of learning and cultural heritage.

Foot notes:

- Reconstitution of the Executive Council has led to his reappointment, highlighting his continued importance in shaping the society's vision and goals.
- Mishra's experience as the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India has likely played a role in his reappointment, given his understanding of the government's priorities and initiatives.
- The PM Museum & Library Society is responsible for preserving and promoting India's rich history and cultural heritage, and Mishra's leadership will be crucial in guiding these efforts.
- His reappointment is expected to bring stability and continuity to the society, allowing it to build on its existing projects and initiatives.
- As Chairperson, Mishra will oversee the society's activities, including the management of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, and ensure that its objectives are aligned with the government's vision for cultural and historical preservation.

Shri Suprakash Adhikari Appointed as Director Technical of NHPC Limited

Shri Suprakash Adhikari has been appointed as the Director (Technical) of NHPC Limited. With extensive experience and expertise in the power sector, Adhikari is expected to play a pivotal role in driving NHPC's technical operations and projects. His leadership comes at a crucial time as the company focuses on expanding its renewable energy portfolio and enhancing infrastructure. Adhikari's appointment underscores NHPC's commitment to technical excellence and sustainable growth. The organization anticipates significant advancements under his strategic direction.

Foot notes:

- He will be responsible for overseeing the technical aspects of NHPC's operations, bringing his expertise to drive the company's growth and success.
- As Director Technical, Adhikari will play a crucial role in shaping NHPC's technical strategy and ensuring the company's projects are completed efficiently and effectively.
- His appointment is a testament to his exceptional leadership skills and technical expertise, which will be invaluable in driving NHPC's future growth and development.

- Adhikari's experience and knowledge will help NHPC navigate the complex technical landscape of the power sector, enabling the company to stay ahead of the curve and achieve its goals.
- With his appointment, NHPC Limited is poised to benefit from Adhikari's vision and expertise, and his leadership will be instrumental in shaping the company's technical future.

Avalere Health appoints Amar Urhekar as Chief Executive Officer

Avalere Health has appointed Amar Urhekar as its new Chief Executive Officer. With a strong background in healthcare strategy and leadership, Urhekar is expected to guide the company through its next phase of growth and innovation. His extensive experience in managing complex health systems and strategic initiatives positions him well to lead Avalere Health. Under his leadership, the company aims to enhance its offerings in healthcare consulting and data analytics. This appointment reflects Avalere's commitment to strengthening its impact in the healthcare industry.

Foot notes:

- He's replacing Jon Koch, who previously held the position, and his appointment comes after 18 months of association with Avalere Health, where he joined as Chief Operations Officer (COO) in 2023.
- As CEO, Urhekar will be responsible for driving the company's growth and success, leveraging his expertise to navigate the complex healthcare landscape.
- Urhekar's promotion is a testament to his exceptional leadership skills and his role in shaping the company's new model, which aims to unite different aspects of the healthcare industry.
- With his experience and vision, Avalere Health is poised to continue its mission of providing innovative solutions and strategic partnerships to the healthcare sector.
- As a seasoned executive, Urhekar brings a deep understanding of the healthcare industry and a proven track record of success, making him an ideal candidate to lead Avalere Health into its next phase of growth.
- His appointment has been welcomed by the industry, with many recognizing his potential to drive positive change and innovation in the healthcare sector.

Gyanendra Pratap Singh Appointed as CRPF Director General

Gyanendra Pratap Singh has been appointed as the new Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). With a distinguished career in law enforcement, Singh brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the role. His leadership is expected to enhance the operational efficiency and security strategies of the CRPF, one of India's largest paramilitary forces. Singh's appointment comes at a crucial time, with the CRPF playing a significant role in maintaining internal security across the nation. His tenure is anticipated to focus on modernization, capacity building, and welfare of the personnel.

Foot notes:

- He was serving as the Director General of Police (DGP) of Assam before taking over as CRPF Director General, and will assume his new role immediately.
- Singh has a distinguished career in law enforcement, having served in various capacities, including the Special Protection Group (SPG) and the National Investigation Agency (NIA).
- As CRPF Director General, he will play a crucial role in leading the force's counter-terrorism, counter-insurgency, and anti-Maoist operations.
- The CRPF is India's largest paramilitary force, with nearly 300,000 personnel, and Singh's leadership will be instrumental in shaping the force's future.
- Under his leadership, the CRPF is expected to play a significant role in the government's efforts to eliminate left-wing extremism in Chhattisgarh by March 2026.
- Singh's tenure as CRPF Director General will last until November 30, 2027, or until further orders, and he succeeds Kuldip Singh in this position.

Nykaa ropes in Rasha Thadani as Brand Ambassador for Nykaa Cosmetics

Nykaa has announced Rasha Thadani as the new brand ambassador for Nykaa Cosmetics. The young star, known for her fresh and vibrant persona, perfectly aligns with the brand's ethos of empowering individuality and self-expression. With this collaboration, Nykaa aims to strengthen its appeal among younger audiences, highlighting its diverse range of beauty products. Rasha will feature in upcoming campaigns, promoting Nykaa's innovative cosmetics line. This partnership marks a strategic move to connect with Gen Z and millennial consumers.

Foot notes:

- Rasha Thadani is making her Bollywood debut in Azaad, and she embodies the vibrant and trend-forward ethos of Nykaa Cosmetics, making her a perfect fit as the brand ambassador.
- As the new face of Nykaa Cosmetics, Rasha will be promoting the brand's high-quality beauty solutions that cater to the needs of Gen Z and millennials.
- Nykaa is thrilled to welcome Rasha into their family, and they believe she will help redefine trends and promote creativity and self-expression through beauty.
- Rasha's youthful charm and beauty will undoubtedly help Nykaa Cosmetics connect with a younger audience and showcase their innovative products.
- Adwaita Nayar, Executive Director of Nykaa, expressed her excitement about Rasha joining the team, saying that she is a great fit for the brand's values and aesthetic.
- With Rasha on board, Nykaa Cosmetics is poised to take the beauty industry by storm, offering consumers a wide range of products that promote individuality and self-expression.

FPSB India appoints Amisha Sethi as Senior Vice President

FPSB India has appointed Amisha Sethi as its Senior Vice President, a strategic move to strengthen its leadership team. Sethi brings a wealth of experience in business strategy and marketing, having held key positions in top organizations. Her appointment aligns with FPSB India's vision of advancing financial literacy and professional standards in financial planning. In her new role, Sethi will focus on driving growth initiatives and enhancing member engagement. This development underscores FPSB India's commitment to fostering innovation and excellence in the financial services sector.

Foot notes:

- Amisha Sethi brings over 15 years of experience in the financial services industry, with expertise in areas such as wealth management, financial planning, and business development.
- As Senior Vice President, Sethi will be responsible for driving business growth, developing strategic partnerships, and promoting the Certified Financial Planner (CFP) certification in India.
- She will work closely with FPSB India's stakeholders, including financial planners, wealth managers, and other industry professionals, to advance the profession of financial planning in India.
- Sethi's appointment is expected to strengthen FPSB India's presence in the country and help increase the adoption of the CFP certification among financial professionals.
- Prior to joining FPSB India, Sethi held leadership roles at various financial services organizations, including Bajaj Capital and ICICI Bank, where she gained valuable experience in business development, marketing, and operations.

DigiHaat appoints Rahul Vij as Chief Operating Officer

DigiHaat has appointed Rahul Vij as its new Chief Operating Officer (COO), signaling a key leadership expansion. With extensive experience in operational strategy and digital innovation, Vij is set to drive the company's growth and streamline its marketplace operations. His expertise is expected to strengthen DigiHaat's vision of revolutionizing the digital marketplace for small and medium enterprises. As COO, Vij will focus on enhancing customer experience, expanding the platform's reach, and optimizing operational efficiency. This appointment underscores DigiHaat's commitment to scaling new heights in the e-commerce sector.

Foot notes:

- Kirshan Agarwal, Director of DigiHaat, is thrilled to have Rahul on board, and believes he'll play an integral role in redefining the digital commerce landscape in India. Rahul is also excited to join the company and contribute to its growth, building an ecosystem of resilience and efficiency to deliver value to customers and stakeholders.
- He'll establish a culture of efficiency, innovation, and collaboration, and help build a foundation of proficiency and productivity. With his result-oriented approach, Rahul is expected to drive operational excellence and take DigiHaat to new heights.

- Rahul's appointment is a significant step for DigiHaat, and it's clear that the company is committed to empowering users to navigate the e-commerce landscape more conveniently.
- Overall, this is a great move for DigiHaat, and we can expect to see some exciting developments in the future.

Justice Alok Aradhe Appointed as Chief Justice of Bombay High Court

Justice Alok Aradhe has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court. He brings a wealth of judicial experience, having previously served in various capacities across different High Courts. Known for his legal acumen and commitment to justice, Justice Aradhe has handled significant cases during his career. His appointment is expected to bolster the efficiency and integrity of the Bombay High Court, one of India's premier judicial institutions. This development underscores the emphasis on appointing seasoned judges to uphold the judiciary's standards.

Foot notes:

- He was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court on January 21, 2025, by Maharashtra Governor C. P. Radhakrishnan at a ceremony held at Raj Bhavan in Mumbai.
- Justice Aradhe has a wealth of experience, having served as a judge in several high courts, including the Telangana High Court, Karnataka High Court, Jammu and Kashmir High Court, and Madhya Pradesh High Court.
- He was born on April 13, 1964, in Raipur, and began his career as an advocate in 1988, practicing law in the Madhya Pradesh High Court at Jabalpur.
- Justice Aradhe has also served as the Acting Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court and the Karnataka High Court, and has been a visiting faculty member at the Judicial Officers Training and Research Institute of Madhya Pradesh.
- His appointment as the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court is a significant development, and he is expected to bring his extensive experience and expertise to the role, shaping the court's decisions and judgments in the years to come.

Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya Takes Oath as Chief Justice of Delhi High Court

Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya has taken oath as the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court. With a distinguished career in the judiciary, he has previously served in various key judicial roles across different High Courts. Known for his deep understanding of legal principles and commitment to justice, his leadership is expected to enhance the functioning of the Delhi High Court. The oath-taking ceremony marks a significant milestone, further strengthening the judiciary in the national capital. Justice Upadhyaya's appointment reflects the focus on experienced judicial leadership to address complex legal challenges effectively.

Foot notes:

- Justice Upadhyaya has a rich experience in the legal field, having graduated in law from Lucknow University in 1991 and practicing as an advocate at the Allahabad High Court.
- He has previously served as the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, a position he held from July 29, 2023, to January 20, 2025, and as a Judge of the Allahabad High Court.
- Justice Upadhyaya's appointment as the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court is a testament to his exceptional judicial skills and his ability to lead the court with wisdom and integrity.
- As the new Chief Justice, he is expected to bring his extensive experience and expertise to the role, shaping the court's decisions and judgments in the years to come.

Reliance Power appoints Neeraj Parakh as Chief Executive Officer

Reliance Power has appointed Neeraj Parakh as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO), marking a new leadership era for the company. With extensive experience in the energy and infrastructure sectors, Parakh is expected to drive the company's strategic growth initiatives and operational efficiencies. His appointment comes at a crucial time as Reliance Power focuses on expanding its renewable energy portfolio and optimizing existing assets. Parakh's leadership is anticipated to enhance the company's position in India's evolving power sector. This move underscores Reliance Power's commitment to strengthening its leadership team for future growth

Foot notes:

- Neeraj Parakh brings a wealth of experience to the role, having worked in the power sector for many years, and his appointment is expected to bring new leadership and vision to the company.
- As CEO, Parakh will be responsible for overseeing the company's operations, strategy, and growth, and will play a key role in shaping the company's future direction.
- Reliance Power is a leading power generation company in India, with a portfolio of thermal and renewable energy projects, and Parakh's appointment is seen as a significant development for the company.
- The company has been working to expand its presence in the renewable energy sector, and Parakh's experience and expertise are expected to be invaluable in this area.
- With Parakh at the helm, Reliance Power is poised to continue its growth and expansion, and his leadership is expected to have a positive impact on the company's operations and future prospects.

Alok Kumar Agarwal Appointed CEO of Zurich Kotak General Insurance

Alok Kumar Agarwal has been appointed as the CEO of Zurich Kotak General Insurance, marking a significant leadership change in the organization. With extensive experience in the insurance and financial sectors, Agarwal is expected to drive the company's growth and strategic initiatives. His appointment aligns with Zurich Kotak's vision of enhancing customer-centric solutions and expanding its market presence. Under his leadership, the company aims to

strengthen its position in the competitive general insurance industry. This move underscores Zurich Kotak's commitment to bringing seasoned professionals on board to lead its operations.

Foot notes:

- He has moved to Zurich Kotak from ICICI Lombard, where he spent 22 years, and will be leading the company as MD and CEO, effective January 1.
- Agarwal's extensive experience will be invaluable in driving Zurich Kotak's growth and expansion in the Indian market.
- As CEO, he will be responsible for developing and implementing the company's strategy, overseeing operations, and ensuring that Zurich Kotak remains competitive in the industry.
- With his expertise and leadership, Zurich Kotak is poised to strengthen its position in the Indian general insurance market.
- Agarwal's appointment is a significant development for Zurich Kotak, and his vision and guidance will be crucial in shaping the company's future.

Senior IPS Officer Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal Appointed as BSF ADG

Senior IPS officer Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal has been appointed as the Additional Director General (ADG) of the Border Security Force (BSF). Aggarwal, known for his extensive experience in policing and border management, is expected to play a pivotal role in enhancing the BSF's operational capabilities. His appointment aligns with the government's focus on strengthening border security and ensuring the safety of the nation. As ADG, Aggarwal will oversee critical operations and contribute to policy formulation for effective border management. This leadership change is anticipated to further bolster the BSF's preparedness and efficiency in addressing emerging challenges.

Foot notes:

- He is a 1994-batch IPS officer with a wealth of experience in law enforcement and administration.
- Aggarwal has been appointed as ADG, BSF on deputation basis for a period of four years, bringing his expertise to the organization.
- As ADG, he will play a crucial role in shaping the BSF's strategies and operations, leveraging his knowledge and skills to enhance the force's effectiveness.
- Aggarwal's appointment is a significant development for the BSF, and he is expected to make a positive impact during his tenure.
- With his strong background in law enforcement and administration, Aggarwal is well-equipped to handle the challenges and responsibilities that come with being the ADG of the BSF.

Hindware appoints Nirupam Sahay as CEO

Hindware has appointed Nirupam Sahay as its new Chief Executive Officer. Sahay brings extensive experience in the consumer durables and building materials sectors, with a strong track record of driving business growth. His leadership is expected to further strengthen Hindware's market position and accelerate its innovation-led strategies. Under his guidance, the company aims to expand its product portfolio and enhance its customer experience. Sahay's appointment marks a key step in Hindware's journey toward sustainable growth and industry leadership.

Foot notes:

- Nirupam Sahay joins Hindware from Dixon Technologies, where he served as President of the Lighting Solutions Business, bringing extensive leadership experience and a proven track record of driving growth and profitability.
- He has a deep understanding of the Indian market and a focus on innovation, which will help lead Hindware's bathroom business into its next phase of growth, according to Sandip Somany, Chairman and Managing Director of Hindware Limited.
- Sahay's career includes significant leadership roles at renowned organizations such as Philips Lighting, GE Capital, Whirlpool, and Asian Paints, giving him a unique perspective and expertise in the industry.
- As CEO, Sahay's focus will be on fostering a forward-thinking approach to meet evolving customer needs and capitalize on emerging opportunities, and he is expected to strengthen Hindware's position as a trusted and innovative brand.
- Sahay holds a BA Honors in Economics from St. Stephen's College, Delhi, a Master's in Management from SVKM's NarseeMonjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS), and completed the Advanced Management Program (AMP) at the Wharton School.

Dhananjay Shukla elected as ICSI President

Dhananjay Shukla has been elected as the President of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI). A seasoned professional, Shukla has extensive experience in corporate governance and regulatory frameworks. His leadership aims to further the institute's vision of promoting excellence in professional development and ethical practices. As President, he plans to enhance skill-building initiatives and strengthen the global presence of Indian company secretaries. Shukla's election reflects ICSI's commitment to fostering innovation and professional growth in the corporate sector.

Foot notes:

- Dhananjay Shukla has been elected as the President of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) for 2025, a significant milestone in his career.
- He is a Fellow Member of the ICSI and a Practising Company Secretary, bringing a wealth of experience to the role.
- As President, Shukla will be responsible for leading the ICSI and shaping its future direction, with Pawan G Chandak serving as the Vice President.

- Shukla's election is a testament to his expertise and dedication to the field of company secretaries, and he is expected to make a positive impact during his tenure.
- With his strong background in commerce and law, Shukla is well-equipped to handle the challenges and opportunities that come with being the ICSI President.

Sanjiv Ranjan Appointed as Secretary General of Indian Ocean Rim Association

Sanjiv Ranjan has been appointed as the Secretary General of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). With extensive diplomatic experience, Ranjan aims to strengthen regional cooperation among IORA member states. His leadership will focus on enhancing collaboration in areas such as trade, maritime security, and sustainable development. The appointment underscores India's commitment to fostering strategic partnerships in the Indian Ocean region. Ranjan's vision includes promoting economic growth and stability while addressing challenges like climate change and blue economy initiatives.

Foot notes:

- He brings over three decades of experience in international relations and cooperation, having joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1993, and has held various diplomatic positions, including serving as Ambassador to Argentina, Colombia, and other countries.
- Ranjan's appointment is a testament to his diplomatic skills and commitment to fostering international partnerships, and he is expected to play a key role in shaping IORA's future direction.
- As Secretary General, he will be responsible for overseeing the organization's activities, including promoting economic cooperation, trade, and sustainable development among its member states.
- IORA is a regional organization comprising 23 member states, including India, Australia, and South Africa, and has 12 dialogue partners, including China and the European Union.
- Ranjan's tenure as Secretary General is expected to be three years, and he will be based at the IORA Secretariat, where he will work closely with member states, dialogue partners, and other stakeholders to advance the organization's goals.

Ayushmann Khurrana to serve as brand ambassador of FICCI Frames

Ayushmann Khurrana has been appointed as the brand ambassador of FICCI Frames, a premier platform for the media and entertainment industry. Known for his versatile acting and socially relevant film choices, Khurrana embodies creativity and innovation, aligning with FICCI Frames' vision. As the ambassador, he will promote the platform's initiatives to advance the growth of the entertainment sector in India. His association is expected to inspire young talent and strengthen industry collaborations. This partnership highlights the increasing synergy between cinema and business in shaping India's cultural and economic landscape.

Foot notes:

- He will be the face of the event, which is held annually in Mumbai and brings together influential personalities, creative professionals, and policymakers to discuss emerging trends and challenges in the entertainment landscape.
- The theme for this year's edition is RISE: Redefining Innovation, Sustainability, and Excellence, which underscores the transformative impact of FICCI Frames in shaping narratives and driving the evolution of the media and entertainment industry.
- As brand ambassador, Ayushmann will work closely with the FICCI team to champion disruption, celebrate innovation, and highlight the excellence of the industry, making him a great fit for the role given his own journey of creativity and innovation.
- The 25th edition of FICCI Frames promises to be a grand affair, with a renewed focus on new-age technologies like artificial intelligence, digital content creation, and virtual reality, alongside traditional media and entertainment.
- Ayushmann's association with FICCI Frames is expected to elevate the event and inspire future generations of storytellers and creators, and he has expressed his commitment to working with the exceptional FICCI team to deliver a memorable experience.

Sajith Sivanandan joined Jio Mobile Digital Services as President

Sajith Sivanandan has been appointed as the President of Jio Mobile Digital Services, bringing his extensive leadership experience to the role. With a proven track record in driving innovation and growth, his addition is expected to bolster Jio's digital ecosystem. Sivanandan will focus on enhancing user experience and expanding Jio's reach in the competitive mobile services market. His expertise in technology and digital transformation aligns with Jio's vision of revolutionizing connectivity and digital services in India. This appointment marks another step forward in Jio's commitment to innovation and customer-centric solutions.

