

THE DAILY GK DOSE

NITU SAMRA NAMED AS INTERIM CEO OF NOIDA AIRPORT

- **Regulatory Compliance:** The appointment follows a directive from the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), which mandates that the CEO of an Indian airport must be an Indian national to serve as the designated security coordinator.
- **Leadership Transition:** Samra, who has served as the airport's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) since October 2021, replaces Christoph Schnellmann. Schnellmann, a Swiss national, will transition to the role of Executive Vice Chairman on the board.
- **Fast-tracking Operations:** This move is intended to expedite the final security clearances required for the airport to begin commercial flights. Following its inauguration in March 2026, flight operations are now expected to commence by mid-to-late May 2026.

Footnotes: Noida's Chairman: Manoj Kumar Singh, Commissioner: Selva Kumari J

SKYROOT AEROSPACE'S VIKRAM-1 SIGNALS NEW ERA FOR INDIA'S PRIVATE SPACE INDUSTRY

- **First Private Orbital Launch:** Vikram-1 is India's first privately developed multi-stage orbital launch vehicle. While Skyroot's previous mission (Prarambh) was sub-orbital, Vikram-1 is designed to place satellites into Low Earth Orbit (LEO), officially ending the era where satellite launches were the exclusive domain of ISRO.
- **Technological Innovation:** The rocket features a full-carbon-fiber body and 3D-printed liquid engines. Its "plug-and-play" design

allows it to be assembled and launched within 24 hours from any location, offering a highly flexible and cost-effective solution for the global small-satellite market.

- **Strategic Impact (NewSpace India):** This mission is a direct result of the 2020 Space Sector Reforms. It positions India as a competitive hub for commercial space activities, shifting the role of ISRO toward deep-space exploration and R&D, while private players like Skyroot handle the high-frequency commercial launch business.

AP'S GUNTUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION WINS UNIDO GEM AWARD 2026



- **Recognition of Women-Led Green Initiative:** The award recognizes GMC's "Sustainable Cities" project, which successfully transitioned over 200 women from informal waste collection to formal employment as electric auto-tipper drivers for door-to-door garbage collection.
- **Intersection of Gender and Climate:** The initiative was lauded for achieving dual goals—promoting gender equality by providing sustainable livelihoods and dignity to women, while simultaneously advancing environmental sustainability through zero-emission, eco-friendly waste management.

Footnotes: AP's CM: N. Chandrababu Naidu, Governor: Syed Abdul Nazeer, Capital: Amaravati

IMPORTANT FACTS

- *Goa is the 25th state of India.*
- *All India Radio was established in 1936 AD.*
- *The slogan "Aaram Haram Hai" was given by Jawaharlal Nehru.*
- *Television broadcasting in India started in 1959.*
- *The Nobel Prizes were started in 1901.*
- *"Manusmriti" is the oldest Smriti.*
- *Articles 25 to 28 of the Constitution are related to freedom of religion.*

CMEC SIGNS MOU WITH DELHI UNIVERSITY TO BOOST MARITIME EDUCATION

- **Human Capital Development:** The MoU aims to strengthen India's maritime talent pipeline. Currently, India contributes 12% of the global seafaring workforce, and this collaboration is part of a strategic push to increase that share to 20% by 2030.
- **Specialized Curriculum:** Delhi University will develop new academic frameworks, including core and elective courses, diplomas, and training programs.
- **Strategic Alignment:** The initiative aligns with the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 and the Blue Economy framework. It seeks to bridge the gap between academic research and industry needs, ensuring that Indian youth are equipped for professional careers in the maritime sector.

PUNJAB KINGS SET NEW IPL RECORD WITH HISTORIC 265-RUN CHASE

- **World Record Chase:** Punjab Kings successfully chased down a target of 265 runs set by the Delhi Capitals (DC) at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, finishing at 265/4 with seven balls to spare. This broke their own previous world record of 262 set against KKR in 2024.
- **Opening Blitz & Finishing Power:** The chase was powered by an explosive start from Prabhsimran Singh (76 off 26) and Priyansh Arya (43 off 17), who guided PBKS to 116/0 in the powerplay. Captain Shreyas Iyer then anchored the finish with a composed 71 off 36 balls*.
- **Record-Breaking Day for KL Rahul:** Despite ending up on the losing side, Delhi's KL Rahul made history by scoring 152 off 67 balls*. This became the highest-ever T20 score by an Indian and the first 150-plus score by an Indian in the IPL, surpassing the previous record held by Abhishek Sharma (141).

FORMER IRTS OFFICER APPOINTED AS FIRST CEO OF DMIL

- **Global Expansion Mandate:** DMIL has been established to export Delhi Metro's technical expertise. It will handle metro rail projects, consultancy, and Operation & Maintenance (O&M) assignments both within India (outside the Delhi-NCR region) and in international markets.
- **Veteran Leadership:** Sanjay Jamuar is a retired Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) officer from the 1987 batch. Interestingly, he

was DMRC's very first Operations and Maintenance employee when he joined the organization in 1998, making his return as CEO a significant "homecoming."

- **Strategic Advisory Role:** Beyond project execution, DMIL is mandated to provide specialized advisory services to governments, transit authorities, and financial lenders to help design and implement long-term urban mobility and transit systems globally.

Footnotes: DMIL's MD: Vikas Kumar, HQ: New Delhi, Estd: 1995

BOTANIST N. ALIM YUSUF HONOURED BY WORLD WIDE FUND



- **AI-Powered Conservation:** Yusuf, a researcher at the Malabar Botanical Garden and Institute for Plant Sciences (MBGIPS) in Kozhikode, was recognized for developing an AI-based mobile application called "Neophyte ID." The app uses the advanced YOLOv11 machine learning model to help users instantly identify nearly 100 invasive plant species in Kerala.
- **Geospatial Tracking and Mapping:** Beyond simple identification, the app integrates geospatial tracking to map the spread of harmful species. This provides critical real-time data for forest officials and researchers to take timely action in ecologically sensitive areas like the Wayanad

Wildlife Sanctuary, which is heavily impacted by invasive flora like *Senna spectabilis*.

- **Empowering Grassroots Action:** Inspired by his fieldwork with tribal communities, Yusuf designed the app to be accessible in both Malayalam and English. Along with the award, he received a ₹1.5 lakh seed grant from the WWF to scale the project and expand its database to cover invasive species across India.

INDIA'S 1968 OLYMPIC BRONZE MEDALIST GURBAX SINGH GREWAL PASSED AWAY

- **Olympic Achievement:** Grewal was a key member of the Indian hockey team that won the bronze medal at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics. He was known as a "speedy forward" during his playing days and represented Western Railways for the majority of his domestic career.
- **A Rare Family Milestone:** He holds the rare distinction of playing alongside his brother, Balbir Singh Grewal, during the same 1968 Olympic Games. This marked the first time in Indian hockey history that two siblings represented the national team together at the Olympics.
- **Post-Retirement Contributions:** Beyond the field, he served as a senior sports officer with Western Railways and as the Honorary Secretary of the Mumbai Hockey Association. He was widely respected as a mentor and administrator who played a significant role in nurturing and identifying young hockey talent across India.

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

27.04.2026 / MONDAY

- **World Design Day: April 27th**
- **2026 Theme: "The Spaces In Between"**
- **It emphasizes using design as a vehicle to honor diversity and address local needs rather than just pursuing commercial efficiency.**