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2025

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Hand Written Notes

NATIONAL AFFAIRS 1) Joined → UN-CEBD, → Shape global standards in Big Data & Data Science 31 member states & 16 international organizations UN-CEBD - United Nations Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science USA - United States of America 2) Unveiled During Piyush Goyal -> Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing -> 1st Bharat Climate Forum 2025, MoC&I Platform New Delhi → Hosted by - CIEU 1 India's cleantech value chains in solar, Supported by - MNRE, wind, hydrogen, & battery storage sectors NITI Aayog, & ISA MoC&I - Ministry of Commerce and Industry CIEU - Centre for Indigenous Economic Understanding MNRE - Ministry of New and Renewable Energy NITI - National Institution for Transforming India ISA - International Solar Alliance 3) THEJAS64 ->> Secure embedded Ashwini Vaishnan MeitY ARIES ECO & ARIES NOVA -→ Development-(DIR-V VEGA processor) embedded systems Developed by $\rightarrow C$ -DAC Meity - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Soc - System on-Chip ARIES - Artificial Intelligence for Environment & Sustainability C-DAC - Centre for Development of Advanced Computing

DIR - Digital India RISC-V





BANKING & FINANCE

1)

IBBI - Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India BAANKET - Bank Asset Auction Network

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

1)

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Of & & \text{Visit to} \\ \text{Highlights} & \longrightarrow & \text{Satya Nadella} & & \longrightarrow & \text{India} \\ & & & \text{Chairman & CEO of Microsoft} \end{array}$$

Announced
$$\Rightarrow$$
 USD 3 bn investment \Rightarrow Next 2 years \Rightarrow India \Rightarrow \uparrow AI & cloud skill Microsoft \Rightarrow >10 mn Indians \Rightarrow AI skills \Rightarrow ADVANTA(I)GE INDIA \Rightarrow 2030

MoU signed

$$\rightarrow$$
 MSR India + Physics Wallah $\stackrel{On}{\longrightarrow}$ Math reasoning

CEO - Chief Executive Officer

AI - Artificial Intelligence

MSR - Microsoft Research

2)

Easy access to advice, credit, machinery,
& market links to sell products

India's 1st state initiative using
Al to revolutionize agriculture





```
UP - Uttar Pradesh
AI - Artificial Intelligence
AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS
    Recognized
                                  To offer
UGC ---> Bihar Sports University ---> UG & PG diplomas in physical education
           Rajgir, Bihar
                                        & sports sciences in 2025-2026
UGC - University Grants Commission
UG - Under Graduate
PG - Post Graduate
APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS
1)
                                   Announced
                      Justin Trudeau
PM of Canada
                      (2nd youngest
                       Canadian PM)
PM - Prime Minister
2)
                                            Succeed
                             Devajit Saikia → Jay Shah (ICC Chairman)
                       (Advocate & Former wicket
                       keeper batsman from Assam)
                                           Succeed
                      > Prabhtej Singh Bhatia -->
BCCI - Board of Control for Cricket in India
ICC - International Cricket Council
3)
                                          Award
5th President of Croatia -> Zoran Milanović -> Grand Cross of the Order of the White Lion
                           (Leader of SDP)
                                             (Highest award in the Czech Republic)
                        (2nd consecutive term)
SDP - Social Democratic Party
```





SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 1) Completed DRDO ---> User trials -> HIMKAVACH -> Multi-layer Clothing System To \uparrow soldier performance in extreme cold weather (+20°C to -60°C) DRDO - Defence Research and Development Organisation °C - degree celsius **SPORTS** 1) Announced \longrightarrow Retirement \longrightarrow All forms of International Cricket Tamim Igbal Khan -(Bangladesh Batsman) OBITUARY 1) Former ED of SCL (now TVS Holding Limited) H Lakshmanan Director of TVS Motor Company Passed away Tamil Nadu ED - Executive Director SCL - Sundaram Clayton Limited TVS - Thirukkurungudi Vengaram Sundaram IMPORTANT DAYS 1) Observed ightarrow National Youth Day (or) Rashtriya Yuva ightarrow Government of India 12 January Divas (or) Vivekananda Jayanti Commemorate → 1st observed on 12 Jan 1985 162nd Birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, a → Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2025 Hindu spiritual leader, Philosopher & social reformer in India Organized by 28th National Youth Festival 2025 -> MYAS

