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NATIONAL NEWS

ECI Honours J&K Chief Secretary for Lok Sabha Polls

The Election Commission of India (ECI) honoured Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Chief Secretary for his outstanding contribution during the Lok Sabha elections. The recognition was in acknowledgment of his leadership and efforts in ensuring smooth and efficient election procedures in the region. His diligent work helped address the unique challenges posed by the region, contributing to a peaceful and transparent election process. The ECI's acknowledgment highlights his role in maintaining law and order while facilitating the democratic process. This honor also underscores the importance of effective administration in conducting elections in challenging environments.

Foot notes:

- **Certificate of Exemplary Leadership:** Dulloo received a 'Certificate of Exemplary Leadership' signed by the Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners, recognizing his role in ensuring smooth and successful polls.
- **Record Voter Turnout:** Under his leadership, J&K saw a record 58.11% voter turnout, the highest since 1989, up over 14% from 44% in 2019.
- **Innovative Polling Stations:** The administration set up various innovative polling stations, including 83 women-managed, 70 youth-run, 73 PwD-operated, and 88 eco-friendly stations, to ensure accessibility and inclusion for all segments of society.
- **Eligible Voters and Polling Personnel:** A total of 87,26,281 voters were eligible to exercise their franchise, and 11,629 polling stations were established with 80,724 trained polling personnel.
- **First General Elections Post-Reorganization:** These elections were the first general elections in J&K after its reorganization in 2019, making Dulloo's achievement even more significant.

IRFC & IRCTC Granted Navratna Status

Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) and Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) have been granted the prestigious Navratna status by the Government of India. This recognition is a significant achievement for both organizations, as it provides them with greater operational and financial autonomy. The Navratna status will empower IRFC and IRCTC to make faster decisions, manage their operations more effectively, and pursue growth opportunities. This move is expected to boost their efficiency and help them further contribute to the development of the Indian Railways sector. The designation also marks a milestone in the journey of both companies towards becoming leaders in their respective fields.

Foot notes:

- **Navratna Status:** The Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) and the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) have been granted Navratna status

by the government, recognizing their strong financial performance and contribution to the railway sector.

- **Financial Autonomy:** With this status, IRFC and IRCTC will enjoy greater financial autonomy, allowing them to invest up to 1,000 crore without seeking government approval.
- **Operational Independence:** The Navratna status also grants them greater operational independence, enabling them to make strategic decisions and expand their businesses.
- **Performance Highlights:** IRCTC reported an annual turnover of 4,270.18 crore, a profit after tax of 1,111.26 crore, and a net worth of 3,229.97 crore for the financial year 2023-24. IRFC recorded a turnover of 26,644 crore, a profit after tax of 6,412 crore, and a net worth of 49,178 crore during the same period.
- **Railway Ministry's Achievement:** With IRFC and IRCTC joining the list, the Railway Ministry now has seven Navratna companies under its umbrella, showcasing its commitment to excellence and growth.

India's new Astra MK-III missile, renamed GANDIVA

India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has renamed the Astra Mk-III air-to-air missile as "Gandiva," inspired by the legendary bow of Arjuna from the Mahabharata. This advanced missile features a Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) propulsion system, enabling it to achieve sustained supersonic speeds of up to Mach 4.5. With a range of approximately 340 kilometers at high altitudes, it significantly enhances the Indian Air Force's beyond-visual-range combat capabilities.

Foot notes:

- **Range and Speed:** The Gandiva has a range of 340 kilometers and can reach speeds of Mach 2.0-3.6, making it one of the fastest air-to-air missiles globally.
- **Guidance System:** It features an advanced guidance system, including inertial mid-course guidance and active radar homing, allowing it to engage targets beyond visual range.
- **Platforms:** The Gandiva will be integrated with various Indian Air Force fighter jets, including the Su-30MKI, Tejas, Mirage 2000, and MiG-29.
- **Indigenous Development:** The missile is part of India's push for indigenous defense technology, offering strategic advantages like cost-effectiveness and reduced reliance on imported weapons.
- **Combat Capability:** The Gandiva's advanced capabilities will significantly enhance the Indian Air Force's combat capability, allowing it to engage and destroy highly maneuverable supersonic aircraft.

India Ranks 4th in Global Wealth Rankings

India has ranked 4th in the global wealth rankings, highlighting its significant position in the global economic landscape. The country's wealth is driven by a growing middle class,

increasing investments, and a thriving business ecosystem. India has experienced substantial growth in the number of high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs) and is rapidly emerging as a hub for wealth creation. This ranking reflects the country's resilience and its expanding role in global finance and investment. With strong economic growth projections, India is expected to continue to climb the wealth ladder in the coming years.

Foot notes:

- **Global Wealth Distribution:** The United States tops the list with 905,413 HNWIs, followed by China with 471,634 HNWIs, and Japan with 122,119 HNWIs.
- **India's HNWI Growth:** India's HNWI population is projected to increase by 9.4% by 2028, reaching 93,753 individuals.
- **Billionaire Trends:** India ranks 3rd globally in terms of billionaires, with 191 billionaires in 2024, and a combined wealth of USD 950 billion.
- **Wealth per Capita:** India's wealth per capita is still relatively low, with 92.3% of adults having wealth less than \$10,000.
- **Richest Cities in India:** The top 5 richest cities in India are Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Bengaluru, and Chennai, contributing significantly to India's economic growth.

Union IT Minister Launches Compute Portal and AIKosha Dataset Platform

India's Union IT Minister has launched two significant digital platforms: the Compute Portal and the AIKosha Dataset Platform. The Compute Portal aims to provide access to high-performance computing resources to researchers, startups, and educational institutions, enabling advancements in various fields such as AI and data science. The AIKosha Dataset Platform offers a comprehensive repository of datasets, specifically designed to support the development and training of artificial intelligence models in India. These initiatives are part of the government's efforts to foster innovation and strengthen India's position in the global tech ecosystem. By providing easy access to crucial resources, the platforms are expected to enhance research and development in AI and other emerging technologies.

Foot notes:

- **Compute Portal:** The AI Compute Portal will provide access to over 18,000 GPUs, cloud storage, and other AI services at discounted rates, starting from 67 per hour, with a 40% government subsidy.
- **AIKosha Dataset Platform:** AIKosha is a secured platform hosting over 300 datasets and 80 models to promote AI innovation. It offers AI sandbox capabilities, content discoverability, and AI readiness scoring of datasets.
- **Key Objectives:** The initiatives aim to democratize AI access, enable research-driven innovation, and bolster India's global AI leadership. They focus on strengthening AI-driven research, innovation, and skill development.
- **Other Initiatives:** Other launched initiatives include the AI Competency Framework for Public Sector Officials, iGOT-AI Mission Karmayogi, the IndiaAI Startups Global Acceleration Program, and the IndiaAI Application Development Initiative.

- **IndiaAI Mission:** The IndiaAI mission, approved in March 2024, has a budget outlay of 10,371.92 crore. It aims to establish a comprehensive AI ecosystem, promoting innovation and entrepreneurship in India.

LIC Ranked World's 3rd Strongest Insurance Brand

LIC (Life Insurance Corporation of India) has been ranked as the world's third strongest insurance brand. This recognition highlights LIC's strong financial position and widespread recognition in the global market. The ranking is based on factors like brand value, customer trust, and market presence. LIC has been a dominant player in the Indian insurance sector and continues to expand its reach and services. This achievement further solidifies LIC's position as a leading insurance provider, both in India and internationally.

Foot notes:

- **Brand Value:** LIC's brand value remains steady at \$9.8 billion, with a brand strength index score of 88.3 and an AAA brand strength rating
- **Global Rankings:** According to the Brand Finance Insurance 100 2024 report, LIC surpasses other top insurance brands, including Cathay Life Insurance, which ranks second with a 9% increase in brand value to \$4.9 billion.
- **Chinese Insurance Brands:** Chinese insurance brands, such as Ping An, China Life Insurance, and CPIC, dominate the global rankings, with Ping An leading with a 4% increase in brand value to \$33.6 billion.
- **Indian Insurance Market:** LIC achieved the highest first-year premium collection of Rs 39,090 crore in the financial year 2023, while SBI Life Insurance and HDFC Life Insurance led the private sector with new business premium collections.
- **Brand Strength:** LIC's strong brand reputation, customer trust, and financial performance contribute to its ranking as the world's strongest insurance brand.

India ranked 5th Most Polluted in 2024 Air Pollution Rankings

India has been ranked as the 5th most polluted country in the 2024 Air Pollution Rankings. This alarming position highlights the ongoing challenges the nation faces in combating air quality issues. High levels of pollutants continue to pose serious health risks to the population, especially in urban areas. The ranking serves as a wake-up call for intensified efforts to reduce emissions and promote sustainable practices. Authorities and environmentalists alike are emphasizing the need for comprehensive policies to tackle pollution and improve public health.

Foot notes:

- **Ranking:** India was ranked 8th in the 2022 World Air Quality Report, dropping from the 5th position in the previous year.
- **Pollution Levels:** The country's pollution levels are alarming, with an average PM2.5 level of 53.3.
- **Most Polluted Cities:** Indian cities like Bhiwadi, Delhi, and Varanasi are among the most polluted in the world.

- **Health Impacts:** Air pollution in India is estimated to reduce life expectancy by 5.3 years, with some areas experiencing even higher reductions.
- **Regional Variations:** Pollution levels vary across regions, with the Indo-Gangetic Plains being the most polluted.

India Tops Medal Tally with 134 Medals at Para Athletics GP

India topped the medal tally at the Para Athletics Grand Prix by securing an impressive total of 134 medals. The Indian contingent delivered outstanding performances across multiple events, dominating both track and field competitions. With a combination of 58 gold, 45 silver, and 31 bronze medals, India showcased its growing strength in para athletics on the global stage. The achievement highlights the dedication and resilience of Indian para-athletes, who continue to break barriers and set new records. This historic win has brought pride to the nation and further boosted India's reputation in international para sports.

Foot notes:

- **Medal Tally:** India's 134 medals put them ahead of the Neutral Para Athletes contingent and Uzbekistan in the overall standings.
- **Notable Performances:** Indian athletes delivered exceptional performances across various track and field events, showcasing the country's growing strength and depth in para-athletics.
- **Podium Sweep:** India achieved a podium sweep in the men's Shot Put F11–F20 category, with Sagar, Janka Singh, and Balaji Rajendran securing gold, silver, and bronze medals, respectively.
- **Individual Medal Winners:** Several Indian athletes won individual medals, including Preeti Pal, who secured a bronze medal in the women's 200m T35–T38 event.
- **Global Recognition:** India's impressive performance at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2025 has brought recognition to the country's para-athletes, highlighting their talent and dedication to their sport.

East Coast Railway Sets Record with 250 MT Freight in 2024-25

East Coast Railway has achieved a historic milestone by reaching 250 MT of freight loading in 2024-25. This makes it the first railway zone to accomplish such a feat. The railway Zone's performance highlights its efficiency in freight transportation. The achievement showcases the strong demand and capacity of East Coast Railway's services. This record-breaking achievement sets a new benchmark in the Indian railway sector.

Foot notes :

- **Record-Breaking Loading:** ECoR loaded 256.22 million tonnes of originating freight in the 2023-24 fiscal year, marking a 6.1% growth compared to the previous year.
- **Fastest-Ever Loading:** ECoR achieved the fastest-ever loading of 100.57 million tonnes of freight in just 148 days during the 2024-25 fiscal year.

- **Revenue Growth:** ECoR's revenue saw a slight increase, totaling 20,288.041 crore, reflecting a 1.28% growth in the 2024-25 fiscal year.
- **Commodity-Wise Loading:** ECoR handled various commodities, including coal, raw materials for steel plants, steel, iron ore, cement, food grains, fertilizers, and mineral oil.
- **Division-Wise Contributions:** The three divisions of ECoR – Khurda Road, Waltair, and Sambalpur – contributed significantly to the record-breaking loading, with Khurda Road Division leading the charge.

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JSW Steel Becomes the World's Highest-Valued Steelmaker

JSW Steel has achieved the milestone of becoming the world's highest-valued steelmaker, reflecting its strong market performance. The company's consistent growth, innovation, and strategic investments have contributed to this remarkable achievement. Its commitment to sustainability and advanced steel production techniques has strengthened its global presence. With expanding operations and a focus on green steel initiatives, JSW Steel continues to lead the industry. This recognition highlights investor confidence and the company's competitive edge in the global market. The milestone reinforces India's growing influence in the steel sector. JSW Steel's success sets a new benchmark for excellence in the industry.

Foot notes:

- **Global Ranking:** JSW Steel has surpassed global giants like ArcelorMittal (\$27.14 billion) and Nucor Corporation (\$29.40 billion) to become the world's most valuable steelmaker.
- **Market Capitalization:** With a market capitalization of \$30.31 billion, JSW Steel has achieved a significant milestone in the global steel industry.
- **Revenue and Profit:** While JSW Steel's revenue (\$21.1 billion) is lower than ArcelorMittal's (\$62.4 billion), its profit (\$1.1 billion) is a testament to its efficient operations.
- **Indian Steel Industry:** JSW Steel's achievement is a reflection of the growing prominence of Indian steel producers in the global market.
- **Future Plans:** JSW Steel aims to increase its capacity to 43.5 million tonnes per annum by FY2028 and 51.5 million tonnes per annum by FY2031.

India Becomes the World's Top Milk Producer

India has officially become the world's largest milk producer, surpassing all other nations. The country's dairy industry contributes over 23% of global milk production. Government initiatives like the National Dairy Plan and White Revolution have played a crucial role in this achievement. Cooperative networks such as Amul and Mother Dairy have strengthened milk production and distribution. This milestone ensures better food security, economic growth, and improved livelihoods for millions of dairy farmers in India.

Foot notes:

- **Record Milk Production:** India produced 208,984,430 tonnes of milk in 2024, surpassing other major milk-producing countries like the United States, Pakistan, and China.
- **Top Milk-Producing States:** Uttar Pradesh is India's highest milk-producing state, accounting for around 15.72% of the country's total milk production, followed closely by Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.
- **Dairy Industry Growth:** India's dairy industry has grown consistently, with milk production increasing by nearly 2% to 207 million metric tonnes in 2023.
- **Global Demand:** India's growing population, rapid urbanization, and improving incomes are driving demand for milk and milk products, making it an attractive market for dairy producers.
- **Export Opportunities:** India's largest dairy exporter, Amul, distributes products to 25 countries, highlighting the potential for Indian dairy companies to expand their global presence

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Yamandú Orsi Sworn in as Uruguay's President

Yamandú Orsi was sworn in as the President of Uruguay, marking the beginning of his term in office. Orsi, a member of the Broad Front political party, succeeded outgoing President Luis Lacalle Pou. In his inaugural address, Orsi emphasized his commitment to social justice, economic development, and strengthening democracy in Uruguay. His leadership is expected to focus on addressing key national issues such as economic inequality, education, and healthcare. Orsi's presidency comes at a pivotal time, as Uruguay continues to navigate challenges on both the domestic and international fronts.

Foot notes:

- **Inauguration Ceremony:** Orsi's inauguration ceremony was attended by several regional leaders, including Colombia's President Gustavo Petro, Brazil's Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, and Chile's Gabriel Boric.
- **Election:** Orsi was elected president of Uruguay on November 24 with 52.08% of the votes, defeating Álvaro Delgado, the designated successor of outgoing President Luis Alberto Lacalle Pou.
- **Policy Agenda:** As a former history teacher and mayor, Orsi has pledged to strengthen Uruguay's social safety net while addressing economic stagnation.

- **Challenges Ahead:** His presidency presents a challenge in balancing the demands of his leftist supporters with economic growth and investor confidence.
- **Regional Significance:** With Orsi's election, the political left now leads 12 out of 19 Latin American countries, including regional powers Mexico and Brazil, making it the dominant force in the region.

Ashish Sinha, appointed as Ambassador of India to the Republic of Estonia

Ashish Sinha has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Estonia. A seasoned diplomat, he brings extensive experience in foreign affairs and international relations. His appointment is expected to strengthen bilateral ties between India and Estonia, focusing on trade, technology, and cultural exchanges. Sinha will play a key role in enhancing diplomatic cooperation and fostering strategic partnerships. He is set to assume his new responsibilities soon, furthering India's global outreach in the Baltic region.

Foot notes:

- **Background and Experience:** Ashish Sinha is a seasoned Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer from the 2005 batch, currently serving as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- **Diplomatic Role:** As Ambassador to Estonia, Sinha will play a crucial role in strengthening diplomatic ties between India and Estonia, which have been cordial and friendly since their establishment in 1991.
- **Bilateral Relations:** The appointment comes at a time of growing bilateral engagement between the two nations, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently meeting Estonia's President Alar Karis to discuss expanding cooperation in trade, technology, and cultural exchanges.
- **Key Areas of Focus:** Sinha's priorities as Ambassador will include enhancing trade and economic ties, promoting cultural exchanges, and exploring opportunities for cooperation in areas like technology and innovation.
- **Assumption of Duty:** Sinha is expected to take up his new assignment shortly, marking a significant milestone in India-Estonia relations.

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IndiGo Becomes the World's Second Fastest-Growing Airline in Seat Capacity

IndiGo has emerged as the world's second fastest-growing airline in terms of seat capacity. The Indian low-cost carrier has made significant strides in expanding its operations, increasing its fleet, and offering more flights to meet the growing demand for air travel. IndiGo's rapid growth is a result of its strategic expansion into new markets and the addition of numerous domestic and international routes. The airline's focus on efficiency, customer service, and affordable pricing has helped it capture a larger share of the market. This achievement highlights IndiGo's strong position in the global aviation industry and its ability to adapt to changing travel demands.

Foot notes:

- **Seat Capacity Growth:** IndiGo achieved a remarkable 10.1% growth in seat capacity in 2024, with over 134.9 million seats.
- **Global Ranking:** The airline ranks second globally in terms of seat capacity growth, just behind Qatar Airways, which grew 10.4% in the same period.
- **Flight Frequency Growth:** IndiGo also leads the world in flight frequency growth, with a 9.7% year-over-year increase in 2024, totaling 749,156 flights.
- **Aircraft Orders:** The airline has one of the largest aircraft orders in the world, with over 900 aircraft on order, and received 58 new Airbus planes in 2024.
- **Future Plans:** IndiGo aims to expand its international presence, focusing on regional Middle East markets and Thailand, and is considering launching low-cost long-haul services.

Mark Carney Succeeded Justin Trudeau as the Next Prime Minister of Canada

Mark Carney has succeeded Justin Trudeau as the Prime Minister of Canada, marking a significant shift in the country's leadership. A former Governor of the Bank of Canada and the Bank of England, Carney brings extensive economic expertise to the role. His leadership comes at a critical time, as Canada faces escalating tensions with the United States and economic challenges on the global stage. Carney is committed to strengthening Canada's economy, promoting sustainable development, and preserving national sovereignty. With a pragmatic and data-driven approach, he aims to balance economic growth with social justice and environmental stewardship.

Foot notes:

- **Leadership Election:** Mark Carney was elected as the leader of the Liberal Party of Canada on March 9, 2025, with over 85.9% of the vote.
- **Transition Process:** Carney will be sworn in as the 24th Prime Minister of Canada after Justin Trudeau's resignation, with the transition expected to be "seamless and quick".
- **Background:** Carney, a Canadian economist and politician, has had a distinguished career, serving as the Governor of the Bank of Canada and the Bank of England.
- **Policy Focus:** As Prime Minister, Carney is expected to focus on issues like economic growth, climate change, and social inequality.
- **Historic Significance:** Carney will become the first Canadian Prime Minister born in any of the territories and the first to have never served in prior elected office.

India Becomes the Top Source of FDI into Dubai

India has emerged as the top source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into Dubai. This achievement highlights the strong economic ties between India and the UAE, reflecting India's growing global investment footprint. The surge in FDI from India has significantly contributed to Dubai's economic growth and diversification. Key sectors attracting Indian investment include real estate, technology, and infrastructure. This milestone underscores India's role as a major player in the international investment landscape.

Foot notes:

- **India's Rise to the Top:** India has surpassed other countries to become the top source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into Dubai, reflecting the growing economic ties between India and the UAE.
- **FDI Figures:** According to the Dubai Investment Development Agency (Dubai FDI), India accounted for a significant share of FDI into Dubai, with investments totaling billions of dirhams.
- **Diversified Investments:** Indian investors have diversified their investments across various sectors in Dubai, including real estate, manufacturing, logistics, and financial services.
- **Strategic Partnership:** The UAE and India have a strategic partnership, with the UAE being one of India's largest trading partners. This partnership has facilitated increased investment flows between the two countries.

- **Growing Economic Ties:** India's rise as the top source of FDI into Dubai reflects the growing economic ties between the two countries, driven by factors such as trade agreements, investment incentives, and cultural exchange.

Ramu Abbagani appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Brunei Darussalam

Ramu Abbagani has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Brunei Darussalam. A seasoned diplomat, he brings extensive experience in foreign affairs and international relations. His new role will involve strengthening bilateral ties between India and Brunei across various sectors. The Indian government expects his leadership to enhance cooperation in trade, culture, and strategic partnerships. Abbagani's appointment reflects India's commitment to fostering strong diplomatic relations with Brunei.

Foot notes:

- **Current Role:** Abbagani is currently serving as the Ambassador of India to the Dominican Republic.
- **Indian Foreign Service:** He is a 2001 batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS).
- **New Assignment:** Abbagani is expected to take up his new assignment as High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam shortly.
- **Replacement:** He will replace the current High Commissioner, Shri Alok Amitabh Dimri.
- **Diplomatic Relations:** Abbagani's appointment aims to strengthen diplomatic relations between India and Brunei Darussalam, building on the historic visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Brunei in September 2024.

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US Overtakes UAE as India's Largest Source of Remittances

The United States has overtaken the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as India's largest source of remittances. According to recent data, the US now accounts for a significant share of the total funds sent by overseas Indians. This shift is attributed to the growing Indian diaspora and high-skilled professionals in the US. The trend highlights the changing dynamics of global migration and remittance patterns. The UAE, which traditionally held the top spot, has now moved to second place in India's remittance inflow rankings.

Foot notes:

- **New Top Source:** The United States has surpassed the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as the top source country for remittances to India, accounting for 23% of overall remittances in the financial year 2020-21.
- **Shift in Remittance Patterns:** The COVID-19 pandemic led to a decline in remittances from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region, which historically accounted for over 50% of India's inward remittances.
- **Growing Importance of Advanced Economies:** Advanced economies like the US, UK, and Singapore have emerged as significant sources of remittances, accounting for 36% of total remittances in 2020-21.
- **Remittances to India:** India received \$87 billion in remittances in 2021, with the US being the largest source, accounting for over 20% of these funds.
- **Impact on Indian Economy:** Remittances play a crucial role in India's economy, and the shift in remittance patterns is expected to have significant implications for the country's external financing and economic growth.

Sanjay Singh Elected UWW-Asia Bureau Member

Indian wrestling official Sanjay Singh has been elected as a Bureau Member of United World Wrestling (UWW) Asia. His appointment strengthens India's representation in the continental wrestling body. Sanjay Singh has been actively involved in promoting wrestling and developing athletes at the grassroots level. His role in UWW-Asia will focus on enhancing the sport's growth and governance across the region. This achievement marks a significant milestone for Indian wrestling on the international stage.

Foot notes:

- **Election Details:** Singh secured 22 out of 38 votes during the UWW-Asia General Assembly in Amman, Jordan, demonstrating strong support from the Asian wrestling community.

- **Significance:** His election marks a significant achievement for Indian wrestling, further strengthening the country's presence on the international wrestling stage.
- **Benefits for Indian Wrestlers:** Singh's presence in the UWW-Asia Bureau is expected to provide Indian wrestlers with greater representation, improved international exposure, better training programs, and enhanced opportunities to compete at higher levels.
- **Growth of Wrestling in Asia:** His leadership is anticipated to contribute significantly to the growth of wrestling across Asia, providing Indian wrestlers with a stronger platform to showcase their talent globally.
- **Reaction:** Singh expressed his gratitude, stating that his election is a testament to the growth and recognition of Indian wrestling at the global level, and he looks forward to working closely with UWW-Asia to promote and develop the sport across the continent.

Bharati Airtel's Gopal Vittal Elected as GSMA Chairman

Bharti Airtel's CEO, Gopal Vittal, has been elected as the Chairman of the GSMA, the global association representing mobile network operators. His appointment highlights India's growing influence in the global telecom sector and reinforces Airtel's leadership in mobile technology. Vittal is expected to play a key role in shaping global telecom policies, driving innovation, and enhancing digital connectivity. Under his leadership, GSMA will focus on advancing mobile industry initiatives, including 5G expansion and digital inclusion.

Foot notes:

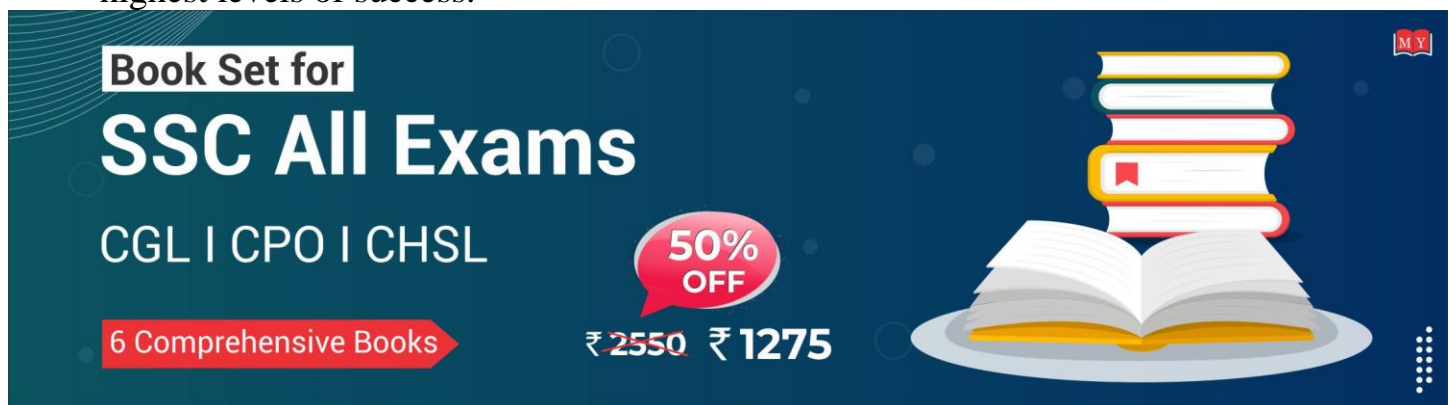
- **New Leadership Role:** Gopal Vittal, Managing Director and CEO of Bharti Airtel, has been elected as the Chairman of the GSMA Board until the end of 2026.
- **Second Indian to Hold the Position:** Vittal is the second Indian to be elected as GSMA Chairman, after Sunil Bharti Mittal, who held the position in 2016.
- **Extensive Experience:** Vittal brings over a decade of experience with GSMA, having served as Deputy Chair for three years and as a key board member during the 2019-2020 term.
- **Strategic Focus:** As Chairman, Vittal will oversee the strategic direction of GSMA, focusing on innovation, artificial intelligence, and 5G expansion.
- **Industry Representation:** GSMA represents over 1,100 companies from the global telecommunications industry, including telecom operators, device manufacturers, and software developers.

Roshni Nadar Becomes First Indian Woman in World's Top 10 Richest Women

Roshni Nadar, the Chairperson of HCL Technologies, has become the first Indian woman to be ranked among the world's top 10 richest women. She holds a significant fortune, largely driven by her stake in the IT giant founded by her father, Shiv Nadar. With her strategic leadership, HCL has continued to expand globally, boosting her net worth. Her achievement marks a milestone for Indian women in business and global wealth rankings. This recognition further cements her influence in the corporate world and philanthropy.

Foot notes:

- **Wealth and Ranking:** Roshni Nadar's net worth is estimated to be 3.5 lakh crore (US\$40 billion), making her the 5th richest woman globally.
- **First Indian Woman:** She is the first Indian woman to break into the world's top 10 richest women list.
- **Chairperson of HCL Technologies:** Roshni Nadar is the chairperson of HCL Technologies, one of India's leading IT companies.
- **Philanthropic Efforts:** She is also involved in various philanthropic efforts, including the Shiv Nadar Foundation, which focuses on education and leadership initiatives.
- **Inspiration to Women:** Roshni Nadar's achievement is an inspiration to women everywhere, demonstrating that with hard work and determination, they can reach the highest levels of success.



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India Becomes the World's Second-Largest Tea Exporter in 2024

India has emerged as the world's second-largest tea exporter in 2024, surpassing key competitors in the global market. The country's tea exports saw a significant rise due to increased demand from markets like Russia, Iran, and the UAE. Indian tea, known for its quality and variety, including Assam and Darjeeling teas, has gained a strong international presence. Government initiatives, improved production techniques, and favorable trade policies have contributed to this achievement. This milestone reinforces India's position as a leading player in the global tea industry.

Foot notes:

- **Record-Breaking Exports:** India's tea exports reached an impressive 255 million kg in 2024, surpassing Sri Lanka's exports.
- **Value of Exports:** The value of India's tea exports increased by 15% in 2024, reaching 7,111 crore.
- **Key Markets:** India exports tea to over 25 countries, with Iraq being one of the largest markets, accounting for 20% of total tea exports.
- **Growth Prospects:** The Indian tea industry is expected to continue growing, with the market estimated to reach \$14.4 billion in revenue by 2028.
- **Competitive Advantage:** India's diversified product range, including high-quality Assam, Darjeeling, and Nilgiri tea, gives it a competitive edge in the global tea market.

STATE NEWS

Uttarakhand Launches Mukhyamantri Ekal Mahila Swarozgar Yojana

The Uttarakhand government has launched the Mukhyamantri Ekal Mahila Swarozgar Yojana to empower single women by providing them with self-employment opportunities. This scheme aims to support widows, divorced, and abandoned women by offering financial assistance and skill development programs. Under the initiative, beneficiaries will receive loans and subsidies to start small businesses or entrepreneurial ventures. The program also focuses on training and capacity building to ensure sustainable income generation. Through this effort, the state government seeks to promote economic independence and uplift the social status of single women in Uttarakhand.

Foot notes:

- **Objective:** The scheme aims to empower single women in Uttarakhand by providing them with financial assistance to start their own businesses, thereby making them self-reliant.
- **Eligibility:** The scheme is open to single women, including widows, divorcees, and those abandoned by their husbands, with a family income of less than 72,000 per annum.
- **Benefits:** Under the scheme, women will receive a subsidy of up to 50% of the project cost, with a maximum limit of 50,000, to establish their businesses.
- **Application Process:** Although the scheme has been announced, the application process is yet to be revealed. The government is expected to release more information on the application process and required documents soon.
- **Impact:** The scheme is expected to have a positive impact on the lives of single women in Uttarakhand, enabling them to become financially independent and contributing to the state's economic growth.

Assam Names Electronics City After Ratan Tata

Assam has honored Ratan Tata by naming its new electronics city after the renowned industrialist. The decision to name the city "Ratan Tata Electronics City" recognizes Tata's significant contributions to the development of India's industrial and technological sectors. The electronics city, located in the state of Assam, is set to boost the region's infrastructure and attract investments in the electronics and IT industries. This move aligns with the state's vision to become a hub for technology and innovation in the northeast. Ratan Tata's association with the project underscores his role in shaping India's industrial landscape, further solidifying his legacy.

Foot notes:

- **Ratan Tata Electronic City:** The electronics hub will be named Ratan Tata Electronic City, honoring Tata's commitment to Assam's growth.
- **Tata Group's Engagement:** The Tata Group has a long history of engagement in Assam, with significant investments in the state's industrial and economic landscape.

- **Advantage Assam 2.0:** The announcement follows Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran's remarks at the Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment Summit, where he highlighted Ratan Tata's strong connection to Assam.
- **Electronics City Location:** The Ratan Tata Electronic City will be located in Jagiroad, Assam, and is expected to boost the state's electronics manufacturing capabilities.
- **Tribute to Ratan Tata:** The naming of the electronics city after Ratan Tata is a testament to his enduring legacy and contributions to Assam's development.

Bangalore City University to be Renamed After Dr. Manmohan Singh

The Karnataka government has announced that Bangalore City University will be renamed Dr. Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University in honor of the late former Prime Minister's contributions to the nation. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah made this announcement during the presentation of the 2025-26 state budget. To enhance the university's stature, Government Arts College and Government R.C. College will be integrated as constituent colleges. Additionally, the government plans to invest 2,500 crore over the next four years, with assistance from the World Bank, to bolster infrastructure and establish Centres of Excellence in first-grade colleges state wide.

Foot notes:

- **Renaming Announcement:** Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced that Bangalore City University will be renamed as Dr. Manmohan Singh Bengaluru University in honor of the former Prime Minister.
- **Model University:** The government aims to make it a model university, incorporating Government Arts College and Government RC College as constituent colleges.
- **Budget Announcement:** The renaming announcement was made while presenting the budget for the financial year 2025-26.
- **Tribute to Dr. Manmohan Singh:** The university is being renamed to pay tribute to Dr. Manmohan Singh's contributions to the country.
- **Education Initiatives:** The Karnataka government also announced various education initiatives, including expanding school nutrition programs and upgrading women's higher education institutions.

