

**IBT**<sup>®</sup>  
IBT INSTITUTE PVT. LTD

# MONTHLY — Current Affairs

June, 2025

## NATIONAL NEWS

### **Lt Commander Yashasvi Solankee Becomes First Woman ADC to President of India**

- **Appointment:** Lt Commander Yashasvi Solankee was appointed as the first woman Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to President Droupadi Murmu, marking a historic milestone for gender representation in the armed forces.
- **Background:** Solankee, 27, is a technical officer from the Indian Navy, formerly posted with Naval Armament (Defence Production) in Hyderabad. She joined the Navy in 2012 under the Short Service Commission.
- **Role of an ADC:** As ADC, Solankee will act as a liaison officer between the President and external visitors or officials, prepare the President's briefing for engagements, and accompany her during ceremonial, diplomatic, and official events.
- **Selection Process:** Solankee was selected from a panel of three women Naval officers after a rigorous process, including a 15-day evaluation at the Presidential Estate and a personal interview with the President.

### **Kamlesh Paswan Inaugurates India's First Agri-Drone Indigenization Hub in Chennai**

- **First-of-its-Kind Hub:** This 35,000 sq ft facility is India's first dedicated hub for the indigenous design, manufacturing, and rigorous testing of advanced Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) specifically for agriculture.
- **Focus on "Make in India":** The facility aims to locally produce 7 drone subsystems and 33 components, aligning with the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (self-reliant India) vision to reduce import dependency and boost domestic manufacturing.
- **Launch of Supporting Initiatives:** Alongside the hub, Paswan also launched 300 Centres of Excellence (CoEs) across India and flagged off a DGCA-approved "Train the Trainer" (TTT) program, designed to enhance drone education and skill development nationwide.
- **Boosting Agricultural Technology:** This initiative is a significant step towards modernizing Indian agriculture through drone technology, aiming to improve crop productivity, reduce costs, and empower rural communities.

### **Puducherry became the 19th legislature to adopt the NeVA platform**

**Adoption of NeVA:** Puducherry has become the 19th legislature in India to adopt the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) platform, a significant step towards digitalizing legislative functioning.

**Inauguration:** The NeVA platform was inaugurated by Union Minister Dr. L. Murugan on June 9, 2025, in the presence of Lieutenant Governor K. Kailashnathan, Chief Minister N. Rangasamy, and Assembly Speaker R. Selvam.

**Key Features:** NeVA is a workflow-based digital platform that provides real-time access to rules, notices, business lists, bills, bulletins, questions, and reports.

**Benefits:** The adoption of NeVA is expected to save 3-5 tonnes of paper annually, promoting environmental sustainability and efficient governance. It also enhances transparency and citizen participation in the legislative process.

**Foot notes:**

**About Puducherry –**

- **Official Language:** Tamil
- **Established:** 1674

### **Bihar Pioneers India's First Mobile-Based e-Voting System**

- **First in India:** Bihar is the first state in India to implement a mobile-based e-voting system, marking a paradigm shift in the country's electoral process.
- **Increased Accessibility and Turnout:** The system is designed to significantly increase voter turnout by making voting more accessible. It particularly benefits migrant laborers, Divyang (persons with disabilities), pregnant women, the elderly.
- **Secure Technology:** The e-voting system incorporates robust digital security features. This includes a blockchain platform, liveness detection, face match, live face scan, and face comparison, ensuring the voting process is tamper-proof.
- **Two Mobile Applications:** The entire e-voting process will be managed through two dedicated Android-based mobile applications: one developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and another by the Bihar State Election Commission.

**Foot notes:**

**About Bihar-**

- **Chief Minister:** Nitish Kumar
- **Governor:** Arif Mohammad Khan
- **Capital:** Patna

### **Maharashtra Makes Hindi 'General' Third Language in Schools**

- The revised Government Resolution (GR) states that Hindi will "generally" be taught as the third language for students in Classes 1 to 5 in Marathi and English medium schools, aligning with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the State Curriculum Framework 2024.
- While Hindi is the default, students have the option to choose another Indian language as their third language.
- This option is conditional at least 20 students in a class must opt for that specific alternative language. If this threshold is met, a teacher will be provided, or the language will be taught online.
- Irrespective of the medium of instruction (Marathi, English, or any other), Marathi remains a compulsory language across all schools in Maharashtra.

**Foot notes:****About Maharashtra-**

- **Capital:** Mumbai
- **Chief Minister:** Devendra Fadnavis
- **Governor:** C. P. Radhakrishnan

**Anantha Chandrakasan Becomes First Indian-Born Provost of MIT**

- **Background:** Born in Chennai, India, Chandrakasan moved to the United States during high school. His mother, a biochemist, was a Fulbright Scholar. He holds a Bachelor's, Master's, and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences from the University of California, Berkeley.
- **Leadership Roles:** Chandrakasan serves as the 14th Provost of MIT, Chief Innovation and Strategy Officer, and Vannevar Bush Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. He previously served as Dean of the School of Engineering since 2017 and Head of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS).
- **Research Focus:** His research focuses on energy-efficient electronic circuits, and he leads the MIT Energy-Efficient Circuits and Systems Group. Chandrakasan has worked on projects involving ultra-low power biomedical devices, energy-efficient processors, and wireless authentication tags.
- **Awards and Honors:** He has received numerous awards, including the Semiconductor Industry Association University Researcher Award, IEEE Donald O. Pederson Award in Solid-State Circuits, and honorary doctorates from KU Leuven and the National Technical University of Athens.

## UPSC Launches 'Pratibha Setu' to Connect Top Candidates with Private Employers

- **Objective:** Pratibha Setu aims to connect top candidates who cleared all stages of UPSC exams but narrowly missed the final merit list with government and private sector employers, enhancing employability and visibility for these talented individuals.
- **Database Access:** The platform provides verified employers with access to a database of over 10,000 willing candidates who are "almost equally meritorious" as recommended candidates, allowing employers to select top talent.
- **Voluntary Participation:** Candidates must opt-in to share their profiles, and employers can register through the UPSC portal to access candidate information, ensuring a secure and transparent process.
- **Expanded Scope:** Pratibha Setu builds upon the earlier Public Disclosure Scheme, now offering a more comprehensive platform for employers to connect with top candidates from various UPSC exams, including Civil Services and Engineering Services.

### Foot notes:

#### About UPSC-

- **Formed:** 1926
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi

## India's first AI- powered traffic system goes live on Dwarka expressway

- **India's inaugural AI-driven ATMS launched:** The Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS), India's first AI-powered smart traffic system, was rolled out on the 56.46 km stretch of the Dwarka Expressway and an adjacent portion of NH-48
- **Intelligent violation detection:** Equipped with 110 high-definition PTZ cameras and a Video Incident Detection & Enforcement System (VIDES), the system can detect around 14 types of offences—including overspeeding, seatbelt non-use, and triple riding—and automatically trigger e-challans via the NIC portal
- **Driver awareness and speed control:** Vehicle Actuated Speed Displays (VASD) alert drivers of their speed in real time, while Variable Message Signboards (VMS) provide alerts on traffic, safety advisories, and other important updates
- **National benchmark for smart highways:** Developed by Indian Highways Management Company Ltd (IHMCL) and implemented under NHAI's 2023 smart

highway guidelines, the ATMS on Dwarka Expressway is positioned as a national model for intelligent traffic governance and road safety

### **Sarbananda inaugurates India's first maritime non-banking financial company**

- **Historic Launch of Maritime NBFC:** On June 26, 2025, Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated SMFCL—formerly Sagarmala Development Company Ltd—making it India’s first RBI-registered NBFC dedicated solely to the maritime sector
- **Sector-Specific Financing Solutions:** SMFCL is structured to provide customized financial support—short, medium, and long term—to port authorities, shipping firms, maritime MSMEs, startups, and education/training institutions
- **Strategic Capital Backing:** Classified as a Mini-Ratna Category-I PSU, SMFCL has a strong Tier-1 capital base of approximately ₹680 crore, with borrowing capacity up to ₹3,400 crore to fund diverse maritime initiatives
- **Alignment with Maritime Vision 2047:** The new NBFC supports “Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047” by bridging financing gaps and enhancing India’s capabilities in shipbuilding, port modernization, renewable energy, cruise tourism, and maritime education
- **Boost to Blue Economy Growth:** SMFCL is poised to catalyze sustainable growth in India’s maritime sector by enabling easier access to capital, fostering innovation in shipbuilding and cruise infrastructure, and supporting educational and startup ecosystems

### **Shubhanshu Shukla becomes 1st Indian to set foot on ISS**

- **Historic Crew Dragon Launch & Docking:** Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla launched aboard SpaceX’s Crew Dragon on Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4) from NASA’s Kennedy Space Center on June 25, 2025, and docked with the ISS around 4:01 PM IST on June 26, 2025
- **A Milestone for India:** He made history as the first Indian astronaut to enter the ISS, and only the second Indian in space after Rakesh Sharma (1984), marking India’s return to human spaceflight after 41 years
- **Esteemed Background & Training:** Shukla, an IAF test pilot and ISRO astronaut selected in 2019, trained at Russia’s Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Center and later with NASA, showcasing India's rising capabilities in international space collaborations
- **Warm Welcome & Emotional Entry:** Upon docking, he received hugs and a warm welcome from ISS crew members, completed safety briefings, and shared a heartfelt message to Indians, proudly stating his astronaut number 634 and expressing confidence in the next 14 days of research

- **Scientific Research & Cultural Touch:** He will spend two weeks on the ISS conducting over 60 scientific experiments, including life science, microgravity, and earth observation. Notably, he carried Indian halwas and mango nectar, blending cultural heritage with scientific discovery

### **Dangeti Jahnavi Becomes First Indian to Complete NASA's Space Program**

- **Completed NASA Program:** Jahnavi Dangeti has become the first Indian to successfully complete NASA's prestigious International Air and Space Program, showcasing her potential as a future astronaut.
- **Space Mission Selection:** She has been selected as an Astronaut Candidate (Ascan) for Titans Space's very first orbital mission, scheduled for March 2029, where she will travel to space and orbit the Earth twice.
- **STEM Education and Outreach:** Jahnavi is a strong advocate for STEM education and space outreach, having delivered talks for ISRO's educational programs and addressed students at National Institutes of Technology (NITs) across India.
- **Astronaut Training:** Starting in 2026, Jahnavi will undergo intensive astronaut training over the next three years through Titan Space's ASCAN program, which includes flight simulations, spacecraft operations, survival training, and comprehensive medical and psychological evaluations.
- **Achievements and Awards:** Jahnavi has received notable awards, including the People's Choice Award at the NASA Space Apps Challenge and the ISRO World Space Week Young Achiever Award, recognizing her contributions to space science and education.

### **India's First Butterfly Sanctuary Inaugurated in Kerala's Aralam Forest**

- **Location and Size:** The Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary is located in Kannur district, Kerala, within the Western Ghats, and spans 55 square kilometers of tropical and semi-evergreen forests.
- **Butterfly Diversity:** The sanctuary is home to over 266 species of butterflies, accounting for more than 80% of Kerala's butterfly diversity, including rare and endangered species like the Common Albatross and Danaine species.
- **Seasonal Migration:** The sanctuary witnesses a significant butterfly migration between December and February, with hundreds of butterflies traveling down from the hills, following rivers and sunlight, creating a spectacular display of colors.
- **Conservation Efforts:** The sanctuary's designation is the result of 25 years of conservation efforts, surveys, and advocacy by researchers, forest officials, and

environmental groups, aiming to provide a protected habitat for butterflies and promote eco-tourism and research.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### **American tennis star Taylor Fritz clinched the Stuttgart Open 2025 title**

- **First Title of 2025:** Taylor Fritz secured his first ATP Tour title of the 2025 season by winning the Stuttgart Open.
- **Defeated Alexander Zverev:** In the final, Fritz defeated home favorite and top seed Alexander Zverev in straight sets (6-3, 7-6(0)).
- **Dominant Performance:** Fritz had a stellar tournament, not dropping a single set and not facing a break point in the final, showcasing exceptional serving.
- **Fourth Career Grass Title:** This victory marked Fritz's fourth career title on grass, making him one of the most successful active players on the surface.

