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WEEKLY Current Affairs

NATIONAL NEWS

India Becomes Russia's No. 2 Supplier of Restricted Technology

India has become the second-largest supplier of restricted critical technologies to Russia, supplying microchips, circuits, and machine tools essential to Russia's economy and military during its war efforts. Only China surpasses India in these exports. Indian exports of restricted items surged to $95 million in July 2024, up from $60 million in previous months.

Foot notes:

- Officials reported that almost 20% of the sensitive technology used in Russia's military - industrial complex comes from India.
- India is the second-largest supplier of sensitive technologies to Russia, after China.
- Nearly 20% of the technology used in Russia's military-industrial complex comes from India, according to officials.
- US and EU restrictions mainly target technologies found in Russian weaponry or crucial for their production.
- Some officials expressed concern over India's limited response when the issue was raised.

HAL Becomes 14th Maharatna Company

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has been granted Maharatna status, becoming the 14th Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) to achieve this esteemed classification from the Government of India. This announcement, made on October 12, increases HAL's operational autonomy and financial capabilities, enabling the company to invest up to 15% of its net worth in projects and up to Rs. 5,000 crore in foreign ventures without requiring government approval.

Foot notes:

- For Q1 FY25, HAL reported a net profit of 1,437.2 crore, marking a 76.5% increase from 814.2 crore in the same period last year.
- Revenue grew by 11% year-on-year, showcasing strong financial health.
- The Maharatna status grants HAL increased autonomy in decision-making.
- It allows HAL to pursue mergers, acquisitions, and strategic investments without prior government approval.
- This status is vital for boosting HAL's ability to compete globally and undertake major projects in the defence sector.

Nikita Porwal Crowned Femina Miss India 2024

Nikita Porwal from Madhya Pradesh has won the title of Femina Miss India 2024 at the 60th edition of the prestigious beauty pageant, held at Famous Studios in Mumbai. The competition featured 30 contestants, representing all 29 states and one Union Territory. Nikita's exceptional performance earned her the crown and the chance to represent India at the upcoming Miss World pageant.

Foot notes:

- Nikita Porwal was crowned Femina Miss India 2024 by Nandini Gupta, the 2023 winner, while Bollywood actress Neha Dhupia placed the Miss India sash on her.
- The pageant celebrated talent and beauty, creating a memorable moment for Nikita and her supporters.
- Nikita is from Ujjain, a city known for its rich mythology and cultural heritage.
- Growing up in this environment nurtured her curiosity, critical thinking, and passion for storytelling.
- She completed her schooling at Carmel Convent Senior Secondary School.
- Nikita is pursuing higher education at Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, combining academics with her artistic aspirations.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Abu Dhabi Crowned World's Richest City in Sovereign Wealth Funds

As of October 2024, Abu Dhabi has been declared the world's richest city in terms of sovereign wealth, with an estimated capital of $1.7 trillion. Other major cities, including Oslo, Beijing, Singapore, Riyadh, and Hong Kong, collectively manage two-thirds of the global sovereign wealth fund. This milestone underscores Abu Dhabi's financial strength and strategic investments.

Foot notes:

- Abu Dhabi is the world's richest city in sovereign wealth, managing $1.7 trillion as of October 2024.
- Global sovereign wealth fund assets total $12.5 trillion as of October 1, 2024.
- Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs) are state-owned entities managing reserves for economic stabilization, future savings, and social programs.
- Their main objectives are long-term capital growth, revenue diversification, and economic stabilization.

STATE NEWS

The Maharashtra State Skills University will be renamed

The Maharashtra State Skills University will be renamed 'Ratan Tata Maharashtra State Skills University', as Eknath Shinde announced. The decision pays tribute to Ratan Tata, a renowned industrialist and philanthropist, who died at the Breach Candy Hospital. The state Cabinet also passed a resolution urging the central government to honour Ratan Tata with Bharat Ratna.

Foot notes:

- Tata is recognized as a key figure in Indian industry, significantly contributing to various sectors and supporting skill development.
- Apoorva Palkar, the university's founding vice-chancellor, stated that renaming Kaushalya Vidyapeeth honors Tata's legacy.
- This renaming aligns with the institution's mission to equip industries with skilled manpower and empower future professionals.
- The initiative also aims to strengthen Maharashtra's position in supplying skilled workers to the country.



Telangana Women and Child Welfare Minister D. Anasuya Sitakka launched 'Rojgar Portal' for the disabled

Women and Child Welfare Minister Danasari Anasuya inaugurated the Telangana Handicapped Job Portal at the secretariat on Monday. She also handed out appointment orders to 10 individuals registered with the women's welfare directorate helpline. "Physical disabilities are beyond our control, which is why we launched this online job portal to provide job opportunities for disabled individuals, so they don't have to visit offices," she said.

Foot notes:

- The Telangana Handicapped Job Portal, accessible at pwdjobportal.telangana.gov.in, connects individuals with disabilities to job opportunities in private organizations based on their qualifications.
- Minister Danasari Anasuya handed appointment orders to 10 candidates for roles in the Directorate of Women's Welfare helpline.

- The government is allocating 5% of welfare funds to support disabled individuals and working toward a 4% job reservation for them in the private sector.
- The online portal allows disabled people to apply for jobs without physically visiting companies, with companies hiring based on qualifications.
- The Minister encouraged the disabled community to stay united and report any challenges they encounter.

About Telangana:
Capital: Hyderabad
Governor: Jishnu Dev Varma
Chief Minister: Revanth Reddy

Odisha adjudged 'Best State' in 5th National Water Awards

Odisha has been recognized as the 'Best State' in the 5th National Water Awards for its outstanding water conservation efforts in recent years. Uttar Pradesh took second place, while Gujarat and Puducherry shared the third spot. Union Minister of Jal Shakti, CR Paatil, announced the winners at Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi, on Monday. In addition, Odisha's Balangir district was named the Best District in the East Zone, and Puri secured second place in the Best Urban Local Body category.

Foot notes:

- Odisha has built around 53,000 water conservation and rainwater harvesting structures, along with 10,800 reuse and recharge structures.
- The state has renovated 11,000 traditional water bodies and carried out watershed development in 68,700 locations.
- 21,000 wastewater treatment plants have been constructed.
- Renovation of 1,800 km of drainage channels has recovered 39,000 hectares of agricultural land from water logging.
- Over 90,900 hectares of irrigated land have been converted to micro-irrigation systems, benefiting 87,000 farmers.
- Odisha has planted 9 crore trees as part of intensive afforestation efforts.

