

10 Years of Excellence

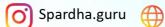


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Today in History on 23 JAN

> 1977: The Janata Party was formed.

The Janata Party is a political party founded as a group of Indian political parties opposed to the Emergency imposed between 1975 and 1977 by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of the Indian National Congress. In the 1977 general election, the party defeated the Congress and Janata leader Morarji Desai became the first non-Congress Prime Minister in the history of independent modern India.



1966: Indira Gandhi became the third Prime Minister of India.

Indira Priyadarshini Gandhi was the Prime Minister of the Republic of India for three consecutive terms from 1966 to 1977 and then for the fourth term from 1980 until her political assassination in 1984. She was the first and so far the only woman Prime Minister of India. Indira was born on 19 November 1917 in the politically influential Nehru family. Her father was Jawaharlal Nehru and her mother was Kamala Nehru.



> 1926: Bal Thackeray, Indian politician and founder of Shiv Sena, was born.

Bal Keshav Thackeray (23 January 1926 - 17 November 2012) was a famous politician from Maharashtra state of India who formed a strong Marathi party named Shiv Sena. People also called him Balasaheb Thackeray. He used to publish a newspaper named Saamna in Marathi. Thackeray started his life journey as a cartoonist. Earlier he used to make cartoons for English newspapers. Later in 1960, he started his own independent weekly newspaper named Marmik and promoted and propagated the political philosophy of his father Keshav Sitaram Thackeray in Maharashtra.

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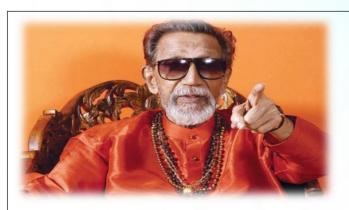


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▶ 1973: Peace agreement between America and Vietnam was announced.

1973- On January 23, America announced a peace proposal with Vietnam. US President Richard Nixon announced on TV the "peace agreement made with honor". This agreement was signed in Paris. This ceasefire came into effect from January 27.



➤ 1849: Elizabeth Blackwell became the first American woman to earn a medical degree.

On January 23, 1849, she became the first woman in the US to earn a medical degree. She opened a hospital for women and children in New York. She opened the first medical college for women. She entered her name on the British Medical Register. She studied gynecology at the London School of Medicine for Women. She campaigned for women's rights.



Important NEWS on 23 JAN

➤ GOI Launches 'Entity Locker' For Efficient Business Document Management

The government has unveiled a groundbreaking digital platform called Entity Locker, building on the success of DigiLocker. This initiative is designed to streamline the management and verification of business and organizational documents, ensuring a more efficient and secure digital governance system.



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INS Mumbai Joins La Perouse 2025

The Indian Navy's guided-missile destroyer, INS Mumbai, is actively participating in the fourth edition of the multinational exercise La Perouse, which commenced on January, 2025. This exercise involves nine nations and is being conducted in the strategic waterways of the Malacca, Sunda, and Lombok straits, vital corridors for global maritime trade.

China Unveils World's Longest Tunnel, Enhances BRI Connectivity

China has completed the construction of the Tianshan Shengli Tunnel, the world's longest expressway tunnel, marking a advancement in infrastructure development and enhancing connectivity within the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. Tunnel Specifications: The Tianshan Shengli Tunnel spans 22.13 kilometers and is a pivotal component of the Urumqi-Yuli Expressway, which connects Urumqi in northern Xinjiang to Yuli County in the south.





➤ India Tests 'Bhargavastra' Micro-Missile for Countering Drone Swarms

India has successfully tested its first indigenous micro-missile system, 'Bhargavastra,' designed to counter swarm drone threats. This development marks a significant milestone in enhancing the nation's defense capabilities against emerging aerial threats.



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> Flamingo Festival 2025 Concludes in Andhra Pradesh

The three-day Flamingo Festival 2025 in Andhra Pradesh concluded on January, 2025, with calls to protect the rich biodiversity of the region, specifically in Pulicat Lake and Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary. The event, which attracted numerous watchers particularly bird visitors, and photographers, was hailed as a major success.



