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# WEEKLY — Current Affairs

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Monica Kezia Sembiring won talent finale at Miss World 2025

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

#### Foot notes:

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

### Rashtrapati Bhavan Hosts Artists-in-Residence Programme to Promote Folk Art

In a significant cultural initiative, Rashtrapati Bhavan hosted the “Artists-in-Residence” programme from May 20 to 27, 2025, as part of the Kala Utsav, to promote and preserve India’s rich folk and tribal art traditions. This edition spotlighted two of the country’s most celebrated art forms: Madhubani from Bihar and Gond from Madhya Pradesh. Renowned artists such as Shanti Devi, Ambika Devi, and Manisha Jha represented Madhubani art, while Durgabai Vyam, Subhash Vyam, and Japani Shyam Dhurwey showcased Gond art. During their week-long residency, these artists created and exhibited their works within the historic premises of Rashtrapati Bhavan.

#### Foot notes:

- Participating Artists: Nine Madhubani artists, including Shanti Devi, Ambika Devi, and Manisha Jha, and eight Gond artists, including Durgabai Vyam, Subhash Vyam, and Nankusia Shyam, showcased their traditional art forms.
- President's Interaction: President Droupadi Murmu interacted with the artists on May 26, 2025, and witnessed the artworks created during their stay. She appreciated their contribution to India's traditional art forms and wished them success in their future endeavors.

- Objectives: The programme aims to preserve and promote India's traditional, tribal, and folk art forms, give national recognition to local artists, and foster artistic exchange and awareness among audiences.
- Art Forms: Madhubani art, characterized by intricate patterns and mythological themes, and Gond art, known for depicting nature and folklore using dots and lines, were showcased during the programme.

### **India's first gene-edited sheep developed by Kashmir university researchers**

In a groundbreaking achievement, researchers at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST-Kashmir) have developed India's first gene-edited sheep. Using CRISPR-Cas9 technology, the team targeted the myostatin gene, which regulates muscle growth, resulting in a lamb with approximately 30% more muscle mass than typical Indian breeds. This advancement, achieved after four years of dedicated research, signifies a major milestone in India's animal biotechnology sector.

#### **Foot notes:**

- Gene Editing Technology: Researchers at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST-Kashmir) used CRISPR-Cas9 technology to edit the myostatin gene, a regulator of muscle growth, resulting in a 30% increase in muscle mass.
- Breakthrough Achievement: This achievement marks a significant milestone in animal biotechnology, placing India among a select group of nations with advanced genome editing capabilities.
- Research Team: The research team, led by Dr. Riyaz A Shah, worked on the project for around four years. Shah's team had previously cloned India's first Pashmina goat, "Noori," in 2012.
- Potential Applications: SKUAST-Kashmir aims to build India's most advanced reproductive biotechnology centre.

### **Aizawl Becomes 4th Northeast Capital Linked to National Railway Network**

Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram, has been connected to India's national railway network through the completion of the Bairabi–Sairang railway line. This 51.38 km broad-gauge line extends from Bairabi, Mizoram's previous railhead near the Assam border, to Sairang, a town approximately 20 km from Aizawl. With this development, Aizawl becomes the fourth northeastern state capital to gain railway connectivity, following Guwahati (Assam), Agartala (Tripura), and Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh). The Sairang railway station, serving as the terminus of this line, is equipped with modern amenities, including a computerized reservation system, waiting rooms, and food stalls.

#### **Foot notes:**

- Railway Connection: Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram, has been officially connected to the national railway network through the Bairabi–Sairang New Line, marking a significant

milestone in India's efforts to enhance regional integration and transportation connectivity.

- **Project Details:** The 51.38 km railway project connects Bairabi to Sairang, a satellite town 20 km from Aizawl, and features 48 tunnels, 55 major bridges, 87 minor bridges, 5 Road Over Bridges, and 6 Road Under Bridges.
- **Progress and Timeline:** The trial run was successfully conducted on May 1, 2025, and the formal inauguration is expected after June 17, pending inspection by the Commission of Railway Safety.
- **Impact on Region:** This development is expected to catalyze commercial, tourism, and logistic activity, giving a significant push to the local economy and reducing road dependency in a state known for its rugged terrain.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Sumariwalla earns Asian Athletics leadership award in South Korea

Adille J. Sumariwalla, Vice President of World Athletics and former President of the Athletics Federation of India, was honored with the Asian Athletics Leadership Gold Pin during the Asian Athletics Association Congress held in Gumi, South Korea, on May 25, 2025. General Dahlan Al Hamad, President of the Asian Athletics Association, presented the award to Sumariwalla, recognizing his significant contributions to the sport of athletics in Asia. This accolade highlights Sumariwalla's impactful leadership and dedication to advancing athletics across the continent. As a former Olympian and seasoned sports administrator, Sumariwalla continues to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of athletics in Asia.

#### Foot notes:

- **Award Ceremony:** Sumariwalla was conferred with the Asian Athletics Leadership Gold Pin at the Asian Athletics Association Congress held in Gumi, South Korea, on May 25, 2025.
- **Award Presenter:** The award was presented by Asian Athletics Association President General Dahlan Al Hamad, recognizing Sumariwalla's contributions to the growth and leadership of athletics in Asia.
- **Sumariwalla's Position:** As Vice President of World Athletics and former President of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI), Sumariwalla has been instrumental in promoting athletics in India and globally.
- **AFI's Achievement:** Under Sumariwalla's leadership, the AFI was awarded the best member federation by the Asian Athletics Association in 2023, highlighting the federation's outstanding work in promoting athletics.

### Janet Jackson honoured with Icon Award at 2025 American Music Awards

At the 2025 American Music Awards held on May 26 in Las Vegas, Janet Jackson was honored with the prestigious Icon Award, recognizing her profound influence on pop music over the



decades. This accolade marked her return to the AMAs stage after a seven-year hiatus, during which she delivered a captivating performance of her hits "Someone to Call My Lover" and "All for You". She highlighted that their success story is emblematic of the American dream, achievable through dedication and hard work. Jackson also took the opportunity to thank her team, fans, and family, acknowledging their unwavering support throughout her career.

**Foot notes:**

- **Icon Award Recognition:** Janet Jackson received the prestigious Icon Award at the 2025 American Music Awards, recognizing her decades-long impact on the music industry and undeniable cultural influence.
- **First Performance in 7 Years:** The ceremony marked Jackson's first television performance in seven years, where she sang a medley of her hits, including "Someone To Call My Lover" and "All For You".
- **Heartfelt Acceptance Speech:** Jackson delivered a heartfelt acceptance speech, reflecting on her career and values, stating, "I don't consider myself an icon... My family, myself, our dream was to... it wasn't ever to be famous, we weren't always like that. We always had a special love for music, dancing, and singing."
- **Celebrating 50 Years in Music:** The Icon Award honors Jackson's 50-year career in the music industry, marked by numerous accolades, including 5 Grammy Awards, 2 Emmy Awards, and over 180 million records sold worldwide.

**UN Declares 25th May as World Football Day**

The United Nations has officially declared 25th May as World Football Day, recognizing the global impact and unifying power of the sport. The decision honors football's role in promoting peace, inclusion, and cultural dialogue worldwide. It also acknowledges the historical significance of the first international football tournament held on 25th May 1924 during the Summer Olympics in Paris. The day aims to celebrate football's contribution to social development and global cooperation. Member states are encouraged to use this occasion to support grassroots football and inclusive sporting initiatives. The declaration has been welcomed by football fans, players, and organizations across the globe.

**Foot notes:**

- **UN Resolution:** The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution declaring May 25 as World Football Day, recognizing football's global popularity and its power to unite people across cultures and borders.
- **Date Significance:** May 25 commemorates the 100th anniversary of the first-ever international football tournament, the 1924 Summer Olympics football match between Uruguay and Switzerland, held in Paris.
- **Global Celebration:** World Football Day aims to promote football's values, such as teamwork, solidarity, and fair play, and to celebrate the sport's ability to bridge cultural divides and foster global understanding.

