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WEEKLY Current Affairs

NATIONAL NEWS

Star Air Becomes First Indian Airline to Use Aviator Revenue System

Star Air has become the first Indian airline to implement the Aviator Revenue System. This advanced system is designed to optimize revenue management and improve operational efficiency. By adopting Aviator, Star Air aims to enhance pricing strategies, demand forecasting, and overall profitability. The move reflects the airline's commitment to leveraging technology for better customer service and financial performance. This milestone positions Star Air as a leader in innovation within India's aviation industry.

Foot notes:

- **First Indian Airline**: Star Air has become the first Indian airline to use the Aviator Revenue Management system, marking a significant milestone in the airline's revenue management capabilities.
- **Revenue Growth**: The Aviator system is expected to help Star Air maximize passenger revenue, with Anil Rajvani, GM of Revenue Management at Star Air, already reporting revenue growth since its implementation.
- **User-Friendly Interface**: The Aviator system is designed to be automated and user-friendly, making it easier for Star Air's revenue management team to optimize pricing and inventory.
- **Partnership with Maxamation**: Star Air partnered with Maxamation, the developer of the Aviator system, to implement the revenue management solution.
- **Industry Benchmark**: The adoption of the Aviator system sets a new benchmark for revenue management in the Indian aviation industry, with Star Air poised to benefit from increased efficiency and revenue growth.
- **Future Plans**: With the Aviator system in place, Star Air is well-positioned to achieve its ambitious growth plans, including expanding its fleet to 25 aircraft by 2027 and enhancing connectivity across Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities in India.

India Ranks 36 in Network Readiness Index

India has secured the 36th position in the latest Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2025. The index, published by the Portulans Institute, evaluates countries based on their digital infrastructure, technology adoption, governance, and impact. India's improved ranking reflects significant progress in digital transformation and connectivity, particularly in expanding internet access and promoting digital literacy. The country has performed exceptionally well in areas like AI readiness, e-governance, and mobile broadband penetration. Government initiatives such as Digital India and investments in 5G infrastructure have played a key role in this advancement.

Foot notes:

- **Ranking Improvement**: India climbed 11 positions from 60th in 2023 to 49th in 2024, with a score improvement from 49.93 to 53.63.

- **Key Areas of Progress**: India made significant strides in artificial intelligence, mobile networks, and broadband connectivity, contributing to global research and enhancing citizens' lives.
- **Global Leadership**: India's improved ranking signifies its emerging role as a global leader in technology, positioning it to influence technology trends and innovations worldwide.
- **Regional Performance**: India ranked 2nd among lower-middle-income countries, after Vietnam, and demonstrated significant digital progress, showcasing strengths in technological innovation and digital transformation.
- **Future Prospects**: India's focus on strengthening digital infrastructure, promoting research and development, and supporting innovation will likely propel further advancements in various sectors.

India Concludes Senior Asian Wrestling Championship With 10 Medals

India concluded the Senior Asian Wrestling Championship 2025 with an impressive haul of 10 medals. The contingent showcased a strong performance across various weight categories in both men's and women's events. The medal tally included 1 gold, 3 silver, and 6 bronze medals, reflecting the depth and talent in Indian wrestling. Wrestlers displayed remarkable grit and technique, standing out against tough competition from other Asian nations. This achievement highlights the consistent progress of Indian wrestling on the continental stage. The Wrestling Federation of India praised the athletes and coaches for their dedication and emphasized continued support for international success.

Foot notes:

- **Gold Medal**: Manisha Bhanwala won the gold medal in the Women's 62kg category.
- **Silver Medalists**: Reetika Hooda (Women's 76kg), Udit (Men's Freestyle 61kg), and Deepak Punia (Men's Freestyle 92kg) won silver medals in their respective categories.
- **Bronze Medalists**: Antim Pangal (Women's 53kg), Mansi Lather (Women's 68kg), Muskan (Women's 59kg), Dinesh (Men's Freestyle 125kg), Dinesh Kumar (Men's Greco-Roman 87kg), and Nitesh (Men's Greco-Roman 97kg) won bronze medals in their respective categories.
- **Indian Wrestling** Contingent: The 30-member Indian team consisted of 10 women, 10 men in freestyle, and 10 men in Greco-Roman categories.
- **Host City**: The championship was held in Amman, Jordan.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Aryna Sabalenka Wins Miami Open 2025, Defeats Jessica Pegula

Aryna Sabalenka claimed the Miami Open 2025 title by defeating Jessica Pegula in a dominant performance. The Belarusian star showcased her power and precision, controlling the match

from start to finish. Sabalenka's aggressive baseline play overwhelmed Pegula, who struggled to keep up with her opponent's intensity. This victory marks another significant achievement in Sabalenka's career, reinforcing her status as one of the top players on the WTA tour. With this win, she continues her strong form heading into the rest of the season.

Foot notes:

- **Dominant Performance** : Sabalenka did not drop a set throughout the entire tournament, showcasing her dominance.
- **Power Play** : Sabalenka's powerful forehand proved decisive, with 22 winners on that wing alone.
- **Breakthrough** : This win marks Sabalenka's first Miami Open title, adding to her growing list of accolades.
- **Head-to-Head Advantage** : Sabalenka now leads the head-to-head against Pegula 6-2, having won their previous encounter in the 2024 US Open final.
- **Prize Money** : Sabalenka took home the $1.1 million first prize, a testament to her hard work and dedication.

Israel Appoints Former Navy Chief Eli Sharvit as New Shin Bet Director

Israel has appointed former Navy Chief Eli Sharvit as the new director of Shin Bet, the country's internal security agency. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu selected Sharvit after an extensive interview process to replace Ronen Bar, who was dismissed from the role. Sharvit previously served as the commander of the Israeli Navy and is expected to bring his extensive security and strategic expertise to the position.

Foot notes:

- **Controversial Appointment**: Sharvit's appointment comes despite a temporary court injunction against the dismissal of the current Shin Bet chief, Ronen Bar.
- **Lack of Intelligence** Experience: Sharvit lacks a background in intelligence, Arabic language skills, or expertise in Palestinian affairs, which are typically essential for a Shin Bet director.
- **Military Background**: Sharvit served 36 years in the IDF, including five years as Navy Commander, and led the development of maritime defenses for Israel's offshore natural gas fields.
- **Netanyahu's Rationale**: Prime Minister Netanyahu highlighted Sharvit's military experience and leadership in naval operations against regional threats as qualifications for the role.
- **Challenges Ahead**: Sharvit will face several challenges, including overseeing an ongoing probe into alleged ties between Netanyahu's aides and Qatar, and addressing security failures exposed by the Hamas attack on October 7, 2023.

Shirley Botchwey Becomes First African Woman Secretary General of Commonwealth

Shirley Botchwey has been appointed as the Secretary-General off the Commonwealth, becoming the first African woman to hold the position. A seasoned diplomat from Ghana, she previously served as the country's Minister of Foreign Affairs. Her leadership is expected to bring a fresh perspective to global cooperation and development within the 56-member organization. Botchwey aims to strengthen economic ties, climate action, and youth empowerment across Commonwealth nations. Her appointment marks a historic milestone in the organization's commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Foot notes:

- **Historic Appointment**: Botchwey assumed office on April 1, 2025, succeeding Patricia Scotland, who was the first woman to hold the position.
- **Leadership Experience**: With over 20 years of experience in diplomacy, international relations, governance, and public service, Botchwey brings a wealth of knowledge to her new role.
- **Prior Roles:** Before her appointment, Botchwey served as Ghana's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration from 2017 to 2024 and was a member of Ghana's National Security Council.
- **Commonwealth Priorities**: Botchwey has outlined six priority areas, including democracy, trade and investment, youth development, climate change, and support for small island developing states.
- **Breaking Barriers**: As the first African woman to hold the position, Botchwey's appointment marks a significant milestone in the Commonwealth's history and paves the way for greater representation and diversity.

Kraigg Brathwaite resigns as West Indies Test captain

Kraigg Brathwaite has resigned as the captain of the West Indies Test team. His decision comes after a challenging tenure, during which the team experienced mixed performances in international cricket. Brathwaite, who took over the captaincy in 2021, played a crucial role in stabilizing the team’s batting lineup. Under his leadership, the West Indies secured notable Test victories but also faced inconsistencies. The Cricket West Indies (CWI) is expected to announce his successor soon, focusing on the team's future in red-ball cricket.

Foot notes:

- **Reason for Resignation**: Brathwaite submitted his resignation to allow the new leadership time to establish itself before the home series against Australia.
- **Leadership Record**: During his tenure, Brathwaite led the West Indies in 39 Tests, winning 10 and losing 22 matches.
- **Notable Achievements**: Under his leadership, the West Indies achieved historic moments, including a home series victory against England in 2022 and a win over Australia at the Gabba in January 2024.
- **New Captain**: Cricket West Indies (CWI) will name a new Test captain "in the coming weeks".

- **Shai Hope's New Role**: Shai Hope has replaced Rovman Powell as the T20I captain, in addition to his responsibilities as the ODI captain.
- **Brathwaite's Future**: Although stepping down from the captaincy, Brathwaite's experience and leadership will continue to benefit the team as a senior player.

Francesco Bagnaia Triumphs at Grand Prix of the Americas After Marc Marquez Crash

Francesco Bagnaia clinched victory at the Grand Prix of the Americas, delivering a commanding performance on the track. The race took a dramatic turn when Marc Marquez, who was leading in the early laps, crashed out, opening the door for Bagnaia. Seizing the opportunity, the Ducati rider maintained a consistent pace and showcased expert control to secure the win. This victory marks a significant moment in Bagnaia's MotoGP season, boosting his position in the championship standings. Marquez's crash was a major disappointment for fans, as he had shown strong pace throughout the weekend. Bagnaia dedicated the win to his team, acknowledging their efforts and the importance of staying focused amid unpredictable race conditions.'

