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WEEKLY — Current Affairs

NATIONAL NEWS

An advanced 'Garuda Drishti' system adopted by Maharashtra to combat cybercrime

- **Key Features:** Garuda Drishti is an advanced social media monitoring and cyber intelligence tool designed to detect and track criminal activities on social media platforms, preventing fraudulent activities and ensuring swift action.
- **Effectiveness:** The system has analyzed over 30,000 social media posts, identifying and removing 650 offensive posts to prevent communal tensions and law-and-order issues.
- **Development:** Garuda Drishti was developed at a minimal cost through the Cyber Hack 2025 competition, showcasing innovative and cost-effective solutions for cybercrime prevention. The Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) are owned by the Nagpur Police.
- **Impact:** The system has helped return ₹10 crore to 7,405 victims of cyber financial crimes, with an additional ₹12.5 crore remaining frozen via the NCCRP portal for future release.
- **Functionality:** Apart from crime prevention, Garuda Drishti assists in analyzing social media trends, identifying suspicious accounts, and enabling swift action, positioning Maharashtra as a leader in cybercrime prevention.

Ajay Kumar Bhalla gets additional charge as Nagaland Governor

- **Appointment:** Ajay Kumar Bhalla, the current Governor of Manipur, has been given additional charge as the Governor of Nagaland following the demise of La Ganesan on August 14, 2025.
- **Effective Date:** The appointment took effect immediately, with Bhalla discharging the functions of the Governor of Nagaland in addition to his own duties as Manipur Governor, starting August 16, 2025.
- **Background:** Bhalla is a 1984-batch IAS officer from the Assam-Meghalaya cadre and previously served as the Union Home Secretary of India from August 22, 2019, until his retirement on August 22, 2024.
- **Current Situation:** Bhalla's additional charge comes at a critical time when Nagaland is awaiting progress on the protracted peace talks between the Centre and Naga political groups, and Manipur is currently under President's Rule.
- **Responsibilities:** As the Governor of both Manipur and Nagaland, Bhalla's leadership will be crucial in maintaining stability and fostering development in both northeastern states.

SHRESTH is India's First State Health Regulatory Excellence Index

- Purpose: SHRESTH aims to benchmark and strengthen state drug regulatory systems across India, ensuring drug safety and quality standards are consistently met.
- Developer: The index was designed by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), a national regulatory body for Indian pharmaceuticals and medical devices.
- State Categorization: States are divided into two categories - Manufacturing States (evaluated on 27 indices) and Primarily Distribution States/UTs (evaluated on 23 indices).
- Objective: The ultimate goal of SHRESTH is to enable targeted improvements in human resources, infrastructure, and digitization across states, ensuring drug safety for every Indian, regardless of geography.

Rajasthan launched India's first drone-based artificial rain trial

- India's First Drone-Based Trial: Rajasthan launched India's first drone-based artificial rain trial at Ramgarh Dam in Jaipur, marking a shift from traditional airplane-assisted cloud seeding to unmanned aerial vehicles.
- Objective: The trial aims to enhance rainfall using advanced cloud seeding techniques, potentially providing drought relief for Rajasthan's agriculture sector and helping save crops during dry spells.
- Technology Used: The experiment involves 60 drones dispersing special chemicals like silver iodide into rain-bearing clouds to stimulate the formation of water droplets, triggering rainfall. This method allows for greater precision and flexibility compared to traditional aircraft.
- Partnership: The trial is a joint project between the Rajasthan Agriculture Department and GenX AI, a tech company based in the US and Bengaluru, with approvals from various government departments.

India's First Drone-AI Powered Artificial Rain Experiment Launched

- Experiment Details: The experiment, a joint project between the Agriculture Department and GenX AI, involves 60 drone cloud seeding test flights over Ramgarh Dam. State Agriculture Minister Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena inaugurated the project.
- Technology Used: Cloud seeding involves dispersing substances like silver iodide or dry ice into clouds to stimulate rainfall. The drones will spray these chemicals

into clouds to attract moisture and form larger water droplets that eventually fall as rain.

- **Objective:** The primary goal is to induce rain in areas where clouds form but rain doesn't fall, potentially saving crops during dry spells. If successful, this method could be used across Rajasthan.
- **Challenges:** Cloud seeding requires specific conditions, including moisture-laden clouds and suitable atmospheric instability. The experiment's success depends on these factors, and the outcome may be unpredictable.

