

# IACE

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## Ms.Sonali Mishra Becomes First Woman Director General of Railway Protection Force in 143 Years

- ✓ Ms. Sonali Mishra, an IPS officer of the 1993 batch, has been appointed as the Director General of the Railway Protection Force (RPF).
- ✓ This marks the first time in the 143-year history of the Force that a woman has assumed the top position.
- ✓ Her appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet and is valid until her superannuation in October 2026.
- ✓ She brings over 30 years of service across various state and central police organizations, including the CBI and BSF.
- ✓ Ms. Mishra also has international experience, having served with the UN Peacekeeping Mission in Kosovo.
- ✓ Her past roles include Additional DG of Police Training & Research Institute and Director of MP Police Academy in Bhopal.
- ✓ She has been honored with the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service and the Police Medal for Meritorious Service.



## **About Railway Protection Force (RPF)**

**Established-** Originally in 1872 as “Watch & Ward”, restructured under the RPF Act of 1957.

**Headquarters-** New Delhi

**Ministry-** Functions under the Ministry of Railways, GoI

**Director General-** Sonali Mishra

## Nitin Gadkari honoured with 43rd Lokmanya Tilak National Award

- ✓ On 1 August, the 43rd Lokmanya Tilak National Award was presented to Union Minister Nitin Gadkari at a ceremony held in Pune.
- ✓ The award was presented by the Lokmanya Tilak Smarak Trust in recognition of his exceptional service towards the nation's progress.
- ✓ The organizers organized the award ceremony on August 1, the death anniversary of Lokmanya Tilak, at the Tilak Smarak Mandir in Pune.
- ✓ On this occasion, Gadkari emphasized the need to convert Lokmanya Tilak's dream of Swarajya into Surajya through transparent governance.
- ✓ The role of youth and technocrats in shaping India into a global leader was strongly highlighted by the Minister.

### **Lokmanya Tilak National Award:**

- ✓ Lokmanya Tilak was a prominent figure in India's freedom struggle in the early 20th century. It was started in 1983.
- ✓ The award comprises a cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh as well as a memento.
- ✓ PM Narendra Modi, Indira Gandhi, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Pranab Mukherjee, NR Narayana Murthy, and Cyrus Poonawalla are some of the recipients of this award.



## 71st National Film Awards

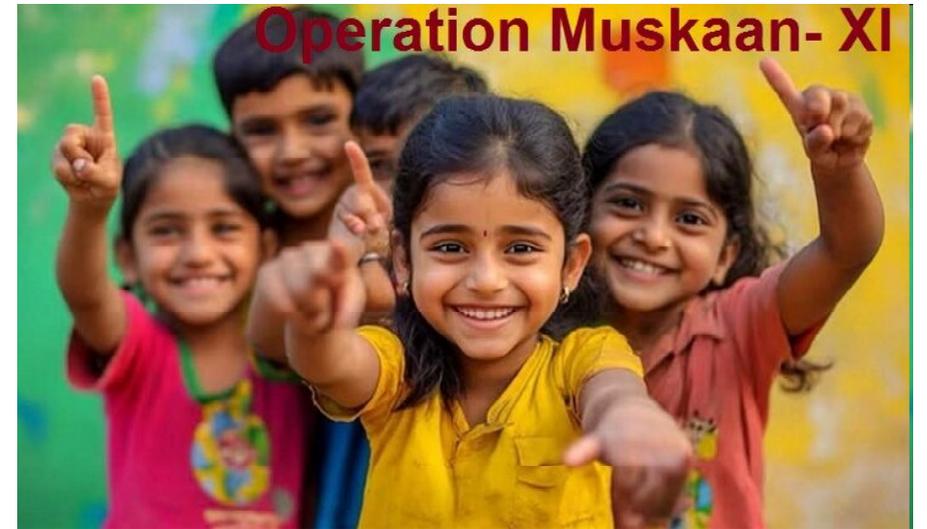
- ✓ Shah Rukh Khan and Vikrant Massey won Best Actor at the 71st National Film Awards for their performances in *Jawan* and *12th Fail*, respectively
- ✓ Rani Mukerji was named Best Actress for *Mrs Chatterjee Vs Norway*.
- ✓ *12th Fail* was awarded Best Film. *Flowering Man* won Best Non-Feature Film. The film was directed by Soumyajit Ghosh Dastidar.
- ✓ Piyush Thakur received the award for Best Director. *God Vulture and Human* was recognized as Best Documentary.
- ✓ *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani* was awarded Best Popular Film for Wholesome Entertainment.
- ✓ Sam Bahadur received the award for promoting national, social, and environmental values.
- ✓ GV Prakash Kumar won Best Music Direction for *Vaathi*. *Vaathi* is a Tamil-language film.
- ✓ Shilpa Rao won Best Playback Singer for her song in *Jawan*.
- ✓ PVN S Rohit was awarded Best Playback Singer for a song in *Baby*. *Baby* is a Telugu film.



