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WEEKLY — Current Affairs

NATIONAL NEWS

CP Radhakrishnan elected as India's 15th Vice President

- **Election Result:** CP Radhakrishnan won the election with 452 votes, defeating Opposition nominee B Sudershan Reddy who secured 300 votes. A total of 767 votes were cast, with 752 being valid and 15 invalid.
- **Background:** Radhakrishnan is a veteran of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and has deep roots in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He served as the BJP's State President in Tamil Nadu from 2004 to 2007.
- **Political Experience:** Radhakrishnan has been a Member of Lok Sabha from Coimbatore twice and held key positions such as Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Textiles and member of the Parliamentary Committee for Public Sector Undertakings.
- **Governor Roles:** Before becoming Vice President, Radhakrishnan served as the Governor of Maharashtra since July 31, 2024, and previously as the Governor of Jharkhand for nearly one and a half years.

Coal India and NSTFDC Sign MoU to Empower Tribal Students via Eklavya Schools

- **Partnership Details:** Coal India Limited (CIL) and the National Scheduled Tribe Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on September 9, 2025, to support tribal students in Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) across Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha.
- **Objectives:** The partnership aims to bridge the digital divide, promote menstrual health and hygiene, and provide career counseling and mentorship to over 30,000 tribal students in 76 EMRS.
- **Infrastructure Upgrades:** The initiative includes setting up computer labs with 1,200 computers and 1,200 UPS units, as well as providing 110 tablets to enhance digital learning.
- **Health and Hygiene:** The partnership will also provide 420 sanitary pad vending machines and 420 sanitary pad incinerators to promote menstrual health and hygiene among girl students.

PhonePe partners with SIDBI, MSME Ministry on Udyam

- **Simplifying Udyam Registration:** The partnership allows micro-merchants to get an Udyam registration number and certificate digitally through a seamless, end-to-

end process on the PhonePe platform, eliminating the need for paperwork and intermediaries.

- **Access to Government Schemes and Benefits:** By formalizing their business identity, micro-merchants can unlock a wide range of government benefits, including subsidies, tax benefits, and easier access to formal credit and financial services.
- **Enhancing Credit Flow:** A key goal of the collaboration is to provide informal businesses with a formal identity that makes them eligible for institutional credit from banks and financial institutions, thereby improving their access to funding for growth.
- **Accelerating Formalization:** With PhonePe's massive merchant base of over 45 million across the country, this initiative is expected to significantly accelerate the formalization of the unorganized micro-enterprise sector in India.

Acharya Devvrat Gets Additional Charge as Maharashtra Governor

- **Temporary Appointment:** This is an additional charge for Acharya Devvrat, meaning he will concurrently serve as the Governor of both Gujarat and Maharashtra. This is a temporary arrangement until a permanent Governor for Maharashtra is appointed.
- **Constitutional Mandate:** The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, made the appointment exercising her powers under the Constitution. When the office of a Governor falls vacant, the President can appoint the Governor of a neighboring state to assume the responsibilities.
- **Vacancy due to Vice-Presidential Election:** The need for this appointment arose after C. P. Radhakrishnan, who was serving as the Governor of Maharashtra, was elected as the 14th Vice-President of India.
- **Experienced Administrator:** Acharya Devvrat is a seasoned administrator, having served as the Governor of Gujarat since 2019. Prior to that, he was the Governor of Himachal Pradesh. His experience is expected to ensure the smooth functioning of the gubernatorial duties in Maharashtra.

Foot notes:

About Maharashtra-

- **Previous Governor:** C. P. Radhakrishnan
- **Chief Minister:** Devendra Fadnavis
- **Capital:** Mumbai

IIM Ahmedabad Launches First Global Campus in Dubai

- **A Historic First for IIMs:** This is the first time an Indian Institute of Management has established a full-fledged overseas campus. This move is seen as a major step towards the internationalization of Indian education and is expected to enhance the global brand of one of India's most prestigious educational institutions.
- **Strategic Location in a Global Hub:** The choice of Dubai as the location for its first international campus is a strategic one. Dubai's status as a thriving global business and travel hub provides IIM-A with a launchpad to attract a diverse pool of students and forge collaborations with international corporations. The strong bilateral ties between India and the UAE also played a crucial role in this decision.
- **Initial Program Offerings:** The Dubai campus will initially offer a one-year Global MBA program specifically designed for experienced professionals and entrepreneurs. In addition to this flagship program, the campus will also provide a range of executive education courses tailored to the needs of the regional business landscape, with a focus on areas like AI and innovation.
- **Phased Development Plan:** The operations of the IIM Ahmedabad-Dubai campus are commencing in September 2025 at the Dubai International Academic City (DIAC). There is a clear roadmap for future growth, with plans to move to a larger, permanent campus by 2029. This phased approach will allow the institution to establish its presence and scale its operations over time.

Foot notes:

About IIM-

- **Chairman:** Pankaj Patel
- **Established:** 1961

AIIMS Delhi launched the AI-based mental health program Never Alone

- **AI-Powered Mental Health Support:** "Never Alone" utilizes Artificial Intelligence to offer a comprehensive mental wellness solution. The program is delivered through a secure, web-based application that is accessible 24/7 via WhatsApp. This allows for initial screening, intervention, and consistent follow-up with students who may be struggling with mental health issues.
- **Focus on Suicide Prevention and Stigma Reduction:** The primary goal of the program is to tackle the alarming rate of suicidal tendencies among students by providing early and accessible intervention. By offering a confidential and easily accessible platform, "Never Alone" aims to minimize the stigma that often prevents young people from seeking help for their mental health concerns.
- **Accessible and Affordable for Institutions:** The program has been designed to be highly accessible for educational institutions. The basic screening for mental health

issues through the "Never Alone" app is available at a nominal cost of 70 paise per student per day. To facilitate wider reach, AIIMS Delhi will provide the service to all other AIIMS institutions across the country at no cost.

- **Hybrid Model of Care:** While the initial interaction and screening are AI-driven, the program facilitates both virtual and in-person consultations with mental health and wellness experts. This hybrid approach ensures that students receive the appropriate level of care, from initial confidential support to professional psychiatric help when needed.

Foot notes:

About AIIMS-

- **President:** Mansukh L. Mandaviya
- **Founded:** 1956

TCIL-PNB MoU to Boost IT Infrastructure and Banking Tech

- **Modernizing Banking Infrastructure:** The core objective of this MoU is to upgrade and modernize PNB's existing IT infrastructure. This includes enhancing data centers, improving network security, and implementing more efficient communication systems across the bank's extensive network of branches and offices.
- **Focus on Cutting-Edge Technologies:** The partnership will prioritize the implementation of next-generation banking technologies. This involves exploring and integrating solutions in areas like artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), blockchain, and the Internet of Things (IoT) to improve operational efficiency, customer service, and fraud detection.
- **Enhancing Cybersecurity Measures:** A critical aspect of the collaboration is to strengthen PNB's cybersecurity framework. With the increasing threat of cyberattacks in the financial sector, TCIL will provide its expertise in securing the bank's digital assets, protecting sensitive customer data, and ensuring compliance with regulatory standards.
- **Expanding Digital Services:** The MoU will support PNB in expanding its portfolio of digital banking services. This includes the development of more sophisticated mobile banking applications, seamless online payment gateways.

