



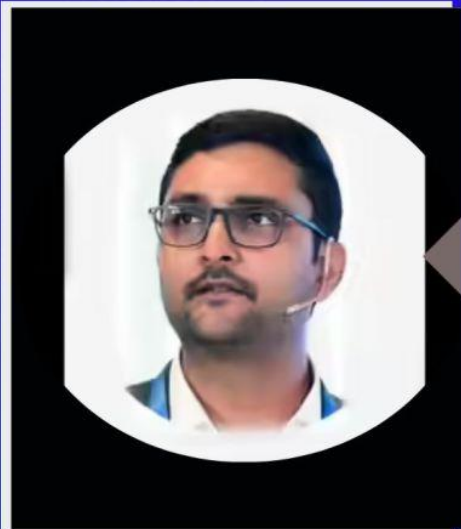
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Current Affairs

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Dr. Sai Gautam Gopalakrishnan Wins
Manohar Parrikar Yuva Scientist Award 2025



1. Dr. Sai Gautam Gopalakrishnan Wins Manohar Parrikar Yuva Scientist Award 2025

- **Award Winner:** Dr. Sai Gautam Gopalakrishnan, Associate Professor of Materials Engineering at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, has been conferred the prestigious Manohar Parrikar Yuva Scientist Award 2025.
- **Award Details:** The award carries a cash prize of ₹5 lakh, the highest among national science and technology awards, and a citation.
- **Research Contributions:** Dr. Gopalakrishnan's pioneering work in computational materials science, focusing on materials modelling and computational analysis of complex alloys, has the potential to impact sustainable technologies and industrial innovation.
- **Selection Process:** Out of 50 applications from leading national institutions, 10 candidates were shortlisted, and Dr. Gopalakrishnan was selected by a committee chaired by eminent nuclear scientist Dr. Anil Kakodkar.
- **Award Presentation:** The award will be presented at the Manohar Parrikar Vigyan Mahotsav in December 2025.



2. Telangana Artificial Intelligence Innovation Hub launched

- **Objective:** The hub aims to position Telangana among the top 20 global AI hubs by 2035, fostering innovation, research, and collaboration across multiple sectors.
- **Partnerships:** The state government has formed alliances with



leading academic and research institutions, including IIIT, BITS Pilani, ISB, NALSAR, IIT Hyderabad, and C-DAC, as well as global tech companies like Google, Microsoft, Infosys, and Amazon.

- **Central Platform:** The hub will serve as a central platform for AI-driven innovation, supporting research and collaboration across various sectors, and helping Telangana become a leading destination for AI research and technology in India.
- **Research and Development:** The hub will focus on developing cutting-edge AI solutions, leveraging the expertise of its partners to drive innovation and entrepreneurship in the region.
- **Growth and Development:** By fostering a strong AI ecosystem, the hub is expected to create new opportunities for economic growth, job creation, and skill development in the region, aligning with the state's vision of becoming a trillion-dollar economy.

3. GCMMF (Amul) Ranked World's No.1 Cooperative by ICA World Cooperative Monitor 2025

- **Ranking and Performance:** GCMMF, which markets dairy products under the Amul brand, has been ranked No. 1 cooperative in the world by the ICA World Cooperative Monitor 2025, based on its GDP per capita performance. Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd (IFFCO) secured the second position.
- **Global Recognition:** The ICA World Cooperative Monitor 2025 is an annual research report that analyzes the economic and social impact of the world's largest cooperatives and mutuals. The report highlights the contributions of cooperatives to inclusive and sustainable development across sectors.
- **Cooperative Model:** Amul's dairy network, built on the spirit of rural self-reliance and collective ownership, has transformed the livelihoods of millions of farmers while symbolizing India's cooperative strength in food security and agribusiness.
- **Economic Impact:** The top 300 cooperatives and mutual enterprises across the world collectively achieved a turnover of USD 2.79 trillion in 2023. India's cooperative giants, including Amul and IFFCO, have demonstrated remarkable global leadership.



4. Indian Navy commissioned new survey vessel 'Ikshak' at Kochi

- **Indigenous Shipbuilding:** 'Ikshak' is a remarkable example of India's growing self-reliance in shipbuilding, with over 80%



indigenous content, reflecting the success of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

- **Advanced Capabilities:** The vessel is equipped with cutting-edge hydrographic and oceanographic equipment, including a high-resolution multi-beam echo sounder, Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV), Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), and four Survey Motor Boats (SMBs).
- **Operational Versatility:** 'Ikshak' features a helicopter deck, enhancing its operational flexibility and enabling multi-domain missions, including aerial survey, logistics, and disaster response.
- **Strategic Significance:** The ship will play a crucial role in mapping India's coastal waters, ports, and maritime approaches, ensuring safe navigation, maritime trade, and naval operations, while strengthening India's maritime domain awareness.
- **Commissioning and Deployment:** 'Ikshak' was commissioned on November 6, 2025, at Naval Base Kochi, and will be based at the Southern Naval Command, marking a significant milestone in the Indian Navy's drive to strengthen its survey and charting infrastructure.

