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NATIONAL

NAUSENA SHAURYA VATIKA INAUGURATED

Union Minister **Rajnath Singh** and **Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath** have inaugurated the ‘**Nausena Shaurya Vatika**’ in **Lucknow**. Built at a cost of **₹19 crore**, this **Open-Air Display Museum** is spread over **2 acres** and is dedicated to the **spirit, valour, and prowess of the Indian Navy**.

The museum showcases artefacts and weapon systems from the **INS Gomati**, which was **decommissioned in 2022** after **34 years of service**.

APPROVAL FOR VISAKHAPATNAM ITI CLUSTER

The **National Steering Committee (NSC)** has approved the **Strategic Investment Plan (SIP)** for the **Visakhapatnam Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Cluster** in **Andhra Pradesh**. **Andhra Pradesh** has become the **first state** to operationalise an industry partnership under the **PM-SETU scheme**.

The plan was submitted by **ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India** in collaboration with its academic partner, **New Age Makers Institute of Technology (NAMTECH)**. It is to be noted that this is the **first-ever Strategic Investment Plan** cleared under the **PM-Skill Education and Training Upgrade (PM-SETU)** scheme, which has an outlay of **₹60,000 crore**.

CCEA APPROVES SARTHAK-PDS SCHEME

The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** has approved the ‘**SARTHAK-PDS**’ (**Scheme for Assistance in Ration Transport and Handling-Income with Automation in PDS**) umbrella scheme with a **central outlay of ₹25,530 crore**.

The program will be implemented for **5 years** from **April 2026 to March 2031**, aiming to **modernize the food subsidy network** and benefit citizens covered under the **National Food Security Act (NFSA)**.

CLEAN MOBILITY SCHEME

Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** has announced the ‘**Clean Mobility Scheme**’ with a financial outlay of **₹9,585 crore** to **replace old trucks and buses** in the **Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR)**. This **2-year fleet modernization initiative** aims to **reduce vehicular emissions and winter air pollution** in the region.

The scheme is funded by the **National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB)** under the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** and will be implemented by the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** and the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)**. It involves a **central share of ₹5,041 crore** and **₹1,601 crore in tax concessions** from participating states.

100TH RAMSAR SITE

The **Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary**, also known as **Surha Tal**, in **Uttar Pradesh** has been declared as the **100th Ramsar Site of India**. **PM Narendra Modi** announced this milestone on **World Environment Day (June 5)**.

With this designation, **India ranks 3rd globally** in the total number of Ramsar sites, trailing only the **UK and Mexico**, and holds the **1st position in Asia**. This sanctuary marks the **13th Ramsar site in Uttar Pradesh**, whereas **Tamil Nadu** currently holds the **highest tally of Ramsar sites in India with 20 designated wetlands**.

GOVERNMENT FORMS WORKING GROUPS

The **Government of India** has constituted **6 sector-specific working groups** to identify up to **100 products** to **enhance domestic manufacturing** and **decrease import dependency**.

These working groups are chaired by **Amardeep Singh Bhatia**, **Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I)**.

HAWK SYSTEM LAUNCHED

The Kerala government has launched the Hostile Activity Watch Kernel (HAWK), which is the first fully digitised and judiciary-integrated wildlife offence management system of India.

The HAWK operates as a cloud-based Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system to manage wildlife crime data and support enforcement efforts. The system integrates forest records with the District Court Management System through an Application Programming Interface (API), making Kerala the first state in India to implement such a judiciary-integrated framework.

LONGEST-SERVING ELECTED PM

The Union Cabinet has passed a resolution recognizing 10 June 2026, as PM Narendra Modi becomes the longest-serving elected Prime Minister of India. PM Modi achieved this record with 4,399 days of continuous service, surpassing the previous record held by Jawaharlal Nehru, who served for 4,398 continuous days between 1952 and 1964.

AI VIDEO MODEL

Bengaluru-based Avataar has launched 'Varya', India's first indigenous, distilled video AI model, designed to make generative video storytelling accessible and affordable at a population scale. It was launched in partnership with the IndiaAI Mission.

The AI model operates as a text-to-video and image-to-video foundation model, offering enhanced speed and cost efficiencies to the digital ecosystem.

NEW NCC STATE DIRECTORATES

The Headquarters Directorate General of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) has approved the establishment of independent State Directorates in Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand. This expansion increases the total number of NCC State Directorates in India from 17 to 19.

COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL SPORTS BOARD

The union government has constituted a Search-cum Selection Committee for the National Sports Board. The committee is established under the National Sports Board (Search-cum Selection Committee) Rules, 2026, framed in accordance with the National Sports Governance Act, 2025.

