

pravahini

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

8 JAN – 14 JAN



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1. Indian Navy gets first indigenous Starliner drone 'Drishti 10':

- ❑ Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar of the Indian Navy officially revealed the first domestically produced "Drishti 10" Starliner Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) on January 10, 2024, during a ceremony held at Adani Aerospace Park in Hyderabad.
- ❑ The UAV will be formally accepted into the Navy's maritime operations after being flown from Hyderabad to Porbandar.
- ❑ An advanced intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) platform called the Drishti 10 Starliner unmanned aerial vehicle was created by Adani Defense and Aerospace in association with the Israeli defense company Elbit Systems.

2. Atal Setu Nhava Sheva Sea Link:

- ❑ The Prime Minister of India inaugurated the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) officially known as Atal Setu Nhava Sheva Sea Link, a monumental 22 km sea bridge.
- ❑ This mega-infrastructure project aims to revolutionize travel between Sewri and Chirle, promising a significant reduction in travel time.
- ❑ Atal Setu is the longest bridge in India and also the longest sea bridge in the country.

The bridge is about 21.8 km long six-lane bridge having about 16.5 km length over sea and about 5.5 km on the land.

3. Singapore's airport earns the title Of world's best airport in 2023:

- ❑ Changi Airport Reclaims the prestigious title of World's Best Airport for 2023. Award based on customer satisfaction surveys, reflecting excellence in airport services.
- ❑ Changi's ability to adapt and its commitment to continuous improvement highlighted. The architectural marvel of Jewel, featuring a lush garden, retail outlets, and celebrity endorsements.



4. National Youth Day, January 12:

- ❑ National Youth Day is observed in India every year on January 12 to honor the teachings and ideals of Swami Vivekananda who was born on January 12, 1863, in Kolkata.
- ❑ The decision to celebrate Vivekananda's birthday as National Youth Day was taken in 1984, and it was first marked on January 12, 1985.
- ❑ The theme of this year's festival is "Viksit Bharat@ 2047: Yuva ke liye, yuva ke dwara".

5. Varanasi and Prayagraj won 'Cleanest Ganga Towns' Award:

- ❑ Varanasi and Prayagraj, clinch top positions as the Cleanest Ganga Towns in the national awards organized by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry.
- ❑ Uttar Pradesh Urban Development Minister AK Sharma lauds the achievement as a "great accomplishment" for the state.
- ❑ The first time that two major cities in Uttar Pradesh have been honored at this level.

6. PM Modi Inaugurated the Internet 'KLI-SOFC Project' in Lakshadweep:

- ❑ Kochi Lakshadweep Submarine Optical Fiber Connection, often known as the "KLI-SOFC Project," was officially opened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ❑ Lakshadweep will benefit from the fast internet thanks to the initiative, which will create new opportunities.
- ❑ From the mainland (Kochi) to eleven Lakshadweep Islands (Kawarti, Agti, Amini, Kadamat, Chhatlet, Kalpanni, Minicoy, Androth, Kiltan, Bangaram, and Bitra), the Kochi-Lakshadweep Islands Cable (KLI) Project extended the submarine's link. vanished.



7. DRDO's Counter-drone System Ready for Production Handed Over to BEL:

- ❑ The system, comprising detection, identification, and neutralization features, has been demonstrated to armed services and internal security agencies.
- ❑ DRDO focuses on high endurance Unmanned Aerial Vehicles while smaller drone capabilities are left to industry development.
- ❑ Three services have already placed 23 orders with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for the DRDO-developed technology.

8. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2024, 9th January:

- ❑ It is observed on 9 January to mark the contribution of the Overseas Indian community to the development of India.
- ❑ On this day in 1915, Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest Pravasi, returned to India from South Africa.
- ❑ Since 2003, Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas conventions have been held every year. Its format has been revised since 2015 to celebrate the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas once every two years and to hold theme-based Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas Conferences during the intervening period with participation from overseas diaspora experts, policymakers, and stakeholders.
- ❑ The theme of the PBD 2023 will be continued this year, "Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's Progress in Amrit Kaal".

