

THE DAILY GK DOSE

UBI APPOINTS DHIRENDRA JAIN AS CFO

- **Internal Promotion for Continuity:** Dhirendra Jain, currently General Manager–Finance and Accounts at Union Bank, will assume charge as CFO on February 1, 2026, succeeding Avinash Vasant Prabhu, who stepped down for personal reasons.
- **Extensive Banking Pedigree:** A Chartered Accountant with over 28 years of experience, Jain brings extensive expertise in corporate credit and senior leadership roles, including Regional and Zonal Head positions within the bank.
- **Strategic Timing:** The move follows a strong quarter for the bank, with net profit rising 9.7% to ₹5,073 crore in Q3 FY26. Jain's focus will be on sustaining growth, improving NIMs, and managing credit costs amid changing interest rates.

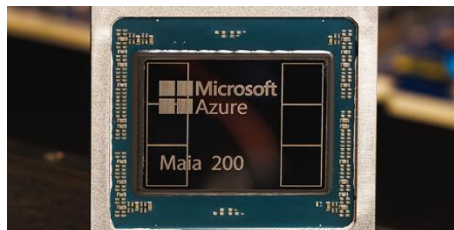
Footnotes: UBI's MD & CEO: Ashish Pandey, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1919

FRANCE PASSES BILL TO BAN SOCIAL MEDIA FOR CHILDREN U-15

- **Age Limit and Mandatory Verification:** The bill prohibits children under the age of 15 from creating or using social media accounts. Platforms like TikTok, Instagram, and Snapchat will be legally required to implement "safety by design" and robust age-verification systems.

- **Expansion of Smartphone Bans:** The law expands existing restrictions to high schools, aiming to curb smartphone use to reduce distractions and address concerns over algorithm-driven addiction affecting students' cognitive development.
- **Strict Platform Accountability:** Unlike earlier voluntary rules, the law holds tech companies accountable, with platforms facing fines of up to 6% of global turnover under the EU's Digital Services Act if they fail to protect minors or curb addictive features.

MICROSOFT UNVEILS 2ND GEN 'MAIA 200' IN-HOUSE AI CHIP



- **Massive Performance Leap:** Built on TSMC's 3nm process, the Maia 200 packs over 140 billion transistors and is optimized for AI inference, delivering 10+ peta. FLOPS of FP4 performance—three times faster than Amazon's Trainium 3.
- **Industry-Leading Memory & Efficiency:** To overcome memory bottlenecks, Microsoft added 216GB of HBM3e and a redesigned memory subsystem, boosting performance-per-dollar by 30% and lowering the cost of running large models like GPT-5.2.

IMPORTANT FACTS

AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTIONS

- **Black Revolution:** Petroleum Production
- **Grey Revolution:** Wool Production
- **Golden Fiber Revolution:** Jute Production
- **Evergreen Revolution:** Sustainable Agriculture
- **Silver Fiber Revolution:** Cotton Production

NAGALAND INAUGURATES 1ST DRONE SCHOOL & CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

- **DGCA-Compliant Training & Skill Development:** The school will run DGCA-approved Remote Pilot Certificate courses along with FPV flying, drone repair, and data analysis training, with the first 50 trainees enrolled under free, sponsored programs.
- **A Hub for Innovation and Research:** The facility will serve as a Centre of Excellence for UAV research, supporting government use in areas like agriculture, disaster management, surveying, and mapping to enable technology-driven governance.
- **Infrastructure for the "Last Mile":** The institute features modern classrooms, simulators, workshops, and flying grounds, with a focus on spreading drone expertise to interior districts so remote areas of Nagaland also benefit.

ADANI DEFENCE SIGNS MOU WITH BRAZIL'S EMBRAER

- **India's First Private-Sector Assembly Line:** The collaboration focuses on establishing a Final Assembly Line (FAL) in India for Embraer's regional jets (typically 70–150 seats). This would make Adani the first private Indian company to assemble large-scale commercial passenger aircraft domestically.
- **Support for Regional Connectivity (UDAN):** The partnership targets regional air travel demand, with locally built aircraft set to support the UDAN scheme as India is expected to need 500+ regional planes over the next two decades.
- **End-to-End Aviation Ecosystem:** Beyond manufacturing, the MoU emphasizes phased indigenization through supply chain development, MRO services, and pilot training, supporting the Aatmanirbhar Bharat goal of reducing reliance on imports.

KANE RICHARDSON ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

- **World Cup Winning Legacy:** Richardson was a key figure in Australia's limited-overs teams, playing 25 ODIs and 36 T20Is, and was part of the squad that won the 2021 T20 World Cup, also featuring in the 2019 ODI and 2022 T20 World Cups.
- **Big Bash League Legend:** Richardson made his biggest mark in the BBL, finishing as the

league's fifth-highest wicket-taker with 142 wickets, representing the Strikers, Renegades (BBL | 08 champions), and Sydney Sixers.

- **Master of the "Death Overs":** Renowned for his tactical versatility rather than raw pace, Richardson became one of the world's most sought-after T20 freelancers. His ability to bowl precise yorkers and clever variations earned him stints in the IPL

SHUBHANSHU SHUKLA HONOURED WITH ASHOK CHAKRA



- **Historic Space Achievement:** The award honors Shukla as pilot of the June 2025 Axiom-4 mission, making him the first Indian on the ISS and only the second Indian in space after Rakesh Sharma.
- **Conspicuous Courage in the "Final Frontier":** Though usually given for ground-based valor, the Ashoka Chakra was awarded to Shukla for his courage in space, where he safely executed complex orbital maneuvers and conducted 60+ vital experiments during his 18-day mission.

- **Strategic Precursor to Gaganyaan:** Shukla's mission underscored India's expanding human spaceflight goals, providing crucial life-support and microgravity data that supports ISRO's Gaganyaan mission and the planned Bharatiya Antariksha Station.

MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY CM AJIT PAWAR PASSED AWAY

- **The Tragic Accident:** The 66-year-old leader died in a Learjet 45 crash near Baramati during a campaign trip from Mumbai, along with two pilots and two staff, when the plane caught fire 200 meters from the runway.
- **State Honours and Mourning:** The Maharashtra government declared three days of state mourning and a public holiday on the day of his passing. His last rites were performed with full state honors on January 29 at the Vidya Pratishthan ground in Baramati.
- **A Political Power Vacuum:** Known as "Ajit Dada," he was Maharashtra's longest-serving Deputy CM, holding the role six times; his death leaves a major leadership gap in the NCP and Mahayuti alliance ahead of local elections.

Footnotes: Maharashtra's CM: Devendra Fadnavis, Governor– C.P Radhakrishnan, Capital – Mumbai

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

29.01.2026 / THURSDAY

Indian Newspaper Day: 29th January

- **Theme 2026: "Role of Print Media in the Digital Age"**
- **Historical Origin:** The day commemorates the launch of India's first weekly newspaper, Hicky's Bengal Gazette.