

THE DAILY GK DOSE

GEORGE RUSSELL WINS AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX 2026

- **Mercedes 1-2 Finish:** George Russell converted his pole position into a season-opening victory, leading teammate Kimi Antonelli to a dominant Mercedes one-two finish.
- **Decisive Strategy:** The race turned on lap 12 when Mercedes capitalized on a Virtual Safety Car (caused by Isack Hadjar's Red Bull) to pit both cars, while Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and Lewis Hamilton stayed out, ultimately cost them the lead.
- **New Regulation Debut:** The race marked the first competitive use of the 2026 hybrid engines and active aerodynamics, featuring a high-intensity battle between Russell and Leclerc, who traded the lead multiple times in the opening 10 laps.

SUNEET MEHTA APPOINTED AS HIGH COMMISSIONER OF INDIA TO KINGDOM OF TONGA

- **Dual Responsibility:** Shri Suneeet Mehta, a 2007-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, will serve as the High Commissioner to the Kingdom of Tonga while continuing his current role as the High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Fiji.
- **Strategic Residence:** His primary residence will remain in Suva, Fiji, from where he will oversee India's diplomatic relations and developmental partnerships with Tonga.
- **Extensive Experience:** Before his current Pacific assignments,

Mehta served as the Deputy High Commissioner to Australia (Canberra) and held significant positions in Indian missions in Washington D.C. and Madrid, as well as at the MEA headquarters in New Delhi.

INDIA SENDS MILITARY CONTINGENT FOR EXERCISE LAMITIYE 2026



- **Tri-Service Milestone:** For the first time, this edition features participation from all three branches of the Indian Armed Forces. The contingent includes the Assam Regiment of the Indian Army, alongside representation from the Indian Navy (INS Trikand) and the Indian Air Force (C-130 aircraft).
- **Duration and Location:** The 12-day exercise is being held from March 9 to March 20, 2026, at the Seychelles Defence Academy. "LAMITIYE," which translates to "Friendship" in the Creole language, has been conducted biennially since 2001.
- **Operational Focus:** The exercise focuses on enhancing synergy in sub-conventional operations within semi-urban environments. It includes tactical drills for neutralizing potential threats, sharing best practices for UN peacekeeping missions, and showcasing new-generation military equipment.

IMPORTANT FACTS

पूर्व की ओर बहने वाली प्रमुख नदियाँ

GK Trick - "गया ब्रह्मा"

- ग → गंगा
- या → यमुना
- ब्रह्मा → ब्रह्मपुत्र

AXIS MF ELEVATES R SIVAKUMAR AS ITS CIO

- **Internal Succession:** Effective March 5, 2026, R Sivakumar succeeds Ashish Gupta, who stepped down to pursue other interests. Under this new structure, core investment heads—Shreyash Devalkar (Equity), Devang Shah (Fixed Income), and Nandik Malik (Equity & Hybrid SIF)—will report directly to him.
- **Founding Member:** A veteran with over 25 years of experience, Sivakumar has been with Axis AMC since its inception in 2009. Prior to this elevation, he served as the Head of Products and Corporate Strategy and spent 14 years leading the Fixed Income division.
- **Strategic Goals:** In his new role, he will oversee an asset base exceeding ₹3.75 lakh crore (as of February 2026). His mandate is to drive the firm's investment strategy and research-led processes to help Axis AMC reach its target of a 6%–7% market share by FY29.

PRESIDENT APPOINTS JUSTICE SUSHRUT DHARMADHIKARI AS MADRAS CJ

- **55th Chief Justice:** Justice Dharmadhikari was sworn in by Governor R.N. Ravi on March 6, 2026, at the Lok Bhavan in Chennai. He succeeds Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava, who retired on March 5 after reaching the mandatory retirement age of 62.
- **Judicial Trajectory:** His parent High Court is the Madhya Pradesh High Court, where he was first elevated as a judge in 2016. Before his current elevation to Chief Justice, he was serving as a judge of the Kerala High Court, a position he held since April 2025.
- **Legal Background:** Born in Raipur, he practiced law for over 24 years before joining the bench. During his career as an advocate, he notably served as the Standing Counsel for the Union of India for 15 years (2000–2015).

RASHMIKA MANDANNA WON BEST ACTRESS AWARD

- **Telangana Gaddar Awards 2025:** Rashmika Mandanna won the Best Actress award at the prestigious Telangana Gaddar Film Awards, announced in March 2026. These awards were instituted by the Government of Telangana to recognize excellence in Telugu cinema.
- **Winning Performance:** She received the honor for her role as Bhooma Devi in the 2025 romantic drama *The Girlfriend*, directed by Rahul Ravindran.

Her portrayal of a woman navigating a controlling relationship was widely praised for its emotional depth and authenticity.

- **Personal Milestone:** The award announcement coincided with a significant personal milestone, coming shortly after her high-profile wedding to actor Vijay Deverakonda. The couple celebrated the win together, with Vijay sharing a public message of pride for her achievement.

BEL SIGNS MOU WITH BELLATRIX AEROSPACE



- **Focus on VLEO Technology:** The collaboration specifically targets the design, development, and manufacturing of satellite platforms for Very Low Earth Orbit (VLEO). Operating at altitudes between 100 and 450 km, these satellites offer higher-resolution imaging and faster communication compared to traditional orbits.
- **Complementary Expertise:** The partnership integrates BEL's decades of experience in mission-critical defense electronics and payloads with Bellatrix Aerospace's innovation in satellite propulsion systems and subsystems (such as their green-chemical propulsion and Hall Effect Thrusters).

- **Strategic & Civilian Applications:** The MoU, exchanged on March 5, 2026, aims to build indigenous end-to-end satellite solutions. This supports India's self-reliance goals for both strategic defense requirements and civilian space missions in an increasingly crowded Low Earth Orbit (LEO) environment.

VIR CHAKRA AWARDEE KG GEORGE PASSED AWAY

- **1965 War Heroism:** He was awarded the Vir Chakra, India's third-highest wartime gallantry award, for his exceptional bravery in the Wagah Sector. Between September 6 and 10, 1965, he repeatedly risked his life under heavy enemy shelling and air strafing to restore vital communication lines.
- **Corps of Signals Veteran:** His citation highlights a specific act on the night of September 8, 1965, where he successfully established a line of communication from Brigade Headquarters to forward battalions during a critical enemy attack.
- **Final Honors:** He passed away on March 7, 2026, due to age-related factors. His funeral is scheduled to be held in Kottayam with full military honors once his family members return from overseas.

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

09.03.2026 / MONDAY

- *Portuguese explorer Pedro Álvares Cabral departed Lisbon with a 13-ship expedition destined for India.*
- *1961 (Space Race): The Soviet Union successfully launched Sputnik 9*