

# THE DAILY GK DOSE

## HARJINDER KAUR WINS BRONZE AT ASIAN WEIGHTLIFTING CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Progressive Lifting Breakdown:** In the snatch event, Harjinder secured the bronze on her final attempt. She opened with a smooth lift of 93 kg, suffered a failed second attempt at 96 kg, but showed immense grit to successfully clear 96 kg on her third and final try.
- Narrow Miss for Overall Podium:** In the clean and jerk section, she registered three flawless consecutive lifts of 115 kg, 118 kg, and 121 kg. This gave her an overall total of 217 kg, leaving her agonizingly close—just 2 kg short—of Japan's Yui Miyagoe (219 kg), who took the overall bronze.
- Competing Against a World Record Field:** The 69 kg category was historically dominated by North Korea's Song Kuk Hyang, who won gold with a massive total of 263 kg. Song's clean and jerk lift of 151 kg broke both the IWF World Record and the Asian Record, emphasizing the elite, world-class standard of the field Harjinder was competing against.

## DBN, ANDHRA SIGN PACT FOR BHARATNET EXPANSION

- Financial Outlay & Home Connections:** The Central Government has approved financial assistance worth ₹2,432 crore for this project. The initiative is projected to directly facilitate more than 5 lakh (0.5 million) rural home fibre connections across the state.
- Massive Panchayat Coverage & Technical Upgradation:** The project covers a total of 13,426

Gram Panchayats. Crucially, it includes upgrading 1,692 Phase-I Gram Panchayats from a linear topology to a ring topology to significantly enhance network resilience and minimize service disruptions. It also covers 11,254 Phase-II panchayats, 480 newly created panchayats, and 3,942 villages on a demand basis.

- Multi-Agency Framework:** The pact was signed at Sanchar Bhawan under a state-led implementation framework involving multiple stakeholders: DBN, the AP Government, Andhra Pradesh BharatNet Infrastructure Limited (APBIL) as the executing agency, BSNL, and APSFL.

## INDIA'S PASSPORT RANKED 78TH IN HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX 2026



- Mobility Score & Access Breakdown:** Holding the 78th position gives Indian passport holders visa-free, visa-on-arrival, or Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) access to exactly 56 destinations worldwide. Out of these, around 30 countries offer completely visa-free entry, while 23 provide visa-on-arrival facilities.
- Recent Ranking Fluctuations:** This 78th rank represents a minor three-place slip from earlier in the year, when India briefly climbed to the 75th position.

## IMPORTANT FACTS

### CURRENT LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN INDIA

- The current Chairman of ISRO is V. Narayanan*
- The current President of Congress is Mallikarjun Kharge*
- The current Chairman of DRDO is Samir Kamat*
- The current President of BCCI is Mithun Manhas*
- The current Attorney General of India is R. Venkataramani*
- The current President of FICCI is Anant Goenka*

## INDIA ASSUMES CHAIR OF COMMON CRITERIA DEVELOPMENT BOARD

- Official Nodal Agencies & Historical Timeline:** India's representation at the CCDB is spearheaded by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) alongside the STQC Directorate, which acts as the nation's official certification body.
- The Technical Role of CCDB vs. Policy:** Within the broader Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement (CCRA), which comprises 20 certificate-authorizing and 18 certificate-consuming nations, the CCDB functions strictly as the technical core.

## INDIAN ARMY INDUCTS INDIGENOUS ULPGM & AGNIKAA VTOL-1 DRONES

- **Procurement Framework & Delivery Command:** Both cutting-edge combat systems were fast-tracked and acquired under the Emergency Procurement (EP-6) program. They were officially handed over in Hyderabad to officials from the Army's Western Command following rigorous live precision-strike, electronic warfare (EW), and high-altitude trials.
- **ULPGM Technical Capabilities:** Co-developed by the DRDO and Adani Defence & Aerospace, the UAV-Launched Precision Guided Munition (ULPGM) is India's first indigenous system in its category. Launched from a mother UAV with an operational radius of 20 km, the munition itself has a standalone strike range of 2.5 km.

## JIO PLATFORMS APPOINTS AKASH AMBANI AS MD

- **Strategic IPO Alignment:** The elevation comes at a crucial transition point as Jio Platforms prepares for its much-anticipated Initial Public Offering (IPO). The company is expected to file its Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with SEBI by late May or June 2026, aiming for a massive public listing that could value the digital giant between \$200 billion and \$240 billion.
- **Tenure and Approval Details:** According to regulatory filings with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, the Board of Directors approved his appointment on April 9, 2026. The role is designated for a fixed five-year term (effective from April 9, 2026) and remains

subject to final shareholder ratification.

- **Dual Leadership and Track Record:** This role establishes a powerful dual-leadership framework within the Reliance ecosystem. Akash Ambani will manage the broader digital services parent arm (Jio Platforms) while continuing to serve as the Chairman of its core telecom subsidiary, Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (RJIL)—a position he has held since June 2022.

## DILEEP SANGHANI ELECTED AS CHAIRMAN OF IFFCO-MC CROP SCIENCE



- **Joint Venture Structure & Voting Details:** IFFCO-MC Crop Science was established in 2015 as a strategic joint venture between the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) and Japan's Mitsubishi Corporation.
- **Synergy with Parent Leadership:** Sanghani is an eminent titan of India's cooperative sector. This appointment heavily streamlines leadership across allied agricultural ventures, as he concurrently serves as the 17th Chairman of the parent body, IFFCO (a role he has held since January 2022).
- **Political Profile & Policy Background:** He represented Gujarat's Amreli constituency as a four-time Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha (1991–2004) and

previously served as a Cabinet Minister in the Gujarat state government, holding vital portfolios including Agriculture, Cooperation, and Animal Husbandry.

## SENIOR BOXING COACH GANESH PUROHIT WAS FELICITATED WITH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- **Award Organizer & Specific Moniker:** The Lifetime Achievement Award—formally designated as the Jeevan Gaurav Award—was conferred during the 3rd Bhau Kane Memorial Outstanding Coach Award ceremony. The prestigious event was organized jointly by the Navmaharashtra Krida Mandal (NMKM) and the Chaitanya Sports, Yoga and Cultural Foundation in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- **Prize Elements & Event Details:** The recognition carried a substantial cash prize of ₹1 lakh (₹100,000) along with a special memento, a ceremonial shawl, and a coconut. The presentation took place at the Shikshak Sahakari Bank Auditorium on May 14, 2026, marking the birth anniversary of the legendary sports organizer Bhau Kane.
- **Distinguished Background & Mentorship Track Record:** The 70-year-old veteran is an alumnus of the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose National Institute of Sports (NSNIS, Patiala), graduating with his coaching diploma back in 1986.

## WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

17.05.2026 / SUNDAY

- **World Telecommunication & Information Society Day: May 17**
- **Theme 2026: "Digital Lifelines: Strengthening Resilience in a Connected World"**
- **The day urges governments and industries worldwide to protect critical infrastructure like submarine cables and networks.**