

IBT[®]
IBT INSTITUTE PVT. LTD

MONTHLY — Current Affairs

May, 2025



NATIONAL NEWS

India's Coastline Length Revised to 11,098.81 km Following Updated Methodology

India's coastline length has been officially revised to 11,098.81 km following the adoption of an updated measurement methodology. This new calculation offers a more accurate representation of the country's coastal boundaries. The revision was carried out using advanced geospatial techniques to ensure precision. It reflects the dynamic nature of coastal features and aims to support better coastal planning and management. The update is significant for environmental, economic, and strategic coastal initiatives in India.

Foot notes:

- The main reason for the deviation from the previous length is the difference in scale and calculation methods.
- The new measurement uses a scale of 1:250,000, capturing more intricate details like bays and inlets, whereas the 1970s data were likely computed at a scale of 1:4,500,000 or smaller.
- The revised length includes the coastline lengths of 1,298 offshore islands/islets (1,059 islands and 239 islets), which were possibly omitted in earlier calculations due to scale constraints.
- Gujarat has the longest coastline among states with 2,340.62 kilometers, while Goa has the shortest with 193.95 kilometers.

India's Exports Hit Record \$824.9 Billion in FY 2024–25

India's exports reached a record high of \$824.9 billion in the fiscal year 2024–25, marking a 6.01% increase over the previous year. This growth was primarily driven by a significant surge in services exports, which rose 13.6% to \$387.5 billion, with strong performances in IT, financial services, and travel sectors. Non-petroleum merchandise exports also contributed, achieving a new peak of \$374.1 billion, up 6% from the previous year. This milestone underscores India's growing role in global trade and the resilience of its export sectors amid challenging global conditions.

Foot notes:

- Record-Breaking Exports: India's total exports for FY 2024-25 reached an all-time high of \$824.9 billion, marking a 6.01% growth from the previous year's figure of \$778.1 billion.
- Services Export Growth: Services exports drove the surge, witnessing a double-digit growth of 13.6% to reach \$387.5 billion, up from \$341.1 billion in FY 2023-24.
- Merchandise Exports: Merchandise exports (excluding petroleum) grew 6.0% to \$374.1 billion, up from \$352.9 billion, showcasing India's rising competence in non-oil sectors.
- March 2025 Services Exports: Services exports in March 2025 stood at \$35.6 billion, reflecting an 18.6% growth over March 2024.

- **Policy Objectives:** The growth in exports aligns with policy initiatives like Atmanirbhar Bharat and Foreign Trade Policy 2023, aiming to position India as a global trade powerhouse.

ITBP Scales Mt. Makalu Historic Feat in Twin Peak Expedition

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) achieved a historic milestone by successfully scaling Mount Makalu, the world's fifth-highest peak at 8,485 meters, on April 19, 2025. This ascent marks the first-ever summit of Mt. Makalu by any Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) in India, underscoring ITBP's exceptional high-altitude capabilities. The expedition was part of ITBP's ambitious Twin Peak International Mountaineering Mission, which also included an attempt on Mount Annapurna (8,091 meters). Flagged off from New Delhi on March 21, the 12-member team was led by Deputy Commandant Anoop Kumar Negi and divided into two groups.

Foot notes:

- **Mt. Makalu Conquest:** The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) successfully scaled Mt. Makalu, the world's fifth-highest mountain at 8,485 meters, as part of a twin peak expedition. This marks the force's first-ever attempt to summit both Mt. Makalu and Mt. Annapurna.
- **High Success Rate:** The ITBP team achieved an impressive 83% success rate, with five out of six climbers reaching the summit of Mt. Makalu on April 19, 2025.
- **Twin Peak Expedition:** The expedition was a historic dual-peak mission that also attempted to climb Mt. Annapurna (8,091 meters), although the team had to retreat 150 meters short of the summit due to adverse weather conditions.
- **Environmental Efforts:** The ITBP team collected 150 kg of non-biodegradable waste from high-altitude camps, reinforcing their commitment to environmental conservation and the expedition.

India Breaks Records in Mining Production in FY 2024-25

India's mining sector achieved record-breaking production levels in the fiscal year 2024–25, reflecting robust industrial demand and economic growth. Iron ore production reached 289 million metric tonnes (MMT), marking a 4.3% increase from the previous year's 277 MMT. Manganese ore output rose by 11.8% to 3.8 MMT, while bauxite production grew by 2.9% to 24.7 MMT. In the non-ferrous metals segment, primary aluminium production climbed to 42 lakh tonnes (LT), and refined copper output saw a significant 12.6% increase to 5.73 LT. These achievements underscore India's position as the second-largest aluminium producer, among the top ten in refined copper, and the fourth-largest iron ore producer globally.

Foot notes:

- **Iron Ore Production:** India produced 289 million metric tonnes (MMT) of iron ore, a 4.3% increase from 277 MMT in FY 2023-24, accounting for 70% of total MCDR mineral production by value.

- **Non-Ferrous Metal Growth:** Primary aluminium production reached 42 lakh tonnes (LT), up from 41.6 LT, while refined copper production surged 12.6% to 5.73 LT from 5.09 LT.
- **Global Rankings:** India is the world's 4th largest iron ore producer, 2nd largest aluminium producer, and among the top 10 producers of refined copper globally.
- **Key Mineral Production:** Manganese ore production rose 11.8% to 3.8 MMT, bauxite increased 2.9% to 24.7 MMT, and lead concentrate grew 3.1% to 393 thousand tonnes.
- **Economic Impact:** The increased output supports core industries like steel, energy, infrastructure, construction, and automotive manufacturing, aligning with the "Make in India" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat" missions.

India Advances to 130th Rank in 2025 Human Development Report

India has advanced to the 130th position out of 193 countries in the 2025 Human Development Index (HDI), as reported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This marks a three-place improvement from its 2022 ranking of 133, with India's HDI score increasing from 0.676 to 0.685. The rise is attributed to gains in life expectancy, education, and income, driven by national health programs like Ayushman Bharat and educational reforms such as the Right to Education Act and the National Education Policy 2020.

Foot notes:

- **Current Ranking:** According to the 2023/24 Human Development Report, India's HDI rank is 134 out of 193 countries, not 130. This ranking places India in the medium human development category.
- **HDI Value:** India's HDI value has increased from 0.633 in 2021 to 0.644 in 2022, indicating progress in human development.
- **Improvement in Life Expectancy:** Life expectancy at birth in India has risen by 9.1 years since 1990, reaching 67.7 years in 2022.
- **Gender Inequality:** India has shown progress in reducing gender inequality, with a Gender Inequality Index (GII) value of 0.437, which is better than the global average of 0.462 and the South Asian average of 0.478.

India's Exports to US Hit Record \$11.2 Billion in March

India's exports to the United States reached a record \$11.2 billion in March 2025, marking the first time they surpassed the \$10 billion threshold and representing nearly a 50% increase over the 12-month average. This surge contributed to a total bilateral goods trade of approximately \$15 billion for the month, with India achieving a trade surplus of \$7.4 billion. The spike in exports coincided with a 90-day reciprocal tariff pause announced by U.S. President Donald Trump, which encouraged increased shipments ahead of potential new tariffs. Notably, smartphone exports, particularly Apple iPhones, played a significant role in this growth, with manufacturers expediting shipments to the U.S. before the anticipated tariff changes.

Foot notes:

- **Record Exports:** Although the provided information doesn't confirm if \$11.2 billion is a record for India's exports to the US in March, India's overall merchandise exports in March 2024 reached \$41.68 billion, the highest monthly exports in FY 2023-24.
- **Merchandise Exports:** India's merchandise exports in March 2024 were \$41.68 billion, slightly lower than \$41.96 billion in March 2023.
- **Key Sectors:** Main drivers of merchandise export growth in FY 2023-24 include electronic goods, drugs & pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, iron ore, and ceramic products & glassware.
- **Non-Petroleum Exports:** Non-petroleum and non-gems & jewelry exports in March 2024 were \$33.67 billion, increasing from \$30.87 billion in March 2023.
- **Trade Deficit:** India's overall trade deficit improved significantly in FY 2023-24, declining by 35.77% to \$78.12 billion, while merchandise trade deficit decreased by 9.33% to \$240.17 billion.

GRSE delivers first anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft to navy

Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) has delivered the Indian Navy's first Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), INS Arnala, marking a significant milestone in India's naval modernization efforts. Designed and built indigenously, INS Arnala is the lead ship in a series of eight vessels aimed at enhancing the Navy's capabilities in coastal defense and anti-submarine operations. Measuring 77.6 meters in length and equipped with advanced sonar systems, lightweight torpedoes, and ASW rockets, the vessel is optimized for shallow water missions.

Foot notes:

- **Delivery of INS Arnala:** Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) delivered INS Arnala, the first of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), to the Indian Navy on May 8, 2025.
- **Contract Details:** The contract for eight ASW-SWC vessels was signed in April 2019, valued at 6,311 crore, with GRSE partnering with Larsen & Toubro (L&T) for fabrication of some hulls.
- **Vessel Capabilities:** INS Arnala is designed for anti-submarine operations in coastal waters, subsurface surveillance, and coordinated ASW operations with maritime patrol aircraft. It can also lay mines and conduct search-and-rescue missions.
- **Indigenous Content:** The ASW-SWC vessels have over 80% indigenous content, showcasing India's growing defense manufacturing capabilities.
- **Project Timeline:** The Indian Navy plans to have all 16 ASW-SWC vessels, being built by GRSE and Cochin Shipyard, in active service by 2026.

India's Ladakh records World's highest snow leopard population

India's Ladakh region has achieved a remarkable feat by recording the world's highest population of snow leopards. This discovery highlights the region's rich biodiversity and its

importance in global wildlife conservation. The survey was conducted using scientific methods, including camera traps and field assessments. Ladakh's harsh climate and rugged terrain provide a perfect natural habitat for these elusive big cats. Conservation efforts by the Indian government and local communities have played a key role in this success.

Foot notes:

- **Snow Leopard Density:** Ladakh has the world's highest recorded density of snow leopards, with approximately 477 animals, accounting for nearly 68% of India's estimated 709 snow leopards.
- **Habitat and Distribution:** Snow leopards in Ladakh occupy an extensive area of 47,572 square kilometers, with Hemis National Park recording the world's highest snow leopard density of about 2.07 individuals per 100 square kilometers.
- **Conservation Factors:** The region's success in conservation is attributed to cultural values, good governance, and a healthy prey population, showcasing decades of community-defended protection and a shift from hunting to conservation.
- **Coexistence with Humans:** Over 60% of Ladakh's snow leopards coexist in landscapes shared with humans, emphasizing the need for inclusive conservation planning, especially in the face of development and climate pressure.

India Ranks Among Top Six Patent Filers in 6G Technology

India has emerged as a significant player in the global race for 6G technology, now ranking among the top six countries in 6G patent filings. This advancement is part of the government's proactive approach under the 'Bharat 6G Vision', aiming to position India at the forefront of 6G design, development, and deployment by 2030. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has been instrumental in this progress, funding next-generation testbeds and evaluating numerous proposals to accelerate 6G research. India's goal is to contribute 10% of global 6G patents and one-sixth of the global standards in the next three years. This strategic push is supported by collaborations between the government, academia, and industry leaders, fostering a robust innovation ecosystem.

Foot notes:

- **Ranking and Potential Impact:** India is now among the top six nations globally in 6G patent filings, with the potential to add \$1 trillion to the economy by 2035. This ranking positions India alongside major global players like the US, China, Japan, South Korea, and the European Union.
- **Government Support and Funding:** The government has funded over 111 research projects with 300 crore to support innovation in 6G technology. Initiatives like "Bharat 6G Vision" and "Bharat 6G Alliance" aim to drive technological innovation and collaboration.
- **Research and Development:** India is focusing on key areas like spectrum efficiency, AI integration, and quantum communication to develop 6G technology. The country has also established research centers and partnerships with global universities and tech companies.

- Patent Filings and Global Standards: India could secure 10% of all 6G patents globally and contribute one-sixth to global standards within the next three years. The Department of Telecommunications has launched a patent and IPR support framework to encourage inventors and organizations to file patents.

President Murmu Invokes Article 143 Over Governors' Bill Assent Powers

President Droupadi Murmu has invoked Article 143(1) of the Indian Constitution to seek the Supreme Court's advisory opinion on the powers and responsibilities of Governors and the President concerning the assent of state bills. This action follows the Supreme Court's April 8 verdict, which imposed timelines for Governors and the President to act on state legislation, prompting concerns about potential judicial overreach. The Supreme Court's forthcoming opinion, though advisory, is anticipated to have substantial implications for the balance of power within India's federal structure.

Foot notes:

- Article 143: Article 143 of the Indian Constitution allows the President to seek the opinion of the Supreme Court on any question of law or fact that is of public importance.
- Purpose: The purpose of Article 143 is to enable the President to obtain the Supreme Court's advisory opinion on matters that are significant and contentious, helping to resolve disputes and provide clarity on constitutional issues.
- Scope: The President can refer any matter to the Supreme Court under Article 143, and the Court is bound to provide its opinion. However, the Court has the discretion to decline to answer questions that are too vague or lack specificity.
- Binding Nature: The Supreme Court's opinion provided under Article 143 is not binding on the President. The President can accept or reject the opinion, although it carries significant weight due to the Court's authoritative interpretation of the Constitution.

Geeta Samota, First CISF Officer to Summit Mount Everest

Geeta Samota, a Sub-Inspector in the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), made history on May 19, 2025, by becoming the first officer from her force to summit Mount Everest, the world's highest peak at 8,849 meters. Hailing from Chak village in Rajasthan's Sikar district, Samota's journey from a rural upbringing to this monumental achievement is a testament to her determination and resilience. Initially a hockey player, an injury redirected her path towards mountaineering, leading her to join the CISF in 2011 and pursue specialized training in the field.

Foot notes:

- First Woman from CAPF to Scale: Mount Satopanth (7,075 meters) in Uttarakhand and Mount Lobuche (6,119 meters) in Nepal in 2019.
- Fastest Indian Woman to Complete Four Continental Peaks: Mount Kosciuszko (Australia), Mount Elbrus (Russia), Mount Kilimanjaro (Tanzania), and Mount Aconcagua (Argentina) in six months and 27 days.

- **Scaling Five Peaks in Ladakh's Rupshu Region:** She climbed five peaks, including three above 6,000 meters, in just three days.
- **Awards and Recognition:** Geeta has received the International Women's Day Award 2023 from the Delhi Commission for Women and the Giving Wings to Dreams Award 2023 from the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- **Inspiration and Impact:** Geeta's achievement is a source of national pride and inspiration, especially for women in India's paramilitary forces. Her journey showcases the power of perseverance and highlights the growing contribution of Indian women in adventure sports and paramilitary excellence.

India ranked at 36th among 170 countries in Network Readiness Index 2025

India has achieved a significant milestone by ranking 36th out of 170 countries in the Frontier Technologies Readiness Index 2024, marking a notable improvement from its 48th position in 2022. This advancement underscores India's growing capabilities in research and industrial capacity, where it ranks 3rd and 10th respectively. However, challenges persist in areas such as ICT deployment and skills development, with rankings of 99th and 113th, highlighting the need for enhanced broadband infrastructure and formal training in emerging technologies. The country's overall progress reflects its commitment to embracing frontier technologies and fostering innovation.

Foot notes:

- **Improvement in Ranking:** India has shown significant improvement, jumping 12 spots from 48th in 2022 to 36th in 2024, indicating progress in readiness for frontier technologies.
- **Frontier Technologies:** The index focuses on readiness for frontier technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), green hydrogen, and gene editing, which can transform economic development, sustainability, and governance.
- **Global Market Projection:** The market for frontier technologies is projected to grow six-fold, reaching \$16.4 trillion by 2033, with AI expected to account for 29% of this market.
- **Private Investment in AI:** India has seen notable private investments in AI, ranking 10th globally with \$1.4 billion in investments in 2023, highlighting its growing presence in the AI landscape.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Anthony Albanese has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of Australia

Anthony Albanese has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of Australia following a decisive electoral victory. His party, the Australian Labor Party, secured a majority, reaffirming public confidence in his leadership. During his previous term, Albanese focused on climate action, healthcare, and strengthening international relations. His re-election campaign emphasized

economic stability and social reforms. Voters responded positively to his vision and governance style. The victory ensures continuity in policy and leadership for Australia in the coming years.

Foot notes:

- **Trump Factor:** The election outcome was influenced by a backlash against Donald Trump's policies, particularly his tariffs, with Albanese's party accusing opposition leader Peter Dutton of copying Trump's policies.
- **Key Policies:** Albanese's Labor Party campaigned on embracing renewable energy and improving Australia's healthcare system, which resonated with voters.
- **Dutton's Loss:** Opposition leader Peter Dutton lost his seat of Dickson to Labor, and his party's choice of Trump-like policies was seen as a factor in their defeat.
- **International Relations:** Albanese's win may impact Australia's relations with the US and China, with the Prime Minister expected to navigate a tightrope in dealing with Trump's tariffs and China's desire for a stronger partnership.

Yemen Appoints Finance Minister Salem Bin Braik as New Prime Minister

On May 3, 2025, Yemen's Presidential Leadership Council appointed Salem Saleh Bin Braik as the country's new Prime Minister, following the resignation of Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak. Bin Mubarak stepped down citing political obstacles, including his inability to implement a cabinet reshuffle due to internal disputes within the council. Bin Braik, who previously served as Finance Minister since 2019, brings extensive experience in financial and administrative roles to his new position. His appointment aims to revitalize the Yemeni government, which has faced paralysis amid ongoing civil conflict and economic challenges. The leadership transition occurs as Yemen continues to grapple with a decade-long civil war, with Houthi rebels controlling significant portions of the country, including the capital, Sanaa.

Foot notes:

- **Previous Prime Minister's Resignation:** Bin Braik's appointment follows the resignation of Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak, who stepped down citing constitutional constraints and obstacles hindering his reform efforts.
- **Bin Braik's Background:** Bin Braik has served as Yemen's Finance Minister since 2019 and held various key financial and administrative roles prior to his appointment.
- **Current Government:** All existing ministers will retain their positions, with bin Mubarak being appointed as an advisor to the PLC president.
- **Challenges Ahead:** Bin Braik's leadership will be crucial in navigating Yemen's challenging socio-economic and political landscape, potentially implementing reforms and policies to stabilize the country amidst ongoing civil war since 2014.

Friedrich Merz elected as new German chancellor

Friedrich Merz, leader of Germany's conservative CDU/CSU alliance, has been elected as the new German Chancellor following a dramatic parliamentary session. In an unprecedented event

in post-war German history, Merz failed to secure the required majority in the first round of voting, receiving only 310 out of 316 necessary votes. Merz will head a coalition government formed between his center-right CDU/CSU and the center-left Social Democrats (SPD), aiming to stimulate economic growth through corporate tax cuts and reduced energy prices.

Foot notes:

- **Election Outcome:** Friedrich Merz, leader of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), won the February 2025 election with 28.6% votes, becoming Germany's next chancellor.
- **Shift in U.S.-Germany Relations:** Merz has advocated for redefining Germany's relationship with the United States, focusing on strengthening Europe's ability to act independently from American influence, particularly in matters of security.
- **Challenges Ahead:** Merz's leadership will determine whether Germany emerges as a stronger and more united force within Europe or whether internal and external challenges complicate this vision.

Manoj Kumar Mohapatra appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Romania

Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra has been appointed as the Ambassador of India to Romania, succeeding Ms. Manika Jain, who has been serving in this capacity since 2024. Dr. Mohapatra is an experienced Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer with a distinguished career spanning over two decades. Prior to this appointment, he served as the Ambassador of India to Guatemala, concurrently accredited to El Salvador and Honduras.

Foot notes:

- **Previous Postings:** Before his appointment to Guatemala, Mohapatra held several prestigious positions, including Minister (Commerce) at the Embassy of India in Washington D.C., Deputy Consul General at the Indian Consulate in New York, and Counsellor at the High Commission of India in Dhaka.
- **Diplomatic Experience:** Mohapatra has over two decades of diplomatic experience, with a strong background in international cooperation, trade, and cultural diplomacy. He is known for his proactive engagement, strategic clarity, and people-centric approach in diplomacy.
- **Academic Background:** Mohapatra holds a Master's degree in Veterinary Science (M.V.Sc.) and a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management (PGDIBM), reflecting a rare combination of scientific training and managerial competence.

SMLME 2025 Kicks Off in Dubai

The Seatrade Maritime Logistics Middle East (SMLME) 2025 commenced on May 6 at the Dubai World Trade Centre, drawing over 7,500 professionals from more than 90 countries. This premier maritime event, held under the patronage of the UAE Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, focuses on key industry themes such as digitalisation, decarbonisation, and the integration of STEM skills to align with the UAE Vision 2031. The conference features four main forums: Business Excellence, Logistics Excellence, ShipTech, and Offshore Marine &

Workboats, addressing topics like AI-driven supply chains, alternative fuels, and predictive maintenance.

Foot notes:

- **Industry Platform:** SMLME is a biennial maritime and logistics industry platform that brings together professionals and experts in the Middle East.
- **Key Features:** The event features a diverse trade show, informative conference tracks, and strategic networking opportunities.
- **Part of UAE Maritime Week:** SMLME is part of the larger UAE Maritime Week, which runs from May 5-9, 2025, and includes other maritime events and discussions.
- **Expected Outcomes:** The event aims to drive progress in maritime and logistics, with a focus on future-shaping leadership discussions, solutions for tomorrow's challenges, and showcasing products and services.

Anurag Bhushan appointed as next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Sweden

The Ministry of External Affairs announced the appointment of Anurag Bhushan as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Sweden. A 1995-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, Bhushan currently serves as Additional Secretary in the Ministry. He is expected to assume his new role in Sweden shortly. This appointment underscores the strengthening of India-Sweden relations, which are characterized by shared values, robust business and investment ties, and collaborative efforts in research and development.

Foot notes:

- **Current Position:** Bhushan currently serves as Additional Secretary in the MEA and is expected to take up his new role in Stockholm shortly after diplomatic formalities.
- **Background and Experience:** Bhushan has a distinguished diplomatic career spanning multiple continents and key portfolios, including previous ambassadorial assignments in countries like Afghanistan and Nigeria, and postings in Washington D.C. and Dubai.
- **India-Sweden Relations:** The appointment highlights India's strategic commitment to strengthening diplomatic and economic relations with Sweden, particularly in areas like clean energy, technology, innovation, and sustainable development. The two countries have a dynamic bilateral relationship built on shared values and mutual interests.
- **Objectives:** As Ambassador, Bhushan's key objectives will include promoting India's interests in Northern Europe, strengthening bilateral trade and innovation partnerships,

Bhutan launched the World's first National-level Cryptocurrency Tourism Payment System

Bhutan has made history by launching the world's first national-level cryptocurrency tourism payment system. This innovative move aims to modernize the country's tourism sector by offering digital and seamless payment options for international visitors. Tourists can now use cryptocurrency to pay for services such as hotels, travel bookings, and local experiences. The

initiative is part of Bhutan's broader vision to integrate advanced financial technologies while maintaining sustainable tourism practices. By adopting blockchain-based payments, the country enhances transparency, security, and efficiency in transactions. This bold step positions Bhutan as a global pioneer in combining fintech and tourism on a national scale.

Foot notes:

- **Partnership:** Bhutan has partnered with Binance Pay and DK Bank to roll out this innovative payment system, allowing tourists to use digital currencies for various services during their stay.
- **Cryptocurrency Support:** The system supports over 100 cryptocurrencies, including BNB, BTC, and USDC, and enables real-time transactions using dynamic or static QR codes through the Binance app.
- **Benefits for Locals:** This initiative empowers local businesses, including small-scale artisans and vendors in remote areas, to accept cryptocurrency payments with just a smartphone and a QR code, promoting financial inclusion.
- **Tourism Experience:** The payment system simplifies travel logistics by reducing transaction fees and currency exchange challenges, allowing tourists to enjoy a cashless and card-free experience in Bhutan.

World's first commercial scale e-methanol plant opens in Denmark

Denmark has inaugurated the world's first commercial-scale e-methanol plant in Kasso, marking a significant advancement in green fuel technology. Developed by European Energy in collaboration with Japan's Mitsui & Co., the €150 million facility is powered by the adjacent 304 MW Kasso Solar Park and utilizes captured biogenic CO₂ to produce up to 42,000 tonnes of e-methanol annually. Major companies like Maersk, LEGO and Novo Nordisk have committed to using this green methanol to reduce their carbon footprints in shipping and manufacturing. The plant's excess heat will provide district heating for approximately 3,300 local households, enhancing its environmental benefits.

Foot notes:

- **Production Capacity:** The facility has the capacity to produce up to 42,000 tonnes of e-methanol annually, which will be used as a low-carbon fuel for shipping and as a raw material in the chemical industry.
- **Renewable Energy Source:** The plant uses renewable energy from a nearby 304 MW solar park to power its electrolysis process, which splits water into hydrogen and oxygen. The hydrogen is then combined with biogenic CO₂ to produce e-methanol.
- **Off-Takers:** The e-methanol will be supplied to companies such as A.P. Moller-Maersk for use as a fuel, and LEGO Group and Novo Nordisk for use in producing lower-carbon plastics.
- **Environmental Benefits:** The plant will not only produce green fuel but also provide district heating for around 3,300 local households, showcasing a practical and scalable solution for decarbonizing industries.