- **Football's Impact:** Football is played by over 250 million people in more than 200 countries, making it the world's most popular sport, with a massive following and significant economic and social impact.
- **UN's Goals:** By declaring World Football Day, the UN seeks to leverage football's global reach to promote peace, development, and social cohesion, aligning with its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### **World largest aerospace-grade titanium unit inaugurated in Lucknow**

On May 12, 2025, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the world's largest aerospace-grade titanium and superalloy materials manufacturing plant in Lucknow. Operated by Aerolloy Technologies Limited, a subsidiary of PTC Industries, this state-of-the-art facility features a German-engineered Vacuum Arc Remelting (VAR) furnace with an annual capacity of 1,500 metric tons, capable of producing titanium alloy ingots up to 1,000 mm in diameter. This development positions India among an elite group of nations—such as the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom—that possess the capability to produce high-grade titanium alloys for aerospace applications.

#### **Foot notes:**

- **Advanced Technologies:** The plant utilizes cutting-edge technologies like Vacuum Arc Remelting (VAR), Electron Beam (EB), Plasma Arc Melting (PAM), and Vacuum Induction Melting (VIM) to produce high-grade materials critical for aerospace and defense sectors.
- **Reducing Import Dependence:** The facility aims to reduce India's reliance on costly imports, which are projected to reach 35,000 crore by 2026. By manufacturing aerospace-grade materials domestically, India can minimize its dependence on foreign suppliers.
- **Aerospace Precision Castings Plant:** for single crystal castings vital for jet engine manufacturing
- **Aerospace Forge Shop and Mill Products Plant:** to eliminate imports of billets, bars, and plates for aerospace applications
- **Aerospace Precision Machining Shop:** for exporting ultra-precision CNC machined components

### **Algeria Becomes New Member of BRICS' New Development Bank**

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

and reduce reliance on Western-dominated financial institutions like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

**Foot notes:**

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

### **India Surpasses Japan to Become the World's 4th Largest Economy**

India has officially surpassed Japan to become the world's fourth-largest economy, with its nominal GDP reaching \$4.187 trillion in 2025, slightly ahead of Japan's \$4.186 trillion, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). This milestone was confirmed by NITI Aayog CEO B.V.R. Subrahmanyam during the 10th Governing Council meeting, highlighting India's rapid economic ascent. The achievement has been widely celebrated across the nation, with prominent figures like industrialist Anand Mahindra expressing pride and optimism about India's economic future.

**Foot notes:**

- **India's Economic Ranking:** India now ranks fourth in the global economy, behind the United States, China, and Germany.
- **GDP Projections:** The IMF projects India's nominal GDP to reach \$4.187 trillion in FY2026, slightly surpassing Japan's \$4.186 trillion.
- **Growth Prospects:** India is expected to be the fastest-growing major economy globally over the next two years, with GDP growth rates of 6.2% in 2025 and 6.3% in 2026.
- **Overtaking Germany:** NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam believes India can become the third-largest economy in 2.5-3 years, overtaking Germany.

### **Nicusor Dan assumes office as President of Romania**

Nicusor Dan has officially assumed office as the President of Romania, marking a significant shift in the country's political landscape. Known for his background in mathematics and civic activism, Dan rose to prominence as a reformist voice advocating transparency and good

governance. His presidential campaign focused on anti-corruption, infrastructure development, and improving public services. Dan's election reflects growing public demand for change and accountability in Romanian politics. He previously served as the Mayor of Bucharest, where he gained recognition for his urban development initiatives. As President, Dan is expected to bring a pragmatic and reform-oriented approach to Romania's national and international affairs.

**Foot notes:**

- **Election Victory:** Dan won the presidential runoff election on May 18, 2025, securing 53.6% of the votes and defeating George Simion, leader of the Alliance for the Union of Romanians.
- **Agenda for Change:** In his inaugural address, Dan emphasized the need for "fundamental change" within the framework of the rule of law, urging citizens to maintain "positive pressure" on state institutions to drive reform.
- **Pro-EU Stance:** As a pro-European centrist, Dan has vowed to keep Romania on its "pro-Western" path, supporting Ukraine and defending democracy and citizens' rights.
- **Challenges Ahead:** Dan faces significant challenges, including economic issues such as a deficit problem and political strife, and has called for the formation of a majority government to assume fiscal reforms and ensure financial stability.

**About Rome:**

**Country:** Italy

**Founded:** 753 BC

## LIC Creates History with Guinness World Record in Insurance Sales

The success of the "Bima Utsav" campaign is a testament to LIC's commitment to increasing insurance awareness and penetration in India. By achieving this record, LIC has set a new benchmark in the industry, showcasing its operational excellence and the effectiveness of its outreach initiatives. This remarkable accomplishment underscores LIC's dominant position in the insurance sector and its ability to mobilize resources effectively to reach a vast customer base in a limited timeframe.

**Foot notes:**

- **Record Achievement:** LIC set a Guinness World Record for selling the most life insurance policies in 24 hours, with 5,88,107 policies issued across India on January 20, 2025.
- **Agents' Efforts:** A total of 4,52,839 LIC agents participated in the record-breaking effort, showcasing their dedication and work ethic.
- **"Mad Million Day" Initiative:** The record attempt was part of an initiative by LIC MD and CEO Siddhartha Mohanty, who appealed to every agent to complete at least one policy on January 20, 2025.
- **Global Benchmark:** This achievement established a new global benchmark for agent productivity in the life insurance industry within 24 hours, demonstrating LIC's commitment to providing financial protection to customers and their families.



**About LIC:****CEO:** Siddhartha Mohanty**Founded:** 1956**Headquarters:** Mumbai**STATE NEWS****Uttar Pradesh govt launches India's 1st Vistadome jungle safari train**

Uttar Pradesh has launched India's first Vistadome jungle safari train, offering tourists a unique and immersive wildlife experience through the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve and Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary. The 107-kilometer journey, lasting approximately 4 hours and 25 minutes, features specially designed Vistadome coaches equipped with large glass windows and transparent roofs, allowing panoramic views of the lush forest landscape. Initially operating on weekends, the service is set to expand to daily operations to enhance eco-tourism and provide greater accessibility to visitors.

**Foot notes:**

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

**‘Mysore Pak’ renamed ‘Mysore Shree’**

The iconic South Indian sweet, 'Mysore Pak', has been officially renamed 'Mysore Shree'. This change was introduced to give the traditional delicacy a more culturally resonant and respectful identity. 'Mysore Shree' is seen as a tribute to the royal heritage of Mysuru, where the sweet originated during the reign of the Wodeyar dynasty. The renaming aims to enhance its appeal in modern markets while preserving its historical roots. Culinary experts and local residents have expressed mixed reactions, with some embracing the change and others preferring the original name. Despite the new title, the recipe and taste of the beloved sweet remain unchanged.

**Foot notes:**

- The term "Pak" in Mysore Pak actually comes from the Kannada word "paaka," referring to the process of cooking food by heating or the sticky sugar syrup used in the sweet, and not from Pakistan.
- Several iconic sweet shops in Jaipur, including Tyohaar Sweets and Bombay Misthan Bhandar, have undertaken this rebranding initiative, replacing "Pak" with alternatives like "Shree" or "Bharat".

**About Mysore:**

**State:** Karnataka

**Official language:** Kannada

**Hyderabad is known as the Pharma Capital of India**

Hyderabad is widely recognized as the Pharma Capital of India, a title earned through its substantial contributions to pharmaceutical manufacturing, research, and exports. The city accounts for approximately 30% of India's pharmaceutical production and nearly 20% of its exports, solidifying its status as a global pharmaceutical hub. Hyderabad is also dubbed the "Vaccine Capital of the World", producing a significant share of global vaccines. Companies like Bharat Biotech, Biological E, and Shantha Biotechnics have been instrumental in producing affordable vaccines for diseases like polio, hepatitis, and COVID-19.

**Foot notes:**

- **Large Pharmaceutical Industry Presence:** Hyderabad is home to a large number of pharmaceutical companies, including major players like Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Aurobindo Pharma, and Hetero Drugs.
- **Bulk Drug Production:** The city is a significant hub for bulk drug production, with many companies manufacturing active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) for various therapeutic segments.
- **Formulation Manufacturing:** Hyderabad is also a major center for formulation manufacturing, with companies producing a wide range of dosage forms, including tablets, capsules, and injectables.
- **Research and Development:** The city has a strong research and development (R&D) ecosystem, with many companies investing in new product development, process innovation, and technology development.

**Tata-Airbus to Build India's First Private Helicopter Assembly Line in Karnataka**

Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) and Airbus are set to establish India's first privately operated helicopter final assembly line (FAL) in Kolar, Karnataka. This facility will focus on assembling the Airbus H125 helicopter, a versatile single-engine aircraft widely used in civil and law enforcement operations. Located in the Vemagal Industrial Area, the plant will span 740,000 square feet and encompass manufacturing, assembly, and maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) operations. The project aligns with India's 'Make in India' initiative, aiming to boost indigenous aerospace manufacturing capabilities.

