

IBT[®]
IBT INSTITUTE PVT. LTD

WEEKLY —
Current
Affairs



NATIONAL NEWS

Kerala Gets First Private Medical Museum in Thiruvananthapuram

- **Historic Inauguration:** On May 25, 2026, the "Museum of Medical Archives" was inaugurated in Ulloor, Thiruvananthapuram, marking the opening of both Kerala's and India's first private medical museum.
- **Visionary Founder:** The museum was established by A. Sivaraman, a former artist-modeler at the Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram, who dedicated his career to creating handcrafted anatomical models and teaching aids.
- **Diverse Exhibits:** The museum showcases a unique collection of handcrafted anatomical models, embryology charts, microbiology archives, and rare archival photographs designed to simplify complex medical concepts and preserve the history of medical education.

Footnotes: Kerala's CM: V.D. Satheesan, Governor: Rajendra Arlekar, Capital: Thiruvananthapuram

Swara Lakshmi Nair Becomes Kerala's Second WIM

- **Historic Milestone:** In May 2026, 19-year-old Swara Lakshmi Nair became the second chess player from Karnataka to achieve the WIM title, following Isha Sharma who earned the title in 2019. She is also recognized as Bengaluru's first-ever WIM.
- **Future Aspirations:** With a current live rating of 2219, Swara is now focusing on increasing her Elo rating to 2400 as she works toward her long-term goal of becoming a Grandmaster.
- **The Path to Title:** She secured her three required norms across international tournaments: the first at the Sardinia World Chess Festival (Italy) in 2025, the second at the Grand Hotel Kielce Open (Poland) in 2025, and the final norm at the Ptuj IM tournament in Slovenia earlier this month.

Footnotes: Kerala's CM: V.D. Satheesan, Governor: Rajendra Arlekar, Capital: Thiruvananthapuram

BIT Mesra Signs MoU with NESAC to Strengthen Geospatial Innovation & Education

- **Core Objective:** Birla Institute of Technology (BIT) Mesra and the North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC), Department of Space, signed a 5-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate deeply on advanced geospatial research, remote sensing, and GIS applications.
- **Focus on GeoAI:** The partnership places a strong strategic emphasis on the emerging field of Geospatial Artificial Intelligence (GeoAI), driving joint national and international research initiatives and Earth observation image analysis.
- **Academic Integration:** The agreement enables joint supervision of PhD and Master's scholars, specialized elective courses, and student internships. Additionally, NESAC

scientists will serve as guest faculty at BIT Mesra, while NESAC researchers can pursue higher education at the institute.

Footnotes: NESAC's Director: Dr. S.P. Aggarwal, HQ: Umiam, Estd: 2000

Rajnath Singh Launches India's First 300-km Rocket System Suryastra

- **Indigenous Strategic Milestone:** On May 23, 2026, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off India's first indigenous 300-km Universal Rocket Launching System, "Suryastra," in Shirdi, Maharashtra. This system is designed to significantly enhance India's long-range precision strike capabilities.
- **Private Sector Capability:** This event marks a major shift in the "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" initiative, showcasing the private industry's ability to act as a key innovator and manufacturer of sophisticated weapon systems rather than just a component supplier.
- **Technological Modernization:** The project includes the establishment of a dedicated missile complex and the implementation of indigenous TNT and RDX plant technologies.

Keralam Forms First Ever Artificial Intelligence Ministry

- **Pioneering Governance:** Following a major cabinet reshuffle on May 20, 2026, the Keralam government became the first state in India to create a dedicated cabinet-level portfolio for Artificial Intelligence (AI), aiming to institutionalize AI-driven governance and policy-making.
- **Strategic Oversight:** Veteran leader P.K. Kunhalikutty has been appointed to lead this new department, managing it alongside his responsibilities for Industries, Commerce, and Information Technology to ensure a unified approach to the state's digital and industrial growth.
- **Innovation Ecosystem:** The initiative includes the establishment of twin Centres of Excellence—one focusing on Bio-AI in Kochi and another on general-purpose AI at the Digital University in Thiruvananthapuram—to accelerate research, startup development, and real-world AI applications in sectors like healthcare and agriculture.

Footnotes: Keralam's CM: V.D. Satheesan, Governor: Rajendra Arlekar, Capital: Thiruvananthapuram

India's Largest Biomedical Technology Transfer Platform Launched

- **Bridging the Lab-to-Market Gap:** The platform is designed to streamline the translation of indigenous biomedical research into real-world healthcare products. By serving as a formal, structured interface between scientists, startups, and industry partners, it aims to accelerate the development, manufacturing, and commercialization of affordable medical solutions.
- **Massive Technology Transfer:** During the inaugural event held in New Delhi on May 25, 2026, the ICMR successfully transferred 41 public health technologies to industry

partners. These include critical innovations such as vaccines (e.g., for Typhoid and Paratyphoid), advanced diagnostic tools (e.g., for Tuberculosis, Japanese Encephalitis, and Mpox), and various medical devices.

- **Strategic Ecosystem Strengthening:** The initiative also featured the release of the "Indian Biomedical Patent Landscape Report" and a "Technology Compendium" to bolster intellectual property protection.

