

Govt. Appoints V Narayanan as 11th Chairman ISRO & Secretary of DOS

The government of India has appointed a senior Indian Space Organisation (ISRO) scientist V. Narayanan as the 11th chairman of ISRO and secretary of the Department of Space (DOS).



- ❖ He will succeed the current chairman S.Somanth and assume office on 14 January 2025.
- ❖ The name of V. Narayanan was approved by the apex Appointments Committee of the Cabinet in a meeting held on 7 January 2025 in New Delhi.
- ❖ The meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and attended by the Union Minister for Home Affairs and of Cooperation, Amit Shah.

Tenure of V.Narayanan as ISRO Chairman

V. Narayanan has been appointed for a term of two years with effect from 14 January 2025, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

About V.Narayanan

V Narayanan is a distinguished scientist and is an expert in Rocket and Space spacecraft propulsion. He joined ISRO in 1984 and later became the director of the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC).

- ❖ The Valiamala/Thiruvananthapuram headquartered LPSC is the major research and development center of ISRO. It is responsible for developing propulsion systems for the rockets launched by ISRO from Earth and for in-space propulsion systems for spacecraft.
- ❖ V Narayanan was associated with Sounding Rockets and Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV) and Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) projects of ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).

About India Space Administration

- ❖ ISRO was set up by the government of India as a national space agency to carry out research in the field of space science on 15 August 1969.
- ❖ In 1972 the government of India set up two institutions, the Space Commission and the Department of Space (DOS).
- ❖ The Space Commission is the apex Space body in the country that is responsible for making and supervising policies to promote the development and application of space science and technology for the socio-economic benefit of the country.
- ❖ The DOS implements the policies made by the Space Commission through five institutions; the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO); the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL); the National Atmospheric Research Laboratory (NARL); the Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL) and the North Eastern-Space Applications Centre (NE-SAC).
- ❖ The Chairman of ISRO is also the Secretary of the DOS.
- ❖ The Headquarters of ISRO and the Secretariat of DOS are located at the same place in Bengaluru.

About ISRO and its Chairman

- ❖ ISRO was established on 15 August 1969.
- ❖ It launches its rocket from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
- ❖ Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka

Chairman of ISRO

- ❖ Dr. Vikram Sarabhai was the founder and chairman of ISRO. Dr. Vikram Sarabhai is also considered the father of the Indian space programme.
- ❖ Professor Satish Dhawan is the longest-serving chairman of ISRO.
- ❖ Shortest Tenure: Prof. M.G.K Menon, 9 months as chairman of ISRO.

S. No.	ISRO Chairman	Tenure	Length of Tenure
1	Dr. Vikram Sarabhai	1963-1971	8 years
2	Prof. M. G. K. Menon	January-September 1972	9 months
3	Prof. Satish Dhawan	1973-1984	12 years
4	Prof. U. R. Rao	1984-1994	10 years
5	Dr. K. Kasturirangan	1994-August 2003	9 years
6	G. Madhavan Nair	September 2003-October 2009	6 years, 58 days
7	Dr. K. Radhakrishnan	October 2009- December 2014	5 years, 62 days
8	Dr. Shailesh Nayak (Interim Chief	1 January -12 January 2015	11 days
9	A. S. Kiran Kumar	January 2015- January 2018	3 years
10	Dr. K. Sivan	January 2018-January 2022	4 years
11	Dr. S Somanath	15 January 2022-14 January 2025	3 years
12	V Narayanan	14 January 2025-	-

India's first Organic Fisheries Cluster launched in Sikkim

The Government of India has launched the country's first organic fisheries cluster in Soreng District of Sikkim. The fisheries cluster set up under the central government's Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) was inaugurated by Union Minister for Panchayati Raj; and Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh in Guwahati, Assam on 6 January 2025.

- ❖ **Sikkim is the first fully organic state** of India and was certified in 2016. **Sikkim now aims to be the first state in India in organic fisheries.**



The Department of Fisheries, government of India has previously notified clusters such as the Pearl Cluster in Hazaribagh, Jharkhand, Ornamental Fisheries Cluster in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, Seaweed Cluster in Lakshadweep and Tuna Cluster in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

First Organic Fisheries Cluster

The first organic fisheries cluster under the PMMSY will be funded by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

- ❖ NABARD will support the fisheries cluster by funding infrastructure, capacity building, and forming fisheries-based Farmer Producer Organizations (FFPOs).
- ❖ These clusters will promote organic fisheries and aquaculture free from harmful chemicals, antibiotics and pesticides.

