

# THE DAILY GK DOSE

## BALENDRA SHAH TOOK OATH AS NEPAL'S PRIME MINISTER

- **Record-Breaking Mandate & Demographics:** Balen is now the youngest Prime Minister in Nepal's history and the first to hail from the Madhesi community of the Terai region.
- **Symbolism and "Auspicious" Timing:** Reflecting the deep cultural roots of the nation, the oath was administered by President Ramchandra Paudel at exactly 12:34 PM (local time)—a time chosen by astrologers for its "1-2-3-4" numerological pattern.
- **Rise of the "Gen Z" Political Wave:** Balen's ascent follows the violent September 2025 youth-led uprising that toppled the previous establishment. Running on an anti-corruption and systemic reform platform.

**Footnotes:** Nepal's Capital: Kathmandu, President: Ram Chandra Paudel, PM: Sushila Karki

## NATIONAL HOUSING BANK LAUNCHES GRUH SUGAM PORTAL

- **Tailored for "Service on the Move":** The portal is specifically built for Defense Personnel, Paramilitary Forces, and Government Employees (both State and Central). It allows them to apply for and manage home loans from their current place of posting.
- **Unified Digital Marketplace:** Gruh Sugam operates as a "single-window" marketplace where multiple lending institutions are integrated. Applicants submit minimal initial data, which is then shared with various banks. This allows employees to compare multiple loan offers in real-time and select the one with the best interest rates and terms.

- **Enhanced Transparency and Speed:** By digitizing the end-to-end workflow—from application to sanction—the portal significantly reduces manual paperwork and processing timelines.

## PERIASAMY KUMARAN APPOINTED AS HIGH COMMISSIONER TO UK



- **Succession of High-Profile Envoys:** Kumaran will succeed Vikram Doraiswami, who has been reassigned as India's next Ambassador to China. This shuffle highlights a strategic rotation of veteran diplomats to India's most critical partner nations as the country navigates evolving trade and security ties with both the UK and China.
- **Extensive Diplomatic Pedigree:** A 1992-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, Kumaran is currently serving as Secretary (East) in the MEA (a post now being taken over by Rudrendra Tandon). His career includes serving as High Commissioner to Singapore (2020–2023) and Ambassador to Qatar (2016–2020).
- **Academic and Professional Background:** An alumnus of IIT Madras (B.Tech in Electronics and Communication), Kumaran is recognized for his expertise in economic relations and development partnership administration.

## IMPORTANT FACTS

### NICKNAMES

- *Kochi – Queen of Arabian Sea*
- *Visakhapatnam – City of Destiny*
- *Surat – Diamond City*
- *Panaji – Rome of the East*
- *Nagpur – Orange City*
- *Alappuzha – Venice of the East*
- *Siliguri – Gateway of Northeast India*

## TRANSGENDER WOMEN ATHLETES BARRED FROM COMPETING IN WOMEN'S EVENTS AT OLYMPICS

- **Eligibility Restricted to "Biological Females":** Under the new "Policy on the Protection of the Female Category," eligibility for women's events is now strictly limited to athletes who are biological females. To enforce this, the IOC is introducing a mandatory, one-time genetic screening for the SRY gene (typically found on the Y chromosome). This test will be required for all athletes competing in the female category to confirm biological sex.
- **Scientific Basis for Fairness and Safety:** The decision followed a multi-year review by a dedicated working group. The IOC cited a "scientific consensus" that biological males retain significant performance advantages in strength, power, and endurance even after testosterone suppression.

## INDIA WINS TWO BRONZE MEDALS AT ASIA CUP ARCHERY

- **Recurve Women's Success:** The Indian trio of Ruma Biswas, Kirti, and Ridhi Phor won the bronze medal in the women's recurve team event. They delivered a dominant performance to defeat Malaysia 5-1 in the third-place playoff, rebounding after a tough semifinal loss to China.
- **Compound Men's Podium:** In a nail-biting contest, the compound men's team—comprising veteran Rajat Chauhan, Rishabh Yadav, and Uday Kamboj—edged past Bhutan 234-232 to claim the bronze. The team had earlier topped the qualification rounds but narrowly missed the final after a one-point loss to Vietnam in the semifinals.
- **Building Momentum for Finals:** These initial bronze medals set the stage for a larger haul. By the end of the day on March 27, India added more glory, including a gold medal in the compound mixed team event (won by Rajat Chauhan and Chikitha Taniparthi) and a silver in the women's compound team event.

## BBC APPOINTED MATT BRITTIN AS NEW DG

- **Strategic Digital Pivot:** Brittin spent nearly two decades at Google, most recently serving as the President for EMEA (Europe, Middle East, and Africa). His appointment signals a "tech-first" shift for the BBC, prioritizing digital infrastructure, algorithmic engagement, and data-driven

reach to compete with platforms like Netflix and YouTube.

- **Succession Amidst Turbulence:** He succeeds Tim Davie, who resigned following controversy surrounding a Panorama documentary's editing of a speech by Donald Trump—an issue that evolved into a \$10 billion lawsuit. Until Brittin takes over in May, Rhodri Talfan Davies will serve as the Interim Director-General starting April 2.
- **Unique Background & Challenges:** Brittin is the first BBC Director-General to be appointed without direct experience in television journalism. A former Olympic rower (1988 Seoul Games) and a self-proclaimed Doctor Who fan, he faces immediate challenges including negotiating the Royal Charter renewal (due in 2027).

**Footnotes:** BBC's Chairman: Samir Shah, HQ: London, Estd: 1922

## DPIIT SIGNS MOU WITH RAZORPAY TO STRENGTHEN INDIA'S STARTUP ECOSYSTEM



- **Launch of 'Startup Sahayak' Platform:** The centerpiece of this collaboration is the Startup Sahayak digital platform. It acts as a "single-window" interface for early-stage founders, providing

end-to-end assistance for company incorporation, navigating central and state government schemes, and offering structured guidance on compliance and funding opportunities.

- **Financial Empowerment and Incentives:** To lower the barrier to entry, DPIIT-recognized startups will receive incorporation support with zero professional fees (excluding statutory government charges).
- **Knowledge Sharing and Mentorship:** The partnership will leverage the Startup India Hub to conduct regular masterclasses on cutting-edge topics like Applied AI, product development, and marketing.

## BIRUTE GALDIKAS DIES AT 79: LEGENDARY ORANGUTAN RESEARCHER PASSED AWAY

- **The Last of the "Trimates":** Dr. Galdikas was the final surviving member of the "Trimates" (also known as "Leakey's Angels")—a trio of women handpicked by paleoanthropologist Louis Leakey to study great apes.
- **World's Longest Continuous Study:** In 1971, she established "Camp Leakey" in the Tanjung Puting Reserve of Indonesian Borneo. Her work there became the longest continuous study of any wild mammal by a single principal investigator.
- **Conservation & Rehabilitation Pioneer:** Beyond research, she was a fierce activist. She founded Orangutan Foundation International (OFI) in 1986 and established a world-renowned rehabilitation center that has helped over 450 captive orangutans return to the wild.

## WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

27.03.2026 / FRIDAY

- **World Theatre Day: 27<sup>th</sup> March**
- **Theme 2026: "Theatre and a Culture of Peace"**
- **It was established in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute and has been observed every year since 1962.**