India Semiconductor Mission, MeitY Launches “Investors Support” Portal

- **Single-Window Efficiency:** The portal serves as a unified, single-window system designed to streamline the investment process for ecosystem players. By integrating various regulatory and administrative touchpoints, it simplifies the entry and operational path for global and domestic investors looking to establish projects in India.
- **Comprehensive Support Services:** It provides critical handholding support, including policy guidance and regulatory assistance. This ensures that investors have a clear roadmap for navigating the complexities of semiconductor manufacturing, from project approval to operational setup.
- **Faster Issue Resolution:** A core function of the portal is to enable efficient grievance redressal. By coordinating directly with central and state government agencies, it allows investors to raise issues and receive timely support, thereby improving the overall ease of doing business and accelerating the realization of semiconductor fab and packaging projects in India.

Sikkim Becomes India’s Fifth Fully Literate State

- **Official Recognition:** The announcement was made in the presence of President Droupadi Murmu during the seventh convocation ceremony of Sikkim University in Gangtok. Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang confirmed the achievement, noting that the state has attained a literacy rate of 99.82%.
- **Framework:** This recognition was granted under the ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society) initiative, also known as the Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram, which was launched by the Ministry of Education under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- **What "Fully Literate" Means:** Under this program, the "fully literate" status is not based on traditional Census definitions, but rather on meeting specific adult literacy benchmarks set by the Ministry of Education. It requires literacy levels among individuals aged 15 and above to cross approximately 95% and focuses on functional literacy, basic numeracy, and lifelong learning.

Footnotes: Sikkim's CM: Prem Singh Tamang, **Capital:** Gangtok, **Governor:** Om Prakash Mathur

PT Usha, Dilip Tirkey Release Book on India’s First Olympic Hockey Gold

- **Formal Resignation:** Siddaramaiah submitted his resignation to the Governor's office. This move follows an agreement made by the Congress high command to implement a power-sharing arrangement after the party's 2023 election victory, which concluded his three-year tenure as Chief Minister.
- **Succession of D.K. Shivakumar:** He is expected to lead the state for the remaining two years of the current assembly term, marking a significant generational shift and change in leadership dynamics within the state unit of the Congress party.
- **Caretaker Status:** While the Governor has accepted the resignation, Siddaramaiah will continue to serve as the caretaker Chief Minister until the formal appointment of his successor. A crucial Congress Legislative Party (CLP) meeting is scheduled for May 30, 2026, to finalize the leadership transition.

India Set to Test Plastic Currency Notes as RBI Revives Polymer Note Project

- **Drivers for the Initiative:** The decision follows a significant rise in currency printing expenditure, which reached ₹6,372.8 crore in FY25, up from ₹5,101.4 crore the previous year. Additionally, the central bank had to dispose of 23.8 billion soiled banknotes in FY25, highlighting the need for a more durable alternative to traditional cotton-based paper notes.
- **Benefits of Polymer Notes:** Polymer banknotes are made from a thin, flexible plastic substrate that is more resistant to moisture, dirt, and tearing. These notes typically have a shelf life three to four times longer than paper currency and incorporate advanced anti-counterfeiting features.
- **Status of the Project:** While India previously attempted a pilot project for ₹10 polymer notes in 2012, it was shelved due to technical and operational challenges. The RBI has now revisited the proposal following recent board meetings in Patna and Mumbai.

India Launches First SkyCast System at Delhi Airport

- **Enhanced Aviation Safety:** SkyCast is an integrated aviation weather intelligence and "nowcasting" facility designed to provide real-time alerts for critical aviation hazards such as dense fog, wind shear, turbulence, and icing.
- **Advanced Technological Integration:** The system combines state-of-the-art remote sensing and profiling technologies, including a Radar Wind Profiler, SODAR, Microwave Radiometer, Ground-based Fog Aerosol Spectrometer (GFAS), and a Lidar-based Ceilometer.
- **Global Positioning and Expansion:** With the launch of SkyCast, India has become the 19th country in the world to deploy such an advanced integrated aviation weather monitoring system, joining the ranks of major hubs like London Heathrow, John F. Kennedy, and Singapore Changi.

Red Balloon Aerospace Launched India's 1st Stratospheric SPB

- **Technological Significance:** Unlike conventional weather balloons that expand and burst or drift, an SPB maintains a constant volume and internal pressure, allowing it to remain stable at a fixed altitude in the stratosphere (between 20 and 40 km) for extended periods.
- **Near-Space Mission ("Mission SANA"):** The VISTA platform ascended to an altitude of approximately 25 km, carrying six commercial payloads from national and international partners. These payloads included technology demonstrations for propulsion, biological experiments, and navigation validation.
- **Strategic and Commercial Potential:** Red Balloon Aerospace, founded by former Skyroot Aerospace executives, aims to use these balloons for telecommunications in remote regions, disaster management, and industrial monitoring.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India Became Sri Lanka's Second-Largest Export Destination in 2026

- **Significant Milestone:** During the January–April 2026 period, India surpassed the United Kingdom to emerge as Sri Lanka's second-largest export market, trailing only the United States.
- **Export Growth:** Sri Lanka's exports to India grew by 8.9% year-on-year during this period, reaching a total value of USD 364.15 million.
- **Driving Factors:** This shift reflects a strengthening of regional economic ties, with notable growth driven by demand for coconut-based products (such as activated carbon), electronics, and processed food items.

