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**Alambagh | Aliganj | Gomati Nagar**

**Contact : 9598333344**

## History of January 4

- ◆ **1932** : Viceroy Willingdon of British East Indies arrested Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru.
- ◆ **1906** : King George V laid the foundation stone of Victoria Memorial Hall, Calcutta.
- ◆ **2010** : On the orders of the Stock Exchange Board of India, the opening time of the stock markets was advanced one hour to 9 am.
- ◆ **1948** : Burma declared independence from Britain.

## Current Affairs Related to 1 January

- ◆ To control rice inflation, the government is considering FCI's proposal to sell rice under Bharat brand, but the concessional rates have not been decided yet. The ministry's efforts to curb retail rice prices by boosting domestic availability through sale of FCI rice through e-auction under the Open Market Sale Scheme have received a weak response. Under OMSS, Food Corporation of India is offering quality rice at a reserve price of Rs 29 per kg.
- ◆ Reliance Jio Infocomm, led by Chairman Akash Ambani, is set to launch the Bharat GPT program in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay. Ambani revealed the company's broader plans, including the development of an operating system for smart TVs, indicating an evolution of Jio's vision of Jio 2.0. Reliance Jio India is actively working with IIT Bombay on the GPT programme.
- ◆ Israel's government has approved a substantial \$3.2 billion grant for Intel Corp's ambitious plan to build a \$25 billion chip plant in southern Israel. This is the largest investment ever made by a company in Israel, representing significant support amid the ongoing conflict with the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas.
- ◆ The Reserve Bank of India has approved the reverse merger of IDFC Limited with its banking subsidiary IDFC First Bank. The respective boards of IDFC First Bank and IDFC had earlier given the green signal to the reverse merger in July.
- ◆ A new species of lizard has been discovered in southern China and northern Vietnam. The name of this species is Wang Garden Lizard. Its scientific name is Calotes bangi. The length of this species is approximately 9 cm.
- ◆ The Union Cabinet has ex-post facto approved the signing of the Migration and Movement Agreement between India and Italy. This agreement will enhance people-to-people contacts between India and Italy. It will promote the movement of students, skilled workers, businesses and young professionals. This will also strengthen cooperation between the two sides on issues related to irregular migration.
- ◆ Life insurer LIC, India's only IFSC, is set to open a branch in GIFT City, a strategic move in its global expansion and diversification efforts. In a strategic move, Life Insurance Corporation, often known as the insurance giant, has decided to open a branch office in GIFT City, the only operational International Financial Services Center in the country. This development comes as part of LIC's ongoing efforts to expand its global footprint and diversify its offerings.
- ◆ The Yogi Adityanath government is reportedly considering changing its name to Maharishi Valmiki Airport to honor the revered poet, the author of the epic Ramayana.
- ◆ A study by a team of scientists from the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism was published in the Journal of Polar Science. In the study, scientists examined solar activity using long-term weather ionospheric observations at the Indian Antarctica station Bharti between 2010 and 2022 and following the Sun's 11-year cycle. This study will help in understanding and mitigating the impacts of ionosphere on satellite based navigation and communication systems.
- ◆ Six Samarth curated training programs have been launched by the government on the iGOT Karmayogi platform for state government officials. According to the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, the objective of these programs is to enhance the skills and competencies of government officials. The program will guarantee that officers are well equipped to meet the changing demands of governance.



## National & International Current Affairs

### 1. When is World Braille Day celebrated every year?

- (A) 2nd January (B) 4th January  
(C) 5th January (D) 7th January

**(B)** January 4 is celebrated every year as World Braille Day to commemorate the birth of Louis Braille, the inventor of Braille script. The day also recognizes that visually impaired people should have the same access to human rights as everyone else.



### 2. Recently, what percentage of stake will Bank of Baroda sell in its New Zealand subsidiary?

- (A) 40% (B) 50%  
(C) 75% (D) 100%

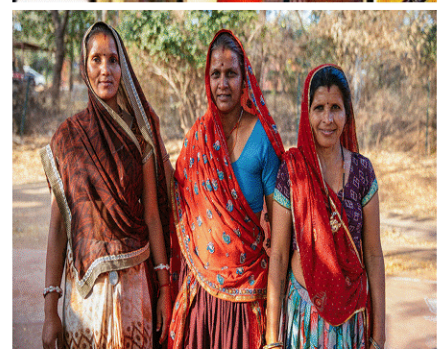
**(D)** Bank of Baroda revealed plans to sell its entire 100% stake in Bank of Baroda (New Zealand). India's second largest public sector bank, Bank of Baroda, saw its share price surge to hit a 52-week high of Rs 233.75 per share on the Bombay Stock Exchange.



