

THE DAILY GK DOSE

IISC PROFESSOR BECOMES 2ND INDIAN WOMAN TO SCALE HIGHEST VOLCANIC PEAK

- **Historic Feat:** On March 6, 2026, Professor Arpita Patra became the second Indian woman (following Arunima Sinha) and the first Bengali woman to scale Nevado Ojos del Salado. Standing at 6,893 meters on the Chile-Argentina border, it is the highest volcanic peak in the world.
- **Volcanic Seven Summits Journey:** This climb marks her fifth successful summit in her quest to scale the highest volcano on each of the seven continents. She has previously conquered Mt. Kilimanjaro (Africa), Mt. Elbrus (Europe), Mt. Giluwe (Oceania), and Pico de Orizaba (North America).
- **Academic-Adventure Balance:** A full-time professor in the Department of Computer Science and Automation, Patra accomplished this technical climb—which includes a grueling 50-meter rock-climbing section near the summit—while balancing rigorous academic research in cryptography.

22 YEAR OLD SURYA MIDHA BREAKS MARK ZUCKERBERG RECORD

- **Youngest Self-Made Billionaire:** At 22, Surya Midha broke the record previously held by Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg (who became a billionaire at 23). With an estimated net worth of \$2.2 billion, he is the youngest member of a trio of founders—including Brendan Foody and

Adarsh Hiremath—to debut on the Forbes 2026 list.

- **AI-Driven Success (Mercor):** Midha is the co-founder and board chairman of Mercor, a San Francisco-based AI hiring platform. Founded in 2023, the startup reached a \$10 billion valuation in late 2025.
- **Thiel Fellowship & Background:** Midha and his co-founders are recipients of the Thiel Fellowship, which provides \$100,000 to young entrepreneurs who drop out of college to build businesses.

58-FOOT BRONZE STATUE OF POTTI SRIRAMULU UNVEILED



- **The "Statue of Sacrifice":** Named the Statue of Sacrifice, the monument stands exactly 58 feet tall, symbolically representing the 58-day hunger strike Sriramulu undertook in 1952.
- **Location and Construction:** The statue is located at Shakhamura Park in Amaravati, covering a 6.8-acre site. It was constructed by the Potti Sriramulu Memorial Trust in a record time of six months, using 26 tonnes of bronze and 42 tonnes of iron. It is noted as the first major monumental sculpture installed in the greenfield capital.

IMPORTANT FACTS

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

- **Right to Equality: Articles 14–18**
- **Right to Freedom: Articles 19–22**
- **Right against Exploitation: Articles 23–24**
- **Right to Freedom of Religion: Articles 25–28**
- **Cultural and Educational Rights: Articles 29–30**
- **Right to Constitutional Remedies: Article 32.**

SARFARAZ AHMED ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM INT. CRICKET

- **Historic Leadership Milestone:** Sarfaraz is the only Pakistan captain to win two major ICC tournament finals against India. He led Pakistan to victory in the 2006 Under-19 World Cup and the 2017 ICC Champions Trophy. Under his captaincy, Pakistan also achieved a world-record streak of 11 consecutive T20I series victories and reached the No. 1 spot in the ICC T20I rankings.
- **Statistical Legacy:** Having made his debut in 2007, Sarfaraz represented Pakistan in 100 matches as captain across all formats. His last international appearance was the Perth Test against Australia in December 2023.

INDIA TOPPED MEDAL TALLY AT WORLD PARA ATHLETICS GRAND PRIX 2026

- **Record-Breaking Medal Haul (New Delhi):** India finished the New Delhi leg (March 11–13, 2026) with a massive total of 208 medals, including 75 gold, 69 silver, and 64 bronze. This placed India far ahead of Russia (35 medals) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (3 medals).
- **Standout Performers:** Double Paralympic bronze medallist Preeti Pal was a star of the meet, clinching two gold medals (including the women's 200m T35–T37). Other major gold medallists included Paralympic champions Sumit Antil (Javelin F64), Praveen Kumar (High Jump), and Navdeep (Javelin F41).
- **Strategic Global Context:** The 2026 Grand Prix circuit serves as a critical qualification and classification platform for the upcoming 2026 World Para Athletics Championships and the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympics.

DR SANTOSH KUMAR SINGH APPOINTED AS DIG IN CISF

- **Profile and Cadre:** Dr. Santosh Kumar Singh is a 2011-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Chhattisgarh cadre. Prior

to this central deputation, he served as the DIG (CCTNS/SCRB) at the Chhattisgarh Police Headquarters.

- **National Recognition (Nijat Campaign):** He is widely recognized for launching the "Nijat" campaign, an intensive anti-drug and de-addiction initiative.
- **Appointment Terms:** His appointment to the CISF is on a deputation basis for a period of five years (or until further orders).

MICHAEL B. JORDAN WINS BEST ACTOR AT OSCARS 2026



- **Historic First for Portraying Twins:** Michael B. Jordan became the first actor ever to win an Oscar for playing identical twins in a single film. In the Ryan Coogler-directed vampire thriller Sinners, he played the double role of brothers Elijah "Smoke" and Elias "Stack" Moore.
- **Sixth Black Actor to Win Best Actor:** With this win, Jordan joined an elite group as only the sixth Black man to win the Academy Award for Best Actor, following legends like Sidney Poitier, Denzel Washington,

Forest Whitaker, Jamie Foxx, and Will Smith.

- **Most Nominated Film History:** Jordan's victory was a highlight for Sinners, which set a new record as the most-nominated film in Oscar history with 16 nominations.

VETERAN BOLLYWOOD ACTRESS MADHU MALHOTRA PASSED AWAY

- **Versatile Career and Iconic Appearance:** Over a career spanning more than 100 films, her most memorable screen presence was in the 1983 blockbuster Hero. She lip-synced the legendary "gypsy woman" role in the iconic song Lambi Judaai, which remains a cult classic in Indian cinema.
- **Key Roles in Major Hits:** She was a regular collaborator with directors like Subhash Ghai and Anil Sharma. She is highly regarded for her role as "Budh's ladylove" in the multi-starrer Satte Pe Satta (1982) and featured in several other hits including Karz, The Great Gambler, Vishwanath, and Vidhaata.
- **Final Years and Legacy:** Having debuted in the 1975 horror film Andhera, she eventually moved away from the limelight in the late 1990s.

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

17.03.2026 / TUESDAY

- **World Social Work Day 2026 observed on 17th March**
- **Theme 2026: Co-Building Hope and Harmony: A Harambee Call to Unite a Divided Society**
- **It also raises awareness about how social workers support individuals, families, and communities in difficult situations.**