9. Sheikh Hasina becomes the Prime Minister Of Bangladesh for the 5th time:

- ❑ Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will be sworn in as Prime Minister of Bangladesh for the fourth straight term today.
- ❑ Sheikh Hasina's party won 223 of the parliament's 300 seats.
- ❑ The world's longest-serving incumbent female leader, who headed Bangladesh between 1996 and 2001 and again since 2009.



10. Inaugural Meeting of Inland Waterways Development Council (IWDC):

- ❑ The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) under the Shipping Ministry is hosting the first meeting of the recently constituted Inland Waterways Development Council (IWDC) on January 8th, 2023 in Kolkata.
- ❑ The Shipping Minister will be unveiling IWAI's river cruise tourism roadmap targeting 2047 and guidelines pushing green transition of inland vessels using alternative fuels like methanol, biofuels etc.
- ❑ The event will also witness signing of MoUs between IWAI and private companies to boost private investment across different segments like vessel construction, cargo transportation and building terminal infrastructure along national waterways.
- ❑ The Ministry aims to raise inland waterways' cargo modal share from 2% currently to 5% under Maritime India Vision 2030. The 2047 goals envision cargo volumes to rise from 120 million tonnes per annum presently to over 500 million tonnes.

11. The Supreme court of India has set aside the remission of Convicts in Bilkis Bano case:

- ❑ In a highly anticipated judgment, the Supreme Court set aside the remission of 11 convicts sentenced to life imprisonment for multiple murders and gang rapes, including that of Bilkis Bano, during the 2002 communal riots in Gujarat.
- ❑ The court held that the State of Gujarat was not the "appropriate government" to decide the issue of remission as the trial was held in the State of Maharashtra.
- ❑ Since the Gujarat Government was found to be incompetent, the remission orders were held to be invalid. Accordingly, the court directed the convicts, who were given premature release in August 2022, to surrender in prison within two weeks.



- ❑ A division bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan reserved its judgment on October 12, 2024.

12. Ministry of Panchayati Raj to Showcase 'Smart Panchayat'

Innovations:

- ❑ Debut participation as the Ministry exhibits flagship scheme SVAMITVA and eco-friendly initiatives.
- ❑ Features include smart Panchayat Bhawan, solar energy promotion, CSCs, digital payments, and informational applications.
- ❑ Stall at the trade show offers investment opportunities and aims to promote the idea of 'Smart Panchayat' to Panchayati Raj representatives.

13. The first cyclone 'Alvaro' of the year 2024 caused devastation in

Madagascar:

- ❑ On January 1, 2024, Tropical Cyclone Alvaro made landfall in southwest Madagascar, becoming the first cyclone of the 2023–2024 season to strike the island nation. The most recent data indicates that Cyclone Alvaro has affected about 17,200 persons in Madagascar.
- ❑ Particularly impacted by Cyclone Alvaro were provinces in southwest Madagascar including Atsimo-Andrefana. Cyclones classified as tropical occur when they form in the space between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.

14. India's first healthy and hygienic food Street 'Prasadam'

Inaugurated in Ujjain:

- ❑ Recently, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav inaugurated the country's first healthy and hygienic food street, 'Prasadam', that will serve traditional healthy food and delicacies made of coarse grains at Mahakal Lok in Ujjain.



- ❑ Prasadam will have 17 shops that will offer dishes made from rajgira, sanwa, Kuttu, Ragi, Dal-Baffle and other famous traditional dishes of the state, built at a cost of Rs 175 lakh.
- ❑ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) will give food handling training to vendors while the Food Safety on Wheels vehicle will come once a week to inspect the food and train vendors.

