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National Lata Mangeshkar and Kishore Kumar Awards

- The Madhya Pradesh government has announced the recipients for the prestigious National Lata Mangeshkar Award and National Kishore Kumar Award for the years 2024 and 2025.
- The ceremony for the Lata Mangeshkar Award will be held at the legendary singer's birthplace, Indore, on 28th September 2025, while the Kishore Kumar Award will be presented in his birthplace, Khandwa, on 13th October 2025.
- About: The National Lata Mangeshkar Award and the National Kishore Kumar Award, instituted by the Madhya Pradesh government, serve as a tribute to the legacies of two of India's most iconic performers, Lata Mangeshkar and Kishore Kumar.
- **National Lata Mangeshkar Award:** The award recognizes outstanding contributions to Indian music, particularly in music direction and singing.

Recipients:

- **2024:** Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy (Music Composer Trio)
- **2025:** Sonu Nigam (Playback Singer)
- **National Kishore Kumar Award:** The award honours achievements in Indian cinema, including lyric writing and filmmaking.

Recipients:

- **2024:** Prasoon Joshi (Lyricist)
- **2025:** Sanjay Leela Bhansali (Filmmaker)



Operation Sindoor: Gallantry Awards Announced for Armed Forces Heroes



- The government has conferred gallantry awards upon several military officials for their role in Operation Sindoor and had played a pivotal role in hitting terror and military targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir three months ago.
- The third-highest wartime gallantry award, the Vir Chakra, has been given to 13 individuals for their involvement in Operation Sindoor: nine from the Indian Air Force (IAF) and four from the Army.

Gallantry Awards Awarded

- According to the defense ministry, the list of awards includes 40 distinguished service decorations and 127 gallantry medals, including four Kirti Chakras, 15 Vir Chakras, 16 Shaurya Chakras, two Bars to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 58 Sena Medals (Gallantry), six Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry), 26 Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry), seven Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medals, nine Uttam Yudh Seva Medals, and 24 Yudh Seva Medals.

Olympic medallist Dr Vece Paes, father of tennis star Leander Paes, dies aged 80

- Dr. Vece Paes, a member of India's bronze medal-winning hockey team at the 1972 Munich Olympics, a member of the 1996 Olympic bronze medal-winning team, and father of tennis player Leander Paes, passed away in Kolkata at the age of 80.

Other Sports

- A versatile sportsman, Wes Paes also played divisional cricket, football, and rugby. Rugby, in particular, became his lifelong passion.
- He represented the Calcutta Cricket and Football Club in the sport and later served as president of the Indian Rugby Football Union from 1996 to 2002.

Leander Paes

- His son, Leander Paes, went on to become one of India's most prestigious tennis players. Leander ended India's 44-year wait for an individual Olympic medal by winning the men's singles bronze at Atlanta 1996 and won 18 Grand Slam doubles titles.



S&P upgrades India to BBB with a Stable Outlook

- The Ministry of Finance welcomes the decision by Standard & Poor's (S&P) Global Ratings to upgrade India's long-term sovereign credit rating to 'BBB' from 'BBB-' and its short-term rating to 'A-2' from 'A-3', with a Stable Outlook.
- This marks the country's first sovereign upgrade by S&P in 18 years, the previous one being in 2007 when India was elevated to investment grade at BBB-.
- In May 2024, the agency revised its outlook on India from 'Stable' to 'Positive'.
- Looking ahead, S&P projects GDP growth of 6.5 per cent in FY26 and a continued momentum over the next three years.
- Recently, another rating agency, Morning Star DBRS had also upgraded India to "BBB" status.

**S&P Global upgrades India's
credit rating to BBB with
stable outlook**



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh hails India's first ever two aquanauts Cdr. Jatinder Pal Singh and Sh. Raju Ramesh deep dive upto 5000m in Deep Sea



- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology Minister of State PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, announced that two Indian aquanauts successfully conducted deep ocean expeditions to depths of 4,025 meters and 5,002 meters in the Atlantic Ocean marking the first time India has achieved such a feat.
- The Indian aquanauts - Raju Ramesh, Senior Scientist and Cdr. Jatinder Pal Singh (Retd) completed the maiden dives for a total duration of about seven hours, gathering valuable experience and observations before making a safe return to the surface.
- The expedition was conducted as a collaborative scientific activity with IFREMER, the French marine research institute, in deep waters of the Atlantic Ocean, onboard IFREMER's submersible Nautille.

