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WEEKLY — Current Affairs

NATIONAL NEWS

India's Ladakh records World's highest snow leopard population

India's Ladakh region has achieved a remarkable feat by recording the world's highest population of snow leopards. This discovery highlights the region's rich biodiversity and its importance in global wildlife conservation. The survey was conducted using scientific methods, including camera traps and field assessments. Ladakh's harsh climate and rugged terrain provide a perfect natural habitat for these elusive big cats. Conservation efforts by the Indian government and local communities have played a key role in this success.

Foot notes:

- **Snow Leopard Density:** Ladakh has the world's highest recorded density of snow leopards, with approximately 477 animals, accounting for nearly 68% of India's estimated 709 snow leopards.
- **Habitat and Distribution:** Snow leopards in Ladakh occupy an extensive area of 47,572 square kilometers, with Hemis National Park recording the world's highest snow leopard density of about 2.07 individuals per 100 square kilometers.
- **Conservation Factors:** The region's success in conservation is attributed to cultural values, good governance, and a healthy prey population, showcasing decades of community-defended protection and a shift from hunting to conservation.
- **Coexistence with Humans:** Over 60% of Ladakh's snow leopards coexist in landscapes shared with humans, emphasizing the need for inclusive conservation planning, especially in the face of development and climate pressure.

India Ranks Among Top Six Patent Filers in 6G Technology

India has emerged as a significant player in the global race for 6G technology, now ranking among the top six countries in 6G patent filings. This advancement is part of the government's proactive approach under the 'Bharat 6G Vision', aiming to position India at the forefront of 6G design, development, and deployment by 2030. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has been instrumental in this progress, funding next-generation testbeds and evaluating numerous proposals to accelerate 6G research. India's goal is to contribute 10% of global 6G patents and one-sixth of the global standards in the next three years. This strategic push is supported by collaborations between the government, academia, and industry leaders, fostering a robust innovation ecosystem.

Foot notes:

- **Ranking and Potential Impact:** India is now among the top six nations globally in 6G patent filings, with the potential to add \$1 trillion to the economy by 2035. This ranking positions India alongside major global players like the US, China, Japan, South Korea, and the European Union.
- **Government Support and Funding:** The government has funded over 111 research projects with 300 crore to support innovation in 6G technology. Initiatives like "Bharat

6G Vision" and "Bharat 6G Alliance" aim to drive technological innovation and collaboration.

- **Research and Development:** India is focusing on key areas like spectrum efficiency, AI integration, and quantum communication to develop 6G technology. The country has also established research centers and partnerships with global universities and tech companies.
- **Patent Filings and Global Standards:** India could secure 10% of all 6G patents globally and contribute one-sixth to global standards within the next three years. The Department of Telecommunications has launched a patent and IPR support framework to encourage inventors and organizations to file patents.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Anurag Bhushan appointed as next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Sweden

The Ministry of External Affairs announced the appointment of Anurag Bhushan as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Sweden . A 1995-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, Bhushan currently serves as Additional Secretary in the Ministry. He is expected to assume his new role in Sweden shortly. This appointment underscores the strengthening of India-Sweden relations, which are characterized by shared values, robust business and investment ties, and collaborative efforts in research and development.

Foot notes:

- **Current Position:** Bhushan currently serves as Additional Secretary in the MEA and is expected to take up his new role in Stockholm shortly after diplomatic formalities.
- **Background and Experience:** Bhushan has a distinguished diplomatic career spanning multiple continents and key portfolios, including previous ambassadorial assignments in countries like Afghanistan and Nigeria, and postings in Washington D.C. and Dubai.
- **India-Sweden Relations:** The appointment highlights India's strategic commitment to strengthening diplomatic and economic relations with Sweden, particularly in areas like clean energy, technology, innovation, and sustainable development. The two countries have a dynamic bilateral relationship built on shared values and mutual interests.
- **Objectives:** As Ambassador, Bhushan's key objectives will include promoting India's interests in Northern Europe, strengthening bilateral trade and innovation partnerships,

Bhutan launched the World's first National-level Cryptocurrency Tourism Payment System

Bhutan has made history by launching the world's first national-level cryptocurrency tourism payment system. This innovative move aims to modernize the country's tourism sector by offering digital and seamless payment options for international visitors. Tourists can now use cryptocurrency to pay for services such as hotels, travel bookings, and local experiences. The initiative is part of Bhutan's broader vision to integrate advanced financial technologies while maintaining sustainable tourism practices. By adopting blockchain-based payments, the country

enhances transparency, security, and efficiency in transactions. This bold step positions Bhutan as a global pioneer in combining fintech and tourism on a national scale.

Foot notes:

- **Partnership:** Bhutan has partnered with Binance Pay and DK Bank to roll out this innovative payment system, allowing tourists to use digital currencies for various services during their stay.
- **Cryptocurrency Support:** The system supports over 100 cryptocurrencies, including BNB, BTC, and USDC, and enables real-time transactions using dynamic or static QR codes through the Binance app.
- **Benefits for Locals:** This initiative empowers local businesses, including small-scale artisans and vendors in remote areas, to accept cryptocurrency payments with just a smartphone and a QR code, promoting financial inclusion.
- **Tourism Experience:** The payment system simplifies travel logistics by reducing transaction fees and currency exchange challenges, allowing tourists to enjoy a cashless and card-free experience in Bhutan.

World's first commercial scale e-methanol plant opens in Denmark

Denmark has inaugurated the world's first commercial-scale e-methanol plant in Kasso, marking a significant advancement in green fuel technology. Developed by European Energy in collaboration with Japan's Mitsui & Co., the €150 million facility is powered by the adjacent 304 MW Kasso Solar Park and utilizes captured biogenic CO₂ to produce up to 42,000 tonnes of e-methanol annually. Major companies like Maersk, LEGO and Novo Nordisk have committed to using this green methanol to reduce their carbon footprints in shipping and manufacturing. The plant's excess heat will provide district heating for approximately 3,300 local households, enhancing its environmental benefits.

Foot notes:

- **Production Capacity:** The facility has the capacity to produce up to 42,000 tonnes of e-methanol annually, which will be used as a low-carbon fuel for shipping and as a raw material in the chemical industry.
- **Renewable Energy Source:** The plant uses renewable energy from a nearby 304 MW solar park to power its electrolysis process, which splits water into hydrogen and oxygen. The hydrogen is then combined with biogenic CO₂ to produce e-methanol.
- **Off-Takers:** The e-methanol will be supplied to companies such as A.P. Moller-Maersk for use as a fuel, and LEGO Group and Novo Nordisk for use in producing lower-carbon plastics.
- **Environmental Benefits:** The plant will not only produce green fuel but also provide district heating for around 3,300 local households, showcasing a practical and scalable solution for decarbonizing industries.

Sussan Ley becomes first female opposition leader in Australia

Sussan Ley has made history by becoming the first woman to lead Australia's Liberal Party and serve as Leader of the Opposition. Elected on May 13, 2025, following Peter Dutton's electoral defeat, Ley narrowly defeated Angus Taylor in a 29–25 leadership ballot . A member of the party's moderate wing, she brings a diverse background as a former commercial pilot, farmer, and economist . Ley has pledged to modernize the party, emphasizing inclusivity and a clear policy agenda that resonates with Australians .

Foot notes:

- **Historic Achievement:** Sussan Ley has made history by becoming the first woman to lead the Liberal Party in its 80-year history and the first female opposition leader in Australia.
- **Leadership Election:** Ley won the leadership election by defeating Angus Taylor with 29 votes to 25, showcasing her strength within the party.
- **Background:** Born in Nigeria to English parents, Ley grew up in the United Arab Emirates and England before moving to Australia. She has had a diverse career as a commercial pilot, farmer, and public servant.
- **Political Experience:** Ley has held various ministerial roles, including Minister for Health, Sport, and Environment, and has been the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. She was elected to the House of Representatives in 2001, representing the New South Wales division of Farrer.

Anita Anand appointed as Canada's Foreign Minister

Anita Anand has been appointed as Canada's new Minister of Foreign Affairs, marking a historic milestone as the first Hindu woman and the first woman of Indian origin to hold this position. Born in Kentville, Nova Scotia, to Indian immigrant parents, Anand has had a distinguished career as a law professor and politician. She previously served as Canada's Minister of National Defence, where she played a key role in addressing military misconduct and supporting Ukraine during the Russian invasion. Anand took her oath of office on the Bhagavad Gita, reflecting her cultural and religious heritage. Anand's leadership is expected to influence Canada's approach to international affairs, including its relations with India and the United States.

Foot notes:

- **Background:** Anand is a lawyer, academic, and politician. She holds four degrees, including a Bachelor of Arts in political studies from Queen's University and a Bachelor of Laws from Dalhousie University.
- **Minister of National Defence:** She played a central role in Canada's efforts to provide military aid to Ukraine during the 2022 Russian invasion.
- **Minister of Public Services and Procurement:** Anand oversaw Canada's procurement of vaccines and personal protective equipment during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Notable Achievements:** She received the Yvan Allaire Medal from the Royal Society of Canada for her outstanding contribution to governance of private and public organizations.

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STATE NEWS

UP Partners with World Bank to Launch UP AGREES & AI Pragma Initiatives

The Uttar Pradesh government has partnered with the World Bank to launch two major initiatives: UP AGREES and AI Pragma. UP AGREES (Uttar Pradesh Agriculture Resilience and Enhancement Scheme) aims to improve agricultural productivity and sustainability in the state. The initiative focuses on climate-resilient farming practices and better resource management to support farmers. AI Pragma is designed to enhance digital learning and promote the use of artificial intelligence in education and governance. Together, these initiatives mark a significant step toward technological advancement and rural development in Uttar Pradesh.

Foot notes:

- **World Bank Funding:** The World Bank has approved a loan of 2,737 crore over six years for the UP AGREES program, with the state government contributing 1,166 crore. The loan has a repayment period of 35 years at an interest rate of 1.23%.
- **AI Pragma Initiative:** The AI Pragma initiative aims to upskill 10 lakh youth in Artificial Intelligence, machine learning, data analytics, and cybersecurity, in collaboration with tech giants like Microsoft, Intel, Amazon, and Google, to boost employment and support digital transformation.
- **Economic Goal:** These initiatives align with Uttar Pradesh's goal of becoming a \$1 trillion economy by driving agricultural innovation, digital skill development, and entrepreneurship.
- **Implementation:** The programs will be implemented in multiple districts, including Basti, Maharajganj, Ballia, Ghazipur, Varanasi, and Jhansi, with a focus on promoting climate-resilient practices, digital technologies, and market linkages for farmers.