Madhav National Park Declared as India's 58th Tiger Reserve

Madhav National Park, located in the state of Madhya Pradesh, has been declared India's 58th Tiger Reserve. The park, known for its rich biodiversity and scenic landscapes, is now part of India's growing network of protected tiger habitats. This designation aims to enhance conservation efforts for the endangered Bengal tiger while promoting eco-tourism. The reserve is home to a variety of wildlife, including leopards, deer, and numerous bird species. With this new status, authorities plan to strengthen anti-poaching measures and improve habitat management to support the tiger population.

Foot notes:

- **Location and Area:** Madhav National Park is located in the Shivpuri district of Madhya Pradesh, covering an area of 354.85 sq km.
- **Conservation Significance:** This declaration is a testament to India's commitment to tiger conservation and environmental protection. Madhya Pradesh already has eight tiger reserves, and this addition will further strengthen conservation efforts in the state.
- **Biodiversity Hotspot:** Madhav National Park is home to a diverse range of flora and fauna, including antelopes, deer, leopards, and wolves.
- **Tourism and Community Engagement:** The park's new status as a tiger reserve is expected to boost eco-tourism in the region, creating opportunities for local communities and supporting conservation efforts.
- **Government Support:** The declaration was made possible by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, with Union Minister Bhupender Yadav hailing the decision as a significant step forward for India's environmental protection and wildlife conservation.

Delhi Govt Launches Mahila Samridhi Yojana

The Delhi government has launched the Mahila Samridhi Yojana, aimed at empowering women by promoting entrepreneurship and financial independence. The scheme provides financial assistance, training, and support to women entrepreneurs, especially from underprivileged backgrounds. It focuses on skill development, easy access to loans, and creating sustainable income opportunities. The government aims to boost women-led businesses and enhance socio-economic development through this initiative. This scheme is part of Delhi's ongoing efforts to support women's empowerment and economic self-reliance.

Foot notes:

- **Monthly Assistance:** The scheme promises to pay ₹2,500 per month to eligible women in Delhi.
- **Eligibility:** The scheme is directed towards women from economically weaker sections of the national capital.
- **Launch and Registration:** The scheme was launched on March 8, 2025, and registration for the scheme began on the same day.
- **Implementation:** The full process of providing financial assistance is expected to be completed within one-and-a-half months after registration.
- **Similar Schemes:** The Mahila Samridhi Yojana is similar to financial assistance schemes for women in other NDA-ruled states, such as the 'Ladli Behna Yojana' in Madhya Pradesh and the 'Ladki Bahin Yojana' in Maharashtra.

Telangana Government Launches 'Rajiv Yuva Vikasam' Scheme to Boost Self-Employment

The Telangana government has launched the 'Rajiv Yuva Vikasam' scheme to promote self-employment and entrepreneurship among the youth. The scheme aims to provide financial assistance, skill development, and business training to young individuals across the state. By supporting small businesses and startups, the initiative seeks to generate sustainable livelihoods and reduce unemployment. The government also plans to collaborate with industry experts to offer mentorship and market linkages to the beneficiaries. 'Rajiv Yuva Vikasam' is expected to play a key role in empowering the youth and driving economic growth in Telangana.

Foot notes:

- **Objective:** The scheme aims to provide self-employment opportunities to 5 lakh unemployed youth in Telangana, with a focus on marginalized communities such as SC, ST, BC, and Minority groups.
- **Financial Assistance:** Eligible beneficiaries can receive financial assistance ranging from 50,000 to 4 lakh to establish self-employment units. The scheme offers concessional loans with subsidies ranging from 60% to 80%.
- **Implementation:** The scheme will be implemented through the SC, ST, and BC Welfare Corporations, which will identify eligible beneficiaries and provide them with financial assistance and vocational training.
- **Key Benefits:** The scheme aims to promote self-employment, reduce unemployment, and foster entrepreneurship among marginalized groups in Telangana. It is expected to benefit 4,000 to 5,000 youth in each Assembly constituency.

Hockey Jharkhand Crowned 15th Hockey India Senior Women National Champion

Hockey Jharkhand has been crowned the champion of the 15th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship. The team delivered an outstanding performance, showcasing skill, teamwork, and determination throughout the tournament. With this victory, Hockey Jharkhand has solidified its position as a dominant force in Indian women's hockey. The championship win is a testament to the hard work of the players and coaching staff. This triumph will inspire young athletes in the region to pursue excellence in the sport.

Foot notes:

- **First-Ever National Title:** This is Hockey Jharkhand's first-ever Senior Women National Championship title, marking a significant milestone for the team.
- **Defeating Defending Champions:** Hockey Jharkhand dethroned defending champions Hockey Haryana with a 4-3 shootout win in the final, after the match ended 1-1 in regulation time.
- **Match Highlights:** Pramodni Lakra scored the equalizing goal for Hockey Jharkhand in the 44th minute, while Captain Rani scored for Hockey Haryana in the 42nd minute.

- **Tournament Format:** The 15th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2025 featured a new knockout format in Division A, with 12 teams participating.
- **Third-Place Winner:** Hockey Mizoram secured the third place by defeating Hockey Maharashtra, while Hockey Haryana settled for the silver medal.

India's First PPP Green Waste Processing Plant in Indore

India's first Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Green Waste Processing Plant has been inaugurated in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The plant aims to convert green waste such as garden and horticulture waste into compost and bio-CNG. This initiative supports the city's commitment to sustainable waste management and circular economy practices. The project is expected to reduce landfill pressure and promote eco-friendly alternatives for waste disposal. Indore, already recognized for its cleanliness, strengthens its position as a leader in urban waste management through this pioneering facility.

Foot notes:

- **Location and Size:** The plant is located in Bicholi Hapsi, Indore, and spans 55,000 square feet.
- **Processing Capacity:** The facility will process 30 to 70 tons of green waste daily, including wood, branches, leaves, and flowers.
- **Revenue Generation:** The Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) will earn approximately Rs 3,000 per tonne in royalty for supplying wood and branches.
- **Eco-Friendly Products:** The plant will recycle green waste into wooden pellets, serving as a sustainable alternative to coal and promoting energy conservation.
- **Partnership Model:** The project is developed under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, with Astronomical Industries Private Limited partnering with the IMC to manage the plant's operations.

Kerala Became First State To Establishes Senior Citizens Commission

Kerala has become the first state in India to establish a Senior Citizens Commission, aiming to safeguard the rights and welfare of the elderly. The commission will address issues related to senior citizens, including financial security, healthcare, and social protection. This initiative reflects Kerala's commitment to supporting its aging population through policy measures and legal frameworks. The move sets a precedent for other states to enhance elderly care and support systems.

Foot notes:

- **First-of-its-kind commission:** Kerala's Senior Citizens Commission is the first state-level commission in India dedicated to elderly welfare.
- **Protecting elderly rights:** The commission will focus on protecting the rights, welfare, and rehabilitation of senior citizens, ensuring their active participation in society.

- **Addressing elderly challenges:** The commission will tackle issues like neglect, exploitation, and loneliness faced by the elderly, providing policy guidelines for their protection.
- **Empowering senior citizens:** The commission aims to empower senior citizens, recognizing their potential to contribute to society through their experience, innovative ideas, and problem-solving abilities.
- **Inclusive representation:** The commission will comprise a Chairperson and at least four members, including representatives from Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes and women, ensuring diverse perspectives.

Justice Harish Tandon Appointed as Chief Justice of Orissa High Court

Justice Harish Tandon has been appointed as the new Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court. He succeeds Justice Subhasis Talapatra, who recently retired from the position. Justice Tandon, previously serving as a senior judge at the Calcutta High Court, is known for his expertise in constitutional and civil matters. His appointment is expected to bring a fresh perspective and strengthen the judiciary in Odisha. The legal community has welcomed the decision, expressing confidence in his leadership and commitment to justice.

Foot notes:

- **Background and Experience:** Justice Tandon was appointed as a Judge of the Calcutta High Court on April 13, 2010, and has been functioning there since then. He ranks 7th in the All-India Seniority of High Court Judges, including Chief Justices.
- **Predecessor:** Justice Tandon's appointment comes after the retirement of Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh on January 19, 2024. Until now, Justice Arindam Sinha had been serving as the acting Chief Justice.
- **Presidential Approval:** The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, affirmed Justice Tandon's appointment, making it official.
- **New Role:** As the Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court, Justice Tandon will lead the court and oversee its administration, ensuring the delivery of justice to the people of Odisha.

Haryana Tops Medal Tally Once Again in Khelo India Para Games 2025

Haryana has once again topped the medal tally in the Khelo India Para Games 2025, reaffirming its dominance in para sports. The state's athletes showcased exceptional performances across multiple disciplines, securing the highest number of gold, silver, and bronze medals. Haryana's success is attributed to its strong sports infrastructure, government support, and dedicated training programs for para-athletes. The state's consistent performance highlights its commitment to promoting inclusivity and excellence in sports. This victory further strengthens Haryana's reputation as a powerhouse in Indian sports.

Foot notes:

- **Medal Breakdown:** Haryana's medal tally consists of 31 gold medals, 36 silver medals, and 29 bronze medals.

- **Top Spot:** Haryana has maintained its top spot in the medal tally, followed closely by Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
- **Consistency:** This is not the first time Haryana has topped the medal tally in the Khelo India Para Games. They also emerged as the overall winner in the inaugural edition of the games in 2023, with a total of 105 medals.
- **Para Athletes:** The Khelo India Para Games 2025 featured around 1,450 para athletes from across the country, competing in various sports disciplines.
- **Previous Year's Performance:** In the 2023 edition of the games, Haryana's para athletes secured 40 gold medals, 39 silver medals, and 26 bronze medals, showcasing their exceptional talent and determination.

DEFENCE NEWS

Indian Air Force carried out Exercise Desert Hunt 2025

The Indian Air Force (IAF) recently conducted Exercise Desert Hunt 2025 at Jodhpur, showcasing its operational readiness in desert conditions. The exercise aimed to enhance the combat skills of IAF personnel, focusing on complex air operations, including precision strikes and tactical maneuvers. Various advanced fighter jets, helicopters, and surveillance systems were involved, demonstrating the IAF's capability to operate in challenging environments. The exercise also provided an opportunity to assess coordination between different units and refine strategies for future operations. Overall, Exercise Desert Hunt 2025 reinforced the IAF's commitment to maintaining high preparedness levels in diverse terrains.

Foot notes:

- **Tri-Service Exercise:** Exercise Desert Hunt 2025 was a tri-service exercise led by the Indian Air Force, involving the special forces of the Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force.
- **Objective:** The exercise aimed to enhance interoperability between the special forces of the three services, enabling them to operate together seamlessly in a simulated combat environment.
- **Participating Forces:** The exercise involved the elite Para (Special Forces) from the Indian Army, the Marine Commandos from the Indian Navy, and the Garud (Special Forces) from the Indian Air Force.
- **Training and Operations:** During the exercise, the special forces practiced various operations, including airborne insertion, precision strikes, hostage rescue, counter-terrorism operations, combat free falls, and urban warfare scenarios.

Eyal Zamir Appointed as Israel's New Military Chief

Eyal Zamir has been appointed as Israel's new military chief, succeeding Lieutenant General Aviv Kochavi. Zamir, a seasoned officer with extensive experience, is known for his leadership in various operational roles within the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). He has served as the deputy

chief of staff and held command positions in the IDF's intelligence and operations divisions. His appointment comes at a critical time as Israel faces significant security challenges in the region. Zamir's leadership is expected to shape the future of Israel's defense strategy, emphasizing readiness and modernization.

Foot notes:

- **Leadership Roles:** Zamir has held several key leadership positions, including serving as Netanyahu's military secretary, Head of Southern Command, and Deputy Chief of Staff. He has also led significant defense procurements as Director of the Defence Ministry.
- **Strategic Challenges:** Zamir takes command at a critical time, with Israel facing ongoing conflicts with Hamas and Iran. He has advocated for a tougher stance on Iran and has proposed offensive action against Iran's nuclear ambitions.
- **Israel-Hamas Conflict:** Zamir is expected to lead efforts for a "total victory" against Hamas, aligning with Netanyahu's military vision. He has already drafted a detailed plan to conquer all of Gaza during his tenure in Southern Command.
- **Leadership Style:** Zamir is known for being mission-oriented, detail-oriented, and strict. He aims to restore public trust in the military following Israel's security lapses on October 7, 2023.



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BANKING NEWS**RBL Bank appoints Narendra Agrawal as President & Head of Branch Banking**

RBL Bank has appointed Narendra Agrawal as its new President and Head of Branch Banking. In this role, he will be responsible for overseeing the bank's branch operations, customer acquisition, and retail banking strategies. Agrawal brings extensive experience in banking and financial services, having held leadership positions in various institutions. His appointment is expected to strengthen RBL Bank's customer outreach and operational efficiency. With this leadership change, the bank aims to enhance its retail banking presence and drive growth in the competitive financial sector.

Foot notes:

- **Experience:** Narendra Agrawal brings over 25 years of experience in the retail banking sector, having worked at leading institutions like Kotak Mahindra Bank, Citibank, and ICICI Bank.

- **Role:** As President & Head of Branch Banking and Retail Liabilities, Agrawal will focus on deposit growth, enhancing customer experience through an omnichannel strategy, and strengthening the business's contribution to the bank's long-term plan.
- **Expertise:** Agrawal specializes in managing large teams, delivering high business volumes, and driving market expansion with a digital-first approach.
- **Qualifications:** He holds an MBA from the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, and has pursued executive education programs in fintech, financial blockchain, and digital transformation from Harvard Business School.
- **Impact:** Agrawal's appointment is expected to strengthen RBL Bank's retail banking operations and drive business growth through his expertise in digital transformation and customer-centric strategies.

RBI appoints Dr Ajit Ratnakar Joshi as new Executive Director

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Dr. Ajit Ratnakar Joshi as its new Executive Director. Dr. Joshi, an experienced professional with a background in banking and finance, brings extensive expertise to the role. He has previously held several important positions within the RBI, contributing significantly to the central bank's operations and regulatory frameworks. In his new capacity, Dr. Joshi will oversee key areas of the RBI's functions, including monetary policy implementation, financial supervision, and regulatory reforms. His appointment is expected to further strengthen the RBI's efforts in maintaining financial stability and promoting growth in India's financial sector.

Foot notes:

- **Background and Experience:** Dr. Joshi brings over three decades of experience in statistics, information technology, and cyber risk management to his new role.
- **Previous Role:** Prior to his promotion, Dr. Joshi served as Principal Adviser in the Department of Statistics and Information Management.
- **Responsibilities:** As Executive Director, Dr. Joshi will oversee the Department of Statistics and Information Management and the Financial Stability Department.
- **Education and Qualifications:** Dr. Joshi holds a master's degree in statistics from Nagpur University, a Ph.D. in monetary economics from IIT Madras, and is a certified associate of the Indian Institute of Banking and Finance (CAIIB).
- **Significance:** Dr. Joshi's appointment is expected to strengthen the RBI's data-driven decision-making and regulatory framework, given his expertise in statistics, financial stability, and policy research.

SIDBI and Federal Bank Partner to Strengthen MSME Financing

SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) and Federal Bank have entered into a strategic partnership to enhance financing options for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in India. The collaboration aims to provide easier access to funds for MSMEs, a vital segment of the Indian economy, to drive growth and innovation. Through this partnership, both

institutions will offer tailored financial products and services, addressing the specific needs of MSMEs. The initiative is expected to improve the financial inclusion of small businesses, enabling them to scale operations and contribute to economic development. With this move, SIDBI and Federal Bank are strengthening their commitment to supporting the MSME sector's growth and sustainability.

Foot notes:

- **Partnership Objective:** The partnership aims to enhance financial support for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) through various credit facilities.
- **Financial Services Offered:** The partnership will offer project finance, machinery and equipment finance, working capital support, and loans against property to MSMEs.
- **Joint Financing Initiative:** SIDBI and Federal Bank will explore joint financing options to extend credit facilities to MSMEs, making it easier for them to access funds.
- **Government Support:** The partnership aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to strengthening the MSME sector, which is considered the backbone of India's manufacturing and industrial growth.
- **Benefits for MSMEs:** The partnership is expected to help MSMEs access funds more efficiently, enabling their growth and development.

HDFC Bank Signs MoU with Indian Air Force and CSC Academy

HDFC Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Air Force (IAF) and CSC Academy to promote skill development and financial literacy among the armed forces personnel and the rural youth. The collaboration aims to provide training in various digital skills, financial awareness, and banking services to improve the overall well-being of IAF personnel and communities. The initiative also focuses on empowering rural populations by offering access to educational resources and enhancing employability. HDFC Bank's partnership with CSC Academy will enable the creation of specialized programs to further the reach of these services. This MoU marks a significant step toward fostering a more skilled and financially literate workforce, benefiting both defense personnel and rural youth.

Foot notes:

- **Service Centers:** Initially, 25 service centers will be established across key Air Force units in cities like New Delhi, Bengaluru, Gurgaon, Pune, Secunderabad, Guwahati, Jodhpur, and Chandigarh.
- **Economic Empowerment:** Under its Parivartan programme, HDFC Bank will focus on economic empowerment for defence veterans and their families, providing skill development and training on financial products and services.
- **Key Services:** Defence personnel, veterans, and their families will have access to over 500 Government-to-Citizen (G2C) and Business-to-Citizen (B2C) services, including Aadhaar services, NPS, PAN card applications, passport services, bill payments, and SPARSH pension services.

- **Significance:** This initiative underscores HDFC Bank's commitment to the welfare of Indian Air Force veterans and their families, recognizing the contribution of the Armed Forces towards the nation.

Axis AMC appoints Nandik Mallik as Head

Axis Asset Management Company (AMC) has appointed Nandik Mallik as its new Head. In this role, Mallik will oversee the company's operations and lead its strategic initiatives in the asset management sector. With a wealth of experience in the financial industry, he is expected to drive growth and innovation for Axis AMC. His appointment comes as the company seeks to expand its portfolio and strengthen its position in the competitive market. Mallik's leadership is anticipated to bring fresh perspectives and enhance the company's offerings for investors.

Foot notes:

- **Experience and Background:** Nandik Mallik is a seasoned financial services professional with over two decades of experience, primarily in the asset management space.
- **Role and Responsibilities:** As the Head of Equity and Hybrid for SIFs, Mallik will spearhead Axis AMC's efforts in this emerging category, leveraging his expertise in managing large AUMs across risk-adjusted funds.
- **Previous Achievements:** Mallik has successfully launched the Long Short Fund at ICICI Prudential AMC and served as the CIO at Avendus Capital Public Markets Alternate Strategies LLP.
- **Education and Qualifications:** Mallik holds a BTech degree from IIT Kharagpur, a PGDM in Finance from IIM Calcutta, and a Master's degree in Finance from London Business School.
- **Axis AMC's Growth Plans:** The appointment highlights Axis AMC's commitment to providing innovative solutions and maximizing value for investors, with a focus on growing its equity and hybrid offerings in the SIFs space.

Canara HSBC Life Insurance partners with GIC Housing Finance

Canara HSBC Life Insurance has partnered with GIC Housing Finance to provide comprehensive insurance solutions to home loan customers. This strategic collaboration aims to offer life insurance cover to borrowers, ensuring financial protection for families in case of unforeseen events. Through this partnership, GIC Housing Finance customers can now avail tailored insurance plans from Canara HSBC Life Insurance, including term plans and savings-oriented products. The initiative enhances financial security while promoting affordable housing through integrated insurance offerings. This collaboration reflects the commitment of both organizations to support customers' financial well-being and homeownership aspirations.

Foot notes:

- **Strategic Alliance:** The partnership aims to provide enhanced financial security solutions to GIC Housing Finance's home loan customers.

- **Comprehensive Credit Life Insurance:** Canara HSBC Life Insurance will offer its 'Group Asset Secure' product, a comprehensive credit life insurance plan designed to protect borrowers and their families against loan liabilities in the event of unforeseen circumstances.
- **Financial Protection:** The partnership underscores the importance of financial protection alongside loan offerings, creating a more resilient and financially secure ecosystem for borrowers.
- **Customer-Centric Approach:** Both companies have reiterated their commitment to customer-centric financial solutions, with Canara HSBC Life Insurance's 'Promises ka Partner' philosophy and GIC Housing Finance's focus on responsible lending.
- **Increased Accessibility:** The partnership will unlock a viable financial protection provision for GIC Housing Finance's diversified customer pool, promoting homeownership while mitigating financial risks for borrowers.

HDFC Bank, Indian Army and CSC Academy Expand Project NAMAN

HDFC Bank, in collaboration with the Indian Army and CSC Academy, has expanded Project NAMAN, an initiative aimed at supporting veterans and their families. The project focuses on providing financial literacy, skill development, and livelihood opportunities to ex-servicemen, war widows, and their dependents. Through this expansion, HDFC Bank will set up more NAMAN Centers across the country to offer specialized services, including banking assistance, vocational training, and entrepreneurship support. The partnership with CSC Academy ensures that digital and financial literacy programs reach rural and semi-urban areas where many veterans reside. This initiative reflects HDFC Bank's commitment to honoring the sacrifices of armed forces personnel while empowering them economically.

Foot notes:

- **Expanded Reach:** The project has been expanded to 26 new Directorate of Indian Army Veterans (DIAV) locations across India, including Rajasthan, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Meghalaya, Bihar, Odisha, and New Delhi.
- **Services Offered:** The Common Service Centres (CSCs) established under Project NAMAN offer pension-related services, Government-to-Citizen (G2C) services, and Business-to-Consumer (B2C) services.
- **Entrepreneurial Opportunities:** Each CSC is managed by a Village Level Entrepreneur (VLE), selected from among veterans or their next of kin, providing entrepreneurial opportunities and a monthly monetary grant of 20,000 for the first 12 months.
- **Partnership and Funding:** The project is a result of a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between HDFC Bank, the Indian Army's Directorate of Indian Army Veterans, and CSC Academy, with HDFC Bank providing the necessary IT infrastructure and funding support.

Atul Kumar Goel Assumes Charge as Chief Executive of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA)

Atul Kumar Goel has assumed charge as the Chief Executive of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA). With his extensive experience in the banking sector, he aims to enhance the role of IBA in shaping policies and improving the operational efficiency of Indian banks. Goel brings a wealth of knowledge in strategic banking and financial management, which will aid in strengthening IBA's initiatives. His leadership is expected to focus on fostering collaboration between banks, regulatory bodies, and other stakeholders. As the new CEO, Goel is set to play a crucial role in addressing the evolving challenges and opportunities in the banking sector.

Foot notes:

- **Leadership Experience:** Goel has previously served as the Managing Director and CEO of Punjab National Bank (PNB) from February 2022 to December 2024, and as Chairman of the IBA for two terms 2021-22 and 2022-23.
- **Selection Process:** A three-member search committee, comprising CS Setty, MV Rao, and N Kamakodi, was formed to identify a suitable successor to Sunil Mehta, who retired in September 2024.
- **Top Contender:** Goel was considered the top candidate for the role, given his extensive experience and leadership in the banking sector.
- **IBA's Expectations:** As the new Chief Executive, Goel is expected to lead the IBA at a crucial time when India's banking industry is evolving rapidly.
- **Industry Impact:** With his strong track record and expertise, Goel is poised to make a significant impact on the Indian banking industry, driving growth, innovation, and collaboration among member banks.

ICICI Bank Appoints Kamal Wali as Head of Security Operations

ICICI Bank has appointed Kamal Wali as the Head of Security Operations to strengthen its cybersecurity framework. With extensive experience in security management, Wali is expected to enhance the bank's digital defense mechanisms. His role will involve overseeing threat monitoring, incident response, and risk mitigation strategies. ICICI Bank aims to leverage his expertise to ensure robust protection against evolving cyber threats. This appointment reflects the bank's commitment to maintaining a secure and resilient banking environment.

Foot notes:

- **Leadership Role:** Kamal Wali has been appointed as the Head of Security Operations at ICICI Bank, overseeing the bank's security operations.
- **Expertise:** Wali brings over 18 years of cybersecurity and IT operations expertise to the institution, having held leadership positions at prominent organizations like Jio Platforms Limited, Wipro, IBM, Intex Technologies, and Spanco Telesystems.

- **Responsibilities:** As Head of Security Operations, Wali will focus on risk mitigation and enhancing digital resilience, ensuring the bank's security operations are robust and effective.
- **Industry Experience:** Wali's extensive experience encompasses managing security frameworks, implementing complex projects, and developing operational security strategies.
- **Commitment to Cybersecurity:** ICICI Bank's appointment of Wali underscores its commitment to strengthening its cybersecurity infrastructure, safeguarding customer data, and ensuring secure banking operations.

HDFC Securities appoints Anand Mathur as Chief Financial Officer

HDFC Securities, a leading stockbroking firm and wholly owned subsidiary of HDFC Bank, has appointed Anand Mathur as its new Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Anand is a Chartered Accountant with over 20 years of experience in financial strategy, regulatory compliance, and operational efficiency. Prior to joining HDFC Securities, he served as Senior Vice President for Finance at HDFC Bank, where he led strategic initiatives in collaboration with the bank's leadership. He also held the position of Assistant Vice President - Finance at Citibank India, overseeing financial strategy and regulatory reporting. Expressing his enthusiasm for the new role, Anand stated, "I'm thrilled to join HDFC Securities as CFO at such an exciting time."

Foot notes:

- **New Role:** Anand Mathur has been appointed as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of HDFC Securities, a wholly-owned subsidiary of HDFC Bank.
- **Experience:** Mathur brings over 20 years of experience in financial management and strategy, having worked at HDFC Bank and Citibank India.
- **Responsibilities:** As CFO, Mathur will lead the company's financial strategy and operations, contributing to its ongoing success and sustainable growth.
- **Background:** Mathur is a Chartered Accountant with expertise in optimizing financial frameworks, streamlining operations, and ensuring regulatory adherence.
- **Leadership:** Dhiraj Relli, Managing Director & CEO of HDFC Securities, expressed optimism about Mathur's appointment, citing his deep experience in financial strategy and regulatory oversight.

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ICICI Bank has appointed Kamal Wali as the Head of Security Operations to strengthen its cybersecurity framework. With extensive experience in security management, Wali is expected to enhance the bank's digital defense mechanisms. His role will involve overseeing threat monitoring, incident response, and risk mitigation strategies. ICICI Bank aims to leverage his expertise to ensure robust protection against evolving cyber threats. This appointment reflects the bank's commitment to maintaining a secure and resilient banking environment.

Foot notes:

- **Leadership Role:** Kamal Wali has been appointed as the Head of Security Operations at ICICI Bank, overseeing the bank's security operations.
- **Expertise:** Wali brings over 18 years of cybersecurity and IT operations expertise to the institution, having held leadership positions at prominent organizations like Jio Platforms Limited, Wipro, IBM, Intex Technologies, and Spanco Telesystems.
- **Responsibilities:** As Head of Security Operations, Wali will focus on risk mitigation and enhancing digital resilience, ensuring the bank's security operations are robust and effective.
- **Industry Experience:** Wali's extensive experience encompasses managing security frameworks, implementing complex projects, and developing operational security strategies.
- **Commitment to Cybersecurity:** ICICI Bank's appointment of Wali underscores its commitment to strengthening its cybersecurity infrastructure, safeguarding customer data, and ensuring secure banking operations.

Piramal Finance Partners with Punjab & Sind Bank

Piramal Finance has partnered with Punjab & Sind Bank to expand financial services and improve credit accessibility. The collaboration aims to offer co-lending solutions, combining Piramal's reach in retail lending with the bank's strong customer base. This partnership is expected to focus on underserved markets, providing loans to small businesses and individual borrowers. Both organizations plan to leverage technology and data-driven insights to streamline loan processing and disbursement. The initiative aligns with the broader goal of enhancing financial inclusion and supporting economic growth across key regions.

Foot notes:

- **Strategic Co-Lending Partnership:** Piramal Finance and Punjab & Sind Bank have entered into a strategic co-lending partnership to enhance credit availability for middle- and low-income borrowers.
- **Focus on Rural and Semi-Urban Regions:** The partnership aims to bridge the credit gap in rural and semi-urban regions, with a focus on supporting financial inclusion and economic growth.
- **Competitive Interest Rates and Customized Credit Solutions:** The partnership will offer competitive interest rates and customized credit solutions, particularly in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
- **Combining Strengths:** The partnership brings together Punjab & Sind Bank's deep financial expertise and extensive network of 1575 branches with Piramal Finance's unique 'High Tech + High Touch' approach.
- **Fourth Co-Lending Partnership for Piramal Finance:** This partnership is Piramal Finance's fourth co-lending partnership, following similar collaborations with Axis Bank, Central Bank of India, and RBL Bank.

Indranil Bhattacharyya Appointed as RBI's Executive Director

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Indranil Bhattacharyya as its new Executive Director. Prior to this role, he served as Chief General Manager in the Department of Supervision at RBI. Bhattacharyya brings over three decades of experience in banking regulation, supervision, and policy formulation. In his new capacity, he will oversee the Department of Regulation and the Department of Communication. His appointment is seen as a significant move to strengthen RBI's regulatory and supervisory framework.

Foot notes:

- **Appointment Date:** Indranil Bhattacharyya was appointed as Executive Director of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on March 19, 2025.
- **Department Oversight:** He will be responsible for overseeing the Department of Economic and Policy Research.
- **Previous Role:** Prior to his promotion, Bhattacharyya served as Adviser in the Monetary Policy Department of the RBI.
- **Effective Date:** His appointment as Executive Director is effective from March 19, 2025.
- **Background:** Bhattacharyya is a seasoned economist and policy expert, bringing valuable experience to his new role.

City Union Bank Becomes Exclusive Banking Partner of Sunrisers Hyderabad

City Union Bank has been announced as the exclusive banking partner of Sunrisers Hyderabad for the upcoming IPL season. This partnership marks the bank's foray into the world of cricket sponsorship. The collaboration aims to enhance brand visibility and engage with cricket fans across the country. As part of the deal, City Union Bank's branding will feature on the team's jersey and promotional materials. Both organizations are looking forward to leveraging this association for mutual growth and outreach.

Foot notes:

- **Partnership Details:** City Union Bank has partnered with Sunrisers Hyderabad to offer customized services, including credit and debit cards, to cricket fans.
- **Exclusive Rewards and Benefits:** The bank will provide fans and customers with exclusive rewards and benefits, such as cashback offers, special discounts, and ticket services.
- **New Banking Products:** City Union Bank will introduce new banking products, including CUB SRH Debit & Credit Cards, which will offer exciting rewards and offers.
- **Enhanced Services:** The bank aims to enhance the quality of its services to strengthen this collaboration, building on trust and values.
- **Official Banking Partner:** City Union Bank is now the proud official banking partner of Sunrisers Hyderabad, marking an important milestone for the bank.

Bajaj Auto Reappoints Rajiv Bajaj as CEO

Bajaj Auto has reappointed Rajiv Bajaj as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. Rajiv Bajaj has been leading the company since 2005, playing a key role in transforming it into a global two- and three-wheeler giant. Under his leadership, Bajaj Auto has expanded its international footprint and introduced several successful products. The board expressed confidence in his vision and strategic direction for the company's future. His reappointment reflects Bajaj Auto's commitment to continued innovation and market leadership.

Foot notes:

- **Reappointment Term:** Rajiv Bajaj has been reappointed as MD and CEO for another five-year term, starting from April 1, 2025.
- **Previous Tenure:** Bajaj has been instrumental in Bajaj Auto's growth, particularly in the motorcycle market, and has been leading the company since April 2005.
- **Key Achievements:** Under his leadership, Bajaj Auto has sold over 21 lakh two-wheelers in the domestic market in the current fiscal's first 11 months, up 3.27% YoY.
- **Future Plans:** The company is expected to infuse 1,500 crore in its wholly-owned subsidiary Bajaj Auto Credit Ltd to support its growth plans.
- **Board Approvals:** The reappointment is subject to shareholders' approval, and the board has also approved the reappointment of Abhinav Bindra as non-executive independent director for a second term.

Deena Mehta Re-appointed as Independent Director of Fino Payments Bank

Deena Mehta has been re-appointed as an Independent Director of Fino Payments Bank. She is a well-known figure in the financial services industry and has previously contributed significantly to the bank's governance and strategic initiatives. Mehta is also recognized as the first woman president of the Bombay Stock Exchange. Her re-appointment reflects the bank's confidence in her leadership and expertise. She will continue to play a key role in strengthening the bank's compliance and corporate governance framework.

Foot notes:

- **Re-appointment Details:** Unfortunately, I couldn't find any information about Deena Mehta's re-appointment as Independent Director of Fino Payments Bank.
- **Fino Payments Bank's Recent Appointments:** However, I did find that Fino Payments Bank has recently appointed Anita Sudhir Pai and Neeta Mukerji as independent directors.
- **Board Composition:** The bank's board now has a strength of eight members, with a diverse range of expertise and experience.
- **Bank's Growth Plans:** Fino Payments Bank is gearing up for its next phase of digital-led growth and has applied for a small finance bank license.
- **Leadership Team:** Rishi Gupta is the Managing Director and CEO of Fino Payments Bank, and Rajat Kumar Jain is the Part-time Chairman of the bank.

