

THE DAILY GK DOSE

SOMA MANDAL WINS SOUTH ASIA TITLE AT CAMBRIDGE TEACHER AWARDS 2026

- **Climate Change Advocacy:** She was recognized for her exceptional work in integrating climate education into the school curriculum, empowering her students to become active participants in environmental sustainability and the global fight against climate change.
- **Highly Competitive Selection:** Soma Mandal was chosen as one of only nine regional winners worldwide from a massive pool of over 12,000 nominations spanning 126 countries.
- **Global Recognition & Rewards:** As a regional winner, she receives a trophy and £500 worth of books for her classroom. Additionally, her name will be featured on a "Thank You" page in new Cambridge University Press textbooks releasing in November 2026.

INDIA RETAINS NO. 1 SPOT IN WORLD T20I RANKINGS

- **Sustained Dominance:** India leads the rankings with 275 rating points, sitting 13 points clear of second-placed England (262) and third-placed Australia (258).
- **World Cup Success:** This top ranking follows India's historic achievement earlier in 2026, where they became the first team to successfully defend their T20 World Cup title, defeating New Zealand in the final to claim a record third trophy.
- **Ranking Calculations:** The updated rankings now assign a 100% weightage to matches

played since May 2025 and a 50% weightage to matches from the previous two years, reflecting India's consistent performance across both bilateral series and major tournaments.

CHIEF MINISTER OF ASSAM HIMANTA SARMA RESIGNS



- **Paving Way for New Government:** The resignation follows the conclusion of the 2026 Assam Assembly elections, where the BJP-led NDA secured a historic third consecutive victory with a landslide 102 seats in the 126-member assembly.
- **Caretaker Role:** The Governor has accepted the resignation and dissolved the current Legislative Assembly but has requested Sarma to continue as the caretaker Chief Minister until the formal swearing-in of the new government.
- **Upcoming Government Formation:** The BJP has appointed central observers (including J.P. Nadda) to oversee the election of the legislature party leader; the new government's oath-taking ceremony is expected to take place after May 11, 2026.

Footnotes: Assam's Governor: Lakshman Acharya, CM: Himanta Biswa Sarma, Capital: Dispur

IMPORTANT FACTS

- *Almatti Dam is located on the Krishna River in the state of Karnataka.*
- *Citrus fruits are important sources of Vitamin C.*
- *The Iron Pillar near Qutub Minar was built by Chandragupta II.*
- *The gobar gas plant was invented by C. V. Desai.*
- *Mercury is found in amalgam.*
- *Johannes Kepler propounded the laws of planetary motion.*
- *The new name of the Gold Coast is Ghana.*

IDBI BANK PARTNERS WITH IIT MADRAS TO LAUNCH I2SSL LAB

- **Focus Areas:** The lab will focus on three key technical verticals—Cryptography, Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT), and Secure Systems Engineering—to develop advanced solutions for secure digital banking infrastructure.
- **Industry-Wide Impact:** While led by a banking partnership, the research aims to develop and deploy security solutions for multiple critical sectors beyond finance, including healthcare, aerospace, and telecommunications, with a specific focus on mobile technology security.
- **Research & Commercialization:** The initiative is designed to create market-ready Intellectual Properties (IPs). It will work on developing hardware firewalls, secure point-of-sale (PoS) devices, and automated tools for detecting "Zero-Day Vulnerabilities" in mobile applications.

SOUTH KOREA INTRODUCES FIRST HUMANOID ROBOT MONK GABI

- **Participation in Sacred Rituals:** Standing 130 cm tall and dressed in traditional grey-and-brown monastic robes, Gabi participated in a formal "precept ceremony." It bowed to senior monks, received a 108-bead rosary, and was assigned a Dharma name derived from the Korean word for "mercy" and Siddhartha.
- **The AI Five Precepts:** Instead of the traditional human vows, Gabi pledged to follow a specialized "AI version" of the Five Precepts. These include respecting and not harming life, not damaging other robots or items, obeying humans, avoiding deceptive behavior, and practicing energy conservation (not over-charging).
- **Addressing the Monk Shortage:** Temple officials introduced Gabi as part of a strategic effort to use technology to connect with younger generations and to address the growing shortage of human monks in South Korea's religious institutions.

Footnotes: South Korea's PM: Kim Min-seok, **President:** Lee Jae Myung, **Capital:** Seoul

KUMAR MANGALAM BIRLA APPOINTED NON-EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF VODAFONE IDEA LIMITED

- **Return to Leadership:** Kumar Mangalam Birla returns to the position of Chairman after a five-year hiatus. He previously stepped down in 2021 during a period of extreme financial stress for the company; his return is seen as a

move to bolster investor and lender confidence.

- **Board Restructuring:** He replaces Ravinder Takkar, who has stepped down from the Chairman's role but will continue to serve the company as the Non-Executive Vice Chairman. Both appointments were disclosed in regulatory filings to the NSE and BSE.
- **Timing Amid Financial Relief:** The transition follows a major regulatory breakthrough where the government reduced the company's Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) dues by approximately ₹23,600 crore. This relief, combined with Birla's leadership, is intended to help the company secure critical bank financing for its \$5 billion capital expenditure plan and 5G rollout.

SHASHI SHEKHAR VEMPATI APPOINTED AS CHAIRPERSON OF CBFC



- **Succession of Prasoon Joshi:** Vempati succeeds renowned lyricist and screenwriter Prasoon Joshi, who stepped down from the CBFC after being elevated to the position of Chairman of Prasar Bharati.
- **Technocratic Background:** An alumnus of IIT Bombay and former CEO of Prasar Bharati (2017–2022), Vempati is recognized as a "technocrat-administrator." His appointment signals a move toward

integrating modern technology and digital governance into the film certification process.

- **Tenure and Scope:** He has been appointed for a period of three years. He takes charge at a time when the CBFC is navigating complex regulatory challenges involving evolving content standards across both theatrical and digital ecosystems.
- Footnotes:** CBFC's Chairperson: Shashi Shekhar Vempati, **HQ:** Mumbai, **Estd:** 1951

NLC INDIA SIGNS NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WITH EDF FRANCE

- **Technology & Innovation:** The partnership involves a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) to explore the development of advanced nuclear technologies, specifically focusing on European Pressurized Reactors (EPR) and Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).
- **Strategic Diversification:** This marks a major shift for NLC India, traditionally known for lignite mining and thermal power. Simultaneously, the company announced it is shelving its ₹4,400-crore lignite-to-methanol project to focus on large-scale, sustainable energy like nuclear power.
- **National Energy Alignment:** The collaboration supports India's goal of reaching 100 GW of nuclear capacity by 2047. It follows a similar recent pact between NTPC and EDF, signaling a coordinated effort by Indian Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) to integrate international expertise into the domestic energy mix.

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

07.05.2026 / THURSDAY

- **May 7: World Athletics Day**
- **The official theme for this year is "Sport: Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers."**
- **This focus highlights the role of athletics in fostering global unity, promoting inclusivity, and overcoming social and economic hurdles through physical activity.**