### **Armand Duplantis Sets 12th World Record with 6.28m Vault**

- **Record-Breaking Jump:** Duplantis achieved this feat on his first attempt, showcasing his exceptional skill and dominance in the sport. He had previously set the record at 6.27m in February 2025.
- **Historic Significance:** This record-breaking jump marks the 12th time Duplantis has surpassed his own world record, solidifying his position as a two-time Olympic champion and serial world record breaker.
- **Home Crowd Delight:** The event took place at Stockholm's 1912 Olympic Stadium, making it a special moment for Duplantis, who had family members in attendance cheering him on.
- **Future Prospects:** Duplantis has expressed his ambition to push the boundaries further, aiming for a jump of 6.30m. With his current form, it's likely he'll continue to dominate the sport.
- **Competition Highlights:** The Stockholm Diamond League meet saw other impressive performances, including Julien Alfred's win in the women's 100m with a time of 10.75 seconds and Femke Bol's victory in the women's 400m hurdles with a season's best time of 52.11 seconds.

### **Ankita Raina Clinches 32nd Doubles Title with Alice Robbe at Guimaraes ITF**

- **32nd Career Doubles Title:** This victory marks a significant milestone for Ankita Raina, bringing her career doubles title tally to an impressive 32.

- Partnership with Alice Robbe: Raina teamed up with French player Alice Robbe to clinch the title, demonstrating a strong international collaboration on the court.
- Third Title of 2025 Season: This win is Raina's third doubles title in the 2025 season alone, highlighting her consistent form and success this year.
- Comeback Victory in the Final: The duo, seeded fourth, had a thrilling comeback in the final, defeating the Japanese pair of Hiromi Abe and Kanako Morisaki 1-6, 6-4, [10-8] after losing the first set.
- Boost for Rankings and Confidence: Winning an ITF \$40,000 event provides valuable ranking points and a significant boost in confidence for Raina as she continues her journey in professional tennis.

### **Russell Claims Victory in Canada as McLaren Duo Norris & Piastri Collide**

- Russell's First Win of 2025: George Russell secured his maiden victory of the 2025 F1 season for Mercedes, showcasing strong pace and strategic execution throughout the race.
- McLaren Teammate Collision: In the closing stages of the race, McLaren drivers Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri made contact while battling for position. Norris, attempting an overtake, ran into the back of Piastri's car on Lap 67.
- Norris's Retirement & Piastri's Finish: The collision forced Lando Norris to retire from the race due to front suspension damage, a significant blow to his championship hopes.
- Safety Car Finish: The incident between the McLarens brought out a safety car, under which the race ultimately concluded, sealing Russell's victory.

### **Prof M Satish Kumar appointed as First Dean of Queen's University Belfast's GIFT City Campus**

- Expertise: Prof. Kumar is a globally recognized interdisciplinary scholar specializing in colonial, postcolonial, and decolonial geographies of South Asia, with a strong affinity to social sciences and humanities, promoting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Appointment: He has been appointed as the First Dean of Queen's University Belfast's GIFT City Campus, leveraging his experience in internationalization and collaborative partnerships between UK and Indian universities.
- Research Focus: Prof. Kumar's research explores cultural heritage challenges due to rapid urban expansion, political conflict, and climate change, emphasizing the role of cultural heritage in informing questions of marginalization and identity.

- **Leadership Experience:** As the Director of the Queen's Academy in India and Senior Lecturer at the School of Geography, Archaeology, and Paleoecology, Prof. Kumar has developed strong research links with Indian universities and contributed to Queen's University Belfast's internationalization agenda.

### **India re-appoints Aliawati Longkumer as Ambassador to North Korea**

- **Appointment:** Aliawati Longkumer, a 2008-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, has been appointed as India's Ambassador to North Korea, marking the country's return to diplomatic representation in Pyongyang after a four-year gap.
- **Background:** Longkumer currently serves as Charge d'Affaires at the Indian Embassy in Asuncion, Paraguay, and is expected to assume his new role in Pyongyang shortly.
- **India-North Korea Relations:** Diplomatic relations between India and North Korea were established in 1973, with India maintaining a balanced relationship despite closer ties with South Korea and the US.
- **Strategic Significance:** The appointment highlights India's interest in maintaining open communication channels with North Korea, given the country's strategic alliances with China and Russia, and its nuclear capabilities.
- **Previous Ambassador:** Atul Malhari Gotsurve was the last Indian ambassador to North Korea before the embassy's closure in July 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has now been reopened in December 2024.

#### **Foot notes:**

##### **About North Korea-**

- **Capital:** Pyongyang
- **Currency:** North Korean Won

### **UN Declares 2026 as International Year of the Woman Farmer**

- **Recognizing Indispensable Role:** The declaration highlights the indispensable contributions of women to food security, nutrition, and poverty eradication worldwide.
- **Addressing Gender Disparities:** It seeks to bring global attention to the significant challenges and disparities faced by women farmers, including limited land ownership, restricted access to credit, technology, markets, and decision-making processes.
- **Platform for Policy and Action:** The International Year will serve as a crucial platform to advocate for and facilitate the adoption of effective policies and concrete actions aimed at overcoming these barriers.

- **Promoting Gender Equality and Empowerment:** The initiative is designed to foster gender equality and empower women in agriculture, recognizing that investing in women farmers leads to more efficient, inclusive, and resilient food systems.
- **Boosting Global Food Security and Rural Livelihoods:** By elevating the status and capacity of women farmers, the UN aims to enhance global food security, improve household nutrition.

### **Sandeep Sood appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Guinea**

- **New Diplomatic Role:** Sandeep Sood has been appointed as India's next Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea, signifying a key diplomatic posting in West Africa.
- **Experienced IFS Officer:** He is an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer from the 2009 batch, bringing a considerable amount of experience in foreign relations.
- **Currently Director in MEA:** Before this appointment, Sandeep Sood was serving as a Director in the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi, where he was involved in key policy planning and international cooperation initiatives.
- **Strengthening India-Africa Ties:** His appointment aligns with India's ongoing efforts to enhance its strategic, economic, and cultural ties with African nations.

### **IndiGo Ranked Among World's Best Low-Cost Airlines in Skytrax 2025 Awards**

- **Ranked 3rd Globally in Low-Cost:** IndiGo has been ranked as the world's third-best low-cost airline in the Skytrax 2025 awards, a major global recognition for an Indian carrier. It follows AirAsia (Malaysia) and Scoot (Singapore).
- **Top Low-Cost in India & South Asia:** The airline also secured the top spot as the Best Low-Cost Airline in India & South Asia, further solidifying its regional dominance.
- **Overall Top 100 Presence:** IndiGo was also placed at #39 in the World's Top 100 Airlines for 2025, climbing from its previous rank of #42.
- **Customer-Voted Awards:** The Skytrax awards are based on the largest airline passenger satisfaction survey globally, with the 2025 edition gathering votes from 22.3 million passengers across over 325 airlines worldwide. This highlights strong customer satisfaction with IndiGo's services.

#### **Foot notes:**

##### **About IndiGo-**

- **CFO:** Gaurav M. Negi
- **Founded:** 2006
- **Headquarters:** Gurugram

### **Qatar Retained the World's Best Airline in India/South Asia**

- **Best Airline Title:** Qatar Airways has been named the World's Best Airline for the ninth time at the 2025 World Airline Awards, held at the Paris Air Show. This recognition reflects the airline's commitment to quality, comfort, and innovation.
- **Awards and Recognition:** Qatar Airways also won awards for the World's Best Business Class and the Best Business Class Airline Lounge experience globally, showcasing its exceptional service standards.
- **Rankings:** The airline is ranked number one globally, followed by Singapore Airlines and Cathay Pacific Airways, which ranked second and third, respectively.
- **Customer Satisfaction:** The World Airline Awards are based on customer satisfaction surveys, with over 100 nationalities participating and more than 325 airlines featured in the survey results.

#### **Foot notes:**

##### **About Qatar-**

- **Capital:** Doha
- **Prime Minister:** Mohammed bin Abdulrahman

### **DCA Launches 'Cyber Suraksha' to Fortify National Cyber Defence**

- **Objective:** The primary goal of Exercise Cyber Suraksha is to enhance India's cyber defense capabilities and promote collaboration among stakeholders, including military and national organizations, to tackle emerging cyber threats effectively.
- **Participation:** The exercise saw participation from various stakeholders, including the Indian Armed Forces, intelligence agencies, critical infrastructure providers, and other government organizations responsible for cybersecurity, ensuring a comprehensive approach to cyber defense.
- **Key Focus Areas:** The exercise focused on developing cyber defense skills, promoting jointmanship, and creating a unified front against cyber threats. It also aimed to identify gaps and vulnerabilities in India's cyber defense posture and develop effective mitigation strategies.
- **Importance of Jointmanship:** Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan emphasized the critical need for jointmanship among all stakeholders in the cyber domain, highlighting that cyber threats are borderless and require a collaborative approach to defend against them.

### **India-Cyprus Sign MoU to Enable UPI Services for Cross-Border Payments**

- **Parties Involved:** The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) International Payments Ltd. (NIPL) and Eurobank Cyprus have signed the MoU to introduce Unified Payments Interface (UPI) services in Cyprus for cross-border transactions.
- **Purpose:** The primary purpose of this MoU is to the Indian diaspora in Cyprus, facilitating seamless cross-border transactions, especially for tourists and businesses.
- **Benefits:** This partnership will enable Indian tourists and businesses in Cyprus to make easy payments through UPI, facilitate bilateral trade payments, and enhance financial collaboration between the two countries.
- **Strategic Importance:** Cyprus is a significant economic partner for India, with cumulative foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows of \$15 billion. This partnership aims to make Cyprus a gateway to Europe and the Mediterranean for India's fintech and digital services.

### Maaya Rajeshwaran Wins ITF J200 Title in Germany

- **Tournament Performance:** Maaya dominated the tournament, winning all her matches convincingly, including a 6-2, 6-1 win over third seed Daphnee Mpetshi Perricard of France in the semifinals.
- **Ranking and Recognition:** Currently ranked No. 79 in the ITF Junior Rankings and No. 646 in WTA, Maaya's win is expected to boost her rankings and strengthen her case for direct entries into top-tier junior events.
- **Future Prospects:** This win demonstrates Maaya's potential to compete in higher-grade tournaments, including J300 and Junior Grand Slams, and may lead to more consistent participation in the ITF Women's Circuit.
- **Versatility:** Maaya has shown adaptability across different surfaces, and this win on European clay adds another dimension to her junior résumé, which already includes victories at J100 and J300 events.

### K Paul Thomas elected chairman of Sa-Dhan

- **Election:** K Paul Thomas, MD & CEO of ESAF Small Finance Bank, has been elected as chairman of Sa-Dhan, a self-regulatory organization (SRO) for microfinance institutions recognized by the RBI.
- **Background:** Thomas has over 32 years of experience in management, with more than 25 years in the microfinance sector, and previously worked with Indian Farmers Fertilizers Co-operative Ltd (IFFCO) for 18 years.

- **Sa-Dhan Role:** As chairman, Thomas will lead Sa-Dhan's efforts to promote innovation, financial inclusion, and sustainable development through microfinance, with a focus on addressing current challenges with long-term solutions.
- **Board Reconstitution:** The Sa-Dhan board has been reconstituted with Thomas as chairperson, along with Sadaf Sayeed (MD & CEO, Muthoot Microfin) and Mukul Jaiswal (MD, Cashphor) as co-chairs, and Vivekananda Salimath (Chair, IDF) as treasurer.
- **Objectives:** Under Thomas' leadership, Sa-Dhan aims to develop, promote, and support ecosystems of impact financing institutions that enable inclusive growth, equity, gender equality, and sustainable development in society.

