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## Current Affairs

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Manika Batra's Dominant Win  
Highlights Indian Table Tennis at  
World Championships



### 1. Manika Batra's Dominant Win Highlights Indian Table Tennis at World Championships

Manika Batra delivered a dominant performance at the World Table Tennis Championships, showcasing her skill and determination. She defeated higher-ranked opponents with ease, reinforcing her status as India's top female paddler. Her aggressive playing style and precision shots drew praise from both fans and experts. Batra's win not only boosted her individual ranking but also brought attention to India's growing strength in international table tennis. Her success serves as an inspiration for young players across the country.



#### Foot notes:

- **Manika Batra's Victory:** Manika Batra, seeded 22nd, won 4-0 against Nigeria's Fatima Bello in the women's singles fixture, which lasted only 24 minutes. The scores were 11-5, 11-6, 11-8, and 11-2.
- **Manav Thakkar's Win:** India's top-ranked male singles player, Manav Thakkar, also had a strong start, defeating New Zealand's Timothy Choi 4-1 with scores 11-3, 11-8, 6-11, 11-7, and 14-12.
- **Mixed Results for India:** While Manika and Manav advanced, other Indian players like G Sathyan and Ankur Bhattacharjee had disappointing outings, losing in the first round.
- **Doubles Performance:** The ninth-seeded pair of Manush Shah and Diya Chitale won 3-0 against Algeria's Mehdi Bouloussa and Malissa Nasri in doubles action.

## 2. China Launched 12 AI-Satellites to build World's 1<sup>st</sup> Supercomputer

China has embarked on an ambitious project to build the world's first space-based AI supercomputer by launching 12 satellites as part of its "Star Compute" initiative. Developed by Chengdu-based ADA Space in collaboration with Zhejiang Lab, these satellites are the initial components of a planned 2,800-satellite constellation designed to process data directly in orbit, thereby reducing reliance on Earth-based data centers. Each satellite is equipped with advanced AI processors capable of 744 tera operations per second (TOPS).



### Foot notes:

- **Computing Power:** Each satellite can process 744 trillion operations per second, with a combined computing power of 5 peta operations per second (POPS) and 30 terabytes of onboard storage. The full constellation aims to achieve 1,000 POPS, equivalent to 1 quintillion operations per second.
- **Advanced Features:** The satellites are equipped with AI-powered computing systems, high-speed laser communication links, and advanced AI models with 8 billion parameters. They can process raw data directly in orbit, reducing reliance on ground-based computing infrastructure.
- **Potential Benefits:** The space-based supercomputer could offer a solution to Earth's growing energy and water consumption concerns. Orbital data centers can harness solar power and radiate heat into space, reducing energy needs and carbon footprint.

## 3. 'Teesta Prahar' military exercise conducted in West Bengal

The Indian Army recently conducted a comprehensive field training exercise named 'Teesta Prahar' at the Teesta Field Firing Range in West Bengal. This exercise aimed to test and enhance the Army's operational capabilities, particularly focusing on coordination between combat and support arms in riverine terrains. A video shared by the Defence Public Relations Officer highlighted the high level of synchronization and preparedness demonstrated during the exercise. The drill was designed to evaluate the Army's efficiency in executing complex operations in challenging environments.



### Foot notes:

- **Exercise Details:** The Indian Army conducted Exercise Teesta Prahar at the Teesta Field Firing Range in West Bengal, showcasing its combat readiness and joint force integration in challenging riverine terrain.
- **Objective:** The exercise aimed to validate the operational readiness of various combat and support elements, emphasizing jointness, synergy, and seamless coordination among different branches of the army.
- **Participating Units:** The exercise involved multiple branches, including Infantry, Artillery, Armoured Corps, Mechanised Infantry, Para Special Forces, Army Aviation, Engineers, and Signals, simulating realistic battlefield conditions.
- **Technological Advancements:** The exercise featured the deployment of next-generation weapon systems, advanced surveillance drones, AI-enabled battlefield management systems, and real-time satellite data, highlighting the Indian Army's focus on modernization and technological integration.