15. Denmark Launches Green Fuels Alliance to boost sustainable energy Partnership with India:

- ❑ The Danish government has announced the launch of the Green Fuels Alliance India (GFAI), a strategic initiative aimed at advancing collaboration between Denmark and India in the sustainable energy solutions sector.
- ❑ The GFAI is led by the Danish Embassy and Consulate General in India. It aligns with sustainability objectives under the 2020 Green Strategic Partnership signed between the two nations.
- ❑ The alliance also comes as India aggressively pursues its target of net-zero emissions by 2070. Denmark already leads the world in climate action and intends to achieve carbon neutrality even earlier by 2050.

16. World Hindi Day 2024, 10th January:

- ❑ World Hindi Day is celebrated every year on 10 January with the aim of giving special status to Hindi at the global level.
- ❑ This year, the theme of World Hindi Day is "Hindi from traditional knowledge to artificial intelligence".
- ❑ National Hindi Day is celebrated every year on 14 September.
- ❑ This day was celebrated for the first time in the year 2006 in the context of celebrating the anniversary of the first World Hindi Conference held in Nagpur on January 10, 1975. It marks the day when Hindi was first spoken in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1949.
- ❑ The Vishwa Hindi Secretariat building is located in Port Louis, Mauritius.



17. IIT Madras will open its campus in Kandy, Sri Lanka:

- ❑ The prestigious Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) is making waves on the international stage with the announcement of its latest venture: a brand new campus in Kandy, Sri Lanka.
- ❑ This initiative aligns with Sri Lanka's vision for educational advancement and strengthens India's internationalization efforts in the education sector. This venture follows IIT Delhi's planned campus in Abu Dhabi and IIT Madras' existing presence in Zanzibar, Tanzania.
- ❑ IIT Madras' expansion into Sri Lanka marks a significant step in furthering India's educational influence and enhancing regional collaboration.
- ❑ This venture holds immense potential for Sri Lankan students, aspiring technologists, and the overall development of both nations.

18. The Chhattisgarh Chief Minister launched the Ramlala Darshan Scheme:

- ❑ The Chhattisgarh government has decided to launch the 'Shri Ramlala Darshan scheme,' a pilgrimage to the newly built Ram temple in Ayodhya.
- ❑ Approximately 20,000 pilgrims will be taken for the Shri Ram lala Darshan annually.
- ❑ The Chhattisgarh Tourism Board and the Budget Tourism Department will facilitate the implementation of this scheme.
- ❑ The eligibility for the pilgrimage will be for Chhattisgarh natives aged 18 to 75 who are found fit in the health examination conducted by the district medical board.
- ❑ The pilgrimage distance is approximately 900 kilometers, and transportation will be facilitated in collaboration with the Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).
- ❑ Beneficiaries will be brought to and taken back from the railway station to their residences by the respective district administration.



19. India secures the 80th Position, with visa free access to 62 countries:

- ❑ According to the Henley passport index 2024, Indian passports rank 80th by providing Visa free or visa on arrival access to 62 countries. India shares the 80th position with Uzbekistan.
- ❑ In 2023 India was ranked 83rd and provided Visa free entry to 58 countries.
- ❑ The top spot is grabbed by 6 countries France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore and Spain with citizens enjoying Visa free access to 194 travel destinations.

20. The President of UAE was the chief guest at Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit:

- ❑ The India-UAE Business Summit was held on 10th January 2024 to strengthen bilateral ties between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as part of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024.
- ❑ UAE's President His Highness (H.H.) Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan is the chief guest at the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024, further emphasizing the growing cooperation and strengthening relations between the two nations.
- ❑ The session also highlighted India's booming startup landscape and included remarks from Shri Kunal Bahl, Chairman - Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) National Startup Council and Co-founder - Snapdeal and Titan Capital.
- ❑ A report on the CII India-UAE Start-Up Initiative titled "Unlocking Opportunities: India- UAE Start-Up Ecosystem Convergence" was also launched during the summit.