Sussan Ley becomes first female opposition leader in Australia

Sussan Ley has made history by becoming the first woman to lead Australia's Liberal Party and serve as Leader of the Opposition. Elected on May 13, 2025, following Peter Dutton's electoral defeat, Ley narrowly defeated Angus Taylor in a 29–25 leadership ballot . A member of the party's moderate wing, she brings a diverse background as a former commercial pilot, farmer, and economist . Ley has pledged to modernize the party, emphasizing inclusivity and a clear policy agenda that resonates with Australians .

Foot notes:

- **Historic Achievement:** Sussan Ley has made history by becoming the first woman to lead the Liberal Party in its 80-year history and the first female opposition leader in Australia.
- **Leadership Election:** Ley won the leadership election by defeating Angus Taylor with 29 votes to 25, showcasing her strength within the party.
- **Background:** Born in Nigeria to English parents, Ley grew up in the United Arab Emirates and England before moving to Australia. She has had a diverse career as a commercial pilot, farmer, and public servant.
- **Political Experience:** Ley has held various ministerial roles, including Minister for Health, Sport, and Environment, and has been the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. She was elected to the House of Representatives in 2001, representing the New South Wales division of Farrer.

Anita Anand appointed as Canada's Foreign Minister

Anita Anand has been appointed as Canada's new Minister of Foreign Affairs, marking a historic milestone as the first Hindu woman and the first woman of Indian origin to hold this position. Born in Kentville, Nova Scotia, to Indian immigrant parents, Anand has had a distinguished career as a law professor and politician. She previously served as Canada's Minister of National Defence, where she played a key role in addressing military misconduct and supporting Ukraine during the Russian invasion. Anand took her oath of office on the Bhagavad Gita, reflecting her cultural and religious heritage. Anand's leadership is expected to influence Canada's approach to international affairs, including its relations with India and the United States.

Foot notes:

- **Background:** Anand is a lawyer, academic, and politician. She holds four degrees, including a Bachelor of Arts in political studies from Queen's University and a Bachelor of Laws from Dalhousie University.
- **Minister of National Defence:** She played a central role in Canada's efforts to provide military aid to Ukraine during the 2022 Russian invasion.
- **Minister of Public Services and Procurement:** Anand oversaw Canada's procurement of vaccines and personal protective equipment during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Notable Achievements:** She received the Yvan Allaire Medal from the Royal Society of Canada for her outstanding contribution to governance of private and public organizations.

China Launched 12 AI-Satellites to build World's 1st Supercomputer

China has embarked on an ambitious project to build the world's first space-based AI supercomputer by launching 12 satellites as part of its "Star Compute" initiative. Developed by Chengdu-based ADA Space in collaboration with Zhejiang Lab, these satellites are the initial components of a planned 2,800-satellite constellation designed to process data directly in orbit, thereby reducing reliance on Earth-based data centers. Each satellite is equipped with advanced AI processors capable of 744 tera operations per second (TOPS).

Foot notes:

- **Computing Power:** Each satellite can process 744 trillion operations per second, with a combined computing power of 5 peta operations per second (POPS) and 30 terabytes of onboard storage. The full constellation aims to achieve 1,000 POPS, equivalent to 1 quintillion operations per second.
- **Advanced Features:** The satellites are equipped with AI-powered computing systems, high-speed laser communication links, and advanced AI models with 8 billion parameters. They can process raw data directly in orbit, reducing reliance on ground-based computing infrastructure.
- **Potential Benefits:** The space-based supercomputer could offer a solution to Earth's growing energy and water consumption concerns. Orbital data centers can harness solar power and radiate heat into space, reducing energy needs and carbon footprint.

China's Miao Lijie & Japan's Yuko Oga Named as Ambassadors for FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2025

Chinese basketball legend Miao Lijie and Japanese icon Yuko Oga have been appointed as ambassadors for the FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2025, set to take place in Shenzhen, China, from July 13 to 20. Miao, a three-time Olympian and 2024 FIBA Hall of Fame inductee, led China to four Asia Cup titles and holds the distinction of being the first Chinese player to win both WCBA and WNBA championships. Oga, inducted into the FIBA Hall of Fame in 2023, was Japan's dynamic point guard for over a decade, earning multiple medals and becoming the top scorer at the 2010 FIBA Women's Basketball World Cup.

Foot notes:

- **Ambassadors:** Miao Lijie from China and Yuko Oga from Japan have been appointed as ambassadors for the FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2025.
- **Event Details:** The FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2025 is scheduled to take place from July 13 to 20, 2025.
- **Miao Lijie's Profile:** Although specific details about Miao Lijie's current basketball career aren't available, her appointment suggests she is a notable figure in Chinese basketball.

- **Yuko Oga's Profile:** Yuko Oga is a well-known Japanese basketball player, and her appointment as an ambassador highlights her influence in the sport.
- **Role:** As ambassadors, Miao Lijie and Yuko Oga will likely promote the tournament, inspire fans, and contribute to the event's success in their respective countries and across Asia.

USA Became India's 4th Largest Crude Oil Supplier

The United States became India's fourth-largest crude oil supplier, overtaking the United Arab Emirates. India's imports of U.S. crude oil nearly doubled year-over-year, reaching 0.33 million barrels per day, up from 0.17 million barrels per day in April 2024. This increase is attributed to a decline in U.S. exports to Europe and refinery closures, redirecting supplies toward Asia, particularly India. Despite this shift, Russia remains India's top crude oil supplier, accounting for 37.8% of imports, followed by Iraq and Saudi Arabia. The growing energy trade between India and the U.S. reflects India's efforts to diversify its energy sources and strengthen bilateral relations.

Foot notes:

- **Increased Supply:** The US nearly doubled its crude oil supply to India in April, reaching 0.33 million barrels per day, and surpassing the UAE to become India's fourth-largest supplier.
- **Market Share:** The US achieved a 7.3% share of India's crude imports in April, exceeding the UAE's 6.4% share. Russia maintained its top position with a 37.8% share, followed by Iraq (19.1%), and Saudi Arabia (10.4%).
- **Reason for Growth:** The growth in US crude oil exports to India is attributed to slowing US exports to Europe, prompting a shift towards Asian markets. India's private sector refineries, operated by Reliance Industries and Nayara Energy, are the primary recipients of US crude oil.

India assumes Chairmanship of Asian Productivity Organization for 2025-26

India has officially assumed the chairmanship of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) for the 2025–26 term, as announced by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The handover took place during a meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia, marking a significant milestone in India's efforts to enhance regional productivity. This leadership role enables India to influence regional productivity strategies, foster cooperation among Asia-Pacific member countries, and promote sustainable socio-economic development through productivity growth. India's active participation in APO initiatives underscores its commitment to driving productivity and sustainable development in the region.

Foot notes:

- **Chairmanship Term:** India has officially taken over the chairmanship of the APO for the 2025-26 term, with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) leading the initiative.

- **Leadership:** The Indian delegation is led by Amardeep Singh Bhatia, Secretary of DPIIT and APO Director for India, who emphasized the importance of regional collaboration in driving digital transformation, sustainability, innovation, and entrepreneurship.
- **APO Vision 2030:** As Chair, India aims to advance the APO Vision 2030 and contribute to programs addressing productivity challenges in the Asia-Pacific region, focusing on inclusive, responsive, and results-driven initiatives.
- **Capacity Building:** Over 100 Indian professionals participate in APO-led capacity-building initiatives annually through the National Productivity Council (NPC), significantly improving productivity across India's industrial, services, and agricultural sectors.

Denver Nuggets' president appointed David Adelman as head coach

The Denver Nuggets have officially appointed David Adelman as their full-time head coach, removing the interim tag after a commendable postseason performance. Adelman stepped in as interim coach in April following the dismissal of Michael Malone and general manager Calvin Booth, leading the team to three consecutive regular-season wins and a first-round playoff victory over the LA Clippers. Under his guidance, the Nuggets pushed the top-seeded Oklahoma City Thunder to a seven-game series in the Western Conference semifinals, earning praise from players like Nikola Jokic and Aaron Gordon for his leadership and communication style.

Foot notes:

- **Background:** Adelman has been with the Nuggets' coaching staff since 2017, serving as the lead assistant coach under Michael Malone.
- **Previous Experience:** Before joining the Nuggets, Adelman worked as an assistant coach with the Minnesota Timberwolves and Orlando Magic.
- **Interim to Permanent:** Initially appointed as the interim head coach, Adelman has been promoted to the permanent head coach position, showcasing the team's confidence in his leadership abilities.
- **Coaching Style:** Adelman is known for his positivity, attention to detail, and strong work ethic, which have already made a positive impact on the team.

Craig Kessler Appointed as PGA's New Commissioner

The PGA has appointed Craig Kessler as its new commissioner, marking a significant leadership transition for the organization. Kessler, who previously served as the Chief Operating Officer of the PGA of America, brings a wealth of experience from his tenure at Topgolf and Buff City Soap, as well as an MBA from Harvard Business School. The PGA's board, in collaboration with executive search firm Elevate Talent, conducted a comprehensive selection process to identify the right candidate to lead the organization into its next chapter. Kessler's leadership is anticipated to drive growth and innovation within the PGA, leveraging his diverse background to enhance the tour's global presence and commercial success.

Foot notes:

- **Background:** Kessler brings experience from his years as COO of Dallas-based Topgolf, where he oversaw explosive growth from 25 venues to 70 and managed over 25,000 employees.
- **Previous Role:** Before joining PGA of America, Kessler served as CEO of Buff City Soap, a fast-growing experiential retail company with stores in 32 states.
- **Education:** Kessler earned an MBA from Harvard Business School and an undergraduate degree from Georgetown University.
- **Experience:** He has a passion for golf and extensive operating and financial background, having worked with global management consulting firm McKinsey & Company and private equity firms KKR and Providence Equity Partners.

Algeria Becomes New Member of BRICS' New Development Bank

Algeria has officially joined the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB), marking a significant milestone in its integration into the global financial system. The announcement was made by NDB President Dilma Rousseff during the bank's ninth annual meeting held on August 31, 2024, in Cape Town, South Africa. This inclusion positions Algeria as the ninth member of the NDB, alongside founding nations Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, as well as newer members such as Bangladesh, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, and Uruguay. This strategic move also reflects Algeria's broader ambition to diversify its international partnerships and reduce reliance on Western-dominated financial institutions like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Foot notes:

- **Membership Approval:** Algeria deposited its instrument of accession on May 19, 2025, officially becoming the newest member of the NDB, a multilateral development bank established by BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa).
- **Strategic Partnership:** NDB President Dilma Rousseff welcomed Algeria's membership, highlighting the country's significant role in Northern Africa's economy and its potential to enhance NDB's global financial presence. Algeria's dynamic economy, rich natural resources, and strategic geographic position make it an attractive partner.
- **Development Goals:** The NDB aims to support Algeria's sustainable development agenda through infrastructure and development projects. The bank will work with Algeria to finance impactful initiatives that drive progress and improve lives.
- **Global Significance:** Algeria's membership marks a significant step in its integration into the global financial system. The NDB provides an alternative to traditional international financial institutions like the World Bank and IMF, offering innovative solutions for growth and resilience.

World largest aerospace-grade titanium unit inaugurated in Lucknow

On May 12, 2025, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the world's largest aerospace-grade titanium and superalloy materials

manufacturing plant in Lucknow. Operated by Aerolloy Technologies Limited, a subsidiary of PTC Industries, this state-of-the-art facility features a German-engineered Vacuum Arc Remelting (VAR) furnace with an annual capacity of 1,500 metric tons, capable of producing titanium alloy ingots up to 1,000 mm in diameter. This development positions India among an elite group of nations—such as the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom—that possess the capability to produce high-grade titanium alloys for aerospace applications.

Foot notes:

- **Advanced Technologies:** The plant utilizes cutting-edge technologies like Vacuum Arc Remelting (VAR), Electron Beam (EB), Plasma Arc Melting (PAM), and Vacuum Induction Melting (VIM) to produce high-grade materials critical for aerospace and defense sectors.
- **Reducing Import Dependence:** The facility aims to reduce India's reliance on costly imports, which are projected to reach 35,000 crore by 2026. By manufacturing aerospace-grade materials domestically, India can minimize its dependence on foreign suppliers.

STATE NEWS

University of York to Open Its First Indian Campus in Mumbai

The University of York, a prestigious UK-based Russell Group institution, has announced plans to establish its first overseas campus in Mumbai, India. This initiative follows the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Maharashtra government and discussions between Vice-Chancellor Professor Charlie Jeffery and Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the WAVES Summit in Mumbai. The Mumbai campus is set to commence operations in the 2026/27 academic year, initially offering undergraduate and postgraduate programs in computer science with AI and cybersecurity, business, economics, and creative industries.

Foot notes:

- **Location and Start Date:** The University of York's first Indian campus will be located in Mumbai and is expected to welcome students from the academic year 2026/27.
- **Licensing and Accreditation:** The university is working on obtaining the necessary license from the University Grants Commission (UGC) in India to develop the campus.
- **Campus Development:** The campus will initially operate from an existing building in a business quarter of Mumbai, with plans to develop a full campus complex over the coming years.

Rajasthan to join India's first cheetah conservation corridor with MP

Rajasthan is set to join India's first interstate cheetah conservation corridor in collaboration with Madhya Pradesh, aiming to facilitate the natural movement of cheetahs between the two states. This initiative follows instances where cheetahs from Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park strayed into Rajasthan, highlighting the need for coordinated management. A joint corridor

management committee has been established, comprising senior forest officials from both states, to oversee the development of suitable habitats and the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for corridor development .

Foot notes:

- **Area Coverage:** Madhya Pradesh will cover 10,500 square kilometers, while Rajasthan will cover 6,500 square kilometers of the corridor area.
- **Districts Involved in Rajasthan:** The Rajasthan districts involved in the corridor are Kota, Bundi, Baran, Jhalawar, Sawai Madhopur, Karauli, and Chittorgarh.
- **Objectives:** The corridor aims to ensure safe passage and migration of cheetahs, promote genetic diversity, boost eco-tourism and biodiversity conservation, and strengthen inter-state cooperation in wildlife preservation.
- **Project Background:** This initiative is part of Project Cheetah, India's ambitious effort to reintroduce and conserve cheetahs, with the first group of cheetahs translocated from Namibia and South Africa to Kuno National Park in 2022.

IIFT to Open New Campus at GIFT City, Gujarat with Education Ministry's Approval

The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) is set to establish a new international campus at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in Gandhinagar, following approval from the Ministry of Education. This initiative aligns with the government's vision to internationalize higher education and position GIFT City as a hub for global academic institutions. Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has advocated for the establishment of this campus, emphasizing the importance of equipping Indian students with global competencies in trade and finance.

Foot notes:

- **Academic Programs:** The campus will offer IIFT's flagship MBA (International Business) program, along with specialized short-term training courses and research opportunities in international trade and related fields.
- **Alignment with NEP 2020:** The initiative aligns with the goals of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which aims to promote multidisciplinary learning and expand access to high-quality education.
- **Expected Contribution:** The GIFT City campus is expected to significantly contribute to India's trade education ecosystem and support the nation's aspiration of becoming a global export powerhouse.
- **Approval and Accreditation:** The Ministry of Education, Government of India, has approved the establishment of the off-campus center under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956, after IIFT's successful compliance with the conditions laid out in the Letter of Intent (LoI) issued in January 2025.

Haryana approves scheme to provide Rs 10,000 monthly honorarium to artistes

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced a monthly pension of 10,000 for Padma awardees from the state, including recipients of the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Vibhushan. In addition to the pension, awardees will receive free travel facilities on the state's Volvo bus service, enhancing their mobility and access to resources. The scheme underscores the state's commitment to recognizing and supporting its distinguished citizens, fostering a culture of excellence and inspiration for future generations.

Foot notes:

- **Scheme Objective :** The scheme aims to improve the socioeconomic and financial status of senior artists and art scholars in Haryana who lack a stable income source due to their age.
- **Eligibility Criteria :** Artists and art scholars must be 60 years or older, have worked in the arts field for at least 20 years, and be permanent residents of Haryana with a valid Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP ID).
- **Monthly Honorarium :** Eligible beneficiaries receive Rs 10,000 per month if their annual income is up to Rs 1.80 lakh, and Rs 7,000 per month if their income is between Rs 1.80 lakh and Rs 3 lakh.
- **Covered Art Forms :** The scheme covers various art forms, including singing, acting, dance, drama, painting, sculpture, theatre, playing musical instruments, and other visual arts.
- **Application Process :** Beneficiaries can apply offline through the District Office of the Art and Culture Affairs Department,

About Haryana:

Capital: Chandigarh

Largest City: Faridabad

UP Partners with World Bank to Launch UP AGREES & AI Pragya Initiatives

The Uttar Pradesh government has partnered with the World Bank to launch two major initiatives: UP AGREES and AI Pragya. UP AGREES (Uttar Pradesh Agriculture Resilience and Enhancement Scheme) aims to improve agricultural productivity and sustainability in the state. The initiative focuses on climate-resilient farming practices and better resource management to support farmers. AI Pragya is designed to enhance digital learning and promote the use of artificial intelligence in education and governance. Together, these initiatives mark a significant step toward technological advancement and rural development in Uttar Pradesh.

Foot notes:

- **World Bank Funding:** The World Bank has approved a loan of 2,737 crore over six years for the UP AGREES program, with the state government contributing 1,166 crore. The loan has a repayment period of 35 years at an interest rate of 1.23%.
- **AI Pragya Initiative:** The AI Pragya initiative aims to upskill 10 lakh youth in Artificial Intelligence, machine learning, data analytics, and cybersecurity, in collaboration with

tech giants like Microsoft, Intel, Amazon, and Google, to boost employment and support digital transformation.

- **Economic Goal:** These initiatives align with Uttar Pradesh's goal of becoming a \$1 trillion economy by driving agricultural innovation, digital skill development, and entrepreneurship.
- **Implementation:** The programs will be implemented in multiple districts, including Basti, Maharajganj, Ballia, Ghazipur, Varanasi, and Jhansi, with a focus on promoting climate-resilient practices, digital technologies, and market linkages for farmers.

Indore Becomes the India's First Beggar- Free City

Indore has been officially declared India's first beggar-free city following a comprehensive rehabilitation campaign launched in February 2024. The initiative successfully identified and rehabilitated approximately 5,000 individuals engaged in begging, providing them with employment opportunities and enrolling their children in schools. The success of this campaign not only enhances Indore's reputation for cleanliness but also demonstrates the impact of coordinated social welfare efforts in addressing urban challenges.

Foot notes:

- **Achievement:** Indore has been declared India's first beggar-free city after a year-long campaign that began in February 2024, rehabilitating approximately 5,000 beggars.
- **Rehabilitation Process:** The campaign categorized beggars into three groups: habitual beggars (60%), those begging due to financial difficulties or disabilities (20%), and those forced into begging (20%), providing tailored support for each group.
- **Community Involvement:** The initiative involved community engagement, especially with communities like the Nath and Nut Samaj, who often resist rehabilitation. Training and support were provided directly within these communities to build trust.
- **Government and Institutional Support:** The campaign received extensive support from government bodies, including the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the World Bank, which praised Indore's initiative as a model for other cities.
- **Sustainability Measures:** To maintain the city's beggar-free status, begging and giving alms are banned, with penalties for violations. Citizens are incentivized to report instances of begging with a reward of Rs 1,000, and many have already claimed this reward.

Telangana is the first state to launch AI-based 'AgriGPT' service

Telangana has become the first state in India to launch an AI-based agricultural advisory service called 'AgriGPT'. This initiative is part of the state's broader efforts to integrate artificial intelligence into agriculture, aiming to provide farmers with real-time, personalized advice on

crop management, weather forecasts, pest control, and market trends. Developed in collaboration with the World Economic Forum and the Indian Institute of Science, AgriGPT leverages data from various sources to offer actionable insights to farmers. The service is accessible through a user-friendly interface, ensuring that even farmers with limited technological proficiency can benefit from its features.

Foot notes:

- **AI-Powered Precision Agriculture:** AgriGPT integrates real-time climate data and advanced analytics to provide tailored farming advice, enhancing agricultural practices for higher productivity and sustainability.
- **Features and Benefits:** AgriGPT assists farmers in integrating sustainable practices feasible on a smaller scale and provides up-to-date, science-based information on regional conditions, helping agricultural consultants tailor guidance to specific needs.
- **Developer Background:** Anil Mishra, a visionary entrepreneur with a background in computer engineering, has been instrumental in building technology-driven startups for the Indian agriculture industry, leveraging AI to revolutionize the sector.
- **Partnerships and Innovation Hub:** Telangana's proactive approach to AI innovation is evident in its partnership with Google to establish an AI Accelerator in Hyderabad, empowering startups to develop AI-driven solutions for critical sectors like agriculture.

Anurag Dhankar appointed as new DGP of Tripura

Anurag Dhankar, a 1994-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, has been appointed as the Director General of Police (DGP) of Tripura. He brings extensive experience, having previously served in various capacities, including as Superintendent of Police in multiple districts of Tripura and as an officer in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Dhankar also held the position of Additional Director General of Police (Law & Order) in Tripura before his elevation to DGP. His appointment aligns with the state's compliance with the Supreme Court's directives on police reforms, ensuring a transparent and merit-based selection process for the DGP position.

Foot notes:

- **Experience:** Dhankar has extensive experience in policing, having served in various key positions in Tripura and on central deputation, including roles in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the United Nations Mission in Kosovo.
- **Notable Roles:** He led the CBI investigation against fugitive diamondaire Nirav Modi in the Rs 13,000 crore Punjab National Bank fraud case and served as the Chairman of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) on the 1984 anti-Sikh riots under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Qualifications:** Dhankar holds a Master's degree in Police Management from Osmania University and a Post Graduate Diploma in Cyber Crimes from NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad. He is also a Certified Fraud Examiner from the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE), USA.

Archaeological Survey of India restores 16th CE stepwell in Delhi's Mehrauli

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), in collaboration with the World Monuments Fund and funded by the TCS Foundation, has completed the restoration of Rajon Ki Baoli, a 16th-century stepwell located in Delhi's Mehrauli Archaeological Park. Built in 1506 during the reign of Sikandar Lodi, this four-tiered structure had suffered from decades of neglect, with silt and debris obstructing its water channels. The comprehensive six-month project involved desilting, structural repairs, restoration of decorative elements, and the installation of an automated water management system to maintain water quality and levels. This restoration is part of a broader initiative to rejuvenate Mehrauli Archaeological Park, which houses over 55 monuments spanning various historical periods.

Foot notes:

- **Restoration Project:** The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has successfully completed the conservation work of Rajon ki Baoli, a 16th-century stepwell located in Mehrauli Archaeological Park, in collaboration with the World Monuments Fund India (WMFI) and the TCS Foundation.
- **Historical Significance:** Built around 1506 during the Lodi dynasty, Rajon ki Baoli is a testament to Lodi-era architecture and traditional water engineering, featuring elegant arched colonnades, ornate stucco medallions, and finely carved stone elements.
- **Conservation Efforts:** The restoration work included cleaning, desilting, structural repairs, and water quality improvements using traditional materials like lime plaster and mortar to preserve the original character of the structure. Fish were introduced to maintain water quality.
- **Community Engagement:** The ASI and its partners engaged local communities to promote awareness of the stepwell's cultural and ecological value through educational programs and participatory conservation activities, ensuring the site's long-term care.

Mizoram Becomes India's First Fully Literate State

Mizoram achieved a historic milestone by becoming India's first fully literate state, attaining a literacy rate of 98.2%. This accomplishment was realized under the ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society) initiative, also known as the New India Literacy Programme (NILP), which aims to promote lifelong learning and universal literacy. The program identified 3,026 illiterate individuals, with 1,692 enrolling as learners, supported by 292 volunteer teachers, including students and educators. This achievement reflects the Mizo cultural ethos of Tlawmngaihna—selflessness and altruism—and showcases the state's commitment to empowering its citizens through education. Building on this success, Mizoram now aims to broaden its educational goals to include digital, financial, and entrepreneurial literacy for holistic development.

Foot notes:

- **Achievement:** Mizoram has been declared India's first fully literate state, achieving a remarkable 98.2% literacy rate as per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2023-24.
- **ULLAS Initiative:** The Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society (ULLAS) initiative, under the New India Literacy Programme (NLIP), played a crucial role in achieving this milestone. The initiative aims to empower adults aged above 15 who missed formal schooling.
- **Volunteer Efforts:** A dedicated team of 292 volunteer teachers, including students, educators, and resource persons, contributed significantly to achieving full literacy. They worked with 3,026 identified illiterate individuals, of whom 1,692 showed interest in learning.
- **Future Goals:** Mizoram aims to expand literacy beyond basic reading and writing, incorporating digital, financial, and entrepreneurial skills to further empower its citizens.