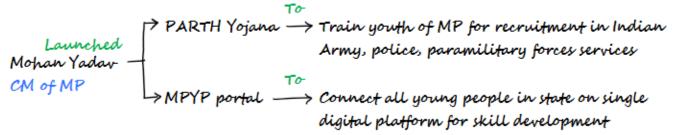




MYAS - Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports

STATE NEWS

1)



CM - Chief Minister

MP - Madhya Pradesh

PARTH - Police Army Recruitment Training & Hunar

MPYP - Madhya Pradesh Youth Platform

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Detailed Content

Current Affairs 14 January 2025 : Headlines



- India became a Member of UN-CEBD
- ▶ Union Minister Piyush Goyal launches Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform in New Delhi
- Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Launches One VEGA-based SoC & Two DIR V VEGA processor based Development Boards in Maharashtra
- ► IBBI Mandates eBKray Platform for Liquidation Asset Auctions
- Microsoft chairman and CEO Satya Nadella's Visit to India
- Google Cloud & UP Partner to Launch Open Network for Agriculture
- ► Bihar Sports University Gains UGC Recognition, Set to Offer Academic Courses in Sports and Physical Education
- Justin Trudeau Steps down as PM of Canada
- Devajit Saikia Elected as Secretary of BCCI
- Zoran Milanović re-elected as President of Croatia for 2nd consecutive term
- ► DRDO completes HIMKAVACH Clothing System user trials for Cold Weather Military Operations
- Bangladesh Batsman Tamim Iqbal Khan Retires from International Cricket
- H Lakshmanan, former ED of TVS passed away
- National Youth Day 2025 January 12
- Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav Launches PARTH Yojana





NATIONAL AFFAIRS

India became a Member of UN-CEBD

On January 11 2025, India became a member of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics **(UN-CEBD)**. This membership highlights India's growing influence in the global statistical community and emphasizes its commitment to utilizing **data** and **technology** for effective



policy-making.

Note: India assumed membership of the United Nations Statistical Council (UNSC) in 2024.

Key Points:

i.India's inclusion in this expert committee contributes to shaping global standards in Big Data and DataScience for official statistics and also will highlight its pioneering initiatives, including the establishment of:

- **Data Innovation Lab**: A platform to experiment with new data technologies.
- **Exploring Alternate Data Sources**: Including satellite imagery and machine learning for policymaking.

ii.Data science is a multidisciplinary field that combines statistics, mathematics, programming, and domain knowledge to extract insights from data.

iii.Big data refers to extremely large and complex datasets that traditional data processing tools and methods cannot effectively handle.

Key Goals of Membership:

i.Aligning Domestic and Global Goals: To align its national advances in Big Data with international objectives, positioning India as a leader in the field.

ii.Modernizing Statistical Processes: By incorporating nontraditional data sources like Internet of Things **(IoT)**, satellite imagery, and private sector data, India aims to improve the accuracy, timeliness, and efficiency of its statistical processes. **iii.Improving Decision-Making**: This engagement will help policymakers gain real-time, evidence-based insights, enabling better responses to socio-economic challenges.



iv.Streamlining Statistical Production: India's efforts will include reducing delays in data availability by innovating in data collection, processing, and analysis.

About UN-CEBD:

i. The UN-CEBD headquartered in New York, the United States of America (USA) was established in **2014** with Australia as its 1st chair. It explores the opportunities and challenges posed by **Big Data** in the production and dissemination of official statistics.

• The aim is to enhance the monitoring and reporting on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) using Big Data.





ii. The UN-CEBD consists of 31 member states and 16 international organizations.

iii. The Advisory Board is the management body of the UN-CEBD.

The Advisory Board members include South Africa (Chair), the United Kingdom (UK), Brazil, China, Rwanda, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Canada, Colombia, Indonesia, Mexico, Netherlands, African Development Bank(AfDB), Eurostat, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).

Union Minister Piyush Goyal launches Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform in New Delhi

On 10 January 2025, Union Minister **Piyush Goyal**, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (**MoC&I**), unveiled the '**Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform'**, an initiative at the inaugural Bharat Climate Forum 2025 in New Delhi, Delhi.



- It aimed to enhance India's cleantech value chains in the solar, wind, hydrogen, and battery storage sectors.
- He highlighted that the Product Linked Incentives (**PLIs**) and subsidies are harmful to the longterm growth and development of the clean energy sector.