### Sanjeev Kumar Singla accredited as next Ambassador of India to the Principality of Monaco

- **Appointment as Ambassador:** Sanjeev Kumar Singla has been appointed as India's Ambassador to France and the Principality of Monaco, showcasing India's diplomatic efforts to strengthen ties with European nations.
- **Experience and Expertise:** Singla is a seasoned diplomat from the 1997 batch of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), with extensive experience in handling complex diplomatic situations, including his previous role as Ambassador to Israel.
- **Previous Roles:** He served as Private Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi from 2014 to 2019 and has worked in various capacities at Indian Missions in Paris, Dhaka, Geneva, and Tel Aviv, demonstrating his broad understanding of global affairs.
- **Diplomatic Tenure in Israel:** Singla played a significant role in maintaining strong and balanced relations between India and Israel during his tenure from 2019 to 2024, earning him recognition as an "expert on Israel".

### Carlos Alcaraz Clinches Second Queen's Club Title

- **Match Result:** Carlos Alcaraz defeated Jiri Lehecka with a score of 7-5, 6-7 (5/7), 6-2 in the final, showcasing his resilience and skill on grass courts.
- **Tournament Performance:** Alcaraz dropped just two sets throughout the tournament, demonstrating his dominance. He played a nearly flawless match against Lehecka, tallying 18 aces and only two double faults.
- **Winning Streak:** This victory marks Alcaraz's 18th consecutive match win, following his title successes in Rome and at the French Open. His last loss was to Holger Rune in the Barcelona final on April 20.

- **Grass Court Expertise:** Alcaraz has now won four grass court titles, tying Rafa Nadal's career total. He's developed into a formidable force on grass, evident from his wins at Queen's and Wimbledon in 2023.
- **Wimbledon Preparation:** Alcaraz eyes a historic three-peat at Wimbledon, which starts with June 30, riding high on his current form and recent French Open victory.

### South Korea appoints First Civilian Defence Minister in 64 Years

- **Appointment:** Ahn Gyu-back, a five-term liberal lawmaker from President Lee Jae Myung's Democratic Party, has been nominated as the country's first civilian Defence Minister since 1961.
- **Background:** Ahn has served on the National Assembly's defence committee and chaired a legislative panel that investigated former President Yoon Suk Yeol's martial law decree.
- **Breaking Tradition:** For 64 years, South Korea's defence ministers have come from the military, a trend that continued even after the country's democratization in the late 1980s.
- **Martial Law Crisis:** The appointment follows a failed martial law attempt by former President Yoon Suk Yeol, who was indicted on rebellion charges and removed from office.
- **Reforms and Relations with North Korea:** Ahn is expected to push for military reforms and support President Lee's efforts to improve relations with North Korea.

#### Foot notes:

##### About South Korea-

- **President:** Lee Jae-myung
- **Capital:** Seoul

### Kirsty Coventry Becomes First Female & African President of the IOC

- **Historic Election:** Kirsty Coventry was elected as the 10th President of the IOC, succeeding Thomas Bach, who completed his 12-year tenure. She won the election with 49 out of 97 votes, defeating six other candidates.
- **First Female and African President:** Coventry made history by becoming the first woman and the first African to hold the presidency of the IOC. She expressed her commitment to harnessing the power of sport to unite, inspire, and create opportunities for all <sup>1</sup>.
- **Background and Experience:** A five-time Olympian and seven-time Olympic medalist, Coventry is currently the Minister of Sport, Art, and Recreation in

Zimbabwe. She has also served as the Chair of the IOC Athletes' Commission and Vice President of the International Surfing Federation.

- **Term and Responsibilities:** Coventry will serve an eight-year term, eligible for re-election once for a four-year term. She will lead the IOC in navigating complex issues such as athlete rights, sustainability of the Games, and relations with global sports federations and sponsors.

### China's former Vice Finance Minister appointed AIIB prez

- **Appointment:** Zou Jiayi has been appointed as the new President of AIIB, succeeding Jin Liqun, the founding President of the bank. Her five-year term will begin on January 16, 2026.
- **Background:** Zou is a seasoned leader with over three decades of experience in global financial policy at the highest levels. She has been instrumental in China's engagement with major international financial institutions.
- **Experience:** Zou's expertise spans organizations such as the World Bank Group, Asian Development Bank, New Development Bank, and AIIB. As former Vice Finance Minister of China, she played a crucial role in shaping the country's participation in these institutions.
- **AIIB's Shareholders:** China is the largest shareholder of AIIB with 26.54% voting shares, followed by India with 7.58%, Russia with 5.9%, and Germany with 4.1%. This diverse shareholder base reflects the bank's global reach and influence.

### Zou Jiayi appointed as New AIIB President, Succeeds Jin Liqun

- **Historic Leadership Change:** Zou Jiayi has been elected as the President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), becoming the first female leader of the multilateral development bank. She will begin her five-year term on January 16, 2026, succeeding founding President Jin Liqun.
- **Distinguished Career:** Zou is a seasoned economist with over three decades of experience in global financial policy. Previously, she served as China's Vice Minister of Finance, held leadership roles in the CPPCC, and participated in major institutions like the World Bank and ADB.
- **Strategic Transition:** The AIIB Board of Governors confirmed her appointment during its 10th annual meeting in Beijing, marking a carefully planned handover from Jin's decade-long leadership from 2016 to 2026.
- **Continuity and Global Expansion:** Zou will lead AIIB into its next decade, focusing on climate finance, infrastructure projects, and expanding presence in major global financial centers like Hong Kong, London, and Singapore.

- **Bank's Strong Foundation:** Under Jin Liqun, AIIB grew from 57 to 110 member countries, financed over 322 projects totaling more than USD 60 billion, and earned AAA ratings. Zou inherits a robust institution positioned to deepen investments in sustainable infrastructure

#### Foot notes:

#### About AIIB-

- **New President:** Jin Liqun
- **Headquarters:** Beijing
- **Formation:** 2016

### Gold Becomes World's Second-Largest Reserve Asset After U.S. Dollar

- **Gold's Share in Global Reserves:** Gold now makes up 20% of global official reserves by market value, compared to the euro's 16%. This marks the highest prominence for gold in global reserves since the Bretton Woods era.
- **Central Bank Buying Spree:** Central banks have been on a gold-buying spree since 2022, accumulating over 1,000 tonnes per year—twice the average annual purchase rate of the previous decade. China, India, and Turkey have collectively added over 600 tonnes of gold since the end of 2021.
- **Price Surge:** Gold prices soared by 30% in 2024, followed by another 30% in early 2025, boosting the market value of gold held by central banks.
- **Desire for Diversification:** Central banks are looking to shield themselves from the weaponization and depreciation of the dollar, as well as US fiscal irresponsibility and the use of tariffs as a negotiating tool.
- **Impact on Dollar's Dominance:** The percentage of dollars held as a global reserve asset tumbled from 48.4% to 46.5% in 2024, while gold's share leapt from 18.1% to 19.6%.

### IFFCO to set up first overseas nano fertiliser plant in Brazil

- **Joint Venture:** IFFCO has partnered with Brazilian company NANOFERT to establish a 7:3 joint venture for manufacturing nano-soil nutrients in Curitiba, Parana province, Brazil.
- **Production Capacity:** The plant will produce 4.5 million liters of nano-fertilizers annually, catering to the demand for nano-fertilizers in Brazil and other countries.
- **Increased Market Presence:** The plant is expected to increase IFFCO's global market presence and reduce costs. IFFCO has already exported 0.5 million bottles of nano-soil nutrients to over 40 countries.

- **Crop Yield Increase:** Studies have shown that the use of nano-fertilizers can increase crop yields, with a 10% increase in corn and soybean yields and a 7% increase in sugarcane productivity.
- **Trial Production:** Trial production at the Brazil plant is expected to commence by the end of 2025. The plant's establishment is the first phase of the project, and IFFCO plans to expand production capacity in Brazil after assessing market demand.

**Foot notes:****About IFFCO-**

- **CEO:** Dr. Udai Shanker Awasthi
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Founded:** 1967

## **BANKING & FINANCE NEWS**

### **Maruti Suzuki Partners with Equitas Bank to Boost Retail Car Financing**

- **Expanded Financing Options:** The partnership aims to provide a wider range of retail financing solutions for new cars, used cars, and commercial vehicles, making Maruti Suzuki's offerings more accessible to a broader customer base.
- **Increased Accessibility and Affordability:** By leveraging Equitas Bank's growing customer network, especially in Tier II and Tier III cities, the collaboration will enhance the affordability and accessibility of Maruti Suzuki vehicles for customers across various profiles.
- **Tailored and Competitive Financing:** The agreement focuses on offering competitive financing offers and tailored loan structures with flexible repayment options, aiming to provide greater customer benefits and a hassle-free buying experience.
- **Strategic Reach and Growth:** This alliance reflects Maruti Suzuki's commitment to providing convenient finance options and is expected to drive growth and customer satisfaction for both entities by reaching a wider audience, including first-time car buyers.

**Foot notes:****About Equitas Bank-**

- **Founded:** 2007
- **Headquarters:** Chennai
- **MD & CEO:** Vasudevan

## **Dhanlaxmi Bank appoints Ashutosh Khajuria as Independent Director**

- **Vast Banking Experience:** He possesses over 44 years of extensive experience in various executive roles within the banking sector and financial markets.
- **Former Federal Bank Executive Director:** Khajuria served as the Executive Director of Federal Bank Ltd. for seven years, where he also held crucial positions like Chief Financial Officer, Chief Credit Officer and Head of Treasury.
- **Diverse Institutional Background:** His professional journey includes leadership and key roles at several prominent financial institutions, including IDBI Bank, SBI, Bank of Baroda, Allahabad Bank, and Edelweiss AMC.
- **Broad Expertise:** His expertise encompasses various facets of banking, such as Commercial Banking, Finance, Treasury, Credit, Risk Management, and Strategic Management.
- **Current Board Positions:** He currently serves as a Member of the Board of Directors for Kriti Nutrients Limited, SBI Mutual Fund Trustee Company Private Limited & Clearing Corporation of India Dealing Systems Ltd.

### **Foot notes:**

#### **About Dhanlaxmi Bank-**

- **CEO & MD:** Ajith Kumar
- **Headquarters:** Thrissur
- **Founded:** 1927

## **SPORTS NEWS**

### **Nishant Dev wins 2nd professional fight in Super Welterweight bout in New York**

- **Victory Details:** Nishant Dev won his second professional fight by unanimous decision, defeating Josue Silva 60-54 in a Super Welterweight bout at Madison Square Garden Theatre in New York.
- **Performance:** Dev dominated the six-round contest with his superior speed, crisp distance management, and nimble footwork, controlling the pace and rhythm of the bout.
- **Background:** The 24-year-old Indian boxer, who recently turned professional, was victorious in his debut match in January, winning against Alton Wiggins via first-round stoppage.
- **Fight Card:** The bout featured on the undercard of the high-profile clash between Richardson Hitchins and George Kambosos Jr., showcasing Dev's growing skills in the professional circuit.

### **South Africa Win First ICC Title in 27 Years, Clinch WTC 2025**

- **End of a Long Drought:** South Africa finally broke their 27-year wait for an ICC trophy, winning the World Test Championship (WTC) final in June 2025. Their last ICC title was the 1998 ICC Knockout Cup.
- **Defeated Arch-Rivals Australia:** In a highly anticipated final at Lord's, South Africa defeated defending champions Australia by 5 wickets, securing their maiden WTC title.
- **Markram's Heroics:** Aiden Markram was the star of the final, scoring a magnificent 136 in the fourth innings to guide South Africa to successfully chase down a target of 282 runs. He was named Player of the Match.
- **Temba Bavuma's Leadership:** Captain Temba Bavuma, despite battling a hamstring injury, played a crucial supporting knock of 66 and became the first black African captain to lift an ICC trophy for South Africa.