Assam Introduces India's First AI News Anchor 'Ankita' in Regional Language

Assam has made a significant stride in integrating artificial intelligence into regional media by introducing 'Ankita', India's first AI news anchor proficient in the Assamese language. This innovative development aims to enhance news delivery by providing real-time updates in the local dialect, thereby strengthening the connection with the Assamese-speaking audience. 'Ankita' is designed to present news with human-like expressions and voice modulation, offering a seamless and engaging viewer experience.

Foot notes:

- **Debut:** Ankita made her debut by delivering a detailed report on the latest Cabinet meeting, showcasing her ability to present updates in fluent Assamese.
- **Features:** Ankita is a lifelike digital persona who can report on key developments with clarity and poise, similar to human news presenters.
- **Reaction:** The introduction of Ankita has sparked mixed reactions online, with some praising the innovation as a testament to Assam's digital transformation, while others have expressed concerns over potential job losses due to automation.
- **Impact:** This move marks a growing trend of AI integration in Indian media and may prompt other states and organizations to follow suit, sparking wider discussions on the role of technology in news broadcasting.

About Assam:

Capital: Dispur

Largest city: Guwahati

CM: Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma

Uttar Pradesh govt launches India's 1st Vistadome jungle safari train

Uttar Pradesh has launched India's first Vistadome jungle safari train, offering tourists a unique and immersive wildlife experience through the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve and Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary. The 107-kilometer journey, lasting approximately 4 hours and 25 minutes,

features specially designed Vistadome coaches equipped with large glass windows and transparent roofs, allowing panoramic views of the lush forest landscape. Initially operating on weekends, the service is set to expand to daily operations to enhance eco-tourism and provide greater accessibility to visitors.

Foot notes:

- **Route and Duration:** The Vistadome train connects Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary in Bahraich district to Dudhwa Tiger Reserve in Pilibhit, covering 107 kilometers in approximately 4 hours and 25 minutes.
- **Special Features:** The train features specially designed coaches with large glass windows and transparent roofs, providing tourists with breathtaking views of the jungle's natural landscapes, biodiversity, and wildlife.
- **Operational Schedule:** Currently, the train operates on weekends (Saturdays and Sundays), but plans are underway to expand it to daily operations, making it accessible to more visitors throughout the year.
- **Ticket Price and Package:** The ticket costs 275 per person for this route. The Uttar Pradesh Eco Tourism Development Board is also working on a package to transport tourists from Lucknow to Katarniaghat, which may include government subsidies to enhance affordability.

DEFENCE NEWS

India-Maldives Strengthen Defence Ties through HADR Exercise

India and the Maldives have reaffirmed their defence partnership through the 13th edition of the joint military exercise 'Ekuverin', held from February 2 to 16, 2025, at Maafilaafushi in the Maldives. This 14-day exercise focused on enhancing interoperability in counter-insurgency, counter-terrorism, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operations. 'Ekuverin', meaning 'friends' in Dhivehi, symbolizes the camaraderie between the two nations and has been conducted alternately in India and the Maldives since 2009.

Foot notes:

- **Exercise Details:** The joint HADR exercise between the Indian Navy and the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) is currently underway in Maafilaafushi Atoll, Maldives, from May 4 to May 10, 2025.
- **Objective:** The exercise aims to enhance interoperability between the Indian Navy and MNDF, strengthen disaster response coordination, and facilitate medical assistance, search and rescue operations, and logistical support.
- **Key Activities:** The exercise includes joint drills, rescue simulations, medical aid provision, team mobilization, community engagement, and capacity building, simulating a coordinated response to a major natural disaster.
- **Strategic Significance:** This exercise underscores India's commitment to regional cooperation and maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region, aligning with the

"MAHASAGAR" vision of Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions.

BANKING NEWS

SBI Launches Largest Staff Engagement Initiative to Empower Workforce

The State Bank of India (SBI) has launched its most extensive employee engagement initiative, 'Nayi Disha' (New Path), aiming to enhance work-life balance and rejuvenate its 2.6 lakh-strong workforce. This program involves over 350 trained staff conducting interactive sessions that focus on employee well-being and include family participation, even allowing spouses to notify the bank if an employee consistently works late. Employees are encouraged to sign a pledge committing to personal health, environmental responsibility, and timely departure from work at least once a week.

Foot notes:

- **Objective:** The initiative aims to prevent employees from working mechanically, boost morale, and enhance customer service by promoting a healthy work-life balance and involving immediate family members.
- **Implementation:** Over 350 trained experts conduct sessions with employees, including a team dinner with spouses, to foster engagement and motivation.
- **Unique Feature:** The pledge card includes a special bar code that allows an employee's spouse to alert the employee's boss if they're spending excessive time at work, enabling corrective action.
- **Participation and Impact:** In a similar initiative, "Abhivyakti" recorded participation from 1,91,881 employees, showcasing SBI's commitment to employee engagement and development.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Launches All New Solitaire Credit Card

Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched the Solitaire Credit Card, a premium offering tailored for its high-net-worth Solitaire banking customers. Valued at 50,000, the card provides annual benefits worth up to 2.5 lakh, including complimentary access to exclusive travel experiences, a "book two nights, pay for one" offer at ITC Hotels, and the ability to redeem rewards for up to six domestic and two international flight tickets. Additional perks encompass zero forex markup, unlimited lounge access, and a generous reward structure of 10 air miles per 100 spent, capped at 100,000 miles monthly.

Foot notes:

- **Kotak IndiGo 6E Rewards XL Credit Card:** Offers 6 reward points per Rs. 100 spent on IndiGo flights, 3 reward points per Rs. 100 spent on dining, grocery, and entertainment, and 2 reward points per Rs. 100 spent on other categories.

- Kotak Myntra Credit Card: Provides 7.5% off up to Rs. 750 per transaction on Myntra, 5% cashback up to Rs. 1,000 per month on Swiggy, Swiggy Instamart, PVR, Cleartrip, and Urban Company, and 1.25% cashback on other spends.
- Kotak Zen Signature Credit Card: Offers 10 Zen points per Rs. 150 shopping spends, 5 points on others, and 3 international Priority Pass and 8 domestic Dream Folks lounge visits per year.
- Kotak PVR INOX Credit Card: Features flat 5% off on movie tickets at PVR INOX, flat 20% off on food and beverages, and complimentary access to premium PVR INOX in-cinema lounges.

About Kotak Mahindra Bank:

CEO: Ashok Vaswani

Founded: 2003

HQ's: Maharashtra

Public Sector Banks post record 1.78 Lakh Crore Profit in FY25

Public sector banks (PSBs) in India have reported a record cumulative net profit of 1.78 lakh crore for the fiscal year 2024–25, marking a 26% increase from 1.41 lakh crore in FY24. This growth reflects the sector's continued recovery from previous financial challenges, attributed to comprehensive reforms and strategic government support. The State Bank of India (SBI), as the largest lender, contributed over 40% of the total profit, with a standalone net profit of 70,901 crore, up 16% from the previous year. Among other notable performers, Punjab National Bank reported a 102% rise in net profit to 16,630 crore, while Punjab & Sind Bank saw a 71% increase to 1,016 crore. All 12 PSBs posted profits, underscoring the sector's robust performance and the effectiveness of ongoing financial reforms.

Foot notes:

- Record Profit: Public Sector Banks achieved a cumulative net profit of 1.78 lakh crore in FY25, marking a 26% increase from 1.41 lakh crore in FY24.
- SBI's Contribution: State Bank of India dominated the sector, contributing over 40% of the total earnings with a net profit of 70,901 crore, up 16% from 61,077 crore in FY24.
- Top Performers: Punjab National Bank reported the highest net profit growth of 102% to 16,630 crore, followed by Punjab & Sind Bank with a 71% rise to 1,016 crore.
- Growth Across Banks: All 12 public sector banks reported a rise in profit, with Central Bank of India, UCO Bank, and Bank of India posting growth rates of 48.4%, 47.8%, and 45.9%, respectively.

Turnaround Story: This record profit marks a significant turnaround from FY18 when PSBs collectively reported losses of 85,390 crore, attributed to the government's 4R strategy of recognizing NPAs, resolution and recovery, recapitalization, and reforms

LIC hikes stake in Bank Of India to 8.38

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has increased its stake in Bank of India (BoI) to 8.38% as of May 9, 2025, up from 6.35% in September 2021. This acquisition of an additional 2.026% stake over nearly four years reflects LIC's continued confidence in BoI's performance and growth prospects. Following the announcement, BoI shares rose by 2.27%, closing at 112.55 on the Bombay Stock Exchange on May 13, 2025. The bank recently reported an 82.5% year-on-year increase in profit after tax for the March quarter, reaching 2,626 crore, alongside a 2.1% rise in net interest income to 6,063 crore. LIC's strategic investment underscores its role as a key institutional investor in India's public sector banking landscape.

Foot notes:

- **Stake Increase:** Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has increased its stake in Bank of India (BoI) to 8.38% as of May 9, 2025.
- **Additional Stake Purchase:** LIC acquired an additional 2.026% stake in BoI between September 2, 2021, and May 9, 2025, raising its holding from 6.35% to 8.38%.
- **Investment Rationale:** As India's largest institutional investor, LIC's stake hike reflects its strategic interest in the banking sector, emphasizing financial sector consolidation and performance-driven investment.
- **Bank of India's Performance:** BoI shares saw a modest uptick, ending 2.27% higher at 112.55 apiece on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) following the announcement.

SPORTS NEWS

Suryakumar Yadav, Becomes First Player In The World To Achieve Elusive IPL Feat

Suryakumar Yadav has made history by becoming the first player in the world to achieve a rare and elusive feat in the Indian Premier League (IPL). Known for his aggressive stroke play and consistency, he has been a key performer for the Mumbai Indians. This unique achievement sets him apart as a trailblazer in the T20 format. His contribution has not only strengthened his team's performance but also elevated his status on the global cricket stage. Fans and experts alike have praised his remarkable skill and dedication to the game.

Foot notes:

- **IPL Team and Role:** He plays for the Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League (IPL) and is a batter.
- **Awards and Accolades:** He has won the ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year award in 2022 and 2023.
- **Career Highlights:** Yadav has been a consistent performer for both his IPL franchise and the Indian team, and was part of the team that won the 2024 T20 World Cup. He is currently the captain of the Indian National T20 side.
- **Net Worth and Salary:** Suryakumar Yadav has a net worth of 45 crores and earns 8 crores per annum in the IPL.

Sai Sudharsan becomes fastest Indian to reach 2000 T20 runs

Sai Sudharsan has etched his name into cricketing history by becoming the fastest Indian to reach 2,000 runs in T20 cricket. The 23-year-old Gujarat Titans opener achieved this milestone during an IPL 2025 match against SunRisers Hyderabad, reaching the landmark in just his 54th innings—surpassing the previous Indian record held by Sachin Tendulkar, who took 59 innings to achieve the same. Globally, Sudharsan stands second only to Australia's Shaun Marsh, who reached the 2,000-run mark in 53 innings. In the match, Sudharsan played a brisk innings, scoring 48 runs off 23 balls, which included nine boundaries, contributing to Gujarat Titans' formidable start.

Foot notes:

- **Record-Breaking Milestone:** Sai Sudharsan became the fastest Indian to reach 2000 T20 runs, achieving this feat in just 54 innings, surpassing Sachin Tendulkar's record of 59 innings.
- **Global Ranking:** Sudharsan is now the second-fastest player globally to reach 2000 T20 runs, with only Shaun Marsh (53 innings) ahead of him.
- **IPL 2025 Performance:** Sudharsan's achievement came during the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 season while playing for Gujarat Titans. He scored 48 runs off 23 balls against Sunrisers Hyderabad.
- **Orange Cap Leader:** Sudharsan leads the Orange Cap race in IPL 2025 with 504 runs in 10 matches, including five half-centuries, showcasing his consistency and form.
- **Classical Batting Style:** Sudharsan's success is attributed to his classical batting approach, prioritizing technique and timing over brute force, making him a unique talent in T20 cricket.

India Women's Hockey Team Won In Final Match Of Australia

The India Women's Hockey Team secured a thrilling victory in the final match against Australia. The match was intense, with both teams displaying exceptional skill and determination. India's defense remained strong, effectively blocking several Australian attacks. A crucial goal in the second half gave India the lead. The team maintained composure under pressure and held on to their advantage. This win marks a significant achievement for Indian women's hockey on the international stage.

Foot notes:

- **Match Result:** The Indian women's hockey team secured a 1-0 victory over Australia in the fifth and final game of their tour at the Perth Hockey Stadium.
- **Goal Scorer:** Navneet Kaur scored the only goal of the match, a field goal in the 21st minute, which proved to be the decisive moment in the tightly contested game.
- **Strong Defense:** India's defense held strong against the Australian attack, denying them the opening goal despite winning two penalty corners in the first quarter. The team successfully defended their slim lead in the second half.

- **Series Performance:** This win marked a significant improvement after the team lost four consecutive matches, including two against the Australia A side and two against the senior team.

Rajasthan Won Gold In 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team At Khelo India Youth Games

Rajasthan clinched the gold medal in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team event at the Khelo India Youth Games 2025, held at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi. The duo of Mayank Choudhary and Prachi delivered a stellar performance, taking an early lead in the match. Despite a strong comeback by Uttar Pradesh's team, comprising Dev Pratap and Urva Choudhary, who managed to level the scores at one point, Rajasthan maintained their composure and secured the top spot. Uttar Pradesh settled for the silver medal after a closely contested final. In the bronze medal match, Delhi's Niyamicka Rana and Hardik Bansal showcased exceptional skill to defeat Haryana's Kanak and Partik Sheokand.

Foot notes:

- **Youngest Gold Medalist:** Abhinav Shaw, a 10-year-old shooter, teamed up with Mehuli Ghosh to win the gold medal in the 10m air rifle mixed team event in the Khelo India Youth Games, becoming the youngest gold medalist at Khelo Games.
- **Rajasthan's Performance:** Rajasthan secured 22 gold medals in the Khelo India Para Games 2025, which was held in New Delhi from March 20 to 27, 2025. However, it's unclear if this is related to the specific event mentioned.
- **Top Shooters:** In a related event, seasoned star Vijay Singh Kuntal from Rajasthan won the 10m air rifle gold in the SH2 category with an aggregate score of 618.3 in the Khelo India Para Games.
- **Khelo India Initiative:** The Khelo India programme provides annual financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh per annum for eight years to young athletes, aiming to develop sports in the country.

Indian Duo Won U-19 Boys Doubles Title At WTT Youth Star Contender

Indian table tennis duo Ankur Bhattacharjee and Abhinandh Pradhavadhi clinched the U-19 Boys' Doubles title at the WTT Youth Star Contender 2025 in Bangkok. In the final, they defeated South Korea's Lee Jungmok and Choi Jiwook with a score of 3-1 (11-8, 8-11, 11-8, 11-7), showcasing exceptional teamwork and resilience. Their journey to the title included a comeback victory in the quarter-finals against Japan's Kazuki Yoshiyama and Iran's Benyamin Faraji, where they overturned a 0-2 deficit to win 3-2. This triumph marks India's fourth consecutive year securing at least one title at the WTT Youth Star Contender events, highlighting the nation's growing prowess in youth table tennis. The duo's performance underscores the depth of talent in India's junior ranks and sets a promising tone for future international competitions.

Foot notes:


- **Match Details:** The Indian pair won the sets 11-8, 8-11, 11-8, and 11-7, showcasing their tactical superiority and composure under pressure. The match lasted just over 30 minutes.
- **Strong Comeback:** In the quarterfinals, Bhattacharjee and Pradhivadhi made a remarkable comeback from 0-2 down to beat Japan's Kazuki Yoshiyama and Iran's Benyamin Faraji 3-2.
- **Ankur's Singles Performance:** Ankur Bhattacharjee also participated in the singles event, winning his first match against Korea's Lee Seungsoo 3-0 but losing to Japan's Yoshiyama 0-3 in the quarterfinals.
- **India's Dominance:** This win extends India's streak of winning at least one title at the WTT Youth Star Contender events for the fourth consecutive year, highlighting the country's growing presence in international table tennis.

SSC All Exams Test Series

- ◆ 150+ Full Length Tests
- ◆ English & Hindi Medium
- ◆ Designed by IBT Experts

[→ BUY NOW](#)

~~₹ 669~~
₹ 334
UP TO 50% OFF



China Clinches 14th Sudirman Cup Title

China secured its 14th Sudirman Cup title with a dominant performance in the prestigious mixed team badminton championship. The final match saw China defeating South Korea with a clean 3-0 victory, showcasing their depth and skill across all disciplines. With this win, China further cemented its legacy as the most successful nation in Sudirman Cup history. Star players delivered stellar performances, reflecting the country's strong badminton infrastructure and consistent talent development. The victory also highlighted China's strategic prowess and team unity, crucial in such a high-pressure tournament. This triumph reinforces China's position at the pinnacle of world badminton and boosts their momentum ahead of future global competitions.

Foot notes:

- **Record 14th Title:** China won a record 14th Sudirman Cup title by defeating South Korea 3-1 in the 2025 final, further solidifying their dominance in badminton.
- **Fourth Consecutive Win:** This victory marks China's fourth consecutive Sudirman Cup title, showcasing their consistency and depth in the sport.
- **Final Match Details:** The final match against South Korea lasted 229 minutes, with China ultimately emerging victorious.
- **Tournament Legacy:** China's first Sudirman Cup title was in 1995 in Lausanne, Switzerland, and they've gone on to win 13 more titles since then.

- Venue: The 2025 Sudirman Cup final was held in Xiamen, China, where the host nation put on a stellar performance to claim the championship.

Karnataka leads medal tally with four gold & five silver medals in Khelo India Youth Games

Karnataka has surged to the top of the medal tally at the Khelo India Youth Games 2025, currently underway in Bihar. The state's athletes have clinched a total of nine medals—four gold and five silver—demonstrating exceptional performances across multiple disciplines. Delhi follows in second place with six medals, including two golds, while Rajasthan holds third with three medals, two of which are gold. The Games, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, are being hosted across Bihar, with shooting, cycling, and gymnastics events taking place in New Delhi. Karnataka's early dominance underscores the state's growing investment in youth sports and grassroots development.

Foot notes:

- Top Performances: Karnataka's swimmers have been dominating, securing four gold medals in the BIPARD Swimming Pool in Gaya. Krish Sukumar won the boys' 100m Breaststroke, Manvi Verma won the girls' 100m breaststroke and 50m butterfly events, and Sri Charani Tumu won the girls' 800m Freestyle.
- Other Medal Winners: Delhi is in second place with 2 gold medals, 1 silver, and 1 bronze, while Maharashtra is in third place with 1 gold, 1 silver, and 5 bronze medals.
- Competition Progress: The Khelo India Youth Games are being held in multiple venues, with events in shooting, cycling, gymnastics, swimming, and other sports. The games feature athletes from across the country, showcasing India's diverse sporting talent.
- Medal Events: Various medal events have been concluded, including the Mixed Team 10m Air Pistol, where Rajasthan won gold, and the archery competitions, where Maharashtra has shown dominance in several categories.

Indian Railways Triumphs in 6th Arjan Singh Memorial Hockey Tournament 2025

Indian Railways clinched the title at the 6th Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Memorial Hockey Tournament 2025, held at the Raghbir Singh Bhola Hockey Stadium in Chandigarh. In a gripping final against Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala, the match ended in a 1-1 draw during regulation time, leading to a penalty shootout where Indian Railways triumphed 3-1. The tournament, conducted from April 29 to May 6, featured 12 teams, including international participants, and was organized to honor the legacy of Marshal Arjan Singh, a revered figure in Indian military history.

Foot notes:

- Tournament Details: The 6th edition of the Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Memorial Hockey Tournament 2025 was held from April 29 to May 6, 2025, at the Raghbir Singh Bhola Hockey Stadium in Chandigarh.

- Participating Teams: Twelve elite teams, including 11 from India and one from Bangladesh, participated in the tournament.
- Importance: The tournament provides a platform for teams to showcase their skills and compete for the coveted title, promoting the sport of hockey in India.

Shambhavi Kshirsagar won Gold in 10m Air Rifle at Khelo India Youth Games

Maharashtra's Shambhavi Shravan Kshirsagar clinched the gold medal in the 10m Air Rifle Women Youth final at the Khelo India Youth Games, scoring 251.3 points at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi. She narrowly edged out Punjab's Lavanya Rawat, who secured silver with 249.6 points, while Karnataka's Hrudya Shri Kondur took bronze with 228.8 points. This victory adds to Shambhavi's impressive achievements, including a double gold at the 23rd Kumar Surendra Singh Memorial Shooting Championship, where she triumphed over seasoned competitors like Olympic finalist Ramita and world championship medallist Mehuli Ghosh.

Foot notes:

- Actual Achievement: Shambhavi Kshirsagar won a bronze medal in the 10m Air Rifle Women Junior category at the ISSF Junior Rifle/Pistol 10m Finals in Granada, Spain, not gold in the Khelo India Youth Games as stated.
- Competition Level: She has competed at the international level, showcasing her talent in events like the ISSF Junior World Cup and ISSF Junior Rifle/Pistol 10m Finals.
- Medal Wins: Shambhavi has won medals in prestigious competitions, including a bronze in the 10m Air Rifle Women Junior category and potentially other medals in team events.
- Team Success: As part of the Indian women's 10m air rifle team, she contributed to setting a new junior world record with a combined score of 1894.8, winning gold in the process.
- Sporting Excellence: Shambhavi's achievements demonstrate her dedication and skill in shooting sports, making her a notable figure in Indian junior shooting.

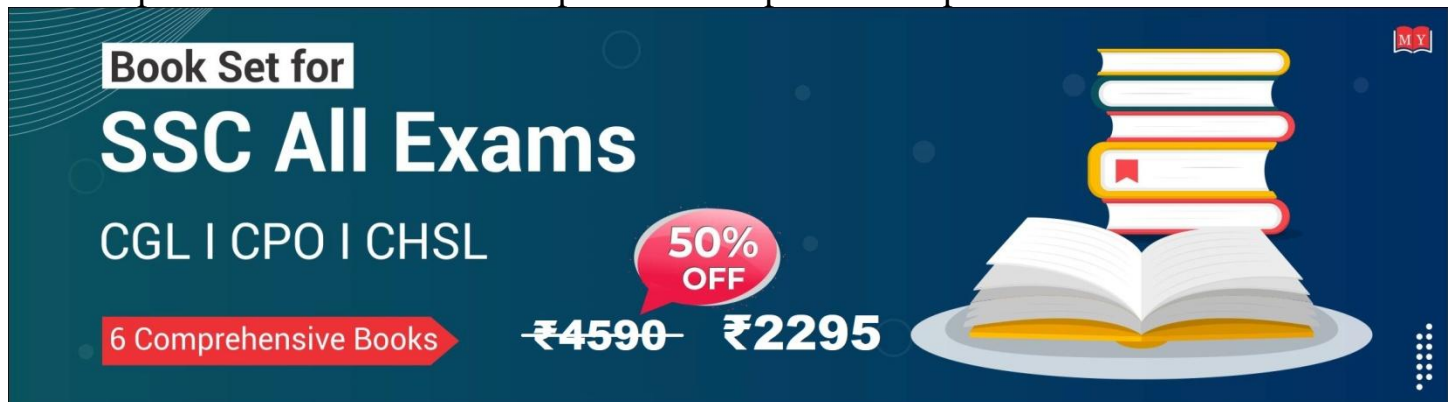
Ayush Kumar's Grit Shines in Bihar's Silver Triumph at Khelo India Youth Games

Fourteen-year-old Ayush Kumar showcased remarkable resilience at the Khelo India Youth Games 2025, leading Bihar to a historic silver medal in Sepak Takraw just hours after the passing of his 78-year-old grandfather. Despite the personal tragedy, Ayush competed in the third regu of the men's team final against Manipur, demonstrating unwavering focus and determination. His 19-year-old sister, Khusbu, also a Sepak Takraw player, supported him from the sidelines, managing her grief to ensure Ayush remained composed during the match.

Foot notes:

- Ayush Kumar's Resilience: 14-year-old Ayush Kumar showed remarkable grit and determination in the Khelo India Youth Games 2025, contributing significantly to Bihar's silver medal win in Sepak Takraw despite learning about his grandfather's passing.

- **Sepak Takraw Debut:** Sepak Takraw made its debut in the Khelo India Youth Games, drawing packed crowds and showcasing the sport's rising popularity in Bihar.
- **Men's Final:** Bihar's team, led in part by Ayush's efforts, narrowly lost to Manipur in the men's final, securing a silver medal.
- **Inspiring Others:** Ayush, who has been practicing Sepak Takraw for only four years, hopes his achievement will inspire others to pursue the sport as a career.