About Bharat Climate Forum 2025:

i.It was hosted by the Centre for Indigenous Economic Understanding (CIEU) and Dalberg Advisors, the Bharat Climate Forum is supported by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog, and International Solar Alliance (ISA).

ii. The Bharat Climate Forum 2025 objective is to position India as a global leader in clean technology manufacturing, with self-reliance as its foundational principle in achieving Net-Zero goals and developing into a Viksit Bharat

About Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform:

i. The platform will enable Indian firms to innovate, collaborate, and attract global investments, positioning India as a global leader in the cleantech sector.

• This effort aligns with the target of 500 Gigawatt (**GW**) clean energy capacity by 2030.



ii.The platform will serve as a hub for enabling technological advancements, global partnerships, and scaling up India's clean energy infrastructure.

iii.India remains the top performer in fulfilling the Nationally Determined Contributions (NCDs) that were submitted to the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2015.





Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Launches One VEGA-based SoC & Two DIR V VEGA processor based Development Boards in Maharashtra

In January 2025, Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched one VEGA-based System on-Chip (SoC) named **THEJAS64** and two DIR V VEGA processor based development boards, Artificial Intelligence for Environment & Sustainability **(ARIES) ECO** and **ARIES NOVA** at an event held at Centre for Development of Advanced Computing **(C-DAC)** campus in Pune, Maharashtra.



- These are designed and developed by C-DAC, as part of the Government of India (GoI)'s Digital India RISC-V Microprocessor (DIR-V) program.
- While addressing the event, the Union Minister highlighted that Computing and technological advancement is a core building block for India to become a developed nation by **2047**.

Key People:

i.Krishnan, Secretary of the MeitY; Smt Sunita Verma, Group Co-ordinator (R&D), MeitY; E Magesh, Director General(DG) of C-DAC and Sanjay Wandhekar, Centre Head of C-DAC Pune along with and other senior officials

Launched Products:

i.THEJAS64 SoC ASIC: Fabricated at the Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL), Chandigarh(Punjab), this 64-bit single-core chip.

- It is India's 1st fully indigenous 64-bit VEGA based SoC. It is mainly designed for robust and secure embedded applications.
- It highlights India's self-reliance in advanced microprocessor technology, offering robust solutions for embedded and industrial applications.

ii.ARIES NOVA Development Board: Designed for Internet of Things(IoT), wearable devices, and robotics, this compact, breadboard-friendly hardware platform is powered by the VEGA ET1031 microprocessor. It offers an affordable and versatile option for developers and innovators.



 It provides an easily accessible platform for education, research, and development in the field of embedded systems.

iii.ARIES ECO Development Board: A cost-effective platform tailored for embedded systems enthusiasts, it features multiple communication interfaces and GPIOs, supporting standalone operation with various power options.

• It is useful to students, facilitates a hands-on-platform for experimenting with applications like sensor fusion, smart meters, and wearable devices.





About DIR-V Program:

i.In April 2022, GoI launched the DIR-V program, which aimed to develop future generations of microprocessors to achieve India's strategic priorities of mobility, computing, and digitization.

• **Key Target:** To commercialise India's 1st indigenous chipsets by 2023-24.

ii.The program is part of the GoI's Semicon India programme, which has a budget of Rs 76,000 crore to enhance India's semiconductor and display manufacturing ecosystem.

VEGA Series:

i. The series include 32 bit or 64 bit single/dual/quad core superscalar Out-of-Order high performance processor cores based on Reduced Instruction Set Computer (RISC-V) architecture.

ii.The open-source RISC-V architecture provides flexibility and innovation and promotes hands-on learning and development in embedded systems.

About Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC):

It is one of the premier institutions in India, which works under the MeitY.

Director General (DG)- Magesh Ethirajan

Headquarters- Pune, Maharashtra

Established- 1988

BANKING & FINANCE

IBBI Mandates eBKray Platform for Liquidation Asset Auctions

On January 10, 2025, New Delhi (Delhi) based Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (**IBBI**) mandated that all asset auctions under the liquidation process must use the 'eBKray platform(now known as Bank Asset Auction Network, BAANKET)' starting **April 01, 2025**.



• It aims to simplify the auction process, boost transparency, and increase recovery rates in liquidation cases.

Key Points:

i.IBBI has directed Insolvency Professionals (**IPs**) to list all unsold assets from ongoing liquidation cases on the eBKray platform by **March 31, 2025**, aiming to improve efficiency, accountability, and buyer access in the liquidation process.

ii. The IBBI has mandated this platform to address issues with manual and fragmented auctions.

