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Lionel Messi Announces Retirement from International Football

Why is it in News?

- Lionel Messi has announced his retirement from international football at the age of 39.

Key Highlights

- Player: Lionel Messi
- Country: Argentina
- Retirement: International football
- International career: 20 years
- World Cups: 6
- Recent major event: Argentina lost the 2026 World Cup final to Spain
- Legacy: One of Argentina's greatest footballers

International Achievements:

- 2022 FIFA World Cup: Led Argentina to its third World Cup title.
- Copa América 2021: Helped Argentina end a 28-year major-trophy drought.
- Copa América 2024: Led Argentina to another continental title.
- 2026 FIFA World Cup: Argentina reached the final but lost to Spain.

Background:

- Messi previously announced his international retirement in 2016 after Argentina lost three consecutive finals under his captaincy.
- He later reversed the decision and went on to lead Argentina to the 2021 and 2024 Copa América titles and the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Q. Which Argentine footballer announced his retirement from international football at the age of 39? **Lionel Messi.**



Himachal Pradesh Announces First Ozone-Based Drinking Water Treatment Project

Why is it in News?

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu announced the state's first ozone-based drinking water treatment project in Dehra, Kangra district, at a cost of ₹46 crore.
- The project will use ozone gas to disinfect water and improve its taste.

Key Highlights:

- State: Himachal Pradesh
- Project: Ozone-based drinking water treatment project
- Technology: Ozone gas
- Purpose: Clean and safe drinking water
- Additional benefit: Improved taste
- Future plan: Similar projects across the state

How Will the Ozone Water Project Work?

- Disinfection: Ozone gas will be used to disinfect drinking water.
- Water treatment: The technology will help provide clean and safe drinking water.
- Taste improvement: The treatment will also improve the taste of water.

Background:

- Himachal Pradesh has been adopting modern technologies such as ozonation, UV filtration, RO and nanofiltration to improve drinking water quality.
- The state's 2025 budget had also proposed drinking water treatment plants in Dehra and other areas of Kangra district.

Q. Which state announced its first ozone-based drinking water treatment project? **Himachal Pradesh.**



Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026 Notified

Why is it in News?

- The Department of Consumer Affairs has notified the Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026, establishing Indian Standard Time (IST) as the common reference for legal, administrative, commercial and other official purposes across India.
- The rules will come into force 180 days after publication in the Official Gazette, allowing government departments, businesses and institutions time to align their systems.

Key Highlights:

- Rules: Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026
- Notified by: Department of Consumer Affairs
- Notification date: 27 August 2026
- Reference standard: Indian Standard Time (IST)
- Coverage: Legal, administrative, commercial and official purposes
- Initiative: One Nation, One Time

Importance of Uniform Time Standard:

- Banking and payments: Enables accurate time-stamping of financial transactions.
- Transport: Supports coordination across railways, airports and other transport systems.
- Telecommunications: Helps synchronise telecom and internet networks.

Q. Which rules establish Indian Standard Time as the common reference for legal, administrative, commercial and official purposes across India? **Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026.**



U.S. House Passes PAIL Act to Crack Down on International Trade Crimes

Why is it in News?

- The U.S. House of Representatives has unanimously passed the bipartisan Protecting American Industry and Labor from International Trade Crimes (PAIL) Act of 2026 to strengthen enforcement against trade-related crimes.
- The legislation seeks to give the U.S. Department of Justice greater capacity to investigate and prosecute offences such as tariff evasion, illegal transshipment, forced-labor violations and other trade crimes.

Key Highlights:

- Full name: Protecting American Industry and Labor from International Trade Crimes Act
- Abbreviation: PAIL Act
- Bill number: H.R. 1869
- House action: Passed unanimously
- Date: August 31, 2026
- Sponsor: Ashley Hinson
- Key bipartisan leaders: Raja Krishnamoorthi, John Moolenaar and Ted Lieu
- Next step: Consideration by the U.S. Senate

Q. Which U.S. legislation was unanimously passed by the House to strengthen enforcement against international trade crimes?
PAIL Act (Protecting American Industry and Labor from International Trade Crimes Act).





Parle Biscuits Appoints George Kovoor as CEO

Why is it in News?

- Parle Biscuits has appointed George Kovoor as its Chief Executive Officer.

Key Highlights:

- Appointee: George Kovoor
- Company: Parle Biscuits
- Position: Chief Executive Officer
- Effective date: September 1, 2026
- Previous organisation: PepsiCo
- Experience: More than three decades
- Appointment significance: First-ever CEO of Parle Biscuits

Leadership Transition:

- Leadership role: Kovoor will lead the company's next phase of growth.
- Business focus: Strengthening capabilities and identifying new growth opportunities.
- Consumer outlook: The appointment comes amid changing consumer preferences and evolving consumption patterns in the packaged-food market.

Background:

- Parle Biscuits is a major Indian biscuits and confectionery manufacturer with brands including Parle-G, Monaco, Krackjack, Hide & Seek and Melody.
- Ajay Chauhan continues as Managing Director of Parle Biscuits.

Q. Which company appointed George Kovoor as its first-ever Chief Executive Officer? **Parle Biscuits.**



**Prashant Singh Appointed
Regional Director of SAI
Gandhinagar**

Why is it in News?

- The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has appointed former Khelo India Scheme official Prashant Singh as Regional Director of its Gandhinagar centre.
- His immediate priorities include strengthening the Khelo India ecosystem, developing high-performance pathways and expanding support for Para Sports in the region.