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

- ❖ The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana was launched as a centrally sponsored scheme by the central government in 2020.

- ❖ It replaced the Blue Revolution Integrated Development and Management Fisheries Scheme or Blue Revolution Scheme which was launched 2015-16.
- ❖ Duration of the scheme: Five years (2020-21 to 2024-25) with an investment of Rs 20,050 crore.
- ❖ Implementing Body - Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying .

Aim of the Scheme

- ❖ Increase fish production from 13.75 million metric tons in 2018-19 to 22 million metric tons by 2024-25.
- ❖ Increase aquaculture productivity to 5 tons per hectare..
- ❖ Increase domestic fish consumption from 5 kg to 12 kg per capita by 2024-25.
- ❖ Increase contribution of the fisheries sector to the Agriculture Gross Value Addition (GVA) to about 9% by 2024-25 from 7.28% in 2018-19.
- ❖ Double export from Rs.46,589 crores in 2018-19 to Rs.1,00,000 crores by 2024-25.

Cluster based Approach

- ❖ Under the PMMSY, the cluster-based approach focuses on uniting geographically connected enterprises across the fisheries value chain.
- ❖ It focuses on fostering collaboration among stakeholders along the entire fisheries sectors such as fishers, processors, and transporters, the model aims to reduce costs, improve financial viability and promote innovation.

Bahadur Sagoo elected the President of Athletics Federation of India

Bahadur Singh Sagoo was unanimously elected as the new President of the Athletics Federation of India on 7 January 2025. Bahadur Singh Sagoo will replace Adille Sumariwalla who has been the President of the Athletics Federation of India since 2012.

- ❖ The general body of the Athletics Federation of India elected its new officer bearers -President, Secretary General and Treasurer in the meeting held in Chandigarh on 6 & 7 January 2025.
- ❖ Niels Lindholm of World Athletics was the observer at the election and participated virtually in the whole process.



Bahadur Singh Sagoo and other Office bearer

The newly elected office bearer of the Athletics Federation of India as follows;

- ❖ President - Bahadur Singh Sagoo
- ❖ Secretary General - Sandeep Mehta
- ❖ Treasurer -BE Stanley Jones

Term of the newly elected Office Bearers of Federation

The term of the newly elected President, Secretary General and the Treasurer is four years (2025-2029).

Important future Athletics Events

Under Bahadur Singh Sagoo the Indian athletes will participate in the following major events ;

- ❖ 2028 Summer Olympics, in Los Angeles,USA.
- ❖ 20th Asian Games to be held at Aichi - Nagoya in Japan in 2026.
- ❖ First Indian Open World Athletics Bronze Level Continental Tour in August 2025 in Bhubaneshwar, Odisha.
- ❖ The Athletic Federation of India plans to organise an invitational javelin throw competition in 2025 in which top ten global javelin throwers are expected to compete.

About the Athletics Federation of India

- ❖ The Athletics Federation of India was established in 1946 as the governing body of sport in the country.
- ❖ The Athletics Federation of India is affiliated to the World Athletics, Asian Athletics Association and Indian Olympic Association.
- ❖ The Federation conducts national and international championships to promote Athletics as a sport and to popularise it amongst the masses
- ❖ Headquarters: New Delhi
- ❖ President : Bahadur Singh Sagoo

Anita Anand Leading contender to replace Justin Trudeau as Canadian PM

Canada's Transport Minister Anita Anand is in the race to become the next Prime Minister of the country. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced his decision to step down on January 6 ahead of the 2025 elections.

- ❖ The next federal election in Canada is scheduled on or before October 20, 2025. Anand is the current Minister of Transport and Internal Trade in Canada.
- ❖ Born and raised in rural Nova Scotia, Anand moved to Ontario in 1985. She and her husband, John, raised their four children in Oakville.