First Hong Kong astronaut launches into space onboard Chinese mission

- **First Hong Kong Astronaut:** Dr. Lai Ka-ying, a superintendent in the Hong Kong Police Force, made history on May 24, 2026, as the first astronaut from Hong Kong to travel into space.
- **Mission Details:** She is serving as a payload specialist aboard the Shenzhou-23 manned spaceship, which launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center to conduct research at the Tiangong space station.
- **Significance:** Her selection and participation mark a major milestone for Hong Kong's integration into China's national aerospace program and its role under the country's 15th Five-Year Plan.

Dr Pradeep Singh Rajpurohit appointed as India's Ambassador to Kingdom of Bahrain

- **Official Appointment & Transition:** The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced his appointment on May 21, 2026. A 2004-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, he will soon transition to Bahrain from his current role as the High Commissioner of India to Trinidad and Tobago.

- **Extensive Gulf Experience:** Dr. Rajpurohit brings a highly specialized West Asia and Gulf profile to his new post, having previously served as India's Ambassador to Iraq, Deputy Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, and in key diplomatic positions in Abu Dhabi and Cairo.
- **Unique Professional Background:** Before his distinguished career in diplomacy, he was a trained medical doctor who earned his MBBS from Dr. S.N. Medical College in Jodhpur and worked in rural health centers—a background that heavily aided his coordination of large-scale humanitarian and repatriation efforts during his career.

Kevin Warsh takes oath as Chairman of US Federal Reserve

- **Official Appointment & Ceremony:** Kevin Warsh was sworn in as the 17th Chairman of the US Federal Reserve on May 22, 2026. The oath was administered by US Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas at a White House ceremony.
- **Succession & Board Dynamic:** He succeeds Jerome Powell, whose term expired. In a rare historical move not seen in nearly 80 years, Powell will remain at the Federal Reserve as a member of the Board of Governors.
- **Vision & Past Experience:** Returning to the Fed where he previously served as a governor (2006–2011), Warsh pledged to lead a "reform-oriented" central bank focused on price stability, combating inflation, and maintaining institutional independence.

Lionel Messi Becomes Billionaire in Historic Football Milestone

- **Historic Financial Milestone:** As of May 24, 2026, Lionel Messi has officially reached billionaire status according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, becoming only the second footballer in history to achieve this milestone after Cristiano Ronaldo.
- **Diverse Income Streams:** His net worth is built on more than \$700 million in career salaries and bonuses earned since 2007, supplemented significantly by high-value endorsements, strategic investments, and commercial partnerships facilitated through his time at FC Barcelona, PSG, and now Inter Miami.
- **Impact of the U.S. Chapter:** Messi's move to Inter Miami has been a major catalyst for his recent wealth growth; his contract, which includes revenue-sharing components from the MLS ecosystem and media rights, has solidified his commercial influence as he prepares for the 2026 FIFA World Cup in the United States.

Kumbhalgarh Fort Recognized as World's Second Longest Continuous Wall By UNESCO

- **Global Distinction:** A recent UNESCO World Heritage Convention survey officially designated its massive perimeter wall as the second-longest continuous surviving wall in the world, trailing only the Great Wall of China.

- **Architectural Marvel:** Built in the 15th century by Rana Kumbha of Mewar along the rugged Aravalli Hills in Rajasthan, the wall spans an incredible 36 kilometers and features advanced medieval military design.
- **Heritage Status:** While the fort has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2013 (as part of the Hill Forts of Rajasthan group), this specific global ranking highlights its engineering scale and its moniker as "The Great Wall of India."

Senegal appoints Ahmadou Al Aminou Lo as New PM

- **Technocratic Background:** Lo is a seasoned economist and a former senior official at the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO). His appointment reflects President Faye's shift toward a more technocratic leadership style, prioritizing deep financial expertise to navigate the country's current economic challenges.
- **Response to Economic Crisis:** The leadership change follows the dismissal of former Prime Minister Ousmane Sonko amidst a growing rift over how to manage Senegal's public debt, which has reached approximately 132% of GDP. Lo has explicitly identified the nation's fiscal position as a "state of emergency" and is tasked with addressing the suspension of a \$1.8 billion IMF aid program.
- **Continuity of Agenda:** Despite the change in government leadership, Lo has stated that his appointment does not signal a departure from the government's systemic transformation agenda, "Sénégal 2050." He emphasized that his approach remains focused on integrity, transparency, and economic sovereignty, consistent with the administration's initial goals.

Footnotes: Previous PM: Ousmane Sonko, President: Bassirou Diomaye Faye, Capital: Dakar

SEBI appointed Amit Mahajan as Executive Director at CDSL

- **Strategic Division of Roles:** As part of SEBI's governance framework for Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs), the appointments assign specific oversight responsibilities: Amit Mahajan will lead Vertical 1 (Critical Operations), while Nayana Ovalekar will head Vertical 2 (Regulatory, Compliance, Risk Management, and Investor Grievances).
- **Regulatory Compliance:** The approval, communicated via letters dated May 25, 2026, follows SEBI's broader initiative to mandate structured executive roles within depositories and exchanges to ensure enhanced institutional oversight and operational resilience.
- **Effective Date and Ratification:** The appointments will become effective from the respective dates on which the executives join the governing board. These appointments remain subject to final ratification by the shareholders of CDSL.