- ✓ Pookalam, a Malayalam film, received the Best Editing award.
- ✓ Naal 2, a Marathi movie, won award for Best Children's Film.
- ✓ The Kerala Story was awarded award for Best Cinematography.
- ✓ Utpal Dutta was honored as Best Film Critic.

## During July, Telangana Police rescued more than 7,600 children under Operation Muskaan-XI

- ✓ Out of these, 529 were identified as girls.
- ✓ The initiative was carried out by the Women Safety Wing in collaboration with departments like Women and Child Welfare, Labour, Health, NGOs, and child protection agencies.
- ✓ The mission focused on safeguarding children from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- ✓ More than 3,700 of the rescued minors came from states such as Odisha, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan.
- ✓ Additionally, four children were found to be from Nepal.
- ✓ Roughly 6,700 children had been subjected to child labour.
- ✓ Others were discovered in harmful conditions, including street begging and unsafe working environments.
- ✓ The authorities filed over 1,700 FIRs during the operation.
- ✓ More than 1,700 suspects were apprehended.
- ✓ The Labour Department levied fines exceeding Rs. 46 lakh under the Minimum Wages Act.
- ✓ Over 6,500 children were successfully reunited with their families.



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- ✓ As part of rehabilitation, more than 2,600 migrant children were admitted into 29 Urban Bridge Schools

### **About operation Muskaan**

- ✓ Operation Muskaan was launched in 2015 by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India
- ✓ Operation Smile, also known as Operation Muskaan, is a month-long campaign by the Telangana State Police under the Ministry of Home Affairs to trace, rescue, and rehabilitate missing children and reunite them with their families.
- ✓ **Operation Muskaan involves the State Police, Child Welfare Departments, NGOs, and the Railway Protection Force working together to rescue and help missing children.**

## Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan Takes Charge as 47th Vice Chief of the Naval Staff

- ✓ Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, AVSM, NM, assumed office as the **47th Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS)** on **August 1, 2025**.
- ✓ Upon taking charge, he paid tribute at the **National War Memorial, New Delhi**, honoring fallen soldiers.
- ✓ Commissioned into the Indian Navy on **January 1, 1988**, he is a specialist in **Gunnery and Missile Systems**.
- ✓ He has commanded warships such as **INS Vibhuti, INS Nashak, INS Kuthar, and INS Sahyadri** (as commissioning CO), and contributed to INS Mysore and ICGS Sangram's pre-commissioning.
- ✓ In **February 2020**, he led as **Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet**, post-Galwan Valley clashes, during critical maritime operations.
- ✓ He is an alumnus of **Defence Services Staff College (Wellington), Naval War College (Goa), and National Defence College (New Delhi)**.
- ✓ Promoted to Flag Rank in 2018, he served as **ACNS (Policy & Plans), Deputy Commandant of NDA, and Chief of Staff, ENC**.



- ✓ Held roles as **Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Operations)** and **DCIDS (Policy, Plans & Force Development)**, driving integration and modernization.
- ✓ Honored with the **Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (2021)** and **Nao Sena Medal** for outstanding service and leadership.

## Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar unveiled the official mascot for the Asia Rugby Under-20 (Sevens) Championship

- ✓ The championship will be held in Rajgir on August 9 and 10.
- ✓ Both men's and women's teams from across Asia will participate.
- ✓ The matches will take place at the Rajgir Sports Complex.
- ✓ This is the first time Bihar is hosting the Asia Rugby Under-20 Championship.
- ✓ Besides India, eight top Asian rugby nations will take part in the event.
- ✓ These include India, Hong Kong, China, UAE, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and Nepal.
- ✓ The championship will follow the rugby sevens format. Each team will have seven players on the field.
- ✓ The mascot of the Asia Rugby Championship is a rabbit that has been named Ashoka.
- ✓ Ashoka symbolizes speed and agility, which are key traits in rugby.
- ✓ Chief Minister Nitish Kumar extended his best wishes to the players and organizers.
- ✓ Rahul Bose, actor and President of Rugby India, attended the unveiling ceremony.



## Dorjilung Hydropower Project: A Landmark in India-Bhutan Private Sector Energy Cooperation

- ✓ The **1125/ MW Dorjilung Hydropower Project** in Bhutan marks a pivotal shift towards **private sector-led cross-border energy diplomacy** between India and Bhutan.
- ✓ The project is a collaboration between **Bhutan's Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC)** and **India's Tata Power Company Limited**, symbolizing a **business-to-business (B2B)** partnership model.
- ✓ Unlike previous Bhutanese hydropower projects funded by Indian government grants, **this \$1.7 billion project is financed by the World Bank**, reflecting Bhutan's move towards **investment-based development**.
- ✓ Located on the **Kurichhu River**, with infrastructure in **Mongar and Lhuentse districts**, the project includes a **139.5-metre dam**, a **15-km headrace tunnel**, and **six Francis turbines** generating **4.5 TWh annually**.
- ✓ Foundational works like roads and bridges were awarded to **KD Builders** (₹ 208 million) and **Chimi RD Construction** (₹. 271 million), totaling approximately ₹. 479 million.



- ✓ As part of the India-Bhutan energy partnership, **Tata Power aims to develop 5000 MW** of clean energy in Bhutan, including other hydro projects and **500 MW of solar** via its subsidiary TPREL.
- ✓ The project is a response to Bhutan's aim of **reducing dependence on Indian grants and credit lines**, enabling **greater parity and autonomy** in bilateral projects.
- ✓ Bhutan's investment-driven model contrasts with countries like Nepal, where **Chinese involvement in hydropower** poses **diplomatic challenges with India**.
- ✓ Dorjilung strengthens **India's renewable energy security**, fosters **private sector regional influence**, and deepens **strategic ties with a key Himalayan ally** through sustainable infrastructure cooperation.

## 'Apna Ghar' Initiative: Enhancing Safety and Welfare of Truck Drivers in India

- ✓ The Government of India launched the **'Apna Ghar' initiative** to improve the **safety, rest, and welfare of truck drivers** during long-distance travel on highways.
- ✓ As of **July 1, 2025**, **368 'Apna Ghar' units** with over **4,600 beds** have been established by **Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs)** at fuel stations across major national and state highways.
- ✓ The programme addresses challenges faced by truckers such as **poor rest conditions, health issues, and fatigue-related road accidents**, which impact both **road safety and driver well-being**.
- ✓ Each unit provides **dormitory-style accommodation, clean toilets, bathing areas, safe drinking water**, and access to **restaurants or dhabas**. Some units also offer **self-cooking spaces**.
- ✓ The initiative is strategically placed at **retail fuel outlets** along **high-traffic routes**, supporting truckers in **key logistics corridors** and promoting **pan-India rest coverage**.
- ✓ A **dedicated mobile app** allows drivers to **book beds, locate nearby facilities, and register**, improving accessibility and efficiency in using the services.



## 38th National Under-11 Chess Championship Inaugurated in Jalgaon: A Platform for India's Rising Chess Stars

- ✓ The **38th National Under-11 Chess Championship** was inaugurated on **August 2, 2025**, at **Anubhooti Mandap, Jain Hills, Jalgaon**, by Union Minister **Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse**.
- ✓ The tournament aims to **identify and nurture young chess prodigies**, promoting India's grassroots sports development vision through initiatives like **'Khelo Bharat Niti 2025'** and **'Khelo India'**.
- ✓ Over **550 players** from across India are participating, including **400+ with FIDE ratings**, representing states like **Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Assam, Telangana**, and **Andaman & Nicobar Islands**.
- ✓ The event follows the **11-round Swiss League format**, offering players a chance to **earn or improve their FIDE ratings** through international-level gameplay.
- ✓ Talented youngsters like **Advik Agrawal (Pune, FIDE 2251)** and **Devi Bijesh (Kerala, FIDE 1869)** are competing, adding prestige and competitive intensity to the championship.
- ✓ In her speech, Smt. Khadse emphasized that **early opportunities** and exposure to competition **lay the foundation for future champions**, aligning with the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports' mission**.



