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WEEKLY —
Current
Affairs



NATIONAL NEWS

CSIR-CRRI & BPCL Develop India's 1st Plastic Waste Geocell 'Phoenix'

- **Innovation:** CSIR-CRRI and BPCL developed 'Phoenix', India's first technical textile geocell made entirely from end-of-life mixed plastic waste.
- **Structural Integrity:** These honeycomb-like structures are used to stabilize soil and strengthen road surfaces, offering performance comparable to virgin plastic (HDPE) geocells.
- **Environmental Impact:** The technology targets "difficult-to-recycle" plastics, reducing landfill waste and conserving raw materials; it has already been tested on sections of the Delhi Expressway.

Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan launches PMGSY-IV

- **Expanded Connectivity Targets:** PMGSY-IV aims to provide all-weather road connectivity to approximately 50,000 previously unconnected habitations across India. The focus has shifted toward smaller, remote habitations in plain areas (pop. 250+) and even smaller clusters in hilly, tribal, or desert regions (pop. 100+).
- **Massive Financial Outlay:** For the financial year 2026-27, the central government has allocated approximately ₹19,000 crore for rural road development. During the launch, specific approvals worth ₹1,763 crore were handed over for over 970 road projects covering 2,117 km in Madhya Pradesh alone.
- **Socio-Economic Integration:** Minister Chouhan described these rural roads as "gateways to prosperity," emphasizing that this phase is designed to link remote villages not just to each other, but to essential services like healthcare, higher education, and large agricultural markets.

Judiciary Launches One Case One Data, Su Sahay

- **One Case One Data (OCOD):** This is a unified digital infrastructure project designed to integrate judicial records across all levels—from Taluka and District courts to High Courts and the Supreme Court. It creates a single, interconnected "digital trail" for every case, ensuring that updates at any level are reflected nationwide, which reduces data fragmentation and improves case management.
- **Su Sahay (AI Chatbot):** Developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) in collaboration with the Supreme Court Registry, Su Sahay is an AI-powered assistant integrated into the Supreme Court website. It serves as a 24/7 digital helpdesk, providing litigants and citizens with guidance on filing processes, case statuses, and court protocols in a user-friendly, conversational format.
- **Core Objective:** These initiatives aim to enhance transparency and speed within the judiciary by moving away from "siloed" operations. By leveraging e-governance and AI, the Supreme Court seeks to democratize legal information and address the persistent challenge of judicial pendency (backlog) through better data-based decision-making.

V. D. Satheesan Named Kerala's Chief Minister

- **UDF's Resounding Victory:** Satheesan led the UDF to an unprecedented win, securing 102 out of 140 seats in the Kerala Assembly. This victory ended a decade of rule by the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF).
- **Leadership Consensus:** After 10 days of intense internal discussions, the Congress high command chose Satheesan over senior leaders KC Venugopal and Ramesh Chennithala. His appointment was strongly backed by grassroots workers and key allies like the IUML.
- **A "Nayakan" (Hero) Emerges:** Previously the Leader of Opposition, Satheesan was credited with rebuilding the party after its 2021 defeat. He is a six-time MLA from the Paravur constituency and is viewed as the "people's candidate" for his aggressive stance against the previous government.

Footnotes: Kerala's Previous CM: Pinarayi Vijayan, Governor: Rajendra Arlekar, Capital: Thiruvananthapuram

India's Passport Ranked 78th in Henley Passport Index 2026

- **Mobility Score & Access Breakdown:** Holding the 78th position gives Indian passport holders visa-free, visa-on-arrival, or Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) access to exactly 56 destinations worldwide. Out of these, around 30 countries offer completely visa-free entry, while 23 provide visa-on-arrival facilities.
- **Recent Ranking Fluctuations:** This 78th rank represents a minor three-place slip from earlier in the year, when India briefly climbed to the 75th position. However, it still marks a net improvement from late last year, when India was sitting lower at 85th.
- **Global Context & Regional Comparison:** While Singapore continues to dominate the top spot globally (giving its citizens access to 192 destinations), India maintains a stronger mobility ranking than its immediate South Asian neighbors: Bangladesh ranks 96th, Pakistan stands at 100th, and Afghanistan remains at the bottom of the index (101st) with access to just 24 nations.