Foot notes:

About PNB-

- **MD & CEO:** Ashok Chandra
- **Headquarters:** Delhi
- **Founded:** 1894

About TCIL-

- **Chairman & MD:** Sanjeev Kumar
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi

Udaipur was awarded the Ramsar Wetland City Accreditation in 2025

- **First Indian Cities to Receive Accreditation:** Udaipur, along with Indore, holds the distinction of being the first two Indian cities to be recognized under the Ramsar Convention's Wetland City Accreditation scheme. This marks a significant milestone for India in its efforts toward urban environmental conservation.
- **Recognition of Wetland Conservation Efforts:** The accreditation acknowledges Udaipur's exemplary initiatives in safeguarding its urban wetlands, including the five major lakes: Pichola, Fateh Sagar, Rang Sagar, Swaroop Sagar, and Doodh Talai. The city's nomination was based on its long-standing conservation measures, community engagement in lake protection, and the integration of wetland management into its urban planning.
- **Part of a Global Network:** By receiving this accreditation, Udaipur joins a select group of cities worldwide that are recognized for their sustainable wetland conservation practices. This recognition provides the city with international positive publicity and a platform to share its successful strategies with other global cities.
- **Benefits of the Accreditation:** The status as a "Wetland City" will promote eco-tourism and create sustainable livelihoods for local communities. It also reinforces the city's brand as the "City of Lakes" and a model for balancing urban development with ecological preservation.

NIFT Patna–ABFRL MoU to Empower Jeevika Women

- **Bridging Skills and Employment:** The core objective of the MoU is to provide Jeevika women with specialized, industry-relevant training in garment manufacturing, quality control, and machinery operation at NIFT Patna's extension centers.
- **Scalable and Inclusive Empowerment:** This large-scale, structured program moves beyond traditional micro-enterprise models, giving rural women access to the organized industrial economy and providing them with greater financial independence and stability.
- **Academia-Industry Synergy:** The collaboration is a prime example of how academic institutions and major corporations can work together for social and economic development. NIFT, with its expertise in fashion and textile technology,

will provide the training, while ABFRL, a leading industry player, will provide the employment opportunities, creating a complete and sustainable ecosystem.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Japan PM Shigeru Ishiba Resigns

- **Reason for Resignation:** Shigeru Ishiba resigned as the Prime Minister of Japan and President of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) after the party's historic electoral defeat in the July 2025 polls, where the ruling coalition lost its majority.
- **Tenure and Timeline:** Ishiba took office in October 2024 and served for less than a year, announcing his resignation on September 7, 2025.
- **Implications for Japanese Politics:** Ishiba's resignation may lead to political instability, slowing legislative progress and disrupting diplomatic continuity, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, ahead of the 2026 general elections.

Anutin Charnvirakul Elected Thailand's New PM

- **Election Outcome:** Anutin Charnvirakul secured over 247 votes in the Thai Parliament, winning the majority vote in the House of Representatives, which has 492 active members.
- **Background:** Charnvirakul, 58, is the leader of the Bhumjaithai party and has previously served in the government as Health Minister, where he successfully lobbied for the decriminalization of cannabis in Thailand.
- **Predecessor's Departure:** He succeeds Paetongtarn Shinawatra, who was dismissed from office by the court due to ethics violations, specifically engaging in a phone call with Cambodia's Senate President Hun Sen that led to a conflict between countries.
- **Coalition Experience:** Charnvirakul was part of Shinawatra's Cabinet and has experience working in coalition governments, including with the Pheu Thai party and the military-backed government under former Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha.

Foot notes:

About Thailand-

- **King:** Maha Vajiralongkorn
- **Capital:** Bangkok
- **Currency:** Thai Baht
- **Official language:** Thai

Kokichi Akuzawa sets a Guinness World Record as Oldest man to summit Mount Fuji

- **Record-Breaking Age:** Kokichi Akuzawa, 102 years and 51 days old, became the oldest person to climb Mount Fuji, breaking the previous record held by Ichijiro Araya.
- **Training and Experience:** Akuzawa is an experienced climber and honorary chairman of the Gunma Mountaineering Club, with a habit of climbing mountains almost weekly. He trained specifically for the Mount Fuji climb by walking for an hour every morning.
- **Assistance and Support:** Akuzawa was assisted by his 70-year-old daughter, Motoe, during the climb. He credited her support as crucial in helping him reach the summit, especially when he felt like giving up on the third day.
- **Challenging Climb:** Akuzawa took three days to complete the climb, spending two nights in mountain huts. The climb was challenging due to decreasing atmospheric pressure and oxygen levels near the summit, as well as colder temperatures.

India & Israel Sign Bilateral Investment Agreement

- **Landmark Agreement:** The agreement was signed between Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Israel's Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich in New Delhi, marking a significant step in promoting investments between the two countries.
- **Protection for Investors:** The treaty ensures that Israeli investors in India and Indian investors in Israel receive protection, adhering to international precedents and practices, including a minimum standard of treatment and non-discrimination.
- **Dispute Settlement:** The agreement provides for an independent forum for dispute settlement through arbitration, boosting investor confidence and comfort level.
- **Investment Promotion:** Israel has made \$337.77 million in foreign direct investment (FDI) in India between April 2000 and June 2025, and this agreement aims to further enhance economic ties and explore financial protocols for Israeli exporters.

François Bayrou Ousted as French Prime Minister

- **Vote of No Confidence:** Bayrou's government collapsed after a decisive vote of no confidence in the National Assembly, with 364 lawmakers voting against him and only 194 in favor.
- **Controversial Austerity Measures:** The no-confidence motion was triggered due to Bayrou's minority government pushing for controversial austerity measures, which ultimately led to his ousting.

- **Heavy Defeat:** The vote marked a significant defeat for Bayrou, who had staked his leadership on the austerity measures, indicating a loss of trust from the lawmakers.
- **Collapse of Administration:** The vote has officially ended Bayrou's tenure as Prime Minister, bringing his administration to an end.