Foot notes:

- He will lead Jio Mobile's next-generation digital services, leveraging AI to deliver scalable and impactful solutions that enhance user experiences.
- Before joining Jio, Sajith was the CEO of Disney+ Hotstar, where he led the platform's strategy, scaled its user base, and managed functions including product development, partnerships, analytics, and profitability.
- Sajith has also held key leadership roles at Google, including Managing Director for Google Pay and Next Billion User Initiatives, and Managing Director of Google Malaysia, Vietnam, and the Philippines.
- His diverse experience across digital ecosystems and ability to lead cross-functional teams have made him a recognized figure in the technology and media industries.
- As President of Jio Mobile Digital Services, Sajith will play a crucial role in shaping the company's digital services and driving growth and innovation.

Nokia appoints Patrik Hammarén as President of Nokia Technologies

Nokia has appointed Patrik Hammarén as the President of Nokia Technologies, marking a new chapter for the company's innovation-driven division. Hammarén brings extensive experience in technology leadership, which will be instrumental in driving Nokia's growth in intellectual property and licensing. His focus will be on advancing cutting-edge technologies and strengthening Nokia's global market presence. This appointment aligns with Nokia's commitment to leveraging its R&D expertise to create impactful solutions. Hammarén's leadership is expected to accelerate the company's vision of shaping the future of connectivity and technology.

Foot notes:

- He has been with Nokia since 2007 and has held various senior positions, including Chief Licensing Officer Wireless Technologies and Vice President, Head of IoT Licensing Program.
- Hammarén will be responsible for managing and monetizing Nokia's industry-leading patent portfolio, as well as licensing the company's innovation and contributions to global technology standards to other companies.
- He has a strong track record of driving growth and innovation, and his appointment is expected to take Nokia's patent business forward into its next phase of growth.
- As President of Nokia Technologies, Hammarén will report to Pekka Lundmark, Nokia's President and CEO, and will be based in Finland.

CIFDAQ appoints C.N. Upadhyay as Chief Strategy Officer

CIFDAQ has appointed C.N. Upadhyay as its Chief Strategy Officer, strengthening its leadership team. With his extensive experience in strategic planning and business development, Upadhyay is set to play a pivotal role in driving the company's growth initiatives. His responsibilities will include formulating innovative strategies to expand CIFDAQ's market reach and enhance its product portfolio. This appointment reflects CIFDAQ's commitment to leveraging top-tier talent to navigate the competitive landscape of the financial technology industry. Upadhyay's expertise is expected to contribute significantly to the company's vision of delivering cutting-edge solutions to its global clientele.

Foot notes:

- He is a Chartered Accountant, bringing a strong financial background to the role, and his expertise will be invaluable in driving CIFDAQ's growth and expansion plans.
- As Chief Strategy Officer, Upadhyay will be responsible for developing and implementing CIFDAQ's strategic vision, identifying new business opportunities, and building partnerships to drive growth.
- His appointment is a testament to CIFDAQ's commitment to investing in top talent and building a strong leadership team to take the company to the next level.
- Upadhyay's experience and skills will be crucial in helping CIFDAQ navigate the complex and rapidly evolving blockchain ecosystem, and his appointment is expected to have a positive impact on the company's future prospects.

- With this new appointment, CIFDAQ is poised to continue its trajectory of innovation and growth, and Upadhyay's leadership will play a key role in shaping the company's success.

Jay Shah Elected to Marylebone Cricket Club Advisory Board

Jay Shah has been elected to the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) Advisory Board, marking a significant achievement in his cricket administration career. The MCC, one of the most prestigious cricketing institutions, is known for its influential role in the sport's governance and development. Shah's election reflects his growing influence within the global cricketing community and his contributions to the sport's growth in India. As a member of the Advisory Board, he will be involved in shaping key decisions and initiatives that affect international cricket. This appointment strengthens the relationship between the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the MCC, furthering the interests of cricket worldwide.

Foot notes:

- Jay Shah, the ICC chairman, has been elected as a member of the Marylebone Cricket Club's new global Advisory Board, which replaces the World Cricket Committee formed in 2006.
- He's among 13 founding members, including notable figures like Sourav Ganguly, Graeme Smith, and Kumar Sangakkara, who will head the board.
- The Advisory Board aims to discuss and debate important topics in global cricket, and Jay Shah's experience as ICC chairman and president of the Asian Cricket Council will be invaluable.
- The second World Cricket Connects forum is scheduled to take place on June 7 and 8, where the advisory board will convene to address key issues in the sport.
- Jay Shah's election to the advisory board is a significant development, given his influential position in global cricket governance, and his contributions will likely shape the future of the sport.

LTIMindtree appoints Venu Lambu as CEO

LTIMindtree has appointed Venu Lambu as its new CEO, marking a significant step in the company's leadership evolution. Lambu, with his extensive experience in the technology and business consulting sectors, is poised to drive the company's growth and innovation. His leadership will focus on expanding LTIMindtree's global footprint and enhancing its service offerings to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving market. The appointment underscores LTIMindtree's commitment to maintaining its competitive edge in the IT services industry. Lambu's strategic vision and expertise are expected to play a key role in shaping the future trajectory of the company.

Foot notes:

- Venu Lambu has been appointed as the CEO-designate of LTIMindtree, a global technology consulting and digital solutions company, with a tenure of five years till 2030.

- He will be based out of London and work closely with the current CEO, Debashis Chatterjee, to ensure a smooth transition and gain deeper insights into the company's operations, budget, and strategic plans.
- Lambu has over 30 years of experience in driving strategies and hyper-growth in the technology and services industry, and has held leadership positions at companies like Cognizant, HCL Technologies, and IBM.
- He was previously the CEO of Randstad Digital, the \$3 billion digital arm of Randstad, and has a strong track record of delivering consistent profitable growth in his previous roles.
- Lambu's appointment is seen as a significant milestone in the company's leadership succession plan, and is expected to strengthen LTIMindtree's position as a leading global IT services provider.

Dabur Khajurprash ropes in Manu Bhaker as brand ambassador

Dabur Khajurprash has roped in Manu Bhaker, the renowned Indian shooter, as its brand ambassador. Bhaker, known for her impressive achievements in international shooting competitions, aligns with the brand's focus on health and vitality. As the face of Dabur Khajurprash, she will promote the product's benefits in boosting energy and immunity through its natural ingredients. This partnership highlights Dabur's commitment to associating with top athletes who embody fitness and excellence. Bhaker's endorsement is expected to help Dabur Khajurprash reach a broader audience and strengthen its position in the health and wellness market.

Foot notes:

- Dabur Khajurprash has signed Olympic medalist Manu Bhaker as its brand ambassador to raise awareness about the importance of iron-rich nutrition among Indian women.
- Manu Bhaker's vibrant persona and pan-India appeal make her a great fit for the brand, and her association is expected to strengthen the brand and help build a better connect with consumers.
- The partnership aims to empower women to focus on their health and maintain healthy iron and hemoglobin levels to live a fulfilling life.
- Dabur Khajurprash is made from premium quality dates and combines the natural sweetness of dates with a rich blend of 40+ Ayurvedic herbs and ingredients, offering a multitude of health benefits.
- As part of the partnership, Dabur Khajurprash has launched an integrated media campaign featuring Manu Bhaker, which will showcase the importance of iron-rich nutrition and the benefits of consuming Dabur Khajurprash.

Akhil Gupta Appointed As Chairman Of Bharti AXA Life Insurance

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off the Battlefield Surveillance System (BSS) 'SANJAY,' a cutting-edge technology designed to enhance the Indian Army's surveillance

capabilities. The system is equipped with advanced sensors and communication tools, enabling real-time data collection and analysis for effective battlefield management. 'SANJAY' will provide the armed forces with an edge in monitoring and tracking enemy movements, ensuring timely and precise responses. This initiative is part of India's continued efforts to modernize its defense systems and improve national security. The introduction of the BSS marks a significant leap forward in the country's defense technological advancements.

Foot notes:

- He brings over 40 years of experience to the table, having played a pivotal role in Bharti's growth and strategic partnerships with investors like Warburg Pincus and Temasek.
- Gupta has led the formation of various partnerships for Bharti with leading international operators and has been instrumental in raising several billion dollars through project finance and capital markets.
- As Chairman of Bharti AXA Life Insurance, he will oversee the company's strategy and direction, and his expertise will be crucial in driving growth and expansion.
- Gupta is a Chartered Accountant by qualification and has done an Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School, giving him a strong foundation in finance and management.
- He has received numerous awards, including the ET Telecom Lifetime Achievement Award and the CA Lifetime Achievement Award, and has written a book on management called "Some Sizes Fit All".

AWARD NEWS

JIFF 2025 to Honour Yash Chopra and Shyam Benegal

The Jaipur International Film Festival (JIFF) 2025 will honor legendary filmmakers Yash Chopra and Shyam Benegal for their outstanding contributions to Indian cinema. Known as the "King of Romance," Yash Chopra redefined Bollywood with his iconic films. Shyam Benegal, a pioneer of parallel cinema, brought socially relevant stories to the forefront with his thought-provoking narratives. This tribute will include special screenings of their landmark films and a retrospective highlighting their cinematic legacy. JIFF 2025 aims to celebrate their artistry and inspire future generations of filmmakers.

Foot notes:

- The Jaipur International Film Festival 2025 will pay tribute to two Indian cinema legends, Yash Chopra and Shyam Benegal, recognizing their significant contributions to the industry.
- Yash Chopra's Legacy: Chopra will be honored with the Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award for his profound impact on Indian and global cinema, marked by notable films like 'Deewar', 'Kabhi Kabhie', and 'Dil To Pagal Hai'.