About Odisha:
Capital: Bhubaneswar
Bird: Indian roller
Official language: Odia

Senior BJP Leader Nayab Singh Sworn in as Haryana's Chief Minister

BJP leader Nayab Singh Saini was sworn in as the chief minister of Haryana for the second time on Thursday, October 17. The oath-taking ceremony, held in Panchkula, was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and other senior BJP leaders. Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya administered the oath of office and secrecy to Saini. Several cabinet ministers, including Anil Vij, Vipul Goyal, Mahipal Dhandha, and Krishan Lal Panwar, were also sworn in during the event.

Foot notes:

- Massive security arrangements were made for the swearing-in ceremony in Panchkula, attended by around 50,000 people at Dussehra Ground, Sector 5.
- Notable attendees included Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath, Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma, Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat, Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel, Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Dev Sai, and Andhra Pradesh Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan.
- Union Ministers Rajnath Singh and Manohar Lal Khattar were also present at the ceremony.

About Haryana:
Chief Minister: Nayab Singh Saini
Capital: Chandigarh
Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya

Sanskrit to Become Mandatory in 416 Uttarakhand Madrasas

The Uttarakhand Madrasa Education Board (UMEB) has proposed making Sanskrit a compulsory subject in 416 madrassas to strengthen the educational curriculum and support students' academic growth. The board is planning to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the state's Sanskrit department to formalize the change. This initiative will impact over 70,000 students, with discussions already underway and a formal proposal drafted.

Foot notes:

- The UMEB plans to sign an MoU with the state's Sanskrit department to introduce Sanskrit in 416 madrassas.
- In addition to Sanskrit, the board is considering adding computer studies to the curriculum.
- The introduction of the NCERT syllabus has led to over 95% student success this year.
- UMEB chairperson Mufti Shamoon Qasmi believes Sanskrit will further enhance students' educational growth.
- Arabic is already taught in over 100 madrassas and integrating both Arabic and Sanskrit aims to create a diverse linguistic environment.
- Waqf board chairperson Shadab Shams aims to transform 117 registered madrassas into model institutions promoting national values and modern education.

About Uttarakhand:
Capitals: Dehradun (Winter), Bhararisen (Summer)
Chief Minister: Pushkar Singh Dhami
Governor: Gurmit Singh

AGREEMENT & MOU'S NEWS

India Signs Host Country Agreement with Global Biofuels Alliance

Shri Dammu Ravi, Secretary (ER) of the Ministry of External Affairs, and Shri Pankaj Jain, Secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, signed the Host Country Agreement (HCA) between India and the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA) today. The Union Cabinet approved the signing and ratification of the HCA, which will allow GBA to establish its Secretariat in India with both Indian and international staff.

Foot notes:

- The HCA will grant GBA necessary legal status, including immunities and privileges under the United Nations (Privilege & Immunities) Act of 1947, facilitating its operations in compliance with Indian laws.
- The GBA, a unique multi stakeholder initiative, was launched during India's G20 Presidency by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and leaders from eight other countries
- India has emerged as the beacon of renewable energy and has already the International Solar Alliance (ISA) headquarters in Gurugram.

DEFENCE NEWS

India Launches First Indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel 'Samarthak'

On October 14, 2024, the Indian Navy achieved a key milestone with the launch of'Samarthak,' the first ship under the Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV) project at L&T Shipyard in Kattupalli, Chennai. Shashi Tripathi, President of the Navy Welfare and Wellness Association, launched the vessel, with Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, Chief of Naval Staff, presiding over the ceremony. This launch underscores the Navy's dedication to indigenous shipbuilding, supporting the Government of India's 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India' initiatives.

Foot notes:

- The Ministry of Defence signed a contract with L&T Shipyard to build two Multi-Purpose Vessels (MPVs).
- The project aims to strengthen the Indian Navy's operational capabilities using advanced indigenous technologies.
- It is designed for various roles, including ship towing, target launching/recovery, operating uncrewed autonomous vehicles, and testing indigenous weapons and sensors.
- The launch of 'Samarthak' highlights the Navy's commitment to indigenous shipbuilding and collaboration with private shipyards for enhanced national security.

Kaksar Bridge Renamed in Honor of Kargil War Hero Capt. Amit Bhardwaj

Kaksar Bridge was renamed Capt. Amit Bhardwaj Setu in honor of Capt. Amit Bhardwaj's sacrifice during the Kargil War. The renaming ceremony was attended by key military and civil officials, including CEC Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon and Major General K. Mahesh, SM.

Foot notes:

- Dr.Akhoon praised the Indian Army's contributions in Kargil, including education and humanitarian efforts through the Sadbhavana Scheme.
- Capt. Bhardwaj's sister, Sunita Dhonkaria, inaugurated a memorial at the bridge in his honor.
- Capt. Bhardwaj, from the 4 JAT Battalion, died heroically during a 1999 rescue operation against infiltrators in Kaksar.
- The bridge renaming serves as a lasting tribute to his courage and service.

SPORTS NEWS

Arjun Vajpai Becomes First Indian to scale Mt. Shishapangma in China

Arjun Vajpai, an Indian mountaineer, becomes the first Indian to scale Mt. Shishapangma in China. This summit marks his eighth successful climb of an 8000-meter peak. The 30-year-old reached the summit of Mt. Shishapangma in Tibet, marking his eighth successful ascent of the world's 14 peaks over 8,000 meters. In 2010, at just 16 years old, Arjun became the youngest person to summit Mt. Everest.

Foot notes:

- A list of the 8 peaks that Arjun has successfully climbed: Mt. Everest (2010), Mt. Lhotse (2011), Mt. Manaslu (2011), Mt. Makalu (2016), Mt. Cho Oyu (2016), Mt. Kangchenjunga (2018), Mt. Annapurna (2023)Mt.Shishapangma (2024).
- He now aims to climb the remaining six peaks above 8,000 meters, which would make him the first Indian to achieve this milestone.
- He dedicates this summit to all who aspire to push beyond traditional expectations.

Harmanpreet Kaur Sets National Record at IWLF Weightlifting Event

At the IWLF National Weightlifting Championships, Harmanpreet Kaur set a new national record in the 76 kg senior women's category. Competing at the Rainbow Khelo India Residential Academy in NagrotaBagwan, Himachal Pradesh, she lifted 127 kg in clean and jerk, with a total lift of 223 kg.

Foot notes:

- Rakhi (215kg: 92kg+123kg) won silver and Heena (211kg: 88kg+123kg) won bronze.
- Muthupandi Raja (men's 61kg) broke national records in total and clean and jerk at the national weightlifting meet.
- Sufna Jasmin made history by setting national records in snatch and total in the women's 45kg category.