Emmanuel Macron Taps Loyalist Lecornu as New Prime Minister

- **Youngest Prime Minister:** Gabriel Attal, at 34 years old, became the youngest person to hold the office of Prime Minister in France's modern history.
- **Background:** Attal previously served as the Minister of Education and has held other key positions, including government spokesperson and budget minister, which raised his profile.
- **Challenges:** Attal's appointment comes as President Macron faces declining approval ratings, an energetic far-right opposition, and criticism over key policy initiatives.
- **Key Objectives:** As Prime Minister, Attal aims to smooth tensions between Macron's diverse coalition allies, enabling smoother policymaking, and unite moderate supporters against nationalist rivals.
- **Impact:** Attal's personal popularity and outsider perspective may help Macron reconnect with disaffected voters.

Irfaan Ali Wins Second Term as Guyana's President

- **Re-election:** Irfaan Ali has been re-elected for a second term as the President of Guyana, following a successful general election held on September 1, 2025.
- **Party Majority:** His party, the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C), won a majority in parliament, granting Ali a renewed mandate to lead the country.
- **Oil Wealth:** Ali's re-election comes at a time when Guyana is experiencing vast oil wealth, which is expected to significantly impact the country's economy and development.
- **Geopolitical Challenges:** As President, Ali will have to navigate complex geopolitical challenges, balancing relationships with various countries while making decisions that benefit Guyana's growth and stability.
- **New Term:** With this re-election, Ali will continue to guide Guyana through a critical period in its history, shaping the country's future and making key decisions on its development trajectory.

Norway PM Jonas Gahr Stoere Secured 2nd Term

- Støre's Labour Party-led government secured a second term after a closely fought election, with the center-left bloc winning a narrow majority of seats.
- The election was heavily influenced by voter concerns over the rising cost of living and the geopolitical impacts of the wars in Ukraine and Gaza.
- The re-election came despite a significant surge in support for the populist, right-wing Progress Party, which achieved its best-ever result and became the second-largest party in parliament.
- Støre's government will remain a minority administration and will rely on smaller, left-leaning parties to pass critical legislation, which will likely involve difficult negotiations on issues such as wealth taxes and future oil exploration.

Larry Ellison Surpasses Elon Musk as World's Richest

- Larry Ellison, co-founder of Oracle, temporarily became the world's wealthiest person, surpassing Elon Musk, after an unprecedented surge in Oracle's stock price.
- The dramatic shift in wealth was triggered by a blockbuster earnings report from Oracle, which included a highly aggressive outlook for its AI-driven cloud services.
- Ellison's fortune increased by an extraordinary amount in a single day, marking the largest one-day wealth increase ever recorded on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.
- Ellison's net worth is closely tied to his significant stake in Oracle, and the stock rally was fueled by major contracts, including one with OpenAI, that underscore the company's growing role in the AI infrastructure market.

Dharmendra Pradhan Launches First Overseas Atal Innovation Centre in UAE

- The new center will serve as an innovation hub to nurture joint start-ups and research-led ventures by innovators from both India and the UAE.
- It aims to promote bilateral collaboration in cutting-edge fields like deep tech, AI, clean energy, and healthcare.
- The center is a part of the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), which is a flagship initiative by the Government of India to foster a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.
- This center will also act as a gateway for Indian start-ups to access and penetrate the markets of the Middle East.
- During his visit, Pradhan also launched new academic programs, including a Ph.D. program in Energy and Sustainability and a B.Tech program in Chemical Engineering, at the IIT Delhi-Abu Dhabi campus.

Sushila Karki Sworn In as Nepal's First Woman Prime Minister

- **A Symbol of Integrity and Neutrality:** Karki, 73, is widely respected for her distinguished career as a jurist and her reputation for integrity and fairness. She previously made history as Nepal's first and only woman Chief Justice, serving from 2016 to 2017. Her anti-corruption stance and judicial independence made her a consensus candidate, acceptable to both the youth-led protest movement and traditional political forces seeking a neutral figure to lead the country out of the crisis.
- **Endorsement from "Gen Z" Protesters:** The recent protests were sparked by a social media ban but quickly evolved into a broader movement against political corruption and nepotism. The protestors, largely young people, played a key role in the selection process, advocating for a leader from outside the established political elite. Karki's name was put forward by their representatives, highlighting a rare moment of public-driven choice in Nepal's political landscape.
- **Dissolution of Parliament and Call for Elections:** As part of her appointment, Nepal's President Ram Chandra Paudel dissolved the House of Representatives and announced new parliamentary elections to be held in March 2026.

Foot notes:

About Nepal-

- **Prime Minister:** Sushila Karki
- **Capital:** Kathmandu
- **Currency:** Nepalese Rupee

DEFENCE NEWS

Indian Forces Join Russia's ZAPAD 2025 Military Exercise

- **Exercise Details:** The ZAPAD 2025 military exercise is scheduled to take place from September 10 to 16 at the Mulino Training Ground in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia. It brings together military contingents from several nations to enhance operational readiness and defense engagement.
- **Indian Contingent:** A 65-member tri-services contingent from India, comprising 57 soldiers from the Army (mainly from the Kumaon Regiment), 7 officers and airmen from the Indian Air Force, and 1 representative from the Navy, is participating in the exercise.
- **Objectives:** The exercise aims to boost military cooperation, interoperability, and joint operations among participating countries. It will focus on company-level joint training, mission planning, terrain warfare, coordination of firepower, and deployment of specialized units.

- **Significance:** India's participation in ZAPAD 2025 reflects its commitment to global security and stability. The exercise provides a platform for India to exchange operational knowledge, adapt to emerging technologies, and reinforce ties with Russia and other participating countries.

India launched SAJEX 2025

- **Strengthening India-Saudi Trade Relations:** SAJEX 2025 is a B2B (business-to-business) event designed to create a direct platform for Indian jewelry manufacturers and exporters to connect with Saudi Arabian buyers. The exhibition aims to boost India's share in the Saudi market, which is projected to grow to \$8.3 billion by 2030.
- **Focus on Bilateral Economic Partnership:** The expo aligns with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, a strategic framework to diversify its economy and reduce dependence on oil. By showcasing India's prowess in gems and jewelry, the event leverages the complementary strengths of both economies: India's position as a leading global exporter and Saudi Arabia's large and growing consumer market.
- **Comprehensive Showcase of Indian Craftsmanship:** The event featured over 200 exhibitors from India and other countries. Indian companies showcased a wide range of products, including gold jewelry (18k, 21k, 22k), diamonds, colored gemstones, platinum, and lab-grown diamonds, catering to the diverse and evolving tastes of the Saudi market.
- **Strategic Platform for Diversification:** The launch of SAJEX is a key step for the Indian gems and jewelry industry to diversify its export markets away from traditional destinations like the U.S., where trade has faced recent challenges.

