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Science and Technology

SwetchaSat



Andhra Pradesh-based start-up tests ultra- high- frequency communication tech on ISRO's POEM-4.

Key Points

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh-based space start-up N Space Tech has successfully tested an indigenously developed ultra-high- frequency communication system aboard its payload, SwetchaSat, using ISRO's POEM-4 platform.
- ❖ The startup received its first set of data packages from SwetchaSat-VO at ISRO's Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network in Bengaluru on January 1st, 2025 marking a new advancement in satellite communication.
- ❖ This launch paves the way for faster and more reliable communication for many satellite applications
- ❖ N Space Tech was Founded in 2020. It specialises in satellite-communication systems and space solutions.
- ❖ The ISRO's PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM-4) platform re-purposes the spent fourth stage of the PSLV rocket into a stable orbital environment for experimental
- ❖ Payloads. The POEM-4 platform has 24 payloads from various ISRO laboratories, private start-up firms and educational institutes

Important Days

Pravasi Bhartiya Divas

The 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention is being organized in partnership with the State Government of Odisha from 8th - 10th January 2025 in Bhubaneswar.



Key Point

- ❖ The theme of this PBD Convention is "Diaspora's Contribution to a Viksit Bharat".
- ❖ The convention will include five Plenary Sessions under different themes, aimed at promoting discussions on the key contributions of the Indian diaspora to India's development and strengthening the global connection with India.
- ❖ Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was first celebrated on 9th January 2003 to honor the contributions of the Indian diaspora, following the vision of then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- ❖ The date, January 9th, was chosen to honour Mahatma Gandhi's return to India from South Africa in 1915.
- ❖ Initially held annually, it transitioned to a biennial format starting in 2015. Each convention focuses on specific themes relevant to the diaspora's role in India's development.
- ❖ Over the years, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas has evolved into a significant occasion that brings together prominent members of the Indian diaspora from around the globe.

Person in News

V Narayanan



The Centre has appointed V Narayanan as the new Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Secretary of the Department of Space.

Key Point

- ❖ He will succeed the current ISRO chairman, S Somanath.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Mr Narayanan currently serves as the Director of the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) of the ISRO in Valiamala, Kerala. ❖ He is a distinguished scientist with nearly four decades of experience in rocket and spacecraft propulsion. ❖ He is a rocket and spacecraft propulsion expert, joined ISRO in 1984, and functioned in various capacities before becoming director of LPSC.
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Place in News

<p style="text-align: center;">Aero India 2025</p> 	<p>The 15th edition of Asia's biggest aero show - Aero India 2025 - will be held at the Air Force Station, Yelahanka in Bengaluru, Karnataka from February 10 to 14, 2025.</p> <p>Key point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ With the broad theme 'The Runway to a Billion Opportunities', the event will provide a platform for forging partnerships between foreign & Indian firms and the discovery of newer avenues in the global value chain to accelerate the indigenisation process. ❖ The first three days of the event (February 10th, 11th & 12th) will be business days, while 13th & 14th have been set as public days to allow people to witness the show. The event includes both air displays and static exhibitions of a large array of military platforms from the aerospace sector. ❖ Aero India has already carved a niche for itself globally as a premier aerospace exhibition with 14 successful editions organised since 1996 in Bengaluru. ❖ The 2025 edition aims to surpass these achievements, and promises to be even bigger in scope and grandeur.
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Miscellaneous

BRICS



The BRICS association of new economy countries has been expanded with the inclusion of Indonesia. As the president of the BRICS for 2025, Brazil had declared inclusion of Indonesia on 6 January.

Key point

- ❖ BRICS leaders endorsed Indonesia's candidacy during the Johannesburg summit in 2023.
- ❖ Indonesia's participation contributes positively towards the quest for altering international institutions governing system.
- ❖ It also seeks to deepen cooperation across the Global South.
- ❖ This expansion has profound implications of rebalancing the power within the global economy.
- ❖ BRICS is an acronym representing five of the world's leading emerging economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- ❖ The term BRIC was first coined by British economist Jim O'Neill in 2001 to describe the economies of Brazil, Russia, India, and China.
- ❖ The grouping was formalised at the 2006 BRIC Foreign Ministers' meeting, and in 2010, South Africa joined, expanding the acronym to BRICS.
- ❖ Currently BRICS has a total 10 members comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the United Arab Emirates and Indonesia.

Short News

- ❖ Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on 7 January unveiled the Government of India Calendar for 2025 in New Delhi. The government has chosen "Janbhagidari se Jankalyan" as the central theme for its 2025 calendar, underscoring the ethos of transformative governance.

- ❖ Odisha Chief Minister, Mohan Charan Majhi began the Shahid Madho Singh Haath Kharcha Scheme on January 7, 2025, at the Adivasi Mela Bhubaneswar.
- ❖ On January 6, 2025, Louisiana reported the first human death in the U.S. caused by the H5N1 bird flu virus.
- ❖ The Central Government announced plans to establish a memorial for former President Pranab Mukherjee at the Rashtriya Smriti Sthal in Delhi's Rajghat area.
- ❖ Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau resigned as leader of the Liberal Party after nearly ten years, citing internal challenges and waning support.
- ❖ Hanoi, Vietnam's capital, has been ranked as the world's most polluted city, with PM2.5 levels reaching 266 micrograms per cubic meter.

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. Who among the following has been appointed as the chairmen of ISRO?

- A. K . Somnath
- B. V Narayanan
- C. Rameshwar Iyer
- D. P.C swami

Answer-B

2. The 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention is being organized in which of the following cities?

- A. Bhopal
- B. Indore
- C. Bhubaneswar
- D. Raipur

Answer-C

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