India Assumes Chair of Common Criteria Development Board

- **Official Nodal Agencies & Historical Timeline:** India's representation at the CCDB is spearheaded by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) alongside the STQC (Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification) Directorate, which acts as the nation's official certification body. India has been an active member of the parent treaty since September 16, 2013, holding the status of a "Certificate Authorizing Nation."
- **The Technical Role of CCDB vs. Policy:** Within the broader Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement (CCRA), which comprises 20 certificate-authorizing and 18 certificate-consuming nations, the CCDB functions strictly as the technical core.
- **Term Details & Strategic Significance:** India was officially nominated for a two-year term spanning from April 2026 to April 2028, a decision formally ratified during the CCRA's first-quarter meeting held in Tokyo, Japan.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Bulgaria parliament approves Rumen Radev as new PM

- **President to PM:** Former President Rumen Radev was approved by the Bulgarian parliament as the new Prime Minister after his "Progressive Bulgaria" party won the snap elections.
- **Ending Instability:** His appointment marks a significant turning point, ending years of political deadlock and frequent elections (eight in five years) in Bulgaria.
- **Policy Focus:** Radev's cabinet aims to dismantle "the oligarchic model," accelerate economic development, and manage the country's transition after joining the eurozone on January 1, 2026.

Footnotes: Bulgaria's President: Iliana Iotova, PM: Rumen Radev, Capital: Sofia

Prashant Pise appointed as next Ambassador of India to Sultanate of Oman

- **Seasoned Diplomat:** Prashant Pise is a 1995-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer. Before this appointment, he served as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, specifically handling Emigration Policy and Welfare matters.
- **Extensive Regional Expertise:** He has a wealth of experience in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, having previously served as the Ambassador of India to Iraq and Tunisia. His earlier diplomatic career also included postings in Egypt, Libya, and London.
- **Succession in Muscat:** He will succeed Amit Narang (who completed his tenure in late 2025/early 2026) and takes over from the interim leadership in Muscat to further strengthen the India-Oman strategic partnership, particularly in maritime security and trade.

Singapore Foreign Affairs Minister Vivian Balakrishnan received highest accolade

- **Recognition of Long-term Service:** The award recognizes Dr. Balakrishnan's more than two decades of steadfast partnership with the Labour Movement. Since 2001, he has served as an advisor to multiple unions across diverse sectors, including oil and petrochemicals, integrated resorts, and the teaching profession.
- **Advocacy for Workers' Welfare:** He was lauded for his "quiet resolve" and principled approach to industrial relations. Key achievements noted include supporting workers through major transitions at Shell, advocating for responsible employment during divestments, and initiating the Progressive Wage Model for cleaners in 2014.
- **Strategic National Impact:** Beyond labor relations, the accolade honors his role as Foreign Minister in safeguarding Singapore's global standing. His work in strengthening international trade and investment has been vital in creating the quality jobs that the Singaporean workforce depends on.

Dr Vinod J Bahade appointed as next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Colombia

- **New Role:** Dr. Vinod J. Bahade, a career diplomat of the 2007 batch of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), has been officially appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Colombia.
- **Current Transition:** He is currently serving as a Minister at the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in Geneva. He is expected to take up the new assignment in Bogotá shortly.
- **Bilateral Focus:** His appointment comes at a time when India and Colombia are looking to strengthen ties in sectors such as energy, information technology, and pharmaceuticals, marking a strategic move to enhance India's diplomatic footprint in Latin America.

Harvansh Chawla appointed as Chairman of BRICS CCI

- **Transition from BRICS CCI:** Dr. Chawla stepped down as the Chairman of the BRICS CCI to take on this broader mandate. His move signifies a shift from a focus solely on BRICS+ nations to a more expansive global economic framework.
- **Expanded Global Mandate:** Under his leadership, BRISEC (which is recognized by NITI Aayog) aims to facilitate trade and investment across a wider range of international markets and economic corridors, moving beyond traditional regional blocs to include both emerging and developed economies.
- **Strategic Objectives:** His chairmanship will focus on strengthening cross-border trade opportunities, fostering innovation across key sectors, and facilitating high-level policy dialogues to enable smoother global business engagement and sustainable growth.

Footnotes: BRICS's Chairman: Narendra Modi, Estd: 2009

C Sugandh Rajaram appointed as India's Ambassador to Peru

- **Current Profile:** A 2001-batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), he is currently serving as a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- **Previous Assignment:** Before his current role in New Delhi, he served as the High Commissioner of India to Ghana, where he was instrumental in strengthening bilateral and economic ties.
- **Significance:** His appointment comes at a time when India is looking to expand its footprint in Latin America, particularly in sectors like mining, pharmaceuticals, and digital infrastructure.