Foot notes:

- **Bagnaia's Victory**: Bagnaia secured his 30th career MotoGP win, taking a crucial 25 points. He expressed his happiness, saying it's a special feeling to be back atop the podium.
- **Marquez's Crash**: Marc Marquez, who had been leading the race, slid out on lap nine, losing the front at turn five. He attempted to rejoin the race but eventually retired due to extensive damage to his bike.
- **New Championship Leader**: Alex Marquez, Marc's brother, finished second and took the lead in the MotoGP championship standings with 87 points. Bagnaia moved up to third with 75 points.
- **Podium Finishers**: Fabio Di Giannantonio of VR46 Racing finished third, marking another strong performance for his team.
- **Next Race**: The MotoGP riders will head to Qatar for the next round, where Bagnaia will look to build on his momentum.

DEFENCE NEWS

Indian Air Force Joined INIOCHOS-25 Air Exercise in Greece

The Indian Air Force (IAF) participated in the INIOCHOS-25 multinational air exercise held in Greece. This high-intensity aerial combat drill featured advanced fighter jets, transport aircraft, and other aerial assets from various nations. The exercise aimed to enhance interoperability, combat readiness, and joint operational capabilities among participating air forces. The IAF's involvement underscores India's commitment to strengthening defense cooperation with global allies. INIOCHOS-25 provided a crucial platform for Indian pilots to train in diverse combat scenarios and exchange tactical expertise with international counterparts.

Foot notes:

- **Assets Deployed**: The IAF has deployed Su-30 MKI fighter jets, along with combat enablers IL-78 and C-17 Globemaster aircraft.
- **Objectives**: The exercise aims to provide an opportunity for the IAF to train in planning and executing combined air operations, refine tactics in complex air warfare scenarios, and gain insights into operational best practices.
- **International Cooperation**: The exercise will foster international cooperation and interoperability among participating air forces, with 15 countries taking part.
- **Operational Capabilities**: The IAF's participation will strengthen its operational capabilities and contribute to mutual learning and enhanced coordination among participating countries.
- **Strategic Partnerships**: The exercise will further reinforce India's strategic partnerships and bolster its capabilities in joint operations with friendly nations.



BANKING NEWS

Bharti AXA Life Insurance appoints Prerak Parmar as Chief Growth Officer

Bharti AXA Life Insurance has appointed Prerak Parmar as its Chief Growth Officer to drive the company's expansion and business development strategies. With extensive experience in the insurance and financial services sector, Parmar is expected to lead key initiatives for market growth and customer acquisition. His role will focus on strengthening distribution channels, digital transformation, and enhancing customer experience. Prior to joining Bharti AXA, he held leadership positions in prominent financial institutions, showcasing his expertise in sales and strategy. Parmar's appointment aligns with Bharti AXA's vision to accelerate growth and expand its footprint in the Indian insurance market.

Foot notes:

- **Leadership Role**: Prerak Parmar will lead all proprietary distribution channels, including Agency, Partner Office, Insurance Manager, and Direct Distribution, as well as jointly oversee revenue assurance and pricing.
- **Industry Experience**: Parmar brings over 26 years of experience in the FMCG and Life Insurance sectors, with a proven track record of driving revenue growth and enhancing frontline productivity.

- **Previous Role**: Before joining Bharti AXA Life, Parmar served as Chief Distribution Officer at Reliance Nippon Life Insurance.
- **Key Objectives**: As Chief Growth Officer, Parmar will focus on expanding the company's distribution network, strengthening customer engagement, and driving profitability through innovative solutions.
- **Qualifications**: Parmar holds an MBA from the Institute of Management Technology (IMT), Ghaziabad, specializing in Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services.

SBI's C S Setty Elected Chairman of Indian Banks' Association

C S Setty, Managing Director of State Bank of India (SBI), has been elected as the new Chairman of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA). With extensive experience in the banking sector, Setty will play a key role in addressing industry challenges and fostering collaboration among Indian banks. His leadership is expected to drive policy initiatives, digital transformation, and financial inclusion efforts. The IBA serves as a crucial platform for banks to engage with regulators and policymakers on banking reforms. Setty's appointment comes at a time when the banking sector is focusing on innovation, financial stability, and inclusive growth.

Foot notes:

- **Election and Tenure**: Setty was elected by the IBA's managing committee and will serve as chairman until the next annual general meeting.
- **Deputy Chairmen**: Three deputy chairmen have been appointed to support Setty: A Manimekhalai (Union Bank of India), Swarup Kumar Saha (Punjab & Sind Bank), and Madhav Nair (Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait India).
- **Honorary Secretary**: B Ramesh Babu, CEO of Karur Vysya Bank, has been appointed as the honorary secretary of the IBA.
- **Previous Chairman**: Setty succeeds MV Rao, CEO of the Central Bank of India, who served as the previous chairman.
- **IBA's Role**: As chairman, Setty will lead the IBA's efforts to advocate for the banking sector, ensuring policy support and addressing industry challenges.

Ambuj Chandna Joins DBS Bank India as MD & Head of Consumer Banking Group

Ambuj Chandna has joined DBS Bank India as the Managing Director (MD) and Head of the Consumer Banking Group. With over two decades of experience in the banking and financial services sector, Chandna will play a key role in driving the bank's growth and expanding its consumer banking portfolio. Before joining DBS, he held leadership roles at top banks and financial institutions, where he gained extensive expertise in retail banking, wealth management, and digital financial services. His appointment aligns with DBS's strategic focus on strengthening its position in India's competitive banking market.

Foot notes:

- **Previous Role**: Prior to joining DBS Bank India, Chandna was President and Head of Consumer Bank – Products at Kotak Mahindra Bank, where he led significant initiatives across retail lending, liabilities, and payments.
- **New Responsibilities**: As MD and Head of Consumer Banking Group, Chandna will lead DBS Bank India's consumer banking business, focusing on deepening customer relationships and driving growth.
- **Leadership Shift**: Chandna's appointment comes after Rajat Verma took charge as CEO of DBS Bank India, indicating a strategic leadership shift in the bank's India operations.
- **Growth Plans**: With Chandna's expertise, DBS Bank India aims to strengthen its consumer banking proposition, following the integration of Lakshmi Vilas Bank, and expand its presence in the Indian market.

SBI Card appoints Salila Pande as MD and CEO

SBI Card has appointed Salila Pande as its new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO). She succeeds the outgoing MD & CEO and brings extensive experience in the banking and financial sector. Pande is expected to drive SBI Card's growth strategy, focusing on digital transformation and expanding the customer base. Her leadership will play a crucial role in strengthening the company's market position in India's credit card industry. The appointment aligns with SBI Card's vision to enhance financial inclusion and innovation in the payments sector.

Foot notes:

- **Background and Experience**: Pande has nearly 30 years of experience in banking and financial services, having joined the State Bank of India (SBI) in 1995 as a probationary officer.
- **Previous Roles**: Prior to her current role, Pande served as the Chief General Manager of the Mumbai Metro Circle, overseeing SBI's retail banking activities. She also held key positions like Vice President - Mid Office at SBI Singapore and President & CEO of SBI California.
- **Education and Certifications**: Pande holds a postgraduate degree in physics and is a certified Financial Risk Manager (FRM) from GARP, USA, and a certified associate of the Indian Institute of Bankers (CAIIB).
- **Term of Appointment**: Pande's appointment as MD and CEO is for a period of two years, subject to regulatory and shareholder approvals.
- **Interim Dividend**: SBI Card also declared an interim dividend of ₹2.50 per share for the financial year 2024-25, with a record date of February 25, 2025.

Poonam Gupta Appointed as RBI Deputy Governor

Dr. Poonam Gupta has been appointed as a Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a three-year term, succeeding Michael Patra. She is the first woman in over a decade to hold this position and brings extensive experience from her roles at the World Bank and the

International Monetary Fund (IMF). Previously, she served as the Director General of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and was a key member of India's Economic Advisory Council. Dr. Gupta holds a Ph.D. and a Master's in Economics from the University of Maryland, USA, and a Master's from the Delhi School of Economics.

Foot notes:

- **Background**: Poonam Gupta is the Director General of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER).
- **Term**: She has been appointed for a three-year term.
- **Predecessor**: Gupta succeeds Michael Patra, who previously held the position.
- **Government Approval**: The Central government has named Poonam Gupta as the new RBI Deputy Governor, according to a notification.
- **Significance**: As RBI Deputy Governor, Gupta will play a crucial role in shaping the country's monetary policy and regulating the banking sector.

Equitas Small Finance Bank appoints Balaji Nuthalapadi as Executive Director

Equitas Small Finance Bank has announced the appointment of Balaji Nuthalapadi as its new Executive Director. With over two decades of experience in the banking and financial services sector, Nuthalapadi brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership to the role. Prior to this appointment, he held various senior positions at leading financial institutions, showcasing his expertise in operations, strategy, and customer service. His leadership is expected to play a key role in driving the bank's next phase of growth and innovation. The bank expressed confidence that his strategic vision will align with their mission of financial inclusion and digital transformation. Nuthalapadi's appointment has been approved by the Reserve Bank of India and will take effect immediately.

Foot notes:

- **Previous Roles**: Before joining Equitas, Nuthalapadi served as Managing Director & Head of Centralized Controls Testing Execution at Citi, where he led a global controls testing team. He also oversaw operations and technology functions across India and Southeast Asia as Managing Director and Head of Operations and Technology for Citi South Asia.
- **Education and Expertise**: Nuthalapadi is an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A). He has a strong background in operations, technology, and wealth management, with expertise in driving digital transformation and operational excellence.
- **Approval and Welcome**: His appointment is subject to approval by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Board of Directors. Vasudevan P N, Managing Director & CEO of Equitas Small Finance Bank, welcomed Nuthalapadi to the leadership team, praising his vast experience and passion for digital banking, financial inclusion, and social impact.

SPORTS NEWS

India's Women Grapplers Win Silver and Two Bronze at Asian Wrestling

India's women grapplers delivered a strong performance at the Asian Wrestling Championships, securing one silver and two bronze medals. The silver medal was won by Vishvajit More, who showcased exceptional skill and determination in her category. Anjly bagged one of the bronze medals, displaying resilience in a tough contest. Another bronze was secured by an emerging Indian wrestler, further highlighting the nation's growing strength in women's wrestling. This achievement reinforces India's position as a rising force in international wrestling and boosts confidence ahead of future global competitions.

