

## International

### India joins UN panel to shape Global Big Data Standards for Official Statistics

India has joined the UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics. As part of the committee, India will contribute to shaping global standards and practices in harnessing big data and data science for official statistical purposes.

The UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics was created to investigate further the benefits and challenges of Big Data, including the potential for monitoring and reporting on sustainable development goals.

### US President Biden awards Pope Francis Presidential medal of freedom with distinction.

In the US, the outgoing US President, Joe Biden, awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom with distinction to Pope Francis.

It was the first time during his four years in office that Biden has been awarded the medal with distinction.

### Venezuela's Maduro takes oath as President

Nicolas Maduro, the President of Venezuela was sworn in for a third six-year term, amid renewed protests and rebukes from the United States and others who believe he stole last year's vote.

Maduro, a former bus driver, became President in 2013 after the death of Hugo Chavez, Venezuela's iconic left-wing leader.

## Important Days

### National Youth Day:12<sup>th</sup> January

National Youth Day is celebrated on 12th January every year in commemoration of the great spiritual leader, philosopher and thinker Swami Vivekananda.

His inspiring life and empowering message urge the youth to nurture their dreams, unleash their energies, and shape a future worthy of his envisioned ideals.

## National

### Union Minister Piyush Goyal launches Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has launched the Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform at the Bharat Climate Forum 2025 in New Delhi. The platform is an initiative designed to enhance India's cleantech value chains in the solar, wind, hydrogen, and battery storage sectors.

The Minister also mentioned that Product Linked Incentives (PLIs) and subsidies are detrimental to long-term growth and development of the clean energy sector. He added that the PLI scheme can only help kickstart the sector, but the clean energy sector must strive to become self-sustaining.

### India to host 28th CSPOC in 2026

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has announced that India will host the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Parliaments of Commonwealth Countries (CSPOC) in 2026.

The thrust of the 28th CSPOC will be the application of AI and social media in the working of Parliaments.

## Science and Technology

### ISRO's SpaDEx satellites close in for historic Space Docking milestone.

The two satellites launched by ISRO to perform the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDEx) are 15 metres apart and closing in for an exciting handshake.

The SpaDEx mission, launched on December 30, aims to demonstrate in-space docking using small spacecraft. ISRO's PSLV C60 rocket had successfully placed the two satellites in its intended orbit on December 30th.

A successful demonstration of the SpaDeX will make India the fourth nation to master the complex technologies that are crucial for its future missions, such as the Bharatiya Antariksh Station and landing an astronaut on the moon.

### **DRDO created a special clothing system called HIMKAVACH**

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has created a special clothing system called 'HimKavach' to protect Indian soldiers in freezing temperatures, ranging from 20°C to -60°.

HIMKAVACH is a multi-layered clothing system meticulously crafted to provide optimal insulation, breathability, and protection against moisture.

### **Business and Economy**

#### **Startups growing fast even in tier 2 and tier 3 cities**

Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Amardeep Singh Bhatia, said that the country's start-up ecosystem has seen robust growth in the past nine years with more than 1.5 lakh registered start-ups under the department.

He added that tier 2 and tier 3 cities are now taking up the centre stage of start-ups spreading across 779 districts of the country. Highlighting government initiatives like the Seed Fund Scheme, the Funds of Funds Scheme, and the Credit Guarantee Scheme, he asserted that the success of these schemes will be a model for other departments to replicate.

### **Sports**

#### **India registers victory over Ireland in women's ODI.**

India cruised to a six-wicket victory over Ireland in the opening match of the three-match Women's One-Day International series

at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium, Rajkot. Chasing a target of 239, India reached the mark in just 34.3 overs.

Ireland made 238 runs in the stipulated 50 overs for the loss of seven wickets.

#### **Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty reach semifinal in Malaysia badminton.**

In Badminton, India's pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty reached the semifinals of men's doubles of the Malaysia Super 1000 badminton tournament, with a straight-game victory over Malaysia's Yew Sin Ong and Ee Yi Teo.

#### **Bangladesh cricketer Tamim Iqbal announces retirement.**

Bangladesh cricketer Tamim Iqbal has announced his retirement from international cricket.

Tamim concluded his career with 15,192 runs for Bangladesh, the second-highest in the country's history after Mushfiquir Rahim. The 35-year-old scored 5134 runs in 70 Tests, 8357 runs in 243 ODIs, and 1758 runs in 78 T20Is.

#### **Changla Lamos reach final with 6-3 win**

In the Ice Hockey League Season 2, Changla Lamos stormed into the women's final with a 6-3 victory over Sham Eagles in Leh.

Changla Lamos' captain, Tsewang, made an outstanding performance, scoring a brilliant hat-trick.

In the men's semifinals, defending champions Kang Sings defeated Purig Warriors 2-0, while Changthang Shans secured a dominant 3-0 win over Humas Warriors.