Indian Navy commissioned INS Aravali in Gurugram

- **A Hub for Information and Communication:** The primary purpose of INS Aravali is to strengthen the Indian Navy's information and communication infrastructure. It will serve as a central hub for multiple information and communication centers, which are critical to the Navy's command, control, and Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) framework.
- **Focus on Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA):** INS Aravali will play a key role in enhancing India's real-time surveillance and situational awareness across its vast maritime interests. It is designed to work seamlessly with naval units, MDA centers, and other stakeholders, allowing for better information sharing and coordinated responses to potential threats in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

- **Strategic Location in a Landlocked City:** The location of INS Aravali in Gurugram, far from the coastline, highlights the shift in modern naval warfare towards a network-centric and knowledge-driven approach. This land-based center will provide administrative and logistical support, acting as a crucial nerve center for maritime security operations without being tied to a coastal port.
- **Alignment with the MAHASAGAR Vision:** The commissioning of INS Aravali embodies the Prime Minister's vision of MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions).

Navy Inducts Tata-Made Spanish 3D Radar

- **First-of-its-Kind Indigenous Capability:** With this induction, TASL has become the first private Indian company to successfully develop and integrate a next-generation naval surveillance radar system. This achievement is a major step towards India's goal of achieving self-reliance in defense manufacturing under the "Make in India" initiative.
- **Advanced Surveillance Technology:** The Lanza-N is a highly advanced 3D tactical surveillance radar. It is capable of detecting and tracking a wide array of targets, including low-flying and high-flying aircraft, supersonic fighter jets, anti-radiation missiles, drones, and naval platforms. Its ability to provide three-dimensional information (azimuth, elevation, and range) significantly enhances the Indian Navy's situational awareness.
- **Strategic Collaboration and Technology Transfer:** The radar's development is the result of a \$145 million deal signed in 2020 between Indra and TASL. Under this agreement, Indra will provide three complete radars, while TASL will locally assemble and integrate core system elements for an additional 20 radars. This partnership facilitates crucial technology transfer and builds a sustainable ecosystem for advanced defense technologies within India.
- **Tailored for the Indian Ocean Region:** The Lanza-N radar has been specifically adapted to perform optimally in the challenging environmental conditions of the Indian Ocean Region, including high humidity and extreme heat. T

BANKING NEWS

Citibank Appoints Kaustubh Kulkarni as Asia-Pacific IB Co-Head

- **Appointment Details:** Kaustubh Kulkarni has been appointed as the co-head of investment banking for the Asia-Pacific region at Citibank, effective December 2025, pending regulatory approvals. He will be based in Singapore.

- **Experience and Background:** Kulkarni brings nearly three decades of experience from his previous role at JPMorgan, where he held several senior positions, including Senior Country Officer for India, Vice Chair for Asia Pacific, and Head of Investment Banking in India.
- **Key Responsibilities:** He will work alongside Jan Metzger, Citibank's current regional head of investment banking, to oversee operations across Japan, North Asia, Australia, and South Asia, focusing on deal-making capabilities and capturing investment banking opportunities.
- **Strategic Importance:** This appointment is part of Citibank's strategy to expand its investment banking reach in key Asia-Pacific markets, driven by growing deal activity in sectors like technology, healthcare, and renewable energy.

Foot notes:**About Citibank-**

- **CEO:** Sunil Garg
- **Headquarters:** New York
- **Founded:** 1812

Ravi Ranjan appointed as next MD of SBI

- **Succession to a Key Role:** Ravi Ranjan has been recommended to succeed the current MD, Vinay M. Tonse, whose term is set to conclude on November 30, 2025. This ensures a planned transition for one of the top leadership roles at India's largest public sector bank.
- **Extensive Experience within SBI:** Ravi Ranjan has a long and distinguished career with SBI, having been with the bank for over 33 years since joining as a probationary officer in 1991. He currently serves as the Deputy Managing Director of Global Markets, overseeing the bank's investment portfolio.
- **Rigorous Selection Process:** The FSIB's recommendation followed a comprehensive interview process in which nine candidates were evaluated. The bureau selected Ravi Ranjan based on his performance in the interview, his extensive experience, and other relevant parameters.

Foot notes:**About SBI-**

- **Chairman:** C. Sreenivasulu Setty
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Founded:** 1955

SPORTS NEWS

Indian Men's Hockey Team Crowned Asia Cup Champions 2025

- **Victory Over South Korea:** India beat South Korea 4-1 in the thrilling final of the Hockey Asia Cup 2025, held at the Rajgir Sports Complex.
- **Fourth Asia Cup Title:** This victory marked India's fourth Asia Cup title, adding to their previous wins in 2003, 2007, and 2017.
- **Direct Qualification to World Cup:** The win earned India direct qualification to the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026, scheduled to take place in the Netherlands next year. They are now one of the eight confirmed entrants for the World Cup.
- **Dilpreet Singh's Brilliance:** Dilpreet Singh led the Indian team to victory and was named Player of the Match for his incredible performance against Korea in the final. He scored two goals, one just before the half-hour mark and another in the 45th minute.

Yusha Nafees, Rudra Singh Win U-19 Titles at Indian Junior Open Squash

- **Yusha Nafees' Comeback Win:** Yusha Nafees rallied from two games down to defeat Rachit Shah in a thrilling five-game match, showcasing remarkable grit and potential. He won the match 8-11, 5-11, 11-8, 11-5, 11-2.
- **Rudra Singh's Dominant Performance:** Rudra Singh clinched the girls' U-19 title, overcoming Vyomika Khandelwal in straight games with a score of 11-7, 13-11, 11-2. Singh's composure and maturity were evident in her dominant performance.
- **Tournament Participation:** The Indian Junior Open Squash Championships saw an impressive 520 entries across 12 events, featuring high-quality squash from India's brightest young talents.
- **Previous Achievements:** Yusha Nafees played a key role in helping the Indian boys' team win bronze at the Asian Junior Team Championships earlier this year, showcasing his growing potential.

Max Verstappen Wins 2025 Italian Grand Prix

- **Dominant Victory:** Max Verstappen delivered a masterclass performance, winning the Italian Grand Prix by over 19 seconds ahead of Lando Norris. This marked his third win of the 2025 season and second victory on Italian soil.
- **Thrilling Start:** The race began with a thrilling duel between Verstappen and Norris, with the Red Bull driver ultimately taking the lead on lap four and maintaining it throughout the race.

- **Pit Stop Drama:** McLaren pitted Oscar Piastri first, but Lando Norris' slow pit stop dropped him behind Piastri. However, the team ordered Piastri to let Norris pass, citing fairness, and Norris reclaimed second place.
- **Fastest Race in History:** The 2025 Italian Grand Prix broke the record for the fastest race in F1 history, with the race completed in one hour and 13 minutes.