### **Senthilkumar signs off with bronze medal in Asian Squash C'ships**

- **Bronze Medal Win:** Velavan Senthilkumar from India won a bronze medal at the Asian Squash Championships held in Kuching, Malaysia.
- **Semifinal Loss:** Senthilkumar lost to second seed Alex Lau Tsz Kwan of Hong Kong in the semifinals with a score of 1-3 (9-11, 11-13, 11-5, 6-11).
- **Consecutive Medal:** This bronze medal marks Senthilkumar's second consecutive medal at the Asian Squash Championships, following a silver medal in the 2023 edition.
- **Match Duration:** The semifinal match lasted 65 minutes, showcasing the intense competition between Senthilkumar and Alex Lau Tsz Kwan.
- **India's Campaign End:** Senthilkumar's loss marked the end of India's campaign in the individual contest, but Indian players will participate in the doubles contest scheduled for next week.

### **U Mumba crowned Ultimate Table Tennis champions 2025**

- **Championship Win:** U Mumba defeated Jaipur Patriots 8-4 in the final to claim their first-ever Ultimate Table Tennis title.
- **Star Performance:** Bernadette Szocs, U Mumba's captain and World No. 12, was instrumental in the win, earning 5 points, including a 2-1 victory over Sreeja Akula and a dominant 3-0 win in the mixed doubles with Akash Pal.

- **Prize Money:** U Mumba earned Rs 60 lakh as champions, while Jaipur Patriots took home Rs 40 lakh as runners-up. Semifinalists Dabang Delhi TTC and the Challengers received Rs 17.5 lakh each.
- **MVP Awards:** Bernadette Szocs was named the Female MVP of UTT Season 6, while Harmeet Desai of Dempo Goa Challengers was awarded the Male MVP.

### **Yajik Hillang bags Gold medal at South Asian Bodybuilding & Physique**

- **Gold Medal Win:** Yajik Hillang won a gold medal in the Women's Model Physique category (up to 155 cm) at the 15th South Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championships 2025 held in Thimphu, Bhutan.
- **Historic Achievement:** Hillang became the first female physique athlete from Arunachal Pradesh to win a gold medal at an international event, marking a significant milestone for the state's sporting legacy.
- **Multiple Medals:** She won not only the gold medal but also a silver medal in another physique division and a bronze medal in the swimsuit physique event.
- **Recognition:** Her achievement was praised by prominent figures, including Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu and Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, who congratulated her on creating history.

### **India's Smriti Mandhana regained the No. 1 position in ODI ranking**

- **Current Ranking:** Mandhana has 727 rating points, surpassing England's Natalie Sciver-Brunt (719 points) and South Africa's Laura Wolvaardt (719 points), who are ranked second and third, respectively.
- **Recent Performance:** Mandhana's rise to the top spot is attributed to her impressive performance in the recent tri-series against Sri Lanka and South Africa in Colombo, where she scored 264 runs across five matches, including a century in the final.
- **Career Statistics:** Mandhana has played 102 ODI matches for India, scoring 4473 runs at an average of 46.59 and a strike rate of 87.79.
- **Other Indian Batters:** Jemimah Rodrigues and captain Harmanpreet Kaur are ranked 15th and 16th, respectively, in the latest ICC ODI batting rankings.

### **Neeraj Chopra Wins Gold at Paris Diamond League 2025**

- **Gold Medal Win:** Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal in the men's javelin throw event at the Paris Diamond League 2025 with a throw of 88.16m.

- **First Throw Decided the Fate:** Chopra took the lead from his first throw and maintained it throughout the competition, showcasing his exceptional skill and consistency.
- **Julian Weber's Consistency:** Germany's Julian Weber finished second with a consistent series of throws but couldn't surpass Chopra's lead. Weber had six valid throws, while Chopra had only three.
- **Personal Satisfaction:** Chopra expressed satisfaction with his win but mentioned that he wasn't completely happy with his technique, particularly his run-up speed and control.
- **Season's Progress:** This win marks a significant achievement for Chopra in the 2025 season, following his 90m throw in Doha earlier in the year, where he finished second to Weber.

### India scripts historic finish at U23 Asian Wrestling Championships with double team titles

- **Double Team Champions:** India achieved an unprecedented success by winning the overall team championships in both Men's Freestyle and Women's Freestyle categories, showcasing a strong, all-around performance across different wrestling disciplines.
- **Men's Freestyle Dominance:** The men's freestyle team was particularly impressive, securing six gold medals and one silver. This dominant display ensured they clinched the team title in their category.
- **Women's Freestyle Excellence:** Indian women wrestlers also excelled, winning the team title by securing medals in all 10 categories. Their medal haul included four gold, five silver, and one bronze, demonstrating remarkable consistency and depth in talent.
- **Significant Medal Tally:** The combined performance across men's freestyle, women's freestyle, and even a gold and two bronzes in Greco- highlights India's growing prowess in wrestling.
- **Indicator of Future Talent:** This outstanding performance at the U23 level is a strong indicator of the emerging talent and a robust pipeline for Indian wrestling.

### Jasprit Bumrah Becomes First Asian to Claim 150 Test Wickets in SENA Countries

- **First Asian to 150 SENA Wickets:** This is the headline achievement. Traditionally, these pace-friendly conditions have been challenging for Asian bowlers. Bumrah's consistency and effectiveness across these nations mark a historic shift, surpassing legendary bowlers like Wasim Akram (146 wickets).

- **Dominance in Toughest Conditions:** SENA countries are considered the ultimate test for fast bowlers due to their seaming conditions, swing, and strong home batting line-ups.
- **Record-Breaking Five-Wicket Hauls:** Along with the 150 wickets, Bumrah also recorded his 10th five-wicket haul in SENA countries, becoming the first Indian bowler to achieve this feat.
- **Exceptional Average and Strike Rate:** Bumrah's wickets in SENA countries have come at an exceptional average of around 20.88. Among all bowlers with at least 150 SENA wickets in the 21st century, only Vernon Philander (20.84) has a better average.

### India won 27 Medals in Asian Para-Badminton Championship

- **Record-Breaking Medals:** India won 27 medals, its best-ever performance in the championship, surpassing its previous record of 13 medals in 2016.
- **Medal Breakdown:** The Indian contingent secured 4 gold, 10 silver, and 13 bronze medals in various categories, showcasing the country's growing dominance in para-badminton.
- **Top Performers:** Paralympic champion Nitesh Kumar led the charge with three gold medals in men's singles SL3, mixed doubles SL3-SU5, and men's doubles SL3-SL4. Manisha Ramadass added a gold in women's singles SU5.
- **Sweeping Medals:** India dominated the mixed doubles SL3-SU5 event, sweeping all three medals. Nitesh Kumar and Thulasimathi Murugesan took gold, Ruthick Raghupathi and Manasi Joshi won silver, and Chirag Baretha and Mandeep Kaur earned bronze.

### Lalit Upadhyay Bids Farewell to International Hockey After a Glorious Career

- **Final International Appearance:** Lalit Upadhyay's last match for the Indian men's hockey team was on June 15, 2025, against Australia in Antwerp, Belgium, during the FIH Pro League. India lost that match 2-3.
- **Part of the FIH Pro League Squad:** He was part of the Indian squad that played four matches in the European leg of the FIH Pro League 2024-25 season, leading up to his retirement announcement.
- **Announcement of Retirement:** Lalit Upadhyay officially announced his retirement from international hockey on Sunday, June 22, 2025, shortly after India's final match of the European leg of the FIH Pro League season against Belgium (though his last actual playing match was against Australia).

- **Two-time Olympic Medallist:** He retires as a two-time Olympic bronze medallist, having been a crucial part of the Indian teams that won bronze at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and the Paris 2024 Olympics.
- **Extensive International Career:** Lalit Upadhyay played 183 matches for India at the senior international level, scoring 67 goals, showcasing his consistent presence and contribution to the team's forward line since his debut at the 2014 Hockey World Cup.

### Neeraj Chopra wins Ostrava Golden Spike Javelin title with 85.29m throw

- **Upcoming Event:** Neeraj Chopra was initially scheduled to participate in the Ostrava Golden Spike athletics meeting in the Czech Republic on June 24, but there's no confirmation on his participation or winning the title with an 85.29m throw.
- **Recent Performance:** Neeraj Chopra recently won the Paris Diamond League title with a throw of 88.16m, showcasing his exceptional skill and technique in javelin throw.
- **Competition Schedule:** After Paris, Chopra is reportedly set to participate in the Neeraj Chopra Classic in Bengaluru on July 5, a World Athletics category A event that he is hosting.
- **Training Focus:** Chopra aims to strengthen his core muscles for consistent 90m throws in international competitions, focusing on technique and power.
- **Season Highlights:** Chopra began his 2025 season with a win in South Africa, throwing 84.52m, and later achieved a personal best of 90.23m at the Doha Diamond League, becoming the first Indian to breach the 90m mark after a long wait.

### Rishabh Pant Becomes First Indian Keeper to hit centuries in both Test innings

- **Record-Breaking Feat:** Rishabh Pant became the second wicketkeeper globally to hit centuries in both innings of a Test match, after Zimbabwe's Andy Flower.
- **Centuries in Both Innings:** Pant scored 118 and 134 in the first and second innings, respectively, in the Leeds Test against England.
- **Multiple Records Broken:** Pant surpassed MS Dhoni's record for the most runs by an Indian wicketkeeper in a Test match and became the third Indian wicketkeeper to take 150 Test catches.
- **Historic Achievement:** Pant is the first Indian batter to score twin centuries in Test cricket in England and the seventh Indian to hit centuries in both innings of a Test match.

- **Exceptional Performance:** Pant's knock in the first innings helped India post a 400-plus total, while his second-innings century put India in a strong position, showcasing his exceptional batting skills.

### **Khelo India University Games to be held in Jaipur in November**

- **Event Details:** The fifth edition of the Khelo India University Games will take place in Jaipur, Rajasthan, in November 2025, featuring over 4,000 athletes from more than 200 universities across India.
- **Host Universities:** Poornima University and Rajasthan University will jointly host the event, which will include competitions in at least 20 disciplines.
- **Age Group:** The Games are designed for under-25 athletes, providing a national platform for young athletes to showcase their talent and attract attention from scouts and sports federations.
- **Previous Edition:** The 2024 edition of the Khelo India University Games was co-hosted by seven Northeastern states, with Chandigarh University emerging as the overall champion, followed by Lovely Professional University and Guru Nanak Dev University.
- **Expectations:** Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya expects high-quality performances from the athletes, stating that university students dominate multi-sport events worldwide, and Rajasthan will likely see some outstanding performances.

### **Indian Junior Men's Hockey Team Defeats Australia 2-1 at Nations Tournament**

- **Match Outcome:** The Indian junior men's hockey team defeated Australia 2-1 in the battle for third place at the 4 Nations Tournament held in Berlin, Germany.
- **Goalscorers:** Rohit scored the equalizer for India in the 45th minute following a penalty corner, while Ajeet Yadav sealed the win with a fourth-quarter goal in the 52nd minute. Toby Mallon had given Australia the lead with a field goal in the 40th minute.
- **Game Dynamics:** The first half saw a tense battle with neither team managing to score in the opening two quarters. Strong defensive structures and disciplined play kept the scores level heading into the third quarter.
- **Tournament Performance:** This win concludes India's campaign in the 4 Nations Tournament. Earlier, India had a 1-7 loss to hosts Germany, a 3-1 victory against Australia, and a 1-5 defeat against Spain in the pool stage.

