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TVS Motor Appoints Peyman Kargar as New CEO; K. N. Radhakrishnan to Step Down

Why is it in News?

- TVS Motor Company has appointed Peyman Kargar as its new Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). He will assume charge on 27 January 2027, succeeding K. N. Radhakrishnan, who will step down as CEO.

Key Highlights

- New CEO: Peyman Kargar
- Current role: President – International Business, TVS Motor
- Assumption of office: 27 January 2027
- Outgoing CEO: K. N. Radhakrishnan
- Radhakrishnan will continue as CEO until the transition date.
- After stepping down, Radhakrishnan will serve as a Non-Executive Director until the company's Annual General Meeting (AGM) in July 2027.
- Peyman Kargar joined TVS Motor in March 2025.
- He has more than 30 years of experience in the global automobile industry.

Background

- TVS Motor Company is one of India's major two- and three-wheeler manufacturers. The company has expanded significantly beyond the Indian market and has established a presence across several international markets.
- Peyman Kargar currently leads the company's International Business. His more than three decades of experience in the automotive sector includes leadership responsibilities across various functions and geographical regions.

Q. Who has been appointed as the new CEO of TVS Motor Company? **Peyman Kargar.**





DoT and C-DOT Sign Five-Year Agreement to Establish India's End-to-End Optical Network Testbed

Why is it in News?

- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) have signed a five-year agreement to establish an End-to-End Optical Network Test Bed at the C-DOT campus in New Delhi.
- The testbed will help Indian startups, researchers and industry players test, validate and commercialise indigenous optical communication technologies before their large-scale deployment.

Key Highlights

- Agreement: DoT–C-DOT five-year agreement
- Testbed: End-to-End Optical Network Test Bed
- Purpose: Testing, validation and commercialisation of indigenous optical technologies
- Key areas: Optical Core, Optical Access and Quantum Security
- Beneficiaries: Startups, researchers, students and industry professionals
- Nature: Shared national resource

Two-Phase Implementation

Phase 1: Set-up Phase — Years 1–2

- Creation of the testbed infrastructure.
- Development of Optical Core and Optical Access components.
- Integration of Quantum Security technologies.
- Installation of advanced testing and measurement tools.

Q. Which two organisations signed an agreement to establish an End-to-End Optical Network Test Bed? **DoT and C-DOT.**



Centre Appoints Two Directors and Joint Director to NTA

Why is it in News?

- The Centre has appointed two Directors and one Joint Director to the National Testing Agency (NTA) as part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen the agency and improve the credibility of national-level examinations. The move comes amid concerns related to NEET paper leaks and other examination-related issues.

Key Highlights

- Directors appointed: Ravi Kumar Singh and Prasanna Venkatesh V
- Joint Director: Amit Samdariya
- Joining deadline: Within three weeks of the appointment orders
- The appointments are part of a broader NTA examination-system overhaul.
- The reforms include a four-tier paper-checking process.
- Around 600 experts are being removed, with domain specialists being brought in.

Significance

- Restores confidence: Strengthens public trust in national-level examinations.
- Better security: An IPS officer's involvement can strengthen examination security and coordination.
- Administrative efficiency: IAS expertise can improve large-scale examination management.

Q. Who has been appointed as Directors in the National Testing Agency? **Ravi Kumar Singh and Prasanna Venkatesh V.**



CISF Signs MoU with Drone Federation of India to Strengthen Counter-Drone Capabilities at Critical Installations

Why is it in News?

- The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Drone Federation of India (DFI) to enhance the counter-drone skills and operational preparedness of its personnel. The partnership will focus on training, technology, innovation and engagement with Indian drone startups to tackle emerging aerial threats at sensitive installations.

Key Highlights

- MoU partners: CISF and Drone Federation of India (DFI)
- Objective: Strengthen counter-drone capabilities
- Personnel already trained: Around 3,000 in drone and anti-drone protocols
- Key areas: Training, capacity building, applied research and operational preparedness
- Focus: Protection against rogue and unauthorised drones
- Sensitive sectors: Aviation, nuclear power, space and oil refineries

Significance

- Critical Infrastructure Security: Helps protect strategically important installations from drone-based threats.
- Counter-Drone Preparedness: Improves the ability of security personnel to detect and respond to hostile drones.

