

Current Affairs

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Amol Palekar to Receive META Lifetime Achievement Award 2026



1. Amol Palekar to Receive META Lifetime Achievement Award 2026

Prestigious Recognition: Veteran actor and filmmaker Amol Palekar will be honored at the 21st edition of the Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META) in New Delhi.

Legacy of Work: The award celebrates his "extraordinary contribution" to Indian theatre and cinema, particularly his "boy-next-door" persona and his pioneering work in alternative theatre spaces.

The Event: The festival will take place from March 19 to 25, 2026, with the Lifetime Achievement honor being the highlight of the awards ceremony.



2. India & Uzbekistan Launch Pharma-Nutraceutical Corridor

Strategic Trade Bridge: The corridor is designed to streamline the export and import of pharmaceutical and nutraceutical products between the two nations, leveraging Uzbekistan as a gateway to Central Asia.

Regulatory Alignment: Both countries aim to harmonize standards and certification processes to reduce trade barriers and ensure the quality of health supplements and medicines.

Economic Impact: This initiative is expected to boost India's pharma exports significantly while helping Uzbekistan develop its domestic manufacturing capabilities through Indian expertise.



3. India Remains World's 2nd Biggest Arms Importer after Ukraine

Global Ranking: According to the 2026 SIPRI report, India remains the world's second-largest arms importer (8.2% of global imports), with Ukraine taking the top spot (9.7%) due to its ongoing conflict.

Supplier Trends: Russia remains India's top supplier (40%), but its share has dropped significantly as India diversifies its imports toward *France, Israel, and the USA*.

Indigenous Push: Despite the high ranking, India's total imports fell by 4% compared to the previous five-year block, reflecting the impact of the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" self-reliance initiative.



4. India & Seychelles Begin Joint Military 'Exercise LAMITIYE 2026'

11th Edition: The biennial exercise (meaning 'Friendship' in Creole) is being held at the Seychelles Defence Academy from March 9 to 20, 2026.

Tri-Service Participation: For the first time, this edition features a tri-service Indian contingent, including the Army (Assam Regiment), Navy (INS Trikand), and Air Force (C-130 aircraft).

Focus Areas: The drills focus on sub-conventional operations in semi-urban environments and enhancing interoperability for international peacekeeping missions.



5. Smriti Mandhana Retains No.1 Spot, Jemimah Rodrigues Slips to 12th

Top Performance: Indian opener Smriti Mandhana has maintained her position as the World No.1 in the latest ICC Women's ODI Batting Rankings following consistent performances.

Ranking Shift: Middle-order batter Jemimah Rodrigues saw a slight decline, slipping out of the top 10 to the 12th position after a quiet series.

Team Impact: Mandhana's dominance continues to anchor India's top order as the team prepares for the upcoming World Cup cycle.



6. Tata Advanced Systems Partners with Ramco for IAF C-130J MRO Facility

Strategic Alliance: Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) has partnered with Ramco Systems to implement advanced aviation software for the Indian Air Force's (IAF) C-130J Super Hercules fleet.

MRO Hub: The partnership focuses on setting up a world-class Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facility in India, reducing the need to send aircraft abroad for servicing.

Digital Transformation: Ramco will provide the "Aviation Suite V5.9" to digitize and automate maintenance logs, supply chain management, and compliance for the fleet.



7. Pieter Elbers Steps Down as IndiGo CEO

Leadership Change: Pieter Elbers, who joined the airline in 2022, has announced his decision to step down as the CEO of India's largest carrier, IndiGo.



Major Milestone: Under his leadership, IndiGo saw massive international expansion and placed a historic order for 500 Airbus aircraft in 2023.

Succession: The airline is expected to initiate a global search for a successor to maintain its dominant 60%+ market share in the Indian aviation sector.

8. Renowned Indologist Hermann Kulke Passes Away

Academic Loss: German historian and Indologist Hermann Kulke, a Padma Shri awardee (2010), passed away, leaving a massive void in the study of Indian history and culture.



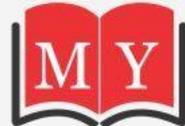
Specialization: He was world-renowned for his extensive research on Odisha's history, specifically the Jagannath Temple and the Gajapati kings.

Seminal Work: He is best known for co-authoring the definitive textbook A History of India, which is widely used by students and scholars across the globe.

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