About eBKray platform:

i.The eBKray, launched in 2019, is an advanced property listing and e-auction platform designed for banks and lending institutions.

ii.It helps recover non-performing asset (NPA) loans by enabling the efficient sale of distressed assets through digital auctions.

IBBI Extends Liquidation E-Forms Submission Deadline to March 31, 2025

IBBI has extended the deadline for Insolvency Professionals (IPs) to submit electronic forms on liquidation





and voluntary liquidation processes to **March 31, 2025**, following concerns from liquidators and insolvency agencies about technical issues in form submission.

- This marks the second extension of the deadline by IBBI. The original deadline was September 30, 2024, which was first extended to December 31, 2024.
- Currently, IPs submit the requisite details to IBBI through electronic mails(e-mails).

About Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI):

It is a statutory body that operates under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA).

Chairperson – Ravi Mital

Headquarters - New Delhi(Delhi)

Formed - 2016

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

Microsoft chairman and CEO Satya Nadella's Visit to India

Microsoft Chairman and Chief Executive Officer **(CEO) Satya Nadella** made a visit to India on **January 2025** as a part of the **Microsoft AI** (Artificial Intelligence) **Tour** with an aim for expansion and investment plans to make India a leader in AI.



- He addressed an event in Bengaluru on 7th January and a similar event New Delhi on 8th January.
- Satya Nadella's last visit to India was in **February 2024**.

Microsoft Research Lab launches and AI Innovations:

i.IndiaAI, an Independent Business Division (IBD) under the Digital India Corporation, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Microsoft to drive the adoption and development of artificial intelligence (AI) in India.

• MoU with India AI to skill 500,000 individuals, including students, educators, developers, and women entrepreneurs, by 2026.

ii.Establish "AI Catalysts," a Center of Excellence, to promote rural AI innovation in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities and equip 100,000 AI innovators and developers through hackathons, community building, and an AI marketplace.

iii.The agreement also includes establishing **AI Productivity Labs** in 20 National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs)/NIELIT centers across 10 states to train 20,000 educators and empower 100,000 students with foundational AI courses in 200 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs).

iv.Microsoft Research (MSR) Lab had announced an **AI Innovation Network** to strengthen the AI infrastructure in India. Under the AI Innovation Network, MSR will collaborate with digital users to implement the use of AI for business solutions.





iv.MSR India has collaborated with **Physics Wallah** on math reasoning and is planning to partner with other Digital Natives on topics such as causal inference, optimizing Indic Large Language Models (LLMs), prompt optimization, and reinforcement learning.

vi.Microsoft also partnered with **SaaSBoomi**, a community for Business-to-business (B2B) startups in India to boost the growth of India's AI and Software as a service (SaaS) ecosystem and develop more than **50** unicorns and soonicorns.

• It will help in upskilling over **5,000** startups, create **200,000 jobs**, and support India to achieve a trillion-dollar digital economy.

Microsoft announces USD 3 billion investment in India

Microsoft announced a **USD 3 billion** investment in India over the next **two** years to enhance AI and cloud infrastructure and skilling initiatives in India.

Moreover, the company also made various collaborations to meet this objective -

i.In healthcare, **Apollo Hospitals** partnered with Microsoft on **AI-driven research** in genomics, disease progression, and multimodal AI models that can be used globally and improve patient outcomes.

 Additionally, four AI copilots have been identified to improve clinical, operational, and administrative functions.

ii. For the public sector, **RailTel** will establish an **AI Center of Excellence** through which Microsoft will train employees in AI and cloud technologies and co-developing scalable AI solutions.

iii.In financial services, **Bajaj Finserv** will leverage **Microsoft Azure OpenAI** services to improve customer experiences, boost productivity, and reduce operational costs.

iv.In manufacturing and agriculture, **Mahindra Group** will set up an **AI Division** to involve innovation across its automotive, farming, and finance sectors by making specialized pre-trained models available on the Azure Marketplace.

v.In education, **upGrad** collaborated with Microsoft to train **1 million** learners in foundational and advanced AI skills by **2025** through the use of tools like **GitHub** Copilot and **Azure** OpenAI Service.

Other Key Points:

i. Microsoft aims to train **10 million** more Indians with essential AI skills by **2030** under its **ADVANTA(I)GE INDIA** Initiative which is part of Microsoft's Global Skills for Social Impact charter.