India Clinch Bronze in CAFA Nations Cup 2025

- **Historic Victory:** India secured its first-ever international victory over Oman, winning the bronze medal in the CAFA Nations Cup 2025. This marks India's first medal finish at the tournament.
- **Penalty Shootout Win:** The match ended 1-1 in regulation time, with Udanta Singh scoring India's equalizer. India won 3-2 in the penalty shootout, thanks to goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu's crucial saves.
- **Gurpreet's Heroics:** Gurpreet Singh Sandhu was instrumental in securing the win, saving the final penalty kick from Oman and helping India clinch the bronze medal.
- **Tournament Debut:** India marked their debut appearance in the CAFA Nations Cup with a third-place finish, defeating higher-ranked Oman in the process.

Carlos Alcaraz Defeats Jannik Sinner to Win Second US Open Title

- **Second US Open Title:** Carlos Alcaraz won his second US Open title by defeating Jannik Sinner in the final with a score of 6-2, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4.
- **Dominant Performance:** Alcaraz delivered a dominant performance, showcasing his aggressive gameplay and securing his sixth Grand Slam title at just 22 years old.
- **Rivalry Intensifies:** This victory intensifies the rivalry between Alcaraz and Sinner, who have now met in three consecutive Grand Slam finals this year, with Alcaraz winning six of their seven meetings since 2024.
- **Return to World Number One:** Alcaraz's win propels him back to the top of the ATP rankings, displacing Sinner, and marks a significant milestone in his career.

India to Host 28th Asian TT Team Championships

- **Event Details:** The championships will take place from October 11 to 15, 2025, at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- **First-Time Host:** This will be the first time Odisha has hosted an Asian-level table tennis event, although the state previously hosted the 2019 Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships in Cuttack.

- **Top-Tier Competition:** The event will feature men's and women's team competitions, showcasing Asia's top table tennis athletes.
- **Qualifying Tournament:** The championships will serve as a qualifying tournament for the 2026 ITTF World Team Championships, with the top 13 teams in each category securing spots.

Abhimanyu Mishra made history by defeating World Champion D Gukesh at FIDE Grand Swiss 2025

- **Record-Breaking Achievement:** Abhimanyu Mishra, at just 16 years old, became the youngest player to defeat a reigning world champion in classical chess, surpassing previous records. His victory over Gukesh marks a significant milestone in his career.
- **Tactical Brilliance:** Mishra showcased exceptional strategic brilliance and calm under pressure, executing precise strategies to outmaneuver Gukesh. His performance demonstrates a deep understanding of opening theory, tactical ingenuity, and endgame mastery.
- **Game Details:** The game lasted 61 moves, with Mishra gaining control after Gukesh's critical error on move 31 (...Rg6?). Mishra seized the opportunity with 38. Bd4, ultimately securing the win.
- **Impact on Global Chess:** This victory cements Mishra's reputation as a rising star in classical chess, inspiring young players worldwide. His success is expected to encourage a new wave of interest in chess among youth globally.

India Secures Nine World Records in Space Exploration

- **First to find water on the Moon:** The Chandrayaan-1 mission in 2008 was the first to detect water molecules on the lunar surface, a discovery later confirmed by NASA.
- **First nation to reach Mars on the maiden attempt:** The Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan) in 2014 made India the first country to successfully reach the Red Planet's orbit on its very first try.
- **Record-breaking satellite launch:** In 2017, the PSLV-C37 rocket set a world record by launching 104 satellites in a single mission.
- **First country to land near the lunar South Pole:** The Chandrayaan-3 mission in 2023 made India the first nation to successfully land a spacecraft near the Moon's unexplored South Pole.

- **Three records in cryogenic technology:** Between 2014 and 2017, India achieved three global records in the development of the LVM3 cryogenic stage, including its fastest maiden flight.

India won 3 bronze medals at the World Boxing Championships

- The medals were won by three Indian women boxers: Jaismine Lamboria, Pooja Rani, and Nupur Sheoran.
- Jaismine Lamboria secured a bronze in the 57kg category by defeating her opponent from Uzbekistan in the quarter-finals.
- Pooja Rani, a veteran boxer, clinched her medal in the 80kg category, a non-Olympic weight division.
- Nupur Sheoran, the granddaughter of legendary boxer Hawa Singh, earned her bronze in the +80kg super heavyweight division.
- The medals were a significant achievement for the Indian contingent, especially as two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen was unexpectedly defeated in her quarter-final bout.

Bangladesh Clinch First-Ever T20 Win Over Hong Kong in Asia Cup

- **First-Ever T20I Victory over Hong Kong:** This match marked a significant milestone for Bangladesh, as it was their first-ever T20 International win against Hong Kong. The two teams had only met once before in the format, back in the 2014 T20 World Cup, where Hong Kong surprisingly emerged victorious.
- **Litton Das's Match-Winning Half-Century:** Bangladesh's captain, Litton Das, was the star of the show, earning the Player of the Match award for his impressive knock. He scored a fluent 59 off 39 balls, steering his team's chase after they had lost two early wickets.
- **Disciplined Bowling Performance by Bangladesh:** Bangladesh's bowlers were effective in restricting Hong Kong's scoring. Pace bowlers Taskin Ahmed and Tanzim Hasan Sakib, along with leg-spinner Rishad Hossain, each took two wickets, helping to contain Hong Kong to a manageable total of 143 for 7.
- **Hong Kong's Improved Batting Effort:** While Hong Kong lost the match, they showed an improved batting performance compared to their previous game.

AWARD NEWS

Leela Upadhyay to receive Kavya Prabha National Award

- **Recognition of a Multifaceted Career:** Leela Upadhyay, a correspondent of Dainik Janambhumi, is being recognized for his long and impactful career as a

poet, journalist, and lawyer. The award highlights his literary depth, which is reflected in his poems and articles that capture the essence of rural life, cultural roots, and human values in contemporary Assamese literature.

- **Date and Location of Conferment:** The Kavya Prabha National Award will be officially conferred upon Upadhyay during the International Poetry Conference, which is scheduled to be held on November 1, 2025, at Barekuri in the Tinsukia district of Assam.
- **A Voice for the Community:** Upadhyay's work is celebrated for its social sensitivity and its strong connection to the communities he represents. He has been a notable voice in Assamese literature, using his writing as a "mirror of people's lives," and has also earned recognition for his contributions to grassroots journalism.
- **Past Recognition:** This is not the first time Upadhyay has been honored for his work. In 2017, he received the Robin Moran Rural Journalism Award, which recognized his efforts to amplify the voices of ordinary people through his journalistic endeavors.

