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1. Virat Kohli created history by becoming the first Indian to score 12,000 T20 runs (March 27, 2024)

Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli etched his name in history by becoming the first Indian cricketer to score 12,000 runs in the T20 format.

An Overview of the News

- Kohli achieved the remarkable feat during the opening match of the 2024 Indian Premier League (IPL) between Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) at the MA Chidambaram Stadium.
- Kohli holds many records in the IPL, including the most runs with 7,284 runs in 239 matches and 230 innings.
- His IPL batting average is 37.24, with a strike rate of 130.02.
- Kohli's highest individual score in the IPL is 113, scoring seven centuries and 50 half-centuries in the tournament.

Details of Kohli's T20 runs

- Kohli's 12,000 runs include his scores for RCB in the IPL and the now-defunct Champions League, for Delhi in domestic Twenty-over cricket, and for India in T20 Internationals.
- Rohit Sharma is the second-highest run-scorer in T20 cricket for India with a total of 11,156 runs.

Global T20 Run-Scorer

- The list of highest T20 run scorers is topped by former West Indies opener Chris Gayle, former Pakistan captain Shoaib Malik and West Indies player Kieron Pollard.

T20I Contribution

- Kohli has scored 4037 runs in T20 Internationals representing India, including one century.

2. Indian diplomat Abhay Thakur appointed as the next envoy to Myanmar (March 27, 2024)

Senior Indian diplomat Abhay Thakur has been appointed the next Ambassador to Myanmar and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced the appointment on March 26.

An Overview of the News

- Thakur, a 1992-batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), is currently serving as an Officer on Special Duty in the Ministry of External Affairs.

- He previously held the position of **Sous-Sherpa** (deputy representative) for the G20 process during India's chairmanship.
- Thakur's appointment underlines India's diplomatic engagement with Myanmar.

Important times for India-Myanmar relations:

- Timing of appointment: Given the current circumstances, Thakur's selection as India's envoy to Myanmar is significant.
- Political unrest: Mass violent protests are taking place in Myanmar following the military coup on February 1, 2021, advocating for the restoration of democracy.
- India's stand: India advocates restoring "inclusive federal democracy" in Myanmar through dialogue and constructive engagement among all stakeholders.

Strategic Neighborhood Bond:

- Geographical proximity: Myanmar shares a 1,640-km-long border with several northeastern Indian states, including Nagaland and Manipur.
- Strategic Importance: Myanmar holds strategic importance as one of the neighboring countries of India.

Engagement in Global Diplomacy:

- Participation: Thakur participated in the G20 Development Working Group meeting in Brasilia as an Officer on Special Duty (G20).

3. Simon Harris: Ireland's Youngest Prime Minister (March 26, 2024)

37 year old Simon Harris is going to become the youngest Prime Minister of Ireland.

An Overview of the News

- He came into limelight after the unexpected demise of Leo Varadkar.
- Harris, a prominent figure in Irish politics, emerged as the only candidate to be the next Prime Minister of Ireland.
- At 37, he is set to make history as Ireland's youngest Prime Minister.

Simon Harris's Political and Ministerial Experience:

- A member of Fine Gael, Harris has been actively involved in politics since his youth, and has risen through the ranks of the party's youth organisation.
- Despite not completing her undergraduate degree, she increasingly demonstrated her commitment to politics, holding various positions within Fine Gael.

- Notably, Harris held the position of Health Minister of Ireland from 2016 to mid-2020, and played a key role in managing the country's response to the COVID-19 pandemic during that period.
- Currently serving as Minister for Further and Higher Education, her time in these ministerial roles has honed her leadership skills and policy acumen.

Strategic Approach and Social Media Presence:

- With 92,000 followers and 1.8 million likes, Harris' skillful use of TikTok has attracted attention.
- It serves as a platform to promote their political agenda and connect with voters.
- Harris aims to rejuvenate Fine Gael's appeal by taking advantage of his youth and crisis management skills.
- His campaign will emphasize key policy priorities while addressing internal concerns of the party.

4. Maryam Mammen Mathew assumes role of DNPA Chairperson (March 26, 2024)

Maryam Mammen Mathew has been appointed as the Chairperson of DNPA for a two-year term starting from April 1, 2024.

An Overview of the News

- Mariam Mammen Mathew, who currently serves as CEO of Manorama Online, will take over the role of Digital News Publishers Association (DNPA) Chairperson in place of Tanmay Maheshwari, managing director of Amar Ujala.

