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**Alambagh | Aliganj | Gomati Nagar**

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## History of January 15

- ◆ **1965** : Food Corporation of India was established
- ◆ **1784** : William Jones established the Asiatic Society of Bengal in Fort William, Kolkata.
- ◆ **1921** : Politician Baba Saheb Bhosle was born.
- ◆ **1949** : KM Cariappa took over as the first Commander in Chief of the Indian Army from General Roy Butcher, the last British top commander of the Indian Army during the British Raj. That day is celebrated as Army Day.

## Current Affairs Related to 15 January

- ◆ Union Minister Piyush Goyal launched the logo for the India Mobility Global Expo 2024, highlighting India's innovative approach, scheduled for February 1-3, 2024 in New Delhi. Union Minister Piyush Goyal unveiled the logo and booklet for the much-awaited India Mobility Global Expo 2024 at an inaugural event in New Delhi. Held on 3 February 2024 at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, the expo will include over 600 exhibitors from over 50 countries.
- ◆ The Securities and Exchange Board of India announced the appointment of G Rama Mohan Rao as Executive Director for a tenure of three years. With over 25 years of experience in SEBI, Rao brings a wealth of expertise to his new role. In his capacity as ED, he will oversee the Investigation Department and Internal Inspection Department, strengthening SEBI's commitment to maintaining market integrity.
- ◆ The Government of India under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has launched an ambitious initiative called PRITHVI, a comprehensive scheme of the Ministry of Earth Sciences. With a significant budget of Rs 4797 crore, the program will run from 2021-2026, marking a new era in the study and understanding of Earth Sciences in India. PRITHVI scheme aims to revolutionize our understanding and interaction with various Earth systems.
- ◆ The Union Cabinet has approved the Mera Yuva Bharat Autonomous Organization. This platform will provide youth with a range of tools, resources and opportunities to develop their skills, participate in social impact projects and contribute to governance. Union Minister Anurag Thakur gave this information and said that this will help in making India a developed nation. Its objective is to transform youth into community change agents and nation builders, making them youth bridges between the government and the rest of the citizens.
- ◆ There has been a record increase in the country's foreign exchange reserves. Foreign exchange reserves are continuously increasing. The country's foreign exchange reserves increased by \$2.76 billion to reach \$623.2 billion. Reserve Bank of India gave this information. Due to this, the total foreign exchange reserves of the country had increased by \$4.47 billion to \$620.44 billion in the last week. Amidst the pressure caused by global developments since last year, the central bank used capital reserves for necessary intervention in the market. This affected the currency reserves.
- ◆ The United Nations has said that India's growth rate is expected to be 6.2 percent in 2024 due to strong domestic demand and strong growth in manufacturing and services sectors. The United Nations' World Economic Situation and Prospects 2024 report states that GDP in South Asia is projected to grow by 5.2 percent in 2024. According to the report, India's GDP is expected to increase by 6.6 percent in 2025. The report said manufacturing and services sectors will continue to support the economy, but agricultural output is likely to be affected by irregular rainfall patterns.
- ◆ The newly developed integrated web portal of ERNET India for educational institutions was launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. The portal will provide domain registration, DNS and value added services. This web portal has been developed using open source software and emerging technologies like AI/ML. ERNET India is providing web accessibility services, campus Wi-Fi services, smart classrooms and connectivity to educational and research institutions through terrestrial and satellite systems.
- ◆ The Indian Space Research Organization successfully tested a fuel cell that uses hydrogen and oxygen to generate electricity in space. These cells will be very useful for human space missions because they produce heat and water as by-products.