The committee is chaired by Dr TV Somanathan. Its members include Hari Ranjan Rao, Lt General (Retd) Harpal Singh, and two National Sports Awardees, Gagan Narang and N Kunjurani Devi.

NEW GI TAGS

The Geographical Indications Registry (GIR) has granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags to 11 products from Jharkhand, including the Bhoya Saree and Fabric, Kuchai Silk Saree, Jharkhand Bamboo Craft, and Sohrai Painting.

With these additions, Jharkhand has a total of 12 GI-tagged products, of which 4 are supported by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

MOU FOR KISHAU DAM PROJECT

Six northern states including Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Rajasthan, have signed an MoU for the implementation of the Kishau Multipurpose Dam Project. The agreement was signed during a meeting chaired by Union Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi.

The project is a hydroelectric and water storage initiative on the Tons River, a tributary of the Yamuna, located on the border of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh in the Dehradun-Sirmour region. The project is estimated to cost ₹15,000 crore. The Central Government will provide 90% of the water component cost as Central Assistance, while the remaining 10% will be shared by the participating states.

NAVRATNA STATUS FOR CPCL AND GRSE

The Department of Public Enterprises under the Ministry of Finance has upgraded Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd (CPCL) as India's 28th Navratna company and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE) as the 29th Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).

Following this, both Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) can invest up to ₹1,000 crore or 15% of their net worth on a single project without prior approval from the central government.

ISO CERTIFICATION

Osmania University in Hyderabad has become the first university in India to receive four International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Management System Certifications from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

The university has been awarded certifications for **ISO 21001:2018** (Educational Organisations Management System), **ISO 14001:2015** (Environmental Management System), **ISO 50001:2018** (Energy Management System), and **ISO 22000:2018** (Food Safety Management System).

DISHA 2.0

Union Minister of State Arjun Ram Meghwal has approved the continuation of the Central Sector Scheme ‘Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice’ (DISHA), which is now restructured as ‘**DISHA 2.0**’.

The scheme has been allocated an outlay of **₹255 crore** for **5 years (April 2026 to March 2031)**. The funding is provided through **100% Gross Budgetary Support** from the Government of India (GoI), following recommendations from the Standing Finance Committee chaired by **Niraj Verma**.

HYDROGEN PRODUCTION FACILITY

The **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)** has inaugurated the **world’s first hydrogen production facility** utilizing a **Copper-Chlorine (Cu-Cl) thermochemical cycle** at the **Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR)** in **Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu**.

The facility is powered by **nuclear heat** derived from a **Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR)**. The **Cu-Cl cycle** is a **multi-step chemical process** that **splits water molecules into hydrogen and oxygen** through the application of **high-temperature thermal energy**.

ECONOMY

GDP FORECAST FOR FY27

According to a report by **Fitch Ratings**, the **GDP growth projection for India** for **FY27** has been **lowered to 6.4%** from the earlier estimate of **6.7%**.

GDP FORECAST BY OECD

According to the “**OECD Economic Outlook Under Pressure: June 2026**” report released by the **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**, **India’s GDP growth** is projected at **7.6% for FY26**, **6.3% for FY27** (revised from 6.1%), and **6.4% for FY28**. The report also projects **India’s inflation** to rise from **2.1% in FY26** to **4.8% in FY27**.

GDP FORECAST BY WORLD BANK

According to the “**Global Economic Prospects**” (**GEP**) report released by the **World Bank (WB)** in **June 2026**, the **economic growth projection of India for FY27** has been raised to **6.6%**, a **10 basis points (bps) increase** from the previous forecast of 6.5%.

The **GDP of India** is projected to grow by **6.6% in FY27**, moderating from an estimated **7.7% in FY26**, and is expected to accelerate to **7.2% in FY28**.

GDP FORECAST

According to the “**Economic Outlook Asia-Pacific Q3 2026**” report released by **S&P Global Ratings (S&P)**, the **real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast of India for FY27** is revised to **6.6%**. The **Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation of India** is projected to rise to **5.1%**.

INTERNATIONAL

SAUDI ARABIA JOINS IBCA

Saudi Arabia has officially joined the **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)**, becoming the **26th member nation** to ratify the **treaty-based global alliance**. With this accession, the IBCA now comprises **26 member countries** and **5 observer nations**.