**Foot notes:**

- **Helicopter Model:** The facility will assemble Airbus' H125 helicopters, a globally popular light helicopter model known for its versatility and performance in high-altitude and hot conditions.
- **Production Capacity:** Initially, the plant will have a production capacity of 10 H125 helicopters per year, with plans to scale up based on future demand and export opportunities.
- **Strategic Importance:** This collaboration symbolizes the increasing role of the private sector in India's defence and aerospace space, boosting indigenous manufacturing of critical aerospace components, generating high-skilled employment opportunities, and enhancing India's export competitiveness.

**About Karnataka:****Capital:** Bengaluru**Governor:** Thawar Chand Gehlot**Chief Minister:** Siddaramaiah**IIT Kharagpur & Singapore's IME Sign MoU to Boost Semiconductor Innovation**

IIT Kharagpur has entered into a strategic partnership with Singapore's Institute of Microelectronics (IME), a part of A\*STAR, to advance semiconductor innovation. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), signed during SEMICON Southeast Asia 2025, focuses on collaborative research in areas such as advanced CMOS technologies, AI hardware accelerators, quantum devices, and chip packaging. This alliance also includes exchange programs, specialized training, and joint workshops aimed at nurturing talent in the semiconductor sector. This partnership positions both institutions at the forefront of global semiconductor research and development.

**Foot notes:**

- **Strategic Importance:** This partnership is seen as a transformative step in expanding IIT Kharagpur's global engagement in semiconductor research, contributing to India's ambitions in the semiconductor domain, and building a resilient and competitive technology ecosystem.
- **Global Implications:** The collaboration is expected to accelerate innovation, build skilled talent pipelines, and address common industry challenges, ultimately strengthening the positions of India and Singapore in the global semiconductor landscape.
- **IIT Kharagpur and IME,** a core research entity under Singapore's Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR), have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to foster collaborative research and human capital development in semiconductor technologies.

**SPORTS NEWS****India Shines in 2025 Breakthrough Prize for LHC Discoveries**

India has made significant contributions to the 2025 Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics, awarded to the four major Large Hadron Collider (LHC) collaborations: ATLAS, ALICE, CMS, and LHCb for their pioneering work in particle physics. Indian scientists played crucial roles in these collaborations, particularly in the CMS and ALICE experiments. Notable Indian physicists such as Dipanwita Dutta from the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Gagan Mohanty of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, and J.B. Singh from Panjab University have been instrumental in advancing our understanding of the Higgs boson and exploring the properties of quark-gluon plasma .

**Foot notes:**

- **Indian Contributions:** Indian scientists and researchers played a significant role in the international collaboration for the ALICE and CMS experiments, contributing to detector development, data analysis, and other areas.
- **Research Institutions:** Several Indian institutions, including the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru, and various IITs, were part of the ALICE and CMS collaborations.
- **Key Achievements:** Indian scientists designed and constructed critical components, such as the Photon Multiplicity Detector and Muon Spectrometer for ALICE, and contributed to Higgs boson searches and supersymmetry studies in CMS.
- **Computing and Storage:** India played a vital role in the Worldwide LHC Computing Grid (WLCG), providing computing and storage resources through Tier-2 centers at TIFR Mumbai and VECC Kolkata.

### **Indian Army officer Major Rohit Kadian shines in World Masters Games**

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

**Foot notes:**

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

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

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

### **Foot notes:**

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

## **Napoli Clinches Serie A Title in Dramatic Fashion**

Napoli clinched the Serie A title in dramatic fashion, ending a decades-long wait for domestic glory. The team secured the championship with a crucial draw against Udinese, sparking wild celebrations among fans. Under the leadership of Luciano Spalletti, Napoli displayed consistent brilliance throughout the season. Key players like Victor Osimhen and Khvicha Kvaratskhelia played pivotal roles in their title run. This triumph marks Napoli's first Serie A crown since the era of Diego Maradona in 1990.

### **Foot notes:**

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



- **Napoli's Dominance:** The win marks Napoli's fourth Serie A title, with previous wins in 1986-87, 1989-90, and 2022-23. They have now secured their second title in three years, showcasing sustained performance.

### **Sri Lankan all-rounder Angelo Mathews retires from Test cricket**

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

#### **Foot notes:**

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

### **Shambhavi Clinches Gold In Women's 10 Mt Air Rifle Event ISSF Junior World Cup**

Indian shooter Shambhavi clinched the gold medal in the Women's 10m Air Rifle event at the ISSF Junior World Cup, showcasing exceptional skill and composure. Competing against top young shooters from around the world, she delivered a stellar performance to secure the top podium spot. Her victory adds to India's growing dominance in junior shooting competitions. This achievement not only highlights Shambhavi's rising talent but also reflects the effectiveness of India's grassroots sports development programs.

#### **Foot notes:**

- **Gold Medal in Women's 10m Air Rifle:** Shambhavi won the gold medal in this event at the ISSF Junior World Cup 2025.
- **Previous Performances:** She had previously won a bronze medal in the 10m air rifle women junior competition at the ISSF World Cup in Granada, where her compatriot Isha Anil Taksale took the gold medal.

- ISSF World Cup in Granada: Isha Anil Taksale won gold in the junior women's 10m air rifle, while Umamahesh Maddineni took gold in the men's event.
- ISSF Junior World Championship 2024: India's women's 10m air rifle team, which included Shambhavi Kshirsagar, Gautami Bhanot, and Anushka Thokur, set a new junior world record and won gold. Parth Mane also won gold in the men's 10m air rifle event.

### **Star tennis player, Novak Djokovic scripted history by clinching 100th ATP singles title**

Novak Djokovic achieved a historic milestone by securing his 100th ATP singles title at the 2025 Geneva Open. In a grueling final, he overcame Poland's Hubert Hurkacz with a scoreline of 5–7, 7–6(2), 7–6(2), marking a significant comeback after previous final losses. At 38 years old, Djokovic became only the third man in the Open Era to reach this century mark, joining legends Jimmy Connors (109 titles) and Roger Federer (103 titles). This victory also extended his remarkable streak of winning at least one ATP title in 20 consecutive seasons, a testament to his enduring excellence. As he prepares for the upcoming French Open, Djokovic continues to solidify his legacy as one of tennis's all-time greats.

#### **Foot notes:**

- Comeback Victory: Djokovic trailed 4-2 in the deciding set but managed to pull a break back in the eighth game, converting one of five break points.
- Tiebreaker Mastery: In the second set tiebreaker, Djokovic dominated 7-2, forcing the match into a decider.
- Crucial Break: Hurkacz initially broke Djokovic's serve in the final set, but the Serbian tennis star broke back to level the set at 4-4, eventually winning the tiebreaker 7-2.
- Third Man to Reach 100 Titles: Djokovic joins Jimmy Connors (109 titles) and Roger Federer (103 titles) as the only men to have won 100 ATP titles in the Open era.
- First Man to Win Titles in 20 Different Seasons: This achievement showcases Djokovic's enduring talent and dedication to the sport.

### **Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team Triumphs at Four Nations Tournament**

The Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team secured a thrilling 3-2 victory over Uruguay in their second match of the Four Nations Tournament held in Rosario, Argentina, on May 26, 2025. Uruguay took an early lead in the 3rd minute through a penalty corner converted by Milagros Seigal. India equalized in the 21st minute with a penalty corner goal from Sonam, but Uruguay regained the lead shortly after with Agustina Mari's goal in the 24th minute. In the final quarter, Kanika Siwach turned the game around for India by scoring twice—first from a penalty corner in the 46th minute and then a decisive field goal in the 50th minute—securing the win for her team.

#### **Foot notes:**

- Match against Uruguay: In their second match, India edged out Uruguay 3-2. Sonam equalized with a penalty corner goal in the 21st minute, while Kanika Siwach scored

twice in the final stretch - once through a penalty corner in the 46th minute and again with a decisive field goal in the 50th minute.

- Upcoming Match: India is set to face host Argentina on May 28 (Wednesday as per IST) in their next match.
- Tournament Objective: According to the team's coach, Tushar Khandker, the objective of participating in this tournament is to gain experience and assess the team's performance ahead of the Junior World Cup later this year.
- Key Players: Kanika Siwach has been instrumental in India's success, scoring crucial goals in both matches. Sonam and Sukhveer Kaur have also made significant contributions to the team's victories.