Rohit Sharma retires from Test Cricket

Rohit Sharma, India's Test captain, has announced his retirement from Test cricket at the age of 38, effective immediately. This decision follows the selectors' move to replace him as captain ahead of the upcoming England tour, after a period of declining form that saw him average just 10.93 over the past year. Sharma's Test career spanned 67 matches, during which he amassed 4,301 runs at an average of 40.57, including 12 centuries. Despite stepping away from the longest format, he will continue to represent India in One-Day Internationals, aiming to contribute to the team's success in the 2027 World Cup. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) acknowledged his contributions, calling it the end of an era.

Foot notes:

- **Retirement Announcement:** Rohit Sharma announced his retirement from Test cricket on May 7, 2025, via an Instagram post, sharing a picture of his Test cap.
- **Reason and Timing:** The retirement comes ahead of India's Test series against England, starting on June 20, 2025, and follows Rohit's underwhelming performance in the 2024-25 Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia.
- **Career Statistics:** Rohit played 67 Test matches, scoring 4,301 runs with 12 centuries and 18 fifties at an average of 40.57. He also captained India in 24 Tests.
- **Continuing ODI Career:** Rohit confirmed he will continue to represent India in the ODI format, ensuring his presence in the team for upcoming limited-overs matches.

Graham Arnold Appointed as Iraq's New Football Coach

Graham Arnold, former head coach of Australia's national football team, is set to be officially appointed as the new head coach of Iraq's national team this weekend, according to the Iraqi Football Association (IFA). Arnold, who led Australia to the round of 16 at the 2022 World Cup, will replace Spaniard Jesus Casas, who was dismissed in March following a 2-1 defeat to

Palestine. That loss left Iraq in third place in their group for the 2026 World Cup qualifiers, just outside the automatic qualification spots. Arnold will bring a full technical staff of seven coaches, including a notable assistant with English Premier League experience.

Foot notes:

- **Appointment and Objective:** Graham Arnold has been appointed as the new coach of Iraq's national team, aiming to guide the team through the 2026 World Cup qualifiers.
- **Experience:** Arnold brings extensive experience, having previously coached Australia's national team, leading them to the Round of 16 at the 2022 World Cup.
- **Contract Details:** His contract will reportedly run through the 2027 AFC Asian Cup, with a monthly salary structure and potential termination if Iraq fails to qualify for the World Cup.
- **Upcoming Challenges:** Arnold's first tests will be crucial World Cup qualifiers against South Korea and Jordan, scheduled for June.
- **Team's Potential:** Arnold believes Iraq has the quality to compete on the global stage and is motivated to help realize that potential.

Sabalenka beats Gauff to win Madrid Open 2025

World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka clinched her third Madrid Open title by defeating Coco Gauff 6–3, 7–6(3) in the 2025 women's singles final. This victory marks Sabalenka's 20th career WTA singles title and her third WTA 1000 title of the year, equaling Petra Kvitová's record for the most Madrid Open titles in the tournament's history . Sabalenka showcased her dominance by taking an early lead in the first set and overcoming a 3–5 deficit in the second to win the tiebreak. With this win, Sabalenka improved her 2025 record against top-10 players to 6–0, solidifying her position at the pinnacle of women's tennis .

Foot notes:

- **Final Score:** Sabalenka defeated Coco Gauff with a score of 6-3, 7-6(3) in the WTA 1000 final, held on May 3, 2025.
- **Third Madrid Title:** This victory marked Sabalenka's third Madrid Open title, tying Petra Kvitova's record for the most women's singles wins in the tournament's history.
- **20th WTA Singles Title:** The win was Sabalenka's 20th career WTA singles title, solidifying her position as a top player.
- **Strong Performance:** Sabalenka dominated the first set, winning 17 consecutive points at one stage to build a 4-1 lead, and eventually sealed the win in a closely contested second set tie-break.
- **Seasonal Lead:** With this title, Sabalenka leads the season with 31 match wins, ahead of Jessica Pegula's 27 wins, and also became the second player to win both Miami and Madrid in the same season, after Serena Williams in 2013.

Deepika, Parth Win Bronze as India Bags 7 Medals at Archery World Cup

At the 2025 Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Shanghai, Indian archers Deepika Kumari and Parth Salunkhe each secured bronze medals in the individual recurve events. Deepika triumphed over South Korea's Kang Chae-young with a 7-3 victory, marking her 12th individual World Cup medal and India's first in women's recurve this year. Parth clinched his maiden World Cup medal by defeating France's Baptiste Addis 6-4, showcasing composure in a tightly contested match. These achievements contributed to India's impressive total of seven medals at the event, comprising two golds, one silver, and four bronzes. The medal haul highlights the strength and depth of India's archery talent on the global stage.

Foot notes:

- Deepika Kumari's Bronze Medal: Deepika won her 12th Individual World Cup medal by defeating Korea's Kang Chaeyoung 7-3 in the bronze medal match of the women's recurve category.
- Parth Salunkhe's Maiden Medal: Parth Salunkhe claimed his first World Cup medal, a bronze, by beating France's Baptiste Addis 6-4 in the men's recurve category.
- India's Medal Tally: India concluded the 2025 Shanghai World Cup with 7 medals - 2 gold, 1 silver, and 4 bronze medals.
- Other Indian Medalists: The gold medals were won by Madhura Dhamangaonkar in women's individual compound and the men's compound team comprising Ojas Deotale, Abhishek Verma, and Rishabh Yadav.

Nirupama Devi Finishes 4th at Asian Weightlifting Championships

Nirupama Devi delivered an impressive performance at the Asian Weightlifting Championships, finishing in fourth place. Competing against elite athletes from across the continent, she showcased remarkable strength and determination. Although she narrowly missed out on a medal, her consistent lifts kept her among the top contenders. This result highlights her growing potential on the international stage. Her performance is a proud moment for Indian weightlifting and a promising sign for future competitions.

Foot notes:

- Final Ranking: She finished 4th in the competition, narrowly missing the bronze medal.
- Lift Details: Devi successfully lifted 91kg in snatch and 115kg in clean and jerk, totaling 206kg. However, she failed to lift 120kg and 125kg in the clean and jerk section, which cost her the bronze medal.
- Medal Winners: The gold medal was won by China's Li Shuang with a total lift of 239kg (105kg + 134kg), while the silver medal went to Elreen Ann Ando of the Philippines with a total lift of 232kg (102kg + 130kg). Mun Min-hee of South Korea took the bronze medal with a total lift of 214kg (94kg + 120kg).
- Indian Team Performance: India sent a two-member team to the championships, with Dilbag Singh set to compete in the men's 96kg event on Tuesday.

Kynan and Sabeera win Bronze in Mixed Trap Event at Shotgun World Cup

Olympian Kynan Chenai and Sabeera Haris clinched a bronze medal for India in the trap mixed team event at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup 2025 held in Nicosia, Cyprus. The Indian duo edged out Turkey's Tolga Tuncer and Pelin Kaya with a narrow 34-33 victory in the bronze-medal match at the Cyprus Olympic Shooting Range. In the qualification round, they secured fourth place among 34 teams, amassing a combined score of 142—Sabeera contributing 72 and Kynan 70. This bronze marks India's first medal at the tournament, with China taking gold and Poland securing silver in the event. The second Indian pair, Shardul Vihan and Kirti Gupta, finished 17th with a score of 137. Kynan and Sabeera's podium finish underscores India's growing prowess in international shooting competitions.

Foot notes:

- **Bronze Medal Win:** Kynan Chenai and Sabeera Haris secured the bronze medal by defeating Turkey's Tolga Tuncer and Rumeysa Pelin Kaya with a score of 34-33 in the bronze playoff match.
- **Qualification Round Performance:** The Indian pair finished fourth in the qualification round with a combined score of 142, behind Poland, China, and Turkey. Sabeera scored 72, while Kynan shot 70.
- **Kynan's Experience Key to Victory:** Kynan's international experience played a crucial role in the bronze match, as he shot 23 out of 25 targets, outperforming Turkey's Tolga who hit 17 targets.
- **India's First Shotgun Medal:** This bronze medal was India's first shotgun medal at the 2025 ISSF World Cup season, marking a significant achievement for the Indian shooting contingent.

Virat Kohli announces Retirement from Test Cricket

Indian cricket legend Virat Kohli has announced his retirement from Test cricket, concluding a remarkable 14-year career in the longest format of the game. The 36-year-old made the announcement on May 12, 2025, just days after fellow cricketer Rohit Sharma also stepped away from Test cricket. Kohli's Test career boasts 123 matches, during which he amassed 9,230 runs at an average of 46.85, including 30 centuries and 31 fifties. He served as India's Test captain from 2014 to 2022, leading the team to 40 victories in 68 matches, making him the most successful Indian Test captain and placing him fourth globally for most Test wins as captain. Kohli's retirement marks the end of an era for Indian cricket, as he follows closely on the heels of Rohit Sharma's departure from the format.

Foot notes:

- **Career Statistics:** Kohli played 113 Test matches, scoring 9,230 runs at an average of 48.67, including 30 centuries and 31 fifties. His highest score was an unbeaten 254 against South Africa in Pune.
- **Captaincy Legacy:** As Test captain, Kohli led India in 68 matches, winning 40 — the most by any Indian captain. Under his leadership, India reached two consecutive ICC World Test Championship finals and climbed to the No. 1 Test ranking.

- Following Rohit Sharma's Footsteps: Kohli's retirement comes just a week after fellow senior player Rohit Sharma announced his retirement from Test cricket, both informing the BCCI of their decisions before the upcoming Test series against England.
- Future Plans: Although Kohli has retired from Test cricket and previously from T20 cricket after India's T20 World Cup triumph, he is expected to continue playing ODIs, where he has amassed a record-breaking 51 centuries.

India won Women's ODI Tri-Series

India clinched the 2025 Women's Tri-Nation ODI Series title with a commanding 97-run victory over Sri Lanka in the final held at the R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo. Vice-captain Smriti Mandhana led the charge with a brilliant 116 off 101 balls, marking her 11th ODI century and propelling India to a formidable total of 342/7. The Indian bowling attack, spearheaded by Sneha Rana and Amanjot Kaur, dismantled the Sri Lankan batting lineup, sharing seven wickets between them. Rana's exceptional performance throughout the tournament, claiming 15 wickets in five matches, earned her the 'Player of the Series' accolade. This tri-series, featuring India, Sri Lanka, and South Africa, served as a crucial preparation ahead of the upcoming Women's Cricket World Cup.

Foot notes:

- Final Match Result: India Women defeated Sri Lanka Women by 97 runs in the final match held on May 11, 2025, at Colombo.
- Smriti Mandhana's Century: Smriti Mandhana scored her 11th ODI century, hitting a hat-trick of boundaries to reach the mark off 92 balls, playing a crucial role in India's victory.
- India's Dominance: India won three out of four matches, topping the points table with 6 points, while Sri Lanka Women secured two wins and South Africa Women lost all three matches.
- Key Players' Performance: Tazmin Brits scored a magnificent century for South Africa Women in a losing cause against India, while Sneha Rana took 5-43 in the same match, earning her the player of the match award.
- Tournament Significance: This tri-series is part of the buildup for the ICC Women's World Cup in India, showcasing the teams' preparations and skills in the lead-up to the major tournament.



Punjab Police Sub-Inspector

Video & Test

330+ Video Lectures | 20+ Mock Tests
Weekly Live Doubt Session

50% Off ₹ 9299 **₹ 4614**

Gautam Gambhir Set to Become Head Coach of Indian Test Team

Gautam Gambhir has been appointed as the head coach of the Indian men's cricket team, succeeding Rahul Dravid in July 2024. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) confirmed his appointment, entrusting him with the responsibility of leading the team across all formats. Gambhir, a former opener and key member of India's 2007 T20 World Cup and 2011 ODI World Cup-winning squads, brings a wealth of experience to the role. His coaching tenure began with a significant achievement, guiding India to victory in the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy, marking the team's first ICC title since 2013.

Foot notes:

- **Tenure:** Gambhir will take charge from the upcoming away series against Sri Lanka, which includes 3 ODIs and 3 T20Is starting July 27, 2024, and his focus will be on developing a culture of excellence, discipline, and teamwork.
- **Experience:** Gambhir brings a wealth of experience and a deep understanding of the game, having been a pivotal figure in Indian cricket with crucial performances in the 2007 ICC World T20 and the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup.
- **Conditions:** Gambhir reportedly wants full control over cricket operations for Team India, a separate team dedicated to Test cricket, and to begin planning for the 2027 ODI World Cup right away, among other conditions.

Kirti Patel won big against Dhairya Yadav at All India Chess Masters

Kirti Patel secured a remarkable victory against Dhairya Yadav at the All India Chess Masters. Displaying sharp tactics and strategic depth, Kirti dominated the board from the early stages. Her opening play put Dhairya on the defensive, forcing several inaccuracies. Midgame pressure and positional mastery led to a significant material advantage. Despite a resilient defense by Dhairya, Kirti converted her lead confidently. This win marks a major highlight in Kirti Patel's growing chess career.

Foot notes:

- **Tournament Name:** The match was held at the All India Chess Masters FIDE Rating tournament in Mumbai.
- **Winner and Loser:** Woman Candidate Master (WCM) Kirti Patel won against Dhairya Yadav with a score of 1-0.
- **Kirti Patel's Profile:** Kirti Patel is a Woman Candidate Master with a FIDE rating of 1695 in standard chess, 1737 in rapid chess, and 1605 in blitz chess.
- **Performance:** Kirti Patel gave a commanding performance to beat Dhairya Yadav in the tournament.
- **Tournament Details:** The All India Chess Masters tournament is one of many chess events happening in India, with various tournaments organized by the All India Chess Federation.

Jeevan Tara won a gold medal in 13th Senior National Pencak Silat Championship 2025

Jeevan Tara from Arunachal Pradesh clinched the gold medal in the 45kg category at the 13th Senior National Pencak Silat Championship 2025, held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. This victory marks a historic milestone, as he became the first athlete from Arunachal Pradesh to secure a gold medal in the senior national Pencak Silat competition. The championship featured participation from over 30 states, highlighting the competitive nature of the event. Alongside Jeevan's achievement, fellow Arunachali athletes Meko Liyak and Atta Tayung earned bronze medals in the 60kg and 50kg categories, respectively.

Foot notes:

- **Historic Win:** Jeevan Tara from Arunachal Pradesh made history by becoming the first athlete from the state to win a gold medal in the Senior National Pencak Silat Championship.
- **Championship Details:** The 13th Senior National Pencak Silat Championship 2025 was held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, from May 9 to 13, 2025.
- **Weight Category:** Jeevan Tara won the gold medal in the 45 kg category, showcasing his exceptional skills in Pencak Silat.
- **Achievement:** This achievement marks a significant milestone in Arunachal Pradesh's sporting history and serves as an inspiration for aspiring martial artists across the state.
- **State Pride:** Jeevan Tara's win has brought pride to Arunachal Pradesh, with officials and sports enthusiasts lauding his dedication, discipline, and rigorous training.

India Seal Top Spot In Group B With 4-0 Win Over Nepal in SAFF U19 C'ship

India's U19 football team secured the top position in Group B of the 2025 SAFF U19 Championship with a commanding 4-0 victory over Nepal at the Golden Jubilee Stadium in Yupia, Arunachal Pradesh. Rohen Singh Chaphamayum led the charge with goals in the 28th and 76th minutes, while local talent Omang Dodum and Danny Meitei added to the tally in the 29th and 84th minutes, respectively. The hosts dominated the match, scoring two goals in each half, and concluded the group stage with a perfect record of six points and a goal difference of +12. This victory highlights India's strong performance and sets the stage for an exciting semi-final clash.

Foot notes:

- **Comprehensive Victory:** India sealed the top spot in Group B with a convincing 4-0 win over Nepal in the SAFF U19 Championship.
- **Goal Scorers:** Rohen Singh Chaphamayum scored a brace, while Omang Dodum and Danny Meitei added one goal each to India's tally. Rohen scored in the 28th and 76th minutes, Omang in the 29th minute, and Danny in the 84th minute.
- **Group B Standings:** India finished Group B with perfect six points from two matches, boasting a goal difference of 12. Nepal finished second with three points.
- **Semi-Final Matchup:** India will face Maldives, the runners-up of Group A, in the semi-finals on May 16. Nepal, on the other hand, will play against Bangladesh, the winners of Group A.

- **Tournament Performance:** India's dominant performance showcased their strength in the tournament, setting the stage for a strong semi-final appearance.

Srihari LR Becomes India's 86th Chess Grandmaster

Srihari L R has achieved the prestigious title of becoming India's 86th Chess Grandmaster. He secured this milestone after a series of strong performances in international tournaments. Srihari's consistent play and strategic mastery earned him the final GM norm required for the title. His accomplishment adds to India's growing reputation as a global chess powerhouse. With this achievement, Srihari joins the elite group of Indian chess players who have brought pride to the nation.

Foot notes:

- **Tournament Details:** The championship was held in Al-Ain, United Arab Emirates, from May 6 to 15, 2025, where Srihari scored 5.5/9 points.
- **Requirements:** To earn the Grandmaster title, Srihari had to meet two main requirements: attain a minimum FIDE Elo rating of 2500 points and secure three Grandmaster norms in international competitions. He crossed the Elo rating requirement at the 2024 Dubai Open and earned his norms at the Budapest GM Round-Robin in August 2023, the 2023 Qatar Masters in October 2023, and the Asian Individual Men's Chess Championship 2025.
- **India's Chess Legacy:** Srihari's achievement continues India's legacy in chess, following in the footsteps of legendary players like Viswanathan Anand, who became the country's first Grandmaster in 1988.

Former England Selector Ed Smith appointed as MCC's next President

Former England cricketer and national selector Ed Smith has been appointed as the next President of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC). He will assume the role on October 1, 2025, for a 12-month term, succeeding Lord King of Lothbury. Smith's cricketing career spanned 13 seasons, during which he played for Kent, Middlesex, and England, amassing nearly 13,000 first-class runs, including 34 centuries. During his presidency, Lord's will host significant events, including the final of the 2026 ICC Women's T20 World Cup and its first-ever Women's Test match.

Foot notes:

- **Appointment:** Ed Smith, a former England men's cricket selector, has been appointed as the President of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) for a one-year term starting October 1, 2025.
- **Appointment Process:** Smith was appointed by Lord King of Lothbury, the current MCC President, at the MCC Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at Lord's Cricket Ground in London.
- **Background:** As a former England selector, Ed Smith brings significant cricket expertise to the role, which will likely influence MCC's strategic decisions and initiatives.

- **Role Significance:** The MCC President plays a key role in representing the club and contributing to the development of cricket globally, making Smith's appointment notable in the cricket community.

Pankaj Advani Clinches 2025 CCI Billiards Classic Title

Pankaj Advani clinched his third consecutive CCI Billiards Classic title in 2025, defeating Dhruv Sitwala 5–2 in the final held at the Cricket Club of India in Mumbai . The match saw Advani overcoming a slow start, leveling the game at 2–2 before dominating the remaining frames. This victory adds to Advani's illustrious career, which includes 28 world titles across billiards and snooker. He received a prize of 2.5 lakh, while Sitwala took home 1.5 lakh as the runner-up. Advani's consistent performance solidifies his status as a legend in Indian cue sports.

Foot notes:

- **Title Win:** Pankaj Advani won the CCI Billiards Classic 2025 title for the third consecutive time, defeating Dhruv Sitwala 5-2 in the final.
- **Tournament Details:** The final match was held at the Wilson Jones Billiards Hall of the Cricket Club of India (CCI) in Mumbai, showcasing high-intensity billiards.
- **Performance:** Advani was not at his best in the first three frames but seized the opportunity when Sitwala faltered, capitalizing with a 145 break to level the match at 2-2. He then won the next three frames to seal the title.
- **Prize Money:** Advani earned Rs. 2.5 lakh for his victory, while Sitwala took home Rs. 1.5 lakh for his efforts.
- **Achievements:** This win marks another milestone in Advani's illustrious career, with 28 World Championship titles across cue sports.



Punjab Police Sub-Inspector

Video & Test

330+ Video Lectures | 20+ Mock Tests
Weekly Live Doubt Session

50% Off ₹ 9299 **₹ 4614**

BUY NOW

ICC Boosts Test Cricket with Doubling of WTC Final Prize Pool

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced a significant increase in the prize money for the 2025 World Test Championship (WTC) Final, aiming to bolster the prestige of Test cricket. The total prize pool now stands at a record \$5.76 million, more than double that of previous editions. The winning team will receive \$3.6 million, a 125% increase from the \$1.6 million awarded to Australia in 2023, while the runners-up will earn \$2.16 million, up from \$800,000 in the previous edition . This substantial financial boost underscores the ICC's commitment to revitalizing interest in the longest format of the game.

Foot notes:

- **Record Prize Money:** The ICC has announced a record-breaking prize money of \$3.6 million for the winner of the World Test Championship (WTC) Final 2023-25, which is more than double the amount awarded in previous editions.
- **Winners and Runners-up:** The winners of the WTC Final, to be played between South Africa and Australia at Lord's starting June 11, 2025, will take home \$3.6 million, while the runners-up will earn over \$2.1 million.
- **Comparison to Previous Editions:** The prize money for the winners has been doubled from \$1.6 million, which was awarded to New Zealand in 2021 and Australia in 2023. The runners-up prize money has also increased significantly from \$800,000.
- **ICC's Commitment:** The increase in prize money reflects the ICC's efforts to prioritize Test cricket and build on the momentum of the first three cycles of the nine-team competition.

Miss Estonia Creates History by Winning Miss World 2025 Sports Challenge in Hyderabad

Eliise Randmaa of Estonia made history by winning the gold medal at the Miss World 2025 Sports Challenge, held at Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad on May 17. This victory marks Estonia's first-ever win in this fast-track event, securing Randmaa an automatic spot in the Top 40 of the competition. Competing as part of the Blue Team, she outperformed contestants from over 100 countries, including runner-up Aurélie Joachim from the Americas and Caribbean region. The Sports Challenge is a significant segment of the Miss World pageant, testing the physical fitness and endurance of participants.

Foot notes:

- **Location and Context:** Estonia is a country in Northern Europe, and its representative, Eliise Randmaa, has made history by winning the Miss World 2025 Sports Challenge.
- **Achievement:** Eliise Randmaa's victory marked Estonia's first advancement to the next round of the Miss World pageant in over two decades, specifically since 1999.
- **Significance:** This win is significant not only for Estonia but also for Randmaa, who secured a direct entry into the Top 40 quarter-finalists of the Miss World competition.
- **Cultural Representation:** Estonia's participation in the Miss World pageant showcases its cultural presence on a global platform, highlighting the country's beauty, athleticism, and cultural heritage.
- **Eliise Randmaa's Performance:** Randmaa's win in the sports challenge demonstrates her physical fitness, mental agility, sportsmanship, and resilience, making her a standout representative of Estonia.

India Clinches SAFF U-19 Title Against Bangladesh

India clinched the 2025 SAFF U-19 Championship title by defeating Bangladesh 4-3 in a dramatic penalty shootout after a 1-1 draw in regulation time at the Golden Jubilee Stadium in Yupia, Arunachal Pradesh. Captain Singamayum Shami gave India an early lead with a stunning free-kick in the second minute, but Bangladesh equalized in the 61st minute through substitute Md Joy Ahamed. The match proceeded to penalties, where India initially trailed 2-3 before rallying to secure victory, with Shami converting the decisive spot-kick. This triumph marked India's fourth SAFF U-19 title and extended their unbeaten record against Bangladesh in SAFF finals to four. The win was celebrated by a 13,000-strong home crowd, highlighting the rising enthusiasm for youth football in India.

Foot notes:

- **Thrilling Final:** India won the SAFF U-19 Championship title by defeating Bangladesh 4-3 in a penalty shootout after the match ended 1-1 in regular time.
- **Goalkeeper's Brilliance:** India goalkeeper Suraj Singh Aheibam made crucial saves during the penalty shootout, including denying Salahuddin Sahed's effort, to help seal the win.
- **Tournament Performance:** India's victory marked their fourth SAFF U-19 Championship title, demonstrating the team's dominance in the region and highlighting the emerging talent in Indian youth football.
- **Match Details:** The final match was played at the Golden Jubilee Stadium in Yupia, Arunachal Pradesh, India, from May 9-18, 2025, with six national teams participating in the tournament.

Paolini beats Gauff in Rome to become first Italian winner

Jasmine Paolini made history by becoming the first Italian woman in 40 years to win the Italian Open, defeating Coco Gauff 6–4, 6–2 in the final at Rome's Foro Italico. The 29-year-old showcased exceptional tactical play and composure, capitalizing on Gauff's 55 unforced errors and seven double faults to secure the title in just 89 minutes. This victory marks Paolini's second WTA 1000 title and propels her into the top four of the WTA rankings, solidifying her status as a leading contender on clay courts. Paolini's win not only ends a four-decade wait for an Italian champion in Rome but also highlights the resurgence of Italian tennis on the global stage.