Footnotes: Peru's PM: Luis Arroyo Sanchez, President: Jose Maria Balcazar, Capital: Lima

Kevin Warsh appointed as Governor of the Federal Reserve by the US

- **Extensive Experience:** Warsh previously served on the Federal Reserve Board from 2006 to 2011, making him one of the youngest governors in history. His return brings deep institutional knowledge, particularly regarding crisis management and financial market stability.
- **Policy Stance:** He is generally viewed by markets as a "policy hawk," often advocating for a focus on long-term price stability and cautious government spending. His presence is expected to influence the Fed's approach toward controlling inflation and managing the central bank's balance sheet.
- **Strategic Role:** His appointment is seen as a move to bridge the gap between Wall Street and Washington. Having served as an advisor during the 2008 financial crisis, he is expected to play a lead role in navigating current global economic uncertainties and modernizing the Fed's communication with the public.

Footnotes: US's President: Donald Trump, Chief Justice: John Roberts, Capital: Washington, D.C.

Yoweri Museveni Sworn In for Seventh Term as Uganda President

- **Four Decades of Power:** The 81-year-old leader, who first took office in 1986, extended his 40-year rule by another five-year term. He remains one of Africa's longest-serving non-royal heads of state, having previously removed constitutional age and term limits to stay in office.

- **Controversial Landslide Victory:** Museveni was declared the winner of the January 2026 elections with 71.65% of the vote. His main challenger, Bobi Wine (Robert Kyagulanyi), secured 24.72% but disputed the results, alleging widespread fraud, intimidation, and an internet blackout during the polls.
- **Focus on Regional Integration:** In his inaugural address, Museveni pledged to prioritize economic transformation and regional stability. He called for stronger African cooperation through the East African Community (EAC) and urged the continent to focus on "value addition" for raw materials rather than simple exports.

Footnotes: Uganda's Previous President: Tito Okello, PM: Robinah Nabbanja, Capital: Kampala

DEFENCE NEWS

Lieutenant General N S Raja Subramani appointed new Chief of Defence Staff

- **Succession:** The Government appointed Lieutenant General N S Raja Subramani (Retd) as India's next Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), succeeding General Anil Chauhan.
- **Timeline:** He is set to take charge on May 30, 2026, after General Chauhan completes his tenure.
- **Strategic Experience:** A graduate of the NDA and IMA, he previously served as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff and currently serves as a Military Adviser in the National Security Council Secretariat.

Indian Coast Guard Commissions Indigenous FPV 'ICGS ACHAL'

- **Make in India Milestone:** ICGS Achal is the first in a series of eight FPVs designed and built entirely indigenously by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL). It reflects the "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" initiative, featuring nearly 70% indigenous content in its construction and machinery.
- **Advanced Capabilities:** This 50-meter-long vessel is equipped with state-of-the-art navigation and communication equipment, including a 30mm CRN-91 Naval Gun and advanced sensors. It is designed to achieve a maximum speed of 33 knots, making it highly effective for high-speed interceptions.
- **Operational Role:** The vessel will be primarily deployed for Coastal Surveillance, Anti-Smuggling, Anti-Poaching, and Search and Rescue (SAR) operations. It will operate under the administrative and operational control of the Commander, Coast Guard Region (West).

Indian Army Inducts Indigenous ULPGM and AGNIKAA VTOL-1 Kamikaze Drone

- **Capabilities of ULPGM:** The UAV-Launched Precision Guided Munition (ULPGM) is India's first indigenous loitering munition in its category. It features an Imaging Infrared (IIR) seeker for day-and-night precision, a strike range of 2.5 km, and a 2 kg warhead with an accuracy of one meter (Circular Error Probable).
- **Features of AGNIKAA VTOL-1:** This is India's first First-Person View (FPV) kamikaze drone in its class. It is designed for vertical take-off and landing (VTOL), making it ideal for rugged terrain and confined urban spaces. It has a 5 km range, 30-minute endurance, and a 5-meter lethality radius against personnel and soft-skinned vehicles.

- **Operational Resilience:** Both systems have been rigorously tested for high-altitude performance and resilience in GPS-denied and electronic warfare (EW) environments.