### **Shubman Gill Becomes Team India's New Test Captain**

Shubman Gill has been appointed as the new captain of India's Test cricket team, succeeding Rohit Sharma following his retirement from the format. At 25, Gill becomes India's 37th Test captain and will lead the team in the upcoming five-match series against England, starting June 20 at Headingley, Leeds . Expressing his sentiments, Gill described the role as the "ultimate honour," emphasizing the significant responsibility that comes with leading the national side . He aims to lead by example, drawing inspiration from the leadership styles of his predecessors, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma .

#### **Foot notes:**

- Leadership Role: Gill will lead India in the upcoming five-match Test series against England, starting June 20, and the ICC World Test Championship 2025-27 cycle.
- Appointment: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced Gill's appointment along with a 15-member squad for the England tour. Chief selector Ajit Agarkar made the announcement.
- Deputy Captain: Wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant has been named as Gill's deputy in the Test team.
- New Era in Indian Cricket: Gill's appointment marks the beginning of a new era in Indian cricket, following the retirements of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli from Test cricket.

### **Indian shooter Tejaswani claims Gold at ISSF Junior World Cup**

Indian shooter Tejaswini clinched the gold medal in the women's 25m pistol event at the 2025 ISSF Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany. The 20-year-old from Haryana delivered an impressive performance, scoring 31 hits in the final to secure her first individual World Cup medal. Her victory was pivotal in propelling India to the top of the medal standings, surpassing China. Alina Nestsiarovich, competing as an Individual Neutral Athlete, earned the silver with 29 hits, while Hungary's Miriam Jako took bronze with 23 hits. Tejaswini's consistent shooting throughout the competition showcased her skill and determination. This achievement not only marks a significant milestone in her career but also underscores India's growing prominence in the international shooting arena.

**Foot notes:**

- Performance: She scored 31 out of 50 in the final, outperforming Alina Nestsiarovich (29) of Belarus and Miriam Jako (23) of Hungary, who won silver and bronze respectively.
- Qualification: Tejaswani qualified for the final in fourth place with a total score of 575, achieved by scoring 282 in the precision stage and 293 in the rapid stage.
- India's Medal Tally: Tejaswani's win contributed to India's top position in the medal tally with 11 medals, including 3 gold, 4 silver, and 4 bronze. China finished second with 3 gold and 1 bronze medal.
- Other Indian Medalists: Other Indian shooters who won medals at the event include Shambhavi Shravan Kshirsagar (gold in women's 10m air rifle), Kanak (gold in women's 10m air pistol), and Adriyan Karmakar (silver in men's 50m rifle prone and bronze in men's 50m rifle 3 positions).

**Mahendra Gurjar Creates New World Record In Men's Javelin Throw**

Indian para-athlete Mahendra Gurjar set a new world record in the men's F42 javelin throw at the 2025 Nottwil World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Switzerland. On May 26, Gurjar achieved a remarkable throw of 61.17 meters on his third attempt, surpassing the previous world record of 59.19 meters set by Brazil's Roberto Floriani Edenilson in 2022. His earlier throws measured 56.11m and 55.51m, followed by subsequent throws of 58.54m, 57.25m, and 58.07m. The F42 classification is designated for athletes with moderate movement impairment in one leg. Gurjar's achievement not only secured him the gold medal in his category but also highlighted India's growing prominence in para-athletics.

**Foot notes:**

- Record-Breaking Throw: Mahendra Gurjar set a new world record in the men's F42 javelin category with a throw of 61.17 meters at the Nottwil World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Switzerland.
- Previous Record: Gurjar broke the previous record of 59.19 meters set by Brazil's Roberto Floriani Edenilson in 2022.
- Achievement: This achievement marked Gurjar's exceptional skill and strength as a para athlete, competing in a combined event with athletes from F40, F57, F63, and F64 categories.
- Gold Medal: Gurjar won the gold medal in the F42 category with his record-breaking throw, which came on his third attempt after throws of 56.11 meters and 55.51 meters.

**Gulveer Singh Won Gold in Asian Athletics Championships**

Gulveer Singh won the gold medal at the Asian Athletics Championships, bringing pride to India with his outstanding performance. Competing in the long-distance event, he demonstrated remarkable stamina, speed, and determination. His victory reflects the rising standards of Indian athletics on the international stage. Gulveer's achievement is a result of rigorous training and

unwavering dedication. The win has inspired many young athletes across the country to pursue excellence in sports. It also adds to India's growing medal tally and strengthens the nation's presence in Asian athletics.

**Foot notes:**

- Time: He clocked a time of 28 minutes 38.63 seconds, outperforming Japan's Mebuki Suzuki (28:43.84) and Bahrain's Albert Kibichi Rop (28:46.82).
- Achievement: This victory marked India's first gold medal at the championships and made Singh the third Indian to win the men's 10,000m gold at the Asian level, after Hari Chand (1975) and G Lakshmanan (2017).
- National Records: Gulveer Singh holds national records in the 3000m, 5000m (12:59.77), and 10,000m (27:00.22) events, showcasing his exceptional endurance capabilities.
- Race Strategy: Singh employed a well-calculated strategy, staying in the lead pack before unleashing a decisive sprint in the final lap to secure the gold medal.
- Impact: This win not only boosted India's medal tally but also enhanced Singh's chances of qualifying for the Tokyo World Athletics Championships in September, given his improved world ranking.

**Arsenal Triumphs Over Barcelona to Won Women's Champions League 2025**

Arsenal Women clinched their second UEFA Women's Champions League title with a stunning 1-0 victory over defending champions Barcelona on May 24, 2025, at Lisbon's Estadio José Alvalade. The decisive moment came in the 74th minute when substitute Stina Blackstenius netted the winning goal, converting a precise pass from Beth Mead just seven minutes after both entered the match. The victory sparked jubilant celebrations among Arsenal fans and players alike, with over 10,000 supporters gathering in North London to welcome the team home.

**Foot notes:**

- Tactical Brilliance: Arsenal employed a 4-4-2 mid-block, applying pressure to Barcelona's players and disrupting their flow. This strategy limited Barcelona to just 0.87 expected goals.
- Defensive Heroics: Arsenal's defense was solid, with players like Steph Catley and Caitlin Foord making crucial interventions to block Barcelona's attacks. The team's defenders didn't commit a single foul during the match.
- Substitutions: Coach Renee Slegers' tactical substitutions played a significant role, with Beth Mead and Stina Blackstenius bringing fresh energy and a new dynamic that Barcelona struggled to counter.
- Historical Significance: This win marks Arsenal's first European title in 18 years, making them the only English club to have won the Champions League trophy. The victory has been likened to Emma Raducanu's US Open win in 2021, a momentous achievement for British women's sports.

**Priyank Panchal retires from all forms of cricket**



Indian cricketer Priyank Panchal announced his retirement from all forms of cricket on May 26, 2025, concluding a distinguished 17-year career in domestic cricket. Panchal's retirement marks the end of an era for Gujarat cricket. His dedication, leadership, and contributions to domestic cricket have left an indelible mark, inspiring future generations of cricketers.

**Foot notes:**

- **Career Statistics:** Panchal played 127 First-Class matches, scoring 8,856 runs at an average of 45.18, with 29 centuries and 34 fifties. He also scored 3,672 runs in 97 List A matches and 1,522 runs in 59 T20 matches.
- **Domestic Success:** Panchal was instrumental in Gujarat's Ranji Trophy win in 2016-17, scoring 1,310 runs, including a highest score of 314 not out. He also led Gujarat to victories in the Vijay Hazare Trophy (2015-16) and Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (2012-13 and 2013-14).
- **Leadership Roles:** Panchal captained India A and Gujarat across various formats, showcasing his leadership skills and prowess as an opening batsman.
- **Legacy:** Panchal's retirement marks the end of an era for Gujarat cricket, with the Gujarat Cricket Association congratulating him on a fantastic career. He is considered one of the finest domestic cricketers of his generation.

### **Cristiano Ronaldo Breaks Barriers with 800 Goals in Club Football**

Cristiano Ronaldo has achieved a historic milestone by scoring 800 goals in club football, becoming the first player ever to reach this remarkable feat. His consistent performance across top clubs like Sporting Lisbon, Manchester United, Real Madrid, Juventus, and Al-Nassr highlights his incredible longevity and skill. Ronaldo's achievement is a testament to his dedication, discipline, and ability to adapt to different leagues and playing styles. This record not only cements his legacy as one of the greatest footballers of all time but also inspires millions of aspiring athletes around the world.