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED TO UNSC

The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** has elected **Austria, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal, Trinidad and Tobago (T&T), and Zimbabwe** as **non-permanent members** of the 15-member **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** for a **2-year term (2027–2028)**. This marks the **first-ever term** for **Kyrgyzstan** in the UNSC.

The **new members** will replace the outgoing members **Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, Panama, and Somalia**, whose terms end in 2026. They will join the existing non-permanent members **Colombia, Bahrain, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Latvia, and Liberia**, who will serve until 2027.

INDIA SECURES FATF VICE PRESIDENCY

India has secured the **Vice-Presidency** of the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** for the **first time** since becoming a **full member in 2010**. **Vivek Aggarwal** has been elected as the **Vice President** for a **one-year tenure** commencing in **July 2026**, succeeding **Giles Thomson**.

It is to be noted that the **FATF** is a **40-member intergovernmental body** that establishes **global standards** to **combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.**

BANGLADESH JOINS IBCA

Bangladesh has officially joined the **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** as its **27th member country.** The partnership aims to **enhance joint conservation strategies, habitat protection, and transboundary wildlife management.**

DEFENCE

BRAHMOS MISSILE EXPORT DEAL

The **Government of India** has signed an agreement to **export BrahMos missiles** to **Vietnam** in a **deal valued at ₹6,000 crore** (\$629 million).

This agreement strengthens **bilateral defence and strategic cooperation** between the countries. **Vietnam** is the **second overseas buyer** of the **BrahMos missile system,** after the **Philippines.**

DEFENCE PRODUCTION IN FY26

According to the **Ministry of Defence,** India’s **annual defence production** has reached an all-time high of **₹1.78 lakh crore** in the **FY26.** This marks a **15.6% annual growth** from the **₹1.54 lakh crore** recorded in **FY25.**

WOMEN OFFICERS COMMISSIONED

The **Ministry of Defence** has commissioned the **first batch of 17 women cadets** trained at the **National Defence Academy (NDA)** into the **Indian Armed Forces,** marking a **historic milestone in gender inclusion.**

The **Indian Army** commissioned **9 women officers** at the **Indian Military Academy (IMA)** in **Dehradun, Uttarakhand.** The **Indian Air Force** commissioned **5 women officers** at the **Air Force Academy (AFA)** in **Dundigal, Hyderabad,** and the **Indian Navy** commissioned **3 women officers** at the **Indian Naval Academy (INA)** in **Ezhimala, Kerala.**

PM MODI COMMISSIONS NAVAL SHIPS

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has commissioned three **indigenously built naval ships** **INS Dunagiri, INS Sanshodhak, and INS Agray,** at the **Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Trust** in **Kolkata.**

These **frontline warships** were designed by the **Warship Design Bureau** of the Indian Navy and manufactured by the **Kolkata-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE),** with over **75% indigenous content.**

IMA PASSING OUT PARADE

President Droupadi Murmu presided over the **Passing Out Parade** of the **158th Regular Course** of the Indian Military Academy in **Dehradun, Uttarakhand.**

Lieutenant Vishal Kumar was awarded the **Sword of Honour** and the **President’s Gold Medal** for securing the **first position in the overall Order of Merit** and emerging as the **best all-round officer cadet.** **Academy Under Officer Prince Raj** received the **Silver Medal,** and **Senior Under Officer Tejas Bhatt** was awarded the **Bronze Medal.**

ICG INDUCTS INDIGENOUS ACV

The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** has inducted its **first indigenously constructed Air Cushion Vehicle (ACV),** designated **H-561,** at the **Rassaim shipyard facility in Goa.**

The vessel, built by the **Goa-based Chowgule & Company Pvt Ltd (CCPL),** is made of marine-grade aluminium and contains **over 50% indigenous content.** The ACV can accommodate up to **42 personnel** and an **8-tonne payload,** with a **maximum speed of 45 knots.**

EXERCISE KHAAN QUEST

The **Indian Army** is participating in the **23rd edition** of the **multilateral joint military exercise ‘KHAAN QUEST’ 2026,** hosted by **Mongolia** at the **Five Hills Training Area in Ulaanbaatar.**

The **Indian contingent** consists of **40 members,** including troops from the **JAT Regiment** and other Arms & Services. The exercise involves personnel from **18 participating countries.**

ICGS AKSHAY COMMISSIONED INTO ICG

The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** has commissioned the **ICGS Akshay,** a **new-generation Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV),** into its fleet.

The vessel, built by **Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL)**, was inducted at the GSL facility in **Vasco, Goa**. It features **over 60% indigenous content** and is the **fourth vessel in the Adamya-class FPV series**.