Q. Which organisation has signed an MoU with the Drone Federation of India to strengthen counter-drone capabilities? **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).**



Centre Establishes Mediation Council of India with Head Office in Delhi Under Mediation Act, 2023

Why is it in News?

- The Central Government has formally established the Mediation Council of India (MCI) under the Mediation Act, 2023, with its head office in Delhi.
- The Council is intended to strengthen and institutionalise mediation as an alternative method of resolving disputes in India.

Key Highlights

- Council: Mediation Council of India (MCI)
- Legal basis: Mediation Act, 2023
- Head office: Delhi
- Established under: Section 31(1) of the Mediation Act, 2023
- Issuing authority: Ministry of Law and Justice, Department of Legal Affairs
- Nature: Statutory body
- Main focus: Promotion and regulation of mediation in India
- The Council will support domestic and international mediation.
- The Act also promotes institutional and community mediation.

Significance

- Faster dispute resolution: Mediation can help resolve disputes without prolonged litigation.
- Reduces judicial burden: Greater use of mediation can reduce the workload of courts.

Q. Which statutory body has recently been established under the Mediation Act, 2023? **Mediation Council of India.**





India Gets 'Dialogue Partner' Status in UK-Japan-Italy Sixth-Generation Fighter Jet Programme

Why is it in News?

- India has been granted “Dialogue Partner” status in the Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP), the sixth-generation fighter jet programme jointly led by the United Kingdom, Japan and Italy.
- This status will allow India to engage with the three partner countries on the programme's technology, development progress and capabilities, although India is not yet a full developer or buyer of the aircraft.

Key Highlights

- Programme: Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP)
- Aircraft: Sixth-generation fighter jet, popularly known as Tempest
- Core partners: UK, Japan and Italy
- India's status: Dialogue Partner
- Meaning: Access to discussions on technology, progress and capabilities
- Full participation: India is not currently a developer or buyer
- GCAP funding: \$6.1 billion recently allocated for the full-scale design phase
- Target induction: Around 2034
- India's indigenous fifth-generation fighter: AMCA
- AMCA: Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft

Q. In which sixth-generation fighter programme has India received 'Dialogue Partner' status? **Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP).**



Norway's Crown Prince Haakon Becomes King Haakon VIII After the Death of King Harald V

Why is it in News?

- Norway's Crown Prince Haakon has ascended the throne as King Haakon VIII following the death of his father, King Harald V, at the age of 89. Haakon became king immediately upon his father's death, in accordance with Norway's constitutional succession system.

Key Highlights

- New King: Haakon VIII
- Predecessor: King Harald V
- New Queen: Mette-Marit
- Heir apparent: Crown Princess Ingrid Alexandra
- Previous King Harald V: Reigned from 1991 to 2026
- Norway does not hold a formal coronation for its monarchs.

Background

- King Harald V became King of Norway in 1991 and ruled for more than three decades. He was Norway's longest-serving monarch of the modern era and was widely regarded as a unifying national figure. He died on 28 August 2026 at Oslo University Hospital.
- His son, Haakon Magnus, born in 1973, immediately succeeded him as King Haakon VIII. Norway follows immediate succession, meaning the throne passes to the successor upon the monarch's death rather than after a separate election or waiting period.

Q. Who has become the new King of Norway? **Haakon VIII.**



Uganda's Tooro King Oyo Nyimba Rukidi IV Dies at 34

Why is it in News?

- King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV, the traditional ruler of Uganda's Tooro Kingdom, died at the age of 34. He became king at just three years old in 1995, making him the world's youngest reigning monarch at that time.

Key Highlights

- King: Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV
- Kingdom: Tooro Kingdom
- Country: Uganda
- Coronation: 2010, at age 18
- Role: Traditional and cultural monarch, without constitutional political power

Background

- The Tooro Kingdom is a traditional kingdom in western Uganda, with Fort Portal as its principal royal centre.
- King Oyo succeeded his father, King Patrick David Matthew Kaboyo Olimi III, after his death in 1995. Because Oyo was only three years old, regents managed the kingdom's affairs until he reached adulthood. He formally assumed full royal responsibilities at the age of 18 in 2010.
- Although Uganda is a republic with an elected President, traditional kingdoms such as Tooro continue to play an important cultural and social role. They do not exercise constitutional political authority.