Key Highlights:

- Appointee: Prashant Singh
- Organisation: Sports Authority of India
- New position: Regional Director
- Centre: Gandhinagar
- Regional responsibility: Gujarat and Rajasthan
- Experience: Over 10 years in sports administration
- Key approach: Athlete-First

Major Areas of Experience:

- Khelo India: Associated with the scheme since its inception and the first Khelo India School Games in 2018.
- Elite sports: Worked with the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) and Olympic Cell.
- Sports development: Served as Sports Development Officer for Athletics, Wrestling, Hockey, Cycling, Fencing and Judo.

Q. Which SAI official has been appointed Regional Director of the Gandhinagar centre? **Prashant Singh.**





Why is it in News?

- Bihar and Jharkhand have signed an MoU in New Delhi for sharing Sone River water, resolving a long-pending inter-State water dispute between the two States.
- Under the agreement, the water allocation from the erstwhile undivided Bihar's share will be divided between Bihar and Jharkhand, supporting irrigation and drinking-water needs in both States.

Key Highlights:

- Agreement: Sone River water-sharing MoU
- States: Bihar and Jharkhand
- Date: 31 August 2026
- Location: New Delhi
- Bihar's allocation: 5.75 MAF
- Jharkhand's allocation: 2 MAF
- Significance: Resolution of a 25-year-old water dispute

Background:

- The 1973 Bansagar Agreement allocated 7.75 MAF of Sone River water to the then-undivided Bihar.
- After Jharkhand was created from Bihar in 2000, disagreement emerged over how this 7.75 MAF share should be divided between the two States. The issue remained unresolved for about 25 years.

Bihar and Jharkhand Sign MoU to Resolve Sone River Water Dispute

Q. Which two States signed an MoU to resolve the long-pending Sone River water-sharing dispute? **Bihar and Jharkhand.**



India-Uzbekistan Relations Elevated to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

Why is it in News?

- India and Uzbekistan have elevated their bilateral relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Uzbekistan.
- The two countries also agreed to work towards long-term uranium supplies, strengthen cooperation in critical minerals and set a target of \$5 billion in bilateral trade by 2030.

Key Highlights:

- Countries: India and Uzbekistan
- New partnership level: Comprehensive Strategic Partnership
- Trade target: \$5 billion by 2030
- Uranium: Framework for long-term supply to India
- Critical minerals: Cooperation in mining and mineral resources
- Uzbek President: Shavkat Mirziyoyev

Major Areas of Cooperation:

- Economic cooperation: Trade, investment and economic dialogue.
- Strategic cooperation: Defence, security and counter-terrorism.
- Technology: Digital Public Infrastructure, including UPI, and innovation.
- Development sectors: Agriculture, pharmaceuticals, healthcare and education.

Q. Which two countries elevated their bilateral relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in August 2026? **India and Uzbekistan.**



Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope Successfully Launched by NASA

Why is it in News?

- NASA's Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope successfully launched aboard a SpaceX Falcon Heavy from Kennedy Space Center, Florida, on August 30, 2026.
- The observatory is travelling towards the second Sun-Earth Lagrange point (L2), about one million miles from Earth, where it will study dark matter, dark energy, exoplanets and the evolution of the Universe.

Key Highlights:

- Mission: Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope
- Agency: NASA
- Launch vehicle: SpaceX Falcon Heavy
- Launch site: Kennedy Space Center, Florida
- Destination: Sun-Earth Lagrange Point 2 (L2)
- Distance from Earth: About 1 million miles

Mission Objectives:

- Dark Universe: Investigate dark matter and dark energy.
- Cosmic evolution: Study how galaxies and cosmic structures have changed over time.
- Exoplanets: Discover and study planets beyond the Solar System.
- Wide surveys: Map vast areas of the sky using infrared observations.

Q. Which NASA space telescope was launched aboard a SpaceX Falcon Heavy on August 30, 2026? **Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope.**



2026 Ramon Magsaysay Award Conferred on Tommy Koh, Runa Khan and Bo Kyi

Why is it in News?

- The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation has announced three recipients of the 2026 Ramon Magsaysay Award: Singaporean diplomat Tommy Koh, Bangladeshi social entrepreneur Runa Khan and Myanmar human rights activist Bo Kyi.
- The award recognises individuals demonstrating integrity, courage and selfless service that contributes to transformative change across Asia.

Key Highlights:

- Award: Ramon Magsaysay Award 2026
- Recipients: Tommy Koh, Runa Khan and Bo Kyi
- Countries: Singapore, Bangladesh and Myanmar
- Announced on: August 31, 2026
- Formal presentation: November 15, 2026
- Venue: Metropolitan Theater, Manila
- Theme 2026: “A World for All.”

Laureates and Their Contributions:

- Tommy Koh: Singaporean diplomat, lawyer and academic recognised for his contribution to international diplomacy, international law and peaceful cooperation. He played a major role in the negotiations leading to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Q. Which three individuals received the 2026 Ramon Magsaysay Award? **Tommy Koh, Runa Khan and Bo Kyi.**

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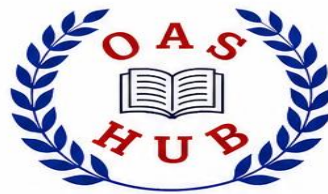
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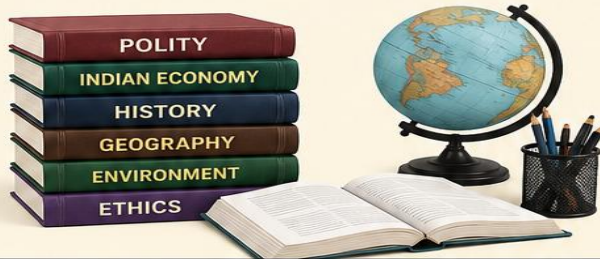
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