

Mains Exam Practice (MEP): Questions of the Day

1. Evaluate the significance of secure, cloud-based platforms like 'Entity Locker' in fostering transparency and ease of doing business. What measures can be taken to ensure its widespread adoption across various sectors? [BPSC GS 1: Section II] (38 Marks).
2. As Donald Trump's second term has begun, analyze the impact on future India-US relations, especially in the areas of trade, defense and climate change. What steps should India take to ensure the continuity and growth of bilateral relations during this term? [BPSC GS 1: Section II] (38 Marks)

Economy**RBI forms new advisory committee****Why in the news?**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the setting up of a Standing External Advisory Committee (SEAC), which will evaluate applications for Universal Banks as well as Small Finance Banks (SFBs) on 21 Jan 2025.

- ❖ The tenure of the SEAC will be for three years.

Committee Formation

- ❖ **Chairperson:** MK Jain, former Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India.

Members:

- ❖ Revathy Iyer – Director, Central Board, RBI.
- ❖ Parvathy V Sundaram – Former Executive Director, RBI.
- ❖ Hemant G Contractor – Former MD, SBI & Chairman, PFRDA (Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority).
- ❖ NS Kannan – Former MD & CEO, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance.

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is the central bank of India whose primary function is to manage and govern the financial system of the country.
- ❖ It is a statutory body established in the year 1935 under the Reserve Bank of India Act, of 1934.
- ❖ The head office of the RBI, in Kolkata, when the bank was established, was shifted to Mumbai in 1937.
- ❖ Sanjay Malhotra is the 26th and current Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Environment And Geography

Indonesia's Mt Ibu



Why in the news?

A volcano in eastern Indonesia erupted at least a thousand times in January 2025.

- ❖ Mount Ibu, is one of Indonesia's most active volcanos.
- ❖ Indonesia, a vast archipelago, experiences frequent seismic and volcanic activity as it lies along the Pacific Ring of Fire.

Miscellaneous

Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura celebrate Statehood Day



Why in the news?

Every year on January 21, the northeastern states of Manipur, Meghalaya, and Tripura celebrate their Statehood Day, marking the historic moment they attained full statehood under the North Eastern Region (Reorganization) Act of 1971.

- ❖ Manipur and Tripura: These princely states merged with India in 1949. Initially granted Union Territory status in 1956, they aspired for full statehood, which was achieved on 21st January 1972.
- ❖ Meghalaya: Originally part of Assam, Meghalaya gained autonomy through the Assam Reorganisation (Meghalaya) Act, of 1969. It became a full-fledged state in 1972.
- ❖ The northeastern region of India, often referred to as the "Seven Sisters," comprises seven states: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura.

Centre launches 'Entity Locker'

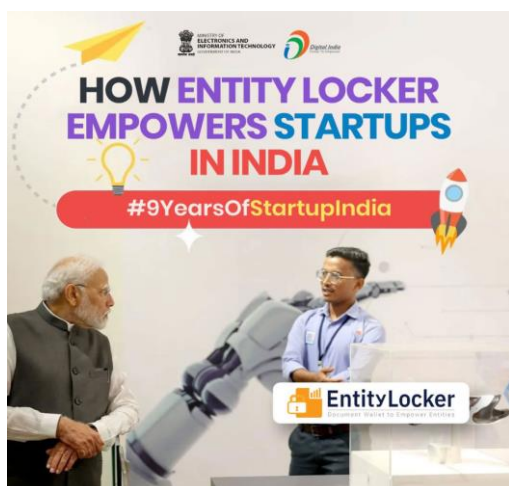
Why in the news?

The government has introduced 'Entity Locker,' a new digital platform aimed at streamlining the management and verification of business and organizational documents.

- ❖ Developed by the National eGovernance Division (NeGD) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), this secure, cloud-based platform caters to a diverse range of entities, including corporations, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), trusts, startups, and societies.
- ❖ Entity Locker leverages advanced technology to seamlessly integrate with various government and regulatory systems.