Footnotes: CDSL's MD & CEO: Nehal Vora, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1999

DEFENCE NEWS

Indian Army Launches Kautilya & Q-FORCE Platforms

- **Launch and Purpose:** In May 2026, the Indian Army introduced two advanced Artificial Intelligence-based digital platforms—Kautilya and Q-FORCE—to modernize its command intelligence and logistics management systems.
- **Kautilya (Command Intelligence):** Named after the ancient Indian strategist, this platform serves as an "AI co-pilot" that utilizes Natural Language Processing (NLP) and AI-enabled dashboards to process data on personnel, weapons, training, and operational readiness for faster, data-driven decision-making.
- **Q-FORCE (Logistics Support):** This integrated digital application is designed to streamline supply chains and sustainment operations, ensuring the efficient tracking and distribution of essential resources, fuel, and equipment to troops across diverse terrains, from deserts to high-altitude regions.

Major Abhilasha Barak Named UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year

- **Historic Achievement:** She is the first Indian woman peacekeeper to receive the prestigious UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award (specifically for her exceptional work with the UN Mission in South Sudan, UNMISS).
- **Champion for Gender Equality:** Honored for actively integrating gender perspectives into military operations, encouraging local women's participation in peace processes, and enhancing the safety of vulnerable communities.
- **Inspirational Leadership:** Recognized directly by the UN leadership for her dedication to promoting the role of women in peacekeeping and serving as a powerful role model for women worldwide.

Bengaluru Test Pilot Becomes First Indian SETP Fellow

- **Historic Global Recognition:** Group Captain K.K. Venugopal, Executive Director and Chief Test Pilot (Fixed Wing) at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), has become the first Indian test pilot to be elected as a Fellow of the prestigious Society of Experimental Test Pilots (SETP).
- **Decades of Expertise:** This fellowship honors his distinguished career spanning over 25 years, during which he has played a critical role in major indigenous aerospace programs, including the Saras Light Transport Aircraft, LCA Mk I, HTT-40, HJT-36, and LCA Mk IA.
- **Advancing Aerospace Standards:** The SETP, based in Lancaster, California, is a global organization dedicated to promoting safety and excellence in flight testing.

Footnotes: Bengaluru's Chief Commissioner: Maheshwar Rao, Estd: 1537

Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar Appointed as Indian Navy's 48th Vice Chief

- **Distinguished Naval Career:** Commissioned into the Indian Navy on July 1, 1988, he is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy and a specialist in Gunnery and Missile Systems. Throughout his career spanning over 37 years, he has commanded several vessels, including the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya, where he played a pivotal role in the operationalization of its air wing.
- **Strategic Leadership Roles:** Before his current appointment, he served as the Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command. His prior assignments include Commandant of the National Defence Academy and Chief of Staff of the Western Naval Command, where he led operations during the challenging security environment of Operation Sindoor.
- **Recognition and Awards:** For his exceptional leadership and meritorious service, he has been highly decorated, receiving the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2022 and the Param Vishisht Seva Medal in 2026.

Footnotes: Navy's Previous Vice Chief: Sanjay Vatsayan, HQ: Delhi, Estd: 1950

BANKING NEWS

Federal Bank appoints Elias George as Part-Time Chairman

- **RBI Approval & Tenure:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the appointment of Elias George as the Part-Time Chairman of Federal Bank for a fixed three-year term, effective from May 23, 2026.
- **Existing Board Association:** Prior to this elevation, he had already been serving on the Federal Bank's Board of Directors as a Non-Executive Independent Director since September 5, 2023.
- **Distinguished Bureaucratic Background:** He is a retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer who previously served as the Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Kerala and famously held the role of CEO for the Kochi Metro Rail project.

Karnataka Grameena Bank receives national award for outstanding APY performance

- **Top-Tier Performance:** The bank registered a phenomenal 142% achievement level by enrolling 2,49,185 Atal Pension Yojana (APY) accounts, significantly exceeding the target of 1,75,500 set by the government.
- **National Recognition:** For this exceptional milestone, the bank was conferred with the prestigious National Award by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) in New Delhi.
- **State Leader:** With this performance, Karnataka Grameena Bank clinched the highest enrollment ranking among all competing banks across the state of Karnataka, advancing financial inclusion for the unorganized sector.

Footnotes: KGB's Chairman: Sri Shrikant M Bhandiwad, HQ: Karnataka, Estd: 2025

Sandeep Bakhshi re-appointed as MD & CEO of ICICI Bank

- **Tenure Extension:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has officially approved his re-appointment as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) for a further period of two years, running from October 4, 2026, to October 3, 2028.
- **Leadership Continuity:** Bakhshi has been steering India's second-largest private sector bank since October 2018; this extension avoids near-term succession uncertainty and ensures strategic stability for institutional investors.
- **Strong Performance Record:** Under his leadership, the bank has undergone a major transformation—significantly strengthening its digital banking framework, improving asset quality, expanding retail loans, and consistently reporting strong earnings growth.