- G. Ravishankar set a new Junior national record with a combined lift of 311 kg, surpassing the previous 304 kg record

India Awarded Hosting Rights for ISSF Junior World Cup 2025

India has been awarded the hosting rights for the ISSF Junior World Cup next year by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF). Rossi is in New Delhi for the season-ending World Cup Final, where top shooters compete.

Foot notes:

- He highlighted India's growing importance in shooting sports, noting the talent of its athletes and the country's efforts to improve infrastructure and accessibility.
- Hosting prestigious events like the World Cup Final reflects India's dedication to the sport.
- A team of 23 Indian shooters will compete at the Dr. Karni Singh Ranges starting Tuesday.
- NRAI President Kalikesh Singh Deo credited India's rising profile in shooting to a collaborative effort, fostering a strong ecosystem from grassroots to elite training facilities.



Tanya Hemanth Wins Women's Singles Title at Bendigo International

Tanya Hemanth clinched the women's singles title at the Bendigo International Challenge in Australia, defeating Taipei's Tung Ciou-Tong. This is Tanya's third international title and first of 2024. In men's doubles, the Indian pair Hariharan Amsakarunan and Ruban Kumar Rethinasabapathi lost to Taipei's Chen Cheng Kuan and Po Li-Wei.

Foot notes:

- Seeded second, Tanya beat sixth seed and world No. 98 Tung Ciou-tong with scores of 21-17, 21-17 in the final, which lasted 41 minutes.
- The 21-year-old, currently ranked 71st in badminton, has now secured three international titles, including the 2022 India International and the 2023 Iran Fajr International.
- In the semi-finals, Tanya overcame world No. 106 Jaslyn Hooi of Singapore with a score of 15-21, 21-18, 21-15, in a match lasting just over an hour.

- In the round of 16, she triumphed over Tsai Hsin-Pei of Chinese Taipei 21-17, 21-10, and Yuelin Zhang of Australia 21-12, 21-11 in the opening round.

Jannik Sinner Defeats Djokovic to Win Shanghai Masters Title

Top-ranked Jannik Sinner defeated Novak Djokovic in straight sets to claim the Shanghai Masters title on Sunday, marking his tour-leading seventh title of the season. Sinner outperformed the 24-time Grand Slam champion with a score of 7-6 (4), 6-3 in just 1 hour and 37 minutes, never facing a break point throughout the outdoor hard-court tournament. He recorded eight aces and 22 winners compared to Djokovic's four aces and 12 winners.

Foot notes:

- Djokovic aimed for his 100th tour-level title and a fifth Shanghai title; only Jimmy Connors (109) and Roger Federer (103) have reached the century mark in men's tennis.
- The 23-year-old is now 8-2 against top-five opponents on hard courts this year, with both losses to Alcaraz, who attended the final.
- Djokovic, 37, was playing in China for the first time in five years and had also lost to Sinner in the Australian Open semifinals.
- His only title of the year came at the Paris Olympics, where he defeated Alcaraz for the gold medal.

Akhil Sheoran Wins Bronze medal in 50m rifle at ISSF World Cup Final

Akhil Sheoran secured the bronze medal in the men’s 50m rifle 3-positions event, defeating Paris Olympics gold medallist Liu Yukun. Hungary’s Istvan Peni clinched the gold. This marks India’s 2nd medal in the year-ending ISSF World Cup. India had won a silver medal through Sonam Maskar in women’s 10m air rifle. India’s Simranpreet Kaur, who also made the eight-shooter final, finished sixth.

Foot notes:

- Akhil Sheoran won the bronze in men's 50m rifle 3-positions, beating Paris Olympics gold medallist Liu Yukun, who finished fourth.
- Akhil stated the bronze kick-started his preparations for upcoming competitions, including the 2026 Asian Games.
- Despite securing a Paris Olympic quota last year in Baku, an injury during the Olympic Selection Trials in New Delhi and Bhopal caused him to lose his spot in the Paris-bound team.
- The 29-year-old, part of India's gold medal-winning team at last year's Asian Games, finished third with a score of 452.6.

Vivaan Wins Silver, Naruka Claims Bronze at Shooting World Cup

Vivaan Kapoor secured a silver medal in the men's trap event at the ISSF World Cup, scoring 44 in the final. Anant Jeet Singh Naruka earned a bronze in men's skeet with a score of 43,

adding to India's tally. India's medal count at the event reached four, including prior wins by Sonam Maskar and Akhil Sheoran.

Foot notes:

- Vivaan scored 120 out of 125 in the qualification round to enter the six-man finals.
- Rajasthan's 26-year-old Naruka shot 43 in the final, securing third place.
- Italy's Tammaro Cassandro and Gabriele Rossetti won gold and silver with scores of 57 and 56.
- Naruka qualified for the final with a score of 121 out of 125.
- Akhil Sheoran earned bronze in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions.
- Naruka and Maheshwari Chauhan finished fourth in the skeet mixed team event at the Paris Olympics, losing the bronze medal match to China.

Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi secured WR Chess masters title

India's Arjun Erigaisi claimed victory at the WR Chess Masters Cup, defeating Maxime Vachier-Lagrave in the finals held in London yesterday. After two drawn classical games, Arjun maintained his calm under time pressure and secured the win with black in the tiebreaker. This triumph in the 16-player knockout tournament places Arjun at the top of the FIDE Circuit. His next challenge will be the European Chess Club Cup, which begins this Sunday in Serbia.

Foot notes:

- Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi won the WR Chess Masters title by defeating Maxime Vachier-Lagrave in the Armageddon game after two drawn classical matches in the final.
- Arjun showed exceptional form throughout the event, securing the winner's prize of 20,000 Euros.
- He defeated his friend R Praggnanandhaa in the semifinals of the knockout tournament.
- Earlier in the event, Arjun achieved a 2-0 victory over England's Sivananda Bodhana, the youngest player to compete in the Chess Olympiad for her country.

Milestone Man Virat Kohli Crosses 9000 Test Runs

Batting legend Virat Kohli became the fourth Indian to surpass 9,000 runs in Test cricket during the third day of the opening match against New Zealand. He joined an elite group that includes Sachin Tendulkar (15,921), Rahul Dravid (13,265), and Sunil Gavaskar (10,122). The 35-year-old reached the landmark after scoring a half-century in India's second innings. In a recent series against Bangladesh, Kohli also became the fastest to reach 27,000 international runs, doing so in just 594 innings.