RBI and Bank of Mauritius Sign MoU to Promote Trade in Local Currencies

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Bank of Mauritius have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote trade in local currencies. This agreement aims to facilitate smoother and more cost-effective trade transactions between India and Mauritius. By using the Indian Rupee and Mauritian Rupee for bilateral trade, the MoU is expected to reduce dependence on foreign currencies like the US Dollar. The move is part of RBI's broader strategy to internationalize the Indian Rupee and strengthen regional economic ties. Both central banks believe this step will enhance financial cooperation and boost trade volumes between the two nations.

Foot notes:

- **MoU Details:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Bank of Mauritius (BOM) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a framework for promoting the use of local currencies, the Indian Rupee (INR) and the Mauritian Rupee (MUR), for cross-border transactions.
- **Objective:** The MoU aims to promote the use of INR and MUR in bilateral trade, covering all current account transactions and permissible capital account transactions.
- **Benefits:** The framework will enable exporters and importers to invoice and pay in their respective domestic currencies, which will optimize costs and settlement time for transactions.
- **Implementation:** The MoU will lead to the implementation of the INR-MUR Local Currency Settlement (LCS) System, reducing dependency on hard currencies for cross-border transactions.
- **Impact:** The use of local currencies in bilateral transactions is expected to promote trade between India and Mauritius, deepen financial integration, and strengthen historical, cultural, and economic ties between the two nations.

Canara Bank appoints S. K. Majumdar as Executive Director

Canara Bank has appointed S. K. Majumdar as its new Executive Director. With extensive experience in the banking sector, he is expected to play a key role in driving the bank's strategic growth and operational efficiency. His leadership will focus on enhancing financial performance, digital transformation, and customer service. This appointment aligns with Canara Bank's vision of strengthening its position in the Indian banking industry.

Foot notes:

- **Background and Qualifications:** Majumdar, 56, is a seasoned banking professional with over 25 years of experience in the industry. He holds distinguished qualifications as a Chartered Accountant and Cost Accountant.
- **Previous Role:** Prior to his elevation, Majumdar served as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Canara Bank.
- **Experience and Expertise:** Majumdar has been associated with Canara Bank since January 2000 and has served in various capacities across branches and administrative

offices. He brings strong leadership, financial expertise, and a commitment to organizational excellence.


- **Significance of Appointment:** Majumdar's appointment reflects Canara Bank's commitment to strengthening its leadership and governance structures, ensuring sustained growth and operational excellence.

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Kotak Mahindra Bank appoints Bhavnish Lathia as CTO

Kotak Mahindra Bank has appointed Bhavnish Lathia as its new Chief Technology Officer (CTO). Lathia brings extensive experience in technology and digital transformation, having held leadership roles in global financial and tech organizations. In his new role, he will focus on driving the bank's technology strategy, innovation, and customer-centric digital initiatives. The appointment aligns with Kotak Mahindra Bank's vision to enhance its digital capabilities and strengthen its position in the fintech space. The bank's leadership has expressed confidence that Lathia's expertise will play a key role in advancing their technology-driven growth.

Foot notes:

- **Previous Role:** Before becoming CTO, Lathia served as the Chief of Customer Experience and Head of Technology for Consumer Bank at Kotak Mahindra Bank, a position he held since August 2022.
- **Resignation of Predecessor:** Lathia's appointment follows the resignation of Milind Nagnur, who served as both CTO and Chief Operating Officer (COO) until February 15, 2025, citing personal reasons.
- **Focus on Technological Transformation:** Kotak Mahindra Bank aims to strengthen its leadership and advance its technology-driven transformation, with Lathia playing a key role in driving this agenda.
- **Bank's Growth Strategy:** The appointment is part of the bank's broader strategy to transform for scale, with technology being a key driver of this growth strategy.

Bank of India Partners New India Assurance for General Insurance

Bank of India has partnered with New India Assurance to offer a range of general insurance products to its customers. This strategic bancassurance tie-up aims to enhance accessibility to insurance solutions through the bank's extensive network. Customers can now avail policies covering health, motor, travel, and property insurance at Bank of India branches. The

partnership is expected to boost financial security and risk protection for individuals and businesses. This collaboration aligns with the bank's vision to provide comprehensive financial services under one roof.

Foot notes:

- **Partnership Details:** Bank of India has partnered with New India Assurance to offer general insurance products to its customers.
- **Insurance Products:** The partnership will provide a range of general insurance products, including motor, health, and home insurance.
- **Benefits to Customers:** The partnership will benefit Bank of India customers by providing them with a wide range of insurance products and services under one roof.
- **New India Assurance's Expertise:** New India Assurance is one of the leading general insurance companies in India, with a wide range of products and services.
- **Bank of India's Distribution Network:** Bank of India's extensive distribution network will help to increase the reach of New India Assurance's insurance products.

Bharti AXA Life Insurance appoints Prerak Parmar as Chief Growth Officer

Bharti AXA Life Insurance has appointed Prerak Parmar as its Chief Growth Officer to drive the company's expansion and business development strategies. With extensive experience in the insurance and financial services sector, Parmar is expected to lead key initiatives for market growth and customer acquisition. His role will focus on strengthening distribution channels, digital transformation, and enhancing customer experience. Prior to joining Bharti AXA, he held leadership positions in prominent financial institutions, showcasing his expertise in sales and strategy. Parmar's appointment aligns with Bharti AXA's vision to accelerate growth and expand its footprint in the Indian insurance market.

Foot notes:

- **Leadership Role:** Prerak Parmar will lead all proprietary distribution channels, including Agency, Partner Office, Insurance Manager, and Direct Distribution, as well as jointly oversee revenue assurance and pricing.
- **Industry Experience:** Parmar brings over 26 years of experience in the FMCG and Life Insurance sectors, with a proven track record of driving revenue growth and enhancing frontline productivity.
- **Previous Role:** Before joining Bharti AXA Life, Parmar served as Chief Distribution Officer at Reliance Nippon Life Insurance.
- **Key Objectives:** As Chief Growth Officer, Parmar will focus on expanding the company's distribution network, strengthening customer engagement, and driving profitability through innovative solutions.
- **Qualifications:** Parmar holds an MBA from the Institute of Management Technology (IMT), Ghaziabad, specializing in Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services.

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SPORTS NEWS

Brandon Holt Won Bengaluru Open 2025 Title

Brandon Holt claimed the Bengaluru Open 2025 title after a stunning performance in the final. The American tennis player defeated his opponent in a thrilling match, showcasing his skill and determination on the court. Holt's victory marked a significant milestone in his career, as he secured his first ATP Challenger title of the year. Throughout the tournament, he displayed impressive form, overcoming strong competition. The win at the Bengaluru Open further solidified Holt's reputation as an emerging talent in the world of tennis.

Foot notes:

- **First American Champion:** Brandon Holt became the first American player to win the Bengaluru Open title, defeating Japan's Shintaro Mochizuki 6-3, 6-3 in the final.
- **Second ATP Challenger Title:** This victory marked Holt's second ATP Challenger singles title of the season, following his win at the Nonthaburi Challenger earlier in the year.
- **Dominant Performance:** Holt dominated the match, saving two breakpoints in the first game and capitalizing on Mochizuki's unforced errors to take an early lead.
- **Prize and Rankings:** Holt earned USD 28,400 and 125 ATP points for his victory, while Mochizuki received USD 16,700 and 75 ATP points as the runner-up.
- **Historic Moment:** Holt's win was a historic moment for American tennis, as he became the first American player to lift the Bengaluru Open title in the tournament's nine-year history.

India dominates WTT Youth Contender in Vadodara

India dominated the WTT Youth Contender in Vadodara, with its young table tennis players showcasing exceptional talent and skill. Indian athletes clinched multiple medals across various categories, impressing both the crowd and officials with their performances. The competition saw fierce battles in singles and doubles events, with India emerging as a strong contender in the global table tennis scene. The tournament served as an important platform for India's rising stars, highlighting the country's growing presence in the sport. Overall, the WTT Youth Contender in Vadodara marked a significant achievement for Indian table tennis.

Foot notes:

- **Ankur Bhattacharjee's Dominance:** Ankur Bhattacharjee won the U/19 boys' category without dropping a single set, defeating Abhinandh Pradhivadhi 3-0 (11/5, 18/16, 11/5) in the final.
- **Divyanshi Bhowmick's Triple Delight:** Divyanshi Bhowmick took home two individual gold medals and one silver medal, becoming the most prolific player of the event.
- **Sahil Rawat's Flawless Victory:** Sahil Rawat won the U/15 boys' category, beating Atharva Nawarange 3-0 (11/4, 11/5, 11/6) without breaking a sweat.
- **Syndrela Das's Comeback Win:** Syndrela Das won the U/19 girls' singles after trailing 1-2 against Ananya Chande, showcasing her mental toughness and skill.
- **India's Table Tennis Supremacy:** The WTT Youth Contender in Vadodara marked India's first involvement in the WTT Youth Series, and the country's dominance is a testament to its growing prowess in table tennis.

Rithvik Bollipalli won Chile Open doubles title

Rithvik Bollipalli won the Chile Open doubles title, marking a significant achievement in his tennis career. Partnering with his teammate, Bollipalli showcased exceptional coordination and skill throughout the tournament. The duo defeated strong opponents in a thrilling final to secure the title. Bollipalli's victory at the Chile Open highlights his rising potential in the doubles circuit. This triumph adds to his growing reputation as a talented young player in international tennis.

Foot notes:

- **Upset Win:** The unseeded Indo-Colombian pair defeated top-seeded Argentine duo Maximo Gonzalez and Andres Molteni in straight sets, 6-3, 6-2.
- **Dominant Performance:** Bollipalli and Barrientos dominated the match, serving 11 aces and winning 87% of their first-serve points.
- **First ATP Title on Latin Clay:** Bollipalli became the first Indian to win an ATP title on Latin Clay, marking a significant milestone in his career.
- **Second ATP Tour Title:** This victory marked Bollipalli's second ATP Tour title, following his win at the Almaty Open with Arjun Kadhe last year.
- **Partnership with Barrientos:** Bollipalli and Barrientos partnered for the first time last month in Dallas, and their chemistry on the court was evident throughout the tournament.

Vidarbha Clinch Their Third Ranji Trophy Title in Seven Seasons

Vidarbha clinched their third Ranji Trophy title in seven seasons, solidifying their dominance in Indian domestic cricket. They triumphed in a thrilling final, defeating an impressive opponent to secure the prestigious trophy. This victory highlights Vidarbha's consistent excellence and strong team performance over recent years. The team's balanced effort, from their bowlers to the batsmen, played a crucial role in their success. Vidarbha's third title in seven seasons cements their reputation as one of the top teams in domestic cricket.

Foot notes:

- **Dominant Performance:** Vidarbha defeated Kerala in the 2024-25 final, played at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur, securing a crucial first-innings lead and then batting for nearly five sessions in the second innings.
- **Key Players:** Karun Nair was instrumental in Vidarbha's triumph, scoring 86 runs in the first innings and 135 in the second innings. Danish Malewar, just 21 years old, also played a vital role, scoring a century in the first innings and earning the Player of the Match award.
- **Team Effort:** Vidarbha's success was a collective effort, with Yash Rathod finishing as the season's top run-scorer and Harsh Dubey setting a new record for most wickets in a Ranji Trophy season.
- **Previous Titles:** Vidarbha's previous Ranji Trophy titles came in the 2017-18 and 2018-19 seasons. They narrowly missed out on the title last season, losing to Mumbai.
- **Legacy Cemented:** With this third title, Vidarbha has cemented its legacy as a dominant force in domestic cricket, showcasing its strength and resilience throughout the season.

Krishna Jayasankar Sets Indoor Shot Put Record

Krishna Jayasankar set a new indoor shot put record, marking a major milestone in his athletic career. His remarkable throw surpassed the previous record, showcasing his strength and technique. The achievement earned him widespread recognition and highlighted his potential in the sport. Jayasankar's dedication to training and his exceptional performance under pressure were key to breaking the record. This accomplishment adds to his growing list of achievements in track and field, positioning him as a rising star in shot put.

Foot notes:

- **Record Breaker:** Jayasankar's throw surpassed the previous Indian indoor record of 15.54 meters held by Poornarao Rane since 2023.
- **First Indian Woman to Breach 16m:** With this achievement, Jayasankar became the first Indian woman to breach the 16-meter mark in indoor shot put.
- **Bronze Medal:** Jayasankar secured a bronze medal in the event, finishing behind Mya Lesnar (19.02m) and Gabby Morns (17.09m).
- **Personal Best:** Her previous personal best was 15.03 meters, which she achieved last month at the same venue.
- **NCAA Championships:** With this record-breaking feat, Jayasankar has also qualified for the NCAA Indoor Championships, scheduled to take place on March 14-15 in Virginia Beach.

Ajinkya Rahane announced as Captain of KKR for IPL 2025

Ajinkya Rahane has been announced as the captain of Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) for IPL 2025. The experienced batsman takes over the leadership role, bringing stability and strategic acumen to the team. Rahane, known for his composed demeanor and tactical mindset, will aim to guide KKR to a strong campaign in the upcoming season. His appointment reflects the

franchise's confidence in his leadership abilities and vast IPL experience. Under his captaincy, KKR will look to build a balanced squad and compete for the championship title.

Foot notes:

- **New Leadership:** Ajinkya Rahane has been announced as the captain of Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) for the IPL 2025 season, replacing Shreyas Iyer.
- **Experience and Maturity:** Rahane brings his experience and maturity as a leader, having previously captained Rajasthan Royals and led India to a historic Test series win in Australia in 2020-21.
- **Vice-Captain:** Venkatesh Iyer, who was bought by KKR for 23.75 crore, will serve as Rahane's deputy.
- **Challenges Ahead:** Rahane faces the challenge of defending KKR's title, which they won in 2024 under Shreyas Iyer's leadership.
- **Season Opener:** KKR will begin their IPL 2025 campaign against Royal Challengers Bengaluru on March 22.

Steve Smith Announces Retirement from One-Day Internationals

Australian cricketer Steve Smith has announced his retirement from One-Day Internationals (ODIs), marking the end of an illustrious career in the 50-over format. A key player for Australia, Smith played a crucial role in multiple ICC tournaments, including the 2015 and 2023 ODI World Cups. Known for his exceptional batting technique and leadership skills, he amassed over 5,000 ODI runs with several match-winning performances. While stepping away from ODIs, Smith will continue to focus on Test cricket and T20 formats, contributing to Australia's success. His retirement marks the conclusion of a remarkable ODI journey that inspired cricket fans worldwide.

Foot notes:

- **Stellar ODI Career:** Smith played 170 ODIs, scoring 5,800 runs with an average of 43.28 and a strike rate of 86.96. He hit 12 centuries and 35 half-centuries, with his highest score being 164 against New Zealand in 2016.
- **Legacy and Impact:** Smith is Australia's 12th highest run-scorer in ODIs and was part of the teams that won the World Cup in 2015 and 2023. He will be remembered for his unorthodox yet effective batting style.
- **Reason for Retirement:** Smith believes it's time for him to step aside and allow new players to prepare for the 2027 ODI World Cup. He expressed gratitude for his ODI career, calling it a "great ride" filled with memorable moments.
- **Continued Availability:** Smith will continue playing Test cricket and T20 Internationals. He aims to focus on Test cricket, including the World Test Championship Final, West Indies series, and Ashes against England.
- **Tributes and Recognition:** Cricket Australia CEO Todd Greenberg praised Smith's immense contribution to the sport, acknowledging his role in elevating Australia's cricketing stature. Smith's retirement marks the end of an era in Australian cricket.

Real Madrid secures a 2-1 victory over Atletico in the Champions League

Real Madrid secured a thrilling 2-1 victory over Atletico Madrid in the UEFA Champions League. The match, played at the Santiago Bernabéu, saw both teams battle intensely for dominance. Atletico took the lead early with a well-taken goal, but Real Madrid responded quickly, leveling the score before halftime. In the second half, a clinical strike from Real Madrid gave them the lead, and despite Atletico's attempts to equalize, they couldn't break through. The win solidified Real Madrid's position in the competition, keeping their hopes for another Champions League title alive.

Foot notes:

- **Match Details:** The match took place at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, with Real Madrid emerging as the winners.
- **Scoreline:** The final score was 2-1 in favor of Real Madrid, with the team showing resilience and determination to secure the win.
- **Head-to-Head Record:** Real Madrid has a strong head-to-head record against Atletico Madrid, having won 116 out of 237 competitive matches between the two teams.
- **Champions League Performance:** Real Madrid's victory is a significant boost to their Champions League campaign, and the team will look to build on this momentum in their upcoming matches.
- **Rivalry:** The match was a testament to the intense rivalry between Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid, with both teams giving it their all in a thrilling encounter.

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Sharath Kamal Announces Retirement After Stellar Career

Indian table tennis legend Sharath Kamal has announced his retirement after a remarkable career that spanned over two decades. Widely regarded as one of the greatest table tennis players in India, Kamal achieved numerous milestones, including multiple Commonwealth Games gold medals and representing the country in various World Championships and Olympic Games. His exceptional skill and dedication earned him recognition not only in India but on the global stage as well. Kamal's decision to retire marks the end of an era, with his contributions to Indian table tennis leaving a lasting legacy. He expressed gratitude to his fans, coaches, and teammates for their support throughout his illustrious journey.

Foot notes:

- **Final Tournament:** Sharath's last tournament will be the WTT Star Contender Chennai 2025, scheduled to take place from March 25 to 30.
- **Illustrious Career:** Sharath has had a remarkable 26-year career, with 13 Commonwealth Games medals, including seven golds, and two Asian Games bronze medals.
- **Inspiring Future Generations:** Sharath aims to inspire younger generations to take up table tennis and hopes to establish a high-performance center in Chennai.
- **Legacy:** Sharath is India's most successful table tennis player, with a career spanning over two decades. He has represented India in five Olympic Games and is a Padma Shri and Khel Ratna awardee.

Bangladesh's Mushfiquir Rahim announces retirement from ODIs

Bangladesh's veteran cricketer Mushfiquir Rahim has announced his retirement from One Day Internationals (ODIs). The decision marks the end of an illustrious 16-year career in the format, during which he became one of Bangladesh's most reliable and experienced players. Rahim, known for his consistent batting and sharp wicketkeeping skills, has been a key figure in Bangladesh's cricketing history. He made his ODI debut in 2006 and went on to play in numerous memorable matches, contributing significantly to his team's success. His retirement decision comes as he looks to focus on other aspects of his cricket career, while leaving behind a legacy as one of the nation's cricketing icons.

Foot notes:

- **Reason for Retirement:** Mushfiquir cited the last few weeks as "very challenging" and stated that he has come to realize this is his destiny.
- **ODI Career Statistics:** Mushfiquir finished his ODI career with 7,795 runs in 274 matches at an average of 36.42, boasting nine centuries and 49 fifties.
- **Ranking:** He ends his ODI career as Bangladesh's second-highest run-getter, behind Tamim Iqbal's tally of 8,357 runs.
- **International Debut:** Mushfiquir made his ODI debut in August 2006, during Bangladesh's fifth ODI against Zimbabwe at Harare.
- **Future Plans:** Although Mushfiquir has retired from ODIs, it's unclear if he'll continue playing other formats, as he hasn't made any official announcements regarding his future plans.

India Won ICC Champions Trophy for the Third Time

India won the ICC Champions Trophy for the third time in 2017, defeating Pakistan in the final. The Indian team, led by Virat Kohli, displayed remarkable performances throughout the tournament. Their all-around brilliance, with strong batting from players like Shikhar Dhawan and Rohit Sharma, and exceptional bowling from Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami, guided them to the title. The final, held at The Oval in London, saw India dominate Pakistan in

all departments. This victory cemented India's position as one of the most successful teams in the history of the Champions Trophy.

Foot notes:

- **Third Time's the Charm:** India previously won the Champions Trophy in 2002 (shared with Sri Lanka) and 2013 (defeating England).
- **Rohit Sharma's Leadership:** Rohit Sharma led the Indian team to victory, also earning the Player of the Match award.
- **Thrilling Final:** India chased down New Zealand's total of 251 runs, winning by 4 wickets with an over to spare.
- **Dominant Performance:** Throughout the tournament, India displayed remarkable skill, resilience, and teamwork, reaffirming their dominance in world cricket.
- **Historic Moment:** This win marks India's third ICC Champions Trophy title, solidifying their position as one of the greatest cricketing nations in the world.

India Clinch 5th Asian Women's Kabaddi Title, Defeat Iran in Final

On March 8, 2025, the Indian women's kabaddi team clinched their fifth Asian Women's Kabaddi Championship title by defeating Iran 32-25 in the final. This victory was significant, especially as it coincided with International Women's Day. In the semi-finals, India triumphed over Nepal, while Iran secured their spot by overcoming Bangladesh. This win further solidifies India's dominance in women's kabaddi, adding to their previous titles in the sport.

Foot notes:

- **Dominant Performance:** The Indian women's team remained undefeated throughout the tournament, showcasing their dominance in the sport.
- **Final Match Highlights:** India defeated Iran 32-25 in the final, with the team's strategic gameplay and teamwork paying off.
- **Previous Titles:** This is India's fifth Asian Women's Kabaddi title, solidifying their position as a powerhouse in the sport.
- **Tournament Format:** The 6th Asian Women's Kabaddi Championship was held in Tehran, Iran, featuring seven teams from across Asia.
- **India's Kabaddi Supremacy:** With this win, India has further cemented its reputation as a kabaddi powerhouse, with both the men's and women's teams consistently performing well in international competitions.

India Bags Four Medals Including Two Gold At Special Olympics World Winter

India has achieved a remarkable feat by bagging four medals, including two gold, at the Special Olympics World Winter Games. The athletes showcased outstanding performance in various winter sports, bringing pride to the nation. The two gold medals reflect the hard work and dedication of the Indian contingent. Along with the golds, India also secured silver and bronze medals, highlighting the diverse talent of the team. This accomplishment marks a significant milestone in India's journey in international winter sports.

Foot notes:

- **Gold Medal Winners:** Bharti and Sameer stood atop the podium, winning gold medals in the Snowboarding event in Bardonecchia.
- **Silver Medal Winners:** Hem Chand and Harshita Thakur captured silver medals in the Novice Giant Slalom Final.
- **Indian Contingent:** A 49-member contingent, comprising 30 athletes and 19 support staff, is representing India at the tournament.
- **Global Participation:** The event features around 1,500 athletes with intellectual disabilities from 102 countries, promoting inclusivity and representation in the sporting world.
- **Sports Disciplines:** The Indian athletes are competing across six disciplines: Alpine Skiing, Cross Country Skiing, Floorball, Short-track Speed Skating, Snowboarding, and Snowshoeing.
- **India's Past Record:** India has a strong track record at the Special Olympics World Winter Games, having won a total of 167 medals in previous editions, including 73 gold, 49 silver, and 45 bronze medals.

Batsman Shubman Gill Retains Top Position in ODI Ranking

Indian batsman Shubman Gill has retained his top position in the ICC ODI rankings. His consistent performances and remarkable batting skills have kept him at the pinnacle of the list. Gill's dominance in the format reflects his dedication and talent on the field. Fans and cricket experts alike have praised his ability to perform under pressure. Maintaining the top spot is a testament to his hard work and commitment to the game.

Foot notes:

- **Career-Best Ranking:** Gill has reached a career-best ranking of number one in the ICC ODI batting rankings, surpassing notable players like Babar Azam.
- **Consistent Performance:** Gill's consistent performance in ODIs has earned him a total of 2450 runs, with a batting average of 59.76.
- **Rise to the Top:** Gill overtook Babar Azam to become the number one ranked ODI batter, with 830 points.
- **Indian Batters in the Rankings:** Apart from Gill, other Indian batters like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma also feature in the top 10 of the ICC ODI batting rankings.
- **Gill's Impressive Record:** Gill has had an impressive record in ODIs, scoring 1449 runs in 2023 at an average of 63 and a strike rate of 103.72, including 7 centuries and 5 half-centuries.

Nat Sciver-Brunt becomes WPL's leading run-scorer, surpassing Ellyse Perry

Nat Sciver-Brunt has emerged as the leading run-scorer in the Women's Premier League (WPL), surpassing the previous record held by Ellyse Perry. Known for her consistent performances and aggressive batting style, Sciver-Brunt has been a vital asset to her team. Her

ability to anchor innings and accelerate when needed has earned her widespread acclaim. The achievement marks a significant milestone in her WPL career, solidifying her position as one of the league's top performers. Fans and cricket experts alike have praised her remarkable consistency and dedication to the game.

Foot notes:

- **Record-Breaking Performance:** Sciver-Brunt has broken Ellyse Perry's record, although the exact number of runs she has scored is not specified.
- **Consistency:** She has been in stellar form, scoring five 50s in the current season, the most by any batter in a single WPL edition.
- **Orange Cap Holder:** Sciver-Brunt currently holds the Orange Cap, awarded to the leading run-scorer in the WPL.
- **Team Performance:** Her impressive batting has helped Mumbai Indians reach new heights, including scoring the highest total ever in a knockout game.
- **Individual Accolades:** Sciver-Brunt was also recognized as the Leading Women's Cricketer in the World in 2023 by Wisden.

Nitin Gupta improves national youth 5,000m race walk record

Nitin Gupta has set a new national youth record in the 5,000m race walk, showcasing his exceptional talent and dedication to athletics. Competing at a national-level event, Gupta clocked an impressive time that surpassed the previous record, marking a significant milestone in Indian race walking. His achievement highlights the growing potential of young athletes in track and field sports. Coaches and sports enthusiasts have praised his disciplined training and commitment to excellence. Gupta's record-breaking performance is expected to inspire aspiring race walkers across the country.

Foot notes:

- **New Record Time:** Gupta clocked an impressive 19:24.48 seconds, surpassing his previous national record of 20:01.64 seconds set in December last year.
- **First Indian to Break 20-Minute Barrier:** With this achievement, Gupta became the first Indian to break the 20-minute barrier in the men's under-18 5,000m race walk event.
- **Third-Fastest Time in the World:** Gupta's record time is also the third-fastest in the world in the under-18 category.
- **Qualification for Asian Youth Athletics Championships:** Gupta's performance has earned him qualification for the Asian Youth Athletics Championships, scheduled to take place in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, from April 15 to 18.
- **Training and Guidance:** Gupta trains under Basant Rana at ASI Pune, where he practices alongside top racewalkers Ram Babu and Servin Sebastian.

Deepti Sharma Climbs to 5th in ICC Women's All-rounders Rankings

Indian cricketer Deepti Sharma has climbed to the 5th position in the ICC Women's All-rounders Rankings. Her consistent performances with both bat and ball have earned her this

well-deserved spot among the top all-rounders in the world. Deepti's remarkable contributions on the field have been instrumental in India's recent successes in international cricket. Fans and experts alike have praised her versatility and dedication to the game. As she continues to shine, expectations are high for her to reach even greater heights in the rankings.

Foot notes:

- **Surpassing Amelia Kerr:** Sharma has edged past New Zealand's Amelia Kerr to secure her spot in the top five.
- **Consistent Performance:** Her rise in the rankings reflects her consistent performance in both T20 and ODI formats.
- **Current Rankings:** Sharma currently holds 344 points, with Australia's Ashleigh Gardner topping the list.
- **Other Indian Players:** Smriti Mandhana is the only other Indian player in the top 10 of the ODI batting rankings, holding the 2nd position.
- **Sharma's Overall Rankings:** She also ranks third in the T20 all-rounder rankings and fourth in the ODI bowling charts.

Nat Sciver-Brunt becomes WPL's leading run-scorer, surpassing Ellyse Perry

Nat Sciver-Brunt has emerged as the leading run-scorer in the Women's Premier League (WPL), surpassing the previous record held by Ellyse Perry. Known for her consistent performances and aggressive batting style, Sciver-Brunt has been a vital asset to her team. Her ability to anchor innings and accelerate when needed has earned her widespread acclaim. The achievement marks a significant milestone in her WPL career, solidifying her position as one of the league's top performers. Fans and cricket experts alike have praised her remarkable consistency and dedication to the game.

Foot notes:

- **Record-Breaking Performance:** Sciver-Brunt has broken Ellyse Perry's record, although the exact number of runs she has scored is not specified.
- **Consistency:** She has been in stellar form, scoring five 50s in the current season, the most by any batter in a single WPL edition.
- **Orange Cap Holder:** Sciver-Brunt currently holds the Orange Cap, awarded to the leading run-scorer in the WPL.
- **Team Performance:** Her impressive batting has helped Mumbai Indians reach new heights, including scoring the highest total ever in a knockout game.
- **Individual Accolades:** Sciver-Brunt was also recognized as the Leading Women's Cricketer in the World in 2023 by Wisden.

Mumbai Indians Won The Women's Premier League 2025 Final

Mumbai Indians clinched the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2025 title with a dominant performance in the final. They outplayed their opponents with both bat and ball, securing a comfortable victory. Star players delivered under pressure, showcasing their experience and

composure on the big stage. This marks Mumbai Indians' second WPL championship, reinforcing their reputation as one of the most successful teams in the league. The celebrations were electric, as the team lifted the trophy amid cheers from thousands of fans.

Foot notes:

- **Mumbai Indians' Score:** Mumbai Indians scored 149/7 in 20 overs, with Harmanpreet Kaur leading the charge with a brilliant 66 off 44 balls.
- **Delhi Capitals' Response:** Delhi Capitals, in response, scored 141/9 in 20 overs, falling short of the target by 8 runs.
- **Player of the Match:** Harmanpreet Kaur was awarded the Player of the Match for her outstanding performance.
- **Player of the Series:** Nat Sciver-Brunt was named the Player of the Series.
- **Venue:** The match was played at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai.

India Masters Clinch Historic IML 2025 Title

India Masters clinched the historic IML 2025 title with a thrilling performance in the final match. The team displayed exceptional skill, strategy, and teamwork to outclass their opponents and lift the coveted trophy. This victory marks India Masters' first-ever title in the Indian Masters League (IML), making it a memorable moment in the tournament's history. Star players rose to the occasion, delivering match-winning performances that captivated fans across the country. The win has cemented India Masters' place among the elite teams in the league, sparking celebrations among their supporters.

Foot notes:

- **Dominant Performance:** India Masters delivered an all-round performance, restricting West Indies Masters to 148/7 and then chasing down the target with ease.
- **Ambati Rayudu's Match-Winning Innings:** Rayudu scored 74 runs off 50 balls, including nine boundaries and three sixes, to guide India Masters to victory.
- **Sachin Tendulkar's Elegant Start:** Tendulkar gave India Masters a blistering start, scoring 25 runs off 18 balls, including two fours and one six.
- **Vinay Kumar's Bowling Masterclass:** Vinay Kumar picked up three wickets for 26 runs, helping to restrict West Indies Masters to a modest total.
- **Historic Moment:** The victory marked a historic moment for Indian cricket, with India Masters becoming the first team to win the IML title.

Dinesh Bagade clinched gold in 107 kg category in Para Powerlifting

Dinesh Bagade clinched the gold medal in the 107 kg category at a Para Powerlifting event, showcasing his incredible strength and determination. His remarkable performance set him apart from his competitors, earning him well-deserved recognition. Through rigorous training and dedication, Bagade proved his dominance in the sport. This victory highlights India's growing presence in para sports on the international stage. His achievement not only brings pride to the nation but also inspires aspiring para-athletes. Winning gold in such a competitive

category reflects his perseverance and commitment. Bagade's success reinforces the importance of inclusivity and excellence in sports.

Foot notes:

- **Gold Medal Win:** Dinesh Bagade clinched the gold medal in the 107 kg category at the Khelo India Para Games 2025.
- **Weight Lifted:** Bagade lifted an impressive 157 kg to secure the top spot on the podium.
- **Previous Achievement:** This win comes after Bagade's bronze medal finish in the same category at the previous edition of the Khelo India Para Games.
- **Category Dominance:** Bagade's victory in the 107 kg category is a testament to his hard work and dedication to the sport.
- **National Pride:** As an Indian athlete, Bagade's win brings pride to the nation and inspires others to pursue their dreams in Para Powerlifting.
- **Continued Excellence:** With this win, Bagade solidifies his position as a top contender in the sport, and fans can expect to see more exciting performances from him in the future.

Sunil Kumar Won Bronze at Asian Wrestling Championships 2025

Sunil Kumar secured the bronze medal at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2025, adding another achievement to his wrestling career. Competing in the Greco-Roman category, he displayed remarkable skill and resilience throughout the tournament. His victory highlights India's growing dominance in wrestling on the continental stage. Sunil's performance was a result of intense training and strategic execution against strong opponents. This bronze medal boosts his confidence as he prepares for future international events. His success serves as an inspiration for young wrestlers aspiring to compete at the highest level. With this win, Sunil Kumar continues to strengthen India's presence in global wrestling.

Foot notes:

- **Bronze Medal Win:** Sunil Kumar secured a bronze medal in the 87 kg Greco-Roman category at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2025, held in Amman, Jordan.
- **Road to Bronze:** Kumar defeated China's Jiaxin Huang 3-1 in the bronze medal match, after losing to Iran's Yasin Ali Yazdi in the semifinals.
- **Impressive Performance:** Earlier in the tournament, Kumar showcased his dominance by defeating Tajikistan's Sukhrob AbdulKhaev with a commanding 10-1 victory.
- **Fifth Senior Medal:** This bronze medal marks Kumar's fifth senior medal at the Asian Wrestling Championships, adding to his impressive track record.
- **Previous Achievements:** Kumar had previously won a silver medal in 2019 and a gold medal in 2020, ending India's 27-year-long wait for a Greco-Roman gold at the Asian Championships.
- **Indian Team's Performance:** While Kumar secured a bronze medal, other Indian Greco-Roman wrestlers, including Nitin, Umesh, Sagar Thakran, and Prem, failed to advance past their respective qualification rounds.

