

THE DAILY GK DOSE

PAWAN KALYAN BECOMES 1ST SAMURAI FROM AP

- Rare Lineage Induction:** He was inducted into the historic Takeda Shingen Clan under the lineage of Soke Muramatsu Sensei. This is a rare honor typically reserved for Japanese practitioners and marks him as the first Telugu person to enter this ancient Samurai lineage.
- Prestigious "Fifth Dan" Rank:** He was awarded Fifth Dan (5th Dan) by the Sogo Budo Kanri Kai, recognizing advanced mastery and lifelong dedication to Budo.
- Prestigious Formal Recognition in Kenjutsu:** In addition to his Karate black belt, he was inducted into Kenjutsu, and the Golden Dragons honored his 30-year journey with the title "Tiger of Martial Arts."

Footnotes: AP's Governor: Syed Abdul Nazeer, CM: N. Chandrababu Naidu, Capital: Amaravati

INDIAN MOUNTAINEER ARITRA ROY SUMMITS MT. ACONCAGUA

- Solo Expedition Milestone:** Roy reached the summit on January 7, 2026, at 2:00 PM local time. The expedition was conducted solo and fully sponsored by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), marking a major milestone in his quest to complete the "Seven Summits."
- Extreme Resilience:** He braved brutal conditions, snowstorms, and heavy blizzards. Despite

these challenges, he completed the grueling 44-km trek and reached the top well ahead of his original schedule.

- Continued Legacy:** Following his historic 2024 Everest ascent as Tripura's first summiteer, he has now climbed four of the Seven Summits: Kilimanjaro, Elbrus, Everest, and Aconcagua.

TGB INTRODUCES SOLAR-POWERED ATM VAN



- National Recognition and Award:** The initiative won the SKOCH Silver Award in early 2026 for innovation and sustainable governance and is recognized as a first-of-its-kind for any Gramin bank in India.
- Eco-Friendly Financial Inclusion:** Supported by NABARD, the three solar-powered mobile units deliver uninterrupted ATM and banking services to remote last-mile areas with unreliable electricity.
- Comprehensive Mobile Services:** The van acts as a mobile branch, with a Banking Correspondent providing account opening, Aadhaar-based transfers, and social security enrollments like Atal Pension Yojana.

Footnotes: Tripura Gramin Bank's Chairman: Satyendra Singh, HQ: Agartala, Estd: 1976

IMPORTANT FACTS

- RBI Governor:** Shaktikanta Das (since Dec 2018).
- RBI HQ:** Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Repo Rate:** 6.50%.
- Reverse Repo Rate:** 3.35%.

KMB APPOINTED ANUP KUMAR SAHA AS DIRECTOR

- Strategic Oversight of Retail:** Effective January 12, 2026, Saha was appointed to lead the bank's Consumer Banking vertical. He will also oversee Marketing and Data Analytics, critical functions for the bank's goal of driving customer-centric growth and digital innovation.
- Proven Track Record:** Saha brings over 32 years of experience in financial services. He most recently served as the Managing Director of Bajaj Finance, where he was instrumental in transforming the company into one of India's most profitable NBFCs. Prior to that, he spent 14 years at ICICI Bank in various senior leadership roles.

Footnotes: Kotak Mahindra Bank's MD & CEO: Ashok Vaswani, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1985

ALYSSA HEALY ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT AFTER INDIA SERIES

- Strategic Farewell Series:** Healy will retire after the home series against India in March 2026, captaining the ODIs and playing her final match in the one-off Test at the WACA, while skipping the T20Is.
- Reason for Departure:** Citing mental fatigue, injuries, and a loss of competitive edge, the 35-year-old announced her exit early to allow a smooth leadership transition before the 2026 Women's T20 World Cup.
- End of a Golden Era:** Healy retires as one of the most decorated players in history, having won eight World Cups (six T20 and two ODI) and a Commonwealth Games gold medal. She leaves the game with over 7,000 international runs and 275 dismissals, widely regarded as the primary architect of Australia's era of global dominances.

PUNJABI SINGER KAKA LAUNCHES 'FRIENDO' APP

- Advanced Emergency Response:** The app features a dedicated SOS button that sends instant alerts and real-time location tracking to trusted contacts. For situations where manual operation is impossible, it includes alternative triggers

like shake detection and voice commands.

- Discreet Protection Tools:** 'Friendo' includes a "Stealth Mode" for discreet monitoring and an automatic audio/video recording feature. This allows users to gather digital evidence during dangerous encounters that can later assist law enforcement.
- Community and Educational Support:** Beyond immediate safety, the app offers a resource library containing self-defense tutorials and information on legal rights. It also provides a community forum for users to share experiences and seek support from others nearby.

META APPOINTS DINA POWELL MCCORMICK AS PRESIDENT



- Strategic AI & Infrastructure Focus:** Reporting to CEO Mark Zuckerberg, she will lead Meta's next growth phase, overseeing major AI, data center, and connectivity investments while aligning them with financial strategy.
- Bridge Between Wall Street and Washington:** McCormick

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

- **Third Battle of Panipat → 1761**
- **UPSC established → 1950**
- **Armed Forces Veterans Day → 14 January**
- **PSLV-D2 launch → 1995**

brings a unique blend of experience from the highest levels of both finance and government. She spent 16 years at Goldman Sachs (leading their global sovereign business) and served as Deputy National Security Adviser under Donald Trump, as well as a senior official in the George W. Bush administration.

Footnotes: Meta's CEO: Mark Zuckerberg, HQ: U.S, Estd: 2004

OLYMPIC SNOWBOARDING PIONEER UELI KESTENHOLZ PASSED AWAY

- Tragic Accident in the Swiss Alps:** Kestenholz died on January 11, 2026, after being caught in an avalanche while snowboarding in the Lötschental valley of the Valais canton. Despite being rescued by a companion and airlifted to a hospital in Sion, he succumbed to his injuries.
- Olympic and X-Games Trailblazer:** A pioneer of snowboarding, he won bronze in Giant Slalom at the 1998 Nagano Olympics and claimed two Boardercross golds at the Winter X-Games in 2003 and 2004.
- Legacy as an Extreme Athlete:** After retiring from competitive racing in 2006, Kestenholz became a world-renowned figure in freeriding and speedriding (a hybrid of skiing and paragliding).