

THE DAILY GK DOSE

HDFC LIFE REAPPOINTS VIBHA PADALKAR AS MD & CEO

- **Extended 5-Year Tenure:** The Board of Directors approved her reappointment for a second five-year term, which will officially begin on September 12, 2026, and run through 2031.
- **Regulatory & Leadership Continuity:** This move ensures leadership stability as the company navigates major industry shifts, including the IRDAI's recent clarification on CEO tenure caps and increased competition from new market entrants.
- **Track Record of Growth:** Since taking the helm in 2018, Padalkar has been credited with overseeing the company's successful 2017 listing, managing the industry's first major M&A (Exide Life acquisition), and maintaining HDFC Life's position as a top-tier private insurer.

Footnotes: HDFC Life's MD & CEO: Vibha Padalkar, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 2000

ARTHUR LAW NAMED YOUNG GLOBAL LEADER 2026 BY WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

- **Urban Innovation:** Law is recognized for transforming urban living by turning traditional self-storage into a tech-enabled platform. He focuses on solving the spatial crisis in densely populated Asian cities by optimizing underutilized industrial assets into modern, high-value storage hubs.
- **"Conscience-Led Capital":** An Oxford-educated mathematician and former investment banker (Goldman Sachs, HSBC), Law is noted for bridging the gap between institutional finance—partnering

with firms like Blackstone—and social purpose, treating space as a scalable service to reduce urban psychological and physical strain.

- **Global Leadership Cohort:** He joins a highly selective group of 118 individuals from 55 countries for 2026. This class includes diverse figures such as Isha Ambani, Jay Shah (ICC Chairman), and Olympic gold medalist Thea LaFond, all recognized for their potential to shape a more resilient and inclusive future.

SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV ANNOUNCES SHEKHA JHEEL BIRD SANCTUARY AS INDIA'S 99TH RAMSAR SITE



- **Location & Rank:** Situated in the Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh, Shekha Jheel is now the 12th Ramsar site in the state. Uttar Pradesh currently holds the second-highest number of Ramsar sites in India, following Tamil Nadu (which has 20).
- **Ecological Significance:** The lake is a perennial freshwater body that formed following the construction of the Upper Ganges Canal. It serves as a vital stopover on the Central Asian Flyway, hosting over 60 wetland-dependent species and thousands of migratory birds like the Bar-headed Goose, Painted Stork, and various duck species during the winter.

TRICK OF THE DAY

LIGHT & MIRRORS

- **Image on retina:** *Real, inverted & smaller*
- **Plane mirror image:** *Virtual, erect & same size*
- **Best reflector of light:** *Plane mirror*
- **Images between two mirrors:** *Infinite*
- **Air bubble in water:** *Acts like concave lens*
- **Electric fuse:** *Copper + Tin + Lead*
- **Heater wire:** *Nichrome*

RBL BANK REAPPOINTS DEEPAK KUMAR AS CHIEF RISK OFFICER

- **Extended Tenure:** The reappointment is for a further six-month term, effective from May 1, 2026. This ensures continuity in the bank's risk management framework during a period of evolving regulatory landscapes.
- **Compliance with New Norms:** The extension aligns with the RBI's Commercial Banks – Governance Directions, 2025, as well as SEBI's latest listing regulations.
- **Veteran Expertise:** Kumar has over 40 years of experience in the banking sector. Before joining RBL Bank in 2020, he held senior roles at the State Bank of India and was notably part of the RBI-appointed resolution committee for the PMC Bank crisis.

Footnotes: RBL Bank's MD & CEO: R Subramaniakumar, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1943

VIKTOR AXELSEN ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM BADMINTON

- **Reason for Retirement:** The 32-year-old cited persistent back issues and chronic nerve pain as the primary reasons. Despite undergoing surgery in April 2025, he stated that his body no longer allows him to train or compete at the elite level required for professional badminton.
- **Historic Career Legacy:** Axelsen retires as one of the most successful players in history, most notably as a two-time Olympic gold medalist (Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024). He also secured two World Championship titles (2017, 2022) and spent over 100 consecutive weeks as the world No. 1.
- **Impact on the Sport:** Beyond his titles, the 1.94m (6'4") shuttler was credited with redefining the physical profile of men's singles.

ASHOK MEENA CHAIRS 7TH DDWS PEYJAL SAMVAD

- **"Jal Arpan" Initiative:** Secretary Meena highlighted the introduction of Jal Arpan, a protocol for the systematic handing over of water supply assets to Gram Panchayats. This involves a mandatory 15-day trial run to ensure the quality and reliability of the system before the local community takes full ownership.
- **Digital Governance & Accountability:** The meeting stressed the creation of digital footprints through tools like the Sujalam Bharat App and Sujala Gaon IDs. It also featured "Jal Seva Aankalan," a mechanism

that allows consumers and Gram Panchayats to self-assess water quality and service levels, moving beyond simple infrastructure metrics.

- **Funding Linked to Performance:** It was clearly stated that future funding under the Jal Jeevan Mission is now closely tied to the functionality and performance of water schemes.

CHANDRABABU NAIDU INAUGURATES SRM UNIVERSITY-AP QUANTUM FACILITY



- **India's First Open-Access Lab:** The system at SRM University-AP, named Amaravati 1S, is the first of its kind in an Indian academic institution. Unlike traditional "black box" quantum systems, this facility provides open access to students, researchers, and startups to test and certify their own quantum hardware and algorithms.
- **Indigenous Deep-Tech Milestone:** Developed by a national consortium including the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), IISc, and DRDO, the facility boasts over 80% indigenous components. It was built by Indian startups Qubitech and Qbit Force in a record eight months.
- **Extreme Engineering:** The facility utilizes superconducting technology and operates at

cryogenic temperatures nearing absolute zero (-273°C). This environment is essential for stabilizing qubits, the fundamental building blocks of quantum computing, allowing for high-precision research in drug discovery, climate modeling, and cryptography.

INDIA LAUNCHES FIRST ADVANCED 3D GLASS CHIP PACKAGING UNIT IN ODISHA

- **Pioneering Glass Substrate Technology:** This is the first facility in India to move away from traditional organic or silicon substrates to glass substrates. Glass offers superior flatness, better thermal stability, and lower signal loss, making it the preferred material for next-generation, high-performance chips.
- **Economic & Industrial Scale:** With a strategic investment of approximately ₹1,943 crore (supported by both Central and State fiscal incentives), the unit is designed for massive scale.
- **Strategic Global Positioning:** By focusing on Heterogeneous Integration (3DHI), India is leapfrogging into a high-end niche of the semiconductor value chain. These advanced modules are critical for "deep-tech" sectors, including Generative AI, 5G/6G telecommunications, aerospace, and defense electronics.

Footnotes: Odisha's CM: Mohan Charan Majhi, Governor: Kambhampati Hari Babu, Capital: Bhubaneswar

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

23.04.2026 / THURSDAY

- **23rd April: World Book & Copyright Day**
- **Theme 2026: "Read Your Way"**
- **A central pillar of the 2026 observance is the focus on the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.**