

International

Micheal Martin returns as Prime Minister of Ireland for a second term



About News:-

- ❖ Micheal Martin has been elected the Republic of Ireland's prime minister for a second term after a vote in parliament on Thursday.
- ❖ Martin, leader of the Fianna Fail party, received 95 votes in favor and 76 against his nomination, securing his return to the top office. He will lead a coalition government that includes Fianna Fail, its historic rival Fine Gael, and independent lawmakers.

Key Points:-

- ❖ This coalition marks the second consecutive partnership between Fianna Fail and Fine Gael, the two parties that have dominated Irish politics since 1937. Independent ministers will replace the Green Party, which lost significant seats in the November elections.
- ❖ Martin's return comes at a time of growing economic concerns, particularly related to the potential impact of US President Donald Trump's return to power and his promises to cut corporate taxes. Martin addressed the economic challenges in his speech to parliament, emphasizing the need to protect Ireland's economy in a period of uncertainty.
- ❖ The new coalition government is focused on using Ireland's growing tax revenues from multinational corporations, particularly US companies, to boost public sector investment, reduce taxes, and build the country's sovereign wealth fund.

About Micheal Martin:-

- ❖ Martin, a former history teacher who first entered parliament 36 years ago, was a senior figure in the Fianna Fail government that signed the EU-IMF bailout in 2010. While this decision led to significant losses for the party in the 2011 elections, Martin led the party's recovery, guiding Fianna Fail back into power nine years later.
- ❖ The 64-year-old Martin previously served as prime minister from 2020 to 2022. Under the coalition agreement, Fine Gael's Simon Harris is scheduled to take over as prime minister in 2027. Harris will first replace Martin as deputy prime minister and is expected to take on the foreign minister role.

About Ireland:-

- ❖ Republic of Ireland
- ❖ Capital:- Dublin
- ❖ Currency:- Euro
- ❖ President:- Michael D. Higgins

National

EAM Jaishankar meets Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto



About News:-

- ❖ External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto in New Delhi on Friday, prior to Subianto's participation as the Chief Guest for India's 76th Republic Day celebrations.

Key Points:-

- ❖ President Subianto arrived in New Delhi on Friday night for his first state visit to India, scheduled from January 23-26. Minister of State for External Affairs, Pabitra Margherita, received him at the airport.
- ❖ President Prabowo Subianto is the fourth Indonesian President to attend India's Republic Day celebrations.

Key Points:-

- ❖ As part of his visit, President Subianto is expected to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Droupadi Murmu, and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar. The Ministry of External Affairs highlighted the visit's role in bolstering the India-Indonesia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
- ❖ For the Republic Day Parade, a contingent of 352 members, including a marching band from Indonesia, will participate. This marks the first instance of an Indonesian contingent taking part in a national day parade outside Indonesia.
- ❖ Several MoUs and announcements are likely to be concluded and the third CEO Forum will be held on the sidelines.
- ❖ India and Indonesia formalized their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during Modi's official visit to Indonesia in 2018. This partnership emphasizes maritime cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. Additionally, Modi and Subianto met last November during the G20 Summit in Brazil, marking their first meeting.

About Indonesia:-

- ❖ Capital:- Jakarta
- ❖ Currency:- Indonesian rupiah
- ❖ President:- Prabowo Subianto
- ❖ Vice President:- Gibran Rakabuming Raka

Appointment

ICC chairman Jay Shah elected as new member of Marylebone Cricket Club



About News:-

- ❖ Former Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary and current International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman Jay Shah was elected as a board member of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) Advisory Board on Thursday.

Key Points:-

- ❖ Shah is among the 13 founding members of the new World Cricket Connects Advisory Board, which will be headed by former Sri Lanka captain and MCC president Kumar Sangakkara. Other founding members include former India captain Sourav Ganguly, former South Africa opener Graeme Smith, former Director of England Cricket Andrew Strauss, England women's captain Heather Knight, and JioStar's CEO (Sports) Sanjog Gupta.
- ❖ The former BCCI secretary had been absent when the MCC held the inaugural World Cricket Connects forum last year, which saw over 100 leading voices at Lord's discuss the state of the global game.
- ❖ MCC recently announced that the second World Cricket Connects forum will take place later this year, on June 7 and June 8, before the World Test Championship (WTC) final at Lord's between Australia and South Africa.
- ❖ The new advisory board replaces the World Cricket Committee, which was formed in 2006. The committee held its final meeting last summer.

