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Nidhi Chhibber appointed interim CEO of NITI Aayog



- The Centre has appointed senior IAS officer Nidhi Chhibber as the interim Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog, following the completion of B V R Subrahmanyam’s extended tenure on February 24, 2026.
- According to an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Chhibber will hold additional charge of the post “till the appointment of a regular incumbent or until further orders.”
- Chhibber, a 1994-batch IAS officer of Chhattisgarh cadre, currently serves as the Director General, Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office, NITI Aayog.
- In her current role, Chhibber looks after outcome-based monitoring and evaluation mechanisms across flagship government programmes.
- Subrahmanyam, a 1987-batch IAS officer (Retired) of Chhattisgarh cadre, was appointed NITI Aayog’s CEO on February 20, 2023.
- Initially, Subrahmanyam was appointed for two years, with his term ending on February 24, 2025, but he was given a one-year extension, which ended on February 24, 2026.

About NITI Aayog:

- NITI Aayog, a premier government think tank, was established by the Modi government in 2015, following the scrapping of the erstwhile Planning Commission.
- **Chairman:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- **Vice Chairman:** Suman K Bery
- **Full-time members:** Dr V K Saraswat, Dr V K Paul, Dr Rajiv Gauba, Ramesh Chand, and Arvind Virmani.

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Bela Gram Becomes India's First Net-Zero Panchayat



- Bela Gram Panchayat, located in Bhandara district of Maharashtra, has been recognised as India's first net-zero panchayat.
- It garnered national prominence during Mumbai Climate Week 2026 for its comprehensive carbon-neutral initiatives.
- This recognition underscores the pivotal role of local self-governance institutions in advancing climate action and promoting sustainable development.
- Bela Gram panchayat planted more than 90,000 trees during weddings and festivals.
- It also advocated for a smooth energy transition from smoky chulhas to LPG.
- It installed solar panels at homes, anganwadis, and Panchayat offices.
- Promoted waste segregation and eliminated single-use plastics.
- It had earlier received the 2024 Rashtriya Panchayat Puraskar for excellence in governance.

- A net-zero village minimizes its greenhouse gas emissions and compensates for any remaining emissions through environmentally sustainable practices such as tree plantation and the adoption of renewable energy.
- Net-zero status means that the amount of pollution produced is equal to the amount reduced or absorbed, thereby maintaining environmental balance and sustainability.
- **About Maharashtra:**
- Capital – Mumbai
- Chief Minister – Devendra Fadnavis (3rd time)
- Deputy Chief Minister – Eknath Sindhe & Sunetra Pawar
- Governor – Acharya Devvrat (Additional Charge)

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Richard Pybus appointed as head coach of Afghanistan



- Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) on February 24 confirmed the appointment of Richard Pybus as the new head coach of the men's cricket team.
- The Englishman takes over from Jonathan Trott, who was at the helm of the Afghanistan team for four years.
- From 2013 to 2019, Pybus served as head coach, director of cricket, and head of high performance for the West Indies.
- During this period, he oversaw the development of a high-performance structure that led to a historic treble in 2016, when the West Indies men's, women's, and Under-19 teams all won ICC World Cup titles in the same year.
- Earlier in his career, Pybus led Pakistan to the final of the 1999 ICC Cricket World Cup, where they finished as runners-up to Australia. He also held a senior leadership role with Bangladesh cricket in 2013.
- At the domestic level, Pybus worked in South African domestic and franchise cricket, guiding teams to nine championship titles.

- He was twice named South African Cricket Coach of the Year.
- Pybus has also played a significant role in the development of individual players, including Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan and South Africa's Faf du Plessis. He worked with Dale Steyn, helping him become one of the greatest bowlers in cricket history.
- **About Afghanistan:**
- Capital: Kabul
- Official Languages: Pashto & Dari (Persian)
- Currency: Afghan Afghani (AFN)
- Prime Minister (de facto): Hasan Akhund

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Indian Navy To Commission Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft Anjadip On Feb 27



- The Indian Navy is set to commission Anjadip, the third vessel of the eight-ship Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) project, into the Eastern Naval Command, at Chennai Port on February 27.
- The commissioning ceremony will be presided over by Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff.
- INS Anjadip is a cutting-edge Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC).
- It is a reincarnation of the erstwhile Petya-class Corvette of the same name that was decommissioned in 2003.
- The vessel was indigenously designed and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- The construction was executed under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model between GRSE and L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli, Chennai.
- Anjadip is the third vessel in a series of eight planned ASW-SWC ships. Other prominent ships in this class that have already been launched or commissioned include INS Mahe and INS Malvan.