Footnotes: ICICI Bank's MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1955

RBI re-appointed Ketan Merchant as CEO of Fino Payments Bank

- **Leadership Context:** Merchant, the bank's Chief Financial Officer (CFO), originally took on the interim CEO role in February 2026. This followed the arrest of the former MD and CEO, Rishi Gupta, in connection with a GST tax evasion investigation.
- **Bank Stability:** Rishi Gupta formally resigned from his position on May 21, 2026, opting for voluntary retirement. This extension ensures management continuity at a critical time as the bank continues its operations and its transition toward becoming a Small Finance Bank (SFB).

Footnotes: FPB's HQ: Navi Mumbai, Estd: 2007

RBI & Vietnam Central Bank Sign MoU to Boost Digital Payments

- **Focus on Cross-Border Connectivity:** A primary objective of the MoU is to facilitate the development of cross-border QR code-based merchant payment connectivity. This initiative aims to make international transactions between India and Vietnam faster, more transparent, and cost-efficient for both businesses and tourists.
- **Regulatory and Technical Collaboration:** The agreement establishes a framework for the two central banks to share information on emerging market trends, innovative financial technologies, and regulatory best practices. It also encourages cooperation on fast payment systems, messaging platforms, and card-switch technologies to ensure robust financial integration.
- **Institutional Linkages:** Beyond the central bank-level agreement, the partnership is supported by institutional linkages between the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) International and Vietnam's National Payment Corporation (NAPAS).

SPORTS NEWS

East Bengal Win Indian Super League Title for First Time

- **Maiden ISL Title & 22-Year Wait Ended:** East Bengal FC clinched their first-ever Indian Super League title on May 21, 2026, ending an agonizing 22-year drought for a top-tier national league trophy (their last league triumph was the National Football League in 2004).
- **Dramatic Final-Day Finish:** In a unique truncated season without playoffs, the title was decided solely by the league table on the final day. East Bengal secured a dramatic 2-1 comeback victory over Inter Kashi, edging out arch-rivals Mohun Bagan Super Giant on goal difference after both teams finished level on 26 points.
- **A Season of Top Honors:** Managed by Oscar Bruzón, the Red and Gold Brigade dominated the campaign with the most goals scored (30). The historic triumph was further sweetened by individual honors, as East Bengal's Youssef Ezzejjari won the Golden Boot (11 goals) and Miguel Figueira claimed the Golden Ball.

North Korean women's team win Asian Champions League title

- **Historic First for North Korea:** Pyongyang-based club Naegohyang Women's FC captured the 2025–2026 AFC Women's Champions League (AWCL) title on May 23, 2026, becoming the first-ever North Korean club to win Asia's premier women's club tournament.
- **The Decisive Final Match:** Played on South Korean soil at the Suwon Sports Complex, Naegohyang defeated Japan's Tokyo Verdy Beleza 1-0 in a tight defensive battle. Team captain Kim Kyong-yong scored the match-winning goal in the 44th minute, subsequently earning the tournament's MVP award.
- **Sanctions and Prize Money Dilemma:** While the victory secures a \$1 million cash prize for the club, the actual payout remains highly uncertain as experts and officials debate whether transferring the funds complies with stringent United Nations Security Council sanctions aimed at blocking foreign currency flow to North Korea.

Vijay Shankar retires from domestic & IPL cricket

- **Career Transition:** The 35-year-old India all-rounder has officially announced his retirement from all forms of Indian domestic cricket and the Indian Premier League (IPL) to explore opportunities in overseas franchise leagues.
- **International Highlights:** Between 2018 and 2019, he represented India in 12 ODIs and 9 T20Is. He was a key member of the 2019 ODI World Cup squad, famously taking a wicket with his very first delivery in the tournament against Pakistan.
- **Domestic & Franchise Legacy:** Over a 13-year career, he played 77 First-Class matches (primarily for Tamil Nadu before moving to Tripura) and featured in 78 IPL games across four major franchises—CSK, SRH, DC, and the 2022 title-winning Gujarat Titans.

Gurindervir Singh Smashes 100m National Record for Federation Cup Gold

- **Historic Landmark:** The 25-year-old sprinter from Punjab clocked a sensational 10.09 seconds at the Athletics Federation Cup in Ranchi, making him the first Indian in history to break the elusive sub-10.10 barrier and reclaiming his title as India's fastest man.
- **Intense Speed Rivalry:** The achievement capped off a dramatic 48-hour "speed war" with prodigy Animesh Kujur; the two athletes continuously traded the national record during the semifinals before Gurindervir decisively crushed the previous record of 10.15 seconds in the final.
- **International Qualification:** By dropping down to 10.09 seconds, he comfortably cleared the strict Athletics Federation of India (AFI) qualification standard of 10.16 seconds, automatically securing his berth for the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

India creates history at International Association of Ultrarunners

- **Historic Podium Sweep:** At the 2026 IAU 24H Asia and Oceania Championships in Japan (May 23–24), the Indian men's team made history by achieving a clean sweep of the individual podium—winning Gold (Amar Singh Devanda), Silver (Geeno Antony), and Bronze (Saurav Kumar Ranjan).
- **Team Excellence:** In addition to individual glory, the Indian men's team secured the Team Gold medal with a combined distance of 815.833 km, while the Indian women's team displayed remarkable endurance to claim the Team Bronze medal with an aggregate of 667.722 km.
- **National Record-Breaking Performances:** The event saw new benchmarks set for Indian ultrarunning, with Amar Singh Devanda (282.881 km) and Tenzin Dolma (228.939 km) both shattering national records for the 24-hour run, contributing to India's overall haul of five medals at the championship.