Camel International Award to Younus Ahamed

- **Award Recognition:** Younus Ahamed has been recognized for his outstanding contributions to global business leadership with the Camel International Award 2025.
- **Current Role:** Ahamed serves as the Executive Director of Dotspace Coworking in the Middle East, showcasing his expertise in leadership and business management.
- **Research Background:** As a researcher in Computer Vision and Deep Learning, Ahamed has worked on object detection and medical image analysis, publishing papers on pediatric bone age prediction and satellite detection using deep learning techniques.
- **Academic Affiliation:** Ahamed is a PhD student in Computer Science at West Virginia University, focusing on digital health using machine learning and deep learning under Dr. Donald Adjero's guidance.

Union Minister Conferred Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan Awards To Winners

- **Award Ceremony:** The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change organized the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan Awards & Wetland Cities Recognition Ceremony 2025, where Union Minister Bhupender Yadav conferred awards to the best-performing cities under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

- **Winners:** Eleven cities were awarded for their outstanding commitment to improving air quality, with winners categorized based on population size. Indore, Jabalpur, Agra, and Surat were among the top performers.
- **Ranking and Cash Awards:** Cities were ranked based on their performance, with cash awards provided to each winner. For example, Indore secured the top rank in its category with a score of 200 out of 200 and received a cash award of ₹1.5 crore.
- **National Clean Air Programme:** The NCAP aims to improve air quality in 130 cities across India, with a target to achieve a 40% reduction in PM10 levels by 2025-26.

PRIO-GRID wins data innovation award

- **Prestigious Recognition:** PRIO-GRID received the J. David Singer Data Innovation Award, which is a highly esteemed honor in the field of political science and conflict research. The award recognizes "the best data contribution to the study of any and all forms of political conflict, either within or between nation-states."
- **What PRIO-GRID Is:** PRIO-GRID is a widely used and open-access data framework. It is a spatial grid structure that divides the entire terrestrial surface of the world into small, consistent grid cells. Each cell contains specific information on a variety of variables, including armed conflicts, socio-economic conditions, ethnic groups, physical attributes, and climatic conditions.
- **Facilitating Research and Analysis:** The key innovation of PRIO-GRID is that it harmonizes and organizes diverse geographical data in a unified, grid-based format. This makes it easier for researchers to manage and analyze a wide range of spatial data, allowing for more precise and disaggregated research on topics like civil war, population movements, and environmental factors.
- **Open-Source and Accessibility:** A crucial aspect of PRIO-GRID is that it is open source and freely available to the public. Since its release in 2012, it has been downloaded over 20,000 times, indicating its significant impact on the academic and research communities.

Manmohan Singh Posthumously Honoured with PV Narasimha Rao Award for Economics

- **Posthumous Recognition:** The award was conferred upon the late former Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, after his passing. This honor recognizes his monumental contributions to India's economic landscape and nation-building.

- **Received by His Wife:** At a ceremony held in New Delhi, the award was formally received on his behalf by his wife, Gursharan Kaur. The event was a solemn occasion that brought together a number of academics, policymakers, and supporters of both leaders.
- **Presented by Montek Singh Ahluwalia:** The award was presented by Montek Singh Ahluwalia, a prominent economist and former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission. Ahluwalia's involvement is particularly significant as he worked closely with Dr. Singh during the period of India's economic liberalization in the early 1990s.
- **Instituted by PVNMF:** The P.V. Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for Economics was established by the Hyderabad-based P.V. Narasimha Rao Memorial Foundation (PVNMF).

APPOINTMENT & PERSON IN NEWS

Skechers Signs Mohammed Siraj as Brand Ambassador

- **Partnership Details:** Skechers has signed Indian fast bowler Mohammed Siraj as its newest brand ambassador to strengthen its presence in India's growing cricket footwear market. Siraj will represent Skechers cricket footwear and feature in the brand's performance and lifestyle campaigns.
- **Siraj's Role:** As a brand ambassador, Siraj will wear Skechers cricket footwear during matches, including those for Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League. He'll also participate in marketing campaigns across Skechers' performance and lifestyle divisions.
- **Existing Roster:** With this partnership, Siraj joins fellow cricketers Jasprit Bumrah, Ishan Kishan, and Yastika Bhatia on Skechers' athlete roster, further strengthening the brand's presence in Indian cricket.

Justice Shree Chandrashekhar Sworn in as Bombay HC Chief

- **Swearing-in Ceremony:** Justice Shree Chandrashekhar was officially sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court on September 5, 2025, at a formal ceremony held at Raj Bhavan, Mumbai, where the oath was administered by Maharashtra Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan.
- **Background and Experience:** Justice Chandrashekhar had previously served as the Acting Chief Justice after Justice Alok Aradhe's elevation to the Supreme Court of India, giving him valuable experience in managing the High Court's caseload and administrative responsibilities.

- **Judicial Significance:** The Bombay High Court, established in 1862, is one of India's oldest and most influential, with jurisdiction over Maharashtra, Goa, and Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. As Chief Justice, Chandrashekhar will oversee judicial efficiency, uphold constitutional values, and guide legal reforms.
- **Expectations from Tenure:** Justice Chandrashekhar's tenure is expected to strengthen judicial administration and delivery in the High Court, focusing on digitization, reducing case backlog, and improving public access to justice.

Alia Bhatt Becomes Global Brand Ambassador for Levi's

- **New Era of Denim:** Alia Bhatt's partnership with Levi's marks a new era for the brand, focusing on comfort, style, and self-expression in denim fashion.
- **Cultural Alignment:** The partnership is seen as a cultural alignment, with Alia embodying the effortless balance between global recognition and personal style, resonating across generations.
- **Shift in Silhouette:** The collaboration coincides with a shift in women's fashion towards relaxed, style-led, and comfort-first denim fits, reflecting a broader cultural pivot.
- **Denim as Self-Expression:** Levi's and Alia Bhatt share a belief that denim is not just fashion but a canvas for individuality, celebrating personal stories and memories associated with jeans.

Harshavardhan Chitale Named Hero MotoCorp CEO from Jan 2026

- **Effective Date:** Harshavardhan Chitale will take over as CEO of Hero MotoCorp on January 5, 2026, as announced by the company in a filing after its board meeting on September 8, 2025.
- **Background:** Chitale brings over 30 years of global leadership experience, having previously served as Global CEO of Signify's €4 Billion Professional Business, overseeing 12,000 employees across 70 countries.
- **Previous Roles:** Before Signify, he was Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Philips Lighting India, successfully spinning off the business into a standalone public company.
- **Transition:** Current Acting CEO Vikram Kasbekar will resign from his role but continue as Executive Director and Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of the company after Chitale takes over.

Manoj Shashldhar appointed to the post of Special Director in CBI

- **Appointment Details:** Manoj Shashidhar, a 1994-batch IPS officer of the Gujarat cadre, has been appointed as Special Director in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) till the date of his superannuation, November 30, 2030.
- **Current Role:** Shashidhar is currently serving as Additional Director in the CBI and has been elevated to the rank of Special Director, restoring the post which operates at the grade of Additional Director.
- **Leadership Strengthening:** This appointment aims to strengthen the leadership structure of the CBI, enabling the agency to tackle modern-day crime, cyber threats, and corruption-related investigations more effectively.
- **Experience and Skills:** Shashidhar brings decades of policing experience, commitment to integrity, and a proven record of service in investigative and administrative roles, making him a suitable candidate for the position.