Indian Economy Projected to Grow at 7% in FY25: Moody's Revises Forecast

The global ratings agency Moody's has downgraded India's economic growth forecast for the fiscal year 2024-2025 to 7%, down from the 8.2% growth recorded in the previous fiscal year. This revision reflects a combination of domestic and global economic slowdown and a weaker-than-expected performance in key sectors. The revised forecast aligns with the trend observed in other major economic organizations, including the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), which have also lowered their growth projections.



Mudra Loans Disbursal Hits Record ₹3.39 Lakh Crore in Q3 FY25

In the third quarter of the fiscal year 2024-25, the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) achieved a historic milestone by disbursing ₹3.39 lakh crore in loans, marking the highest quarterly disbursement the scheme's inception in 2015. This since

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significant uptick underscores the government's ongoing commitment to bolstering micro and small enterprises across India.



Current affairs MCQS on 23 JAN

- Q.1. When is Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Jayanti celebrated?
- (a) 20 January
- (b) 21 January
- (c) 22 January
- (d) 23 January

Answer: (d) 23 January

On January 23, the Ministry of Culture announced to celebrate Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary as 'Parakram Diwas' every year. In a gazette notification, the ministry claimed that the decision was taken to "honour and remember Netaji's indomitable spirit and selfless service to the nation".

Q.2. In which state will the Uniform Civil Code be implemented?

- (a) Rajasthan
- (b) Punjab
- (c) Uttarakhand
- (d) Gujarat

Answer: (c) Uttarakhand

The Uttarakhand government is all set to implement the Uniform Civil Code in the state from January 26. Uttarakhand will be the first state in the country to

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do so. Earlier, after the advice of the Rules and Implementation Committee, the government had sent some changes to the Legislative Department for review. The department has approved the reviewed rules.

- Q.3. How much percent is India's electronics export bigger than India's exports in December 2024?
- (a) 42.5%
- (b) 36.9%
- (c) 26.3%
- (d) 35.11%

Answer: (d) 35.11%

According to data released by the Commerce Ministry, India's 'electronics exports' grew 35.11 per cent to a two-year high of \$3.58 billion in December 2024 from \$2.65 billion in the same month of 2023. This reflects growing foreign demand for high-value Indian goods and increased domestic production capabilities. Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said that the export of electronic goods in December 2024 was the highest ever in the last 24 months.

- Q.4. Which country's team has recently won the first "Kho-Kho World Cup"? Limited
- (a) India
- (b) Nepal
- (c) France
- (d) Brazil

Answer: (a) India

India's women's team won the first Kho-Kho World Cup title with a stunning 78-40 win over Nepal. Displaying speed, strategy and skill, the finalists put up an impressive performance at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium. India dominated from the start, thwarted Nepal's defence and maintained the lead throughout, eventually clinching the championship title.

- Q.5. Where has a 72 feet high statue of Lord Hanuman been installed recently?
- (a) Varanasi
- (b) Surat

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(c) Ayodhya

(d) Bengaluru

Answer: (d) Bengaluru

The country's tallest Hanuman statue has been installed in the sprawling premises of the Ayodhya Kodandarama Temple located at Kachrakanahalli in HBR Layout in North Bengaluru. The 72-foot-tall Hanuman statue is a monolithic structure weighing 480 tonnes. This monolithic Hanuman statue was installed by the Sri Rama Chaitanya Vardhini Trust with the cooperation of residents of 18 local areas (formerly 18 villages). The statue has now been inaugurated and according to the trust, the remaining work will take about eight months to complete.

Q.6. Who will represent India in the 'World **Economic Forum 2025'?**

- (a) Ashwini Vaishnav
- (b) Dr. S. Jaishankar
- (c) Ajit Doval
- (d) Piyush Goyal

Answer: (a) Ashwini Vaishnav

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav will represent India at the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2025 starting in Davos, Switzerland. This event is an important opportunity to present India's inclusive growth and digital transformation on the global stage. Before leaving for Davos, Ashwini Vaishnav said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has tried to bring a big change in the lives of every section of the society, especially the deprived communities.

Q.7. Where has the 'Jijamata Samman Samaroh' been organized recently?

- (a) Kolkata
- (b) Jaipur
- (c) Meerut
- (d) Bhopal

Answer: (d) Bhopal

Mothers of 6 famous sportspersons of the country were honoured at the Jijamata Samman Samaroh organised by Krida Bharti at Ravindra Bhawan in Bhopal. On this occasion, the General Secretary of the association Dattatreya Hosabale said that mothers of those who trained medal winning sportspersons were honoured.