**Foot notes:**

- **Achievement:** Cristiano Ronaldo became the first player to score 800 club goals, achieving this milestone at the age of 40. He scored one goal in Al-Nassr's 3-2 loss to Al-Fateh in the Saudi Pro League on May 26, 2025.
- **Comparison to Lionel Messi:** Ronaldo is ahead of Lionel Messi in terms of club goals, with Messi having scored 753 goals.
- **Awards and Recognition:** Despite Al-Nassr finishing third in the league, Ronaldo won the Saudi League top scorer award again with 25 goals in the 2024-2025 season, following 35 goals in the previous season.

### **India's Jyothi Yarraji & Avinash Sable won gold at the 26th Asian Athletics Championships**

At the 26th Asian Athletics Championships in Gumi, South Korea, Indian athletes Jyothi Yarraji and Avinash Sable delivered outstanding performances, each clinching gold medals in

their respective events. Jyothi Yarraji secured her second consecutive gold in the women's 100m hurdles, setting a new championship record with a time of 12.96 seconds, surpassing the previous record of 13.04 seconds. Avinash Sable triumphed in the men's 3000m steeplechase, clocking a season-best 8:20.92, and became the first Indian man in 36 years to win gold in this event at the Asian Championships.

**Foot notes:**

- **Jyothi Yarraji's Achievement:** Jyothi Yarraji won the gold medal in the women's 100m hurdles event with a new championship record time of 12.96 seconds, successfully defending her title from the 2023 edition.
- **Avinash Sable's Achievement:** Avinash Sable claimed the gold medal in the men's 3000m steeplechase event with a season's best time of 8:20.29 seconds, ending India's 36-year wait for a gold medal in this event.
- **Championship Records:** Yarraji's winning time broke the previous championship record of 12.99 seconds set by China's Su Yiping in 2000. Sable's win marked his second Asian medal after a silver in 2019.
- **Indian Relay Team Success:** The Indian women's 4x400m relay team, comprising Jisna Mathew, Rupal Chaudhary, Kunja Rajitha, and Subha Venkatesan, also won gold with a season-best time of 3:34.18 seconds.

## **India's Mahendra Gurjar Sets World Record in World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Switzerland**

Indian para-athlete Mahendra Gurjar made history at the Nottwil World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Switzerland by setting a new world record in the men's F42 javelin throw. He achieved a remarkable distance of 61.17 meters on his third attempt, surpassing the previous record of 59.19 meters set by Brazil's Roberto Floriani Edenilson in 2022. The F42 category is designated for athletes with moderate movement impairment in one leg. Despite competing in a combined event with athletes from other classifications, Gurjar secured the gold medal in the F42 category and set the world record. Additionally, he clinched another gold in the long jump T42 event with a leap of 5.59 meters, marking his debut in that discipline.

**Foot notes:**

- **World Record Achievement:** Mahendra Gurjar set a new world record in the men's javelin F42 category with a throw of 61.17 meters at the Nottwil World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Switzerland.
- **Competition Details:** Gurjar competed in a combined event with athletes from different categories, including F40, F57, F63, and F64.
- **Previous Performance:** Before setting the world record, Gurjar threw 56.11 meters in his first attempt and 55.51 meters in his second attempt.
- **Double Gold Medalist:** This was Gurjar's second gold medal at the Grand Prix. Earlier, on May 23, he won the long jump T42 event with a jump of 5.59 meters, which was his debut in long jump.

## AWARD NEWS

### Iranian Director Jafar Panahi Takes Top Honour at Cannes Film Festival

Iranian filmmaker Jafar Panahi achieved a significant milestone by winning the Palme d'Or at the 78th Cannes Film Festival for his film *It Was Just an Accident*. This marks his return to the international stage after a 15-year travel ban was lifted in 2023. The film, a satirical drama inspired by stories Panahi heard in Evin Prison, critiques the Iranian regime and centers on a group seeking justice for past torture. Panahi, known for his defiance of government censorship, has faced travel bans, prior arrests, and imprisonment due to his critical stance. In his acceptance speech, he urged national unity and emphasized freedom of expression in Iran.

#### Foot notes:

- **Jury President's Praise:** Juliette Binoche, the jury president, praised Panahi's work, saying, "Art mobilizes the creative energy of the most precious, most alive part of us. A force that transforms darkness into forgiveness, hope, and new life."
- **Panahi's Background:** Despite facing a 15-year ban from filmmaking and being imprisoned multiple times, Panahi continued to create films clandestinely in Iran. He plans to return to his country after the festival, undeterred by challenges.
- **Other Winners:** The Grand Prix went to Joachim Trier's *"Sentimental Value"*, while the Jury Prize was jointly awarded to Oliver Laxe's *"Sirat"* and Mascha Schilinski's *"Sound of Falling"*.

### Ashok Kalladka honoured with Karnataka Media Ratna award

Ashok Kalladka, Editor-in-Chief of Reporter Karnataka, has been honored with the prestigious Karnataka Media Ratna Award, a state-level recognition presented by the Karnataka Working Journalists' Voice Organisation. The award ceremony took place at Ravindra Kalakshetra in Bengaluru, where Justice Santosh Hegde, retired Supreme Court judge and former Karnataka Lokayukta, presented the accolade. Kalladka was recognized for his outstanding contributions to journalism and his unwavering commitment to ethical media practices.

#### Foot notes:

- **Contribution to Journalism:** Ashok Kalladka was recognized for his outstanding contribution to journalism and his commitment to ethical media practices.
- **Justice Hegde's Address:** During the ceremony, Justice Hegde expressed concerns about the erosion of public accountability in contemporary society, highlighting the importance of personal integrity and contentment.
- **Importance of Values:** Justice Hegde emphasized the need to maintain two essential values: contentment and humanity, stating that a lack of contentment is the root of corruption.
- **Other Attendees:** The ceremony was attended by notable figures, including actor Chetan Ahimsa, former minister Ramachandra Gowda, and Bangale M Mallikarjun, the state president of Karnataka Working Journalists Voice.

### **Rapper Raja Kumari, first Indian origin musician to win AMA award**

Indian-American rapper and singer-songwriter Raja Kumari has made history by becoming the first Indian-origin musician to win an American Music Award (AMA). She received the award in the Favourite Soundtrack category for her contribution to the track "Renegade (We Never Run)" from Arcane: League of Legends – Season 2, a collaboration with UK rapper Stefflon Don and Dominican-Brazilian artist Jarina de Marco. Born Svetha Yallapragada Rao in Claremont, California, to Telugu parents from Andhra Pradesh, Kumari has built a career blending hip-hop with Indian classical influences.

#### **Foot notes:**

- **First Indian-Origin Winner:** Raja Kumari made history by becoming the first Indian-origin musician to win an American Music Award, taking home the prize for Favorite Soundtrack for her song "Renegade (We Never Run)" from the Arcane League of Legends: Season 2 soundtrack.
- **Song Details:** "Renegade (We Never Run)" is a collaborative effort with UK hip-hop artist Stefflon Don and Dominican-Brazilian artist Jarina de Marco. The song features Raja Kumari's distinctive style blended with Indian classical music and hip-hop elements.
- **Cultural Significance:** The song was specifically chosen for the animated series Arcane because of its Indian character, Sevika. Raja Kumari's cultural roots and ability to create aggressive music as a woman made her a perfect fit for the project.

### **Sadhguru Conferred with 'Global Indian of the Year' Award by Canada India**

#### **Foundation**

Sadhguru, the founder of Isha Foundation, has been honored with the 'Global Indian of the Year' award by the Canada India Foundation (CIF) for his significant contributions to elevating human consciousness and promoting ecological sustainability. The award ceremony took place on May 22, 2025, in Toronto, where CIF Chair Ritesh Malik and National Convenor Sunita Vyas presented the award in the presence of Indo-Canadian leaders and community members. Alongside the award, Sadhguru received a cash prize of CAD 50,000, which he dedicated to the 'Cauvery Calling' project aimed at revitalizing the Cauvery River by planting trees and supporting farmers in the river basin.