21. Climate Summit 2024, themed "Decoding the Green Transition for India" was held in Mumbai:



- ❑ The Climate Conference 2024, themed "Decoding the Green Transition for India," took place on January 12, 2024, in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ❑ Organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, the event focused on the pivotal role of the private sector, climate tech Startups and institutional investors in mobilizing financial resources and technical capabilities.
- ❑ The Conference was organized under the Green Climate Fund Readiness Programme with Delivery Partner UNDP India and supported by Knowledge Partner Avana Capital.
- ❑ The Conference underscored India's roadmap to achieving net-zero by 2070, focusing on green transition investments to transform energy systems, reduce CO2 emissions, conserve natural resources, increase biodiversity, and enhance climate resilience in a socially just and inclusive manner.

22. DRDO conducts successful flight-test of New Generation AKASH missile off Odisha coast:

- ❑ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight-test of the New Generation AKASH (AKASH-NG) missile from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha at 1030 hrs on January 12, 2024.
- ❑ The flight-test was conducted against a high-speed unmanned aerial target at very low altitude. During the flight-test, the target was successfully intercepted by the weapon system and destroyed.
- ❑ It has validated the functioning of the complete weapon system consisting of the missile with indigenously developed Radio Frequency Seeker, Launcher, Multi-Function Radar and Command, Control & Communication system.
- ❑ The AKASH-NG system is a state-of-the-art missile system capable of intercepting high speed, agile aerial threats. The successful flight test has paved the way for User trials.



23. WEEK THROUGH MCQs

1. Who has recently created a 'Guinness World Record' by singing in the most number of languages at a concert in UAE?

a) Sucheta Satish Sucheta Satish	b) Rajesh Kumar Rajesh Kumar
c) Neeta Sharma Neeta Sharma	d) Arya Babu / Getty Images Arya Babu

2. Who has recently been appointed as India's Ambassador to Geneva, WTO?

a) Senthil pandian	b) Ravish Kumar
c) Arvind Singh	d) Sujay Kumar

3. For which product Rani Durgavati Shriann Protsahan Yojana has been implemented in Madhya Pradesh?

a) Ragi Finger millet	b) Wheat Wheat
c) Basmati Rice Basmati Rice	d) Maize Maize

4. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated the 58th DGSP/IGSP Conference 2023 in which city?

a) Bengaluru	b) Hyderabad
c) New Delhi	d) Mumbai

5. Who has chaired the 'National PACS Mega Conclave' on 'Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi?

a) Anurag Thakur	b) Piyush goyal
c) Suresh Prabhu	d) Amit Shah

6. Who has been named as a 'Class C' director on the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York?

a) Rajiv Shah	b) Neeraj Akhouri
c) Pramod Sharma	d) Parminder Chopra



7. Recently, which printing press published a book titled 'Modi: Energizing A Green Future,'?
 - a) Pentagon press
 - b) Penguin Random House
 - c) Acme Printing press
 - d) Harper collins publishers

8. What is the name of a guideline issued by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in India to instill human values and professional ethics in higher education institutions?
 - a) UTSAH
 - b) NEP SAARTHI
 - c) Mulya Pravah 2.0
 - d) Diksha

9. Who recently became the first Indian woman to receive the Arjuna Award for Equestrian Sports?
 - a) P. V. Sindhu
 - b) Mary Kom
 - c) Saina Nehwal
 - d) Divyakriti Singh

10. What is the theme for observing Earth Rotation Day in 2024?
 - a) Celebrating Earth's Natural Beauty.
 - b) Recognizing Human Achievements in Space Exploration.
 - c) Honoring the Discovery of Our Planet's Movement.
 - d) Promoting Environmental Conservation.

ANSWER KEY

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|----------|----|-----------|----|
| 1 | a) | 6 | a) |
| 2 | a) | 7 | a) |
| 3 | a) | 8 | c) |
| 4 | a) | 9 | d) |
| 5 | d) | 10 | c) |