About Microsoft:

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)- Satya Narayana Nadella

Headquarters- Washington, United States of America (USA)

Founders - Bill Gates, Paul Allen

Founded-1975

Google Cloud & UP Partner to Launch Open Network for Agriculture

In January 2025, Uttar Pradesh (**UP**) government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with **Google Cloud (India)** to launch the Gemini-powered and Beacon-enabled UP Open Network for Agriculture (**UPONA**).

- The open and decentralized network will give millions of farmers easy access to services like advice, credit, machinery, and market links to sell their produce.
- This project is **India's first** state-level initiative using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to revolutionize agriculture.

Key people: The MoU was signed by Manoj Kumar Singh, the Chief Secretary of UP, and Anil Bhansali, the Vice-President (VP) of Google Cloud (India).

i.The network is built as a Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) using Google Cloud's DPI-in-a-box and the Beckn Protocol, an open standard that allows products and services to be easily discovered and accessed. **ii.**It is a key step in doubling farmers' income in UP. It offers fast, accurate information on weather and





market prices, using data from weather stations in nearly every tehsil.

iii.Farmers can access the network using voice commands in their preferred language. Currently, it supports Hindi, Bangla, Telugu, Kannada, Gujarati and Punjabi, with more languages to be added in the future.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Bihar Sports University Gains UGC Recognition, Set to Offer Academic Courses in Sports and Physical Education

On January 11, 2025, **Bihar Sports University**, located in Rajgir(Bihar), was **recognized** by the University Grants Commission**(UGC)** under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956, enabling it to offer academic courses in physical education and sports sciences, including undergraduate programs, diplomas, and Post Graduate (PG) diplomas.



• Retired Indian Administrative Service(IAS) officer **Shishir Sinha** has been appointed by the Bihar government as the first Vice-Chancellor (VC) of the university.

About Bihar Sports University:

The Chief Minister(**CM**) of Bihar, Nitish Kumar, **inaugurated** Bihar Sports University, the state's first sports-focused educational institution, along with the State Sports Academy (SSA) on August 29, 2023(National Sports Day).

• These initiatives, part of the International Sports Complex in Rajgir, aim to promote sports education and develop skilled sports professionals in the state.

Key Points:

i.The university is set to start its academic programs in the **2025–2026 session**. These programs will include:

- Diplomas and PG diplomas in **sports coaching**, focusing on two or three sports
- Diplomas and PG diplomas in yoga.
- A four-year Bachelor of Physical Education (B.P.Ed.) program (subject to approval from the National Council for Teacher Education(NCTE).

ii.As per UGC regulations, the university **must appoint an Ombudsperson** within two months of starting academic activities.

 This step will ensure compliance with student grievance redressal guidelines under the UGC (Redressal of Grievances of Students) Regulations, 2023.

About Bihar:

Chief Minister (CM) – Nitish Kumar

Governor- Arif Mohammad Khan

Capital - Patna

Wildlife Sanctuaries - Gautam Budha Wildlife Sanctuary, Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary





APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Justin Trudeau Steps down as PM of Canada

In January 2025, Canadian Prime Minister (**PM**) **Justin Trudeau** announced his resignation to step down as Canada's PM and as leader of the **Liberal Party** after facing a stiff internal revolt. He leaves the office once a new ruling party leader is elected.



• Canada's parliament will be suspended until **24 March 2025** when a new leader is chosen.

Key Points:

i.Justin Trudeau, is the leader of the Liberal Party for 11 years and served as PM for 9 years.
ii.In 2007, he won the Liberal Party nomination for the Montréal riding of Papineau. He was elected in 2008 and re-elected in 2011, 2015, 2019 and 2021.

• He was elected Leader of the Liberal Party in April 2013.

iii. In 2015, he won a landslide victory in the federal election and became the **second-youngest PM** in Canadian history.

• He was sworn in as 23rd PM on November 4, 2015 and he successfully led the party to re-election in 2019, and again in 2021, securing a third term.

iii.He advocated for progressive issues like combating climate change and addressing historical crimes against Indigenous peoples, but the final years of his presidency have been marked by mounting economic unrest.

About Canada:

Capital - Ottawa

Currency - Canadian Dollar

Devajit Saikia Elected as Secretary of BCCI

On 12 January 2025, **Devajit Saikia**, an advocate and a former wicket-keeper batsman from Assam, was announced as the new **Secretary** of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (**BCCI**), succeeding Jay Shah who took over the role of ICC Chairman in December 2024.