5. Shri Deepak Gupta appointed as CMD, GAIL (India) Limited

- **Appointment:** Deepak Gupta, currently Director (Projects) at GAIL, has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of GAIL (India) Limited, pending final government approval.
- **Background:** Gupta has over three decades of experience in the oil and gas sector, with significant contributions to GAIL's core business areas, including project management, construction, operations, and business development.
- **Tenure:** He is set to succeed Sandeep Gupta on March 1, 2026, and will serve as CMD until his superannuation on February 28, 2029.
- **Responsibilities:** As CMD, Gupta is expected to focus on strengthening GAIL's pipeline network, enhancing gas marketing and trading operations, and advancing the company's diversification into emerging areas like hydrogen, biofuels, and renewable energy.
- **Strategic Significance:** Gupta's appointment comes at a pivotal time when GAIL is aligning its strategies with India's broader energy transition goals, emphasizing sustainability, efficiency, and growth across the natural gas value chain.



6. Vinay Sheel Gautam appointed as Director in the Ministry of Cooperation

- **Appointment Details:** Vinay Sheel Gautam, an IRS-IT officer from the 2009 batch, has been appointed as Director in the Ministry of Cooperation.
- **Tenure:** His appointment is for a period of five years from the date he assumes charge or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- **Previous Posting:** Before this appointment, Gautam was serving as Additional Commissioner in the Delhi Region.
- **Central Staffing Scheme:** The appointment was made under the Central Staffing Scheme, which enables officers from various All India and Central Services to serve in key administrative positions across Union Ministries and Departments.
- **Department Recommendation:** Gautam was recommended for deputation by the Department of Revenue.



7. Paradeep Phosphates Signs Rahul Dravid as Brand Ambassador

- **Partnership Objective:** The partnership aims to promote balanced use of fertilizers and sustainable farming solutions, leveraging Rahul Dravid's reputation for trust, discipline, and reliability to educate farmers about innovative farming practices.
- **Campaigns Launch:** Two nationwide campaigns were launched - "Kheti ka Game Changer" for Jai Kisaan Navratna Nano Shakti Nano DAP and "NPK and Organic Fertilizers ki Winning Team" for Paradeep Phosphates' NPK and organic fertilizer range, using cricketing analogies to explain agronomic principles.
- **Product Promotion:** The campaigns will promote products like Jai Kisaan Navratna Nano Shakti Nano DAP, developed by Zuari FarmHub Ltd in collaboration with TERI, which has shown improved nutrient efficiency and higher yields in trials.
- **Rahul Dravid's Role:** As brand ambassador, Rahul Dravid will feature in marketing and outreach campaigns across television, print, and digital platforms, helping to empower farmers and promote sustainable agriculture practices.
- **Company's Vision:** The partnership aligns with Paradeep Phosphates' long-term goal of promoting sustainable farming solutions, with a focus on balanced fertilization, soil health.



8. MSDE & Autodesk Team Up to Revolutionise Vocational Skills

- **Partnership Objective:** The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Autodesk have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance digital design and manufacturing skills among faculty and trainers in National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) and Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) across India.
- **Digital Skill Enhancement:** The initiative aims to strengthen the digital capabilities of trainers and educators, enabling them to deliver high-quality training that meets global standards and industry expectations, particularly in emerging sectors like architecture, engineering, manufacturing, and construction.
- **Access to Professional-Grade Software:** Autodesk will provide its professional-grade software suite to educators and students across more than 14,500 ITIs and 33 NSTIs, empowering them to develop industry-relevant skills and bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world industry practices.
- **AI-Ready Workforce:** With 52% of Indian organizations prioritizing AI-related skills, the partnership focuses on embedding AI-readiness and digital literacy into vocational education, preparing India's workforce for the evolving needs of industries and making them future-ready.



9. National Cancer Awareness Day observed on 07th November

- **History and Significance:** National Cancer Awareness Day was instituted in 2014 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, to raise public awareness about cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment. The date marks the birth anniversary of Nobel laureate Madame Marie Curie, whose discovery of radium revolutionized cancer radiotherapy.
- **Cancer Burden in India:** India records over 1.39 million new cancer cases annually, with projections rising to 1.57 million by 2025. Common cancers in India include breast, cervical, lung, oral, and colorectal cancers, primarily driven by lifestyle factors like tobacco use, unhealthy diets, and environmental pollution.
- **Importance of Early Detection:** Early diagnosis is crucial, with 90% of cancers curable when detected early. Regular screenings, self-examinations, and awareness of early symptoms can save lives. Recommended screening tests include mammograms, Pap smears, colonoscopy, and low-dose CT scans.
- **Prevention Strategies:** Adopting preventive measures can significantly reduce cancer incidence. Key strategies include tobacco cessation, a healthy diet,



regular physical activity, limiting alcohol intake, sun protection, vaccination, and minimizing exposure to harmful chemicals and pollutants.

10. Hinduja Group Chairman Gopinath P. Hinduja passed away

- **Business Legacy:** He transformed the Hinduja Group into a multi-billion-dollar business with interests in automotive, energy, banking, real estate, and healthcare, with operations in 38 countries and over 200,000 employees.
- **Notable Deals:** Under his leadership, the group acquired Gulf Oil in 1984 and Ashok Leyland in 1987, and developed the luxury Old War Office hotel in London.
- **Philanthropy and Awards:** Gopichand Hinduja was known for his philanthropy and received honorary doctorates from the University of Westminster and Richmond College, London, as well as a Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to business and industry.
- **Net Worth and Succession:** He was the richest person in the UK for seven consecutive years, with a net worth of \$20.6 billion, and was succeeded as Chairman by his brother Srichand's passing in May 2023, and is survived by his wife, sons Sanjay and Dheeraj and daughter Rita.



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