Foot notes:

- Reetika won a silver medal, narrowly losing 6-7 to Kyrgyzstan's Aiperi Medet Kyzy in the gold medal bout.
- Anju won the silver in the women's 53kg weight category, losing 10-0 to Democratic People's Republic of Korea's Ji Hyang Kim in the final.
- Harshita secured a silver medal in the women's 72kg, losing 5-2 to Qian Jiang of China in the gold medal match.
- Muskan won a bronze medal in the 59kg category, defeating Mongolia's Altjin Togtokh 4-0 in the bronze medal match.
- Mansi Lather secured a bronze medal in the 68kg category, defeating Kazakhstan's Irina Kazyulina 12-2 in the bronze medal bout.
- Manisha won the bronze in the women's 62kg after securing a comfortable 5-0 triumph over Arian G. Carpo of the Philippines.

Anahat Singh & Kareem El Torkey Win Indian Open 2025 Squash Titles

Anahat Singh and Kareem El Torkey emerged victorious at the Indian Open 2025 Squash Championship, showcasing exceptional skill and determination. Anahat, India's rising squash star, claimed the women's title with a dominant performance, further solidifying her reputation on the international circuit. Meanwhile, Egypt's Kareem El Torkey triumphed in the men's category, overcoming stiff competition to secure the prestigious title. Both players displayed remarkable agility, strategy, and resilience throughout the tournament. Their victories mark a significant milestone in their careers and add to the growing prestige of the Indian Open.

Foot notes:

- **Women's Champion**: Anahat Singh, India's top-ranked women's squash player, won her 11th PSA title by defeating Helen Tang of Hong Kong in the final with a score of 3-0 (11-9, 11-5, 11-8).
- **Men's Champion**: Kareem El Torkey of Egypt won the men's title by beating India's Abhay Singh in the final with a score of 3-1 (12-10, 11-4, 7-11, 12-10).
- **Tournament Details**: The Indian Open 2025 was held at the Bombay Gymkhana in Mumbai from March 24 to 28, 2025, with a prize money of $53,500.

- **Anahat's Dominance**: Anahat Singh's win marked her sixth consecutive title and reinforced her position as India's number one-ranked women's squash player.
- **Kareem's Achievement**: Kareem El Torkey's win earned him 500 ranking points and marked a significant achievement for the Egyptian player.

Yuki Bhambri Becomes India's No. 1 Doubles Player, Reaches Career-High ATP Rank of 26

Yuki Bhambri has officially become India's No. 1 doubles player after achieving a career-high ATP doubles ranking of 26. He surpassed Rohan Bopanna to claim the top spot among Indian players, following an impressive run at the Miami Masters. Bhambri's recent success in doubles has been marked by consistent performances on the ATP Tour, reflecting his strategic shift from singles to doubles in recent years. His rise in the rankings is a testament to his adaptability and skill in the doubles format. This achievement adds to India's strong legacy in men's doubles tennis. Bhambri now aims to build on this momentum and achieve greater success on the global stage.

Foot notes:

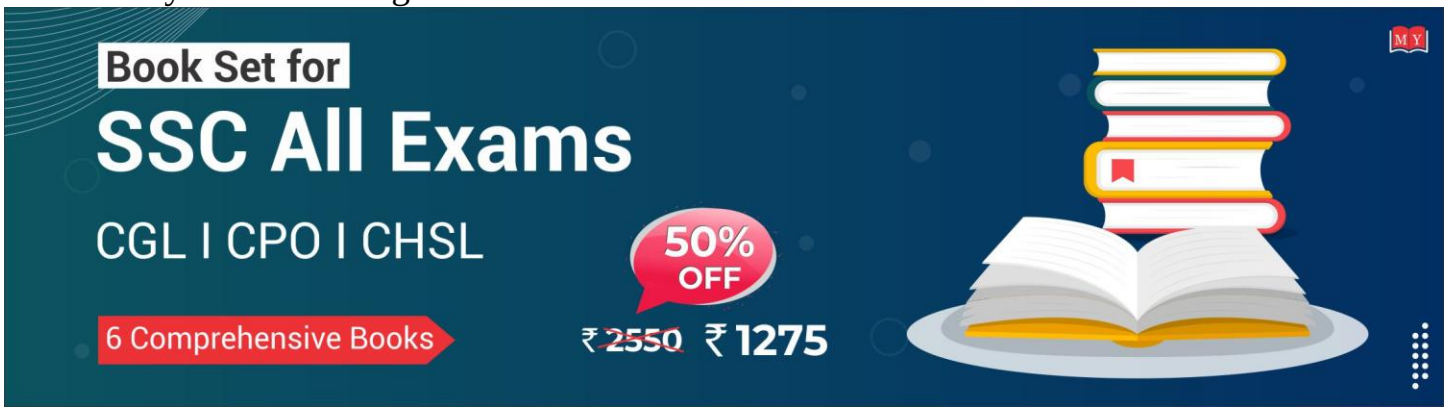
- **Career-High Ranking**: Bhambri's new ranking of 26 is a significant improvement from his previous career-high of 43.
- **India's New No. 1**: By defeating Rohan Bopanna, Bhambri has taken over as India's top-ranked doubles player, marking a new era in Indian tennis.
- **Recent Successes**: Bhambri's rise to fame has been swift, with recent titles at the Dubai Tennis Championships 2025 and the ATP Mallorca Open in 2023.
- **Partnership with Nuno Borges**: Bhambri's win at the Miami Open was achieved alongside his Portuguese partner Nuno Borges, with whom he defeated Bopanna and Ivan Dodig.
- **Inspiration for Indian Tennis**: Bhambri's achievement is expected to inspire a new generation of Indian tennis players, marking a significant moment for the sport in the country.

Rajnigandha Achievers Winner Of Aditya Birla Memorial Polo Cup 2025

The Rajnigandha Achievers clinched the Aditya Birla Memorial Polo Cup 2025 by defeating Jindal Panther with a score of 6-3 in the final match held at Jaipur Polo Ground, New Delhi. The victorious team comprised Dino Dhankhar, Shamsheer Ali, Abhimanyu Pathak, and Bk Mr. Daniel Otamendi. The tournament, which took place from March 26 to 30, featured three teams: Rajnigandha Achievers, Jindal Panther, and Cavalry Royal Enfield. The runners-up, Jindal Panther, were led by industrialist Naveen Jindal, with team members Hurr Ali, Kuldeep Singh Rathore, and Bk Mr. JP Clarkin.

Foot notes:

- **Winning Team:** The Rajnigandha Achievers team consisted of Dino Dhankhar, Shamsheer Ali, Abhimanyu Pathak, and Bk Mr. Daniel Otamendi.
- **Final Match Outcome**: They won the final against Jindal Panther with a decisive score of 6-3.
- **Trophy Presentation**: The prestigious cup was presented to the Rajnigandha Achievers by Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, the Vice President of India, Mrs. Rajashree Birla, and Mr. Askaran Agarwala, Group Advisor of the Birla Group Trusts.
- **Significance of the Tournament**: The Aditya Birla Memorial Polo Cup is one of India's most prominent polo tournaments, honoring the late Shri Aditya Vikram Birla's passion for polo.
- **Hat-Trick Win**: This is Rajnigandha Achievers' third consecutive win at the Aditya Birla Memorial Polo Cup.
- **Partnership**: The 2025 edition of the tournament was hosted in partnership with the Army Polo & Riding Centre in New Delhi.



Indian equestrian Niharika Singhania clinches gold

Indian equestrian Niharika Singhania has achieved a significant milestone by securing first place at the prestigious Azelhof CSI Lier equestrian competition in Belgium. Competing against a field of international participants, Niharika demonstrated exceptional skill and composure throughout the event. Continuing her strong form, Niharika competed in the show jumping event on March 29, concluding with 61.94 points. Her crowning achievement came on March 30, the final day of the competition, where she excelled in the Two-Phase Special, finishing first with penalty points of 34.48 and 31.95.

Foot notes:

- **Events Participated**: She participated in the Two Phases special event and the show jumping event, riding on Hotese Charboniere, owned by Sabine Locquet.
- **Penalty Points**: Niharika finished with impressive penalty points of 40.72 and 40.34 in the Two Phases event, and 61.94 points in the show jumping event.
- **Final Day Performance**: On the final day of the competition, Niharika excelled in the Two-Phase Special, finishing first with penalty points of 34.48 and 31.95.

- **Inspiration to Students**: Niharika's victory serves as a powerful inspiration for students across India, highlighting the importance of nurturing diverse talents alongside academic pursuits.
- **National Pride**: The Indian National Anthem played in the background when announcing Niharika's win, marking a moment of profound pride for the nation on a global stage.

Vandana Katariya Retires from International Hockey

Indian women's hockey stalwart Vandana Katariya has announced her retirement from international hockey, concluding a distinguished career that spanned over 15 years. With 320 international caps and 158 goals, she retires as India's most-capped women's player. Vandana made her senior team debut in 2009 and played a pivotal role in several of India's significant achievements, including the historic fourth-place finish at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, where she became the first Indian woman to score a hat-trick at the Games.

Foot notes:

- **Most-Capped Player**: Katariya holds the record for the most international caps in Indian women's hockey, with an impressive 320 appearances.
- **Goal-Scoring Legend**: She scored 158 goals throughout her career, making her a pivotal figure in Indian women's hockey history.
- **Historic Hat-Trick**: Katariya became the first and only Indian woman to score a hat-trick at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, leading India to a historic fourth-place finish.
- **Awards and Accolades**: She has received numerous awards, including the Padma Shri and Arjuna Award, for her outstanding contributions to Indian hockey.
- **Legacy**: Katariya's retirement marks the end of an era for Indian women's hockey, but her legacy will continue to inspire future generations of hockey players.

Jacob Duffy Tops ICC T20I Bowling Rankings

New Zealand fast bowler Jacob Duffy has ascended to the top of the ICC Men's T20 International (T20I) Bowling Rankings, marking his first time achieving the number one position in any format. This milestone follows his outstanding performance in the recent five-match T20I series against Pakistan, where he claimed 13 wickets at an average of 8.38, contributing significantly to New Zealand's 4-1 series victory. Duffy's achievement makes him the first New Zealander to hold the premier T20I bowling ranking since Ish Sodhi in 2018. His ascent in the rankings saw him surpass notable bowlers, including West Indies spinner Akeal Hosein, who previously held the top spot.

