

Current Affairs: 14th Jan, 2025

National News

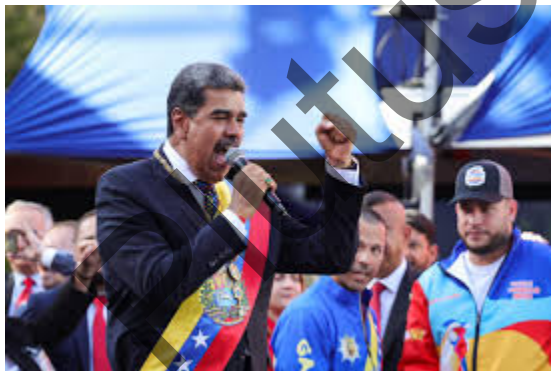
1. SECL Introduces Post-Retirement Benefit Cell



South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) launched a Post-Retirement Benefit (PRB) Cell to provide a single-window solution for its retired employees. This initiative ensures seamless access to various post-retirement services, aligning with SECL's 'Mission Sambandh' program to enhance stakeholder communication.

International News

2. Venezuela's Maduro Sworn in Amid Electoral Controversy



Nicolas Maduro was sworn in for a third term as Venezuela's President despite allegations of electoral fraud by his opponent, Edmundo Gonzalez. This development sparked protests and international criticism, particularly from the United States.

3. 6.9 Magnitude Earthquake Hits Japan, Tsunami Advisory Issued



A magnitude 6.9 earthquake struck southwestern Japan on January 13, 2025, prompting a tsunami advisory for Miyazaki and Kochi Prefectures. Fortunately, no major damage or casualties were reported, and the advisory was lifted soon after.

Defence News

4. India-U.S. Sonobuoy Production Line Set for 2027



India and the U.S. are collaborating on the co-production of sonobuoys to enhance the Indian Navy's submarine detection capabilities. The production line, involving Bharat Dynamics Limited and Ultra Maritime, will be operational by 2027.

State News

5. Uttar Pradesh to Privatize Power Distribution Firms



The Uttar Pradesh government plans to privatize two of its power distribution companies, aiming to address power losses and improve infrastructure. The move, initiated through a state tender, has sparked discussions about its long-term impact.

6. Odisha Integrates with Ayushman Bharat



Odisha became the 34th state to implement the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), enhancing healthcare accessibility. The initiative is formalized through an MoU with the National Health Authority.

Economy News

7. India's Direct Tax Collection Grows in FY25



India's direct tax collection has reached ₹16.90 lakh crore by January 2025, showing a 15.88% increase compared to the previous fiscal year. The government targets a total of ₹22.07 lakh crore for FY25.

8. India's Retail Inflation Drops to 5.22%



Retail inflation in India fell to 5.22% in December 2024, marking a four-month low due to reduced food prices. This decline is a relief amid concerns over high living costs.

9. Govt Approves ₹700 Crore for Watershed Projects



The Rural Development Ministry approved 56 watershed projects under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, covering 280,000 hectares across ten states. These projects aim to boost agricultural productivity and climate resilience.

Science & Technology News

10. ISRO Achieves Docking Milestone in SpaDeX Mission



ISRO's SpaDeX mission demonstrated successful satellite docking technology, bringing India closer to advanced space operations. This positions India as the fourth nation to achieve such a feat.

Awards News

11. Kappad and Chal Beaches Earn Blue Flag Certification



Kerala's Kappad and Chal beaches received Blue Flag certification for meeting high environmental and safety standards. This achievement boosts Kerala's reputation for eco-friendly tourism.

Sports News

12. Inaugural Kho Kho World Cup Begins



The first-ever Kho Kho World Cup kicked off at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi, featuring teams from 23 countries. The event highlights the growing international popularity of this traditional Indian sport.

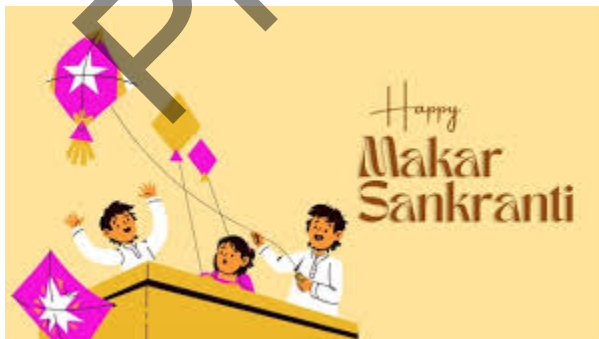
13. Anju Bobby George Named Chairperson of AFI's Athletes Commission



Renowned long-jumper Anju Bobby George was appointed Chairperson of the Athletics Federation of India's Athletes Commission. This step promotes greater gender parity in Indian athletics governance.

Important Days

14. Makar Sankranti 2025 Celebrations



Makar Sankranti, marking the Sun's transition to Capricorn, is celebrated on January 14, 2025. This ancient Hindu festival symbolizes the end of winter and the beginning of longer days.

Plutus Academy