- The vessel is primarily designed to operate in littoral combat environments, encompassing coastal and shallow waters.
- It is purpose-built as a 'Dolphin Hunter', with the mission to detect, track, and neutralize enemy submarines operating in coastal approaches.
- Its indigenous suite of anti-submarine warfare systems includes the Hull Mounted Sonar Abhay, lightweight torpedoes and ASW rockets.
- Beyond its primary ASW role, the ship is also capable of coastal surveillance, low-intensity maritime operations and search-and-rescue missions.
- Measuring 77 metres in length, Anjadip is powered by a high-speed water-jet propulsion system, allowing it to achieve speeds of up to 25 knots for swift response and sustained operations.
- The vessel is named after Anjadip, a historically significant island off the coast of Karwar, Karnataka.

About Indian Navy:

- Commander-in-Chief: President Droupadi Murmu
- Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS): Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi
- Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS): Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan
- Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff (DCNS): Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti

The Long Riders' Actor, Robert Carradine, Died At 71



- Robert Carradine, known for his roles in *The Long Riders*, *Revenge of the Nerds* and the television series *Lizzie McGuire*, has died at the age of 71.
- He was the youngest son of the late American actor John Carradine and the brother of actors David Carradine and Keith Carradine, as well as Christopher Carradine, a former vice president of Walt Disney Imagineering.
- Carradine made his film debut in the 1972 film *The Cowboys* before forging a decades-long career in Hollywood across studio films, independent cinema and television.
- He garnered huge popularity with his role as Lewis Skolnick, the idealistic leader of a fraternity of social misfits, in the 1984 film *Revenge of the Nerds*, a studio comedy which spawned multiple sequels.
- Two decades later, he found a new generation of fans, starring as Sam McGuire in the popular Disney television series, *Lizzie McGuire*.

7th Edition Of Asia Economic Dialogue 2026 To Be Held In Pune



- The seventh edition of the Asia Economic Dialogue (AED) 2026 is scheduled to be held in Pune from 26 to 28 February.
- The conference is jointly organised by India’s Ministry of External Affairs and the Pune International Centre.
- The theme for this year’s edition, “Goeconomics Beyond Globalisation: Tariffs, Technologies and Strategic Alignments,” reflects the shifting contours of the global economic order.
- The three-day international conclave will comprise 12 thematic sessions and feature participation from over 45 distinguished speakers.
- Academics, policymakers, and industry leaders representing nine countries—India, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Singapore, Kenya, Australia, Israel, and Norway—will engage in wide-ranging deliberations.
- The discussions aim to foster the exchange of transformative ideas, strategic insights, and forward-looking policy perspectives in the context of an increasingly complex and evolving geo-economic landscape.

Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman launches National Monetisation Pipeline 2.0 (NMP 2.0)



- The Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Ministry of Finance (MoF) launched the second phase of the asset monetisation pipeline of Central ministries and public sector entities – 'National Monetisation Pipeline 2.0 (NMP 2.0)' in New Delhi, Delhi.
- Asset monetisation constitutes a strategic financial mechanism aimed at optimising the value of existing or underutilised infrastructure assets to generate sustainable revenue streams and mobilise fresh investments, thereby strengthening the government's fiscal position.
- The capital thus unlocked is systematically redeployed into the creation and expansion of new infrastructure assets, facilitating efficient capital recycling and yielding substantial, long-term multiplier effects across the economy.
- The 2nd phase of the pipeline has been formulated by National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog in consultation with infrastructure ministries, in line with the mandate of the Asset Monetisation Plan 2025–30 announced in the Union Budget 2025–26.

- The NMP 2.0 estimates aggregate monetisation potential of Rs 16.72 lakh crore (Cr), including private sector investment of Rs 5.8 lakh Cr, over the 5-year period from Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26) to FY30.
- This projected target exceeds that of NMP 1.0 by more than 2.6-fold, reflecting a substantially enhanced scope, scale, and strategic ambition in the programme's second phase.

