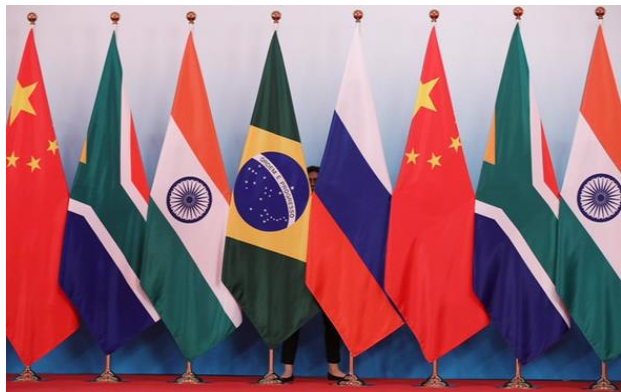


### International

#### Indonesia officially joins BRICS as a full member

##### About News:-



- ❖ Brazil has announced that Indonesia has become a full member of the BRICS group. Brazil, which will hold the presidency of the BRICS in 2025, said that Indonesia's candidature was endorsed by the bloc's leaders at the Johannesburg summit in 2023.
- ❖ In a statement, the Brazilian Foreign Ministry welcomed Indonesia's entry into BRICS and said that Indonesia and other BRICS members support the reform of global governance institutions.

##### Key Points:-

- ❖ Indonesia formally notified the group of its interest in joining BRICS only after establishing its new government. In 2024, the BRICS nations approved by consensus Indonesia's membership in line with the guiding principles, criteria, and procedures for expansion agreed upon in Johannesburg, according to the statement.
- ❖ BRIC, as a formal grouping, started after the meeting of the Leaders of Russia, India, and China in St Petersburg on the margins of the G8 Outreach Summit in 2006. The grouping was formalized during the first meeting of BRIC Foreign Ministers on the margins of UNGA in New York in 2006.
- ❖ The first BRIC Summit was held in Russia's Yekaterinburg in 2009. It was agreed to expand BRIC into BRICS with the inclusion of South Africa at the BRIC Foreign Ministers' meeting in New York in 2010.

- ❖ South Africa attended the 3rd BRICS Summit in Sanya in 2011. A further expansion of BRICS took place in 2024 with five new members – Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. The 16th BRICS Summit was being held under Russia's chairmanship in Kazan in 2024.

### National

#### Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, inaugurates the BHARATPOL portal developed by CBI in New Delhi

##### About News:-

- ❖ Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday launched a new portal called Bharatpol, created by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). This portal is designed to help catch criminals who flee abroad and improve cooperation between Indian authorities and international law enforcement, similar to the Interpol system.
- ❖ The portal's primary objective is to help law enforcement agencies across India swiftly address crimes that cross national borders, facilitating real-time access to critical international crime-fighting resources.

##### What is Bharatpol and how does it work?

- ❖ Developed by the CBI, the Bharatpol portal will allow police forces from states, Union Territories, and central agencies to quickly and efficiently send requests to Interpol for information on fugitives hiding abroad or any other relevant matters. The need for such a platform was highlighted by the increasing prevalence of transnational crimes such as cybercrime, financial fraud, online radicalisation, drug trafficking, human trafficking, and organized crime.



- ❖ One of the key features of the Bharatpol portal is its ability to improve communication between various law enforcement agencies in India and their international counterparts. Traditionally, communication between the CBI, Interpol Liaison Officers (ILOs), and Unit Officers (UOs) has relied on letters, emails, and faxes, leading to delays in the process. Bharatpol addresses these inefficiencies by bringing all stakeholders onto a single digital platform, streamlining the process of sending and receiving requests for international assistance, including the issuance of Red Notices and other Interpol notices.
- ❖ The portal also aims to reduce the delays that have historically hindered the prompt processing of such requests. "The project designed and executed by the CBI will cut avoidable delays and result in getting more notices published through Interpol in the future."