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has announced his resignation

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced his resignation on Monday, saying he intends to step down from the top job and as the leader of Canada's ruling Liberal Party once a new party leader is chosen. "I intend to resign as party leader, as prime minister, after the party selects its new leader," the 53-year-old leader told reporters at a news conference in Ottawa on Monday.

- ❖ Anand has held many positions during her career. She was first elected as the Member of Parliament for Oakville in 2019.
- ❖ Anand also served as Minister of Public Services and Procurement from 2019 to 2021, and as President of the Treasury Board and Minister of National Defence.
- ❖ She is likely to be the interim prime minister, holding office till polls.
- ❖ Canada is home to one of the largest Indian diasporas in the world, with over 1.8 million individuals of Indian origin.
- ❖ Anita Anand holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Queen's University, a Law degree from Oxford University, a Law degree from Dalhousie University, and a Master of Laws from the University of Toronto.
- ❖ Her parents were both physicians. While her father's family is from Chennai in Tamil Nadu, her mother was born in a small town in Punjab.
- ❖ Her mother, Saroj D. Ram, and father, S.V. Anand, are both doctors. She has two sisters, Geeta and Sonia Anand.

Banded Royal Butterfly Discovered in Tripura

Tripura recorded a milestone in biodiversity documentation with the first ever recording of the Banded Royal butterfly (*Rachana jalindra*), a rare species, in the state in the Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary.

Scientific Name: *Rachana jalindra*

Habitat:

Found in forests, particularly near the Western Ghats, Northeast India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, and Malaysia. Prefers dense vegetation and can often be seen resting on leaves.



Pranab Mukherjee Memorial at Delhi's Rajghat Complex

The Central Government has announced the establishment of a memorial for former President Pranab Mukherjee at the Rashtriya Smriti Sthal, part of the Rajghat precinct in Delhi.



- ❖ Mukherjee, who passed away on August 31, 2020, was a distinguished Congress leader and the 13th President of India.
- ❖ The Central Government has decided to set up a memorial for former President Pranab Mukherjee at the Rashtriya Smriti Sthal, part of the Rajghat precinct in Delhi.
- ❖ Mukherjee, who passed away on August 31, 2020, was a veteran Congress leader and the 13th President of India. His daughter, Sharmistha Mukherjee, expressed her gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for this unexpected gesture.
- ❖ The memorial will be a tribute to Mukherjee's decades-long contribution to Indian politics.

Loksabha Speaker Om Birla inaugurates Gandhi Darshan Art Gallery at Rajghat

Loksabha Speaker Om Birla has inaugurated the Gandhi Darshan Art Gallery at Rajghat in New Delhi. In the gallery, more than 80 Artists have showcased their art to portray the Father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi in a unique and modern way.

- ❖ Darshan Art Gallery will enhance knowledge of today's youth about Gandhian Principles. This event was organised by the Ministry of Culture, Lalit Kala Academy and Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti.



Nitin Gadkari announces cashless treatment scheme for road accident victims

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has launched a new scheme to provide cashless treatment to road accident victims.

- ❖ Once the police are informed within 24 hours of the accident, the scheme will immediately provide for the victim's cost of treatment for 7 days or a maximum of Rs 1.5 lakh.
- ❖ In case of death in a hit-and-run case, the immediate family of the deceased person will receive Rs 2 lakh.

Gadkari also highlighted road safety as a top priority. In 2024, 1.8 lakh people lost their lives in road accidents across India. Among these, around 30,000 deaths were due to the non-use of helmets.



- ❖ Another concerning statistic is that 66% of fatal accident victims were between 18 and 34 years old. Additionally, faulty entry and exit points near schools and colleges led to the deaths of 10,000 children.
- ❖ In fact, accidents involving drivers without valid licenses accounted for around 3,000 fatalities last year. Gadkari also pointed out a significant shortage of trained drivers, with the country lacking approximately 22 lakh drivers.

e-Shram portal now available in 22 languages

The e-Shram portal has been upgraded and it will now be available in all 22 scheduled languages so that unorganised workers from different regions of the country can access it and avail of government benefits. The previous version was available only in English, Hindi, Kannada and Marathi.