Mercedes teen star Kimi Antonelli wins the Canadian GP

- **Fourth Consecutive Win:** On May 24, 2026, the 19-year-old Italian Mercedes star secured his fourth straight Formula 1 victory in Montreal, following his previous wins in China, Japan, and Miami.
- **Dramatic Race Outcome:** Antonelli claimed the win after a high-stakes duel with his Mercedes teammate George Russell; Russell was forced to retire on Lap 30 due to a power unit failure while the two were trading the lead.
- **Championship Lead:** With this win, Antonelli has significantly strengthened his position in the 2026 World Drivers' Championship, establishing a commanding 43-point lead over his teammate Russell after the first five races of the season.

Mohit & Chander Mohan clinches gold at Asian U-23 Wrestling

- **Gold Medal Wins:** On May 26, 2026, Indian freestyle wrestlers Mohit Kumar and Chander Mohan clinched gold medals in their respective weight classes at the U-23 Asian Wrestling Championships held in Da Nang, Vietnam.
- **Dominant Performance:** Mohit Kumar secured the title in the 65kg category with a commanding 12-4 victory over Kyrgyzstan's Oskonbai A. Abdisamatov, while Chander Mohan earned a hard-fought 7-6 win against Kazakhstan's Yerkan Abil to secure the 79kg title.
- **Historic Team Achievement:** Their individual victories contributed to a massive medal haul for the Indian contingent, which was crowned the overall Freestyle Team Champion at the tournament after securing an impressive total of 27 medals across the event.

Two-time Paralympic Champion Sumit Antil breaks World Record

- **New World Record:** Antil recorded a massive throw of 74.82 meters during his fifth attempt, comfortably eclipsing his previous world record of 73.29 meters, which he had established at the 2022 Asian Para Games.
- **Technical Evolution:** The 27-year-old athlete attributed this record-breaking performance to significant modifications in his run-up rhythm and attacking technique. He noted that these adjustments have allowed him to convert his approach speed into greater power, moving him closer to his ultimate goal of breaching the 80-meter barrier.
- **Continued Dominance:** This feat reinforces Antil's status as the most dominant force in para-javelin; he is a two-time Paralympic gold medalist (Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024) and a three-time World Para Athletics Championships gold medalist. His latest performance was lauded by sports authorities as a historic milestone for Indian para-athletics.

India's Esha Singh wins Munich World Cup with 25m pistol World Record

- **World Record:** Her score of 43/50 shattered the previous senior world record of 42, set by South Korea's Kim Ye-ji in 2024. She also broke the junior world record of 41, previously held by Paris 2024 Olympic champion Yang Ji-in.
- **Dominant Performance:** Esha finished with a five-point lead over the silver medalist, Germany's Doreen Vennekamp (38/50). Bulgaria's Miroslava Mincheva took the bronze with 31/45.
- **Significance:** This victory marked India's first individual shooting medal of the 2026 ISSF World Cup season. Additionally, the gold medal earned Esha a direct qualification spot for the season-ending ISSF World Cup Final, which is scheduled to take place in Rome, Italy, in December 2026.

India to host 2027 Asian Relays and 2028 Asian Indoor Championships

- **Host Cities and Timeline:** Chandigarh will host the 2027 Asian Relay Championships in May 2027, while Bhubaneswar will host the 2028 Asian Indoor Athletics Championships in January 2028.
- **Strategic Importance:** Bhubaneswar's selection is particularly significant as it serves as a "test event" for the city, which is also scheduled to host the 2028 World Athletics Indoor Championships in March 2028. This allows the city and the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) to evaluate operational readiness and infrastructure at the Kalinga Stadium's state-of-the-art indoor facility.
- **Boost for Indian Athletics:** These events represent a significant milestone in India's efforts to become a leading global athletics destination. The Asian Relays in Chandigarh will feature six events (men's, women's, and mixed 4x100m and 4x400m), providing a major platform for domestic athletes to compete against top international talent on home soil.

AWARD NEWS

Chandrayaan-3 honored with AIAA Goddard Astronautics Award 2026

- **Highest AIAA Honor:** The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) presented its highest astronautics honor to ISRO for the Chandrayaan-3 mission during the ASCEND conference in Washington, D.C.
- **Historic Achievement Recognized:** The award directly recognizes India's historic August 23, 2023 achievement as the first nation to successfully execute a soft landing near the Moon's challenging south polar region.
- **Scientific Contribution:** The citation honors the mission for significantly deepening global scientific understanding of the Moon and providing critical resource and soil data to support future human lunar exploration.

Taiwan Travelogue Wins International Booker Prize 2026

- **Historic Double Milestone:** Awarded on May 19, 2026, at London's Tate Modern, Taiwan Travelogue made history as the first-ever book originally written in Mandarin Chinese, and the first by a Taiwanese author (Yáng Shuāng-zǐ), to win the prestigious prize.
- **The Narrative & Themes:** Set in 1938 during the Japanese colonial rule of Taiwan, the novel uses an experimental, metafictional format (disguised as a rediscovered Japanese travel journal) to follow a Japanese author and her local female interpreter on a culinary tour.
- **Prize Distribution & Publisher Success:** The £50,000 prize money will be split equally between the author and the translator, Lin King. The victory also marks an impressive consecutive win for the independent publisher And Other Stories, which also published the 2025 winner (Heart Lamp).