BUSINESS

ADIA BACKED TRUST TO SELL STAKE IN LENSkart

Platinum Jasmine A 2018 Trust, an **investment vehicle** backed by the **Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA)**, has announced plans to **reduce** its **2.3% stake** in **Lenskart Solutions Ltd** through a **block deal**.

APPOINTMENTS

APPOINTMENTS FOR 2026 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** has appointed **Rohit Rajpal**, a former **Davis Cup captain**, as the **Chef de Mission** for the **23rd Commonwealth Games (2026 CWG)**, to be held in **Glasgow, Scotland**.

Additionally, **Ravi Bengani** has been appointed as the **Deputy Chef de Mission**, while **Vandana Rao** and **Rahul Swami** have been designated as the **general team managers** for the Indian contingent.

NEW JUDGES FOR SUPREME COURT

Five new judges have been appointed to the **Supreme Court (SC)**, taking its **current strength to 37**, one short of the **sanctioned strength of 38**.

The newly appointed judges are **Senior Advocate Venkita Subramani Mohana**, **Justice Shree Chandrashekhar**, **Justice Sheel Nagu**, **Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva**, and **Justice Arun Palli**.

NEW APPOINTMENTS IN DEFENCE

Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty has assumed charge as the **20th Commander-in-Chief** of the **Andaman & Nicobar Command (CINCAN)**, succeeding **Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar**.

Major General Rachel Thomas has been appointed as the **Additional Director General** of the **Military Nursing Service (MNS)**, succeeding **Major General Lissamma**. **Air Marshal Tarun Chaudhry** has assumed charge as the **Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief** of the **Central Air Command**, succeeding **Air Marshal Balakrishnan Manikantan**.

NEW CHAIRMAN OF DRDO

Rajesh Kumar Singh, the **Defence Secretary at the Ministry of Defence**, has been given the additional charge of **Secretary of the Department of Defence Research and Development (DDR&D)** and **Chairman of the DRDO**. He succeeds **Dr. Samir V Kamat** in these roles.

NEW UNGA PRESIDENT ELECTED

Khalilur Rahman, the **Foreign Minister of Bangladesh**, has been elected as the **President of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**. He will serve a **1-year term**, succeeding **Annalena Charlotte Alma Baerbock**.

NEW CEO FOR INDIAAI MISSION

Saurabh Vijay, the **CEO of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**, has assumed **additional charge** as the **CEO of the IndiaAI Mission**.

He **succeeds Abhishek Singh**. **Sudeep Shrivastava** has assumed charge as the **Chief Operating Officer (COO)** of the **IndiaAI Mission**.

NEW ARMY CHIEF APPOINTED

Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth, the current **Vice Chief of the Army Staff**, has been appointed as the **Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)**. He will assume charge on **June 30, 2026**, succeeding **General Upendra Dwivedi**.

APPOINTMENTS IN NSC

The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** has approved the appointment of the **Chairperson** and **members** of the **National Statistical Commission (NSC)**.

Dr. Saibal Chattopadhyay has been appointed as the **Chairperson**, while **Prof. Shubhabrata Das**, **Satyendra Bahadur Singh**, and **Dr. Madhavan Mukund** have been appointed as **members** of the commission.

EXPERT COMMITTEE ON AGROBIODIVERSITY

The **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)**, under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**, has reconstituted the **Expert Committee on Agrobiodiversity** for a tenure of **1 year**.

Dr PL Gautam has been appointed as the **Chair** of the committee, and **Dr Trilochan Mohapatra** has been appointed as the **Co-Chair**.

NEW CMD FOR GIC RE

The **Department of Financial Services** has approved the appointment of **Hitesh Rameshchandra Joshi** as the **CMD** of the **General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re)**.

He will assume the office on **16 June 2026** and will serve until **September 2028**. He succeeds **Narayanan Ramaswamy**.

INDIAN JURIST AS ITLOS JUDGE

Indian jurist Bimal N Patel has been elected as a **judge** of the **International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)** for the **2026–2035** term. He will assume office on **October 2026**, succeeding **Neeru Chadha**.

NEW WHATSAPP CEO

Kunal Shah, the **founder of CRED**, has been appointed as the **Global Head and CEO of WhatsApp**. He **succeeds Will Cathcart**. It is to be noted that he is the **first Indian** to lead the messaging platform.

Concurrently, **Miten Sampat** has been appointed as the **interim CEO of CRED**, as Kunal Shah has stepped down from the position.