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Dr. Bhargav Mallappa receives prestigious Kutai Mulawarman Royal Honorary Title of Indonesia

- Dr. Bhargav Mallappa, Founder and Chairman of MBRA Groups and a senior leader associated with the Indian National Congress, has been conferred the distinguished royal title of “Dato” by the Kerajaan Kutai Mulawarman of Indonesia.
- He was honoured in recognition of his work in social development, humanitarian efforts, and international cooperation, particularly in agriculture and economic empowerment.
- The title was formally granted through Sabda Panditha, the official royal decree issued by Duli Yang Maha Mulia Sripaduka Baginda Berdaulat Agung Maharaja Kutai Mulawarman, in accordance with long-established adat istiadat (customary law).
- The conferment carries formal institutional standing, having been legally registered in the official court records of Tenggarong, Indonesia, in line with applicable legal and customary provisions.
- The conferment ceremony was held in Nusantara, Indonesia, signifying a landmark occasion in the enduring civilisational, cultural, and traditional bonds shared between India and Indonesia.

Indonesia:

- Capital: Jakarta (New capital under development – Nusantara in East Kalimantan)
- Currency: Indonesian Rupiah
- President: Prabowo Subianto



Vasai Cathedral Wins UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Award



- The 475-year-old Our Lady of Grace Cathedral in Vasai has won the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award of Merit 2025 for cultural heritage conservation.
- The Rs 4.5 crore community-funded restoration revived the Portuguese-era structure using traditional craftsmanship and sustainable techniques.
- The announcement was made in Bangkok, underscoring international recognition for an exceptional community-funded restoration initiative.
- The historic stone cathedral in Papydy village, originally constructed in the 16th century without the use of cement, has been meticulously restored, safeguarding its Portuguese-era architectural heritage and enduring spiritual significance.
- Built without cement or bricks using traditional mud-based construction, the cathedral faced structural weakening over centuries.

- The conservation was executed by architect Ainsley Lewis in collaboration with parish members and church authorities, with the local community funding the restoration through donations, exemplifying strong stakeholder engagement and traditional craftsmanship.

About UNESCO:

- Full Form – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- Established – 16 November 1945
- Headquarters – Paris, France
- Director-General: Khaled El-Enany
- Parent Organization – United Nations
- Objective – Promote peace through education, science, culture & communication

Delhi CM launches Jan Sunwai portal and app for people to file complaints

- The Chief Minister of Delhi, Rekha Gupta, has launched the CM Jan Sunwai Portal along with a dedicated mobile application to facilitate seamless digital grievance redressal for citizens.
- The portal functions as a comprehensive and user-centric platform, enabling individuals to lodge complaints pertaining to any government department with ease and without technical impediments.
- To enhance efficiency and ensure expedited resolution, complaints have been systematically pre-mapped with respective jurisdictions and designated departmental officers within the system.
- Citizens may submit grievances through four distinct channels: the online portal, the mobile application, the dedicated call centre (1902), or through offline submission at the Chief Minister's Office.
- Furthermore, a structured three-tier grievance redressal mechanism has been instituted, comprising a Grievance Redressal Officer, an Appellate Authority, and a Final Appellate Authority.
- Thereby ensuring transparency, accountability, and effective oversight in the resolution process.



Suzlon appoints Ajay Kapur as Group CEO, forms new executive council

- Renewable energy solution provider Suzlon appointed Ajay Kapur as the Group CEO.
- The company also elevated J P Chalasani to the newly formed Group Executive Council.
- Aligned with Suzlon 2.0 vision, Suzlon forms a Group Executive Council (GEC) to steer strategic direction and appoints Ajay Kapur as Group CEO to drive scale and business transformation across the group.
- An executive management council led by the Group CEO has also been formed to lead impactful transformation and sustainable growth of the group's businesses.
- As part of the GEC, J P Chalasani will work closely with the Chairman & Managing Director and Executive Vice Chairman in shaping and driving key strategic initiatives across the Group.
- J P Chalasani will continue to be designated as a key managerial personnel (KMP) and will report to the chairman & managing director.
- At Suzlon, Ajay will report to the Chairman & Managing Director Vinod Tanti.
- Girish Tanti, Executive Vice Chairman, Suzlon Group