Two Indian-Origin Scientists Conferred South Africa's Highest Civilian Honour

- **Prestigious Recognition:** On May 20, 2026, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa conferred the Order of Mapungubwe—the country's highest civilian honour—upon internationally renowned public health scientists Professor Salim Abdool Karim and Professor Keertan Dheda.
- **Categories of Honour:** Professor Salim Abdool Karim was awarded the Order of Mapungubwe in Gold for his monumental research into HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis epidemiology, as well as his leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Significance:** The awards recognize individuals who have achieved exceptional excellence and accomplishment to the direct benefit of South Africa and the global community, specifically highlighting the scientists' contributions toward improving public health and clinical management practices.

Indian Violin Maestro Dr. N. Rajam conferred with Padma Vibhushan

- **Pioneering "Gayaki Ang":** Dr. N. Rajam is widely celebrated for revolutionizing violin performance by developing the "Gayaki Ang" style, which allows the violin to replicate the nuances and emotional depth of human vocal music.
- **Prestigious Milestone:** Conferred on May 25, 2026, by President Droupadi Murmu, this award adds to her distinguished career, having already been honored with the Padma Shri (1984) and Padma Bhushan (2004).
- **Academic and Musical Legacy:** Beyond her performance career, she served as a professor and Dean of the Faculty of Performing Arts at Banaras Hindu University (BHU), mentoring generations of musicians while bridging Hindustani and Carnatic classical traditions.

Sikkim Police Awarded Prestigious President's Police Colour

- **Historic Milestone:** With this recognition, Sikkim became the 15th state police force in India and the third in the Northeast (following Assam and Tripura) to receive this prestigious distinction. The award was presented during a ceremonial parade held at the Paljor Stadium in Gangtok.
- **Significance of the "Nishaan":** Often referred to as the Nishaan, the President's Police Colour is a ceremonial flag and emblem that recognizes a force's sustained excellence, professionalism, discipline, and outstanding service to the public.
- **President's Vision for Modern Policing:** During the ceremony, President Murmu praised the Sikkim Police (established in 1897) for their dedication but urged the force to shed colonial-era mindsets.

Footnotes: Sikkim's CM: Prem Singh Tamang, Capital: Gangtok, Governor: Om Prakash Mathur

India receives two Labbaytum Awards for Haj coordination & communication

- **Recognition for Excellence:** The awards were presented to the Indian Haj Mission in acknowledgment of its outstanding performance in Haj coordination and communication during the 2026 pilgrimage. These awards serve as international recognition of the high standards maintained by the mission in managing the welfare and movement of pilgrims.
- **Seamless Collaborative Effort:** Union Minister of Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju attributed this success to the seamless synergy and coordination between the Ministry of Minority Affairs, the Haj Committee of India, and the Indian Haj Mission, which is led by India's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and the Consul General in Jeddah.
- **Significance of the Achievement:** The "Labbaytum" awards are part of the Saudi Ministry's effort to encourage and recognize countries that demonstrate excellence in pilgrimage management.

APPOINTMENT & PERSON IN NEWS

Neelam Meena appointed as Chief Electoral Officer of West Bengal

- **Official Appointment:** On May 25, 2026, the Election Commission of India (ECI) appointed senior IAS officer Neelam Meena (1998-batch, West Bengal cadre) as the new Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of West Bengal.
- **Succession:** She replaces the outgoing CEO, Manoj Kumar Agarwal, who was recently elevated to the position of Chief Secretary of the State.
- **Administrative Focus:** To ensure complete impartiality and focus, the ECI has mandated that Ms. Meena will not hold any other duties within the State Government and will function solely as the CEO of West Bengal.

Footnotes: West Bengal's CM: Suwendu Adhikari, **Governor:** R. N. Ravi, **Capital:** Kolkata

Raghav Chadha Appointed Chairman of Rajya Sabha Committee

- **New Leadership:** Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha has been appointed as the Chairman of the Committee on Petitions of the Upper House, effective May 20, 2026.
- **Reconstitution of the Panel:** The appointment followed a formal reconstitution of the committee by Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan, who nominated a 10-member panel to examine petitions related to governance, public policy, and public grievances.
- **Role and Function:** The Committee on Petitions is one of the oldest standing parliamentary committees; it holds the authority to call for evidence, examine witnesses, and recommend corrective measures for public grievances submitted by citizens.

Piyush Singla appointed Director Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

- **Official Mandate:** The appointment was announced by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) under the Central Staffing Scheme. Singla was recommended for this

central deputation by the Ministry of Home Affairs and is tasked with bolstering the leadership team responsible for India's digital health infrastructure.

