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# Indian Women's Cricket Squad Nominated For Prestigious 2026 Laureus World Team Of Year Award



- The Indian women's cricket team has been nominated for the Laureus World Sports Awards 2026 in the World Team of the Year category.
- It is one of the highest international honours in sports, often referred to as the “Oscars of Sports.”
- This marks the first time in history that any women's cricket team has received a nomination in this prestigious category.
- The nomination follows India's historic triumph at the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025, where India secured their maiden Women's ODI World Cup title.
- The team was captained by Harmanpreet Kaur, who led the side to this landmark victory.
- During the tournament, India achieved the highest successful run chase in Women's ODI history (339 runs) in the semi-final against Australia.
- The nomination places the Indian women's cricket team alongside elite global teams such as England Women's Football Team, the European Ryder Cup Team, Paris Saint-Germain, and the McLaren Formula 1 Team.

- The winners will be selected by the Laureus World Sports Academy, a jury comprising legendary sportspersons from across the world.
- The award ceremony is scheduled to be held in Madrid in April 2026.
- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced a cash reward of ₹51 crore for the World Cup-winning squad in recognition of their achievement.
- India's growing presence at the Laureus platform includes previous Indian nominees such as Vinesh Phogat (2019), Neeraj Chopra (2022), and Rishabh Pant (2025).
- The nomination signifies increasing global recognition of Indian women's sports and highlights the rise of women's cricket on the international stage.

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## **Saba Shawl becomes first Kashmiri woman Superintendent of Srinagar Central Jail**

- Saba Shawl has been appointed as the Superintendent of Central Jail Srinagar, becoming the first Kashmiri woman to head the high-security prison in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Her appointment comes under Government Order of Home of 2026 dated March 2, 2026, issued by the Home Department.
- She was inducted into the Prisons Department after clearing the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission examination in 2012, securing the lone open merit post in her batch.
- She holds a Master's degree in Social Work (MSW), reflecting a professional background aligned with correctional administration and rehabilitation-focused governance.
- Prior to her elevation as Superintendent, she served as Staff Officer to the Director General of Prisons, J&K, and has handled key administrative and coordination responsibilities within the department.
- Central Jail Srinagar is among the oldest and most sensitive correctional facilities in the Union Territory and houses a significant number of inmates, including high-risk prisoners.
- The appointment is viewed as a milestone in strengthening women's representation in leadership positions within the correctional and uniformed services in India.
- Saba Shawl hails from Peerbagh, Srinagar.



## Smriti Mandhana gains No.1 spot in ICC Women's ODI rankings; Alana King tops bowlers' chart



- As per the latest update (3 March 2026) by the International Cricket Council (ICC), Smriti Mandhana has regained the No. 1 position in ICC Women's ODI Batting Rankings with 790 rating points.
- She surpassed Laura Wolvaardt, who is placed second with 782 rating points.
- Mandhana's rise followed her scores of 58 and 31 in the recent three-match ODI series against Australia.
- Harmanpreet Kaur re-entered the top 10 at 9th position with 652 rating points, moving up four places in the batting rankings.
- In the ICC Women's ODI Bowling Rankings, Alana King climbed to No. 1 with a career-best 775 rating points, ending the nearly four-year reign of England spinner Sophie Ecclestone at the top. Ecclestone slipped from the No. 1 position after her long dominance since 2020.

- King's rise was powered by her performance in the India series, where she took 7 wickets at an average of 16.71, including best figures of 4/33 in the third ODI.
- Australia defeated India 3–0 in the three-match ODI series.
- In the batting rankings, Beth Mooney is placed third with 749 rating points, while Alyssa Healy is fourth with 744 rating points, and Ashleigh Gardner is fifth with 724 rating points.
- In the ICC Women's ODI All-Rounder Rankings, Ashleigh Gardner continues to hold No. 1 position with 516 rating points, maintaining a significant lead over competitors.
- Deepti Sharma is ranked 10th in the ODI Bowling Rankings and 5th in the ODI All-Rounder Rankings, remaining the only Indian bowler in the top 10.
- The rankings update reflects performances in the recently concluded Australia vs India ODI series and other international fixtures considered by the ICC.

## **Maharashtra launches one-stop digital portal for Divyang schemes**



- The Government of Maharashtra has launched the Divyang Sahayak Digital Portal to streamline the implementation of welfare schemes for persons with disabilities (Divyangjan) across the state.
- The portal has been developed by the state's Department of Social Justice and Special Assistance to ensure end-to-end digital delivery of benefits.
- It is designed as a single-window, fully integrated online platform, enabling beneficiaries to apply for multiple disability welfare schemes through one interface.
- It aims to strengthen implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and ensure faster and transparent delivery of benefits.
- The system uses demographic data to automatically suggest eligible schemes, reducing exclusion errors.
- It allows online application, digital document upload, automated verification, real-time tracking of application status, and grievance redressal facilities, thereby reducing physical visits to government offices.

