

### International

#### Nicolas Maduro sworn in for third term as Venezuela's President amid election dispute

##### About News:-

- ❖ Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro was sworn in for a third six-year term on Friday, following a controversial election in which his opponent, Edmundo Gonzalez, accused him of voter fraud and declared himself the legitimate winner.



##### Key points:-

- ❖ **Maduro's Rise to Power (2013):** Became Venezuela's president after Hugo Chavez's death, facing criticism for authoritarianism and economic crises.
- ❖ **Contested Election (2018):** Opposition leader Juan Guaido declared himself president; US and Western nations recognized him.
- ❖ **US Sanctions:** Sanctions deepened Venezuela's economic struggles, leading 7.7 million citizens to flee due to political repression and instability.
- ❖ **July Election Controversy:** Maduro claimed victory with 51% of the votes; the opposition alleged irregularities and claimed Gonzalez's victory.
- ❖ **Protests and Crackdown:** Post-election protests led to 25 deaths and 2,000 arrests.
- ❖ **Opposition Pressure:** Continued protests saw low turnout; Maduro accused the opposition of foreign conspiracy.
- ❖ **Gonzalez's Asylum:** Fled to Spain; met US President Joe Biden to discuss Maduro's repression.
- ❖ **US Support for Opposition:** Referred to Gonzalez as "president-elect" and condemned Maduro's inauguration.
- ❖ **US Sanctions and Reward:** The reward for Maduro's arrest was increased to \$25 million, and sanctions were imposed on eight allies, including oil company head Hector Obregon.

### National



#### Minister of Textiles Inaugurates India Pavilion at Heimtextil 2025, Frankfurt, Germany

##### About News:-

- ❖ India highlighted its growing textile industry strength as the Hon'ble Minister of Textiles inaugurated the India Pavilion at Heimtextil 2025, Messe Frankfurt. With the largest country participation, India showcased its commitment to innovation, sustainability, and global partnerships.

##### Key Points:-

- ❖ **Focus on Collaboration:** The Minister addressed global home textile exporters, importers, and manufacturers, emphasizing India's growing competitiveness and collaboration for sustainable growth.
- ❖ **Invitation to Bharat Tex 2025:** Invited all participating countries to explore investment opportunities in India's thriving textile ecosystem at Bharat Tex 2025.
- ❖ **Engagement with German Associations:** I met with the Machinery and Equipment Manufacturers Association and IVGT, Germany, to urge stronger collaboration and investment in India's textile sector.
- ❖ **Encouragement for German Investment:** Highlighted India as a major textile machinery buyer and cited the success of a German sewing thread manufacturer in India to encourage others to invest.

- ❖ **Support for Exporters:** The government supports Indian exporters' participation in global events like Heimtextil to enhance visibility and growth in competitive markets.
- ❖ **Exhibition Tour:** The minister engaged with exhibitors to learn about innovations and reaffirmed the government's support for the home textile sector.
- ❖ **Industry Participation:** Enthusiastic participation by industry leaders and exporters highlighted India's commitment to becoming a global leader in textiles.

### State

**3rd edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam is to start in Ayodhya on Feb 15**

#### About News:-

- ❖ Union Minister for Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, launched the registration portal for the 3rd Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS). The event will take place from 15th to 24th February 2025 in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. KTS 2.0 was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi on 17th December 2023, featuring a real-time app-based Tamil translation of the PM's speech for Tamil delegates.



#### Key Points:-

- ❖ **Events:** Exhibition on Sage Agasthyar's contributions, seminars, workshops, and awareness programs in Tamil Nadu and abroad.
- ❖ **Delegates:** 1,000 from Tamil Nadu in five categories and 200 Tamil-origin students from Central Universities.
- ❖ **Tour:** 8 days (4 travel, 4 sites); first group departs 13th Feb, last returns 26th Feb 2025.

### Maharashtra

**PM Modi inaugurates ISKCON temple at Kharghar in Navi Mumbai**

#### About News:-



- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) temple at the Kharghar area of Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra on Wednesday.