IDFC FIRST Bank Launches RemitFIRST2India

- **Digital Remittance Platform:** RemitFIRST2India is a next-generation digital platform that enables Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to send money to their families in India quickly and securely, with zero transfer fees.
- **Partnership with SingX:** The platform has been launched in partnership with SingX, a leading remittance provider licensed by the Monetary Authority of Singapore, ensuring a fully compliant and seamless cross-border payment experience.
- **Key Features:** RemitFIRST2India offers live transaction tracking, competitive exchange rates, and 24/7 support, prioritizing speed, transparency, and easy access.
- **Supported Countries:** The platform currently supports transfers from Singapore and Hong Kong, with plans to expand to other countries in the near future.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Marianne de Jong appointed as the new ambassador of the Netherlands to Azerbaijan

- **Background:** De Jong has held key positions, including Deputy Head of Mission at the Dutch Embassy in Spain and senior roles within the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague and the Permanent Representation of the Netherlands to the European Union in Brussels.
- **Arrival in Azerbaijan:** De Jong officially arrived in Baku on August 12, 2025, marking the beginning of her tenure as Ambassador.
- **Predecessor:** She succeeds Her Excellency Pauline Eizema, who has represented the Netherlands in Azerbaijan since 2020.
- **Objectives:** The Dutch Embassy in Baku hopes that De Jong's appointment will contribute to strengthening relations between the Netherlands and Azerbaijan, building on long-standing ties of friendship and cooperation.

Senior diplomat Chris Seed appointed as New Zealand's next ambassador to US

- **Appointment:** Chris Seed, a senior diplomat, has been appointed as New Zealand's next ambassador to the United States, succeeding Rosemary Banks.
- **Background:** Seed served as Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade from 2019 to 2024 and previously led New Zealand's High Commissions in Australia and Papua New Guinea.
- **Experience:** He is considered one of New Zealand's most senior and accomplished diplomats, making him suitable for this vital role.
- **Timing:** Seed will take up the role in January 2026, allowing for a smooth transition from Banks' second term as ambassador.
- **Importance:** The US-New Zealand relationship is one of New Zealand's most critical bilateral relationships, and Seed's experience and influence are expected to effectively represent New Zealand's interests in Washington DC.

India became the world's third-largest automobile market

- **Ranking:** India surpassed Japan to become the world's third-largest auto market in 2022, behind China and the US.
- **Sales Figures:** India sold at least 4.25 million new vehicles in 2022, topping Japan's 4.2 million sales. This includes 4.13 million vehicles delivered between January and November 2022, with the remaining sales accounted for in December.
- **Growth Potential:** With only 8.5% of Indian households owning a passenger vehicle in 2021, there's significant room for sales growth. India's large population, expected to surpass China's, and rising incomes contribute to this potential.
- **Market Trends:** Most new vehicles sold in India were gasoline-powered, including hybrids, while electric vehicles had a minimal presence. The easing of the automotive chip shortage in 2022 supported the market's recovery.
- **Future Projections:** S&P Global Mobility expects Indian light vehicle production to grow 5-8% in 2023, with sales reaching 4.4 million units in 2022, registering a 23.4% growth.

DEFENCE NEWS

Indian Navy to Commission INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri

- **Commissioning Details:** The Indian Navy will commission INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri simultaneously on August 26, 2025, at Visakhapatnam's Eastern Naval Command headquarters. This marks the first time two major surface combatants from different Indian shipyards will be commissioned together.
- **Shipbuilders:** INS Udaygiri is being built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai, while INS Himgiri is being constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata.
- **Stealth Frigates:** Both ships are part of the Project 17A stealth frigate program and feature advanced stealth capabilities, including reduced radar cross-section and enhanced maneuverability.
- **Indigenous Design:** INS Udaygiri is the 100th ship designed by the Navy's Warship Design Bureau, highlighting India's growing self-reliance in warship design and construction.

Indian Naval Ships in Sri Lanka For Slinex-25

- **Participating Ships:** Indian Naval Ships INS Rana, a Guided Missile Destroyer, and INS Jyoti, a Fleet Tanker, have arrived in Colombo to participate in the 12th edition of the Sri Lanka India Naval Exercise (SLINEX-25).
- **Exercise Dates:** The exercise is scheduled from August 14 to 18, 2025, and aims to enhance interoperability, maritime cooperation, and exchange best practices between the two navies.
- **Phases of Exercise:** SLINEX-25 will be conducted in two phases - the Harbour phase in Colombo from August 14 to 16, followed by the Sea phase from August 17 to 18.
- **Participating Sri Lankan Ships:** SLNS Gajabahu and Vijayabahu, both Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessels, will represent the Sri Lankan Navy, and Special Forces of both navies will also feature in the exercise.
- **Objectives:** The exercise aims to bolster maritime cooperation, enhance interoperability, and strengthen bonds of friendship and camaraderie between the Indian and Sri Lankan navies, aligning with India's policy of Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions.

SPORTS NEWS

Navy win Armed Forces Inter Services Squash Championship

- **Championship Victory:** The Indian Navy won the team championship title by defeating the Indian Air Force 2-1 in the final match.

- **Tournament Details:** The championship was held at Base Repair Depot, Air Force Chandigarh, from August 10 to 14, 2025, and featured participation from four teams: Army Red, Army Green, Air Force, and Indian Navy.
- **Exceptional Performance:** The Navy's victory showcases their exceptional skill and determination in the sport, reinforcing their commitment to fitness and competitive spirit.
- **Selection for National Championship:** The competition served as a platform to select the best players to represent the Services Squash Team in the upcoming National Squash Championship.
- **Sportsmanship and Excellence:** The tournament highlighted the values of camaraderie, discipline, and excellence within the Armed Forces, demonstrating the Navy's sustained commitment to nurturing sporting talent.

