

Today in History on 04 FEB

➤ 1920 - The first air service between London and South Africa begins.

However, flying was still considered the domain of states and the military. Thus a private attempt launched on 4 February 1920 to open a London to Cape Town route was viewed with great suspicion by British authorities. However, once the attempt was underway, British officials hastily joined the expedition. Unfortunately the expedition was not successful as the required techniques were not sufficiently developed and all four aircraft that took off from London subsequently crashed on the African continent.



➤ 1895 - The first rolling lift bridge opens in Chicago, US.

The first rolling lift bridge was the Van Buren Street Bridge, located over the Chicago River, Chicago, IL, and opened to traffic on February 4, 1895. It consisted of two arms meeting in the center of the

river, which when opened provided a clear channel 82 feet wide along the line of the stream.



➤ 1881 - The first issue of the daily newspaper 'Kesari' was published under the editorship of Lokmanya Tilak.

The first issue of 'Kesari' was published in 1881 under the editorial leadership of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak. This newspaper worked to spread the voice of independence and self-rule to every Marathi speaking household. It worked to make people ideologically aware against the foreign rule and ignite the flame of patriotism in them. 'Kesari' was founded on 4 January 1881. 'Kesari' is published by Marathi Trust





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➤ 1628 - Shah Jahan was crowned Mughal emperor in Agra.

Shah Jahan was crowned Mughal emperor in 1628. Shah Jahan ruled the Mughal Empire from 1628 to 1658. Shah Jahan's reign is called the golden age of Mughal architecture. Shah Jahan's real name was Khurram Shihab-ud-Din Muhammad. Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal. Shah Jahan built the Red Fort in Delhi



➤ 1976 - UNESCO admitted failure to eradicate illiteracy

On 4 February 1976, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) admitted that it had not been successful in its efforts to eradicate illiteracy. Under this mission, 11 countries including India were focused on, but the expected results were not achieved.



Important NEWS on 04 FEB

➤ India Adds 4 New Ramsar Wetlands, First for Jharkhand & Sikkim

India has made a significant stride in wetland conservation, with four new sites recently added to the prestigious Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance. This brings the total number of Ramsar sites in India to 89. Among the new additions, two wetlands from the northeastern region, one from Gujarat, and Udhwa Lake from Jharkhand have been recognized.



➤ Centre Allocates Rs 3,027 Cr for Disaster Mitigation

A High-Level Committee (HLC), chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, has approved a substantial allocation of Rs 3,027.86 crore for various disaster mitigation projects across different states in India. The committee, which includes key members such as Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and the Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, reviewed and approved a range of projects aimed at addressing lightning safety, drought-prone regions, and forest fire management.



➤ Indian Railways Launches 'SwaRail' SuperApp for Seamless Travel

On January, 2025, the Ministry of Railways launched the 'SwaRail' SuperApp, aiming to consolidate various railway services into a single, user-friendly platform. Currently in its beta phase, the app is available for download on the Google Play Store and Apple App Store. The primary objective is to enhance

user experience by integrating multiple services, thereby reducing the need for several separate applications.



➤ Goa CM Inaugurates Sci-Fi Science Film Festival in Panaji

The Goa Chief Minister, Pramod Sawant, inaugurated the Sci-Fi Science Film Festival of India in Panaji on January, 2025. The festival, organised by Vidnyan Parishad Goa, celebrates science, innovation, and the spirit of curiosity, and is being held in honour of Dr M Swaminathan, a prominent scientist. The festival's theme this year, "Green Revolution," aims to inspire young minds and promote the path to a sustainable future.



➤ Income Tax Budget 2025: No income tax for upto ₹12 lakh in new tax regime

Individuals earning up to ₹12 lakh will not need to pay any income tax under the new tax regime. For salaried individuals, the exemption limit is ₹12.75 lakh, considering the standard deduction of ₹75,000.



➤ Budget 2025 Prioritizes Healthcare with ₹98,311 Cr Allocation

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2025, emphasizing healthcare development, medical tourism, and improved access to medical services. The government allocated ₹98,311 crore for the healthcare sector, marking an increase from ₹90,658.63 crore in the previous fiscal year. Key announcements included customs duty exemptions on life-saving drugs, expansion of medical education, cancer care initiatives, and enhanced connectivity for healthcare services.