## AWARDS NEWS

### Desi Oon wins Jury Award for Best Commissioned Film

- **Award Details:** Desi Oon, an animated film by Suresh Eriyat, won the Jury Award for Best Commissioned Film at the Annecy International Animation Festival 2025 in France, considered the "Cannes of animation".
- **Previous Recognition:** The film was previously crowned Best Film at the World Audio, Video and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025 in Mumbai, India's leading animation and design recognition platform.
- **International Accolades:** Desi Oon has also been shortlisted at Cannes Lions 2025 in the Film Craft Lions category and archived at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York as part of the AICP Show Winner 2025.
- **Global Recognition:** Desi Oon's win marks a significant milestone for Indian animation, placing it firmly on the world map and setting a benchmark for upcoming creators in the country.

### Padma Bhushan Conferred on Veteran Journalist Ram Bahadur Rai at IGNCA

- Ram Bahadur Rai was presented with the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian award, on June 18, 2025, at a special ceremony held at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) office in Delhi.
- Rai has made significant contributions to journalism, education, and literature, with over four decades of experience in the field.
- He's a renowned author, educator, and veteran journalist who has worked with prominent publications like Hindustan Samachar, Jansatta, and Navbharat Times.
- Rai has received several awards for his work, including the Padma Shri in 2015, Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi Samman, and Madhavrao Sapre Award, solidifying his work as a prominent journalist and intellectual.

### MRPL wins Greentech Award for environmental work in 2025

- **Award Details:** MRPL won the prestigious 24th Global Greentech Environment & Sustainability Award 2025 in the Environment Protection Category, recognizing its commitment to environmental protection and sustainability.
- **Key Projects:** MRPL's award-winning projects include utilizing Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) as a cleaner fuel, installing an in-house de-odour unit at ETP, and implementing a wet gas scrubber to reduce particulate matter.

- **Sustainability Efforts:** The company has also successfully utilized treated city sewage water in refinery operations and converted ETP oily sludge into useful products, promoting a circular economy.
- **Global Recognition:** The Greentech Environment Awards are globally recognized, and winning this award elevates MRPL's reputation as a leader in environmental responsibility, potentially opening doors to new business opportunities and collaborations.

**Foot notes:****About MRPL –**

- **Chairman:** Arun Kumar Singh
- **Headquarters:** Mangaluru
- **Founded:** 1988

**REC receives Rajbhasha Deepti Award from Ministry of Power**

- **About REC:** REC Limited, formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited, is a Maharatna Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) under the Ministry of Power, Government of India. Established in 1969, REC is a leading non-banking financial company (NBFC) that plays a pivotal role in financing and promoting power sector development across India.
- **Rajbhasha Deepti Award:** REC Limited has been conferred with the prestigious Rajbhasha Deepti Shield Award for its outstanding efforts in promoting and implementing the Official Language Policy of the Government of India during the year 2023-24.
- **Commitment to Linguistic Inclusivity:** The award highlights REC's commitment to ensuring consistent and effective use of Hindi across its operations, aligning with the government's larger goal of promoting the use of the official language in administrative and corporate functioning.
- **Leadership in Power Sector:** REC has emerged as a financial powerhouse in the power sector and a leading example in administrative excellence, including the promotion of Hindi in official work. Its Chairman and Managing Director, Jitendra Srivastava, and Executive Director, RP Vaishnaw, received the award.
- **Recognition and Awards:** The award was presented by Union Minister for Power and Housing & Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal, in the presence of other dignitaries, including Minister of State for Power, Shripad Yesso Naik, and Secretary, Ministry of Power, Pankaj Agarwal.

**Foot notes:****About REC-**

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Founded:** 1969

### **IPPB Bags Prestigious Digital Payments Award from Finance Ministry**

- **Award Recognition:** India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) received the Digital Payments Award 2024-25 from the Ministry of Finance for its outstanding contribution to advancing digital payments and promoting financial inclusion across India.
- **Ranking Achievement:** IPPB secured the 1st position among all Payments Banks in India for the Financial Year 2024-25, after earning a 'Special Mention' in the previous fiscal, showcasing its consistent growth and performance.
- **Inclusive Banking:** IPPB's doorstep banking model, powered by over 2 lakh postmen and Gramin Dak Sevaks, has made digital financial services accessible even in the remotest villages, bridging the urban-rural divide in financial services.
- **Digital Services:** IPPB offers paperless, cashless, and presence-less banking services through India Stack, with multilingual digital interfaces in 13 languages, catering to over 11 crore customers in 5.57 lakh villages and towns across the country.

#### **Foot notes:**

##### **About IPPB-**

- **Secretary of Department of Posts:** Vineet Pandey
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Founded:** 2017

### **The Hindu has won 'The Champion of Digital Media Awards South Asia 2025'**

- **Multiple Award Wins:** The Hindu won a total of 10 awards, showcasing its excellence in digital publishing across various categories.
- **Champion Publisher:** Although the exact criteria for "The Champion of Digital Media Awards South Asia 2025" aren't specified, The Hindu's multiple wins indicate its strong performance.
- **Recognition:** These awards recognize excellence in digital publishing, highlighting The Hindu's innovative approaches to storytelling, audience engagement, and technology-driven news experiences.
- **Global Competition:** The gold winners, including The Hindu, will automatically qualify for WAN-IFRA's World Digital Media Awards, competing with top digital projects globally.

**Foot notes:****About The Hindu-**

- **CEO:** L.V. Navaneeth
- **Founded:** 1878

**BEML receives National Recognition for Export Excellence at EEPC India 2025**

- **Award Details:** BEML Limited, a leading multi-technology enterprise under the Ministry of Defence, Government of India, was honored with the National Award for Outstanding Export Performance at the 55th EEPC India National Awards 2025, held in Mumbai on June 21, 2025.
- **Export Performance:** The award recognizes BEML's significant contribution to India's engineering exports during FY 2022–23, where the company exported 71 advanced machines to multiple African nations, solidifying its role in international infrastructure and industrial development.
- **Global Presence:** BEML's global footprint now spans over 1,400 units across 72 countries, including strategic markets in Africa, the Middle East, ASEAN, and SAARC regions, showcasing its ability to deliver cutting-edge engineering solutions worldwide.
- **Commitment to 'Make in India':** This national recognition underscores BEML's alignment with the 'Make in India' initiative, reflecting its dedication to indigenous R&D, global partnerships, and world-class manufacturing in the mobility, mining, and defence sectors.

**Foot notes:****About BEML-**

- **Chairman & MD:** Shantanu Roy
- **Headquarters:** Bengaluru
- **Founded:** 1964

**NTPC's Kamal Nath Thakur honoured with 'CMA of the Year Award 2024'**

- **Company Overview:** NTPC Limited is India's largest integrated power utility, contributing nearly 25% of the country's electricity needs with an installed generation capacity of over 77 GW.
- **Awards and Recognitions:** NTPC has received several awards, including the Forward Faster Sustainability Award 2025 for Water Resilience, ATD BEST Award 2025 for talent development, and "India's Best Workplaces in Manufacturing 2022 – Top 30" recognition.

- **Sustainability Initiatives:** NTPC prioritizes sustainable practices, focusing on water conservation, efficient resource utilization and environmental stewardship.
- **Diversified Business Ventures:** NTPC has expanded into emerging energy sectors, including e-mobility solutions, battery storage, pumped hydro storage and green hydrogen solutions.
- **Commitment to Clean Energy:** NTPC is committed to adopting best-in-class practices, fostering innovation, and investing in clean energy technologies to drive India's transition to sustainable electricity generation.

**Foot notes:****About NTPC-**

- **Chairman & MD:** Gurdeep Singh
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Founded:** 1975

**India among 6 countries conferred with Bloomberg Philanthropies Awards**

- **Award Category:** India received the 'O' category award under the WHO's MPOWER strategy, which stands for "Offer help to quit tobacco use". This recognition highlights India's efforts in promoting tobacco cessation and reducing tobacco use.
- **National Tobacco Control Programme:** India's National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) has established over 675 tobacco cessation centers across district hospitals, providing 1.35 million counseling sessions in 2023-24. The National Tobacco Quitline Services (NTQLS) handles around 42,000 calls per month.
- **Tobacco Cessation Efforts:** India has implemented various initiatives to help people quit tobacco, including tobacco cessation clinics, screening and intervention in primary care at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, and establishing mCessation and National Tobacco Quitlines.
- **Global Recognition:** The award was presented by Michael Bloomberg, founder of Bloomberg Philanthropies and WHO Global Ambassador for Noncommunicable Diseases and injuries, at the World Conference on Tobacco Control in Dublin, Ireland. This recognition underscores India's position as a global leader in public health.

**GAIL India Limited Honored with Dual Accolades for Excellence in Cost Management 2025**

- **Recognition:** GAIL India Limited's Executive Director, S.K. Sinha, received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICAI) for his outstanding contribution to cost management and support for professional development in the finance sector.
- **Award Ceremony:** The accolade was presented during a ceremony at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, in the presence of the Honorable President of India, Droupadi Murmu, highlighting professional excellence and institutional commitment to cost and financial leadership.
- **GAIL's Achievement:** This recognition reflects GAIL's broader values of financial discipline, transparency, and institutional leadership, reinforcing its reputation as a consistent advocate for cost optimization and strategic fiscal governance.
- **S.K. Sinha's Role:** Sinha has been instrumental in establishing GAIL as a brand tied to energy leadership and financial governance, showcasing his expertise in strategic cost management, financial propriety, and policy development.
- **Organizational Pride:** GAIL expressed pride in Sinha's recognition, stating it reflects the organization's collective dedication to financial stewardship and nation-building through strong institutional partnerships.

#### Foot notes:

#### About GAIL-

- **Chairman & MD:** Sandeep Kumar Gupta
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Founded:** 1984

#### Shrivalli Bhamidipaty wins the BJK Cup Heart Award

- **Award Winner:** Shrivalli Bhamidipaty has been awarded the prestigious Billie Jean King Cup Heart Award for the Asia/Oceania zone, recognizing her exceptional courage, commitment, and team spirit in representing India in the Billie Jean King Cup.
- **Third Indian Woman:** She becomes the third Indian woman to receive this award, following tennis legends Sania Mirza (2020) and Ankita Raina (2026), who have also excelled in international team tennis competitions.
- **Performance:** Shrivalli won all her five singles matches in the Asia/Oceania Group I ties, helping India retain its position in Group I and qualifying for the World Group playoff.
- **Voting:** She secured the award with 78% of the vote share, surpassing Lulu Sun of New Zealand.

- **Donation:** Shrivalli donated the \$2,000 cash prize accompanying the award to the Vaidehi Seva Samithi, an organization that empowers women through education and life-skill training.

### V.V. Kumar recently honoured with a book

- **Book Launch:** A book launch was held to celebrate V.V. Kumar's 90th birthday, featuring anecdotes, tributes, and memories from former cricketers and personalities.
- **Authored Books:** V.V. Kumar has authored over 35 books, including "Classical Mechanics" and "Customer Relationship Management: Concept, Strategy, and Tools", showcasing his expertise in marketing and physics.
- **Marketing Legend:** Kumar has been recognized as a "Marketing Legend" and featured in the "Legends in Marketing" series, highlighting his contributions to the field of marketing.
- **Awards and Recognition:** He has received over 20 Lifetime Achievement Awards and 25 Research and Teaching Excellence Awards for his work in marketing.
- **Research Impact:** Kumar's research has had significant impact, with over 68,800 publication citations and \$2 billion in revenue gains for businesses through implementation of his marketing science models.

