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## History of January 8

- ◆ **1856** : Dr. John Veitch discovered hydrated sodium borate.
- ◆ **1889** : Herman Hollerith received a patent for the invention of the punch card tabulating machine.
- ◆ **1890** : Hindi litterateur Ramchandra Verma was born
- ◆ **1971** : Pakistan President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto freed leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from jail.
- ◆ **1984** : The first Indian female pilot Sushma Mukhopadhyay passed away.

## Current Affairs Related to 8 January

- ◆ The government appointed former Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog Arvind Panagariya as the Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission. Ritwik Ranjanam Pandey, joint secretary in the finance ministry, will be the secretary of the commission, the government said in a notification. It said that the President is happy to appoint Dr. Arvind, former Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog and Professor of Columbia University. The members of the Commission will be notified separately. The Commission will submit its report to the President for a period of five years by 31 October 2025.
- ◆ According to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, 47 Bills were introduced this year, including Finance Bills and Appropriation Bills presented annually by the Finance Ministry, which are part of the Budget. About 30 bills have been passed by both the houses of Parliament. The remainder are pending and are likely to be passed in 2024, given that the government enjoys majorities in both houses. The bill aims to curb film piracy by punishing offenders with jail up to three years and 5% of the production cost.
- ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded Egypt's highest state honour, known as the Order of the Nile. This honor marks the 13th international award received by Prime Minister Modi. The prestigious award was presented to him by Egyptian President Abdel Fatah Al Sisi, making it a significant moment as Prime Minister Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Egypt since 1997.
- ◆ Indian Space Research Organization has launched X-ray Polarimeter Satellite. This satellite was launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. It is ISRO's first dedicated scientific satellite, designed to measure space polarization of X-ray emissions from celestial sources. Its purpose is to investigate the polarization of intense X-ray sources and study the mysterious world of black holes.
- ◆ ITC has joined hands with Microsoft and Skymet to address the growing challenges faced by tobacco farmers in India due to climate change. The adverse effects of climate change on agriculture are well known, and the tobacco sector is no exception, causing an estimated loss of Rs 800.9 billion in export revenue.
- ◆ Neena Singh was appointed Director General of Central Reserve Police Force. Neena Singh has become the first woman Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force. She will remain on this post till 31 July 2024. Neena Singh is a 1989 batch IPS officer of Rajasthan cadre.
- ◆ The Reserve Bank of India said that it is not mandatory for banks and non-banking financial companies to raise green funds. If banks intend to do so, they will have to follow the prescribed framework. Along with this, the central bank has issued a set of frequently asked questions on the framework for acceptance of green deposits. Green Deposit is a regular fixed deposit scheme, which pays interest to its investors and has a fixed tenure.
- ◆ The US Department of Energy has discovered the world's largest lithium reserves under the Salton Sea in California. There are about 18 million tonnes of lithium in this reserve. According to the department, the total resources of the Salton Sea area can produce more than 3400 kilotonnes of lithium, valued at \$540 billion. This is enough to support more than 375 million batteries for electric vehicles.
- ◆ The Central Government has made it mandatory to pay all wages under the MNREGA scheme through Aadhaar based payment system. For this, it is necessary to link the Aadhaar details of the workers with their Jamb card.
- ◆ Attacks on ships in the Red Sea trade route and the ongoing drought in the Panama Canal have raised concerns about global trade disruptions.

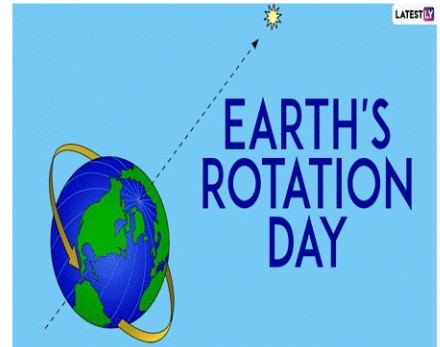


## National & International Current Affairs

**8. When is Earth Rotation Day celebrated every year?**

- (A) 5th January (B) 7th January  
(C) 8th January (D) 9th January

**(C)** January 8 is celebrated every year as Earth Rotation Day to commemorate French physicist Leon Foucault's demonstration in 1851 that the Earth rotates on its axis. The rotation of the Earth is a phenomenon that we all know about. This happens when we rotate around the Sun on a vertical axis.



