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DISTANCE BETWEEN DREAM AND REALITY

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TODAY NEWS HIGHLIGHT

- Harmanpreet Kaur steps down as captain of Indian women's cricket team, to continue international career as player
- Three new judges appointed to the Supreme Court, constitutional appointment process in the judiciary back in the news
- New awards introduced for outstanding Asian Games athletes, Kumkum Mohod and Sujit Kalkal first winners
- Francis Halzen wins 2026 Physics Nobel, recognition of IceCube's discovery of high-energy neutrinos
- Bank of Baroda enters pension fund business, expands NPS and boosts digital pension coverage
- India's participation in the 153rd IPU Assembly in Tanzania, emphasis on global parliamentary cooperation and multilateral dialogue
- Odisha launches India's first dedicated MICE promotion portal to boost tourism investment
- Indian Air Force Day 2026: A symbol of air power, national security and self-reliance

1. Harmanpreet Kaur steps down as Indian women's cricket team captain; to continue international career as a player



Harmanpreet Kaur, the World Cup-winning captain of the Indian women's cricket team, resigned from the captaincy across all formats on October 6, 2026; however, she will continue to play for India as a player. She took over the T20I captaincy in 2016 and became the full-time captain for ODIs and Tests following Mithali Raj's retirement in 2022. Under her leadership, India won the Women's ODI World Cup for the first time in 2025 and secured gold medals at the 2022 and 2026 Asian Games. Harmanpreet became the first player to captain in over 150 T20I matches and the first to play 200 T20I matches in June 2026.

2. Three new judges appointed to the Supreme Court; constitutional appointment process in the judiciary back in the spotlight



On October 5, 2026, the President appointed Justice Sunita Agarwal, Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya, and Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh as judges of the Supreme Court. The parent High Court for Sunita Agarwal and Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya is the Allahabad High Court, while for Aparesh Kumar Singh, it is the Jharkhand High Court. Appointments of Supreme Court judges are made under Article 124(2) of the Constitution, and appointments of High Court judges under Article 217. The Collegium system plays a crucial role in these appointments, which is vital for judicial independence and constitutional governance.

3. New Awards Launched for Outstanding Asian Games Athletes; Kumkum Mohod and Sujeet Kalkal Named First Winners



The Indian Olympic Association has introduced the Jaspal Rana Award and the Raja Randhir Singh Award to honor the best female and male athletes at the Asian Games. 17-year-old archer Kumkum Anil Mohod was named the first recipient of the Jaspal Rana Award; she won three medals, including two golds, at the Asian Games. 23-year-old wrestler Sujeet Kalkal became the first winner of the Raja Randhir Singh Award, having secured a gold medal in the 65kg freestyle wrestling category. The achievements of Kumkum and Sujeet reflect excellence and sustained talent in Indian archery and wrestling, respectively.

4. Francis Halzen Awarded 2026 Nobel Prize in Physics; Discovery of High-Energy Neutrinos via IceCube Recognized



The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in Physics to physicist Francis Halzen for his contributions to the IceCube Neutrino Observatory and the discovery of high-energy neutrinos. Neutrinos are extremely lightweight, electrically neutral, and weakly interacting particles; due to their rare interactions, they are often referred to as "ghost particles." Located at the South Pole in Antarctica, the IceCube Observatory detects Cherenkov radiation produced by neutrinos using light-sensitive detectors embedded in the ice.

5. Bank of Baroda Enters Pension Fund Business; Boosts NPS Expansion and Digital Pension Coverage



Bank of Baroda has become the second public sector bank in India to enter the pension fund business after receiving the certificate of appointment as a pension fund sponsor from the PFRDA. The bank has established 'BP Pension Fund Management Company Ltd.', with an 80.10% stake held by BoB and a 19.90% stake held by Baroda BNP Asset Management Company. SBI was the first public sector bank (PSB) to enter the pension fund business, having ventured into the sector through its subsidiary in April 2008. BoB has integrated NPS onboarding with the BHIM app, while the PFRDA aims to expand pension coverage by 2047.

6. India's participation in the 153rd IPU Assembly in Tanzania; emphasis on global parliamentary cooperation and multilateral dialogue



Led by Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh, an Indian parliamentary delegation participated in the 153rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) held in Arusha, Tanzania, and took part in meetings of various committees and regional groups. Indian MPs presented India's perspective on issues such as the rights of persons with disabilities, empowerment, gender equality, and women's leadership at the Forum of Women Parliamentarians. India also actively participated in the IPU's High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism, as well as other parliamentary forums.

7. Odisha Launches India's First Dedicated MICE Incentive Portal; Tourism Investment Set to Get a Boost



The Odisha government has launched India's first dedicated MICE Incentive Portal to boost business tourism, corporate events, and investment. MICE stands for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions—sectors that play a crucial role in business, investment, and job creation. The portal aims to attract more business events and private investment by simplifying processes related to financial incentives, government assistance, and necessary approvals. Odisha is also promoting destination weddings, sports, cultural and heritage tourism, and experiential tourism, with a specific focus on developing Bhubaneswar as a premier MICE and cultural destination.

8. Indian Air Force Day 2026: A Symbol of Air Power, National Security, and Self-Reliance



Indian Air Force Day is celebrated annually in India on October 8th, and the year 2026 will mark its 94th anniversary. Established on October 8, 1932, the Indian Air Force (IAF) safeguards India's airspace and provides air support to the Army and Navy. The IAF has played a pivotal role in the wars of 1947-48, 1965, and 1971, as well as the 1999 Kargil War. Currently, the IAF is advancing towards defense modernization and self-reliance, operating modern platforms such as Tejas, Rafale, Sukhoi-30 MKI, C-17, C-130J, Chinook, and Apache.