India's first privately manufactured military aircraft Airbus C-295

- **Historical First for Indian Private Sector:** It marks the first time a complete military aircraft is being manufactured and assembled in India by a private company—Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL)—breaking the long-standing monopoly of state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- **Production Split & Facility:** Out of the 56 aircraft ordered under the ₹21,935-crore deal, 16 are delivered directly from Spain in a "fly-away" condition, while the remaining 40 aircraft are being fully manufactured at the newly established Tata-Airbus Final Assembly Line (FAL) in Vadodara, Gujarat.
- **Role & Indigenization:** The C-295 is a new-generation tactical transport aircraft with a 9.5-tonne payload capacity introduced to replace the Indian Air Force's ageing Avro HS-748 fleet. It significantly boosts the Make in India initiative, featuring an indigenous Electronic Warfare Suite and sourcing up to 75% of its structural components locally.

Indian Army Inducts Indigenous ULPGM & AGNIKAA VTOL-1 Drones

- **Procurement Framework & Delivery Command:** Both cutting-edge combat systems were fast-tracked and acquired under the Emergency Procurement (EP-6) program. They were officially handed over in Hyderabad to officials from the Army's Western Command following rigorous live precision-strike, electronic warfare (EW), and high-altitude trials.
- **ULPGM Technical Capabilities:** Co-developed by the DRDO and Adani Defence & Aerospace, the UAV-Launched Precision Guided Munition (ULPGM) is India's first indigenous system in its category. Launched from a mother UAV with an operational radius of 20 km, the munition itself has a standalone strike range of 2.5 km.
- **AGNIKAA VTOL-1 Tactical Profile:** Described as India's first indigenous First-Person View (FPV) kamikaze drone in its class, the AGNIKAA VTOL-1 is designed specifically as an anti-personnel precision platform for urban combat and confined spaces. It operates efficiently within a 5 km range, boasts a top speed of 60 km/h, and maintains a 30-minute flight endurance.

BANKING NEWS

RBI & ECB renew cooperation framework with updated MoU in Basel

- **New MoU in Basel:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the European Central Bank (ECB) signed an updated Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on May 10, 2026, on the sidelines of the BIS meetings in Basel.
- **Market Recognition:** A key focus is helping Indian clearing corporations gain formal recognition from the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), reducing friction in cross-border transactions.
- **Scope of Pact:** The agreement replaces a 2015 framework and expands cooperation to include policy dialogues, technical exchanges, and seminars on central banking.

Footnotes: RBI's Governor: Sanjay Malhotra, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1935

DMRC partners with Airtel Payments Bank to launch Rupay NCMC cards

- **Interoperable "One Nation, One Card" Vision:** These open-loop cards allow commuters to pay for travel across multiple transit systems nationwide, including metros and buses, using a single card. This is a major upgrade from the traditional DMRC-issued smart cards, which were restricted to the Delhi Metro network.
- **Flexible Card Options:** The partnership introduces two types of co-branded cards: Debit Cards and PPI-MTS (Prepaid Payment Instrument for Mass Transit Systems). These cards will be made available at all DMRC stations within 10 days of the launch.
- **Digital Convenience & Discounts:** Users can recharge their cards digitally via the DMRC or Airtel apps, reducing physical queues. Additionally, commuters using these NCMC cards continue to benefit from DMRC's existing fare incentives, such as a 10% discount during peak hours and a 20% discount during non-peak hours.

Indian Bank appoints Samir Kumar as Nominee Director

- **Government Representation:** Samir Kumar, a 1995-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, has been appointed as a Nominee Director by the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance. His role is to ensure alignment between the bank's operations and the government's financial policies.
- **Professional Background:** He currently serves as a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Finance. With extensive experience in public administration and financial governance, he brings high-level expertise in policy implementation and regulatory oversight to the board.
- **Board Strengthening:** His appointment is part of a broader move to strengthen the corporate governance of Public Sector Banks (PSBs). He will be involved in strategic decision-making, monitoring the bank's performance, and ensuring strict adherence to the RBI's regulatory framework.

Footnotes: Indian Bank's MD & CEO: Binod Kumar, HQ: Chennai, Estd: 1907

India's PSBs Achieve Record Profit for 4th Consecutive Year

- **Record-Breaking Profitability:** The aggregate net profit grew by 11.1% year-on-year, reaching an all-time high of ₹1.98 lakh crore. This surge was driven by robust credit growth (15.7%) and a significant increase in total business, which crossed ₹283 lakh crore.
- **Historic Low NPAs:** Asset quality reached its best level in years. The Gross NPA (Non-Performing Assets) ratio dropped to 1.93%, while the Net NPA ratio fell to a record low of 0.39%. This drastic reduction reflects stricter credit discipline and more effective recovery mechanisms.
- **Strong Capital Buffers:** PSBs have significantly strengthened their financial resilience, maintaining an aggregate Capital to Risk (Weighted) Assets Ratio (CRAR) of 16.6%. All 12 public sector banks also maintained a Provisioning Coverage Ratio (PCR) above 90%, ensuring they are well-protected against future risks.

