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## Today in History on 07 FEB

### ➤ 1831 - Constitution comes into force in Belgium.

The Constitution came into force in Belgium on February 7, 1831. Under this constitution, Belgium was organized as a unitary state. It had provision for a national level, provinces, and municipalities. The Constitution of 1831 originally established Belgium as a unitary state organized at three levels: the national level, provinces, and municipalities. State reform in Belgium transformed Belgium's political system into a federal model, which required significant amendments to the original document.



### ➤ 1940 - Railways nationalised in Britain.

The Northern Counties Committee's lines, owned by the London, Midland and Scottish Railway, were sold to the Northern Ireland government, which became part of the Ulster Transport Authority as a result of the Union of Ireland Act 1949. Under the Transport Act of 1947, railways in Great Britain were

nationalised. The Act came into force on 1 January 1948. The Act nationalised almost all forms of public transport in Britain



### ➤ 1792 - Austria and Prussia sign an agreement against France.

In 1792, Austria and Prussia signed an agreement against France. This agreement is known as the Declaration of Pillnitz. This declaration threatened to kill King Louis XVI and Queen Marie-Antoinette if anything happened to them. Following this declaration, Austria deployed a large number of troops on its French border.







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#### ➤ 1987 - Japan recognises the African National Congress (ANC).

The African National Congress (ANC) is the ruling party of South Africa. It is in a three-party coalition with the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and the South African Communist Party (SACP). It has been in power since April 1994, when a non-apartheid democratic government was established. It describes itself as a disciplined left wing force. It was originally founded on 8 January 1912 in Bloemfontein.



#### ➤ 1959 – Fidel Castro proclaims a new constitution in Cuba.

Ideally Marxist–Leninist and a Cuban nationalist, he also served as First Secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba from 1965 to 2011. Under his administration, Cuba became a one-party communist state; industry and business were nationalized, and socialist reforms were implemented throughout society. As First Secretary

he is the most powerful person in the Cuban government. Díaz-Canel replaces brothers Fidel and Raúl Castro, becoming the first non-Castro leader since the Cuban Revolution and the first non-Castro head of state since 1976.



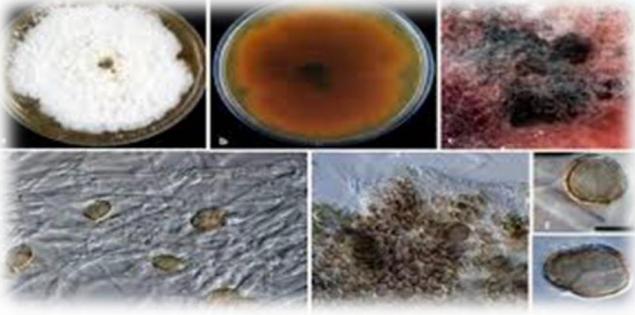
#### Important NEWS on 07 FEB

#### ➤ BHU Discovers New Phytopathogenic Fungus, *Epicoccum indicum*

Researchers at Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in Varanasi have made a significant discovery in plant pathology. They have identified a new species of phytopathogenic fungus, *Epicoccum indicum*, which causes leaf spot disease in *Chrysopogon zizanioides* (vetiver). This finding is crucial for agricultural research, as vetiver is widely used for medicinal and environmental purposes.







The Centre has launched several key schemes to upgrade agricultural technology, focusing on improving productivity, sustainability, and farmers' income. These initiatives incorporate digital technologies, modern farming techniques, and efficient resource management to enhance agricultural output while ensuring environmental sustainability.

#### ➤ India Tops Global Domestic Flight Load Rankings

India has emerged as the global leader in passenger load factor (PLF) for domestic flights, recording an impressive 86.4% in 2024, surpassing the US (84.1%) and China (83.2%), according to the latest International Air Transport Association (IATA) report. India's booming aviation sector carried 16.3 crore domestic passengers in 2024, highlighting its rapid growth and efficiency.



#### ➤ SEBI Proposes Secure UPI Payment Mechanism for Market Intermediaries

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is working on a secure Unified Payments Interface (UPI) mechanism for registered market intermediaries. This move aims to improve investor security, prevent fraudulent transactions, and ensure that payments are directed only to legitimate intermediaries. SEBI's proposal comes as unregistered entities increasingly mislead investors and collect funds fraudulently.



#### ➤ Centre Unveils New Agri-Tech Schemes for Higher Productivity





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#### ➤ Airtel Payments Bank Partners with Karnataka Bulldozers for CCL 2025

Airtel Payments Bank has announced its partnership with the Karnataka Bulldozers for the Celebrity Cricket League (CCL) 2025, set to begin on February 8, 2025. The collaboration makes Airtel Payments Bank a co-sponsor of the team, aiming to promote safe digital banking among cricket fans across India. This initiative aligns with the bank's ongoing commitment to strengthening digital security and financial awareness through popular platforms like cricket, which has a vast and engaged audience.