- Prabhtej Singh Bhatia, cricket administrator from Chhattisgarh, was also elected as the **Treasurer** of BCCI, succeeding Ashish Shelar who was elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly(MLA) in Maharashtra.
- Devajit Saikia and Prabhtej Singh Bhatia were appointed without opposition, and neither office required an election, during the BCCI Special General Meeting (SGM) held in Mumbai(Maharashtra).

About Devajit Saikia:

i.Devajit Saikia, a former first-class cricketer, represented Assam during the 1990-91 season. He played four Ranji Trophy matches, scoring 53 runs.

• After retiring from cricket, he became a practising advocate at the Guwahati High Court(HC).

ii.He has significant experience in cricket administration, having served as the Joint Secretary of BCCI and the Secretary of the Assam Cricket Association (**ACA**).

iii.He also served as the Vice-President of the ACA from 2016 to 2019, and as Secretary from 2019-2022. **iv**.Currently, he has been serving as the acting interim secretary of the BCCI.

About Prabhtej Singh Bhatia:

i.Prabhtej Singh Bhatia is a young entrepreneur from Chhattisgarh in the liquor industry, is the co-founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Simba Beer.

ii.He has served as Apex Council member in BCCI's 2019-2022 tenure. He also served as a councillor for three years.

iii. Bhatia brings his expertise in finance and management to the role of BCCI Treasurer.

About Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI):

President - Roger Binny

Headquarters - Mumbai, Maharashtra

Established - 1928

Zoran Milanović re-elected as President of Croatia for 2nd consecutive term

On January 13 2025, **Zoran Milanović**, political leader of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), was re-elected as the **5th President** of Croatia for the 2nd consecutive term.



• He won the presidential election by securing **74%** of the votes, defeating **Dragan Primorac**, a candidate from the ruling party Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ).

About Zoran Milanović:

i.Zoran Milanović is a Croatian politician and Lawyer who had a prominent role in the political landscape of

ii.He began his political career in the early 2000s when he was Science and Education Minister in the HDZ-led government.

iii.He became the leader of the SDP in 2007, During his time as party leader, he led the SDP into the 2011 parliamentary elections, in which the party won a majority, and he became the Prime Minister(PM).

He served as the PM of Croatia from December 2011 to January 2016.





iv.He served as the President of Croatia for the **1st time** in January 2020 by defeating former president **Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović**.

v.He received numerous awards and honors, including 'the Grand Cross of the Order of the White Lion' (highest award in the Czech Republic) and 'the Order of Prince Branimir' for his contributions to Croatian diplomacy and governance.

About Croatia:

Prime Minister (PM) – Andrej Plenković

Capital - Zagreb

Currency- Croatian Euro (EUR)

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

DRDO completes HIMKAVACH Clothing System user trials for Cold Weather Military Operations

On January 10, 2025, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) announced that its **HIMKAVACH** multi-layer clothing system has successfully completed user trials in extreme cold weather conditions.

• It aims to improve soldier performance by enhancing mobility, comfort, and durability in harsh, cold environments.

i. The system is designed to protect soldiers in temperatures ranging from +20 degree celsius (°C) to -60°C, making it ideal for high-altitude military operations, particularly in the Himalayan region.

ii.The system features a modular, multi-layer structure, allowing soldiers to add or remove layers based on weather conditions, ensuring both comfort and mobility.

iii.Previously, the Indian Army (IA) used the Extreme Cold Weather Clothing System **(ECWCS)**, a **3-layered outfit** developed by DRDO's Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (DIPAS) which provided insulation and waterproofing and a reversible outer layer for camouflage in snowy and non-snowy terrain.

SPORTS

Bangladesh Batsman Tamim Iqbal Khan Retires from International Cricket

On January, 10, 2025, a 35-year-old **Bangladesh** left-handed batsman **Tamim Iqbal Khan** announced his retirement from all forms of International Cricket.

• This marks his second departure from the game; he initially retired in July 2023 but reversed the decision within 24 hours after intervention by Bangladesh's – Prime Minister (PM), Sheikh Hasina.

Achievement of Tamim Igbal:

i. Tamim debuted in One Day Internationals (ODIs) in 2007 and played his first Test in 2008.

ii. He became the first Bangladeshi player to reach 50 half-centuries in ODIs.

iii. He is the only Bangladeshi cricketer to score centuries in all three formats of the game.

iv.In 2011, he was named one of the four Cricketers of the Year by Wisden Cricketers' Almanack.

v.He has scored over 15,000 runs in his international career, the most by any Bangladeshi batsman to date.