New leadership and roles:

- Chairperson: Mariam Mammen Mathew, CEO, Manorama Online, will take over as DNPA Chairperson in place of Tanmay Maheshwari.
- Vice Chairman: Puneet Gupta, COO of Times Internet, was appointed as the new Vice Chairman.
- Continuity: Punit Jain, CEO of Digital HT Media, continues in the role of treasurer.

Role and Members of DNPA:

- Umbrella Organization: DNPA serves as an important umbrella organization covering various digital media entities including print and broadcast.
- Member Organizations: DNPA includes 18 leading media organizations like Dainik Jagran, Dainik Bhaskar, The Indian Express.
- Efforts: DNPA's objectives include democratizing the digital news landscape and supporting regulatory efforts to ensure fairness in the operation of major technology platforms in India.

5. Ashwini Kumar elected as the new President of FIEO (March 23, 2024)

Ashwini Kumar, partner at Victor Forgings in Jalandhar, was unanimously elected as the new president of the Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO).

An Overview of the News

- Renowned business entrepreneurs and exporters from Jalandhar, Punjab, representing the engineering sector.
- Previously held positions in FIEO include Chairman (Northern Region) and Managing Committee Member.
- Also served as a member of the Governing Body of NIT, Jalandhar.
- Held roles as Convenor of Hand Tools Panel (Pan India) and Deputy Regional Chairman (Northern Region) in EEPC India.
- Apart from his national roles, Ashwini Kumar also contributes at the local and regional levels.
- **Ashwini Kumar represents various forums in Jalandhar including:**
 - Focal Point Industries Association
 - Effluent Treatment Society
 - management association
 - Badminton Association
 - Integrated Association of SMEs
 - Doaba Airport Association
- K L serves as a trustee of the Sehgal Memorial Trust.

About FIEO

- Established in 1965, it is India's apex trade promotion body.
- Established by the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India in partnership with the private sector.
- Represents and assists Indian entrepreneurs and exporters in foreign markets.
- Serves as a vital link between Indian businesses and international trade opportunities.
- Plays an important role in advancing India's global trade interests and promoting economic growth through exports.

Headquarters - **Export Building, Rao Tula Ram Marg**

Vice President - **Khalid M Khan**

Director General & CEO - **Dr. Ajay Sahay**

6. DeepMind co-founder Mustafa Suleyman to lead Microsoft's AI division (March 23, 2024)

Google's DeepMind co-founder Mustafa Suleyman has been appointed to head Microsoft's AI division.

An Overview of the News

- Suleyman will report directly to Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella.
- **Responsibilities Include Overseeing:**
 - Integration of AI Copilot into Windows.
 - Incorporating interactive elements into Microsoft's Bing search engine.
 - Consolidating all consumer AI projects under a single leadership.

Key Points on the Background of Mustafa Suleyman

- Mustafa Suleyman comes from a background where his father was a Syrian-born taxi driver and his mother was an English nurse.
- He was brought up in the London Borough of Islington.
- Suleyman studied philosophy and theology at the University of Oxford but discontinued during his second year.
- He founded Muslim Youth Helpline, a charitable organization in the UK.
- At the young age of 22, he provided advisory services on human rights policy to former London Mayor Ken Livingstone.

Mustafa Suleyman's Journey from DeepMind to Inflection AI and Microsoft:

- Co-founded DeepMind in 2010, taking on the role of head of Applied AI, with an emphasis on ethical AI use.
- Left Google in 2022 to found Inflection AI.
- Inflection AI achieved success with the creation of the popular AI chatbot Pi and secured \$1.3 billion in funding.
- Key figure Karen Simonyan, co-founder and chief scientist of Inflection AI, will move to Microsoft as chief scientist for Microsoft AI.

7. MV Rao takes over as chairman of the Indian Banks Association (March 22, 2024)

Central Bank of India MD and CEO MV Rao was elected as the new chairman of the Indian Banks Association (IBA) during the managing committee meeting held on 21 March.

An Overview of the News**Vice President Selection:**

- The committee also appointed three vice presidents:
- Dinesh Kumar Khara, Chairman of State Bank of India (SBI)
- S L Jain, MD and CEO of Indian Bank
- N Kamakody, MD and CEO of City Union Bank

Appointment of Honorary Secretary:

- Madhav Nair, Country Head and CEO of the Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait was appointed as Honorary Secretary of the IBA.