RBI Cancels Sarvodaya Co-operative Bank Licence

- **Financial Insolvency:** The RBI revoked the license because the bank lacked adequate capital and viable earning prospects. The regulator stated that the bank's current financial position made it impossible for it to repay its depositors in full, and continuing operations would have been prejudicial to public interest.
- **Cessation of Operations:** With the cancellation, the bank is strictly prohibited from conducting any "banking" business. This includes the immediate halt of accepting fresh deposits and the processing of withdrawals or repayments. A liquidator has been requested to oversee the winding-up process.
- **Depositor Protection (DICGC):** Approximately 98.36% of depositors are entitled to receive the full amount of their deposits from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC). Under current laws, each depositor is eligible for a reimbursement of their holdings up to a ceiling of ₹5 lakh.

Footnotes: **RBI's Governor:** Sanjay Malhotra, **HQ:** Mumbai, **Estd:** 1935

SPORTS NEWS

Faustino Oro become second youngest GM in chess history

- **Historic Feat:** 12-year-old Argentine prodigy Faustino Oro achieved the title of Grandmaster (GM) at the Sardinia International Chess Festival in Italy.
- **The Record:** At 12 years, 6 months, and 26 days, he became the second-youngest GM ever, trailing only US player Abhimanyu Mishra.
- **Undefeated Run:** He secured his final GM norm by remaining unbeaten in the tournament, drawing his final round against elite Russian GM Ian Nepomniachtchi.

Neeru & Vivaan win bronze in trap mixed team event

- **ISSF World Cup:** The Indian pair of Neeru Dhanda and Vivaan Kapoor won the bronze medal in the trap mixed team event at the ISSF World Cup in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- **Performance:** They matched the score of the top Italian pair in the final but settled for bronze based on their qualification ranking.
- **Milestone:** This marks India's second medal in this specific Olympic shooting event since it was officially added to the program.

India's Gyaneshwari Yadav bags silver & bronze in Weightlifting

- **Double Medal Haul:** Competing in the women's 53kg category, Gyaneshwari won two medals: a Silver in the snatch section (lifting 88kg) and an Overall Bronze with a total combined lift of 194kg.
- **Narrow Margin:** She missed out on the overall silver medal by a whisker, finishing just 1kg behind Vietnam's Hoai Huong Nguyen (195kg), while China's Jinlan Zhao secured the gold with a dominant 216kg.
- **CWG 2026 Qualifier:** This championship serves as a crucial qualifying event for the 2026 Commonwealth Games. Gyaneshwari's success, following Komal Kohar's bronze earlier in the week, significantly boosts India's standing in the continental rankings.

Virat Kohli slams record 9th IPL century

- **Undisputed Century Record:** With this unbeaten 105 off 60 balls*, Kohli became the first player in history to hit nine IPL centuries. He further extended his lead over Jos Buttler (7) and Chris Gayle (6), solidifying his status as the most prolific centurion in the tournament's history.
- **Fastest to 14,000 T20 Runs:** During this innings, Kohli became the fastest batter to reach 14,000 runs in T20 cricket, achieving the milestone in just 409 innings. He surpassed the previous record held by "Universe Boss" Chris Gayle (423 innings) and became only the sixth player ever to reach the landmark.
- **The Ultimate "Chase Master" Comeback:** Coming into the match following two consecutive ducks, Kohli orchestrated a successful chase of 193. This was his 10th T20 century overall, and the victory propelled RCB to the top of the IPL 2026 points table.

India's Ajith clinches double bronze at Asian Senior Weightlifting Championships

- **Double Bronze Finish:** Competing in the men's 71kg category, Ajith secured a bronze medal in the Clean & Jerk section and another bronze in the Overall standings. Separate medals are awarded for Snatch, Clean & Jerk, and the total combined lift in continental championships.
- **Performance Metrics:** He registered a total lift of 314kg, which included a 140kg Snatch and a strong 174kg in the Clean & Jerk. He narrowly edged out Uzbekistan's Matrasulov Khusinboy by a single kilogram to claim his spot on the overall podium.
- **Performance Metrics:** He registered a total lift of 314kg, which included a 140kg Snatch and a strong 174kg in the Clean & Jerk. He narrowly edged out Uzbekistan's Matrasulov Khusinboy by a single kilogram to claim his spot on the overall podium.