#### ➤ Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Seeks Universal Banking Licence

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (USFB) has applied for a universal banking licence, a major milestone in its journey from a small finance bank to a full-fledged commercial bank. This move aligns with the bank's strategy to expand its financial services, increase regulatory flexibility, and strengthen its position in the banking sector. The bank's decision follows a growing trend of small finance banks transitioning to universal banks for broader operational capabilities.



#### ➤ Army Partners with IIT Guwahati for Bamboo Bunkers

The Indian Army has partnered with IIT Guwahati to develop bamboo-based composite bunkers as an alternative to traditional construction materials. The project aims to enhance sustainability, reduce weight, and improve deployability in high-altitude







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regions like Arunachal Pradesh. The agreement aligns with the Army's 'Decade of Transformation' vision and represents a significant step toward military-educational collaboration.



### Current affairs MCQS on 06 FEB

**Q.1. Which institute has launched India's largest metal 3D printing machine for rocket components?**

- (a) IIT Madras
- (b) IIT Delhi
- (c) IIT Kanpur
- (d) IIT Hyderabad

**Answer : (d) IIT Hyderabad**

DRDO and IIT Hyderabad unveiled India's largest metal 3D printing machine for rocket components. It was developed at the DRDO-Industry-Academia Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE) at IIT Hyderabad. The machine uses powder-based Directed Energy Deposition technology for additive manufacturing. Its build volume is 1m x 1m x 3m, making it one of India's largest metal 3D printers. The system has dual heads for thermal balancing and speed. A significant milestone was achieved with the successful fabrication of a one-meter high component, furthering large-scale additive manufacturing in India.

**Q.2. Recently the 24th 'MedLab Middle East Exhibition' has started in which city?**

- (a) Paris

- (b) Dubai
- (c) Mumbai
- (d) None of these

**Answer : (b) Dubai**

The 24th edition of MedLab Middle East kicked off at the Dubai World Trade Centre, bringing together over 800 exhibitors from 40 countries for a four-day showcase of medical laboratory technology and healthcare innovation. The event is expected to be attended by over 20,000 people, reinforcing its position as a leading global medical laboratory exhibition. With the participation of 62 Indian companies, the conference offers a multidisciplinary platform comprising 12 CME-accredited live conferences, including a new Lab Automation Conference Track.

**Q.3. Who recently won the Grammy Award in the Best New Age, Ambient or Chant Album category at the 67th Grammy Awards?**

- (a) Anushka Shankar
- (b) Chandrika Tandon
- (c) Ricky Kej
- (d) None of these

**Answer : (b) Chandrika Tandon**

Indian-American musician Chandrika Tandon won her first Grammy Award in the 'Best New Age Album, Ambient or Chant Album category' for her album Triveni at the 67th Grammy Awards 2025. This was the first Grammy Award for 71-year-old Chandrika Tandon. Earlier, Chandrika Tandon was nominated for a Grammy Award in 2011 for her album 'Soul Call'.

**Q.4. Who recently won the prestigious Tata Steel Masters 2025 title?**

- (a) R Parganananda
- (b) Arjun Erigaisi
- (c) D Gukesh
- (d) None of the above

**Answer : (a) R Parganananda**

In a stunning display of skill and determination, Grandmaster Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa won







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the Tata Steel Masters 2025 held at Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands. His victory was celebrated on his return to Chennai, where he was welcomed by officials of the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT). The win proved to be an important milestone in Praggnanandhaa's career as he defeated reigning world champion D Gukesh in a thrilling final that mesmerized chess lovers across the world.

**Q.5. Recently, the 9th Asian Winter Games will be organized in which country?**

- (a) Sri Lanka
- (b) Japan
- (c) China
- (d) India

**Answer : (c) China**

For the first time, the Government of India has decided to provide full financial support to the Indian contingent participating in the Asian Winter Games under the Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSF) scheme. The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has announced the inclusion of the Indian contingent participating in the 9th Asian Winter Games to be held in Harbin city of China under its ANSF scheme. Harbin city of China is hosting the 9th Asian Winter Games from 7-14 February 2025.

**Q.6. Recently who has been appointed as the MD of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited?**

- (a) H Shankar
- (b) Harsh Kumar
- (c) V Narayan
- (d) None of the above

**Answer : (a) H Shankar**

Shri H. Shankar has been appointed as Managing Director of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited following the recommendation of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), earlier he was working as Director (Technical) with additional charge of Managing Director.

**Q.7. Recently Major General Eyal Zamir has been appointed as the new Chief of Defence Force of which country?**

- (a) Bangladesh
- (b) Pakistan
- (c) Israel
- (d) Afghanistan

**Answer : (c) Israel**

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has appointed retired Major General Eyal Zamir as the new chief of staff of the Israeli military after his predecessor resigned last month, taking responsibility for failing to prevent Hamas' October 2023 attack. "Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Israel Katz have agreed to appoint Major General (retired) Eyal Zamir as the next Chief of Staff of the (Israeli military)," Netanyahu's office said in a statement.