#### **India's efforts to strengthen international cooperation**

- ❖ The introduction of Bharatpol comes as a part of India's broader efforts to enhance international cooperation in combating transnational crime. As of 2021, over 100 wanted criminals, including 26 in 2024, have been successfully extradited to India through coordination with Interpol.
- ❖ The portal is expected to further strengthen India's ability to fight global crime and improve the efficiency of police forces dealing with complex international investigations.

#### **A new era for field-level police officers:-**

- ❖ The Bharatpol portal is also expected to become a transformative tool for field-level police officers. By improving access to international assistance, the portal will enhance its efficiency in tackling crimes that span multiple countries and jurisdictions. It is also anticipated that Bharatpol will speed up investigations and help law enforcement agencies stay one step ahead of criminals who operate across borders.

### **State**

#### **PM Modi lays foundation stones for projects worth ₹2 lakh crore in Andhra Pradesh**

##### **About News:-**

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and inaugurated various development projects on Wednesday, valued at over ₹2 lakh crore, in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister described Andhra Pradesh as a state full of opportunities and possibilities. He underlined that the state's development is closely tied to India's progress, with a goal for Andhra Pradesh to become a \$2.5 trillion economy by 2047.



##### **Key Points:-**

- ❖ A major highlight of the visit was the announcement of plans to establish Andhra Pradesh as a hub for advanced technologies. Visakhapatnam will host one of the two green hydrogen hubs planned under the National Green Hydrogen Mission, which was launched in 2023. The project, led by NTPC Green Energy Limited, is estimated to involve an investment of ₹1,85,000 crore. It will support the production of green hydrogen and derivatives, contributing to India's renewable energy capacity targets and creating a manufacturing ecosystem in the state.
- ❖ The Prime Minister also laid the foundation for the South Coast Railway Zone headquarters in Visakhapatnam. This long-awaited project is expected to boost agriculture, trade, tourism, and regional economic activity. He noted that Andhra Pradesh has achieved 100% railway electrification and outlined improvements under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. Seven Vande Bharat trains are currently operational in the state to enhance connectivity.



- ❖ Another project announced was the Krishnapatnam Industrial Area, a greenfield industrial city under the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor in Tirupati district. The project is set to attract investments of approximately ₹10,500 crore and generate significant employment. It aims to integrate with other industrial corridors to strengthen regional growth.
- ❖ In healthcare and pharmaceuticals, the Prime Minister laid the foundation for a Bulk Drug Park in the Anakapalli district. This facility will support economic activity through its proximity to the Visakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor and other industrial regions.
- ❖ The infrastructure initiatives also included road and rail connectivity projects valued at ₹19,500 crore, aimed at reducing congestion and enhancing regional economic growth. Visakhapatnam was noted to be among the few cities globally advancing green hydrogen production, which aligns with the government's focus on non-fossil fuel-based energy.

### Appointment

#### Govt appoints V. Narayanan as new ISRO chairman

##### About News:-

- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of V. Narayanan, Director, Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), Valiamala as secretary of the Department of Space and chairman of Space Commission for a period of two years with effect from January 14.
- ❖ Secretary, Department of Space, also holds the charge of chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- ❖ He will succeed S. Somanath, who will complete his tenure next week.
- ❖ Somanath assumed charge as the Secretary, of the Department of Space, on January 14, 2022, for a three-year term.

##### About V. Narayanan?

- ❖ Narayanan, a Distinguished Scientist at the ISRO, has nearly four decades of experience and has held various key positions within the Indian space organisation.

- ❖ Narayanan's expertise lies in rocket and spacecraft propulsion. He was the Project Director for the C25 Cryogenic Project of the GSLV Mk III vehicle. Under his leadership, the team successfully developed the C25 Stage, a vital component of GSLV Mk III.
- ❖ Narayanan joined the ISRO in 1984 and functioned in various capacities before becoming Director of the LPSC in 2018.
- ❖ During the initial phase, for over four years, he worked in the Solid Propulsion area of Sounding Rockets and Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV) and Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) in Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).
- ❖ In 1989, he completed M.Tech in Cryogenic Engineering with First Rank at IIT-Kharagpur and joined the Cryogenic Propulsion area in the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC).
- ❖ LPSC is the lead Centre of ISRO for the design, development, and realisation of earth-to-orbit advanced propulsion Systems for Launch Vehicles and also space propulsion systems for spacecraft.
- ❖ LPSC is vested with the responsibility of design, development, and delivery of high-performance Space Propulsion Systems employing Earth Storable, Cryogenic, Semi Cryogenic, and Electric Propulsion Systems for ISRO launch vehicles and Satellites.
- ❖ LPSC activities and facilities are spread across its two campuses — LPSC, Valiamala in Thiruvananthapuram and LPSC, Bengaluru.