Smriti Mandhana and Deepti Sharma Retain ICC Rankings

Indian cricketers Smriti Mandhana and Deepti Sharma have retained their positions in the latest ICC rankings. Mandhana continues to be among the top-ranked batters in women's cricket, reflecting her consistent performances. Deepti Sharma remains a key all-rounder, maintaining her ranking due to her contributions with both bat and ball. Their steady positions highlight their impact on the Indian women's team and global cricket. This achievement reaffirms India's strong presence in international women's cricket.

Foot notes:

- **Consistent Performance:** Mandhana has been consistent with her bat, scoring crucial runs for India in recent matches, while Deepti has been impressive with her all-round skills.
- **Rankings Overview:** The top spot in the batters' rankings is held by Australia's Beth Mooney, followed by teammate Tahlia McGrath, while England's Sophie Ecclestone and Pakistan's Sadia Iqbal occupy the top two spots among bowlers.
- **Other Indian Players:** Apart from Mandhana, no other Indian player features in the top 10, with captain Harmanpreet Kaur ranked 11th, Jemimah Rodrigues 15th, and Shafali Verma just below her.
- **Career Highlights:** Mandhana has previously broken into the top five in the ICC Women's ODI rankings, climbing to fourth spot with a career-high 678 ranking points. Deepti has also made significant gains, rising to the No. 3 spot among all-rounders in the ICC Women's ODI rankings.
- **International Recognition:** The retention of their rankings is a testament to the duo's hard work and dedication to the sport, earning them recognition on the international stage.

Ajinkya Rahane, First Indian to Captain Three Different IPL Teams

Ajinkya Rahane has become the first Indian cricketer to captain three different teams in the Indian Premier League (IPL). He has previously led the Rajasthan Royals, Rising Pune Supergiant, and a third franchise, setting a unique record in the tournament's history. Known for his calm leadership and tactical acumen, Rahane has been a dependable figure in the IPL. His ability to adapt and guide different teams showcases his experience and cricketing intelligence. This achievement further cements his legacy as one of India's finest leaders in T20 cricket.

Foot notes:

- **Three Teams, One Captain:** Rahane has previously captained Rising Pune Super Giants and Rajasthan Royals, and now he's all set to lead Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in the IPL 2025 season.
- **Experience and Maturity:** KKR CEO Venky Mysore highlighted Rahane's maturity and experience as the reasons behind his appointment as captain, aiming to alleviate the pressures of leadership from younger players.

- **Record-Breaker:** Rahane will be the fourth player overall to lead three IPL teams, joining the likes of Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, and Steve Smith.
- **IPL Performance:** Rahane has a good batting record in the IPL, accumulating 2,810 runs for Rajasthan Royals.
- **Leadership Skills:** Rahane's leadership skills are well-known, having captained India to a historic 2-1 series win in Australia in 2020-21.

Jhandu Kumar & Seema Rani Set National Records At Khelo India Para Games

Jhandu Kumar and Seema Rani created history by setting national records at the Khelo India Para Games. Jhandu Kumar showcased exceptional strength in para powerlifting, breaking previous records in his category. Seema Rani excelled in para athletics, setting a new national benchmark in the discus throw event. Their performances highlighted India's growing dominance in para sports and inspired young athletes. The Khelo India Para Games continue to provide a vital platform for para-athletes to showcase their talent and achieve excellence.

Foot notes:

- **New National Records:** Seema Rani from Punjab lifted 97 kg in the women's elite 61 kg category, while Jhandu Kumar from Bihar lifted 206 kg in the men's elite 72 kg category.
- **Seema Rani's Achievement:** Seema, who has polio since the age of three, won her second gold medal in as many Khelo India Para Games. She started her para powerlifting journey five years ago and has represented India in several international tournaments.
- **Jhandu Kumar's Journey:** Jhandu, 28, started his powerlifting journey in 2014. He hopes to make his debut for India soon. This achievement is a significant milestone for him, as he converted his previous silver medal to gold this year.
- **Medal Tally:** Haryana is currently leading the medal tally with 29 gold medals, followed by Tamil Nadu with 24 and Rajasthan with 22.
- **Para Shooting Events:** The shooting events at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range were dominated by Paralympians, including Mona Agarwal, who won gold in the mixed 50m prone SH1 event.

India Triumphs at Kabaddi World Cup 2025

India clinched the Kabaddi World Cup 2025 title with a dominant performance, defeating Iran in a thrilling final. The Indian team displayed exceptional skill, strategy, and teamwork throughout the tournament, remaining unbeaten. Led by their captain, India showcased their defensive prowess and swift raids that left their opponents struggling. The victory marks India's seventh Kabaddi World Cup title, further solidifying their supremacy in the sport. Fans across the country celebrated the win, hailing it as a proud moment for Indian kabaddi.

Foot notes:

- **Men's Team Victory:** The Indian men's team defeated England 44-41 in the final match to secure the title.

- **Women's Team Dominance:** The Indian women's team dominated England with a score of 57-34 in the final match, winning the women's title.
- **Defending Champions:** India successfully defended their titles, having won both the men's and women's crowns at the previous edition in Malaysia in 2019.
- **First Kabaddi World Cup Outside Asia:** This tournament marked the first time the Kabaddi World Cup was held outside Asia, with England hosting the event.
- **India's Kabaddi Supremacy:** India's victory reinforces their supremacy in kabaddi, having won multiple titles in the sport.

Sumedha Pathak clinched gold in Air Pistol Women in Khelo India Para Games

Sumedha Pathak clinched the gold medal in the Air Pistol Women's event at the Khelo India Para Games. She delivered an outstanding performance, showcasing precision and composure under pressure. Sumedha's victory highlights her dedication and skill in the para shooting discipline. Her win has been widely celebrated, inspiring many young athletes in the para-sports community. The achievement also contributes to India's growing success in para-sports at national and international levels.

Foot notes:

- **Upset Victory:** Pathak caused a major upset by defeating Rubina Francis, the 2024 Paralympics medallist and tournament favourite, to claim the top spot on the podium.
- **Category Dominance:** Pathak's victory showcased her exceptional skill and dominance in the SH1 category, which is designed for athletes with impairments affecting their arms or hands.
- **Inspiring Performance:** Her win is an inspiration to many, demonstrating that with determination and hard work, anything is possible, even in the face of adversity.
- **Medal Tally Impact:** Pathak's gold medal contributed to Uttar Pradesh's overall medal tally, helping the state secure its position in the rankings.
- **Emergence of New Talent:** Pathak's victory highlights the emergence of new talent in Indian para-shooting, offering a promising future for the sport in the country.

B Sumeeth Reddy Announces Retirement from Badminton to Focus on Coaching

Indian badminton player B Sumeeth Reddy has announced his retirement from professional badminton to focus on coaching. A former doubles specialist, he represented India in multiple international tournaments, including the Olympics. Reddy now aims to nurture young talent and contribute to the growth of Indian badminton. His experience and expertise will be valuable in training the next generation of players. His transition marks a new chapter in his career, dedicated to mentoring future champions.

Foot notes:

- **Distinguished Career:** Sumeeth had a successful career spanning over a decade, with notable achievements including a silver medal at the 2022 Commonwealth Games and a world ranking of 17 in men's doubles.

- **Transition to Coaching:** Sumeeth will now focus on coaching, having already co-founded the Sikki Sumeeth Badminton Academy in Hyderabad in 2021. He is also part of India's national coaching setup.
- **Coaching Role:** Sumeeth has been entrusted with coaching India's women's doubles players, including Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand.
- **Legacy and Impact:** Sumeeth's retirement marks the end of an era, but his coaching career is expected to have a lasting impact on Indian badminton.
- **Future Plans:** Sumeeth aims to help India win Olympic medals in badminton and expand his academy to nurture young talent.

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India's Women Grapplers Win Silver and Two Bronze at Asian Wrestling

India's women grapplers delivered a strong performance at the Asian Wrestling Championships, securing one silver and two bronze medals. The silver medal was won by Vishvajit More, who showcased exceptional skill and determination in her category. Anjly bagged one of the bronze medals, displaying resilience in a tough contest. Another bronze was secured by an emerging Indian wrestler, further highlighting the nation's growing strength in women's wrestling. This achievement reinforces India's position as a rising force in international wrestling and boosts confidence ahead of future global competitions.

Foot notes:

- Reetika won a silver medal, narrowly losing 6-7 to Kyrgyzstan's Aiperi Medet Kyzy in the gold medal bout.
- Anju won the silver in the women's 53kg weight category, losing 10-0 to Democratic People's Republic of Korea's Ji Hyang Kim in the final.
- Harshita secured a silver medal in the women's 72kg, losing 5-2 to Qian Jiang of China in the gold medal match.
- Muskan won a bronze medal in the 59kg category, defeating Mongolia's Altjin Togtokh 4-0 in the bronze medal match.
- Mansi Lather secured a bronze medal in the 68kg category, defeating Kazakhstan's Irina Kazyulina 12-2 in the bronze medal bout.
- Manisha won the bronze in the women's 62kg after securing a comfortable 5-0 triumph over Arian G. Carpo of the Philippines.

APPOINTMENT & PERSON IN NEWS

Senior Advocate Manan Kumar Mishra Re-Elected as Chairman of Bar Council of India

Senior Advocate Manan Kumar Mishra has been re-elected as the Chairman of the Bar Council of India (BCI) for another term. His re-election comes after his successful leadership and significant contributions to the legal profession in India. Mishra, known for his advocacy in legal reforms and the welfare of lawyers, has played a crucial role in strengthening the legal framework in the country. His leadership will continue to guide the Bar Council in addressing the challenges faced by the legal community. With his extensive experience and commitment, Mishra aims to further enhance the integrity and efficiency of the Indian legal system.

Foot notes:

- **Seventh Consecutive Term:** Manan Kumar Mishra has been re-elected as Chairman of the Bar Council of India for a historic seventh consecutive term, showcasing his strong leadership and the trust of the legal fraternity.
- **Unopposed Election:** Mishra was re-elected unopposed, demonstrating his unparalleled influence and deep connections within the legal community.
- **Commitment to Advocate Welfare:** Mishra has reaffirmed his dedication to advocate welfare, promising to introduce the Advocates Amendment Bill with provisions for lawyers' well-being while ensuring the independence of the Bar.
- **Key Initiatives:** Mishra has outlined several key initiatives, including strengthening the autonomy of the Bar, introducing structured training programs for young lawyers, and implementing the Advocate Protection Act.
- **National Meeting:** A national meeting of advocate representatives and State Bar Council members is scheduled for May 17 in New Delhi to discuss pressing issues, including advocate welfare, the Advocate Protection Act, and policy reforms.

City Union Bank Partners with Chennai Super Kings to Launch Co-Branded Credit Card

City Union Bank has partnered with Chennai Super Kings (CSK) to launch a co-branded credit card, offering exclusive benefits to fans of the IPL franchise. The card will provide various rewards, including discounts on CSK merchandise, match tickets, and special experiences related to the team. This collaboration aims to strengthen the bond between the bank and cricket fans, enhancing customer engagement. The co-branded credit card is designed to cater to the lifestyle and interests of CSK supporters, blending banking convenience with cricket enthusiasm. Through this partnership, City Union Bank and CSK aim to offer a unique financial product that brings added value to their loyal customers.

Foot notes:

- **Exclusive Benefits:** Cardholders will enjoy rewards on every purchase, with bonus points for CSK-related merchandise, match tickets, and experiences.

- **Three Variants:** The CUB-CSK Co-Branded Credit Card will be available in three variants: MasterCard, Platinum, and Signature, with global acceptance, top-notch security, and contactless payment options.
- **Keychain Feature:** The card features an innovative keychain feature, allowing customers to make small transactions without carrying a physical card, supported by RuPay.
- **Rollout Plan:** The card will be rolled out over the next 10-12 days, with digital applications opening in 3-4 days and full issuance expected in two weeks.
- **Target Audience:** The card will be available to existing City Union Bank customers, with priority given to those with savings accounts, current accounts, term deposits, and loan portfolios.

Shri Madan Kumar Ghildiyal appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

Shri Madan Kumar Ghildiyal has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. He will represent India in strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries, focusing on areas such as economic cooperation, cultural exchange, and development assistance. Ghildiyal's extensive diplomatic experience is expected to further enhance India's ties with Timor-Leste. His appointment underscores India's commitment to expanding its presence in Southeast Asia. As Ambassador, Ghildiyal will work to foster greater collaboration between the two nations in various sectors.

Foot notes:

- **New Ambassador :** Shri Madan Kumar Ghildiyal has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, marking a significant development in India's diplomatic relations with the country.
- **Diplomatic Experience :** As a seasoned diplomat, Shri Ghildiyal brings a wealth of experience to his new role, having served in various capacities within the Indian Foreign Service.
- **India-Timor Leste Relations :** The appointment is expected to strengthen bilateral ties between India and Timor-Leste, with a focus on enhancing cooperation in areas such as trade, education, and culture.
- **Development Partnership :** India has been actively engaged in development partnership with Timor-Leste, providing assistance in areas such as infrastructure development, human resource development, and capacity building.
- **Future Engagement :** As Ambassador, Shri Ghildiyal is expected to play a key role in furthering India's engagement with Timor-Leste, exploring new areas of cooperation and strengthening people-to-people ties between the two nations.

Levi's Appoints Diljit Dosanjh as Global Ambassador

Levi's has appointed Diljit Dosanjh as its global brand ambassador, marking a significant step in the brand's efforts to connect with a diverse audience. Known for his influence in music,

fashion, and film, Dosanjh's association with Levi's is expected to boost the brand's appeal, especially among younger consumers. This collaboration highlights Levi's commitment to representing cultural diversity and promoting individuality through its iconic denim wear. Diljit, with his vibrant personality and global fanbase, is a perfect fit for the brand's modern, inclusive image. His appointment reflects Levi's strategy to expand its presence in international markets and strengthen its ties with emerging fashion trends.

Foot notes:

- **Celebrating Self-Expression:** The partnership aims to celebrate self-expression through denim, music, and culture, aligning with Levi's long-standing commitment to empowering individuality.
- **Diljit's Unique Style:** Diljit Dosanjh is known for his effortlessly cool looks, blending traditional Punjabi outfits with modern fashion. He will be endorsing Levi's menswear range, including new loose and relaxed fits.
- **Global Reach:** As a global ambassador, Diljit will help Levi's tap into his massive cross-border influence and popularity, further fueling the growth of the brand's denim range worldwide.
- **Previous Collaboration:** This isn't the first time Levi's and Diljit have worked together. Last year, the brand released a special merchandise collection for his Dil-Luminati tour, which was a massive success.
- **Iconic Partnership:** The partnership is expected to create something truly iconic, blending Levi's heritage with modern style and Diljit's unique flair.

Aditya appointed as MD of Embassy Developments

Aditya has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of Embassy Developments, a leading real estate firm. With extensive experience in the real estate sector, he is expected to drive the company's growth and strategic initiatives. His leadership will focus on expanding Embassy's portfolio, enhancing sustainability, and strengthening market presence. Aditya's appointment comes at a crucial time as the company aims to innovate and adapt to evolving industry trends. Under his guidance, Embassy Developments is set to achieve new milestones in the real estate sector.

Foot notes:

- **Leadership Team:** Aditya will spearhead a dynamic leadership team, including Sachin Shah as CEO and Executive Director, and Rajesh Kaimal as CFO and Executive Director.
- **Growth Initiatives:** Embassy Developments has approved several growth initiatives, including asset acquisitions from the promoter group worth ₹559 crores and a 2,000 crore Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP).
- **Expansion Plans:** The company plans to expand its footprint in the Indian real estate market, with a focus on luxury residential projects and commercial developments.

- **Aditya's Vision:** Aditya aims to build a "truly pan-India real estate powerhouse" and is committed to working with the talented and dedicated team at Embassy Developments.
- **Parent Company:** Embassy Developments is a part of the Embassy Group, a leading real estate developer in India known for its pioneering projects and innovative approaches.

Sudha Singh (DIG) appointed as Joint Director of CBI

Sudha Singh, a senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, has been appointed as the Joint Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Singh, who currently serves as the Deputy Inspector General (DIG), brings a wealth of experience in law enforcement and investigation to the prestigious role. Her appointment to the CBI is seen as a significant move, as the agency continues to strengthen its efforts in combating corruption and high-profile crimes. As Joint Director, Singh is expected to play a key role in overseeing critical investigations and enhancing the efficiency of the agency. Her vast experience in various law enforcement roles is expected to be an asset to the CBI in its pursuit of justice.

Foot notes:

- **Tenure:** Sudha Singh's tenure as Joint Director of CBI will be for seven years, up to July 28, 2026.
- **Current Role:** Prior to her appointment, Singh was serving as Deputy Inspector General (DIG) in the CBI.
- **Appointment Committee:** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved her appointment, along with two other officers, Ashwin Shenvi and Ashok Kumar, as Joint Directors of the CBI.
- **CBI's Role:** As Joint Director, Sudha Singh will play a crucial role in the CBI's investigations and operations, which include combating corruption, tackling economic and violent crimes, and ensuring justice and accountability in public life.
- **Significance:** Sudha Singh's appointment is significant, as she joins the ranks of top officials in the CBI, responsible for leading the agency's efforts in maintaining law and order and upholding the Constitution.

Ajay Bhadoo Appointed CEO of Government e-Marketplace

Ajay Bhadoo has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Government e-Marketplace (GeM). Bhadoo, a seasoned bureaucrat, brings a wealth of experience to the role and is set to lead the platform, which has revolutionized public procurement in India. The Government e-Marketplace has played a crucial role in providing a transparent, efficient, and cost-effective solution for government departments to purchase goods and services. Bhadoo's appointment is expected to further strengthen the platform's operations and expand its reach across the country. His leadership is anticipated to drive innovation and enhance the digital transformation of government procurement.

Foot notes:

- **Background and Experience:** Ajay Bhadoo is a 1999-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the Gujarat cadre. He brings over two decades of experience in governance, policy implementation, and infrastructure development.
- **Role and Responsibilities:** As CEO of GeM, Bhadoo will oversee the platform's transition to a next-generation digital marketplace powered by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS). He will hold this position in addition to his existing responsibilities as Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce.
- **GeM's Significance:** GeM is India's largest digital procurement platform for government entities, with a Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) of 4.58 lakh crore, reflecting a 28.65% year-on-year growth.
- **Previous Roles:** Before his appointment as CEO of GeM, Bhadoo served as Deputy Election Commissioner at the Election Commission of India and Joint Secretary to the former President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind.
- **Education and Qualifications:** Bhadoo holds a degree in Civil Engineering and a Master's in Business Law from the National Law School of India University, Bengaluru.

Dr Anju Rathi Rana appointed to the post of Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs

Dr. Anju Rathi Rana has been appointed as the Secretary of the Department of Legal Affairs. She is a senior Indian Legal Service (ILS) officer with extensive experience in legal and administrative matters. Prior to this role, she held key positions in the Ministry of Law and Justice, contributing to legal reforms and policy-making. Her appointment is expected to enhance the efficiency of the department in handling crucial legal affairs of the government. With her expertise, she will play a vital role in advising the government on legal matters and legislative initiatives.

Foot notes:

- **Appointment Date:** Dr. Rana's appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet on March 5, 2025.
- **Current Role:** Prior to her appointment, Dr. Rana was serving as Additional Secretary in the Department of Legal Affairs.
- **Predecessor:** She succeeds Rajiv Mani, who currently holds the position of Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs.
- **Experience:** Dr. Rana has represented India in international forums, including the BRICS Ministers of Justice Meeting, and has addressed issues related to legal reforms and women's representation in the judiciary.
- **Significance:** Dr. Rana is the first woman to be appointed as the Union Law Secretary.

Mohit Yadav appointed as Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce

Mohit Yadav has been appointed as the new Joint Secretary in the Department of Commerce. In his new role, he will oversee various important functions related to trade policy and international business. Yadav's appointment comes at a time when India is looking to expand its

global trade footprint. His expertise and experience are expected to strengthen India's commerce and trade relations with other nations. With his leadership, the Department of Commerce aims to bolster India's economic standing on the world stage.

Foot notes:

- **New Role:** Yadav will serve as OSD in the Department of Commerce, a position at the Joint Secretary level.
- **Previous Position:** Prior to this appointment, he was the Joint Secretary overseeing Officer Trainees, Representational Grade (OT/RG), and Administration at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS).
- **Succession:** He succeeds Srikar K Reddy, a 2001-batch IFS officer, in this role.
- **Tenure Duration:** The appointment is for a period of three years.
- **Professional Background:** As an IFS officer with over two decades of experience, Yadav has held various significant positions in the Indian diplomatic service.

Kavikrut appointed as CEO of T-Hub

Kavikrut has been appointed as the new CEO of T-Hub, a leading innovation hub for startups in Hyderabad. With this new role, Kavikrut is set to drive the organization's mission of fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in the region. His extensive experience in the startup ecosystem and leadership roles will be key in enhancing T-Hub's initiatives to support emerging businesses. Under his guidance, T-Hub aims to further strengthen its position as a premier platform for startups, offering resources, mentorship, and networking opportunities. This appointment marks a new chapter in T-Hub's journey to empower the next generation of entrepreneurs and innovators.

Foot notes:

- **Background and Experience:** Kavikrut brings 17 years of leadership experience to the role, including a decade at OYO, where he served as Chief Growth Officer. He also founded a healthcare startup and worked with prominent firms like Amazon and the Piramal Group.
- **Education:** Kavikrut holds an MBA from Harvard Business School and an MSc in Finance from BITS Pilani.
- **Role at T-Hub:** As CEO, Kavikrut will focus on strengthening T-Hub's role as an enabler of startup growth and market expansion. He will work to empower entrepreneurs, accelerate startup growth, and drive the development of world-class products from India for the world.
- **Previous CEO:** The previous CEO of T-Hub, Mahankali Srinivas Rao, resigned in October 2024, and Sujit Jagirdar served as interim CEO.
- **Government Support:** The Telangana government has welcomed Kavikrut's appointment, citing his passion for startups, global experience, and operational skills as ideal for leading T-Hub.

Abacus Group, appointed Elizabeth Kubychек as CPO

Abacus Group has appointed Elizabeth Kubychек as its new Chief People Officer (CPO). In this role, Kubychек will oversee the company's human resources strategies, focusing on talent acquisition, employee engagement, and organizational development. Her appointment reflects Abacus Group's commitment to fostering a strong and dynamic workforce. With her extensive experience in HR leadership, Kubychек is expected to drive the company's efforts to create a positive and inclusive work environment. Her expertise will play a crucial role in aligning Abacus Group's people strategies with its overall business goals.

Foot notes:

- **Leadership Experience:** Elizabeth Kubychек brings over 20 years of leadership and executive program management experience to drive Abacus Group's people strategy as it continues to scale globally.
- **Roles and Responsibilities:** As CPO, Kubychек will oversee all people programs, functions, and systems across the business, including HR, benefits, recruiting, and talent management. As CoS, she will coordinate and govern strategic initiatives across the Executive Leadership Team (ELT).
- **Primary Objectives:** Her primary responsibilities include spearheading key initiatives such as annual strategic planning, employee career pathing, company-wide communications, and enhancing global HR processes and KPIs.
- **Previous Experience:** Kubychек joins Abacus Group from ATSG, where she served as Executive Vice President and Chief People and Brand Officer. She has also held senior roles at Bell Techlogix, CIBER, and DTAG T-Systems.
- **Focus Areas:** With a focus on maintaining outstanding employee retention rates, Kubychек will work closely with the ELT to expand Abacus Group's operations across international markets.

Vidya Balan Becomes Federal Bank's First Brand Ambassador

Vidya Balan has been appointed as Federal Bank's first-ever brand ambassador. The renowned actress will represent the bank in its various marketing campaigns and initiatives, helping to enhance its brand image. Federal Bank aims to leverage her popularity and positive public image to strengthen its connection with a broader audience. Balan's association with the bank is expected to boost its visibility and appeal, especially among younger and more diverse customers. The collaboration marks a significant milestone for Federal Bank as it continues to grow and innovate in the financial sector.

Foot notes:

- **Strategic Choice:** Vidya Balan was chosen for her versatility, mass appeal, and ability to transcend demographics, making her the perfect fit to champion Federal Bank.
- **Brand Transformation:** This association is part of Federal Bank's focus on brand transformation, aiming to enhance its market position and connect with diverse geographies, generations, and genders.

- **Pan-India Appeal:** As a renowned actress, Vidya Balan brings her powerful presence and commitment to meaningful causes, aligning with Federal Bank's ethos of supporting communities while pursuing business excellence.
- **Marketing Initiatives:** The multi-year partnership will see Vidya Balan lead various marketing initiatives, including TV commercials and digital campaigns, to elevate Federal Bank's connection with its audiences.
- **Empathy and Excellence:** Vidya Balan's values of empathy, commitment, and excellence resonate with Federal Bank's approach, emphasizing the importance of understanding and servicing customers.

Zeta appoints Mehul Mistry as Senior Vice President

Zeta has appointed Mehul Mistry as its new Senior Vice President. In this role, Mistry will play a crucial part in driving the company's growth and innovation in the digital banking and payments space. With his extensive experience in the fintech industry, he is expected to bring valuable insights and strategic direction to Zeta. Mistry's appointment reflects the company's commitment to strengthening its leadership team and expanding its offerings in the global market. Zeta aims to enhance its capabilities and continue providing cutting-edge solutions under Mistry's leadership.

Foot notes:

- **Leadership Expertise:** Mehul brings over 20 years of leadership expertise from his stints at Wibmo (a PayU company), IDFC First Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, and Barclays Bank.
- **Role and Responsibilities:** As Senior Vice President, Mehul will oversee Zeta's strategic relationships with major clients in India, develop new partnerships, and create growth strategies for the company's India growth plans.
- **Industry Transformation:** Mehul's appointment comes at a time when the banking sector in India is poised for significant transformation, driven by modern banking platforms, digital-natives, and advancements in AI.
- **Zeta's Growth Plans:** Zeta has recently been valued at \$2 billion following a \$50 million fundraise from a strategic investor, and Mehul's appointment is expected to support the company's growth plans in India.
- **Mehul's Vision:** Mehul believes that Zeta, with its next-gen processing platform, Tachyon, exceptional talent pool, and proven track record, is uniquely positioned to support banks in their transformation journey.

Amitava Mukherjee appointed as NMDC CMD

Amitava Mukherjee has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of NMDC (National Mineral Development Corporation). With his vast experience in the mining and public sector industries, Mukherjee is expected to lead NMDC towards further growth and innovation. His leadership will focus on enhancing the company's operations and expanding its presence in the global mineral market. Mukherjee's appointment comes at a pivotal time as

NMDC looks to strengthen its position in the mining sector and contribute to India's economic growth. His strategic vision will be crucial in guiding the company through its future challenges and opportunities.

Foot notes:

- **Leadership Experience:** Mukherjee has served as the Director (Finance) of NMDC since November 2018 and has held the additional charge of CMD since March 2023.
- **Achievements:** Under his leadership, NMDC achieved a historic milestone by surpassing 45 million tonnes of iron ore output in FY24, becoming the first iron ore mining company in India to do so.
- **Expansion Plans:** Mukherjee aims to expand NMDC's mining capacity to 100 million tonnes by 2030, with a focus on responsible mining practices.
- **Other Roles:** He also serves as the Chairman of NMDC Steel Ltd and Legacy Iron Ore Ltd, showcasing his expertise in the mining and steel sectors.
- **Term:** Mukherjee's appointment as CMD is effective from March 6, 2025, and will continue until February 29, 2028, or until further orders.

Emids appoints Abhishek Shankar as Chief Executive Officer

Emids, a leading provider of digital transformation solutions in the healthcare and life sciences sectors, has appointed Abhishek Shankar as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). This strategic move aligns with Emids' commitment to enhancing AI-driven healthcare solutions. He also held the position of Senior Vice President at HCL, overseeing the Technology and Life Sciences Americas business.

Foot notes:

- **Extensive Experience:** Abhishek Shankar brings over two decades of experience in driving innovation and delivering enterprise-wide technology modernization at the intersection of healthcare and technology.
- **Previous Roles:** Shankar previously served as President, Communications Business, Americas at Tech Mahindra and Senior Vice President at HCL, leading the Technology and Life Sciences Americas business.
- **Emids' Future Plans:** Under Shankar's leadership, Emids aims to deepen its role as a premier technology partner for healthtech, payer, provider, and life science organizations.
- **Digital Transformation:** Shankar emphasized the rapid evolution of digital solutions in healthcare and life sciences, and Emids' position to guide organizations through this transformation.
- **Growth and Innovation:** Emids is set to accelerate digital adoption and transformation across the healthcare ecosystem by strengthening its AI, interoperability, and cloud-driven solutions.

Sony India names Karan Aujla as brand ambassador for its audio products

Sony India has appointed renowned Punjabi singer Karan Aujla as the brand ambassador for its audio product category. This partnership aims to enhance Sony's presence in the audio market by associating with an artist who resonates with a wide audience. The collaboration is launched with a comprehensive promotional campaign across digital platforms, outdoor advertising, and retail activations.

Foot notes:

- **New Brand Ambassador:** Sony India has appointed Karan Aujla, a renowned music sensation, as its new brand ambassador for audio products, reinforcing its commitment to delivering premium sound experiences.
- **Multi-Platform Campaign:** The partnership launches with a multi-platform campaign across digital, outdoor, and retail spaces, featuring Karan Aujla.
- **ULT Power Sound Expansion:** The announcement coincides with Sony India's expansion of its ULT Power Sound sub-brand, which has seen 2X year-on-year growth, offering high-quality headphones and speakers.
- **Immersive Audio Experience:** The ULT Power Sound products are designed to deliver an immersive audio experience with advanced technologies such as noise cancellation, enhanced bass, and high-clarity audio.
- **Partnership Goals:** The collaboration aims to elevate the way music is experienced, delivering immersive sound that truly connects with fans everywhere, while strengthening Sony India's position in the audio market.

Jujhar Group appoints Amarpreet Singh Dua as CEO of Fastway Group

Jujhar Group, a diversified conglomerate based in Ludhiana, Punjab, has appointed Amarpreet Singh Dua as the Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of its subsidiary, Fastway Group. This strategic move aims to drive innovation and foster growth within the organization.

Foot notes:

- **Extensive Experience:** Amarpreet Singh Dua brings over two decades of experience in national operations, P&L management, and pioneering services in the telecom and internet industries.
- **Strategic Leadership:** Dua has a proven track record of launching and managing advanced technological solutions, including 3G, 4G, FTTH, and AirFiber nationally.
- **Growth and Innovation:** Under Dua's leadership, Fastway Group is poised to create new benchmarks in operational excellence, innovation, and market expansion.
- **Alignment with Jujhar Group's Mission:** Dua's extensive industry experience, leadership skills, and dedication to excellence align with Jujhar Group's mission for growth and change.
- **Future Plans:** Dua aims to create extraordinary value for customers and stakeholders by focusing on innovation, operational efficiency, and market expansion.

Vikas Kaushal Appointed as HPCL CMD

Vikas Kaushal has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL). His appointment marks a significant step for the organization as he brings a wealth of experience in the oil and gas sector. Kaushal's leadership is expected to steer HPCL towards achieving its strategic goals and enhancing operational efficiency. As CMD, he will be responsible for overseeing the company's operations and driving growth initiatives. His vision focuses on sustainable development and innovation within the petroleum industry.

Foot notes:

- **First Private Sector Executive:** Kaushal is the first private sector executive to lead a state-run oil refinery, marking a significant shift in India's oil sector.
- **Extensive Experience:** He brings over 30 years of experience in the energy, oil & gas, and power sectors, having worked with top Indian energy companies, including Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum, and GAIL.
- **Previous Roles:** Kaushal served as the Global Leader for Energy and Process Industries at Kearney and was the Managing Director and Country Head for Kearney India.
- **Education and Credentials:** He holds a chemical engineering degree from Panjab University and an MBA from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad.
- **Leadership and Vision:** Kaushal's appointment is expected to drive HPCL's growth and innovation, with his expertise in digital transformation, refinery maintenance, and net-zero strategies.

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Network18 appoints Angad Bhatia as CEO of Firstpost and Creator18

Network18 has appointed Angad Bhatia as the CEO of Firstpost and Creator18. With extensive experience in digital media and content strategy, Bhatia is expected to lead both platforms towards greater audience engagement and innovative content solutions. His vision focuses on strengthening Firstpost's position as a leading digital news platform while expanding Creator18's reach in the creator economy. As CEO, Bhatia aims to drive growth through cutting-edge content strategies and strategic partnerships. This appointment underscores Network18's commitment to enhancing its digital footprint and creator-driven initiatives.

Foot notes:

- **New Role:** Angad Bhatia has been appointed as the CEO of Firstpost and Creator18, a new venture by Network18.

