



CURRENT AFFAIRS COMPILATION JANUARY 2024

JUDICIARY POINT OF VIEW



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1. Astronauts on the International Space Station experience 45 minutes of daylight followed by 45 minutes of darkness in each orbit. This is significantly different from the typical 12-hour day-night cycle on Earth. Thus, the crew at International Space Station witnesses 16 New Year countdowns in a row.
2. The primary objectives of the recently launched **XPoSat** (X-ray Polarimeter Satellite) by ISRO are to investigate the polarization of intense X-Ray sources and study the enigmatic world of black holes. This satellite is India's first dedicated scientific satellite for conducting research in space-based polarization measurements of X-ray emission from celestial sources. It carries two scientific payloads: POLIX (Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays) for measuring polarimetry parameters in the medium X-ray energy range of 8-30 keV photons and XSPECT (X-ray Spectroscopy and Timing) for providing spectroscopic information in the energy range of 0.8-15 keV. These instruments will help in gaining a deeper understanding of X-ray sources in space, including neutron stars and black holes.
3. **Dr. Arvind Panagariya** has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Finance Commission of India.
4. Mumbai became the global leader in the total number of initial public offerings (IPOs), according to a Nikkei report.
5. India's electoral bond scheme sees authorized SBI branches issue these interest-free bearer bonds to protect donor anonymity.
6. Perihelion refers to the point in Earth's elliptical orbit when it is closest to the Sun. In 2024, this event known as Perihelion Day will occur on January 3 when Earth comes within 91.4 million miles of the Sun. It occurs around two weeks after the December solstice each year. The opposite point when Earth is farthest from the Sun is called Aphelion which will occur on July 6, 2024.
7. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) has commissioned the **Asanur Pipeline** Terminal in Tamil Nadu to cater to the growing energy demand in

the state. Built at a cost of ₹456 crore, it will serve 8 districts in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry by transporting petroleum products through a pipeline network. It will reduce pressure on existing terminals in Chennai.

8. Venezuela has agreed to provide oil to India's ONGC Videsh (OVL) as a form of compensation for a pending dividend amounting to approximately \$600 million.
9. The Supreme Court of India issued the SOP for summoning government officials after observing that the constant summoning of officials instead of relying on government lawyers runs contrary to the constitutional scheme.
10. State-owned ONGC won seven out of the ten areas awarded for exploration and production in the latest 8th round of Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) bidding. A Reliance-BP joint venture managed to win one block out of the total ten.
11. IHCL's Managing Director & CEO Puneet Chhatwal assumed charge as Chairman of FAITH after Nakul Anand stepped down following retirement from ITC Hospitality.
12. The West Bengal government plans to develop a tea park spread over 10-12 acres along the banks of the Hooghly River near Kolkata.
13. Microsoft is introducing a notable feature in some of the new personal computers running its Windows operating system – the “Copilot key”.
14. The U.N.'s World Economic Situation and Prospects 2024 report forecasts that South Asia will experience significant GDP growth in 2024.

15. Nepal's government imposed a ban on its citizens from traveling to Russia or Ukraine for employment due to concerns over their recruitment in the ongoing armed conflict.
16. The humanoid robot ALOHA was developed through a collaborative effort by researchers at Google DeepMind and Stanford University.
17. The NAMASTE (National Ayush Morbidity and Standardised Terminologies Electronic) Portal, which was recently in the news, is associated with the field of Traditional Medicine.
18. The investigation by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute uncovered an extensive YouTube propaganda network dubbed "Operation Shadow Play" comprising at least 30 channels promoting pro-Chinese viewpoints and criticism of the US.
19. The Red Ant Chutney of Mayurbhanj in Odisha has recently been granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
20. Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra has been honoured with the title of India's first 'International Dark Sky Park' by the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA).
21. The Ministry of Rural Development and State Bank of India have signed an MoU to ease enterprise financing for rural self-help groups (SHGs).
22. The 9th Asian Winter Games, scheduled for 2025, unveiled its core symbols in Heilongjiang, China. The official slogan, "Dream of Winter, Love among Asia," reflects unity and sportsmanship, embodying the passion for winter sports across Asian countries. Mascots "Binbin" and "Nini," Siberian tiger cubs, symbolize the Games' vitality. The emblem, named "Breakthrough," creatively merges Chinese culture and Olympic symbols, featuring a speed skater, lilac flower, and dancing ribbons.
23. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), officially named Atal Setu Nhava Sheva Sea Link, which is the country's longest bridge over the sea.