Jharkhand Women's Hockey team won 15th Junior National Women's Hockey Championship 2025

- **Championship Title:** Jharkhand Women's Hockey team emerged as champions in the 15th Hockey India Junior Women National Championship 2025, Division 'A'.
- **Final Match:** They defeated Hockey Haryana 2-1 in the final match held in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh.
- **Goals:** Sweety Dungdung and Shanti Kumari scored early goals for Jharkhand in the first quarter, while Kirty scored a late goal for Haryana.
- **Bronze Medal:** Uttar Pradesh Hockey won the bronze medal after defeating Chhattisgarh Hockey 2-0.
- **Dominant Performance:** Jharkhand's win showcases their dominance in the tournament, with strong team efforts leading to their championship title.

Rishabh Yadav wins India's first medal in World Games 2025

- **Medal Details:** Rishabh Yadav defeated Abhishek Verma 149-147 in the bronze medal match, showcasing exceptional skill and composure under pressure.
- **Path to the Podium:** Yadav's journey to the bronze medal included wins over Guatemala's Julio Barillas 147-143 in the Round of 16 and Turkey's Yagiz Sezgin 147-145 in the quarterfinals. He lost to American Curtis Lee Broadnax 145-147 in the semifinals, setting up the bronze medal match against Verma.
- **Significance of the Medal:** This medal marks only India's second-ever archery medal at the World Games, following Jyothi Surekha Vennam's compound bronze in 2013. It's also the sixth overall medal for India across all editions of the Games.

- **Competition Highlights:** The men's individual compound podium featured Netherlands' Mike Schloesser taking gold and America's Curtis Lee Broadnax winning silver. Yadav's bronze medal is a testament to India's growing presence in compound archery.

India U20 Women Qualify for AFC Asian Cup 2026 After 20 Years

- **Historic Qualification:** India U20 women's football team qualified for the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup for the first time in 20 years, securing a spot in the 2026 tournament in Thailand with a 1-0 win over Myanmar.
- **Winning Goal:** Pooja scored the decisive goal in the 27th minute, initiating a counterattack and delivering a cross that Neha looped back into the danger area, allowing Pooja to bundle the ball over the line with her torso.
- **Strong Performance:** India dominated the first half, controlling possession and creating scoring opportunities. Despite Myanmar's relentless pressure in the second half, India's defense held firm, with goalkeeper Monalisha Devi making crucial saves to preserve the lead.
- **Group D Topper:** India finished atop Group D with seven points, having drawn 0-0 with Indonesia and winning 7-0 against Turkmenistan in their previous matches. This impressive performance earned them a spot in the 2026 AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup.

Ritika Wins Gold in Women's in Asian U22 Boxing Championships 2025

- **Ritika's Victory:** Ritika defeated Kazakhstan's Assel Toktassyn in the women's 80+kg final, showcasing a composed yet aggressive approach to outclass her opponent.
- **India's Medal Tally:** India concluded its campaign with a total of 27 medals across both the U19 and U22 age groups.
- **U22 Medals:** The Indian U22 contingent secured 13 medals, including 1 gold, 4 silver, and 8 bronze medals, with Ritika being the lone gold medalist in this category.
- **U19 Performance:** The U19 team finished second with 14 medals, including 3 gold, 7 silver, and 4 bronze medals.
- **Overall Ranking:** India finished fourth in the U22 category and second in the U19 category.

India's Namrata Batra Makes History as She Reaches Wushu 52 kg Final

- **Historic Achievement:** Namrata Batra became the first Indian to reach the women's 52 kg Wushu final at the 2025 World Games in Chengdu, China, on August 11, 2025.
- **Assured Medal:** By storming into the final, Namrata assured India of its first-ever World Games medal in Wushu, with a guaranteed silver medal and a chance to fight for gold.
- **Semifinal Win:** Namrata defeated Philippines' Krizan Faith Collado 2-0 in the semifinals, showcasing her impressive skills and paving the way for a potential gold medal.
- **Groundbreaking Moment:** This achievement marks a significant milestone for Indian Wushu, highlighting the country's growing presence and potential in the sport.

India's Divya defeats China's Lei Tingjie in Women's Speed Chess Championship 2025

- **Dominant Victory:** Divya Deshmukh won convincingly against Lei Tingjie with a score of 10-3, showcasing her exceptional skills in speed chess.
- **Quarterfinal Bound:** This victory propelled Divya into the quarterfinals of the championship, where she will face World No 1 Hou Yifan.
- **Impressive Performance:** Divya's win was marked by eight wins, four draws, and only one loss against Lei Tingjie in the online event.
- **Recent Success:** Divya's victory comes on the back of her impressive performance in the FIDE Women's World Cup, where she became the first Indian to clinch the title, defeating compatriot Koneru Humpy.

