



Current Affairs

11 Feb, 2025

Canara Bank appoints Madhavankutty G as Chief Economist





1. Canara Bank appoints Madhavankutty G as Chief Economist

Canara Bank has appointed Madhavankutty G as its new Chief Economist, reinforcing its focus on economic research and strategic planning. With extensive experience in banking and financial analysis, he is expected to provide valuable insights into macroeconomic trends and policy implications. His expertise will play a crucial role in shaping the bank's economic outlook and decision-making processes. Canara Bank aims to strengthen its research capabilities and market strategy under his leadership. This appointment aligns with the bank's vision of adapting to evolving financial landscapes and ensuring sustainable growth.



Foot notes:

- **Background and Experience:** Dr. Madhavankutty brings over two decades of experience in economic research, having worked with prominent organizations such as the Bank of India, Aditya Birla Group, and the Times Group.
- **Role and Responsibilities:** As Chief Economist, Dr. Madhavankutty will provide strategic insights and guidance on domestic and global economic trends, helping shape the bank's financial and policy decisions.
- **Qualifications:** Dr. Madhavankutty holds a postgraduate degree in business economics and a doctorate in international economics.
- **Previous Recruitment Process:** The recruitment process for the Chief Economist position was announced in July 2024, with the application deadline set for July 28, 2024.

- **Expectations:** Canara Bank expects Dr. Madhavankutty's expertise to play a crucial role in navigating the evolving financial landscape and contributing to informed decision-making.

2. Jil Teichmann Clinches Mumbai Open 2025 Title

Swiss tennis star Jil Teichmann clinched the Mumbai Open 2025 title with a dominant performance in the final. She defeated her opponent in straight sets, showcasing her powerful baseline game and tactical brilliance. This victory marks a strong start to her season, boosting her confidence ahead of major tournaments. Teichmann's resilience and consistency were key factors in her triumph, as she overcame tough challenges throughout the tournament. With this title, she solidifies her position as a rising force in women's tennis.



Foot notes:

- **Champion:** Jil Teichmann won the singles title, defeating Mananchaya Sawangkaew of Thailand in the final with a score of 6-3, 6-4.
- **Tournament Details:** The 2025 Mumbai Open was a WTA 125 tournament held at the Cricket Club of India in Mumbai, India, from February 3 to 9, 2025.
- **Teichmann's Performance:** Teichmann, a Swiss tennis player, showed class and control throughout the match, adding another accolade to her name.
- **Second WTA 125 Title:** This victory marked Teichmann's second WTA 125 title, following her 2024 Ljubljana triumph.
- **Doubles Champions:** The doubles title was won by Amina Anshba and Elena Pridankina, who defeated Arianne Hartono and Prarthana Thombare in the final.

3. Carlos Alcaraz Claims First Indoor Hardcourt Title at Rotterdam Open

Carlos Alcaraz secured his first indoor hardcourt title by winning the Rotterdam Open 2025, marking a significant milestone in his career. The Spanish sensation defeated a formidable opponent in the final, displaying his signature speed, power, and tactical intelligence. This victory highlights his adaptability across different surfaces, strengthening his reputation as one of the most versatile players on the tour. Alcaraz's triumph in Rotterdam adds to his growing list of achievements and sets the tone for the rest of his season. With this win, he proves his ability to dominate not only on clay and outdoor hard courts but also in indoor conditions.



Foot notes:

- **First Spanish Champion:** Alcaraz became the first Spanish champion in the tournament's 52-year history, a testament to his growing dominance in the tennis world.
- **Seventeenth Career Title:** This win marked Alcaraz's 17th career title, solidifying his position as one of the top players in the world.
- **Indoor Hardcourt Debut:** Remarkably, this was Alcaraz's first indoor hardcourt final, making his victory all the more impressive.
- **Comeback from Illness:** Alcaraz battled a cold throughout the tournament but showed remarkable resilience to claim the title.
- **Dominant Performance:** Alcaraz's powerful gameplay and precision proved too much for de Minaur, who struggled to match the Spaniard's dominant performance.

4. 'Cyclone 2025' Military Exercise in Rajasthan began

The 'Cyclone 2025' military exercise has commenced in Rajasthan, focusing on enhancing combat readiness in desert warfare. Conducted by the Indian Army, the exercise involves integrated operations with mechanized forces, infantry, and air support. It aims to test strategic mobility, coordination, and rapid response capabilities in extreme conditions. The drills emphasize modern warfare tactics, including the use of advanced surveillance and drone technology. This exercise reinforces India's defense preparedness and operational effectiveness in challenging terrains.



