

# IACE

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## **Gaurav Banerjee Appointed as New Chairman of BARC India**

- **Gaurav Banerjee**, MD & CEO of Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI), has been **appointed as the new Chairman of BARC (Broadcast Audience Research Council) India**, succeeding **Shashi Sinha**, who held the position for over three years.
- Banerjee brings over 20 years of experience in the Media and Entertainment industry and currently serves as the Vice President of the Indian Broadcasting & Digital Foundation (IBDF).
- He also holds board positions at MSM-Worldwide Factual Media Pvt. Ltd. and Bangla Entertainment Pvt. Ltd., reflecting his influential role in shaping Indian media.

### **Recent Appointments:**

- **CEO of Jaguar Land Rover** – P B Balaji
- **Financial Advisor (Defence Services)** – Dr. Mayank Sharma
- **President of Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI)** – TCA Srinivasa Prasad (for the 2025–26 term)
- **Vice President of Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI)** – Neeraj D Joshi (for the 2025–26 term)



## India's Longest-Serving Home Ministers – Amit Shah Creates History

- On **August 6, 2025**, Amit Shah became **India's longest-serving Home Minister**, surpassing L.K. Advani.
- Amit Shah has served **2,258+ days** in office since **May 30, 2019**.
- His tenure includes key decisions like the **revocation of Article 370, Citizenship (Amendment) Act**, crackdown on Maoists, and **criminal law reforms**.
- L.K. Advani previously held the record with **2,256 days** (March 19, 1998 – May 22, 2004).
- **Govind Ballabh Pant** served for about 6 years (1955–1961), ranking 3rd.
- **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** was India's first Home Minister (1947–1950).
- Other long-serving Home Ministers include **Yashwantrao Chavan, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Indira Gandhi, Kailash Nath Katju, C. Rajagopalachari, and Gulzarilal Nanda**.
- The Home Ministry handles **internal security, public order, law enforcement, disaster management**, and constitutional matters.
- A long tenure as Home Minister indicates **political stability, strong leadership, and trust** from the Prime Minister and ruling party.



## **Moldova Becomes 107th Member of International Solar Alliance**

- **Republic of Moldova** has joined the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** as its **107th member**.
- ISA was **launched in 2015** by **India and France** during the **COP21 Climate Summit in Paris**.
- The joining ceremony took place in **New Delhi**, where Ambassador **Ana Taban** handed over the Instrument of Ratification to **P. S. Gangadhar**.
- ISA promotes solar applications in **agriculture, healthcare, transport, e-mobility, power generation, and microgrids**.
- Moldova will benefit from **technical assistance, financial frameworks, and multilateral partnerships** for solar energy growth.
- India leads ISA's global advocacy, aligning with its **renewable energy targets** and promoting **capacity building**.
- Moldova's membership reflects a **growing global consensus** on solar energy for the clean energy transition.



## **Annu Rani Wins Gold at International Wiesław Maniak Memorial in Poland**

- On 6 August, India's Annu Rani won the gold medal in women's javelin throw at the International Wiesław Maniak Memorial in Poland.
- A season-best throw of 62.59 meters in her second attempt helped her secure the top podium position.
- Türkiye's Eda Tugsuz won the silver medal with 58.36 meters, while Australia's Liana Davidson won the bronze medal with 58.24 meters.
- With this performance, Annu Rani has positioned herself among the world's top 15 javelin throwers this season.
- She is now aiming to meet the 64 m qualification mark for the 2025 World Athletics Championships in Tokyo next month.
- In the same meet, Pooja from India secured a bronze in the women's 800m with a time of 2:02.95.
- Jisna Mathew finished sixth in the women's 400m, clocking 54.12 seconds.

