



### ➤ **DPIIT Partners with boAt to Boost Startup Ecosystem in India**

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has entered a strategic partnership with boAt, a prominent Indian audio and wearables brand, to foster innovation and support DPIIT-recognized startups, especially in the Direct-to-Consumer (D2C) and manufacturing sectors. This collaboration aims to provide essential mentorship, resources, and guidance, helping startups scale both locally and internationally. With boAt's industry expertise and the government's backing, the initiative is poised to empower the Indian startup ecosystem.



### ➤ **Reliance Acquires Karkinos Healthcare for ₹375 Crore**

In a strategic move to bolster its healthcare portfolio, Reliance Industries, led by Mukesh Ambani, has acquired oncology-focused platform Karkinos Healthcare for ₹375 crore. This acquisition, completed through Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Ltd (RSBVL), is a significant step towards expanding the company's reach in cancer detection, diagnosis, and treatment.



### ➤ **Bumrah Breaks Record for Fastest 200 Wickets by an Indian**

Jasprit Bumrah achieved a remarkable milestone, becoming the fastest Indian bowler to reach 200 wickets in Test cricket during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy at the MCG in Melbourne.



Bumrah's achievement is notable not just for its speed but also for the efficiency with which he has attained this milestone in just 44 Tests, surpassing the previous Indian record held by Mohammed Shami.



### ➤ **Lakshya Sen Secures Third Place at King Cup**

India's badminton star, Lakshya Sen, showcased his talent with an impressive third-place finish at the inaugural King Cup International Badminton Open held in Bangkok, Thailand.

The 23-year-old from Almora defeated French rising star Alex Lanier in the bronze-medal playoff. Despite a narrow loss in the semifinals, Lakshya's strong performance underlined his consistency and resilience on the international stage.



### ➤ **Koneru Humpy From Retirement Doubts to Rapid Glory**

Koneru Humpy, the pioneering force in Indian women's chess, scripted another chapter of glory by winning her second Women's World Rapid Chess Championship title in New York at the age of 37. Her remarkable journey from contemplating retirement to reclaiming the world crown underscores her resilience and passion for the game. Humpy's story is not just about victories on the chessboard but also about balancing motherhood, family support, and a challenging professional chess career.



### ➤ **Kaamya Karthikeyan: Youngest Female to Conquer Seven Summits**

Kaamya Karthikeyan, a 17-year-old student from Navy Children School in Mumbai, has etched her name in history by becoming the youngest female in the world to conquer the Seven Summits. This remarkable achievement includes scaling the highest peaks across all seven continents.

Kaamya, an avid adventurer since her childhood, completed this prestigious feat by summiting Mount Vinson in Antarctica on December, 2024. This accomplishment highlights her determination, resilience, and passion for mountaineering.





➤ **Russia declares federal state of emergency over oil spill in Black Sea.**

Russian authorities have declared a federal state of emergency due to a catastrophic oil spill off the Black Sea coast. The environmental crisis, which occurred on December 15, has caused widespread pollution in the region. It has seriously impacted local communities, marine ecosystems and coastal economies.

Two Russian-flagged oil tankers suffered severe damage during a storm near the Kerch Strait, causing huge amounts of fuel oil (mazut) to leak into the Black Sea. The spill polluted about 55 kilometres (34 miles) of coastline.

