




# Current Affairs

09 Apr, 2025

## Viral Davda Appointed as Deputy CIO at Bombay Stock Exchange



### 1. Viral Davda Appointed as Deputy CIO at Bombay Stock Exchange

Viral Davda has been serving as the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) at the National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) since 2021. Prior to this role, he held various positions within NCDEX, including Assistant Vice President - Technology and Executive Vice President and Head - Technology. His career also includes experience as a Senior Executive in Information Systems at Aditya Birla Minacs. Viral Davda earned a degree in Strategic Leadership from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.



#### Foot notes:

- **Experience:** Davda brings over two decades of experience in the tech and financial sectors to his new role.
- **Responsibilities:** As Deputy CIO, he will lead key technology strategies, drive large-scale transformation initiatives, and spearhead BSE's commitment to technology excellence and innovation in capital markets.
- **BSE's Vision:** His appointment aligns with BSE's vision to modernize and scale its IT infrastructure in response to the rapidly evolving financial ecosystem.
- **Career Milestone:** This appointment is a major career milestone for Davda, highlighting his expertise and the value he can bring to a prestigious financial institution like BSE.
- **Market Needs:** Davda's role will help BSE keep pace with changing market needs, ensuring the exchange remains competitive and efficient.

- **Institutional Significance:** BSE is one of Asia's oldest and most prestigious financial institutions, making Davda's appointment a notable development in the financial sector.

## 2. India, Nepal Supreme Courts Sign MoU for Judicial Cooperation

The Supreme Courts of India and Nepal signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance judicial cooperation between the two nations. The signing ceremony was attended by Chief Justice of Nepal Prakash Man Singh Raut and Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna. This MoU aims to facilitate the mutual exchange of information on legal developments and promote interactions among judges and judicial officials through various programs, including exchange visits and training sessions. Recognizing the role of technology in improving judicial processes, the agreement also emphasizes sharing technological advancements utilized in their respective courts.



### Foot notes:

- **Judicial Cooperation:** The MoU aims to develop, promote, and strengthen cooperation between the judiciaries of India and Nepal, fostering a closer relationship between the two nations.
- **Exchange Programs:** The agreement includes provisions for mutual exchange of information on latest developments in law and justice, as well as interaction among judges and officials through exchange visits, trainings, and academic programs.
- **Technology Sharing:** The MoU emphasizes the importance of technology in clearing backlogs and expediting court procedures, allowing for the sharing of information on technology employed in their respective courts.
- **Joint Working Group:** A Joint Working Group will be formed, comprising officials from both judiciaries, to work out plans and modalities for promoting and strengthening judicial cooperation.

## 3. NASA Welcomes Bangladesh as the Newest Artemis Accords Signatory

On April 8, 2025, Bangladesh became the 54th nation to sign the Artemis Accords, committing to the peaceful and cooperative exploration of space. The signing ceremony took place in Dhaka, with Bangladesh's Secretary of Defense, Ashraf Uddin, signing on behalf of the country. NASA's acting Administrator, Janet Petro, welcomed Bangladesh's participation, emphasizing the nation's role in shaping the



future of space exploration. The Artemis Accords, established in 2020, outline principles for safe and sustainable space activities among signatory nations.

**Foot notes:**

- **54th Signatory:** Bangladesh became the 54th nation to sign the Artemis Accords, a set of guidelines for responsible space exploration, on April 8, 2025.
- **Commitment to Space Exploration:** The signing ceremony, held in Dhaka, marks Bangladesh's commitment to peaceful, sustainable, and transparent space exploration, benefiting humanity as a whole.
- **Key Principles:** The Artemis Accords establish a framework for cooperation in civil exploration and peaceful use of the Moon, Mars, and other astronomical objects, grounded in the Outer Space Treaty and other agreements.
- **Enhanced Cooperation:** Bangladesh's signature strengthens its engagement with NASA and the international community, paving the way for collaborative space exploration and innovation.
- **Global Participation:** The Artemis Accords have grown to include over 50 countries since their establishment in 2020, demonstrating a united effort to promote responsible space activities.

#### 4. Werner Herzog to Receive Golden Lion at Venice Festival

Renowned German filmmaker Werner Herzog will be honored with the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement at the 82nd Venice International Film Festival, scheduled from August 27 to September 6, 2025. Herzog, aged 81, has an extensive career spanning over six decades, during which he has directed, produced, and written approximately 70 films, including notable works like "Fitzcarraldo" and "Grizzly Man." In addition to his filmmaking endeavors, he has accumulated more than 30 acting credits in film and television.