- **Shyam Benegal's Influence:** Benegal, a pioneer of the Indian parallel cinema movement, will be paid tribute for his insightful narrations and compelling visual stories in films like 'Ankur' and the TV series 'Bharat Ek Khoj'.
- **Festival Details:** The Jaipur International Film Festival 2025 will take place from January 17 to 21, celebrating the legacies of these two iconic filmmakers.
- **Impact on Indian Cinema:** Both Chopra and Benegal have left a lasting impression on Indian cinema, with their work continuing to inspire new generations of filmmakers and audiences alike.
- **Celebrating Their Work:** The festival will be a great opportunity to celebrate the work and contributions of these two legends, and to recognize their influence on the Indian film industry.

Aparna Sen Honored with Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award

Aparna Sen, the renowned Indian filmmaker and actress, was honored with the prestigious Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award for her exceptional contribution to cinema. The award, named after the legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray, celebrates individuals who have significantly impacted the world of Indian cinema. Sen, known for her thought-provoking films and powerful performances, has been a trailblazer in both Bengali and national cinema. Her works often explore themes of human emotions, relationships, and social issues, earning her critical acclaim and numerous accolades. The award recognizes her remarkable journey and lasting influence in shaping the landscape of Indian filmmaking.

Foot notes:

- She received the award from the West Bengal Film Journalists Association, recognizing her remarkable work as a filmmaker and actress.
- Aparna Sen has had a illustrious career, with her directorial debut 36 Chowringhee Lane winning the Grand Prix at the Manila International Film Festival and earning her the National Award for Best Direction.
- Her film Mr and Mrs Iyer also won several international awards, including the Grand Prix for Best Feature Film at the Hawaii and Las Palmas Film Festivals.
- Sen has served on several international film juries and has been honored with the Padmashree Award in 1986 for her contributions to cinema.
- She has also been recognized for her work as a chief creative officer at Saregama India Ltd, where she has been responsible for commissioning Bengali films.
- This award is a testament to her dedication and passion for filmmaking, and she continues to be an inspiration to upcoming filmmakers and actors in the industry.

Tarun Das Honored with Singapore Honorary Citizen Award

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to fostering international ties, Tarun Das has been honored with the prestigious Singapore Honorary Citizen Award. This accolade is one of Singapore's highest civilian honors and acknowledges Das's efforts in strengthening

relationships between nations. His recognition serves as a reminder of the critical role individuals play in building global partnerships.

Foot notes:

- Tarun Das, the former Director General of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), has been awarded the prestigious Singapore Honorary Citizen Award for his outstanding contributions to enhancing Singapore-India relations.
- This award is a testament to his tireless efforts in strengthening ties between the two nations through business, youth exchanges, and diplomacy.
- Das is only the second Indian to receive this honor, which recognizes non-Singaporeans who have made significant contributions to the country's growth and development.
- The award was conferred upon him by the Singapore President, acknowledging his pivotal role in fostering a stronger relationship between Singapore and India.
- This recognition is a well-deserved tribute to Das's dedication and commitment to promoting bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries.

Manu Bhaker, D Gukesh & Harmanpreet Singh receives Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award

Indian sportspersons Manu Bhaker, D Gukesh, and Harmanpreet Singh have been honored with the prestigious Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award. Manu Bhaker, a renowned shooter, has consistently excelled in international competitions, bringing laurels to the nation. Chess prodigy D Gukesh has made history with his remarkable performances, cementing his status as a rising star in the global chess arena. Harmanpreet Singh, a stalwart of Indian hockey, has been pivotal in the team's successes on the international stage. This recognition celebrates their outstanding contributions and dedication to Indian sports.

Foot notes:

- Young Achievers are making waves, with 18-year-old D Gukesh becoming the youngest world chess champion ever, and 22-year-old Manu Bhaker winning two Olympic medals in shooting.
- Harmanpreet Singh, the Indian men's hockey team captain, has also been recognized for his outstanding performance, having led the team to bronze medals in the Tokyo and Paris Olympics.
- The award ceremony, held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, was a grand affair, with President Droupadi Murmu presenting the awards to the deserving athletes.
- This year's awards also saw a record number of para-athletes being recognized, with 17 out of 32 Arjuna Award winners being from the para-sports category.
- The Khel Ratna Award is the highest sporting honor in India, and it's a testament to the hard work and dedication of these athletes, who have made the country proud with their achievements.

Chandigarh University Honored with MAKATROPHY and Arjuna Award

Chandigarh University has been honored with the prestigious MAKA Trophy and the Arjuna Award, recognizing its outstanding contributions to sports and physical education. The MAKA Trophy, awarded by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, acknowledges the university's exceptional achievements in promoting sports and nurturing athletic talent. The Arjuna Award, one of India's highest honors for athletes, further underscores the university's commitment to encouraging excellence in sports. This recognition highlights Chandigarh University's consistent efforts in creating a sports-friendly environment, providing world-class facilities, and fostering young talent. The awards also reflect the university's broader vision to promote physical fitness and sportsmanship among its students.

Foot notes:

- Outstanding Performance is what earned them this award, and it's a testament to the university's commitment to nurturing talent and promoting achievement.
- The university's student, Sanjay Kumar, who's also a member of the Indian hockey team, received the Arjuna Award for his exceptional skills on the field, making his university proud.
- This award is a big deal, as it acknowledges Sanjay's hard work and dedication to hockey, and it's a great motivation for other students to follow in his footsteps.
- Chandigarh University's focus on sports and extracurricular activities is clearly paying off, and this award is a shining example of their success.
- The university's reputation as a hub for talented individuals is growing, and this recognition will surely attract more students and faculty who share their passion for excellence.

Mridangist T.V. Gopalakrishnan Honoured With RK Srikantan Trust Award

Renowned mridangist T.V. Gopalakrishnan has been honored with the prestigious R.K. Srikantan Trust Award, recognizing his exceptional contributions to Indian classical music. Known for his mastery of the mridangam and his significant influence on the Carnatic music tradition, this accolade celebrates his decades of dedication to the art form. The award reflects the trust's mission to acknowledge artists who have left an indelible mark on Indian music. Gopalakrishnan's achievements as a performer, teacher, and composer have inspired generations of musicians and music enthusiasts. This recognition further solidifies his legacy as one of the most respected figures in the classical music community.

Foot notes:

- He is a renowned mridangam player, known for his exceptional skill and dedication to the craft, having performed with many legendary musicians and participated in numerous music festivals.
- The RK Srikantan Trust Award is a prestigious recognition, given to individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of music, and Gopalakrishnan's receipt of this award is a well-deserved acknowledgment of his hard work and passion.

- Gopalakrishnan's music career has spanned many decades, during which he has collaborated with numerous artists and has been instrumental in popularizing the mridangam, a traditional Indian drum, among music enthusiasts.
- His award is not only a recognition of his individual achievements but also a celebration of the rich cultural heritage of Indian music, which continues to inspire and influence artists around the world.
- This award will undoubtedly inspire future generations of musicians to follow in Gopalakrishnan's footsteps and pursue their passion for music with dedication and perseverance.

A.R. Rahman Honored with a Musical Tribute by Aanand L. Rai

Renowned filmmaker Aanand L. Rai has honored A.R. Rahman with a heartfelt musical tribute, celebrating the maestro's extraordinary contributions to the world of music. The event featured performances of Rahman's iconic compositions, spanning his illustrious career in Indian and international cinema. Rai expressed his admiration for Rahman's ability to transcend cultural and linguistic barriers through his music. The tribute highlighted Rahman's profound influence on the film industry and his role in putting Indian music on the global stage. The event served as a testament to Rahman's legacy as one of the greatest composers of all time.

Foot notes:

- Arun Mohan Joshi, a 2006 batch IPS officer of the Uttarakhand cadre, has been appointed as the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of the Border Security Force (BSF) on a deputation basis for a period of 5 years.
- Joshi has also made history by becoming the youngest Inspector General (IG) of Police in India, a testament to his exceptional skills and dedication to his work.
- Before his current appointment, Joshi has served in various roles, including as the Superintendent of Police (SP) in Dehradun and as the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Vigilance and DIG of the Provincial Armed Constabulary/Anti-Terrorist Cell (PAC/ATC) in Uttarakhand.
- With over 15 years of experience in the police force, Joshi brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to his new role, having worked in various capacities and handled several high-profile cases.
- Joshi's achievements are a reflection of his hard work and commitment to his profession, and he continues to be an inspiration to his colleagues and aspiring officers.
- As he takes on his new role as DIG, Joshi is expected to play a key role in shaping the future of the BSF and contributing to the country's security and safety.

Shri RK Chaudhary, CMD NHPC Conferred with 'Life Time Achievement Award'

Shri R.K. Chaudhary, the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of NHPC, has been honored with the prestigious 'Lifetime Achievement Award.' The award recognizes his

exemplary contributions to the power sector and his leadership in advancing hydropower development in India. Under his guidance, NHPC has achieved significant milestones, including the successful commissioning of several key projects. Shri Chaudhary's visionary approach has not only strengthened NHPC's position as a leader in renewable energy but also contributed to India's energy security. This recognition celebrates his dedication and outstanding service to the nation's energy sector.

Foot notes:

- Chaudhary's award is a testament to his outstanding work in the hydropower sector, where he has played a crucial role in driving growth and development.
- As the CMD of NHPC, Chaudhary has been instrumental in shaping the company's strategy and direction, and his leadership has been instrumental in its success.
- Under Chaudhary's leadership, NHPC has achieved several milestones, including the completion of major hydroelectric projects and the expansion of its renewable energy portfolio.
- The award was presented to Chaudhary at the 'PRAKASAM 17th ENERTIA Awards 2024 Ceremony' held in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, where he was recognized for his dedication and commitment to the hydropower sector.
- NHPC has also been conferred with the 'INDIA's Best Hydro & Renewable Energy Public Sector Enterprise Award' by the Enertia Foundation, recognizing its excellence in the field of hydropower and renewable energy.
- With this award, Chaudhary and NHPC are poised to continue their efforts in driving growth and development in the hydropower sector, with plans to expand their renewable energy portfolio and complete ongoing projects.

