

Current Affairs- 04 January 2025

Description

Important Current Affairs- 04 January 2025

National News:

The RBI has approved the merger of Bangalore-based **National Co-operative Bank** with **Cosmos Co-operative Bank of Maharashtra**, effective January 6, 2025, as part of ongoing banking sector consolidation. Post-merger, National Co-operative Bank branches will function under Cosmos Co-operative.

SBI has launched two new deposit schemes: **Har Ghar Lakhpati**, a recurring deposit plan helping customers save ₹1 lakh or more, and **SBI Patrons**, a fixed deposit scheme offering higher interest rates for senior citizens aged 80 and above.

India is revising its GDP base year from **2011-12** to **2022-23** to better reflect the current economic landscape. This update, aimed at improving the accuracy of national accounts, will be implemented by early 2026.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **MK Stalin** inaugurated India's first glass bridge in **Kanniyakumari**, connecting the **Vivekananda Rock Memorial** and **Thiruvalluvar Statue**. Built under a Rs 37-crore project by the Tamil Nadu government, the bridge aims to enhance tourism in the region.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has recently amended the **Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023**. This amendment introduces new provisions aimed at enhancing stakeholder engagement in the formulation and amendment of trade policies.

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has successfully rolled out its **Centralised Pension Payments System (CPPS)** across India. This initiative benefits over 68 lakh pensioners and modernises the pension disbursement process.

The **Gujarat** government is preparing to launch India's inaugural census of **coastal and wader birds**. This landmark event will occur at the Marine National Park and Sanctuary in Jamnagar from January 3 to 5, 2025.

In December 2023, **Odisha** experienced unprecedented unseasonal rainfall, leading to crop damage. Chief Minister **Mohan Charan Majhi** announced this weather event as a natural calamity during the **10th Krushi Odisha Conclave** in Bhubaneswar. This declaration aims to expedite compensation for farmers affected by the rainfall, allowing access to the state disaster response fund (SDRF).

International News:

Mike Johnson, a Republican from Louisiana, was re-elected as **Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives** on the first day of the new Congress, despite facing opposition from hard-right Republicans. His victory, supported by President-elect Donald Trump, comes amid challenges like a narrow majority.

NASA has recently introduced the **Mars Chopper**, a new drone designed to succeed the **Ingenuity** helicopter. Ingenuity operated on Mars for nearly three years, far exceeding its initial mission parameters.

A concerning rise in **tularemia cases**, also known as **rabbit fever**, in the **United States**. The disease, caused by the bacterium **Francisella tularensis**, has seen over a 50 per cent increase in reported cases. This rise is particularly notable among children aged 5-9, older men, and **American Indians or Alaska Natives**.

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