Key features:

- ❖ Real-time access to government databases, consent-based mechanisms for secure information sharing, Aadhaar-authenticated role-based access, and legally valid digital signatures.
- ❖ Users are also provided with 10 GB of encrypted cloud storage for secure document handling.



Flamingo Festival 2025

Flamingo Festival 2025



Why in the news?

The three-day Flamingo Festival 2025 in Andhra Pradesh concluded on January 20, 2025.

- ❖ To raise awareness about biodiversity, environmental challenges, and conservation needs of Pulicat Lake and Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary.
- ❖ Promoted sustainable tourism and highlighted the importance of preserving natural habitats.
- ❖ Flamingo Festival 2025 is a celebration of biodiversity, culture, and community, set in the beautiful surroundings of Pulicat Lake and Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary.
- ❖ Since its inception in 2001, the Flamingo Festival has grown into one of India's premier eco-tourism events, attracting thousands of visitors from across the globe.

NDRF celebrates 20th Raising Day

Why in the news?

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) celebrated its 20th Raising Day on 19th Jan 2025 and commemorated two decades of dedicated service to the nation.

- ❖ Established in 2006, the 1st Battalion plays a crucial role in disaster response across the northeastern states of Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya and Mizoram.
- ❖ The Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), and Assam Rifles are among the battalions that comprise the specialised, multi-skilled rescue force.



Persons In News

Donald Trump

Why in the news?

Donald Trump took oath as the 47th President of America on 20 Jan 2025.

EXECUTIVE ORDERS SIGNED BY PRESIDENT TRUMP SO FAR:

- 1 US withdraws again from Paris climate agreement
- 2 Pardons January 6th Capitol attack convicts
- 3 Orders the restoration of free speech & prevents government censorship
- 4 Keeps TikTok operating for 90 days
- 5 Begins renaming the Gulf of Mexico to Gulf of America
- 6 Ends the diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility (DEIA) programs
- 7 Recognition of only female and male genders
- 8 US Withdraws from the World Health Organisation
- 9 Declares "National Emergency" at the US-Mexico border
- 10 Ends automatic citizenship for US-born children
- 11 Rescinds 78 Biden-era orders, including revoking transgender protections

moneycontrol

- ❖ Trump is the second president in US history to lose his first term as president but manage to become president again four years later. Before this, Grover Cleveland was the 22nd and 24th president of the US.
- ❖ Trump is the first US president to be convicted of a crime.
- ❖ External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar attended Donald Trump's grand inauguration ceremony at the US Capitol.

Index and Report

Edelman Trust Barometer 2025

Why in the news?

India slipped to 3rd place in overall trust, behind China (1st) and Indonesia (2nd).

- ❖ The barometer ranks trust in government, business, media, and NGOs.
- ❖ India is ranked **13th globally** in trust in companies headquartered in the country.
- ❖ Top Countries for Corporate Trust: Canada ranks 1st, followed by Japan, Germany, the UK, France, and the US.
- ❖ Countries Ahead of India: Mexico, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, China, and Brazil rank higher in trust in companies.
- ❖ According to the report, lower-income groups are less trustworthy than their richer counterparts.

News in Short

- ❖ The Union Agriculture Ministry has started the first-ever survey to know the pattern of edible oil consumption in the country.
 - This survey started on January 9 and will continue till February 23, 2025.

- ❖ The Election Commission is going to organize an international conference of election commissions from all over the world in the **76th year of its establishment**.
 - About 30 representatives of election commissions of 13 countries will participate in this two-day conference to be held on **23-24 January**.
- ❖ The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), in collaboration with the Adani Group, is delivering meals to nearly one lakh individuals daily at the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela.
- ❖ The iconic Amrit Udyan at Rashtrapati Bhavan will be open for public viewing from **February 2 to March 30, 2025**.
- ❖ Angel One has announced the appointment of Ambareesh Kenghe as its Group Chief Executive Officer. Kenghe will assume the role in **March 2025**.



PW Web/App: <https://smart.link/7wwosivoicgd4>

For more such content, subscribe to our Telegram Channel https://t.me/pw_upsc