

International

Ecuador declares state of emergency in seven provinces.

Ecuadorian President Daniel Noboa has declared a 60-day state of emergency in seven provinces and three municipalities amid escalating internal unrest and armed conflict. The provinces affected include Guayas, Los Ríos, Manabí, Santa Elena, El Oro, Orellana, and Sucumbíos, along with the Metropolitan District of Quito, La Troncal, and Camilo Ponce Enríquez.

Since January last year, Ecuador has been engaged in an internal armed conflict against organized crime groups labelled as terrorists by the government.

Indian-American Suhas Subramanyam sworn into 119th US Congress.

Indian-American Suhas Subramanyam was sworn into the 119th US Congress as the first Indian-American and South Asian to represent Virginia's 10th Congressional District. Subramanyam becomes the sixth member of the 'Samosa Caucus'; the informal name for the group of Indian American lawmakers.

Before joining Congress, Subramanyam served as a Policy Advisor to former President Barack Obama. He was elected to the Virginia General Assembly in 2019.

Important Days

National Bird Day: 5th January.

National Bird Day, celebrated on January 5 every year, is a day dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of birds in our ecosystems and their conservation.

First established in 2002 by the Avian Welfare Coalition, National Bird Day underscores the urgency of protecting bird habitats and populations that are under threat from habitat destruction, climate change, and illegal trade.

Obituary

Senior scientist Rajagopala Chidambaram passes away.

Senior scientist and one of the key architects of India's nuclear programme, Dr. Rajagopala Chidambaram, passed away.

Dr. Chidambaram played a pivotal role in shaping India's nuclear weapons programme.

He was instrumental in India's first nuclear test in 1974, as well as the Pokhran-II tests in 1998, which established India as a nuclear power.

He was honoured with the Padma Shri in 1975, followed by the Padma Vibhushan in 1999.

Scholar, writer Prof Muzzafar Assadi passes away

Political scientist and academician Professor Muzaffar Assadi passed away.

Prof. Assadi, served as the Acting Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Faculty of Arts at University of Mysore.

He served as the President of Mysore University Teachers' Association during 2012-17, and guided the doctoral thesis of 20 students.

National

Union Minister informed agriculture, allied sectors to grow at 3.5% to 4%

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the government will bear the cost of transportation and storage to bridge the price gap between producing and consuming states.

Mr. Chouhan informed that this year the growth rate of the agriculture sector and allied sectors is likely to be between 3.5 percent and 4 percent. He also informed that under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, an amount of around 3.46 lakh crore rupees has been distributed to 11 crore farmers in 18 installments.

Defence

French Aircraft Carrier Charles De Gaulle arrives in Goa for Naval Exercise Varuna

The French Navy's nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, Charles De Gaulle, arrived in Goa to participate in the bilateral naval exercise Varuna.

The French carrier strike group, which includes the Rafale Marine fighter aircraft, will take part in the 42nd annual bilateral exercise Varuna with Indian navy ships.

Since 2008, France has been a member of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), which was initiated by India and brings together 25 navies.

Science and Technology

Cowpea seeds sprout in space says ISRO

A batch of cowpea seeds successfully sprouted in space, days after they were taken into orbit by an Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) mission. The space agency has also successfully operated India's first space robotic arm.

The two experiments were part of the 24 payloads flown on the PSLV-C60 SpaDeX mission's PS4-Orbital Experiment Module (POEM-4).

The CROPS payload, developed by the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), is envisioned as a multi-phase platform to develop and evolve ISRO's capabilities for growing and sustaining flora in extra terrestrial environments.

Business and Economy

DPIIT partners with Stride Ventures to help startups in funding

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has joined hands with venture debt firm Stride Ventures to support high growth potential startups in their funding requirements.

The collaboration will be instrumental in creating enormous opportunities for startups

by integrating financial support with strategic mentorship and market access.

Sports

Australia clinches Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

Australia defeated India by six wickets in the fifth and final Test match in Sydney and clinched the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, 3-1.

With this victory, Australia has also qualified for the final of the ICC World Test Championship 2023-2025. They will face South Africa in the final, which is to be held in June this year.

Sumit Nagal advances to main round of men's singles category at ASB Classic tournament in New Zealand.

In tennis, India's Sumit Nagal has advanced to the main round of the men's singles category at the ASB Classic tournament in Auckland, New Zealand.

He defeated the top seed, Adrian Mannarino of France, 7-6, 6-3, in the final qualifying round this morning