- ❖ **World Cricket Connects Advisory Board members:** Kumar Sangakkara (chair), Anurag Dahiya (ICC Chief Commercial Officer), Chris Dehring (CWI CEO), Sourav Ganguly, Sanjog Gupta (JioStar CEO – Sports), Mel Jones, Heather Knight, Trudy Lindblade (Cricket Scotland CEO), Heath Mills (World Cricketers' Association chair), Imtiaz Patel (Former SuperSport chair), Jay Shah, Graeme Smith, Andrew Strauss.

Science & Technology

ISRO dispatches crew module for first uncrewed mission of Gaganyaan

About News:-

- ❖ In a milestone, the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) has dispatched the Crew Module for the first uncrewed mission of Gaganyaan (G1). The Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) completed the integration of the liquid propulsion system on Tuesday (January 21).

Key Points:-

- ❖ The Crew Module Propulsion System (CMPS) is a bi-propellant based Reaction Control System (RCS) and is meant for precise three-axis control (Pitch, Yaw and Roll) of crew module.
- ❖ The control will come into play following separation of service module during the descent and re-entry phase until the deployment of parachute-based deceleration system.



- ❖ This system employs 12 thrusters, each with a 100N capacity, along with a pressurisation system with high pressure gas bottles and the propellant feed system along with the associated fluid control components.

- ❖ Furthermore, the Crew Module Uprighting System (CMUS) designed by Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) was also integrated to the module at LPSC.
- ❖ Subsequently, the Crew Module will undergo further integration operations including avionics package assembly, electrical harnessing and checks at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) before dispatching to Bengaluru's U R Rao Satellite Centre for the final phase of integration of the Orbital Module.
- ❖ Gaganyaan is poised not only to showcase India's growing expertise in space exploration but also to inspire a new era of scientific innovation.

About Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO):

- ❖ Established – 1969
- ❖ Headquarters - Bengaluru, Karnataka
- ❖ Chairman Dr. V. Narayanan

Defence

Rajnath Singh launches advanced Battlefield Surveillance System 'SANJAY' to boost Army's reconnaissance capabilities

About News:-

- ❖ Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh flagged-off 'SANJAY' - The Battlefield Surveillance System (BSS)' from South Block, New Delhi on January 24, 2025.
- ❖ Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi, Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary (Defence Production) Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Chairman & Managing Director, BEL Shri Manoj Jain and other senior officials of MoD & BEL were present on the during the flagging-off ceremony.



About SANJAY:-

- ❖ SANJAY is an automated system which integrates the inputs from all ground and aerial battlefield sensors, processing them to confirm their veracity, preventing duplication and fusing them to produce a Common Surveillance Picture of the battlefield over secured Army Data Network & Satellite Communication Network.
- ❖ It will enhance battlefield transparency and transform the future battlefield through a Centralised Web Application which will provide inputs to Command & Army Headquarters, and the Indian Army Decision Support System.

Developed By:-

- ❖ SANJAY has been indigenously & jointly developed by the Indian Army and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) creating a conducive ecosystem towards achieving 'Aatmanirbharta' as a follow up to the Indian Army's 'Year of Technology Absorption'.
- ❖ These systems will be inducted to all operational Brigades, Divisions & Corps of the Indian Army in three phases w.e.f. March to October of 2025, which has been declared as 'Year of Reforms' in the Ministry of Defence (MoD).
- ❖ This system has been developed under the Buy (Indian) category at a cost of Rs 2,402 crore.

Award

Indian short film 'Anuja' gets nomination for Oscars 2025



About News:-

- ❖ The Indian short film Anuja secured nomination in the Best Short Film (Live Action) category at the 97th Academy Awards. The film will compete against Alien, I'm Not a Robot, The Last Ranger, and A Man Who Would Not Remain Silent. The nominations for the 97th Academy Awards were announced on Thursday by Bowen Yang and Rachel Sennott.

Key Points:-

- ❖ "Anuja" centers on the nine-year-old title character, who works in a back-alley garment factory with her older sister Palak. The narrative follows the young protagonist as she faces a decision that will impact both her future and her family.
- ❖ The film is backed by celebrities Priyanka Chopra and Guneet Monga among others.
- ❖ This is Monga's third nomination at the Oscars. Her earlier projects, 'The Elephant Whisperers' and 'Period: End of Sentence', won Oscars, bringing glory to Indian cinema.
- ❖ In the Best Actress category, Emilia Perez star Karla Sofia Gascón made history as the first openly transgender person to be nominated for an acting Oscar.