Foot notes:

- **Top Spot**: Duffy has leapfrogged West Indies spinner Akeal Hosein to reach the top spot, following his phenomenal performance in the T20I series against Pakistan.
- **Impressive Stats**: He took 13 wickets at an average of just 8.38, helping New Zealand secure a 4-1 series victory.

- **Career Milestone**: This is Duffy's first time holding the number one bowler ranking in any format.
- **New Zealand Pride**: Duffy is the first New Zealander to hold the top bowling ranking in men's T20I cricket since Ish Sodhi in 2018.
- **Ranking Movement**: Duffy gained seven spots last week to be ranked joint-fifth with Adam Zampa and then overtook Wanindu Hasaranga, Adil Rashid, and Varun Chakravarthy to reach the top spot.
- **Team Impact**: Duffy's achievement has also impacted his teammates' rankings, with Tim Seifert breaking into the top 10 of the T20I batter rankings and Finn Allen moving up one spot to 15th.

AWARD NEWS

Masaki Kashiwara Wins the 2025 Abel Prize for Mathematics

Renowned Japanese mathematician Masaki Kashiwara has been awarded the prestigious 2025 Abel Prize for his groundbreaking contributions to mathematics. Kashiwara is widely recognized for his work in algebraic analysis, representation theory, and the theory of D-modules, which have had a significant impact on modern mathematics. His pioneering research has shaped several mathematical disciplines, including microlocal analysis and symplectic geometry. The Abel Prize, awarded by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, is considered one of the highest honors in mathematics. Kashiwara's achievements continue to influence mathematical research and inspire future generations of mathematicians.

Foot notes:

- **Bridging Mathematical Disciplines**: Kashiwara's work combines algebra, geometry, and differential equations in innovative ways, opening new avenues for mathematical exploration.
- **Impact on Representation Theory**: His contributions to representation theory, particularly the development of crystal bases, have significantly advanced the field and inspired new generations of researchers.
- **Award and Ceremony**: The Abel Prize, often referred to as the "Nobel Prize of mathematics," comes with a monetary award of 7.5 million Norwegian kroner (approximately $700,000). The award ceremony will take place in Oslo on May 20, 2025.
- **Legacy and Future Work**: At 78, Kashiwara continues to be actively involved in mathematics, currently working on the representation theory of quantum affine algebras and related topics.

Punjab & Sind Bank Wins Top Improvers Award in EASE 6.0 Reforms Index

Punjab & Sind Bank has been honored with the Top Improvers Award in the EASE 6.0 Reforms Index, recognizing its significant progress in banking reforms. The award highlights the bank's efforts in digital transformation, customer service enhancement, and operational

efficiency. Under EASE (Enhanced Access and Service Excellence), Punjab & Sind Bank has implemented innovative strategies to strengthen governance and improve financial inclusion. This achievement reflects the bank's commitment to modernization and delivering better services to customers. The recognition further reinforces its position as a growing force in India's banking sector.

Foot notes:

- **EASE Reforms Index**: The EASE (Enhanced Access and Service Excellence) Reforms Index is a comprehensive framework that assesses the performance of public sector banks in India.
- **Top Improvers Award**: Punjab & Sind Bank's win in the Top Improvers category demonstrates its significant strides in implementing reforms and improving its services.
- **Recent Developments**: The bank has been actively working on enhancing its balance sheet, with plans to raise Rs 2,000 crore through Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP).
- **Financial Performance**: Punjab & Sind Bank reported a net profit of Rs 282 crore in the December 2024 quarter, marking a significant increase from Rs 114 crore in the same quarter the previous year.
- **Growth Prospects**: The bank aims to expand its lending activities, particularly in the agriculture and retail sectors, which are expected to drive growth and reduce non-performing assets (NPAs).

Renowned Historian MyNaa Swamy to Receive Prestigious Ugadi Award

Renowned historian MyNaa Swamy has been selected to receive the prestigious Ugadi Award. The Ugadi Awards, given in Andhra Pradesh, recognize excellence across 14 fields, including literature, music, dance, painting, sculpture, and journalism. The state government has formed a committee to select the awardees, ensuring contributions in arts, culture, and social service are honored. The recipients will receive a cash prize, certificate, and memento during the celebrations.

Foot notes:

- **Recognition for Historical Research**: MyNaa Swamy's work has focused on epigraphic research, particularly on the Vijayanagara Empire and the Lepakshi Veerabhadra temple complex.
- **Significant Contributions**: His efforts have brought over 100 previously unknown inscriptions to public attention, deciphering them in Telugu, Kannada, and Sanskrit.
- **Award Deta**ils: The Ugadi Award includes the 'Kalaratna' title, 'Hamsa' medal, a certificate of appreciation, and a cash prize.
- **Presentation Ceremony**: The award will be presented by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu at the Ugadi Awards ceremony in Vijayawada.
- **Legacy and Impact**: MyNaa Swamy's contributions to historical research have been widely recognized, and this award is a testament to his dedication and expertise in the field.

Nikhil Singhal Honored with Uttar Pradesh Anmol Ratan Award

Nikhil Singhal has been honored with the Uttar Pradesh Anmol Ratan Award for his exceptional contributions to society. This prestigious award recognizes individuals who have significantly impacted their respective fields and brought pride to the state. Singhal's dedication and achievements have set a benchmark for excellence, inspiring many across Uttar Pradesh. His work has been instrumental in driving progress, innovation, and community development. The award ceremony celebrated his relentless efforts and commitment to making a positive difference. Leaders and dignitaries praised his accomplishments, highlighting his influence on the state's growth.

Foot notes:

- **Award Ceremony**: The award ceremony took place at the iconic Taj Lucknow, hosted by the Tapasya Foundation Trust.
- **Recognition**: This award recognizes Singhal's remarkable contributions to the public relations industry and his exemplary leadership in strategic communication.
- **Presenter**: Shri Akhilesh Yadav, former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, presented the award to Singhal.
- **Achievements**: Singhal has made significant contributions to the public relations sector, influencing corporate branding, media relations, and crisis communication.
- **Previous Awards**: Singhal has received several other notable awards, including the ET Global Leader award in 2021 and the Times 40 Under 40 list in 2022.
- **Future Plans**: Singhal aims to expand Vigor Media Worldwide's global footprint, leverage emerging technologies in PR, and continue contributing to the industry through mentorship and thought leadership.

MSRDC Honoured with Prestigious SKOCH 2025 Award

The Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) has been honoured with the prestigious SKOCH 2025 Award. This recognition celebrates MSRDC's outstanding contribution to infrastructure development and innovative project execution across Maharashtra. The award was conferred for the corporation's excellence in implementing large-scale road and expressway projects with a focus on sustainability and efficiency. MSRDC's initiatives, such as the Mumbai–Nagpur Samruddhi Mahamarg, were highlighted for their transformative impact on regional connectivity.

Foot notes:

- **Recognition of Excellence**: The SKOCH Award recognizes outstanding contributions in governance, inclusive growth, technology excellence, corporate leadership, citizen service delivery, and capacity building.
- **Project Overview**: The Hindu Hrudaysamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg is a high-speed greenfield expressway that connects 392 villages across 26 talukas in 10 districts of Maharashtra.

- **Impact on Travel Time**: The project has significantly reduced travel time between Nagpur and Mumbai from 16-18 hours to just 7-8 hours, enhancing access to Mumbai.
- **Economic Benefits**: The expressway has catalyzed agricultural and industrial development in the Vidarbha and Marathwada regions, creating new growth opportunities for agro-based and manufacturing industries.
- **Leadership Recognition**: The award was presented to MSRDC Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Dr. Anilkumar Gaikwad, at the 100th SKOCH Summit held in New Delhi.



Dalai Lama Honored with Gold Mercury Award

The 14th Dalai Lama has been honored with the prestigious Gold Mercury Award for Peace and Sustainability in recognition of his lifelong commitment to non-violence, compassion, and global harmony. The award was presented to him at his residence in Dharamshala by Nicolas De Santis, President of Gold Mercury International. This honor acknowledges his contributions to promoting human rights, environmental protection, and interfaith dialogue. In his acceptance speech, the Dalai Lama emphasized the importance of peace, kindness, and collective responsibility for a better world. Gold Mercury International, a London-based organization, has been recognizing global leaders for their efforts in governance and sustainability since 1961. This latest accolade adds to the Dalai Lama's numerous global honors, including the Nobel Peace Prize.

Foot notes:

- **Recognition of Lifelong Work**: The award acknowledges the Dalai Lama's tireless efforts in promoting peace, non-violence, and environmental stewardship.
- **Presented by Gold Mercury International**: Nicolas De Santis, President and Secretary General of Gold Mercury International, presented the award to the Dalai Lama at his residence in Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh.
- **Advocacy for Non-Violence and Sustainability**: The Dalai Lama has been a global voice for non-violence, sustainability, and environmental protection, inspiring individuals and leaders worldwide.
- **Universal Responsibility**: His message of universal responsibility emphasizes the interconnectedness of humanity and the need for collective action to achieve peace and protect the environment.

- **Legacy and Impact**: The Dalai Lama's teachings and leadership have profoundly shaped global consciousness, promoting a culture of peace, compassion, and wisdom.

AGREEMENT & MOU NEWS

DARPG and Bhashini Collaborate for a Multimodal, Multilingual Grievance Redressal System

The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) has partnered with Bhashini to develop a multimodal, multilingual grievance redressal system. This initiative aims to enhance citizen engagement by allowing grievance submission in multiple languages and formats, including voice and text. The system leverages AI and Natural Language Processing (NLP) to ensure efficient handling and resolution of complaints. It will improve accessibility for non-English speakers, making grievance redressal more inclusive and user-friendly. This collaboration marks a significant step toward digital governance and linguistic inclusivity in public service delivery.

Foot notes:

- **Multimodal Interface**: Citizens can use voice commands in their regional language to lodge grievances, enhancing ease of accessibility and navigation on the CPGRAMS portal.
- **Improved Governance**: This collaboration aims to create a more efficient, accessible, and responsive governance system for citizens.
- **Enhanced Citizen Engagement**: The integration of Bhashini with CPGRAMS marks a significant milestone in AI-powered, multilingual citizen engagement.
- **Expected Launch**: The new system is expected to go live by July 2025.
- **Grievance Redressal**: Between November 2022 and February 2025, over 56 lakh grievances were redressed through the CPGRAMS.