- AI-enabled features such as automated document scrutiny and data validation have been incorporated to speed up processing and minimize human intervention.
- The platform is integrated with the Unique Disability ID (UDID) system, Aadhaar authentication, and Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanisms to ensure transparency and timely transfer of financial assistance directly into beneficiaries' bank accounts.
- The portal facilitates services such as issuance of disability certificates, UDID cards, access to financial assistance schemes, educational benefits, assistive devices support, and other social security measures.
- The system is designed to eradicate procedural delays, minimise bureaucratic paperwork, curb duplication and financial leakages, and strengthen transparency and institutional accountability in the delivery of welfare schemes.
- The initiative is part of Maharashtra's broader push toward digital governance and inclusive welfare delivery, strengthening accessibility for Divyang beneficiaries across urban and rural areas of the state.
- It is linked with Aadhaar through Meri Pehchan and Direct Benefit Transfer platform, with integration of Permanent Account Number, Goods and Services Tax, bank details, and electronic signature systems.
- The portal is structured into 11 modules, of which four modules are ready for launch.

## Sarvam partners with SBI Life to deploy AI tools across insurance distribution network



- SBI Life Insurance has entered into a strategic partnership with the Indian AI startup Sarvam AI to deploy advanced artificial intelligence (AI) tools across its nationwide insurance distribution network.
- The initiative aims to move AI beyond pilot projects and embed production-ready AI solutions into SBI Life's core operations to enhance customer engagement and sales support functions.
- Under the collaboration, Sarvam's Samvaad conversational AI platform and Arya multi-agent orchestration system will be integrated into SBI Life's systems to automate customer service tasks, query handling, and sales assistance using enterprise data.
- The AI rollout is expected to benefit over 8 crore policyholders and more than 3.5 lakh insurance distributors across India, making it one of the largest AI deployments in the Indian insurance sector.
- Through this initiative, SBI Life will introduce voice-based policy servicing in 11 Indian languages, enabling customers from diverse linguistic backgrounds to access instant assistance.

- The Samvaad platform will enable voice-based customer interactions in multiple Indian languages, providing instant responses to policy queries such as fund values, premium due dates, and surrender values.
- A multilingual AI “Claim-Bot” is being introduced to assist nominees through the claims documentation process via voice or WhatsApp, including reading and verifying scanned documents across various Indian scripts in real time.
- An AI “co-pilot” tool will support SBI Life agents by helping them explain complex insurance products and features to customers in their native languages, improving clarity and reducing mis-selling risks.
- The system is being built to handle “real-world” conditions, such as noisy environments and colloquial speech patterns like Hinglish, ensuring practical usability at scale.
- A pilot phase of the deployment has begun in selected branches in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, with a full nationwide rollout targeted by August 2026.
- The collaboration is seen as part of a broader trend of AI adoption in the Indian financial services and insurance (BFSI) sector to improve operational efficiency, customer experience, and responsiveness.

## **Renova Hospitals Conferred with "Best Multispecialty and Cancer Hospital in Telangana" at Pride of Nation Award 2026**

- Renova Hospitals was conferred the title of “Best Multispecialty and Cancer Hospital in Telangana” at the Pride of Nation Award 2026 ceremony held on 2 March 2026.
- The award ceremony took place at Novotel Visakhapatnam Varun Beach, highlighting the regional importance of the healthcare sector in South India.
- The honour was presented by Hari Babu Kambhampati, Governor of Odisha, adding gubernatorial significance to the event.
- The recognition was granted for excellence in clinical services, patient-centric care, advanced infrastructure, and significant contributions in multispecialty and oncology treatment.
- The award was received by G. V. N. Ravindranath, Group Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Renova Hospitals, representing the hospital leadership.
- Renova Hospitals is noted for its comprehensive oncology services including surgical oncology, medical oncology, and radiation therapy, along with the use of advanced medical technology for cancer diagnosis and treatment, strengthening Telangana’s position in specialised healthcare delivery.



## Assam Starts Exporting GI-Tagged Karbi Anglong Ginger To London



- Karbi Anglong Ginger, a Geographical Indication (GI) tagged agricultural product from Assam, has been exported to London (United Kingdom) for the first time.
- This marks a significant milestone for India's spice exports and the North East's agri-trade expansion.
- The first export consignment, weighing 1.2 metric tonnes, was flagged off on 2 March 2026 at Krishi Bhawan, Khanapara, Guwahati.
- The consignment was formally flagged off by Atul Bora, Agriculture Minister of Assam.
- The export initiative was facilitated by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) in collaboration with the Government of Assam and exporters.
- This reflects strong institutional support for promoting GI-tagged products in international markets.