David Warner Overtakes Virat Kohli to Become Fifth-Highest Run-Getter in T20 Cricket

- **New Ranking:** David Warner has surpassed Virat Kohli to become the fifth-highest run-scorer in T20 cricket, accumulating 13,545 runs in 419 matches at an average of 36.80 and a strike rate of over 140.
- **Record-Breaking Knock:** Warner achieved this milestone during a match against Manchester Originals in The Hundred 2025, scoring an impressive 71 runs off 51 balls with 12 fours and a six.
- **Warner's Form:** In The Hundred 2025, Warner has scored 150 runs in just three innings at an average of 75.00 and a strike rate of 141.50, including two half-centuries.

- **Next Target:** Warner is now just 16 runs shy of surpassing Shoaib Malik for the fourth spot in the all-time T20 run-scorers list.

Namrata Batra Wins Historic Silver in Women's 52 kg at World Games 2025

- **Historic Win:** Namrata Batra won a silver medal in the women's 52 kg category, marking India's first-ever medal in Wushu at the World Games.
- **Opponent and Result:** She lost to local favorite Mengyue Chen 2-0 in the final.
- **Previous Performance:** The 24-year-old had won silver at the Asian Championships last year and is a four-time national champion.
- **Road to Finals:** Batra won 2-0 against Lebanon's Barbara El Rassi in the quarter-finals and Krizan Faith Collado of the Philippines in the semis.
- **India's Medal Count:** This medal is India's second podium finish at the 2025 World Games, following Rishabh Yadav's bronze in men's compound archery.

Haryana boxers clinch team titles at Sub Junior Boxing Nationals

- **Team Titles:** Haryana's young boxing brigade won the overall team titles in both boys' and girls' categories at the 4th Sub Junior National Boxing Championships.
- **Boys' Category:** Haryana secured 4 gold, 2 silver, and 6 bronze medals, led by clean-sweep wins from Ravi Sihag (49-52kg) and Sanchit Jayani (55-58kg).
- **Girls' Category:** Haryana's girls team dominated, producing champions like Garima (35-37kg), Princi (49-52kg), Sunaina (58-61kg), Jivika (61-64kg), and Radhika Sharma (67-70kg), with 5 gold, 4 silver, and 5 bronze medals.
- **Final Standings:** In the boys' division, Haryana topped with 47 points, followed by Services (38 points) and Uttar Pradesh (34 points). In the girls' category, Haryana led with 57 points, ahead of Services (42 points) and Punjab (33 points).
- **Special Awards:** Notable boxers received awards, including S. Obrat Meccades of Tamil Nadu (Best Boxer - Boys), Abhijeet Tehlan of Services (Best Challenger - Boys), Trushana Vinayak Mohite of Services (Best Boxer - Girls), and Nayana Yahvi S. of Karnataka (Best Challenger - Girls).

Gulveer Singh betters own national record in men's 3000m race

- **New National Record:** Gulveer Singh shattered his own national record in the men's 3000m event, clocking a time of 7:34.49 seconds at the Gyulai Istvan Memorial in Budapest, Hungary.
- **Previous Record:** He surpassed his previous record of 7:38.26 seconds, set at the Boston University meet in February, by over three seconds.

- **International Performance:** Singh finished fifth in the event, behind Kenya's Mathew Kipchumba Kipsang (7:33.23), Mexico's Eduardo Herrera (7:33.58), Uganda's Oscar Chelimo (7:33.93), and Uruguay's Valentin Soca (7:34.28).
- **Multiple National Records:** Gulveer Singh now holds national records in three events: 3000m (7:34.49), 5000m (12:59.77), and 10000m (27:00.22).
- **Asian Championship Wins:** He is also the reigning Asian champion in the 5000m and 10000m events, winning gold medals at the Asian Athletics Championships in Gumi, South Korea, and has qualified for the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo.

Rohith Krishna is India's 89th GM

- **New Grandmaster Title:** Rohith Krishna S, a 20-year-old chess player from Tamil Nadu, has officially become India's 89th Grandmaster after achieving his final GM norm at the Almaty Masters Qonaev Cup in Kazakhstan.
- **Tournament Performance:** Rohith scored 6 out of 9 points in the tournament, surpassing the required 2500 Elo rating mark and securing his final GM norm by defeating Armenia's Artur Davtyan in the final round.
- **Balancing Studies and Chess:** Rohith is currently pursuing computer science while balancing his chess career. He aims to reach a 2600 rating and become the world champion in the future.

Indian Skater Anandkumar Wins Bronze at World Games

- **Historic Medal:** Anandkumar Velkumar won India's first-ever roller skating medal at the World Games, clinching bronze in the men's 1000m sprint inline speed skating track event.
- **Time and Ranking:** He finished with a time of 1:22.482 seconds, narrowly defeating Switzerland's Livio Wenger by 0.1 seconds to secure the bronze medal.
- **Medal Tally:** This achievement contributed to India's best campaign at the World Games, with the country now having a total of three medals - one silver and two bronzes.
- **Previous Achievements:** Anandkumar has previously won silver at the 2021 World Championships and was part of the Indian team that won bronze in the men's 3000m event at the 2023 Asian Games.
- **India's Medal Count:** With this win, India's total World Games medal count stands at eight, consisting of one gold, two silvers, and five bronzes.