APPOINTMENT & PERSON IN NEWS

Rajneet Kohli Appointed as Executive Director of Foods at HUL

Rajneet Kohli has been appointed as the Executive Director of Foods at Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL). With extensive experience in the consumer goods and food industry, he is expected to drive growth and innovation in HUL's food segment. Prior to this role, Kohli held leadership positions in major FMCG companies, showcasing his expertise in brand strategy and market expansion. His appointment aligns with HUL's commitment to strengthening its portfolio in the food and beverage sector. Under his leadership, HUL aims to enhance product offerings, improve customer engagement, and expand its market reach.

Foot notes:

- **Background and Experience**: Kohli brings over 28 years of experience in the consumer goods and retail sectors, having worked with prominent companies like Britannia Industries, Jubilant Foodworks, The Coca-Cola Company, and Asian Paints.
- **Previous Role**: Kohli was the CEO and Executive Director at Britannia Industries, where he played a crucial role in reinforcing the company's leadership in the food and bakery segment.
- **New Responsibilities**: As Executive Director of Foods at HUL, Kohli will lead the Foods business across India, driving growth, innovation, and excellence.
- **Leadership Expectations**: HUL's CEO and Managing Director, Rohit Jawa, expects Kohli to drive the next phase of growth and transformation for HUL's Foods business.
- **Industry Impact**: Kohli's appointment is seen as a strategic move to accelerate innovation and market expansion in HUL's Foods business, which has strong growth potential.

Mrunal Thakur becomes brand ambassador of Dyna

Mrunal Thakur has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Dyna, a popular personal care brand. Her association with Dyna aims to enhance the brand's image and connect with a wider audience. Known for her versatility and charm, Mrunal embodies the values of elegance and confidence that align with the brand's identity. As the face of Dyna, she will feature in various marketing campaigns, promoting the brand's range of beauty and skincare products. This partnership is expected to strengthen Dyna's market presence and appeal to young consumers.

Foot notes:

- **Campaign Partnership**: Thakur will lead Dyna's latest campaign, "Pehli Jhalak Kare Khoobsurat Asar," which aims to reinforce the brand's position in the premium skincare segment.
- **Brand Alignment**: Thakur's confidence, elegance, and natural beauty align perfectly with Dyna's values, making her an ideal ambassador for the brand.
- **Product High**lights: Dyna boasts a Grade 1 soap with 76% TFM (Total Fatty Matter) and no fillers, ensuring purity and effectiveness.
- **Marketing Strategy**: The campaign will be promoted across multiple platforms, including television, digital media, and in-store branding, to ensure widespread consumer engagement.
- **Brand Expansion**: Thakur's partnership with Dyna is part of the brand's strategy to expand its footprint in the premium beauty segment and strengthen its position in the market.

MaxIQ appoints Sastry Malladi as Chief Technology Officer

MaxIQ has appointed Sastry Malladi as its new Chief Technology Officer (CTO) to lead the company's technological advancements and innovation strategies. With vast experience in cloud computing, AI, and digital transformation, Malladi is expected to drive MaxIQ's product

development and tech initiatives. Prior to joining MaxIQ, he held key leadership roles in top technology firms, showcasing his expertise in scaling enterprise solutions. His appointment aligns with MaxIQ's vision to enhance its technology-driven offerings and expand its global footprint. Under his leadership, the company aims to strengthen its competitive edge in the industry.

Foot notes:

- **Leadership Role**: Malladi will lead MaxIQ's product and engineering organization, focusing on scaling its Revenue AI platform.
- **Experience**: He brings over 30 years of experience in technology leadership roles, including co-founding FogHorn Systems, a pioneer in Edge AI, and holding leadership positions at eBay and Oracle.
- **Responsibilities**: As CTO, Malladi will work alongside Matt Hickey, CEO, and Sonny Aulakh, Founder, to enhance MaxIQ's Agentic AI capabilities, supporting sales forecasting, customer onboarding, and revenue expansion.
- **Growth Phase**: Malladi's appointment comes during a pivotal growth phase for MaxIQ, following a recent $7.8 million seed funding round led by Dell Technologies Capital and Intel Capital.

Bajaj Electricals appoints Sanjay Sachdeva as MD & CEO

Bajaj Electricals has appointed Sanjay Sachdeva as its new Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO). With extensive experience in the consumer durables and electrical industry, he is expected to drive the company's growth and innovation strategies. Prior to this role, Sachdeva held leadership positions in major companies, showcasing expertise in business transformation and market expansion. His appointment aligns with Bajaj Electricals' vision to strengthen its brand presence and enhance operational efficiencies. Under his leadership, the company aims to accelerate growth, improve customer engagement, and expand its product portfolio.

Foot notes:

- **Global Experience**: He has worked in multiple countries, including Brazil, China, the Middle East, North Africa, Turkey, Russia, and Japan, where he was the Managing Director and CEO of Unilever Japan.
- **Key Responsibilities**: As MD & CEO of Bajaj Electricals, Sachdeva will oversee all business verticals and operations.
- **Chairman's Comments**: Shekhar Bajaj, Chairman of Bajaj Electricals, welcomed Sachdeva, highlighting his global experience and strategic vision, which aligns with the company's goal of delivering exceptional value to consumers and stakeholders.
- **Sachdeva's Statement**: Sachdeva expressed his honor in joining Bajaj Electricals, committing to drive sustainable growth, innovation, and long-term value for all stakeholders.

Indian-American Scientist Jay Bhattacharya appointed as NIH Director

Indian-American scientist Jay Bhattacharya has been appointed as the new Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). A prominent physician, health economist, and professor at Stanford University, Bhattacharya is widely known for his research in public health policy and epidemiology. His appointment comes at a crucial time as the NIH continues to address global health challenges and advancements in medical research. Bhattacharya has been a vocal advocate for evidence-based policymaking, particularly in areas such as pandemic response and healthcare economics. His leadership is expected to shape the future direction of biomedical research and public health initiatives in the United States.

Foot notes:

- **Nomination and Confirmation**: Dr. Bhattacharya was nominated by U.S. President Donald Trump in November 2024 and was confirmed by the U.S. Senate through a 53-47 vote on March 25, 2025.
- **Role in the Great Barrington Declaration**: Dr. Bhattacharya gained prominence as one of the co-authors of the Great Barrington Declaration, an alternative public health strategy proposed in October 2020 that opposed widespread lockdowns and advocated for a focused protection approach during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Leadership at the NIH**: As the new NIH Director, Dr. Bhattacharya is expected to bring a data-driven, innovative approach to public health research, focusing on revitalizing trust in health institutions, ensuring scientific research meets high-quality standards, and addressing chronic health challenges with evidence-based solutions.
- **Challenges Ahead**: Dr. Bhattacharya's appointment comes at a time when the NIH faces increasing scrutiny over public health policies. His leadership will be closely watched, especially concerning scientific integrity and transparency, research funding allocation, and public trust in health agencies.

Dhoni becomes highest run-scorer for Chennai Super Kings in IPL 2025

MS Dhoni has become the highest run-scorer for Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in the IPL 2025 season, further cementing his legacy with the franchise. The former CSK captain surpassed Suresh Raina’s long-standing record, achieving this milestone with a crucial knock in the ongoing tournament. Dhoni’s consistent performances and match-winning abilities have been instrumental in CSK’s success over the years. His achievement highlights his enduring impact on the team and his remarkable longevity in the league. Fans celebrated this historic moment, hailing him as the heart and soul of Chennai Super Kings.

Foot notes:

- **Surpassing Suresh Raina**: Dhoni has surpassed Suresh Raina's record of 4687 runs, taking his tally to 4699 runs in 236 matches for Chennai Super Kings.
- **Innings and Average**: Dhoni has played 214 innings for CSK, scoring at an average of 38.72 and a strike rate of 137.80.
- **Half-centuries and Highest Score**: He has scored 23 half-centuries and his highest score is 84.

- **Recent Performance**: Dhoni's recent performance includes an unbeaten 30 off 16 deliveries, which helped him surpass Raina's record.
- **Legacy and Impact**: As one of the most iconic players in IPL history, Dhoni's achievement reinforces his legacy as a batting legend and his immense impact on Chennai Super Kings' success.

SRMB Steel onbaords Rohit Sharma as brand ambassador

SRMB Steel has onboarded Rohit Sharma as its new brand ambassador, strengthening its association with excellence and resilience. The Indian cricket captain's leadership, consistency, and strong performance align well with SRMB Steel's brand values. As the face of the company, Rohit will feature in various marketing campaigns, promoting the brand's commitment to strength and durability. His immense popularity and credibility in the sporting world are expected to enhance SRMB Steel's visibility across India. This partnership reflects the brand's vision of associating with achievers who inspire trust and reliability.

Foot notes:

- **Joining the League of Legends**: Rohit Sharma joins former Indian captains MS Dhoni and Kapil Dev as brand ambassadors for SRMB Steel.
- **New TVC Campaign**: A new TVC featuring Rohit Sharma, MS Dhoni, and Kapil Dev has been released, highlighting the importance of teamwork and strong foundations.
- **Enhancing Brand Equity**: Rohit Sharma's appointment is expected to enhance SRMB Steel's brand equity and attract more customers.
- **SRMB Steel's Commitment to Quality**: SRMB Steel is committed to delivering high-quality steel products, and Rohit Sharma's association is expected to reinforce this commitment.
- **Expanding Reach**: With Rohit Sharma on board, SRMB Steel aims to expand its reach and strengthen its position in the market.

TVS SCS appoints R Vaidhyanathan as new Global CFO

TVS Supply Chain Solutions (TVS SCS) has appointed R Vaidhyanathan as its new Global Chief Financial Officer (CFO). With extensive experience in financial strategy and corporate governance, Vaidhyanathan will play a key role in driving the company's global financial operations. His leadership is expected to strengthen TVS SCS's financial planning, risk management, and growth initiatives. The appointment comes as the company focuses on expanding its global footprint and enhancing operational efficiency. Vaidhyanathan's expertise will be crucial in steering TVS SCS toward sustained financial success and long-term value creation.

Foot notes:

- **Background and Experience**: Vaidhyanathan is a Chartered Accountant and holds a Postgraduate Program in Management from the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad.

He joined TVS SCS in January 2019 as Group Financial Controller and later became CFO for the India business.

