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History of January 7

- ◆ **1980** : The people of India once again handed over the reins of the country to Indira Gandhi.
- ◆ **2009** : Ramalengam Raju, chairman of IT company Satyam, resigned from his post.
- ◆ **2003** : Japan announced an assistance of 900 million dollars to India to help in development works.
- ◆ **1851** : The famous historian, English litterateur and explorer George Abraham Grierson was born.

Current Affairs Related to 7 January

- ◆ Famous space agency NASA has redirected its Osiris Rex spacecraft from its recent mission to asteroid Bennu to study another celestial body, Apophis. This asteroid, named after the Egyptian Chaos God, is estimated to pass within a remarkable distance of 32000 kilometers from the Earth's surface on April 13, 2029. The upcoming close encounter, scheduled for April 13, 2029, is set to bring Apophis closer than any example recorded in history, making it visible to the naked eye in a wide variety of areas.
- ◆ In a strategic move aimed at strengthening data security and prioritizing indigenous technology, the paramilitary force is set to switch to the Sands app for sharing all official communications and documents. This change underscores the growing importance of ensuring secure messaging platforms within organizations protect and secure sensitive information. The decision to adopt the Sands app stems from the prevalent use of WhatsApp for internal communications within the paramilitary forces.
- ◆ Output growth of eight key infrastructure sectors fell to a six-month low of 7.8% in November, mainly due to the decline in crude oil and cement sectors. This figure is higher than the 5.7% recorded a year ago, indicating a slowdown from October's 12% growth. The last decline occurred in May, when the growth rate was 5.2%. Despite the overall slowdown, coal and refinery product output witnessed double-digit growth.
- ◆ The Administrative Council chaired by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha approved significant changes to the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act 1989. The amendments focus on including the definition of Other Backward Classes in grassroots level democratic institutions within the Act to facilitate their reservation. The proposed changes are aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act 1989.
- ◆ China's drilling ship Mengjiang will investigate the Earth's crust. Developed by the China Geological Survey in collaboration with 150 research institutes and companies, the ship has been named Dream in Chinese, reflecting its ambitious mission. Mengjiang's goal is to penetrate the Earth's crust and understand the secrets of the mantle.
- ◆ The central government announced an adjustment in returns on specific savings schemes, leaving the public provident fund rate untouched for the sixth consecutive quarter. The interest on Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme will now increase from 8% to 8.2%, while the 3-year fixed deposit rate has increased marginally from 7% to 7.1%. Despite expectations of a broader reset, PPF rates remain stable at 7.1%.
- ◆ Defense Secretary Giridhar Aramane inaugurated a new design and test facility at the Aero Engine Research and Development Center of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited in Bengaluru, Karnataka. AERDC is currently involved in design and development activities.
- ◆ India has for the first time paid in rupees for crude oil purchased from the UAE, paving the way for the internationalization of the Indian currency. India is heavily dependent on oil imports, particularly amid the Russian oil dispute following the Ukraine conflict, and has adopted a strategy focused on sourcing the most cost-effective oil while diversifying suppliers without violating international obligations.
- ◆ The Election Commission has issued guidelines to political parties to avoid using disability and gender sensitive speech and to avoid using derogatory references to persons with disabilities in public speeches, campaigns and articles.
- ◆ Vice President of India Jagdeep Dhankhar has been appointed as the ex-officio Chancellor of Pondicherry University. This appointment has been made as a result of amendment to Act 1 (1) of the Pondicherry University Act 1985.

National & International Current Affairs

1. Where will Prime Minister Modi inaugurate the BAPS Hindu Temple recently?

- (A) Russia (B) UAE
(C) France (D) America

(B) Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi accepted the invitation to inaugurate the BAPS Hindu Temple on 14 February 2024. About Rs 700 crore has been spent on building the BAPS Hindu Temple in Abu Dhabi. This temple will be inaugurated on 14 February 2024. Seven peaks will be highlighted in the design of BAPS temple.