#### Key Points:-

- ❖ PM Modi expressed his gratitude in getting to be part of the inauguration of the temple named Sri Sri Radha Madanmohanji Temple.
- ❖ The PM also admired the form of the temple reflecting the tradition of spirituality and knowledge.
- ❖ PM Modi further remembered former ISKCON chairman Gopal Krishna Goswami, who passed away on May 5, 2024.
- ❖ The PM also talked about the 'Krishna circuit,' which is aimed at connecting various pilgrimage and religious sites across Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha.
- ❖ Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy CM Eknath Shinde, and BJP MP Hema Malini shared the stage with the PM.

### Economic

**India's GDP growth likely to reach 6.7% next fiscal: Crisil**

#### About News:-

- ❖ India's GDP growth is expected to rise to 6.7% in FY25, as per a Crisil report. A steady decline in food inflation and stable non-food inflation may allow room for a rate cut by RBI.

**Key Points:-**



- ❖ **Inflation Trends:** Headline inflation moving toward RBI's 4% target; CPI inflation dropped to 5.2% in December from 5.5% in November.
- ❖ **Food & Non-Food Inflation:** Food inflation eased to 8.4%, non-food inflation stable at 3.1%.
- ❖ **Economic Indicators:** IIP rose to 5.2% in November; GDP growth was estimated to moderate to 6.4% this fiscal but improved to 6.7% in FY25.
- ❖ **Agriculture:** Higher reservoir levels to boost rabi crop output, farm incomes, and rural consumption, easing food inflation further.

**Appointment**

**Bombay & Delhi High Courts Get New Chief Justices**

**About News:-**



- ❖ The central government on Tuesday issued a notification confirming Justice Alok Aradhe, currently chief justice of the Telangana High Court, as the new chief justice of the Bombay High Court.

- ❖ The notification also confirmed the transfer of Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya, currently serving as chief justice of the Bombay High Court, to the chief justice of the Delhi High Court.

**Key Points:-**

- ❖ Aradhe, 60, began his legal career in 1988. He was appointed as an additional judge in the Madhya Pradesh High Court in December 2009 and as a permanent judge in February 2011.
- ❖ He was then transferred to the high court of Jammu and Kashmir, where he took oath as the acting chief justice in 2005 and served till 2018.
- ❖ In 2023, he was appointed chief justice of the Telangana High Court.
- ❖ His transfer to the Bombay High Court is being seen as a move to strengthen judicial leadership in one of India's busiest high courts.
- ❖ Justice Upadhyaya, who has been appointed chief justice of the Delhi High Court, was born in 1965 and began his legal practice in 1991.
- ❖ His legal career was primarily centered on civil and constitutional law at the Allahabad High Court.
- ❖ After serving as the chief standing counsel for Uttar Pradesh from 2007 to 2011, he was appointed as judge at the Allahabad High Court in November 2011 and was elevated to permanent judge in August 2013.
- ❖ He served as the senior judge of the Lucknow bench before being appointed as chief justice of the Bombay High Court in July 2023.

**Science & Technology**

**India's sixth and eastern India's first astronomical observatory was inaugurated at Garpanchkot Hills in Purulia**

**About News:-**

- ❖ A new observatory established by the S N Bose Centre for Basic Sciences atop Panchet Hill in Purulia, West Bengal, will aid in astronomical observations, and telescope training for students, and foster national and international collaboration in research. It will also address the longitudinal gap in scientific observations.



### Key Points:-

- ❖ The observatory at a height of 600 meters above ground level and at a longitude of approximately 86° E, will be a major observatory not only in eastern India but also in the world.
- ❖ Along the 86-degree East longitude stretching from the Arctic Ocean in the north to Antarctica in the south, there are very few observatories.
- ❖ This observatory will fill that gap. Renowned astrophysicist and Vice Chancellor of Ashoka University opines that to observe transient astronomical phenomena lasting a few minutes to a few hours, it is important to have good observatories on all the longitudes of the globe.
- ❖ Therefore, the Panchet observatory is strategically positioned.
- ❖ S.N. Bose Centre has signed an MOU with Sidhu Kanu Birsu University for joint responsibility of running the observatory and sharing resources.