- **Responsibilities:** He will oversee Firstpost and lead the development of a creator network across Network18's digital platforms.
- **Background:** Bhatia has over 15 years of experience in media, content, and digital commerce, having built and scaled influential brands like MensXP, iDiva, and Hypp.
- **Previous Roles:** Before joining Network18, Bhatia was CEO of India Lifestyle Network and led brand and marketing growth for other Mensa Brands.
- **Reporting Structure:** He will report to Rahul Joshi, Managing Director and Group Editor-in-Chief, Network18.

Honda Motor appoints Takashi Nakajima as President and CEO of Honda Cars India

Honda Motor Co. has appointed Takashi Nakajima as the new President and CEO of Honda Cars India. Nakajima brings extensive experience from his previous roles within Honda's global operations and is expected to strengthen the company's presence in the Indian market. His leadership will focus on enhancing product offerings, boosting sales, and aligning with Honda's global vision of sustainable mobility. The appointment marks a strategic move to revitalize Honda's growth trajectory in India amid increasing competition and evolving consumer preferences. Nakajima succeeds the outgoing CEO and aims to leverage his global expertise to steer Honda Cars India toward a more resilient and customer-centric future.

Foot notes:

- **Predecessor:** Nakajima will succeed Takuya Tsumura, who will move to Japan to take up a new role at Honda's head office.
- **Background:** Nakajima has over 30 years of experience with Honda, having worked in various international markets, including Japan, China, Spain, Czech Republic, and Russia.
- **Previous Role:** Before his appointment, Nakajima was serving as President of Honda Motor Russia since 2021 and was also in charge of Product Planning, Marketing, and Corporate Communication for Honda's automobile business in Japan.
- **Expectations:** As President and CEO of Honda Cars India, Nakajima is expected to build on the company's premium brand positioning, strengthen customer-centric solutions, and drive profitable growth.

Justice Joymalya Bagchi Appointed to Supreme Court

Justice Joymalya Bagchi has been appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India. Known for his profound legal acumen and extensive experience, Justice Bagchi previously served as a Judge of the Calcutta High Court. His appointment to the apex court reflects his consistent dedication to justice and his contributions to significant legal judgments. As a Supreme Court judge, he is expected to play a crucial role in shaping landmark decisions and upholding the Constitution. This appointment further strengthens the judiciary with his expertise and commitment to the rule of law.

Foot notes:

- **Background and Experience:** Justice Bagchi was born in Calcutta on October 2, 1966, and enrolled as an advocate in November 1991. He has over a decade of judicial experience, starting his career at the Calcutta High Court in 2011.
- **Appointment and Recommendation:** The Central Government approved his appointment, following a recommendation by the Supreme Court Collegium on March 6, 2025.
- **Future Role:** Justice Bagchi is in line to become the Chief Justice of India in May 2031, succeeding Justice K V Viswanathan, although his tenure will be relatively brief, ending on October 2, 2031.
- **Calcutta High Court Connection:** Justice Bagchi's appointment strengthens Calcutta's representation in the top court, joining Justice Dipankar Datta.
- **Supreme Court Bench Strength:** His appointment helps bring the Supreme Court bench to its sanctioned strength of 34 judges, after functioning with 32 judges.

Saina Nehwal Joins Naarica as Strategic Investor & Brand Ambassador

Indian badminton star Saina Nehwal has joined Naarica as a Strategic Investor and Brand Ambassador. Naarica, a women-centric fitness and wellness brand, aims to empower women through holistic health solutions. With Saina's association, the brand seeks to inspire women to prioritize fitness and well-being. As a strategic investor, Saina will also play a role in guiding the brand's vision and growth strategy. This collaboration reflects her commitment to promoting a healthy and active lifestyle among women across the country.

Foot notes:

- **Empowerment through Menstrual Hygiene:** Saina Nehwal emphasizes that menstrual hygiene is a critical yet often overlooked issue in India, and this collaboration is a step toward empowerment and change.
- **Sustainable Menstrual Care Solutions:** Naarica offers eco-friendly, reusable, and scientifically designed menstrual products, including period underwear developed in France.
- **Expanding Access:** The partnership aims to bridge the gap in access to proper sanitary products for nearly 50% of menstruating women in India.
- **Market Growth:** The Indian menstrual hygiene market is projected to grow at a 16% CAGR, reaching \$522 million by 2025.
- **Naarica's Mission:** The brand aims to redefine intimate wear and provide sustainable menstrual care solutions for women across India.

Vikas Purohit takes charge as CEO of The Times of India

Vikas Purohit has joined The Times of India as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). With his vast experience in leadership and business management, he is expected to play a pivotal role in steering the organization toward new growth opportunities. His appointment comes at a crucial time as the media landscape continues to evolve rapidly. Purohit's strategic vision and industry

insights are anticipated to strengthen the company's position in the competitive market. The Times of India is optimistic that his leadership will drive innovation and success in the years to come.

Foot notes:

- **New Appointment:** Vikas Purohit has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of The Times of India.
- **Leadership Role:** As CEO, Purohit will lead the organization's strategic growth initiatives and oversee its operations.
- **Media Expertise:** Vikas Purohit brings extensive experience in the media industry, having worked with prominent organizations in the past.
- **Growth Plans:** Under Purohit's leadership, The Times of India aims to expand its reach, enhance its digital presence, and drive innovation.
- **Industry Impact:** Purohit's appointment is expected to have a positive impact on the Indian media landscape, given his expertise and vision for growth.

NeoNiche appoints Sandeep Mishra as Chief Creative Officer

NeoNiche has appointed Sandeep Mishra as the Chief Creative Officer (CCO). With his extensive experience in creative strategy and brand communication, Mishra is set to lead the company's creative vision and innovation. His appointment is expected to strengthen NeoNiche's creative capabilities and drive impactful brand experiences. Known for his creative acumen and leadership skills, he brings a fresh perspective to the team. The company is optimistic that his expertise will enhance their strategic approach to creative solutions and client engagement.

Foot notes:

- **Experience and Expertise:** Sandeep Mishra brings 25 years of diverse experience in the events and advertising sectors, with a passion for pushing creative boundaries and delivering exceptional results.
- **Previous Roles:** Before joining NeoNiche, Mishra held leadership roles at Join Ventures, Toast Events, and Laqshya Media Group, where he served as National Creative Director.
- **Impact on NeoNiche:** As Chief Creative Officer, Mishra aims to enhance NeoNiche's creative direction and redefine the future of brand storytelling.
- **Company's Expectations:** Prateek N. Kumar, Founder & CEO of NeoNiche, expressed excitement about Mishra's appointment, citing his ability to transform bold ideas into impactful realities.
- **NeoNiche's Goals:** With Mishra on board, NeoNiche seeks to elevate brand experiences and explore innovative pathways to achieve extraordinary heights.

Arun Kumar Sahu accredited as the Ambassador of India to the Republic of North Macedonia

Arun Kumar Sahu has been accredited as the Ambassador of India to the Republic of North Macedonia. A seasoned diplomat with extensive experience in foreign affairs, Sahu is expected to strengthen bilateral relations and enhance cooperation between the two countries. His appointment reflects India's commitment to fostering diplomatic ties and collaboration with North Macedonia. Sahu's expertise and leadership are anticipated to play a pivotal role in promoting mutual interests and partnerships. The Ministry of External Affairs congratulated him on his new role and expressed confidence in his abilities to represent India effectively.

Foot notes:

- **Concurrent Accreditation:** Sahu will continue to be based in Sofia, Bulgaria, and will take up his new assignment shortly.
- **India-North Macedonia Ties:** India and North Macedonia share historical ties, democratic values, and cultural connections, including a shared admiration for Mother Teresa, who was born in Skaxo.
- **Diplomatic Relations:** India established diplomatic relations with North Macedonia in 1996 and has since maintained a strong partnership, with growing cooperation in areas like tourism, education, and culture.
- **Cultural Exchange:** Yoga has gained popularity in North Macedonia, with International Yoga Day being celebrated annually, fostering deeper cultural connections between the two nations.
- **Indian Community:** Although the Indian community in North Macedonia is small, consisting of around 50 individuals, including IT professionals and executives, cultural ties remain strong.

Ather Energy appoints Saurabh Sharma as Head of Marketing

Ather Energy has appointed Saurabh Sharma as the new Head of Marketing. With his extensive experience in brand strategy and marketing, Sharma is expected to drive the company's growth and strengthen its market presence. His leadership will play a key role in enhancing brand visibility and customer engagement. Ather Energy aims to leverage his expertise to accelerate its journey as a leading electric vehicle manufacturer. This appointment reflects the company's commitment to innovation and expansion in the EV sector.

Foot notes:

- **Experience:** He brings over 15 years of experience in brand building and strategic marketing across industries, having worked with Nerolac Paints and Mahindra SUVs prior to joining Ather.
- **Responsibilities:** As Head of Marketing, Saurabh will lead Ather's marketing strategy, focusing on brand positioning, customer engagement, and long-term growth.
- **Achievements:** Saurabh has been instrumental in scaling operations, expanding Ather's market presence, and driving business strategy in his previous roles.
- **Leadership Expectations:** His leadership is expected to drive innovative marketing strategies and strengthen Ather Energy's position in the EV industry.

Salman Khan becomes brand ambassador for Indian Supercross Racing League

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan has been appointed as the brand ambassador for the Indian Supercross Racing League. His association with the league is expected to boost its popularity and attract a wider audience to the thrilling sport of supercross racing. As a passionate supporter of sports and fitness, Salman Khan's involvement aligns well with the league's dynamic and adventurous spirit. His presence is likely to enhance the league's brand value and inspire young enthusiasts to participate. This collaboration marks a significant step in promoting supercross racing in India.

Foot notes:

- **Ambassador Role:** Salman Khan has been appointed as the brand ambassador for the Indian Supercross Racing League (ISRL), aiming to elevate the sport's popularity in India.
- **Motorsport Passion:** Khan's passion for motorcycles and motorsports makes him an ideal fit for this role, and he's excited to be part of something he's truly passionate about.
- **League's Vision:** The ISRL aims to revolutionize motorsports in India with a long-term vision, and Khan's association is expected to boost the league's reach and make Supercross a household name.
- **Family Entertainment Experience:** ISRL Season 2 promises to be a complete family entertainment experience, with Khan at the forefront, making the sport more accessible and engaging for fans of all ages.
- **Game-Changer for Motorsports:** Khan's endorsement represents a game-changer for motorsports in India, taking the league into a new age of mainstream sports entertainment.
- **Global Recognition:** The ISRL has firmly placed India on the global motorsports map, and Khan's presence is expected to elevate Indian riders to the global stage.

Arun Mammen Elected as Chairman of ATMA

Arun Mammen has been elected as the Chairman of the Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA). As a prominent industry leader, he brings valuable experience to the role. His leadership is expected to drive innovation and growth in the Indian tyre industry. ATMA aims to strengthen its initiatives under his guidance, focusing on sustainability and technological advancements. Mammen's appointment reflects the industry's commitment to progress and global competitiveness.

Foot notes:

- **Leadership Role:** Mammen, Vice Chairman & Managing Director of MRF Ltd, will lead ATMA, which is celebrating its Golden Jubilee Year in 2025.
- **New Vice-Chairman:** Hiroshi Yoshizane, Managing Director of Bridgestone India, has been appointed as the new Vice-Chairman of ATMA.
- **Industry Expertise:** Mammen brings extensive experience in the automotive tyre industry, having held various leadership positions at MRF Ltd.

- **Focus Areas:** As Chairman, Mammen will focus on policy enablers to make the industry more competitive and technologically superior, as well as reducing carbon footprint in manufacturing and supply chain.
- **Future Plans:** Mammen aims to upgrade the quality and training of stakeholders in the industry over the next five years.

Axar Patel Appointed as Delhi Capitals Captain for IPL 2025

Axar Patel has been appointed as the captain of Delhi Capitals for the IPL 2025 season. The all-rounder replaces the previous skipper and is expected to bring his experience and leadership skills to the team. Patel has been a key player for Delhi Capitals, contributing with both bat and ball in crucial matches. Under his captaincy, the team aims to strengthen its performance and compete for the championship. His appointment reflects the franchise's confidence in his abilities to lead from the front.

Foot notes:

- **Leadership Role:** Patel, a 31-year-old all-rounder, takes over the leadership role after serving as vice-captain for two seasons.
- **Experience and Performance:** He has been with the franchise since 2019, playing 82 matches, scoring 967 runs, and picking up 62 wickets with an economy rate of 7.09.
- **Captaincy Experience:** Patel has captained Gujarat in 23 matches across formats and led the Capitals in one IPL match previously. He was also named India's T20I vice-captain earlier this year.
- **Team Dynamics:** The Capitals have assembled a balanced squad, including experienced players like KL Rahul, Faf du Plessis, and Mitchell Starc, who will support Patel in his new role.
- **Season Ahead:** Delhi Capitals will begin their IPL 2025 campaign on March 24, 2025, in Visakhapatnam against Lucknow Super Giants.

Havells India onboards Nayanthara and Vignesh Shivan as brand ambassadors

Havells India has onboarded actress Nayanthara and filmmaker Vignesh Shivan as its brand ambassadors. The power couple will represent the brand across various campaigns, enhancing its connection with consumers. Their association aligns with Havells' vision of innovation, quality, and trust in household electrical products. With their strong influence, the company aims to strengthen its presence in key markets. This collaboration reflects Havells' commitment to engaging with a diverse and dynamic audience.

Foot notes:

- **Regional Focus:** The couple will promote Havells' diverse product lineup, including premium fans, home appliances, lighting solutions, and more, specifically targeting the South Indian market.
- **Brand Representation:** Nayanthara and Vignesh Shivan's association with Havells aims to strengthen the brand's presence in the South and tap into new avenues of growth.

- **Marketing Campaign:** A new communication campaign featuring the couple will be launched soon, with extensive support across TV, print, digital, outdoor, and BTL platforms.
- **Brand Ethos:** Havells believes the couple's credibility and appeal align with the brand's values, making them ideal representatives for the company.
- **First Joint Endorsement:** This is the first time Nayanthara and Vignesh Shivan will be endorsing a brand together, making it a unique and exciting partnership.

Arun Mammen Elected as Chairman of ATMA

Arun Mammen has been elected as the Chairman of the Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA). As a prominent industry leader, he brings valuable experience to the role. His leadership is expected to drive innovation and growth in the Indian tyre industry. ATMA aims to strengthen its initiatives under his guidance, focusing on sustainability and technological advancements. Mammen's appointment reflects the industry's commitment to progress and global competitiveness.

Foot notes:

- **Leadership Role:** Mammen, Vice Chairman & Managing Director of MRF Ltd, will lead ATMA, which is celebrating its Golden Jubilee Year in 2025.
- **New Vice-Chairman:** Hiroshi Yoshizane, Managing Director of Bridgestone India, has been appointed as the new Vice-Chairman of ATMA.
- **Industry Expertise:** Mammen brings extensive experience in the automotive tyre industry, having held various leadership positions at MRF Ltd.
- **Focus Areas:** As Chairman, Mammen will focus on policy enablers to make the industry more competitive and technologically superior, as well as reducing carbon footprint in manufacturing and supply chain.
- **Future Plans:** Mammen aims to upgrade the quality and training of stakeholders in the industry over the next five years.

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The Bihar government promoted Amit Lodha (IG) to the rank of ADG of Police

The Bihar government has promoted Amit Lodha, who was serving as Inspector General (IG), to the rank of Additional Director General (ADG) of Police. Known for his sharp leadership and commendable service, Lodha has played a key role in several major policing operations in Bihar. His promotion comes as part of a broader reshuffle within the state police department. Lodha, who is also recognized for his bestselling book "Bihar Diaries," has earned respect both within and outside the police force. The new role will see him take on larger responsibilities in maintaining law and order in the state.

Foot notes:

- **Previous Role:** Prior to his promotion, Lodha served as Inspector General (IG) at the State Crime Records Bureau.
- **Background:** Lodha, a 1998 batch IPS officer, has gained recognition for his crime-fighting efforts in Bihar, particularly during his tenure as Superintendent of Police in Nalanda district.
- **Controversies:** Despite his commendable service, Lodha has faced allegations of corruption and disproportionate assets, leading to an investigation by the Enforcement Directorate.
- **Notable Achievements:** Lodha has received several awards, including the President's Police Medal for Gallantry and the Internal Security Medal, and has authored a book, "Bihar Diaries," which inspired the Netflix series "Khakee: The Bihar Chapter".

Flipkart elevates Akash Jain to Director of Marketing, Head of Media

Flipkart has elevated Akash Jain to the position of Director of Marketing and Head of Media. In his new role, Jain will be responsible for leading Flipkart's marketing strategies and overseeing media planning and execution. His promotion comes as part of the company's efforts to strengthen its brand presence and drive customer engagement. Jain has been a key contributor to Flipkart's growth, bringing valuable insights and leadership to various successful campaigns. This move signals Flipkart's commitment to enhancing its marketing capabilities in an increasingly competitive e-commerce landscape.

Foot notes:

- **Responsibilities:** Jain will drive innovative advertising campaigns and optimize media strategies to strengthen Flipkart's position in India's competitive e-commerce landscape.
- **Experience:** Jain brings nearly a decade of experience within Flipkart, having contributed significantly to the company's media and marketing strategies across various verticals.
- **Previous Role:** Prior to his promotion, Jain served as Head of Media – Associate Director, managing media strategies across digital and ATL channels for key commerce categories.
- **Business Growth:** Jain's appointment comes at a time when Flipkart is experiencing robust growth, with a 21% increase in revenue reported for the financial year 2023-24.
- **New Initiatives:** Jain will also oversee media strategies for Flipkart's emerging verticals, including the recently launched quick commerce initiative, Flipkart Minutes.

Valueattics Reinsurance Becomes India's First Private Reinsurer

Valueattics Reinsurance has made history by becoming India's first private reinsurance company. This milestone marks a significant step in the liberalization and growth of India's insurance and reinsurance sectors. As a private reinsurer, Valueattics aims to offer innovative risk management solutions and strengthen the domestic reinsurance market. The move is expected to enhance competition, drive efficiency, and reduce dependence on foreign

reinsurers. Industry experts believe this development will support the broader vision of deepening insurance penetration and boosting resilience in India's financial ecosystem.

Foot notes:

- **IRDAI Approval:** Valueattics Reinsurance received approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) to commence reinsurance operations.
- **Capital Base:** The company will start with a capital base of ₹2.1 billion (US\$21.43 million), backed by Fairfax Financial Holdings and Oben Ventures LLP.
- **Promoters:** Valueattics Reinsurance is promoted by Prem Watsa's Fairfax group and Kamesh Goyal, who also founded Go Digit General Insurance and Go Digit Life Insurance.
- **Competition:** This development ends the monopoly of General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re), the sole public-sector reinsurer in India.
- **Market Impact:** The entry of Valueattics Reinsurance is expected to foster competition and innovation in the Indian reinsurance market.



The advertisement for PSSSB CLERK 2024 Test Series features a blue background. On the left, there is a circular logo with the Indian emblem. To its right, the text 'PSSSB CLERK 2024' is displayed in large white letters, with 'Test Series' in a yellow box below it. A list of features includes '65+ Full Length Mock Tests', 'Latest Exam Pattern', and 'English & Punjabi Medium'. A red speech bubble indicates a '50% OFF' discount, with the price reduced from ₹639 to ₹319. A 'BUY NOW' button with a right arrow is at the bottom left. On the right side, a circular inset shows a woman writing in a notebook. A small 'MY' logo is in the top right corner.

N. Ganapathy Subramaniam Appointed as Chairman of Tata Communications

N. Ganapathy Subramaniam has been appointed as the new Chairman of Tata Communications. A veteran leader, Subramaniam brings decades of experience in the IT and telecom sectors to his new role. His appointment is expected to drive Tata Communications' strategic growth and innovation initiatives globally. The company is optimistic that under his guidance, Tata Communications will strengthen its position as a global digital ecosystem enabler.

Foot notes:

- **Experience:** Subramaniam brings over 40 years of experience in the IT industry, having worked with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and other organizations.
- **Previous Roles:** He has held significant positions, including Chief Operating Officer and Executive Director at TCS, which he left in May 2024.
- **Expertise:** Subramaniam possesses extensive knowledge in technology, operations, product development, business transformation, and change management.
- **Other Positions:** He currently holds key positions in other companies, including Chairman and Non-Executive Director of Tata Elxsi Limited and Tejas Networks Limited.

- **Tata Communications' Performance:** The company reported a consolidated net profit of 236 crore for the quarter ending December 2024, registering a 424% year-on-year growth.

Angel One appoints Rohit Chatter as Chief Data Officer

Angel One has appointed Rohit Chatter as its new Chief Data Officer. In this role, Chatter will lead the company's data strategy, focusing on leveraging advanced analytics and data-driven insights to enhance customer experience and business operations. He brings a wealth of experience in data science, AI, and technology leadership to Angel One. The appointment aligns with the company's vision to further integrate data and technology into its core offerings. Chatter's leadership is expected to play a key role in driving innovation and accelerating Angel One's digital transformation journey.

Foot notes:

- **Expertise:** Chatter's expertise will play a pivotal role in accelerating Angel One's data-led transformation, strengthening its digital-first approach, and enhancing the overall investing experience.
- **Education and Skills:** Chatter holds a BE in Electronics & Telecom and an MBA in General Management from NMIMS, and has extensive experience in large-scale Oracle databases, Unix, Microsoft technologies, and programming languages like Perl, Python, and Java.
- **Company's Growth Plans:** Angel One aims to leverage Chatter's expertise to redefine digital investing through data-led transformation and a digital-first approach, ultimately empowering millions of investors across India with smarter financial solutions.

Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanaraman Appointed as CEO of ANRF

Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanaraman has been appointed as the CEO of the Advanced Network Research Foundation (ANRF). He is a renowned expert in networking and communication technologies with extensive experience in research and leadership roles. As CEO, Dr. Kalyanaraman will spearhead ANRF's mission to advance next-generation networking solutions and innovation. His appointment is expected to strengthen ANRF's efforts in driving cutting-edge research and fostering industry collaborations. This move marks a significant step in accelerating India's capabilities in advanced network infrastructure and technology development.

Foot notes:

- **ANRF's Mission:** As the CEO, Dr. Kalyanaraman will lead ANRF in its mission to seed, grow, and promote research and development (R&D) and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India's universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories.
- **ANRF's Objectives:** ANRF aims to provide high-level strategic direction for scientific research in India, forge collaborations among industry, academia, and government

departments, and create an interface mechanism for participation and contribution of industries and state governments.

- **Dr. Kalyanaraman's Vision:** With his extensive experience in technology and research, Dr. Kalyanaraman is expected to steer ANRF towards achieving its ambitious goals, including promoting interdisciplinary research, boosting India's position in global scientific research rankings, and developing advanced infrastructure for research institutions.
- **Allocation and Funding:** ANRF has been allocated Rs. 966 crore for the financial year 2024-25, which will be utilized to support its research and development initiatives.

Intel Appoints Lip-Bu Tan as CEO

Intel has appointed Lip-Bu Tan as its new Chief Executive Officer. Tan, a seasoned semiconductor industry leader, is expected to drive Intel's strategic growth and innovation. He previously served as CEO of Cadence Design Systems and has been a board member at several leading tech companies. Under his leadership, Intel aims to strengthen its position in the chipmaking sector and expand its AI and advanced manufacturing capabilities. The appointment signals Intel's commitment to accelerating technological advancements and market competitiveness.

Foot notes:

- **Experience:** Lip-Bu Tan, a veteran tech executive, has been appointed as the new CEO of Intel. He has previously served as the CEO of Cadence Design Systems and has over 40 years of experience in the tech industry.
- **Background:** Tan has a strong background in the semiconductor industry, having worked with companies like Cadence, Broadcom, and IBM. This experience will be valuable in leading Intel's efforts to regain its footing in the highly competitive chip market.
- **Current Role:** Tan has been serving as the chairman of the board at Cadence Design Systems and has been a member of Intel's board of directors since 2006.
- **Challenge Ahead:** As the new CEO, Tan faces the challenge of reviving Intel's fortunes, which have been impacted by increased competition from companies like AMD and NVIDIA.
- **Market Expectations:** Investors and analysts will be watching Tan's leadership closely, expecting him to outline a clear strategy for Intel's growth and competitiveness in the rapidly evolving tech landscape.

Hilton Gurugram Baani City Centre appoints Abishek Chandran as Cluster Director of Marketing & Communications

Hilton Gurugram Baani City Centre has appointed Abishek Chandran as the Cluster Director of Marketing & Communications. In his new role, Chandran will oversee the marketing strategies and communication initiatives for the property and its associated cluster. He brings a wealth of experience in brand management, digital marketing, and public relations within the hospitality

industry. His appointment is expected to strengthen the hotel's market presence and enhance guest engagement. The leadership team is confident that Chandran's expertise will drive impactful campaigns and elevate the brand's positioning in the region.

Foot notes:

- **Role and Responsibilities:** As Cluster Director of Marketing & Communications, Abishek will lead marketing and communication strategies across the cluster, working closely with the cluster commercial director, general managers, and Hilton brand's teams.
- **Key Objectives:** Abishek's primary objectives will include developing and executing innovative campaigns, advancing brand growth, and cultivating robust relationships with key stakeholders to elevate Hilton Gurugram's reputation and market position.
- **Previous Successes:** Abishek has a proven track record of successfully driving marketing and communication strategies, boosting brand visibility, and executing impactful campaigns that have contributed to the growth of Hilton's portfolio.
- **Leadership's Expectations:** Harkaran Singh, General Manager, Hilton Gurugram Baani City Centre, expressed his excitement about Abishek's appointment, citing his passion for excellence and deep understanding of the domain as key factors in driving marketing initiatives and reinforcing the brand's presence.

Skechers onboards Jasprit Bumrah as Brand Ambassador

Skechers has announced Indian cricket star Jasprit Bumrah as its new brand ambassador. The partnership aims to strengthen Skechers' presence in the Indian market by connecting with sports and fitness enthusiasts. Known for his athleticism and performance, Bumrah embodies the brand's values of comfort, innovation, and high performance. As the face of Skechers, he will feature in upcoming campaigns promoting the brand's athletic and lifestyle footwear. This collaboration highlights Skechers' commitment to engaging with India's growing sports and active lifestyle community.

Foot notes:

- **Partnership Details:** As part of the agreement, Bumrah will compete in Skechers cricket footwear and feature in the brand's marketing campaigns, promoting both performance and lifestyle collections.
- **Alignment with Skechers' Values:** Bumrah's relentless pursuit of excellence aligns with Skechers' commitment to innovation and performance, making him an ideal fit for the brand.
- **Skechers' Cricket Presence:** This partnership strengthens Skechers' presence in Indian cricket, with the brand also serving as the official kit sponsor of the Mumbai Indians team.
- **Bumrah's Comments:** Bumrah expressed his enthusiasm for joining the Skechers family, citing the brand's blend of comfort and innovation as a perfect fit for athletes like him.

- **Expanded Ambassador Roster:** Bumrah joins Skechers' roster of ambassadors, which includes Indian cricketers Yastika Bhatia and Ishan Kishan.

Prashant Sharma appointed as General Manager of FCI, Lucknow

Prashant Sharma has been appointed as the new General Manager of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in Lucknow. With extensive experience in food distribution and supply chain management, Sharma is expected to play a key role in streamlining operations in the region. His appointment comes at a crucial time as FCI focuses on enhancing food security and improving storage and distribution networks in Uttar Pradesh. Sharma emphasized his commitment to ensuring efficient procurement and delivery of food grains to meet the needs of the public. Under his leadership, FCI Lucknow aims to strengthen coordination with state agencies and boost transparency in its operations.

Foot notes:

- **Appointment Details:** Prashant Sharma, an IAS officer of the 2012 batch from the Uttar Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as General Manager (Region) of the Food Corporation of India (FCI), Lucknow.
- **Tenure:** His tenure is for three years on a deputation basis, starting from the date of taking charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- **Current Role:** Prior to this appointment, Prashant Sharma was serving as Special Secretary to the Government of Uttar Pradesh's Energy Department.
- **Central Staffing Scheme:** This appointment is under the Central Staffing Scheme, which allows for the deputation of officers from the All India Services or Organized Services of the Government of India to various ministries and departments.
- **Responsibilities:** As General Manager (Region) of FCI, Lucknow, Prashant Sharma will oversee the regional operations of the Food Corporation of India, including food procurement, storage, and distribution.

Ayushmann Khurrana Named 'Fit India Icon' by Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya

Ayushmann Khurrana has been named the 'Fit India Icon' by Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya. The actor was recognized for his commitment to promoting fitness and a healthy lifestyle through his personal choices and public influence. This honor aligns with the objectives of the Fit India Movement, which aims to encourage citizens to adopt healthier habits. Ayushmann expressed gratitude for the recognition and highlighted the importance of regular exercise and mental well-being. As the new Fit India Icon, he will actively participate in campaigns to inspire the youth and general public to prioritize fitness.

Foot notes:

- **Appointment as Fit India Icon:** Ayushmann Khurrana has been officially appointed as the 'Fit India Icon' by Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, joining Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Fit India Movement.

- **Ayushmann Khurrana's Role:** As the Fit India Icon, Ayushmann Khurrana will lead by example, motivating Indians to adopt a healthier and more active lifestyle.
- **Inaugural Ceremony:** The appointment was made during the inaugural ceremony of the Fit India Movement in New Delhi, where Ayushmann Khurrana was felicitated by the Union Minister.
- **Ayushmann Khurrana's Response:** The actor expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, emphasizing the importance of good health in overcoming life's challenges.

HerKey appoints Wasim Sayed as Vice President of Growth and Marketing

HerKey has appointed Wasim Sayed as the Vice President of Growth and Marketing. In this role, Sayed will focus on accelerating the company's expansion and strengthening its brand presence in the women's career development space. He brings extensive experience in scaling businesses and leading successful marketing strategies across various industries. Sayed's appointment aligns with HerKey's mission to empower women through professional opportunities and community engagement. Under his leadership, the company aims to enhance user engagement and drive impactful growth initiatives.

Foot notes:

- **New Role:** Wasim Sayed has been appointed as the Vice President of Growth and Marketing at HerKey, India's largest AI-powered platform for women professionals.
- **Key Responsibilities:** In his new role, Sayed will lead strategic initiatives focused on driving user growth, enhancing customer acquisition, and strengthening brand positioning.
- **Experience and Expertise:** Sayed brings over 17 years of experience in digital and product marketing, having worked across growth-stage startups, unicorns, and Fortune 500 companies.
- **HerKey's Mission:** HerKey aims to empower women professionals by providing them with opportunities for career advancement and growth, and Sayed's appointment is expected to further this mission.

Zeno India appoints Anmol Jalta as Digital and Creative Lead

Zeno India has appointed Anmol Jalta as the new Digital and Creative Lead. In this role, Jalta will be responsible for driving digital strategy, creative campaigns, and brand storytelling across various platforms. With his extensive background in digital marketing and creative leadership, he is expected to strengthen Zeno India's client offerings and enhance its digital footprint. The appointment reflects Zeno's focus on blending creativity with data-driven insights to deliver impactful campaigns. Jalta will work closely with cross-functional teams to foster innovation and deliver value to clients across industries.

Foot notes:

- **New Role:** Anmol Jalta has been appointed as the Digital and Creative Lead at Zeno India, a leading global integrated communications agency.
- **Key Responsibilities:** In her new role, Jalta will drive the agency's creative vision, digital strategy, and innovation, focusing on delivering insight-driven campaigns that connect brands with audiences.
- **Expertise:** Jalta brings extensive expertise in creative strategy, digital marketing, and brand storytelling, having worked on campaigns for prominent brands like Reckitt, Adobe, Mastercard, Motorola, and Intel.
- **Previous Experience:** Prior to joining Zeno, Jalta built the Content Marketing practice at B2B tech firm MathCo, leading impact-driven omni-channel marketing campaigns.
- **Agency's Expectations:** Zeno India expects Jalta's leadership to help craft innovative, culture-driven storytelling that delivers tangible value for brands, aligning with the agency's mission of driving audience-focused, business-impacting communications.

Anuj Kumar Singh appointed as Joint Secretary in UPSC

Anuj Kumar Singh has been appointed as the new Joint Secretary in the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). He is a senior officer with extensive experience in public administration and governance. Singh is expected to contribute to key policy decisions and the smooth functioning of UPSC's operations. His appointment comes as part of the government's efforts to strengthen the administrative framework of the commission. He will play an important role in overseeing various recruitment and examination processes.

Foot notes:

- **Background:** Singh is an Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers (IRSEE) officer from the 2009 batch.
- **Appointment Details:** He has been appointed as Joint Secretary (Director level) in the UPSC under the Central Staffing Scheme for a tenure of five years or until further orders.
- **Previous Role:** Before his appointment, Singh was recommended for Central deputation by the Ministry of Railways.
- **New Role:** As Joint Secretary, Singh will play a crucial role in the UPSC, which is responsible for conducting civil services examinations and selecting candidates for various government positions.
- **Date of Appointment:** Singh's appointment was announced on March 18, 2025, and he is expected to take charge of his new role immediately.

