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An Armed Forces Preparatory Pattern

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History of January 5

- ◆ **1659** : Aurangzeb defeated Shahshuja in the battle of Khajwah.
- ◆ **1710** : The Central Sales Tax Act came into force in India
- ◆ **1957** : The Central Sales Tax Act came into effect
- ◆ **1671** : Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj captured Salhar area from the Mughals.
- ◆ **2006** : India and Nepal extended the period of transit treaty by 3 months.

Current Affairs Related to 5 January

- ◆ The Reserve Bank of India has reaffirmed State Bank of India, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank as domestic systemically important banks. Notably SBI and HDFC Bank have been moved to higher categories, which will require an increase in DSIB buffer requirements from April 1, 2025.
- ◆ India and Oman likely to sign a free trade agreement as early as 2024. This free trade agreement will benefit export sectors like motor gasoline, iron and steel products, electronics, machinery etc. Currently these goods attract 5% import duty in Oman. Oman's import duty ranges from 0 to 100%. 100% duty is imposed on specific goods such as meat, vehicles and tobacco products. Both sides have completed talks on most issues.
- ◆ India's fiscal deficit is likely to exceed the target of 5.9% of GDP in FY 2024. According to India Ratings and Research, India's fiscal deficit will exceed the target by 5.9% due to high revenue expenditure and low budget nominal GDP. The Central Government has recently received parliamentary approval for the first supplementary grant demand of this year. The main reason for the increased expenditure will be higher spending by some ministries.
- ◆ Ammonia gas leaked from a fertilizer manufacturing unit in Ennore, North Chennai. Residents suffered breathing problems and nausea. More than 50 people were kept under observation in hospitals. The gas leak was stopped by experts within 20 minutes.
- ◆ According to data compiled by the Indian Wildlife Conservation Society, 204 tigers died in India in 2023. The highest number of tiger deaths were recorded in Maharashtra. After this comes Madhya Pradesh. Karnataka ranks second in terms of number of tigers in India.
- ◆ A spacecraft is relaunched by NASA to intercept the God of Chaos asteroid as it approaches Earth's orbit. The spacecraft has been renamed Origin, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification and Security Apophis Explorer. Now it has been sent to study the asteroid Apophis, which will pass very close to the Earth in 2029. This asteroid, also known as the God of Chaos, is expected to pass by Earth on April 13, 2029, at a distance of approximately 20,000 miles.
- ◆ The MSP for the 2024 season has been increased by Rs 300 per quintal for ground copra and Rs 250 per quintal for ball copra as compared to the previous season. Higher MSP will ensure better remunerative returns for coconut growers. The MSP for ground copra in 2014-2015 was Rs 5250 per quintal and in 2024-2025 it will be Rs 11160 per quintal.
- ◆ The Vikram Sarabhai Space Center of the Indian space agency ISRO has developed Feast, an analytics software for Indian academia and industry. It is used to perform finite element analysis of various types of structures including rockets, aircraft, satellites, buildings etc. It will predict how a component or structure reacts to real-world forces such as structural loads, thermal conditions, and other physical effects.
- ◆ Union Minister Rajiv Chandrashekhar said the government has directed social media and online platforms to ensure that they do not host advertisements for fraudulent loan apps.
- ◆ Tata Power, a special purpose vehicle set up by PFC Consulting, a subsidiary of Power Finance Corporation, won the bidding for the Bikaner-III Neemrana-III transmission project. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 1544 crore. The transmission initiative will be implemented on Build Own Operate Transfer basis.



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National & International Current Affairs

1. When is National Bird Day celebrated every year?

- (A) 5th January (B) 6th January
(C) 7th January (D) 8th January

(A) National Bird Day is celebrated on 5 January to raise awareness about the importance of small birds in the ecosystem. The Avian Welfare Coalition, which works hard to promote awareness of the plight of birds captured or bred in captivity for financial gain or human entertainment, is behind the initiative.



2. In which state Karbi Youth Festival 2024 will be organized?

- (A) Meghalaya (B) Gujarat
(C) Assam (D) Maharashtra

(C) President Draupadi Murmu will attend the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Karbi Youth Festival 2024 to be held at Taralongso, Diphu in Karbi Anglong district of Assam on January 17. The Golden Jubilee Celebration of Karbi Youth Festival 2024 will be organized on 12.19 January 2024. The Karbi Youth Festival is organized annually and is attended by thousands of Karbi youth from Assam and other parts of the country.