**India's Annu Rani won the javelin throw title at the International Wiesław Maniak Memorial in Poland.**



## **Punjab Becomes First State to Appoint Sign Language Experts for Child Justice System**

- Punjab has become the **first state in India** to empanel **sign language interpreters, translators, and special educators** under the **Juvenile Justice Act, 2015** and **POCSO Act, 2012**.
- The initiative is aimed at ensuring **inclusive access to justice** for children with **speech and hearing disabilities**.
- The announcement was made by **Baljit Kaur**, Punjab's **Minister for Social Security**.
- The empanelled professionals will help children **effectively participate** in judicial proceedings, ensuring fair and impartial outcomes.
- These professionals will be **deployed across all districts** in Punjab, with **compensation as per JJ and POCSO Acts**.
- Punjab already broadcasts **Punjab Vidhan Sabha proceedings in sign language**, demonstrating its commitment to inclusive governance.
- This measure is aligned with broader **human rights goals**, promoting justice for children with special communication needs.
- The move highlights **Punjab's leadership** in creating an **inclusive legal ecosystem**, breaking communication barriers for children in sensitive cases.

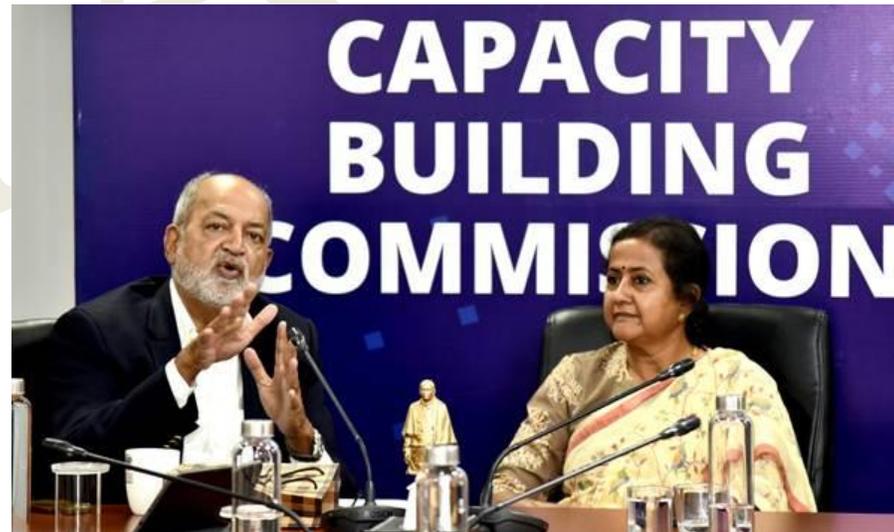


## **Mrs. S. Radha Chauhan has taken charge as the new Chairperson of the Capacity Building Commission**

- She is a retired IAS officer from the Uttar Pradesh cadre, belonging to the 1988 batch.
- Throughout her career, she has held prominent roles in both central and state administrations.
- Prior to this appointment, she served as Secretary of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).
- She succeeds Shri Adil Zainulbhai, who had led the Commission since its inception in April 2021.

### **Capacity Building Commission:**

- Capacity Building Commission was formed by the Government of India on April 1, 2021.
- Its core responsibility is to bring consistency and integration to capacity building within the civil services.
- As a central pillar of Mission Karmayogi, the Commission guides the reform process across bureaucratic institutions.
- It serves as the key authority for shaping and overseeing capacity-building initiatives for India's civil servants