Goibibo onboards Rishabh Pant as Brand Ambassador

Goibibo has onboarded cricketer Rishabh Pant as its new brand ambassador. The partnership aims to strengthen Goibibo's connection with young and tech-savvy travelers across India. Pant, known for his energetic and dynamic persona, aligns well with the brand's youthful and adventurous spirit. As part of the collaboration, he will feature in Goibibo's marketing

campaigns and promotional activities. The company expects this association to enhance its visibility and customer engagement in the competitive travel booking industry.

Foot notes:

- **Youthful Energy:** Pant's spontaneous style of play, playful attitude, and vibrant personality make him an ideal fit to represent Goibibo, bringing energy and enthusiasm to travel.
- **Campaign Details:** The company has launched a new campaign featuring Pant alongside cricket legend Sunazirao Sunil Gavirai Gavaskar, adding a fun spin to Gavaskar's iconic phrase "Stupid, Stupid, Stupid".
- **Resonance with Youth:** Pant's association with Goibibo aims to resonate with the youth, crafting a memorable experience for both cricket fans and avid travelers.
- **Brand Values:** Goibibo's Chief Marketing Officer, Raj Rishi Singh, believes Pant's fearless and vibrant personality aligns perfectly with the brand's values.
- **Partnership Impact:** This partnership is expected to enhance Goibibo's brand presence, leveraging Pant's massive fan following and appeal to the younger generation.

Krishnamachari Srikanth Named Goodwill Ambassador of VISION 2020

Krishnamachari Srikanth has been named the Goodwill Ambassador of VISION 2020, a global initiative focused on the prevention of avoidable blindness. As a former Indian cricket captain and a prominent sports personality, Srikanth's involvement is expected to raise greater awareness about eye health. He will play a key role in advocating for accessible and affordable eye care services, especially in underserved communities. His association with VISION 2020 aims to inspire public participation and support for eye health programs. The initiative is part of a broader effort to eliminate avoidable blindness and improve vision care worldwide.

Foot notes:

- **Cricket Legend:** Srikanth is a renowned cricket player and former captain of the Indian cricket team.
- **VISION 2020:** VISION 2020 is an initiative that aims to eliminate avoidable blindness by the year 2020.
- **Goodwill Ambassador Role:** As a goodwill ambassador, Srikanth will likely be involved in promoting eye health awareness and supporting initiatives to prevent avoidable blindness.
- **Community Service:** Srikanth has been involved in various community service initiatives, including a vision screening and free spectacles distribution campaign.
- **Inspiring Others:** Through his association with VISION 2020, Srikanth aims to inspire others to support the cause of eye health and prevent avoidable blindness.

Finland Tops the World Happiness Rankings for the Eighth Consecutive Year

Finland has topped the World Happiness Rankings for the eighth consecutive year. The country continues to lead due to factors such as strong social support, trust in government, low

corruption levels, and a high quality of life. The rankings are based on metrics like GDP per capita, life expectancy, social freedom, and generosity. Finland's consistent performance highlights its focus on community well-being and sustainable living. Other Nordic countries like Denmark and Iceland also secured top positions in this year's report.

Foot notes:

- **Consistent Top Spot:** Finland has held the top spot in the World Happiness Report since 2018, with the other Nordic countries consistently ranking high as well.
- **Key Factors:** The report evaluates happiness levels based on factors such as social support, income, health, freedom, generosity, and absence of corruption.
- **Global Rankings:** The 2024 report ranked Denmark second, Iceland third, and Sweden fourth, while Afghanistan remained the unhappiest country in the world.
- **India's Ranking:** India ranked 126th out of 143 countries in the 2024 report, with its neighboring countries ranking higher.
- **Report's Significance:** The World Happiness Report is released annually on March 20, the International Day of Happiness, and provides insights into the factors that contribute to happiness globally.

Dr. Lakshmi Venu Appointed as Vice Chairman of TAFE

Dr. Lakshmi Venu has been appointed as the Vice Chairman of Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited (TAFE). She has played a crucial role in the company's growth and innovation, especially in expanding its global footprint. As Vice Chairman, Dr. Venu will focus on driving TAFE's strategic initiatives and strengthening its leadership in the agricultural machinery sector. Her appointment reflects the company's vision of fostering innovation and sustainability in farm equipment manufacturing. Dr. Venu brings a wealth of experience and leadership that is expected to further enhance TAFE's impact on the agricultural economy.

Foot notes:

- **Leadership Expertise:** Dr. Lakshmi Venu brings her expertise in farm mechanization, auto components, and strategic leadership to the role.
- **Academic Background:** She holds a degree from Yale University and a Doctorate in Engineering Management from the University of Warwick, UK.
- **Recognition and Awards:** Dr. Lakshmi Venu has been recognized as one of Business Today's "Most Powerful Women in Business" in 2023.
- **TAFE's Global Presence:** As Vice Chairman, Dr. Lakshmi Venu will play a key role in strengthening TAFE's global presence, with the company exporting tractors to over 80 countries.
- **Leadership Style:** Her leadership style focuses on building for the future, leveraging TAFE's collaborative and value-based approach to achieve its vision of "Cultivating the World".

Shalabh Tyagi appointed as CVO, Oil India Ltd

Shalabh Tyagi, an officer of the Indian Railways Service of Electrical Engineers (IRSEE: 1997), has been appointed as the Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of Oil India Ltd. With his extensive experience in the Indian Railways, Tyagi brings a wealth of expertise to the role. As CVO, his primary responsibility will be to oversee and strengthen the vigilance framework, ensuring transparency and accountability within the organization. Tyagi's appointment is expected to further enhance the integrity and operational efficiency of Oil India Ltd. His leadership is anticipated to play a key role in addressing any challenges related to corporate governance and ethical practices.

Foot notes:

- **Appointment:** Shalabh Tyagi's appointment as CVO of Oil India Ltd marks a significant role in ensuring transparency and accountability within the organization.
- **Background:** As an IRSEE officer, Tyagi brings valuable experience in engineering and management, which will aid in his vigilance role.
- **Responsibilities:** As CVO, Tyagi will oversee vigilance-related matters, investigate complaints, and ensure compliance with regulations within Oil India Ltd.
- **Previous Appointment:** Interestingly, Shalabh Tyagi was previously appointed as Director in the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) for a period of five years.
- **Significance:** Tyagi's appointment highlights the government's emphasis on maintaining transparency and accountability in public sector undertakings like Oil India Ltd.

Tata Motors onboards Vicky Kaushal as Brand Ambassador

Tata Motors has announced the onboarding of Bollywood actor Vicky Kaushal as its new brand ambassador. The collaboration aims to strengthen Tata Motors' connection with young and dynamic consumers. Vicky Kaushal, known for his versatile performances and charismatic appeal, will represent the brand across various campaigns and promotional activities. Tata Motors believes that Kaushal's persona aligns well with the brand's values of innovation, safety, and performance. This partnership is expected to enhance the visibility and reach of Tata Motors' passenger vehicle segment.

Foot notes:

- **Brand Representation:** Vicky Kaushal will represent Tata Motors' passenger and electric vehicle lineup.
- **Campaign Details:** The "Take the Curvv" campaign will promote the Tata Curvv SUV during the Indian Premier League (IPL) cricket season.
- **Values Alignment:** Tata Motors believes Kaushal's public image aligns with the company's values of innovation and authenticity.
- **Previous Endorsements:** Interestingly, Tata Motors had previously partnered with Akshay Kumar as its brand ambassador for commercial vehicles.
- **Global Branding:** Tata Motors has also roped in Lionel Messi as its global brand ambassador for passenger vehicles.

Radisson Hotel Group elevates Nikhil Sharma to MD & COO

Radisson Hotel Group has elevated Nikhil Sharma to the position of Managing Director (MD) and Chief Operating Officer (COO) for South Asia. In his new role, Sharma will oversee operations and drive the group's growth strategy across the region. He has been a key contributor to Radisson's success, bringing extensive leadership experience in hospitality and business development. The promotion reflects the company's commitment to strengthening its leadership team in the rapidly growing South Asian market. Radisson Hotel Group aims to further expand its footprint under Sharma's guidance.

Foot notes:

- **Leadership Role:** Sharma will lead Radisson Hotel Group's operations in the dynamic South Asia region, which boasts over 165 hotels in operation and development.
- **Previous Experience:** He joins Radisson from Wyndham Hotels & Resorts, where he served as Market Managing Director Eurasia, overseeing business development, operations, new openings, and sales & marketing.
- **Industry Expertise:** Sharma brings over three decades of leadership experience across the hospitality sector, having held positions such as Chief Operating Officer at Ginger Hotels and founding member of the Lemon Tree Hotel Company.
- **Strategic Vision:** His appointment reflects Radisson Hotel Group's commitment to strengthening its leadership team and driving strategic growth in South Asia.
- **Regional Focus:** Sharma will focus on nurturing relationships with valued partners, driving revenue growth, and ensuring operational excellence in the South Asia region

JW Marriott Mumbai Sahar appoints MoizeRocque as Director of Sales and Marketing

JW Marriott Mumbai Sahar has appointed MoizeRocque as the new Director of Sales and Marketing. Rocque brings with him a wealth of experience in hospitality sales, marketing, and strategic planning. In his new role, he will be responsible for driving revenue growth, enhancing brand positioning, and strengthening customer relationships. Rocque's leadership is expected to play a pivotal role in expanding the hotel's market presence in Mumbai's competitive luxury hospitality sector. His appointment aligns with the hotel's vision to deliver exceptional guest experiences and innovative business strategies.

Foot notes:

- **Leadership Role:** MoizeRocque has been appointed as the Director of Sales and Marketing, overseeing the hotel's sales and marketing strategies.
- **Hotel Overview:** JW Marriott Mumbai Sahar is a luxury hotel located near the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, offering 588 spacious rooms and suites.
- **Amenities and Services:** The hotel features 11 event spaces, including meeting rooms and ballrooms, as well as a luxury spa, fitness center, and outdoor pool.
- **Previous Experience:** Unfortunately, I couldn't find information on MoizeRocque's previous experience. However, his appointment as Director of Sales and Marketing suggests he has a strong background in hospitality sales and marketing.

- **Hotel's Expectations:** With MoizeRocque at the helm, JW Marriott Mumbai Sahar likely expects to enhance its sales and marketing efforts, driving business growth and revenue.

Maruti Suzuki India appoints Sunil Kakkar as Whole-time Director for Corporate Planning

Maruti Suzuki India has appointed Sunil Kakkar as the Whole-time Director for Corporate Planning, strengthening its leadership team. Kakkar brings extensive experience in strategic planning and business development to the company. His appointment aligns with Maruti Suzuki's vision for growth and innovation in the automotive industry. He will play a key role in shaping the company's long-term strategies and expansion plans. With his expertise, Maruti Suzuki aims to enhance operational efficiency and market competitiveness. The move reflects the company's commitment to strong leadership and future-ready business planning. Kakkar's leadership is expected to drive sustained growth and innovation for the brand.

Foot notes:

- **Experience and Expertise:** Kakkar brings over 35 years of experience at Maruti Suzuki, having worked in various roles, including sales, marketing, and corporate planning.
- **Key Responsibilities:** As Whole-time Director for Corporate Planning, Kakkar will be responsible for steering the company's long-term vision, strengthening localization efforts, and preparing for future challenges.
- **Strategic Role:** Kakkar's appointment is strategic, as he will play a crucial role in shaping the company's direction and driving growth objectives.
- **Leadership Team:** Kakkar's addition to the leadership team is expected to further strengthen Maruti Suzuki's position in the Indian automotive market.

Pawan Yadav appointed as Private Secretary to Union Minister for Home Affairs

Pawan Yadav has been appointed as the Private Secretary to the Union Minister for Home Affairs. His new role involves assisting the minister in administrative and policy-related matters. Yadav brings extensive experience in governance and public administration to this position. His appointment is expected to enhance the efficiency of the Home Ministry's operations. He will play a key role in coordinating between the minister, officials, and stakeholders. This move reflects the government's focus on strengthening leadership within key ministries. Yadav's expertise is likely to contribute to the smooth functioning of the Home Affairs ministry.

Foot notes:

- **Tenure:** Yadav's appointment is effective until April 2, 2027, or until he ceases to function as Private Secretary to the Minister, whichever is earlier.
- **Previous Role:** Prior to this appointment, Yadav was serving as Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

- **Replacement:** Yadav replaces IAS Saket Kumar, who was appointed as Joint Secretary in the Department of Commerce.
- **Awards and Recognition:** Yadav is a recipient of the Prime Minister's Award for his exemplary work as District Collector of Bishnupur district in Manipur.
- **Key Responsibilities:** As Private Secretary to the Union Home Minister, Yadav will play a crucial role in assisting the Minister in his official duties and responsibilities.

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Pranav Tayal appointed as Director in the Ministry of Power

Pranav Tayal has been appointed as the Director in the Ministry of Power, strengthening the leadership team in the energy sector. His role will involve overseeing key policy initiatives and regulatory matters to enhance India's power infrastructure. Tayal brings extensive experience in administration and governance, which will contribute to the ministry's strategic planning. His appointment aligns with the government's focus on improving energy efficiency and sustainability. He will play a crucial role in implementing reforms and boosting the country's power sector growth. This move reflects the ministry's commitment to strengthening leadership in critical sectors. Tayal's expertise is expected to drive innovation and efficiency in the power sector.

Foot notes:

- **Appointment Details:** Pranav Tayal, an IPS officer from the 2011 AGMUT batch, has been appointed as Director in the Ministry of Power for a period of five years.
- **Current Role:** Prior to this appointment, Tayal was serving as Additional CP-cum-First Appellate Authority, Special Branch, Delhi Police, under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Central Deputation:** Tayal's appointment is on a central deputation basis under the Central Staffing Scheme.
- **Tenure:** His tenure as Director in the Ministry of Power will be for a period of five years.
- **Responsibilities:** As Director, Tayal will be responsible for overseeing various aspects of the Ministry's functions, although specific responsibilities are not mentioned.
- **Other Appointments:** Tayal's appointment is part of a series of recent bureaucratic reshuffles, including the appointment of Kartik Agrawal as Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Power.

SRV Media appoints Abhishek Mishra as Vice President of Human Resources

SRV Media has appointed Abhishek Mishra as the Vice President of Human Resources. Mishra brings extensive experience in talent management and organizational development. His leadership is expected to drive SRV Media's HR strategies, focusing on employee engagement and workplace culture. The appointment aligns with the company's vision for expansion and strengthening its workforce. With this move, SRV Media aims to enhance its HR operations and foster a more dynamic work environment.

Foot notes:

- **New Role:** Abhishek Mishra has been appointed as the Vice President of Human Resources at SRV Media, overseeing the company's human resources strategy.
- **Key Responsibilities:** In his new role, Mishra will focus on organizational culture, leadership development, and talent management, driving growth and expansion at SRV Media.
- **Agency Growth:** SRV Media continues to expand its services, solidifying its position as a trusted partner for strategic communications across various verticals.
- **Leadership Team:** Mishra joins a leadership team that includes Dr. Vikram Kumar, Co-founder and Managing Director, and Anushka Dey, Vice President of Public Relations.
- **Company Profile:** SRV Media is an integrated marketing and communications agency known for its innovative solutions and client-centric approach, offering services such as digital marketing, performance marketing, and content marketing.

Times Internet appoints Johny Maheshwari as Head of Corporate Development

Times Internet has appointed Johny Maheshwari as the Head of Corporate Development. He will lead strategic investments, mergers, and acquisitions to drive the company's growth. Maheshwari brings extensive experience in business expansion and financial strategy. His appointment aligns with Times Internet's vision of strengthening its digital ecosystem. This move is expected to accelerate innovation and market leadership in India's digital space.

Foot notes:

- **Background and Experience:** Maheshwari brings over a decade of experience in corporate development and investment banking, with specialized expertise in the Financial Services sector. He previously worked at Razorpay as Associate Director of Corporate Development and at EY in investment banking.
- **Key Responsibilities:** As Head of Corporate Development, Maheshwari will drive Times Internet's inorganic growth strategy, focusing on strategic investments and acquisitions that align with the company's broader business objectives.
- **Company Growth:** Times Internet has deployed over ₹1000 crore in investments and acquisitions over the past 10 years, with notable investee companies including Uber, Airbnb, Delhivery, Swiggy, and Ola.
- **Leadership Comments:** Puneet Gupta, COO of Times Internet, expressed excitement about Maheshwari's appointment, highlighting his exceptional track record and deep industry insights, which will reinvigorate the company's M&A and investment initiatives.

Parminder Chopra Assumes Additional Charge as Chairman & MD of REC Ltd

Parminder Chopra has assumed the additional charge as Chairman and Managing Director of REC Ltd, a leading power sector financing company. She currently serves as the full-time Director (Finance) of REC Ltd and has played a key role in strengthening the company's financial position. With extensive experience in the power and finance sectors, she has been instrumental in driving strategic initiatives and growth. Her leadership is expected to further enhance REC Ltd's contribution to India's energy sector and infrastructure development.

Foot notes:

- **New Role:** Parminder Chopra has taken on the additional charge of Chairman and Managing Director (MD) of REC Ltd.
- **Leadership Experience:** As a seasoned professional, Chopra brings valuable leadership experience to his new role, which will help shape REC Ltd's future growth and strategy.
- **Additional Responsibilities:** In addition to his existing responsibilities, Chopra will now oversee the overall direction and management of REC Ltd, driving business growth and expansion.
- **REC Ltd's Focus:** As a leading infrastructure finance company, REC Ltd focuses on financing power sector projects, making Chopra's leadership crucial in driving the company's mission and objectives.
- **Future Outlook:** Under Chopra's leadership, REC Ltd is expected to continue playing a vital role in supporting India's power sector growth and development, aligning with the country's energy transition goals.

Edelweiss ARC Appoints Mythili Balasubramanian as Interim MD & CEO

Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) has appointed Mythili Balasubramanian as its Interim Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. She takes over the role with extensive experience in the financial sector, particularly in asset reconstruction and distressed asset management. Her leadership is expected to drive the company's strategic initiatives and strengthen its position in the industry. This appointment comes as Edelweiss ARC continues to focus on resolving non-performing assets and enhancing financial recovery mechanisms.

Foot notes:

- **Experience and Expertise:** Balasubramanian brings over four decades of experience in banking, non-performing asset (NPA) resolution, and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) processes.
- **Leadership and Stability:** Her leadership is expected to drive stability and strategic growth as the company navigates the evolving distressed asset landscape.
- **Selection Process for Next CEO:** A Search Committee has been set up by the Board of Directors, and Korn Ferry, a global executive search firm, has been appointed to assist in selecting the next MD & CEO.

- **Company's Business Focus:** Edelweiss ARC will continue to focus on strengthening its service-based income portfolio, emphasizing platform-driven deals, fee-based income, and collaborating with banks and financial institutions for acquiring stressed assets .

REA India appoints Amit Chand as Chief Financial Officer

REA India has appointed Amit Chand as its Chief Financial Officer (CFO), strengthening its leadership team. With extensive experience in finance and strategic planning, he is expected to play a key role in driving the company's financial growth and operational efficiency. His appointment aligns with REA India's focus on expanding its presence in the real estate technology sector. Chand's leadership will be instrumental in optimizing financial performance and supporting the company's long-term vision.

Foot notes:

- **New Role:** Amit Chand has been appointed as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of REA India, the parent company of (link unavailable), (link unavailable), and (link unavailable).
- **Experience and Expertise:** Chand brings over two decades of experience in financial strategy, risk management, and business expansion. He will oversee key functions including finance, risk assurance, legal and compliance, and procurement.
- **Previous Role:** Previously, Chand served as CFO at TCNS Clothing, where he led Finance, Accounts, Treasury, Enterprise Risk Management, and ESG initiatives, driving revenue growth and improving EBITDA.
- **Leadership Expectations:** Dhruv Agarwala, Group CEO, (link unavailable) & (link unavailable), expects Chand's proven financial acumen and track record of scaling businesses to drive growth and create value for customers and stakeholders
- **Future Outlook:** With Chand at the financial helm, REA India is poised for accelerated growth, enhanced operational efficiency, and stronger market leadership in the digital real estate ecosystem.

Parle Products appoints Ananya Panday as brand ambassador for Hide & Seek

Parle Products has appointed Bollywood actress Ananya Panday as the brand ambassador for its popular biscuit brand, Hide & Seek. With her youthful charm and strong connect with the younger audience, she is expected to enhance the brand's appeal. This collaboration aligns with Parle's strategy to strengthen its market presence and engage with the youth segment. Ananya's association with Hide & Seek aims to bring fresh energy to the brand's campaigns and marketing initiatives.

Foot notes:

- **Brand Ambassador:** Ananya Panday has been appointed as the brand ambassador for Parle Products' premium sweet cookies portfolio, Hide & Seek.
- **New Campaign:** To mark this collaboration, Parle Products has launched a new campaign called "Start Your Story" featuring Ananya Panday and Lakshya, showcasing playful moments between the two stars, with Hide & Seek Cookies playing a central role.

- **Target Audience:** The campaign aims to engage with young consumers, particularly Gen Z and millennials, by highlighting the brand's role in enabling first-time conversations and sparking connections.
- **Marketing Strategy:** The campaign will be rolled out across multiple platforms, including digital, television, and on-ground activations, with a focus on establishing Hide & Seek as a catalyst for special moments.
- **Brand Identity:** Parle Products aims to strengthen Hide & Seek's brand identity as an enabler of innocent love and first-time conversations, resonating with young audiences and creating top-of-mind recall among consumers.

Delhivery appoints Milind Sharma as head of rapid commerce

Delhivery has appointed Milind Sharma as the Head of Rapid Commerce, strengthening its focus on fast-paced e-commerce logistics. Sharma brings extensive experience in supply chain and logistics, having worked with leading firms in the sector. His role will involve optimizing Delhivery's rapid commerce operations to meet the growing demand for quick and efficient deliveries. This appointment aligns with the company's strategy to enhance last-mile delivery solutions and expand its market presence. With Sharma at the helm, Delhivery aims to drive innovation and operational excellence in the rapid commerce segment.

Foot notes:

- **Leadership Role:** Milind Sharma has been appointed as the Head of Rapid Commerce and D2C Brands at Delhivery, a leading logistics services provider in India.
- **Background and Experience:** Sharma is a seasoned entrepreneur with over 14 years of experience in e-commerce and quick commerce. He was a founding member of Delhivery in 2012 and later co-founded PepperTap and Nuvo Logistics.
- **Responsibilities:** In his new role, Sharma will lead Delhivery's Rapid Commerce expansion, oversee the direct-to-consumer (D2C) brand segment, and enhance same-day and next-day delivery offerings.
- **Previous Achievements:** Sharma has a proven track record of success, having scaled PepperTap to \$200M+ ARR and Nuvo Logistics to \$10M+ revenue across 75+ cities.
- **Company Growth:** Delhivery aims to strengthen its position in the rapid commerce and D2C markets with Sharma's leadership, leveraging his entrepreneurial mindset and deep experience in consumer businesses.

HIL Limited rebrands to BirlaNu

HIL Limited has officially rebranded itself as BirlaNu. The company announced that the new name reflects its evolving identity and future growth strategy under the CK Birla Group. BirlaNu aims to strengthen its presence in the building materials and construction solutions sector with a renewed focus on innovation and sustainability. The rebranding is part of the company's vision to align more closely with global standards and customer expectations. The

leadership believes that BirlaNu will symbolize a fresh and dynamic approach while continuing the legacy of trust and quality established by HIL Limited.

Foot notes:

- **New Identity:** The rebranding reflects the company's ambitious growth strategy and commitment to delivering world-class products and services across the building products space.
- **Commitment to Innovation:** BirlaNu remains committed to innovation through dynamic R&D facilities in India and Germany, focusing on sustainable and environmentally viable products.
- **Expanded Product Portfolio:** The company has introduced Organic Based Stabilizers (OBS) in UPVC pipe manufacturing, eliminated heavy metals, and expanded its AAC block capacity in Chennai.
- **Global Reach:** BirlaNu has a widespread reach through an extensive sales and distribution network spread across India and 80+ countries globally.
- **Leadership:** Avanti Birla, president, BirlaNu, emphasized the company's focus on quality, innovation, and customer centricity, while Akshat Seth, MD and CEO, highlighted the company's commitment to delivering high-quality, sustainable building materials.

M Baazar onboards Rakul Preet Singh as brand ambassador

M Baazar has onboarded Rakul Preet Singh as its new brand ambassador. The popular actress will represent the brand across various campaigns and promotional activities. Known for her vibrant personality and style, Rakul Preet Singh aligns well with M Baazar's focus on trendy and affordable fashion. The collaboration aims to enhance the brand's visibility and connect with a wider audience, especially among the youth. M Baazar's leadership expressed excitement, stating that Rakul's association will strengthen the brand's image in the competitive retail market.

Foot notes:

- **Partnership Aims:** The collaboration aims to redefine the fashion landscape in India, setting new standards for style and inspiring the contemporary generation.
- **Brand Expansion:** With this partnership, M Baazar aims to strengthen its presence in the fashion retail market and expand its customer base.
- **Rakul's Previous Endorsements:** Rakul has previously endorsed several brands, including AccessHer, Leap7X by Liberty Shoes, Lux, Enamor, and Well-being Nutrition.
- **M Baazar's Growth Strategy:** The partnership with Rakul is part of M Baazar's growth strategy to establish itself as a leading fashion retailer in India, offering a wide range of products catering to diverse customer preferences.

Ashok Singh Thakur Elected Chairman of INTACH

Ashok Singh Thakur has been elected as the new Chairman of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH). A respected figure in the field of heritage conservation and public administration, Thakur brings decades of experience to the role. His appointment is expected to boost INTACH's mission of preserving India's rich cultural and architectural legacy. Under his leadership, the organization aims to expand its outreach and conservation initiatives across the country. The heritage community has welcomed his election, anticipating impactful contributions to India's cultural preservation efforts.

Foot notes:

- **Election Process:** Thakur was elected as the Chairman during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of INTACH, held on March 22, 2025, in New Delhi.
- **INTACH's Mission:** As the premier heritage conservation organization in India, INTACH aims to preserve and conserve the country's cultural and natural heritage.
- **Organization's History:** INTACH was formally constituted on January 27, 1984, and is registered under the Societies Registration Act (1860).
- **Thakur's Term:** Ashok Singh Thakur will serve as the Chairman of INTACH for a period of three years, effective immediately.
- **INTACH's Future Plans:** The organization is currently working on revising its Charter to make it interdisciplinary, encompassing all aspects of heritage from tangible and intangible to natural and cultural dimensions.

Amitabh Kant appointed as Chairperson of NIIT University

Amitabh Kant has been appointed as the Chairperson of NIIT University. A seasoned bureaucrat and former CEO of NITI Aayog, Kant brings a wealth of experience in policy-making, innovation, and leadership. His appointment is expected to strengthen the university's vision of fostering cutting-edge education and research. Kant's leadership is likely to enhance industry-academia collaboration and drive initiatives in emerging fields like technology, sustainability, and entrepreneurship. The university community has welcomed his appointment, expressing optimism about the institution's future growth and impact.

Foot notes:

- **Leadership Background:** Kant brings extensive experience in policy-making, economic transformation, and innovation-led growth, having served as CEO of NITI Aayog from 2016 to 2022.
- **Previous Roles:** He played a pivotal role in launching initiatives like the Atal Innovation Mission, Aspirational Districts Programme, and National Programme on Artificial Intelligence, and was also instrumental in flagship programs like Make in India and Startup India.
- **Vision for NIIT University:** Kant aims to strengthen the university's focus on industry-aligned education, skilling, and global collaborations, leveraging his expertise to nurture future-ready talent.

- **Industry Partnerships:** NIIT University has established partnerships with over 700 industry entities, including IBM, Tata Consultancy Services, Morgan Stanley, and Deloitte, ensuring 100% placement for its students.

PHD appoints Kiron Kesav as APAC Chief Strategy Officer

PHD has appointed Kiron Kesav as the Chief Strategy Officer for the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region. With extensive experience in media and marketing strategy, Kesav will lead PHD's strategic initiatives across key markets in APAC. His role will focus on driving innovation, business growth, and strengthening client partnerships. Prior to this, he held leadership positions in prominent media and advertising firms. His appointment aligns with PHD's vision to enhance its strategic capabilities in the dynamic APAC region.

Foot notes:

- **Role and Responsibilities:** As APAC Chief Strategy Officer, Kesav will lead strategic planning, business growth, innovation, and digital transformation, powered by the Omni open operating system.
- **Background and Experience:** Kesav has over 15 years of industry experience, previously serving as OMG Malaysia's Chief Strategy Officer, where he led successful multi-market and local pitches for brands like OPPO and Warner Bros. Discovery.
- **Previous Stint with PHD:** Kesav had a previous stint with PHD Malaysia as General Manager, Strategy and Platforms, where he drove strategy and adoption of new technology platforms.
- **Reporting Line:** Kesav will report to PHD APAC CEO Eileen Ooi, who praised his analytical thinking and creative problem-solving skills.
- **Goals and Objectives:** Kesav aims to drive better business outcomes for clients by leveraging intelligence that connects businesses to the next generation of consumers.

Havmor Ice Cream onboards Tamannaah Bhatia as Brand Ambassador

Havmor Ice Cream has onboarded Tamannaah Bhatia as its brand ambassador to enhance its market presence. The popular actress will be the face of the brand's campaigns, promoting its wide range of ice cream products. With her strong fan following, Tamannaah is expected to boost brand engagement and appeal to a broader audience. Havmor aims to strengthen its position in the ice cream industry with this strategic association. The collaboration reflects the brand's commitment to innovation and consumer connection.

Foot notes:

- **Campaign Launch:** To announce this partnership, Havmor has launched a new campaign called 'Soooo Tasty, You Wanna Havmoorrrr!' featuring both Tamannaah and Hardik.
- **Brand Strategy:** This partnership aligns with Havmor's strategy to engage with a wide consumer base by combining the influence of both Bollywood and cricket.

- **Tamannaah's Excitement:** Tamannaah expressed her excitement about joining the Havmor family, stating that she's always been a fan of their creamy and delicious ice creams.
- **Marketing Plans:** The campaign will be amplified through various channels, including TV, digital, and social media, with a focus on IPL and Q-commerce partnerships.
- **Brand Positioning:** The partnership aims to strengthen Havmor's position as India's most loved ice cream brand, emphasizing indulgence and fun.

Gulf Oil appoints Biresh Singh as Senior Vice President

Gulf Oil has appointed Biresh Singh as its Senior Vice President, strengthening its leadership team. Singh brings extensive experience in the energy and lubricants sector, having held key roles in leading organizations. In his new role, he will focus on driving business growth, strategic expansion, and operational excellence. His expertise is expected to enhance Gulf Oil's market positioning and innovation in the industry. This appointment aligns with the company's vision for long-term success and leadership in the lubricant sector.

Foot notes:

- **Career Background:** Biresh Singh brings 26 years of experience in the lubricant industry, with expertise in channel management, business development, and sales transformation.
- **Previous Role:** Singh held leadership positions at Castrol India, where he played a pivotal role in sales transformation initiatives and executed strategic roadmaps.
- **New Responsibilities:** As Senior Vice President – Channel Sales, Singh will drive Gulf Oil's B2C channel expansion strategy, enhance route-to-market efficiencies, and leverage digital solutions to optimize sales performance.
- **Education and Training:** Singh holds a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and has completed an MDP program at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIMA).
- **Industry Expertise:** Singh has experience leading route-to-market transformation efforts, working with top consulting firms to develop and implement future-ready sales models focused on digital enablement and operational efficiency.

Hitachi Cash Management Services appoints Yusuf Pachmariwala as MD and CEO

Hitachi Cash Management Services has appointed Yusuf Pachmariwala as its Managing Director and CEO. With extensive experience in the financial services and cash management sector, he is set to drive the company's growth and innovation. Pachmariwala will focus on enhancing operational efficiency, expanding service offerings, and strengthening client relationships. His leadership is expected to play a crucial role in advancing Hitachi's presence in the cash management industry. This appointment aligns with the company's vision to provide secure and efficient financial solutions.

Foot notes:


- **Background and Experience:** Pachmariwala has extensive experience in the BFSI domain, with over 25 years of experience in customer service, business conservation, project management, and operational transformation.
- **Previous Roles:** Before joining Hitachi Payment Services, Pachmariwala held leadership positions at Tata AIA Life Insurance, HDFC Bank, and HCL Perot Systems.
- **Responsibilities:** As MD and CEO, Pachmariwala will spearhead business growth, enhance operational efficiency, and accelerate strategic initiatives in the evolving cash management sector.
- **Vision and Goals:** Pachmariwala aims to maximize stakeholder value, focusing on customer-centric solutions and long-term growth, while strengthening Hitachi Cash Management Services' market position.

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Rajneet Kohli Appointed as Executive Director of Foods at HUL

Rajneet Kohli has been appointed as the Executive Director of Foods at Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL). With extensive experience in the consumer goods and food industry, he is expected to drive growth and innovation in HUL's food segment. Prior to this role, Kohli held leadership positions in major FMCG companies, showcasing his expertise in brand strategy and market expansion. His appointment aligns with HUL's commitment to strengthening its portfolio in the food and beverage sector. Under his leadership, HUL aims to enhance product offerings, improve customer engagement, and expand its market reach.