Dr. Geetha Vani Rayasam Takes Over as NIScPR Director

- **New Appointment:** Dr. Geetha Vani Rayasam officially took charge as the Director of CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (NIScPR) on September 9, 2025. She emphasized a future-ready vision for science communication, focusing on agile Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) policies and global partnerships.
- **Key Focus Areas:** Dr. Rayasam's priorities include aligning science communication with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), leveraging emerging technologies like AI and digital media, and promoting inclusive science communication to bridge the science-society gap.
- **Major Initiatives:** She highlighted initiatives such as SMCC and SVASTIK, aiming to strengthen India's role in the knowledge economy through global collaborations and science-society linkages.
- **Background:** Dr. Rayasam has vast experience in academia, industry, and government, holding a PhD in Biochemistry from IISc Bengaluru and post-doctoral experience in IGBMC, France, and NIH, USA. She previously headed the Science Communication and Dissemination Directorate (SCDD) at CSIR HQ.

Abhishek Maheshwari joins IARC as MD & CEO

- Maheshwari brings over 25 years of experience in financial services, with a strong background in distressed asset resolution and corporate finance.
- He previously held leadership roles at SBI Capital Markets, where he served as President and Head of Stressed Assets Resolution Group.

- His appointment is expected to strengthen IARC's position in the stressed asset market and enhance its capabilities in resolving non-performing assets (NPAs).
- Maheshwari's expertise is seen as crucial for IARC's strategy to acquire and resolve large NPAs, which is a key focus for the company.
- This leadership change aims to drive growth and efficiency within IARC, helping it achieve its long-term goals in the Indian asset reconstruction sector.

Civil Servant Baldeo Purushartha appointed as Government Nominee Director of HUDCO

- **Role and Background:** Baldeo Purushartha is a 2002-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the Punjab cadre. He currently serves as the Joint Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, which gives him a significant position to influence economic policy.
- **Government Representation:** As a Government Nominee Director, his primary role is to ensure that HUDCO's decisions and policies align with the objectives and interests of the Government of India, particularly in housing and urban development.
- **Previous Experience:** He has extensive experience in various administrative and secretarial roles within both the central and state governments. His diverse background is expected to bring valuable insight to HUDCO's board.
- **Strategic Fit:** His appointment is aimed at strengthening the synergy between HUDCO and the government's initiatives, such as funding and developing infrastructure projects, as evidenced by a recent MoU with the Nagpur Development Authority for a significant funding agreement.

Tribal Affairs Ministry Launches Adi Sanskriti Digital Learning Platform

- **Pioneering Digital University:** Envisioned as the world's first digital university for tribal art and culture, the platform aims to be a one-stop solution for learning, documentation, and market access for tribal communities.
- **Three-Pillar Approach:** The platform is built on three main components: Adi Vishwavidyalaya (a digital academy offering courses on tribal arts), Adi Sampada (a socio-cultural repository with over 5,000 documents), and Adi Haat (an online marketplace for tribal artisans).
- **Focus on Livelihoods:** By creating an online marketplace, "Adi Sanskriti" seeks to empower tribal artisans by directly connecting them with national and global consumers, thereby fostering sustainable livelihoods and reducing the role of middlemen.

- **Collaborative Development:** The platform was developed in close partnership with Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) from 15 states, ensuring the authenticity and a grassroots approach to its content and design.

Sipra Bajpai appointed as Independent Director of Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd

- **Appointment Date and Term:** Ms. Sipra Bajpai was appointed as an Independent Director on the Board of RCF with effect from September 11, 2025. Her term is for a period of three years from the date of her appointment.
- **Professional and Educational Background:** Ms. Bajpai brings a diverse background to her new role. She holds a Master's degree in Commerce and a Bachelor's degree in Law from F.M. University, Balasore, Odisha. This combination of commercial and legal expertise is expected to be a valuable asset to the company's governance.
- **Political Experience:** In addition to her educational qualifications, Ms. Bajpai has a notable political background. Since 2019, she has been serving as the State Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Odisha. Her experience in public service is seen as a way to bring a fresh perspective to RCF's leadership.
- **Compliance with Regulations:** RCF has confirmed that Ms. Bajpai's appointment complies with the regulations set forth by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Srinivas Injeti appointed as Chairperson of NSE Governing Board

- **Filling a long-term vacancy:** His appointment, effective September 9, 2025, comes after a year-long vacancy for the chairperson position on the NSE's governing board. This move, which was approved by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), is seen as a key step in strengthening the exchange's governance.
- **Extensive regulatory experience:** A retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the 1983 batch, Srinivas Injeti brings over four decades of experience in corporate regulation, financial services, and public policy. This deep knowledge of regulatory frameworks is expected to be a major asset to the NSE.
- **Key previous roles:** His distinguished career includes serving as the Union Secretary in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (2017-2020), where he spearheaded significant reforms in insolvency, competition, and company laws. He was also the founding Chairperson of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) from 2020 to 2023, where he played a pivotal role in establishing India's first international financial regulator.

- **Strengthening governance:** Injeti's appointment is part of the NSE's focus on enhancing its corporate governance structure, particularly as the exchange prepares for a potential initial public offering (IPO).

Jitendra Asati to serve as Director on Board of Punjab & Sindh Bank

- **Government Nominee:** Jitendra Asati's appointment is a direct nomination from the Central Government of India. This makes him a government nominee director on the public sector bank's board.
- **Immediate Effect and Replacement:** The appointment is effective immediately and he replaces Ms. M.G. Jayasree. This change reflects the government's ongoing effort to strategically place senior officials with relevant expertise in key leadership positions.
- **Extensive Experience:** Mr. Asati is a seasoned Indian Economic Service (IES) officer from the 2010 batch. He has held multiple high-profile roles, including as a Director in the Department of Financial Services (DFS) under the Ministry of Finance. His career also includes roles at India's Mission in Washington, D.C., and the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- **Academic and Professional Excellence:** Asati was the All-India topper of his IES batch. He holds an M. Phil. in Economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and has a strong background as an economist-bureaucrat. His professional work includes shaping policies on external commercial borrowings and regulations under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).
- **Strengthening Governance:** His appointment is aimed at leveraging his deep experience in financial and economic policy to guide Punjab & Sind Bank.