Dr. Syed Anwar Khursheed Honoured with Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award

Dr. Syed Anwar Khursheed has been honored with the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award, recognizing his outstanding contributions to the community. The award, which celebrates the achievements of the Indian diaspora, acknowledges Dr. Khursheed's dedication to fostering international relations and promoting India's interests abroad. His efforts in various sectors, including social work and cultural exchange, have made a significant impact on strengthening ties between India and other nations. Dr. Khursheed's recognition highlights the role of individuals in making valuable contributions to global society. This honor serves as a testament to his lifelong commitment to public service and community development.

Foot notes:

- He was recognized for his outstanding contributions to healthcare, community welfare, and strengthening ties between India and Saudi Arabia, with over 45 years of experience in key roles, including three decades at King Faisal Hospital.
- Dr. Khursheed played a critical role during the COVID-19 pandemic, providing essential healthcare, vaccine advocacy, and round-the-clock consultations to the Indian diaspora in Saudi Arabia.

- He has also made significant contributions to education and community development, founding the International Indian School in Taif and supporting underprivileged Indians through social and philanthropic initiatives.
- The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award is the highest recognition for overseas Indians, conferred by the President of India, and Dr. Khursheed is one of 27 individuals and institutions honored with this award in 2025.
- Dr. Khursheed's recognition underscores his enduring impact on the Indian community abroad and his role in strengthening India's global presence, particularly in the fields of healthcare and education.
- As a fluent Arabic speaker and a vital bridge between India and Saudi Arabia, Dr. Khursheed has enhanced bilateral relations in healthcare, education, and entrepreneurship, making him a deserving recipient of this prestigious award.

Indian Army Day is celebrated on 15 January

Indian Army Day is observed every year on January 15 to honor the sacrifices and achievements of the armed forces. It marks the day when Lieutenant General K. M. Cariappa took over as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army. Celebrations include parades, medal ceremonies, and various events across the country. The day serves as a reminder of the dedication and valor of the Indian Army. It is a moment of pride and gratitude for all citizens.

Foot notes:

- The day marks the assumption of command by Field Marshal Kodandera Madappa Cariappa as the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army in 1949, symbolizing India's post-independence military leadership.
- The 77th Army Day Parade was held in Pune, Maharashtra, featuring a historic display of India's military might, including robotic mules and an all-women NCC contingent.
- The parade showcased the Indian Army's capabilities and contributions to making India a more powerful country, with the theme "Samarth Bharat, Saksham Sena".
- The event honored Lieutenant General KM Cariappa and recognized the sacrifices of Indian soldiers, with the Chief of Army Staff presenting the Sena Medal (Gallantry).
- The parade featured a joint band performance by the Indian Army and Nepal Army, signifying the synergy between the two nations.
- The Indian Army Day celebrations aim to inspire patriotism and respect for the armed forces, with the Army's motto "Service Before Self" resonating strongly during this event.

Indian Navy celebrated the 'Year of Naval Civilians' on January 17

On January 17, the Indian Navy celebrated the 'Year of Naval Civilians,' highlighting the invaluable contributions of its civilian workforce. This initiative recognizes the critical role civilians play in supporting naval operations, maintenance, and logistics. The celebrations served as a platform to honor their dedication and commitment to the Navy's mission and success. Through this observance, the Navy emphasized the importance of collaboration

between uniformed personnel and civilian staff. The event underscored the Navy's gratitude and its efforts to foster an inclusive and cohesive environment for all members of the naval community.

Foot notes:

- The event was held at the Dr DS Kothari Auditorium, DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi, and it was a proud moment for the Indian Navy.
- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh addressed the event, highlighting the importance of naval civilians and their increasing role in the Indian Navy's operations.
- The 'Year of Naval Civilians' is a significant initiative to recognize the contributions of naval civilians to the Indian Navy's growth and development.
- The celebration aimed to promote the welfare and well-being of naval civilians, who play a vital role in supporting the Navy's operations and maintenance.
- The event was a huge success, and it marked an important milestone in the Indian Navy's efforts to appreciate and recognize the hard work and dedication of its civilian personnel.

Urbasi Sinha Won Gates-Cambridge Impact Prize 2025

Urbasi Sinha has been awarded the prestigious Gates- Cambridge Impact Prize 2025. This honor recognizes her exceptional contributions to her field and the significant impact of her work on global issues. Sinha's dedication to research and innovation has earned her this distinguished accolade, highlighting her efforts to drive positive change. The Gates-Cambridge Impact Prize is awarded to individuals whose work exemplifies leadership, creativity, and the ability to tackle complex challenges. Sinha's achievement adds to the growing list of individuals making a profound impact through their dedication to science, technology, and society.

Foot notes:

- She's being recognized for her pioneering research in quantum computing and information processing, which has the potential to solve some of humanity's most pressing issues.
- Professor Sinha is a leading researcher in both quantum fundamentals and technologies, and heads the Quantum Information and Computing lab at the Raman Research Institute.
- Her lab was one of the first in India to manufacture and establish the usage of heralded and entangled photon sources, which has opened up new avenues for research in quantum communication, computing, and optics.
- She's played a key role in the creation of the Open Quantum Institute, a multi-stakeholder institution launched at CERN, and has leadership roles in India's National Quantum Mission.
- Professor Sinha has received several awards for her work, including the Rashtriya Vigyan Yuva Puraskar and the Canada Excellence Research Chair in Photonic Quantum Science and Technologies.
- Her work is a testament to the impact that science can have on global progress, and she's an inspiration to young researchers and scientists around the world.

Dr. Padmakar Nandekar Honored with Trendsetter Award 2025 at Prestigious Ceremony

Dr. Padmakar Nandekar has been honored with the prestigious Trendsetter Award 2025 for his outstanding contributions in his field. The award ceremony, held at a renowned event, recognized Dr. Nandekar's pioneering work and leadership in his area of expertise. Throughout his career, he has been a catalyst for innovation, making significant strides in both research and practical applications. His efforts have had a profound impact, setting new standards and inspiring future generations. This recognition highlights his dedication to excellence and the transformative role he has played in shaping his industry.

Foot notes:

- He is the Founder Chairman and Managing Director of Universal Communications Ltd., and has been instrumental in launching several TV channels, including DD Metro and Zee Cinema.
- Dr. Nandekar has extensive experience in television production, and has overseen the creation of numerous TV programs, including the popular TV serial "Jungle Book" (Mowgli).
- The award ceremony, organized by Times Applaud, was held at Hotel Ginger and recognized trailblazers who have made significant contributions to their respective industries, with Bollywood actress Soha Ali Khan gracing the occasion as the chief guest.
- Dr. Nandekar expressed heartfelt gratitude upon receiving the award, stating that it inspires him to continue pushing boundaries and contributing to the growth of the media and advertising industry.
- Dr. Nandekar is deeply involved in social and spiritual initiatives, practicing disciplines like Vipassana, Silva, Reiki, and Isha Yoga, and actively contributing to community welfare through various organizations.

INCOIS Honored With Subhash Chandra Bose AapdaPrabandhan Puraskar-2025

The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has been honored with the prestigious Subhash Chandra Bose AapdaPrabandhanPuraskar for 2025. This award recognizes INCOIS's exceptional contributions to disaster management and its innovative efforts in early warning systems for ocean-related hazards. The organization has played a pivotal role in enhancing India's disaster preparedness through real-time data dissemination and risk mitigation strategies. INCOIS's achievements underscore its commitment to safeguarding lives and livelihoods in vulnerable coastal and oceanic regions. This accolade highlights the importance of leveraging scientific advancements for disaster resilience.

Foot notes:

- INCOIS has been selected for the Subhash Chandra Bose AapdaPrabandhan Puraskar-2025 in the Institutional Category for its excellent work in disaster management.
- The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services is integral to India's disaster management strategy, specializing in early alerts for ocean-related hazards, and has

established the Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre which provides tsunami alerts within 10 minutes.

- INCOIS also provides high-wave, cyclone, and storm surge forecasts, helping to safeguard coastal areas and maritime operations, and has developed the Search and Rescue Aided Tool to assist the Indian Coast Guard, Navy, and Coastal Security Police.
- The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 51 lakh and a certificate, and is announced every year on 23rd January, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.
- INCOIS has received several awards, including the Geospatial World Excellence in Maritime Services Award in 2024 and the Disaster Risk Reduction Excellence Award in 2021.

Ogilvy India won 'Effie Agency of the Year' Awards 2024

Ogilvy India has been awarded the prestigious 'Effie Agency of the Year' title at the 2024 Effie Awards. This recognition is a testament to the agency's outstanding creativity and effectiveness in delivering impactful marketing campaigns. Ogilvy India's ability to consistently drive results for its clients across various sectors played a key role in securing this honor. The agency's innovative strategies and focus on measurable outcomes have set a benchmark in the advertising industry. This win further solidifies Ogilvy India's position as a leading agency in the competitive marketing landscape.

Foot notes:

- Ogilvy India has won the prestigious 'Effie Agency of the Year' award at the 24th edition of the Effie India Awards 2024, held in Mumbai on January 24.
- This award is a testament to the team's relentless creativity, dedication, and ability to drive impactful campaigns that resonate with both clients and audiences.
- Piyush Pandey, the Chief Advisor at Ogilvy Advertising, expressed his delight and praised the team, saying "Team Ogilvy is doing wonders".
- The Effie India Awards are unique in that they recognize creativity, strategy, and effectiveness from all perspectives, including peers, clients, and academicians.
- Ogilvy's win is a significant achievement, with the agency being credited with 1,152 entries from 75 agencies, and a rigorous judging process involving 486 jury members, including 254 marketing professionals.

Doordarshan Won ECI Media Award for Voter Awareness

Doordarshan has won the prestigious Election Commission of India (ECI) Media Award for its outstanding efforts in promoting voter awareness. The award recognizes the channel's impactful campaigns and programs aimed at encouraging informed and responsible voting. Through creative content and extensive outreach, Doordarshan played a pivotal role in fostering democratic participation across diverse sections of society. This accolade highlights the importance of media in strengthening democratic values and empowering citizens.

