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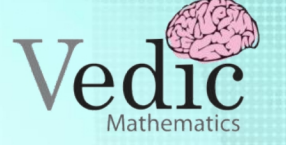
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Today in History on 04 JAN

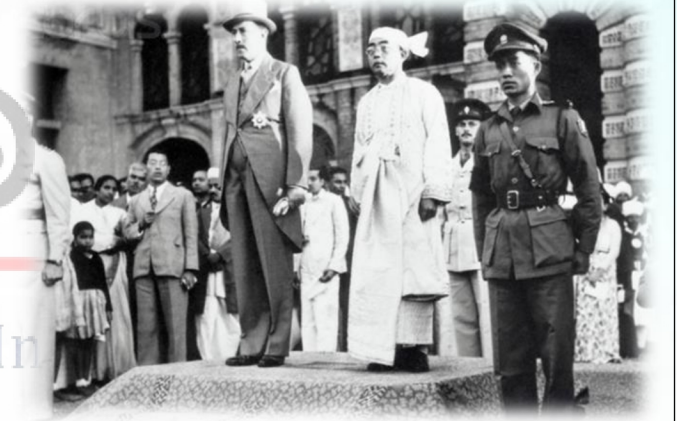
➤ 1931: Famous Indian actress Nirupa Roy was born.

Nirupa Roy (born Kokila Kishorchandra Bulsara; 4 January 1931 – 13 October 2004) was an Indian actress who appeared in Hindi films. Noted for her portrayals of tragedy and sadness, Roy was known for her acting ability, and was called the "Queen of Sorrow" in the Hindi film world. Roy appeared in over 250 films and won three Filmfare Awards throughout her career, as well as being nominated for one. In 2004, Roy received the Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award.



➤ 1948: South East Asian country Burma (Myanmar) got independence from Britain.

Burma got independence from British rule on 4 January 1948 under the leadership of Aung San's associate U Nu. Burma got freedom from the clutches of British colonialism on 4 January 1948 and democratic governments kept getting elected there till 1962. On 2 March 1962, the army under the leadership of General Ne Win took over the power in a coup and this occupation has been going on since then. There was a one-party system there till 1988 and military officers kept becoming the head of the government in turns.



➤ 1952: T S Thakur, the 43rd Chief Justice of India, was born.

Tirath Singh Thakur (born 4 January 1952) is an Indian jurist who served as the 43rd Chief Justice of India (CJI) from 3 December 2015 to 4 January 2017. Before being elevated to the Supreme Court, he served as the Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court from August 2008 to November 2009.





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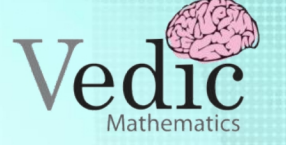
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➤ 1906: The Prince of Wales laid the foundation stone of the Victoria Memorial Hall in Calcutta.

On 4 January 1906, George, Prince of Wales laid the foundation stone. The construction was entrusted to Messrs Martin & Co. of Calcutta and work on the superstructure began in 1910. In 1911, before construction was completed, George V, Emperor of India, announced the transfer of the capital of India from Calcutta to New Delhi. It is the largest memorial to any emperor in the world. It is set in 64 acres of gardens and is now a museum under the control of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.



➤ 1964: The first diesel locomotive was ready at Varanasi Locomotive Works.

In January 1964, the first broad gauge diesel engine was made at DLW, it was named Kundan. This 2600 horsepower engine worked in various areas of Indian Railways for 50 years. It was retired in 2014. This rail engine has been kept very beautifully near the Central Market. The Hercules engine made in 1908 at Jamalpur Loco Works was brought to DLW on 22 June 1970 after its retirement. This 170 horsepower engine has been standing proudly here since then. The Miss Famat engine made in 1935 in the United Kingdom is small and was powered by steam. It was in operation from 1935 to 1984. This engine was made by the General Electric Company in the year 1944 in America.