Indore Becomes the India's First Beggar- Free City

Indore has been officially declared India's first beggar-free city following a comprehensive rehabilitation campaign launched in February 2024. The initiative successfully identified and rehabilitated approximately 5,000 individuals engaged in begging, providing them with employment opportunities and enrolling their children in schools. The success of this campaign

not only enhances Indore's reputation for cleanliness but also demonstrates the impact of coordinated social welfare efforts in addressing urban challenges.

Foot notes:

- **Achievement:** Indore has been declared India's first beggar-free city after a year-long campaign that began in February 2024, rehabilitating approximately 5,000 beggars.
- **Rehabilitation Process:** The campaign categorized beggars into three groups: habitual beggars (60%), those begging due to financial difficulties or disabilities (20%), and those forced into begging (20%), providing tailored support for each group.
- **Community Involvement:** The initiative involved community engagement, especially with communities like the Nath and Nut Samaj, who often resist rehabilitation. Training and support were provided directly within these communities to build trust.
- **Government and Institutional Support:** The campaign received extensive support from government bodies, including the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the World Bank, which praised Indore's initiative as a model for other cities.
- **Sustainability Measures:** To maintain the city's beggar-free status, begging and giving alms are banned, with penalties for violations. Citizens are incentivized to report instances of begging with a reward of Rs 1,000, and many have already claimed this reward.

BANKING NEWS

Public Sector Banks post record 1.78 Lakh Crore Profit in FY25

Public sector banks (PSBs) in India have reported a record cumulative net profit of 1.78 lakh crore for the fiscal year 2024–25, marking a 26% increase from 1.41 lakh crore in FY24. This growth reflects the sector's continued recovery from previous financial challenges, attributed to comprehensive reforms and strategic government support. The State Bank of India (SBI), as the largest lender, contributed over 40% of the total profit, with a standalone net profit of 70,901 crore, up 16% from the previous year. Among other notable performers, Punjab National Bank reported a 102% rise in net profit to 16,630 crore, while Punjab & Sind Bank saw a 71% increase to 1,016 crore. All 12 PSBs posted profits, underscoring the sector's robust performance and the effectiveness of ongoing financial reforms.

Foot notes:

- **Record Profit:** Public Sector Banks achieved a cumulative net profit of 1.78 lakh crore in FY25, marking a 26% increase from 1.41 lakh crore in FY24.
- **SBI's Contribution:** State Bank of India dominated the sector, contributing over 40% of the total earnings with a net profit of 70,901 crore, up 16% from 61,077 crore in FY24.
- **Top Performers:** Punjab National Bank reported the highest net profit growth of 102% to 16,630 crore, followed by Punjab & Sind Bank with a 71% rise to 1,016 crore.
- **Growth Across Banks:** All 12 public sector banks reported a rise in profit, with Central Bank of India, UCO Bank, and Bank of India posting growth rates of 48.4%, 47.8%, and 45.9%, respectively.

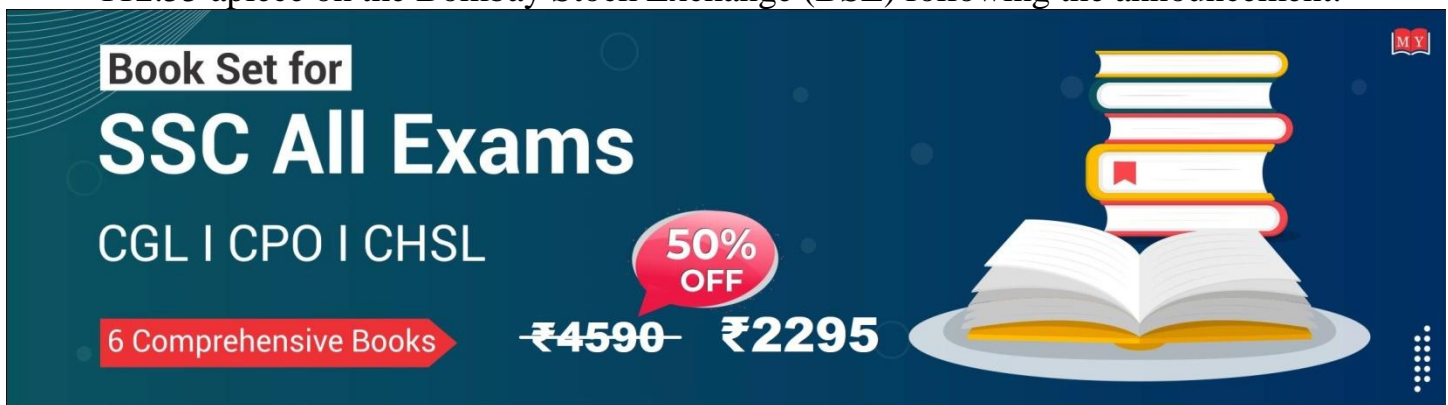
Turnaround Story: This record profit marks a significant turnaround from FY18 when PSBs collectively reported losses of 85,390 crore, attributed to the government's 4R strategy of recognizing NPAs, resolution and recovery, recapitalization, and reforms

LIC hikes stake in Bank Of India to 8.38

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has increased its stake in Bank of India (BoI) to 8.38% as of May 9, 2025, up from 6.35% in September 2021. This acquisition of an additional 2.026% stake over nearly four years reflects LIC's continued confidence in BoI's performance and growth prospects. Following the announcement, BoI shares rose by 2.27%, closing at 112.55 on the Bombay Stock Exchange on May 13, 2025. The bank recently reported an 82.5% year-on-year increase in profit after tax for the March quarter, reaching 2,626 crore, alongside a 2.1% rise in net interest income to 6,063 crore. LIC's strategic investment underscores its role as a key institutional investor in India's public sector banking landscape.

Foot notes:

- **Stake Increase:** Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has increased its stake in Bank of India (BoI) to 8.38% as of May 9, 2025.
- **Additional Stake Purchase:** LIC acquired an additional 2.026% stake in BoI between September 2, 2021, and May 9, 2025, raising its holding from 6.35% to 8.38%.
- **Investment Rationale:** As India's largest institutional investor, LIC's stake hike reflects its strategic interest in the banking sector, emphasizing financial sector consolidation and performance-driven investment.
- **Bank of India's Performance:** BoI shares saw a modest uptick, ending 2.27% higher at 112.55 apiece on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) following the announcement.



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SPORTS NEWS

Deepika, Parth Win Bronze as India Bags 7 Medals at Archery World Cup

At the 2025 Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Shanghai, Indian archers Deepika Kumari and Parth Salunkhe each secured bronze medals in the individual recurve events. Deepika triumphed over South Korea's Kang Chae-young with a 7-3 victory, marking her 12th individual World Cup medal and India's first in women's recurve this year. Parth clinched his maiden World Cup medal by defeating France's Baptiste Addis 6-4, showcasing composure in a tightly contested

match. These achievements contributed to India's impressive total of seven medals at the event, comprising two golds, one silver, and four bronzes. The medal haul highlights the strength and depth of India's archery talent on the global stage.

Foot notes:

- **Deepika Kumari's Bronze Medal:** Deepika won her 12th Individual World Cup medal by defeating Korea's Kang Chaeyoung 7-3 in the bronze medal match of the women's recurve category.
- **Parth Salunkhe's Maiden Medal:** Parth Salunkhe claimed his first World Cup medal, a bronze, by beating France's Baptiste Addis 6-4 in the men's recurve category.
- **India's Medal Tally:** India concluded the 2025 Shanghai World Cup with 7 medals - 2 gold, 1 silver, and 4 bronze medals.
- **Other Indian Medalists:** The gold medals were won by Madhura Dhamangaonkar in women's individual compound and the men's compound team comprising Ojas Deotale, Abhishek Verma, and Rishabh Yadav.

Nirupama Devi Finishes 4th at Asian Weightlifting Championships

Nirupama Devi delivered an impressive performance at the Asian Weightlifting Championships, finishing in fourth place. Competing against elite athletes from across the continent, she showcased remarkable strength and determination. Although she narrowly missed out on a medal, her consistent lifts kept her among the top contenders. This result highlights her growing potential on the international stage. Her performance is a proud moment for Indian weightlifting and a promising sign for future competitions.

Foot notes:

- **Final Ranking:** She finished 4th in the competition, narrowly missing the bronze medal.
- **Lift Details:** Devi successfully lifted 91kg in snatch and 115kg in clean and jerk, totaling 206kg. However, she failed to lift 120kg and 125kg in the clean and jerk section, which cost her the bronze medal.
- **Medal Winners:** The gold medal was won by China's Li Shuang with a total lift of 239kg (105kg + 134kg), while the silver medal went to Elreen Ann Ando of the Philippines with a total lift of 232kg (102kg + 130kg). Mun Min-hee of South Korea took the bronze medal with a total lift of 214kg (94kg + 120kg).
- **Indian Team Performance:** India sent a two-member team to the championships, with Dilbag Singh set to compete in the men's 96kg event on Tuesday.

Kynan and Sabeera win Bronze in Mixed Trap Event at Shotgun World Cup

Olympian Kynan Chenai and Sabeera Haris clinched a bronze medal for India in the trap mixed team event at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup 2025 held in Nicosia, Cyprus. The Indian duo edged out Turkey's Tolga Tuncer and Pelin Kaya with a narrow 34-33 victory in the bronze-medal match at the Cyprus Olympic Shooting Range. In the qualification round, they secured fourth place among 34 teams, amassing a combined score of 142—Sabeera contributing 72 and Kynan

70. This bronze marks India's first medal at the tournament, with China taking gold and Poland securing silver in the event. The second Indian pair, Shardul Vihan and Kirti Gupta, finished 17th with a score of 137. Kynan and Sabeera's podium finish underscores India's growing prowess in international shooting competitions.