Foot notes:

- **Historic Victory:** Jasmine Paolini defeated Coco Gauff 6-4, 6-2 in the Italian Open final, becoming the first Italian woman to win the tournament in 40 years, since Raffaella Reggi in 1985.
- **Impressive Performance:** Paolini dominated the match, converting five of seven break points and producing 12 winners, while Gauff struggled with 55 unforced errors and double faults.
- **Career Milestone:** This victory marked Paolini's second WTA 1000 title, following her win at the 2024 Dubai Tennis Championships, and her third WTA singles title overall.

- **Ranking Boost:** Paolini is projected to rise to No. 4 in the world rankings, overtaking Iga Swiatek, and will likely secure a top 4 seeding at the upcoming French Open.
- **Doubles Final:** Paolini and her partner Sara Errani will play in the women's doubles final on Sunday, aiming to defend their title and make Paolini the first player to sweep the singles and doubles titles at a WTA 1000 event since Vera Zvonareva in 2009.

Manika Batra's Dominant Win Highlights Indian Table Tennis at World Championships

Manika Batra delivered a dominant performance at the World Table Tennis Championships, showcasing her skill and determination. She defeated higher-ranked opponents with ease, reinforcing her status as India's top female paddler. Her aggressive playing style and precision shots drew praise from both fans and experts. Batra's win not only boosted her individual ranking but also brought attention to India's growing strength in international table tennis. Her success serves as an inspiration for young players across the country.

Foot notes:

- **Manika Batra's Victory:** Manika Batra, seeded 22nd, won 4-0 against Nigeria's Fatima Bello in the women's singles fixture, which lasted only 24 minutes. The scores were 11-5, 11-6, 11-8, and 11-2.
- **Manav Thakkar's Win:** India's top-ranked male singles player, Manav Thakkar, also had a strong start, defeating New Zealand's Timothy Choi 4-1 with scores 11-3, 11-8, 6-11, 11-7, and 14-12.
- **Mixed Results for India:** While Manika and Manav advanced, other Indian players like G Sathiyam and Ankur Bhattacharjee had disappointing outings, losing in the first round.
- **Doubles Performance:** The ninth-seeded pair of Manush Shah and Diya Chitale won 3-0 against Algeria's Mehdi Bouloussa and Malissa Nasri in doubles action.

Akani Simbine Shines Bright With Wind-Aided 9.86s Victory at Atlanta City Games

South African sprinter Akani Simbine continued his impressive 2025 season by winning the men's 100m at the Atlanta City Games with a wind-assisted time of 9.86 seconds. Although the tailwind exceeded the legal limit for record purposes, the performance underscored Simbine's dominance on the track. This victory adds to his undefeated streak this year, which includes wins at two Diamond League events and a bronze medal at the World Indoor Championships. Simbine also anchored South Africa's 4x100m relay team to a historic gold at the World Relays in Guangzhou.

Foot notes:

- **Wind-Aided Victory:** Akani Simbine won the 100m dash with a wind-aided time of 9.86 seconds, showcasing his exceptional speed and skill.
- **Historic Achievement:** Simbine's win marks a historic milestone, as he becomes the first athlete to run sub-10 seconds in the 100m for 11 consecutive years, breaking Usain Bolt's record.

- **Current Form:** This victory is part of Simbine's impressive 2025 campaign, which includes two Diamond League wins and a world-leading time of 9.90 seconds from the Botswana Golden Grand Prix.
- **Upcoming Challenges:** Simbine's focus now shifts to the World Championships in Tokyo and the Olympics, where he aims to capture the global sprint gold that has eluded him in past major events.

Carlos Alcaraz Clinches First Italian Open Title in Style

Carlos Alcaraz clinched his maiden Italian Open title with a commanding 7-6(5), 6-1 victory over World No. 1 Jannik Sinner, ending the Italian's 26-match winning streak. The 22-year-old Spaniard showcased exceptional tactical discipline and mental resilience, saving two set points in the first set before dominating the second. This triumph marks Alcaraz's seventh Masters 1000 title and 19th career title, solidifying his reputation as a formidable force on clay courts. With this victory, Alcaraz ascends to World No. 2 and emerges as a leading contender for the upcoming French Open.

Foot notes:

- **First Italian Open Title:** Carlos Alcaraz won his first-ever Italian Open title by defeating Jannik Sinner 7-6 (5), 6-1 in the final on May 18, 2025.
- **Dominance on Clay:** This victory marks Alcaraz's 7th Masters 1000 title and solidifies his dominance on clay courts, especially ahead of the 2025 French Open.
- **Head-to-Head Record:** Alcaraz now leads the head-to-head rivalry against Sinner 7-4, having won four consecutive matches against the Italian player.
- **Sinner's Streak Ends:** Alcaraz's win ended Sinner's impressive 26-match winning streak, with Sinner having won 40 of his last 41 matches prior to this loss.

First-Ever Khelo India Beach Games Inaugurated In Diu

The inaugural Khelo India Beach Games commenced on May 19, 2025, at Ghoghla Beach in Diu, marking a significant expansion of India's sports initiatives into coastal disciplines. Union Sports Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the event, emphasizing its role in promoting youth development and employment opportunities through sports. The Games feature over 1,350 athletes from more than 30 states and Union Territories, competing in six medal events: beach soccer, beach volleyball, beach kabaddi, beach sepak takraw, pencak silat, and open water swimming.

Foot notes:

- **Participating Athletes:** Over 1,000 athletes from 36 states and union territories are participating in the games, competing in six medal events: beach soccer, beach volleyball, beach kabaddi, beach sepak takraw, pencak silat, and open water swimming.
- **Demonstration Sports:** In addition to the medal events, two demonstration sports - mallakhamb and tug-of-war - are also being featured during the games, showcasing India's rich sporting diversity.

- **Objective:** The Khelo India Beach Games aim to boost the popularity and reach of beach-based disciplines, promoting sports competition and talent development across the country. Prime Minister Modi described the event as a watershed moment in India's sporting history.
- **Duration and Venue:** The games are being held at Ghoghla Beach in Diu from May 19 to 24, 2025, and feature teams from across the country, with coastal teams like Goa and Gujarat already making their presence felt in the competitions.

India's Adriyan Karmakar Bags Silver Medal At ISSF Junior World Cup

Adriyan Karmakar, a 20-year-old Indian shooter and son of Olympian Joydeep Karmakar, made a remarkable debut at the ISSF Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany, by clinching a silver medal in the men's 50m rifle prone event. He achieved a score of 626.7, narrowly missing the gold by just 0.3 points to Sweden's Jesper Johansson, who scored 627.0. This performance not only marked India's first medal at the tournament but also set a new junior national record in the event. His success continues the legacy of his father and underscores the rising prominence of Indian shooters on the global stage.

Foot notes:

- **Junior National Record:** Adriyan's performance set a new junior national record in the men's 50m rifle prone event with a score of 626.7.
- **Competition Details:** The ISSF Junior World Cup features over 630 athletes from 59 countries, including all the strong nations in shooting sports. The competition includes 17 Olympic and non-Olympic events.
- **Indian Contingent:** A 57-member Indian contingent is participating in the tournament, accompanied by 21 officials, including coaches and support staff. Other notable Indian shooters include Olympian Raiza Dhillon and mixed team trap bronze medalist Sabeera Harris.
- **Adriyan's Background:** Adriyan Karmakar is the son of former Indian shooter and national coach Joydeep Karmakar. This achievement marks a significant milestone in Adriyan's shooting career, showcasing his talent and potential in the sport.

Haryana's Kanak Won India's First Gold Medal At ISSF Junior World Cup

Seventeen-year-old Kanak Budhwar from Haryana secured India's first gold medal at the ISSF Junior World Cup 2025 in Suhl, Germany, by winning the women's 10m air pistol event. She achieved a score of 239.0 in the 24-shot final, surpassing Moldova's two-time Olympian and reigning European champion, Anna Dulce, by 1.7 points. Kanak's victory was marked by a strong finish, including a crucial 10.5 shot that propelled her into the lead, followed by a series of high-scoring shots that solidified her top position. This triumph adds to her previous accomplishments, including a silver medal at the Junior World Championships in Lima last year.

Foot notes:

- Opponent: She defeated Anna Dulce, a two-time Olympian and reigning European champion from Moldova, by a margin of 1.7 points.
- Performance: Kanak showed remarkable composure in the final stages, hitting crucial high-scoring shots, including three high 10s and a 10.1, to secure the gold medal.
- Qualification: Kanak and fellow Indian shooter Prachi qualified for the final with scores of 572 and 571, respectively. While Prachi finished fifth, Kanak's consistent performance earned her the top spot.
- Mentorship: Kanak's victory is also attributed to her coach, Jitu Rai, a former Asian Games and World Cup medalist, who has been instrumental in her development as a shooter.

India's Raiza Dhillon secured a silver medal in the ISSF Junior World Cup 2025

Indian skeet shooter Raiza Dhillon clinched a silver medal at the 2025 ISSF Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany, marking a significant milestone in her shooting career. In the women's skeet final, Dhillon hit 51 out of 60 targets, finishing just behind Great Britain's Phoebe Bodley-Scott, who secured gold with 53 hits. This achievement is particularly noteworthy as it represents Dhillon's first individual ISSF World Cup medal at any level, achieved during her final year as a junior competitor. Earlier in the competition, she advanced to the final after a tense three-way shoot-off in the qualifiers, where she posted a score of 116.

Foot notes:

- Event and Location: Raiza Dhillon won a silver medal in the women's skeet event at the ISSF Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany.
- Score: She scored 51 targets in the 60-shot final, finishing behind Phoebe Bodley-Scott of Great Britain, who scored 53.
- Qualification: Raiza began the day in fourth place with a score of 71 after three qualifying rounds and then shot rounds of 22 and 23 to eventually qualify second.
- Medal Significance: This silver medal is Raiza's first individual ISSF World Cup medal at any level, showcasing her emerging talent in shooting sports.
- India's Medal Tally: The silver medal is India's third medal in the tournament, complementing Kanak's gold in the women's air pistol event.

Joe Root becomes Fastest to 13,000 Test Runs in Cricket

England's Joe Root has etched his name in cricket history by becoming the fastest player to reach 13,000 Test runs. He achieved this milestone during the one-off Test against Zimbabwe at Trent Bridge, Nottingham, reaching the mark in his 153rd match, surpassing the previous record held by Jacques Kallis, who took 159 matches to achieve the same feat. Root became the first English cricketer and the fifth overall to surpass 13,000 Test runs, joining the elite company of Sachin Tendulkar, Ricky Ponting, Jacques Kallis, and Rahul Dravid.

Foot notes:

- **Record-Breaking Achievement:** Joe Root has become the fastest player to score 13,000 Test runs in cricket history, achieving the feat in 153 matches.
- **Matches vs. Innings:** While Root is the fastest to reach 13,000 runs in terms of matches, Sachin Tendulkar remains the quickest in terms of innings, achieving the milestone in 266 innings. Root took 279 innings to reach the landmark.
- **England's First:** Root is the first English player to score 13,000 Test runs, solidifying his position as one of England's finest batsmen of all time.
- **Ranking Among Greats:** Root joins an elite group of cricketers who have crossed the 13,000-run mark, including Sachin Tendulkar, Ricky Ponting, Jacques Kallis, and Rahul Dravid.

Indian Javelin Thrower Neeraj Chopra Clinches Silver Medal At Janusz Kusocinski Memorial Meet

Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra secured a silver medal at the Janusz Kusocinski Memorial meet held on May 23, 2025, in Chorzów, Poland. Competing under challenging cold and wet conditions at the Silesian Stadium, Chopra delivered his best throw of 84.14 meters in his sixth and final attempt, moving from third to second place in the competition. Germany's Julian Weber clinched the gold with a throw of 86.12 meters, while Grenada's Anderson Peters took bronze with 83.24 meters.

Foot notes:

- **Silver Medal Achievement:** Neeraj Chopra secured a silver medal at the 2025 Janusz Kusocinski Memorial meet in Chorzów, Poland, with a throw of 84.14 meters in his sixth and final attempt.
- **Competition Results:** Julian Weber from Germany won the gold medal with a throw of 86.12 meters, while Anderson Peters of Grenada took the bronze medal with a throw of 83.24 meters.
- **Consistency:** This achievement marked Chopra's 22nd consecutive top-two finish since 2021, showcasing his remarkable consistency in the sport.
- **Next Event:** Neeraj Chopra's next competition will be the Ostrava Golden Spike meeting in the Czech Republic on June 24.
- **Event Details:** The Janusz Kusocinski Memorial meet is a World Athletics Continental Tour (Silver Level) event, which took place on May 23 in Chorzów, Poland.

Napoli Clinches Serie A Title in Dramatic Fashion

Napoli clinched the Serie A title in dramatic fashion, ending a decades-long wait for domestic glory. The team secured the championship with a crucial draw against Udinese, sparking wild celebrations among fans. Under the leadership of Luciano Spalletti, Napoli displayed consistent brilliance throughout the season. Key players like Victor Osimhen and Khvicha Kvaratskhelia

played pivotal roles in their title run. This triumph marks Napoli's first Serie A crown since the era of Diego Maradona in 1990.

Foot notes:

- Final Match Result: Napoli secured the Serie A title with a 2-0 victory over Cagliari in the final round, thanks to goals from Scott McTominay's stunning bicycle kick and Romelu Lukaku's solo effort.
- Title Race: Napoli edged out Inter Milan by a single point, despite Inter winning their final match 2-0 against Como. Napoli's victory ensured they didn't need to rely on Inter dropping points.
- Antonio Conte's Achievement: Coach Antonio Conte made history by becoming the first manager to win Serie A titles with three different clubs: Juventus, Inter Milan, and Napoli. This marks his fifth Scudetto win.
- Napoli's Dominance: The win marks Napoli's fourth Serie A title, with previous wins in 1986-87, 1989-90, and 2022-23. They have now secured their second title in three years, showcasing sustained performance.

Sri Lankan all-rounder Angelo Mathews retires from Test cricket

Sri Lankan cricket stalwart Angelo Mathews has announced his retirement from Test cricket, with his final appearance set for the first Test against Bangladesh in Galle on June 17, 2025. At 37, Mathews cited his decision as a move to "make way for young players". Over a distinguished 16-year career, he played 118 Tests, amassing 8,167 runs at an average of 44.62, including 16 centuries, and captained Sri Lanka in 34 matches. His retirement comes amid concerns over Sri Lanka's limited Test schedule, with only four matches slated for 2025.

Foot notes:

- Career Highlights: Mathews played 118 Tests for Sri Lanka, scoring 8,167 runs at an average of 44.62, with 16 centuries and 45 half-centuries. He also took 33 wickets and captained the team in 34 Test matches.
- Leadership and Legacy: Mathews led Sri Lanka to memorable victories, including a historic series win in England in 2014. His departure leaves a significant void in Sri Lanka's red-ball setup, given his resilience, composure under pressure, and leadership qualities.
- Continued Availability for White-Ball Cricket: Mathews has confirmed his availability for One-Day Internationals (ODIs) and T20Is, keeping the door open for future contributions to Sri Lanka's white-ball squads.
- Tribute from Sri Lanka Cricket: Sri Lanka Cricket hailed Mathews as a true servant of Test cricket, praising his 17 years of dedication, leadership, and inspirational presence, and wishing him well for the next phase of his career.

Indian Army officer Major Rohit Kadian shines in World Masters Games

Major Rohit Kadian of the Indian Army delivered an exceptional performance at the 11th World Masters Games in Taiwan, securing four medals across various track events. Competing in the 40–45 age category, he clinched a gold medal in the 1500m race, earning the title of world champion. Additionally, he won silver medals in the 800m and 5000m events, and a bronze in the 400m race. His achievements underscore not only his personal dedication and athletic prowess but also the resilience and discipline emblematic of the Indian Army.

Foot notes:

- Gold Medal: He won the gold medal in the 1500m race (40-45 age category) with a time of 4:31.72, earning the title of World Champion.
- Silver Medals: Major Kadian secured two silver medals in the 800m and 5000m races, finishing second in both events with times of 2:13.82 and 17:18.01, respectively.
- Bronze Medal: He also won a bronze medal in the 400m race, clocking 58.65 seconds in the final.
- Competition: Major Kadian competed against elite international athletes and former Olympians, showcasing his grit, determination, and world-class athleticism.

Monica Kezia Sembiring won talent finale at Miss World 2025

Monica Kezia Sembiring of Indonesia has won the Miss World 2025 Talent Final, held on May 22 at the Shilpakala Vedika in Hyderabad, Telangana. Her captivating piano performance earned her the top spot among 24 finalists selected from nearly 100 contestants worldwide. As the Talent Challenge winner, Monica secured a fast-track placement into the Top 10 of the Asia and Oceania continental group, significantly enhancing her prospects in the overall competition. Cameroon's Issie Princesse and Italy's Chiara Esposito were named first and second runners-up, respectively.

Foot notes:

- Winner of Talent Finale: Monica Kezia Sembiring, representing Indonesia, won the gold medal in the talent competition at Miss World 2025, securing one of the 10 spots allocated for delegates from Asia and Oceania in the quarterfinals.
- Piano Performance: She delivered a spectacular piano performance that blended Indian and Indonesian music, impressing the audience and judges at the Shilpakala Vedika in Hyderabad.
- Competition Highlights: The talent finale featured 24 finalists from different countries, showcasing diverse performances such as singing, dancing, and spoken word, highlighting various cultures.
- Ranking: Monica Kezia Sembiring took the top spot, followed by Issie Princesse from Cameroon in second place and Chiara Esposito from Italy in third place.

APPOINTMENT & PERSON IN NEWS

Shri Megh Nath Goyal appointed as Director (Technical), National Fertilizers Ltd.

Shri Megh Nath Goyal has been appointed as Director (Technical) at National Fertilizers Limited (NFL), a Schedule 'A' and Mini Ratna (Category-I) Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. An accomplished mechanical engineer, Shri Goyal holds a degree from Guru Nanak Dev Engineering College, Ludhiana, and a master's in engineering from the University of Roorkee. This appointment underscores NFL's commitment to strengthening its leadership team to drive innovation and growth in the fertilizer sector.

Foot notes:

- **Current Role:** Goyal is currently serving as Chief General Manager (Unit Head) at National Fertilizers Ltd.'s Nangal Unit.
- **Background:** Although specific details about Goyal's background are limited, his current role suggests he has significant experience in the fertilizer industry.
- **Responsibilities:** As Director (Technical), Goyal will likely oversee technical operations, maintenance, and projects at National Fertilizers Ltd., ensuring efficient production and implementation of new technologies.
- **National Fertilizers Ltd.:** The company is a prominent player in India's fertilizer sector, with a history dating back to its establishment.

Sudan Appoints Kamil Idris as First PM Since 2023 Civil War

Sudan has appointed Kamil Idris as its first Prime Minister since the 2023 civil war, marking a significant step towards political stabilization. Idris, a renowned diplomat and former Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), brings decades of international experience to the role. His appointment is seen as a move to restore governance and rebuild public trust in the nation's institutions. The civil war, which caused widespread displacement and economic turmoil, had left the country without a formal political leadership for an extended period. With Idris at the helm, Sudan aims to initiate peace talks, boost economic recovery, and foster international cooperation.

Foot notes:

- **Background of Kamil Idris:** Idris is a respected legal expert and diplomat who has served as Sudan's legal adviser at the UN mission and is a member of the UN International Law Commission. His neutral and non-partisan stance is expected to improve acceptance across factions.
- **Objectives:** The appointment aims to form a transitional government that may lead to elections and civilian rule, restore political legitimacy domestically and internationally, and serve as a counter to the RSF's Nairobi charter.
- **Humanitarian Crisis:** The conflict has resulted in a devastating humanitarian crisis, with over 20,000 deaths reported, 13 million displaced, and 4 million refugees fleeing to neighboring countries. Half of Sudan's 50 million population faces severe hunger and food insecurity.
- **Significance:** Idris's appointment is seen as a crucial step toward stabilizing Sudan's political landscape, with journalist Osman Mirghani noting that his lack of political

affiliations could increase his acceptance among various Sudanese communities, including RSF supporters.

Justice Kempaiah Somashekar Appointed as Chief Justice of MHC

Justice Kempaiah Somashekar has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court, effective May 22, 2025. His appointment follows the retirement of Justice D. Krishnakumar on May 21, 2025. Justice Somashekar began his legal career in 1990 and was directly appointed as a District and Sessions Judge in 1998. He served in various capacities, including as Registrar Judicial and Registrar Vigilance at the Karnataka High Court, before being elevated to the High Court bench as an Additional Judge in 2016 and becoming a Permanent Judge in 2018.

Foot notes:

- **Background:** Justice Somashekar is currently a judge of the Karnataka High Court. He will take charge as Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court after the retirement of Justice D. Krishnakumar on May 21, 2025.
- **Judicial Career:** Justice Somashekar began his judicial career as a District and Sessions Judge on June 17, 1998. He was elevated as an Additional Judge of the Karnataka High Court on November 14, 2016, and became a permanent judge on November 3, 2018.
- **Experience:** With over two decades of judicial experience, Justice Somashekar's appointment marks a significant development for the Manipur High Court, which has been grappling with a challenging law and order scenario.
- **Assumption of Charge:** Justice Somashekar will assume charge as Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court from the date he takes oath, succeeding Justice D. Krishnakumar.

Tamboli Ayyaj Fakirbhai appointed as Joint Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat

Tamboli Ayyaj Fakirbhai, a 2009-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the Chhattisgarh cadre, has been appointed as Joint Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat. His appointment, approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, is for a tenure of five years, effective until March 20, 2029. Prior to this elevation, he served as Director in the Cabinet Secretariat, bringing valuable experience to his new role. He succeeds M.S. Srikar, who has been reassigned as Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office on a lateral shift basis.

Foot notes:

- **Current Role:** Currently, he is serving as Director in the Cabinet Secretariat, a position he was appointed to on March 14, 2024, and relieved by the Chhattisgarh government on March 16, 2024.
- **Empanelment:** Fakirbhai was recently empanelled for holding Joint Secretary or equivalent positions in the Government of India on March 21, 2025, paving the way for his current appointment.

- Predecessor: He replaces M.S. Srikar, a 1999-batch IAS officer of the Karnataka cadre, who was recently appointed as Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office on a lateral shift basis.

Professor Nick Webborn appointed as Chair of UK Sport

Professor Nick Webborn, a distinguished sports medicine specialist, has been reappointed as Chair of the British Paralympic Association (BPA) following an open recruitment process. He has held this position since 2017, bringing extensive experience from his roles at 11 Paralympic Games, including serving as Chief Medical Officer for ParalympicsGB at London 2012 and as President at Tokyo 2020. Webborn is also a Clinical Professor of Sport and Exercise Medicine at the University of Brighton and serves on the International Paralympic Committee's Medical Committee. His reappointment aims to continue the BPA's strategic initiatives, ensuring that ParalympicsGB remains a leading nation in Paralympic sport and leverages athletic success to drive social change.

Foot notes:

- Background: Professor Webborn is a world-leading expert in sport and exercise medicine with extensive experience in high-performance sports. He has worked on 13 Paralympic Games and provided performance support to British athletes for decades.
- Previous Roles: Before his appointment, Professor Webborn served as Chair of the British Paralympic Association (BPA) since 2017 and recently stepped down after serving the maximum eight years. During his tenure, ParalympicsGB sustained its position near the top of successive Paralympic medal tables while embedding social impact as a cornerstone of their work.
- Expertise: As a renowned sports medicine specialist, Professor Webborn has published over 100 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. He was Chief Medical Officer for ParalympicsGB at the London 2012 Paralympics and for the Invictus Games 2014.

Rishi Verma appointed as Head Of AI Centre At FSS

Rishi Verma has been appointed as the Head of the Artificial Intelligence Centre at Financial Software & Systems (FSS), a prominent global provider of payment technology solutions. With nearly a decade of experience in innovation and intellectual property strategy, Verma has co-invented patents such as the AI-based "System and Method for Ocular Assistance" and has led analytics and commercialization initiatives across various technology sectors. An alumnus of Vellore Institute of Technology and BITS Pilani, he brings a multidisciplinary background in electrical engineering and data science to his new role.

Foot notes:

- Experience: Verma brings over 14 years of experience in AI/ML, analytics, and digital transformation, having led initiatives in Generative AI and built AI Centres of Excellence at organizations such as RBL Bank, Diebold Nixdorf, L&T Infotech, and FirstRand Bank.

- Role: As Head of AI-COE, Verma will focus on designing secure, scalable, and intelligent payment solutions while building enterprise-grade AI capabilities that align with global fintech demands.
- AI-Driven Initiatives: FSS has been actively enhancing its AI-driven initiatives, including strengthening fraud management capabilities and improving customer experience through digital intelligence.

Sanjay Banga appointed as MD & CEO of Tata Power Renewable Energy

Sanjay Banga has not been appointed as the Managing Director & CEO of Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL). Sanjay Banga currently serves as President of the Transmission and Distribution (T&D) vertical at Tata Power. He oversees operations across multiple regions, including Mumbai, Delhi, Ajmer, and the Odisha DISCOMs, as well as Tata Power Trading Company Limited and Powerlinks Transmission. With over three decades of experience in the power sector, Banga has held leadership roles at Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited and has contributed significantly to Tata Power's T&D growth strategy .