Doordarshan's achievement is a proud moment for public broadcasting and a testament to its commitment to national service.

Foot notes:

- Doordarshan's 360-degree campaign on voter awareness and education included a series called "Chunav Ka Parv Desh Ka Garv" during the Lok Sabha Elections 2024, which highlighted the importance of informed and responsible voting.
- The national broadcaster's coverage was impactful, and their efforts have been recognized by the Election Commission of India (ECI).
- Doordarshan won the award in the Electronic Media (TV) category, which is a testament to their outstanding efforts in voter awareness and education.
- The campaign contributed significantly to increasing voter participation by raising awareness about the voting process, and Doordarshan's win is a proud moment for the national broadcaster.
- The ECI also conferred the Best Electoral Practices Award 2024-25 for best Government department for Voter education & electoral participation on Indian Railways, and Doordarshan's win is a part of the ECI's efforts to recognize outstanding media campaigns

PR Sreejesh conferred with Padma Bhushan

Former Indian men's hockey captain PR Sreejesh has been conferred with the prestigious Padma Bhushan award, India's third-highest civilian honor, in recognition of his significant contributions to the sport. Sreejesh, who retired after securing a bronze medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics, has been a pivotal figure in Indian hockey, known for his exceptional goalkeeping skills and leadership. His illustrious career includes leading India to a historic bronze medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, ending a 41-year Olympic medal drought for the men's hockey team. Sreejesh's dedication and achievements have left an indelible mark on Indian hockey, inspiring future generations of players.

Foot notes:

- He's only the second hockey player to receive this award, after the legendary Major Dhyan Chand, who got it back in 1956.
- Sreejesh had an incredible 18-year career, playing 336 international matches and helping India win numerous titles, including bronze medals at the Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 Olympics.
- He's a three-time FIH Goalkeeper of the Year and has also received the Arjuna Award, Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, and World Games Athlete of the Year award.
- As a coach, Sreejesh recently guided the Indian junior team to a Junior Asia Cup title win, showing his continued impact on the sport.
- Hockey India President Dr. Dilip Tirkey and Secretary General Shri Bhola Nath Singh have congratulated Sreejesh on this well-deserved honor, recognizing his monumental contribution to Indian hockey.

Hariman Sharma: The Apple Man Of India Honored With Padma Shri

Hariman Sharma, a visionary farmer from Himachal Pradesh, has been honored with the Padma Shri award for his groundbreaking work in apple cultivation. In 1999, he began experimenting with apple farming in the lower regions of the state, areas traditionally considered unsuitable due to their warmer climates. By 2007, Sharma successfully developed a disease-resistant apple variety that thrives at elevations as low as 1,800 feet above sea level, challenging conventional agricultural beliefs. His innovation has not only transformed apple farming in warmer regions but also inspired countless farmers to adopt new cultivation techniques. This recognition underscores Sharma's significant contributions to agriculture and his role in advancing sustainable farming practices in India.

Foot notes:

- He developed the HRMN-99 apple variety, which is a self-pollinating, low-chilling variety that can thrive in tropical and sub-tropical regions, making apple cultivation possible in areas where it was previously considered unviable.
- The HRMN-99 variety has several unique features, including striped red-over-yellow skin, soft and juicy pulp, and the ability to produce up to 75 kg of fruit per plant annually.
- Sharma's innovation has empowered thousands of farmers across India, providing them with an additional source of income and improving their livelihoods.
- His work has also made apples more accessible and affordable to the common man, aligning with India's sustainable development goals and contributing to food security.
- Sharma's recognition with the Padma Shri is a testament to the impact of his innovation, which has been validated by the National Innovation Foundation and has expanded to 29 states and UTs in India.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Honored With Maharaja Hari Singh Award

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has been honored with the prestigious Maharaja Hari Singh Award for his exceptional contributions to the development and progress of Jammu and Kashmir. The award was presented in recognition of his relentless efforts in promoting peace, governance, and infrastructure development in the region. Under his leadership, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed significant reforms in various sectors, including education, healthcare, and tourism. The award highlights his dedication to the welfare of the people and his role in fostering a harmonious and inclusive environment.

Foot notes:

- The award acknowledges LG Sinha's efforts in driving reforms and planning in the region, which has had a significant impact on the lives of the people.
- The Maharaja Hari Singh Peace and Harmony Award is a testament to LG Sinha's commitment to promoting peace and harmony in Jammu and Kashmir, and his work has been widely appreciated.

- The award was presented at a grand ceremony held at Satyam Resort in Jammu, which was organized by the Gulistan News Network as part of the ‘Maharaja Hari Singh Peace and Harmony Award 2024-25’ celebrations.
- During the ceremony, LG Sinha also paid tributes to notable figures like Pandit Prem Nath Dogra, Pandit Girdhari Lal Dogra, and Shri Devender Singh Rana, who were honored posthumously for their leadership qualities and contributions.
- This award is a recognition of LG Sinha's dedication to the development of Jammu and Kashmir, and it's a proud moment for the region.

Christine Carla Kangaloo received Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award for excellence

Christine Carla Kangaloo has been honored with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award for excellence, recognizing her significant contributions to the Indian diaspora. The award acknowledges her dedication to fostering stronger ties between India and her home country, as well as her outstanding work in promoting Indian culture and values abroad. Kangaloo has been a prominent figure in supporting community development and advocating for the welfare of Indian-origin people. This prestigious recognition highlights her impactful efforts in bridging cultural gaps and enhancing mutual understanding between nations.

Foot notes:

- She was honored with the award for her excellence in public affairs, recognizing her dedication and commitment to serving her country.
- The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award is the highest honor conferred on overseas Indians, and it's a testament to Kangaloo's hard work and achievements.
- Kangaloo was unable to attend the award ceremony in person, but she delivered pre-recorded remarks as the chief guest at the inaugural session of the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention.
- The award was presented to her by the High Commissioner of India to Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Pradeep Rajpurohit, at a reception held at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Cooperation.
- This recognition is a significant milestone in Kangaloo's career, and it highlights her importance as a leader in the global Indian diaspora community.

Jasprit Bumrah won Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy

Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah has won the prestigious Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy, awarded to the ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year. This honor recognizes his exceptional performances across all formats, making him one of the most impactful bowlers in world cricket. Bumrah's ability to deliver match-winning spells, especially in Tests and limited-overs cricket, has been instrumental in India's success. His lethal pace, accuracy, and versatility have set him apart as a modern-day great. Winning this award further cements Bumrah's legacy as one of India's finest fast bowlers.

Foot notes:

- Jasprit Bumrah has been honored with the prestigious Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy, becoming the fifth Indian to receive this award, after Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, Ravichandran Ashwin, and Virat Kohli.
- Bumrah's outstanding performance in 2024, where he dominated opponents in both the longest and shortest formats of the game, earned him this recognition, with 71 Test wickets in 13 matches and 15 wickets in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup.
- He became the fastest Indian pacer to reach 200 Test wickets, achieving this feat with a sub-20 bowling average, and also crossed the 900-point mark in the ICC Test Bowling Rankings, ending the year with a record-breaking 907 points.
- Bumrah played a crucial role in India's title-winning campaign in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, where he was named the Player of the Tournament, with 15 wickets at an astonishing average of 8.26 and an economy of just 4.17.

IMPORTANT DAYS NEWS

Parakram Diwas is observed on 23 January

Parakram Diwas is observed annually on 23 January to commemorate the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, one of India's greatest freedom fighters. The day honors his immense contributions to India's independence movement and his leadership of the Indian National Army (INA). It serves as a reminder of his courage, patriotism, and vision for a free India. Celebrations include various events, exhibitions, and tributes highlighting his life and legacy. Parakram Diwas inspires citizens to uphold the values of determination and selfless service for the nation.

Foot notes:

- The day is celebrated to honor Netaji's bravery and selfless service to the nation, and to inspire future generations to follow in his footsteps.
- Parakram Diwas is observed with various events and ceremonies across the country, including flag-hoisting ceremonies, processions, and cultural programs.
- The Government of India has also announced plans to construct a grand memorial in Netaji's honor at the Red Fort in Delhi, which will serve as a tribute to his legacy.
- On this day, people pay tribute to Netaji's sacrifices and contributions to India's freedom struggle, and remember his famous slogan "Give me blood, and I shall give you freedom", which continues to inspire patriotism and nationalism in Indians.

National Girl Child Day is observed on 24 January

National Girl Child Day is observed on 24 January every year in India to promote awareness about the rights and empowerment of girls. Established in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the day underscores the importance of gender equality and education for girls. Various programs and campaigns are organized to address issues like female infanticide, child marriage, and discrimination. The day also celebrates the achievements of girls and

women who have broken barriers in different fields. It serves as a reminder of the collective responsibility to create a safe, inclusive, and progressive environment for the girl child.

Foot notes:

- The day was first observed in 2009, and since then, it has been celebrated annually to address the issues faced by girls, such as gender-based discrimination, inequality, and violence.
- The objective of National Girl Child Day is to create a supportive environment for girls, where they can grow and develop without facing any obstacles or challenges.
- The government of India, along with various NGOs and organizations, organizes several events and programs on this day to promote the empowerment of girls and to create awareness about their rights.
- The theme of National Girl Child Day varies every year, but the main focus is always on promoting education, health, and nutrition for girls, as well as protecting them from exploitation and abuse, and ensuring their overall development and well-being.

National Voters Day is observed on 25th January

National Voters Day is observed on 25th January every year in India to encourage voter participation and raise awareness about the importance of voting. Established in 2011 by the Election Commission of India, the day aims to promote the significance of exercising the right to vote. Various events and initiatives are held across the country to inform citizens about the electoral process and the power of their vote. It also highlights the role of the Election Commission in ensuring free, fair, and transparent elections. National Voters Day serves as a reminder of the responsibility every eligible citizen holds in strengthening democracy through active participation in elections.