#### 4. Akani Simbine Shines Bright With Wind-Aided 9.86s Victory at Atlanta City Games

South African sprinter Akani Simbine continued his impressive 2025 season by winning the men's 100m at the Atlanta City Games with a wind-assisted time of 9.86 seconds. Although the tailwind exceeded the legal limit for record purposes, the performance underscored Simbine's dominance on the track. This victory adds to his undefeated streak this year, which includes wins at two Diamond League events and a bronze medal at the World Indoor Championships. Simbine also anchored South Africa's 4x100m relay team to a historic gold at the World Relays in Guangzhou.



#### Foot notes:

- **Wind-Aided Victory:** Akani Simbine won the 100m dash with a wind-aided time of 9.86 seconds, showcasing his exceptional speed and skill.
- **Historic Achievement:** Simbine's win marks a historic milestone, as he becomes the first athlete to run sub-10 seconds in the 100m for 11 consecutive years, breaking Usain Bolt's record.
- **Current Form:** This victory is part of Simbine's impressive 2025 campaign, which includes two Diamond League wins and a world-leading time of 9.90 seconds from the Botswana Golden Grand Prix.



- **Upcoming Challenges:** Simbine's focus now shifts to the World Championships in Tokyo and the Olympics, where he aims to capture the global sprint gold that has eluded him in past major events.

### 5. Carlos Alcaraz Clinches First Italian Open Title in Style

Carlos Alcaraz clinched his maiden Italian Open title with a commanding 7-6(5), 6-1 victory over World No. 1 Jannik Sinner, ending the Italian's 26-match winning streak. The 22-year-old Spaniard showcased exceptional tactical discipline and mental resilience, saving two set points in the first set before dominating the second. This triumph marks Alcaraz's seventh Masters 1000 title and 19th career title, solidifying his reputation as a formidable force on clay courts. With this victory, Alcaraz ascends to World No. 2 and emerges as a leading contender for the upcoming French Open.



#### Foot notes:

- **First Italian Open Title:** Carlos Alcaraz won his first-ever Italian Open title by defeating Jannik Sinner 7-6 (5), 6-1 in the final on May 18, 2025.
- **Dominance on Clay:** This victory marks Alcaraz's 7th Masters 1000 title and solidifies his dominance on clay courts, especially ahead of the 2025 French Open.
- **Head-to-Head Record:** Alcaraz now leads the head-to-head rivalry against Sinner 7-4, having won four consecutive matches against the Italian player.
- **Sinner's Streak Ends:** Alcaraz's win ended Sinner's impressive 26-match winning streak, with Sinner having won 40 of his last 41 matches prior to this loss.

### 6. Shri Megh Nath Goyal appointed as Director (Technical), National Fertilizers Ltd.

Shri Megh Nath Goyal has been appointed as Director (Technical) at National Fertilizers Limited (NFL), a Schedule 'A' and Mini Ratna (Category-I) Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. An accomplished mechanical engineer, Shri Goyal holds a degree from Guru Nanak Dev Engineering College, Ludhiana, and a master's in engineering from the University of Roorkee. This appointment underscores NFL's commitment to strengthening its leadership team to drive innovation and growth in the fertilizer sector.



#### Foot notes:

- **Current Role:** Goyal is currently serving as Chief General Manager (Unit Head) at National Fertilizers Ltd.'s Nangal Unit.
- **Background:** Although specific details about Goyal's background are limited, his current role suggests he has significant experience in the fertilizer industry.
- **Responsibilities:** As Director (Technical), Goyal will likely oversee technical operations, maintenance, and projects at National Fertilizers Ltd., ensuring efficient production and implementation of new technologies.
- **National Fertilizers Ltd.:** The company is a prominent player in India's fertilizer sector, with a history dating back to its establishment.

### **7. Mr. Sivakumar conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award by United AP Govt.**

Mr. Sivakumar S., the Head of Agri and IT businesses at ITC Limited, was honored with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Agritech by the India Startup Foundation. This accolade recognizes his transformative contributions to the agricultural sector, notably through initiatives like the e-Choupal model, which have significantly empowered farmers across India. His innovative approach has not only enhanced agri production and marketing but also uplifted rural communities economically. His recognition serves as an inspiration for continued advancements in agritech and rural development.