## National & International Current Affairs

1. **When is Indian Army Day celebrated every year?**  
(A) 14th January (B) 15th January  
(C) 16th January (D) 18th January  
**(B)** Every year 15 January is celebrated as Indian Army Day. Because on this day in 1949, Field Marshal Kodandera M Cariappa, the last British Commander in Chief, General Sir Francis Butcher took over as the first Commander in Chief of the Indian Army.
2. **When is Pongal Day celebrated every year in India?**  
(A) From 15th to 18th January  
(B) From 16th to 19th January  
(C) From 17th to 19th January  
(D) From 18th to 20th January  
**(A)** One of the most popular festivals in India is Pongal Day. And it is widely celebrated by the Tamil community across the world. Pongal is celebrated in the month of Tai according to the Tamil solar calendar. It is a four-day event dedicated to the Sun God. Therefore it will be celebrated from 15 January to 18 January 2024.
3. **Recently, in which country the Government of India is planning to establish Bharat Park?**  
(A) South Africa (B) America  
(C) United Arab Emirates (D) Japan  
**(C)** The Indian government is planning to set up India Park, a dedicated trade zone in the UAE, which will have showrooms and warehouses to display and store Indian manufactured goods for a global audience. Union Minister Piyush Goyal stressed the role of the sector in facilitating international procurement of Indian products with secure transactions in the UAE.
4. **Recently the Union Cabinet has approved the MoU between India and USAID to help Indian Railways reach net zero carbon emissions by which year?**  
(A) 2025 (B) 2027  
(C) 2030 (D) 2031  
**(C)** The Union Cabinet has approved the MoU between India and USAID to assist Indian Railways in reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2030, an important step towards sustainable development. The primary objective of this strategic alliance is to facilitate utility modernization, deploy advanced energy solutions and systems, promote regional energy and market integration.
5. **Which bank has recently revised the definition of people with political holdings for KYC purposes?**  
(A) RBI (B) SBI  
(C) PNB (D) BOB  
**(A)** The definition of people with political influence has been changed by the Reserve Bank of India. This move will make it easier for these people to conduct various banking transactions including obtaining loans. Earlier criteria for PEPs were simple and lacked clarity on definition. PEPs were facing difficulties in obtaining loans or opening bank accounts.



15 जनवरी  
भारतीय सेना दिवस



**6. Recently he became the Executive Director of Asian Development Bank.**

- (A) Puneet Chhatwal (B) Mr. Vikas Sheel  
(C) RK Tyagi (D) None of these

**(B)** Recently Mr. Vikas Sheel, a seasoned bureaucrat, has now become the Executive Director of the Asian Development Bank in Manila. He always emphasizes India's commitment to international development. India has appointed seven skilled civil servants to important posts abroad, showcasing the country's global involvement.



**7. Who has recently topped the Top Cities 2023 Index for Women in India?**

- (A) Chennai (B) Surat  
(C) Jaipur (D) None of these

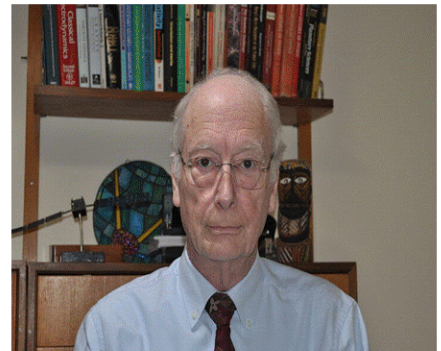
**(A)** Chennai is the top city for women in India according to a study recently released by diversity, equity and inclusion firm Avatar Group. The study ranked 111 cities based on their social and industrial inclusion parameters towards nurturing a women-friendly ecosystem.



**8. Who has recently been awarded the Order of the British Empire?**

- (A) Paul Lynch (B) Michael Douglas  
(C) Adrian Cruz (D) None of these

**(C)** The recent honors list for 2024 acknowledged the outstanding contributions of individuals across a range of sectors in the UK. Recipients of the prestigious honor include Professor Adrian Michael Cruz, a leading figure in space science research, particularly known for his role in the Gravitational Wave Research Group at the University of Birmingham.



**9. Who has recently been appointed as the new President of the European Investment Bank?**

- (A) Gwanggu Lee (B) Nadia Calvino  
(C) K S Reddy (D) None of these

**(B)** Recently Nadia Calvino has been named the new President of the European Investment Bank. She became the eighth President of the European Union Bank, succeeding Werner Hoyer. Notably, Calvino is the first woman and the first Spaniard to lead this prestigious institution, an important achievement in the Bank's history.



**10. Which EU country has recently become the first European Union country to issue digital Schengen visa?**

- (A) Italy (B) Germany  
(C) France (D) Japan

**(C)** Recently France became the first European country to issue digital Schengen visas to visitors for the upcoming Paris Olympics. France has announced plans to move processes for 70,000 French Schengen visas to fully online, in a move in line with EU digitization plans.