24. Rohit Sharma, Team India's captain, created history by being the first male player to participate in 150 T20 International matches during the second T20I against Afghanistan at Holkar Cricket Stadium.
25. The World Economic Forum (WEF) and Telangana government are establishing the 19th Centre of the WEF's Fourth Industrial Revolution Network (4IR) in Hyderabad, slated for launch in February 2024.
26. A 2,800-year-old human settlement has been unearthed in Vadnagar, Gujarat.
27. The Kerala Drug Control Department recently launched Operation Amrith (Antimicrobial Resistance Intervention for Total Health) to combat antibiotic resistance (AMR).
28. Bernardo Arévalo assumed the Guatemalan presidency on January 15, 2024, overcoming political hurdles and opposition to his unexpected victory.
29. On January 17, 2024, Grandmaster Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa became India's top-ranked men's chess player, surpassing five-time World Champion Viswanathan Anand.
30. The China National Space Administration (CNSA) confirmed that the Chang'e 6 sample return mission is scheduled to land on the Moon in the first half of 2024.
31. Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the \$107 million Parikrama Prakaalpa project around Puri's Jagannath Temple, witnessed by 90 Indian temple heads and Nepal's Pashupatinath Temple reps, to improve pilgrim infrastructure – the biggest in 700 years. The inaugural event coincided with a 3-day ritual and launching of other Puri projects like a \$27M bridge.
32. Parakram Diwas – January 23, 2024 – commemorated as birthday of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose
33. Exercise cyclone – “Anshas, Egypt”
34. Exercise Khanjar – Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh

35. Recently, the Chhattisgarh High Court in the matter of **Suman Sharma & Ors. v. State of Chhattisgarh & Ors.**, has held that the complaint filed by the second wife against her husband and in laws under the provisions of **Section 498-A of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (IPC)** is not maintainable.
36. Recently, the **High Court of Allahabad** in the matter of **Anupam Singh v. State of U.P. Thru. Prin. Secy. Home & Anr.**, has elucidated the difference between the scope of **Sections 311 and 233 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 (CrPC)**.
37. SHRESHTA ----- The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment recently highlighted the Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA)
38. The Supreme Court of India recently concluded its judgment on a series of petitions pertaining to allegations made by the US-based firm, Hindenburg Research, against the Adani group. The apex court refused to transfer the investigation from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to other bodies, affirming its confidence in SEBI's handling of the case. Also, SC instructed SEBI to utilize its investigative authority to determine if the Hindenburg report's short-selling actions violated laws, resulting in investor harm.
39. Huntington's disease is a severe neurodegenerative disorder affecting the central nervous system. It is caused by a mutation in the HTT gene, producing a faulty huntingtin (Htt) protein.
40. A heat-tolerant vaccine developed by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) researchers is said to be effective against all current strains of SARS-CoV-2 besides having the potential to be quickly adapted for future variants as well.
41. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has recently submitted three nominations from India for the Wetland City Accreditation (WCA). The nominated cities include Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), and Udaipur (Rajasthan). The ongoing Amrit Dharohar initiative by MoEF&CC aligns with WCA goals, promoting the conservation values of Ramsar Sites.

42. Peace Pact with ULFA ----- The pro-talks faction of the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) signed a tripartite peace deal with the Centre and the Assam government recently.

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