Q. Who was King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV? **The traditional king of Uganda's Tooro Kingdom.**



Sikkim Shooters Shine at 13th North East Zone Shooting Championship 2026

- The 13th North East Zone Shooting Championship 2026 concluded in Guwahati, Assam, with Sikkim shooters delivering strong performances.

Key Considerations:

- Laxuman Adhikari won a Bronze Medal in the Master Men's 10m Air Pistol Individual category.
- His medal was the first-ever won by a shooter representing Sikkim at the North East Zonal level.
- Anu Chettri qualified for the 69th National Shooting Championship 2026 in the 10m Air Pistol event.
- Tshering Yangden Bhutia qualified for the 69th National Shooting Championship 2026 in the 10m Air Rifle event.
- A total of 11 shooters from Sikkim participated in the Zonal Championship.

Background:

- The Sikkim Rifle Association contingent consisted of 8 pistol shooters and 3 rifle shooters.
- The Championship was held in Guwahati, Assam.

Additional Key Facts:

- Championship: 13th North East Zone Shooting Championship 2026
- Historic Medal Winner: Laxuman Adhikari
- Medal: Bronze – Master Men's 10m Air Pistol Individual
- National Qualification: Anu Chettri and Tshering Yangden Bhutia
- National Championship: 69th National Shooting Championship 2026

Q. Which Sikkim shooter won the first-ever North East Zonal medal for the state? **Laxuman Adhikari.**



Germany Win 2026 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup

- Germany defeated Spain 1-0 in the final at Belfius Hockey Arena to win the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup for the second consecutive time.

Key Considerations:

- Germany defeated Spain 1-0 in the final.
- Michel Struthoff scored the only goal in the 44th minute.
- Germany won its fourth Men's Hockey World Cup title.
- Germany's earlier titles came in 2002, 2006 and 2023.
- Spain played its third World Cup final but failed to win the title.
- Germany is now level with Pakistan with four World Cup titles each.

Background:

- The final was played at Belfius Hockey Arena.
- Pakistan won its four World Cup titles in 1971, 1978, 1982 and 1994.
- Germany defended its World Cup title after winning the previous edition in 2023.

Argentina Win Bronze Medal:

- Argentina defeated the Netherlands 2-1 in the bronze-medal match.
- Tomás Domene and Mathias Rey scored for Argentina.
- Floris Middendorp scored the Netherlands' goal.
- Mathias Rey scored the winning penalty corner in the 59th minute.

Q. Which country won the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2026? **Germany**

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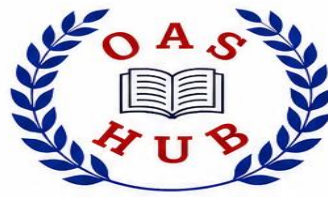
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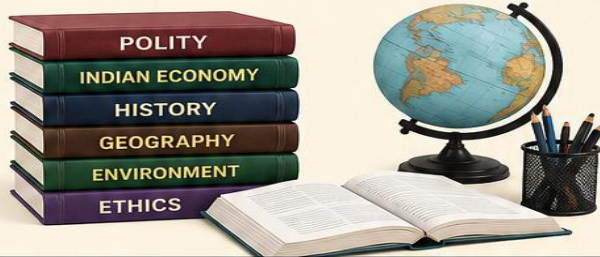
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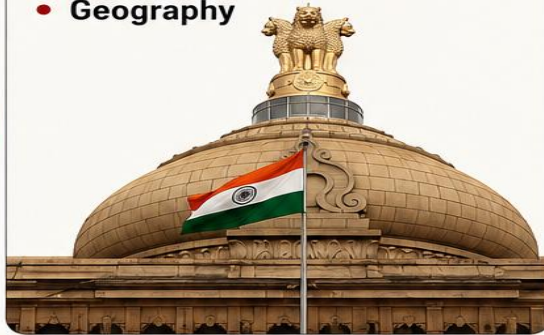
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