

THE DAILY GK DOSE

PFRDA CONSTITUTES HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE

- **Objective and Mandate:** The committee is tasked with formulating a framework for assured payouts under the National Pension System (NPS). The goal is to enhance retirement income security by moving beyond traditional annuities and creating regulations for "market-based guarantees" that are legally enforceable.
- **Leadership and Composition:** The panel is chaired by Dr. M. S. Sahoo, the former Chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI). It includes a diverse group of experts from the fields of finance, law, actuarial science, insurance, and academia.

Footnotes: Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority's Chairman: Sivasubramanian Ramann, HQ: New Delhi, Estd: 2003.

MIZORAM DECLARED AS 'GINGER CAPITAL OF INDIA'

- **Production Excellence & Scale:** The state produced over 60,000 tonnes of ginger in the 2024–25 season, and in 2025 alone, the state government procured 3.38 crore kg. This recognition is a result of Mizoram's emergence as a top producer of high-quality, organic ginger that is increasingly sought after in domestic and global markets.
- **Flagship 'Bana Kaih' Scheme:** Under this "Handholding Scheme," the state government provides a Minimum Support

Price (MSP) of ₹50 per kg for ginger. This policy ensures financial security for farmers and incentivizes the move toward systematic, large-scale cultivation.

Footnotes: Mizoram's Governor: V. K. Singh, CM: Lalduhoma

GALGOTIAS UNIVERSITY INAUGURATES SATELLITE CENTRE



- **Incubation and Innovation Hub:** The center is designed as a strategic hub to support early-stage and deep-tech startups. It aims to bridge the gap between academic research and market-ready solutions by providing student entrepreneurs with structured mentorship, investor access, and national-level exposure.
- **Key Leadership & Inauguration:** The facility was inaugurated by Prof. Laxmidhar Behera, Director of IIT Mandi (Chief Guest), and Prof. Goutam Sutradhar, Director of NIT Jamshedpur (Guest of Honour). The center leverages the established incubation framework of IIT Mandi Catalyst to enhance the startup ecosystem in the Delhi-NCR region.

Footnotes: Galgotias University Chairman: Suneel Galgotia, HQ: Greater Noida, Estd: 2011

IMPORTANT FACTS

MAJOR COMMISSIONS OF INDIA

ESTABLISHED

- *Election Commission of India: 1950*
- *Planning Commission: 1950*
- *National Human Rights Commission: 1993*
- *NITI Aayog: 2015*
- *National Commission for SC: 1990*
- *National Commission for ST: 2003*
- *National Commission for BC: 1993*
- *National Commission for Women: 1992*

KARNATAKA BANK BAGS IBA AWARD

- **Top Honor in Fintech Adoption:** The bank emerged as the Winner in the 'Best Fintech & DPI (Digital Public Infrastructure) Adoption' category. This award recognizes the bank's successful integration of national digital platforms like UPI, Aadhaar, and DigiLocker to enhance customer service delivery.
- **Talent and Strategy Recognition:** Karnataka Bank was adjudged Runner-up in the 'Best Tech Talent' category, highlighting its commitment to nurturing skilled IT professionals. It also received Special Mentions in three other critical areas: Best Technology Bank, Best Digital Financial Inclusion, and Best Digital Sales.

Footnotes: Karnataka's Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot, CM: Siddaramaiah, Capital: Bengaluru

MITCHELL STARC NAMED PLAYER OF THE MONTH: DEC 2025

- **Dominance in the Ashes:** Starc was recognized for his instrumental role in Australia's 4-1 Ashes series victory against England. During the month of December alone, he claimed 16 wickets across three Test matches (Brisbane, Adelaide, and Melbourne), ending the full series as the leading wicket-taker with 31 scalps.
- **All-Round Contribution:** His impact wasn't limited to bowling; he proved to be a vital lower-order batter, scoring 139 runs in December. This included two crucial half-centuries in Brisbane and Adelaide that helped Australia secure an unassailable 3-0 lead and retain the Ashes.
- **Historical Milestone:** This is the first time Mitchell Starc has received this award. He is also the first Australian to win the Men's Player of the Month since Pat Cummins achieved the feat exactly two years prior, in December 2023.

MP SIGNS MOU WITH DIGITAL INDIA BHASHINI

- **Multilingual Governance:** The MoU formalizes the integration of BHASHINI's language technologies and AI-powered translation APIs into the state's digital platforms. This will allow

citizens to access public services in multiple Indian languages, effectively breaking linguistic barriers to governance.

- **State AI Policy Vision:** During the event, Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav announced that Madhya Pradesh will soon introduce a State AI Policy in mission mode. The partnership with BHASHINI is a foundational step in this roadmap, aiming to make Madhya Pradesh a leader in "AI for People, Planet, and Progress".

Footnotes: MP's Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel, CM: Mohan Yadav, Capital: Bhopal.

CENTRE APPOINTS SHATRUJEET SINGH KAPOOR AS ITBP CHIEF



- **Profile and Tenure:** Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor is a 1990-batch IPS officer of the Haryana cadre. He has been appointed to the post until October 31, 2026, which is the date of his superannuation (retirement), or until further orders.
- **Strategic Role:** As the chief of the ITBP, Kapoor will lead the primary force responsible for guarding India's 3,488 km long

frontier with China, characterized by high-altitude, inhospitable terrain and evolving security challenges along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Footnotes: ITBP's Previous DG: Praveen Kumar, HQ: New Delhi, Formed: 1962

MS DHONI APPOINTED GOODWILL AMBASSADOR FOR PUNE GRAND TOUR 2026

- **Pioneering Cycling Event:** The Pune Grand Tour is India's first-ever international multi-stage professional road cycling race. It is a UCI (Union Cycliste Internationale) 2.2 category event, marking India's formal entry into the global professional cycling calendar.
- **Race Details and Scale:** Scheduled from January 19 to 23, 2026, the five-day race covers a grueling 437-km route across the Deccan Plateau and the Sahyadri Range. It features 171 riders from 29 teams representing 35 countries, including top-ranked teams from Spain, China, and Malaysia.
- **Dhoni's Strategic Role:** As Goodwill Ambassador, Dhoni—known for his focus on fitness and endurance—aims to amplify the event's visibility and inspire young athletes to take up cycling. The initiative also seeks to re-establish Pune's legacy as the "Cycle Capital of India" and promote sports tourism in the region.

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

16.01-2026 / FRIDAY

- **National Startup Day on 16 January 2026**
- **Origin:** Launched by PM Narendra Modi in 2022 under Startup India.
- **Significance:** Showcases startups' contribution to growth, self-reliance, and technology.