### Defence

#### India successfully tests Indian Army's first 'Bhargavastra' counter-drone micro missiles

#### About News:-



- ❖ India has successfully tested its first domestically developed micro-missile system, engineered to counter swarm drone threats. The testing included two successful firings at the Gopalpur Seaward Firing Ranges this week.

- ❖ The new micro-missile system, being developed for the Indian Army, successfully engaged virtual targets beyond 2.5 km, demonstrating an economical solution against large-scale drone attacks that pose a continuous security challenge.

#### What is the Bhargavastra micro-missile system?

- ❖ The counter-drone system, 'Bhargavastra', demonstrates the capability to detect small aerial vehicles at ranges exceeding 6 km and neutralise them using guided micro munitions.
- ❖ The Bhargavastra system features simultaneous launch capability of over 64 micro missiles.
- ❖ Economic Explosives Ltd is developing this mobile platform-mounted system, ensuring rapid deployment to threat areas.
- ❖ Its design accommodates operations across various terrains, including high-altitude regions, meeting specific military requirements.
- ❖ As the first micro missile-based counter-drone system developed for Army Air Defence, it addresses a crucial capability gap. The Air Force has also expressed significant interest, with few comparable systems existing globally.
- ❖ The widespread availability of affordable drones, particularly in swarm formations, presents significant challenges to armed forces traditionally reliant on costly air defence missiles for asset protection.
- ❖ There is a pressing need for cost-effective systems targeting drone threats, whilst preserving advanced air defence systems for more substantial threats.

### Miscellaneous

#### MHA approves expansion of CISF with two new battalions

#### About News:-

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has approved a major expansion of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), which will create two new battalions.

- ❖ Each newly sanctioned battalion will consist of 1,025 personnel, bringing the total number of CISF battalions from 13 to 15 and creating 2,050 new posts.



#### Key Points:-

- ❖ Both battalions will be led by officers of senior commandant rank. These units will play a crucial role in addressing increasing demands on the CISF, particularly in areas such as internal security and the management of high-security jails.
- ❖ This move, alongside the recently sanctioned Mahila Battalion, is expected to bolster national security while generating over 2,000 new jobs.
- ❖ With this expansion, the CISF's total strength will rise to nearly two lakh personnel.
- ❖ The reserve battalions consist of personnel specifically trained and equipped who are experienced in handling the security of high-security jails and other undertakings.
- ❖ The additional battalions will significantly improve the CISF's rapid response capabilities during emergencies. The availability of dedicated reserve units, well equipped with a transport fleet and sufficient weapons, means faster deployment and more effective management of critical situations, further enhancing public safety and security.
- ❖ "The new strength will reduce stress on existing personnel and translate into improved leave and weekly relief opportunities for personnel," CISF Inspector General Ajay Dahiya said.



- ❖ The CISF is one of India's Central Armed Police Forces, established under the CISF Act, of 1968. Initially created to provide integrated security to the public sector undertakings (PSUs), the CISF has since evolved into a multifaceted security agency responsible for safeguarding critical infrastructure across the country.
- ❖ The force protects key industrial installations, government buildings, nuclear and space establishments, airports, seaports, and historical monuments, including the Taj Mahal. Additionally, CISF offers consultancy services in security management to both public and private sector organizations.

#### Important Day

#### National Startup Day – 16 January

##### About Day:-

- ❖ National Startup Day: On January 16, 2025, India commemorates National Startup Day, marking nine years since the inception of the Startup India initiative in 2016.
- ❖ This day celebrates the nation's remarkable journey in fostering a robust and inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem. With over 1.59 lakh startups recognized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) as of January 15, 2025, India has solidified its position as the world's third-largest startup ecosystem.



#### National Startup Day History

- ❖ The concept of celebrating startups gained momentum with the launch of the Startup India Scheme in 2016. Since then, the Indian government has introduced several initiatives to promote innovation and provide a supportive environment for startups.

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared January 16 as National Startup Day in **2022** to honour the contributions of startups to the Indian economy. The announcement came during the first-ever Startup India Innovation Week, marking the significance of entrepreneurial ventures.

- ❖ Over the years, National Startup Day has become a platform for recognising outstanding startups and promoting collaboration among entrepreneurs, investors, and policymakers.

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# MPSC WALLAH

