




Current Affairs

03 Apr, 2025

**Poonam Gupta Appointed as
RBI Deputy Governor**



1. Poonam Gupta Appointed as RBI Deputy Governor

Dr. Poonam Gupta has been appointed as a Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a three-year term, succeeding Michael Patra. She is the first woman in over a decade to hold this position and brings extensive experience from her roles at the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Previously, she served as the Director General of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and was a key member of India's Economic Advisory Council. Dr. Gupta holds a Ph.D. and a Master's in Economics from the University of Maryland, USA, and a Master's from the Delhi School of Economics.



Foot notes:

- **Background:** Poonam Gupta is the Director General of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER).
- **Term:** She has been appointed for a three-year term.
- **Predecessor:** Gupta succeeds Michael Patra, who previously held the position.
- **Government Approval:** The Central government has named Poonam Gupta as the new RBI Deputy Governor, according to a notification.
- **Significance:** As RBI Deputy Governor, Gupta will play a crucial role in shaping the country's monetary policy and regulating the banking sector.

2. Rajnigandha Achievers Winner Of Aditya Birla Memorial Polo Cup 2025

The Rajnigandha Achievers clinched the Aditya Birla Memorial Polo Cup 2025 by defeating Jindal Panther with a score of 6-3 in the final match held at Jaipur Polo Ground, New Delhi. The victorious team comprised Dino Dhankhar, Shamsheer Ali, Abhimanyu Pathak, and Bk Mr. Daniel Otamendi. The tournament, which took place from March 26 to 30, featured three teams: Rajnigandha Achievers, Jindal Panther, and Cavalry Royal Enfield. The runners-up, Jindal Panther, were led by industrialist Naveen Jindal, with team members Hurr Ali, Kuldeep Singh Rathore, and Bk Mr. JP Clarkin.



Foot notes:

- **Winning Team:** The Rajnigandha Achievers team consisted of Dino Dhankhar, Shamsheer Ali, Abhimanyu Pathak, and Bk Mr. Daniel Otamendi.
- **Final Match Outcome:** They won the final against Jindal Panther with a decisive score of 6-3.
- **Trophy Presentation:** The prestigious cup was presented to the Rajnigandha Achievers by Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, the Vice President of India, Mrs. Rajashree Birla, and Mr. Askaran Agarwala, Group Advisor of the Birla Group Trusts.
- **Significance of the Tournament:** The Aditya Birla Memorial Polo Cup is one of India's most prominent polo tournaments, honoring the late Shri Aditya Vikram Birla's passion for polo.
- **Hat-Trick Win:** This is Rajnigandha Achievers' third consecutive win at the Aditya Birla Memorial Polo Cup.
- **Partnership:** The 2025 edition of the tournament was hosted in partnership with the Army Polo & Riding Centre in New Delhi.

3. Indian equestrian Niharika Singhania clinches gold

Indian equestrian Niharika Singhania has achieved a significant milestone by securing first place at the prestigious Azelhof CSI Lier equestrian competition in Belgium. Competing against a field of international participants, Niharika demonstrated exceptional skill and composure throughout the event. Continuing her strong form, Niharika competed in the show jumping event on March 29, concluding with 61.94 points. Her crowning achievement came on March 30, the final day of the competition, where she excelled in the Two-Phase Special, finishing first with penalty points of 34.48 and 31.95.



Foot notes:

- **Events Participated:** She participated in the Two Phases special event and the show jumping event, riding on Hotese Charboniere, owned by Sabine Locquet.
- **Penalty Points:** Niharika finished with impressive penalty points of 40.72 and 40.34 in the Two Phases event, and 61.94 points in the show jumping event.
- **Final Day Performance:** On the final day of the competition, Niharika excelled in the Two-Phase Special, finishing first with penalty points of 34.48 and 31.95.
- **Inspiration to Students:** Niharika's victory serves as a powerful inspiration for students across India, highlighting the importance of nurturing diverse talents alongside academic pursuits.
- **National Pride:** The Indian National Anthem played in the background when announcing Niharika's win, marking a moment of profound pride for the nation on a global stage.

4. Vandana Katariya Retires from International Hockey

Indian women's hockey stalwart Vandana Katariya has announced her retirement from international hockey, concluding a distinguished career that spanned over 15 years. With 320 international caps and 158 goals, she retires as India's most-capped women's player. Vandana made her senior team debut in 2009 and played a pivotal role in several of India's significant achievements, including the historic fourth-place finish at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, where she became the first Indian woman to score a hat-trick at the Games.