2. In which year will NASA study the asteroid Apophis coming close to the Earth?

- (A) 2025 (B) 2026
(C) 2027 (D) 2029

(D) NASA has redirected Osiris Rex from Bennu to study Apophis, a celestial body that is expected to approach Earth on April 13, 2029 at a close distance of 32,000 km. This event presents a unique opportunity for scientists to gather valuable data about this 370-meter diameter asteroid.



3. How many times is the tax collection likely to increase during the 10 year rule of Modi?

- (A) 3 times (B) 5 times
(C) 7 times (D) 9 times

(A) Recently, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, both personal income and corporate tax collections in India are expected to increase to more than Rs 19 trillion over a period of 10 years. This substantial increase provides flexibility to the government to implement tax measures that benefit the public.



4. Recently, how many geo-intelligence satellites has ISRO planned to launch in the next 5 years?

- (A) 22 (B) 40
(C) 70 (D) 50

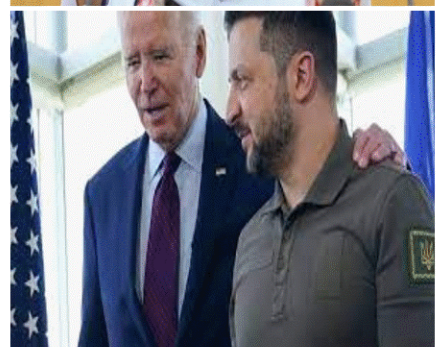
(D) Recently ISRO chief S Somnath said that the Indian space agency is planning to launch 50 satellites in the next five years to gather geo-intelligence information. The initiative involves the creation of a constellation of satellites in different orbits that have the capability to monitor the movement of troops and image an area of thousands of kilometers.



5. Recently, America has announced the final military aid package of 250 million dollars to which country?

- (A) Ukraine (B) Palestine
(C) Pakistan (D) Afghanistan

(A) Recently the State Department has announced assistance of US \$ 250 million. Foreign Minister Antony Blinken informed about the release of the aid package. Blinken said the aid package provides Ukraine with up to US\$250 million in arms and military equipment. This includes ammunition and other military equipment.



6. Who has recently been appointed as its brand ambassador by Hyundai Motor India?

- (A) Deepika Padukone (B) Alia Bhatt
(C) Ranveer Kapoor (D) Sonu Sood

(A) Hyundai Motor India, the second largest car company in India, has appointed Deepika Padukone as its brand ambassador. After Shahrukh Khan and Hardik Pandya, now glamorous actress Deepika Padukone has also joined the Hyundai family. Giving this information in a statement, Hyundai Motor India said that the addition of Deepika Padukone brings the power of a star, which shows Hyundai's commitment towards style, performance and a unique experience.



7. Recently the Chief Minister of which state has launched the Abhay Hastam program?

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

(C) Recently, the newly elected Congress government in Telangana indicated that it is seriously working towards fulfilling its election commitments with the launch of the Abhay Hastam program at the Secretariat. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka jointly unveiled the application form containing six guarantees.



8. Who has recently become the world's second largest global steel producer?

- (A) India (B) China
(C) Japan (D) Russia

(A) Recently India has become the world's second largest global steel producer. India has become the world's second largest producer of crude steel with production of 125.32 million tonnes of crude steel and 121.29 metric tonnes of steel in FY 2023. The steel sector in India experienced significant growth in the last decade.



9. Who has recently taken additional charge of Rajasthan DGP?

- (A) CS Rajan (B) Tripurari Sharan
(C) Utkal Ranjan (D) None of these

(C) Recently, IPS officer Utkal Ranjan Sahu has taken over the charge of acting DGP of Rajasthan. After taking VRS by DGP Umesh Mishra, this responsibility was handed over to Utkal Ranjan Sahu. It is noteworthy that Utkal Ranjan Sahu is a 1988 batch IPS officer. He is originally from Odisha.



10. Recently the President of which country has rejected the invitation to join BRICS?

- (A) Argentina (B) France
(C) UK (D) America

(A) Argentina's President Javier Meili has officially declined an invitation to join BRICS, a group of major emerging economies. The rejection was communicated through letters sent to BRICS leaders, solidifying Argentina's decision to stay away from the bloc.

