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DISTANCE BETWEEN DREAM AND REALITY

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TODAY NEWS HIGHLIGHT

- Asian Games 2026: India's historic performance, women's hockey gold after 44 years and record achievement in archery
- Leadership change at HDFC Bank: Anup Bagchi becomes new MD & CEO, RBI's regulatory role important in the banking sector
- Official naming of 28 geographical features of Ladakh: mapping, geographical identification and strategic importance
- 100 Years of UPSC: Its Historical Evolution from the Public Service Commission of 1926 to a Constitutional Body
- ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise AIME-2026: Boosting India's Maritime Diplomacy and 'Act East' Policy in the Indo-Pacific
- Clean Seas, Safe Seas 2026 Campaign: Initiatives towards Marine Pollution Control and Sustainable Ocean Management
- IPPB Launches 'DakPay Sound Box' on its 9th Foundation Day: Promoting Digital Payments and Financial Inclusion
- World Architecture Day 2026: Emphasis on sustainable, inclusive and human-centered urban development

1. 2026 Asian Games: India's Historic Performance – Women's Hockey Gold After 44 Years and Record Archery Achievement



On Day 14 of the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games 2026, India won a total of 10 medals—6 gold, 2 silver, and 2 bronze—bringing its overall medal tally to 76. The women's recurve team defeated South Korea 5-3 to secure India's first-ever Asian Games gold medal in this event. Sujeet Kalkal (65kg freestyle wrestling) and boxers Lovlina Borgohain, Parveen Hooda, and Ankush Panghal clinched gold medals. The Indian women's hockey team defeated China 1-0 to win gold after 44 years and automatically qualified for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

2. Leadership Change at HDFC Bank: Anup Bagchi Appointed New MD & CEO; RBI's Regulatory Role in Banking Sector Crucial



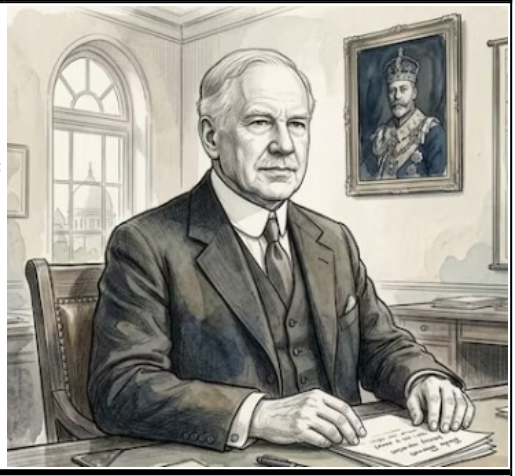
Following RBI approval, HDFC Bank has appointed Anup Bagchi as its new MD & CEO for a three-year term starting October 27, 2026; he will succeed Sashidhar Jagdishan. His appointment is subject to RBI approval under Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, and shareholder approval. Bagchi possesses over 30 years of experience across banking, capital markets, wealth management, and insurance sectors and currently serves as the MD & CEO of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance.

3. Official Naming of 28 Geographical Features in Ladakh: Mapping, Geographical Identity, and Strategic Significance



The Government of India has recorded the names of 28 geographical locations and features in Ladakh—including peaks, mountains, passes, glaciers, valleys, rivers, and lakes—on the official maps of the Survey of India. The initiative aims to ensure the official and standardized identification of these geographical features and to bring uniformity to administrative and scientific contexts. The Survey of India is the country's national surveying and mapping organization, playing a pivotal role in the collection of topographic and geospatial data and in official mapping.

4. 100 Years of UPSC: The Historic Evolution from the 1926 Public Service Commission to a Constitutional Body



October 1, 2026, marked the completion of 100 years since the establishment of the first Public Service Commission in India; established in 1926, this institution subsequently evolved into the Federal Public Service Commission and, in 1950, became the UPSC. The ICS examination (1855), the Government of India Act of 1919, and the recommendations of the Lee Commission (1924) strengthened the foundation of merit-based civil service recruitment in India.

5. ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2026): Boosting India's Maritime Diplomacy and 'Act East' Policy in the Indo-Pacific



The second edition of the ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2026) commenced on September 28, 2026, at Subic Bay, Philippines, featuring the participation of the Indian Navy's INS Sahyadri and INS Kulish alongside the navies of ASEAN nations. Centered on the theme "Anchored in Trust, United at Sea," the exercise aims to strengthen mutual understanding, operational coordination, cooperation, and interoperability. The exercise comprises a Harbour Phase and a Sea Phase, fostering joint operational capabilities through professional exchanges, cultural activities, and maritime operational drills.

6. 'Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar 2026' Campaign: An Initiative Towards Marine Pollution Control and Sustainable Ocean Management



The Ministry of Earth Sciences launched the 'Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar' (Clean Coast, Safe Sea) campaign for 2026, aiming for coastal cleanliness, awareness regarding pollution, and the conservation of marine ecology. The campaign emphasizes public participation and coastal cleanliness alongside efforts to reduce plastic waste, solid waste, and other marine pollutants. Conserving the marine environment is crucial for coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass, fish, and other marine biodiversity, and it also aligns with 'Mission LiFE'.

7. 'DakPay Sound Box' Launched on IPPB's 9th Foundation Day: Boosting Digital Payments and Financial Inclusion



India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) launched the 'DakPay Sound Box' for merchants on September 1, 2026—its 9th Foundation Day—providing audio confirmation for digital payments. Launched on September 1, 2018, IPPB promotes financial inclusion by delivering banking and digital financial services to rural and remote areas through the Department of Posts. As of March 31, 2026, IPPB had 13.25 crore customers and recorded digital financial transactions worth ₹21.61 lakh crore, including UPI remittances amounting to ₹7.41 lakh crore.

