




08 January 2025

National and International News

<p>Bharat Pol Portal</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation launched the BHARAT POL portal in New Delhi at Bharat Mandapam. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is aimed at streamlining the processing of requests for international assistance through INTERPOL. It will 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. Key Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved Efficiency: The portal will provide easier and faster access to international police assistance, strengthening India's efforts in combating transnational crimes. Real-Time Information Sharing: It will enable Indian Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) to share real-time information, ensuring quicker access to necessary support from global policing networks. Developed by: Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which will oversee its operation and integration with international law enforcement systems. About Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CBI is India's premier investigative agency, responsible for handling serious crimes and providing leadership in fighting corruption within the police force across the country. Establishment: It was established in 1963 following the recommendations of the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption. Non-Statutory Body: 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 Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.
<p>India Malaysia Relations</p> 	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India and Malaysia have agreed to strengthen cooperation in counter-terrorism, cyber security, defence, maritime security, and critical minerals during the India-Malaysia Security Dialogue in New Delhi. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diplomatic Relations: India and Malaysia established diplomatic relations shortly after Malaysia gained independence from British rule in 1957.





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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trade and Economic Relations: Malaysia is the 13th largest trading partner for India while India stands amongst the 10 largest trading partners globally. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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.
<p>One Nation, One Election Bill</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The first meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the 'One Nation One Election' bills will be held today 08 January 2025. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Simultaneous elections do not mean that voting across the country for all elections needs to happen on a single day. ● In India, simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabhas were held in the years 1951-52, 1957, 1962 and 1967.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This cycle was disrupted due to premature dissolution of State Assemblies in 1968-69 and of the Lok Sabha in 1970.
<p>Maha Kumbh Mela</p> 	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISRO, BARC, and other agencies collaborate for the major clean-up at the Maha Kumbh. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a sacred pilgrimage that is celebrated four times over a course of 12 years. Kumbh Mela, the world's largest peaceful gathering, draws millions of pilgrims who bathe in sacred rivers seeking to purify themselves from sins and attain spiritual liberation. This sacred event rotates between four locations in 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. Historical background <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The roots of the Kumbh Mela stretch back thousands of years, finding early references during the Maurya and Gupta periods (4th century BCE to 6th century CE). During the medieval period, the Kumbh Mela received patronage from various royal dynasties, including the Chola and Vijayanagara empires in the south, and the Delhi Sultanate and Mughals in the north. Even Mughal emperors such as Akbar are noted to have participated in the celebrations, illustrating a spirit of religious tolerance. British administrators observed and documented the festival, intrigued by its massive scale and the diverse congregations it drew. Figures such as British colonial administrator James Prinsep chronicled the Kumbh Mela in the 19th century, detailing its ritualistic practices, the vast congregations, and the socio-religious dynamics at play.
<p>Places in news: Kandla port</p> 	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kandla port is set to receive a shipbuilding facility and cargo terminal worth ₹57,000 crore. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deendayal Port (previously called Kandla port) is situated in the Kandla Creek and is 90 kms from the mouth of the Gulf Of Kachchh in Gujarat. It is a protected natural harbor. It is recognized as one of major ports in India. It was constructed in the 1950s as the chief seaport serving western India, after the partition of India from Pakistan left the port of Karachi in Pakistan. Deendayal Port is a hub for major imports like petroleum, chemicals and iron and also exports grains, salt and textiles.



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

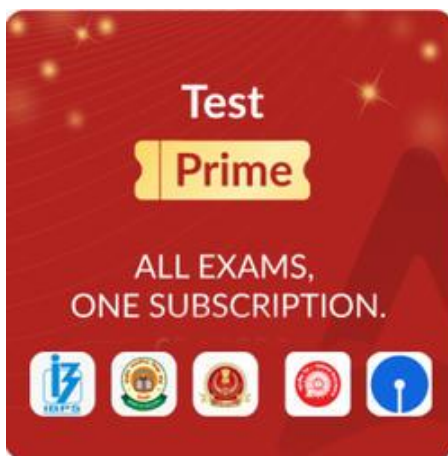


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	<p>reliable allies to counterbalance China's growing influence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Defense Ties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In 2018, India was elevated to Strategic Trade Authorization tier 1 status, which allowed India 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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