- ✓ The championship is organized by the **Jain Sports Academy, Jalgaon District Chess Association, Maharashtra Chess Association, and All India Chess Federation**, with **Jain Irrigation** as the principal sponsor.
- ✓ A **total prize pool of Rs. 8 lakhs** has been declared, with awards recognizing not just winners and runners-up but also **notable performances and sportsmanship**.
- ✓ The event is a landmark in **Jalgaon's educational and cultural development**, further establishing **Maharashtra** as a **leading promoter of chess talent in India**.

## China-Russia Joint Sea-2025 Naval Drill Enters Full Maritime Phase, Showcasing Deepening Military Cooperation

- ✓ China and Russia launched the full maritime phase of the **Joint Sea-2025 naval drills** on **August 1, 2025**, near **Vladivostok, Russia**, involving multi-domain and multi-subject exercises.
- ✓ Chinese and Russian naval ships including **China's Type 052D destroyers Shaoxing and Urumqi** and **Russia's Admiral Tributs and corvette Rezky** formed a **joint formation** after departing a military port.
- ✓ After setting sail, both navies established **real-time communication links**, sharing information on **hydrometeorological data, maritime, and air activity**, ensuring coordinated movement and mission execution.
- ✓ The 3-day drill includes **submarine rescue, joint anti-submarine warfare, air and missile defense**, and **live-fire naval combat exercises** to enhance readiness and joint capability.
- ✓ The Joint Sea-2025 is part of the **China-Russia annual military cooperation plan**, and **not targeted at any third country**, according to the Chinese Defense Ministry.



- ✓ This marks the **10th edition** of China-Russia **Joint Sea exercises since 2012**, underscoring their evolving **naval collaboration and operational synergy**.
- ✓ Experts note that inclusion of **submarine-related operations** reflects growing **mutual trust, interoperability**, and **strategic depth** in **China-Russia military relations**.

## PM-KISAN 20th Installment released by PM Modi from Varanasi

- ✓ On 2 August, the 20th installment of the PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi Scheme was released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Varanasi.
- ✓ More than Rs. 20,500 crore was transferred directly into the bank accounts of over 9.7 crore farmers across the country.
- ✓ In addition to this, 52 development projects worth Rs. 2,200 crore were inaugurated and laid the foundation stone by the Prime Minister.
- ✓ Key infrastructure projects, including the widening and strengthening of the Varanasi-Bhadohi road and the Chhitauni-Shool Tankeshwar roads, along with a railway overbridge at Hardattpur to ease traffic on the Mohan Sarai-Adalpura road, were also inaugurated.
- ✓ Foundation stones were laid for power infrastructure works under the Smart Distribution Project, estimated at Rs. 880 crore.
- ✓ Redevelopment of 8 riverfronts and water purification work at various kunds was also inaugurated.
- ✓ Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, 47 new rural drinking water schemes were inaugurated.



- ✓ Four floating puja platforms were installed at river ghats to enhance religious infrastructure.
- ✓ Several new projects related to education, healthcare, tourism, and cultural heritage were also launched, aiming to promote urban transformation, cultural revival, improved connectivity, and better quality of life.

## India Ranks Second Globally in Fish Production

- ✓ India has secured the **2nd position globally in fish production**, as announced by Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh in Kolkata.
- ✓ Fish production in India **increased by 103% in 2024-25** compared to 2013-14, showcasing massive sectoral growth.
- ✓ Initiatives like the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)** have played a key role in boosting fish productivity and employment.
- ✓ The **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)** scheme is aiding fish farmers with financial support for infrastructure, feed, and modern technology.
- ✓ **West Bengal**, with its rich aquatic resources, was highlighted as a major contributor with high potential for further growth in fish production.
- ✓ Increased **rural involvement in aquaculture and fisheries** is driving sustainable and inclusive development in the sector.
- ✓ The efforts align with the broader goal of **self-reliant India**, emphasizing local resource utilization and regional empowerment.

