

THE DAILY GK DOSE

MUANPUI SIAWI NAMED HIGH COMMISSIONER TO NZ

- **Career Diplomat and Background:** Saiawi is a senior officer of the 2005 batch of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS). Hailing from Mizoram, she has held several prestigious roles throughout her career, including serving as First Secretary in both Japan and the Republic of Korea, and as Counsellor in Israel.
- **Strategic Importance:** Her appointment comes at a pivotal time as India and New Zealand seek to deepen bilateral ties, particularly in trade, cyber diplomacy, and emerging technologies. This follows recent milestones such as the State Visit of President Droupadi Murmu to New Zealand in late 2024 and ongoing discussions regarding trade agreements.

Footnotes: New Zealand's PM: Christopher Luxon, Capital: Wellington

KUMBHALGARH WILDLIFE

SANCTUARY DECLARED ESZ

- **Extent and Coverage:** The notification demarcates a buffer zone ranging from zero to one kilometer around the sanctuary's boundary. This ESZ covers an area of approximately 243 square kilometers and encompasses 94 villages across the districts of Rajsamand, Pali, and Udaipur.
- **Environmental Restrictions:** To safeguard the Aravalli ecosystem, the declaration bans

mining, quarrying, polluting industries, and new commercial hotels or resorts within 1 km of the sanctuary.

- **Socio-Ecological Balance:** The move goes beyond conservation to support sustainable livelihoods for indigenous communities through regulated activities. The minister said the ESZ will promote organic farming, agroforestry, and skills training, while serving as a buffer to protect wildlife like leopards, chinkaras, and four-horned antelopes.

UAE BECOMES INDIA'S SECOND-LARGEST LNG SUPPLIER



- **Long-Term Energy Security:** HPCL and ADNOC Gas signed a 10-year LNG deal under which ADNOC will supply 0.5 MMTPA to India from 2028, valued at about \$2.5–3 billion.
- **Infrastructure and Supply Chain:** The LNG will be delivered to the newly commissioned Chhara LNG terminal in Gujarat. This partnership is part of a broader strategy where, by 2029, Indian companies are expected to account for over 20% of ADNOC Gas's total annual output, cementing India's status as the UAE's largest LNG customer.

IMPORTANT FACTS

CHANGED NAMES

- **PM's Office:** *Seva Tirth*
- **MGNREGA:** *VB G Ram G*
- **Raj Bhavan:** *Lok Bhavan*
- **Central Secretariat:** *Kartavya Bhavan*
- **FIDE World Cup 2025 Trophy:** *Viswanathan Anand Cup*
- **Aurangabad Railway Station:** *Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Railway Station*
- **Atal Sohalla Classic:** *Bhagwan Birsa Munda Classic*

NASA ASTRONAUT SUNITA WILLIAMS RETIRES

- **Record-Breaking Career:** Effective December 27, 2025, Williams retired after 27 years of service. She concludes her career with 608 total days in space (the second-most by a NASA astronaut) and holds the record for the most cumulative spacewalk time by a woman, totaling 62 hours and 6 minutes across nine excursions.
- **Final "Starliner" Mission:** Her final mission, launched in June 2024 as an 8-day Starliner test, stretched to 286 days due to technical issues. She commanded ISS Expedition 72 and returned to Earth in March 2025 aboard a SpaceX Crew Dragon.
- **Global Legacy and Mentorship:** A retired U.S. Navy captain of Indian-Slovenian origin, Williams is hailed as a trailblazer by NASA and is touring India, beginning in New Delhi in January 2026, to promote the Artemis missions and inspire young scientists.

VIDARBHA WINS MAIDEN VIJAY HAZARE TROPHY TRIUMPH

- **Redemption from Last Year:** Exactly one year after losing the 2025 final to Karnataka, Vidarbha returned to the summit clash at the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru. They secured a commanding 38-run victory, successfully defending a total of 317/8 by bowling out Saurashtra for 279 in 48.5 overs.
- **Star of the Final:** Atharva Taide starred with 128 off 118 balls to set up Vidarbha's big total, supported by Yash Rathod's 54, while Yash Thakur led the bowling with 4/50..
- **Record-Breaking Season for Aman Mokhadde:** While Taide starred in the final, Aman Mokhadde was Player of the Tournament with 814 runs, becoming only the third to cross 800 in a season. The win reinforced Vidarbha's status as a dominant multi-format team.

UNION DEFENCE MINISTER INAUGURATES AMMUNITION FACILITY

- **Fully Automated Production:** The new plant, established by Solar Defence & Aerospace Limited (a subsidiary of Solar Industries), is a fully automated facility. It is dedicated to manufacturing 30mm medium-caliber ammunition, which is

extensively utilized by both the Indian Army and the Indian Navy for various weapon platforms.

- **Strategic Vision for Private Sector:** Rajnath Singh said the government aims to raise private sector participation in defence manufacturing to over 50%, highlighting systems like Bhargavastra and Nagastra as key to boosting security and cutting foreign dependence.

RAVI SHANKAR CHHABI APPOINTED DIG IN CRPF



- **Cadre and Background:** Ravi Shankar Chhabhi is a 2007-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre. He is a regular recruit hailing from the Rohtas district of Bihar and has nearly two decades of experience in various operational and administrative roles.
- **Previous Assignment:** Prior to this central deputation, he was serving as the DIG (Public

Grievances) at the Director General of Police (DGP) Headquarters in Lucknow. In that role, he was responsible for monitoring complaints against police personnel and strengthening accountability frameworks within the state police.

- **Deputation Details:** He has been appointed to the CRPF on central deputation, and the MHA has instructed Uttar Pradesh to release him immediately for his new role.

RVNL WINS CHAMPION OF CHANGE CSR AWARD

- **Recognition of Impactful Initiatives:** The award, presented by the India CSR Network, recognizes RVNL's consistent and high-impact Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects. It highlights the organization's commitment to inclusive development and sustainable nation-building beyond its core mandate of rail infrastructure.
- **Focus on Aspirational Districts:** RVNL's work in Chhattisgarh's remote Abujmahar, home to the Madiya tribe and affected by Left Wing Extremism, was praised for its impact in challenging, isolated areas.

Footnotes: RVNL Chairman & MD: Salim Ahmad, HQ: New Delhi, Estd: 2003

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

21.01.2026 / WEDNESDAY

- 1952 – Jawaharlal Nehru's Indian National Congress won India's first general election.
- 1954 – The USS Nautilus, the world's first nuclear-powered submarine, was launched.
- 1972 – Manipur, Tripura & Meghalaya became full states of India.