NEW PRESIDENT FOR FATF

Giles Thomson of the **United Kingdom** has been appointed as the **President of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** for a **2-year term** starting in **July 2026**. He **succeeds Elisa de Anda Madrazo** of Mexico.

AWARDS

FAO HONOUR

Valluvan, a farmer from the **Pollachi district of Tamil Nadu**, has been honoured as a **‘Soil Farmer Hero’** by the **Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)** of the **UN**.

He has received this recognition for transforming his **11-hectare landholding** into a profitable enterprise. He achieved this through the implementation of **multi-crop, tree-based farming techniques**, generating revenue of **₹2.5 lakh to ₹3 lakh per acre**.

NEW AWARDS FOR INDIAN PORTS

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal presented the **Sagar Aankalan – Logistics Port Performance Index (LPPI) awards** for the **FY25**. The **Deendayal Port Authority (DPA)** in **Gujarat** was recognized as the **best-performing port** in the **‘Handling of Container Cargo – less than 0.5 Million Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs)’** category.

The **Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA)** secured the **second position** in the **‘Sagar Aankalan Award’** for **‘Excellence in Handling Liquid Bulk Cargo’** in the category of ports handling **5 million tonnes and above**.

AWARDS FOR INDIAN HAJ MISSION

The **Indian Haj Mission** has been honoured with **two ‘Labbaytum Awards’** by the **Ministry of Hajj and Umrah of Saudi Arabia**.

The awards were conferred in the categories of **Coordination and Communication**, recognising the exemplary management of **Haj operations and pilgrim services** during **Haj 2026**. It is to be noted that this is the **first instance** of India receiving **two Labbaytum Awards** in a **single Haj season**.

NATIONAL E-GOVERNANCE AWARDS

The **National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2026** recognized **17 projects** across India to promote excellence in **digital governance**. The awards comprised **10 Gold Awards, 6 Silver Awards**, and **1 Jury Award**.

The **Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI)**, managed by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**, received a **Gold Award** under Category VII. The **e-Jagriti Platform**, operated by the **Department of Consumer Affairs**, secured a **Silver Award** under Category I.

UN MILITARY GENDER ADVOCATE

Major Abhilasha Barak, an **Indian Army officer**, has been conferred the **2025 UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award**. She served as the **Engagement Team Commander** and **Gender Focal Point** within the Indian Battalion under the **UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)**.

She is the **third Indian peacekeeper** to receive this global award, after **Major Suman Gawani (2019)** and **Major Radhika Sen (2023)**. It is to be noted that She is the **first woman combat helicopter pilot** in the history of the Indian Army.

PRINCESS OF ASTURIAS AWARD

Lionel Messi, the **captain of Inter Miami CF**, has been conferred with the **Princess of Asturias Award for Sports 2026**. He becomes the **first individual footballer** to receive this honour.

The award recognises his **sporting achievements, global influence, and philanthropic efforts** in **supporting education and healthcare for disadvantaged children**.

FOOD PLANET PRIZE

The **Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF)** initiative has been awarded the **2026 Food Planet Prize**.

The prize, presented by the **Curt Bergfors Foundation** in **Bastad, Sweden**, is one of the world’s largest environmental awards focusing on the **transformation of global food systems**. The **APCNF** received a monetary prize of **\$1.5 million**.

GALLANTRY AWARDS

President **Droupadi Murmu** conferred gallantry awards during Phase-I of the **Defence Investiture Ceremony 2026**, held at **Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi**. The awards included **7 Kirti Chakras** (2 posthumous), **15 Vir Chakras** (3 posthumous), and **29 Shaurya Chakras** (1 posthumous).

Lieutenant Shashank Tiwari and **Sepoy Janjal Pravin Prabhakar** were awarded the **Kirti Chakra** posthumously. **Rifleman Sunil Kumar, Sub Inspector (GD) Mohd Imteyaj, and Constable (GD) Deepak Chingakham** were posthumously awarded the **Vir Chakra**, while **Lance Dhadr (L/DFR) Baldev Chand** was awarded the **Shaurya Chakra** posthumously.

MILITARY AWARDS

Major Prabhat Mishra of the **Indian Army (IA)**, belonging to the **22 Kumaon Regiment**, has been honoured with the **Birrer-Brookes Award for Outstanding Master of Military Arts and Science (MMAS) Thesis** and the **General Douglas MacArthur Military Leadership Writing Award**.

He has also received the **Golden Pen Award for scholarly excellence**. It is to be noted that he is the **first Indian officer to win both the awards simultaneously**.

