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Today in History on 02 JAN

➤ 1757 - Robert Clive recaptures Calcutta (now Kolkata).

As a lieutenant colonel, Clive commanded the expedition sent to recapture Calcutta from Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah in December 1756. The fort of Baz-Baz was soon captured, with minimal losses to the British. Soon after, Calcutta was captured on 2 January 1757. Robert Clive's (1725–74) first career was as a clerk in the East India Company's civil service in Madras. This ended in 1746, when it was taken over by the French.



➤ 1954 - Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award of the country, was introduced.

'Bharat Ratna' is the highest civilian award of the country, which was introduced in the year 1954. All persons are eligible for Bharat Ratna award without any discrimination of caste, occupation, position and sex. This award is given in recognition of the highest level of performance in any field of human

endeavour. The recommendation for Bharat Ratna is made by the Prime Minister himself to the President. No formal recommendation is necessary for this.



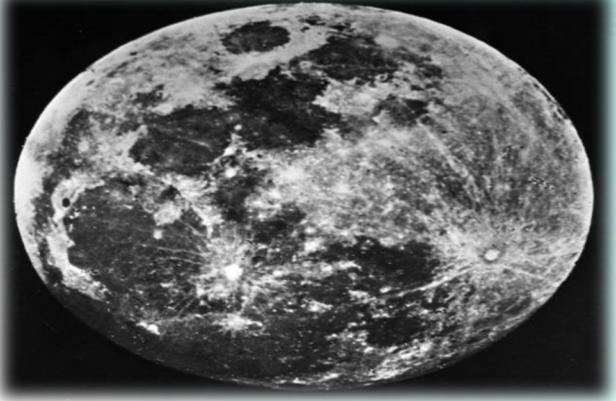
➤ 1919 - Lithuania was declared independent.

During World War I, the October Socialist Revolution of 1917 took place in Russia, which led to the collapse of the Russian Empire and the birth of the Soviet Union. Taking advantage of this turmoil, in February 1918 Lithuanian political representatives signed the 'Lithuania Independence Bill' and declared Lithuania an independent nation.



➤ 1991 - Thiruvananthapuram airport was upgraded to international standard.

Established in 1932, Trivandrum International Airport (TRV) is the first international airport built in Kerala. It serves the state capital. In 1991, the airport was officially declared as the fifth international airport of India. The airport has a total area of 700 acres. It has one runway that is 11,178 feet long. It has two terminals that handle the arrival and departure of both domestic and international flights.



Important NEWS on 02 JAN

➤ DPIIT Partners with boAt to Boost Startup Ecosystem in India

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has entered a strategic partnership with boAt, a prominent Indian audio and wearables brand, to foster innovation and support DPIIT-recognized startups, especially in the Direct-to-Consumer (D2C) and manufacturing sectors. This collaboration aims to provide essential mentorship, resources, and guidance, helping startups scale both locally and internationally. With boAt's industry expertise and the government's backing, the initiative is poised to empower the Indian startup ecosystem.

➤ 1839 - French cinematographer Louis Daguerre photographed the moon for the first time.

Astronomers quickly adopted the use of photographic plates because they had good resolution and the ability to produce very large images. Daguerre himself is believed to have been the first to photograph the moon using his daguerreotype process on January 2, 1839.



➤ Reliance Acquires Karkinos Healthcare for ₹375 Crore

In a strategic move to bolster its healthcare portfolio, Reliance Industries, led by Mukesh Ambani, has acquired oncology-focused platform Karkinos Healthcare for ₹375 crore. This acquisition, completed through Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Ltd (RSBVL), is a significant step towards expanding the company's reach in cancer detection, diagnosis, and treatment.



➤ Bumrah Breaks Record for Fastest 200 Wickets by an Indian

Jasprit Bumrah achieved a remarkable milestone, becoming the fastest Indian bowler to reach 200 wickets in Test cricket during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy at the MCG in Melbourne. Bumrah's achievement is notable not just for its speed but also for the efficiency with which he has attained this milestone in just 44 Tests, surpassing the previous Indian record held by Mohammed Shami.



➤ Lakshya Sen Secures Third Place at King Cup

India's badminton star, Lakshya Sen, showcased his talent with an impressive third-place finish at the inaugural King Cup International Badminton Open held in Bangkok, Thailand. The 23-year-old from Almora defeated French rising star Alex Lanier in the bronze-medal playoff. Despite a narrow loss in the semifinals, Lakshya's strong performance underlined his consistency and resilience on the international stage.



➤ Koneru Humpy From Retirement Doubts to Rapid Glory

Koneru Humpy, the pioneering force in Indian women's chess, scripted another chapter of glory by winning her second Women's World Rapid Chess Championship title in New York at the age of 37. Her remarkable journey from contemplating retirement to reclaiming the world crown underscores her resilience and passion for the game. Humpy's story is not just about victories on the chessboard but also about balancing motherhood, family support, and a challenging professional chess career.