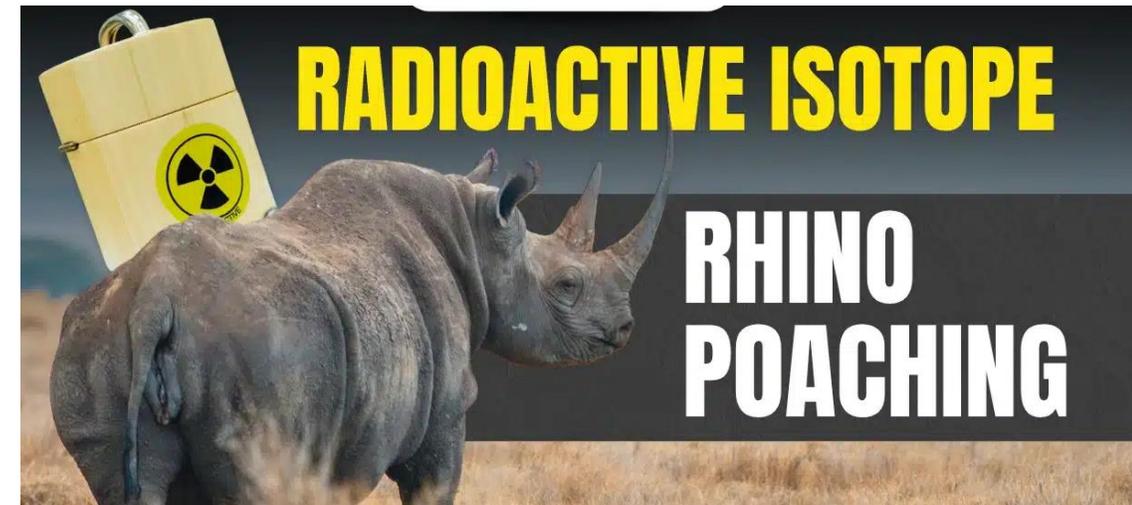
## **Bengaluru has been placed 26th in the 2025 Global AI City Index**

- It has emerged as India's foremost center for artificial intelligence activity.
- The index, released by Counterpoint Research, ranks cities worldwide based on advancements in AI development and infrastructure.
- Bengaluru's prominence is driven by its strong presence in AI research, innovation, and data center growth.
- Other major Indian cities in the ranking include Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, and Kolkata, with Bengaluru leading nationally.
- Mumbai and Delhi are making notable strides by applying AI technologies in urban management and public safety..
- Singapore tops the global index, credited with its dynamic AI startup environment and effective public-private sector cooperation.
- Following Singapore are Seoul, Beijing, Dubai, and San Francisco, completing the global top five.
- Beijing is set to implement AI as part of its core school curriculum starting in 2025.
- Seoul is recognized for its impactful use of AI in areas like education and healthcare.
- Microsoft leads the corporate AI race by expanding data centers, launching training initiatives, and establishing innovation hubs. It emerged as the most active vendor.
- Google and Amazon are also strengthening their AI infrastructure and introducing similar programs to advance in the sector.



## South African University Uses Radioactive Isotopes in Rhino Horns to Combat Poaching

- **University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa** launched an anti-poaching campaign using **radioactive isotopes** injected into rhino horns.
- The initiative is backed by the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** and follows **six years of research and testing**.
- The **Rhisotope Project** began at **Waterberg Biosphere Reserve**, starting with 5 rhinos and expanding to 20 in a pilot phase.
- Low-dose radioactive isotopes make horns **traceable by global customs radiation monitors**, deterring illegal trafficking.
- **Ghent University** health studies confirmed the process is safe for rhinos, causing no cellular damage or behavioural disruption.
- Radioactive tagging also makes horns **toxic and useless to humans**, reducing their value in illegal markets.
- South Africa has lost **10,000+ rhinos in the last decade**; current global population is around 27,000, down from 500,000 a century ago.
- Researchers aim to extend this technology to protect **elephants, pangolins, and other endangered species** through international collaboration.



## **Kartavya Bhavan Inaugurated by PM Modi to Centralize Key Ministries and Enhance Governance Efficiency**

- On 6 August, Kartavya Bhavan inaugurated in New Delhi by PM Narendra Modi, marking a key step toward centralized and streamlined governance.
- Kartavya Bhavan, also known as Central Secretariat Building-3, is the first of several buildings aimed at housing key ministries under one roof.
- Existing ministries that currently operate from outdated buildings like Shastri Bhawan and Nirman Bhawan will be shifted to the new complex.
- The newly built complex is spread over about 1.5 lakh square metres, spread over two basements and seven floors.
- It will house the offices of the Ministries and Departments of Home Affairs, External Affairs, Rural Development, MSME, DoPT, Petroleum and Natural Gas, and the Principal Scientific Adviser.
- Designed with sustainability in focus, the building includes rainwater harvesting, solar panels, and double-glazed facades.
- The entire campus operates on a zero-discharge model, with systems for wastewater treatment and solid waste processing.
- A 30% energy reduction is projected through smart lifts, motion-sensor LED lighting, and advanced HVAC systems.
- Rooftop solar installations are expected to generate over 5.34 lakh units of electricity annually.