1. When did Harmanpreet Kaur resign from the captaincy of the Indian women's cricket team?

A - 5 October 2026
B - 6 October 2026
C - 7 October 2026
D - 8 October 2026



World Cup-winning captain Harmanpreet Kaur resigned from the captaincy of the Indian women's cricket team across all formats on 6 October 2026, although she will continue to play for India as a player. Under her captaincy, India won the 2025 Women's ODI World Cup and gold medals at the 2022 and 2026 Asian Games; she also became the first player to captain over 150 T20I matches and play 200 T20I matches.

2. How many judges were appointed to the Supreme Court on 5 October 2026?

A - 2
B - 3
C - 4
D - 5



On 5 October 2026, the President appointed Justices Sunita Agarwal, Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya, and Aparesh Kumar Singh as Supreme Court judges; their parent High Courts are Allahabad, Allahabad, and Jharkhand, respectively. Supreme Court judges are appointed under Article 124(2), while High Court judges are appointed under Article 217, with the Collegium system playing a significant role in the process.

3. Which awards has the Indian Olympic Association introduced for Asian Games athletes?

A - Dhyan Chand and Arjuna Awards
B - Jaspal Rana and Raja Randhir Singh Awards
C - Khel Ratna and Arjuna Awards
D - Milkha Singh and Dhyan Chand Awards



The Indian Olympic Association instituted the Jaspal Rana Award and the Raja Randhir Singh Award for the best female and male athletes of the Asian Games; the inaugural winners were Kumkum Anil Mohod and Sujit Kalkal, respectively.

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4. Who was awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in Physics?

A - Francis Halzen
B - Albert Einstein
C - Roger Penrose
D - Gérard Mourou



The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in Physics to Francis Halzen for his contributions to the IceCube Neutrino Observatory and the discovery of high-energy neutrinos. Located in Antarctica, the IceCube Observatory detects Cherenkov radiation produced by neutrinos, thereby advancing the fields of neutrino astronomy and the study of distant cosmic phenomena.

5. Which is the second public sector bank in India to enter the pension fund business?



A - Punjab National Bank
B - Bank of Baroda
C - Bank of India
D - Canara Bank

Bank of Baroda has become the second public sector bank in India to enter the pension fund business after receiving a certificate from the PFRDA, and it has established the BP Pension Fund Management Company Ltd. SBI was the first PSB to enter the pension fund sector, while BoB has integrated NPS onboarding with the BHIM app, and the PFRDA aims to expand pension coverage by 2047.

6. Where was the 153rd Assembly of the IPU held?



A - Nairobi, Kenya
B - Arusha, Tanzania
C - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
D - Kigali, Rwanda

An Indian parliamentary delegation, led by Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh, participated in the 153rd Assembly of the IPU held in Arusha, Tanzania, and presented India's stance on issues such as women's empowerment, gender equality, and terrorism. The Indian delegation held bilateral meetings with the Speakers of the Parliaments of Australia and Tanzania to discuss parliamentary cooperation and matters of mutual interest.

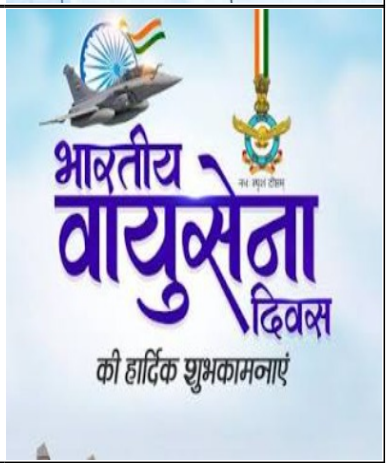
7. Which state has launched India's first dedicated MICE Incentive Portal?



A - Gujarat
B - Rajasthan
C - Odisha
D - Kerala

The Odisha government has launched India's first dedicated MICE Incentive Portal to promote business tourism, corporate events, and investment, thereby simplifying the process for financial incentives and government approvals. MICE stands for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions; Odisha is also promoting destination weddings, sports, and heritage tourism while positioning Bhubaneswar as a premier MICE and cultural destination.

8. When is Indian Air Force Day celebrated every year?



A - 15 August
B - 8 October
C - 26 January
D - 4 December

Indian Air Force Day is celebrated in India every year on October 8, and its 94th anniversary will be observed in 2026; the Indian Air Force was established on October 8, 1932. The IAF played a pivotal role in the wars of 1947-48, 1965, and 1971, as well as the 1999 Kargil War, and is currently emphasizing defense modernization with modern aircraft such as the Tejas, Rafale, Sukhoi-30 MKI, C-17, Chinook, and Apache.

One Liner

1. Bank of Baroda became which public sector bank in India to enter the pension fund business? - The second public sector bank

2. In which year did India win the Women's ODI World Cup title for the first time under Harmanpreet Kaur's captaincy? - 2025

3. Who became the first winner of the Raja Randhir Singh Award? - Sujeet Kalkal

4. The new portal launched by the Odisha government is related to which type of tourism? - MICE tourism — Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions

5. Which Article contains the key constitutional provision regarding the appointment of Supreme Court judges? - Article 124(2)

6. For what work was Francis Halzen awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in Physics? - For decisive contributions to the IceCube Neutrino Observatory and the discovery of high-energy astrophysical neutrinos

7. Who are the three new Supreme Court judges appointed on October 5, 2026? - Justice Sunita Agarwal, Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya, and Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh

8. Where was the 153rd Assembly of the IPU held, in which the Indian parliamentary delegation participated? - Arusha, Tanzania

9. Who became the first winner of the Jaspal Rana Award? - Kumkum Anil Mohod

10. When did Harmanpreet Kaur resign from the captaincy of the Indian women's cricket team across all formats? - October 6, 2026