Foot notes:

- **Objectives:** The exercise aims to promote military-to-military relations, enhance interoperability, and share best practices in special operations tactics between the two nations.
- **Participating Forces:** The Indian contingent consists of 25 personnel from two Special Forces Battalions, while the Egyptian contingent comprises 25 personnel from the Special Forces Group and Task Force of Egyptian Special Forces.
- **Training Focus:** The exercise will focus on counter-terrorism operations, reconnaissance, raids, and specialized missions, including sniping, combat free fall, surveillance, and target designation.
- **Significance:** The exercise strengthens the strategic partnership between India and Egypt, fostering bilateral military cooperation, and enhancing their capabilities to respond to evolving security threats.

5. Matthew Breetzke Creates History with 150+ on ODI Debut

South African cricketer Matthew Breetzke created history by scoring over 150 runs on his ODI debut, setting a new benchmark in international cricket. His explosive innings showcased remarkable stroke play, composure, and confidence against a strong bowling attack. With this record-breaking knock, Breetzke became one of the few players to achieve such a feat on debut, drawing praise from cricketing legends. His performance provided South Africa with a commanding victory and signaled the arrival of a promising new talent. This historic debut is expected to boost his international career and solidify his place in the national team.



Foot notes:

- **Record-Breaking Innings:** Breetzka scored 150 runs from 148 balls, including 11 fours and five sixes, to help South Africa post a competitive total of 304 runs against New Zealand.
- **Slow Start, Aggressive Finish:** Breetzka began cautiously, taking 68 balls to reach his half-century, but accelerated later, scoring his last 50 runs off just 19 balls.
- **Fourth South African to Score Century on Debut:** Breetzka joined an elite group of South African batters, including Colin Ingram, Temba Bavuma, and Reeza Hendricks, who have scored centuries on ODI debut.
- **Not Part of Champions Trophy Squad:** Despite his record-breaking performance, Breetzka is not part of South Africa's Champions Trophy 2024 squad, which has raised questions about potential changes to the team.
- **Impressive Debut:** Breetzka's debut performance has earned him praise, with many considering him a promising talent for South African cricket.

6. India Shines at Para-Archery Asia Cup

India delivered a stellar performance at the Para-Archery Asia Cup, securing multiple medals across various categories. Indian archers showcased exceptional skill and determination, dominating both individual and team events. Their success highlights the country's growing strength in para-archery and its commitment to nurturing differently-abled athletes. The impressive medal haul not only boosts India's ranking but also serves as inspiration for aspiring para-athletes. This achievement reinforces India's presence on the global para-sports stage ahead of major international competitions.



Foot notes:

- **Recurve Open Mixed Team Gold:** Harvinder Singh and Pooja Jatyan secured the gold medal in the recurve open mixed team category, defeating Indonesia 5-4 in a thrilling shoot-off.
- **Compound Open Mixed Team Gold:** Shyam Sunder Swami and Sarita won the gold medal in the compound open mixed team category with a 150-148 victory over Indonesia.
- **India's Medal Tally:** The Indian para-archery team has secured a total of six medals, including four gold medals and two silver medals.
- **Previous Achievements:** In the Archery Asia Cup 2024, India topped the medal tally with 14 medals, including nine gold, four silver, and one bronze.
- **Para-Archery Contingent's Success:** The Indian Para Archery Contingent has also won medals in other international competitions, including one gold, one silver, and one bronze medal in Dubai, UAE.

7. Nokia Names Intel's AI Chief Hotard as New CEO

Nokia has appointed Intel's AI Chief, Justin Hotard, as its new CEO, marking a strategic shift towards artificial intelligence-driven innovations. Hotard, who previously led Intel's Data Center and AI Group, brings extensive experience in AI and cloud computing. His appointment aligns with Nokia's vision to integrate AI into telecommunications and 5G networks for enhanced efficiency. The company aims to strengthen its market position by leveraging Hotard's expertise in AI-driven infrastructure and digital transformation. With this leadership change, Nokia is expected to accelerate its growth in next-generation connectivity and AI-powered solutions.



Foot notes:

- **New CEO's Background:** Justin Hotard joins Nokia with over 25 years of experience in driving innovation and revenue growth at global technology companies, including Intel, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, and NCR Corporation.
- **Reason for Appointment:** Hotard's expertise in AI and data centers is seen as critical for Nokia's future growth, as the company focuses on expanding into new areas.
- **Outgoing CEO:** Pekka Lundmark, who has led Nokia since 2020, will step down and serve as an advisor to Hotard until the end of 2025.

- **Nokia's Growth Strategy:** The company is shifting its focus towards AI, data centers, and IP networking, with the goal of increasing revenue by €1 billion (\$1.03 billion) by 2028.
- **Industry Impact:** Hotard's appointment signals Nokia's ambition to expand into new growth areas, particularly in the data center market, where the company sees significant opportunities.