**Foot notes:**

- **Lifetime Achievement:** Herzog will be recognized for his contributions to cinema, solidifying his status as a master filmmaker.
- **Festival Dates:** The 82nd Venice International Film Festival will take place from August 27 to September 6, 2025.
- **Current Projects:** Despite this recognition, Herzog remains active, having recently finished a documentary in Africa, "Ghost Elephants," and currently shooting his next feature film, "Bucking Fastard," in Ireland.

- **Influential Works:** Herzog is known for films like "Aguirre, the Wrath of God," "Fitzcarraldo," "Nosferatu the Vampyre," and "Grizzly Man," showcasing his innovative storytelling and filmmaking style.
- **Previous Recipients:** Past Golden Lion recipients include notable filmmakers and actors such as David Cronenberg, Jane Fonda, Julie Andrews, David Lynch, and Pedro Almodóvar.

## 5. India Becomes World's Third Largest Solar and Wind Power Generator, Surpassing Germany

India has become the world's third-largest generator of electricity from solar and wind energy, surpassing Germany. This achievement marks a significant milestone in India's transition to renewable energy and its commitment to sustainable development. According to recent data, wind and solar now contribute to about 10% of the country's total electricity generation. The growth is attributed to strong policy support, large-scale installations, and technological advancements. India now trails only China and the United States in renewable energy output from these sources. This progress reinforces India's global standing in clean energy leadership and its efforts to combat climate change.



### Foot notes:

- **Renewable Energy Capacity:** India's non-fossil fuel-based energy capacity reached 217.62 GW, with solar energy accounting for 47% of the installed renewable capacity.
- **Record Additions:** In 2024, India added a record 24.5 GW of solar capacity and 3.4 GW of wind capacity, driven by government incentives and policy reforms.
- **Global Ranking:** India now ranks third globally in wind and solar energy production, with wind and solar accounting for 10% of the country's electricity generation and 15% globally.
- **Renewable Energy Potential:** India's renewable energy potential stands at approximately 21 lakh MW, with wind power accounting for 55% of this potential.
- **Government Initiatives:** The Indian government has implemented policies to boost renewable energy adoption, including tax incentives, subsidies for solar panel manufacturers, and targets for renewable capacity additions.
- **Future Goals:** India aims to achieve 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based energy by 2030 and enhance domestic manufacturing of solar and wind technologies to reduce dependence on imports.



## 6. MSRDC Wins SKOCH 2025 Award for Samruddhi Mahamarg

This recognition was awarded for the successful implementation of the Hindu Hrudaysamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg project. Dr. Anil Kumar Gaikwad, Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of MSRDC, accepted the award during the 100th SKOCH Summit at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi. The Samruddhi Mahamarg is a high-speed greenfield expressway connecting 392 villages across 26 talukas in 10 districts of Maharashtra. This project has significantly reduced travel time between Nagpur and Mumbai from 16-18 hours to approximately 7-8 hours.



### Foot notes:

- **Award Recognition:** The Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) received the prestigious SKOCH 2025 Award for its flagship project, the Hindu Hrudaysamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg.
- **Project Impact:** The Samruddhi Mahamarg expressway connects 392 villages, enhancing connectivity and economic growth in the region, particularly in Vidarbha and Marathwada.
- **Award Ceremony:** The award was presented to MSRDC Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Dr. Anilkumar Gaikwad, at the 100th SKOCH Summit held at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi.
- **Infrastructure Excellence:** The project showcases infrastructure excellence, reducing travel times and spurring economic development in the region.
- **MSRDC's Achievement:** The award is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the MSRDC team, recognizing their efforts in successfully implementing the Samruddhi Mahamarg project.

## 7. Vanesa onboards Kiara Advani as Brand Ambassador

The Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) was honored with the prestigious SKOCH 2025 Award in the Gold category for infrastructure. This recognition was awarded for the successful implementation of the Hindu Hrudaysamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg project. Dr. Anil Kumar Gaikwad, Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of MSRDC, accepted the award during the 100th SKOCH Summit at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi. The



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**Foot notes:**

- **Brand Alignment:** Kiara Advani embodies the essence of Vanesa, celebrating individuality and modern femininity through her elegance, charm, and relatable appeal.
- **Confidence and Self-Expression:** Advani's association with Vanesa aims to inspire confidence and self-expression among women, reflecting the brand's philosophy of empowerment.
- **New Product Line:** Vanesa plans to leverage this partnership to launch a new line of products tailored to the modern Indian woman, focusing on versatility and elegance in fragrances.
- **Marketing Strategy:** The brand will increase awareness through social media and influencer collaborations, targeting consumers seeking refined and sophisticated fragrances.
- **Kiara's Endorsement:** Kiara Advani expressed her excitement, stating that Vanesa's celebration of individuality aligns with her own values of confidence and authenticity.