Important NEWS on 04 JAN

➤ Switzerland Enforces Facial Covering Ban, Raises Pensions in New Year



Switzerland is implementing a series of significant changes starting January, 2025, which impact various sectors including legal, economic, and social frameworks. These include a ban on facial coverings, reforms to inheritance laws, increased pensions, and measures to strengthen bank solvency and liquidity. The changes reflect a growing alignment with European norms and a response to past financial crises. Here is a detailed overview of these changes.



➤ Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra Assumes Command of IAF's Western Air Command

Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra assumed command of the Indian Air Force's (IAF) Western Air Command, succeeding Air Marshal Pankaj Mohan Sinha, who retired after over 39 years of distinguished service. Mishra's career spans over three decades, holding significant command and staff positions, and he is a recipient of prestigious service medals.



➤ India's Coffee Exports Surge to Record High in FY24

India's coffee exports have reached a remarkable milestone, achieving a record \$1.14 billion between April and November of FY24, marking a 29% increase from the same period last year. The growth has been fueled by rising global demand for Robusta coffee and supply chain challenges faced by major coffee-producing nations like Brazil and Vietnam. India's high-quality coffee, primarily from Karnataka, has carved a niche in premium global markets, further driving this surge.



➤ India-Nepal "Surya Kiran" Military Exercise Begins

The 18th edition of the India-Nepal joint military exercise "Surya Kiran" has commenced at Saljhandi, Nepal, on January, 2025. This annual exercise aims to enhance interoperability in jungle warfare, counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrains, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief under the United Nations Charter.



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➤ Manish Singhal Appointed Secretary General of ASSOCHAM

The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), one of India's oldest apex business chambers (established in 1920), has appointed Manish Singhal as its new Secretary General. Singhal, an industry veteran with over 35 years of experience, takes over from Deepak Sood, who served for five years and transformed the chamber's operations, leaving behind a robust financial foundation.



➤ Bhuvnesh Kumar Appointed UIDAI CEO

IAS officer Bhuvnesh Kumar, a 1995 batch officer from the Uttar Pradesh cadre, assumed charge as the CEO of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) on January, 2025. UIDAI, which administers Aadhaar, plays a pivotal role in India's digital identity infrastructure. Kumar, who also serves as an additional secretary at the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY), succeeds Amit Agrawal, a 1993 batch IAS officer. Under Kumar's leadership, UIDAI aims to maintain its significant contributions to India's governance and service delivery.



➤ Magnus Carlsen, Nepomniachtchi Share Blitz Title: Controversy Ensues

The decision by Magnus Carlsen and Ian Nepomniachtchi to share the World Blitz Championship title at the FIDE Rapid and Blitz Championship in New York has caused significant uproar in the chess world. The controversy escalated after a video surfaced where Carlsen and Nepomniachtchi appeared to strategize on how to pressure FIDE into allowing them to co-win the title. Many prominent chess figures have voiced their criticisms, with accusations of possible match-fixing and manipulation of tournament rules.





Current affairs MCQS on 04 JAN

Q.1. Where was the 'Tamu Lhosar Festival' celebrated recently?

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

Answer: (d) Nepal

The Gurung community in Nepal celebrates Tamu Losar as the beginning of the New Year. The festival is a cultural event, especially in areas where the Gurung population is high. The celebration includes feasts, cultural programs, and traditional costumes.

Q.2. Recently, India's foreign exchange reserves have increased to how many billion dollars?

- (a) 596
- (b) 754
- (c) 802
- (d) 709

Answer: (d) 709

Recently India achieved a significant milestone as its foreign exchange reserves crossed the \$709 billion mark, thereby consolidating its position as the fourth largest holder of foreign exchange reserves globally. India's foreign exchange reserves crossed the \$709 billion mark, placing it among the top four countries globally in terms of foreign exchange reserves.

Q.3. Recently, India's first glass bridge has been inaugurated in which sea?