- This record-setting dive is a prelude to the activities under India's Samudrayan Mission, which aims to send three aquanauts to a depth of 6,000 meters in the indigenously developed submersible MATSYA-6000 by 2027.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted that India, with a coastline of 11,098 km and a vast Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), holds immense potential for both living and nonliving marine resources offering a natural advantage unmatched by any other country.
- He further noted that India has already signed a contract with the International Seabed Authority for exploring deep-sea minerals at depths ranging from 4,000 to 5,500 meters.
- The two Indian aquanauts are from the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai, an institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences entrusted with developing MATSYA-6000. With this submersible, India will become the sixth nation in the world to have developed its own deep-ocean human submersible.
- MATSYA-6000—a first-of-its-kind, fourth-generation scientific submersible—is designed for an operational endurance of 12 hours and an emergency endurance of up to 96 hours.
- The MATSYA-6000 completed successful wet trials at L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli, Tamil Nadu in January–February 2025 and is expected to undertake 500-meter shallow water trials by 2026.
- In the past, Indian scientists from CSIR-NIO had dived to 3,800 meters and 2,800 meters in 1997 and 2002 in the submersibles Alvin (USA) and Nautile (France) respectively.

National Health Authority and C-DAC Sign MoU to roll out a light HMIS for Digitization of Small and Medium Healthcare Providers



- The National Health Authority (NHA) and the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to roll out e-Sushrut@Clinic
- e-Sushrut@Clinic provides a lightweight, cloud-based Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) designed specifically for outpatient clinics.
- This government-backed Health Management Information System (HMIS) is designed specifically for small and medium healthcare providers.
- It marks a pivotal step in expanding the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) ecosystem.
- ABDM, launched in September 2021 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, aims to support the development integrated digital health infrastructure of the country.

- The application developed by C-DAC is a lighter version of their flagship e-Sushrut HMIS software.
- The eSushrut software is currently in use at 17 AIIMS and more than 4000 health facilities all over the country.
- The onboarding process for e-Sushrut@Clinic has been kept simple. Any healthcare provider can onboard it from his/her laptop/mobile on a webpage through their Health Facility Registry (HFR) and Health Professionals Registry (HPR).
- If the healthcare provider is not registered on HFR/HPR, they would be able to register on eSushrut@Clinic itself.
- This will make it much easier for doctors in both public and private clinics to access and update patient health records, offer telemedicine services, and streamline diagnostics and prescriptions.
- eSushrut@Clinic is tailored for outpatient management, pharmacy, and nursing modules, and delivers essential functionalities at a low per-user cost.
- The platform enables small clinics, sub-centres, and medium-sized hospitals to digitize patient records, prescriptions, and billing with minimal technical overhead.

IN-SPACE Selects Pixxel-Led Consortium for India's First Indigenous EO Satellite Constellation

- Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE) announced that PixxelSpace India led consortium which comprises: Piersight Space Private Limited, Satsure Analytics India Pvt. Ltd. And Dhruva Space Pvt. Ltd., has been selected to design, build, and operate India's 1st fully indigenous commercial Earth Observation (EO) satellite constellation under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.
- This announcement is historically significant, marking the first time in the Indian space sector that a private consortium will invest more than Rs.1,200 crore over five years to launch a constellation of 12 advanced EO satellites.
- The constellation will generate high-resolution, indigenous satellite data that will help in reducing India's dependence on foreign sources, ensures data sovereignty and position India among the global leaders in spacebased data solutions.
- The GoI has set the target to boost India's space economy from USD 8.4 billion (in 2022) to USD 44 billion (in 2033).



Khelo India Water Sports Festival Mascot, Logo unveiled in Srinagar

- The Himalayan Kingfisher was unveiled in Srinagar as the mascot for the first-ever Khelo India Water Sports Festival which is set to make a splash at the city's iconic Dal Lake from August 21 to 23, 2025.
- The first-ever Khelo India Beach Games were held in Diu in May this year. The KIWSF will be hosted by the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and the Sports Authority of India (SAI).
- This will be the second Khelo India event for Jammu and Kashmir, after Gulmarg hosted the snow events of the Khelo India Winter Games in March.
- The KIWSF will feature rowing, canoeing and kayaking as medal events.
- The demonstration events will be water skiing, shikara race and dragon boat race.
- The Himalayan Kingfisher, the colourful mascot of the Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025, embodies the spirit of adventure, nature, and competition in the Games. With its bold orange and blue, it represents energy, tranquillity, and the beauty of Kashmir
- The Khelo India Water Sports Festival logo captures the essence of Kashmir, featuring a Shikara gliding on Dal Lake, framed by snow-capped mountains and pine trees. Its calm reflections mirror the beauty of Kashmir, while the Khelo India colours unite tradition, nature, and the energy of sport.



