



# Daily News Analysis

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**Monday, 05 February 2024**

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**DR.G.S.GIRIDHAR SIR**





Monday, 05 February 2024

## **Mahindra Group appoints Amarjyoti Barua as group chief financial officer**

- Mahindra Group announced the appointment of Amarjyoti Barua as its Group Chief Financial Officer with effect from May 17 this year.
- He will be replacing Manoj Bhatt, who is appointed as Managing Director and CEO of Mahindra Holidays & Resorts India Ltd (MHRIL) succeeding Kavinder Singh.
- The change of guard at MHRIL comes following Singh's resignation, according to Mahindra Group.
- Appointments of Barua and Bhatt are effective from May 17. Currently, Barua is serving as Executive Vice President for Group Strategy.
- Vimal Agarwal, CFO of Mahindra Lifespaces Developers Ltd (MLDL), will move as CFO for MHRIL. Avinash Bapat will replace Agarwal as CFO of MLDL.
- Barua joined the group in May last year as Executive Vice President - Group Strategy. Prior to joining Mahindra Group, he was with Baker Hughes for over six years.
- Bhatt has worked with M&M Ltd and Tech Mahindra.

**Q.** Who has been appointed as the Group Chief Financial Officer of Mahindra Group? **Amarjyoti Barua**





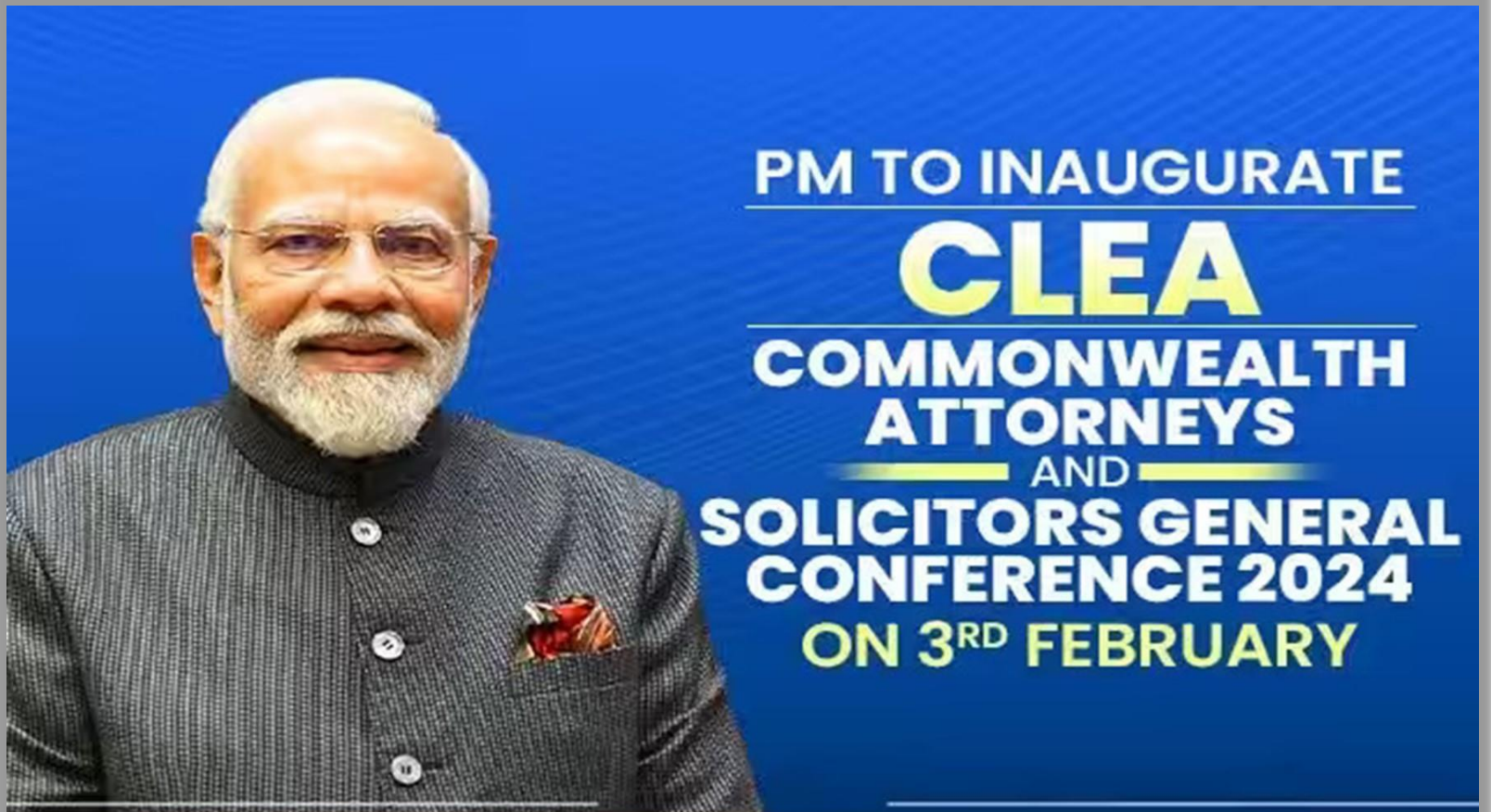
Monday, 05 February 2024

## Known for his role as 'Rocky', actor Carl Weathers passes away at 76

- Hollywood actor Carl Weathers, known for his role in 'Rocky' opposite Sylvester Stallone passed away at the age of 76.
- Born on January 14, 1948, in New Orleans, Weathers appeared in more than 75 films and TV shows during his 50-year screen career. He Greef Karga, the head of the Bounty Hunters Guild, in nine episodes of the Disney+ Star Wars series The Mandalorian over its three seasons.
- He is best known for playing Apollo Creed, the heavyweight champion of the world who gave journeyman Philly boxer Rocky Balboa (Sylvester Stallone) a shot at the title in 1976's 'Rocky.' Weathers reprised the role in 'Rocky II' (1979), which featured a title rematch with Balboa, and 1982's 'Rocky III,' where he trained Balboa to fight the brutish Clubber Lang (Mr. T). Creed's final film in the franchise was 'Rocky IV' (1985), where he was killed in the ring by chiseled Russian heavyweight Ivan Drago (Dolph Lundgren), as per Deadline.