#### **Foot notes:**

- **Recognition:** The award recognizes individuals of Indian origin who have made a significant global impact, and Sadhguru was chosen for his tireless work over four decades towards raising human consciousness and launching impactful global initiatives for the environment and human wellbeing.
- **Award Ceremony:** The award ceremony was held on May 22, 2025, in Toronto, Canada, where CIF Chair Ritesh Malik and National Convenor Sunita Vyas presented the award to Sadhguru in the presence of Indo-Canadian leaders, entrepreneurs, and community

members.

- **Prize and Purpose:** Along with the award, Sadhguru received a cash prize of CAD 50,000, which he dedicated to the 'Cauvery Calling' project, aiming to revive River Cauvery and transform the lives of 84 million people.

## APPOINTMENT & PERSON IN NEWS

### Ram Mohan Appointed as New Director of MPEDA

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

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

#### Foot notes:

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

### Neeraj Chopra becomes Audi India's new brand ambassador

Olympic gold medalist and world champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has been appointed as the new brand ambassador for Audi India, marking a collaboration that brings together two entities driven by performance, precision, and a progressive mindset. Announced on May 26, 2025, this partnership celebrates shared values such as world-class performance, explosive speed, and iconic stature. Balbir Singh Dhillon, Head of Audi India, praised Chopra as the embodiment of the brand's spirit, highlighting his determination and iconic journey from ambition to achievement. Chopra expressed his excitement about joining the Audi family, stating that the brand's commitment to excellence resonates deeply with him.

#### Foot notes:

- **Brand Ambassador Role:** Chopra's appointment as Audi India's brand ambassador reflects his dedication to excellence, both on and off the field, and Audi's commitment to performance, precision, and passion.



- **Shared Values:** Both Neeraj Chopra and Audi India share values of high performance, precision, and forward-thinking, making this partnership a strategic and symbolic alignment.
- **Chopra's Achievements:** Neeraj Chopra's impressive track record includes winning gold at the Tokyo Olympics and a silver medal at the 2024 Paris Games, showcasing his consistency and world-class performance.
- **Audi India's Growth:** This partnership comes as Audi India reported a 17% rise in Q1 sales, driven by a robust product lineup and models like the Q7 and Q8, demonstrating the brand's momentum in the Indian market.

### **Madhur Agrawal appointed as Director in the Ministry of Home Affairs**

Madhur Agrawal, a 2009-batch officer of the Indian Railway Accounts Service (IRAS), has been appointed as Director in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) under the Central Staffing Scheme. The Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) issued the formal appointment order on May 26, 2025. His tenure is set for five years from the date he assumes charge or until further orders, whichever is earlier. Agrawal was recommended for this central deputation by the Ministry of Railways. Alongside him, Vineet Satyanarayanan Nair, a 2011-batch officer of the Indian Defence Estates Service (IDES), has also been appointed as Director in the MHA.

#### **Foot notes:**

- **Central Staffing Scheme:** The appointment is under the Central Staffing Scheme, and Agrawal will serve in the post until further orders or the completion of the five-year term, whichever is earlier.
- **Background:** Agrawal was recommended for central deputation by the Ministry of Railways, and the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) has instructed the respective ministries to facilitate his immediate release to assume the new role.
- **Simultaneous Appointment:** Vineet Satyanarayanan Nair, a 2011-batch officer of the Indian Defence Estates Service (IDES), has also been appointed as Director in the MHA alongside Agrawal.

### **Rahul Kanwal formally taken charge as NDTV's new Chief Executive Officer**

Veteran journalist Rahul Kanwal has officially assumed the roles of Chief Executive Officer and Editor-in-Chief at NDTV as of May 26, 2025. With over 25 years of experience in Indian broadcast journalism, Kanwal is renowned for his expertise in political reporting, election analysis, and investigative journalism. Kanwal's academic credentials are notable; he is an alumnus of Delhi University, a Chevening Scholar with a specialization in International Broadcast Journalism from Cardiff University, and has completed the General Management Program at Harvard Business School.

#### **Foot notes:**

- **Background:** Kanwal is a veteran journalist with over 25 years of experience, having previously held leadership roles at India Today, Aaj Tak, and Business Today.

- Qualifications: He's an alumnus of Harvard Business School's General Management Program and a Chevening Scholar, having studied journalism at Delhi University and International Broadcast Journalism at Cardiff University.
- NDTV's Legacy: Kanwal expressed his excitement to infuse new life and energy into the marquee news brand, acknowledging NDTV's four-decade legacy of credibility and trust through path-breaking journalism.

**About NDTV:****Headquarters:** New Delhi**Launched:** 2003**BISSELL ropes in Kareena Kapoor Khan as brand ambassador**

BISSELL, a global leader in homecare appliances, has appointed Bollywood icon Kareena Kapoor Khan as its brand ambassador for India. This collaboration aims to strengthen BISSELL's presence in the Indian market by offering advanced cleaning solutions tailored for modern Indian homes. In BISSELL's upcoming campaign, Kareena embodies a fusion of style, strength, and functionality, reflecting the brand's innovative cleaning products. Max Bissell, President of Global Markets at BISSELL Homecare Inc., stated that Kareena represents the modern Indian consumer: discerning, forward-thinking, and committed to creating a healthy home environment.

**Foot notes:**

- Brand Fit: Kareena Kapoor Khan's elegance, modern sensibility, and strong connection with Indian households align with BISSELL's vision of a cleaner, more effortless lifestyle, making her a perfect fit for the brand.
- Campaign Focus: The partnership involves Kareena featuring in BISSELL's upcoming campaign, showcasing the brand's cleaning solutions in a bold new avatar that embodies style, strength, and functionality.
- Market Expansion: With Kareena's support, BISSELL aims to inspire more Indian households to adopt smarter, more stylish cleaning solutions, expanding its footprint in the country and transforming homecare into a lifestyle choice.

**About BISSELL:****Founded:** 1876**Founder:** Melville Bissell**Headquarters:** U.S.**Miao Lijie Named Ambassador for FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2025**

Miao Lijie, a legendary figure in Chinese basketball, has been appointed as the official ambassador for the 2025 FIBA Women's Asia Cup. This prestigious tournament is scheduled to take place from July 13 to 20, 2025, in Shenzhen, China. As ambassador for the 2025 Women's Asia Cup, Miao Lijie will play a pivotal role in promoting the tournament and inspiring the next generation of female basketball players. Her appointment underscores FIBA's

commitment to celebrating the legacy of influential athletes and enhancing the visibility of women's basketball across Asia.

**Foot notes:**

- **WNBA Achievement:** Miao played for the Sacramento Monarchs, winning the 2005 WNBA championship, and became the first player to score 6,000 points in the WCBA (China's professional league).
- **Role as Ambassador:** Miao aims to promote the FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2025, encouraging fans to attend and support the event, which features top national women's teams from Asia and Oceania.
- **Tournament Details:** The FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2025 will take place in Shenzhen, known as the "City of the Future," marking the tournament's return to China after a 10-year gap.

**Vineet Satyanarayanan Nair appointed as Director in the Ministry of Home Affairs**

Vineet Satyanarayanan Nair has been appointed as a Director in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India. This appointment was confirmed through an official Office Memorandum issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) on May 28, 2025, which announced his selection for the position. Vineet Satyanarayanan Nair is an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the 2011 batch. Prior to this appointment, he served in various capacities within the Central Government, contributing to the administration and policy implementation across different sectors.

**Foot notes:**

- **Central Staffing Scheme:** The appointment was made under the Central Staffing Scheme, with the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) issuing formal orders on May 26, 2025.
- **Recommendation:** Nair was recommended for central deputation by the Ministry of Defence, highlighting his expertise and capabilities.
- **Concurrent Appointment:** Another officer, Madhur Agrawal, a 2009-batch officer of the Indian Railway Accounts Service (IRAS), was also appointed as Director in the Ministry of Home Affairs for a similar tenure.
- **Immediate Assumption:** Both officers have been directed to report to their new assignments immediately, underscoring the government's intent to utilize their skills effectively.

**Anil Kumble appointed as Karnataka Forest Department Ambassador**

Former Indian cricketer Anil Kumble has been appointed as the Forest and Wildlife Ambassador for Karnataka by the state's Forest Department. Known for his deep passion for wildlife conservation, Kumble accepted the role without any remuneration, reflecting his commitment to the cause. He has previously served as the vice-chairperson of the Karnataka State Board for Wildlife, highlighting his longstanding involvement in environmental

initiatives. Kumble's appointment is expected to enhance public awareness and support for forest and wildlife conservation efforts across the state.