➤ India to Host BRICS Youth Entrepreneurship Meet in March 2025

India is set to host the BRICS Youth Council Entrepreneurship Working Group Meeting from March 3 to 7, 2025, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. This event, themed "Youth Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Growth," will bring together around 45 youth representatives from BRICS nations—Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—to strengthen cooperation in entrepreneurship and innovation. The discussions will focus on building a framework for young entrepreneurs across BRICS countries and enhancing their participation in global markets.





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Current affairs MCQS on 04 FEB

Q.1. When is World Cancer Day celebrated?

- (a) 01 February
- (b) 02 February
- (c) 03 February
- (d) 04 February

Answer: (d) 04 February

'World Cancer Day is observed on 4 February. World Cancer Day is a global integrated initiative led by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC). The day is observed to raise awareness about cancer across the world. The primary objective of World Cancer Day is to substantially reduce morbidity and mortality from cancer. World Cancer Day was established in 2000. It was first observed on 4 February 2000 at the World Cancer Summit held in Paris.

Q.2. Who has recently released the book 'Indian Renaissance: Modi Decade' in New Delhi?

- (a) Rajnath Singh
- (b) Narendra Modi
- (c) Amit Shah
- (d) Piyush Goyal

Answer: (c) Amit Shah

Union Home and Housing Minister Shri Amit Shah while releasing the book 'Indian Ryan: The Modi Decade' at a conference held at NDMC Centre in Delhi said that the 10 years of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's address mark significant development works. Former Chief Minister Shri Manohar Lal Champaran, Democrat Shri Kartikeya Sharma and author of the book Dr. Aishwarya Pandit along with other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Q.3. Recently, Sunita Williams has done a record walk in space for how many hours?

- (a) 62 hours
- (b) 58 hours
- (c) 60 hours
- (d) 72 hours

Answer: (a) 62 hours

Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams has set a new record for most spacewalks among women, surpassing the previous record held by former astronaut Peggy Whitson. Williams has now logged a total of 62 hours and 6 minutes of spacewalk time across nine spacewalks. She achieved this feat during her recent Extravehicular Activity (EVA) with fellow astronaut Butch Wilmore on the International Space Station (ISS).

Q.4. Which state has recently approved a pilot study for controlled cannabis cultivation?

- (a) Himachal Pradesh
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Tamil Nadu

Answer: (a) Himachal Pradesh

Recently, the Himachal Pradesh government has approved a pilot study for controlled cannabis cultivation in the state, aimed at exploring its medicinal and industrial applications. This initiative is an important step towards legalising cannabis cultivation in the state.

Q.5. Who will be honored with the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' recently?

- (a) Mahendra Singh Dhoni
- (b) Rahul Dravid
- (c) Sachin Tendulkar
- (d) None of these

Answer: (c) Sachin Tendulkar

Legendary former batsman Sachin Tendulkar, whose records and impact on international cricket have stood the test of time, will be honoured with the BCCI's Lifetime Achievement Award at the board's annual function in Mumbai. Overall, Tendulkar will be the 31st recipient of the award, which was instituted in 1994 in honour of India's first captain Col C K Naidu.





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Q.6. Which country will chair the BRICS Youth Council Entrepreneurship Working Group meeting recently?

- (a) South Africa
- (b) Brazil
- (c) India
- (d) Nepal

Answer: (c) India

India will host the BRICS Youth Council Entrepreneurship Working Group meeting in March 2025. The Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports will organize the meeting from 3 to 7 March 2025. The main theme of the meeting will be Youth Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development, which will be attended by around 45 youth representatives from BRICS countries.

Q.7. Who has recently launched the digital currency Beam Coin?

- (a) BITS
- (b) BIMSTEC
- (c) BIMTECH
- (d) Infosys

Answer: (c) BIMTECH

Birla Institute of Management Technology (BIMTECH) has launched a blockchain-powered digital currency called BIMCOIN, designed to establish a secure, transparent and efficient transaction system within the campus. With this initiative, BIMTECH has become the first business school in India to adopt this technology, following in the footsteps of IIT Madras. The move is an innovative effort towards integrating blockchain technology in the academic environment, setting a new precedent for other institutions.

Q.8. Who has recently been appointed as the new CEO of Sony Group Corp?

- (a) Kenichiro Yoshida
- (b) Hisashi Takeuchi
- (c) Hiroki Totoki
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (c) Hiroki Totoki

Hiroki Totoki has been appointed CEO of Sony Group Corp., playing a key role in driving the company's strategy to expand its entertainment sector. Sony's content focus, which includes PlayStation games, anime, music and movies, is driving the company's revenue and profit, which led to a 76% jump in operating profit in the September quarter.