## APPOINTMENT & PERSON IN NEWS

### Blaise Metreweli Becomes MI6's First Female Chief in Historic Appointment

- **Historic Appointment:** Blaise Metreweli was appointed as the first female chief of MI6, marking a significant milestone in the agency's 116-year history. She will succeed Sir Richard Moore, who is set to step down this autumn.
- **Background:** Metreweli, 47, joined MI6 in 1999 and has held senior roles across both MI6 and MI5, with extensive experience in the Middle East and Europe. She currently serves as Director General of Technology and Innovation at MI6.
- **Leadership Role:** As the chief of MI6, Metreweli will oversee the agency's operations, focusing on counter-terrorism, cyber warfare, and hostile state activities. She'll work closely with international partners to promote British interests and security.
- **Challenges Ahead:** Metreweli will face complex threats from nations like Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea, which are increasingly cooperating to undermine UK and Western interests.

- **Recognition:** Metreweli was awarded the Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) in 2024 for her services to British foreign policy, highlighting her contributions to national security and diplomacy.

### **Cipla Health has made Neena Gupta its brand ambassador**

- **Brand & Product:** Neena Gupta has been appointed as the brand ambassador for Cipladine, Cipla Health's leading antiseptic ointment.
- **Campaign Focus:** The new campaign, titled "Cipladine – Aapka Fast Aid Expert," aims to reposition Cipladine from just a "first aid" solution to a "Fast Aid Expert," highlighting its rapid action.
- **Key Message:** The campaign emphasizes that Cipladine's Povidone Iodine (PVPI) formula starts working within 30 seconds, providing quick and effective relief for cuts, wounds, burns, and infections.
- **Authenticity & Relatability:** Cipla Health chose Neena Gupta for her authentic, versatile, and no-nonsense persona, which aligns with the brand's message of quick and reliable solutions.

### **Meta Appoints Arun Srinivas as India Head to Lead Business Expansion**

- **New Role and Effective Date:** Arun Srinivas has been appointed as the Managing Director and Head for Meta in India, with his new role becoming effective from July 1, 2025.
- **Previous Role at Meta:** Prior to this elevation, Srinivas was serving as the Director and Head of Ads Business for Meta in India, playing a crucial role in the company's revenue strategies.
- **Reporting Structure:** He will continue to report to Sandhya Devanathan, who has taken on an expanded role overseeing both India and South East Asia for Meta.
- **Focus of New Role:** In his new capacity, Srinivas will spearhead Meta's India charter, focusing on business, innovation, and revenue priorities, and strengthening strategic relationships with brands, advertisers, developers, and partners.

Foot Notes:

#### **About Meta :**

- **Founded :** 2004
- **Headquarters:** Menlo Park, California, United States
- **CEO:** Mark Zuckerberg

### **Akhilesh Kumar Dixit appointed as CEO of EESL**

- **Appointment:** Akhilesh Kumar Dixit has been appointed as the CEO of EESL, a joint venture of public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Power, effective June 16, 2025.
- **Background:** Dixit has over 32 years of experience in the power sector, previously serving in senior roles at Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL), including substation and transmission line operations, business development, corporate social responsibility (CSR), human resources, and procurement.
- **Qualifications:** He is a graduate in Electrical Engineering from Madan Mohan Technical University, Gorakhpur, and holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management (PGDBM) from the Management Development Institute (MDI), Gurgaon.
- **Role and Responsibilities:** As CEO, Dixit will lead EESL's efforts to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy in India, overseeing the implementation of various energy efficiency programs and projects, and driving innovation and sustainable technologies.

**Foot notes:****About EESL -**

- **CEO:** Vishal Kapoor
- **Founded:** 2009
- **Location:** New Delhi

**Jitendra Singh Meena appointed as DIG in Bureau of Police Research & Development**

- **Appointment:** Jitendra Singh Meena has been appointed as the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) in the Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D), a key organization under the Ministry of Home Affairs responsible for modernizing and reforming India's police forces.
- **Background:** Meena is a 2011-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the AGMUT cadre, with extensive experience in handling various roles within the police force, including law and order, intelligence, and investigation.
- **Responsibilities:** As DIG in BPR&D, Meena will focus on research, policy formulation, and development of training modules to enhance police efficiency and effectiveness across the country.
- **Modernization Efforts:** His role will involve contributing to the modernization of police forces, including the integration of technology and best practices in policing, aligning with the government's vision for a more efficient and responsive police system.

### **Vishal Garg selected as Director of Finance at India Optel Limited**

- **PESB Recommendation:** Vishal Garg's name was recommended by the Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB) after an interview process involving 10 candidates.
- **Current Role at NTPC Limited:** Prior to this selection, Vishal Garg served as an Additional General Manager (Group head, UFSC VPG, NR-VSR) at NTPC Limited, a major Indian public sector enterprise involved in power generation.
- **Extensive Financial Experience:** As Director (Finance) at India Optel Limited, he will be responsible for steering the company's financial strategy, ensuring regulatory compliance, and overseeing all financial and accounting functions.
- **Role in Defence Sector PSU:** India Optel Limited operates under the Ministry of Defence, Department of Defence Production. Garg's appointment to this strategic PSU highlights his capability to handle the financial complexities of a company crucial to India's defence capabilities.

#### **Foot notes:**

##### **About India Optel Limited-**

- **Chairman & MD:** Shri Tushar Tripathi
- **Headquarters:** Dehradun
- **Founded:** 2021

### **Jio Financial Becomes Sole Owner of Jio Payments Bank**

- **Acquisition Details:** Jio Financial Services Ltd (JFSL) has acquired State Bank of India's (SBI) 17.8% stake in Jio Payments Bank for ₹104.54 crore, valuing the bank at approximately ₹586 crore.
- **Ownership Structure:** JFSL now owns 100% of Jio Payments Bank, having increased its stake from 82.17%. The transaction was approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on June 4, 2025.
- **Strategic Implications:** Full ownership gives JFSL greater autonomy in integrating digital banking with other financial services. This move aligns with Jio's digital-first, data-driven approach and could drive a unified digital finance ecosystem.

#### **Foot notes:**

##### **About Jio-**

- **Founder:** Mukesh Ambani
- **Founded:** 2007
- **Headquarters:** Maharashtra

### **Sanjay Kumar appointed as MD of Jute Corporation of India Ltd.**

- **Appointment:** Sanjay Kumar was selected as CMD of RailTel Corporation of India Ltd in July 2022.
- **Background:** Kumar has around 30 years of experience in railroad operations, project management, and marketing, and is an officer of the Indian Railway Service of Signal Engineers (IRSSE).
- **Previous Role:** Before his appointment as CMD, Kumar served as Director (Network Planning & Marketing/NPM) at RailTel.
- **Future Goals:** Kumar aims to focus on international business, including exporting services and participating in international bids and contracts.
- **RailTel's Future Plans:** Under Kumar's leadership, RailTel plans to leverage technological advancements like IoT, AI, and ML, and explore opportunities with 5G technology.

Foot notes:

About Jute Corporation-

- **Headquarters:** West Bengal
- **Founded:** 1971

### **Reddit names Sachin Tendulkar as its new brand ambassador**

**Partnership Details:** Sachin Tendulkar has partnered with Reddit as its brand ambassador, aiming to enhance the platform's presence within global sports communities, particularly cricket.

**Exclusive Engagement:** Tendulkar will share personal thoughts, match insights, and exclusive content with Redditors, particularly in communities like r/IndiaCricket and r/IndianSports, which have seen significant growth.

**Marketing Campaign:** He will feature in Reddit's marketing campaigns in India and other international markets, further solidifying his connection with fans worldwide.

**Community Building:** This partnership underscores Reddit's commitment to fostering digital communities centered around shared passions like cricket, allowing fans to connect and share their love for sports.

Foot notes:

About Reddit-

- **CEO:** Steve Huffman
- **Founded:** 2005
- **Headquarters:** United States

### **Sampath Kumar Becomes First Indian MD of Nippon Koei India**

- **Background:** Dr. Kumar is a graduate of IIT-BHU and holds a doctorate in Civil Engineering. He has extensive experience in civil engineering and IT consultancy, having worked in Japan and Finland as a researcher and in India's IT industry.
- **Leadership Approach:** Dr. Kumar's leadership approach involves giving professional freedom and empowering teams to lead and make decisions that suit the organization's interests. He emphasizes tracking talent and providing opportunities for growth.
- **Experience:** With over a decade of experience at Nippon Koei India, Dr. Kumar has been instrumental in the company's growth. He has served as Director, overseeing Corporate Management and Business Development divisions.
- **Vision for Nippon Koei India:** Under Dr. Kumar's guidance, Nippon Koei India aims to strengthen its presence in India, West Asia, and Asia-Pacific. The company plans to expand operations, focusing on infrastructure projects, and solidify its position as a leading consulting company in the Indian subcontinent.

### **Karan Johar joins The Bridal Retreat as Brand Ambassador**

- **Background:** Karan Johar is a celebrated Indian filmmaker and cultural icon known for his iconic cinematic portrayals of romance and relationships. He has been a significant figure in Bollywood, and his appointment as brand ambassador reflects his influence and reach.
- **The Bridal Retreat's Mission:** As brand ambassador, Karan Johar will be associated with The Bridal Retreat's mission to empower brides-to-be by providing a platform for self-reflection, emotional preparation, and holistic wellness before their wedding day.
- **Karan Johar's Perspective:** Johar believes The Bridal Retreat offers a rare opportunity for brides to focus on themselves before the world meets them. He emphasizes the importance of inner transformation that marriage brings and feels the retreat places that journey at the center.
- **The Retreat's Program:** The Bridal Retreat is a five-day immersive experience that includes sessions on identity exploration, wellness practices, movement therapy, communication coaching, and cultural reflection. The program aims to equip brides with the tools and insights needed to build a meaningful life beyond their wedding day.

### **Bata Group appoints Panos Mytaros as Global CEO**

- **Experience:** Panos Mytaros brings over 30 years of global leadership experience in the footwear and leather industry, making him a seasoned professional in the field.

- **Background:** Before joining Bata, Mytaros held several senior positions at ECCO, including CEO from 2021 to 2024, where he demonstrated his expertise in brand building and developing compelling footwear collections.
- **Appointment:** Mytaros will succeed Sandeep Kataria as Global CEO of Bata Group, effective September 15, 2025. Kataria has led the company since 2020 and oversaw significant digital transformation and expansion.
- **Leadership Style:** Graham Allan, Chairman of the Bata Group, praises Mytaros as a proven leader with deep industry knowledge and a passion for footwear craftsmanship. His track record in leading complex international organizations makes him ideal to guide Bata's next phase of growth.

**Foot notes:****About Bata Group-**

- **Previous CEO:** Sandeep Kataria
- **Headquarters:** Switzerland
- **Founded:** 1894

**Professor Suman Chakraborty appointed as Director of IIT Kharagpur**

- **Appointment:** Professor Suman Chakraborty was appointed as the Director of IIT Kharagpur in June 2025, becoming one of the few faculty members to rise to this position from within the institute.
- **Background:** Chakraborty is a renowned professor at IIT Kharagpur, known for his work in microfluidics, nanofluidics, and microscale/nanoscale transport processes.
- **Research Contributions:** He has made significant contributions to the field of microfluidics, developing novel low-cost medical devices for sensing, diagnostics, and therapeutics, particularly for resource-limited settings.
- **Awards and Recognition:** Chakraborty is a recipient of the Infosys Prize in Engineering and Computer Science (2022), Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize (2013), and the G.D. Birla Award (2020), and has been elected as a Fellow of several prestigious academies, including the American Physical Society and the Royal Society of Chemistry.

**Foot notes:****About IIT Kharagpur-**

- **Chairman:** T. V. Narendran
- **Established:** 1951

**Balakrishnan V appointed as Inspector General in BSF**

- **Appointment:** Balakrishnan V, a 2003-batch IPS officer from Tamil Nadu, has been appointed as Inspector General (IG) in the Border Security Force (BSF) on a central deputation basis.
- **Previous Role:** Before joining BSF, he was serving as Inspector General (IG) of Administration in the office of the Director General of Police and Head of Police Force (DGP/HOPF) in Chennai.
- **Empanelment:** Balakrishnan V was empanelled to hold IG-level posts at the Centre in March 2025, paving the way for his current appointment.
- **Central Deputation:** His appointment to BSF is part of his central deputation, as per an order issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on June 20, 2025.
- **Tenure:** While the exact tenure of his appointment isn't specified, it marks a significant role for Balakrishnan V in maintaining national security and overseeing BSF operations.