- **Previous Role**: Vaidhyanathan currently serves as Deputy Global CFO and has held various positions in finance within the organization.
- **New Responsibilities**: As Global CFO, Vaidhyanathan will be based in Chennai and report directly to Ravi Viswanathan, Managing Director of TVS SCS.
- **Outgoing CFO**: Raviprakash Bhagavathula, the current Global CFO, will transition to a new role as Head of Strategic Initiatives in Singapore.
- **Company's Expectations**: Ravi Viswanathan, Managing Director of TVS SCS, expressed confidence that Vaidhyanathan's deep understanding of the business and strategic vision will help drive innovation and growth for the company.

Deepspatial AI elevates Saurabh Tyagi as Chief Marketing Officer

Deepspatial AI has elevated Saurabh Tyagi to the position of Chief Marketing Officer (CMO). With his expertise in marketing strategy and brand positioning, Tyagi will lead the company's global marketing initiatives and business expansion efforts. His role will focus on strengthening Deepspatial AI's presence in the artificial intelligence and geospatial analytics sectors. The appointment aligns with the company's vision to drive innovation and enhance market outreach. Under his leadership, Deepspatial AI aims to accelerate growth and establish itself as a leader in AI-driven decision-making solutions.

Foot notes:

- **Background and Experience**: Tyagi brings over 25 years of experience, having worked with prominent organizations such as Bennett Coleman & Co (The Times of India) and Amar Ujala Publications.
- **Role and Responsibilities**: As CMO, Tyagi will lead global marketing initiatives, driving strategic growth and enhancing the brand's global impact.
- **Leadership Expectations**: Rahul Kushwah, Founder and CEO of Deepspatial, expects Tyagi to continue demonstrating his dedication, strategic brilliance, and visionary approach to marketing.
- **Previous Contributions**: Tyagi has been instrumental in amplifying Deepspatial's impact, driving innovation, and shaping the brand's global presence.
- **Tyagi's Statement**: Tyagi expressed his excitement about the new role, stating that he looks forward to continuing the company's growth journey and driving innovative marketing strategies.

Nidhi Tiwari Appointed as Private Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Nidhi Tiwari has been appointed as the Private Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2025. A seasoned bureaucrat, she has extensive experience in administration and policymaking. Her appointment highlights the government's focus on efficient governance and strategic decision-making. As Private Secretary, she will play a crucial role in assisting the Prime

Minister with key administrative and policy-related matters. Tiwari's expertise is expected to enhance the effectiveness of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in handling national and international affairs.

Foot notes:

- **Previous Roles**: Tiwari has been serving as Deputy Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) since November 2022 and earlier worked as Under Secretary at the Ministry of External Affairs' Disarmament and International Security Affairs Division.
- **Background**: She hails from Mehmurganj in Varanasi, which is also the Prime Minister's Lok Sabha constituency since 2014.
- **Appointment Details**: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved her appointment with immediate effect, as per a memorandum issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) on March 29.
- **Civil Services Examination**: Tiwari secured the 96th rank in the Civil Services Examination, 2013, and was working as Assistant Commissioner (Commercial Tax) in Varanasi before joining the IFS.
- **Predecessors**: Tiwari is the third Private Secretary to Prime Minister Modi, following Vivek Kumar and Hardik Satishchandra Shah.



Rajat Patidar Named RCB Captain for IPL 2025

Rajat Patidar has been appointed as the captain of Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) for the IPL 2025 season. The 31-year-old middle-order batsman takes over from Faf du Plessis, marking a new leadership era for the franchise. Patidar's journey with RCB has been remarkable, initially joining as a replacement player in 2022 and later becoming a key performer for the team. His standout performances, including a century in IPL 2022, earned him a place among the three retained players for the season, alongside Virat Kohli and Yash Dayal. Head coach Andy Flower praised Patidar's calmness, resilience, and leadership qualities, expressing confidence in his ability to guide RCB. With his appointment, the team aims to secure its first IPL title under his leadership.

Foot notes:

- **Leadership Experience**: Patidar has prior leadership experience, having captained Madhya Pradesh in domestic competitions like the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (T20) and Vijay Hazare Trophy (ODI).

- **Performance Record**: He was the second-highest run-getter in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, scoring 428 runs from 10 matches at an average of 61 and a strike rate of 186.08.
- **RCB's New Era**: Patidar's appointment marks a new era for RCB, with the franchise looking to build a strong future under his leadership.
- **Virat Kohli's Support**: Former RCB captain Virat Kohli has extended his full support to Patidar, congratulating him on his appointment and expressing confidence in his leadership abilities.
- **Team's Expectations**: With Patidar at the helm, RCB will be looking to improve on their previous seasons and make a strong push for their first IPL title.

Shri Subhankar Sen appointed as Director (Marketing), BPCL

Shri Subhankar Sen has been appointed as the Director (Marketing) of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL). With over three decades of experience in the oil and gas industry, Sen brings extensive knowledge in the fields of marketing, branding, and corporate strategy. Prior to this role, he held various key positions within BPCL, contributing significantly to the company's marketing and customer engagement strategies. As Director (Marketing), Sen will oversee the development and implementation of BPCL's marketing plans, aiming to enhance its brand presence and customer satisfaction.

Foot notes:

- **Selection Process**: Sen was selected for the position at a Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) meeting held on March 29, 2025.
- **Current Role**: Prior to his appointment, Sen was serving as Executive Director and Business Head (Lubes) at BPCL.
- **Experience**: Sen has extensive experience in the oil and gas industry, with a strong background in marketing and lubricants.
- **Appointment Confirmation**: His appointment is subject to receiving vigilance clearances and approval from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
- **Responsibilities**: As Director (Marketing), Sen will oversee BPCL's marketing operations and strategy, driving growth and expansion for the company.

Croma appoints Shibashish Roy as CEO & MD

Croma has appointed Shibashish Roy as its new CEO & Managing Director, effective April 1, 2025. Roy was initially named CEO in November 2024 and worked alongside outgoing MD Avijit Mitra during a transition period that ended in March 2025.

Roy has over 20 years of experience within Tata Group companies and has played a key role in expanding Croma's market presence and improving its customer service strategy across different sales channels. Under his leadership, Croma aims to increase market share in key regions and enhance profitability in the FY26 period.

Foot notes:

- **Transition Period**: Roy was named CEO in November 2024 and worked closely with outgoing MD Avijit Mitra during a structured transition period that concluded in March 2025.
- **Experience and Expertise**: With over 20 years of experience in Tata Group companies, Roy has been instrumental in expanding Croma's market presence and improving its customer service approach.
- **Digital-First Approach**: Roy is expected to drive Croma's growth through a digital-first approach and a passion for customer engagement.
- **FY26 Strategy**: Under Roy's leadership, Croma aims to increase market share in key markets and enhance profitability in FY26.
- **Outgoing MD's Legacy**: Avijit Mitra, the outgoing MD, will remain on the Board until his retirement, leaving behind a legacy of expanding Croma's revenue, team, and network of over 550 stores across India.

Rana Daggubati becomes Brand Ambassador for Godrej Jersey Badam Milk

Rana Daggubati has been appointed as the brand ambassador for Godrej Jersey Badam Milk. As part of the brand's latest campaign, a television commercial has been released showcasing him in various roles—starting his day with a morning run, attending meetings as an entrepreneur, shooting for films, hosting shows, and spending quality time with family. The campaign highlights how Godrej Jersey Badam Milk serves as a refreshing and energizing drink, keeping up with his fast-paced lifestyle.

Foot notes:

- **Product Highlights**: Rana emphasized that Godrej Jersey Badam Milk is made from real milk, rich in protein, calcium, and essential vitamins A and D, making it a perfect blend of taste and energy.
- **Brand Values**: Rana resonates with Godrej's commitment to trust, quality, and authenticity, values that align with his own principles.
- **Marketing Strategy**: The new television commercial featuring Rana showcases him in various avatars, reflecting his dynamic lifestyle, and positions the brand as a refreshment that fits into his routine.
- **Regional Significance**: Rana's strong connection to the Telugu region, immense influence, and trustworthiness make him an ideal choice for Godrej Jersey Badam Milk, which has been a leader in the flavored milk category in Hyderabad and Telugu geographies .

Pankaj Srivastava appointed as Director in the Ministry of Cooperation

Pankaj Srivastava has been appointed as a Director in the Ministry of Cooperation. His appointment is expected to strengthen policy implementation and coordination within the ministry. Srivastava brings extensive administrative experience, having served in various key government roles. His focus will be on enhancing cooperative sector reforms and promoting

sustainable growth initiatives. The Ministry aims to leverage his expertise to boost rural development and cooperative enterprises across India.

Foot notes:

- **Ministry Overview**: The Ministry of Cooperation is responsible for promoting and developing cooperative societies in India, with a focus on strengthening the cooperative movement and improving the lives of farmers and rural communities.
- **Key Responsibilities**: As Director, Pankaj Srivastava will be responsible for overseeing various aspects of cooperative development, including policy formulation, project implementation, and stakeholder engagement.
- **Leadership Team**: The Ministry of Cooperation is headed by Union Minister Amit Shah, with several other key officials, including Secretary Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani and Joint Secretary Siddharth Jain.
- **Impact**: Pankaj Srivastava's appointment is expected to bring in fresh perspectives and expertise to the Ministry of Cooperation, which will help in driving cooperative development and promoting rural prosperity in India.

Yahoo appoints Josh Line as Chief Marketing Officer

Yahoo has appointed Josh Line as its new Chief Marketing Officer (CMO). He brings extensive experience in brand strategy and digital marketing. Line will be responsible for enhancing Yahoo's global brand presence and driving user engagement. His appointment aligns with the company's vision to expand its digital ecosystem and strengthen market positioning. Yahoo aims to leverage his expertise to accelerate growth and innovation across its platforms.

- **Foot notes:**
- **Background and Experience**: Line was previously the Chief Brand Officer at Paramount Global, where he led enterprise-wide marketing efforts and played a key role in launching Paramount+ and growing the direct-to-consumer streaming business.
- **Marketing Expertise**: Line has over two decades of experience in marketing, having worked with top brands like CBS, MTV, Paramount Pictures, and Pluto TV, and led marketing, creative, and digital studios at Comedy Central, Paramount Network, and TV Land.
- **Goals and Objectives**: Line aims to reignite love and cultural impact for the Yahoo brand, drive growth for its portfolio of leading products, and make Yahoo a trusted guide through the digital wilderness.
- **Leadership Style**: Line is known for building and leading high-performance teams, driving brand strategy, and fostering collaboration across various facets of marketing leadership.