Foot notes:

- **Most-Capped Player:** Katariya holds the record for the most international caps in Indian women's hockey, with an impressive 320 appearances.
- **Goal-Scoring Legend:** She scored 158 goals throughout her career, making her a pivotal figure in Indian women's hockey history.
- **Historic Hat-Trick:** Katariya became the first and only Indian woman to score a hat-trick at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, leading India to a historic fourth-place finish.
- **Awards and Accolades:** She has received numerous awards, including the Padma Shri and Arjuna Award, for her outstanding contributions to Indian hockey.
- **Legacy:** Katariya's retirement marks the end of an era for Indian women's hockey, but her legacy will continue to inspire future generations of hockey players.

5. Jacob Duffy Tops ICC T20I Bowling Rankings

New Zealand fast bowler Jacob Duffy has ascended to the top of the ICC Men's T20 International (T20I) Bowling Rankings, marking his first time achieving the number one position in any format. This milestone follows his outstanding performance in the recent five-match T20I series against Pakistan, where he claimed 13 wickets at an average of 8.38, contributing significantly to New Zealand's 4-1 series victory. Duffy's achievement makes him the first New Zealander to hold the premier T20I bowling ranking since Ish Sodhi in 2018. His ascent in the rankings saw him surpass notable bowlers, including West Indies spinner Akeal Hosein, who previously held the top spot.



Foot notes:

- **Top Spot:** Duffy has leapfrogged West Indies spinner Akeal Hosein to reach the top spot, following his phenomenal performance in the T20I series against Pakistan.
- **Impressive Stats:** He took 13 wickets at an average of just 8.38, helping New Zealand secure a 4-1 series victory.
- **Career Milestone:** This is Duffy's first time holding the number one bowler ranking in any format.
- **New Zealand Pride:** Duffy is the first New Zealander to hold the top bowling ranking in men's T20I cricket since Ish Sodhi in 2018.
- **Ranking Movement:** Duffy gained seven spots last week to be ranked joint-fifth with Adam Zampa and then overtook Wanindu Hasaranga, Adil Rashid, and Varun Chakravarthy to reach the top spot.
- **Team Impact:** Duffy's achievement has also impacted his teammates' rankings, with Tim Seifert breaking into the top 10 of the T20I batter rankings and Finn Allen moving up one spot to 15th.

6. Sivasubramanian Ramann Appointed as New Chairperson of PFRDA

Sivasubramanian Ramann has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) for a five-year term. He succeeds Deepak Mohanty, who retired in March 2025. Prior to this role, Ramann served as the Chairman and Managing Director of the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), where he played a crucial role in supporting MSMEs. A 1991-batch



Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IA&AS) officer, he has held key positions in financial regulation and development.

Foot notes:

- **Background:** Ramann is a 1991-batch Indian Audit & Accounts Service officer and is currently serving as the Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and Chief Technology Officer at the CAG.
- **Previous Roles:** Before joining CAG's office, he was the Chairman and Managing Director (MD) of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and has also held multiple positions with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- **Education:** Ramann holds a master's degree in financial regulation from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and an MBA from the Delhi University.
- **Replacement:** He will replace Deepak Mohanty, whose term ends in May.
- **PFRDA's Role:** As the Chairperson of PFRDA, Ramann will oversee the regulatory body responsible for India's pension sector, including the National Pension System (NPS).
- **Term:** Ramann's five-year term will begin from his date of joining, or until he attains the age of 65.

7. Dalai Lama Honored with Gold Mercury Award

The 14th Dalai Lama has been honored with the prestigious Gold Mercury Award for Peace and Sustainability in recognition of his lifelong commitment to non-violence, compassion, and global harmony. The award was presented to him at his residence in Dharamshala by Nicolas De Santis, President of Gold Mercury International. This honor acknowledges his contributions to promoting human rights, environmental protection, and interfaith dialogue. In his acceptance speech, the Dalai Lama emphasized the importance of peace, kindness, and collective responsibility for a better world. Gold Mercury International, a London-based organization, has been recognizing global leaders for their efforts in governance and sustainability since 1961. This latest accolade adds to the Dalai Lama's numerous global honors, including the Nobel Peace Prize.



Foot notes:

- **Recognition of Lifelong Work:** The award acknowledges the Dalai Lama's tireless efforts in promoting peace, non-violence, and environmental stewardship.