Foot notes:

About Punjab & Sindh Bank-

- **MD & CEO:** Swarup Kumar Saha
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Founded:** 1908

ACC approves Ashutosh Dwivedi appointment as Technical Director at NCL

- **Approval of a Key Leadership Role:** The ACC's approval is the final step in appointing Dwivedi to a critical board-level position at NCL, a subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL). As Director (Technical), he will be responsible for overseeing all technical operations, including mining, project execution, and safety.
- **Selection from a Pool of Candidates:** Dwivedi was recommended for the post by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) on May 28, 2025. He was chosen

after a rigorous selection process from a pool of 12 shortlisted candidates, demonstrating his strong qualifications and merit.

- **Extensive Experience in the Coal Sector:** Prior to this appointment, Ashutosh Dwivedi served as the Executive Director (Safety & Rescue) at Coal India Limited. His experience in implementing safety protocols and optimizing mining efficiency in high-risk environments has positioned him as a leading expert in the field.
- **Term of Appointment:** The appointment is effective from the date he assumes charge of the post and will continue until his superannuation on October 31, 2028. This tenure provides stability and a clear mandate for him to implement strategic and technical changes at NCL.
- **Strategic Importance of the Role:** Dwivedi's leadership comes at a crucial time for the coal sector, which is navigating the dual challenges of meeting rising energy demands while also addressing environmental responsibilities.

Foot notes:

About NCL-

- **CEO:** Harry Sommer
- **Headquarters:** U.S.
- **Founded:** 1966

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Literacy Day observed on 08th September

- **Significance:** International Literacy Day highlights the importance of literacy as a fundamental human right and a key component of lifelong learning, emphasizing its role in personal and societal development.
- **History:** The day was officially declared by UNESCO in 1965 and first celebrated on September 8, 1966, to emphasize the need for concerted international efforts to combat illiteracy.
- **Global Challenges:** Despite progress, about 773 million adults worldwide still lack basic literacy skills, with women accounting for two-thirds of this number, underscoring the ongoing challenges in promoting literacy globally.
- **Digital Literacy:** In today's digital era, literacy extends beyond traditional reading and writing skills to include digital literacy, which enables people to access, understand, and engage with digital content safely and critically.

National Forest Martyrs Day observed on 11th September

- The date was chosen by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in 2013 to commemorate the Khejarli Massacre of 1730.

- The Khejarli Massacre was an event where 363 members of the Bishnoi community in Rajasthan sacrificed their lives to protect sacred Khejri trees from being cut down on the orders of a king.
- The day serves as a tribute to the countless forest guards, rangers, officials, and local activists who have lost their lives while on duty, protecting India's natural resources.
- It highlights the crucial and dangerous work of frontline forest personnel who face threats from illegal logging, poaching, and encroachment.
- The observance of this day aims to raise public awareness about the importance of forest conservation and to inspire citizens to take part in environmental protection efforts.

Hindi Diwas observed on 14th September

- **Commemoration of a Historic Decision:** Hindi Diwas is celebrated to mark the day, September 14, 1949, when the Constituent Assembly of India adopted Hindi, written in the Devanagari script, as one of the official languages of the Union. This decision was later formalized under Article 343 of the Indian Constitution, which came into effect on January 26, 1950.
- **Symbol of National Unity and Identity:** Hindi Diwas emphasizes Hindi's role as a unifying force in a linguistically diverse country like India. It serves as a reminder of the language's contribution to national integration and cultural pride. The day also highlights the importance of preserving and promoting India's rich linguistic heritage.
- **Initiated by Jawaharlal Nehru:** The decision to celebrate Hindi Diwas was made in 1953 by India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, to instill a sense of pride and awareness about the Hindi language. The date was also chosen to coincide with the birth anniversary of Beohar Rajendra Simha, a prominent Hindi scholar who was instrumental in advocating for Hindi's official status.
- **Distinct from World Hindi Day:** It is important to note the distinction between Hindi Diwas and World Hindi Day. While Hindi Diwas is a national observance held on September 14 to celebrate the official adoption of the language in India, World Hindi Day is an international event celebrated on January 10 to promote the language globally.
- **Official and Public Observances:** On this day, various events and programs are organized across the country, especially in schools, colleges, and government offices.

OBITUARY NEWS

Veteran Journalist Sankarshan Thakur, passed away

- **Journalistic Legacy:** Thakur was known for his fearless reporting style and commitment to fieldwork, distinguishing him from his peers. He covered major events like the Bhopal Gas Tragedy, the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, and the conflict in Sri Lanka.
- **Editorial Roles:** Thakur held key editorial positions in prominent publications, including The Telegraph, Indian Express, and Tehelka. At the time of his passing, he was the editor of The Telegraph.
- **Bihar's Political Landscape:** Thakur's reporting brought Bihar's politics to national attention, and his books, such as "Subaltern Saheb" and "The Brothers Bihari," are considered seminal works on the subject. His writing combined rigorous field research with engaging storytelling.
- **Awards and Recognition:** Thakur received the Prem Bhatia Award in 2001 and the Appan Menon Fellowship in 2003, recognizing his excellence in journalism.

BJD Leader & MLA Rajendra Dholakia passed away

- **Death Details:** Rajendra Dholakia, a senior leader of the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and three-term MLA for the Nuapada constituency, passed away on Sunday at the age of 68 due to a prolonged kidney-related illness at a private hospital in Visakhapatnam.
- **Tributes and Condolences:** Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik expressed profound grief, describing Dholakia's passing as an "irreparable loss" for both the party and the state. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, along with leaders from opposition parties like BJP and Congress, also conveyed their condolences.
- **Legacy and Career:** Dholakia was a dedicated public servant and efficient organizer who worked tirelessly for the welfare of his constituents. He served as the Minister of State for Planning and Convergence in the Odisha government and was known for his grassroots connection and accessibility to the people of Nuapada.
- **By-Election:** Dholakia's death will trigger a by-election in the Nuapada constituency, which will be a significant test for the BJD's influence in western Odisha. The Election Commission of India will announce the schedule for the by-poll in due course.

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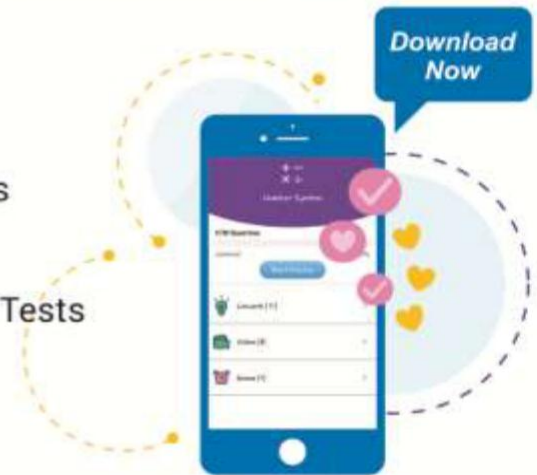
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