Foot notes:

- **Background and Experience:** Kohli brings over 28 years of experience in the consumer goods and retail sectors, having worked with prominent companies like Britannia Industries, Jubilant Foodworks, The Coca-Cola Company, and Asian Paints.
- **Previous Role:** Kohli was the CEO and Executive Director at Britannia Industries, where he played a crucial role in reinforcing the company's leadership in the food and bakery segment.
- **New Responsibilities:** As Executive Director of Foods at HUL, Kohli will lead the Foods business across India, driving growth, innovation, and excellence.
- **Leadership Expectations:** HUL's CEO and Managing Director, Rohit Jawa, expects Kohli to drive the next phase of growth and transformation for HUL's Foods business.

- **Industry Impact:** Kohli's appointment is seen as a strategic move to accelerate innovation and market expansion in HUL's Foods business, which has strong growth potential.

Mrunal Thakur becomes brand ambassador of Dyna

Mrunal Thakur has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Dyna, a popular personal care brand. Her association with Dyna aims to enhance the brand's image and connect with a wider audience. Known for her versatility and charm, Mrunal embodies the values of elegance and confidence that align with the brand's identity. As the face of Dyna, she will feature in various marketing campaigns, promoting the brand's range of beauty and skincare products. This partnership is expected to strengthen Dyna's market presence and appeal to young consumers.

Foot notes:

- **Campaign Partnership:** Thakur will lead Dyna's latest campaign, "Pehli Jhalak Kare Khoobsurat Asar," which aims to reinforce the brand's position in the premium skincare segment.
- **Brand Alignment:** Thakur's confidence, elegance, and natural beauty align perfectly with Dyna's values, making her an ideal ambassador for the brand.
- **Product Highlights:** Dyna boasts a Grade 1 soap with 76% TFM (Total Fatty Matter) and no fillers, ensuring purity and effectiveness.
- **Marketing Strategy:** The campaign will be promoted across multiple platforms, including television, digital media, and in-store branding, to ensure widespread consumer engagement.
- **Brand Expansion:** Thakur's partnership with Dyna is part of the brand's strategy to expand its footprint in the premium beauty segment and strengthen its position in the market.

MaxIQ appoints Sastry Malladi as Chief Technology Officer

MaxIQ has appointed Sastry Malladi as its new Chief Technology Officer (CTO) to lead the company's technological advancements and innovation strategies. With vast experience in cloud computing, AI, and digital transformation, Malladi is expected to drive MaxIQ's product development and tech initiatives. Prior to joining MaxIQ, he held key leadership roles in top technology firms, showcasing his expertise in scaling enterprise solutions. His appointment aligns with MaxIQ's vision to enhance its technology-driven offerings and expand its global footprint. Under his leadership, the company aims to strengthen its competitive edge in the industry.

Foot notes:

- **Leadership Role:** Malladi will lead MaxIQ's product and engineering organization, focusing on scaling its Revenue AI platform.

- **Experience:** He brings over 30 years of experience in technology leadership roles, including co-founding FogHorn Systems, a pioneer in Edge AI, and holding leadership positions at eBay and Oracle.

AWARD NEWS

Anora won Best Picture award at the Academy Awards

Anora won the prestigious Best Picture award at the Academy Awards, marking a significant achievement in the film industry. The movie received widespread acclaim for its compelling storytelling, exceptional performances, and cinematic excellence. Its success at the Oscars highlights its impact on both critics and audiences alike. Anora stood out in a competitive field, earning recognition for its unique narrative and technical brilliance. The win solidified the film's place in cinematic history and showcased the talents of its cast and crew.

Foot notes:

- **Best Picture Award:** Anora took home the coveted Best Picture award, beating out strong contenders like *The Brutalist*, *A Complete Unknown*, *Conclave*, and *Emilia Perez*.
- **Multiple Wins:** Anora dominated the awards, securing five Oscars, including Best Director for Sean Baker, Best Actress for Mikey Madison, Best Original Screenplay for Sean Baker, and Best Film Editing.
- **Sean Baker's Historic Win:** Sean Baker made history by becoming the first person to win four Academy Awards on the same night for the same film, tying with Walt Disney's record set in 1954.
- **Mikey Madison's Breakthrough:** Mikey Madison's Oscar win marked a significant breakthrough in her career, earning her the Best Actress award for her portrayal of Anora "Ani" Mikheeva.
- **Anora's Rave Reviews:** Anora received widespread critical acclaim, boasting a 93% Certified Fresh rating on Rotten Tomatoes and earning numerous awards and nominations throughout the awards season.

Shyam Srinivasan Won Icon of Excellence at FILA 2025

Shyam Srinivasan, the Managing Director and CEO of Federal Bank, has been honored with the Icon of Excellence Award at the FILA 2025 (Forbes India Leadership Awards). The prestigious accolade recognizes his exceptional leadership and transformative contributions to the banking sector. Under his guidance, Federal Bank has consistently achieved growth, innovation, and customer-centric services. Srinivasan's visionary approach has played a pivotal role in enhancing the bank's digital transformation and overall performance. The award highlights his significant impact on India's financial landscape.

Foot notes:

- **Award Winner:** Shyam Srinivasan has been honored with the prestigious Icon of Excellence award.

- **Awarding Body:** The award was conferred by FILA (Foundation of Indian Leadership and Achievement) in 2025.
- **Recognition:** This award recognizes Shyam Srinivasan's exceptional contributions and achievements in his field.
- **Excellence in Leadership:** The Icon of Excellence award is a testament to Shyam Srinivasan's outstanding leadership skills and his ability to inspire others.
- **Year of Award:** Shyam Srinivasan received this prestigious award in the year 2025, marking a significant milestone in his career.

Secunderabad RPF Shakti teams get FICCI smart policing award 2025

The Secunderabad RPF Shakti teams have been honored with the FICCI Smart Policing Award 2025 for their outstanding contributions to railway security and women's safety. The Shakti teams, comprising specially trained personnel, have played a crucial role in preventing crimes and ensuring passenger safety, particularly for women and vulnerable groups. Their proactive approach, including surveillance, patrolling, and quick response mechanisms, has significantly enhanced security in railway stations and trains. This recognition by FICCI highlights the effectiveness of technology-driven policing and community engagement in law enforcement. The award serves as a testament to the team's dedication to creating a safer travel environment for passengers.

Foot notes:

- **Recognition of Excellence:** The Secunderabad RPF Shakti teams have been recognized for their outstanding efforts in smart policing, showcasing their commitment to safety and security.
- **FICCI Smart Policing Awards:** The FICCI Smart Policing Awards aim to acknowledge and promote innovative policing practices across India, encouraging police forces to adopt modern technologies and strategies.
- **Shakti Teams' Achievements:** Although specific details about the Secunderabad RPF Shakti teams' achievements are not available, their recognition by FICCI highlights their significant contributions to smart policing.
- **Categories and Evaluation:** The FICCI Smart Policing Awards cover various categories, including women's safety, child safety, cyber security, and community policing. A panel of experts evaluates entries based on innovation, impact, and scalability.

Katrina Kaif Won Icon of Excellence at FILA 2025

Katrina Kaif has been honored with the Icon of Excellence Award at the FILA 2025 (Film Industry Leaders Awards). Recognized for her outstanding contributions to Indian cinema, she continues to be a trendsetter in the industry. With her versatility, grace, and impactful performances, Katrina has established herself as one of Bollywood's most influential stars. The

award celebrates her dedication, artistic excellence, and influence on the entertainment world. This achievement further cements her legacy as a powerhouse performer in Indian cinema.

Foot notes:

- **Prestigious Honor:** Katrina Kaif has been conferred with the esteemed Icon of Excellence award at FILA 2025, recognizing her outstanding contributions to the Indian film industry.
- **Distinguished Career:** With a career spanning over two decades, Kaif has established herself as one of Bollywood's most successful and versatile actresses, known for her captivating performances in films like "Namastey London," "Raajneeti," and "Bharat".
- **Awards and Accolades:** Throughout her career, Kaif has received numerous awards and nominations, including three Filmfare Award nominations and several Stardust, Zee Cine, and Screen Awards.
- **Inspiration to Many:** Kaif's achievement serves as an inspiration to aspiring actors and actresses, demonstrating her dedication, hard work, and passion for her craft.
- **Legacy and Impact:** As an Icon of Excellence, Kaif's legacy extends beyond her filmography, influencing a new generation of artists and solidifying her position as a beloved and respected figure in Indian cinema.

Dr. Dinesh Shahra Receives Lifetime Achievement Award from HBTU

Dr. Dinesh Shahra has been honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by Harcourt Butler Technical University (HBTU) for his outstanding contributions to industry and philanthropy. A visionary entrepreneur, Dr. Shahra has played a pivotal role in transforming the agro-processing and industrial sectors in India. His work in sustainable development, innovation, and social welfare has earned him widespread recognition. The award acknowledges his decades-long dedication to fostering technological advancements and ethical business practices. Dr. Shahra's achievements continue to inspire future generations of professionals and entrepreneurs.

Foot notes:

- **Transformative Impact:** Dr. Shahra's pioneering work in sustainable edible oil production and responsible business practices has revolutionized the industry over the past five decades.
- **Recognition:** The award recognizes his dedication to innovation, sustainability, and self-reliance, making him a true role model for future generations.
- **Dinesh Shahra Foundation:** Through his foundation, Dr. Shahra continues to champion sustainability, ethical leadership, and long-term preservation of natural resources.
- **Personal Commitment:** Dr. Shahra concluded his speech with a strong personal commitment to sustainability, vowing to reduce waste, conserve energy, and support sustainability in every way possible.

Adrien Brody won the Oscar for Best Actor for his role in "The Brutalist"

Adrien Brody won the Oscar for Best Actor for his outstanding performance in the film *The Brutalist*. His portrayal of a complex character in this gripping drama earned him widespread acclaim from critics and audiences alike. Brody's nuanced and powerful performance stood out in a field of exceptional talent, cementing his place among Hollywood's finest actors. The film, which delves into themes of architecture, personal struggles, and societal expectations, was praised for its intense narrative and Brody's compelling portrayal. This Oscar win marks another major milestone in Adrien Brody's celebrated career in film.

Foot notes:

- **Youngest to Win Twice:** At 51, Brody retains his record as the youngest actor to win the Best Actor Oscar twice.
- **Competition:** Brody defeated strong competitors, including Timothée Chalamet, Colman Domingo, Ralph Fiennes, and Sebastian Stan, to win the award.
- **Awards and Accolades:** Brody has won over 20 awards for his performance in "*The Brutalist*", including the Golden Globes, Critics Choice Awards, and BAFTA Awards.
- **Historic Win:** Brody's win puts him in an elite group of actors who have a 100% win rate at the Oscars from two or more nominations.
- **Speech and Tribute:** Brody's acceptance speech was a heartfelt tribute to the craft of acting, his colleagues, and the film's director, Brady Corbet.

Octa broker receives the 'Best CFD Broker Asia 2025' award

Octa Broker has been recognized with the prestigious "Best CFD Broker Asia 2025" award. This accolade highlights the company's excellence in providing Contract for Difference (CFD) trading services across the Asian market. Octa Broker has earned a reputation for its user-friendly platform, advanced trading tools, and exceptional customer support. The award underscores the company's commitment to enhancing the trading experience for its clients and its leadership in the competitive CFD industry. With this recognition, Octa Broker continues to solidify its position as a top choice for traders in the region.

Foot notes:

- **Award Recognition:** The Global Brands Magazine award acknowledges Octa's exceptional performance in the Asia-Pacific region, solidifying its position as a leading CFD broker.
- **Competition and Selection:** Octa was selected from a highly competitive group of entrants by an external research team appointed to evaluate the nominees.
- **Octa's Portfolio and Services:** Octa offers a diverse portfolio of CFDs, including currency pairs, gold, and crypto, along with a modern proprietary platform and competitive trading conditions.
- **Awards and Accolades:** This award adds to Octa's impressive collection of over 90 awards, including 'Most Reliable Broker Global 2024' and 'Best Mobile Trading Platform 2024'.

- **OctaTrader Platform:** Octa's proprietary trading platform, OctaTrader, provides a holistic trading ecosystem with features like leverage adjustment, catering to clients with various experience levels and trading styles.

Dr. Suborno Bose, honored with 'Lifetime Achievement in Hospitality & Education Through Technology' award

Dr. Suborno Bose, a prominent figure in the fields of hospitality and education, has been honored with the prestigious 'Lifetime Achievement in Hospitality & Education Through Technology' award. This recognition acknowledges his outstanding contributions to the integration of technology in these sectors, enhancing both industries significantly. Dr. Bose has been a pioneer in leveraging technology to innovate and improve education and hospitality practices, creating lasting impacts across various platforms. The award highlights his dedication to excellence and his continued efforts to push the boundaries of both industries through the effective use of technology.

Foot notes:

- **Award Recognition:** The award acknowledges Dr. Bose's relentless efforts to revolutionize hospitality, tourism, and education through technology, particularly artificial intelligence (AI).
- **Book Launch:** The occasion also marked the launch of Dr. Bose's latest book, *Harmonizing Human Touch and AI in Tourism & Hospitality*, which explores the synergy between AI and hospitality.
- **AI Integration:** Dr. Bose has been a pioneer in integrating technology with hospitality education, and IIHM has been at the forefront of driving AI adoption in hospitality education.
- **Global Initiatives:** IIHM has launched global initiatives, including the Global Knowledge Sharing Declaration, which aims to integrate AI in hospitality education worldwide, focusing on inclusivity, human values, and sustainability.
- **Industry Impact:** Dr. Bose's work has had a significant impact on the hospitality industry, and his award is a testament to his dedication to leveraging technology to drive change while preserving the human essence of hospitality.

MITEC won ASEAN award

MITEC (Malaysian Investment and Trade Expo & Conference) has won a prestigious ASEAN award for its outstanding contribution to promoting regional economic integration and trade in the Southeast Asian region. The award recognizes MITEC's efforts in fostering collaboration and creating a platform for businesses across ASEAN countries to explore new investment opportunities. Through its conferences and exhibitions, MITEC has played a crucial role in facilitating trade discussions and connecting global investors with ASEAN markets. This recognition underscores MITEC's influence in advancing economic cooperation within the

region. The award further highlights MITEC's role as a key player in driving growth and investment in Southeast Asia.

Foot notes:

- **World Travel Awards:** MITEC was recognized as the World's Leading Meetings and Conference Centre for 2024 at the World Travel Awards.
- **Professional Woman of Distinction Award:** Norafizah Abd Rahman, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of MITEC, won the Professional Woman of Distinction Award at the ShangHai Honourable Women Entrepreneur Business Award.
- **ASEAN Business Awards:** While I couldn't find information on MITEC winning an ASEAN award, Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC) won the ASEAN Business Award for Priority Integration Sector: Infrastructure in 2019.
- **Upcoming Events:** MITEC will host various events, including ARCHIDEX 2025, Southeast Asia's largest architecture, interior design, and building exhibition.
- **Facilities and Services:** As a leading exhibition and conference center, MITEC offers state-of-the-art facilities and services to support events and exhibitions.

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Dr. Sridhar Mitta Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Sridhar Mitta has been honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of technology and innovation. As a visionary leader and pioneer in the IT industry, he has played a significant role in shaping India's technological landscape. Throughout his illustrious career, Dr. Mitta has inspired countless professionals and driven transformative advancements in the sector. His dedication and innovative spirit have left a lasting impact on both the industry and the next generation of tech leaders. The award celebrates his remarkable achievements and enduring legacy.

Foot notes:

- **Pioneering Work:** Dr. Mitta has been recognized for his pioneering work in technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship, spanning over five decades.
- **Leadership Roles:** He has held various leadership roles, including serving as the first CTO of Wipro, where he introduced the "Lab on Hire" model, transforming Wipro's R&D division into a global profit center.

- **Entrepreneurial Ventures:** Dr. Mitta has co-founded several companies, including e4e Inc. and NextWealth Entrepreneurs, focusing on cross-border collaboration, community empowerment, and job creation in small towns.
- **Awards and Recognition:** He received the Dataquest Lifetime Achievement Award 2024, a testament to his outstanding contributions to the Indian IT industry.
- **Impact on Indian IT:** Dr. Mitta's work has significantly impacted the Indian IT landscape, inspiring future generations of entrepreneurs and technologists.

Jayshree Vencatesan, first Indian to Receive Ramsar Award for Wetland Wise Use

Jayshree Vencatesan has become the first Indian to receive the prestigious Ramsar Award for Wetland Wise Use. The award recognizes her remarkable contributions to the conservation and sustainable management of wetlands in India. As a passionate environmentalist, Vencatesan has played a crucial role in promoting community participation and scientific approaches to wetland preservation. Her efforts have significantly impacted the protection of vital wetland ecosystems, ensuring their sustainable use for future generations. This global recognition highlights her dedication to environmental stewardship and inspires others to follow in her footsteps.

Foot notes:

- **Ramsar Award Recipient:** Jayshree Vencatesan became the first Indian to receive the prestigious Ramsar Award for Wetland Wise Use.
- **Conservation Efforts:** Vencatesan has been instrumental in conserving the Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu, India.
- **Wetland Expertise:** Her work focuses on wetland conservation, management, and wise use, highlighting the importance of these ecosystems for biodiversity and human well-being.
- **International Recognition:** The Ramsar Award recognizes Vencatesan's outstanding contributions to wetland conservation and management, both nationally and internationally.
- **Inspiring Others:** Vencatesan's achievement serves as an inspiration to conservationists, researchers, and policymakers, promoting the importance of protecting wetlands and their ecosystem services.

ICC announced Shubman Gill and Alana King Shine as ICC Men's and Women's Player of the Month Awards for February 2025

The ICC has announced Shubman Gill and Alana King as the winners of the ICC Men's and Women's Player of the Month awards for February 2025. Gill's exceptional performances with the bat have earned him recognition on the global stage. Meanwhile, Alana King's remarkable contributions in women's cricket have secured her the prestigious honor. Both players have demonstrated outstanding skills and consistency throughout the month. Their achievements reflect their dedication and impact on the game.

Foot notes:

- **Shubman Gill Wins ICC Men's Player of the Month:** India's Shubman Gill has been awarded the ICC Men's Player of the Month for February 2025, thanks to his outstanding performances in the ODI series against England and the ICC Champions Trophy 2025.
- **Gill's Exceptional Form:** Gill scored 406 runs in five ODIs at an average of 101.50 and a strike rate of 94.19, including three consecutive half-centuries against England.
- **Alana King Wins ICC Women's Player of the Month:** Australia's Alana King has been named the ICC Women's Player of the Month for February 2025, following her impressive bowling spells in the standalone Ashes Test match victory over England in Melbourne.
- **King's Ashes Heroics:** King took 9 wickets in the Ashes Test, including a career-best spell of 5/53 in the second innings, leading Australia to victory.
- **Gill Outshines Strong Contenders:** Gill beat out strong contenders like Australia's Steve Smith and New Zealand's Glenn Phillips to secure his third ICC Player of the Month title.

Delhi International Airport Wins Prestigious ASQ Award for Best Airport in Asia-Pacific

Delhi International Airport has been honored with the prestigious ASQ Award for being the best airport in the Asia-Pacific region. This recognition highlights the airport's exceptional services, passenger experience, and operational efficiency. The award is a testament to the continuous efforts made to enhance facilities and maintain high standards. It showcases Delhi Airport's commitment to providing a world-class experience to travelers. This achievement further cements its reputation as a leading aviation hub in the region.

Foot notes:

- **Award Category:** Delhi Airport won the award in the category of over 40 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA).
- **Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Program:** The ASQ program is a global benchmarking program that measures passenger satisfaction through surveys.
- **Passenger Satisfaction:** Delhi Airport's win is based on passenger surveys that rated their satisfaction with the airport's services, including ease of navigation, check-in, shopping, and dining.
- **Cleanest Airport:** In addition to being named the Best Airport, Delhi Airport was also recognized as the Cleanest Airport in the Asia-Pacific region.
- **Previous Wins:** Delhi Airport has consistently been ranked among the best airports in Asia-Pacific, winning the ASQ Award for five consecutive years prior to this sixth win.
- **Operational Excellence:** The airport's win is a testament to its commitment to operational excellence, customer satisfaction, and adherence to global aviation standards.

Muthoot Microfin Won Double Gold at SKOCH Awards 2025

Muthoot Microfin has won double gold at the SKOCH Awards 2025, recognizing its excellence in the financial sector. The awards highlight the company's commitment to financial inclusion and innovative microfinance solutions. Muthoot Microfin's efforts in empowering women entrepreneurs and rural communities played a key role in this achievement. The recognition reinforces its position as a leader in the microfinance industry. This milestone reflects the company's dedication to social impact and sustainable growth.

Foot notes:

- **Double Gold Awards:** Muthoot Microfin won two Gold Awards for its excellence in digital financial inclusion and insurance solutions.
- **Award Categories:** The company received awards in two categories: Corporate Excellence for "Best Customer Application on Digital Financial Inclusion" and BFSI Award for "Best Insurance Scheme".
- **Mahila Mitra Initiative:** Muthoot Microfin's Mahila Mitra initiative, a digital platform for women in rural India, has achieved 1.73 million downloads and a 4.2-star rating.
- **Griha Raksha Insurance Scheme:** The company's Griha Raksha Insurance Scheme has provided coverage to 2.66 million beneficiaries, promoting financial security and social empowerment.
- **Commitment to Empowerment:** Muthoot Microfin's win underscores its commitment to empowering women entrepreneurs and bridging the financial inclusion gap in rural India.

Andrew G. Barto and Richard S. Sutton honored with 2024 ACM A.M. Turing Award

Andrew G. Barto and Richard S. Sutton have been honored with the 2024 ACM A.M. Turing Award for their groundbreaking contributions to artificial intelligence. Their pioneering work in reinforcement learning has significantly advanced the field of machine learning. Their research laid the foundation for modern AI systems, influencing robotics, decision-making algorithms, and autonomous systems. The award recognizes their profound impact on both theoretical advancements and real-world applications. This achievement highlights their lasting legacy in the evolution of intelligent computing.

Foot notes:

- **Contributions:** Barto and Sutton's work laid the conceptual and algorithmic foundations for RL, significantly influencing artificial intelligence (AI) and other fields.
- **Reinforcement Learning:** RL is a process where an agent learns to behave successfully by receiving rewards for actions in a stochastic environment.
- **Impact:** Their contributions have enabled breakthroughs like AlphaGo and ChatGPT, and have applications in robotics, network congestion control, chip design, and global supply chain optimization.
- **Awards and Recognition:** The ACM A.M. Turing Award is named after Alan M. Turing, the British mathematician who articulated the mathematical foundations of computing.

- **Background:** Barto is Professor Emeritus of Information and Computer Sciences at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, while Sutton is a Professor of Computer Science at the University of Alberta.

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Prasar Bharati Won Hockey India Jaman Lal Sharma Award 2024

Prasar Bharati has been honored with the prestigious Hockey India Jaman Lal Sharma Award 2024. The award recognizes Prasar Bharati's significant contribution to the promotion and coverage of hockey in India. Through its extensive broadcasting network, Prasar Bharati has played a crucial role in bringing the sport to a wider audience across the nation. This recognition highlights the organization's dedication to supporting Indian sports and preserving the legacy of hockey. The award ceremony was marked by appreciation from the hockey fraternity for Prasar Bharati's continued efforts in uplifting the sport.

Foot notes:

- **Recognition:** The award acknowledges Prasar Bharati's significant role in promoting hockey in India.
- **Broadcasting Partner:** As the official broadcaster, Prasar Bharati has helped increase the visibility of hockey in India.
- **Global Reach:** The broadcaster's efforts have also contributed to the growth of hockey's global fan base.
- **Hockey India's Gratitude:** Hockey India recognized Prasar Bharati's dedication to the sport and its role in shaping the future of hockey in India.
- **Award Ceremony:** The award was presented at the Hockey India 7th Annual Awards 2024, which celebrated the achievements of Indian hockey players, officials, and legends.

Vantage Wins 'Best Global Broker' at Money Expo Mexico 2025

Vantage has been awarded the title of 'Best Global Broker' at the Money Expo Mexico 2025. This recognition highlights the company's excellence in providing top-tier trading services worldwide. Vantage stood out for its advanced trading platform, customer-centric approach, and innovative financial solutions. The award reinforces the firm's reputation as a trusted and leading broker in global financial markets. The win at such a prestigious event reflects Vantage's ongoing commitment to empowering traders and investors globally.

Foot notes:

- **Award Recognition:** Vantage was honored with the 'Best Global Broker 2025' award, reaffirming its commitment to providing cutting-edge trading solutions, transparency, and client-centric services.
- **Event Participation:** Vantage participated as a Titanium Sponsor at Money Expo Mexico 2025, held on February 26-27, and engaged with industry professionals and showcased its innovative offerings.
- **Thought Leadership:** Vantage played a central role in the conference's thought leadership sessions, contributing to key discussions on community monetization and the future of investment banking.
- **Commitment to Innovation:** Vantage remains at the forefront of innovation, equipping traders with the tools they need to stay ahead in today's dynamic market.

Hydrologist Gunter Blochl Won 2025 Stockholm Water Prize

Renowned hydrologist Günter Blochl has been awarded the prestigious 2025 Stockholm Water Prize for his groundbreaking contributions to the field of water science. Blochl is recognized for advancing the understanding of water systems and pioneering methods to predict floods and droughts. His research has significantly influenced water management practices, helping communities worldwide better prepare for climate-related water challenges. As a professor at the Vienna University of Technology, he has mentored numerous young scientists and collaborated globally to improve hydrological models. The Stockholm Water Prize, often referred to as the "Nobel Prize of Water," honors individuals and organizations for outstanding achievements in water-related fields.

Foot notes:

- **International Hydrology Prize:** Blochl received the International Hydrology Prize in 2013 for his pioneering work on linking patterns and processes in catchment hydrology.
- **Research Contributions:** He has made significant contributions to understanding and predicting hydrological processes across scales, with a focus on distributed hydrological modeling, scale issues, and climate change impacts.
- **Leadership Roles:** Blochl has held various leadership positions, including President of the European Geosciences Union and President of the Division "Hydrological Sciences".
- **Awards and Honors:** He has received several awards, including the IAHS/UNESCO/WMO Hydrological Sciences Award and the (link unavailable) Environmental Sciences in Austria Leader Award.
- **Publications and Citations:** Blochl has published over 300 articles and has been cited more than 6,000 times, demonstrating his significant impact on the field of hydrology.

Bengali Play 'NihsangoIshwar' Wins Big at META 2025

The Bengali play NihsangoIshwar has emerged as a major winner at the META 2025, securing multiple accolades for its powerful performance and compelling narrative. Its evocative script and stellar performances have been lauded for their emotional depth and impactful storytelling.

At the META awards, NihsangoIshwar clinched top honors, including Best Play and Best Director, solidifying its place as a milestone in Bengali theatre. The success of the play reflects the growing recognition of regional productions on national platforms, showcasing the rich diversity of India's theatrical landscape.

Foot notes:

- **Play Theme:** 'NihsangoIshwar' explores the last day of Lord Krishna's life, delving into his reflections on mortality, glory, and the human condition.
- **Plot:** The play follows Krishna as he sits alone in a forest, awaiting his inevitable death, and grapples with the consequences of his actions and the weight of his responsibilities.
- **Awards and Recognition:** Although the specific awards won by 'NihsangoIshwar' at META 2025 are not mentioned, its participation in the prestigious festival is a testament to its critical acclaim and impact.
- **Language and Genre:** The play is in Bengali and falls under the drama category, with a runtime of 1 hour and 25 minutes.
- **META 2025:** The Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META) is a prominent theatre festival that celebrates excellence in Indian theatre, providing a platform for playwrights, directors, and actors to showcase their work.

Muthoot FinCorp Wins Superbrand 2025 Title for Excellence

Muthoot FinCorp has been honored with the prestigious Superbrand 2025 title for its excellence in financial services. This recognition highlights the company's strong reputation, customer trust, and innovative financial solutions. Muthoot FinCorp has consistently provided accessible and reliable financial services to a diverse customer base. The award reinforces its commitment to quality, transparency, and customer satisfaction. Winning the Superbrand title further strengthens its position as a leading non-banking financial company (NBFC) in India. This achievement reflects the brand's dedication to empowering individuals and businesses with tailored financial products. Muthoot FinCorp's continued success sets a benchmark in the NBFC sector.

Foot notes:

- **Rigorous Evaluation Process:** The Superbrand title is awarded after a rigorous evaluation process, which involves research, surveys, and assessments by industry experts and consumers.
- **Brand Recognition and Trust:** The Superbrand title is a testament to Muthoot FinCorp's strong brand recognition and trust among its customers, partners, and stakeholders.
- **Consistency and Innovation:** Muthoot FinCorp's win demonstrates its consistency in delivering high-quality financial services and its ability to innovate and adapt to changing market needs.
- **Prestigious Recognition:** The Superbrand 2025 title is a prestigious recognition that reinforces Muthoot FinCorp's position as a leader in the financial services industry.

Anupam Kher won Best Actor award

Veteran actor Anupam Kher has recently been honored with multiple Best Actor awards for his performances in "The Signature" and "Vijay 69." At the OTTplay Awards 2025, he received the Best Actor (Male) Critics Award for both films. Additionally, Kher was awarded Best Actor - OTT at the Iconic Gold Awards 2025 for his role in "The Signature." These accolades highlight Kher's enduring talent and his significant contributions to Indian cinema.

Foot notes:

- **Award Details:** Kher received the award for his portrayal in the short film "Happy Birthday", which also won the Best Short Film award at the festival.
- **Film Credits:** The film was directed by Prasad Kadam and produced by FNP Media, starring Anupam Kher and Aahana Kumra.
- **Anupam Kher's Reaction:** Kher expressed gratitude, saying the credit goes to the young team of "Happy Birthday" and his co-actor Aahana Kumra.
- **Previous Accolades:** Anupam Kher has previously won numerous awards, including two National Film Awards and eight Filmfare Awards.
- **International Recognition:** Kher's win at the New York City International Film Festival is a testament to his global recognition and appreciation for his acting talent.

Sanghamitra Tai Gaikwad Honored with Popular Civilian Excellence Award

Sanghamitra Tai Gaikwad has been honored with the Popular Civilian Excellence Award for her outstanding contributions to society. She has been recognized for her impactful work in social welfare, community development, and humanitarian efforts. Her dedication to empowering underprivileged communities and promoting social change has earned widespread appreciation. This award highlights her commitment to creating a positive and lasting impact on society.

Foot notes:

- **Award Recognition:** Sanghamitra Tai Gaikwad has been honored with the Popular Civilian Excellence Award for her immense contribution to society and selfless service.
- **Social Service Contributions:** Gaikwad has been selflessly working in the field of social service for 25 years, providing free education to children in six adopted villages in Kolhapur, and running a nursing school for training healthcare professionals.
- **Leadership Role:** She serves as the Chief Secretary of Maharashtra and has been associated with the Republican Party of India (Athawale faction) for 25 years, working under the leadership of Union Minister Ramdas Athawale.
- **COVID-19 Pandemic Efforts:** During the pandemic, Gaikwad arranged food, clothing, and medicines for the needy, bringing relief to hundreds of people and showcasing her deep commitment to social service.
- **Women Empowerment Advocacy:** Gaikwad is a strong advocate for women's rights and safety, raising crucial issues that have led to justice for women while ensuring their dignity and self-respect remain intact.

Vinod Kumar Shukla Wins Jnanpith Award for Hindi Literature

Renowned Hindi author Vinod Kumar Shukla has been honored with the prestigious Jnanpith Award for his outstanding contribution to Hindi literature. Known for his unique narrative style and profound storytelling, Shukla's works have left a lasting impact on contemporary Indian literature. His acclaimed novels and poetry often explore themes of simplicity, human emotions, and rural life. The award recognizes his lifelong dedication to enriching Hindi literature and inspiring generations of readers and writers. The literary community has widely celebrated the recognition, calling it a well-deserved honor for Shukla's literary legacy.

Foot notes:

- **First from Chhattisgarh:** Shukla is the first writer from Chhattisgarh to receive this honor, making it a landmark moment for the state.
- **Unique Writing Style:** He is celebrated for his distinctive language use and emotional depth, which sets him apart in the world of Hindi literature.
- **Notable Works:** Some of his notable works include "Naukar ki Kameez", "Deewar Mein Ek Khidki Rehti Thi", and "Sab Kuch Hona Bacha Rahega".
- **Previous Awards:** Shukla has previously received several prestigious awards, including the Sahitya Akademi Award and the PEN/Nabokov Award.
- **Jnanpith Award Significance:** The Jnanpith Award is India's highest literary honor, recognizing outstanding contributions to Indian literature across languages.

Masaki Kashiwara Wins the 2025 Abel Prize for Mathematics

Renowned Japanese mathematician Masaki Kashiwara has been awarded the prestigious 2025 Abel Prize for his groundbreaking contributions to mathematics. Kashiwara is widely recognized for his work in algebraic analysis, representation theory, and the theory of D-modules, which have had a significant impact on modern mathematics. His pioneering research has shaped several mathematical disciplines, including microlocal analysis and symplectic geometry. The Abel Prize, awarded by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, is considered one of the highest honors in mathematics. Kashiwara's achievements continue to influence mathematical research and inspire future generations of mathematicians.