- Presented by Gold Mercury International: Nicolas De Santis, President and Secretary General of Gold Mercury International, presented the award to the Dalai Lama at his residence in Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh.
- Advocacy for Non-Violence and Sustainability: The Dalai Lama has been a global voice for non-violence, sustainability, and environmental protection, inspiring individuals and leaders worldwide.
- Universal Responsibility: His message of universal responsibility emphasizes the interconnectedness of humanity and the need for collective action to achieve peace and protect the environment.
- Legacy and Impact: The Dalai Lama's teachings and leadership have profoundly shaped global consciousness, promoting a culture of peace, compassion, and wisdom.

8. Carrier Midea India onboards Rashmika Mandanna as brand ambassador

Carrier Midea India has appointed popular actress Rashmika Mandanna as its brand ambassador to enhance its market presence and connect with a wider audience. Known for her vibrant personality and widespread appeal, Rashmika will represent the brand across various marketing and advertising campaigns. Carrier Midea, a leading provider of air conditioning solutions, aims to leverage her influence to strengthen its positioning in the Indian market. The collaboration aligns with the company's commitment to innovation, energy efficiency, and customer satisfaction.



Rashmika expressed her excitement about the partnership, emphasizing the importance of high-quality and reliable cooling solutions.

Foot notes:

- Eva Brand Ambassador: She is also the face of TTK Healthcare's Eva brand, promoting their fragrance range and featuring in a brand film that showcases the importance of confidence and self-assurance.
- Janasya Brand Ambassador: Janasya, a fashion brand, has roped in Rashmika Mandanna as their brand ambassador, targeting the youth of India with their fashionable and affordable products.
- BoAt Brand Ambassador: Rashmika Mandanna has been appointed as the first female brand ambassador for boAt's wearables category, promoting their products and celebrating women's empowerment.

- Pilgrim Brand Ambassador: Beauty brand Pilgrim has onboarded Rashmika Mandanna as their brand ambassador for their hair care range, featuring her in their new campaign titled 'The Secret is in the Mix'.
- Other Associations: Rashmika Mandanna has also been associated with other brands like 7Up, Gillette Venus, Agoda, Amul Macho Sporto, and Bisk Farm, among others.

9. Volvo Cars appoints Hakan Samuelsson as CEO and President

Volvo Cars has reappointed Hakan Samuelsson as Chief Executive Officer and President, effective April 1, 2025, for a two-year term. This decision follows the departure of Jim Rowan, who stepped down on March 31 after serving since January 2022. Samuelsson previously led Volvo Cars from 2012 to 2022, during which he successfully repositioned the brand and oversaw its public listing. His return comes at a pivotal time as the automotive industry faces rapid technological advancements, geopolitical challenges, and intensified competition. The board believes Samuelsson's extensive experience and strategic clarity will provide the stability needed during this transitional period. A search for a long-term successor is underway.



Foot notes:

- Previous Experience: He previously served as Volvo Cars' CEO from 2012 to 2022 and as a board member from 2010.
- Achievements: During his previous tenure, Samuelsson successfully repositioned Volvo Cars as a global premium automotive brand and oversaw its public listing.
- Reason for Reappointment: The company's board believes Samuelsson's experience and steady hand are necessary to navigate the increasingly complex automotive landscape.
- Replacement of Jim Rowan: Samuelsson replaces Jim Rowan, who resigned as CEO and left the Volvo Cars Board on March 31, 2025.
- Industry Challenges: Samuelsson will face challenges such as fast-moving technological shifts, growing geopolitical complexity, and intensifying competition across regions.

10. Independent Artist Day observed on April 3rd

Independent Artist Day is celebrated annually on April 3rd to honor the contributions of independent artists across various creative fields. Established in 2022 by Minted, a design goods marketplace, the day recognizes the unique perspectives and creativity

that indie artists bring to the art world. It serves as a reminder of the importance of supporting artists who operate outside traditional institutions, fostering innovation and diversity in cultural expressions. Individuals can observe this day by discovering new artists, attending local art shows, sharing artists' work on social media, and engaging in their own creative endeavors. By participating in these activities, the public helps sustain the vibrant ecosystem of independent artistry, ensuring that diverse voices continue to enrich our cultural landscape.




Foot notes:

- **Celebration:** On this day, independent artists from various fields, including music, film, visual arts, and literature, come together to showcase their talents, share their experiences, and connect with like-minded individuals.
- **History:** The origins of Independent Artist Day are unclear, but it is believed to have started in the early 2000s as a grassroots movement to promote independent art and culture.
- **Global Participation:** Independent Artist Day is celebrated globally, with events, exhibitions, and performances taking place in various cities and countries.
- **Social Media Campaigns:** To raise awareness and promote independent art, social media campaigns are organized using hashtags such as #IndependentArtistDay, #SupportIndependentArtists, and #IndieArt.

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