



US President Biden Awards Presidential Medal of Freedom

US President Joe Biden awarded the "Presidential Medal of Freedom" to 19 individuals from various fields for their extraordinary contributions to America and the world at the White House.

- ❖ On January 4, 2025, President Joe Biden awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom to 19 individuals in recognition of their significant contributions to American society and the world.

They are:

- ❖ Former First Lady and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton,
- ❖ Football star Lionel Messi,
- ❖ Basketball legend Earvin "Magic" Johnson,
- ❖ Fashion designer Ralph Lauren
- ❖ Investor and philanthropist George Soros.
- ❖ Renowned chef and founder of World Central Kitchen José Andrés
- ❖ Michael J. Fox: Actor and advocate
- ❖ Dr. Jane Goodall: Primatologist and conservationist,

Others are:

Bono, Denzel Washington, Bill Nye, Anna Wintour, Tim Gill, David Rubenstein, George Stevens Jr, Fannie Lou Hamer, Robert F. Kennedy, Ash Carter, George W. Romney.

- ❖ The Presidential Medal of Freedom was first awarded on July 4, 1963, by President John F. Kennedy.
- ❖ The Presidential Medal of Freedom is the highest civilian honour of the US, presented to individuals who have made exemplary contributions to the prosperity, values, or security of the United States and world peace.

Ecuador declares state of emergency in seven provinces

Ecuadorian President Daniel Noboa has declared a 60-day state of emergency in seven provinces and three municipalities amid escalating internal unrest and armed conflict.

- ❖ Under the emergency measures, the right to inviolability of the home and correspondence was suspended in the affected regions.

- ❖ Since January last year, Ecuador has been engaged in an internal armed conflict against organized crime groups labeled as terrorists by the government.

About Ecuador:

- ❖ **Official Name:** Republic of Ecuador (República del Ecuador)
- ❖ **Capital:** Quito
- ❖ **Largest City:** Guayaquil
- ❖ **Official Language:** Spanish
- ❖ **Currency:** United States Dollar (USD)

World Braille Day: 4th January

- ❖ World Braille Day is observed annually on January 4th.
- ❖ The day is observed annually to raise awareness about the importance of Braille as a means of communication for blind and partially sighted people.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly decided to proclaim the 4th of January as World Braille Day to commemorate the birth of Louis Braille, the visionary behind the braille system from 2018.

- ❖ Braille is a tactile representation of alphabetic and numerical symbols using six dots to represent each letter and number which also includes musical, mathematical and scientific symbols.
- ❖ The Braille language is used by blind and partially sighted people to read the same books and periodicals as those printed in a visual font.
- ❖ The Indian government has taken several initiatives to empower visually impaired individuals, emphasizing their rights, education, employment, and overall well-being.

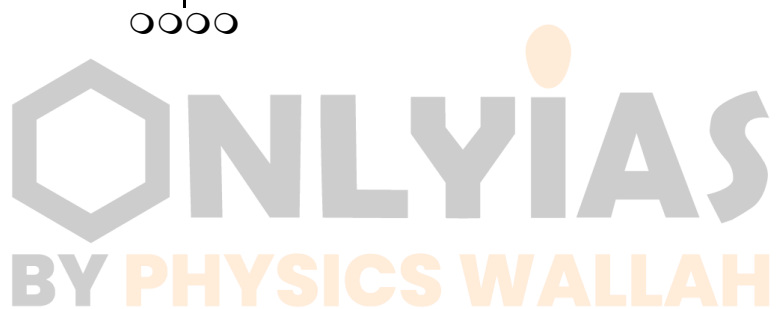
These are:

1. National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities
2. Model School for the Visually Handicapped
3. Braille Development Unit
4. Inclusion of Braille language in the National Accessible Library

*Varun Tomar: Clinches both senior
and junior Men's 10m Air Pistol
titles at 67th National Shooting
Championship*

- ❖ 67th National Shooting Championship 2024, Varun Tomar from Indian Army has become the national shooting champion after winning the Men's 10-meter Air Pistol finals at Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range.

- ❖ Varun Tomar has also won the Men's Junior 10-meter Air Pistol event.



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