



08 January 2025

National and International News

<p><b>Bharat Pol Portal</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Union Home Minister</b> and Minister of Cooperation launched the <b>BHARAT POL portal</b> in New Delhi at Bharat Mandapam.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is aimed at streamlining the <b>processing of requests for international assistance through INTERPOL.</b></li> <li>It will <b>handle tasks such as the issuance of Red Notices and other colour-coded INTERPOL notices, facilitating more efficient international cooperation in criminal investigations and law enforcement.</b></li> <li><b>Key Features:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Improved Efficiency:</b> The portal will provide easier and faster access to international police assistance, strengthening India's efforts in combating transnational crimes.</li> <li><b>Real-Time Information Sharing:</b> It will enable Indian Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) to share real-time information, ensuring quicker access to necessary support from global policing networks.</li> <li><b>Developed by:</b> Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which will oversee its operation and integration with international law enforcement systems.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>About Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CBI is <b>India's premier investigative agency, responsible for handling serious crimes and providing leadership in fighting corruption within the police force across the country.</b></li> <li><b>Establishment:</b> It was <b>established in 1963 following the recommendations of the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption.</b></li> <li><b>Non-Statutory Body:</b> The CBI is not a statutory body but was set up by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs. It derives its power to investigate from the <b>Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>India Malaysia Relations</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India and Malaysia have agreed to strengthen cooperation in <b>counter-terrorism, cyber security, defence, maritime security, and critical minerals during the India-Malaysia Security Dialogue in New Delhi.</b></li> </ul>



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### Key Points:

- **Diplomatic Relations:** India and Malaysia established diplomatic relations shortly after Malaysia gained independence from British rule in **1957**.
- **Trade and Economic Relations:** Malaysia is the **13th largest trading partner for India** while India stands amongst the 10 largest trading partners globally.
  - Malaysia stands as an **important trade partner, as both countries have engaged in various economic agreements such as the India-Malaysia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA).**
- **Strategic Partnership:** India and Malaysia have aimed to strengthen their strategic partnership through various initiatives, including high-level visits, joint commissions, and dialogues.
- **Cultural Ties:** Indian influence in Malaysia can be seen in various aspects of Malaysian culture, including language, religion (Hinduism and Buddhism), architecture, cuisine, and festivals.
- **ASEAN Centrality:** Malaysia holds a crucial position in expanding India's trade with ASEAN, aligning with India's Act East Policy, advancing maritime connectivity in the Strait of Malacca and South China Sea, and supporting ASEAN's Indo-Pacific Perspective (AOIP) and the Indo-Pacific Initiative (IPOI).
- **Key Facts About Malaysia:**
  - **Location:** Southeast Asia; divided into Peninsular Malaysia and East Malaysia, separated by the South China Sea.
  - **Capital:** Kuala Lumpur.
  - **Nature:** Tropical rainforests, it is a part of the world's 17 megadiverse countries, home to species like Malayan tigers, pygmy elephants, and Bornean orangutans.

### One Nation, One Election Bill

### Why in news?



- The first meeting of the **Joint Parliamentary Committee on the 'One Nation One Election' bills will be held today 08 January 2025.**

### Key Points:

- The One Nation, One Election Bill has been passed in the **Lok Sabha with a ratio of 269 votes in favour and 198 votes against the passing of the bill.**
- The bill proposes to hold simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha, State Legislative assemblies and local body elections across the whole country.
- This proposal aims to align the election process leading to **cost cutting and better governance** by eliminating election related disruptions. This bill was analysed by a **high-level committee chaired by President Ram Nath Kovind.**
- Simultaneous Elections (popularly known as One Nation, One Election) means **holding elections to the House of the People, all the State Legislative Assemblies, and local bodies i.e., Municipalities and Panchayats, together.**