Khalid Jamil is head coach of the Indian football team

- **Historic Appointment:** Khalid Jamil has become the first Indian head coach of the national team in 13 years, succeeding Manolo Marquez, who stepped down after a winless stretch.
- **Proven Track Record:** Jamil has a successful coaching stint with clubs like Aizawl FC, NorthEast United, and Jamshedpur FC, winning the I-League title with Aizawl in 2017 and guiding Jamshedpur to the ISL semifinals.
- **Immediate Challenges:** His first major tests will be the CAFA Nations Cup 2025, where India faces Iran, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan, followed by crucial AFC Asian Cup qualifiers against Singapore in October.
- **Key Objectives:** Jamil's primary goals include improving India's goal-scoring record, instilling tactical clarity, and bringing structure and efficiency to the team's play.
- **Experience and Credentials:** A former player with 40 international caps, Jamil holds an AFC Pro License and has extensive experience working with young Indian players, making him a suitable choice for the national team role.

Sathiyar wins 2nd WTT Feeder Title

- **Second WTT Feeder Title:** Sathiyar Gnanasekaran won his second WTT Feeder title by claiming the men's singles crown at the WTT Feeder Vientiane 2025, held in Laos from August 11-15, 2025.
- **Dominant Performance:** He delivered a commanding performance in the final, defeating top seed Ryoichi Yoshiyama of Japan 3-0 (11-4, 11-6, 12-10).
- **Recent Success:** This victory follows his men's doubles title win at the WTT Contender Lagos, where he partnered with Akash Pal to defeat the French duo of Jules Rolland and Leo De Nodrest 3-0.
- **Career Milestone:** Sathiyar's win marks a significant milestone in his career, showcasing his ability to excel in both singles and doubles formats and solidifying his status as one of India's most prominent paddlers.
- **Ranking Implications:** This title win will likely boost Sathiyar's world ranking, with him aiming to break into the top 50 by 2026, and demonstrates his growing prowess on the international table tennis circuit.

AWARD NEWS

Col Jamwal awarded with Governor's Medallion for Excellence

- **Award Details:** Col. R S Jamwal, Director of the National Institute of Mountaineering and Adventure Sports (NIMAS), received the Governor's

Medallion for Excellence from Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt Gen K T Parnaik (Retd) for leading two significant expeditions.

- **Expeditions:** The award recognizes Col. Jamwal's achievements in leading the Brahmaputra River rafting expedition and the Mount Kanchenjunga climb. The NIMAS team successfully navigated the entire Indian stretch of the Brahmaputra River, covering 1,040 km in 28 days, and summited Mount Kanchenjunga, India's highest and the world's third-highest peak.
- **Governor's Praise:** Governor Parnaik praised Col. Jamwal's achievements, stating that they will bring recognition to the state and inspire a new generation of Arunachali youth to dream bigger and push their limits.
- **NIMAS' Role:** The Governor urged NIMAS to organize more adventure activities involving local youth, highlighting the institute's potential to nurture the state's untapped talent and produce future champions.

Delhi University awarded highest NAAC A++ grade in 2nd cycle of assessment

- **NAAC Grade:** Delhi University has been awarded the highest NAAC accreditation grade of A++ with a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 3.55.
- **Accreditation Validity:** The accreditation is valid for five years, until 2029.
- **Improvement from Previous Cycle:** This is an improvement from the previous cycle in 2018, where DU secured an A+ grade with a CGPA of 3.28.
- **Recognition:** The university's vice-chancellor, Yogesh Singh, called this recognition a "landmark moment" in DU's history, reflecting its continued focus on quality enhancement, innovation in teaching and research, and strong institutional governance.
- **Commitment to Excellence:** DU remains committed to maintaining the highest standards in education, research, and community engagement, reaffirming its position among India's leading institutions of higher learning.

Bibi Fatima Women's SHG Wins UNDP Equator Prize 2025

- **Award Winner:** Bibi Fatima Women's Self-Help Group from Teertha village in Karnataka's Dharwad district won the prestigious Equator Initiative Award 2025, the only Indian winner among ten global recipients.
- **Nature-Based Solutions:** The award recognizes community-led nature-based solutions for sustainable development and climate resilience, with this year's theme focusing on women and youth leadership for nature-based climate action.

- **SHG Achievements:** Formed in 2018 by 15 women, the group now supports over 5,000 farmers in 30 villages, promoting millet-based mixed cropping, eco-friendly natural farming methods, and managing community seed banks.
- **Sustainable Practices:** The SHG runs a solar-powered millet processing unit producing value-added products, enhancing food security, biodiversity conservation, and women's economic empowerment.