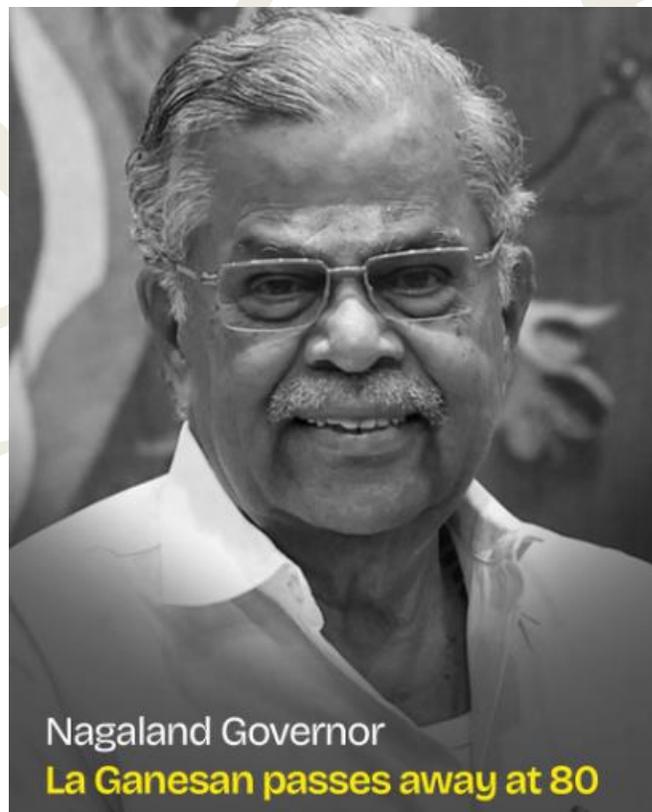
Rohith Krishna S becomes India's 89th Grandmaster

- Rohith Krishna S., a 19-year-old engineering student from Chennai, has become India's 89th Chess
- Grandmaster after defeating International Master Artur Davtyan of Romania in the final round of the
- Almaty Masters Qonaev Cup in Kazakhstan
- Last month, Divya Deshmukh had become India's 88th Grandmaster after she won the FIDE Women's World Cup by defeating the veteran Koneru Humpy in the final
- **Who is a Grandmaster?**
- Grandmaster is the highest title or ranking that a chess player can achieve. It is awarded by the International Chess Federation (FIDE) the global governing body headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland.



Nagaland Governor La Ganesan Passes Away at 80 in Chennai

- He had earlier served as the Governor of Manipur and held the additional charge as the Governor of West Bengal.
- In 2017, Mr. Ganesan was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Madhya Pradesh, following the appointment of the then MP, Najma Heptulla, as the Governor of Manipur.
- Mr. Ganesan also served as the editor of the BJP's Tamil organ Ore Naadu (One Nation) and was the founding president of Pottramarai ('Golden Lotus'), an organization dedicated to promoting and supporting Tamil scholars across the globe.



India to launch Sudarshan Chakra air defence system by 2035



- Taking inspiration from the Mahabharata, Prime Minister Modi mentioned the moment when Lord Krishna blocked the sunlight from reaching the Earth once to help Arjuna defeat Jayadratha.
- On 15 August 2025, during his 79th Independence Day address from the Red Fort, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a historic national security initiative – Mission Sudarshan Chakra.

Iron Dome All-Weather Air Defence System

- The air defence system named “Sudarshan Chakra” may be modeled on Israel’s Iron Dome all-weather air defence system, known as a highly effective missile shield.
- It is a short-range, surface-to-air air defence system that includes radar and Tamir interceptor missiles, which track and neutralize any rocket or missile targeted at Israeli assets
- It will ensure comprehensive security for strategic and civilian areas like hospitals, railways, and centers of faith.
- Every citizen should feel safe with expanding security coverage.

Current Defense Capabilities:

- India currently operates three S-400 missile systems developed by Russia.
- These systems were crucial in countering Pakistani drones and missiles, particularly during Operation Sindoor.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Longest Speech So Far

- On 15 August 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made history by delivering a 103- minute Independence Day speech from the historic Red Fort – the longest ever speech by any Indian Prime Minister.
- This speech broke his own 2024 record of 98 minutes. Before Modi, the longest Independence Day speeches were by Jawaharlal Nehru in 1947 (72 minutes) and Inder Kumar Gujral in 1997 (71 minutes).

Shortest Speeches

- In contrast, some of the shortest Independence Day speeches were by leaders such as
- Nehru himself (14 minutes in 1954) and Indira Gandhi (14 minutes in 1966).



HDFC ERGO partners with PhonePe to offer affordable health insurance solution

- HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company Limited has partnered with PhonePe to launch an affordable health insurance solution, with an aim to expand health insurance coverage to the underserved citizens in India.
- The partnership focuses on the 'Missing Middle' (approximately 40 crore Indians), aged between 18 and 30 years, who are not covered by government schemes or the existing health insurance plans.
- To serve the people in lower and middle-income groups, the premium starts at Rs.12 per day or Rs.4,380 per year for coverage of Rs.3 lakhs.

HDFC ERGO General Insurance:

- Headquarters: Mumbai
- MD & CEO Anuj Tyagi



Kisan Credit Card accounts in public sector banks fall 1.8% to 22.5 million in FY25

- The number of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) accounts in public sector banks decreased by 1.8% year-on-year to 22.5 million in FY25.
- Despite the decline in the number of accounts, the outstanding loan amount increased by 2.2% to ₹41,300 crore.
- The KCC scheme, introduced in 1998, provides short-term crop loans to farmers and those in allied activities at a benchmark interest rate of 9%.
- To incentivize timely repayment, farmers are offered a 3% prompt repayment incentive.
- In the FY26 budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced an increase in the KCC loan limit for farmers from ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh.