- Apart from the 'Rocky' franchise he also starred in 1987's 'Predator' and had a memorable role in Adam Sandler's 'Happy Gilmore.'

**Q.** Name the Hollywood actor, best known for his role in 'Rocky' opposite Sylvester Stallone, who passed away recently? **Carl Weathers**





Monday, 05 February 2024

## PM to inaugurate CLEA Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) - Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference in New Delhi.
- The theme of the conference is Cross-Border Challenges in Justice Delivery.
- The Conference will deliberate on important issues of law and justice like judicial transition and the ethical dimensions of legal practice, executive accountability and revisiting modern-day legal education, among others.
- Attorney Generals and Solicitors from the Commonwealth nations spanning the Asia-Pacific, Africa, and the Caribbean along with various international delegations will participate in the conference.
- The conference serves as a unique platform by offering a forum for interaction among different stakeholders in the Commonwealth legal fraternity.
- It also includes an exclusive round table conference tailored for Attorneys and Solicitors general aiming to develop a comprehensive roadmap to address the challenges in legal education and transnational justice delivery.

**Q.** What is the theme of recent CLEA - Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference? **Cross-Border Challenges in Justice Delivery**





**Monday, 05 February 2024**

## India launches Unified Payments Interface (UPI) at Eiffel Tower in Paris, France

- India formally launched the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) at the iconic Eiffel Tower in Paris.
- Making the announcement, the Indian Embassy in France termed it as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of taking UPI, global.
- The UPI was formally launched at the Republic Day reception held in France.
- During his visit to France in July last year, Prime Minister Modi announced the agreement between India and France to use the UPI payment mechanism. He had said that it will begin from the iconic Eiffel Tower. Prime Minister Modi had said that Indian tourists in France will now be able to make payments in rupees.