8. NSG IG Deepak Kedia Wins 'CA in Public Service' Award

NSG Inspector General Deepak Kedia has been honored with the prestigious 'CA in Public Service' award for his outstanding contributions to public administration. A qualified Chartered Accountant, Kedia has effectively combined his financial expertise with his leadership in national security operations. His strategic decision-making and dedication to service have significantly strengthened the operational efficiency of the National Security Guard (NSG). The award recognizes his exceptional role in public service, showcasing the diverse impact of financial professionals in governance and security. Kedia's achievement serves as an inspiration for professionals bridging finance and public administration.



Foot notes:

- **Award Presentation:** The award was presented at the World Forum of Accountants Meet in New Delhi on February 1, 2025.
- **Union Minister Presents Award:** The award was given by Union Minister of Law and Justice, Government of India, Arjun Ram Meghwal.
- **Exceptional Contributions:** Kedia was honored for his exceptional contributions to law enforcement and national security.
- **President's Medal for Distinguished Service:** Kedia also received the President's Medal for Distinguished Service on Republic Day 2025.
- **Current Role:** Kedia is currently serving as the Inspector General (IG) Headquarters, National Security Guard (NSG).

9. Okta appoints Shakeel Khan as Regional Vice President & Country Manager in India

Okta has appointed Shakeel Khan as the Regional Vice President and Country Manager for India, reinforcing its commitment to expanding in the region. With extensive experience in cybersecurity and enterprise solutions, Khan is expected to drive growth and strengthen Okta's presence in the Indian market. His leadership will focus on accelerating digital identity adoption and enhancing security solutions for businesses. This appointment aligns with Okta's strategy to cater to the growing demand for identity

and access management services in India. Under his guidance, the company aims to expand partnerships and provide innovative solutions to enterprises across the country.

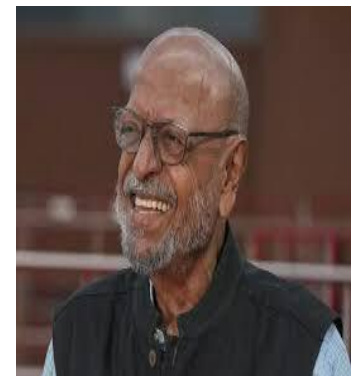
Foot notes:

- **Leadership Role:** Khan will lead Okta's India sales operations from Bangalore, leveraging his 27 years of experience in cybersecurity to drive growth and digital transformation for Indian businesses.
- **Expertise:** Khan's background in pre-sales and enterprise sales leadership makes him well-suited to strengthen Okta's partnerships with Indian businesses seeking secure growth and digital transformation.
- **Okta's Commitment to India:** The appointment reinforces Okta's commitment to the Indian market, where it has seen significant growth, with over 19,000 customers worldwide leveraging Okta's solutions.
- **India's Growth Potential:** India is a prime growth market for Okta, with the country's developer base projected to surpass the US by 2027 and over 75% of IT spending flowing through partner channels.
- **Partnerships and Expansion:** Khan's appointment is part of Okta's broader growth plan, which includes partnerships with key players like Savex, ACPL, 22by7, and Valuepoint, and plans to exceed 500 employees in India by 2025.



10. Shyam Benegal, The Maestro of Indian Parallel Cinema, passed away

Veteran filmmaker Shyam Benegal, the maestro of Indian parallel cinema, has passed away, leaving behind a rich legacy of thought-provoking cinema. Known for his socially relevant and realistic storytelling, Benegal played a pivotal role in shaping India's alternative film movement. His iconic films like Ankur, Manthan, and Bhumika addressed pressing socio-political issues and earned him critical acclaim. A recipient of multiple National Film Awards and the Padma Bhushan, his contributions to Indian cinema remain unparalleled. His demise marks the end of an era, but his work will continue to inspire generations of filmmakers and cinephiles.



Foot notes:

- **Contribution to Indian Cinema:** Benegal is widely regarded as the pioneer of Indian parallel cinema, a movement known for its realistic and socially conscious storytelling. His films like Ankur (1974), Nishant (1975), and Manthan (1976) redefined storytelling in Indian cinema.

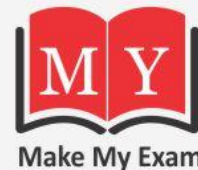
- **Awards and Recognition:** Throughout his career, Benegal received 18 National Film Awards, including seven for Best Feature Film in Hindi. He was also conferred the Padma Shri in 1976, the Padma Bhushan in 1991, and the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2005.
- **Legacy:** Benegal's passing marked the end of an era in Indian cinema. His unparalleled ability to combine artistry with social commentary continues to inspire filmmakers and audiences alike.
- **Personal Life:** Benegal is survived by his daughter, Pia Benegal. He celebrated his 90th birthday on December 14, 2024, just days before his passing.
- **Impact on Indian Filmmakers :** Benegal played a pivotal role in mentoring some of India's finest actors and technicians, including Shabana Azmi and Govind Nihalani.

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