Foot notes:

- **Bronze Medal Win:** Kynan Chenai and Sabeera Haris secured the bronze medal by defeating Turkey's Tolga Tuncer and Rumeysa Pelin Kaya with a score of 34-33 in the bronze playoff match.
- **Qualification Round Performance:** The Indian pair finished fourth in the qualification round with a combined score of 142, behind Poland, China, and Turkey. Sabeera scored 72, while Kynan shot 70.
- **Kynan's Experience Key to Victory:** Kynan's international experience played a crucial role in the bronze match, as he shot 23 out of 25 targets, outperforming Turkey's Tolga who hit 17 targets.
- **India's First Shotgun Medal:** This bronze medal was India's first shotgun medal at the 2025 ISSF World Cup season, marking a significant achievement for the Indian shooting contingent.

Virat Kohli announces Retirement from Test Cricket

Indian cricket legend Virat Kohli has announced his retirement from Test cricket, concluding a remarkable 14-year career in the longest format of the game. The 36-year-old made the announcement on May 12, 2025, just days after fellow cricketer Rohit Sharma also stepped away from Test cricket. Kohli's Test career boasts 123 matches, during which he amassed 9,230 runs at an average of 46.85, including 30 centuries and 31 fifties. He served as India's Test captain from 2014 to 2022, leading the team to 40 victories in 68 matches, making him the most successful Indian Test captain and placing him fourth globally for most Test wins as captain. Kohli's retirement marks the end of an era for Indian cricket, as he follows closely on the heels of Rohit Sharma's departure from the format.

Foot notes:

- **Career Statistics:** Kohli played 113 Test matches, scoring 9,230 runs at an average of 48.67, including 30 centuries and 31 fifties. His highest score was an unbeaten 254 against South Africa in Pune.
- **Captaincy Legacy:** As Test captain, Kohli led India in 68 matches, winning 40 — the most by any Indian captain. Under his leadership, India reached two consecutive ICC World Test Championship finals and climbed to the No. 1 Test ranking.
- **Following Rohit Sharma's Footsteps:** Kohli's retirement comes just a week after fellow senior player Rohit Sharma announced his retirement from Test cricket, both informing the BCCI of their decisions before the upcoming Test series against England.

- **Future Plans:** Although Kohli has retired from Test cricket and previously from T20 cricket after India's T20 World Cup triumph, he is expected to continue playing ODIs, where he has amassed a record-breaking 51 centuries.

India won Women's ODI Tri-Series

India clinched the 2025 Women's Tri-Nation ODI Series title with a commanding 97-run victory over Sri Lanka in the final held at the R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo. Vice-captain Smriti Mandhana led the charge with a brilliant 116 off 101 balls, marking her 11th ODI century and propelling India to a formidable total of 342/7. The Indian bowling attack, spearheaded by Sneha Rana and Amanjot Kaur, dismantled the Sri Lankan batting lineup, sharing seven wickets between them. Rana's exceptional performance throughout the tournament, claiming 15 wickets in five matches, earned her the 'Player of the Series' accolade. This tri-series, featuring India, Sri Lanka, and South Africa, served as a crucial preparation ahead of the upcoming Women's Cricket World Cup.

Foot notes:

- **Final Match Result:** India Women defeated Sri Lanka Women by 97 runs in the final match held on May 11, 2025, at Colombo.
- **Smriti Mandhana's Century:** Smriti Mandhana scored her 11th ODI century, hitting a hat-trick of boundaries to reach the mark off 92 balls, playing a crucial role in India's victory.
- **India's Dominance:** India won three out of four matches, topping the points table with 6 points, while Sri Lanka Women secured two wins and South Africa Women lost all three matches.
- **Key Players' Performance:** Tazmin Brits scored a magnificent century for South Africa Women in a losing cause against India, while Sneha Rana took 5-43 in the same match, earning her the player of the match award.
- **Tournament Significance:** This tri-series is part of the buildup for the ICC Women's World Cup in India, showcasing the teams' preparations and skills in the lead-up to the major tournament.



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Gautam Gambhir Set to Become Head Coach of Indian Test Team

Gautam Gambhir has been appointed as the head coach of the Indian men's cricket team, succeeding Rahul Dravid in July 2024. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)

confirmed his appointment, entrusting him with the responsibility of leading the team across all formats. Gambhir, a former opener and key member of India's 2007 T20 World Cup and 2011 ODI World Cup-winning squads, brings a wealth of experience to the role. His coaching tenure began with a significant achievement, guiding India to victory in the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy, marking the team's first ICC title since 2013.

Foot notes:

- **Tenure:** Gambhir will take charge from the upcoming away series against Sri Lanka, which includes 3 ODIs and 3 T20Is starting July 27, 2024, and his focus will be on developing a culture of excellence, discipline, and teamwork.
- **Experience:** Gambhir brings a wealth of experience and a deep understanding of the game, having been a pivotal figure in Indian cricket with crucial performances in the 2007 ICC World T20 and the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup.
- **Conditions:** Gambhir reportedly wants full control over cricket operations for Team India, a separate team dedicated to Test cricket, and to begin planning for the 2027 ODI World Cup right away, among other conditions.

Kirti Patel won big against Dhairya Yadav at All India Chess Masters

Kirti Patel secured a remarkable victory against Dhairya Yadav at the All India Chess Masters. Displaying sharp tactics and strategic depth, Kirti dominated the board from the early stages. Her opening play put Dhairya on the defensive, forcing several inaccuracies. Midgame pressure and positional mastery led to a significant material advantage. Despite a resilient defense by Dhairya, Kirti converted her lead confidently. This win marks a major highlight in Kirti Patel's growing chess career.

Foot notes:

- **Tournament Name:** The match was held at the All India Chess Masters FIDE Rating tournament in Mumbai.
- **Winner and Loser:** Woman Candidate Master (WCM) Kirti Patel won against Dhairya Yadav with a score of 1-0.
- **Kirti Patel's Profile:** Kirti Patel is a Woman Candidate Master with a FIDE rating of 1695 in standard chess, 1737 in rapid chess, and 1605 in blitz chess.
- **Performance:** Kirti Patel gave a commanding performance to beat Dhairya Yadav in the tournament.
- **Tournament Details:** The All India Chess Masters tournament is one of many chess events happening in India, with various tournaments organized by the All India Chess Federation.

Jeevan Tara won a gold medal in 13th Senior National Pencak Silat Championship 2025

Jeevan Tara from Arunachal Pradesh clinched the gold medal in the 45kg category at the 13th Senior National Pencak Silat Championship 2025, held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. This victory marks a historic milestone, as he became the first athlete from Arunachal Pradesh to secure a

gold medal in the senior national Pencak Silat competition. The championship featured participation from over 30 states, highlighting the competitive nature of the event. Alongside Jeevan's achievement, fellow Arunachali athletes Meko Liyak and Atta Tayung earned bronze medals in the 60kg and 50kg categories, respectively.

Foot notes:

- **Historic Win:** Jeevan Tara from Arunachal Pradesh made history by becoming the first athlete from the state to win a gold medal in the Senior National Pencak Silat Championship.
- **Championship Details:** The 13th Senior National Pencak Silat Championship 2025 was held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, from May 9 to 13, 2025.
- **Weight Category:** Jeevan Tara won the gold medal in the 45 kg category, showcasing his exceptional skills in Pencak Silat.
- **Achievement:** This achievement marks a significant milestone in Arunachal Pradesh's sporting history and serves as an inspiration for aspiring martial artists across the state.
- **State Pride:** Jeevan Tara's win has brought pride to Arunachal Pradesh, with officials and sports enthusiasts lauding his dedication, discipline, and rigorous training.

India Seal Top Spot In Group B With 4-0 Win Over Nepal in SAFF U19 C'ship

India's U19 football team secured the top position in Group B of the 2025 SAFF U19 Championship with a commanding 4-0 victory over Nepal at the Golden Jubilee Stadium in Yupia, Arunachal Pradesh. Rohen Singh Chaphamayum led the charge with goals in the 28th and 76th minutes, while local talent Omang Dodum and Danny Meitei added to the tally in the 29th and 84th minutes, respectively. The hosts dominated the match, scoring two goals in each half, and concluded the group stage with a perfect record of six points and a goal difference of +12. This victory highlights India's strong performance and sets the stage for an exciting semi-final clash.

Foot notes:

- **Comprehensive Victory:** India sealed the top spot in Group B with a convincing 4-0 win over Nepal in the SAFF U19 Championship.
- **Goal Scorers:** Rohen Singh Chaphamayum scored a brace, while Omang Dodum and Danny Meitei added one goal each to India's tally. Rohen scored in the 28th and 76th minutes, Omang in the 29th minute, and Danny in the 84th minute.
- **Group B Standings:** India finished Group B with perfect six points from two matches, boasting a goal difference of 12. Nepal finished second with three points.
- **Semi-Final Matchup:** India will face Maldives, the runners-up of Group A, in the semi-finals on May 16. Nepal, on the other hand, will play against Bangladesh, the winners of Group A.
- **Tournament Performance:** India's dominant performance showcased their strength in the tournament, setting the stage for a strong semi-final appearance.

Srihari LR Becomes India's 86th Chess Grandmaster

Srihari L R has achieved the prestigious title of becoming India's 86th Chess Grandmaster. He secured this milestone after a series of strong performances in international tournaments. Srihari's consistent play and strategic mastery earned him the final GM norm required for the title. His accomplishment adds to India's growing reputation as a global chess powerhouse. With this achievement, Srihari joins the elite group of Indian chess players who have brought pride to the nation.

Foot notes:

- **Tournament Details:** The championship was held in Al-Ain, United Arab Emirates, from May 6 to 15, 2025, where Srihari scored 5.5/9 points.
- **Requirements:** To earn the Grandmaster title, Srihari had to meet two main requirements: attain a minimum FIDE Elo rating of 2500 points and secure three Grandmaster norms in international competitions. He crossed the Elo rating requirement at the 2024 Dubai Open and earned his norms at the Budapest GM Round-Robin in August 2023, the 2023 Qatar Masters in October 2023, and the Asian Individual Men's Chess Championship 2025.
- **India's Chess Legacy:** Srihari's achievement continues India's legacy in chess, following in the footsteps of legendary players like Viswanathan Anand, who became the country's first Grandmaster in 1988.

Former England Selector Ed Smith appointed as MCC's next President

Former England cricketer and national selector Ed Smith has been appointed as the next President of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC). He will assume the role on October 1, 2025, for a 12-month term, succeeding Lord King of Lothbury. Smith's cricketing career spanned 13 seasons, during which he played for Kent, Middlesex, and England, amassing nearly 13,000 first-class runs, including 34 centuries. During his presidency, Lord's will host significant events, including the final of the 2026 ICC Women's T20 World Cup and its first-ever Women's Test match.