**Q.8. Recently which country will become the first country to declare AI tools a crime?**

- (a) America
- (b) France
- (c) Russia
- (d) Britain

**Answer : (d) Britain**

The UK will be the first country to introduce laws against artificial intelligence (AI) tools that create images of child sexual abuse. Possessing, creating or distributing these AI tools will be subject to a prison sentence of up to 5 years. Possession of AI paedophile manuals will also be illegal, punishable by up to 3 years in prison. The law will make maintaining websites that promote child abuse material a crime with a prison sentence of up to 10 years. AI has made it easier for predators to manipulate images and trap children. 500000 children face exploitation every year in the UK and online exploitation is on the rise.

**Q.9. Barbie Shu has passed away recently. Who was she?**

- (a) Singer







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(b) Dancer

(c) Writer

(d) Actress

**Answer : (d) Actress**

Taiwan's famous actress Barbie Hsu recently passed away at the age of 48. She had long been popular with Asian audiences through hit TV series such as Meteor Garden. The cause of her death is said to be pneumonia, which occurred after a complication of influenza. Barbie Hsu became a household name in 2001 through Meteor Garden. This TV show was a Taiwanese adaptation of the Japanese manga "Meteor Garden", in which she played a character named Shancal. Through this show, she became extremely famous not only in Taiwan, but also in the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia and other Southeast Asian countries.

**Q.10. Where has the 6th National Masters Athletic Meet been organized recently?**

(a) Kunnamkulam

(b) Hyderabad

(c) Amravati

(d) Surat

**Answer : (a) Kunnamkulam**

The 6th National Masters Athletic Meet is being held in Kunnamkulam, Kerala. Around 1500 masters male and female players in the age group of 35 to 85 years from 22 states across the country are participating in this national competition.

**Q.11. Recently India's GST collection has reached how many lakh crores in January 2025?**

(a) 1.76

(b) 1.86

(c) 1.96

(d) 2.86

**Answer : (c) 1.96**

India's GST collection in January rose to Rs 1.96 lakh crore, an increase of 12.3% over last year. Central GST collection stood at Rs 36,100 crore and state GST collection stood at Rs 44,900 crore. Integrated GST and GST cess collection stood at Rs 1.01 lakh

crore and Rs 13,400 crore, respectively. The government expects GST revenue to grow by 11% to Rs 11 lakh crore.

**Q.12. Recently 'White Tiger Breeding Center' will be opened in which state?**

(a) Madhya Pradesh

(b) Odisha

(c) Maharashtra

(d) Uttar Pradesh

**Answer : (a) Madhya Pradesh**

The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) has approved India's first white tiger breeding centre in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district. The initiative is a significant step in wildlife conservation, especially since Rewa is historically associated with the last known wild white tiger. The project, approved in principle in 2011, will be set up at Govindgarh, near the state's only white tiger safari at Mukundpur. The breeding centre is expected to promote biodiversity conservation, boost wildlife tourism and generate employment opportunities for the local population.

**Q.13. Recently the 13th joint military exercise "Akuverin" has started between the Indian Army and the National Defense Force of which country?**

(a) Japan

(b) Sri Lanka

(c) Nepal

(d) Maldives

**Answer : (d) Maldives**

The 13th edition of the India-Maldives joint military exercise 'Ekuverin' is being hosted by Maldives. The opening ceremony of the 13th Ekuverin exercise between the Indian Army and Maldives National Defence Forces (MNDF) was held at the official Composite Training Centre of MNDF in Mafilafush, Maldives. Chief of the Maldives National Defence Force Major General Ibrahim Hilmy and Indian High Commissioner G Balasubrahmanyam were present during the opening ceremony.





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**Q.14. Recently which country has unveiled two missiles Etemad and Ghadar-380?**

- (a) Pakistan
- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) UAE
- (d) Iran

**Answer : (d) Iran**

Iran has introduced two new missiles: Etemad and Ghadr-380. Etemad is a ballistic missile with a range of 1700 kilometers. It is 16 meters long and 1.25 meters in diameter. It is equipped with a precision-guided warhead for accurate target penetration. Ghadr-380 is an anti-warship cruise missile with a range of over 1000 kilometers. It has anti-jamming capability which makes it safe from electronic warfare.

**Q.15. Recently, former President of which country, Hoster Kohler, has passed away?**

- (a) Germany
- (b) Mexico
- (c) Indonesia
- (d) France

**Answer : (a) Germany**

Former German President Horst Kohler has died. He was 81. Mr Kohler, who was Germany's president from July 2004 to May 2010, resigned unexpectedly after criticism of his comments on foreign operations of Germany's armed forces.