HONOUR FOR GRASA MILLETS

GRASA Millets & Food Pvt Ltd, the **first food-led metabolic recovery system of India**, has been conferred the ‘**Rashtriya Ratna Samman 2026**’.

The startup was awarded under the category of “**Emerging Health Tech & Nutrition Innovation Startup of the Year**” for the innovative approach of the company to **metabolic health**, which utilizes the **science of millets and fermentation**.

NEW AWARDS BY SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI

The **Sangeet Natak Akademi** has announced the fellowships and awards for 2024 and 2025. The **Akademi Fellowship (Akademi Ratna)**, the **highest lifetime achievement honour in performing arts in India (restricted to 40 living individuals)**, has been conferred upon **7 eminent artists**. The award carries a **cash prize of ₹3 lakh**, a Tamrapatra, and an Angavastram.

The **Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar)** were conferred upon **108 artists** for their work in Hindustani and Carnatic music, classical and folk dance, theatre, and puppetry. The award includes a **cash prize of ₹1 lakh**, a Tamrapatra, and an Angavastram.

EMBO GOLD MEDAL

Gautam Dey, an **Indian-origin scientist** affiliated with the **European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL)** in **Germany**, has been awarded the **European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) Gold Medal 2026**.

He received the recognition for his research on the **evolutionary origins of nuclear organization and cell division**. He shares the award with **Omayya Dudin** from the **University of Geneva, Switzerland**. The awardees receive a medal and a bursary of **€10,000**.

GRAND SAND MASTER CUP

Sudarsan Pattnaik, a sand artist from **Puri, Odisha**, has won the **Russia Grand Sand Master Cup 2026** at the **II International Festival of Sand Sculpture** in **Kaliningrad, Russia**. He is the **first Indian to receive this honour**.

His winning entry was a **3-meter high sand sculpture** depicting **two contrasting faces of Earth**. It is to be noted that he was honoured with the **Padma Shri in 2014** for his contributions to the field of Arts.

WOLF PRIZE 2025

Jainendra K Jain, an **Indian-born theoretical physicist**, has been honoured with the prestigious **Wolf Prize 2025** in the **Physics category**. He is the **first Indian-born theoretical physicist** to receive this honour, recognised for his **1989 discovery of composite fermions**.

In the **Physics category**, the prize was jointly awarded to **James P Eisenstein** (USA), **Jainendra K Jain** (India/USA), and **Mordehai Heiblum** (Israel) for their contributions to the study of **two-dimensional electron systems** and **composite fermions**. Each category carries a diploma and a **cash prize of \$100,000**.

GLOBAL PRESTIGE AWARD

Harsh Vardhan, the President of the **Bihar Cricket Association (BCA)**, has been honoured with the **Global Prestige Award** at the **House of Lords in UK**.

The award was presented under the theme ‘**Visionaries of Change: Charting the Course to Viksit Bharat 2047**’. It is to be noted that he was elected as the **youngest President in the history of the BCA** in **2025**.

SJFI GOLD MEDAL

Viswanathan Anand has been conferred the **Sports Journalists’ Federation of India (SJFI) Gold Medal** in recognition of his exceptional contribution to **Indian chess** and outstanding achievements in the sport.

The award was presented by **former India captain Krishnamachari Srikkanth** at the **Madras Cricket Club (MCC)** in **Chennai**.

INDIAN ATHLETICS AWARDS

The **Athletics Federation of India (AFI)** organised the inaugural **Indian Athletics Awards 2025** in **New Delhi**. The awards were presented by **Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya**.

Neeraj Chopra and **Parul Chaudhary** were named the **Best Male and Female Athletes of the Year**, respectively, receiving a cash prize of **₹10 lakh** each. **Shanavaz Khan** and **Pooja Singh** were recognised as the **Best Emerging Athletes of the Year**, receiving **₹2.5 lakh** each.

SPORTS

IPL 2026

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) has won the **19th edition** of the **Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026**, defeating **Gujarat Titans (GT)** by 5 wickets in the final held at the **Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad**.

Led by **Rajat Patidar**, RCB achieved their **second consecutive championship**, becoming the **third franchise in IPL history** to defend their title after **Chennai Super Kings** and **Mumbai Indians**. The winning team was awarded a **prize money of ₹20 crore**, while the runner-up received **₹12.5 crore**.

SAFF WOMEN CHAMPIONSHIP

India has won the **8th edition of the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Women’s Championship title**, defeating the defending champion **Bangladesh by 3-1** in the final. The tournament was held at the **Fatorda Stadium (Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium)** in **Goa** and featured **6 participating nations**.