### Defence

#### Delivery Of Yard 132 (Lsam 22)

##### About News:-



- ❖ The induction ceremony of the eighth Ammunition Cum Torpedo Cum Missile (ACTCM) Barge, LSAM 22 (Yard 132) was held on 06 Jan 25 at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai. Chief Guest for the Induction Ceremony was Cmde Vinay Venkataram, Officer-in-Charge, Fleet Maintenance Unit (Mbi).

#### Key Points:-

- ❖ The contract for construction and delivery of eleven ACTCM Barges was concluded with M/s Suryadipta Projects Pvt. Ltd., Thane on 05 Mar 21, a MSME Shipyard.
- ❖ Seven ACTCM Barges have already been delivered and the shipyard has also been awarded a contract for the construction and delivery of four Sullage Barges to the Indian Navy thereby highlighting the Indian Navy's commitment towards encouraging MSMEs.
- ❖ The Shipyard has indigenously designed these Barges in collaboration with an Indian Ship Designing firm and subsequently model tested at Naval Science and Technological Laboratory, Visakhapatnam, successfully to ensure seaworthiness.
- ❖ These barges are built in accordance with the relevant Naval Rules and Regulations of the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS). These Barges are proud flag bearers of Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiatives of the Government of India.
- ❖ Induction of these Barges would provide impetus to operational commitments of the Indian Navy by facilitating Transportation, Embarkation, and Disembarkation of articles/ammunition to Indian Navy platforms both alongside jetties and at outer harbours.

#### Award

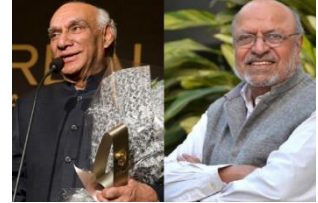
#### Jaipur International Film Festival to honour Yash Chopra & Shyam Benegal

##### About News:-

- ❖ Celebrated filmmakers Yash Chopra and Shyam Benegal will be honoured at the upcoming edition of the Jaipur International Film Festival (JIFF) 2025, set to be held in the Rajasthan capital between January 17 and 21.

#### Key Points:-

- ❖ While the gala will bestow the Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award on Chopra, it will also pay tribute to Benegal, who died late last year.
- ❖ Chopra, known for films such as "Deewar", "Kabhi Kabhie", "Dil To Pagal Hai", "Veer-Zaara", and "Jab Tak Hai Jaan", left an indelible mark with a filmography that spans across decades, capturing hearts worldwide.



#### Sport

#### AFC Asian Cup 2027 is to be held in Riyadh, Jeddah, and Al Khobar from January 7 to February 5

##### About News:-

- ❖ The AFC Asian Cup 2027 will take place from January 7 to February 5 across three cities in Saudi Arabia—Riyadh, Jeddah, and Al Khobar, the AFC announced on Tuesday.
- ❖ In Riyadh, five stadiums will host the matches, including King Fahd Sports City Stadium, King Saud University Stadium, Imam Mohammed Ibn Saud University Stadium, Kingdom Arena, and Al Shabab Stadium. In Jeddah, King Abdullah Sports City and Prince Abdullah Al Faisal Sports City Stadiums have been confirmed, while a state-of-the-art venue is set to be built in Al Khobar, completing the world-class infrastructure for the tournament.