Foot notes:

- The day marks the foundation day of the Election Commission of India, established on 25th January 1950, and is celebrated to increase voter enrollment, especially among young voters.
- The theme of National Voters Day 2025 is "Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure", which aims to promote voter awareness and encourage citizens to exercise their right to vote.
- The Election Commission of India presents Best Electoral Practices Awards to state and district-level officers for their outstanding performance in conducting elections, as well as to other stakeholders who contribute to voter awareness and outreach.
- The day is also utilized to spread awareness among voters about the importance of effective participation in the electoral process, and to promote electoral literacy among citizens.
- National Voters Day is celebrated at the national, state, district, constituency, and polling booth levels, making it one of the largest celebrations in the country, with the President of India presenting awards and honoring newly registered voters.

Indian Newspaper Day observed on 29 January

Indian Newspaper Day is observed on 29th January every year to commemorate the role of the press in the country's development and to honor the contribution of newspapers in shaping public opinion and disseminating information. The day marks the anniversary of the first newspaper published in India, the Hicky's Bengal Gazette, which was launched on January 29, 1780. It highlights the importance of the media in promoting democracy, informing citizens, and upholding freedom of speech. On this day, the media industry reflects on its responsibility to society, ensuring accuracy, fairness, and integrity in reporting. The observance encourages people to appreciate the value of newspapers in the digital age, despite the rise of online media platforms.

Foot notes:

- The first Indian newspaper, Hicky's Bengal Gazette, was published on January 29, 1780, in Kolkata, marking the beginning of the print media revolution in India.
- Indian Newspaper Day highlights the importance of newspapers in shaping public opinion, spreading awareness, and fueling the democratic process, as well as honoring the role of journalists and writers in society.
- Although there is no specific theme for Indian Newspaper Day, it is celebrated to recognize the contributions of newspapers and journalists to Indian society and democracy.
- Indian Newspaper Day is an opportunity to appreciate the power of print media and its impact on Indian society, with people celebrating the day by reading newspapers, sharing articles, and acknowledging the hard work of journalists and writers.

World Leprosy Day observed on 30 January

World Leprosy Day is observed on 30 January each year to raise awareness about leprosy and its impact on individuals and communities worldwide. The day aims to educate people about the disease, reduce stigma, and promote efforts for early diagnosis and treatment. It also highlights the importance of social inclusion and support for those affected by leprosy. The date was chosen to commemorate the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, who worked tirelessly to support those affected by leprosy. World Leprosy Day serves as a reminder of the ongoing need for global efforts to eliminate the disease and improve the lives of those affected.

Foot notes:

- World Leprosy Day is observed on January 30th every year to raise awareness about leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, and to promote efforts to eradicate the disease.
- The day was chosen to commemorate the death of Mahatma Gandhi, who had shown compassion and care for people affected by leprosy, and to highlight the need for continued support and care for those affected by the disease.
- Leprosy is a chronic bacterial infection that affects the nerves, skin, and mucous membranes, causing discoloration, numbness, and disfigurement, and is curable with early detection and treatment.

- The World Health Organization (WHO) and other global health organizations are working to eliminate leprosy as a public health problem, with a focus on early detection, treatment, and rehabilitation of affected individuals.

OBITUARY NEWS

Greece's Former Prime Minister Costas Simitis, Architect of Eurozone Membership, passed away

Costas Simitis, the former Prime Minister of Greece and a pivotal figure in the country's entry into the Eurozone, has passed away. Serving as Prime Minister from 1996 to 2004, Simitis played a critical role in modernizing Greece's economy and steering it toward European integration. His tenure is remembered for implementing significant economic reforms and securing Greece's adoption of the euro in 2001. Simitis's leadership left a lasting impact on Greece's financial and political landscape. His passing marks the end of an era for one of Greece's most influential political figures.

Foot notes:

- Costas Simitis, the former Prime Minister of Greece, has passed away at the age of 88, leaving behind a legacy as the architect of Greece's eurozone membership.
- He was a key figure in the country's economic development, serving as Prime Minister from 1996 to 2004.
- Simitis was a co-founder of the Socialist PASOK party and played a crucial role in shaping the party's policies.
- He was known for his pragmatic approach and commitment to European integration, which led to Greece's entry into the eurozone in 2001.
- Simitis also oversaw significant infrastructure projects, including the development of a new airport and subway lines in Athens, which helped host the 2004 Olympic Games.

Veteran Novelist Na. D'Souza from Malnad Region passed away

Veteran novelist Na. D'Souza from the Malnad region has passed away, leaving behind a rich legacy in Kannada literature. Known for his deep storytelling and focus on environmental and social issues, his works have been celebrated for their cultural and literary significance.

Foot notes:

- Na. D'Souza, a renowned Kannada writer and intellectual from the Malnad region, passed away at the age of 87, leaving behind a legacy of thought-provoking works on social justice, human rights, and human relationships.
- He was a prolific writer who authored novels, short stories, essays, and plays, many of which were adapted into critically acclaimed films, including Kadina Benki, Dweepa, and Baluvali.
- D'Souza was a recipient of the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award, and his contributions to Kannada theatre and cinema have cemented his legacy as a cultural icon.

- He was suffering from ill health and was hospitalized in Mangaluru, where he passed away, according to sources.
- The Karnataka government and cultural organizations have expressed deep condolences, honoring his unparalleled contributions to the state's cultural heritage.
- D'Souza's demise is a profound loss to the literary and cinematic communities, but his works continue to inspire generations, ensuring his legacy lives on.

Veteran journalist, filmmaker, poet Pritish Nandy passed away

Veteran journalist, filmmaker, and poet Pritish Nandy has passed away, leaving behind a rich legacy of contributions to literature, media, and cinema. Known for his thought-provoking poetry and bold journalism, Nandy was a pioneer in shaping modern Indian media. He also made a mark in filmmaking, producing critically acclaimed movies under his banner, Pritish Nandy Communications. Throughout his illustrious career, he was celebrated for his creative vision and fearless approach to addressing social and political issues. Tributes have poured in from across the nation, honoring his multifaceted talents and impactful contributions.

Foot notes:

- Nandy was a versatile personality who excelled in various fields, including journalism, filmmaking, and poetry, and his work had a significant impact on Indian popular culture. As a poet, Nandy published several collections of poetry, including "Of Gods and Olives" and "Again", and his writing often explored themes of love, nature, and social justice.
- Nandy had a successful career in filmmaking, producing films like "Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro", "Hazaar Chaurasi Ki Maa", and "Joggers' Park", which showcased his unique perspective on Indian society and culture.
- He was a renowned journalist and editor, having worked with several prominent publications, including The Times of India and The Illustrated Weekly of India, and was known for his incisive commentary on politics and social issues.
- Nandy received numerous awards and honors for his contributions to literature and cinema, including the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civilian award, and the Filmfare Award for Best Film.
- Pritish Nandy's passing is a significant loss to the Indian literary and cinematic world, but his body of work continues to inspire and influence new generations of writers, filmmakers, and artists, ensuring his legacy endures.

Veteran Soldier Havaldar Baldev Singh passed away

Veteran soldier Havaldar Baldev Singh has passed away, leaving behind a legacy of service and dedication to the Indian Army. Known for his courage and discipline, Singh served with distinction in the armed forces and was respected by his peers and superiors alike. His contributions to national defense, particularly in challenging circumstances, earned him numerous accolades during his tenure. The passing of Havaldar Singh marks the loss of a

dedicated patriot who exemplified the spirit of service. Tributes have poured in from across the nation, honoring his memory and sacrifice.

Foot notes:

- Early Life and Service: Singh joined the Bal Sena Force at just 16 years old during the critical Kashmir battles in 1947-48, and later enlisted in the Army in 1950, serving for nearly three decades.
- He fought bravely in multiple India-Pakistan wars, including the 1961, 1962, and 1965 wars, and was honored by several national leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former Vice-President Hamid Ansari.
- Singh's legacy is a testament to his courage, patriotism, and selfless service to the nation, and he will always be remembered as a revered war hero.
- His last rites were performed with full military honor and service protocols at his native village Naunihal in Nowshera.
- BJP President JP Nadda paid tribute to Singh, expressing his condolences to the family and admirers, and acknowledging his extraordinary service and bravery.

H. Lakshmanan, former Executive Director of Sundaram-Clayton passed away

H. Lakshmanan, the former Executive Director of Sundaram-Clayton, has passed away, leaving behind a legacy of excellence in the automotive industry. Known for his leadership and vision, Lakshmanan played a pivotal role in shaping the company's growth and reputation over the years. His contributions to Sundaram-Clayton, particularly in operational efficiency and innovation, are widely acknowledged within the industry. Colleagues and industry leaders have expressed their condolences, remembering him as a dedicated professional and a mentor to many. His demise marks the end of an era for Sundaram-Clayton and the Indian automotive sector.

Foot notes:

- H. Lakshmanan, a veteran of the TVS family and former Executive Director of Sundaram-Clayton, passed away at the age of 92 due to age-related ailments.
- He is survived by his wife, a son, and two daughters. Lakshmanan played a crucial role in building India's largest auto components group and was instrumental in transforming TVS Motor from a moped maker into a global powerhouse in two-wheeler manufacturing.
- He was known for his exceptional ability to forge strong relationships and his impeccable reputation for honesty and reliability.
- He will be remembered for his dedication, sense of duty, and unwavering conviction in both his personal and professional life.

Retired Hollywood Actress Dalyce Curry passed away

Retired Hollywood actress Dalyce Curry has tragically passed away at the age of 95 due to wildfires in Los Angeles. Curry, known for her memorable roles in classic films, enjoyed a successful career spanning decades. Her death in such circumstances has left her fans and the film fraternity in deep mourning. She was a beloved figure, remembered for her grace, talent, and contributions to cinema. The wildfires have raised concerns about safety and environmental challenges in the region.

Foot notes:

- Dalyce Curry, a veteran Hollywood actress, has passed away at the age of 95 due to the devastating Los Angeles wildfires.
- Her home in Altadena was destroyed by the flames, and her remains were found after the fire was extinguished.
- Curry was known for her iconic roles in films like *The Blues Brothers* and *Lady Sings the Blues*, leaving a lasting legacy in the entertainment industry.
- She is survived by her great-granddaughter, Dalyce Kelley, who confirmed the news on social media and expressed her devastation over the loss of her "Momma D".
- Curry's death is the second celebrity fatality in the LA fires, following the passing of former child actor Rory Sykes.
- The Hollywood community is mourning the loss of Dalyce Curry, remembering her contributions to the film industry and her inspiring life, and offering condolences to her family and loved ones.