Union Minister of Labour and Employment Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has launched the multilingual e-Shram portal which is in line with the vision of making it a 'One-StopSolution' website for all unorganised registered workers to avail benefits of various government schemes designed to support their welfare, livelihood and well being.

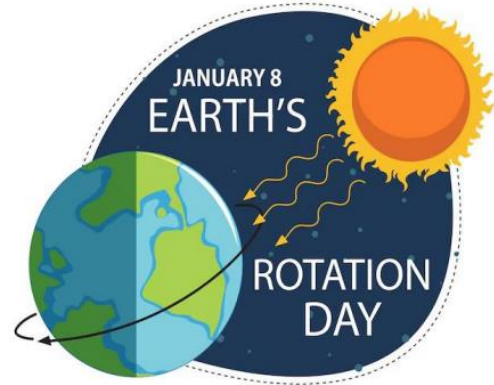
- ❖ MEITY's Bhashini project has been leveraged to upgrade the e-Shram portal with 22 languages. Registration of building and other construction workers (BoCW) and gig and platform workers on the portal is ongoing.

Earth's Rotation Day

Earth's Rotation Day is observed every year on January 8. The day encourages awareness about the Earth's 24-hour rotational period, which forms the basis for the concept of time and the division of hours, minutes, and seconds.

- ❖ The Earth's Rotation Day celebrates the anniversary of French physicist Leon Foucault's 1851 proof that the Earth rotates on its axis.

- ❖ The day also honours Foucault's first public demonstration in Paris. The Earth's diameter is 12,714 kilometres (7,900 miles) from the North toward the South Poles and 12,756 kilometres (12,756 miles) via the equator (7,926 miles).



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced on Sunday a \$1-million prize for experts or organisations that succeeded in deciphering the scripts of the Indus Valley Civilisation for everyone to understand.
- ❖ Archaeologists, Tamil computer software experts and computer experts across the world have been making efforts to decipher the script. To encourage the research, the government will offer one million dollars.
- ❖ The Chief Minister also announced a ₹2-crore grant for setting up a chair in the name of noted archaeologist and epigraphist Iravatham Mahadevan to continue the research on the Indus Valley Civilisation jointly by the State Department of Archaeology and the Indus Research Centre at the Chennai-based Roja Muthiah Library.



- ❖ The Navy currently operates two aircraft carriers: INS Vikramaditya procured from Russia, and the indigenously built INS Vikrant which was commissioned in September 2022.
- ❖ Modi has been invited to visit AI summit in France on February 10 and 11; deals to include purchase of 26 Rafale-M fighter jets, three Scorpene-class conventional submarines government-to-government deals worth over \$10 billion likely to be placed for approval before the Cabinet Committee on Security in the next couple of weeks, sources say.

India extends ex-B'desh PM Sheikh Hasina's visa amid extradition call by Dhaka

The International Criminal Tribunal (ICT) of Bangladesh has issued a second arrest warrant against Sheikh Hasina, the deposed prime minister, and 11 others, including former military generals and a former police chief, for their alleged involvement in enforced disappearances.

- ❖ This new arrest warrant, issued on January 6, targets Hasina, who fled to India after her Awami League government was ousted following massive anti-government protests in August last year.

- ❖ This marks the second arrest warrant issued against her, with the tribunal having recorded three cases against Hasina so far.
- ❖ The court's order directs the Inspector General of Police to arrest the 12 individuals, including Hasina, and present them before the tribunal on February 12, in connection with a case involving hundreds of enforced disappearances.
- ❖ Among those named in the case are Hasina's former defense adviser, Major General (retd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique, and former IGP Benazir Ahmed. While Siddique is currently in custody, Ahmed is believed to be on the run.
- ❖ India has extended the visa of Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who has been living in the country since fleeing Dhaka in August last year, reported India Today citing official sources.
- ❖ The decision comes as Bangladesh's interim government intensifies its call for her extradition, citing serious charges against the Awami League leader.

No asylum, only a visa extension

The report, citing sources, stated that visa extension does not equate to granting asylum. India, which lacks formal laws for asylum, maintains that the extension is a procedural move. Hasina is reportedly living under tight security in a safehouse in Delhi.