Foot notes:

- Background: Banga is currently the President of Transmission and Distribution at Tata Power, overseeing operations in Mumbai, Delhi, Ajmer, and Powerlinks Transmission.
- Previous Experience: Before joining Tata Power, Banga worked with Reliance Energy (formerly BSES Ltd) from 1996 to 2003 and started his career with National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) as an Engineer Trainee.
- Reason for Appointment: Banga's appointment comes after Deepesh Nanda's resignation as MD & CEO of TPREL due to personal commitments, effective May 31, 2025.
- Banga's expertise in power generation and distribution is expected to strengthen Tata Power's renewable energy initiatives.

Anwesh Kumar Aileni appointed as Deputy Secretary in the Department of Commerce

Anwesh Kumar Aileni has been appointed as the Deputy Secretary in the Department of Commerce, Government of India. This appointment comes as part of a recent administrative reshuffle aimed at strengthening key departments. Aileni, a 2013 batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, brings with him a wealth of experience in economic and trade policy. His new role will involve formulating and implementing policies related to foreign trade and commerce. The appointment reflects the government's continued focus on enhancing administrative efficiency in vital sectors of the economy.

Foot notes:

- Appointment Details: Anwesh Kumar Aileni, an IRSME officer from the 2013 batch, has been appointed as Deputy Secretary in the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) under the Department of Commerce.
- Tenure: His appointment is for a period of four years, starting from the date he assumes charge.

- **Post Creation:** This position was created by downgrading a vacant post of Additional Director General of Foreign Trade (ADGFT) in the DGTR.
- **Clearance:** The appointment was cleared by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet under the Central Staffing Scheme.
- **Role Significance:** As Deputy Secretary, Anwesh Kumar Aileni will play a key role in the DGTR, which is responsible for handling trade remedies and protecting domestic industries from unfair trade practices.

Actor Tamannaah Bhatia appointed as the brand ambassador for Mysore Sandal Soap

Tamannaah Bhatia has been appointed as the brand ambassador for Mysore Sandal Soap, a move by Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL) aimed at enhancing the brand's visibility and expanding its market reach. The two-year contract, valued at 6.2 crore, was formalized on May 22, 2025. However, the decision has sparked controversy, with critics questioning the choice of a non-Kannada-speaking actress to represent a product deeply rooted in Karnataka's cultural heritage. Pro-Kannada groups and social media users have expressed disappointment, suggesting that local talents like Rashmika Mandanna or Rukmini Vasanth would have been more appropriate choices.

Foot notes:

- **Purpose:** The day aims to promote action towards treating and preventing obstetric fistula, a condition that affects many girls and women in developing countries, causing physical and social suffering.
- **Theme:** This year's theme is "Her health, her right: Shaping a future without fistula," emphasizing the fundamental right to health and well-being, particularly sexual and reproductive health, for all women and girls.
- **Causes and Consequences:** Obstetric fistula is caused by prolonged labor without medical intervention, often resulting in chronic health problems, depression, social isolation, and deepening poverty. In 90% of cases, the baby dies.
- **Prevention and Treatment:** The condition is preventable and treatable with access to quality medical care, emergency obstetric services, and comprehensive rehabilitation. UNFPA has supported nearly 150,000 surgical repairs for fistula between 2003 and 2024.

Ram Mohan Appointed as New Director of MPEDA

Dr. M.K. Ram Mohan currently serves as the Joint Director (Quality Control) at the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India. In this role, he oversees MPEDA's nationwide quality assurance initiatives, managing a team of over 100 professionals across five Quality Control and 14 ELISA laboratories situated in India's coastal states.

With a career spanning more than 30 years in the seafood and aquaculture sectors, Dr. Ram Mohan has held various significant positions within MPEDA.

Foot notes:

- **Academic Credentials:** Dr. Ram Mohan holds a postgraduate degree in mariculture from CMFRI (affiliated to CUSAT) and a PhD from ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai, showcasing his expertise in the field.
- **Leadership Roles:** Apart from his new role as Director, Dr. Ram Mohan currently holds board positions at MIDCON, Seafood Park India Ltd, and Lakshadweep Development Corporation Ltd, demonstrating his leadership capabilities.
- **MPEDA's Objectives:** As Director, Dr. Ram Mohan will focus on promoting marine product exports from India, ensuring quality control, and potentially strengthening overseas ties and infrastructure planning, given his experience and industry expectations.

Lt. Gen. Pratik Sharma has assumed charge as the Northern Army Commander

Lt. Gen. Pratik Sharma has officially assumed charge as the Northern Army Commander, one of the most critical positions in the Indian Army. He succeeds Lt. Gen. Upendra Dwivedi, who has now moved on to a higher command role. Lt. Gen. Sharma brings with him extensive operational experience, especially in high-altitude warfare and counter-insurgency operations. He is expected to play a pivotal role in overseeing security along the sensitive borders with Pakistan and China. His leadership is seen as crucial for maintaining stability and readiness in one of the army's most strategic commands.

Foot notes:

- **Command Responsibility:** The Northern Command, headquartered in Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir, is responsible for defending the country along the border with Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir and contiguous portions of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, as well as securing the Ladakh region along the border with China.
- **Experience and Background:** Lt. Gen. Pratik Sharma is a highly decorated officer with over 37 years of service, having commanded various units, including the 80 Infantry Brigade in Jammu and Kashmir, the 25th Infantry Division, and II Corps.
- **Previous Role:** Before taking over as the Northern Army Commander, Lt. Gen. Sharma served as the Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy) from November 1, 2024, to April 30, 2025.
- **Awards and Decorations:** Lt. Gen. Sharma has been awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, and Sena Medal for his distinguished service.

Warren Buffett Step down As CEO of Berkshire

Warren Buffett, the legendary investor and long-time CEO of Berkshire Hathaway, has announced his decision to step down from his role at the end of 2025. After leading the conglomerate for over six decades, Buffett will hand over the reins to Greg Abel, Berkshire's Vice Chairman of non-insurance operations. The announcement was made during Berkshire's annual shareholder meeting in Omaha, marking a significant transition in the company's history. Greg Abel, a Canadian-born executive with a background in accounting and energy, has been with Berkshire Hathaway since 2000, following the company's acquisition of MidAmerican

Energy. He has been overseeing Berkshire's non-insurance businesses, including notable subsidiaries like BNSF Railway, Dairy Queen and Duracell.

Foot notes:

- Reason for Stepping Down: Buffett's decision to step down comes after six decades at the helm of Berkshire Hathaway. His age and desire to pass on the reins to a capable successor likely played a role in this decision.
- Greg Abel's Credentials: Abel, 62, has been a longtime Buffett deputy and currently serves as chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway Energy. Buffett praised Abel, saying, "Greg can do better at many things."
- Berkshire's Stability: Despite Buffett's departure, Berkshire Hathaway's stability and diversified business model are expected to endure. The company operates over 60 subsidiaries across various sectors and has significant investments in 40+ publicly traded companies.
- Investment Philosophy: Buffett's investment philosophy will continue under Abel's leadership. Abel has shown his ability to act on investment opportunities and shares Buffett's value investing approach.

Birendra Kumar Mishra appointed as OSD to the Minister for Panchayati Raj and Fisheries

Birendra Kumar Mishra, a 2012-batch officer of the Indian Statistical Service (ISS), has been appointed as the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, who oversees the Ministries of Panchayati Raj, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying. The appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) and formalized through an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). Mishra's tenure as OSD is set to continue until March 31, 2028, which aligns with his date of superannuation. However, the tenure is subject to change if it becomes co-terminous with the Minister's term or until further orders are issued. In his role, Mishra will assist Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh in administrative coordination and policy implementation across the aforementioned ministries.

Foot notes:

- Ministerial Portfolio: Mishra will work under Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, who holds the portfolios of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, but notably, Panchayati Raj is not mentioned in the sources as part of Singh's portfolios.
- Role and Responsibilities: As OSD, Mishra will likely provide support to Minister Singh in policy matters, decision-making, and other official responsibilities related to the ministry.
- Background: Birendra Kumar Mishra is an experienced bureaucrat, and his appointment reflects the government's efforts to ensure efficient governance and policy implementation in the fisheries and animal husbandry sectors.

Prakash Magdum Appointed as New MD of NFDC

On May 5, 2025, Shri Prakash Magdum, a seasoned officer of the Indian Information Service (IIS) from the 1999 batch, assumed charge as the Managing Director of the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC). His previous roles include serving as the Additional Director General at the Press Information Bureau and Central Bureau of Communication in Ahmedabad, Director of the National Film Archive of India (NFAI), Registrar of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), and spokesperson for the Ministry of Defence in Thiruvananthapuram.

Foot notes:

- **Background:** Magdum has over two decades of experience in film, communication, and cultural preservation, having served in various roles, including Director of the National Film Archive of India and Additional Director General of Press Information Bureau.
- **Key Contributions:** As Director of NFAI, Magdum played a pivotal role in executing the National Film Heritage Mission, overseeing preservation, digitization, and restoration of vintage Indian films.
- **NFDC's Role:** The National Film Development Corporation, established in 1975, aims to promote Indian cinema, especially regional and parallel cinema, through financing, co-productions, and international film festivals.

Anish Prasad appointed as Inspector General in BSF

Senior IPS officer Anish Prasad, from the 2003 Tripura cadre, has been appointed as Inspector General (IG) in the Border Security Force (BSF) on a lateral deputation basis. Prior to this, he served as the Executive Director (Vigilance – Police) in the Railway Board. His deputation to the BSF will continue until June 21, 2026, or until further orders, aligning with the end of his five-year central deputation tenure. With over a decade of experience in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), his appointment is expected to strengthen the BSF's capabilities in vigilance, cyber security, and investigative operations.

Foot notes:

- **Current Posting:** According to available data, Anish Prasad is currently posted as Director, Vigilance (Police), Railway Board of India, not as Inspector General in BSF.
- **BSF Connection:** However, another officer from the same cadre, Puneet Rastogi (TR:1995), is serving as Inspector General in the Border Security Force (BSF).
- **Rank and Role:** As Director, Vigilance (Police), Anish Prasad likely oversees vigilance and anti-corruption activities within the Indian Railways.
- **IPS Career:** Anish Prasad's career progression can be tracked through official IPS officer listings, which provide details on postings, promotions, and cadre allocations.

Parameswaran Iyer appointed as India's Nominee Director

Parameswaran Iyer has been appointed as India's temporary nominee director on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board, succeeding Krishnamurthy V.

Subramanian, whose term was unexpectedly terminated six months early. Iyer, currently serving as India's Executive Director at the World Bank, assumes this role ahead of a crucial IMF meeting on May 9, which will discuss a \$1.3 billion loan to Pakistan under a climate resilience program and review an ongoing \$7 billion bailout package.

Foot notes:

- **Background:** Iyer is a seasoned civil servant with a distinguished career, having led the Swachh Bharat Mission and served as the CEO of NITI Aayog. His experience spans water resources management, sanitation, and policy implementation.
- **Swachh Bharat Mission Achievements:** As the mission's leader, Iyer played a crucial role in achieving India's goal of eliminating open defecation. Under his guidance, India built over 100 million toilets in rural areas and 6.3 million in cities, significantly improving sanitation and public health.
- **Expertise in Water Resources:** Iyer's work at the World Bank focused on water resources management, and he was instrumental in implementing the Jal Jeevan Mission in India, aiming to provide piped water supply to all households by 2024.
- **Leadership Experience:** As the CEO of NITI Aayog, Iyer worked on shaping India's development agenda and policy framework, further demonstrating his leadership capabilities and commitment to public service.

Praveen Sood extended as Director, CBI for a period of one year

The Central Government has extended the tenure of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director Praveen Sood by one year, effective beyond May 24, 2025. This decision was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) after a high-level selection committee meeting—comprising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi—failed to reach a consensus on his successor. Sood, a 1986-batch IPS officer from the Karnataka cadre, was appointed as CBI Director in May 2023 for an initial two-year term. Before this role, he served as the Director General of Police in Karnataka and has held several key positions, including Police Commissioner of Bengaluru and Mysuru.

Foot notes:

- **Extension:** Praveen Sood, the current Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), has been granted a one-year extension.
- **Tenure:** His extended tenure will likely conclude on May 25, 2025.
- **Leadership:** As Director, Sood has been leading high-profile investigations and reforms within the agency.
- **Background:** Praveen Sood is an IPS officer of the 1986 batch from the Karnataka cadre.
- **CBI:** The CBI is India's premier investigative agency, handling cases of corruption, economic offenses, and serious crimes.

Titan names Tanishq CEO Ajoy Chawla as next MD

Titan Company has announced that Ajoy Chawla, the current CEO of its jewellery division, will succeed C.K. Venkataraman as the next Managing Director by the end of 2025. Chawla, a Titan veteran with over three decades of experience, has led the jewellery segment—which includes brands like Tanishq, Zoya, Mia, and CaratLane—to contribute over 80% of the company's revenue in FY24. His leadership during the pandemic was marked by digital innovation and retail expansion, including the launch of new stores and a significant boost in online sales. Titan aims to continue its growth trajectory under Chawla's strategic vision and deep understanding of the company's operations.

Foot notes:

- Appointment: Ajoy Chawla, currently the CEO of Titan's Jewellery Division, will succeed C.K. Venkataraman as the Managing Director, effective January 1, 2026.
- Background: Chawla joined Titan in 1991 and has held key roles across watches, accessories, and jewellery segments, including chief strategy officer and CEO of the Jewellery Division since October 2019.
- Achievements: Under Chawla's leadership, the Jewellery Division has grown 2.5 times in sales and profits, reinforcing its market leadership.
- Retirement of Predecessor: C.K. Venkataraman will retire on December 31, 2025, upon reaching the Tata Group's superannuation age.
- Shareholder Approval: Chawla's appointment is subject to shareholder approval, with the formal process to be completed in due course.

Book Set for
SSC All Exams
CGL | CPO | CHSL
6 Comprehensive Books
50% OFF
₹4590 → ₹2295

Robert Prevost elected as 1st American pope & takes the name Leo XIV

Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost has made history by becoming the first American-born pope, taking the name Pope Leo XIV following his election on May 8, 2025. Born in Chicago in 1955, Prevost is also a Peruvian citizen and served extensively as a missionary in Peru, where he was known for his humanitarian efforts and closeness to the poor. In his first address from St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Leo XIV emphasized peace, unity, and inclusivity, speaking in Italian and Spanish, and expressing gratitude to the late Pope Francis.

Foot notes:

- First American Pope: Robert Francis Prevost became the first American pope in history, marking a significant shift in the papacy's global representation.

- Papal Conclave: Prevost was elected on the fourth ballot during the papal conclave held from May 7-8, 2025, succeeding Pope Francis, who passed away on April 21, 2025.
- Chosen Name: After accepting his election, Prevost chose the papal name Leo XIV, signifying a connection to the legacy of previous popes with the same name.
- Background: As the prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops and president of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, Prevost brought significant experience to his new role.

AWARD NEWS

Subhasish Bose Named Men's Player Of The Year At All India Football Federation

Awards 2025

Subhasish Bose, captain of Mohun Bagan Super Giant and a key defender for the Indian national team, has been honored as the AIFF Men's Player of the Year for the 2024–25 season. The award was presented during the AIFF Awards ceremony held on May 2, 2025, in Bhubaneswar, recognizing his exceptional contributions to both club and country. Bose's leadership and defensive prowess were instrumental in Mohun Bagan's Indian Super League triumph, where the team achieved 15 clean sheets. Notably, he also contributed offensively, scoring six crucial goals throughout the season. This accolade marks a significant recognition for defenders in Indian football, as Bose becomes only the second defender in the last 11 years to receive this honor, following Sandesh Jhingan's win in the 2020–21 season.

Foot notes:

- Award Winner: Subhasish Bose was named the AIFF Best Men's Player of the Year 2024-25, recognizing his outstanding performance in the Indian football season.
- Historic Achievement: Bose became the seventh defender to win the AIFF Men's Player of the Year Award, following notable players like Sandesh Jhingan and Syed Rahim Nabi.
- Leadership: Bose captained Mohun Bagan Super Giant to a historic Indian Super League double, winning both the League Winners' Shield and the ISL Cup in the same season.
- Team Success: Under Bose's leadership, Mohun Bagan SG secured a 2-1 win over Bengaluru FC in the final, making them only the second team in ISL history to achieve this feat after Mumbai City FC in 2020-21.

SSC All Exams Test Series

- ◆ 150+ Full Length Tests
- ◆ English & Hindi Medium
- ◆ Designed by IBT Experts

→ BUY NOW

₹ ~~669~~
₹ 334

UP TO 50% OFF



TCS, IBM partner to build India's largest Quantum Computing Hub

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and IBM have partnered with the Government of Andhra Pradesh to establish India's largest quantum computing hub at the upcoming Quantum Valley Tech Park in Amaravati. This initiative will feature IBM's Quantum System Two, equipped with a 156-qubit Heron processor, marking a significant advancement in the nation's quantum technology capabilities. The collaboration aims to accelerate the development of quantum algorithms and applications across various sectors, including life sciences, materials science, cryptography, energy optimization, and logistics. TCS will play a pivotal role in co-developing these solutions, leveraging its expertise in hybrid computing architectures that integrate classical and quantum systems.

Foot notes:

- **Largest Quantum Computer in India:** The IBM Quantum System Two will be the largest quantum computer in India, providing access to cutting-edge quantum computing capabilities for researchers, developers, and industry experts.
- **Cloud Access:** TCS and IBM have signed an agreement to provide cloud access to IBM's cloud-based quantum computers to scientists and technologists in the region, enabling them to develop quantum algorithms and applications.
- **Quantum Algorithm Development:** TCS will partner with IBM to support the development of algorithms and applications that will help Indian industry and academia solve complex problems.
- **Job Creation and Talent Development:** The Quantum Valley Tech Park aims to create high-end jobs, attract top-tier talent, and drive global investments in India's emerging quantum industry. The partnership is expected to accelerate the development of India's quantum ecosystem.

Tanzanian President receives UAE's 'Mother of Nation Order'

President Samia Suluhu Hassan of Tanzania has been honored with the United Arab Emirates' prestigious 'Order of the Mother of the Nation' award. This accolade recognizes her significant contributions to social development, women's empowerment, and community welfare. The award is part of the Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak Programme for Excellence and Community Intelligence, which celebrates individuals and institutions that have made impactful efforts in promoting social cohesion and innovation. President Hassan's leadership has been instrumental in advancing initiatives that uplift communities and foster inclusive growth.

Foot notes:

- **The Award:** The 'Mother of the Nation' Order is a prestigious award in the UAE, named after Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak Al Ketbi, the mother of the UAE's current president, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and wife of the UAE's founder, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.
- **Recipient:** Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan was awarded this honor, although the exact date of receiving the award isn't specified in the search results provided.

- **President Samia's Background:** Samia Suluhu Hassan is the first female president of Tanzania and has implemented various reforms, including promoting democracy, expanding infrastructure, and globalizing the Tanzanian economy.
- **Significance:** This award might signify the strong diplomatic ties and mutual respect between Tanzania and the UAE, considering Sheikha Fatima's contributions to women's rights and education in the UAE.

The New York Times Wins Four Pulitzer Prizes in 2025

The New York Times secured four Pulitzer Prizes in 2025, highlighting its excellence in journalism across diverse fields. Photographer Doug Mills earned the Breaking News Photography award for his striking image capturing a bullet passing near former President Donald Trump during an assassination attempt . In International Reporting, Declan Walsh and the Times' staff were recognized for their in-depth investigation into Sudan's conflict, shedding light on foreign influences and the gold trade fueling the unrest . The Explanatory Reporting prize was awarded to Azam Ahmed, Christina Goldbaum, and contributing writer Matthieu Aikins for their comprehensive analysis of U.S. policy failures in Afghanistan .

Foot notes:

- **Finalists:** The New York Times also had four finalists, including Dave Philipps for Public Service and Times Opinion staff for Editorial Writing.
- **Pulitzer Prize Ceremony:** The 2025 Pulitzer Prizes were awarded on May 5, 2025, recognizing works created during the 2024 calendar year.
- **Significance:** This win highlights The New York Times' commitment to quality journalism and its ability to cover a wide range of topics, from local issues to international conflicts.
- **Number of Awards:** The New York Times won four Pulitzer Prizes in 2025, showcasing its excellence in journalism.

Ferdous Ara to receive Lifetime Achievement Award

Renowned Bangladeshi Nazrul Sangeet artist Ferdous Ara has been honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2023–2024 Babisas Awards, recognizing her exceptional contributions to music and culture. This accolade adds to her illustrious career, which includes the prestigious Ekushey Padak, the second-highest civilian award in Bangladesh, bestowed upon her in 2025 for her outstanding work in music . Ara's musical journey began in 1973, and she has since released numerous albums, authored influential books on Nazrul Sangeet, and founded the music school 'Sur Saptak' in 2000 .

Foot notes:

- **Previous Honors:** Ara has previously received the Ekushey Padak, the second-highest civilian award in Bangladesh, and the Nazrul Award in 2017, showcasing her impact on Bangladeshi culture.

- **Music Career:** With a career spanning over four decades, Ara has released numerous albums of Nazrul Sangeet, contemporary, and patriotic songs, and has performed at prestigious venues like the Royal Albert Hall in London.
- **Teaching and Mentoring:** Ara teaches Nazrul songs at the Nazrul Institute, University of Dhaka, and Dhaka Music College, and has founded a music school called Sur Saptak, highlighting her commitment to music education.
- **Recent Recognition:** Ara was recently honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by BCDF in their 'Bijoy Sommanona' program, alongside other notable cultural personalities, filmmaker Ahsanullah Moni and actress Lucky Enam.



Punjab Police Sub-Inspector

Video & Test

330+ Video Lectures | 20+ Mock Tests
Weekly Live Doubt Session

50% Off ₹ 9299 ₹ 4614

Russia honoured the legendary Indian leader and aviator Biju Patnaik

Russia honored legendary Indian leader and aviator Biju Patnaik for his pivotal role during World War II, recognizing his contributions to the Soviet Union's efforts against Nazi Germany. As a pilot in the Royal Indian Air Force, Patnaik undertook daring missions, including delivering arms and supplies to Soviet troops near Stalingrad, aiding their resistance against Hitler's forces. In acknowledgment of his bravery, Russia awarded him honorary citizenship and paid tribute during his funeral by draping his coffin with the Russian flag, alongside those of India and Indonesia. This rare honor underscores Patnaik's international legacy, highlighting his commitment to global freedom movements and his enduring impact on international relations.

Foot notes:

- **Awards and Honors:** Patnaik received the Order of Lenin from Russia and the Bintang Jasa Utama, Indonesia's highest national award, for his bravery and contributions.
- **Role in Indonesian Freedom Struggle:** He played a crucial role in Indonesia's freedom struggle, flying a daring rescue mission to save Indonesian leaders, including Sukarno and Sjahrir, from Dutch colonizers in 1947.
- **Aviation Career:** Patnaik was a skilled pilot who served in the Royal Indian Air Force and later became an entrepreneur, setting up Kalinga Airlines and other businesses.
- **Indian Politics:** He served as the Chief Minister of Odisha twice and was a Union Minister for Steel, Mines, and Coal in the Morarji Desai and Charan Singh governments.

La Prensa hooured with UNESCO World Press Freedom Prize 2025

La Prensa, Nicaragua's oldest newspaper, has been awarded the 2025 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize for its unwavering commitment to independent journalism despite severe government repression. Since 2021, the newspaper has operated in exile after its offices were raided, assets seized, and its general manager, Juan Lorenzo Holmann, imprisoned by the Ortega regime. UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay expressed regret over Nicaragua's decision, reaffirming the agency's commitment to press freedom and the importance of supporting courageous journalism worldwide.

Foot notes:

- **Award Recipient:** La Prensa, a Nicaraguan newspaper founded in 1926, has been awarded the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2025 for its courageous efforts to report the truth despite severe repression.
- **Reason for Award:** The prize recognizes La Prensa's commitment to independent journalism and freedom of expression in the face of authoritarian suppression in Nicaragua, including arrests, exiles, and confiscation of assets.
- **Current Status:** Despite the imprisonment and expulsion of its leaders, La Prensa continues to inform the Nicaraguan public online, with most of its team operating in exile from countries like Costa Rica, Spain, Mexico, Germany, and the US.

Actor Sonu Sood Honoured for Philanthropic Work During COVID-19

Actor and philanthropist Sonu Sood is set to receive the prestigious Humanitarian Award at the 72nd Miss World Festival, scheduled for May 31, 2025, at the HITEK Arena in Hyderabad, Telangana. This honor acknowledges his exceptional contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic, where he provided critical support to migrant workers, students, and families in need. Through his Sood Charity Foundation, he facilitated transportation for stranded individuals, distributed medical aid, and launched initiatives like free education and employment training programs. In addition to receiving the award, Sood will serve as one of the official judges for the grand finale, joining a distinguished panel to crown the next Miss World.