**Foot notes:**

- **Role and Responsibilities:** Kumble will engage in creating awareness among people on forest conservation, forest development, tree conservation, and wildlife conservation.
- **Background and Experience:** Anil Kumble has previously served as the Vice-Chairman of the Karnataka Wildlife Board and has experience in environmental conservation.
- **Government Initiatives:** The Karnataka government has initiated several conservation efforts, including reclaiming 6,251.31 acres of forest land across Karnataka, registering 1,205 encroachment cases, and developing a 153-acre urban park near Yelahanka.
- **Significance:** Kumble's appointment is expected to bridge the gap between forest authorities and the general public, especially the youth, promoting sustainable environmental practices and wildlife protection.

**About Karnataka:**

**Capital:** Bengaluru

**Governor:** Thawar Chand Gehlot

**Chief minister:** Siddaramaiah

**Pawan Kumar appointed as Director in the Union Public Service Commission**

Pawan Kumar, a 2008-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the Uttar Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as Director in the Department of Rural Development under the Central Staffing Scheme. His appointment, effective from February 19, 2024, is for a tenure of five years or until further orders, whichever comes earlier. Prior to this role, Kumar served in various administrative capacities within the Uttar Pradesh state government, gaining extensive experience in rural governance and public administration. His new position places him at the forefront of implementing key rural development initiatives, including poverty alleviation programs and infrastructure projects aimed at enhancing the quality of life in India's rural areas.

**Foot notes:**

- **Approval and Tenure:** The appointment was approved by the competent authority, and Kumar will hold the post from the date of taking over charge until further orders or the completion of his five-year term, whichever is earlier.
- **Background:** The UPSC is a central recruiting agency responsible for conducting exams and overseeing the transfer and promotion of higher officers and civil servants. The commission is headed by a Chairperson, currently Ajay Kumar, IAS, who was appointed on May 15, 2025.
- **Departmental Affiliation:** The UPSC falls under the Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India, and its chairperson reports directly to the President of India.

**About UPSC:**

**Formed:** 1926

**Headquarters:** New Delhi

### **IndiGo names Vikram Singh Mehta as its new Chairman**

IndiGo, India's largest airline by market share, has appointed Vikram Singh Mehta as its new Chairman. Mehta is a distinguished business leader known for his experience in the energy and corporate sectors, having previously served as Chairman of Shell India. His appointment is expected to bring strategic insight and strengthen IndiGo's board leadership. The move comes as the airline continues its expansion plans and enhances its international presence. With Mehta at the helm, IndiGo aims to further solidify its position as a global aviation player.

**Foot notes:**

- Mehta joined the IndiGo board in May 2022 and will lead the company through its growth phase.
- He serves on the boards of several prominent Indian companies, including Larsen and Toubro Limited, Mahindra and Mahindra Limited, and Colgate Palmolive India Limited.
- Mehta is known for his emphasis on deliverables and strategic leadership style, which will likely play a crucial role in shaping IndiGo's future growth and expansion plans.
- The airline recently reported a 62% jump in consolidated net profit for the fourth quarter of FY25, driven by strong domestic demand.

### **Shalini Agnihotri appointed as Deputy Secretary in the Department School Education & Literacy**

Shalini Agnihotri, a 2012-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the Himachal Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as Deputy Secretary in the Department of School Education & Literacy under the Ministry of Education. Prior to this appointment, she served as the Superintendent of Police in Kangra district, Dharamshala. Her selection for central deputation was recommended by the Ministry of Home Affairs and approved by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) on May 28, 2025. In her new role, Agnihotri will serve for a tenure of four years from the date of assuming charge or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

**Foot notes:**

- Background: Agnihotri is currently serving as Superintendent of Police in Kangra, Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh. Her appointment is under the Central Staffing Scheme for a period of four years or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- Role and Responsibilities: As Deputy Secretary, Agnihotri is expected to significantly enhance the department's efforts in managing and improving educational systems, particularly in school governance and policy execution. Her expertise in security and administration will likely complement the department's ongoing projects.
- Appointment Order: The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) issued the appointment order on May 28, 2025, directing Agnihotri to join her new role within three weeks.



### **Hitachi India appoints N Venu as Its Managing Director**

Hitachi India has announced the appointment of N Venu as its new Managing Director, effective June 2, 2025. He will assume this role in addition to his current positions as Managing Director & CEO of Hitachi Energy India and Region Head for South Asia at Hitachi Energy. This leadership transition follows the elevation of Bharat Kaushal, the first Indian Managing Director of Hitachi India, to Executive Chairman, effective April 1, 2025. Hitachi's expansion in India encompasses diverse sectors such as rail, digital, energy, financial inclusion, e-education, and healthcare.

#### **Foot notes:**

- **Background and Experience:** Venu has nearly four decades of work experience and has led Hitachi Energy in India since its formation in 2019. He is also the Chairman of the Karnataka chapter of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2024-25.
- **Education and Accreditation:** Venu holds a degree in Electrical Engineering from NIT Warangal and has been accredited by the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad, and the International Institute of Management Development, Switzerland.
- **Role and Responsibilities:** He will strengthen the cohesion of around 28 Hitachi group companies in India, create value for customers, and drive digital-centric growth.

### **Manoj C appointed as Director in Election Commission of India**

Manoj C, a 2011-batch IPS officer from the AGMUT cadre, has been appointed as the Director in the Election Commission of India. His appointment comes under the Central Staffing Scheme and is for a tenure of five years or until further orders. Before this role, Manoj C served as Deputy Commissioner of Police in the Special Cell of Delhi Police. The Ministry of Home Affairs recommended his central deputation for this significant position. His expertise in law enforcement is expected to strengthen the administrative and operational efficiency of the Election Commission.

#### **Foot notes:**

- **Recommendation:** Manoj C's central deputation was recommended by the Ministry of Home Affairs, and his appointment was approved by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).
- **Term of Appointment:** He will hold the position for five years from the date of assuming charge or until further orders, whichever is earlier, and has been instructed to join his new assignment in Delhi without delay.
- **Simultaneous Appointment:** Manoj C was appointed alongside Bidyarani Konthoujam, a 2009-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, as part of the government's effort to strengthen the administrative capacity of the ECI.

### **Vogue Eyewear Welcomes Shahid Kapoor as a New Brand Ambassador in India**

Vogue Eyewear has announced Bollywood actor Shahid Kapoor as its new brand ambassador in India, joining longtime collaborator Taapsee Pannu. The duo stars in a visually striking campaign film set in a contemporary, gallery-inspired space, promoting the brand's "No Rules Club" ethos that celebrates individuality and self-expression.

**Foot notes:**

- **Partnership Details:** Shahid Kapoor has joined Vogue Eyewear as its new brand ambassador, partnering with existing ambassador Taapsee Pannu to promote the brand's message of individuality and self-expression.
- **Campaign Film:** The two stars feature in a campaign film set in a modern, gallery-inspired space, showcasing Vogue Eyewear's range and promoting a message of living life without conforming to societal expectations.
- **Eyewear Collection:** The campaign showcases Vogue Eyewear's new collection, featuring bold silhouettes and elegant classics that reflect individuality, charisma, and inner confidence.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### **National Memorial Day is observed on 26th May**

National Memorial Day is solemnly observed on 26th May each year to honor and remember the brave soldiers who have sacrificed their lives in service to the nation. The day serves as a tribute to the valiant men and women of the armed forces who laid down their lives to protect the country's freedom and sovereignty. Various commemorative events, including wreath-laying ceremonies, parades, and moments of silence, are held across the country to mark the occasion. Citizens, leaders, and military personnel come together to pay their respects and reflect on the legacy of the fallen heroes.

**Foot notes:**

- **Evolution:** Over time, the holiday has evolved to honor all Americans who have died in military service, not just those from the Civil War.
- **Traditions:** Many people visit cemeteries and memorials, participate in parades, and hold family gatherings to honor the fallen.
- **Significance:** Memorial Day marks the unofficial start of summer in the United States and is often seen as a time for reflection, gratitude, and remembrance.
- **Observance:** Many businesses and institutions close on Memorial Day, and it is a federal holiday in the United States.

### **International Crop Dusters' Day observed on 27th May**

International Crop Duster's Day is observed annually on May 27 to honor the contributions of aerial applicators in agriculture. Established by Bobby Wheat in 2010, the date commemorates the tragic loss of his friend, Rocky Daly, in a mid-air collision. The day recognizes the vital role of crop dusters in ensuring a safe, affordable, and abundant food supply. Aerial applicators have

been instrumental in the agricultural industry for over a century, providing essential services that support global food production. The National Agricultural Aviation Association (NAAA) continues to celebrate this day, acknowledging the dedication and hard work of these professionals.

