

THE DAILY GK DOSE

SAYANI GUPTA HONOURED WITH HARVARD SOUTH ASIAN PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD 2026

- **The Recognition:** Indian actress and producer Sayani Gupta has been named the "South Asian Person of the Year" 2026 by the Harvard University South Asian Association (SAA).
- **Significance:** The award honors her influential role in cinema and storytelling, specifically her commitment to authentic representation and challenging traditional South Asian stereotypes on a global platform.
- **Context of Honor:** She joins an elite list of previous recipients, including Vikas Khanna (2025) and Avantika Vandanapu (2024); the ceremony coincides with the premiere of her directorial debut film, Aasmani.

MEGHALAYA RECOGNISES KHASI AND GARO AS OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

- **The Decision:** On April 16, 2026, the Meghalaya Cabinet approved the Meghalaya Official Languages Ordinance, 2026, officially designating Khasi and Garo as the state's official languages alongside English.
- **Key Legal Changes:** This ordinance repeals the outdated 2005 State Language Act and paves the way for amendments to the 1980 Legislature Act, allowing MLAs to debate in their native tongues and enabling the use of these languages in government recruitment exams.
- **Strategic Objective:** Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma stated that granting state-level official status is a crucial step to strengthen Meghalaya's long-

standing demand to include Khasi and Garo in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

Footnotes: Meghalaya's Capital: Shillong, Governor: Chandrashekhkar H. Vijayashankar, CM: Conrad Sangma

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA APPOINTS SUSHANTA KUMAR MOHANTY AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



- **The Appointment:** Shri Sushanta Kumar Mohanty officially assumed charge as the Executive Director (ED) of the Bank of Maharashtra on April 15, 2026, following a notification from the Department of Financial Services.
- **Tenure & Background:** He has been appointed for a period of three years. Prior to this role, he served as the Chief General Manager at Bank of Baroda, where he led Treasury and Global Markets.
- **Experience:** An industry veteran with over 30 years of experience, Mohanty has expertise in International Banking, Forex Management, and Treasury Operations, including a significant posting in New York, USA.

Footnotes: BOM's MD & CEO: Nidhu Saxena, HQ: Maharashtra, Estd: 1935

IMPORTANT FACTS

- X-rays were discovered by Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen
- An earthquake is measured using a Seismograph
- The first person to reach the North Pole was Robert Peary
- Radioactivity was discovered by Henri Becquerel
- The Raman Effect was discovered by C. V. Raman
- The first general election in India was held in 1951–52
- The Lok Sabha has a total of 545 seats
- In 1998, Amartya Sen received the Nobel Prize in Economics

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA WON INAUGURAL BOULDERS CLASSIC 2026

- **The Victory:** Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma clinched the title at the first-ever Boulders Classic in April 2026, held at the Blackwood National Golf Club.
- **Performance:** Sharma secured the win with a clinical final-round performance, finishing at 14-under-par. He held off a strong challenge from South African golfer Thriston Lawrence to claim the trophy.
- **Significance:** This win marks a major milestone in Sharma's 2026 season, further solidifying his position as India's top-ranked golfer and providing a significant boost to his Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR) ahead of the year's upcoming Majors.

GAUTAM ADANI OVERTAKES MUKESH AMBANI TO BECOME ASIA'S RICHEST PERSON

- **The Rank Shift:** On April 17, 2026, Gautam Adani reclaimed the title of Asia's Richest Person, surpassing Mukesh Ambani. According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Adani's net worth reached \$92.6 billion, placing him 19th globally, while Ambani moved to 20th with \$90.8 billion.
- **Driving Factors:** Adani's wealth surged by \$8.1 billion year-to-date, fueled by a robust rally in Adani Group stocks (such as Adani Power and Adani Ports). In contrast, Mukesh Ambani's wealth saw a year-to-date decline of approximately \$16.9 billion due to market volatility in the retail and petrochemical sectors.
- **Wider Context:** This marks a continued "see-saw" battle for the top spot between the two Indian tycoons. Globally, Elon Musk remains the world's richest individual with a net worth of \$656 billion, followed by Google co-founder Larry Page.

VIKASH KUMAR APPOINTED AS SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE IN NIA

- **The Appointment:** Shri Vikash Kumar, a 2020-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, was officially inducted as the Superintendent of Police (SP) in the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on April 16, 2026.
- **Cadre & Deputation:** He belongs to the Chhattisgarh cadre and has been appointed to

the central agency on a deputation basis to fill an existing vacancy.

- **Official Directive:** The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued the approval, directing the Chhattisgarh government to relieve the officer immediately to join his new assignment at the NIA headquarters in New Delhi.

Footnotes: NIA's DG: Rakesh Aggarwal, HQ: New Delhi, Estd: 2009

ONGC WINS GLOBAL SAFETY AWARD FOR CORPORATE HSE EXCELLENCE



- **The Award:** Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has been honored with the Global Safety Award (Platinum Category) for Corporate HSE (Health, Safety, and Environment) Excellence by the Energy and Environment Foundation (EEF) in April 2026.
- **Triple Recognition:** This marks ONGC's third consecutive Platinum recognition during the 2025-26 period, underscoring its consistent global leadership in safety standards and environmental stewardship.
- **Presented By:** The award was presented by Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, recognizing the company's "Safety-First" culture and its robust systems for mitigating operational

risks in high-stakes energy production.

Footnotes: ONGC's Chairman & CEO: Arun Kumar Singh, HQ: New Delhi, Estd: 1956

ODISHA & NCCR SIGN MOU UNDER INDO-NORWAY INITIATIVE

- **The Partnership:** On April 16, 2026, the Odisha Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) to implement a Marine Spatial Plan (MSP), a first-of-its-kind state-level initiative in India.
- **Blue Economy Focus:** Part of the Indo-Norway Integrated Ocean Management initiative, the project aims to balance economic growth in sectors like fisheries, tourism, and ports with environmental conservation along Odisha's 480 km coastline.
- **Strategic Expansion:** Following pilot phases in Puducherry and Lakshadweep, Odisha is the first major state to adopt this framework. It serves as a key pillar for the state's "Vision 2036" (centenary of statehood) and the national "Viksit Bharat 2047" goals.

Footnotes: NCCR's Director: Dr. R.S. Kankara, HQ: Chennai, Estd: 2011

Footnotes: Odisha's Capital: Bhubaneswar, Governor: Kambhampati Hari Babu, CM: Mohan Charan Majhi

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

19.04.2026 / SUNDAY

- **18th April: World Heritage Day**
- **Theme 2026: Emergency Response for Living Heritage in Contexts of Conflicts & Disasters.**