

## International

### **The ICJ will begin public hearings in the genocide case filed by The Gambia against Myanmar.**

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague will begin public hearings in the genocide case filed by Gambia against Myanmar over alleged atrocities committed against the Rohingya community from January 12, which will continue until January 29 and focus on the merits of the case, including the examination of witnesses and expert testimony. In November 2019, Gambia brought the case before the world court, accusing Myanmar of violating the Genocide Convention, following Myanmar's 2017 military crackdown in northern Rakhine State, which forced more than 700,000 Rohingya to flee to Bangladesh amid allegations of mass killings, sexual violence and arson. Experts feel that the hearings could have far-reaching implications for accountability and the protection of persecuted minorities worldwide.

### **Donald Trump declares measures to block courts and creditors from seizing Venezuelan government funds held by the United States of America.**

The President of the United States, Donald Trump, has declared a national emergency to block courts and creditors from seizing Venezuelan government funds held by the United States of America. An executive order issued blocks any attachment, judgment, lien, garnishment or other judicial action against what it defines as Foreign Government Deposit Funds, unless specifically licensed or authorised by the administration. The order states that the US government holds the funds "solely in a custodial and governmental capacity, and not as a market participant.

The order specifies that the funds are derived from the sale of natural resources or the sale of diluents to the Venezuelan government. The executive order makes clear that the funds are considered sovereign property of Venezuela, not assets of private parties or judgment creditors.

## National

### **National Youth Day Commemorating the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.**

Commemorating the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda on National Youth Day, on January 12, Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the concluding session of the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2026 in New Delhi. Selected participants made their final presentations to the Prime Minister across ten thematic tracks, sharing youth-led perspectives and actionable ideas on key areas of national importance. During the programme, the Prime Minister released the Essay Compilation for Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2026, comprising selected essays authored by young participants on India's developmental priorities and long-term nation-building goals.

### **The Federal Chancellor of Germany, Mr Friedrich Merz, on an official visit to India.**

The Federal Chancellor of Germany, Mr Friedrich Merz, arrived in Ahmedabad on January 12 for a landmark two-day official visit to India at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Prime Minister and the German Chancellor will review the progress made in the India-Germany Strategic Partnership, which has recently completed 25 years. The bilateral discussions between the leaders are set to focus on trade, investment, and high-end technology, while also advancing critical partnerships in defence, green sustainable development, and science and research. The leaders will exchange perspectives on pressing regional and global issues and will engage directly with top industry heads.

### **The G7 Critical Minerals Ministerial Meeting in Washington DC, United States.**

Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, will participate in the G7 Critical Minerals Ministerial Meeting in Washington DC, United States. The G7 Critical Minerals Ministerial Meeting is aimed at securing global supply chains for strategic resources.

The Group of Seven comprises the United States, Britain, Japan, France, Germany, Italy and Canada, along with the European Union. Critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt, graphite, copper and rare earth elements are essential for defence systems, semiconductors, renewable energy technologies, electric vehicle batteries and advanced manufacturing.

### **Economy/Business**

#### **India's seafood exports touched an all-time high in value during 2024-25.**

According to the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, the fish production in the country has increased to around 198 lakh tonnes in 2024-25 from 95 lakh tonnes of fish production in 2013-14. This marks a significant growth of over 106 per cent during the period. The Ministry said India's seafood exports touched an all-time high in value during 2024-25 to 62 thousand 408 crore rupees. India is the world's second-largest fish producer, contributing eight per cent to global output. The Ministry said that various schemes, including Blue Revolution, Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana, contributed to this.

#### **FIU brings out updated guidelines for reporting entities providing services related to virtual digital assets.**

The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), a body that functions under the Union Finance Ministry, on January 8, as part of the 'anti-money laundering (AML) and combating financing of terror (CFT), has brought out updated guidelines for reporting entities providing services related to virtual digital assets (cryptocurrency). The guidelines have been updated about three years after they were first published in March 2023. Selfie with liveness detection, recording of geographical coordinates, and verification of bank account by the 'penny-drop' method are among the mandatory new measures listed

by India's financial intelligence agency under the anti-money laundering and terrorist financing KYC protocols for cryptocurrency exchanges while onboarding users.

The directives also discourage Initial Coin Offerings (ICOs) and Initial Token Offerings (ITOs), equivalent to IPOs in stock markets, by the exchanges. The directives say that tumblers, mixers, and anonymity-enhancing tokens-linked transactions shall "not" be facilitated.

#### **The Centre's proposal requires smartphone makers to share source code with the government.**

The Centre proposes requiring smartphone makers to share source code with the government and make several software changes as part of a raft of security measures, prompting covert opposition from giants like Apple and Samsung. The package of 83 security standards, which would also include a requirement to alert the government to major software updates, is part of the government's efforts to boost the security of user data as online fraud and data breaches increase in the world's second-largest smartphone market, with nearly 750 million phones.

#### **Four major banks object to the disclosure of information such as the list of defaulters and NPA.**

Bank of Baroda, RBL Bank, Yes Bank and State Bank of India have approached the CIC objecting to the disclosure of information such as the list of defaulters and NPA, penalties and inspection reports, even as the RBI termed the records "liable to be disclosed" under the RTI Act. The banks claimed that disclosing regulatory information would harm their commercial interests. These banks appealed before the Central Information Commission, and the Information Commissioner Khushwant Singh Sethi referred the matter to a larger bench of the CIC to adjudicate on the issues raised by the banks.

## Sports

### **Virat Kohli becomes the fastest player to reach 28,000 runs across formats in international cricket during India's successful run chase.**

India defeated New Zealand by four wickets in the first ODI in Vadodara on January 11. Chasing a target of 301, India romped with an over to spare. Virat Kohli became the

fastest player to reach 28,000 runs across formats in international cricket and the second most prolific scorer behind Sachin Tendulkar during the match. Playing in his 624th innings, Kohli got to the milestone, which Tendulkar had reached during his 644th innings, while Sri Lankan legend Kumar Sangakkara, only the third player in the 28,000-run club, crossed the feat in his 666th innings.