Foot notes:

- **Appointment:** Ed Smith, a former England men's cricket selector, has been appointed as the President of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) for a one-year term starting October 1, 2025.
- **Appointment Process:** Smith was appointed by Lord King of Lothbury, the current MCC President, at the MCC Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at Lord's Cricket Ground in London.
- **Background:** As a former England selector, Ed Smith brings significant cricket expertise to the role, which will likely influence MCC's strategic decisions and initiatives.
- **Role Significance:** The MCC President plays a key role in representing the club and contributing to the development of cricket globally, making Smith's appointment notable in the cricket community.

Pankaj Advani Clinches 2025 CCI Billiards Classic Title

Pankaj Advani clinched his third consecutive CCI Billiards Classic title in 2025, defeating Dhruv Sitwala 5–2 in the final held at the Cricket Club of India in Mumbai. The match saw Advani overcoming a slow start, leveling the game at 2–2 before dominating the remaining frames. This victory adds to Advani's illustrious career, which includes 28 world titles across billiards and snooker. He received a prize of 2.5 lakh, while Sitwala took home 1.5 lakh as the runner-up. Advani's consistent performance solidifies his status as a legend in Indian cue sports.

Foot notes:

- **Title Win:** Pankaj Advani won the CCI Billiards Classic 2025 title for the third consecutive time, defeating Dhruv Sitwala 5-2 in the final.
- **Tournament Details:** The final match was held at the Wilson Jones Billiards Hall of the Cricket Club of India (CCI) in Mumbai, showcasing high-intensity billiards.
- **Performance:** Advani was not at his best in the first three frames but seized the opportunity when Sitwala faltered, capitalizing with a 145 break to level the match at 2-2. He then won the next three frames to seal the title.
- **Prize Money:** Advani earned Rs. 2.5 lakh for his victory, while Sitwala took home Rs. 1.5 lakh for his efforts.
- **Achievements:** This win marks another milestone in Advani's illustrious career, with 28 World Championship titles across cue sports.



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ICC Boosts Test Cricket with Doubling of WTC Final Prize Pool

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced a significant increase in the prize money for the 2025 World Test Championship (WTC) Final, aiming to bolster the prestige of Test cricket. The total prize pool now stands at a record \$5.76 million, more than double that of previous editions. The winning team will receive \$3.6 million, a 125% increase from the \$1.6 million awarded to Australia in 2023, while the runners-up will earn \$2.16 million, up from \$800,000 in the previous edition. This substantial financial boost underscores the ICC's commitment to revitalizing interest in the longest format of the game.

Foot notes:

- **Record Prize Money:** The ICC has announced a record-breaking prize money of \$3.6 million for the winner of the World Test Championship (WTC) Final 2023-25, which is more than double the amount awarded in previous editions.

- **Winners and Runners-up:** The winners of the WTC Final, to be played between South Africa and Australia at Lord's starting June 11, 2025, will take home \$3.6 million, while the runners-up will earn over \$2.1 million.
- **Comparison to Previous Editions:** The prize money for the winners has been doubled from \$1.6 million, which was awarded to New Zealand in 2021 and Australia in 2023. The runners-up prize money has also increased significantly from \$800,000.
- **ICC's Commitment:** The increase in prize money reflects the ICC's efforts to prioritize Test cricket and build on the momentum of the first three cycles of the nine-team competition.

AGREEMENT & MOU's NEWS

C-DOT, CSIR-NPL partner to boost quantum, classical communication tech

The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) and the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) have achieved a significant milestone by integrating C-DOT's indigenous fiber-based Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) system with PRL's Free Space QKD system. This collaboration has resulted in the establishment of an end-to-end quantum communication link that utilizes both fiber and free space as transport mediums. The demonstration of this integrated system was presented to Prof. Ajay Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, and Dr. Neeraj Mittal, Secretary of the Department of Telecommunications, during the 2nd International Quantum Communication Conclave held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Foot notes:

- **Key Areas:** The partnership will focus on joint R&D in areas like Quantum Key Distribution (QKD), single-photon sources and detectors, Electromagnetically Induced Transparency (EIT)-based quantum systems, and FPGA-based control electronics.
- **Research Collaboration:** Both institutions will share access to their facilities, scientific expertise, and technical support to fast-track the development of high-impact technologies, aligning with national priorities like "Atmanirbhar Bharat" and "Make in India".
- **Capacity Building:** The collaboration emphasizes academic exchange and capacity building through guest lectures, workshops, collaborative teaching programs, and skill development initiatives in quantum and classical communication technologies.
- **National Ecosystem:** The partnership aims to strengthen India's quantum research ecosystem through collaborative efforts in standardization, performance validation, and defining benchmarks for quantum systems, essential for commercial deployment and global competitiveness.

India & Chile Sign TOR for Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement Negotiations

India and Chile have taken a significant step to enhance their bilateral trade relations by signing the Terms of Reference (ToR) for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) on May 8, 2025. This agreement aims to build upon the existing Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between the two nations, which was initially signed in 2006 and expanded in 2016. The CEPA is set to encompass a broader range of sectors, including digital services, investment promotion, cooperation among micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and critical minerals.

Foot notes:


- **CEPA Negotiations:** India and Chile have launched formal negotiations for a CEPA, aiming to significantly enhance bilateral trade and investment cooperation between the two countries. The first round of negotiations is scheduled to take place from May 26-30, 2025, in New Delhi.
- **Building on Existing Agreement:** The CEPA will build upon the existing Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between the two nations, which was signed in March 2006 and expanded in September 2016. The new agreement seeks to encompass a broader range of sectors.
- **Key Areas of Focus:** The CEPA will focus on areas such as digital services, investment promotion and cooperation, MSME collaboration, critical minerals, and more. This aims to enhance economic integration, promote inclusive growth, and create new opportunities for businesses in both countries.

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Dvara Solutions partners with Kissandhan Agri Financial

Dvara Solutions has entered into a strategic partnership with Kissandhan Agri Financial Services Pvt. Ltd., an RBI-regulated NBFC and part of the SLCM Group, to enhance multi-asset lending in India's rural sectors. Through this collaboration, Kissandhan will leverage Dvara's flagship Perdix platform to streamline and scale its lending operations across various products, including Micro LAP, Group Loans, Farmer Loans, and Medium-Term Loans. The integration aims to digitize and automate key aspects of Kissandhan's lending processes, thereby improving efficiency and customer experience. This partnership aligns with both organizations' commitment to financial inclusion and supporting the agri and rural ecosystem.

Foot notes:

- **Strategic Partnership:** Dvara Solutions has formed a strategic alliance with Kissandhan Agri Financial Services, an RBI-regulated Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), to streamline loan lifecycle workflows and improve operational efficiency.
- **Adoption of Perdix Platform:** Kissandhan will adopt Dvara Solutions' Perdix platform, which includes loan origination system, loan management system, reports, platform services, and co-lending module. This platform is already used by over 20 institutions, managing assets worth over 15,000 crore.
- **Enhanced Loan Offerings:** The partnership will enable Kissandhan to offer various loans, including micro loan against property (Micro LAP), group loans, farmers loans, and medium-term loans, thereby expanding its agricultural finance services.
- **Impact on Farmers:** Kissandhan has disbursed 3,263.99 crore in loans to farmers, impacting over 7 lakh farmers and benefiting 37,185 women loan beneficiaries in the Agri and allied sector.

DST & DRDO Join Hands to Strengthen India's Space Surveillance

India is intensifying its focus on space surveillance and situational awareness through strategic collaborations between key scientific and defense institutions. The Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), under the Department of Science & Technology (DST), has partnered with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) to develop technologies aimed at tracking space objects, including near-Earth objects and artificial satellites. These concerted efforts underscore India's commitment to strengthening its space infrastructure and ensuring the safety and security of its assets in the increasingly contested space domain.

Foot notes:

- **DRDO's Naval Technology Advancements:** DRDO has inaugurated a state-of-the-art facility called the Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterisation and Evaluation (SPACE) at the Underwater Acoustic Research Facility in Kulamavu, Idukki, Kerala.
- **Enhancing Anti-Submarine Warfare Capabilities:** The SPACE facility is designed to evaluate complete sonar systems, allowing for quick deployment and easy recovery of scientific packages.
- **Advanced Research and Development:** DRDO is working on various projects, including aerodynamics and materials research. They are also focusing on developing technologies that can be used for defense and space applications.
- **Exporting Defense Technology:** DRDO believes that exporting defense technology to friendly countries can strengthen India's strategic position globally, secure international partnerships and create high-tech industry and employment opportunities.

AWARD NEWS

La Prensa hooured with UNESCO World Press Freedom Prize 2025

La Prensa, Nicaragua's oldest newspaper, has been awarded the 2025 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize for its unwavering commitment to independent journalism despite severe government repression. Since 2021, the newspaper has operated in exile after its offices were raided, assets seized, and its general manager, Juan Lorenzo Holmann, imprisoned by the Ortega regime. UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay expressed regret over Nicaragua's decision, reaffirming the agency's commitment to press freedom and the importance of supporting courageous journalism worldwide.

Foot notes:

- **Award Recipient:** La Prensa, a Nicaraguan newspaper founded in 1926, has been awarded the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2025 for its courageous efforts to report the truth despite severe repression.
- **Reason for Award:** The prize recognizes La Prensa's commitment to independent journalism and freedom of expression in the face of authoritarian suppression in Nicaragua, including arrests, exiles, and confiscation of assets.
- **Current Status:** Despite the imprisonment and expulsion of its leaders, La Prensa continues to inform the Nicaraguan public online, with most of its team operating in exile from countries like Costa Rica, Spain, Mexico, Germany, and the US.

Actor Sonu Sood Honoured for Philanthropic Work During COVID-19

Actor and philanthropist Sonu Sood is set to receive the prestigious Humanitarian Award at the 72nd Miss World Festival, scheduled for May 31, 2025, at the HITEK Arena in Hyderabad, Telangana. This honor acknowledges his exceptional contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic, where he provided critical support to migrant workers, students, and families in need. Through his Sood Charity Foundation, he facilitated transportation for stranded individuals, distributed medical aid, and launched initiatives like free education and employment training programs. In addition to receiving the award, Sood will serve as one of the official judges for the grand finale, joining a distinguished panel to crown the next Miss World.