### UPI:

- The UPI is India's mobile-based payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPIL) in 2016.
- It allows people to make round-the-clock payments through a virtual payment address created by the customer.
- UPI is a system that powers multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application of any participating bank, merging several banking features, seamless fund routing and merchant payments into one hood.

**Q.** Recently, India formally launched \_\_\_\_ at the iconic Eiffel Tower in Paris. **Unified Payment Interface (UPI)**





**Monday, 05 February 2024**

## **Indian-origin barrister Varun Ghosh appointed to Australian Senate**

- Indian-origin barrister Varun Ghosh will take his position in the Australian Senate with the Labour Party officially confirming him as their pick to represent Western Australia (WA).
- A joint sitting of WA Parliament selected the 38-year-old Ghosh, a barrister at Francis Burt Chambers, to replace present senator Patrick Dodson.
- Ghosh joined the Labor party in Perth at the age of 17 after his parents moved from India in the 1980s and began working as neurologists
- At the 2019 federal election, Ghosh was placed in fifth position on the Australian Labour Party's Senate ticket in Western Australia but was not elected.
- He received degrees in Arts and Law from the University of Western Australia and was a Commonwealth Scholar in Law at the University of Cambridge.
- He previously worked as a finance attorney in New York and as a consultant for the World Bank in Washington, DC.
- Ghosh returned to Australia in 2015 as a senior associate with King & Wood Mallesons, representing banks, resource companies, and construction companies in dispute resolution.

**Q.** Which Indian-origin barrister has recently been appointed in the Australian Senate? **Varun Ghosh**





**Monday, 05 February 2024**

## **MoU Signed To Make Hyderabad Hub Of AI Development, Innovation**

- The Telangana government inked an MoU with 3AI, India's largest platform for AI & Analytics leaders and professionals, to make Hyderabad and Telangana as a global hub of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to foster development and innovation.
- According to the government, the main objective of the MOU is to build a community of AI and Analytics leaders from various enterprises and tech-service firms and local startups, as well as showcasing initiatives from the ITE&C (Information Technology, Electronics & Communications) and the Emerging Technologies Wing.innovation.
- It will not only help curate and host leadership roundtables and events around AI innovation and progress, but also extend 3AI forums for building thought leadership and mindshare.
- At the signing of the MoU, a leadership roundtable was held on “Creating & Enabling a Conducive Ecosystem & Framework for Gen AI Adoption: Strategic Perspectives”. The roundtable focused on the various key actions taken by the government of Telangana to address the requirements and acceptance of Gen AI and Gen AI innovations.

**Q.** Which state signed an MoU with 3AI, India's largest platform for AI and analytics leaders and professionals to drive growth and innovation? **Telangana**





**Monday, 05 February 2024**

### **BJP veteran LK Advani to be awarded Bharat Ratna**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that BJP veteran Lal Krishna Advani will be conferred with the country's highest civilian honour 'Bharat Ratna'.
- The 96-year-old leader, a former BJP president for multiple terms but missed to become India's Prime Minister as he had to play second fiddle to AB Vajpayee, will be the 50th person to be conferred the Bharat Ratna.
- The Modi government has conferred Bharat Ratna to seven people in the past ten years, including Vajpayee, Sangh icons Madan Mohan Malaviya and Nanaji Deshmukh besides former President Pranab Mukherjee, music maestro Bhupen Hazarika and Thakur.

#### **Bharat Ratna:**

- The Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian award of the Republic of India. Instituted on 2 January 1954, the award is conferred in recognition of "exceptional service/performance of the highest order", without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex. The award was originally limited to achievements in the arts, literature, science, and public services, but the government expanded the criteria to include "any field of human endeavour" in December 2011. The recommendations for the Bharat Ratna are made by the Prime Minister to the President, with a maximum of three nominees being awarded per year. The recipients receive a Sanad (certificate) signed by the President and a peepal leaf-shaped medallion. There is no monetary grant associated with the award. Bharat Ratna recipients rank seventh in the Indian order of precedence.