Miscellaneous

Piyush Goyal sets target of 10,000 Geographical Indications (GI) tags by 2030

About News:-

- ❖ Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Piyush Goyal, has set an ambitious target to grant 10,000 Geographical Indication (GI) tags by 2030. This goal was announced on Wednesday at the GI Samagam event held in New Delhi, organized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and the India Today Group.



Key Points:-

- ❖ Currently, the number of GI tags awarded stands at 605, but with a “whole of government” approach, Goyal aims to significantly ramp up the figure. To monitor the progress, a committee will be formed to oversee the implementation of this ambitious initiative.
- ❖ In his address, Goyal highlighted that the number of authorized users of GI products has grown from 365 to nearly 29,000, while the number of patents granted to Indian innovators has surged from 6,000 to 100,000 over the last decade.
- ❖ the government’s ongoing efforts to further enhance the intellectual property rights (IPR) ecosystem, pointing to initiatives like the Anusandhan National Research Foundation Fund and the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme as key drivers of progress. He acknowledged the proactive roles played by the state governments of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra in promoting GI products.
- ❖ announced several measures to streamline and expedite the GI tagging process
- ❖ Further, Goyal stressed the need for better branding of GI products, advocating for greater collaboration with agencies like the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to ensure quality standards and combat counterfeit goods.

Sport

Indian stars Smriti Mandhana, Deepti Sharma named in ICC women's ODI Team of the Year



About News:-

- ❖ The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced its Women's ODI Team of the Year 2024 on Friday, which features India's two star performers opening batter Smriti Mandhana and all-rounder Deepti Sharma.

Key Points:-

- ❖ Mandhana, 28, topped the women's ODI run charts in 2024, amassing 747 runs across 13 matches. Her outstanding performance has also placed her as a contender for the ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2024.
- ❖ Mandhana smashed consecutive centuries in the first two ODIs of the series against South Africa. Despite falling short of a third straight century, her score of 90 and an impressive aggregate of 343 runs secured her the Player-of-the-Series award.
- ❖ Deepti, on the other hand, demonstrated exceptional all-round capabilities, accumulating 186 runs while claiming 24 wickets across 13 matches.
- ❖ Deepti's 2024 commenced with a resilient performance against Australia in a single ODI, remaining not out at 25 runs and securing one wicket.
- ❖ Besides the two Indian players, the squad comprises three players from England, two Australians, two South Africans and one from Sri Lanka and the West Indies.

ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year for 2024:-

- ❖ Smriti Mandhana (India), Laura Wolvaardt (c) (South Africa), Chamari Athapaththu (Sri Lanka), Hayley Matthews (West Indies), Marizanne Kapp (South Africa), Ashleigh Gardner (Australia), Annabel Sutherland (Australia), Amy Jones (WK) (England), Deepti Sharma (India), Sophie Ecclestone (England), Kate Cross (England)

Important day

National Voters Day - 25 January

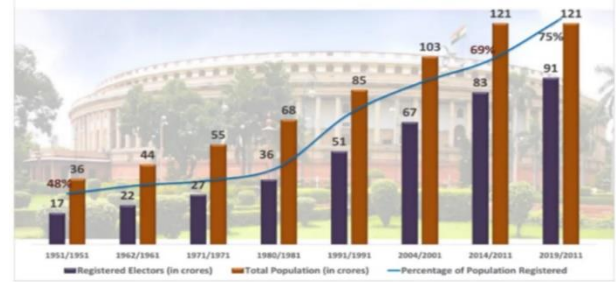
About Day:-

- ❖ The National Voters Day (NVD) is celebrated every year on January 25 to encourage active voter participation and raise awareness about voting rights in India.



- ❖ Instituted in 2011, the day coincides with the foundation day of the Election Commission of India (ECI), which was established on January 25, 1950.
- ❖ The year 2025 marks the 15th National Voters Day, making it a significant milestone in promoting democratic values and ensuring free and fair elections in India.
- ❖ **The National Voters Day 2025 theme is:**
English: "Nothing like voting, I vote for sure"

History of National Voters Day



(The Population Census of India was last conducted in 2011)

- ❖ The idea of celebrating National Voters Day was initiated by the Election Commission of India in 2011 to mark its foundation day. The objective was to address the challenges of low voter turnout and encourage more citizens, particularly the youth, to register as voters.
- ❖ The first National Voters Day was celebrated on January 25, 2011, and since then, it has been an annual event. This day also recognizes the crucial role of the Election Commission in preserving the integrity of India's democratic process.