➤ Kaamya Karthikeyan: Youngest Female to Conquer Seven Summits

Kaamya Karthikeyan, a 17-year-old student from Navy Children School in Mumbai, has etched her name in history by becoming the youngest female in the world to conquer the Seven Summits. This remarkable achievement includes scaling the highest peaks across all seven continents. Kaamya, an avid adventurer since her childhood, completed this prestigious feat by summiting Mount Vinson in Antarctica on December, 2024. This accomplishment highlights her determination, resilience, and passion for mountaineering.

Russian authorities have declared a federal state of emergency due to a catastrophic oil spill off the Black Sea coast. The environmental crisis, which occurred on December 15, has caused widespread pollution in the region. It has seriously impacted local communities, marine ecosystems and coastal economies. Two Russian-flagged oil tankers suffered severe damage during a storm near the Kerch Strait, causing huge amounts of fuel oil (mazut) to leak into the Black Sea. The spill polluted about 55 kilometres (34 miles) of coastline.



Current affairs MCQS on 02 JAN

Q.1. Where is the 18th 'Elephant and Tourism Festival' being celebrated recently?

- (a) Sri Lanka
- (b) Maldives
- (c) Bhutan
- (d) Nepal

Answer: (d) Nepal

The 18th Elephant and Tourism Festival has become a center of attraction in Sauraha in Chitwan district of Nepal. This fifth divine festival in the Baghmara Patriot Forest near Chitwan National Park celebrates Christmas and New Year together. It is an important means of promoting tourism in this region, which is famous for its diversity and attractions.

➤ Russia declares federal state of emergency over oil spill in Black Sea.





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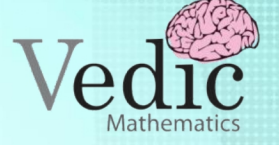
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Q.2. Which country's government has recently impeached the acting President?

- (a) South Africa
- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) South Korea
- (d) Japan

Answer: (c) South Korea

The South Korean parliament impeached and removed two presidents from office within two weeks, plunging the country into a political and economic crisis. Acting President Han Duck-soo was impeached by the South Korean parliament.

Q.3. Which state government has launched the "SWAR" platform to overcome language barriers?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Kerala
- (d) Tamil Nadu

Answer: (b) Gujarat

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel launched the SWAR (Speech and Written Analysis Resource) platform. The initiative is a significant step towards improving communication and access for citizens by removing language barriers. This citizen-centric initiative aims to make life simple and convenient in the state. The platform has been developed in collaboration with the Bhashini team of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and uses artificial intelligence (AI) to make government services more inclusive.

Q.4. Who has recently won the 2024 FIDE Women's World Rapid Championship?

- (a) Koneru Humpy
- (b) Tan Zhongyi
- (c) Lei Tingjie
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a) Koneru Humpy

Koneru Humpy of India and Volodar Murzin of Russia won the women's and open titles respectively at the 2024 FIDE World Rapid Championship. This was the second FIDE World Rapid Championship for

Humpy, while Russian Volodar Murzin became the second youngest player to win the championship in the open category. The 2024 FIDE World Rapid Championship was held in New York City, United States.

Q.5. Recently, DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) has signed MoU with which private company to help startups?

- (a) Flipkart
- (b) Amazon
- (c) Boat
- (d) HCL

Answer: (c) Boat

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has entered into a strategic partnership with India's leading audio and wearables brand boAt. The initiative aims to provide innovation and support to DPIIT-recognised startups, especially in the direct-to-consumer (D2C) and manufacturing sectors. The collaboration will help startups grow locally and internationally by providing mentorship, resources and guidance. With boAt's industry experience and government support, the initiative is set to empower the Indian startup ecosystem.

Q.6. Recently which chess player withdrew from the FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships due to dress code issues?

- (a) Magnus Carlsen
- (b) Arjun Erigaisi
- (c) Volodar Murzin
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a) Magnus Carlsen

World No. 1 chess player Magnus Carlsen withdrew from the World Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships in New York following a dress code controversy. Carlsen was wearing jeans, which was a violation of the dress code of the International Chess Federation (FIDE). He was asked to change his attire. FIDE officials fined Carlsen \$200 (192 euros) because he refused to change his jeans. FIDE issued





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a statement saying that their dress code rules are to maintain professionalism and fairness for all participants.

Q.7. Recently who has conquered the highest peak of the seven continents?

- (a) Amarjyothi Reddy
- (b) Soumya Srinath
- (c) Kanya Karthikeyan
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (c) Kanya Karthikeyan

Kaanya Karthikeyan, a Class 12 student of Navy Children School, Mumbai, has created history by becoming the youngest woman in the world to climb the seven highest peaks on seven continents. 17-year-old Kaanya Karthikeyan has conquered Africa (Mount Kilimanjaro), Europe (Mount Elbrus), Australia (Mount Kosciuszko), South America (Mount Aconcagua), North America (Mount Denali), Asia (Mount Everest) and completed the current climb in Antarctica.