- Karbi Anglong Ginger is known for its distinct aroma, high pungency, fibre content, and superior quality, which differentiate it from other varieties and contributed to it receiving GI status.
- The GI tag ensures legal protection of origin, prevents unauthorized use, enhances product branding, and helps farmers obtain premium prices in domestic and global markets.
- The development strengthens “Brand Assam” in the global agricultural market and is expected to boost farmers’ income, encourage value addition, and promote exports from the North Eastern Region.

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## World Hearing Day

- World Hearing Day 2026 is being observed globally on 3rd March, to raise awareness about the prevention of deafness and hearing impairment, and to promote ear and hearing care worldwide.
- The observance encourages early detection, timely intervention, and improved access to affordable and inclusive hearing healthcare services across countries.
- The theme for World Hearing Day 2026 is “From communities to classrooms: hearing care for all children.”
- This theme highlights the importance of preventing avoidable childhood hearing loss and ensuring early identification and appropriate care for children, particularly by integrating hearing care into community and school health programmes.
- In the late 1816, Laurent Clerc played a pivotal role in establishing one of the earliest permanent institutions for deaf students in the United States, marking a major milestone in the history of deaf education.
- In 1870, during the Second International Congress on Deaf Education held in Milan, educators adopted oral teaching methods and discontinued the formal use of sign language in classroom instruction.
- The World Health Organization initiated the observance in 2007 under the name International Ear Care Day to promote awareness about preventing deafness.
- In 2016, the event was officially renamed World Hearing Day to broaden its focus toward comprehensive hearing care, prevention strategies, and global advocacy efforts.



## Central Warehousing Corporation Celebrates its 70th Foundation Day

- The Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) celebrated its 70th Foundation Day on 2 March 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- The event was inaugurated by Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, who lauded CWC's significant contribution to India's food security framework, warehousing infrastructure and logistics development.
- Shri Joshi encouraged CWC to strive towards becoming a Maharatna enterprise and to play a key role in propelling India into the ranks of the top 25 global logistics performers, aligning with national logistics competitiveness goals.
- CWC has expanded beyond warehousing and now functions more broadly across the logistics sector, integrating supply chain and storage services nationwide.
- A proposal is to be made, with Prime Minister's approval, to transform CWC into a company, indicating a structural reform aimed at enhancing operational flexibility and competitiveness.
- On the occasion, Shri Santosh Sinha, Managing Director of CWC, highlighted that during FY 2024–25 the Corporation recorded its highest ever turnover of ₹2,776.88 crore and Profit Before Tax (PBT) of ₹711.60 crore, up from the previous year, showing strong financial performance.
- A dividend of ₹160.10 crore was proposed and paid for FY 2024–25.
- The government has set an ambitious national target to reduce India's logistics costs to below 10% of GDP by 2030, underscoring warehousing and efficient supply chains as critical drivers of economic development.



- The Indian warehousing sector is projected to expand rapidly, growing at an annual rate of 15% and reaching a market size of nearly USD 35 billion by 2027.
- The Corporation emphasised infrastructure augmentation, digital transformation, operational efficiency and expansion of integrated logistics services to support supply chains and help reduce logistics costs.
- The 70th Foundation Day reaffirmed CWC's commitment to efficient, technology-driven and customer-centric logistics solutions in support of national food security and logistics efficiency.

### **About Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC):**

- Central Warehousing Corporation is a statutory body under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, which was established in 1957 under 'The Warehousing Corporations Act, 1962.
- It aims to provide logistics support to the agricultural sector.
- Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Managing Director: Shri Santosh Sinha.

## National Safety Day

- National Safety Day 2026 is being observed in India on 4 March 2026 to promote safety awareness and strengthen a culture of accident prevention across industrial and public domains.
- The year 2026 marks the 55th National Safety Day celebration in the country.
- National Safety Day also marks the beginning of National Safety Week, observed annually from 4 March to 10 March, which in recent years has been expanded into a broader National Safety Month campaign to sustain safety awareness activities.
- The theme for National Safety Day 2026 is “Engage, Educate & Empower People to Enhance Safety”, focusing on participatory approaches, awareness generation, and capacity building to reduce workplace accidents and occupational hazards.
- The observance aims to emphasise occupational safety and health (OSH), road safety, construction safety, industrial risk management, and environmental protection measures.
- The day commemorates the foundation of the National Safety Council (NSC), which was established on 4 March 1966 by the Ministry of Labour, Government of India, as an apex body to promote safety, health, and environmental protection.
- The NSC functions as a non-profit, tripartite body involving government, employers, and employees, and works to develop safety standards, training programmes, consultancy services, and awareness campaigns across sectors.