**Foot notes:****About BSF-**

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Director General:** Daljit Singh Chaudhary

**Kangana Ranaut named brand ambassador for World Para Athletics**

- **Appointment:** Kangana Ranaut, a renowned Bollywood actress and politician, has been appointed as the brand ambassador for the New Delhi 2025 World Para Athletics Championships by the Paralympic Committee of India.
- **Role:** As brand ambassador, Ranaut will champion the values of resilience, inclusion, and excellence, promoting para-athletics in India and inspiring the next generation of athletes and fans across the country.
- **Event Details:** The New Delhi 2025 World Para Athletics Championships will take place from September 26 to October 5, featuring athletes from over 100 countries and more than 1,000 athletes competing in various events.
- **PCI President's Endorsement:** Devendra Jhajharia, President of the Paralympic Committee of India and a two-time Paralympic gold medalist, praised Ranaut's passion, influence, and commitment to India's athletes, making her a perfect ambassador for the championships.

**Sivasubramanian Ramann Takes Charge as New PFRDA Chairperson**

- **Appointment and Tenure:** Ramann was appointed by the Government of India on April 8, 2025, and assumed charge on June 20, 2025. His tenure will last for five years or until he attains the age of 65, whichever is earlier.

- **Background and Experience:** Ramann is an officer of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IA&AS) and has held various leadership positions, including Chairman and MD of SIDBI, MD & Chief Executive Officer of National E-Governance Services Ltd (NeSL), and Principal Accountant General of Jharkhand.
- **Qualifications:** Ramann holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics and an MBA from the University of Delhi, as well as multiple professional and academic qualifications, including an MSc in Financial Regulation from the London School of Economics, an LLB, and a Certified Internal Auditor credential.
- **Role and Responsibilities:** He will oversee the transition of central government staff from the National Pension System (NPS) to the Unified Pension System.
- **Remuneration and Significance:** Ramann will receive a consolidated monthly pay and allowances of ₹5,62,500 without the facility of house or car.

**Foot notes:****About PFRDA-**

- **Founded:** 2003
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Chairman:** Sivasubramanian Ramann

**Shri Manoj Kumar Sharma appointed as Director (Catering Services), IRCTC**

- **Overview:** Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is a Ministry of Railways PSU responsible for catering, tourism, and online ticketing services across Indian Railways.
- **Role of Director (Catering Services):** The Director oversees catering operations, ensuring quality, hygiene, and efficiency in passenger meal services onboard trains and at railway stations.
- **Current Director:** The current Director is Dr. Lokiah Ravikumar, although Manoj Kumar Sharma has been selected for the role and is awaiting approval.
- **Board of Directors:** IRCTC's Board consists of functional directors, government directors, and independent directors, including Chairman & Managing Director Sh. Sanjay Kumar Jain.
- **Services:** IRCTC provides various services, including catering, tourism, and online ticketing, playing a crucial role in enhancing the passenger experience across the Indian Railways network.

**Foot notes:****About IRCTC-**

- **Chairman & MD:** Sanjay Kumar Jain
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi

- **Founded:** 1999

### **Rahul Raichur appointed as Private Secretary to the Minister for Consumer Affairs**

- **Appointment:** Rahul Raichur, a 2015-batch IRS officer, has been appointed as Private Secretary to Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, who oversees the Ministries of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, and New & Renewable Energy.
- **Role and Responsibilities:** As Private Secretary, Raichur will support Minister Joshi in managing the dual portfolios of consumer affairs and renewable energy, leveraging his expertise in revenue services and governance.
- **Level of Appointment:** Raichur will function at the Deputy Secretary level, playing a crucial role in policy-making and decision-making processes within the Ministry.
- **Background:** As an IRS officer, Raichur brings valuable experience in governance and revenue services, which will be beneficial in supporting Minister Joshi's initiatives and responsibilities.

### **Skechers appoints Kartik Aaryan as Brand Ambassador for Indian Market**

- **Brand Overview:** Skechers is a global leader in designing and marketing lifestyle, athletic, and casual footwear, prioritizing comfort and innovation.
- **Kartik Aaryan Partnership:** Skechers has appointed Bollywood actor Kartik Aaryan as its brand ambassador for India, leveraging his broad appeal and dynamic persona to connect with young consumers.
- **Product Focus:** The partnership will promote Skechers' Hands Free Slip-ins footwear, featuring the brand's exclusive Heel Pillow technology for effortless slip-in and slip-out functionality.
- **Marketing Campaign:** Kartik Aaryan will star in a marketing campaign showcasing Skechers' innovation, comfort, and style, targeting India's growing youth demographic.

#### **Foot notes:**

##### **About Skechers-**

- **Chairman & CEO:** Robert Greenberg
- **Headquarters:** California, U.S.
- **Founded:** 1992

### **Ramesh Verma designated as Chairman, DSSSB**

- **Appointment:** Ramesh Verma, a 2009 batch IAS officer of AGMUT cadre, has been appointed as the Chairman of the Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board (DSSSB).
- **Background:** Verma's appointment comes after Congress leader Dr. Naresh Kumar raised concerns about the board's non-functionality and vacancies, prompting the Delhi government to take action.
- **Previous Role:** Before joining DSSSB, Verma served in various roles, including Chief Electoral Officer in Goa and Secretary in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands government.
- **Qualifications:** Verma holds a B.Sc. in Physics and an M.Sc. in Chemistry from Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati Vidyalaya Ajmer M.L.Y. Govt. College. He has also undergone mid-career training at LBSNAA Mussoorie.
- **Additional Charge:** Verma has been given additional charge as Director of Union Territories Civil Services (UTCS) alongside his role as DSSSB Chairman.

#### Foot notes:

##### About DSSSB-

- **Previous Chairman:** Sh. Shurbir Singh
- **Established:** 1998

### Rear Admiral Jaswinder Singh to hold charge of Director (BC&T) in Shipping Corporation of India

- **Additional Charge:** Rear Admiral Jaswinder Singh, Director (Liner & Passenger Services) at Shipping Corporation of India, has been assigned additional charge as Director (Bulk Carrier & Tanker) for three months starting July 1, 2025, or until further orders.
- **Leadership Role:** Singh has been leading SCI's Liner and Passenger Services segment since 2023 and is also a Director on the Board of SCI Bharat IFSC Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of SCI.
- **Maritime Expertise:** With a decorated career in the Indian Navy, Singh brings extensive maritime leadership experience to SCI, overseeing critical operational arms in bulk cargo and tanker transport.
- **Academic and Professional Background:** Singh is a Postgraduate in Business Administration and an alumnus of the Naval Postgraduate School, California, and the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. He has been awarded the Nau Sena Medal for distinguished service in the Indian Navy.

### Shashvat Kumar appointed as Commandant (SP level) in SSB

- **Appointment:** Shashvat Kumar, an IPS officer from the 2016 batch of Tripura cadre, has been appointed as Commandant (SP level) in Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
- **Current Role:** Before this appointment, Kumar was serving as Additional SP (Urban) in West Tripura district and had previously held positions such as SDPO, Sadar with additional charge of Dy. SP (CAW), West Tripura.
- **Seniority:** Kumar was promoted to the IPS Senior Time Scale in the Pay Matrix Level-11, as per a notification from the Tripura government.
- **Deputation Basis:** His appointment as Commandant in SSB is on a deputation basis, as per official notifications from the Government of India.
- **Background:** Kumar's appointment reflects his growing responsibilities within the Indian Police Service, with recent postings and promotions indicating his increasing role in security and law enforcement agencies.

### Mukesh Saini joins IRCTC Board as Chief Regional Officer

- **Appointment:** Mukesh Saini has been appointed as the Chief Regional Officer at the IRCTC Regional Office in Jaipur, effective June 20, 2025, on a deputation basis for a period of three years.
- **Background:** Saini is a 2008-batch IRTS officer with 17 years of experience in the railways, previously serving as Deputy Chief Commercial Manager (PM & PS) at North Western Railway (NWR) headquarters.
- **Terms of Appointment:** His appointment is on usual terms of deputation, which typically involves a fixed tenure and specific responsibilities.
- **Role and Responsibilities:** As Chief Regional Officer, Saini will oversee IRCTC operations in the Jaipur region, focusing on improving customer service, managing tourism initiatives, and enhancing railway catering services.

### Naveen Pandey appointed as MD of Bajaj consumer

- **Appointment Details:** Naveen Pandey has been appointed as the Managing Director of Bajaj Consumer Care, effective July 1, 2025, for a tenure of five years, subject to approval at the company's 19th Annual General Meeting.
- **Background:** Pandey brings over two decades of rich leadership experience in the FMCG sector, having previously held key roles at companies like Unibic Foods, Marico, PepsiCo, and Asian Paints.
- **Previous Role:** Before joining Bajaj Consumer Care, Pandey served as the Chief Executive Officer of Unibic Foods India Pvt Ltd, where he successfully scaled up the brand's national presence and consumer engagement.

- **Leadership Experience:** Pandey has led high-impact businesses throughout his career, including launching new product categories, managing large-scale P&L operations, and delivering consistent business performance across geographies.

### UGRO Capital appoints Anuj Pandey as CEO

- **Internal Promotion & Institutional Continuity:** Anuj Pandey, one of UGRO's founding team members and its current Chief Risk Officer, has been elevated to the role of Chief Executive Officer
- **Rich Leadership Experience:** He brings around 25 years of diverse experience across notable firms including GSK Consumer, ABN AMRO Bank, Barclays, and Religare, combining strong expertise in risk governance, credit strategy, and product development
- **Oversight of MSME Operations & Digital Platforms:** As CEO, Pandey will lead UGRO's pan-India MSME lending operations, digital platforms, and partner ecosystem—with a focus on disciplines like embedded finance and fintech innovation
- **Guiding Growth Amid Strategic Expansion:** His appointment comes as UGRO surpasses ₹12,000 crore in assets under management, expands to over 300 branches, and completes the acquisition of Profectus Capital—marking a pivotal growth phase for the NBFC
- **Balanced Leadership Model:** Pandey will report to Founder & MD Shachindra Nath, who will continue to lead long-term strategy, governance, and investor relations—while Pandey takes charge of day-to-day business execution .

## IMPORTANT DAYS NEWS

### Autistic Pride Day observed on 18th June

- **Celebrates Neurodiversity:** Autistic Pride Day emphasizes that autism is a natural variation of the human experience, not a disease to be cured or a deficit to be fixed. It promotes the idea of neurodiversity, where different brain wirings are valued.
- **Led by Autistic People:** Unlike some "awareness" campaigns that may be led by non-autistic organizations, Autistic Pride Day was initiated by and continues to be led by autistic individuals and self-advocacy groups.
- **Focus on Pride and Acceptance:** The day shifts the focus from "awareness" to "acceptance" and "pride." It aims to challenge outdated stereotypes and stigma

surrounding autism, fostering a sense of dignity and self-worth within the autistic community.

- **Symbol of the Rainbow Infinity:** The symbol often associated with Autistic Pride Day is the rainbow-colored infinity sign.

### International Yoga Day observed on 21st June

- **Date Significance:** June 21st marks the summer solstice in the Northern Hemisphere and holds spiritual significance in many cultures, including India, where Lord Shiva is said to have begun imparting yoga knowledge to humanity.
- **UN Declaration:** The United Nations declared June 21st as International Yoga Day in 2014, following a proposal by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with 177 nations co-sponsoring the resolution.
- **Global Celebrations:** International Yoga Day is celebrated worldwide with yoga sessions, gatherings, and events promoting physical, mental, and spiritual well-being, and the practice of yoga.
- **Theme:** The theme for International Yoga Day 2025 is "Yoga for One Earth, One Health," emphasizing the connection between individual well-being and planetary health, and promoting sustainable living.
- **Initiatives:** The Ministry of Ayush plans to organize various programs, including "Yoga Samavesh," targeting special groups such as senior citizens.