Foot notes:

- Virat Kohli surpassed the 9,000 Test runs mark during India's second innings, reaching the milestone after scoring a half-century while batting at No. 3.
- This was Kohli's first time batting at No. 3 in eight years.
- He had previously scored a nine-ball duck in the first innings.

- Despite the early failure, Kohli bounced back with a strong performance in the second innings, aiding India in overcoming the first-innings deficit.
- Kohli ranks fourth among Indian players for the highest Test runs, trailing behind Sachin Tendulkar, Sunil Gavaskar, and Rahul Dravid. He achieved this milestone in his 116th Test match.

Gurpreet Pal Win Gold at ACO World Chess Championship

Indian FIDE Master Gurpreet Pal Singh clinched gold at the ACO World Chess Championship in Crete, Greece. Singh, who has coached talents like Grandmaster Sahaj Grover, triumphed in the nine-round event, competing against players from 29 countries.

Foot notes:

- Gurpreet, a coach of Grandmaster and former under-10 world champion Sahaj Grover, competed in a nine-round tournament with participants from 29 countries. He scored seven points out of nine.
- After winning his first game, he was held to a draw by Germany's Ralph Ennerbach.
- Gurpreet then achieved five wins and four draws to secure his final score.

Pubudu Dasanayake Named Mentor of Nepali Cricket Team

Pubudu Dasanayake appointed as mentor for Nepal's cricket team in ICC World Cricket League-2. The triangular series (Nepal, USA, Scotland) will be held in the USA from Oct 25 to Nov 4. Nepal's first match is against the USA on Oct 27, followed by matches against Scotland on Oct 29 and Nov 4.

Foot notes:

- Nepal's cricket team will play its first match against the USA on October 27, followed by a match against Scotland on October 29, and a second match against the USA on November 2. They will compete against Scotland again on November 4 in their fourth and final match.
- Dasanayake previously coached Nepal's national team from 2011 to 2015, leading them from ICC World Cricket League Division Four to Division One and achieving historic qualification for the 2014 ICC T20 World Cup in Bangladesh.
- He returned as head coach in December 2021 after Dav Whatmore's resignation but stepped down in July 2022 due to family reasons.
- After leaving the Nepal team, Dasanayake briefly coached Canada's national team but is no longer in that role.
- He has recently been signed as the head coach for the Janakpur Bolts in the Nepal Premier League.

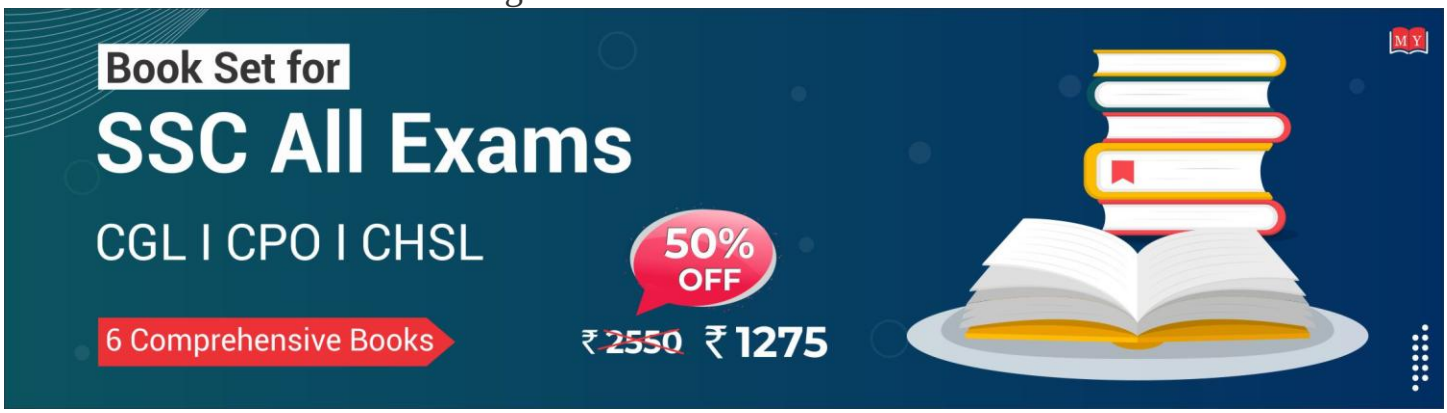
AWARDS NEWS

Rajkumar Hirani Receives National Kishore Kumar Award in Khandwa

Rajkumar Hirani was honored with the National Kishore Kumar Award in Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh, on the 37th death anniversary of Kishore Kumar. The award, presented by MP's Cabinet Minister Kunwar Vijay Shah, is given annually by the Directorate of Culture, Madhya Pradesh Government since 1997. Hirani paid tribute to Kishore Kumar at his Samadhi before the ceremony, in the singer's birthplace.

Foot notes:

- Rajkumar Hirani, scriptwriter, director, and producer, received the Madhya Pradesh government's National Kishore Kumar Award for 2023.
- The award was presented in Khandwa, Kishore Kumar's birthplace, by MP Minister Vijay Shah on Sunday.
- The event commemorated Kishore Kumar's death anniversary; he passed away on October 13, 1987, and his last rites were held in Khandwa.
- Hirani expressed his admiration for Kumar, stating it was an honor to receive an award named after his favorite singer.



ISRO Chief S. Somnath Wins IAF World Space Award

In a significant acknowledgment of India's advancements in space exploration, Dr. S. Somanath, Secretary of the Department of Space and Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has received the esteemed International Astronautical Federation (IAF) World Space Award for the outstanding success of the Chandrayaan-3 mission. The award ceremony took place in Milan, Italy, highlighting India's notable contributions to lunar exploration and its rising stature in the global space community.

Foot notes:

- Dr. Somanath's leadership was crucial in ensuring the success of the Chandrayaan-3 mission, addressing challenges faced by the previous Chandrayaan-2 mission.
- The mission showcased India's technological capabilities and yielded valuable scientific data, including the detection of sulfur and other elements in lunar soil.

- The success of Chandrayaan-3 has inspired a new generation of scientists and engineers in India, increasing interest in space exploration and STEM fields nationwide.
- It has also facilitated international collaborations, positioning India as a key player in the future of space exploration.

Nobel in Economics 2024 Awarded to Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson

Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson received the 2024 Nobel Prize in Economics for their research on how institutions shape prosperity. Their model explains political institution formation with three key components. The Nobel Prize in Economics was first awarded in 1969, in memory of Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite.