Contribution of Madhav Nair:

- Serving as the first Vice President, Madhav Nair has been actively involved in policy advocacy related to areas such as technology, risk management, and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors since 2016.

Indian Banks Association (IBA)

- IBA represents a diverse range of Indian banks including public sector, private sector, foreign, co-operative and regional rural banks.
- Role and Functions: It plays an important role in shaping banking policies and promoting the adoption of best practices within the Indian banking industry.
- Expectations of new leadership: The election of a new leadership team is expected to infuse new energy and focus IBA's efforts to address the various challenges and leverage opportunities in the Indian banking sector.

8. Naveen Jindal elected President of the Indian Steel Association (March 22, 2024)

Jindal Steel & Power Chairman Naveen Jindal was unanimously elected President of the Indian Steel Association (ISA) by the apex committee.

An Overview of the News

- He replaced Dilip Omman, CEO of ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India and took charge on March 21.
- As Chairman of ISA, Jindal will have a key role in shaping policies and strategies for the Indian steel industry.
- His priorities include ensuring synchronized growth in the steel industry and its associated manufacturing value chains to support India's development goals.

- Jindal also stressed the importance of decarbonization as a significant challenge and necessary initiative for environmental sustainability.
- Notable past presidents of ISA include JSW Steel Chairman Sajjan Jindal and Tata Steel MD and CEO TV Narendran.
- ISA acts as the apex body for Indian steel producers, advocating their interests and addressing the challenges of the sector.

9. Union Minister Kiren Rijiju takes charge as Food Processing Industries Minister (March 21, 2024)

President Draupadi Murmu on March 20 handed over the additional responsibility of Food Processing Industries Minister to Union Minister Kiren Rijiju and this decision came after accepting the resignation of Pashupati Kumar Paras from the Union Council of Ministers.

An Overview of the News

- Pashupati Kumar Paras resigned after his party, Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party, was not included in the seat-sharing arrangement for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in Bihar.
- The resignation was accepted under clause (2) of Article 75 of the Constitution.

About Kiran Rijiju

- Kiren Rijiju, an Indian politician from Arunachal Pradesh, serves as a Cabinet Minister in the Government of India.
- He holds the portfolios of Earth Sciences and Food Processing Industries, assuming office in 2023 and 2024.
- Rijiju has represented the Arunachal West constituency in the Lok Sabha since 2014.
- Before his current tenure, he also served as a Member of Parliament from 2004 to 2009.

About Pashupati Kumar Paras

- Paras, an Indian politician, held the position of Minister of Food Processing Industries in the Government of India from 2021 until his resignation in 2024.
- He is currently serving as a Lok Sabha member representing Hajipur constituency since 2019.
- He previously served as the Minister of Animal and Fisheries Resources in the Government of Bihar.
- Pashupati Kumar Paras is the younger brother of the late Ram Vilas Paswan.
- He also held the post of State President of Bihar unit of Lok Janshakti Party.
- In June 2021, he was elected as the national president of Lok Janshakti Party, replacing Chirag Kumar Paswan.

- Following factional disputes within the Lok Janshakti Party, he assumed the role of
- National President of the Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party in 2021.

10. Election Commission Appoints Sanjay Mukherjee as new DGP of West Bengal (March 21, 2024)

The Election Commission of India appointed Sanjay Mukherjee as the new Director General of Police (DGP) of West Bengal, replacing Vivek Sahay.

An Overview of the News

- Mukherjee, a 1989 batch IPS officer, had earlier served as the chief of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) since November 2017.
- Before being promoted to the post of DGP, Mukherjee held the post of Director (Security) in the West Bengal Police, which was given the status of Additional Director General of Police (ADG).

Rajiv Kumar's reassignment:

- Rajeev Kumar took over the role of Director General of Police (DGP) in December last year.
- He has been re-appointed to the Information and Technology Department with changes in his responsibilities.
- Kumar's re-appointment follows his exclusion from active election management duties during previous electoral events, including the 2016 assembly elections and the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Election Commission's instructions:

- The Election Commission directed Chief Secretary BP Gopalika to transfer Rajiv Kumar to a role unrelated to elections.
- Kumar's reappointment coincided with the appointment of a junior officer as the temporary Director General of Police (DGP) of West Bengal.