#### **Foot notes:**

- **Award for Excellence in Agritech:** Sivakumar S., Head of Agri and IT businesses at ITC Limited, received the Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Agritech from the India Startup Foundation.
- **Empowering Farmers:** The award recognizes Sivakumar's exceptional contributions to reshaping the agricultural sector and empowering farmers across India through innovative initiatives like the e-Choupal model.
- **The Impact:** His transformative initiatives have brought about a paradigm shift in the lives of numerous farmers and redefined the potential within the agricultural domain.
- **Global Recognition:** Sivakumar's impact extends beyond national boundaries, with significant roles in global forums like the World Economic Forum and the UN Global Compact.

### **8. India ranked at 36<sup>th</sup> among 170 countries in Network Readiness Index 2025**

India has achieved a significant milestone by ranking 36th out of 170 countries in the Frontier Technologies Readiness Index 2024, marking a notable improvement from its 48th position in 2022. This advancement underscores India's growing capabilities in research and industrial capacity, where it ranks 3rd and 10th respectively. However, challenges persist in areas such as ICT deployment and skills development, with rankings of 99th and 113th, highlighting the need for enhanced broadband infrastructure and formal training in emerging technologies. The country's overall progress reflects its commitment to embracing frontier technologies and fostering innovation.



**Foot notes:**

- **Improvement in Ranking:** India has shown significant improvement, jumping 12 spots from 48th in 2022 to 36th in 2024, indicating progress in readiness for frontier technologies.
- **Frontier Technologies:** The index focuses on readiness for frontier technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), green hydrogen, and gene editing, which can transform economic development, sustainability, and governance.
- **Global Market Projection:** The market for frontier technologies is projected to grow six-fold, reaching \$16.4 trillion by 2033, with AI expected to account for 29% of this market.
- **Private Investment in AI:** India has seen notable private investments in AI, ranking 10th globally with \$1.4 billion in investments in 2023, highlighting its growing presence in the AI landscape.

**9. 'International Human Resources Day' celebrated every year on 20<sup>th</sup> May**

International Human Resources Day is celebrated every year on 20 May to recognize the vital role HR professionals play in shaping workplaces and supporting employees. The day highlights the importance of human resources in fostering organizational development, employee engagement, and a positive work culture. It serves as an opportunity to appreciate HR professionals for their contributions in areas like talent acquisition, training, conflict resolution, and compliance. The celebration also emphasizes the evolving role of HR in addressing modern workforce challenges and driving business success.



**Foot notes:**

- **Recognition of HR Professionals:** International Human Resources Day acknowledges the vital role HR professionals play in organizations, focusing on their contributions to strategic planning, talent management, and employee engagement.
- **Theme:** Each year, the day may have a specific theme, such as "Strategic HR Leadership" or "Empowering Workplaces", highlighting current HR trends and challenges.
- **Global Celebration:** HR professionals worldwide come together to share best practices, network, and discuss innovative approaches to human resource management.
- **Importance of HR:** The day emphasizes the significance of HR in driving organizational success, fostering a positive work environment, and supporting employee development.

**10. Former Atomic Energy Commission Chairman M.R. Srinivasan passed away**

Veteran nuclear scientist and former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. M.R. Srinivasan, passed away at the age of 95 on May 20, 2025, in Ooty, Tamil Nadu. A pivotal figure in India's nuclear energy development, he began his career in 1955 with the Department of Atomic Energy, working closely with Dr. Homi Bhabha on the nation's first nuclear research reactor, Apsara, which achieved criticality in 1956. Dr. Srinivasan played a central role in establishing India's indigenous nuclear power program, overseeing the construction and commissioning of multiple nuclear power plants across the country.



**Foot notes:**

- **Contributions:** Srinivasan played a pivotal role in shaping India's nuclear energy program, ensuring self-reliance in the energy sector. His leadership helped India withstand international pressure after the 1974 nuclear test.
- **Awards and Recognition:** He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian honor, for his outstanding contributions to the nuclear energy sector.
- **Tributes:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to Srinivasan, acknowledging his instrumental role in developing India's critical nuclear infrastructure and mentoring young scientists.

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