Foot notes:

- **Migrant Workers' Messiah:** He helped send over 7.26 lakh migrant workers back to their homes and provided employment opportunities to 2 lakh people, earning him the title of "messiah of migrants".
- **Student Evacuation:** Sood also facilitated the return of 14,500 students stranded abroad in countries like Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Russia, and the Philippines.
- **Medical Assistance:** He connected people with doctors, hospitals, and medical facilities, facilitating around 20-22 surgeries daily for months during the pandemic.
- **Recognition:** This award puts Sood in the company of notable personalities like Angelina Jolie, David Beckham, Leonardo DiCaprio, and Priyanka Chopra, who have also been honored by UN bodies for their humanitarian work.

Shri Satish Upadhyaya, Honoured with 'Biomass Changemaker of the Year' Award 2025

Shri Satish Upadhyay, Mission Director of the SAMARTH Mission, was honored with the 'Biomass Changemaker of the Year' Award at the 4th BBB Summit & Expo held in New Delhi on May 8–9, 2025. This recognition celebrates his pivotal role in advancing biomass utilization and promoting sustainable energy practices in India. Under his leadership, the SAMARTH Mission has been instrumental in integrating agri-residue into thermal power plants, thereby reducing carbon emissions and enhancing rural economies. The award underscores his commitment to fostering innovation and collaboration in the bioenergy sector.

Foot notes:

- **Contribution to Bioenergy:** He emphasized the importance of viewing biomass supply chain management from the demand side and enhancing demand creation for the development of market-driven mechanisms for biomass offtake.
- **Environmental and Social Benefits:** Upadhyay highlighted that biomass utilization has critical environmental and social benefits for the country, and the SAMARTH Mission's work on biomass co-firing is increasing biomass utilization in power generation.
- **Expertise in Biomass Supply Chain:** His expertise in biomass supply chain management was showcased at a national seminar organized by Sardar Swaran Singh National Institute of Bio-Energy Technology (SSS-NIBE), where he stressed the need for efficient biomass supply chains to support India's transition to a circular bio-economy.
- **Award Recognition:** Although specific details about the award ceremony are not available, the recognition as 'Biomass Changemaker of the Year' Award 2025 underscores Upadhyay's commitment to innovation and leadership in the biomass sector.

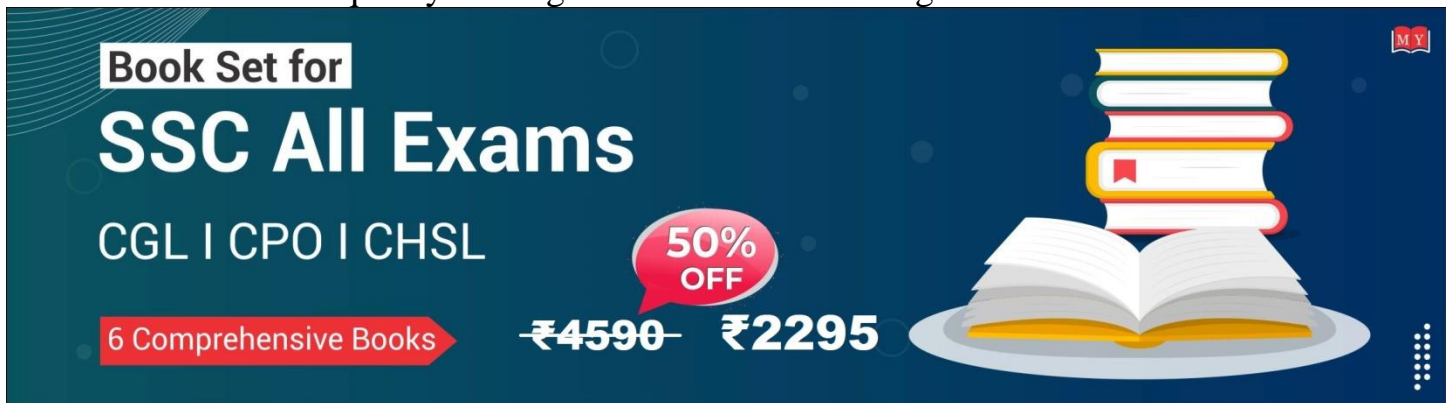
Health Minister Y Satya Yadav presented Florence Nightingale Awards to nurses

Union Health Minister Y Satya Yadav recently presented the prestigious Florence Nightingale Awards to recognize the outstanding contributions of nurses across India. The awards honor nurses for their dedication, compassion, and exceptional service in the healthcare sector. This annual recognition is named after Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. The ceremony celebrated the pivotal role nurses play in patient care, especially during public health crises. Minister Yadav praised the awardees for their unwavering commitment and tireless efforts in improving public health.

Foot notes:

- **Award Presentation:** The President of India presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards 2024 to 15 nursing professionals in recognition of their outstanding commitment to duty and service to the community.
- **Award Details:** Each award consists of a Certificate of Merit, a Cash Award of Rs.1,00,000/-, and a medal, given to outstanding nursing personnel employed in Central, State/UTs, and Voluntary Organizations.
- **Categories:** The awards were presented in three main categories: ANM (Auxiliary Nurse Midwife), LHV (Lady Health Visitor), and Nurse, acknowledging registered nurses across various specializations.

- **Awardees:** The recipients represented various states and union territories, reflecting the nationwide impact of nursing excellence, with notable awardees including Maj Gen Ignatius Delos Flora from Delhi and Dr. Tabasum Irshad Handoo from Jammu & Kashmir.
- **Significance:** The awards motivate nursing professionals to strive for excellence, raise awareness about the critical role of nurses in healthcare delivery, and help set benchmarks for quality nursing care across different regions of India.



Bhuwan Ribhu Becomes First Indian Lawyer to Receive World Law Congress Honour

Bhuwan Ribhu has become the first Indian lawyer to receive the prestigious Medal of Honour from the World Jurist Association, awarded at the World Law Congress in the Dominican Republic. Since beginning his legal career in 2005, Ribhu has been a tireless advocate for child rights, filing over 60 public interest litigations that have led to significant legal reforms in India. He co-founded Just Rights for Children (JRC), a coalition of over 250 organizations, which between April 2023 and March 2024 rescued more than 85,000 trafficked children and prevented over 330,000 child marriages. His recognition underscores India's leadership in child protection and highlights the ongoing journey toward justice for vulnerable children.

Foot notes:

- **Historic Recognition:** Bhuwan Ribhu has been awarded the Medal of Honour by the World Jurist Association, a prestigious recognition for his work in child rights and protection, making him the first Indian lawyer to receive this global honour.
- **Two Decades of Service:** Ribhu has dedicated over 20 years to protecting children from exploitation, leading to significant legal reforms and court interventions that have transformed child protection in India.
- **Global Impact:** His work has not only saved hundreds of thousands of children and women from exploitation but also inspired international cooperation in child justice, shaping child rights law globally.

Dr. Mustafa Yusufali Gom Conferred the International Buddha Peace Award

Dr. Mustafa Yusufali Gom, a Mumbai-based social worker and entrepreneur, was recently honored with the International Buddha Peace Award 2025 by the Maitry Peace Foundation. The award was presented by Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya in recognition of Dr.

Gom's significant contributions to social activism and leadership in the building repairs and restoration industry. As the Managing Director of Care Takers Exterior and Interior Pvt Ltd, Dr. Gom has seamlessly blended professional excellence with compassion-driven community development. His work, inspired by the teachings of His Holiness Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, promotes peace and harmony within the community.

Foot notes:

- Award Ceremony: The award was presented by Lakshman Prasad Acharya, Governor of Assam, during a grand ceremony organized by Maitri Peace Foundation in Guwahati, Assam.
- Dr. Gom's Achievements: As the Managing Director of Care Takers Exterior and Interior Private Limited, Dr. Gom has previously received several honors for his social work, including the Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Award and recognition from the governors of Maharashtra and Telangana.
- Shared Honor: Dr. Munir Khan, a structural engineer and founder of Avon Consulting Engineers, was also bestowed with the award for his outstanding contributions to social initiatives promoting sustainable development and community welfare.

PromptTech Connect Won Times Business Award 2025

PromptTech Connect has been honored with the prestigious Times Business Award 2025, recognizing its outstanding contributions to business innovation and technology. The award highlights the company's rapid growth, customer-centric solutions, and commitment to digital transformation. With a focus on empowering SMEs through advanced software and IT services, PromptTech Connect has emerged as a leading player in the tech ecosystem. This recognition reflects the company's dedication to excellence, integrity, and delivering value-driven services across global markets.

Foot notes:

- Business Solutions Provider: PromptTech is a global enterprise solution provider offering integrated services, including software, hardware, enterprise insurance, and business support, to drive seamless operations and long-term growth.
- Global Presence: With a presence in the Middle East, India, and the UK, PromptTech combines regional insights with international best practices to deliver tailored solutions addressing unique business challenges.
- Innovative Approach: PromptTech emphasizes innovation, technical expertise, and a hands-on approach to deliver measurable results aligning with business goals.
- Commitment to Excellence: The company fosters a culture of excellence, valuing individual ideas, and supporting personal growth, creating a supportive atmosphere for collective success.

Leander Paes Conferred with the Prestigious P C Chandra Puraskaar 2025

Tennis legend Leander Paes was honored with the 32nd P C Chandra Puraskaar at a grand ceremony held at Kolkata's Science City Auditorium. Instituted by the P C Chandra Group in 1993, the award recognizes outstanding achievements across various fields and carries a tax-free honorarium of 20 lakh. Paes, celebrated for his illustrious tennis career, boasts 18 Grand Slam titles and holds the distinction of being the first Indian to compete in seven consecutive Olympic Games, earning a bronze medal in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. The ceremony was attended by dignitaries from various sectors, reflecting the award's prestige and the high regard in which Paes is held.