Foot notes:

- Nobel laureates Acemoglu, Johnson, and Robinson pioneered research on the historical roots of economic disparities, focusing on colonialism.
- Their work highlights how colonial strategies led to extractive institutions, still present in many low-income nations.
- They emphasize that political institutions are key to shaping national wealth.
- Their dynamic model shows ruling elites make political reforms, like expanding voting rights, in response to threats.
- The model suggests that more inclusive governments drive economic development, supported by growing evidence.

Karnal artist Aditi Anand wins UK Illustration Award

Aditi Anand, a 25-year-old artist from Haryana, won the Emerging Illustrator category at the prestigious Victoria and Albert Museum's Illustration Awards for her artwork Marigolds. The artwork, addressing child labour in India, was selected from over 2,000 entries and earned a GBP 3,000 prize. Marigolds will be displayed at the V&A Museum in London until September 2025.

Foot notes:

- Aditi Anand, 25, from Anglia Ruskin University, won an award for her artwork ‘Marigolds’.
- The artwork will be displayed at the Victoria and Albert (V&A) Design Museum in London until September 2025.
- ‘Marigolds’ was selected from over 2,000 entries and won a GBP 3,000 prize.
- The piece, set in India, addresses the theme of child labour and lost childhoods.
- Inspired by Indian flower markets, it portrays a mother teaching her child to make marigold garlands for sale.
- Judges praised the use of color, contrasting the beauty of the flowers with the harsh realities of child labour.

Lionel Messi Honored as the First Recipient of the MARCA America Award

Messi was honored as the first recipient of the MARCA America Award, presented by the Spain-based media company. The award celebrates his illustrious career, featuring a record 46 titles for club and country, along with over 56 individual awards. The ceremony took place at Chase Stadium, where numerous figures gathered to recognize Messi's remarkable achievements as the "champion of champions."

Foot notes:

- Messi considers the 2022 World Cup win with Argentina his most cherished title, solidifying his legacy among football's greats.
- He has won trophies with Barcelona, Paris Saint-Germain, and now Inter Miami, where he joined in July 2023.
- Despite being limited to 18 MLS matches due to injury and national team duties, Messi scored 17 goals and provided 15 assists.
- Messi helped lead Inter Miami to the 2024 Supporters' Shield, securing home-field advantage for the MLS Cup playoffs starting next week.

President Murmu received an honorary doctorate in Algeria

President Droupadi Murmu received an honorary doctorate in political science from Sidi Abdellah Science and Technology Pole University in Algiers. The doctorate was presented to Murmu by Kamal Baddari, Algeria's Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research. President Murmu highlighted India's commitment to providing quality education at affordable prices.

Foot notes:

- President Murmu emphasized India's commitment to providing affordable, quality education, especially for African students.
- She invited Algerian institutions to benefit from Indian government scholarships and educational programs, noting the success of ITEC alumni.
- Murmu highlighted education as a tool for neutralizing inequalities and promoting equal opportunities.
- She discussed India's technological advancements, noting that 36% of IT professionals are women, and Algeria's interest in digital payment systems and space exploration.
- Murmu referenced India's upcoming Gaganyaan mission, which will launch astronauts into space next year.

About Algeria:

Official languages: Arabic, Tamazight
President: Abdelmadjid Tebboune
Prime Minister: Nadir Larbaoui

Mohanji Receives Prestigious Humanitarian Award 2024

On September 19, 2024, in Johannesburg, South Africa, Mohanji, a global humanitarian leader, was honored with special recognition for his worldwide contributions at the 9th Conscious Companies Awards event. This esteemed annual ceremony celebrates ethical and visionary leaders whose efforts promote conscious leadership, align people, profit, and purpose, and support a better, more sustainable world.

Foot notes:

- Mohanji received a special award for his global humanitarian leadership, recognizing his teachings on compassion, kindness, and non-violence.
- His impact has reached thousands of lives in over 90 countries, and his core philosophy, "Be You," empowers individuals to adopt conscious living practices.
- This prestigious award recognizes visionary leaders who foster conscious leadership, aligning people, planet, profit, and purpose for the benefit of all.

SJVN Wins Two Awards for HR Excellence at SHRM India 2024

SJVN has been conferred two prestigious awards in the SHRM India HR Awards 2024 in the Public Sector Enterprises category. SJVN Executive Director Chandrashekhar Yadav received the awards during the 13th SHRM India Annual Conference 2024, which was held in New Delhi.

Foot notes:

- The awards highlight SJVN's leadership in nurturing its workforce, contributing significantly to the company's success.
- SJVN is committed to a people-centric approach and aims to set new benchmarks in people management.
- Extensive benefit schemes and wellness programs emphasize the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of employees, boosting morale and job satisfaction.
- SHRM India is the Indian branch of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), one of the largest HR organizations globally.
- Established to advance the HR profession in India, SHRM India offers resources, networking opportunities, and professional development tools for HR practitioners.

About SJVN:
Founded 1988
Headquarters Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
Chairman & MD: Sushil Sharma

APPOINTMENT & PERSON IN NEWS

L Satya Srinivas Appointed as GeM CEO

The Indian government has appointed L Satya Srinivas, currently Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce, as the new CEO of the Government e-Marketplace (GeM). This follows the appointment of former CEO P K Singh as Secretary of the Ministry of Renewable

Energy. Srinivas, a 1991 batch officer of the Indian Revenue Service (Customs & Indirect Taxes), will oversee online procurement for all central government ministries and departments. The GeM portal, launched on August 9, 2016, aims to streamline and improve the public procurement process.

Foot notes:

- P K Singh, former head of the GeM initiative, has moved to a new role as Secretary in the Ministry of Renewable Energy.
- This transition reflects the government's commitment to strengthening leadership in important sectors.
- The GeM portal has transformed government procurement since its launch, offering a digital platform for purchasing goods and services.
- It promotes transparency and efficiency in the procurement process for various government entities.

Subhash Prasad Gupta Appointed as High Commissioner to St. Vincent

Subhash Prasad Gupta, currently India's Ambassador to Suriname, has been concurrently appointed as the next High Commissioner to St. Vincent and the Grenadines. He is a 2006 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer.

Foot notes:

- Subhash Prasad Gupta is currently India's Ambassador to Suriname.
- He has been concurrently appointed as the next High Commissioner to St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
- He is an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer from the 2006 batch.

IRFC Welcomes Manoj Kumar Dubey as New CMD and CEO

Manoj Kumar Dubey previously held the positions of Director (Finance) and Chief Financial Officer at the Container Corporation of India (CONCOR). He has an impressive background in financial management and strategic operations.