### 8. Satish Chavva Appointed as CEO of OIJIF

Satish Chavva has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Oman India Joint Investment Fund (OIJIF), effective April 1, 2025. He brings over 20 years of experience in private equity investing and finance, having previously served as Director of Investments at OIJIF from 2016 to 2022. Prior to rejoining OIJIF, Chavva held various roles at British International Investment (BII), including heading Direct Private Equity for South Asia. His earlier career includes over nine years at Citi Group in India and the UK, particularly with Citi Venture Capital International (CVCI). Chavva holds a Bachelor of Technology from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, a Master of Science in Computational and Applied Mathematics from the University of Texas.



**Foot notes:**

- **Leadership Role:** Chavva brings over 20 years of experience in private equity and finance to his new role, focusing on strategic growth and long-term value creation.

- **Previous Experience:** He previously held leadership positions at British International Investment (BII), including heading Direct Private Equity for South Asia.
- **Educational Background:** Chavva holds a Bachelor of Technology from IIT Bombay, a Master of Science in Computational and Applied Mathematics from the University of Texas, and an MBA from INSEAD.
- **Investment Portfolio:** OIIF has invested in several successful companies, including Stanley Lifestyles, Divgi TorqTransfer Systems, Annapurna Finance, Senco Gold, Prince Pipes, Capital Small Finance Bank, and HomeLane.
- **Future Directions:** Under Chavva's leadership, OIIF aims to scale its investments across high-growth sectors, enhancing portfolio performance and delivering increased returns and stability for investors.

### 9. Network18 appoints Mitul Sangani as CEO

Network18 appointed Mitul Sangani as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of News18 Digital. In this role, Sangani will oversee product development, technology, audience growth, and revenue for News18 and Local18. Prior to this, he served as the CEO for Indian languages businesses within the group, managing both television channels and digital properties in Hindi and regional languages. The sales teams for News18.com and Local18 will now report directly to him. Sangani will collaborate closely with Rahul Joshi, Managing Director at Network18 Media, and will continue reporting to Avinash Kaul, CEO of Network18 (Broadcast), for digital revenues.



#### Foot notes:

- **Leadership Roles:** Sangani and Singhvi will work closely with Rahul Joshi, Managing Director at Network18 Media, to drive the company's digital and strategic initiatives.
- **Reporting Structure:** Mitul Sangani will continue to report to Avinash Kaul for digital revenues, ensuring a smooth transition and alignment with the company's goals.
- **Digital Focus:** As CEO of News18 Digital, Sangani will lead the company's digital efforts, building on the success of News18's online presence and expanding its reach.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** Puneet Singhvi, as CSO, will focus on developing strategic partnerships and collaborations to drive growth and innovation for Network18.

- **Industry Experience:** Both Sangani and Singhvi bring significant industry experience and expertise to their new roles, positioning Network18 for continued success in the media landscape.

#### 10. Ram Sahay Pandey Folk Dancer passed away

Renowned Rai folk dancer Ram Sahay Pandey passed away on April 8, 2025, at the age of 92 in Sagar district, Madhya Pradesh, following a prolonged illness. Born on March 11, 1933, in Maddhar Patha village, Pandey dedicated his life to popularizing the Rai dance, a traditional art form of the Bundelkhand region. Over his six-decade-long career, he performed in more than 100 events across 18 countries, earning international acclaim.



In recognition of his significant contributions to the arts, he was awarded the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civilian honor, in 2022. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav expressed deep sorrow over Pandey's demise, highlighting his role in bringing global recognition to Bundelkhand's folk art. Pandey is survived by his wife and son.

#### Foot notes:

- **Legendary Folk Dancer:** Pandey was a master of Rai folk dance, which he elevated from a stigmatized art form to a globally recognized tradition.
- **Breaking Social Barriers:** Born into a farming Brahmin family, Pandey defied societal norms by practicing Rai dance, traditionally performed by the marginalized Bedia community.
- **Awards and Recognition:** He received the prestigious Padma Shri award in 2022 and the title 'Nritya Shiromani' in 1980 for his contributions to folk art.
- **International Performances:** Pandey represented India on global stages, performing in Japan (1984) and Dubai (2006), and founded the Bundelkhandi Lok Nritya Natya Kala Parishad to promote regional culture.



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