Foot notes:

- Award Ceremony: Leander Paes received the P C Chandra Puraskaar 2025 at a grand ceremony held on May 11, 2025, at Science City Auditorium in Kolkata.
- Award Significance: The P C Chandra Puraskaar recognizes outstanding achievements across various fields, celebrating excellence and integrity, with a tax-exempt honorarium of Rs 20,00,000.
- Leander Paes' Achievements: Paes has won 18 Grand Slam titles and is the first Indian to have competed in seven consecutive Olympic Games, earning a bronze medal in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.
- Previous Recipients: Past recipients of the award include notable figures such as ISRO Chairman S. Somanath, World Boxing Champion Mary Kom, Sarod maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, cricket legend Kapil Dev, and Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi.

Neeraj Chopra conferred with Honorary Lt. Colonel Rank in Territorial Army

Neeraj Chopra, India's celebrated javelin thrower and double Olympic medalist, has been conferred the honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army. The Ministry of Defence announced this recognition on May 13, 2025, with the appointment effective from April 16, 2025, as per the Gazette of India. Chopra's military journey began in 2016 when he joined the Indian Army as a Naib Subedar under the sports quota, eventually rising to the rank of Subedar Major by 2024. The honorary rank acknowledges his exceptional contributions to Indian sports and his embodiment of military values such as discipline and dedication.

Foot notes:

- Honorary Rank: Neeraj Chopra, the Olympic gold medalist and javelin ace, has been bestowed with the honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army, effective April 16, 2025. This prestigious title recognizes his outstanding achievements in sports and his prior service in the armed forces.
- Previous Military Service: Chopra had previously held the rank of Naib Subedar in 2016 and was later promoted to Subedar and Subedar Major in 2021 and 2024, respectively. He was due for retirement this year, making the honorary commission a notable recognition of his contributions.
- Presidential Endorsement: The honorary title was conferred by the President of India under Para 31 of the Territorial Army Regulations, 1948.

- **Achievements:** Neeraj Chopra has etched his name in history with a gold medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and a silver medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics. He has also won gold at the 2023 World Athletics Championships in Budapest, solidifying his legacy in javelin throwing.

Brazilian microbiologist Mariangela Hungria awarded the prestigious World Food Prize 2025

Brazilian microbiologist Dr. Mariangela Hungria has been awarded the 2025 World Food Prize for her pioneering work in sustainable agriculture. Over a 40-year career at Brazil's agricultural research agency, Embrapa, she developed biological alternatives to chemical fertilizers by enhancing soil bacteria's ability to provide nutrients to crops. Her innovations, particularly the use of rhizobia bacteria strains, have significantly boosted Brazil's soybean production, transforming the country into the world's leading soybean producer and exporter.

Foot notes:

- **Award Details:** Mariangela Hungria has been awarded the World Food Prize 2025 for her groundbreaking research on biological nitrogen fixation, a natural process that enables crops to grow with fewer chemical fertilizers. She will receive a \$500,000 award in recognition of her efforts.
- **Research Impact:** Hungria's work has played a pivotal role in boosting Brazil's soybean production, making it the world's largest producer. Her research has also impacted other crops like wheat, corn, and beans, and has helped reduce the need for chemical fertilizers.
- **Sustainable Farming:** Hungria's innovative approach to reducing chemical fertilizer use by harnessing soil bacteria has gained renewed attention as countries seek sustainable farming solutions amid climate change and ecological degradation. Her work enriches soil quality, helping reduce deforestation pressures.
- **Career Achievements:** Hungria has researched biological seed and soil treatments for over 40 years and has developed dozens of microbial treatments that enable crops to access nutrients through symbiotic soil bacteria. She has authored over 500 scientific papers and is a recipient of Brazil's highest agricultural honor, the Frederico de Menezes Veiga Award.
- **Global Recognition:** Hungria's contributions have gained global recognition, and she has been listed among the top one percent of agricultural scientists worldwide by Stanford University since 2020.



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APPOINTMENT & PERSON IN NEWS

Shri Romon Sebastian Louis appointed as Director of Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.

Shri Romon Sebastian Louis has been appointed as the Director of Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd., a Government of India enterprise under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. He brings with him a wealth of experience in public sector management and corporate governance. His appointment is expected to strengthen the leadership team of the company and drive strategic initiatives forward. Balmer Lawrie, known for its diversified presence in logistics, manufacturing, and services, stands to benefit from his expertise. This leadership move aligns with the company's ongoing efforts to enhance operational efficiency and expand its market footprint.

Foot notes:

- **Current Role:** He is currently serving as Executive Director (Logistics Infrastructure and Cold Chain) at Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.
- **Company Overview:** Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd. is a diversified Public Sector Enterprise with interests in industrial packaging, logistics services, and more, led by a Board of Directors supported by Business and Function Heads.
- **Market Leadership:** The company is a market leader in manufacturing 210-liter Mild Steel (MS) drums, holding over 32% market share in the rigid industrial packaging segment.
- **Selection Process:** The PESB recommended his name after interviewing several candidates, solidifying his position as Director (Services Business) at Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.

Padma Shri Mohan Reddy appointed as NITW BoG chairperson

Dr. B.V.R. Mohan Reddy, a distinguished technocrat and founder of Cyient Ltd., has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Board of Governors (BoG) at the National Institute of Technology Warangal (NITW). This appointment, confirmed by the Ministry of Education, is effective for six months or until further orders. Dr. Reddy is recognized for his significant

contributions to India's technology sector and education. He currently serves as the Chairperson of IIT Hyderabad and IIT Roorkee, and has previously held the position of Chairman at NASSCOM. His leadership is expected to enhance NIT Warangal's academic and research initiatives, fostering stronger industry collaborations.

Foot notes:

- **Padma Shri Awardee:** BVR Mohan Reddy was conferred with the Padma Shri award in 2017 for his contribution to trade and industry.
- **Founder and Chairman of Cyient:** He founded Cyient (formerly Infotech Enterprises) in 1991 and served as its Executive Chairman, promoting the "Engineered in India" brand.
- **Leadership Roles:** Reddy has held various leadership positions, including Chairman of NASSCOM (2015-16) and Chairman of the Board of Governors of IIT Hyderabad and IIT Roorkee.
- **Education and Honorary Degrees:** He holds postgraduate degrees from IIT Kanpur and the University of Michigan, and has received honorary doctorates from several universities, including JNTU Hyderabad and Andhra University.
- **Philanthropy and Social Impact:** Through the Cyient Foundation, Reddy has set up 54 community development centers across Serilingampally Mandal, Telangana, promoting IT literacy and digital empowerment.

Nidhi Chhibber appointed as Director General of Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office

Nidhi Chhibber, a 1994-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the Chhattisgarh cadre, has been appointed as the Director General of the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) under NITI Aayog. This appointment, approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), elevates her to the rank and pay of a Secretary to the Government of India, with the post temporarily upgraded as a personal measure. Prior to this, Ms. Chhibber served as Additional Secretary at NITI Aayog, and her earlier assignment as Officer on Special Duty in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has been canceled. She holds a Master's degree in History, an LLB, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Intellectual Property Rights.

Foot notes:

- **Background:** She has been serving on central deputation since 2017 and previously worked as Chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).
- **Previous Role:** Before her current appointment, Chhibber was Additional Secretary at NITI Aayog and was recently empaneled for holding Secretary-rank posts in the Government of India.
- **Cancellation of Previous Appointment:** Her appointment as Officer on Special Duty in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has been cancelled, paving the way for another IAS officer to potentially become Secretary, MoFPI.

- Responsibilities: As Director General of DMEO, Chhibber will oversee development monitoring and evaluation initiatives, and DMEO has recently signed an MoU with the Capacity Building Commission for collaboration on capacity-building initiatives in data governance, monitoring, and evaluation.

Justice Surya Kant appointed as NALSA Executive Chairman

Justice Surya Kant has been appointed as the Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), effective from May 14, 2025. This appointment follows the convention of the second senior-most judge of the Supreme Court assuming the role, succeeding Justice B.R. Gavai, who is set to become the 52nd Chief Justice of India. Justice Surya Kant, currently serving as the Chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee, has been instrumental in promoting access to justice and advocating for legal aid reforms. His leadership is anticipated to further NALSA's mission of providing free and accessible legal aid to marginalized and economically weaker sections across the country.

Foot notes:

- Background: Justice Kant succeeds Justice BR Gavai, who is set to be sworn in as the 52nd Chief Justice of India (CJI) on May 14. As per convention, the post of NALSA Executive Chairman is occupied by the second senior-most judge of the Supreme Court of India.
- Role and Responsibilities: As Executive Chairman, Justice Surya Kant will lead NALSA's mission to provide accessible and free legal aid to all citizens, particularly those from marginalized and economically weaker sections of society across India.
- Experience: Prior to his nomination, Justice Kant has played a significant role in advancing access to justice and has been a strong proponent of legal aid and institutional reforms in the justice delivery system. He currently chairs the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC).
- Significance: Justice Kant's appointment is expected to strengthen India's access-to-justice framework and reinforce the constitutional duty to promote social justice, aligning with NALSA's mission to uphold the constitutional mandate under Article 39-A.

ANJ Group appoints Kushal Kunder as Chief Operating Officer

ANJ Group, a leading design and build firm in India, has appointed Kushal Kunder as its new Chief Operating Officer (COO). Bringing over two decades of experience in operations and strategic leadership, Kunder is expected to play a pivotal role in driving the company's growth and operational excellence. His appointment aligns with ANJ Group's vision to enhance efficiency and deliver innovative solutions in the design and construction industry. Kunder's expertise will be instrumental in streamlining processes and fostering a culture of continuous improvement within the organization. This move underscores ANJ Group's commitment to strengthening its leadership to navigate the evolving demands of the industry.

Foot notes:

- Experience: Kunder brings over 28 years of experience in the real estate industry, having worked with prominent organizations such as CBRE, K Raheja Realty, and Skanska, where he developed expertise in construction, project management, and leadership.
- Role: As COO, Kunder will focus on sharpening operational capabilities, streamlining execution, and supporting the company's ambitious expansion plans across new geographies and sectors.
- ANJ Group's Background: ANJ Group is a 1000+ strong workforce company that delivers over 2.5 million square feet of built space annually across India, known for its ability to bring client visions to life through design and precision.
- Goals: With Kunder's appointment, ANJ Group aims to further enhance its growth and transformation, leveraging his technical expertise and leadership skills to deliver world-class spaces and achieve its business objectives.