16 BSF personnel get gallantry medals for Operation Sindoor

- **Operation Sindoor:** The medals were awarded for bravery and valour displayed during Operation Sindoor, a retaliatory strike against terrorist and military facilities in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir from May 7 to 10, 2025.
- **Bravery Acts:** The awardees demonstrated exceptional courage in various acts, including destroying enemy surveillance cameras, neutralizing drone attacks, and replenishing ammunition under intense enemy fire.
- **Awardees:** The 16 personnel include Assistant Commandants Abhishek Srivastav and Alok Negi, Deputy Commandant Ravindra Rathore, Inspector Devi Lal, and others who risked their lives to protect their fellow soldiers and defend the border.
- **Notable Acts:** Sub-Inspector Vyas Dev continued a critical mission despite suffering life-threatening injuries, including the loss of his left leg, while Constable Suddi Rabha stood by him, refusing to yield despite severe injuries.

Guwahati Airport Wins International Architectural Award 2025

- **Award Recognition:** Guwahati International Airport's Terminal 2 has won the International Architecture Award 2025 in the Transport category, recognized globally for its design excellence by The Chicago Athenaeum and The European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies.
- **Design Inspiration:** The terminal's design is inspired by Assam's heritage, featuring bamboo and orchid motifs that blend sustainability with cultural identity, reflecting the natural beauty, biodiversity, and cultural depth of the region.
- **Sustainable Features:** The terminal incorporates various sustainable features, including a green roof, rainwater harvesting, energy-efficient lighting, and natural light utilization, aiming to minimize its environmental footprint.
- **Capacity and Facilities:** The new terminal can handle 10 million passengers annually and includes modern facilities such as self-bag drop counters, Digi Yatra-enabled e-gates, and advanced security systems, enhancing the overall passenger experience.

Neeraj Ghaywan's Homebound wins Best Film and Best Director at IFFM 2025

- **Double Win:** Neeraj Ghaywan's "Homebound" won two prestigious awards at IFFM 2025: Best Film and Best Director, solidifying Ghaywan's reputation as a talented filmmaker.
- **Film's Themes:** "Homebound" explores universal themes of belonging, displacement, nostalgia, alienation, and reconciliation, resonating with audiences globally.
- **Star-Studded Cast:** The film features a talented cast, including Ishaan Khatter, Vishal Jetwa, and Janhvi Kapoor, who bring Ghaywan's vision to life with authenticity and emotional depth.
- **Global Recognition:** This win strengthens the global visibility of Indian independent cinema and encourages narratives beyond commercial tropes, highlighting social and emotional complexities.

APPOINTMENT & PERSON IN NEWS

Suvasis Das designated as Deputy Secretary, Pharmaceuticals

- **Appointment Details:** Suvasis Das, a 2014-batch officer of the Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax), has been appointed as Deputy Secretary in the Department of Pharmaceuticals for a period of four years.
- **Department Role:** In his new role, Das will focus on regulatory affairs, pharmaceutical industry growth, and ensuring access to quality medicines across the nation.
- **Background:** Das was recommended for central deputation by the Department of Revenue, and his appointment was approved by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) on August 8, 2025.
- **Responsibilities:** As Deputy Secretary, Das is expected to bring strategic financial and compliance insights to the department, shaping policy in India's rapidly growing pharmaceutical sector.

Cheshta Yadav appointed as Director of Census Operations in Deputy Secretary level, Goa

- **Appointment Details:** Cheshta Yadav, a 2014-batch IAS officer of the AGMUT cadre, has been appointed as Director of Census Operations and Director of Citizen Registration in Goa at the Deputy Secretary level.

- **Tenure:** Her appointment is for a period up to December 31, 2025, or until further orders, whichever is earlier. She will hold the post alongside her current responsibilities.
- **Background:** Cheshta Yadav is presently posted as DM North-West District, Government of Delhi. Her appointment aims to strengthen the Census and NPR framework in Goa before field activities intensify.
- **Responsibilities:** As Director of Census Operations, Yadav will coordinate with the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India, to facilitate timely execution of fieldwork and reporting, ensuring transparency, accuracy, and inclusion in the census process.

Zomato roped in Shah Rukh Khan as Brand Ambassador

- **Partnership Details:** Zomato has announced Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan as its new brand ambassador, following his appearance in the company's latest campaign, "Fuel Your Hustle". This campaign celebrates the hard work and perseverance behind some of India's most celebrated success stories.
- **Marketing Strategy:** The partnership aims to inspire individuals driven by consistency and ambition, aligning with Zomato's mission to support their journeys with great food. Shah Rukh Khan will feature prominently across Zomato's multi-platform marketing initiatives, including television commercials, digital campaigns, print, and outdoor activations.
- **Brand Resonance:** Zomato's Marketing Head, Sahibjeet Singh Sawhney, highlighted SRK's rise as a symbol of relentless progress, stating that his influence transcends generations and borders. Shah Rukh Khan's journey from humble beginnings to global icon mirrors the grit and persistence Zomato believes in.
- **Campaign Objective:** The "Fuel Your Hustle" campaign is designed to celebrate the spirit of relentless ambition, determination, and resilience of people across India who work tirelessly towards achieving their dreams.