Q.8. Recently who has become the fastest Indian bowler to take 200 wickets in Test cricket?

- (a) Mohammed Shami
- (b) Ravindra Jadeja
- (c) Jasprit Bumrah
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (c) Jasprit Bumrah

Jasprit Bumrah achieved a unique feat by becoming the fastest Indian bowler to complete 200 wickets in Test cricket during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy at the MCG in Melbourne. Bumrah's achievement is significant not only for his speed but also for his efficiency to achieve it in just 44 Test matches, breaking the earlier Indian record held by Mohammed Shami. His brilliant bowling in the Boxing Day Test against Australia, which included four wickets in the first innings and a crucial wicket in the second innings, made him one of the fastest bowlers in the world to take 200 Test wickets.

Q.9. Dilip Shankar passed away recently. Who was he?

- (a) Actor
- (b) Journalist
- (c) Director
- (d) Singer

Answer: (a) Actor

Film and television actor Dileep Shankar was found dead in a hotel near Oneross junction in Thiruvananthapuram. According to the Cantonment police, the actor, who was staying at the hotel in connection with his work in a television serial, was not seen outside his room for the last two days, following which the hotel staff informed the serial's production controller and the police. SHO of the Cantonment police station, Prajesh Sasi, said, "It is estimated that the death must have occurred at least two days ago."

Q.10. Where has the statue of 'Chhatrapati Shivaji' been installed near Pangong Tso Lake recently?

- (a) Ladakh
- (b) Leh
- (c) Sikkim
- (d) Jammu and Kashmir

Answer: (a) Ladakh

The Indian Army has installed a statue of Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj near the Pangong Tso lake in eastern Ladakh. The statue is located at an altitude of 14,300 feet near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China. The statue symbolizes the enduring values and courage of the Indian ruler.

Q.11. Who has recently launched the 'Vikashit Panchayat Karmayogi Initiative'?

- (a) Dr. Jitendra Singh
- (b) Amit Shah
- (c) Narendra Singh Tomar
- (d) None of these

Answer: (a) Dr. Jitendra Singh

Dr Jitendra Singh launched the 'Vikasheel Panchayat Karmayogi' initiative, which aims to empower



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Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and decentralise governance. The initiative is part of the broader 'Governance to Village' campaign, which aims to promote effective decision-making and planning by providing modern tools and knowledge to elected representatives and officials at the grassroots level.

Q.12. Recently, which state government has increased the ex-gratia amount given to the families of Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces personnel from Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1 crore?

- (a) Haryana
- (b) Odisha
- (c) Punjab
- (d) Rajasthan

Answer: (a) Haryana

In a cabinet meeting chaired by Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, the amendment in the ex-gratia amount given to the families of Central Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel martyred in war has been approved. The revised ex-gratia amount has been increased from Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1 crore.

Q.13. Which state government will transfer 14 tigers to Rajasthan, Odisha and Chhattisgarh under the animal exchange program?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Assam

Answer: (c) Madhya Pradesh

The Madhya Pradesh government will transfer 14 tigers to Rajasthan, Odisha and Chhattisgarh under the animal exchange programme. According to the state forest department, four tigers will be transferred to Rajasthan, two to Odisha and eight to Chhattisgarh. The tigers will be transferred from the tiger reserves of Bandhavgarh, Panna, Kanha and Pench in Madhya Pradesh. The tigers and tigresses will be transferred under the supervision of an authorised veterinarian.

Q.14. Where will the 813th Urs of world famous Sufi saint 'Khwaja Moinuddin Hasan Chishti' be held recently?

- (a) Bikaner
- (b) Ajmer
- (c) Jaipur
- (d) Jaisalmer

Answer: (b) Ajmer

The 813th Urs of Sufi saint Hazrat Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti is an important religious and cultural event. This year, the traditional flag hoisting ceremony will be held at Dargah Khwaja Saheb in Ajmer. The annual Urs, celebrated to mark the death anniversary of the revered saint, is an important occasion for devotees, with festivities and prayers being held at the saint's tomb.

Q.15. India has recently exported 200,000 tonnes of rice to which country to help flood-affected areas?

- (a) Bangladesh
- (b) Bhutan
- (c) Indonesia
- (d) Maldives

Answer: (a) Bangladesh

Bangladesh's interim government has started importing rice from India. The first consignment of 27,000 tonnes of rice has reached Bangladesh via Chittagong port. A Bangladesh food official said that this consignment is part of an agreement to buy 200,000 tonnes of rice from India. Talking to ANI, the official said, "There is no shortage of rice in Bangladesh at the moment. However, due to the recent severe floods, the government has decided to import rice to avoid a crisis in the future."