Q.9. In which city was the 10th Indian Sci-Fi Film Festival inaugurated recently?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Surat
- (c) Panaji
- (d) Mumbai

Answer: (c) Panaji

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant inaugurated the 10th Indian Sci-Fi Science Film Festival in Panaji. The Indian Sci-Fi Science Film Festival is organised every year by the Goa government to promote curiosity, scientific temper and enthusiasm towards science among students. Speaking on the occasion, Pramod Sawant said that the festival will inspire the youth of the state to pursue a career in the field of science and will play an important role in making India a developed country by 2047.

Q.10. Who will become the first Indian astronaut to land on the ISS (International Space Station) recently?

- (a) Shubhanshu Shukla
- (b) Priyank Joshi
- (c) Chirag Chaudhary
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a) Shubhanshu Shukla

India's space exploration has touched a new milestone, as Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla is set to become the first Indian astronaut to fly on a mission to the International Space Station (ISS). He has been selected as the pilot for Axiom Mission 4 (X-4), a private space mission scheduled to launch in the spring of 2025. This is a historic moment in India's space history, carrying forward the legacy of





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Rakesh Sharma's historic space journey 40 years ago. Let's understand in detail about this important mission and what Shubhanshu Shukla's participation means for India.

Q.11. Who has recently resigned from the post of Chief Executive Officer of the International Cricket Council (ICC)?

- (a) Geoff Allardyce
- (b) Greg Barclay
- (c) Imran Khawaja
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a) Geoff Allardyce

International Cricket Council (ICC) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Geoff Allardice has resigned from his post. His resignation comes at a crucial juncture, just 21 days before the scheduled start of the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, which is to be hosted by Pakistan. Sources close to the matter say Allardice's inability to give a clear assessment of the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) preparations for the tournament may have played a key role in his decision to step down.

Q.12. In which state was the first Raisina Middle East Conference held recently?

- (a) Abu Dhabi
- (b) New Delhi
- (c) Dubai
- (d) Beijing

Answer: (a) Abu Dhabi

The first Raisina Middle East Conference was held in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar was the chief guest of the first Raisina Middle East Conference. Dr S Jaishankar was on a three-day official visit to the UAE. This was Dr Jaishankar's third visit to the UAE after being reappointed as Foreign Minister in June 2024. The Raisina Dialogue is India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-economics that brings together experts to discuss the most challenging issues facing the world community.

Q.13. In which state will a special industrial park for women entrepreneurs be set up recently?

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Kerala
- (d) Odisha

Answer: (d) Odisha

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said an industrial park exclusively for women entrepreneurs would be set up in the state. Participating in a plenary session on women entrepreneurship enabled by 'Subhadra', Majhi said a special cell for women entrepreneurs would also be opened in the Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha Limited (IPICOL).

Q.14. In which state was the Bharat Parv 2025 festival held recently?

- (a) Lucknow
- (b) Jaipur
- (c) Delhi
- (d) Bhopal

Answer: (c) Delhi

Bharat Parv is celebrated every year at Red Fort, New Delhi since 2016. Organised by the Ministry of Tourism, the event takes place on the lawns and Gyan Path in front of the Red Fort. Bharat Parv 2025 includes Republic Day tableaux, armed forces band performances, cultural programmes, regional cuisine, craft bazaar and government pavilions. The theme for 2025 is 'Dekho Apna Desh', which encourages civic participation through people's choice voting.

Q.15. Who has recently been appointed the head of the judicial commission on the Maha Kumbh stampede?

- (a) J. Harsh Kumar
- (b) Sitanshu Kotak
- (c) Tuhin Kant Pandey
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a) J. Harsh Kumar





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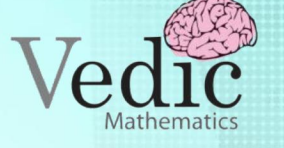
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The Yogi Adityanath government of Uttar Pradesh has constituted a three-member judicial committee headed by retired Justice Harsh Kumar of the Allahabad High Court to investigate the stampede incident at the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj. According to the Uttar Pradesh government, 30 people died and 60 others were injured in a pre-dawn stampede at the Sangam area of the Maha Kumbh as lakhs of people gathered for the holy bath on the occasion of Mauni Amavasya.

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