IAS Vikram Singh Malik appointed as Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

- **Appointment Details:** Vikram Singh Malik, a 2012-batch IAS officer from the AGMUT cadre, has been appointed as Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting for a period of four years.
- **Background:** Before this central posting, Malik served as Administrative Secretary in the Union Territory of Ladakh, handling critical departments such as Power, Youth Services & Sports, and Information & Public Relations.

- **Responsibilities:** In his new role, Malik will oversee key areas including public broadcasting, digital media strategies, media content regulation, and policy coordination across communication platforms.
- **Significance:** Malik's appointment is notable given the evolving media landscape in India, with challenges such as digital misinformation, content moderation, and broadcast reforms.

SC appoints former judge Nageswara Rao ombudsman of BCA

- **Appointment:** The Supreme Court appointed Justice L Nageswara Rao, a former judge, as the ombudsman of BCA to oversee its functioning and address internal disputes.
- **Objective:** The appointment aims to ensure the smooth operation of BCA without external interference or internal conflicts, promoting transparency and accountability.
- **Background:** The decision came after a division bench of the Patna High Court set aside the appointment of a former judge, Shaikesh Kumar Singh, as ombudsman, directing the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to appoint a new one.
- **Court's Observation:** The Supreme Court criticized the division bench's order, questioning why BCCI was involved in appointing the ombudsman for BCA, and noted that such associations often get bogged down in "dirty politics".

Shyam Sundar Agrawal appointed as IFA in Indo Tibetan Border Police

- **Appointment:** Shyam Sundar Agrawal, a 2011-batch Indian Cost Accounts Service (ICoAS) officer, has been appointed as IFA in ITBP, Delhi, under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Tenure:** He will serve at the Director level for a tenure of five years from the date he assumes charge or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- **Central Staffing Scheme:** The appointment is under the Central Staffing Scheme, which allows experienced officers to take on leadership roles in various ministries and organizations.
- **Background:** ITBP is a specialized armed police force responsible for guarding the India-China border, stretching over 3,488 km in the Himalayan region.
- **Responsibilities:** As IFA, Agrawal will play a crucial role in managing the financial aspects of ITBP's operations, ensuring effective utilization of resources, and supporting the force's mission to safeguard India's borders.

Shailesh appointed as Deputy Secretary in the National Health Authority

- **Appointment Details:** Dr. Shailesh, a 2013-batch IAS officer from the Tripura cadre, has been appointed as Deputy Secretary in the NHA under the Department of Health & Family Welfare for a period of four years.
- **Background:** Dr. Shailesh is a medical doctor by training, having graduated with an MBBS from the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC), Pune. He brings both clinical expertise and governance experience to his new role.
- **Administrative Experience:** Before joining NHA, Dr. Shailesh held various key positions in Tripura, including Sub-Divisional Officer & Magistrate, Deputy Secretary in the Finance Department, Mission Director & Joint Secretary in the Health & Family Welfare Department, and Municipal Commissioner.
- **Key Responsibilities:** As Deputy Secretary in NHA, Dr. Shailesh is expected to play a vital role in expanding healthcare coverage, ensuring financial protection for vulnerable populations, and enhancing the quality of health services across India, particularly under the Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

Ravi Narayanan appointed as CEO of SMFG India Credit

- **Appointment Details:** Ravi Narayanan, a veteran banker with over 30 years of experience in retail banking and branch distribution, has been appointed CEO of SMFG India Credit, effective August 28, 2025.
- **Background:** Narayanan previously held senior leadership roles at Axis Bank and HDFC Bank, serving on the boards of Axis Securities and Axis Mutual Fund. His expertise in retail and branch network management is expected for a leadership role.
- **Leadership Change:** This appointment marks a significant shift in SMFG India Credit's leadership since its acquisition by Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group (SMFG) in 2021, with Narayanan being the first non-Fullerton insider to lead the company.
- **Key Focus Areas:** Narayanan plans to focus on accelerating retail business growth, enhancing customer engagement through the branch network, forging strategic partnerships, and strengthening risk and compliance frameworks.
- **Company Performance:** SMFG India Credit reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 442 crore in FY25, with assets under management growing 25.4% year-over-year to nearly Rs 57,000 crore.

Odisha govt appoints actress Madhuri Dixit as brand ambassador of handloom industry

- **Appointment Announcement:** Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced Madhuri Dixit's appointment as brand ambassador on August 7, 2025, during the 11th National Handloom Day celebrations.
- **Promoting Handloom Industry:** The appointment aims to promote Odisha's handloom products globally, leveraging Dixit's influence to gain recognition for the state's garments in the fashion world.
- **EKTA Initiative:** The 'EKTA' initiative, launched alongside the appointment, provides market access, training, and financial support to handloom artisans across Odisha, benefiting over 1.3 lakh weavers and allied workers.
- **Madhuri Dixit's Reaction:** Dixit expressed admiration for Odisha's rich textile heritage, emphasizing the importance of preserving traditional crafts through modern platforms like 'EKTA'. She praised the state's weavers, saying handloom fabrics reflect Odia identity, culture, and lifestyle.