Vijay Sales onboards Vijay Deverakonda as brand ambassador

Vijay Sales has onboarded popular actor Vijay Deverakonda as its brand ambassador. The collaboration aims to strengthen the brand's connection with young and tech-savvy consumers.

Deverakonda's dynamic personality aligns with Vijay Sales' vision of offering top-quality electronics and home appliances. His endorsement is expected to enhance the brand's visibility and engagement across India. This partnership marks a strategic move to expand Vijay Sales' market presence and customer reach.

Foot notes:

- **Expanding Footprint**: The partnership helps Vijay Sales expand its footprint in South Indian markets, leveraging Vijay Deverakonda's immense popularity and strong connect with young consumers across Telugu-speaking states and beyond.
- **Target Market**: Vijay Deverakonda's massive fan following and reputation for trendsetting resonate with the tech-savvy younger demographic that forms the core of Vijay Sales' target market.
- **Marketing Approach**: The collaboration will encompass a 360-degree marketing approach, including digital campaigns, in-store experiences, exclusive product lines, and targeted marketing initiatives that highlight Vijay Sales' extensive range of electronic products.
- **Social Media Leverage**: Vijay Sales plans to leverage Vijay Deverakonda's massive social media following to create innovative digital narratives that showcase the brand's product range and technological innovations.
- **Brand Vision**: The partnership aims to create a unique ecosystem where technology meets lifestyle, empowering consumers to choose the best electronic products that complement their dynamic lives.

Pudhari Group appoints Sanjeev Kulkarni as Vice President

Pudhari Group has appointed Sanjeev Kulkarni as its new Vice President. Kulkarni brings extensive experience in media and business management, which will help drive the group's growth strategy. His role will focus on strengthening Pudhari's presence in the regional news sector and expanding its digital footprint. The appointment aligns with the group's vision to enhance content quality and audience engagement. Kulkarni's leadership is expected to play a key role in shaping the future of Pudhari Group's media operations.

Foot notes:

- **New Role**: Sanjeev Kulkarni has joined Pudhari Group as Vice President, National Head (Sales & Marketing).
- **Previous Experience**: Kulkarni brings over 12 years of experience from his previous role as Vice President of Sales, Marketing, and Business Development at VRL Media.
- **Career Background**: Before joining VRL Media, Kulkarni worked with the Times of India Group for 8 years.
- **Responsibilities**: As Vice President, Kulkarni will oversee national sales and marketing strategies, driving growth and expansion for Pudhari Group.
- **Industry Expertise**: With his extensive experience in the media industry, Kulkarni is well-equipped to lead Pudhari Group's sales and marketing efforts.

- **Leadership Team**: Kulkarni joins Pudhari Group's leadership team, which includes notable figures like Pratapsinh Ganpatrao Jadhav, Managing Director, and Yogesh Pratapsinh Jadhav, Managing Director.

Thomas Cook appoints Kartik Aaryan as brand ambassador

Thomas Cook (India) has appointed popular Bollywood actor Kartik Aaryan as its new brand ambassador. The collaboration aims to connect with young and aspirational Indian travellers, aligning with the brand's refreshed and youthful image. Known for his vibrant personality and wide fan base, Aaryan perfectly represents the spirit of exploration and adventure that Thomas Cook promotes. The partnership will span multiple campaigns across digital and traditional platforms, highlighting domestic and international travel offerings. With rising demand for curated travel experiences, the brand sees Aaryan as a relatable face to inspire travel among India's newer generation.

Foot notes:

- **Targeting Young India**: Kartik Aaryan's appointment aims to leverage the growing outbound travel trend among Indian millennials and GenZ, who prioritize travel in their spending habits.
- **Borderless Travel Card**: The partnership commences with a campaign promoting Thomas Cook's multicurrency Borderless Travel Card, designed to provide a seamless, secure, and smooth travel experience worldwide.
- **Kartik Aaryan's Appeal**: Aaryan's charismatic persona, strong connection with India's youth, and significant fan base make him an ideal choice to represent Thomas Cook's innovative and agile foreign exchange services.
- **Campaign Strategy**: The promotional campaign featuring Kartik Aaryan will be amplified across digital platforms, connected TV, and social media to maximize reach and engagement.
- **Growth Prospects**: Thomas Cook India is bullish on its prepaid card business, and this partnership aims to drive growth in the young traveler segment, building on the success of its existing portfolio.

H. Shankar Assumes Charge as Managing Director of CPCL

H. Shankar has officially assumed charge as the Managing Director of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL). With a rich experience spanning over three decades in the oil and gas sector, he brings strong leadership and technical expertise to the role. Prior to this appointment, Shankar held several key positions within Indian Oil Corporation, contributing significantly to refining operations and project management. His vision includes enhancing operational efficiency, boosting sustainability initiatives, and driving digital transformation within CPCL. The company expressed confidence in his ability to steer CPCL towards greater growth and innovation. Shankar's leadership comes at a crucial time as CPCL undertakes major expansion and modernization projects.

Foot notes:

- **Background and Experience**: Shankar brings over three decades of experience in the oil and gas industry, with expertise in refinery operations, project management, and strategic leadership.
- **Previous Roles**: He has been serving as Director (Technical) at CPCL since October 2020 and was holding additional charge as Managing Director since July 16, 2024.
- **Appointment and Tenure**: Shankar's appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, and he will hold the position until March 31, 2029, or until further orders.
- **Key Contributions**: As Director (Technical), Shankar played a crucial role in driving innovation and operational excellence, introducing value-added and sustainable products, and overseeing the production of fuels for India's space and defense sectors.
- **Future Outlook**: Under Shankar's leadership, CPCL is expected to focus on expanding its refining capacity, enhancing energy security, and contributing to India's journey towards energy self-sufficiency.

Kamal Haasan Appointed Chairperson of FICCI Media and Entertainment Committee South

Veteran actor and filmmaker Kamal Haasan has been appointed as the Chairperson of the FICCI Media and Entertainment Committee South. His vast experience in cinema and deep understanding of the creative industry make him an ideal choice for the role. As chairperson, Haasan will focus on driving growth, innovation, and policy dialogue within the southern media and entertainment sector. FICCI acknowledged his contribution to Indian cinema and expressed confidence in his ability to elevate the industry's regional and national presence. Haasan emphasized the importance of nurturing talent and leveraging technology for content creation and distribution. His leadership is expected to strengthen the committee's initiatives and foster collaboration across the entertainment ecosystem.

Foot notes:

- **Leadership Role**: As Chairperson, Kamal Haasan will lead the FICCI Media and Entertainment Committee South, driving growth and development in the region's media and entertainment sector.
- **Vision for Indian Cinema**: Haasan emphasized the need for a long-term vision for Indian cinema, urging the government to create regulations that foster emerging technologies and promote the industry's growth.
- **Focus on Regional Industries**: The appointment highlights the importance of regional industries in driving global recognition, with Haasan stressing the need to promote multilingual and cross-regional collaborations.
- **Key Initiatives**: Haasan's vision includes encouraging bold and creative storytelling, promoting India's strength in animation and VFX, and seeking government support for regulatory reforms and access to credit.

Sivasubramanian Ramann Appointed as New Chairperson of PFRDA

Sivasubramanian Ramann has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) for a five-year term. He succeeds Deepak Mohanty, who retired in March 2025. Prior to this role, Ramann served as the Chairman and Managing Director of the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), where he played a crucial role in supporting MSMEs. A 1991-batch Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IA&AS) officer, he has held key positions in financial regulation and development.

Foot notes:

- **Background**: Ramann is a 1991-batch Indian Audit & Accounts Service officer and is currently serving as the Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and Chief Technology Officer at the CAG.
- **Previous Roles**: Before joining CAG's office, he was the Chairman and Managing Director (MD) of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and has also held multiple positions with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- **Education**: Ramann holds a master's degree in financial regulation from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and an MBA from the Delhi University.
- **Replacement**: He will replace Deepak Mohanty, whose term ends in May.
- **PFRDA's Role**: As the Chairperson of PFRDA, Ramann will oversee the regulatory body responsible for India's pension sector, including the National Pension System (NPS).
- **Term**: Ramann's five-year term will begin from his date of joining, or until he attains the age of 65.

Carrier Midea India onboards Rashmika Mandanna as brand ambassador

Carrier Midea India has appointed popular actress Rashmika Mandanna as its brand ambassador to enhance its market presence and connect with a wider audience. Known for her vibrant personality and widespread appeal, Rashmika will represent the brand across various marketing and advertising campaigns. Carrier Midea, a leading provider of air conditioning solutions, aims to leverage her influence to strengthen its positioning in the Indian market. The collaboration aligns with the company's commitment to innovation, energy efficiency, and customer satisfaction. Rashmika expressed her excitement about the partnership, emphasizing the importance of high-quality and reliable cooling solutions.

Foot notes:

- **Eva Brand Ambassador**: She is also the face of TTK Healthcare's Eva brand, promoting their fragrance range and featuring in a brand film that showcases the importance of confidence and self-assurance.
- **Janasya Brand Ambassador**: Janasya, a fashion brand, has roped in Rashmika Mandanna as their brand ambassador, targeting the youth of India with their fashionable and affordable products.

- **BoAt Brand Ambassador**: Rashmika Mandanna has been appointed as the first female brand ambassador for boAt's wearables category, promoting their products and celebrating women's empowerment.
- **Pilgrim Brand Ambassador**: Beauty brand Pilgrim has onboarded Rashmika Mandanna as their brand ambassador for their hair care range, featuring her in their new campaign titled 'The Secret is in the Mix'.
- **Other Associations**: Rashmika Mandanna has also been associated with other brands like 7Up, Gillette Venus, Agoda, Amul Macho Sporto, and Bisk Farm, among others.