Foot notes:

- **Migrant Workers' Messiah:** He helped send over 7.26 lakh migrant workers back to their homes and provided employment opportunities to 2 lakh people, earning him the title of "messiah of migrants".
- **Student Evacuation:** Sood also facilitated the return of 14,500 students stranded abroad in countries like Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Russia, and the Philippines.
- **Medical Assistance:** He connected people with doctors, hospitals, and medical facilities, facilitating around 20-22 surgeries daily for months during the pandemic.
- **Recognition:** This award puts Sood in the company of notable personalities like Angelina Jolie, David Beckham, Leonardo DiCaprio, and Priyanka Chopra, who have also been honored by UN bodies for their humanitarian work.

Shri Satish Upadhyaya, Honoured with 'Biomass Changemaker of the Year' Award 2025

Shri Satish Upadhyay, Mission Director of the SAMARTH Mission, was honored with the 'Biomass Changemaker of the Year' Award at the 4th BBB Summit & Expo held in New Delhi on May 8–9, 2025. This recognition celebrates his pivotal role in advancing biomass utilization and promoting sustainable energy practices in India. Under his leadership, the SAMARTH Mission has been instrumental in integrating agri-residue into thermal power plants, thereby reducing carbon emissions and enhancing rural economies. The award underscores his commitment to fostering innovation and collaboration in the bioenergy sector.

Foot notes:

- **Contribution to Bioenergy:** He emphasized the importance of viewing biomass supply chain management from the demand side and enhancing demand creation for the development of market-driven mechanisms for biomass offtake.
- **Environmental and Social Benefits:** Upadhyay highlighted that biomass utilization has critical environmental and social benefits for the country, and the SAMARTH Mission's work on biomass co-firing is increasing biomass utilization in power generation.
- **Expertise in Biomass Supply Chain:** His expertise in biomass supply chain management was showcased at a national seminar organized by Sardar Swaran Singh National Institute of Bio-Energy Technology (SSS-NIBE), where he stressed the need for efficient biomass supply chains to support India's transition to a circular bio-economy.
- **Award Recognition:** Although specific details about the award ceremony are not available, the recognition as 'Biomass Changemaker of the Year' Award 2025 underscores Upadhyay's commitment to innovation and leadership in the biomass sector.

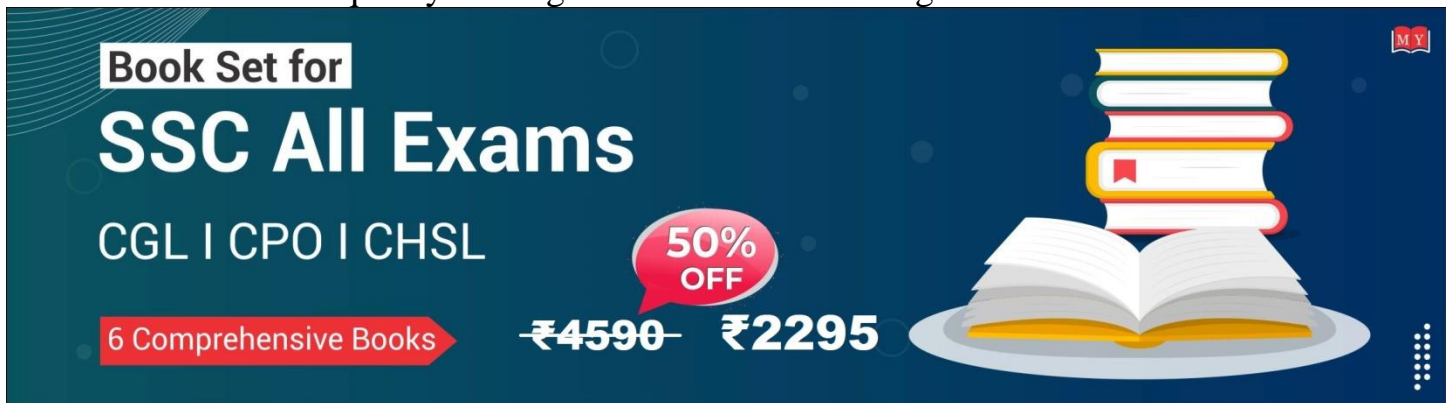
Health Minister Y Satya Yadav presented Florence Nightingale Awards to nurses

Union Health Minister Y Satya Yadav recently presented the prestigious Florence Nightingale Awards to recognize the outstanding contributions of nurses across India. The awards honor nurses for their dedication, compassion, and exceptional service in the healthcare sector. This annual recognition is named after Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. The ceremony celebrated the pivotal role nurses play in patient care, especially during public health crises. Minister Yadav praised the awardees for their unwavering commitment and tireless efforts in improving public health.

Foot notes:

- **Award Presentation:** The President of India presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards 2024 to 15 nursing professionals in recognition of their outstanding commitment to duty and service to the community.
- **Award Details:** Each award consists of a Certificate of Merit, a Cash Award of Rs.1,00,000/-, and a medal, given to outstanding nursing personnel employed in Central, State/UTs, and Voluntary Organizations.
- **Categories:** The awards were presented in three main categories: ANM (Auxiliary Nurse Midwife), LHV (Lady Health Visitor), and Nurse, acknowledging registered nurses across various specializations.

- **Awardees:** The recipients represented various states and union territories, reflecting the nationwide impact of nursing excellence, with notable awardees including Maj Gen Ignatius Delos Flora from Delhi and Dr. Tabasum Irshad Handoo from Jammu & Kashmir.
- **Significance:** The awards motivate nursing professionals to strive for excellence, raise awareness about the critical role of nurses in healthcare delivery, and help set benchmarks for quality nursing care across different regions of India.



Book Set for
SSC All Exams
CGL | CPO | CHSL

6 Comprehensive Books

50% OFF

₹4590 → ₹2295

The advertisement features a dark blue background with a stack of books on the right. A red speech bubble with '50% OFF' is positioned above the price. The text 'Book Set for SSC All Exams' is prominently displayed in white, with 'CGL | CPO | CHSL' below it. A red banner at the bottom left states '6 Comprehensive Books'. The price is shown as '₹4590 → ₹2295'.

Bhuwan Ribhu Becomes First Indian Lawyer to Receive World Law Congress Honour

Bhuwan Ribhu has become the first Indian lawyer to receive the prestigious Medal of Honour from the World Jurist Association, awarded at the World Law Congress in the Dominican Republic. Since beginning his legal career in 2005, Ribhu has been a tireless advocate for child rights, filing over 60 public interest litigations that have led to significant legal reforms in India. He co-founded Just Rights for Children (JRC), a coalition of over 250 organizations, which between April 2023 and March 2024 rescued more than 85,000 trafficked children and prevented over 330,000 child marriages. His recognition underscores India's leadership in child protection and highlights the ongoing journey toward justice for vulnerable children.

Foot notes:

- **Historic Recognition:** Bhuwan Ribhu has been awarded the Medal of Honour by the World Jurist Association, a prestigious recognition for his work in child rights and protection, making him the first Indian lawyer to receive this global honour.
- **Two Decades of Service:** Ribhu has dedicated over 20 years to protecting children from exploitation, leading to significant legal reforms and court interventions that have transformed child protection in India.
- **Global Impact:** His work has not only saved hundreds of thousands of children and women from exploitation but also inspired international cooperation in child justice, shaping child rights law globally.

Dr. Mustafa Yusufali Gom Conferred the International Buddha Peace Award

Dr. Mustafa Yusufali Gom, a Mumbai-based social worker and entrepreneur, was recently honored with the International Buddha Peace Award 2025 by the Maitry Peace Foundation. The award was presented by Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya in recognition of Dr.

Gom's significant contributions to social activism and leadership in the building repairs and restoration industry. As the Managing Director of Care Takers Exterior and Interior Pvt Ltd, Dr. Gom has seamlessly blended professional excellence with compassion-driven community development. His work, inspired by the teachings of His Holiness Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, promotes peace and harmony within the community.

Foot notes:

- **Award Ceremony:** The award was presented by Lakshman Prasad Acharya, Governor of Assam, during a grand ceremony organized by Maitri Peace Foundation in Guwahati, Assam.
- **Dr. Gom's Achievements:** As the Managing Director of Care Takers Exterior and Interior Private Limited, Dr. Gom has previously received several honors for his social work, including the Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Award and recognition from the governors of Maharashtra and Telangana.
- **Shared Honor:** Dr. Munir Khan, a structural engineer and founder of Avon Consulting Engineers, was also bestowed with the award for his outstanding contributions to social initiatives promoting sustainable development and community welfare.

PromptTech Connect Won Times Business Award 2025

PromptTech Connect has been honored with the prestigious Times Business Award 2025, recognizing its outstanding contributions to business innovation and technology. The award highlights the company's rapid growth, customer-centric solutions, and commitment to digital transformation. With a focus on empowering SMEs through advanced software and IT services, PromptTech Connect has emerged as a leading player in the tech ecosystem. This recognition reflects the company's dedication to excellence, integrity, and delivering value-driven services across global markets.

Foot notes:

- **Business Solutions Provider:** PromptTech is a global enterprise solution provider offering integrated services, including software, hardware, enterprise insurance, and business support, to drive seamless operations and long-term growth.
- **Global Presence:** With a presence in the Middle East, India, and the UK, PromptTech combines regional insights with international best practices to deliver tailored solutions addressing unique business challenges.
- **Innovative Approach:** PromptTech emphasizes innovation, technical expertise, and a hands-on approach to deliver measurable results aligning with business goals.
- **Commitment to Excellence:** The company fosters a culture of excellence, valuing individual ideas, and supporting personal growth, creating a supportive atmosphere for collective success.

Leander Paes Conferred with the Prestigious P C Chandra Puraskaar 2025

Tennis legend Leander Paes was honored with the 32nd P C Chandra Puraskaar at a grand ceremony held at Kolkata's Science City Auditorium. Instituted by the P C Chandra Group in 1993, the award recognizes outstanding achievements across various fields and carries a tax-free honorarium of 20 lakh. Paes, celebrated for his illustrious tennis career, boasts 18 Grand Slam titles and holds the distinction of being the first Indian to compete in seven consecutive Olympic Games, earning a bronze medal in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. The ceremony was attended by dignitaries from various sectors, reflecting the award's prestige and the high regard in which Paes is held.

Foot notes:

- Award Ceremony: Leander Paes received the P C Chandra Puraskaar 2025 at a grand ceremony held on May 11, 2025, at Science City Auditorium in Kolkata.
- Award Significance: The P C Chandra Puraskaar recognizes outstanding achievements across various fields, celebrating excellence and integrity, with a tax-exempt honorarium of Rs 20,00,000.
- Leander Paes' Achievements: Paes has won 18 Grand Slam titles and is the first Indian to have competed in seven consecutive Olympic Games, earning a bronze medal in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.
- Previous Recipients: Past recipients of the award include notable figures such as ISRO Chairman S. Somanath, World Boxing Champion Mary Kom, Sarod maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, cricket legend Kapil Dev, and Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi.

Neeraj Chopra conferred with Honorary Lt. Colonel Rank in Territorial Army

Neeraj Chopra, India's celebrated javelin thrower and double Olympic medalist, has been conferred the honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army. The Ministry of Defence announced this recognition on May 13, 2025, with the appointment effective from April 16, 2025, as per the Gazette of India. Chopra's military journey began in 2016 when he joined the Indian Army as a Naib Subedar under the sports quota, eventually rising to the rank of Subedar Major by 2024. The honorary rank acknowledges his exceptional contributions to Indian sports and his embodiment of military values such as discipline and dedication.

Foot notes:

- Honorary Rank: Neeraj Chopra, the Olympic gold medalist and javelin ace, has been bestowed with the honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army, effective April 16, 2025. This prestigious title recognizes his outstanding achievements in sports and his prior service in the armed forces.
- Previous Military Service: Chopra had previously held the rank of Naib Subedar in 2016 and was later promoted to Subedar and Subedar Major in 2021 and 2024, respectively. He was due for retirement this year, making the honorary commission a notable recognition of his contributions.
- Presidential Endorsement: The honorary title was conferred by the President of India under Para 31 of the Territorial Army Regulations, 1948.

- **Achievements:** Neeraj Chopra has etched his name in history with a gold medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and a silver medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics. He has also won gold at the 2023 World Athletics Championships in Budapest, solidifying his legacy in javelin throwing.

Brazilian microbiologist Mariangela Hungria awarded the prestigious World Food Prize 2025

Brazilian microbiologist Dr. Mariangela Hungria has been awarded the 2025 World Food Prize for her pioneering work in sustainable agriculture. Over a 40-year career at Brazil's agricultural research agency, Embrapa, she developed biological alternatives to chemical fertilizers by enhancing soil bacteria's ability to provide nutrients to crops. Her innovations, particularly the use of rhizobia bacteria strains, have significantly boosted Brazil's soybean production, transforming the country into the world's leading soybean producer and exporter.

Foot notes:

- **Award Details:** Mariangela Hungria has been awarded the World Food Prize 2025 for her groundbreaking research on biological nitrogen fixation, a natural process that enables crops to grow with fewer chemical fertilizers. She will receive a \$500,000 award in recognition of her efforts.
- **Research Impact:** Hungria's work has played a pivotal role in boosting Brazil's soybean production, making it the world's largest producer. Her research has also impacted other crops like wheat, corn, and beans, and has helped reduce the need for chemical fertilizers.
- **Sustainable Farming:** Hungria's innovative approach to reducing chemical fertilizer use by harnessing soil bacteria has gained renewed attention as countries seek sustainable farming solutions amid climate change and ecological degradation. Her work enriches soil quality, helping reduce deforestation pressures.
- **Career Achievements:** Hungria has researched biological seed and soil treatments for over 40 years and has developed dozens of microbial treatments that enable crops to access nutrients through symbiotic soil bacteria. She has authored over 500 scientific papers and is a recipient of Brazil's highest agricultural honor, the Frederico de Menezes Veiga Award.
- **Global Recognition:** Hungria's contributions have gained global recognition, and she has been listed among the top one percent of agricultural scientists worldwide by Stanford University since 2020.

AGREEMENT & MOU NEWS

GAME and NITI Aayog collaborated to boost local entrepreneurship

The Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship (GAME) and NITI Aayog have formed a strategic partnership to strengthen local entrepreneurship ecosystems across India. Announced on May 2, 2025, the collaboration will commence with pilot projects in Nagpur,

Visakhapatnam, and select districts of Uttar Pradesh, aiming to empower entrepreneurs in underserved regions. The initiative focuses on a bottom-up approach, bringing together stakeholders such as government bodies, corporates, educational institutions, financial entities, and community organizations to address region-specific challenges.

Foot notes:

- **Partnership Objective:** GAME and NITI Aayog have partnered to foster vibrant entrepreneurship ecosystems across multiple states in India, focusing on region-specific interventions.
- **Pilot Locations:** The initiative will start with pilot projects in Nagpur, Visakhapatnam, and select locations in Uttar Pradesh, aiming to create localized solutions for each region's unique challenges.
- **Key Stakeholders:** The partnership brings together government bodies, corporations, educational institutions, financial entities, successful entrepreneurs, and community organizations to support local entrepreneurs.
- **Methodologies:** GAME's proven methodologies will be implemented, including access to finance, capacity-building programs, policy advocacy, and community-driven initiatives to enable entrepreneurs to start and scale businesses.

India-Vietnam Strengthen Buddhist Ties with New MoU

India and Vietnam have further strengthened their cultural and spiritual ties by signing a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) focused on Buddhist heritage and cooperation. Announced during Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh's visit to India in August 2024, the MoU includes India's commitment to assist in the conservation of the F-block temples at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of My Son, a historic center of Cham civilization with deep Indian cultural influences. Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized Buddhism as a shared spiritual heritage that continues to connect the people of both nations, inviting Vietnamese citizens to explore India's Buddhist Circuit and encouraging Vietnamese youth to engage with institutions like Nalanda University.

Foot notes:

- **MoU Signing:** The MoU was signed between the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) and the National Vietnam Buddhist Sangha (VBS).
- **Establishment of Vietnam Chapter:** The MoU led to the establishment of the Vietnam Chapter of the IBC, which aims to promote Buddha Dhamma in Vietnam and beyond, focusing on global peace, harmony, and sustainable development.
- **Cultural Significance:** The MoU reinforces India's cultural diplomacy and Buddhist heritage, enhancing people-to-people ties between India and Vietnam.
- **Strategic Importance:** This agreement promotes India's soft power and Buddhist diplomacy, supporting regional unity and spiritual collaboration through Buddhist channels.

GDAI, SEPC sign pact to boost gaming industry

The Game Developers Association of India (GDAI) and the Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to bolster India's gaming industry. This partnership aims to enhance policy frameworks, foster innovation, and promote skill development within the sector. By collaborating, GDAI and SEPC intend to create a sustainable ecosystem that supports game developers and positions India as a global leader in video game development. This strategic alliance underscores a unified effort to drive growth and international recognition for India's burgeoning gaming sector.

Foot notes:

- **Partnership Objective:** GDAI and SEPC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote collaboration, innovation, and growth in India's gaming and esports sectors, aiming to position the country as a leader in video game IPs.
- **Key Focus Areas:** The partnership will focus on boosting India's gaming industry through collaboration, investment, and global outreach, fostering a supportive framework for growth and innovation.
- **Industry Impact:** This collaboration is expected to drive industry advancement, partnerships, and policy development, enhancing the technical and creative skills of Indian game developers.
- **Strategic Milestone:** The MoU was signed at the WAVES Summit 2025 in Mumbai, marking a significant milestone in promoting India's gaming and esports sectors.

Bhutan Signs MoU with Adani for 5000 MW hydropower

Bhutan has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Adani Group to develop a 570 MW green hydroelectric plant in the Chukha province, marking a significant step in the nation's renewable energy initiatives. This project aims to harness Bhutan's vast hydro potential, contributing to sustainable energy production and strengthening bilateral ties between the Adani Group and Bhutan. The hydroelectric plant is expected to supply power domestically and export surplus electricity to India, enhancing energy cooperation between the two countries.

Foot notes:

- The MoU is for a 570 MW green hydroelectric power plant, not 5000 MW, in Chukha province, Bhutan.
- **Partnership Details:** Adani Group signed the MoU with Bhutan's Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) to develop the hydroelectric facility, aligning with Bhutan's goal of sustainable development.
- **Renewable Energy:** The project will utilize Bhutan's natural resources to generate clean and reliable energy, contributing to the country's economic growth and job creation.
- **Infrastructure Development:** The collaboration may extend beyond the hydroelectric plant, with potential partnerships in transportation infrastructure, tourism, and green energy management.

- Meetings and Discussions: Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani met with Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay to discuss the project and other potential collaborations

About Bhutan:

Capital: Thimphu

Currencies: Bhutanese Ngultrum

Official language: Dzongkha

C-DOT, CSIR-NPL partner to boost quantum, classical communication tech

The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) and the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) have achieved a significant milestone by integrating C-DOT's indigenous fiber-based Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) system with PRL's Free Space QKD system. This collaboration has resulted in the establishment of an end-to-end quantum communication link that utilizes both fiber and free space as transport mediums. The demonstration of this integrated system was presented to Prof. Ajay Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, and Dr. Neeraj Mittal, Secretary of the Department of Telecommunications, during the 2nd International Quantum Communication Conclave held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Foot notes:

- Key Areas: The partnership will focus on joint R&D in areas like Quantum Key Distribution (QKD), single-photon sources and detectors, Electromagnetically Induced Transparency (EIT)-based quantum systems, and FPGA-based control electronics.
- Research Collaboration: Both institutions will share access to their facilities, scientific expertise, and technical support to fast-track the development of high-impact technologies, aligning with national priorities like "Atmanirbhar Bharat" and "Make in India".
- Capacity Building: The collaboration emphasizes academic exchange and capacity building through guest lectures, workshops, collaborative teaching programs, and skill development initiatives in quantum and classical communication technologies.
- National Ecosystem: The partnership aims to strengthen India's quantum research ecosystem through collaborative efforts in standardization, performance validation, and defining benchmarks for quantum systems, essential for commercial deployment and global competitiveness.

India & Chile Sign TOR for Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement Negotiations

India and Chile have taken a significant step to enhance their bilateral trade relations by signing the Terms of Reference (ToR) for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) on May 8, 2025. This agreement aims to build upon the existing Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between the two nations, which was initially signed in 2006 and expanded in 2016. The

CEPA is set to encompass a broader range of sectors, including digital services, investment promotion, cooperation among micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and critical minerals.

Foot notes:


- **CEPA Negotiations:** India and Chile have launched formal negotiations for a CEPA, aiming to significantly enhance bilateral trade and investment cooperation between the two countries. The first round of negotiations is scheduled to take place from May 26-30, 2025, in New Delhi.
- **Building on Existing Agreement:** The CEPA will build upon the existing Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between the two nations, which was signed in March 2006 and expanded in September 2016. The new agreement seeks to encompass a broader range of sectors.
- **Key Areas of Focus:** The CEPA will focus on areas such as digital services, investment promotion and cooperation, MSME collaboration, critical minerals, and more. This aims to enhance economic integration, promote inclusive growth, and create new opportunities for businesses in both countries.

SSC All Exams Test Series

- ◆ 150+ Full Length Tests
- ◆ English & Hindi Medium
- ◆ Designed by IBT Experts

[→ BUY NOW](#)

₹ ~~669~~
₹ **334**
UP TO 50% OFF



Dvara Solutions partners with Kissandhan Agri Financial

Dvara Solutions has entered into a strategic partnership with Kissandhan Agri Financial Services Pvt. Ltd., an RBI-regulated NBFC and part of the SLCM Group, to enhance multi-asset lending in India's rural sectors. Through this collaboration, Kissandhan will leverage Dvara's flagship Perdix platform to streamline and scale its lending operations across various products, including Micro LAP, Group Loans, Farmer Loans, and Medium-Term Loans. The integration aims to digitize and automate key aspects of Kissandhan's lending processes, thereby improving efficiency and customer experience. This partnership aligns with both organizations' commitment to financial inclusion and supporting the agri and rural ecosystem.

Foot notes:

- **Strategic Partnership:** Dvara Solutions has formed a strategic alliance with Kissandhan Agri Financial Services, an RBI-regulated Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), to streamline loan lifecycle workflows and improve operational efficiency.
- **Adoption of Perdix Platform:** Kissandhan will adopt Dvara Solutions' Perdix platform, which includes loan origination system, loan management system, reports, platform

services, and co-lending module. This platform is already used by over 20 institutions, managing assets worth over 15,000 crore.

- **Enhanced Loan Offerings:** The partnership will enable Kissandhan to offer various loans, including micro loan against property (Micro LAP), group loans, farmers loans, and medium-term loans, thereby expanding its agricultural finance services.
- **Impact on Farmers:** Kissandhan has disbursed 3,263.99 crore in loans to farmers, impacting over 7 lakh farmers and benefiting 37,185 women loan beneficiaries in the Agri and allied sector.

DST & DRDO Join Hands to Strengthen India's Space Surveillance

India is intensifying its focus on space surveillance and situational awareness through strategic collaborations between key scientific and defense institutions. The Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), under the Department of Science & Technology (DST), has partnered with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) to develop technologies aimed at tracking space objects, including near-Earth objects and artificial satellites. These concerted efforts underscore India's commitment to strengthening its space infrastructure and ensuring the safety and security of its assets in the increasingly contested space domain.

Foot notes:

- **DRDO's Naval Technology Advancements:** DRDO has inaugurated a state-of-the-art facility called the Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterisation and Evaluation (SPACE) at the Underwater Acoustic Research Facility in Kulamavu, Idukki, Kerala.
- **Enhancing Anti-Submarine Warfare Capabilities:** The SPACE facility is designed to evaluate complete sonar systems, allowing for quick deployment and easy recovery of scientific packages.
- **Advanced Research and Development:** DRDO is working on various projects, including aerodynamics and materials research. They are also focusing on developing technologies that can be used for defense and space applications.
- **Exporting Defense Technology:** DRDO believes that exporting defense technology to friendly countries can strengthen India's strategic position globally, secure international partnerships and create high-tech industry and employment opportunities.

IMPORTANT DAYS NEWS

World Press Freedom observed on 03rd May

World Press Freedom Day is observed annually on May 3 to celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom, evaluate its state worldwide, and honor journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty. Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993, the day commemorates the adoption of the Windhoek Declaration, which laid the foundation for a free, independent, and pluralistic press. The 2025 theme, "Reporting in the Brave New World: The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Press Freedom and the Media," focuses on how AI

affects press freedom, the free flow of information, media independence, and the global goal of ensuring access to information for all .

Foot notes:

- History: The day was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993, inspired by the Windhoek Declaration of 1991, which advocated for a free, independent, and pluralistic press.
- Theme: The 2025 theme is "Reporting in the Brave New World: The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Press Freedom and the Media," highlighting the challenges journalists face with AI-generated content and digital disinformation.
- Significance: The day emphasizes the importance of press freedom, journalist safety, and access to accurate information, aligning with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (SDG 16) and Climate Action (SDG 13).
- Awards and Recognition: UNESCO confers the Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize on individuals or organizations that have made outstanding contributions to defending and promoting press freedom.