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

Answer: (a) Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin inaugurated India's first glass bridge over the sea in Kanyakumari. This glass bridge connects the tourist spot Vivekananda Rock Memorial in Kanyakumari to the 133 feet high Tiruvalluvar statue. Glass bridges are made of laminated glass or toughened glass, are transparent and are built at tourist places especially in hilly areas so that tourists can experience breathtaking views. India's longest glass bridge is located in Vagamon, Kerala which is 40 meters long and 3600 feet high.

Q.4. Recently, which country has launched its first Type 076 amphibious assault ship?

- (a) China
- (b) Russia
- (c) America
- (d) Japan

Answer: (a) China

China launched a new amphibious assault ship, capable of launching fighter jets and designed to strengthen the navy's combat capability in distant seas. The first ship of the 076 type, the Sichuan, is China's largest such ship to date, with a displacement of 40,000 tonnes and is equipped with an electromagnetic catapult that will allow fighter jets to be launched directly from its deck.

Q.5. Which organization has launched the quantum processor 'Willow'?

- (a) Amazon
- (b) Meta
- (c) Google
- (d) Microsoft

Answer: (c) Google



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Google launched quantum processor 'Willow', which advances quantum computing to solve practical problems. Willow has 105 physical qubits and operates at near-zero temperature (-273.15 degrees Celsius). It has better error correction and faster performance than other quantum computers. The coherence time of Willow's qubits is about 100 microseconds, which is improved by error correction. Willow's architecture enables lower error rates with more qubits. It outperformed classical computers in testing, completing random circuit sampling tasks in minutes.

Q.6. Recently which country has become the largest coal producer by far in 2023-2024?

- (a) India
- (b) China
- (c) Russia
- (d) Japan

Answer: (a) India

India is set to witness the highest ever coal production in 2023-24. The all-India coal production in the year 2023-24 was 997.826 million tonnes (MT), as compared to 893.191 million tonnes in the year 2022-23, an increase of about 11.71 per cent. The country has supplied about 963.11 MT of coal, the Coal Ministry said in the statement. "With the transformational measures under 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', the domestic raw coking coal production is likely to reach 140 MT in the next five years," the ministry said. "The total domestic raw coking coal production during the financial year 2023-24 is 66.821 million tonnes," it said.

Q.7. Recently who has taken over as the Director General of CRPF?

- (a) Manohar Sharma
- (b) Vinay Sinha
- (c) Ajit Singh
- (d) Vitul Kumar

Answer: (d) Vitul Kumar

Senior IPS officer Vitul Kumar will take over as the Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force

(CRPF). The current CRPF Director General Anish Dayal Singh is retiring. Kumar, a 1993 batch IPS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre, is currently working as the Special Director General of CRPF. The order issued by the Union Home Ministry said that the competent authority has approved handing over the acting charge of the post of Director General of CRPF to Vitul Kumar on the retirement of Anish Dayal Singh, a 1988 batch IPS officer of Manipur cadre, till the appointment of a regular Director General or till further orders, whichever is earlier.

Q.8. Recently who has been appointed as the CEO of 'DBS Bank India'?

- (a) Rajat Verma
- (b) Kaushal Shah
- (c) Vikrant Tomar
- (d) Ajay Sharma

Answer: (a) Rajat Verma

Rajat Verma has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of DBS Bank India. Verma will replace Surojit Shome, who will retire on February 28, 2025. He will take over as CEO from March 1, 2025. DBS is Southeast Asia's largest bank.

Q.9. Recently which country has set a record of issuing more than 10 lakh non-immigrant visas to Indians for the second consecutive year?

- (a) Saudi Arabia
- (b) Kuwait
- (c) USA
- (d) UAE

Answer: (c) USA

The US Mission in India has issued over one million nonimmigrant visas in 2024, the second consecutive year this feat has been achieved. This includes a record number of visitor visas, reflecting the growing interest among Indians to travel to the United States for tourism, business, and education. From January to November 2024, over two million Indians visited the United States, representing a significant increase of 26% compared to the same period in 2023.