Foot notes:

- **Bridging Mathematical Disciplines:** Kashiwara's work combines algebra, geometry, and differential equations in innovative ways, opening new avenues for mathematical exploration.
- **Impact on Representation Theory:** His contributions to representation theory, particularly the development of crystal bases, have significantly advanced the field and inspired new generations of researchers.
- **Award and Ceremony:** The Abel Prize, often referred to as the "Nobel Prize of mathematics," comes with a monetary award of 7.5 million Norwegian kroner (approximately \$700,000). The award ceremony will take place in Oslo on May 20, 2025.

- **Legacy and Future Work:** At 78, Kashiwara continues to be actively involved in mathematics, currently working on the representation theory of quantum affine algebras and related topics.

Punjab & Sind Bank Wins Top Improvers Award in EASE 6.0 Reforms Index

Punjab & Sind Bank has been honored with the Top Improvers Award in the EASE 6.0 Reforms Index, recognizing its significant progress in banking reforms. The award highlights the bank's efforts in digital transformation, customer service enhancement, and operational efficiency. Under EASE (Enhanced Access and Service Excellence), Punjab & Sind Bank has implemented innovative strategies to strengthen governance and improve financial inclusion. This achievement reflects the bank's commitment to modernization and delivering better services to customers. The recognition further reinforces its position as a growing force in India's banking sector.

Foot notes:

- **EASE Reforms Index:** The EASE (Enhanced Access and Service Excellence) Reforms Index is a comprehensive framework that assesses the performance of public sector banks in India.
- **Top Improvers Award:** Punjab & Sind Bank's win in the Top Improvers category demonstrates its significant strides in implementing reforms and improving its services.
- **Recent Developments:** The bank has been actively working on enhancing its balance sheet, with plans to raise Rs 2,000 crore through Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP).
- **Financial Performance:** Punjab & Sind Bank reported a net profit of Rs 282 crore in the December 2024 quarter, marking a significant increase from Rs 114 crore in the same quarter the previous year.
- **Growth Prospects:** The bank aims to expand its lending activities, particularly in the agriculture and retail sectors, which are expected to drive growth and reduce non-performing assets (NPAs).

IMPORTANT DAYS NEWS

World Wildlife Day observed on 3rd March

World Wildlife Day is observed on 3rd March each year to raise awareness about the importance of wildlife and the need to protect it. The day highlights the role that wildlife plays in maintaining ecological balance and promoting biodiversity. It also serves as a reminder of the growing threats faced by various species due to habitat loss, poaching, and climate change. This year's theme focuses on the preservation of endangered species and the critical actions needed to safeguard their future. World Wildlife Day encourages global collaboration to ensure the protection and conservation of wildlife for future generations.

Foot notes:


- **Theme:** Each year, the day is celebrated with a specific theme. The theme for 2025 is "Conservation of the World's Wildlife".
- **UN General Assembly Declaration:** World Wildlife Day was declared by the UN General Assembly in 2013 to commemorate the adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.
- **Aims and Objectives:** The day aims to celebrate and raise awareness about the world's wild animals and plants, and to inspire action to conserve and protect them.
- **Global Celebrations:** World Wildlife Day is celebrated globally with various events, such as rallies, exhibitions, and educational programs, to promote the conservation of wildlife and their habitats.

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National Safety Day is observed on 4th March

National Safety Day is observed annually on 4th March in India to raise awareness about safety practices and promote a culture of safety in various sectors. The day is organized by the National Safety Council (NSC) of India, aiming to prevent accidents and reduce risks in workplaces, communities, and public spaces. It highlights the importance of adhering to safety standards and regulations to protect people, property, and the environment. On this day, various initiatives such as safety pledges, workshops, and awareness campaigns are conducted to encourage safer practices. The observance of National Safety Day plays a crucial role in fostering a safer environment and reducing the occurrence of accidents and injuries.

Foot notes:

- **Observance:** National Safety Day is observed annually on March 4th to raise awareness about the importance of safety and health at workplaces.
- **History:** The day was first observed in 1972, and since then, it has been celebrated every year to commemorate the establishment of the National Safety Council (NSC).
- **Objectives:** The main objectives of National Safety Day are to promote safety awareness, prevent accidents, and encourage employers and employees to adopt safe practices at work.
- **Theme:** Each year, a theme is chosen to focus on specific safety issues, such as road safety, industrial safety, or disaster management.

- **Celebrations:** National Safety Day is celebrated across India with various activities, including safety seminars, workshops, and competitions, to promote safety awareness and best practices.

International Women's Day is observed on 8th March

International Women's Day is observed on March 8th every year, celebrating the achievements, contributions, and progress of women across the globe. The day also serves as a reminder of the ongoing efforts needed to address gender inequality and empower women in all spheres of life. It is marked by various events, discussions, and campaigns advocating for women's rights, equality, and opportunities. Each year, International Women's Day is associated with a specific theme to focus attention on pressing issues related to women's rights and gender justice. It is celebrated worldwide, with individuals, organizations, and governments coming together to honor women's achievements and promote gender equity.

Foot notes:

- **Celebrating Women's Achievements:** IWD is a global day to celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.
- **Accelerating Gender Parity:** The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity, with the 2025 campaign focus being "Accelerate Action".
- **History and Significance:** IWD has its roots in the early 20th-century women's rights movement, with the first National Woman's Day observed in the United States on February 28, 1909.
- **Global Observance:** IWD is observed in many countries, with the United Nations designating March 8 as a day to celebrate women's rights and achievements.
- **Empowering Women:** The day is an opportunity to recognize the progress made towards gender equality and to empower women to demand their rights and challenge discriminatory norms.

CISF Raising Day observed on 12th March

CISF Raising Day is observed annually on 12th March to commemorate the establishment of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) in India. The day honors the dedication and service of CISF personnel in safeguarding critical infrastructure and ensuring public safety. Established in 1969, CISF plays a crucial role in providing security to vital installations, including airports, seaports, and industrial units. The celebration includes ceremonial parades, awards, and recognition of outstanding contributions by CISF officers and staff. It serves as a reminder of the force's unwavering commitment to the nation's security.

Foot notes:

- **Founding:** The CISF was raised on March 12, 1969, under an Act of Parliament, with the primary objective of providing integrated security cover to the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

- **Mandate:** The CISF is responsible for providing security to various critical infrastructure installations, including airports, seaports, nuclear power plants, space installations, and sensitive government buildings.
- **Evolution:** Over the years, the CISF has evolved into a premier multi-skilled security agency, with a strength of over 1.4 lakh personnel, and has expanded its services to include disaster management, crowd control, and law and order duties.
- **Awards and Recognition:** The CISF has received numerous awards and recognition for its exceptional service, including the President's Colour, which is the highest honor bestowed upon a security force in India.
- **Celebrations:** On its Raising Day, the CISF organizes various events, including parades, ceremonies, and social events, to commemorate its founding and pay tribute to its personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

World Consumer Rights Day observed on 15th March

World Consumer Rights Day is observed annually on 15th March to raise awareness about consumer rights and protection. The day highlights the importance of fair trade, ethical business practices, and consumer empowerment. Various organizations and governments conduct campaigns, discussions, and initiatives to promote consumer awareness. It also serves as a reminder of the need for strong consumer protection laws and policies. The global observance reinforces the significance of safeguarding consumer interests in an evolving marketplace.

Foot notes:

- **Theme:** Each year, WCRD is celebrated with a specific theme; the theme for 2025 focuses on "Empowering Consumers Through Better Digital Access".
- **History:** The first WCRD was observed in 1983, inspired by President John F. Kennedy's address to the US Congress on March 15, 1962, in which he outlined the basic rights of consumers.
- **Objectives:** The day aims to promote consumer rights, raise awareness about consumer protection, and mobilize consumer movements worldwide.
- **Celebrations:** WCRD is celebrated through various events, campaigns, and activities, such as rallies, seminars, and workshops, organized by consumer organizations, governments, and other stakeholders.
- **Global Significance:** WCRD is an opportunity to recognize the importance of consumer rights and protection, and to promote a fair and just marketplace for all consumers worldwide.

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- **Global Significance:** WCRD is an opportunity to recognize the importance of consumer rights and protection, and to promote a fair and just marketplace for all consumers worldwide.

World Water Day observed on 22nd March

World Water Day is observed every year on 22nd March to highlight the importance of freshwater and advocate for sustainable management of water resources. The day raises awareness about the global water crisis and supports the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6: clean water and sanitation for all by 2030. Various events, campaigns, and educational programs are organized worldwide to promote water conservation and responsible usage. Each year, World Water Day focuses on a specific theme related to water challenges, such as groundwater, wastewater, or climate change impacts.

Foot notes:

- **Date of Observation:** World Water Day is observed annually on March 22nd to highlight the importance of freshwater resources and sustainable management.
- **United Nations Initiative:** The United Nations General Assembly designated March 22nd as World Water Day in 1993, aiming to raise awareness about water-related issues globally.
- **Theme:** Each year, World Water Day focuses on a specific theme related to water conservation, management, or sustainability. The theme for 2023 was "Accelerating Change".
- **Objectives:** The day aims to promote sustainable development, improve water management practices, and ensure equitable access to clean water and sanitation for all.
- **Global Celebrations:** World Water Day is celebrated globally through various events, campaigns, and activities, such as water conservation drives, seminars, and awareness programs.

World Tuberculosis Day observed on 24th March

World Tuberculosis Day is observed globally on 24th March to raise awareness about tuberculosis and efforts to eliminate the disease. The day marks the discovery of the TB-causing bacterium by Dr. Robert Koch in 1882. Various health organizations, governments, and communities come together to promote prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of TB. The theme for the day often focuses on uniting efforts to end the global TB epidemic. Awareness campaigns, health screenings, and educational programs are organized worldwide to highlight the importance of combating this infectious disease.

Foot notes:

- **History:** World TB Day commemorates the discovery of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the bacterium that causes TB, by Dr. Robert Koch on March 24, 1882.
- **Global Impact:** TB is one of the top 10 causes of death worldwide, with over 10 million people falling ill with TB each year, and 1.5 million dying from the disease.
- **Elimination Goals:** The World Health Organization (WHO) has set a goal to end the TB epidemic by 2035, with targets to reduce TB incidence by 80% and TB deaths by 90% by 2035 compared to 2015 levels.
- **Awareness and Action:** World TB Day serves as a reminder to governments, healthcare providers, and communities to take action to prevent and control TB, and to support those affected by the disease.

International Day of Solidarity with Detained Staff Members observed on 25th March

The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is observed on March 25 each year. This day is dedicated to recognizing United Nations personnel and associated staff who have been arrested, detained, or gone missing while carrying out their duties. It serves as a reminder of the risks faced by humanitarian and media workers in conflict zones and areas of crisis. The day also calls for global efforts to ensure the safety, protection, and release of detained staff members.

Foot notes:

- **Background:** The day commemorates the anniversary of the abduction of Alec Collett, a journalist who was kidnapped in 1985 while on assignment for the United Nations.
- **Purpose:** The day aims to raise awareness about the risks faced by United Nations staff members and other humanitarian workers who are detained or missing while serving in various parts of the world.
- **Solidarity and Support:** The day is an opportunity for the international community to express solidarity and support for detained and missing staff members and their families, and to advocate for their safe release and return.
- **United Nations Efforts:** The United Nations continues to work towards the safe release of its detained staff members and to support the families of those who are missing, while also advocating for the protection of humanitarian workers worldwide.

Purple Day for Epilepsy Awareness observed on 26th March

Purple Day for Epilepsy Awareness is observed annually on March 26 to raise awareness about epilepsy and support those affected by the condition. The day encourages global discussions to eliminate stigma and promote understanding of epilepsy. People wear purple and organize events to educate communities about seizure management and treatment options. The initiative was founded in 2008 by Cassidy Megan, a young girl from Canada, to increase public awareness. Purple Day highlights the importance of research, medical advancements, and inclusivity for epilepsy patients worldwide.

Foot notes:

- **Global Observance:** Purple Day is observed globally, with people from over 100 countries participating in awareness campaigns, events, and activities to promote epilepsy awareness and reduce stigma.
- **Symbolism of Purple:** The color purple is symbolic of epilepsy awareness, representing dignity, courage, and solidarity with those affected by the condition.
- **Epilepsy Facts:** Epilepsy affects over 50 million people worldwide, making it one of the most common neurological disorders. Despite its prevalence, epilepsy remains shrouded in stigma and misinformation.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** On Purple Day, organizations, governments, and individuals come together to organize awareness campaigns, fundraisers, and events to promote epilepsy awareness, support research, and advocate for the rights of people with epilepsy.

World Theatre Day observed on 27th March

World Theatre Day is observed annually on 27th March to celebrate the essence and impact of theatre worldwide. Established by the International Theatre Institute (ITI) in 1961, the day promotes cultural exchange and highlights the significance of performing arts. Theatre artists, institutions, and enthusiasts come together to recognize the art form's contribution to society. Each year, a renowned theatre personality delivers the World Theatre Day message, inspiring global audiences. The day serves as a reminder of theatre's power to educate, entertain, and bring about social change. Various performances, discussions, and events are organized to mark the occasion. World Theatre Day continues to foster creativity and appreciation for the performing arts.

Foot notes:

- **History:** The day was initiated in 1962 by the International Theatre Institute (ITI), a UNESCO partner organization, to promote theatre and highlight its importance in society.
- **Celebrations:** World Theatre Day is celebrated by theatre communities, artists, and enthusiasts worldwide through various events, performances, and activities.
- **Themes:** The day's celebrations often focus on themes such as promoting cultural diversity, fostering creativity, and highlighting the social impact of theatre.

- **Global Participation:** World Theatre Day is celebrated in over 90 countries, making it a truly global event that showcases the diversity and richness of theatrical traditions worldwide.

OBITUARY NEWS

Russian Chess Grandmaster Boris Spassky passed away

Russian Chess Grandmaster Boris Spassky has passed away, leaving behind a legacy as one of the greatest chess players in history. Spassky, who was born in 1937, became the World Chess Champion in 1969, defeating Tigran Petrosian to claim the title. He was known for his versatile playing style and his historic match against Bobby Fischer in 1972, which remains one of the most famous chess matches of all time. Spassky's contributions to the game and his remarkable career have inspired generations of chess enthusiasts worldwide. His passing marks the end of an era in the world of competitive chess.

Foot notes:

- **Match of the Century:** Spassky is famously known for his 1972 match against American chess prodigy Bobby Fischer, known as the "Match of the Century." Although he lost the match 12.5-8.5, his sportsmanship and graciousness in defeat earned him widespread respect.
- **Legacy and Impact:** Spassky was a versatile chess player known for his universal playing style, comfortable in any position. He was also a talented blitz player and remained active in chess circles well into his later years.
- **Personal Life and Later Years:** Spassky suffered a minor stroke in 2006 and a more serious one in 2010, which left him paralyzed on his left side. He underwent rehabilitation in France before returning to Russia in 2012.
- **Tributes and Remembrance:** Spassky's passing has been met with tributes from the chess community, with many remembering him as a gracious sportsman and a true legend of the game.

Oldest Test Cricketer passed away in South Africa

The oldest living Test cricketer, John Watkins, passed away in South Africa. Watkins, who was born in 1914, had a remarkable cricketing career, representing South Africa in the 1930s and 1940s. He was widely admired for his skills and contributions to the game. His passing marks the end of an era in South African cricket, as he was one of the last remaining connections to the early years of Test cricket. Tributes have poured in from across the cricketing world, recognizing his legacy and influence on the sport.

Foot notes:

- **Test Career:** Watkins played 15 Tests for South Africa between 1949/50 and 1956/57.
- **Batting and Bowling:** He was a forceful right-hand batsman and an accurate away-swing bowler.

- **Fielding:** Watkins was also known for his excellent slip fielding.
- **Career Highlights:** His highest Test score was 92, and he finished with 20 wickets in his Test career.
- **Legacy:** Watkins' passing marked the end of an era, as he was one of the last surviving Test cricketers from the 1940s and 1950s.

Padmakar Shivalkar, The Unsung Hero of Indian Cricket passed away

Veteran Indian cricketer Padmakar Shivalkar, often regarded as the unsung hero of Indian cricket, has passed away. A legendary left-arm spinner, Shivalkar was a stalwart in domestic cricket, representing Mumbai with remarkable consistency. Despite his exceptional performances, including multiple Ranji Trophy triumphs, he never got the opportunity to play for the Indian national team. His contributions to Mumbai cricket, especially his mastery of spin bowling, earned him immense respect in the cricketing fraternity. Shivalkar's passing marks the loss of a true domestic cricket legend whose legacy will always be remembered.

Foot notes:

- **Domestic Cricket Stalwart:** Shivalkar was a dominant force in domestic cricket, playing for Mumbai for over two decades and taking 589 wickets in 124 first-class matches at an average of 19.69.
- **Unlucky to Miss International Career:** Despite his exceptional talent, Shivalkar never played for the Indian national team due to the presence of Bishan Singh Bedi, another legendary left-arm spinner.
- **Ranji Trophy Hero:** Shivalkar was instrumental in Mumbai's numerous Ranji Trophy triumphs, including a remarkable performance in the 1972-73 final against Tamil Nadu, where he took 8 for 16 and 5 for 18.
- **Awards and Recognition:** Shivalkar received the C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016, the highest honor conferred by the BCCI on a former player.
- **Tributes Pour In:** The cricket fraternity, including Sunil Gavaskar and VVS Laxman, has paid tribute to Shivalkar, remembering him as one of India's finest left-arm spinners and a true legend of Mumbai cricket.

Former Aam Aadmi Party MLA SK Bagga has passed away

Octa Broker has been recognized with the prestigious "Best CFD Broker Asia 2025" award. This accolade highlights the company's excellence in providing Contract for Difference (CFD) trading services across the Asian market. Octa Broker has earned a reputation for its user-friendly platform, advanced trading tools, and exceptional customer support. The award underscores the company's commitment to enhancing the trading experience for its clients and its leadership in the competitive CFD industry. With this recognition, Octa Broker continues to solidify its position as a top choice for traders in the region.

Foot notes:

- **Political Career:** Bagga was a member of the Sixth and Seventh Legislative Assemblies of Delhi, representing the Krishna Nagar constituency. He defeated Kiran Bedi, the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) chief ministerial candidate, in the 2015 Delhi Legislative Assembly elections.
- **Social Work:** Bagga was a social worker and advocate who worked for the education of underprivileged children. He was the president of the Bhagwan Shri Ram Chander Dusshera Dharmik Committee from 1993 until his death.
- **Legacy:** Bagga's victory in the 2015 elections was seen as a significant upset, earning him the nickname "giant killer." He was known for his work in the Krishna Nagar constituency and his commitment to social causes.
- **Tributes:** Bagga's passing has been mourned by his colleagues and supporters, who remember him as a dedicated public servant and advocate for social justice.

Fred Stolle, A Tennis Legend passed away

Fred Stolle, the tennis legend from Australia, has passed away, leaving behind a remarkable legacy in the world of tennis. Stolle was one of the sport's greatest players during the 1960s, winning two Grand Slam singles titles, including the French Open and the US Open. He was also a key figure in doubles, winning multiple Grand Slam titles in that discipline. Renowned for his strong serve and powerful forehand, Stolle was an influential player in Australia's golden era of tennis. His contributions to the sport extended beyond his playing career, as he remained active in tennis commentary and promoting the game. His passing is a great loss to the tennis community.

Foot notes:

- **Grand Slam Titles:** Stolle won two Grand Slam singles titles, the 1965 French Open and the 1966 US Open.
- **Doubles Champion:** He was a 10-time Grand Slam doubles champion, winning titles with partners like Bob Hewitt, Roy Emerson, and Ken Rosewall.
- **Davis Cup Hero:** Stolle was a key member of Australia's Davis Cup-winning teams in 1964, 1965, and 1966.
- **Broadcasting Career:** After retiring from tennis, Stolle went on to become a respected commentator, working with networks like Channel Nine, CBS, and Fox Sports.
- **Legacy and Honors:** Stolle was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1985 and received the Order of Australia in 2005.

Classical singer Garimella Balakrishna Prasad passed away

Renowned classical singer and composer Garimella Balakrishna Prasad has passed away, leaving behind a rich legacy in Carnatic music. Known for his soulful renditions of Annamacharya kritis, he dedicated his life to preserving and popularizing the devotional compositions of Sri Tallapaka Annamacharya. His melodious voice and profound understanding of classical music earned him immense respect and recognition in the music community. Throughout his career, he composed and sang numerous devotional songs that

touched the hearts of countless listeners. His passing marks the end of an era, and he will be remembered as one of the stalwarts of Carnatic music.

Foot notes:

- **Contributions to Music:** Garimella Balakrishna Prasad was a prolific composer and singer who set tunes for over 1,000 compositions of saint-poet Annamacharya.
- **Asthana Vidwan of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams:** He served as the Asthana Vidwan (court musician) of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) from 1978 to 2006.
- **Musical Style:** Prasad was known for his expertise in Carnatic, folk, and classical music, and his ability to blend these styles to create unique compositions.
- **Awards and Recognition:** He received numerous awards and accolades for his contributions to music, including recognition from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.
- **Legacy:** Garimella Balakrishna Prasad's music and legacy continue to inspire and influence generations of musicians and music lovers, and his contributions to the preservation and promotion of Annamacharya's compositions are immeasurable.

Former Minister and Senior BJD Leader Ananta Das passed away

Former Minister and senior BJD leader Ananta Das has passed away, leaving behind a legacy of dedicated public service. Known for his significant contributions to the development of Odisha, Das was a respected figure in the state's political landscape. As a senior leader of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), he played a pivotal role in various social and infrastructural initiatives. His passing is a great loss to the political community and his supporters. Leaders and citizens alike are mourning his demise and remembering his valuable contributions to the state.

Foot notes:

- **Administrative Career:** Before entering politics, Das had an illustrious career in the Odisha Administrative Service (OAS), serving in various capacities, including Executive Officer of Balasore Municipality and Additional District Magistrate of Bhadrak.
- **Political Career:** Das joined the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and was elected four times (2004, 2009, 2014, 2019) as the MLA from the Bhogarai constituency in Balasore district. He served as the Minister for Higher Education and Industries from 2017 to 2019.
- **Legacy:** Ananta Das is remembered as a dedicated leader, administrator, and public servant who contributed significantly to Odisha's development, particularly in the areas of education, infrastructure, and industrial growth.
- **Tributes:** Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi, BJD leader Naveen Patnaik, and other leaders paid tribute to his contributions in governance and politics.

Former Indian cricket, allrounder Syed Abid Ali, a key player during the 1960s and 70s, passed away

Former Indian cricketer Syed Abid Ali, a prominent all-rounder during the 1960s and 70s, has passed away. Known for his exceptional contributions with both bat and ball, he played a

crucial role in several memorable matches for India. Abid Ali's dynamic performances made him a vital part of the team during his cricketing career. His passing marks the end of an era and leaves a void in the cricketing community. Fans and fellow cricketers mourn the loss of this talented sportsman.

Foot notes:

- **Career Span:** Abid Ali played for India from 1967 to 1975, featuring in 29 Test matches and 5 One Day Internationals (ODIs).
- **All-Rounder:** He was a versatile player who contributed to the team as a lower-order batsman, medium-pace bowler, and exceptional fielder.
- **Test Debut:** Abid Ali made his Test debut against Australia in Brisbane in 1967-68, taking 6 wickets for 55 runs.
- **Notable Performances:** He scored 78 and 81 runs in the same series against Australia and later top-scored with 70 runs against New Zealand in the 1975 World Cup.
- **Coaching Career:** After retiring from cricket, Abid Ali went on to coach the junior team of Hyderabad and later coached the Maldives and the UAE.
- **Legacy:** Abid Ali's contributions to Indian cricket have been remembered fondly, with former cricketer Sunil Gavaskar praising his skills and sportsmanship.

RSS Pracharak Dr. Shankar Rao Tatwawadi passed away

RSS Pracharak Dr. Shankar Rao Tatwawadi has passed away, marking the loss of a dedicated figure in the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). He played a significant role in the organization's ideological and social initiatives. Throughout his life, he was actively involved in various nationalist and service-oriented activities. His contributions to social work and nation-building efforts were widely respected. His passing is a great loss to the RSS and its followers.

Foot notes:

- **Dedicated Life:** Dr. Tatwawadi dedicated his entire life to the RSS, contributing significantly to nation-building and India's cultural regeneration.
- **Global Outreach:** As the International Coordinator of the Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh, he expanded the organization's global footprint, promoting its heritage and values worldwide.
- **Academic Pursuits:** Dr. Tatwawadi was a renowned scholar, holding a Ph.D. from Banaras Hindu University. He taught pharmacy at BHU and was a distinguished academician.
- **Tributes:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah have paid tributes to Dr. Tatwawadi, acknowledging his immense contributions to the nation and the RSS.
- **Legacy:** Dr. Tatwawadi's legacy will be remembered for his selfless dedication to the RSS, his academic pursuits, and his efforts to promote India's cultural heritage globally.

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Renowned Odia Poet Ramakanta Rath passed away

Renowned Odia poet Ramakanta Rath has passed away, leaving a profound void in Indian literature. Rath was celebrated for his modernist approach and deeply philosophical poetry that reshaped Odia literature. A recipient of numerous prestigious awards, including the Jnanpith Award and the Sahitya Akademi Award, he was regarded as one of the greatest poets of contemporary Odia poetry. His notable works, such as Sri Radha and Saptama Ritu, continue to inspire readers and writers alike. The literary community mourns his loss and remembers his invaluable contribution to Indian and regional literature.

Foot notes:

- **Literary Contributions:** Rath was a celebrated modernist poet, known for his philosophical and thought-provoking works that explored existential themes.
- **Awards and Recognition:** Rath was a recipient of numerous prestigious awards, including the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian award, in 2006. He also received the Sahitya Akademi Award, Saraswati Samman, and Sahitya Akademi Fellowship, among others.
- **Administrative Career:** Apart from his literary pursuits, Rath had a distinguished career in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), serving as the Chief Secretary of Odisha from 1990 to 1992.

- **Tributes and Legacy:** Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi expressed deep condolences over Rath's passing, acknowledging his immense contribution to Odia literature.
- **Impact on Odia Literature:** Rath's passing marks the end of an era in Odia literature, but his works will continue to inspire generations of readers and writers.

Maharana Pratap's Descendant Arvind Singh Mewar passed away

Arvind Singh Mewar, a direct descendant of Maharana Pratap, has passed away. He was a prominent royal figure and the 76th custodian of the Mewar dynasty, known for preserving the legacy and cultural heritage of Udaipur. Arvind Singh Mewar played a key role in promoting tourism and heritage conservation through the management of the HRH Group of Hotels. His contributions to Rajasthan's historical and cultural landscape were widely respected. His passing marks the end of an era for one of India's most prestigious royal lineages.

Foot notes:

- **Lineage and Family:** Arvind Singh Mewar was the younger son of Bhagwant Singh Mewar and Sushila Kumari, and the brother of the late Mahendra Singh Mewar, who passed away in November 2024.
- **Education and Career:** Mewar was educated at Mayo College in Ajmer and later pursued hotel management studies in the UK and the US. He worked in Chicago before establishing the HRH Group of Hotels.
- **Business Ventures:** As the chairman of the HRH Group of Hotels, Mewar played a significant role in promoting tourism and hospitality in Rajasthan.
- **Personal Life and Interests:** Mewar was an avid cricketer and made his Ranji Trophy debut as the captain of Rajasthan in the 1945-46 season. He also engaged in polo during the 1970s.
- **Legacy:** Mewar's passing has been met with an outpouring of grief from the people of Udaipur and Rajasthan, who remember him as a respected member of the royal family and a pioneering figure in the state's tourism industry.

Dr. Senkalong Yaden, an esteemed Naga scientist and academician, passed away

Dr. Senkalong Yaden, an esteemed Naga scientist and academician, has passed away. He was widely respected for his significant contributions to scientific research and education in Nagaland and beyond. Dr. Yaden played a pivotal role in advancing scientific knowledge and mentoring young scholars in the region. His work in promoting science and technology earned him recognition and admiration within academic and research circles. The scientific community and the people of Nagaland mourn the loss of a dedicated visionary and mentor.

Foot notes:

- **Academic Achievements:** He began his teaching career as a Biology Teaching Assistant at the University of Minnesota in 1961 and went on to hold prestigious positions in several academic institutions in the United States.

- **Recognition and Honors:** Dr. Yaden was recognized as the first Naga scientist and was listed in "American Men and Women of Science". He was also a member of the International Platform Association and was featured in "Who's Who in America" and "Who's Who Among America's Teachers".
- **Contributions to Society:** Dr. Yaden was actively involved in peace efforts, serving as a Peace Mission Volunteer at Peace Camp Chedema from 1966 to 1967.
- **Legacy:** The Ao Senden declared March 17, 2025, as a day of mourning to honor Dr. Yaden's extraordinary life and legacy. He will be remembered for his dedication to education, science, and his community.

George Foreman, The Legendary Boxer and Business Icon passed away

George Foreman, the legendary boxer and business icon, has passed away, leaving behind a monumental legacy. Foreman was known for his formidable punching power and his two-time reign as world heavyweight champion, including his famous victory over Joe Frazier in the "Fight of the Century." His impact extended beyond sports, as he became a beloved figure, known for his resilience, charisma, and entrepreneurial acumen. Foreman's passing marks the end of an era, but his influence on both boxing and business will resonate for generations to come.

Foot notes:

- **Boxing Career:** Foreman was a two-time heavyweight champion, winning his first title in 1973 by defeating Joe Frazier, and his second title in 1994 at the age of 45 by knocking out Michael Moorer.
- **Olympic Gold Medalist:** Foreman won an Olympic gold medal in the heavyweight division at the 1968 Mexico City Games.
- **Business Ventures:** Foreman was a successful entrepreneur, best known for his George Foreman Grill, which became a huge commercial success.
- **Personal Life:** Foreman was a devout Christian and an ordained minister. He was also a loving father and husband, and is survived by his family.
- **Legacy:** Foreman's legacy extends beyond his impressive boxing career and business ventures. He was a true icon and inspiration to many, known for his resilience, determination, and commitment to his faith and family.

Tamil Actor-Director Manoj Bharathiraja passed away

Tamil actor-director Manoj Bharathiraja has passed away, leaving the Tamil film industry in mourning. Son of legendary filmmaker Bharathiraja, Manoj made his mark as both an actor and director. He began his acting career with Taj Mahal (1999) and appeared in several Tamil films. Later, he transitioned into direction, following in his father's footsteps. His contributions to Tamil cinema were appreciated by fans and industry peers alike. His demise is a significant loss to the film fraternity. Manoj Bharathiraja's legacy will continue to inspire future generations in Tamil cinema.

Foot notes:

- **Acting Debut:** He made his acting debut in 1999 with the film "Taj Mahal," directed by his father.
- **Notable Films:** Manoj went on to act in several notable films, including "Samuthiram," "Alli Arjuna," "Varushamellam Vasantham," and "Manaadu".
- **Directorial Ventures:** He also ventured into direction, with his first project being "Margazhi Thingal" in 2023.
- **Personal Life:** Manoj is survived by his wife Ashwathi (also known as Nandana) and their two daughters, Arshitha and Mathivathani.
- **Tributes and Condolences:** Several celebrities, including Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, music director Ilaiyaraaja, and actress Khushbu Sundar, have expressed their condolences and paid tribute to Manoj's contributions to Tamil cinema.

Former England Bowler Peter Lever passed away

Former England fast bowler Peter Lever has passed away, leaving behind a legacy in cricket. Lever, who played for England in the 1960s and 1970s, was known for his swing bowling and contributions to the team's pace attack. He represented England in 17 Test matches and 10 ODIs, taking crucial wickets with his sharp bowling skills. Apart from his international career, he had a successful domestic stint with Lancashire, playing a key role in their bowling unit. His passing marks the loss of a respected cricketer who made a lasting impact on the game.

Foot notes:

- **International Career:** Lever played 17 Test matches and 10 One-Day Internationals (ODIs) for England, taking 41 wickets in Tests and 11 wickets in ODIs.
- **Infamous Delivery:** Lever is also remembered for a delivery that injured New Zealand batsman Ewen Chatfield in 1975, which required on-field resuscitation.
- **Domestic Career:** Lever played for Lancashire, taking nearly 1,000 wickets in first-class cricket, including 796 wickets in 301 matches.
- **Coaching Career:** He later became England's bowling coach under Ray Illingworth.
- **Awards and Recognition:** Lever was inducted into the Lancashire Hall of Fame in 2023.



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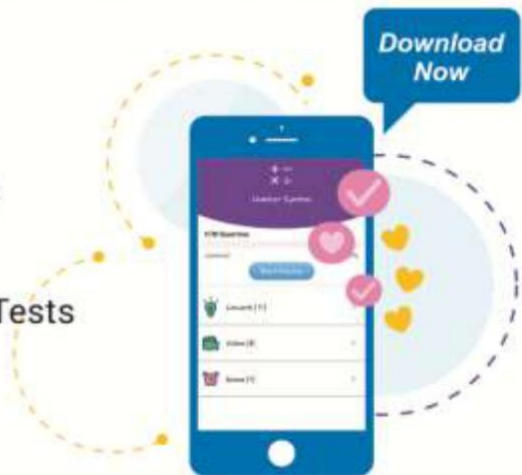
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