

THE DAILY GK DOSE

FIFA WORLD CUP 2026 KICKS OFF AT ESTADIO AZTECA

- **Historic Venue Selection:** The iconic Estadio Azteca in Mexico City has been officially selected to host the opening match of the 2026 FIFA World Cup. This legendary stadium makes history by becoming the first venue to host opening games in three different World Cup tournaments.
- **Global Sporting Celebration:** The opening match will serve as the spectacular start to an expanded tournament featuring 48 teams from around the globe. Fans from across the world will turn their attention to Mexico City as the host nation kicks off the biggest sporting event on the planet.
- **Legacy and Infrastructure:** Hosting this prestigious opener highlights the deep-rooted football culture of Mexico and the enduring significance of the Azteca. Extensive renovations have been completed to ensure the facility meets modern international standards while preserving its status as a cathedral of football.

IFS OFFICER LAKSHMANAN RAMESH BABU APPOINTED INDIA'S AMBASSADOR TO CÔTE D'IVOIRE

- **Diplomatic Appointment:** The Ministry of External Affairs has officially appointed Lakshmanan Ramesh Babu as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire. He is a career diplomat from the 2005 batch of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and is expected to assume his new role shortly.
- **Professional Background:** Before this new assignment, he served as the Consul General of India in Atlanta, United States. His extensive career includes serving in various capacities within the Ministry of External Affairs and at Indian missions in

Moscow, Dushanbe, Paris, and Colombo.

- **Proven Experience:** During his time in New Delhi, he held significant responsibilities, including managing the operational aspects of G20 meetings during India's presidency. He also played a key role as the official in charge of the ministry's control room during the high-stakes "Operation Ganga" evacuation efforts.

UNION HOME MINISTER LAUNCHED LAND PORT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM 'VINIMAY'



- **Digital Transformation of Borders:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah recently inaugurated 'VINIMAY,' a state-of-the-art digital platform designed to modernize and streamline operations across India's land ports. This initiative aims to replace manual processes with a unified electronic system.
- **Integrated Efficiency:** The system acts as a single electronic window for cargo and passenger processing, facilitating seamless coordination between customs, immigration, and border guarding forces. By integrating with national platforms like ICEGATE and ULIP, it is expected to reduce truck waiting times at borders by 40 to 60 percent.
- **Strategic Security and Trade:** Developed by the LPAI, VINIMAY supports the "Smart Borders" initiative by enhancing real-time data exchange and automated security monitoring.

IMPORTANT FACTS

- *Osmium is used for making fountain pen nibs*
- *Frederick Banting discovered insulin*
- *Insulin is used for the treatment of diabetes*
- *Frederick Banting was from Canada*
- *Mendeleev's periodic table contained 63 elements*
- *Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin*
- *Penicillin was discovered from a fungus*
- *Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin in 1928*
- *Marie Curie discovered the radioactive element radium.*

NASA NAMES ARTEMIS III CREW FOR HISTORIC 2027 MOON MISSION

- **Crew Announcement:** NASA has officially named the four-person crew for the Artemis III mission, which is scheduled for a 2027 launch. The team consists of commander Randy Bresnik, pilot Luca Parmitano, and mission specialists Frank Rubio and Andre Douglas.
- **Earth-Orbit Test Objectives:** During this time, the crew will perform complex rendezvous and docking operations with test versions of SpaceX and Blue Origin's human landing systems.
- **Strategic Stepping Stone:** This mission acts as a vital "dress rehearsal" to validate the safety and functionality of lunar technology before the Artemis IV mission attempts a crewed landing on the lunar South Pole in 2028.

VARANASI BECOMES FIRST CITY UNDER EASY CONNECT MODEL FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

- Pioneering Seamless Connectivity:** Varanasi has become the first city to launch 'Easy Connect' flights, a new initiative under the Government of India's hub-and-spoke aviation model. This service, operated by Air India starting June 25, 2026, aims to significantly simplify international travel for passengers from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
- Streamlined Transit Procedures:** The model allows travelers to complete their baggage check-in and international immigration formalities directly at their originating airport. By doing so, passengers can bypass the need to collect or re-check luggage at major hubs like Delhi, ensuring a much smoother and faster transit experience.

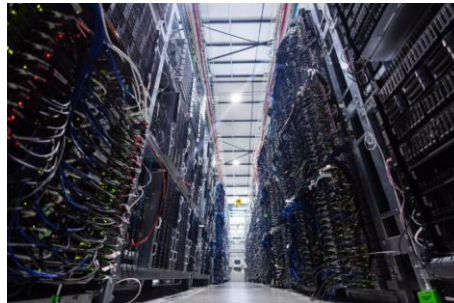
INDIAN WICKET-KEEPER KS BHARAT ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM INTERNATIONAL CRICKET

- Formal Announcement:** Indian wicket-keeper and batter KS Bharat has officially announced his retirement from international cricket at the age of 32. He shared the decision in a heartfelt social media post, describing the opportunity to represent his country as the greatest honor of his life.
- International Career Summary:** Bharat made his Test debut against Australia in February 2023 and went on to

feature in seven Test matches for India. Across these appearances, he scored 221 runs with a career-best of 44 and affected 19 dismissals behind the stumps.

- Gratitude and Future Plans:** In his farewell message, he expressed deep gratitude to his family, the BCCI, and mentors including Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, and Rahul Dravid. While stepping away from the international arena, he confirmed he will continue his involvement in cricket by mentoring and coaching the next generation of players.

META-RELIANCE PARTNER TO DEVELOP 168 MW AI-ENABLED DATA CENTRE IN JAMNAGAR



- Strategic Infrastructure Project:** Meta and Reliance Industries have signed a landmark agreement to develop a 168 MW AI-enabled data centre in Jamnagar, Gujarat. This facility marks Meta's first "built-to-suit" data centre in India, specifically designed to scale its global AI infrastructure and support compute-intensive workloads.
- Sustainability and Technology:** The data centre will be powered entirely by renewable energy and utilizes desalinated seawater for cooling, underscoring a commitment to environmentally conscious operations. Reliance will provide comprehensive end-to-end services,

including design, construction, and utility management, while Meta will cover the energy and water costs.

- Expansion of Partnership:** This project significantly deepens the long-standing strategic collaboration between the two companies, which began with Meta's 2020 investment in Jio Platforms. By shifting focus from software to critical physical infrastructure, the partnership aims to position India as a major global hub for hyperscale AI computing and digital innovation.

NATIONAL AWARD-WINNING DIRECTOR BHARATHI RAJAA PASSED AWAY

- Legendary Filmmaker Passes:** Acclaimed director and actor Bharathi Rajaa has passed away at the age of 84. His death marks the end of an era for the Indian film industry, where he was celebrated for bringing a raw, realistic portrayal of rural life to the silver screen.
- Cinematic Legacy:** Known as a pioneer of the "village-centric" genre, he revolutionized Tamil cinema with pathbreaking films like 16 Vayathinile and Karuththamma. Over his illustrious career, he won multiple National Film Awards and Filmfare Awards, cementing his status as one of India's most influential directors.
- Enduring Impact:** Beyond his directorial brilliance, he was a mentor to countless actors and technicians, shaping the careers of many current industry icons. His unique storytelling style and deep understanding of human emotions earned him a permanent place in the hearts of audiences across generations.

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

11.06.2026 / THURSDAY

- National Technology Day: 11th June**
- The theme for 2026 is "Empowering India through Science, Technology, and Innovation," focusing on driving sustainable growth and global competitiveness through indigenous solutions.**
- This day honors the significant achievements and contributions of scientists, engineers, and researchers to India's technological advancement and self-reliance.**