**2. When and till when is the recent joint military exercise Desert Cyclone 2024 being organized?**

- (A) From 2nd to 15th January  
(B) From 3rd to 15th January  
(C) From 3rd to 18th January  
(D) From 4th to 20th January

**(A)** Recently the joint military exercise Desert Cyclone 2024 is being organized in Rajasthan from 2 to 15 January. This exercise is being organized jointly in India and United Arab Emirates. The objective of this exercise is to promote interoperability by learning and sharing best practices in urban operations.



**3. Which bank has recently increased the wholesale limit for big urban co-operative banks from Rs 15 lakh to Rs 8 crore and above?**

- (A) SBI (B) HDFC Bank  
(C) ICICI Bank (D) RBI

**(D)** RBI has increased the bulk deposit limit for large urban co-operative banks from Rs 15 lakh to Rs 8 crore and above. These adjustments are applicable to Tier 3 and Tier 4 UCBs. Co-operative banking experts suggest that this adjustment in bulk deposit limits will bring a standardized approach to interest rates for deposits below Rs 8 crore, thereby streamlining banking interactions.



**4. Which Australian player has recently announced his retirement from ODI cricket?**

- (A) David Warner (B) Mitchell Marsh  
(C) Steve Smith (D) None of these

**(A)** David Warner announced his retirement from ODI cricket. The experienced left-handed batsman announced this decision two days before his farewell Test match to be played against Pakistan at the prestigious Sydney Cricket Ground. Warner also said he would come out of retirement if Australia needed a top-order batsman for the Champions Trophy, which Pakistan is scheduled to host in 2025.



**5. Which state government has recently reduced the old age pension age for tribals and Dalits to 50 years?**

- (A) Odisha (B) Chhattisgarh  
(C) Jharkhand (D) Maharashtra

**(C)** Recently Jharkhand government has reduced the age limit of old age pension for Dalits and tribals. This age limit has now been reduced to 50 years. Earlier this limit was 60 years. The government has taken this decision because the mortality rate among tribals is high and they do not get jobs after 60 years.





**6. Who has recently been made the brand ambassador of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative?**

- (A) Pinky (B) Tanu  
(C) Rashmi (D) None of these

**(A)** Pinky, who was recently born in Rampur Dhabhi, Ahraura, Mirzapur, will become the ambassador of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao. In response to the letter from Union Minister Anupriya Patel, Smriti Irani has given a gift to the district. Pinky, who played the lead role in the Oscar Award winning famous documentary film Smile Pinky, will be provided free education.



**7. Recently, the Central Government has increased the interest rate in Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana to how much?**

- (A) 5.5% (B) 6.9%  
(C) 8.2% (D) 9.8%

**(C)** The Central Government has increased the interest rates on Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, which is enough to win everyone's heart. The government has increased the interest rate of the scheme for the fourth quarter of the financial year 2023-2024. Now it has been decided to increase the interest rate to 8.2%, whereas earlier this rate was 8%.



**8. Who has recently been appointed as the new DGP of Maharashtra Police?**

- (A) Rashmi Shukla (B) Utkal Ranjan  
(C) Tripurari Sharan (D) None of these

**(A)** Senior Indian Police Service officer Rashmi Shukla, who recently faced allegations of tapping the phones of politicians, was appointed as the new Director General of Police of Maharashtra. Ms. Shukla will take charge in place of current DGP Rajneesh Seth. Rashmi will retire on 30 June 2024.



**9. Recently the Chief Minister of which state has launched the Aarogyasri scheme?**

- (A) Kerala (B) Andhra Pradesh  
(C) Karnataka (D) Himachal Pradesh

**(B)** Recently, Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the innovative YSR Aarogyasri scheme, which will provide free medical treatment up to Rs 25 lakh. All people with annual income up to Rs 5 lakh will be able to take advantage of this scheme. He said that this scheme will prevent people from falling into debt trap due to rising cost of medical treatment.



**10. Recently, the Central Government has imposed anti-dumping duty on gypsum boards and tiles coming from which country?**

- (i) China (ii) Russia  
(b) Oman (c) A and B both

**(D)** Recently, the Indian government has decided to impose anti-dumping duty on wheel loaders imported from China. This decision of the government will deal a big blow to Chinese companies. A notification in this regard has been issued by the Finance Ministry.

