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## History of January 9

- ◆ **1915** : Mahatma Gandhi reached Mumbai after re-turning from South Africa.
- ◆ **1760** : The Afghans defeated the Marathas in the battle of Burari Ghat
- ◆ **1982** : The first Indian scientific team reached Antarctica.
- ◆ **2001** : A bill was approved to return the property of Hindus in Bangladesh.
- ◆ **1793** : The world's first hot air balloon took flight in Philadelphia, America.

## Current Affairs Related to 9 January

- ◆ The BRICS group of emerging market countries will double its membership if Saudi Arabia, Iran, United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia and Egypt accept the invitation. South Africa's envoy to the bloc revealed that Saudi Arabia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia and Egypt have accepted invitations to join, effectively doubling the organization's membership. The five countries are ready to send officials for the next Sherpa meeting in Moscow on January 30.
- ◆ The government has approved the 30th installment of electoral bonds. As part of efforts to bring transparency in political donations, electoral bonds have been introduced as an alternative to cash donations to political parties. The first tranche of electoral bonds was sold in March 2018. The Finance Ministry said in the statement that the sale of the 30th installment of electoral bonds will be held from January 2 to January 11. State Bank of India has been authorized to issue and encash electoral bonds through its 29 authorized branches.
- ◆ PM Modi opened the Maharishi Valmiki International Airport and the redeveloped Ayodhya Dham Railway Station with modern, passenger-centric facilities for better connectivity and regional economic development. Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked on an important visit to Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh in anticipation of the consecration ceremony of the Ram temple on January 22.
- ◆ Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana created a record of Rs 3 lakh crore in loans in December 2023, showing a strong growth of 16% year on year. Women entrepreneurs play an important role in securing loans.
- ◆ India's Koneru Humpy showcased her prowess in chess by winning the women's individual silver medal at the 2023 World Rapid Chess Championship held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. Despite a valiant effort, the 36-year-old grandmaster succumbed to Russian player Anastasia Bodnaruk in the sudden death tie-break on time.
- ◆ Rashmi Govil will be the new director of public sector Indian Oil Corporation. According to the notification of the government employer Public Enterprises Selection Board, his name has been recommended for this post. The notification said that PESB interviewed a total of 11 candidates, including five IOC employees, for the post and then appointed Rashmi Govil. Govil will replace Ranjan Kumar Mohapatra.
- ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi achieved an important milestone by flagging off two Amrit Bharat and six Vande Bharat Express trains from the redeveloped Ayodhya Dham railway station. This significant achievement was achieved amid festive atmosphere in Ayodhya with the upcoming consecration of the grand Ram temple on 22 January 2024.
- ◆ Chanye has named Dong Jun as its new defense minister, marking a significant change in the country's military leadership. The move comes two months after the official ouster of his predecessor Li Shangfu, who was last seen in public in August. The announcement was made during a meeting of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress in Beijing, highlighting the strategic importance of the decision.
- ◆ In a brilliant display of skill and determination, Indian Squash's Anahat Singh has won the Girls Under 19 category at the 2023 Scottish Junior Open Squash held in Edinburgh. His remarkable victory added another feather to his cap.
- ◆ National Commission for Women released a figure. According to this, a total of 28,811 complaints of crimes against women were registered in the year 2023.
- ◆ Gujarat created history with the largest Surya Namaskar event, which saw 4,000 participants from 108 locations and 51 categories and earned a place in the Guinness Book of World Records.

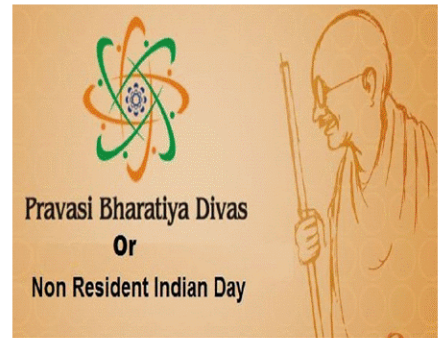


## National & International Current Affairs

**1. When is NRI Day/Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas celebrated every year?**

- (A) 7th January (B) 8th January  
(C) 9th January (D) 10th January

**(C)** 9 January is celebrated every year as Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas/Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community to the development of India. The day also commemorates Mahatma Gandhi's return to Mumbai from South Africa on 9 January 1915.