### International Olympic Day observed on 23rd June

- **History:** The day commemorates the founding of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on June 23, 1894, by Pierre de Coubertin, who revived the ancient Olympic Games to promote international peace and physical fitness. The first Olympic Day was celebrated in 1948.
- **Significance:** Olympic Day promotes physical activity, sportsmanship, and inclusion, encouraging people of all ages and backgrounds to lead active, healthy lifestyles. It emphasizes the Olympic values of excellence, friendship, and respect.
- **Theme:** The theme for International Olympic Day 2025 is "Let's Move?" which embodies the spirit of cooperation and solidarity, inspiring people to move more, connect more, and inspire more.
- **Celebrations:** People participate in various activities such as Olympic Day runs, virtual workouts, local sports festivals, and community service. Many countries also provide free admission to sporting facilities to promote community cohesion and play.

- **Global Impact:** Olympic Day has evolved into a global phenomenon, involving millions of people worldwide. It serves as a reminder of the power of sports to unite people, promote peace, and inspire excellence.

### **Samvidhan Hatya Diwas is observed on 25th June**

- **Commemoration:** Samvidhan Hatya Diwas is observed to commemorate the imposition of the Emergency in India on June 25, 1975, when the Constitution was trampled over, and fundamental rights were suspended.
- **Emergency Period:** The Emergency lasted for 21 months, from June 25, 1975, to March 21, 1977, during which lakhs of people were imprisoned without trial, and the media was silenced.
- **Government's Declaration:** The government declared June 25 as Samvidhan Hatya Diwas to pay tribute to those who suffered and fought against the gross abuse of power during the Emergency period.
- **Constitutional Significance:** The day highlights the importance of upholding the Constitution and its values, and serves as a reminder of the consequences of allowing dictatorial forces to take over.

### **International Day Against Drug Abuse observed on 26th June**

- **Date and Significance:** June 26 is observed globally as International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking to raise awareness about the global drug crisis and promote multilateral action toward prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation.
- **Theme 2025:** The theme for 2025 is "Break the Cycle. #StopOrganizedCrime", emphasizing the need for focused long-term action to disrupt the link between drug trafficking and organized crime, and investing in prevention, including justice, education, health care, and alternative livelihoods.
- **Global Impact:** According to the UNODC World Drug Report, 292 million people used illicit drugs in 2022, a 20% increase over the previous decade. The global burden of drug use can cost up to 2% of a country's GDP, draining healthcare, legal, and social systems.

### **Micro, Small & Medium Sazed Enterprises Day observed on 27th June**

- **UN-designated observance:** June 27 was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2017 as Micro-, Small & Medium-Sized Enterprises Day, aimed at raising global awareness of MSMEs' vital contributions to economic growth and sustainable development

- **Economic significance:** MSMEs make up around 90 % of all businesses globally, contribute about 50 % of GDP, and provide over 70 % of employment, especially in developing economies
- **2025 theme** – “Business for MSMEs: Connecting the Entrepreneurs”: The 2025 theme emphasizes building networks between MSMEs, investors, policymakers, and tech providers to unlock growth, innovation, and international expansion
- **India’s MSME landscape:** In India, the sector includes over 63 million enterprises, contributes roughly 30 % of GDP and more than 45 % of exports, and employs around 110 million people
- **Focus on resilience, digital tech & green growth:** Observance events spotlight MSMEs’ adaptability, technology adoption, and role in sustainable development, while addressing challenges like finance access, digital maturity, and climate resilience.

## OBITUARY NEWS

### Renowned ISRO Scientist and Tamil Author Nellai Su. Muthu passed away

- **Passed Away:** Nellai Su. Muthu, a former ISRO scientist and acclaimed Tamil author, passed away on June 16, 2025, at the age of 74 in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, due to ill health.
- **ISRO Career:** He served as a senior scientist at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota and worked alongside former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, contributing to India's space missions.
- **Literary Contributions:** Muthu authored over 170 books across genres, including science, children's literature, history, criticism, poetry, and translation. Some notable works include "Vinveli 2057" and "Sevvayil Ulvetkkaiyum Nal Vaaippum".
- **Awards and Recognition:** He received multiple awards, including the Kavimamani Award from the World Tamil Poets Association, Malaysia, and the Best Book Award from the Tamil Development Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, for four of his books.

### Apple’s Pioneering Software Designer Bill Atkinson passed away

- **Macintosh GUI Architect:** Atkinson was a principal designer and developer of the graphical user interfaces for both the Apple Lisa and the original Apple Macintosh computers.

- **Creator of QuickDraw:** He single-handedly developed QuickDraw, a groundbreaking graphics library that was central to the Macintosh's ability to efficiently display shapes, images, and text.
- **Inventor of MacPaint:** Atkinson also created MacPaint, a highly popular digital drawing program bundled with the original Macintosh. It introduced concepts like the "tool palette" and "FatBits".
- **Pioneer of HyperCard:** Released in 1987, HyperCard allowed non-programmers to create interactive "stacks" of information linked by buttons, widely considered a significant precursor to the World Wide Web.

**Foot notes:****About Apple-**

- **CEO:** Tim Cook
- **Headquarters:** Cupertino, California, US
- **Founded:** 1976

**AIFF Former vice president Atuo Mezhur passed away**

- **Association with Mezhür Higher Secondary School:** Atuo Mezhur Sekhose is associated with Mezhür Higher Secondary School in Kohima, Nagaland, which was founded by Samuel Mezhür Sekhose in 1958.
- **Family Connection:** Atuo Mezhur Sekhose might be a family member of Samuel Mezhür Sekhose, the founder of Mezhür Higher Secondary School.
- **School's History:** Mezhür Higher Secondary School, also known as Kohima English School, has a rich history and has produced many notable alumni.
- **Location:** The school is located in the heart of Kohima and is one of the oldest educational institutions in Nagaland.
- **Legacy:** The school has emerged as one of the biggest and most successful educational institutions in Nagaland, with a legacy spanning over six decades.

**Foot notes:****About AIFF-**

- **President:** Kalyan Chaubey
- **Headquarters:** Delhi
- **Founded:** 1937

**Padma Shri Awardee 'Aranya Rishi' Maruti Chitampalli passed away**

- **Passed Away:** Maruti Chitampalli, fondly known as ‘Aranya Rishi’, passed away on June 18, 2025, at the age of 93 in Solapur, Maharashtra, due to age-related ailments.
- **Contribution:** He was a renowned environmentalist, wildlife expert, and author who dedicated his life to forest conservation and ecological literature, serving in the Forest Department for 36 years and traveling over 5 lakh kilometers across India.
- **Awards and Recognition:** Chitampalli received the Padma Shri award on April 30, 2025, for his lifetime contribution to environmental conservation and ecological literature, and was also a recipient of the Vinda Karandikar Jeevan Gaurav Puraskar in 2017.
- **Literary Works:** He authored several notable books, including ‘Pakshikosha’ (Encyclopedia of Birds), ‘Pashukosha’ (Encyclopedia of Animals), and ‘Matsyakosha’ (Encyclopedia of Fish), and wrote over 25 books on wildlife and conservation.
- **Legacy:** Chitampalli's work had a profound impact on environmental awareness and conservation in India, and he is remembered as a spiritual guardian of forests and a people's naturalist.

### **Veteran actor-director Vivek Lagoo passed away**

- **Career:** Lagoo was a prominent figure in Marathi theatre and cinema, with notable contributions to television and films like "Ugly" (2013), "What About Savarkar" (2015), and "31 Divas" (2018). He was known for his versatility and depth in his performances.
- **Personal Life:** Vivek was married to actress Reema Lagoo, with whom he shared a passion for theatre. Although they parted ways, they maintained mutual respect and understanding until Reema's passing in 2017. Their daughter, Mrunmayee Lagoo Waikul, is a writer and director who has worked on projects like "Thappad" and "Scoop".
- **Legacy:** Lagoo's demise has been met with condolences from the film industry, with Maharashtra's Cultural Affairs Minister, Ashish Shelar, praising his contributions to Marathi theatre and cinema. His legacy continues through his daughter Mrunmayee, who has carved a niche for herself in the industry.

### **FedEx founder Fred Smith, pioneer of express delivery passed away**

- **Early Life and Education:** Fred Smith was born on August 11, 1944, in Marks, Mississippi. He graduated from Yale University in 1966 with a degree in


economics, where he conceptualized the idea for an integrated air-to-ground delivery system.

- **Military Service:** Smith served two tours in Vietnam as a Marine Corps officer, earning the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and two Purple Hearts. He left the military as a captain in 1970.
- **Founding of FedEx:** Smith founded FedEx in 1973 with a fleet of 14 aircraft, pioneering overnight shipping and revolutionizing logistics. He led the company to become a global powerhouse, handling 17 million shipments daily.
- **Leadership and Legacy:** Smith stepped down as CEO in 2022 but remained executive chairman. He was known for his leadership philosophy, rooted in the "People-Service-Profit" culture, and was widely respected for his vision and integrity.

**India's No.1 App**  
*for*  
**Bank | SSC | Railways**  
**Competitive Exams**

- Job Alerts
- Daily Quiz • Free PDF's
- Videos • Test Series • Current Affairs

Download Now



Make My Exam

Powered by IBT

# Now Govt. Job is in Your Hand !!

India's #1  
Educational App

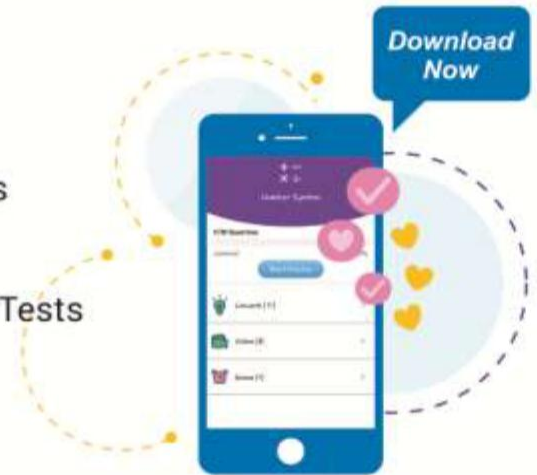
makemyexam



make **MY** exam



- 1000+ Videos
- 2000+ Concepts
- 3000+ Quizzes
- 1000+ Practice Tests
- 500+ PDF



## India's Best Video Course for Competitive Exams by IBT Faculties

### BANK ALL EXAMS

VIDEO COURSE

395 Videos

₹3749/-



Videos by IBT Experts

### RAILWAY ALL EXAMS

VIDEO COURSE

602 Videos

₹3499/-



Videos by IBT Experts

### SSC ALL EXAMS

VIDEO COURSE

688 Videos

₹3599/-



Videos by IBT Experts

### SBI CLERK (PRE)

VIDEO COURSE

327 Videos

₹2499/-



Videos by IBT Experts

### RAILWAY NTPC

VIDEO COURSE

602 Videos

₹2699/-



Videos by IBT Experts

### SSC CGL EXAM

VIDEO COURSE

688 Videos

₹2999/-



Videos by IBT Experts

### SBI PO (PRE)

VIDEO COURSE

327 Videos

₹2499/-



Videos by IBT Experts

### RBI ASSISTANT (PRE)

VIDEO COURSE

327 Videos

₹2499/-



Videos by IBT Experts

### SSC CHSL EXAM

VIDEO COURSE

688 Videos

₹2999/-



Videos by IBT Experts

To buy visit [www.makemyexam.in](http://www.makemyexam.in) or **Whatsaap- 99152-28862**