Volvo Cars appoints Hakan Samuelsson as CEO and President

Volvo Cars has reappointed Hakan Samuelsson as Chief Executive Officer and President, effective April 1, 2025, for a two-year term. This decision follows the departure of Jim Rowan, who stepped down on March 31 after serving since January 2022. Samuelsson previously led Volvo Cars from 2012 to 2022, during which he successfully repositioned the brand and oversaw its public listing. His return comes at a pivotal time as the automotive industry faces rapid technological advancements, geopolitical challenges, and intensified competition. The board believes Samuelsson's extensive experience and strategic clarity will provide the stability needed during this transitional period. A search for a long-term successor is underway.

Foot notes:

- **Previous Experience**: He previously served as Volvo Cars' CEO from 2012 to 2022 and as a board member from 2010.
- **Achievements**: During his previous tenure, Samuelsson successfully repositioned Volvo Cars as a global premium automotive brand and oversaw its public listing.
- **Reason for Reappointment**: The company's board believes Samuelsson's experience and steady hand are necessary to navigate the increasingly complex automotive landscape.
- **Replacement of Jim Rowan**: Samuelsson replaces Jim Rowan, who resigned as CEO and left the Volvo Cars Board on March 31, 2025.
- **Industry Challenges**: Samuelsson will face challenges such as fast-moving technological shifts, growing geopolitical complexity, and intensifying competition across regions.

IMPORTANT DAY NEWS

Odisha Day (Utkal Divas) observed on April 1st

Odisha Day, also known as Utkal Divas, is observed annually on April 1st to commemorate the formation of the state of Odisha on April 1, 1936. This day marks Odisha's recognition as a separate state, based on its linguistic identity, from the Bihar and Orissa Province during British rule. Odisha, historically known as Kalinga and Utkala, is famous for its rich cultural heritage, ancient temples, classical dance (Odissi), and historical landmarks like the Konark Sun Temple and the Jagannath Temple in Puri.

Foot notes:

- **Historical Significance**: Odisha was part of the Bihar and Orissa province, but after decades of struggle, it was announced as an independent state on April 1, 1936.
- **Cultural Celebrations**: The day is marked by cultural programs, parades, and flag hoisting ceremonies across the state [1]. People also organize cultural events, including music and dance performances, to showcase the rich heritage of Odisha.
- **Leadership and Struggle**: The struggle for a separate Odisha state was led by prominent leaders like Utkala Gouraba Madhusudan Das, Utkala mani Gopabandhu Das, and Maharaja SriRam Chandra Bhanj Deo.
- **Current Celebrations**: Today, Odisha Day is celebrated with great enthusiasm across the state, with thousands of stores and Jhankis (tableaux) making the festival more vibrant.
- **Renaming of the State**: In 2011, the Lok Sabha passed the Orissa Bill and Constitution Bill (113rd amendment) to rename the state from Orissa to Odisha.

World Autism Awareness Day observed on April 2nd

World Autism Awareness Day is observed annually on April 2nd to raise awareness about autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The day promotes understanding, inclusion, and support for individuals with autism and their families. Various organizations and communities worldwide conduct events, campaigns, and discussions to highlight the challenges and strengths of people with autism. The United Nations established this observance in 2007 to encourage early diagnosis, research, and policies for better support systems. The theme for each year focuses on different aspects of autism awareness and advocacy.

Foot notes:

- **United Nations Recognition**: The United Nations General Assembly designated April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day in 2007 to promote awareness and encourage member nations to support research and programs for autistic individuals.
- **Raising Awareness**: The day aims to raise public awareness of autism, a neurodevelopmental disorder that affects communication, social interaction, and behavior.

- **Promoting Acceptance and Inclusion**: World Autism Awareness Day promotes acceptance and inclusion of people with autism, encouraging societies to provide equal opportunities and support for autistic individuals.
- **2025 Theme**: The theme for World Autism Awareness Day 2025 is "Advancing Neurodiversity and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)".
- **Importance of Awareness**: Raising awareness about autism is crucial to promote early detection, intervention, and support for autistic individuals, ultimately improving their quality of life.

Independent Artist Day observed on April 3rd

Independent Artist Day is celebrated annually on April 3rd to honor the contributions of independent artists across various creative fields. Established in 2022 by Minted, a design goods marketplace, the day recognizes the unique perspectives and creativity that indie artists bring to the art world. It serves as a reminder of the importance of supporting artists who operate outside traditional institutions, fostering innovation and diversity in cultural expressions. Individuals can observe this day by discovering new artists, attending local art shows, sharing artists' work on social media, and engaging in their own creative endeavors. By participating in these activities, the public helps sustain the vibrant ecosystem of independent artistry, ensuring that diverse voices continue to enrich our cultural landscape.

Foot notes:

- **Celebration**: On this day, independent artists from various fields, including music, film, visual arts, and literature, come together to showcase their talents, share their experiences, and connect with like-minded individuals.
- **History**: The origins of Independent Artist Day are unclear, but it is believed to have started in the early 2000s as a grassroots movement to promote independent art and culture.
- **Global Participation**: Independent Artist Day is celebrated globally, with events, exhibitions, and performances taking place in various cities and countries.
- **Social Media Campaigns**: To raise awareness and promote independent art, social media campaigns are organized using hashtags such as #IndependentArtistDay, #SupportIndependentArtists, and #IndieArt.

National Maritime Day observed on 4th April

National Maritime Day is observed in India on 4th April every year to commemorate the country's rich maritime heritage and honor the contributions of the shipping sector. The day marks the sailing of India’s first commercial vessel, SS Loyalty, from Mumbai to London on April 5, 1919. Celebrated since 1964, the occasion highlights the importance of maritime trade and the role of seafarers in the nation's economy. Various events, including seminars, award ceremonies, and awareness campaigns, are organized to acknowledge the efforts of maritime professionals. The theme for this year focused on sustainability and innovation in the shipping

industry. National Maritime Day serves as a reminder of India's growing stature as a key player in global maritime trade.

Foot notes:

- **Historical Significance**: National Maritime Day commemorates the maiden voyage of the first Indian-owned merchant vessel, SS Loyalty, which sailed from Bombay to London on April 5, 1919.
- **Maritime Heritage**: This day recognizes India's rich maritime heritage and its significant contribution to the global maritime industry.
- **Theme and Celebrations**: Each year, National Maritime Day is celebrated with a specific theme, and various events are organized across the country to promote awareness about India's maritime industry.
- **Importance of Maritime Industry**: The maritime industry plays a vital role in India's economy, with the country having a long coastline and a significant portion of its trade happening through sea routes.
- **Global Connections**: India's maritime industry is closely linked with the global economy, and National Maritime Day serves as a reminder of the country's commitment to safe, secure, and sustainable maritime trade.

OBITUARY NEWS

Former England Bowler Peter Lever passed away

Former England fast bowler Peter Lever has passed away, leaving behind a legacy in cricket. Lever, who played for England in the 1960s and 1970s, was known for his swing bowling and contributions to the team's pace attack. He represented England in 17 Test matches and 10 ODIs, taking crucial wickets with his sharp bowling skills. Apart from his international career, he had a successful domestic stint with Lancashire, playing a key role in their bowling unit. His passing marks the loss of a respected cricketer who made a lasting impact on the game.

Foot notes:

- **International Career**: Lever played 17 Test matches and 10 One-Day Internationals (ODIs) for England, taking 41 wickets in Tests and 11 wickets in ODIs.
- **Infamous Delivery**: Lever is also remembered for a delivery that injured New Zealand batsman Ewen Chatfield in 1975, which required on-field resuscitation.
- **Domestic Career**: Lever played for Lancashire, taking nearly 1,000 wickets in first-class cricket, including 796 wickets in 301 matches.
- **Coaching Career**: He later became England's bowling coach under Ray Illingworth.
- **Awards and Recognition**: Lever was inducted into the Lancashire Hall of Fame in 2023.

Richard Chamberlain, Star of 'Dr. Kildare' and Miniseries Icon, passed away

Richard Chamberlain, the renowned actor best known for his role in "Dr. Kildare", has passed away. A celebrated star of television and miniseries, Chamberlain gained widespread fame in

the 1960s as the charming Dr. James Kildare. He later became a miniseries icon with acclaimed performances in "Shōgun," "The Thorn Birds," and "Centennial." His versatility and charisma made him a household name, earning him multiple awards and a dedicated fan following. Chamberlain's passing marks the end of an era for classic television and Hollywood storytelling.

Foot notes:

- **Breakthrough Role**: Chamberlain's breakthrough came in 1961 when he starred as the compassionate young doctor in NBC's medical drama "Dr. Kildare," earning him a Golden Globe Award .
- **Miniseries Icon**: Chamberlain became known as the "King of the Miniseries" due to his performances in epic television productions, including "Centennial" (1978), "Shogun" (1980), and "The Thorn Birds" (1983).
- **Awards and Legacy**: Chamberlain won three Golden Globe Awards and was nominated for four Emmy Awards throughout his career. He also appeared on Broadway and in film, showcasing his versatility as an actor.
- **Personal Life**: Chamberlain publicly acknowledged his homosexuality in his 2003 autobiography, "Shattered Love". He is survived by his longtime partner, Martin Rabbett.

Veteran Actor Manoj Kumar passed away

Veteran Bollywood actor Manoj Kumar has sadly passed away, leaving behind a remarkable legacy in Indian cinema. Known for his patriotic roles and impactful storytelling, he was affectionately referred to as "Bharat Kumar" for his contributions to films that celebrated Indian values and nationalism. Manoj Kumar starred in and directed several iconic films such as Upkar, Purab Aur Paschim, Roti Kapda Aur Makaan, and Kranti. His work earned him numerous accolades, including the Padma Shri and the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for lifetime achievement. With a career spanning over four decades, he not only entertained audiences but also inspired generations through socially relevant cinema. His passing marks the end of an era, and he will be fondly remembered as a true legend of Indian film.

Foot notes:

- **Early Life:** Manoj Kumar was born Harikrishna Giri Goswami on July 24, 1937, in Abbottabad, Pakistan.
- **Career**: He began his acting career in 1957 with the film Fashion and gained recognition with Kanch Ki Gudiya (1961).
- **Patriotic Films**: Manoj Kumar was known for his patriotic films, earning him the nickname "Bharat Kumar".
- **Awards and Recognition**: He received the Padma Shri in 1992 and the Dada Saheb Phalke Award in 2016 for his outstanding contribution to Indian cinema.


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