Foot notes:

- Manoj Kumar Dubey expressed pride in leading IRFC during a pivotal time for India's growth.
- He stressed aligning IRFC with Prime Minister Modi's Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.
- He acknowledged improvements under PM Modi and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.
- 14,985 km of new tracks added in the past decade, surpassing countries like France.
- Total track length more than doubled, from 14,000 km (2004-2014) to over 31,000 km.

Mahela Jayawardene Reappointed as Head Coach of Mumbai Indians

Mumbai Indians have reappointed former Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene as their head coach ahead of IPL 2025. Jayawardene takes over from Mark Boucher, under whom the franchise finished last in IPL 2024. Jayawardene had previously served as Mumbai's head coach from 2017 to 2022.

Foot notes:

- Mumbai Indians have reappointed Mahela Jayawardene as head coach for IPL 2025, replacing Mark Boucher, who oversaw a last-place finish in IPL 2024.
- Jayawardene previously served as the head coach from 2017 to 2022.
- After his first tenure, he became the global head of performance in 2022, overseeing coaching and scouting for all four franchise teams: Mumbai Indians (IPL), MI Emirates (ILT20), MI Cape Town (SA20), and MI New York (MLC).
- He is recognized as one of the most successful coaches in T20 cricket, having led Mumbai to three IPL titles during his first term.



Omar Abdullah sworn in as Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah was sworn in as the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, marking the first elected government in the union territory since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. Lt Governor Manoj Sinha administered the oath of office and secrecy to Abdullah, who is serving his second term as chief minister. He is the third generation of the Abdullah family to hold the position, following his grandfather Sheikh Abdullah and father Farooq Abdullah.

Foot notes:

- Omar Abdullah was unanimously elected as leader of the NC Legislature Party.
- He previously served as chief minister from 2009 to 2014, when J&K was still a full-fledged state.
- The National Conference won 42 out of 90 seats in the recent elections, while ally Congress secured six.
- Together, NC and Congress have a majority in the 95-member assembly, with five members to be nominated by the LG.
- J&K was bifurcated into two union territories, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, in 2019.

Vice Admiral Kavita Sahai appointed as DGMS Navy

Surgeon Vice Admiral Kavita Sahai, SM, VSM assumes charge as Director General Medical Services (Navy) on 14 Oct 24. The Flag Officer was commissioned in the Army Medical Corps on 30 Dec 1986. An alumnus of the prestigious Armed Forces Medical College Pune, she has specialized in Pathology and super specialized in Oncopathology from the prestigious AIIMS, New Delhi.

Foot notes:

- Surgeon Vice Admiral Sahai was appointed as Director General Medical Services (Navy).
- She was the first woman Commandant of AMC Centre & College, Lucknow, and O i/C Records.
- Sahai is the first woman officer elected as Col Commandant of the Army Medical Corps.
- An Armed Forces Medical College (Pune) alumnus, she specialized in pathology and oncopathology at AIIMS, New Delhi.
- Sahai served as Professor and Head of Lab Sciences at AHRR Army Hospital and Base Hospital Delhi Cantt.

Aishath Azeema Appointed as Maldives Envoy to India

Senior diplomat Aishath Azeema is set to replace Ibrahim Shaheeb as the top Maldivian envoy to India. Azeema, who joined the foreign service in 1988, has served as the Maldivian ambassador to China from June 2019 to September 2023. She also previously served as deputy ambassador of the Maldives to the UK. Shaheeb was appointed in October 2022.

Foot notes:

- Aishath Azeema was appointed as the High Commissioner of Maldives to India, succeeding Ibrahim Shaheeb.
- Shaheeb served as High Commissioner to India from November 2022, during President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih's administration.
- Before his role in India, Shaheeb was the Maldives' Ambassador to Singapore for a year.
- His diplomatic career began in 1991, and he served as Chief of Protocol in 2018.
- Ambassadors and High Commissioners are appointed for three-year terms under the Foreign Service Act.

S Paramesh Appointed as New Indian Coast Guard Chief

The Centre appointed Additional Director General S. Paramesh as the new chief of the Indian Coast Guard. Paramesh will take over following the demise of former DG Rakesh Pal. With over three decades of service, Paramesh has held several key posts, including Deputy Director General (Operations and Coastal Security), and commands of major ICG vessels.

Foot notes:

- S. Paramesh has served in the Indian Coast Guard for over three decades, excelling in both command and staff roles.

- He commanded key vessels such as the Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel 'Samar' and the Offshore Patrol Vessel 'Vishwast'.
- He also served as Chief Staff Officer (Operations) at the Regional Headquarters (East), overseeing operations along India's eastern seaboard.
- He is an alumnus of the National Defence College (NDC) and the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), giving him strong expertise in field operations and strategic planning.

Partha Pratim Sengupta appointed as MD & CEO of Bandhan Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved Partha Pratim Sengupta as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of Bandhan Bank for a period of three years. He replaces Chandra Sekhar Ghosh, the founder MD and CEO, who resigned on July 9, 2024. Ratan Kesh is currently serving as the interim MD and CEO.

Foot notes:

- Sengupta has nearly four decades of experience in the banking sector, having held leadership positions at the State Bank of India (SBI) and Indian Overseas Bank (IOB).
- At SBI, he held various leadership roles in retail and corporate banking, including Deputy Managing Director and Chief Credit Officer.
- Sengupta also managed regional operations as Chief General Manager of the Kolkata Circle, covering West Bengal, Sikkim, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- The bank has maintained a net interest margin of 7.6% in both quarters of FY25 and Q4 of FY24.

About Bandhan Bank:
Headquarters: Kolkata
Founded: 2001
Founder: Chandra Shekhar Ghosh

Rashmika Mandanna Appointed as National Brand Ambassador for Cyber Safety

Film actor Rashmika Mandanna has been appointed as the national brand ambassador of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), an initiative by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to tackle the growing threat of cyber crimes. Her appointment follows her own experience with a deep fake video, highlighting the importance of raising public awareness about cyber safety.

Foot notes:

- As the national brand ambassador for I4C, Rashmika Mandanna will lead campaigns to educate the public on cyber crime.
- Focus areas include Deepfake technology, Cyber bullying, Financial frauds, Online scams.
- With 44.2 million Instagram and 4.9 million X followers, Mandanna can reach a wide audience, making her a key figure in promoting cyber safety.