Individual honours were awarded to **Sanfida Nongrum** (**Most Valuable Player or MVP**), **Aveka Singh** (**top scorer with 4 goals**), and **Panthoi Chanu Elangbam** (**Best Goalkeeper**). **Nepal received the Fair Play Award**. It is to be noted that this victory marks a **record-extending 6th SAFF Women’s Championship title for India**.

NORWAY CHESS 2026

The **14th edition** of the annual international chess tournament, **Norway Chess 2026**, was held in **Oslo, Norway**, featuring both the **Open section** and the **3rd Norway Chess Women tournament**. Both tournaments featured a **prize fund of NOK 1.69 million each**, with the winner of each section receiving **NOK 700,000**.

Indian Grandmaster (GM) **Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa** won the **Open section** with **18 points**, becoming the **first Indian to claim the title** after defeating **Vincent Keymer** of Germany in the final round. GM **Bibisara Assaubayeva** of **Kazakhstan** secured the title in the **3rd Norway Chess Women tournament**.

FRENCH OPEN 2026

The **125th edition** of the **French Open 2026** was held at **Stade Roland Garros** in **Paris, France**.

Alexander Zverev (Germany) won the **men’s singles title** by defeating **Flavio Cobolli** (Italy), while **Mirra Andreeva** (Russia) won the **women’s singles title** by defeating **Maja Chwalinska** (Poland). The men's and women's singles champions was awarded €2.8 million.

FIH HOCKEY WOMEN NATIONS CUP

India has won the **2025–26 International Hockey Federation (FIH) Hockey Women’s Nations Cup** by **defeating New Zealand 2–0** in the final held at the **North Harbour Hockey Stadium, Auckland**. This marks **India’s second title** in the tournament, which featured **8 top-tier nations**.

Lalremsiami (India) was awarded the ‘**Player of the Match**’ in the final. **Ashley Sessa** (USA) was named the ‘**Best Player**’ of the tournament and shared the ‘**Joint Top Scorer**’ title with **Deepika Sehrawat** (India), with both scoring **6 goals**. **Grace O’Hanlon** (New Zealand) was named the ‘**Best Goalkeeper**’. The **USA** secured the **bronze medal** in the competition.

BOOKS

BOOK ON INDIA OLYMPIC HOCKEY TRIUMPH

PT Usha, the **President of Indian Olympic Association**, and **Dr. Dilip Tirkey**, the **President of Hockey India**, have released a book titled “**India’s Olympic Gold: Hockey Triumph at Amsterdam**” in New Delhi.

Authored by **hockey historian K Arumugam** and published by **Stick2Hockey**, the book commemorates the **98th anniversary** of the **Indian Men’s Hockey Team** winning their **first Olympic Gold medal** at the **1928 Amsterdam Olympics**.

OBITUARY

BASHIR BADR PASSED AWAY

Dr. Bashir Badr, a **renowned Urdu poet**, passed away at the age of 91. He was a recipient of the **Padma Shri** in 1999 and the **Sahitya Akademi Award (Urdu)** in 1999 for his **collection of 69 ghazals**.

DR SUBHASH C KASHYAP PASSED AWAY

Dr Subhash C Kashyap, a distinguished **constitutional expert** and **former Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha**, passed away at the age of 97. He was a recipient of the **Padma Bhushan** in 2015.

He **served the Parliament of India for over 37 years**, from the first Lok Sabha under Jawaharlal Nehru to the 9th Lok Sabha. He held the office of **Secretary-General from 1983 to 1990**.

JASPAL RANA PASSED AWAY

Jaspal Rana, the **Indian shooting legend** and **national coach**, passed away at the age of 49.

He remains the **most successful athlete of India in the Commonwealth Games** with **15 medals**, including **9 gold, across four editions**. He was a recipient of the **Arjuna Award** in **1994**, **Padma Shri** in **1997**, and the **Dronacharya Award** in **2020**.

FRANCOIS ENGLERT PASSED AWAY

Francois Englert, a **Belgian physicist**, passed away at the age of 93. He was a foundational scientist behind the theoretical framework that led to the discovery of the **Higgs boson**, which explains how fundamental particles acquire mass.

He was a recipient of the **Nobel Prize in Physics** in 2013, sharing the honour with **Peter Higgs**.