Equirus appoints Ganesh Sankaran as Vice Chairman

Equirus Capital has appointed Ganesh Sankaran as its Vice Chairman, marking a significant addition to its leadership team. Sankaran brings over three decades of experience in the banking and financial services sector, having previously served as Executive Director at Federal Bank. In his new role, he is expected to leverage his extensive expertise to drive strategic initiatives and strengthen Equirus's position in the investment banking industry. Sankaran's appointment aligns with Equirus's commitment to enhancing its service offerings and expanding its market presence. His leadership is anticipated to play a pivotal role in steering the company's growth trajectory and fostering innovation.

Foot notes:

- Experience: Sankaran brings over three decades of experience in banking and financial services, having held prominent roles at HDFC Bank, Federal Bank, and Axis Bank. He is recognized for his strategic vision, business-building expertise, and strong execution capabilities.
- Leadership: As Vice Chairman, Sankaran will play a pivotal role in shaping the firm's growth roadmap and bolstering its leadership across core business verticals. He will work closely with the leadership teams to build on the company's momentum and create long-term value for clients and stakeholders.
- Appointment Significance: The appointment underscores Equirus Group's commitment to strengthening its leadership team for its next phase of expansion. Sankaran's experience and expertise will help enhance the company's capabilities and better serve its clients.

Santosh Kumar Sarangi appointed as CMD of Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd.

Santosh Kumar Sarangi, Secretary of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), has been assigned the additional charge of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI). This appointment follows the abrupt termination of Rameshwar Prasad Gupta's tenure as CMD on May 10, 2025, more than a month before its

scheduled end, without any official reason cited. SECI, a Navratna central public sector undertaking, plays a pivotal role in implementing India's renewable energy initiatives, including solar, wind, and hybrid projects.

Foot notes:

- **Current Role:** Santosh Kumar Sarangi is currently serving as the Secretary of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India.
- **Appointment Details:** Unfortunately, the available information doesn't confirm his appointment as CMD of Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI).
- **Renewable Energy Mission:** Sarangi has taken charge to steer India's renewable energy mission forward, highlighting his involvement in the sector.
- **MNRE Responsibilities:** As Secretary of MNRE, Sarangi oversees policy implementation, program development, and administrative functions related to renewable energy in India.

Justice B.R. Gavai Sworn in as the 52nd CJI

Justice B.R. Gavai has been sworn in as the 52nd Chief Justice of India, marking a significant moment in the history of the Indian judiciary. He succeeds Chief Justice Sanjeev Khanna and will serve a tenure that is expected to uphold the values of justice and constitutional integrity. Justice Gavai is only the second Dalit to become the Chief Justice of India, following in the footsteps of Justice K.G. Balakrishnan. Known for his deep understanding of constitutional law and a balanced judicial approach, Justice Gavai has had a distinguished career in the legal field. His appointment is seen as a step forward in promoting diversity and representation in the judiciary.

Foot notes:

- **Judicial Background:** Justice Gavai began practicing law at 25 and was appointed judge at the Bombay High Court in 2003. He was later elevated to the Supreme Court on May 24, 2019.
- **Sub-classification within Scheduled Castes:** Justice Gavai advocated for the application of the "creamy layer" principle to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, ensuring real equality.
- **Protection of Individual Rights:** Justice Gavai declared the arrest of NewsClick founder Prabir Purkayastha as illegal, emphasizing the importance of supplying grounds of arrest to the accused.
- **Prolific Judge:** During his tenure, Justice Gavai has served on over 700 benches and authored around 300 judgments, showcasing his significant contributions to various legal fields.

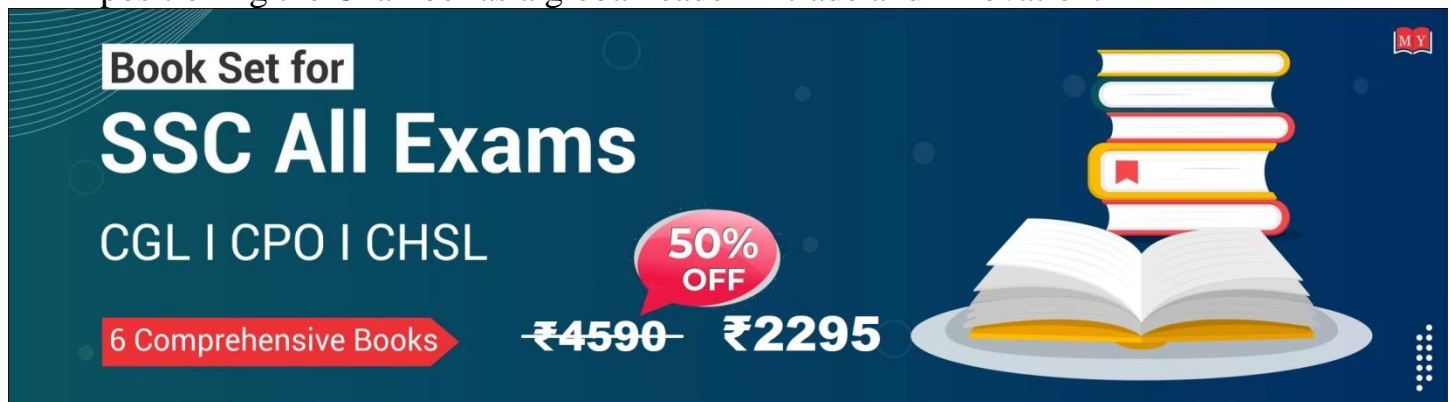
Harvansh Chawla appointed as Chairman of BRICS CCCI

Harvansh Chawla, a distinguished senior lawyer and expert in international trade law, has been appointed as the Chairman of the BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BRICS CCI).

With over three decades of experience, Chawla has served as a legal advisor to global corporations including Northrop Grumman, Singapore Airlines, Denso Corporation, and Alcatel . He holds a master's degree in International Law from Georgetown University Law Center, USA . In his new role, Chawla aims to strengthen economic ties, promote sustainable growth, and create new opportunities for collaboration among BRICS and BRICS Plus nations . His leadership will focus on reducing trade barriers, fostering innovation, and enhancing the global competitiveness of BRICS economies .

Foot notes:

- **Background:** Chawla brings decades of experience in legal advisory and strategic corporate governance to his new role, with expertise in international law and trade policy.
- **Leadership Focus:** As Chairman, Chawla aims to drive cross-border trade partnerships, reduce trade barriers, and promote innovation in key sectors like technology, agriculture, and manufacturing among BRICS nations.
- **BRICS Chamber's Role:** The BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry is a non-profit organization that fosters partnerships, trade, and economic cooperation among BRICS member countries, including Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- **Goals and Vision:** Chawla's vision is to strengthen economic ties, promote sustainable growth, and create new opportunities for collaboration among BRICS nations, positioning the Chamber as a global leader in trade and innovation.



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Ashish Vachhani appointed as Additional Secretary of PMO

Ashish Vachhani, a 1997-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the Tamil Nadu cadre, has been appointed as Additional Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) as of May 13, 2025. Prior to this appointment, he served as Additional Secretary (Budget) in the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) under the Ministry of Finance, where he played a significant role in formulating and executing the Union Budget . He also contributed to civil service training as a faculty member at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration from 2008 to 2012.

Foot notes:

- **Appointment:** Ashish Vachhani, a 1997-batch IAS officer from Tamil Nadu, has been appointed as Additional Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

- Background: Vachhani was previously serving as Additional Secretary (Budget) in the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- Replacement: He will replace Arvind Shrivastava, a 1994-batch IAS officer from Karnataka, who was recently appointed as Revenue Secretary.
- Tenure: The appointment is on a lateral shift basis and will continue until the completion of his current deputation tenure or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

ONDC appoints Vibhor Jain as acting CEO

The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) has appointed Vibhor Jain as its acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective immediately. Previously serving as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) and a member of the eight-member Executive Committee, Jain's elevation comes in the wake of several top-level departures, including that of founding CEO Thampy Koshy, Chief Business Officer Shireesh Joshi, and Non-Executive Chairperson R.S. Sharma. This move aims to provide cohesive execution and stability as ONDC continues its mission to democratize digital commerce across India.

Foot notes:

- Leadership Role: Jain, who previously served as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of ONDC, will now lead the organization during this interim phase, overseeing key strategic decisions and driving cohesive execution.
- Executive Committee: Prior to Jain's appointment, an 8-member executive committee, which included Jain, managed ONDC's responsibilities. The committee's interim role has now concluded, with Jain taking over as the single point of leadership.
- Transaction Milestone: ONDC has crossed over 200 million transactions since its inception in 2021, showcasing its growth and impact in the digital commerce sector. The platform connects sellers and buyer apps across sectors like mobility, food delivery, logistics, ecommerce, and fashion.

BillDesk M N Srinivasu appointed as IAMAI chairperson

M.N. Srinivasu, co-founder of BillDesk, has been appointed as the new chairman of the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) for the 2025–2027 term. He succeeds Harsh Jain, co-founder and CEO of Dream Sports, who held the position from 2023 to 2025. Joining Srinivasu on the executive council are Harshil Mathur, CEO and co-founder of Razorpay, as Vice Chairman, and Sameer Nigam, founder and CEO of PhonePe, as Treasurer. This leadership transition reflects the growing influence of India's fintech sector within the digital ecosystem.

Foot notes:

- New Executive Council: Srinivasu will be joined by Harshil Mathur, CEO and Co-founder of Razorpay, as Vice Chairman, and Sameer Nigam, Founder and CEO of PhonePe, as Treasurer, replacing Rajesh Magow and Satyan Gajwani, respectively.

- IMAI's Objective: As Chairman, Srinivasu will oversee IMAI's efforts to promote the progress of the internet and digital economy in India, focusing on public policy, advocacy, research, and consumer trust and safety.
- Governing Council: The new 24-member governing council and executive council will take charge for the 2025-2027 term at the upcoming annual general meeting, shaping the future of India's digital landscape.
- Industry Impact: With over 600 members, including Indian and multinational corporations, as well as startups, IMAI plays a crucial role in India's digital economy, and Srinivasu's appointment is expected to further drive the industry's growth and innovation.

Shri Rajeev Kalra appointed as Director of Finance, Yantra India Ltd.

Shri Rajeev Kalra has been appointed as the Director (Finance) of Yantra India Limited (YIL), a prominent Defence Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Defence. His appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) following a recommendation from the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) on January 10, 2025. Kalra, who has been with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) since 1995, currently serves as General Manager (Finance) at BHEL's Corporate R&D Centre in Hyderabad.