Kamal El Mernissi appointed as CBD Officer of Biotalys

Biotalys (Euronext Brussels: BTLS), an AgTech company focused on developing protein-based biocontrol solutions for sustainable crop protection, has appointed Kamal El Mernissi as Chief Business Development Officer (CBDO). Kamal brings expertise in the latest technological advancements and trends in the industry, having collaborated with key players in the field. Reporting to Biotalys CEO Kevin Helash, Mr. El Mernissi will spearhead efforts to establish partnerships with major agricultural stakeholders to leverage the AGROBODY Foundry™ technology platform for developing innovative biofungicides and bio-insecticides with new modes of action.

Foot notes:

- He has also worked in sales and marketing roles at leading companies such as DELL and SIKA.
- Kamal holds an Engineering Diploma in Agriculture from the Hassan II Agronomic and Veterinary Institute in Morocco and an MBA from the University of California, Berkeley.
- His appointment as Chief Business Development Officer is effective October 17, 2024.
- Kamal, along with other Biotalys management team members, will represent the company at the Annual Biocontrol Industry Meeting in Basel from October 21 to 23.

About Biotalys:
CEO: Kevin Helash
Headquarters: Belgium

Dr. K Laxman appointed as National Election Officer of BJP

The BJP high command has appointed OBC Morcha leader Dr. K. Laxman as the national returning officer for its organisational elections, marking the first time a leader from South India has been given this responsibility. Naresh Bansal, Rekha Varma, and Sambit Patra have also been named as co-returning officers. Speaking to 'Deccan Chronicle', Dr. Laxman stated that the organisational election process would take around four months, with the returning officers' team overseeing the process at all levels.

Foot notes:

- The process of electing the next BJP president will gain momentum after the Maharashtra and Jharkhand elections conclude on November 23.
- State BJP units are currently electing their office-bearers, who will then vote for the party president.
- Although the president's name is usually decided by the BJP high command in consultation with the RSS leadership, the party follows the formal process of electing its office-bearers.

About BJP:
President: J. P. Nadda
Founders: Atal Bihari Vajpayee, L. K. Advani
Founded: 1980

Thomas Tuchel appointed as Head Coach of England Men's Football team

Thomas Tuchel is set to take on one of the toughest coaching roles in sports as the new head coach of the England men's national team. This marks Tuchel's first international coaching role, having previously managed clubs like Mainz, Borussia Dortmund, Paris Saint-Germain, and Chelsea, where he won the UEFA Champions League in 2021. His most recent position was with Bayern Munich, which he left at the end of last season.

Foot notes:

- As England's head coach, Thomas Tuchel will be supported by Anthony Barry, his assistant at Chelsea and Bayern Munich.
- Anthony Barry, who recently assisted Portugal at the 2023 European Championships, will join Tuchel's coaching staff.
- Tuchel will be the third foreign coach for England, following Sven-Goran Eriksson from Sweden and Fabio Capello from Italy.

Sourav Ganguly appointed as Director of Cricket at JSW Sports

Former BCCI chief Sourav Ganguly has been named the Director of Cricket at JSW Sports, overseeing cricketing properties like Delhi Capitals (IPL, WPL) and Pretoria Capitals (SAT20 League). He scored 11363 runs in his ODI career which stands at 9th position in the world for most runs scored in ODI matches.

Foot notes:

- Sourav Ganguly joined Delhi Capitals in 2019 as an advisor, working with coach Ricky Ponting.
- He later returned to the franchise as Director of Cricket after serving as BCCI president.
- The management of Delhi Capitals' IPL and WPL teams will rotate every two years between GMR Group and JSW Group.
- GMR Group will manage IPL operations for the next two years, while JSW Sports will handle the WPL team.
- Sourav Ganguly has been honored with prestigious awards, including the Arjuna Award for Cricket and the Padma Shri.

Acko Appoints Sandip Goenka as CEO of ACKO Life

Acko has appointed Sandip Goenka as the CEO of its newly launched life insurance division, ACKO Life. As a founding member of the division, Sandip has played a crucial role in establishing the direct-to-consumer (D2C) life insurance business. With over 20 years of experience in life, health, general insurance, and consulting, he brings valuable expertise to enhance growth and operational efficiency. Sandip previously served as CFO at Exide Life Insurance and held leadership roles at TATA AIA and EY. His knowledge in actuarial sciences,

mergers and acquisitions, and cross-cultural business management will be vital for Acko Life's expansion.

Foot notes:

- Focus Areas: Offers innovative, customer-centric life insurance products tailored to the evolving needs of Indian consumers.
- Leadership Expertise: Sandip has over 20 years of experience in life, health, general insurance, reinsurance, and insurance consulting.
- Product Strategy: Emphasizes operational efficiency, product development, financial performance, and long-term growth.
- Company Vision: Acko aims to leverage technology to enhance its life insurance offerings, prioritizing customer satisfaction and corporate governance.
- Global Experience: Leadership benefits from expertise in markets like India, the UK, and Singapore.
- Expansion Plans: ACKO Life is poised for growth under Goenka's leadership, focusing on strategic business management and investor relations.



Hemang Badani appointed as Delhi Capitals Head Coach

Former India batter Hemang Badani has been named the new head coach of Delhi Capitals (DC) for IPL 2025. In addition, DC has appointed former India batter Venugopal Rao as their director of cricket. Badani previously served as head coach of Chepauk Super Gillies, leading them to four TNPL titles, one of which was shared. He also played a pivotal role in the development of young talents like R Sai Kishore, the current Tamil Nadu captain.

Foot notes:

- From 2021 to 2023, Hemang Badani served as the fielding coach and later as the batting coach for Sunrisers Hyderabad.
- He guided the Jaffna Kings to two consecutive titles in the Lankan Premier League.
- He was the batting coach for Sunrisers Eastern Cape, who won the inaugural SA20 title.
- Most recently, Badani was the head coach of Dubai Capitals, leading them to the ILT20 final this year.

Alok Verma Appointed Director in-charge of SAIL's Rourkela Steel Plant

Alok Verma is the new Director in-charge of Steel Authority of India's (SAIL) Rourkela Steel Plant. He has been recommended for the post by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) Panel. As Director-in-charge, Verma will oversee the plant's operations, project implementation and marketing.

Foot notes:

- As Director-in-charge of Rourkela Steel Plant, Alok Verma will serve as a member of the Board of Directors and report to the Chairman.
- He will oversee the overall operations of the Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) and ensure its efficient functioning, along with the associated mines.
- Verma will be responsible for achieving corporate objectives and performance targets.
- His duties include overseeing project implementation at the plant and associated mines, as well as managing marketing and sales of products produced.