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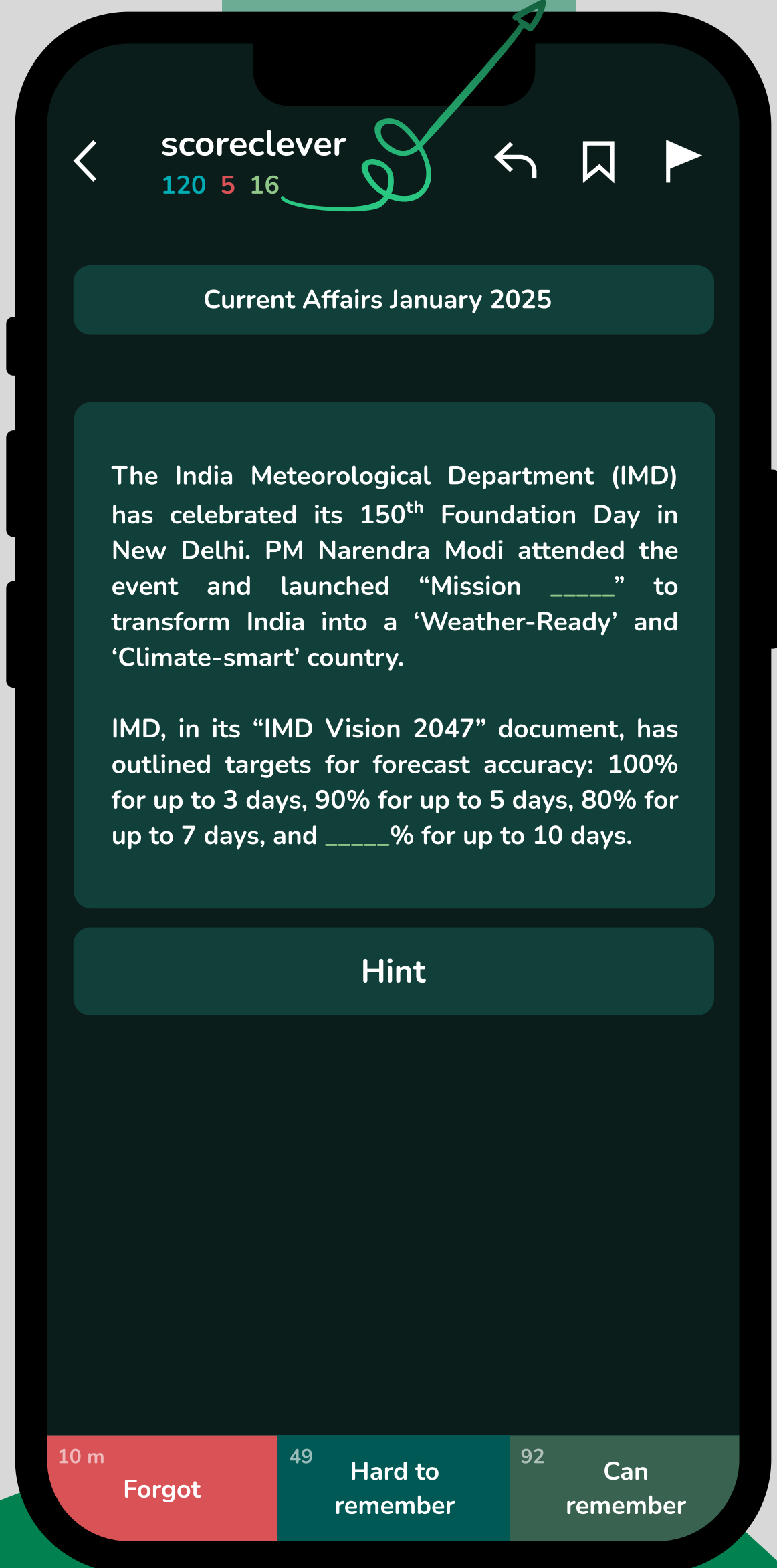
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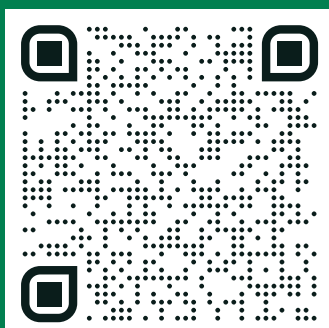
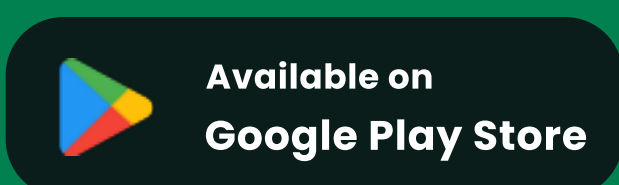
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