**2. Recently, which country will launch its second H-3 rocket in February 2024?**

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

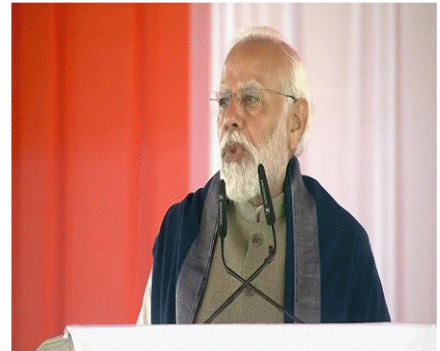
**(A)** Recently, according to the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, or JAXA, the second H-3 rocket is scheduled to take off on February 15 from Tanegashima Space Center in Kagoshima Prefecture, south-western Japan. H-3 rocket, H2A. The rocket's successor is a two-stage liquid propellant rocket, the first improvement to the country's main launch vehicle in nearly 20 years.



**3. Recently, in which state did Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurate development projects worth more than Rs 20,000 crore?**

- (A) Telangana (B) Maharashtra  
(C) Tamil Nadu (D) Karnataka

**(C)** Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of development projects worth more than Rs 20,000 crore in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu. The projects cover various sectors including rail connectivity, roads, oil and gas shipping, and are set to contribute significantly to the progress of the state.



**4. Where has the 10th phase of Sagar Parikrama started recently?**

- (A) Chennai (B) Mumbai  
(C) New Delhi (D) None of these

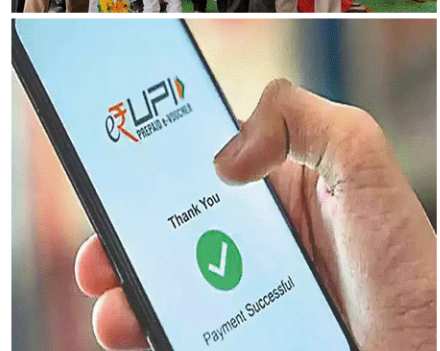
**(A)** Recently, it was jointly inaugurated by Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Purshottam Rupala and Union Minister of State Dr. L. Murugan. Sagar Parikrama will pass through Nellore, Visakhapatnam and Srikalukalam. The Union Minister will also talk about the government's programs for fishermen and people working in similar industries.



**5. Recently, in December, UPI transactions increased from 42% on an annual basis to how many lakh crores.**

- (A) 10 lakh crore (B) 15 lakh crore  
(C) 18 lakh crore (D) 24 lakh crore

**(C)** UPI transactions in December grew 42% year-on-year to Rs 18 lakh crore, with volume increasing by 54%. Daily UPI transactions averaged Rs 40 crore. Despite missing the target of 100 crore daily transactions set by NPCI at the beginning of the year, UPI still achieved an impressive average of 40 crore daily transactions in December.





6. According to the recent report, approximately how many crores of property cards have been distributed by the government under the ownership scheme.

- (A) 1.5 (B) 1.25  
(C) 1.35 (D) 2.1

(B) According to recent reports, around 1.25 crore property cards have been distributed by the government under the Swamvaat Yojana. UP government has provided benefits to more than 75 lakh families. The Uttar Pradesh government said that people belonging to rural areas are being given ownership rights of their land and houses.



7. Recently, Queen Margaret II of which country has announced to step down from her post?

- (A) Norway (B) Sweden  
(C) Denmark (D) Japan

(C) Denmark's Queen Margrethe II announces her abdication. She said in her address that she will leave her post on January 14 this month. She will hand over the throne to her son, Crown Prince Frederick Andre Heinrich. Queen Margaret I assumed the throne on January 14, 1972, after the death of her father, King Frederick IX.



8. Where has Union Minister Amit Shah recently laid the foundation stone of the new office building of NCDFI?

- (A) Gandhinagar (B) Mumbai  
(C) Jaipur (D) New Delhi

(A) Recently, Union Minister Amit Shah has laid the foundation stone of the new tenure building of NCDFI in Gandhinagar. National Cooperative Dairy Union office will open in Anand, Gujarat. NCDFI is the apex organization of cooperative dairy sector. It includes cooperative societies of states and union territories.



9. Who has recently been appointed as the Chief Secretary of Rajasthan?

- (A) Prerna Singh (B) Sudhansh Pant  
(C) Amartya Sen (D) None of these

(B) Recently, senior Indian Administrative Service officer Sudhansh Pant took charge of the post of Chief Secretary of Rajasthan. On this occasion, Pant said that the administration will work with full devotion, dedication and hard work. The Rajasthan government appointed Pant as the Chief Secretary after the retirement of Usha Sharma.



10. Who has been recently appointed as the acting Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority?

- (A) Sanjeev Khanna (B) Vijaykant  
(C) Anil Gupta (D) None of these

(A) Recently, Supreme Court Justice Sanjiv Khanna has been nominated as the acting Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority. Justice Khanna replaced Justice SK Kaul. There has been a tradition of appointing the second senior most judge of the Supreme Court to the post of Executive Chairman of NALSA.