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Simultaneous elections</b> do not mean that voting across the country for all elections needs to happen on a single day.</li> <li>● In India, simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabhas were held in the years <b>1951-52, 1957, 1962 and 1967</b>.</li> <li>● This cycle was disrupted due to premature dissolution of State Assemblies in 1968-69 and of the Lok Sabha in 1970.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Maha Kumbh Mela</b></p> 	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>ISRO, BARC, and other agencies collaborate for the major clean-up at the Maha Kumbh.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It is a sacred pilgrimage that is <b>celebrated four times over a course of 12 years</b>.</li> <li>● <b>Kumbh Mela</b>, the world's largest peaceful gathering, draws millions of pilgrims who bathe in sacred rivers seeking to <b>purify themselves from sins and attain spiritual liberation</b>.</li> <li>● This sacred event rotates between four locations in <b>India-Haridwar, Ujjain, Nashik, and Prayagraj- each situated by a holy river, from the Ganges to the Shipra, the Godavari, and the confluence of the Ganges, Yamuna, and the mythical Sarasvati in Prayagraj</b>.</li> <li>● <b>Historical background</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The roots of the Kumbh Mela stretch back thousands of years, finding early references during the <b>Maurya and Gupta periods (4th century BCE to 6th century CE)</b>.</li> <li>○ During the medieval period, the Kumbh Mela received patronage from various royal dynasties, including the <b>Chola and Vijayanagara empires</b> in the south, and the Delhi Sultanate and Mughals in the north.</li> <li>○ Even Mughal emperors such as Akbar are noted to have participated in the celebrations, illustrating a spirit of religious tolerance.</li> <li>○ British administrators observed and documented the festival, intrigued by its massive scale and the diverse congregations it drew.</li> <li>○ Figures such as British colonial administrator James Prinsep chronicled the Kumbh Mela in the <b>19th century</b>, detailing its ritualistic practices, the vast congregations, and the <b>socio-religious dynamics at play</b>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Places in news:</b> <b>Kandla port</b></p> 	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Kandla port is set to receive a shipbuilding facility and cargo terminal worth <b>₹57,000 crore</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Deendayal Port (previously called Kandla port) is situated in the <b>Kandla Creek and is 90 kms from the mouth of the Gulf Of Kachchh in Gujarat</b>.</li> <li>● It is a <b>protected natural harbor</b>.</li> <li>● It is recognized as <b>one of major ports in India</b>.</li> <li>● It was constructed in the 1950s as the chief seaport serving western</li> </ul>



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	<p>India, after the partition of India from Pakistan left the port of Karachi in Pakistan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deendayal Port is a hub for <b>major imports like petroleum, chemicals and iron and also exports grains, salt and textiles.</b></li> <li>It remains India's biggest state-owned cargo handler by volume, but it has steadily lost market share to privately owned <b>Mundra Port (India's largest private port) 60km to the southwest.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Projection for current Financial Year</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is projected to grow at a <b>four-year low rate of 6.4%</b> in the current financial year, a decline from <b>8.2% in 2023-24</b>, according to the <b>National Statistics Office (NSO).</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The GDP measures the monetary measure of all <b>"final"</b> goods and services— those that are bought by the final user— produced in a country in a given period.</li> <li><b>Four Key "Engines of GDP Growth":</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All the money Indians spent for their <b>private consumption</b> (that is, Private Final Consumption Expenditure or PFCE)</li> <li>All the money the government spent on its <b>current consumption</b>, such as salaries [Government Final Consumption Expenditure or GFCE]</li> <li>All the money spent towards <b>investments</b> to boost the productive capacity of the economy.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This includes business firms investing in factories or the governments building roads and bridges [Gross Fixed Capital Expenditure]</li> </ul> </li> <li>The <b>net effect of exports</b> (what foreigners spent on our goods) and imports (what Indians spent on foreign goods) [Net Exports or NX].</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Calculation of GDP:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>GDP = private consumption + gross investment + government investment + government spending + (exports-imports)</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>India-US Relations</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India and the U.S. will collaborate to <b>jointly manufacture interoperable sonobuoys for the Navy.</b></li> <li>These specialized undersea instruments are effective in detecting submarines hidden deep in the oceans.</li> <li>Both countries are collaborating on advanced technology in response to the growing Chinese naval presence in the Indian Ocean.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The relationship between India and the United States has evolved into one of the most significant partnerships in the 21st century.</li> <li>It spans <b>economic, strategic, and cultural dimensions, reflecting</b></li> </ul>



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the shared values and mutual interests of the world's largest democracies

- The two nations are motivated by common interests: **India aims to become the world's third-largest economy, while the US seeks reliable allies to counterbalance China's growing influence.**
- **Defense Ties:**
  - In 2018, India was elevated to **Strategic Trade Authorization tier 1 status, which allowed India to receive license-free access to a wide range of military and dual-use technologies regulated by the US's department of commerce.**
  - The signing of foundational agreements like **LEMOA (2016), COMCASA (2018), and BECA (2020)** has enabled deeper military cooperation.
  - **Joint exercises like Malabar and the establishment of the 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue in 2018** have further strengthened strategic ties.
- Recent initiatives like the **US-India Artificial Intelligence Initiative and the Critical and Emerging Technology Initiative (iCET) launched in 2022** underscore the strategic importance of tech cooperation in bilateral ties.

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