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Q.10. Recently which IIT has developed a needleless shock syringe for painless injection?

- (a) IIT Bombay
- (b) IIT Guwahati
- (c) IIT Kanpur
- (d) IIT Delhi

Answer: (a) IIT Bombay

In a welcome move for many needle-phobic patients, the latest research conducted by the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) promises a pain-free syringe experience for all kinds of medical treatments. The research, led by Viren Menezes from the Department of Aerospace Engineering, has found a way to deliver medicine without a needle by developing a shock syringe. The study was published in the Journal of Biomedical Materials and Devices.

Q.11. Which city has recently launched 'Climate Mission' with the aim of becoming the world's first energy-literate city?

- (a) Jaipur
- (b) Pune
- (c) Indore
- (d) Surat

Answer: (c) Indore

Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) launched the Indore Climate Mission to make Indore the world's first energy-literate city. IMC signed an MoU with Energy Swaraj Foundation, resulting in the launch of the mission. The mission aims to make 5 lakh residents energy literate, a first for any Indian city. It focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting energy conservation, and encouraging eco-friendly lifestyles.

Q.12. Who has recently been ranked 'best place to work' for the second time?

- (a) SAIL
- (b) Tata
- (c) GAIL
- (d) BPCL

Answer: (a) SAIL

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has received the prestigious Great Place to Work certification by the Great Place to Work Institute, India for the period January 2025 to January 2026. This is the second consecutive time SAIL has received this certification. The company was initially certified for the period December 2023 to December 2024. This global recognition for the second consecutive time to SAIL highlights the innovative initiatives of the company's HR department.

Q.13. Recently, in which state a 22% increase in crime has been recorded in the year 2024?

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

Answer: (b) Telangana

According to the annual report released by Director General of Police (DGP) Jitendra, total crime in Telangana increased by 22.53% from 1,38,312 cases in 2023 to 1,69,477 cases in 2024, a net increase of 31,165 cases. Mr Jitendra said the law and order situation remained good in 2024, with effective control over violent crimes and Maoist, communal and terrorist activities. "Disputes between tribals and Muslims in Jainur in Kumram Bheem Asifabad district were handled well. Senior police officers camped in the districts and ensured confidence building measures among the people, so that the situation could be normalised," he said.

Q.14. Recently 'K Vijayanand' has become the new Chief Secretary of which state?

- (a) Madhya Pradesh
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Tamil Nadu
- (d) Andhra Pradesh

Answer: (d) Andhra Pradesh

K Vijayanand took over as Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh Government at the Secretariat in Amaravati. Vedic scholars from Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) and Sri Durga Malleswara Swamivarla





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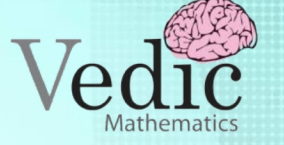
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Devasthanam blessed Mr. Vijayanand. Several officials, including Special Chief Secretaries G Sai Prasad and M T Krishna Babu, Secretary (GAD) S Suresh Kumar, Chief Secretaries Kantilal Dande, Jayalakshmi and Kumar Vishwajith, and TTD Executive Officer Shyamala Rao, greeted Mr. Vijayanand on the occasion.

Q.15. Recently, the new deadline of 'Vivaad se Vishwas Yojana' has been extended till when?

- (a) 31 January 2025
- (b) 01 April 2025
- (c) 31 March 2025
- (d) 01 February 2025

Answer: (a) 31 January 2025

The Income Tax Department has extended the deadline to pay lower income tax to avail the Vivaad se Vishwas Scheme 2024 till January 31, 2025. The Direct Tax Vivaad se Vishwas Scheme 2024 announced in Budget 2024 provides an opportunity to taxpayers to settle their pending tax disputes with the Income Tax Department.

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