### Key Points:-

- ❖ Saudi Arabia was named the host nation for the 2027 AFC Asian Cup in 2023, marking the first time the country will host the prestigious tournament.
- ❖ "Confirming the dates and selecting the stadiums for AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 is a key milestone in our journey to host the tournament. This announcement is a testament to the ongoing high-level collaboration between us and the AFC, as we work towards delivering an exceptional tournament that meets the aspirations of the entire Asian continent," said Yasser Al Mishehal, President of the Saudi Arabian Football Federation.
- ❖ Eighteen teams have already secured their spots for the tournament. The remaining places will be determined during the Qualifiers Final Round, set to begin in March 2025, with six groups of four teams. The winners of each group will complete the final lineup.
- ❖ India, aiming for its fifth appearance at the AFC Asian Cup, has been placed in Group C alongside Singapore, Hong Kong, and Bangladesh. The team will seek to build on its 2019 performance and make further progress on the continental stage.

### Miscellaneous

#### Gadkari announce a modified scheme for the treatment of road accident victims

##### About News:-

- ❖ Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, on Tuesday unveiled an updated version of the 'Cashless Treatment' scheme, aimed at extending financial assistance to victims of road accidents. Under this initiative, the government will cover medical expenses up to Rs 1.5 lakh for seven days of treatment, provided the accident is reported to the police within 24 hours.



- ❖ The announcement came during a meeting with Transport Ministers from all states and union territories at Bharat Mandapam in Delhi. The meeting aimed to improve transportation policies and strengthen cooperation between the central and state governments to enhance road safety.

### Key Points:-

#### Ex-gratia for victim's families

- ❖ For victims of hit-and-run accidents, families will receive an ex-gratia payment of Rs 2 lakh. Gadkari explained, "If an accident is reported within 24 hours, we will cover the treatment cost for seven days or up to Rs 1.5 lakh. For hit-and-run cases, Rs 2 lakh will be provided to the deceased's family."

#### Road accident fatalities in 2024

- ❖ Gadkari also cited concerning statistics to emphasise the urgent need for improved road safety. In 2024, road accidents claimed 1,80,000 lives, with 30,000 of those fatalities directly linked to the failure to wear helmets.
- ❖ A significant number of accidents involved young adults aged 18 to 34. The minister addressed the critical issue of child safety, mentioning that approximately 10,000 children lost their lives in 2024 due to poor infrastructure near schools and colleges. As part of safety measures, new regulations for autorickshaws and school minibuses will be introduced, while 'black spots' (high-risk accident zones) will be identified and rectified as part of enhanced safety measures.
- ❖ This cashless treatment scheme will be rolled out nationwide by March 2025. The program will cover all road accidents caused by motor vehicles and will be implemented through a partnership with hospitals, police, and the National Health Authority (NHA) using an IT platform.

#### The initiative launched in March 2024

- ❖ On March 14, 2024, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) launched a pilot program to offer cashless treatment to road accident victims.

- ❖ The project, which began in Chandigarh, aimed to create a system that ensures timely medical care for accident victims, particularly during the critical hour after the accident. Following its success, the program was later expanded to six states.

### Important Day

#### Pravasi Bharatiya Divas – 09 January 2025



#### About News:-

- ❖ Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD), also known as NRI Day, is celebrated annually on January 9 to honor the contributions of the Indian diaspora in the development of India.
- ❖ The 18th PBD Convention is scheduled to take place from January 8 to 10, 2025, in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ❖ The 2025 convention theme is “Diaspora’s Contribution to a Viksit Bharat”, emphasizing the role of the Indian diaspora in India’s journey toward becoming a developed nation.

#### History of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas:-

- ❖ Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD), or NRI Day, was first celebrated on January 9, 2003, under the leadership of then-Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The date commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi to India from South Africa in 1915. Initially, the event was celebrated annually, but since 2015, it has been held biennially to allow for better planning and broader participation.
- ❖ The primary aim of PBD is to strengthen the connection between India and its diaspora, recognizing their contributions in areas like trade, culture, technology, and innovation. The event has grown into a major platform for discussions, collaborations, and policy recommendations aimed at engaging NRIs and PIOs in India’s growth journey.
- ❖ Over the years, PBD conventions have highlighted themes related to diaspora engagement, skill development, cultural ties, and socio-economic progress. The event also includes the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards, recognizing exceptional contributions by NRIs and PIOs.

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