IOC appoints Bindra as Mental Health Ambassador for athletes

- **Appointment:** Abhinav Bindra, India's first individual Olympic gold medalist, has been appointed as one of nine IOC Mental Health Ambassadors to support athlete well-being globally.
- **Role:** As an ambassador, Bindra will engage with athletes through social media, one-on-one conversations, and IOC educational programs to break down stigma and promote honest conversations about mental health.
- **Background:** Bindra, a long-time advocate for athlete mental health, was part of the IOC Mental Health Working Group since its inception and has consistently emphasized the need for comprehensive mental health support systems for athletes.
- **Mission:** The IOC Mental Health Ambassadors aim to prioritize athlete well-being, encourage open discussions, and integrate mental health support into sporting environments, ensuring athletes feel safe, supported, and heard.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Biofuel Day observed on 10th August

- **History:** World Biofuel Day commemorates Sir Rudolf Diesel's successful operation of a diesel engine using peanut oil in 1893, marking a pivotal moment in the development of biofuels as a sustainable alternative to fossil fuels.
- **Significance:** The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of biofuels in reducing dependence on fossil fuels, promoting energy security, and mitigating climate change. Biofuels are renewable, biodegradable, and sustainable, offering a cleaner environment and economic benefits.

- **Theme:** The theme for World Biofuel Day 2025 is "Biofuels: A Sustainable Pathway to Net Zero", highlighting the crucial role of biofuels in achieving a net-zero carbon future. The 2024 theme was "Sustainable Biofuels: Reducing Waste, Feeding Energy".
- **Benefits:** Biofuels can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy security, and generate income and employment in rural areas. They can be produced from various sources, including agricultural waste, crops, and algae.

OBITUARY NEWS

Myanmar's Acting President U Myint Swe passed away

- U Myint Swe passed away due to a prolonged illness caused by neurological and neurodegenerative disorders. He was 74 years old.
- Myint Swe became acting president after the military ousted the elected civilian government in 2021, arresting former President Win Myint and top leader Aung San Suu Kyi. He served as a figurehead, signing decrees and providing legitimacy to the military's rule.
- Myint Swe had been in poor health for over a year, suffering from weight loss, loss of appetite, fever, and cognitive decline. He was admitted to intensive care on July 24, 2025, and had authorized Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing to assume his presidential duties.
- The military government announced that Myint Swe's funeral would be held with state honors, although no date has been disclosed. His passing comes a week after the junta lifted the nationwide state of emergency and announced plans for a December election.

Vece Paes, Olympic Hockey Medallist & Sports Administrator passed away

- **Death:** Dr. Vece Paes passed away on August 14, 2025, at the age of 80, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease and other age-related ailments.
- **Olympic Achievement:** Paes was part of the Indian hockey team that won a bronze medal at the 1972 Munich Olympics, and his son Leander Paes won a bronze medal in tennis at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, making them the only father-son duo in India to achieve this feat.
- **Sports Medicine Expertise:** Dr. Paes was a renowned sports medicine expert who worked with various sports bodies, including the Asian Cricket Council, BCCI, and Indian Davis Cup team, and served as the president of the Calcutta Cricket and Football Club.

- **Multi-Sport Athlete:** Paes was a versatile athlete who played divisional-level football, cricket, and rugby, and served as the president of the Indian Rugby Football Union from 1996 to 2002.
- **Legacy:** Dr. Paes is remembered as a devoted athlete, insightful sports professional, and caring father who contributed significantly to shaping his son Leander's illustrious tennis career.

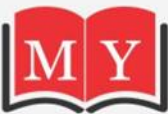
Former Australian captain & coach Bob Simpson passed away

- **Cricketing Legacy:** Simpson had a storied career as a player, captain, and coach, leaving a lasting impact on Australian cricket history. He played 62 Tests, scored 4,869 runs, and took 71 wickets.
- **Comeback and Coaching:** Simpson made a remarkable comeback at 41 during the World Series Cricket era and later became Australia's first full-time coach, guiding the team to significant victories, including the 1987 World Cup.
- **Tribute and Remembrance:** Cricket Australia chair Mike Baird paid tribute to Simpson, calling him one of the "greats" of Australian cricket. A minute of silence was observed in his honor during a T20 match against South Africa.

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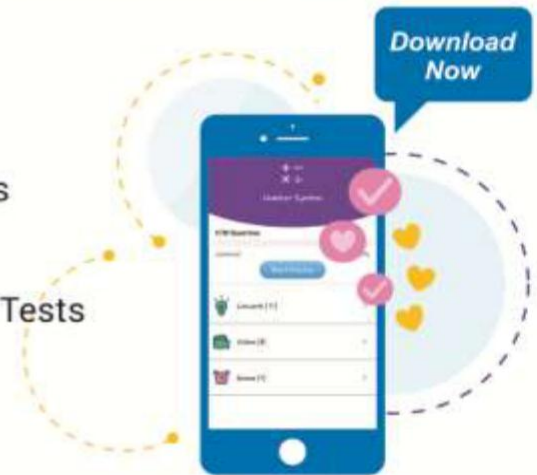
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