Filmmaker David Lynch, Known for 'Mulholland Drive' and 'Twin Peaks,' passed away

Filmmaker David Lynch, renowned for his groundbreaking works such as *Mulholland Drive* and *Twin Peaks*, has passed away. Known for his distinctive style blending surrealism with psychological depth, Lynch redefined modern cinema and television. His visionary storytelling and unique aesthetic left an indelible mark on the film industry and inspired countless artists. Lynch's works often explored the darker undercurrents of human nature, earning him a devoted global fanbase. His passing marks the end of an era, leaving behind a legacy of cinematic masterpieces.

Foot notes:

- Lynch's films often explored the darker side of human nature, blending elements of mystery, neo-noir, and psychological thriller to create a distinct cinematic experience.
- He was a true artist, with a passion for painting, music, and transcendental meditation, which heavily influenced his work and worldview.
- Lynch's impact on popular culture extends beyond his films, with his influence visible in music videos, commercials, and even fashion.
- He is survived by his family, including his daughter Jennifer, and leaves behind a legacy of critically acclaimed films and TV shows that will continue to inspire and fascinate audiences for generations to come.

- Throughout his career, Lynch received numerous accolades, including an Honorary Academy Award and the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement, a testament to his innovative spirit and contributions to the world of cinema.

Denis Law, a legend of Scotland and Manchester United, passed away

Denis Law, a legendary figure in both Scottish football and Manchester United, has passed away. Known for his exceptional skill and goal-scoring prowess, Law made a lasting impact on the sport, particularly with Manchester United, where he became one of the club's greatest players. He was part of the iconic 1968 European Cup-winning team and earned widespread recognition for his contributions to both club and country. Law's passing marks the end of an era for football fans, who will remember him for his dedication, flair, and remarkable career. His legacy as a true icon of the game will live on in the hearts of football enthusiasts worldwide.

Foot notes:

- Law was a prolific goal-scorer, netting 237 goals in 404 appearances for Manchester United, making him one of the club's all-time leading scorers.
- He was the only Scottish player to have won the Ballon d'Or, which he received in 1964, and was also named European Footballer of the Year.
- Law played for several clubs, including Huddersfield Town, Manchester City, and Torino, but it was at Manchester United where he spent most of his career and achieved the most success.
- He was a key player in Manchester United's European Cup-winning team in 1968 and also won two league titles with the club.
- Law was also a talented international player, scoring 30 goals in 55 appearances for Scotland, making him the country's joint-top scorer.
- Despite his passing, Law's legacy will live on, and he will always be remembered as one of the greatest players in Manchester United and Scottish football history.

Renowned Cardiac Surgeon K.M. Cherian passed away

Renowned cardiac surgeon Dr. K.M. Cherian has passed away, leaving behind a legacy of pioneering contributions to cardiac care. Dr. Cherian was a trailblazer in the field, known for performing India's first successful coronary artery bypass surgery and establishing the country's first heart transplant program. His visionary leadership led to the founding of the Frontier Lifeline Hospital in Chennai, a center of excellence for cardiac treatment and research. A mentor to countless medical professionals, Dr. Cherian's innovations significantly advanced cardiac surgery in India. His passing is a profound loss to the medical community and the nation.

Foot notes:

- He performed India's first successful coronary artery bypass surgery in 1975 and is credited with revolutionizing heart care in India.

- Cherian was a renowned heart surgeon who founded the Frontier Lifeline Hospital and performed India's first heart transplant, heart-lung transplant, and pediatric heart transplant.
- He was awarded the Padma Shri by the Government of India in 1991 and received a lifetime achievement award from Kasturba Medical College for his contributions to cardiothoracic surgery.
- Cherian served as the honorary surgeon to the President of India from 1990 to 1993 and was a close associate of the legendary South African heart surgeon Christiaan Barnard.
- He will be remembered for his groundbreaking work in cardiac surgery and his emphasis on technology and innovation, which has saved countless lives and inspired a new generation of doctors.

American Long Jump Legend Greg Bell passed away

American long jump legend Greg Bell has passed away, leaving behind a lasting legacy in the world of athletics. Bell was known for his incredible talent and achievements in the long jump, having competed at the highest levels. His career was marked by his skill, dedication, and numerous accolades, earning him a place as one of the sport's greats. His passing is a loss not only to the athletics community but also to fans who admired his remarkable performances. Bell's contributions to track and field continue to inspire athletes around the world.

Foot notes:

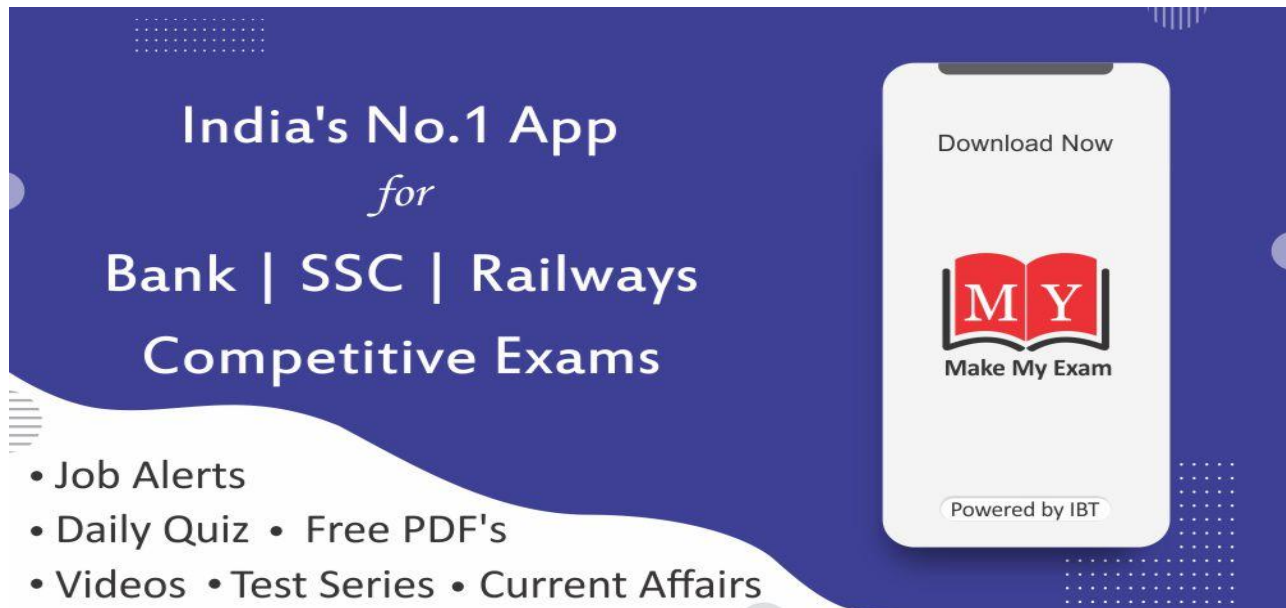
- Greg Bell, the American long jump legend, passed away on January 25, 2025, at the age of 94, leaving behind a legacy of achievements in the world of athletics, including his iconic gold medal win at the 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne, Australia.
- Bell's career was marked by unparalleled success, with three national AAU championships, two NCAA Championships, and four national AAU All-American titles, earning him a spot as the world's top long jumper from 1956 to 1958.
- He set an NCAA record in the long jump, which stood for seven years, and was a charter member of both the Indiana Track and Field and IU Athletic halls of fame, solidifying his position as one of the greatest athletes in American history.
- After retiring from athletics, Bell pursued a successful career in dentistry, serving as the director of dentistry at Logansport State Hospital for over 50 years, and was inducted into the USATF Hall of Fame in 1988.

Documentary Filmmaker Tapan K Bose passed away

Renowned documentary filmmaker and human rights activist Tapan Kumar Bose passed away on January 30, 2025, at his residence in New Delhi. He was 78 years old. Born on June 8, 1946, Bose began his career as a journalist before transitioning to filmmaking under the mentorship of S. Sukhdev. Since 1971, he produced impactful documentaries highlighting human rights violations and social injustices. Notable among these is "An Indian Story" (1981), which exposed the blinding of undertrial prisoners in Bhagalpur.

Foot notes:


- Bose was known for his impactful documentaries that shed light on significant human rights issues in India, including the Bhopal gas tragedy and the Bhagalpur blindings.
- Bose was a fearless advocate for human rights, particularly in Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir, where he stood in solidarity with victims of state oppression.
- Bose authored several books and articles on human rights, forced migration, and statelessness in South Asia, and co-authored the SAGE Series on Human Rights Audits of Peace Processes in South Asia.
- Bose's documentary "An Indian Story" (1982) received the National Award for Best Documentary in 1983 and was a Critic's Choice at the London Film Festival in 1983.
- Bose's commitment to justice, peace, and human rights has left an indelible mark on the human rights movement in South Asia, inspiring countless individuals to fight for a just and equitable world.



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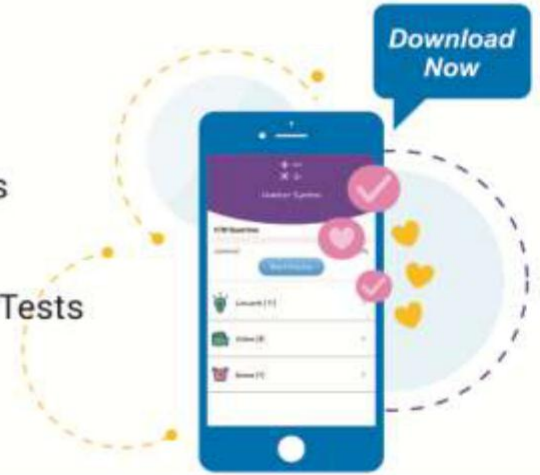
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