Aparna Dahiya secures Gold medal at the 11th Sanda World Cup

- **Dominant Performance:** Aparna clinched the gold medal in the women's 52kg category. She defeated the reigning world champion, Thi Phuong Nga Ngo of Vietnam, in a decisive straight-sets victory during the final.
- **A Historic "First":** This was India's first gold medal at the 11th edition of the Sanda World Cup. The tournament, which began on May 12, features only the top-ranked fighters from the previous World Wushu Championships, making it one of the most elite competitions in the sport.
- **Redemption Victory:** The win served as personal redemption for Aparna; she had previously lost to the same Vietnamese opponent in the finals of the 2025 World Wushu Championships in Brazil, where she had settled for silver.

Harjinder Kaur wins bronze at Asian Weightlifting Championships

- **Progressive Lifting Breakdown:** In the snatch event, Harjinder secured the bronze on her final attempt. She opened with a smooth lift of 93 kg, suffered a failed second attempt at 96 kg, but showed immense grit to successfully clear 96 kg on her third and final try.
- **Narrow Miss for Overall Podium:** In the clean and jerk section, she registered three flawless consecutive lifts of 115 kg, 118 kg, and 121 kg. This gave her an overall total of 217 kg, leaving

her agonizingly close—just 2 kg short—of Japan's Yui Miyagoe (219 kg), who took the overall bronze.

- **Competing Against a World Record Field:** The 69 kg category was historically dominated by North Korea's Song Kuk Hyang, who won gold with a massive total of 263 kg. Song's clean and jerk lift of 151 kg broke both the IWF World Record and the Asian Record, emphasizing the elite, world-class standard of the field Harjinder was competing against.

AWARD NEWS

President Droupadi Murmu conferred National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026

- **Recognition of 15 Awardees:** A total of 15 nursing professionals from across the country were honored this year. The awardees included Registered Nurses, Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM), and Lady Health Visitors. Notable recipients included Sub Inspector Kulwinder Parhi (Ladakh), Poonam Verma (Chandigarh), Dr. Sharwan Kumar Dhaka (Delhi), and Maj Gen Lissamma P.V. (Indian Army).
- **Award Components and History:** Instituted in 1973 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, these are the highest national honors for nursing. Each award consists of a Certificate of Merit, a Medal, and a cash prize of ₹1,00,000. They recognize meritorious services that exemplify compassion, dedication, and clinical excellence.
- **Theme and Significance:** The awards were presented on the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. This year's ceremony highlighted the theme "Our Nurses. Our Future."

Dr. Thiyam Suresh Literary Lifetime Achievement Award 2026 Conferred on AK Sheram

- **Recipient:** The award was conferred on AK Sheram, a prominent Manipuri writer based in Bangladesh. He is widely recognized for his immense contribution to Manipuri literature and for bridging the cultural gap between Manipuri communities in India and Bangladesh.
- **Significance of the Award:** This lifetime achievement award is presented by the Sahitya Seva Samiti, Kakching, one of the oldest and most influential literary organizations in Manipur. It honors individuals who have dedicated their lives to the enrichment of Manipuri letters and culture.
- **Key Contributions:** AK Sheram is celebrated for his poetry, essays, and organizational work. He has played a pivotal role in promoting the Meetei Mayek (the Manipuri script) and preserving the ethnic identity of Manipuris living outside the state of Manipur.

Senior boxing coach Ganesh Purohit was felicitated with Lifetime Achievement Award

- **Award Organizer & Specific Moniker:** The Lifetime Achievement Award—formally designated as the Jeevan Gaurav Award—was conferred during the 3rd Bhau Kane Memorial Outstanding Coach Award ceremony. The prestigious event was organized jointly by the Navmaharashtra Krida Mandal (NMKM) and the Chaitanya Sports, Yoga and Cultural Foundation in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- **Prize Elements & Event Details:** The recognition carried a substantial cash prize of ₹1 lakh (₹100,000) along with a special memento, a ceremonial shawl, and a coconut. The presentation

took place at the Shikshak Sahakari Bank Auditorium on May 14, 2026, marking the birth anniversary of the legendary sports organizer Bhau Kane.

- **Distinguished Background & Mentorship Track Record:** The 70-year-old veteran is an alumnus of the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose National Institute of Sports (NSNIS, Patiala), graduating with his coaching diploma back in 1986.