Foot notes:

- Background: Shri Kalra is currently serving as General Manager (Finance) at BHEL, Corporate R&D, Hyderabad, where he has gained extensive expertise in finance and strategic management.
- PESB Recommendation: The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) recommended Shri Kalra for the position, highlighting his outstanding credentials and leadership skills, which are expected to bring a fresh perspective to Yantra India Limited's financial strategies and operations.
- Yantra India Limited: Shri Kalra's appointment aims to strengthen the company's financial operations and enhance its contributions to India's defense capabilities.
- Expected Outcomes: With Shri Kalra's expertise, Yantra India Limited is expected to support the company's growth and operational excellence goals, ultimately contributing to India's defense sector advancements.



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Bhawna Agarwal appointed as Senior Vice President & MD of HPE India

Bhawna Agarwal has been appointed as the Senior Vice President and Managing Director of Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) India, effective immediately. She succeeds Som Satsangi, who is retiring after a distinguished 27-year tenure with the company and will remain until July 2025 to ensure a smooth transition. Agarwal, who joined HPE in 2019, has held leadership roles including heading the Compute Business Unit and overseeing Account Management and Industry Verticals in India. With over 25 years of experience across digital startups, media, and consumer technology sectors, she brings a wealth of knowledge to her new role.

Foot notes:

- **Background and Experience:** Agarwal brings over 25 years of diverse leadership experience in digital start-ups, media, and consumer technology companies. She joined HPE in 2019 and has held various leadership roles, including leading the Compute Business Unit and Growth team, and Account Management and Industry Verticals.
- **Previous Role and Responsibilities:** Before her appointment, Agarwal led Account Management and Industry Verticals for India, playing a critical role in client engagement and revenue growth. She has a reputation for driving growth, fostering innovation, and building strong teams.
- **Succession Details:** Agarwal succeeds Som Satsangi, who is retiring after 27 years of dedicated service to HPE. Satsangi will remain with the company until July 2025 to ensure a smooth transition.
- **Strategic Focus:** Under Agarwal's leadership, HPE India is expected to scale cloud-native innovations, strengthen local partner ecosystems, drive localized manufacturing and R&D, and enable digital transformation.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Lupus Day observed on 10 May

World Lupus Day is observed annually on May 10 to raise awareness about lupus, a chronic autoimmune disease that affects millions globally. In 2025, the theme is “Let's Make Lupus Visible Together,” emphasizing the need to highlight symptoms, patient experiences, and scientific progress. Individuals and organizations worldwide participate by wearing purple,

sharing information on social media, and hosting events to educate the public and support those affected. The observance aims to reduce stigma, promote research, and advocate for better healthcare services for lupus patients. For more information and resources, visit the official World Lupus Day website:

Foot notes:

- Awareness: World Lupus Day aims to raise awareness about this chronic autoimmune disease that affects over 5 million people worldwide, causing pain, inflammation, and damage to various body parts.
- History: The day was established in 2004 by Lupus Canada to promote awareness, improve patient services, collect incidence rates, and raise research funding.
- Symptoms: Common symptoms of lupus include fever, fatigue, joint pain, stiffness, and a characteristic butterfly-shaped rash on the face.
- Impact: Lupus can affect people of all ages, races, and nationalities, and can cause irreversible damage to vital organs like the kidneys, heart, and brain if left untreated or poorly managed.
- Objective: The day emphasizes the need for enhanced healthcare services, increased research, and better global epidemiological data on lupus to improve the lives of those affected.

International Nurses Day observed on 12th May

International Nurses Day was observed on 12th May to honor the invaluable contributions of nurses worldwide. The date marks the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. This year's celebration highlighted the critical role nurses play in healthcare systems, particularly in the wake of global health challenges. Various events, campaigns, and awareness programs were held across the globe to recognize their dedication and resilience. Health institutions and governments expressed gratitude towards nurses for their unwavering commitment to patient care. The day served as a reminder of the need to invest in nursing education, safety, and workforce development.

Foot notes:

- Founder and History: The International Council of Nurses (ICN) has observed this day since 1965. The idea was first proposed in 1953 by Dorothy Sutherland, an official with the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, but it wasn't officially recognized until January 1974.
- Role of Nurses: Nurses play a vital role in healthcare systems globally, providing compassionate care, education, and support to patients. Their responsibilities extend beyond bedside care to advocacy, research, and community engagement.
- Themes and Celebrations: Each year, ICN designates a theme for International Nurses Day. The 2025 theme is "Nurses: A Voice to Lead – Delivering Quality, Securing Equity". Celebrations include award ceremonies, public awareness initiatives, workshops, and tributes to nurses.

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National Dengue Day observed on 16th May

National Dengue Day is observed annually on May 16 in India to raise awareness about dengue fever, a mosquito-borne viral infection that poses a significant public health challenge. Initiated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2010, this day emphasizes the importance of early detection, community participation, and preventive measures to combat the disease. These efforts aim to reduce the incidence of dengue, especially during the pre-monsoon period when the risk of outbreaks increases.

Foot notes:

- Objective: National Dengue Day aims to raise awareness about dengue prevention, emphasizing mosquito control and community involvement to reduce dengue cases.
- History: The day was launched by India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2010 to address the increasing dengue problem in the country.
- Importance: It highlights dengue's public health urgency, encourages government action, promotes research, and empowers individuals to take preventive measures.
- Activities: Observance includes awareness campaigns, workshops, community clean-up drives, health camps, and distribution of educational materials to promote dengue prevention and control.

OBITUARY NEWS

Margot Friedlander Renowned Witness to Nazi Persecution passed away

Margot Friedländer, a renowned Holocaust survivor and educator, passed away on May 9, 2025, in Berlin at the age of 103. Born Anni Margot Bendheim in 1921, she survived the Theresienstadt concentration camp after losing her mother and brother to Auschwitz. Following the war, she emigrated to the United States, where she lived for over six decades with her husband, Adolf Friedländer, another Holocaust survivor. In 2010, at the age of 88, she returned to Berlin and dedicated her life to Holocaust education, speaking to German youth about her experiences and advocating against antisemitism and racism. Her memoir, *Try to Make Your Life*, published in 2008, encapsulated her mother's final words and her journey of survival and resilience.

Foot notes:

- **Life Story:** Born in 1921, Friedlander experienced the horrors of the Nazi regime firsthand. She was deported to the Theresienstadt concentration camp in 1943 but managed to escape and went into hiding.
- **Advocate for Awareness:** After the war, Friedlander dedicated her life to sharing her experiences and raising awareness about the atrocities committed during the Holocaust. She gave talks and interviews, ensuring that future generations would learn from history.
- **Public Recognition:** Friedlander's story gained significant public attention, especially after a book and documentary featured her life. She became a symbol of resilience and a voice for Holocaust remembrance.
- **Legacy:** Margot Friedlander's passing marks the loss of a significant historical witness. Her legacy lives on through her story, which continues to educate and remind people of the importance of combating hatred and intolerance.

Padma Shri scientist Subbanna Ayyappan passed away

Dr. Subbanna Ayyappan, a distinguished aquaculture scientist and Padma Shri awardee, was found deceased in the Cauvery River near Srirangapatna, Karnataka, on May 10, 2025. At 70, he was the first non-crop scientist to lead the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), serving as its Director-General from 2010 to 2016. Ayyappan was instrumental in India's Blue Revolution, significantly enhancing fish production through scientific aquaculture practices. Preliminary investigations suggest the possibility of suicide, though authorities have not ruled out other causes, and a post-mortem examination is underway .

Foot notes:

- **Renowned Scientist:** Dr. Subbanna Ayyappan was a distinguished aquaculture scientist who played a pivotal role in India's Blue Revolution, advancing fisheries science and aquaculture development.
- **Investigation:** Preliminary investigations suggest that he may have died by suicide, but authorities are still investigating the exact cause of death.
- **Career Highlights:** Dr. Ayyappan held several key positions, including Director-General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Secretary of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE).
- **Awards and Recognition:** He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2022 for his significant contributions to the field of science and engineering, and was also recognized as one of the Asian Scientist 100 in 2023.

Former Uruguayana President Jose "Pepe" Mujica passed away

Former Uruguayan President José "Pepe" Mujica passed away on May 13, 2025, at the age of 89, following a battle with esophageal cancer. His death was announced by President Yamandú Orsi, who described him as a "president, activist, leader and guide" . Mujica's passing has prompted an outpouring of grief and tributes from around the world. In Montevideo, thousands gathered to honor his legacy, with a funeral procession that included his widow, Lucía

Topolansky, and President Orsi, who draped the national flag over his coffin . The government declared three days of national mourning, and his body was cremated and interred near his farmhouse in Rincón del Cerro, as per his wishes .

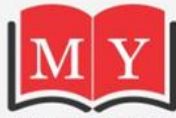
Foot notes:

- **Life of Simplicity:** Mujica was known for living a simple life, donating a significant portion of his salary, and traveling without escorts or privileges. He resided on his farm in Rincón del Cerro, where he passed away.
- **Progressive Policies:** As President from 2010 to 2015, Mujica championed historic reforms, including: Same-sex Marriage Legalization, Abortion Decriminalization, Cannabis Regulation.
- **International Recognition:** He maintained a nuanced relationship with Cuba, initially supporting its revolutionary ideals but later adopting a more critical stance.
- **Legacy:** He is remembered for his personal ethics, integrity, and commitment to social justice, inspiring many in Uruguay and across Latin America.

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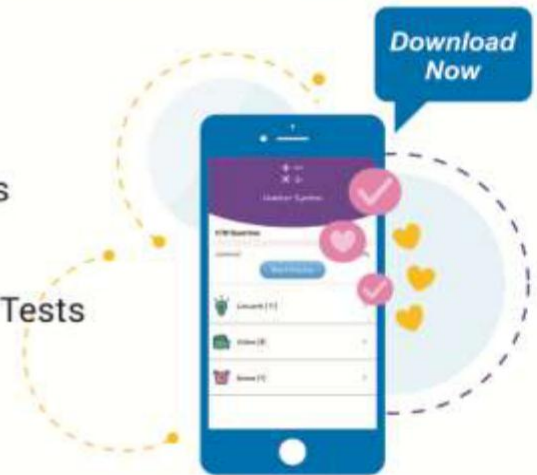
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