**Q.** Recently, which veteran BJP leader will be honored with the country's highest civilian honor 'Bharat Ratna'? **Lal Krishna Advani**





**Monday, 05 February 2024**

## Multiple infrastructure projects worth over 68 thousand crore rupees to be launched by Prime Minister in Sambalpur, Odisha

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Sambalpur in Odisha to inaugurate, dedicate, and lay the foundation stone for multiple infrastructure projects worth more than 68 thousand crore rupees. The visit will also include the inauguration of the permanent campus of the Indian Institute of Management-IIM Sambalpur.
- The permanent campus, built on an area of land measuring approximately 200 acres at Basantapur village near Sambalpur City, has been facilitated by a budget of about 402 crore rupees.
- Mr Modi will inaugurate the Dhamra - Angul Pipeline Section of the Jagdishpur-Haldia and Bokaro-Dhamra Pipeline Project and lay the foundation stone of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) Talabira Thermal power project worth more than 27 thousand crore rupees.
- He will also inaugurate three National Highways road sector projects, developed at about 2110 crore rupees.
- The Prime Minister will also dedicate to the nation and lay the foundation stone of railway projects worth 2146 crore rupees. He will also lay the foundation stone for the redevelopment of Sambalpur Railway Station. He will also dedicate the Sambalpur-Talcher 168-kilometer Doubling Railway Line and Jhartarbha to the Sonepur New Railway line, enhancing the rail network capacity in the western Odisha region. The Prime Minister will also flag off the Puri-Sonepur-Puri Weekly Express, improving rail passenger connectivity in the area. Besides, Mr Modi will dedicate the Jharsuguda Head Post Office Heritage Building to the nation.

**Q.** PM Narendra Modi will visit Sambalpur in Odisha to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of several infrastructure projects worth more than \_\_\_\_\_. **68 thousand crore rupees**





**Monday, 05 February 2024**

## **Pawan Kumar assumes charge of Chief Adviser (Cost) in Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance**

- Consequent upon approval of Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), Shri Pawan Kumar, ICoAS, has assumed charge as Chief Adviser (Cost), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.
- Shri Kumar is a 1992-batch officer of the Indian Cost Accounts Service under Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.
- Prior to assuming the charge Shri Kumar was holding the charge of Additional Chief Adviser (Cost).
- Shri Kumar is a qualified Cost Accountant and possesses a diverse work experience in various capacities at different Ministries/Departments and autonomous bodies like Tariff Commission, Delhi Development Authority, Director General of Trade Remedies, Department of Economic Affairs, Department of Public Enterprises etc.
- Shri Kumar played a pivotal role in development of a web-based Online Dashboard for performance evaluation of CPSEs in Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Finance. This initiative was conferred 'Gold Award' in the 'e-Governance' category in 2022, by a leading think tank.

**Q.** Who has recently assumed charge as Chief Adviser (Cost), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance? **Pawan Kumar**





**Monday, 05 February 2024**

## **Abhinav Bindra selected as torchbearer for Paris 2024 Olympics**

- India's first individual gold medallist at the Olympic Games, Abhinav Bindra has been selected as a torch bearer for the upcoming 2024 Paris Olympic Games to be held in the French capital.
- Bindra, who won gold in the men's 10m air rifle in the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008, will be part of the Olympic torch relay that will be held from April 16 to July 26.
- The Olympic Torch Relay is an ancient tradition that precedes the Summer Games. The modern iteration of the relay has been in practice since Berlin 1936.
- For Paris 2024, the sacred Olympic flame will be lit in Olympia, Greece - the birthplace of the Olympics - on April 16 before travelling to Athens. The flame will cross the Mediterranean on board the Belem, a three masted ship, to Marseille.
- After landing in Marseille on May 8, the Olympic torch will set off for a 68-day-long Olympic Torch Relay across France, traversing 65 territories before arriving in the French capital, the host city, to officially flag off the Paris 2024 Olympics, which will conclude on August 11.
- Abhinav Bindra, also a member of the Athletes Commission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), was selected through an elaborate process which started on June 1 last year.

**Q.** Which Indian gold medallist has been selected as a torch bearer for the upcoming 2024 Paris Olympic Games? **Abhinav Bindra**





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