- **Role and Tenure:** His tenure will be co-terminus with the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, though it remains subject to extension based on the rules of the Central Staffing Scheme or until further government orders. He is expected to take charge of the position within three weeks of the appointment order.
- **Strategic Focus:** Singla brings significant administrative experience to the role, having previously served in key positions in Jammu & Kashmir, including the Information Technology Department. His appointment comes as the NHA aims to accelerate the adoption of digital health records, interoperable health systems, and the further expansion of the Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) ecosystem.

Siddaramaiah Quits, Names DK Shivakumar As Next CM

- **Execution of Power-Sharing Pact:** Siddaramaiah resigned on May 28, 2026, following a directive from the Congress high command. This transition fulfills a power-sharing agreement established in May 2023, where it was decided that Siddaramaiah would serve the first three years of the term, to be followed by D.K. Shivakumar for the remaining two years.
- **Formal Acceptance and Caretaker Role:** Governor Thawarchand Gehlot officially accepted the resignation on May 29, 2026. Siddaramaiah continues to serve as the caretaker Chief Minister until D.K. Shivakumar is formally sworn in, with a crucial Congress Legislative Party (CLP) meeting scheduled for May 30, 2026, to finalize the transition.
- **Commitment to State Politics:** Despite the high command reportedly offering him a position in the Rajya Sabha, Siddaramaiah has explicitly declined to move into national politics. He has vowed to remain active in state-level politics, focusing on his commitment to social justice and the welfare of marginalized communities.

Footnotes: Karnataka's Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot, Capital: Bengaluru

A Kowsigan appointed as the CEO of Kerala

- **Official Appointment:** Dr. A. Kowsigan, a 2009-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Kerala cadre, officially assumed the role of Chief Electoral Officer on May 29, 2026.
- **Succession:** He succeeds Dr. Rathan U. Kelkar, who stepped down as the CEO to take on the role of Secretary to the Chief Minister of Kerala, V.D. Satheesan.
- **Professional Background:** Prior to this appointment, Dr. Kowsigan held several significant administrative positions in the state, including Secretary of the Ports Department, Commissioner of Land Revenue, Commissioner of Disaster Management, and Director of Animal Husbandry.

Footnotes: Kerala's Governor: Rajendra Arlekar, CM: V.D. Satheesan, Capital: Thiruvananthapuram

OBITUARY NEWS

Former Microsoft Executive and Tech Mentor passed away

- **Sudden Demise:** S. "Soma" Somasegar, a highly respected Indian-American tech leader, investor, and mentor, passed away unexpectedly on May 19, 2026, at the age of 59, prompting widespread grief across Silicon Valley and the Seattle tech communities.
- **Massive Microsoft Legacy:** Over an illustrious 27-year career at Microsoft, he rose to Corporate Vice President and led the Developer Division—successfully steering critical ecosystems like Visual Studio and .NET. He was also instrumental in establishing Microsoft's major India Development Center (IDC) in Hyderabad in 1998.
- **Venture Capital & Mentorship:** After leaving Microsoft in 2015, he joined Madrona Venture Group as Managing Director, focusing on AI and cloud software startups (including investments in UiPath and Snowflake). He was widely celebrated as a legendary, selfless mentor who helped launch and shape the careers of an entire generation of tech founders and engineers.

NASCAR Legend Kyle Busch passed away

- **Sudden and Tragic Passing:** The 41-year-old two-time NASCAR Cup Series champion passed away suddenly on Thursday, May 21, 2026, after a severe bout of pneumonia rapidly progressed into life-threatening sepsis.
- **Unparalleled Racing Legacy:** Widely regarded as a generational talent, "Rowdy" Busch retired as the winningest driver in NASCAR history across its top three national divisions, accumulating a record-shattering 234 total victories.
- **Motorsports Community Tributes:** His unexpected death sent shockwaves through the sporting world, prompting massive, heartfelt tributes across major race weekends, including black No. 8 decals worn by all field drivers at the Coca-Cola 600 and special honors at the Indianapolis 500.

Five-time Olympian shooter Raja Randhir Singh passed away

- **Pioneering Sporting Achievements:** A five-time Olympian (1968–1984), he was a trailblazer for Indian shooting. He made history in 1978 by becoming the first Indian shooter to win a gold medal at the Asian Games (Bangkok) in the trap event, an achievement that earned him the prestigious Arjuna Award in 1979.
- **Distinguished Administrative Career:** Beyond his athletic success, he was one of the most influential figures in global sports administration. He served as the Secretary General of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) for nearly 25 years and was a key member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) from 2001 to 2014.

- **Lasting Legacy:** Coming from the royal family of Patiala, he was deeply involved in the growth of the Olympic movement in India and Asia for over four decades. He was instrumental in bringing major international sporting events to India.

Urdu Poet & Padma Shri Awardee Bashir Badr passed away

- **Pioneer of Modern Ghazal:** Dr. Badr was a central figure in the Nayi Ghazal (modern ghazal) movement. He was celebrated for breaking away from archaic, dense Persian terminology and instead utilizing simple, everyday Hindustani vocabulary, which made his profound philosophical verses on love, loneliness, and life's mysteries accessible to a broad audience.
- **Literary Honors and Contributions:** Throughout his prolific career, he authored over seven poetry collections, including the acclaimed Aas, for which he received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1999. In that same year, he was honored with the Padma Shri for his significant contributions to literature. His work became a cultural touchstone, often cited in political discourse, including by leaders in the Indian Parliament.