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OBITUARY

H Lakshmanan, former ED of TVS passed away

On January 10 2025, **H Lakshmanan** former Executive Director (ED) of Sundaram Clayton Limited (SCL) (now TVS Holding Limited) and the Director of Thirukkurungudi Vengaram Sundaram (TVS) Motor Company Limited passed away at the **age of 92** in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN). He was born in 1933 in Shenkottai, TN.

i.H Lakshmanan was a key figure in the TVS Group spanning over 7 decades of experience. He began his career at the age 20 as a typist.

ii.He played a crucial role in the establishment of the Padi manufacturing unit in the 1960s and worked alongside T S Srinivasan from 1960 to 1980. He served as ED of SCL from 2000 to 2015.

iv.He also served on TVS Motors board since 2000 as one of the most trusted mentors for the automaker and retired in 2022.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Youth Day 2025 - January 12

National Youth Day, also known as 'Rashtriya Yuva Divas' in Hindi and 'Vivekananda Jayanti', is observed annually across India on **12th January** to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Swami Vivekananda**, a Hindu spiritual leader, Philosopher and social reformer in India, who played a crucial role in shaping modern India.



- 12 January 2025 marks the **162nd** birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
- The day aims to inspire and motivate youths by promoting the life and message of him encouraging their participation in nation-building.

Background:

i.In 1984, the Government of India **(GoI)** declared the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda as National Youth Day to honour his teachings and ideals.

• The first-ever National Youth Day was observed on 12 January 1985.

ii.The day highlights his teachings, inspired by 'Ramakrishna Paramahansa', to motivate and guide the youth of India.

About Swami Vivekananda:

i.Swami Vivekananda originally known as **Narendranath Dutta** was born on 12 January 1863 in Pausha Krishna Saptami Tithi, Calcutta, Bengal Presidency (Now Kolkata, West Bengal, WB).

• He was a disciple of Ramakrishna Paramahamsa.





ii.He dedicated his life to teach and guide the youth on the importance of social service and characterbuilding.

iii.On 1 May 1897, he founded the **Ramakrishna Mission** and Ramakrishna Math ("monastery"), a worldwide, non-political, non-sectarian spiritual organisation with headquarters at Belur, on the banks of the Ganges (River Ganga), Kolkata.

iv.On 4 July 1902, he passed away at the age of 39 at Belur Math in WB.

2025 Events:

On January 11 2025, Union Minister **Mansukh L Mandaviya**, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports(MYAS), inaugurated the 'Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue' and the '28th National Youth Festival(NYF)' at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi(Delhi).

Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2025:

i.The 'Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2025' organised by the Department of Youth Affairs(DYA) under MYAS, held on **11th and 12th** January 2025, reimagines the 'National Youth Festival' as a national youth engagement initiative aligned with the PM's call to involve 100,000 young people in leadership and civic life.

• It aims to break the 25 year old tradition of holding the NYF in a conventional manner. **ii.**The event also includes plenary sessions with national and global leaders, exhibitions showcasing youth initiatives, and cultural performances highlighting "Vikas Bhi Virsat Bhi."

PM Narendra Modi participate in the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2025:

On 12th January 2025, **PM** Narendra Modi participated in the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2025 and interacted with **3,000 dynamic young** leaders from across India, selected through a merit-based, multilevel process from over **30 lakh participants**.

- The young leaders presented innovative solutions for a developed India in 10 key thematic areas such as technology, sustainability, women empowerment, manufacturing and agriculture.
- The event aims to break the **25-year-old** tradition of holding the 'National Youth Festival' in a conventional manner.

About National Youth Festival 2025:

i. The NYF began in 1995 as a major activity under the program of the National Integration Camp (NIC). ii. It is organized by the MYAS, in collaboration with one of the State Governments.

- It is held in a different state each year during National Youth Week, **12 to 16** January every year. **ii.**The week commencing from the birthday of Swami Vivekananda is known as National Youth Week.
 - As part of National Youth Week celebrations, the Gol holds the NYF every year, and National Youth Day is a part of this festival.