### **PM MODI INAUGURATES KARTAVYA BHAVAN**



## IIT Delhi & IIT Gandhinagar Develop District Flood Severity Index (DFSI) for India

- **District Flood Severity Index (DFSI)** measures flood severity at the district level, combining duration, area affected, deaths, injuries, and population.
- Developed to address the lack of a **standard district-level flood index** for targeted relief and prevention efforts.
- Uses **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)** data from 1967 onwards, covering riverine floods and large inundations.
- **Patna** ranks highest in DFSI due to severe impacts in the Indo-Gangetic Plain; urban flooding cases like **Thiruvananthapuram** rank lower due to fewer casualties.
- Current DFSI excludes agricultural losses and depends on available IMD and population data; future versions may include socio-economic and land-type details.
- Aims to help policymakers **prioritise districts** for flood relief, infrastructure investment, and resilience planning.



## **Vice Admiral Manish Chadha takes charge as INA Commandant**

- **Vice Admiral Manish Chadha** has assumed charge as the new **Commandant of the Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala**, replacing Vice Admiral C.R. Praveen Nair.
- He was commissioned into the Indian Navy on July 1, 1991, and is a specialist in Communication and Electronic Warfare.
- An alumnus of NDA Khadakvasla and a recipient of the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (2025) and Vishisht Seva Medal (2017), Vice Admiral Chadha has held several key command roles at sea and strategic positions at Naval and Command Headquarters.

### **Recent Appointments in Defence Sector**

- **Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA)** – Raj Kumar Arora
- **47th Vice Chief of the Naval Staff** – Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan
- **Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command** – Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan
- **Director General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)** -Sanjay Singhal (replace Amrit Mohan Prasad)
- **Vice-Chief of Army Staff** – Lieutenant General Pushendra Singh (replace Lt. Gen. NS Raja Subramani)



## **GST Collection in July 2025 Rises 7.5% to ₹1.96 Lakh Crore, Import Growth Offsets Domestic Decline**

- GST collection for July 2025 rose 7.5% year-on-year to Rs.1.96-lakh crore, marking a strong performance driven by imports.
- Domestic net collection declined by 6.7% to Rs.1.43-lakh crore, mainly due to a 117% surge in refunds, resulting in negative net domestic GST.
- In contrast, import GST rose by 9.7%, helping support the overall gross GST figures.
- Experts attribute the domestic dip to reduced urban consumption, including automobile sales and seasonal moderation.
- However, timely processing of refunds by the government was seen as a businessfriendly measure to ease working capital stress.
- Tax expert Vivek Jalan noted that this was the first YoY fall in net GST since the Covid era (2020–21).



## **BIAL Completed India's Largest Unlisted NCDs Issuance**

- Bangalore International Airport Limited, the company operating the Kempegowda International
- Airport in Bengaluru has successfully completed the issuance of unlisted Non-Convertible Debentures in
- India's airport sector, raising a total of Rs 9,000 crore.
- The fundraising is being undertaken in two tranches of Rs 4,362 crore completed on July 25, 2025, and Rs 4,638 crore scheduled for early October 2025.
- As per BIAL, State Bank of India Capital Markets (SBICAPs) acted as the sole arranger for the issuance of these unlisted NCDs
- The refinancing with tenure of 15 years enables the BIAL to conserve capital and focus resources on funding future expansion plans.

### **Recent BIAL related news**

- InterGlobe Aviation Limited (IndiGo) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Bangalore
- International Airport Limited to establish a Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facility at Bengaluru based Kempegowda International Airport with an investment of Rs 1,100 crore.