### 3. According to the data released recently by the Health Ministry, approximately what percentage of the total Ayushman cards made are women?

- (A) 25% (B) 49%  
(C) 52% (D) 70%

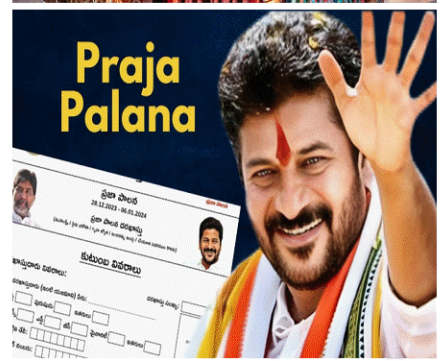
**(B)** Health Ministry data shows that women play an important role in the success of AB PM JAY, about 49% of Ayushman cards have been made. Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana has emerged as a ray of hope in the healthcare scenario of India, especially for women.



### 4. Which state government has recently started Praja Palan program?

- (A) Telangana (B) Tamil Nadu  
(C) Kerala (D) Jharkhand

**(A)** Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu recently inaugurated the government's Praja Palan program in Ibrahimpatnam, marking the beginning of a comprehensive initiative aimed at understanding and addressing the needs of people at the grassroots level. The initiative involves the collection of applications from individuals, enabling the government to identify potential beneficiaries of the six guarantees promised by the Congress during the assembly elections.



### 5. Recently Wardwizard Foods signed an agreement with which state government to expand operations?

- (A) Madhya Pradesh (B) Uttar Pradesh  
(C) Maharashtra (D) Gujarat

**(D)** Wardwizard Foods signs MoU with Gujarat government for expansion, invests Rs 500 crore to boost the growth of the regional food industry. Wardwizard Foods & Beverages Limited recently saw its shares rise by a significant 9.98 percent following the company's collaboration with the Gujarat government.





6. How many IPS officers of Manipur cadre have been appointed as chiefs of central paramilitary forces recently?

- (A) 1 (B) 3  
(C) 5 (D) 7

(B) Three IPS officers of Manipur cadre were appointed as chiefs of central paramilitary forces. Intelligence Bureau officer Rahul Rasgotra got charge of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police and Neena Singh became the first woman chief of the Central Industrial Security Force.



7. Recently a protocol on consultation was signed by India and Russia for how many years?

- (A) 1 year (B) 2 year  
(C) 3 year (D) 4 year

(D) It was signed to advance economic cooperation, energy trade, connectivity, military-technical cooperation and people-to-people exchanges. Foreign Minister Dr. S. on this protocol. The signing was done during Jaishankar's official visit to Russia. Jaishankar spoke to Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Moscow and discussed a range of issues including the Indo-Pacific region, Ukraine and the Israel-Gaza conflict.



8. Recently India and which country signed an agreement on the construction of future power units of the Kudankulam Nuclear Plant?

- (A) Russia (B) China  
(C) America (D) England

(A) India and Russia signed an agreement on the construction of future power units of the Kudankulam nuclear plant. Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant is being constructed in Tamil Nadu with the technical assistance of Russia. Construction began in March 2002. The first generating unit of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant has been running continuously at its 1000 MW design capacity since February 2016.



9. Recently, by which ministry has the Muslim League Jammu and Kashmir been declared an illegal association?

- (A) Ministry of Finance  
(B) Ministry of Education  
(C) Ministry of Home Affairs  
(D) Ministry of Textiles

(C) Muslim League Jammu Kashmir/MLJK MA has been declared an unlawful association under UAPA by the Home Ministry. Home Minister Amit Shah said that this organization and its members were involved in anti-national and separatist activities in Jammu and Kashmir. With the imposition of UPA on MLJK MA, the organization will now be subject to the terms and penalties of the UPA Act.



10. In which state has KSRTC recently unveiled Namma Cargo Logistics?

- (A) Karnataka (B) Telangana  
(C) Odisha (D) Maharashtra

(A) Recently Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation forayed into logistics by launching Namma Cargo. Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy inaugurated the initiative by launching cargo services on KSRTC route buses. The launch event saw the deployment of 20 cargo trucks to launch Namma Cargo services in various districts across the state.

