

THE DAILY GK DOSE

SMRITI MANDHANA NAMED SOLE SPORTSPERSON IN TIME'S 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE OF 2026

- **Global Recognition:** Mandhana has been placed in the "Titans" category alongside international icons like Cristiano Ronaldo and Erling Haaland. This selection highlights her role in shaping the current global sports landscape and her status as a trailblazer for women's cricket.
- **Record-Breaking Career:** TIME recognized her for a series of historic milestones, including becoming the first Indian woman to score a double century in a domestic one-day match. She also holds the record as the first Indian to score centuries across all three international formats.
- **Leadership and Impact:** Beyond her individual statistics, the magazine emphasized her success as a captain, having led Royal Challengers Bengaluru to Women's Premier League titles in both 2024 and 2026. Her contribution as vice-captain during India's victorious ICC Women's ODI World Cup campaign last year was also cited as a defining achievement.

SARVAM AI BECOMES INDIA'S 130TH UNICORN AFTER RAISING USD 234 MILLION

- **Significant Funding:** Sarvam AI successfully raised \$234 million in the first close of its Series B funding round. This massive capital injection was spearheaded by HCLTech, which committed \$150 million to become a lead strategic investor.
- **Strategic Collaboration:** The partnership with HCLTech aims to integrate Sarvam's sovereign AI research with the IT giant's global enterprise reach. This

collaboration focuses on building secure, scalable, and responsible AI solutions tailored for governments and large-scale industries.

INDIAN ARMY RECEIVES 106 PEACEKEEPER JET-POWERED KAMIKAZE DRONES FROM SMPP



- **High-Speed Strike Capability:** These drones are engineered for deep-strike missions, boasting a top speed of 450 km/h and an operational range of 180 kilometers. This allows the Army to neutralize critical high-value targets, such as command centers, radar installations, and logistics hubs, from a safe standoff distance.
- **Precision in Contested Environments:** The system is specifically designed to function in contested electromagnetic environments, maintaining mission accuracy despite hostile electronic warfare like jamming and spoofing. During trials, the drone demonstrated exceptional precision with a "Circular Error Probable" (CEP) of less than 5 meters.
- **Indigenous Manufacturing Milestone:** Completed within a rapid six-month timeframe, the delivery underscores a successful push toward Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) in defense. The project fills a vital operational gap between conventional artillery and long-range missile systems, with SMPP already proposing an enhanced variant for future consideration.

IMPORTANT FACTS

- *Ramakanta Rath was the first recipient of the Saraswati Samman.*
- *Vyas Samman is a prestigious award in the field of literature.*
- *For Vyas Samman, the work must be published in Hindi within the last 10 years.*
- *The Param Vir Chakra is India's equivalent of the Victoria Cross and Medal of Honor.*
- *The Bihari Award is given to Hindi and Rajasthani writers of Rajasthan.*
- *The Param Vir Chakra is India's highest military gallantry award.*

TRIPURA'S TRADITIONAL MUSICAL INSTRUMENT SARINDA RECEIVES GI TAG RECOGNITION

- **Cultural Preservation:** The GI tag provides formal legal protection to the Sarinda, helping to safeguard the authentic craftsmanship of Tripura's indigenous communities. This recognition is expected to play a crucial role in promoting and sustaining the state's invaluable folk music traditions for future generations.
 - **Unique Craftsmanship:** The instrument is traditionally carved from a single block of wood and features a hollow resonator that produces a distinct, melodic sound. Its unique design and historical association with local tribes are now officially documented and protected under this certification.
- Footnotes:** Tripura's CM: Manik Saha, Governor: Indrasena Reddy, Capital: Agartala

INDIA'S FIRST NUCLEAR ENGINEERING DESIGN CENTRE 'CODENE'

- **Strategic Partnership:** The centre is a collaborative effort between IIT Hyderabad, CEEPL India, and the French multinational Dassault Systèmes. This partnership aims to combine academic research with advanced industrial design tools to support India's growing civil nuclear sector.
- **Technological Focus:** CODENE will utilize cutting-edge technologies, including advanced 3D modeling and digital twin platforms provided by Dassault Systèmes. The facility will specifically focus on next-generation reactor technologies, nuclear safety systems, computational modeling, and the development of advanced materials.
- **National Objectives:** This initiative aligns with India's long-term goal of achieving 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047. By fostering world-class engineering talent, the centre is expected to significantly reduce dependence on foreign expertise and bolster India's self-reliance in nuclear design and innovation.

CBI RECOGNIZED AS 'BEST TECH EMERGING BUSINESS BANK' IN 2026

- **Recognition of Innovation:** The award celebrates the bank's strategic shift toward technology-led growth and its ability to implement future-ready banking

solutions. It specifically recognizes their efforts in driving digital innovation to better serve emerging business sectors.

- **Leadership Commitment:** Senior bank officials, including Deputy General Manager S. K. Sahoo, received the award on behalf of the organization. The accolade underscores the bank's internal push to modernize infrastructure and adopt cutting-edge financial technologies.

Footnotes: CBI's MD & CEO: Kalyan Kumar, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1911

INDIAN ARMY SIGNS MOU WITH BHARTI AIRTEL TO EXPAND MOBILE CONNECTIVITY IN AR



- **Bridging the Digital Divide:** The project is designed to provide reliable mobile network access to communities that have been disconnected for over a decade. This connectivity will grant local residents improved access to essential services, including digital education, healthcare, government schemes, and financial inclusion.
- **Strategic Military-Civil Integration:** The initiative enhances the operational effectiveness of Army troops deployed in forward areas by improving communication and logistical coordination. It serves as a prime example of military-civil synergy, with the Army providing critical logistical support to

transport equipment into difficult, high-altitude terrain.

- **Expansion and Future Growth:** Following a successful first phase that saw infrastructure deployed across 30 Army stations, both parties have agreed to expand the network to 15 additional locations. The improved infrastructure is also expected to boost local tourism and create new socio-economic growth opportunities throughout the border regions.
- ## LT VISHAL KUMAR AWARDED SWORD OF HONOUR & PRESIDENT'S GOLD MEDAL

- **Recognition of Excellence:** The "Sword of Honour" is awarded to the best all-round cadet, while the President's Gold Medal is presented to the individual who secures the first position in the overall order of merit. These accolades reflect his outstanding leadership, physical fitness, and professional competence throughout his training.
- **Inspirational Background:** Lieutenant Kumar is the son of a retired Sepoy from the 4 Bihar Regiment, making his success a poignant story of merit and dedication. He is the first person in his family to be commissioned as an officer, serving as a powerful inspiration for defense aspirants across the country.
- **Structured Military Journey:** His foundation was built at the Rashtriya Military School (RMS) in Chail, followed by rigorous training at the National Defence Academy (NDA) and the IMA. He is now set to join the 4 Garhwal Rifles, carrying forward the values of discipline and service instilled throughout his formative years.

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

17.06.2026 / WEDNESDAY

- **World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought: 17th June**
- **2026 Theme: "Rangelands: Recognize. Respect. Restore."**, which emphasizes the ecological, economic, cultural importance of rangelands.
- **The observance highlights the essential role of traditional stewards, whose knowledge and sustainable practices have protected these lands for generations.**