Key Schemes and Initiatives for Youth Empowerment:

i.Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS): Established in 1972, NYKS is one of the largest youth organizations globally, aiming to develop the personality of youth and involve them in nation-building activities.

ii.National Youth Corps (NYC): Launched in 2010-11, this scheme seeks to build a group of disciplined youth dedicated to national development.

iii.National Young Leaders Programme (NYLP): This program fosters leadership and innovation among youth, providing them with a platform to express their views and highlight socio-economic development issues

iv.National Youth Awards: Recognizing exceptional contributions by youth and non-governmental organizations NGOs in nation-building.

• The awards include cash prizes, medals, and certificates, with Rs. 1 lakh to individual winners and Rs. 3 lakh to voluntary organizations.





v.National Service Scheme (NSS): Established in 1969, NSS encourages students to engage in community service, promoting social responsibility and national integration.

vi.International Cooperation: The MYAS collaborates with United Nations (UNs) Agencies like United National Development Programme (UNDP), Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to address global youth-related issues.

vii. Through these initiatives, the government continues to support youth empowerment, ensuring their active role in building a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India).

About the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS):

Union Minister- Mansukh L. Mandaviya (Constituency- Porbandar, Gujarat) Minister of State **(MoS)**– Raksha Nikhil Khadse (Constituency-Raver, Maharashtra)

STATE NEWS

Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav Launches PARTH Yojana

On January 10, 2025, Mohan Yadav, the Chief Minister (CM) of **Madhya Pradesh** (MP) launched **PARTH** (**Police Army Recruitment Training & Hunar**) **Yojana** at the State Level Youth Festival to train the youth of MP for recruitment in the Indian Army (IA), police, paramilitary forces, and other related services.

• The initiative aims to promote patriotism, skill development, and enhance employability among the state's dynamic and patriotic youth.

i.Under this scheme, candidates will receive complete pre-recruitment training, including physical fitness, coaching for written exams (covering general knowledge, mathematics, and English), and personality development.

ii.A key part of the PARTH Yojana is the **MPYP (Madhya Pradesh Youth Platform)** Portal, which aims to connect all young people in the state on a single digital platform for skill development, career guidance, and employment.

iii.The **MPYP Portal** and the **Yuva Prerak Abhiyan** together provide a comprehensive approach to youth development, ensuring that every individual has access to the resources and support needed to reach their full potential.

Less Important NEWS

- Tripura govt, Tata Technologies sign MoA for upgrading ITIs
- ► AI can make trade efficient but data governance a challenge: WTO report
- ► AP Cabinet approves new polices for tourism, sports
- Scientists discovered the strangest sea slug in the ocean
- ► Researchers find meter-high mineral chimneys in the Dead Sea





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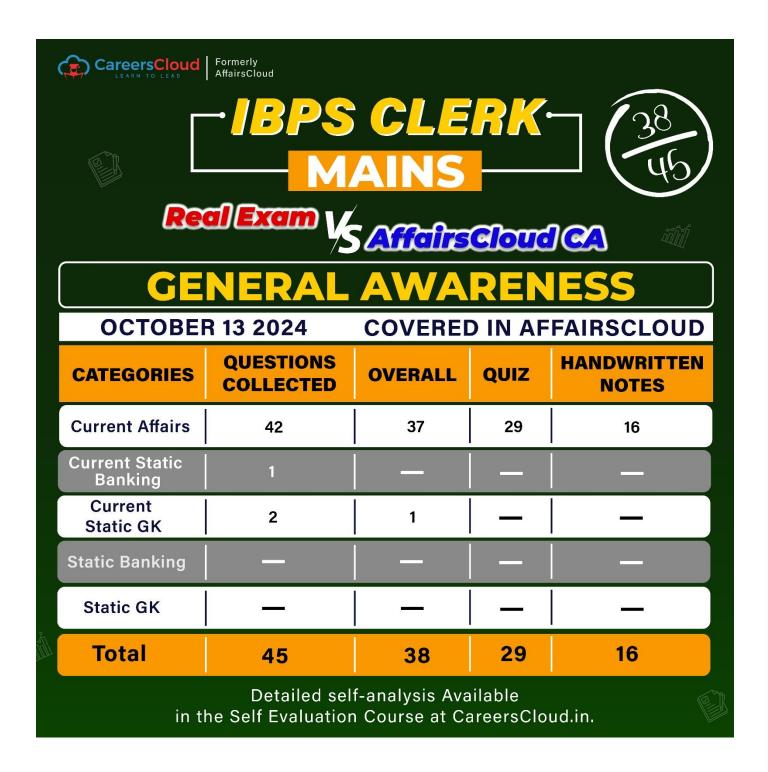
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