IMPORTANT DAYS NEWS

World Students' Day observed on 15th October

World Students' Day, celebrated annually on October 15, marks the birth anniversary of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, honoring his immense contribution to education and his influence as a role model for youth. This day encourages students globally to dream big and strive to achieve their aspirations. In 2024, the theme, "Empowering Students to be Agents of Change," highlights the importance of responsibility, perseverance and the transformative power of education, aiming to inspire future leaders and innovators.

Foot notes:

- World Students' Day reflects Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's belief in education as a transformative tool.
- It encourages students to recognize their potential to shape the future and promotes lifelong learning and social responsibility.
- The celebration inspires students to dream big, stay determined, and pursue their goals with passion and commitment.
- It acknowledges students as future leaders and innovators, highlighting the role of education in building a better world.
- Dr. Kalam's famous quote, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world," emphasizes his belief in education's transformative power.

World Anaesthesia Day observed on 16 October

World Anaesthesia Day, observed annually on October 16th, commemorates the first successful demonstration of ether anaesthesia by William Morton in 1846, a breakthrough that revolutionized pain management in medicine. This day highlights the critical role of anesthesiologists in ensuring patient safety and comfort during surgeries and honors their

expertise and dedication. It also raises awareness of the importance of anaesthesia in modern healthcare, recognizing its contribution to better surgical outcomes. The day celebrates advancements in anaesthesiology and ongoing innovations that enhance patient care worldwide.

Foot notes:

- Theme: "Workforce Well Being", shedding the spotlight on the vital link between anaesthesia workforce well-being and patient care.
- World Anaesthesia Day commemorates William Morton's successful demonstration of ether anaesthesia on October 16, 1846, at Massachusetts General Hospital.
- This event revolutionized surgical care and pain management, marking the birth of modern anaesthesia.
- The World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA) has organized this global observance since 1903.
- It promotes education, safety, and access to quality anaesthesia care, celebrating over a century of advancements in healthcare and pain relief.

OBITUARY NEWS

Indranand Singh Jha, Akashvani Darbhanga Radio Presenter passed away

Indranand Singh Jha, a renowned former radio presenter and compere at Akashvani Darbhanga, passed away at the age of 77 in his ancestral village, Chanaur, Darbhanga. Affectionately known as KhurKhur Bhai, Jha gained immense popularity for his rural radio talk program, ‘Gamghar’, which resonated with listeners throughout his career. His distinctive voice and engaging style made him a cherished figure in radio broadcasting.

Foot notes:

- Indranand Singh Jha made significant contributions to Akashvani Darbhanga with his engaging programs.
- He amplified rural voices in media, entertaining, educating, and informing the local population.
- His work fostered community spirit and cultural pride through radio.
- Tributes from various organizations reflect the deep respect he earned over the years.

Veteran Actor Atul Parchure passed away

Renowned Marathi actor Atul Parchure passed away at the age of 57, following a brave two-year battle with cancer. Celebrated for his remarkable versatility in theater, cinema and television, Parchure’s legacy extends beyond his performances to his resilient spirit and

unwavering positivity. He began his career in 1985 with the Marathi film 'Khichdi', marking the start of a long and successful journey in the entertainment industry.

Foot notes:

- Atul Parchure became a household name for his comic timing in numerous Marathi plays and films like 'Vasu Chi Sasu', 'Navra Majha Navsacha', 'Priyatama' and 'Tarun Turk Mhatare Arka'.
- He gained widespread recognition on Hindi television through shows such as 'Comedy Nights With Kapil', 'R K Laxman Ki Duniya' and 'Comedy Circus'.
- Parchure featured in notable Hindi films, including 'Salaam-E-Ishq', 'Partner', 'All the Best', 'Khatta Meetha', 'Bbuddah…Hoga Terra Baap' and 'Brave Heart'.
- He courageously battled cancer, earning admiration from fans and colleagues.
- He spent his final days at H N Reliance Foundation Hospital, where he was admitted following a decline in health.

Liam Payne passed away in Buenos Aires

Liam Payne, a former member of boyband One Direction, has died after falling from the third floor of a hotel in Buenos Aires. He was 31. He recently celebrated his 31st birthday in the UK, sharing moments on his Snapchat.

Foot notes:

- Liam Payne was spotted in Argentina attending his former bandmate Niall Horan's concert on October 2, as seen in social media videos from the event.
- He was born in Wolverhampton, West Midlands, Payne is the youngest of three siblings and studied music technology at the City of Wolverhampton College.
- He is best known as a member of the renowned British boyband One Direction, which also featured Harry Styles, Zayn Malik, Louis Tomlinson, and Niall Horan.
- One Direction formed in 2010 after all members participated in the UK version of the reality competition show "The X Factor."

Two Athletes Die at Triathlon World Championships in Spain

Two athletes, one from Britain and the other from Mexico, tragically died on the first day of the Torremolinos-Andalucia Triathlon Championship Finals. Both athletes were competing in the age-group sprint event. British Triathlon confirmed the death of one of its team members, without disclosing the individual's identity or cause of death. The Mexican Triathlon Federation identified the other athlete as 75-year-old Roger Mas Colomber.

Foot notes:

- British Triathlon confirmed the death of one of its Age-Group Team members, part of the veteran competitors' sub-discipline.
- World Triathlon expressed condolences to the athletes' families, friends, and federations on social media.
- Local reports stated the British athlete was a 57-year-old man who died of a heart attack.
- Over 4,000 triathletes registered for this year's age-group event, from a total of more than 5,500 participants, according to the Spanish Triathlon Federation.

Veteran Bengali Actor Debraj Roy passed away

Veteran Bengali cinema and Doordarshan personality Debraj Roy passed away at 70, at a private hospital in Salt Lake on Thursday evening. He had been unwell for several months. Roy had collaborated with distinguished filmmakers such as Satyajit Ray and Mrinal Sen. Early in his career, his captivating performance in Ray's film 'Pratidwandi' left a lasting impression on audiences and cinephiles.

Foot notes:

- Debraj Roy made his acting debut in Satyajit Ray's 'Pratidwandi' (1970) and gained wider attention with Mrinal Sen's 'Calcutta 71' (1971).
- He starred in several notable films, including 'Dujone Milbo Abaar', 'Smriti Katha Bole', 'Jodi KagojeLekho Naam', 'BarodirBramhachari Baba Lokenath' and 'Sri Ramkrishna Vivekananda'.
- His final film was 'BhootAdbhoot', released in 2014.
- Roy was also a popular newsreader for DDK Kolkata and performed in numerous radio dramas on Akashvani Kolkata.
- Throughout his career, he worked with celebrated directors like Tarun Majumdar, Bibhuti Laha, and Tapan Sinha, making a lasting impact on Indian cinema.


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