8. World Architecture Day 2026: Emphasis on Sustainable, Inclusive, and Human-Centric Urban Development



World Architecture Day is observed annually on the first Monday of October; in 2026, it will be celebrated on October 5. It was initiated by the International Union of Architects (UIA). The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of architecture and the role architects play in improving the built environment and human life. Sustainable architecture emphasizes energy efficiency, water conservation, low-carbon construction, and climate-friendly design—aspects linked to SDG-11.

1. Which country did the Indian women's recurve team defeat in the gold medal match?

A - China
B - Japan
C - South Korea
D - Tajikistan



On the 14th day of the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games 2026, India won 10 medals—including 6 gold, 2 silver, and 2 bronze—bringing its total medal tally to 76. The women's recurve team won a historic gold by defeating South Korea 5–3, while the women's hockey team defeated China 1–0 to secure the gold medal and automatic qualification for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics after 44 years.

2. Who has been appointed as the new MD and CEO of HDFC Bank?

A - Sashidhar Jagdishan
B - Anup Bagchi
C - Sandeep Bakhshi
D - Amitabh Chaudhry



Following RBI approval, HDFC Bank has appointed Anup Bagchi as its new MD and CEO for a three-year term starting October 27, 2026; he will succeed Sashidhar Jagdishan. Bagchi has over 30 years of experience in the banking and financial sector; he is currently the MD and CEO of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance and is an alumnus of IIT Kanpur and IIM Bangalore.

3. How many geographical features in Ladakh have had their names recorded in official maps?

A - 18
B - 24
C - 28
D - 32



The Government of India has recorded the names of 28 geographical locations and features in Ladakh in the official maps of the Survey of India, ensuring their standardized identification. Accurate mapping is crucial for border management, infrastructure development, disaster management, environmental conservation, and water security in the border region of Ladakh.

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4. Under which Articles of the Constitution is the UPSC a constitutional body?

A - Articles 280-281
B - Articles 315-323
C - Articles 324-329
D - Articles 343-351



October 1, 2026, marked the completion of 100 years since the establishment of the first Public Service Commission in India; established in 1926, this institution became the UPSC after the Constitution came into force in 1950 and is a constitutional body under Articles 315-323. The UPSC conducts recruitment examinations and provides advice on matters related to appointments, promotions, and disciplinary actions under Article 320.

5. Where was AIME-2026 held?

A - Manila, Philippines
B - Singapore
C - Subic Bay, Philippines
D - Jakarta, Indonesia

The second edition of the ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2026) commenced on September 28, 2026, at Subic Bay, Philippines, with the theme "Anchored in Trust, United at Sea," featuring the participation of INS Sahyadri and INS Kulish. The exercise aims to strengthen India-ASEAN naval cooperation, maritime security, operational coordination, and interoperability, aligning with India's 'Act East Policy' and 'MAHASAGAR' vision.



6. Which ministry launched the 'Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar' (Clean Coast, Safe Sea) campaign?

A - Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
B - Ministry of Earth Sciences
C - Ministry of Jal Shakti
D - Ministry of Fisheries

The Ministry of Earth Sciences launched the 'Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar' campaign in 2026, aiming for coastal cleanliness, reduction of marine pollution, public participation, and the conservation of marine ecosystems. The campaign focuses on reducing plastic and solid waste, protecting marine biodiversity, and promoting environmental sustainability and economic growth through 'Mission LiFE' and the 'Blue Economy'.



7. What is the primary objective of the 'DakPay Sound Box'?

A - To facilitate cash withdrawals
B - To provide audio confirmation of digital payments
C - To provide loans
D - To determine insurance premiums

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) launched the 'DakPay Sound Box' for merchants on its 9th Foundation Day on September 1, 2026; this device provides audio confirmation of digital payments and promotes financial inclusion. On the same occasion, IPPB also launched a Digital Insurance Technology Platform and a Digital Mutual Fund Platform; as of March 31, 2026, it had recorded 13.25 crore customers and digital financial transactions worth ₹21.61 lakh crore.



8. Which organization initiated World Architecture Day?

A - UNESCO
B - International Union of Architects (UIA)
C - UN-Habitat
D - ICOMOS

World Architecture Day is celebrated annually on the first Monday of October, and in 2026, it will be observed on October 5; it was initiated by the International Union of Architects (UIA). This day raises awareness about sustainable architecture, energy efficiency, water conservation, low-carbon construction, and climate-friendly design, and is linked to SDG-11 and the preservation of India's architectural heritage.



One Liner

1. Which two Indian Navy ships participated in AIME-2026? - INS Sahyadri and INS Kulish.

2. How many total medals did India win on the 14th day of the 2026 Asian Games? - 10 medals.

3. What is the theme of AIME-2026? - “Anchored in Trust, United at Sea”.

4. Which country did the women's recurve team defeat to win the gold medal at the 2026 Asian Games? - South Korea.

5. How many geographical features had their names recorded in the official maps of the Survey of India for Ladakh? - 28

6. Which section of the Banking Regulation Act deals with the appointment of MDs and whole-time directors of banking companies? - Section 35B.

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7. Who was appointed as the new MD and CEO of HDFC Bank? - Anup Bagchi.

8. When was the first Public Service Commission established in India? - 1 October 1926.

9. On which date will World Architecture Day 2026 be observed? - 5 October 2026

10. Which ministry launched the ‘Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar 2026’ (Clean Coast, Safe Sea 2026) campaign? - Ministry of Earth Sciences.