**Foot notes:**

- The day recognizes the importance of crop dusters in agriculture, particularly in aerial application of pesticides, fertilizers, and seeds.
- Crop dusters play a vital role in protecting crops from pests and diseases, and helping farmers increase crop yields.
- The day acknowledges the skill and expertise of crop duster pilots who operate these specialized aircraft.
- International Crop Dusters' Day promotes awareness about the contributions of crop dusters to global food security and sustainable agriculture practices.

### **International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers observed on May 29**

The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers is observed every year on May 29 to honor the dedication and sacrifice of UN peacekeepers around the world. Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2002, the day recognizes the vital role peacekeepers play in maintaining peace and security in conflict zones. UN peacekeepers come from diverse countries and backgrounds, working together to protect civilians, support the implementation of peace agreements, and assist in rebuilding post-conflict societies. The day also commemorates the more than 4,500 peacekeepers who have lost their lives in the line of duty since the UN's first mission in 1948.

**Foot notes:**

- Purpose: The day honors the sacrifices and contributions of UN peacekeepers, highlighting their role in maintaining peace and security worldwide. It recognizes the bravery and dedication of over two million personnel who have served in UN peacekeeping operations.
- History: The day commemorates the establishment of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) in 1948, the first UN peacekeeping mission. It was officially designated by the UN General Assembly in 2002.
- Significance: The day pays tribute to the more than 4,400 peacekeepers who have lost their lives in the line of duty, including 57 in 2024 alone. It emphasizes the importance of peacekeeping efforts and the collective responsibility to support personnel serving in volatile regions.
- Theme: The theme for the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers 2025 is "The Future of Peacekeeping," focusing on the evolving challenges and realities of peacekeeping operations.

### **Hindi Journalism Day observed on 30th May**

Hindi Journalism Day is observed every year on 30th May to honor the history and contributions of Hindi journalism. The day commemorates the publication of India's first Hindi newspaper, *Udant Martand*, which was launched on 30th May 1826 by Pandit Jugal Kishore Shukla from Kolkata. Although *Udant Martand* was published for only 19 months, it laid the foundation for Hindi journalism and played a vital role in spreading awareness among Hindi-speaking people. Hindi journalism has been an important medium for social change, independence movements, and raising public awareness. Today, it continues to serve as a crucial pillar of democracy by informing and empowering the masses.

**Foot notes:**

- **Significance:** This day honors the contributions of Hindi journalists and the role of journalism in shaping public discourse. It also acknowledges the challenges faced by journalists, including threats to their safety, biased reporting, and censorship.
- **Pioneers:** Notable figures like Mahavir Prasad Dwivedi, Pt. Rambhuj Dutt Chaudhary, and Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi are celebrated for their contributions to Hindi journalism, empowering the public, and promoting Hindi as a communication language.
- **Challenges Faced:** The first Hindi newspaper, '*Udant Martand*', faced financial difficulties due to high mailing expenses and limited readership, leading to its closure after six months. Despite this, it paved the way for Hindi journalism.

## OBITUARY NEWS

**Actor Mukul Dev passed away**

Veteran actor Mukul Dev passed away at the age of 54, leaving the entertainment industry and his fans in deep shock. Known for his versatile roles in Hindi, Punjabi, and South Indian films, as well as television, Dev had been battling health complications and was undergoing treatment in the Intensive Care Unit for over a week prior to his demise. His brother, actor Rahul Dev, confirmed the news and expressed gratitude for the support from well-wishers during this difficult time. Dev's passing has prompted an outpouring of tributes from colleagues and fans, reflecting on his contributions to the entertainment industry and the impact he had on those who knew him.

**Foot notes:**

- **Tributes:** Industry colleagues and friends, including actors Manoj Bajpayee, Vindu Dara Singh, and Neil Nitin Mukesh, paid heartfelt tributes to Mukul Dev, remembering him for his warmth, artistry, and kindness.
- **Career Highlights:** Mukul Dev made his Bollywood debut opposite Sushmita Sen in the 1996 film "*Dastak*" and went on to work with prominent stars like Amitabh Bachchan, Salman Khan, and Ajay Devgn in films such as "*Kohram*", "*Jai Ho*", and "*Son of Sardaar*".
- **Television Work:** He also had notable roles in TV serials like "*Gharwali Uparwali*", "*Kumkum – Ek Pyara Sa Bandhan*", and "*K. Street Pali Hill*", and hosted the first season of "*Fear Factor India*" in 2006.

- Legacy: Mukul Dev's sudden demise has sent shockwaves through the entertainment industry, with many mourning the loss of a talented and beloved actor.

### **Veteran Leader Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa passed away**

Veteran Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader and former Union Minister Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa passed away on May 28, 2025, at the age of 89, following a prolonged illness. He was admitted to Fortis Hospital in Mohali on May 27, suffering from severe pneumonia and cardiac complications, which led to cardiac arrhythmia and arrest despite medical efforts. Dhindsa served as a four-time Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA), representing Sunam and Sangrur constituencies. He held significant portfolios in the Punjab Cabinet, including Transport, Sports, and Tourism. At the national level, he was a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha from 1998 to 2004 and again from 2010 to 2022.

#### **Foot notes:**

- Political Career: Dhindsa had a long and distinguished political career, serving as a Union Minister, Rajya Sabha member for three terms, and Lok Sabha MP from Sangrur. He was also a four-time MLA and held key portfolios in the Punjab government, including transport, sports, and tourism.
- Awards and Recognition: He was conferred the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian award, in 2019. However, he returned the award in 2020 in solidarity with farmers protesting against the now-repealed three farm laws.
- Party Affiliations: Dhindsa was a senior leader in the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) but had a prolonged estrangement with the party president, Sukhbir Singh Badal. He floated his own party, Shiromani Akali Dal (Sanyukt), in 2020, which later merged with SAD in 2024. However, he was expelled from the party again.

### **Veteran Actor Rajesh passed away**

Veteran Kannada actor Rajesh, known as 'Kala Thapasvi,' passed away on February 19, 2022, at the age of 89 in Bengaluru. Born as Vidyasagar on April 15, 1932, he made his mark in Kannada cinema with over 150 films, earning accolades for his versatile performances. Rajesh's career spanned several decades, during which he portrayed a wide range of characters, from lead roles to strong supporting parts. He was also recognized for his contributions to theater and literature. In 2014, he was honored with the Dr. Rajkumar Cultural Endowment Award by the Kannada Sahitya Parishat. Rajesh is survived by his daughter Aasha Rani, who is married to actor Arjun Sarja. His passing was mourned by fans and the film industry alike, marking the end of an era in Kannada cinema.

#### **Foot notes:**

- Career Highlights: Rajesh acted in over 150 films across South Indian cinema and began his career as a schoolteacher before making his cinematic debut in K. Balachander's 1974 classic "Aval Oru Thodarkathai".



- **Breakthrough Role:** He gained prominence with his breakthrough role in "Kanni Paruvathile" (1979) and went on to establish himself as a respected figure in the Tamil film industry.
- **Tributes:** Superstar Rajinikanth and actress Radikaa Sarathkumar paid heartfelt tributes to Rajesh, with Rajinikanth saying, "The news of the untimely death of my close friend, actor Rajesh, shocks me and causes me great heartache".
- **Final Film Appearance:** Rajesh's final film appearance was in the Hindi thriller "Merry Christmas", starring Vijay Sethupathi and Katrina Kaif.

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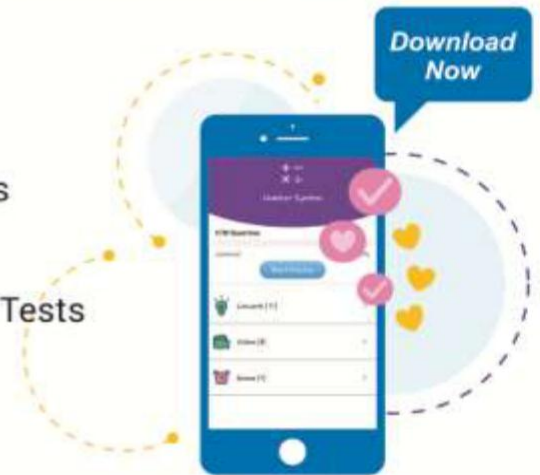
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