3. Who has recently been appointed as Chief Risk Officer by LIC?

- (A) Pratap Chandra Paikarai
(B) S. Sundar Krishnan
(C) Abhay Maken
(D) Rekha Swaminathan

(B) Recently Insurance Corporation of India has appointed S Sundar Krishnan as Chief Risk Officer. He has replaced Pratap Chandra Paikarai. Sundar Krishnan DS has experience in services at Merrill Lynch, Credit Lyonnais Bank and Bank International Indonesia. LIC is a central public sector life insurance company headquartered in Mumbai.



भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

4. With which country has the Union Cabinet approved the Migration and Movement Agreement?

- (A) Italy (B) USA
(C) Malaysia (D) Japan

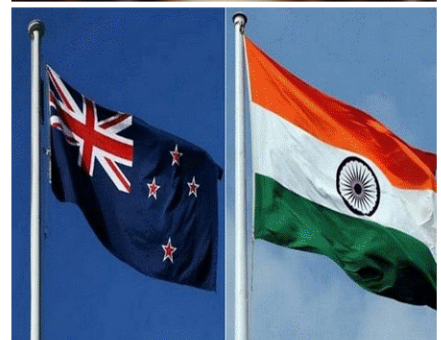
(A) The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Migration and Movement Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Italy. This agreement will increase people-to-people contacts and facilitate resolution of issues related to irregular migration. This agreement was signed by both the countries.



5. In which country has the Union Cabinet recently approved the opening of the Consulate General of India?

- (A) Argentina (B) Russia
(C) New Zealand (D) France

(C) Recently, the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the proposal to open the Consulate General of India in Auckland, New Zealand. The opening of the Consulate General of India in Auckland will further strengthen the relations between India and New Zealand. This Consulate is likely to be opened and fully operational within a time frame of 12 months.





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6. **India Skills Report 2024 is released/presented by which of the following?**

- (A) First
- (B) All India Council for Technical Education
- (C) Ministry of Education
- (D) NITI Aayog

(B) Recently Wheebox has published the India Skills Report 2024 in collaboration with various agencies including All India Council for Technical Education, Confederation of Indian Industry and Association of Indian Universities. The report highlights the impact of artificial intelligence on India's skills landscape and workforce.



7. **Which country has recently launched Operation Prosperity Guardian to secure the Red Sea?**

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

(A) Recently, America has started Operation Prosperity Guardian to secure the Red Sea. Operation Prosperity Guardian was specifically managed by Task Force 153. It borders the Red Sea, the Bab el Mandeb Strait and the Gulf of Aden near Yemen.



8. **Recently Rajiv Kumar has been appointed as the new DGP of which state?**

- (A) Chhattisgarh
- (B) Karnataka
- (C) Telangana
- (D) West Bengal

(D) The West Bengal government appointed former Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajiv Kumar as the new Director General and Inspector General of Police of the state. He replaced Manoj Malviya. Citing an order, he said Kumar is currently the Secretary of the Department of Information and Technology.



9. **In which state has the Union Cabinet approved the construction of a 4.56 km long new bridge on the river Ganga?**

- (A) Uttar Pradesh
- (B) Madhya Pradesh
- (C) Bihar
- (D) Uttarakhand

(C) Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the construction of a new 4.56 km long 6-lane bridge on river Ganga to connect Digha and Sonpur in Bihar. The total cost of this project is estimated at Rs 3,064.45 crore. Which also includes Rs 2,233.81 crore for civil construction. With its construction, traffic in the state will become faster and easier.



10. **Who has recently released a draft licensing framework for authorized persons under FEMA?**

- (A) SBI
- (B) RBI
- (C) BOB
- (D) PNB

(B) A draft licensing framework for authorized persons under the Foreign Exchange Management Act 1999 was released by the Reserve Bank of India. RBI is planning to introduce a new category of money changers who can undertake money changing business through agency model. The move is aimed at improving the ease of foreign exchange transactions by users.