World Asthma Day observed on 06th May 2025

On May 6, 2025, World Asthma Day was observed globally with the theme “Make Inhaled Treatments Accessible for ALL,” highlighting the urgent need for equitable access to essential asthma medications like inhalers. Organized annually by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA), this day aims to raise awareness about asthma management and the importance of accessible treatment options . In India, where asthma-related deaths account for over 15% of the global total, health experts emphasized the critical need for improved access to inhaled medications, especially in rural and low-income areas . The Vidarbha Chest Association (VCA) in Nagpur advocated for universal access to affordable asthma care, noting that despite the availability of effective treatments, many individuals remain deprived of essential care.

Foot notes:

- Global Significance: This day aims to raise awareness about asthma, promote early diagnosis and treatment, advocate for access to essential medications, and educate the public on asthma management strategies.
- Asthma Impact: Over 260 million people worldwide live with asthma, which can cause recurring episodes of breathlessness, wheezing, chest tightness, and coughing, with approximately 455,000 deaths globally in 2019.
- Importance of Inhaled Treatments: Inhaled medications like short-acting bronchodilators and inhaled corticosteroids provide direct delivery to the lungs, minimizing systemic side effects and improving long-term outcomes in asthma management.
- Global Initiatives: World Asthma Day is marked by public engagement events, including free asthma screening clinics, inhaler education sessions, awareness walks, and digital campaigns to strengthen community knowledge and encourage timely treatment.

World Athletics Day observed on 07th May

World Athletics Day is celebrated annually on May 7 to promote physical fitness and encourage youth participation in athletics. Established in 1996 by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), now known as World Athletics, the day aims to inspire young individuals to engage in track and field sports, fostering a culture of health and discipline. Activities on this day include school and community athletic events, workshops, and awareness campaigns that highlight the benefits of regular physical activity.

Foot notes:

- History: World Athletics Day was introduced by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), now known as World Athletics, in 1996.
- Global Events: Various events and activities are organized worldwide on this day, including sports competitions, fitness sessions, and coaching clinics.
- Promoting Healthy Lifestyle: The day emphasizes the significance of physical activity and a healthy lifestyle, encouraging people to engage in sports and fitness activities.
- Youth Engagement: World Athletics Day focuses on engaging young people in athletics, providing them with opportunities to develop their skills and pursue careers in sports.

World Thalassaemia Day observed on 08th May

World Thalassaemia Day is observed annually on May 8 to raise awareness about thalassemia, an inherited blood disorder that affects haemoglobin production and can lead to severe anaemia and other health complications. The theme for 2025 is "Together for Thalassaemia: Uniting Communities, Prioritising Patients," emphasizing the importance of a patient-centered approach and collective action in addressing the challenges faced by those living with the condition. This year's observance highlights the critical role of genetic screening and early diagnosis in preventing the transmission of thalassemia, especially in regions with high carrier rates like India. Established in 1994 by the Thalassaemia International Federation, the day also serves to honor individuals affected by the disorder and to advocate for improved healthcare policies and support systems.

Foot notes:

- Theme 2025: The theme for World Thalassaemia Day 2025 is "Together for Thalassaemia: Uniting Communities, Prioritising Patients," focusing on patient-centered care and support.
- Importance: This day aims to promote prevention, early diagnosis, and comprehensive support systems for individuals affected by thalassemia, while also advocating for improved healthcare policies.
- Awareness and Education: It emphasizes the need for public education, genetic screening, and prenatal diagnosis to reduce the prevalence of thalassemia, particularly in high-risk regions.

- Global Impact: Thalassemia affects millions worldwide, with over 56,000 pregnancies globally impacted each year, highlighting the need for continued awareness and research efforts.



Punjab Police Sub-Inspector

Video & Test

330+ Video Lectures | 20+ Mock Tests
Weekly Live Doubt Session

50% Off ₹ 9299 **₹ 4614**

BUY NOW

World Portuguese Language Day observed on 05 May 2025

Portuguese ranks among the most widely spoken languages globally, with over 265 million speakers across continents, making it the most spoken language in the Southern Hemisphere. The 2025 celebrations featured a variety of events, including musical performances, literature readings, art exhibitions, and cultural shows, highlighting the language's role in uniting diverse cultures.

Foot notes:

- Global Significance: The Portuguese language is spoken by over 265 million people worldwide, making it the sixth most spoken language globally and the most widely spoken language in the Southern Hemisphere.
- Cultural Celebration: The day is marked with cultural events, literature readings, music performances, and traditional culinary experiences, showcasing the rich heritage of Portuguese-speaking countries.
- Language Origins: Portuguese originated from Galician, a mix of local dialects and Latin, and has evolved over time with regional variations and influences from other languages, including Arabic.
- Global Reach: Portuguese is an official language in nine countries, including Portugal, Brazil, Angola, Mozambique, and East Timor, and has contributed to the development of creole languages in regions like Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau.

World Lupus Day observed on 10 May

World Lupus Day is observed annually on May 10 to raise awareness about lupus, a chronic autoimmune disease that affects millions globally. In 2025, the theme is “Let's Make Lupus Visible Together,” emphasizing the need to highlight symptoms, patient experiences, and scientific progress. Individuals and organizations worldwide participate by wearing purple, sharing information on social media, and hosting events to educate the public and support those

affected. The observance aims to reduce stigma, promote research, and advocate for better healthcare services for lupus patients. For more information and resources, visit the official World Lupus Day website:

Foot notes:

- Awareness: World Lupus Day aims to raise awareness about this chronic autoimmune disease that affects over 5 million people worldwide, causing pain, inflammation, and damage to various body parts.
- History: The day was established in 2004 by Lupus Canada to promote awareness, improve patient services, collect incidence rates, and raise research funding.
- Symptoms: Common symptoms of lupus include fever, fatigue, joint pain, stiffness, and a characteristic butterfly-shaped rash on the face.
- Impact: Lupus can affect people of all ages, races, and nationalities, and can cause irreversible damage to vital organs like the kidneys, heart, and brain if left untreated or poorly managed.
- Objective: The day emphasizes the need for enhanced healthcare services, increased research, and better global epidemiological data on lupus to improve the lives of those affected.

International Nurses Day observed on 12th May

International Nurses Day was observed on 12th May to honor the invaluable contributions of nurses worldwide. The date marks the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. This year's celebration highlighted the critical role nurses play in healthcare systems, particularly in the wake of global health challenges. Various events, campaigns, and awareness programs were held across the globe to recognize their dedication and resilience. Health institutions and governments expressed gratitude towards nurses for their unwavering commitment to patient care. The day served as a reminder of the need to invest in nursing education, safety, and workforce development.

Foot notes:

- Founder and History: The International Council of Nurses (ICN) has observed this day since 1965. The idea was first proposed in 1953 by Dorothy Sutherland, an official with the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, but it wasn't officially recognized until January 1974.
- Role of Nurses: Nurses play a vital role in healthcare systems globally, providing compassionate care, education, and support to patients. Their responsibilities extend beyond bedside care to advocacy, research, and community engagement.
- Themes and Celebrations: Each year, ICN designates a theme for International Nurses Day. The 2025 theme is "Nurses: A Voice to Lead – Delivering Quality, Securing Equity". Celebrations include award ceremonies, public awareness initiatives, workshops, and tributes to nurses.

SSC All Exams Test Series

- ◆ 150+ Full Length Tests
- ◆ English & Hindi Medium
- ◆ Designed by IBT Experts

→ **BUY NOW**

₹ ~~669~~
₹ 334
UP TO 50% OFF



National Dengue Day observed on 16th May

National Dengue Day is observed annually on May 16 in India to raise awareness about dengue fever, a mosquito-borne viral infection that poses a significant public health challenge. Initiated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2010, this day emphasizes the importance of early detection, community participation, and preventive measures to combat the disease. These efforts aim to reduce the incidence of dengue, especially during the pre-monsoon period when the risk of outbreaks increases.

Foot notes:

- **Objective:** National Dengue Day aims to raise awareness about dengue prevention, emphasizing mosquito control and community involvement to reduce dengue cases.
- **History:** The day was launched by India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2010 to address the increasing dengue problem in the country.
- **Importance:** It highlights dengue's public health urgency, encourages government action, promotes research, and empowers individuals to take preventive measures.
- **Activities:** Observance includes awareness campaigns, workshops, community clean-up drives, health camps, and distribution of educational materials to promote dengue prevention and control.

'International Human Resources Day' celebrated every year on 20th May

International Human Resources Day is celebrated every year on 20 May to recognize the vital role HR professionals play in shaping workplaces and supporting employees. The day highlights the importance of human resources in fostering organizational development, employee engagement, and a positive work culture. It serves as an opportunity to appreciate HR professionals for their contributions in areas like talent acquisition, training, conflict resolution, and compliance. The celebration also emphasizes the evolving role of HR in addressing modern workforce challenges and driving business success.

Foot notes:

- **Recognition of HR Professionals:** International Human Resources Day acknowledges the vital role HR professionals play in organizations, focusing on their contributions to strategic planning, talent management, and employee engagement.
- **Theme:** Each year, the day may have a specific theme, such as "Strategic HR Leadership" or "Empowering Workplaces", highlighting current HR trends and challenges.

- **Global Celebration:** HR professionals worldwide come together to share best practices, network, and discuss innovative approaches to human resource management.
Importance of HR: The day emphasizes the significance of HR in driving organizational success, fostering a positive work environment, and supporting employee development

National Anti-Terrorism Day is observed on 21st May

National Anti-Terrorism Day is observed annually on May 21 in India to commemorate the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who was killed by a suicide bomber from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu, in 1991. This day serves to raise awareness about the devastating effects of terrorism and to promote peace, unity, and harmony among citizens. Various activities, including pledge-taking ceremonies, seminars, and awareness campaigns, are organized across government institutions, educational organizations, and civil society to reinforce the nation's commitment to combating terrorism.

Foot notes:

Purpose: The day aims to spread awareness about the dangers of terrorism and promote peace and harmony among citizens. It also seeks to educate people about the need to uphold national unity and integrity.

Rajiv Gandhi's Legacy: Rajiv Gandhi was a significant figure in Indian politics, known for his efforts to modernize the country and promote technological advancements. His assassination by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was a tragic event that shook the nation.

Observance: On this day, various events and programs are organized across the country to promote anti-terrorism awareness and to pay tribute to Rajiv Gandhi and other victims of terrorism.

International Day for Biological Diversity observed on 22nd May

The International Day for Biological Diversity is observed annually on May 22 to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity and the need to protect it. The 2025 theme, "Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development," emphasizes the interdependence between biodiversity conservation and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. This observance marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1992, a pivotal treaty aimed at promoting the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources.

Foot notes:

- **Biodiversity Importance:** Biodiversity is crucial for sustaining life on Earth, providing essential ecosystem services such as clean air and water, soil health, pollination, and climate regulation.
- **Biodiversity Loss:** Human activities like deforestation, pollution, overfishing, and climate change have led to alarming rates of biodiversity loss, threatening ecosystems and species worldwide.

- **Global Framework:** The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted in December 2022, sets ambitious targets to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, including conserving 30% of land, sea, and freshwater ecosystems and mobilizing \$200 billion annually for biodiversity conservation.

International Day to End Obstetric Fistula 2025

The International Day to End Obstetric Fistula is observed annually on May 23, and in 2025, it falls on a Friday. This day aims to raise awareness and mobilize support to eliminate obstetric fistula—a severe childbirth injury resulting from prolonged, obstructed labor without timely medical intervention. The condition leads to chronic incontinence, social isolation, and often deepens poverty among affected women. The theme for 2025 is “Breaking the Cycle: Preventing Fistula Worldwide”, emphasizing the need for comprehensive strategies to prevent obstetric fistula through equitable access to quality maternal health services, social reintegration, and sustained investment in healthcare systems.

Foot notes:

- **Rebranding Initiative:** The company plans to unveil a rebranding initiative at the Invest Karnataka Global Investors Meet to increase the brand's presence, especially in North India, where it currently holds only a 6% market share.
- **Global Expansion:** Mysore Sandal Soap aims to expand its market reach to 80 countries by March 2026, from its current presence in 23 countries. The brand has already gained international attention, with celebrity chef Vikas Khanna gifting the soap to Hollywood star Anne Hathaway.
- **Previous Ambassador:** Tamannaah Bhatia follows MS Dhoni, the former Indian cricket captain, who was the brand ambassador from 2006 to 2007.

Marketing Strategy: The company plans to boost revenue through aggressive marketing strategies, including e-commerce and quick commerce sites.

OBITUARY NEWS

Vishnu Prasad Versatile Malayalam Actor passed away

Malayalam actor Vishnu Prasad passed away on May 1, 2025, at the age of 49, due to complications from liver disease. He was undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Kochi and was in critical condition during his final days. His daughter had volunteered to donate a part of her liver, but the family faced challenges in raising the 30 lakh required for the transplant. The Association of Television Media Artistes (ATMA) initiated a fundraising campaign to assist with the medical expenses, but unfortunately, his condition deteriorated before the surgery could take place.

Foot notes:

- **Financial Struggle:** Vishnu Prasad's family faced significant financial hardship during his treatment, requiring 30 lakhs for a liver transplant, which they struggled to arrange despite his daughter's willingness to donate her liver.
- **Support from Industry:** The Association of Television Media Artists (ATMA) and fellow actors like Kishore Sathya and Seema G. Nair extended support for his treatment, showcasing the industry's solidarity.
- **Notable Works:** Vishnu Prasad was known for his roles in Malayalam films like "Runway", "Lion", "Kaiyethum Doorath", "Ben Johnson", "Pathaka", and "Lokanathan IAS", as well as several television serials.
- **International Rankings and Records:** Yadav was ranked first in the ICC T20I rankings for batsmen and is the fastest Indian player to score 1000 runs in T20Is, achieving this feat in 573 balls.

Literacy Crusader Padma Shri K.V. Rabiya passed away

KV Rabiya, a renowned literacy activist and Padma Shri awardee, passed away on May 4, 2025, at the age of 59 in Vellilakkad, Malappuram, Kerala. Confined to a wheelchair since contracting polio at 14, she defied immense challenges to become a beacon of hope and education. In 1990, she began teaching literacy classes from her home, later establishing the Chalanam Charitable Society in 1994 to promote education, women's empowerment, and support for differently-abled children. Her unwavering dedication earned her several accolades, including the Padma Shri in 2022 and the National Youth Award in 1994. Despite battling cancer and a spinal injury, Rabiya continued her mission, authoring books like *Dreams Have Wings* and inspiring countless individuals. Her legacy lives on as a testament to resilience and the transformative power of education.

Foot notes:

- **Literacy Campaign:** Rabiya's most notable contribution was her role in the Kerala State Literacy Campaign in Malappuram district in 1990.
- **Awards and Recognition:** Rabiya received several awards for her contributions, including: Padma Shri (2022), National Youth Award (1994), Kannagi Sthree Sakthi Puraskar (2001) & Ten Outstanding Young Indians award by Junior Chamber International (1999).
- **Social Work:** Rabiya founded the volunteer organization "Chalanam," which runs six schools for physically or intellectually disabled children and promotes health awareness, education, and rehabilitation.

Margot Friedlander Renowned Witness to Nazi Persecution passed away

Margot Friedländer, a renowned Holocaust survivor and educator, passed away on May 9, 2025, in Berlin at the age of 103. Born Anni Margot Bendheim in 1921, she survived the Theresienstadt concentration camp after losing her mother and brother to Auschwitz. Following

the war, she emigrated to the United States, where she lived for over six decades with her husband, Adolf Friedländer, another Holocaust survivor. In 2010, at the age of 88, she returned to Berlin and dedicated her life to Holocaust education, speaking to German youth about her experiences and advocating against antisemitism and racism. Her memoir, *Try to Make Your Life*, published in 2008, encapsulated her mother's final words and her journey of survival and resilience.

Foot notes:

- **Life Story:** Born in 1921, Friedlander experienced the horrors of the Nazi regime firsthand. She was deported to the Theresienstadt concentration camp in 1943 but managed to escape and went into hiding.
- **Advocate for Awareness:** After the war, Friedlander dedicated her life to sharing her experiences and raising awareness about the atrocities committed during the Holocaust. She gave talks and interviews, ensuring that future generations would learn from history.
- **Public Recognition:** Friedlander's story gained significant public attention, especially after a book and documentary featured her life. She became a symbol of resilience and a voice for Holocaust remembrance.
- **Legacy:** Margot Friedlander's passing marks the loss of a significant historical witness. Her legacy lives on through her story, which continues to educate and remind people of the importance of combating hatred and intolerance.

Padma Shri scientist Subbanna Ayyappan passed away

Dr. Subbanna Ayyappan, a distinguished aquaculture scientist and Padma Shri awardee, was found deceased in the Cauvery River near Srirangapatna, Karnataka, on May 10, 2025. At 70, he was the first non-crop scientist to lead the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), serving as its Director-General from 2010 to 2016. Ayyappan was instrumental in India's Blue Revolution, significantly enhancing fish production through scientific aquaculture practices. Preliminary investigations suggest the possibility of suicide, though authorities have not ruled out other causes, and a post-mortem examination is underway .

Foot notes:

- **Renowned Scientist:** Dr. Subbanna Ayyappan was a distinguished aquaculture scientist who played a pivotal role in India's Blue Revolution, advancing fisheries science and aquaculture development.
- **Investigation:** Preliminary investigations suggest that he may have died by suicide, but authorities are still investigating the exact cause of death.
- **Career Highlights:** Dr. Ayyappan held several key positions, including Director-General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Secretary of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE).
- **Awards and Recognition:** He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2022 for his significant contributions to the field of science and engineering, and was also recognized as one of the Asian Scientist 100 in 2023.

Former Uruguayan President Jose "Pepe" Mujica passed away

Former Uruguayan President José "Pepe" Mujica passed away on May 13, 2025, at the age of 89, following a battle with esophageal cancer. His death was announced by President Yamandú Orsi, who described him as a "president, activist, leader and guide". Mujica's passing has prompted an outpouring of grief and tributes from around the world. In Montevideo, thousands gathered to honor his legacy, with a funeral procession that included his widow, Lucía Topolansky, and President Orsi, who draped the national flag over his coffin. The government declared three days of national mourning, and his body was cremated and interred near his farmhouse in Rincón del Cerro, as per his wishes.

Foot notes:

- **Life of Simplicity:** Mujica was known for living a simple life, donating a significant portion of his salary, and traveling without escorts or privileges. He resided on his farm in Rincón del Cerro, where he passed away.
- **Progressive Policies:** As President from 2010 to 2015, Mujica championed historic reforms, including: Same-sex Marriage Legalization, Abortion Decriminalization, Cannabis Regulation.
- **International Recognition:** He maintained a nuanced relationship with Cuba, initially supporting its revolutionary ideals but later adopting a more critical stance.
- **Legacy:** He is remembered for his personal ethics, integrity, and commitment to social justice, inspiring many in Uruguay and across Latin America.

Brian Glanville, journalist lauded as 'the greatest football writer', passed away

Brian Glanville, acclaimed as "the greatest football writer" by peers and critics alike, passed away on May 16, 2025, at the age of 93. Over a remarkable seven-decade career, he served as the football correspondent for The Sunday Times for 33 years and contributed to World Soccer magazine for over 50 years. Renowned for his intellectual rigor and sharp commentary, Glanville covered every World Cup from 1958 to 2006, earning respect for his investigative work and literary flair. Beyond journalism, he authored more than 30 books, including the seminal The Story of the World Cup, and wrote screenplays, plays, and short stories. A lifelong Arsenal supporter, Glanville's legacy endures through his profound influence on football journalism and literature.

Foot notes:

- Glanville authored numerous books on football, including "The Story of the World Cup" and "Football Memories".
- Glanville was lauded as "the greatest football writer" by many, including American journalist Paul Zimmerman.
- Glanville's writing was characterized by his forthright views and insightful analysis.
- He was known for his ability to balance criticism with admiration, as seen in his praise for players like Paul Gascoigne.

Former Atomic Energy Commission Chairman M.R. Srinivasan passed away

Veteran nuclear scientist and former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. M.R. Srinivasan, passed away at the age of 95 on May 20, 2025, in Ooty, Tamil Nadu. A pivotal figure in India's nuclear energy development, he began his career in 1955 with the Department of Atomic Energy, working closely with Dr. Homi Bhabha on the nation's first nuclear research reactor, Apsara, which achieved criticality in 1956. Dr. Srinivasan played a central role in establishing India's indigenous nuclear power program, overseeing the construction and commissioning of multiple nuclear power plants across the country.

Foot notes:

- **Contributions:** Srinivasan played a pivotal role in shaping India's nuclear energy program, ensuring self-reliance in the energy sector. His leadership helped India withstand international pressure after the 1974 nuclear test.
- **Awards and Recognition:** He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian honor, for his outstanding contributions to the nuclear energy sector.
- **Tributes:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to Srinivasan, acknowledging his instrumental role in developing India's critical nuclear infrastructure and mentoring young scientists.

Padma Vibhushan Astrophysicist Jayant Narlikar passed away

Renowned astrophysicist and Padma Vibhushan awardee Dr. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar passed away peacefully in his sleep at his Pune residence on May 20, 2025, at the age of 87. Born in Kolhapur in 1938, Narlikar was celebrated for co-developing the Hoyle–Narlikar theory of gravity, an alternative to Einstein's general relativity, and for advocating the quasi-steady state cosmology, challenging the widely accepted Big Bang theory.

Foot notes:

- **Contributions:** Narlikar was a pioneer in cosmology and science popularization, known for his alternative cosmological theories challenging the Big Bang model. He played a crucial role in establishing key scientific institutions, including the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA).
- **Science Communication:** Narlikar was a passionate science communicator who authored books, articles, and created programs for radio and television to make complex scientific concepts accessible to the public. He was also known for his engaging science fiction writing.
- **Institutional Contributions:** Narlikar founded IUCAA in Pune and served as its director until his retirement in 2003. He also led the Theoretical Astrophysics Group at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) and was a Fellow of all three national science academies of India.

Saroj Ghose, father of India Science museum movement passed away

Dr. Saroj Ghose, renowned as the 'Father of India's Science Museum Movement,' passed away on May 17, 2025, in Seattle, USA, at the age of 89. As the founding Director General of the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) from 1979 to 1997, he was instrumental in establishing a nationwide network of interactive science centers, including the Science City in Kolkata, the National Science Centre in New Delhi, and the Nehru Science Centre in Mumbai. Dr. Ghose introduced the concept of Mobile Science Museums to bring science education to remote areas and played a pivotal role in modernizing India's museology landscape.

Foot notes:

- **Pioneering Work:** Dr. Ghose was a pioneer in science communication and popularization, transforming the way science is presented to the public through interactive exhibits and museums.
- **National Council of Science Museums (NCSM):** He served as the Director General of NCSM from 1979 to 1997, establishing a network of science centers across India, including the Nehru Science Centre in Mumbai and the National Science Centre in New Delhi.
- **Awards and Recognition:** Dr. Ghose received several prestigious awards, including the Padma Bhushan (2007) and Padma Shri (1989) for his contributions to science popularization.
- **International Impact:** He was a globally recognized figure, serving as President of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and leading international exhibitions like "India: A Heritage of Science," which showcased India's scientific achievements worldwide.

Now Govt. Job is in Your Hand !!

India's #1
Educational App



makemyexam

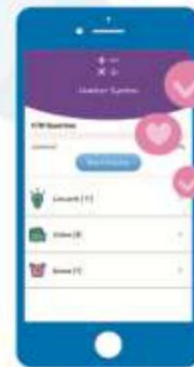


make **MY** exam



- 1000+ Videos
- 2000+ Concepts
- 3000+ Quizes
- 1000+ Practice Tests
- 500+ PDF

Download
Now



India's Best Video Course for Competitive Exams by IBT Faculties

BANK ALL EXAMS

VIDEO COURSE

395 Videos

₹3749/-



Videos by IBT Experts

RAILWAY ALL EXAMS

VIDEO COURSE

602 Videos

₹3499/-



Videos by IBT Experts

SSC ALL EXAMS

VIDEO COURSE

688 Videos

₹3599/-



Videos by IBT Experts

SBI CLERK (PRE)

VIDEO COURSE

327 Videos

₹2499/-



Videos by IBT Experts

RAILWAY NTPC

VIDEO COURSE

602 Videos

₹2699/-



Videos by IBT Experts

SSC CGL EXAM

VIDEO COURSE

688 Videos

₹2999/-



Videos by IBT Experts

SBI PO (PRE)

VIDEO COURSE

327 Videos

₹2499/-



Videos by IBT Experts

RBI ASSISTANT (PRE)

VIDEO COURSE

327 Videos

₹2499/-



Videos by IBT Experts

SSC CHSL EXAM

VIDEO COURSE

688 Videos

₹2999/-



Videos by IBT Experts