APPOINTMENT & PERSON IN NEWS

President Droupadi Murmu appoints N Rangasamy as Puducherry CM

- **Fifth Term:** President Droupadi Murmu officially appointed AINRC leader N Rangasamy as the Chief Minister of Puducherry, marking his fifth tenure in the role.
- **Election Victory:** The appointment follows the NDA's comfortable victory in the recently concluded assembly elections.
- **Constitutional Process:** The President's appointment paved the way for the Lieutenant Governor to invite him to form the government, with the swearing-in scheduled for May 13, 2026.

Former Union Secretary appointed as Advisor to West Bengal's CM

- **New Appointment:** Retired IAS officer Subrata Gupta has been appointed as an Advisor to the West Bengal Chief Minister.
- **Political Shift:** The appointment comes as the BJP forms its first government in West Bengal under Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari, ending 15 years of TMC rule.
- **Key Role:** Gupta previously served as a Special Roll Observer for the Election Commission; he will now advise on state administration alongside newly appointed Private Secretary Shantanu Bala.

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

Dr AK Panda assumed charge as CMD of SAIL

- **Extensive Internal Experience:** Dr. Panda is a veteran of the company, having joined SAIL as a Management Trainee (Technical) in 1992. With over three decades of service, he has worked across various operational, financial, and commercial domains within the organization.
- **Previous Leadership Roles:** Before becoming CMD, he served as Director (Finance) at SAIL and also held the additional charge of Director (Commercial) for approximately nine months. He is recognized as a "technocrat-cum-finance expert" due to his background in Electrical Engineering and his Doctorate in Business Management.
- **Vision for Expansion:** Upon taking charge, he outlined immediate priorities including scaling SAIL's production capacity to 35 MTPA (Million Tonnes Per Annum), strengthening raw material security through domestic mining, and focusing on high-value-added products and workplace safety.

Footnotes: SAIL's Previous CMD: Amarendu Prakash, HQ: New Delhi, Estd: 1954

CVC appointed John Hourican as CFO

- **Extensive Leadership Background:** Hourican is a highly seasoned financial executive with over 30 years of international experience. He recently served as the CEO of NewDay (until April 2026) and was previously the CEO of the Bank of Cyprus, where he was credited with leading the bank's recovery following the 2013 financial crisis.
- **Succession and Effective Date:** He will officially assume the role on September 1, 2026. He is set to succeed Fred Watt, who is retiring after nearly 20 years with CVC. Watt played a crucial role in CVC's growth, including its recent Initial Public Offering (IPO) in April 2024.
- **Strategic Role at CVC:** As CFO and Board member, Hourican will oversee the firm's global financial operations and strategy. His appointment is seen as a move to strengthen CVC's institutional platform and support its expansion as a public company managing over €200 billion in assets.

CII & NUS-ISS Sign MoU to Strengthen AI Governance and Digital Leadership

- **Focus on AI Governance:** The partnership aims to establish robust frameworks for Ethical AI and Governance. It focuses on helping Indian and Singaporean businesses navigate the complexities of AI implementation while ensuring transparency, accountability, and compliance with emerging global standards.
- **Building Digital Leadership:** A core component of the MoU is the creation of specialized training programs designed to upskill senior executives. These programs focus on Digital Leadership, equipping leaders with the tools to manage large-scale technological shifts and data-driven decision-making within their organizations.
- **Cross-Border Collaboration:** The agreement fosters a "knowledge bridge" between India and Singapore. By sharing best practices in Industry 4.0 and Cybersecurity, the collaboration intends to create a more resilient digital ecosystem and strengthen bilateral business ties in the tech sector.

R. Mukundan Succeeds Rajiv Memani as CII President for 2026–27

- **New Leadership:** R. Mukundan, the Managing Director and CEO of Tata Chemicals Ltd, succeeds Rajiv Memani (Chairman of EY India). Mukundan has been a prominent voice in the Indian industry, previously serving as the Vice President of the chamber.
- **Strategic Focus:** His presidency is expected to focus on Green Energy transition, digital transformation, and strengthening India's global supply chain presence. He aims to align industry efforts with the "Viksit Bharat" roadmap to ensure sustainable economic growth.
- **Key Appointments:** Alongside Mukundan, Noel Tata (Chairman of Trent and Tata Investment Corporation) has been elected as the President-designate for 2026–27, while Sanjiv Puri (Chairman of ITC Ltd) will serve as the Vice President.

Footnotes: CII's President: Rajiv Memani, HQ: New Delhi, Estd: 1895

Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission Signs MoUs with Bihar Pharmacy Councils

- **Strengthening Pharmacovigilance:** The primary goal is to bolster the Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (PvPI) by improving Adverse Drug Reaction (ADR) reporting. The partnership will facilitate the establishment of more ADR Monitoring Centres (AMCs) to track and analyze medicine-related side effects more effectively.