Q.8. Which country's 'virgin coconut oil' has recently got the GI tag?

- (a) Andaman Nicobar
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Kerala

Answer: (a) Andaman Nicobar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the 118th episode of "Mann Ki Baat" highlighted the empowerment of women involved in the production of Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO) in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. This initiative is being operated through Self Help Groups (SHGs) and special training is being given in marketing and branding with the economically empowering the tribal communities. The Prime Minister termed the recent granting of Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Virgin Coconut from Nicobar district as a significant achievement in promoting local products globally.

Q.9. Who has recently launched the "Sanchar Saathi App"?

- (a) Jyotiraditya Scindia
- (b) Amit Shah
- (c) Narendra Modi
- (d) Piyush Goyal

Answer: (a) Jyotiraditya Scindia

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launched the 'Sanchar Sathi App', which provides facilities like reporting mobile fraud, blocking lost mobile and identifying connections. NBM 2.0 aims to connect 1.7 lakh villages with broadband and ensure a minimum download speed of 100 Mbps in rural areas.

Q.10. The Fund of Funds (FFS) scheme for startups is operated by which organisation?

(a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

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- (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
- (c) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)
- (d) Ministry of Finance

Answer: (c) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

The success of the Startup India mission is attributed to funding mechanisms such as the Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS). FFS was launched in 2016 with a corpus of Rs 10,000 crore, aligned with the 14th and 15th Finance Commissions. Its goal is to boost the Indian startup ecosystem and provide access to domestic capital. FFS does not invest directly in startups but funds SEBI-registered alternative investment funds (AIFs), which invest in startups through equity and equity-linked instruments. The scheme is administered by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

Q.11. Which country has recently banned the "TIKTOK" app?

- (a) Israel
- (b) America
- (c) Germany
- (d) France

Answer: (d) France

170 million users are upset due to the ban on TikTok in America. Last year, steps were taken to ban it under a law passed in Congress. After this, TikTok itself stopped its service. On opening the app, users got a message which read, "TikTok has been banned in America." This created panic in the whole country.

Q.12. Recently, the National Science Drama Festival 2024-2025 was organized in which city?

- (a) Jaipur
- (b) Pune
- (c) Mumbai
- (d) New Delhi

Answer: (d) New Delhi

The National Science Drama Festival 2024-25 will be organised at the National Science Centre, Delhi,

wherein over 40,000 students will perform plays on topics such as Artificial Intelligence, Climate Change and Water Conservation. The festival will be inaugurated by renowned theatre and voice over artist Dr Suchitra Gupta and the closing ceremony will be graced by film and stage actor Shri Chittaranjan Tripathi.

Q.13. Who has been appointed as the Director General of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) recently?

- (a) Gyanendra Pratap Singh
- (b) Akhilesh Sinha
- (c) Deepak Kumar
- (d) Ravideep Singh

Answer: (a) Gyanendra Pratap Singh

Assam Police chief Gyanendra Pratap Singh has been appointed Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). The CRPF, India's premier central police force under the Ministry of Home Affairs, ensures internal security. It was established in 1939 as the Crown Representative Police during political unrest in the princely states.

Q.14. Recently, 'Solar Mobile Van Training Units' have been launched in which city?

- (a) Greater Noida
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Bengaluru
- (d) New Delhi

Answer: (d) New Delhi

Union Minister Jayant Singh Chaudhary launched Solar Mobile Van Training units in New Delhi to enhance financial and digital literacy in rural areas. Two new solar-powered vans equipped with modern technologies were flagged off to serve rural areas of Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra. The vans provide training on financial literacy, digital skills, cyber security, technical knowledge and generative AI. By FY 2025, the program will expand to 7 more districts, benefiting 58 lakh people including students, women, youth

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and ex-servicemen. The project aims to make rural self-reliant and empowered through technology and partnerships.

Q.15. Recently, China has successfully launched the satellite of which country from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center?

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

Answer: (a) Pakistan

Pakistan launched its first self-built observation satellite from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northern China, Pakistan's space agency said. The Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) said in a statement that the PRSC-E01 satellite will enhance Pakistan's ability to monitor and manage natural resources, respond to disasters, and improve urban planning and agricultural development.





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