- **Promoting Rational Use of Medicines:** A key focus is the widespread adoption of the National Formulary of India (NFI). Registered pharmacists in Bihar will be encouraged to use the NFI as a mandatory reference to ensure evidence-based medicine dispensing and to curb the irrational use of drugs, including over-prescription of antibiotics.
- **Professional Capacity Building:** IPC and the Bihar State Pharmacy Council will jointly organize training programs and workshops for pharmacists. These initiatives aim to upgrade professional competencies in drug safety standards, regulatory compliance, and patient counseling, positioning pharmacists as active guardians of public health.

Rahul Dravid Becomes Owner of Dublin Franchise in ETPL

- **Completion of ETPL Structure:** Dravid's acquisition of the Dublin-based team marks the completion of the league's six-team franchise structure for its inaugural 2026 season. The ETPL is Europe's first ICC-sanctioned multi-country T20 league, featuring teams from Ireland, Scotland, and the Netherlands.
- **Star-Studded Ownership & Captaincy:** The Dublin Guardians have appointed veteran Indian spinner Ravichandran Ashwin as their captain and mentor. Dravid joins other high-profile figures associated with the league, including co-founder Abhishek Bachchan and fellow franchise stakeholders like Steve Waugh, Chris Gayle, and Jonty Rhodes.
- **Focus on European Grassroots:** Dravid emphasized that he was drawn to the ETPL because of its "larger vision" to grow cricket in non-traditional markets. He stated his role would focus on franchise-level development and creating pathways for emerging talent across Ireland and broader Europe, rather than day-to-day coaching.

Uber Partners with Adani Group for First Data Centre in India

- **Strategic Tech Expansion:** The facility is designed to serve as a hub for Uber to test and deploy its proprietary technology at scale. Khosrowshahi stated that the investment will allow Uber to build and innovate "from India, for the world," leveraging the country's growing role as a global innovation hub.
- **Operational Timeline:** Following a meeting between Khosrowshahi and Gautam Adani in Ahmedabad, it was confirmed that the data centre is expected to be fully operational by the end of 2026. This facility will strengthen Uber's digital backbone, supporting its massive engineering and product development teams already based in Bengaluru and Hyderabad.
- **Adani's Digital Infrastructure Push:** The partnership aligns with the Adani Group's aggressive expansion into the digital and AI infrastructure space. It follows their \$15 billion joint venture with Google (AdaniConneX) to build a massive AI data centre campus in Visakhapatnam, marking the group's transition into a major player in India's cloud and data storage ecosystem.

Footnotes: Adani Group Chairman: Gautam Adani, **HQ:** Ahmedabad, **Estd:** 1988

Jio Platforms appoints Akash Ambani as MD

- **Strategic IPO Alignment:** The elevation comes at a crucial transition point as Jio Platforms prepares for its much-anticipated Initial Public Offering (IPO). The company is expected to file

its Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with SEBI by late May or June 2026, aiming for a massive public listing that could value the digital giant between \$200 billion and \$240 billion.

- **Tenure and Approval Details:** According to regulatory filings with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, the Board of Directors approved his appointment on April 9, 2026. The role is designated for a fixed five-year term (effective from April 9, 2026) and remains subject to final shareholder ratification.
- **Dual Leadership and Track Record:** This role establishes a powerful dual-leadership framework within the Reliance ecosystem. Akash Ambani will manage the broader digital services parent arm (Jio Platforms) while continuing to serve as the Chairman of its core telecom subsidiary, Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (RJIL)—a position he has held since June 2022.

Dileep Sanghani elected as Chairman of IFFCO-MC Crop Science

- **Joint Venture Structure & Voting Details:** IFFCO-MC Crop Science was established in 2015 as a strategic joint venture between the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) and Japan's Mitsubishi Corporation.
- **Synergy with Parent Leadership:** Sanghani is an eminent titan of India's cooperative sector. This appointment heavily streamlines leadership across allied agricultural ventures, as he concurrently serves as the 17th Chairman of the parent body, IFFCO (a role he has held since January 2022).
- **Political Profile & Policy Background:** He represented Gujarat's Amreli constituency as a four-time Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha (1991–2004) and previously served as a Cabinet Minister in the Gujarat state government, holding vital portfolios including Agriculture, Cooperation, and Animal Husbandry.