

01 January 2025

Kiritimati Island in Kiribati is the first place to celebrate the New Year

Key Points:

- ❖ The first place to usher in 2025 will be Christmas Island (Kiritimati) in the Republic of Kiribati. A small island in the Pacific Ocean, it will be the first to see the new year at 5 am EST (3.30 pm IST). Shortly afterward, the Chatham Islands of New Zealand will follow suit at 5.15 am EST (3.45 pm IST), followed by New Zealand's major cities of Auckland and Wellington, who will mark the occasion at 6 am EST (4.30 pm IST).



Senior IPS officer Vitul Kumar appointed as Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

Key Points:

- ❖ Senior IPS officer Vitul Kumar has been appointed as Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
- ❖ He replaced Anish Dayal Singh.
- ❖ Kumar, a 1993 batch IPS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, is currently serving as Special Director General of the CRPF.
- ❖ Kumar's service has been recognized with several honours, including the President's Police Medal (PPM) awarded on January 26, 2021, and the Police Medal (PM) on August 15, 2009.
- ❖ He has also received the Director General's Commendation Disc in Silver on January 26, 2016, and in Gold on January 26, 2018.



- ❖ The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is a central armed police force in India under the Ministry of Home Affairs. The CRPF assists states and Union Territories in maintaining law and order and internal security.
- ❖ It was established on 27 July 1939 as Crown Representative's Police with the objective of providing security to the British Crown Representatives in India.
- ❖ The force was later renamed as the Central Reserve Police Force by an Act of Parliament in 1949. The CRPF played a major role in the Parliamentary elections of September 1999.

ISRO's SpaDeX Mission A First Step For India To Set Up Its Own Space Station

Key Points:

- ❖ ISRO launched SpaDeX i.e. Space Docking Experiment Mission on 30 December at 10 pm from Sriharikota. Under this, two spacecrafts were deployed 470 km above the earth from the PSLVC60 rocket. Now on 7 January 2025, in this mission, these two spacecrafts traveling ten times faster than the speed of a bullet in space will be connected. If the mission is successful, then India will become the fourth country to do so after Russia, America and China. India's Chandrayaan-4 mission depends on the success of the mission, in which samples of moon's soil will be brought to Earth. Chandrayaan-4 mission can be launched in 2028.



- ❖ To demonstrate the technology of docking and undocking of two small spacecraft in low Earth orbit. To demonstrate the technology of transferring electric power between two docked spacecraft. Space docking means joining or connecting two spacecraft in space.
- ❖ The mission consists of two small spacecraft target and chaser. They were launched into separate orbits at an altitude of 470 km by PSLV-C60 rocket.
- ❖ After deployment, the spacecrafts are travelling at a speed of about 28,800 km per hour. This speed is 36 times the speed of a commercial aircraft and 10 times the speed of a bullet.
- ❖ Camera in spacecraft A and two payloads in spacecraft B For the standalone mission phase after docking experiments, spacecraft A has a high resolution camera (HRC).
- ❖ Spacecraft B has two payloads - miniature multispectral (MMX) payload and radiation monitor (RadMon). These payloads will provide high resolution images, natural resource monitoring, vegetation studies and onorbit radiation environment measurements which have many applications.
- ❖ Both the satellites of Spadex have been built by Anant Technologies Limited (ATL) under the guidance of ISRO engineers. UR Rao Satellite Center Director M Shankaran said on Monday night - Till now a large satellite was never built alone in the

industry. This is the first time that two satellites have been integrated. Hopefully we will launch more such satellites in the coming days, which are made in the industry itself.

- ❖ India took patent on its docking mechanism This docking mechanism has been named 'Indian Docking System'. ISRO has also taken a patent on this docking system. India had to develop its own docking mechanism, as no space agency shares the details of this extremely complex process.

Why the mission is necessary:

- ❖ The success of missions like Chandrayaan-4 depends on this The technology will be used in the Chandrayaan-4 mission in which samples from the moon will be brought back to Earth.
- ❖ Docking technology will also be needed to build a space station and then to go there.
- ❖ This technology is also necessary for the Gaganyaan mission in which humans will be sent to space. This technology is necessary for satellite servicing, interplanetary missions and sending humans to the moon.

About Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is India's national space agency which was set up on 15 August 1969.
- ❖ Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka
- ❖ Founder and first Chairman: Vikram Sarabhai.
- ❖ Chairman: S.Somnath

China Unveils World's Fastest High-Speed Train Prototype

Key Points:

- ❖ China on Sunday unveiled an updated model of its highspeed bullet train which its manufacturer claims reached speeds of

450 kmph during the test runs, making it the world's fastest high-speed train.

- ❖ According to the China State Railway Group Co (China Railway), the new model, known as the CR450 prototype, will further shorten travel time and improve connectivity, making travel more convenient and efficient for the country's vast passengers.
- ❖ The CR450 prototype reached a test speed of 450 kmph, with key performance indicators — operational speed, energy consumption, interior noise, and braking distance — setting a new international benchmark, official media here reported.
- ❖ It is significantly faster than the CR400 Fuxing highspeed rail (HSR) currently in service, which operates at speeds of 350 kmph, a report by state-run Xinhua said.



3 Types Of Bank Accounts To Be Closed From January 1

Key Points:

- ❖ Starting January 1, 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will implement a series of crucial changes, affecting lakhs of bank accounts across the country. Are you at risk of losing access to your bank account? It's essential to understand these changes and take action before it's too late. The RBI's decision to close certain types of bank accounts stems from its objective to enhance the safety, transparency, and efficiency of banking transactions.



Dormant Accounts

- ❖ A dormant account is one where there have been no transactions for a continuous period of two years or more. These accounts are particularly vulnerable to misuse by hackers, who often target inactive accounts for fraudulent activities. To safeguard customers and the banking system, the RBI has decided to close such accounts.

Inactive Accounts

- ❖ Inactive accounts are those with no transaction activity over a specified period (typically 12 months or more). These accounts will also be closed as part of the RBI's efforts to enhance account security and reduce the risk of fraudulent behaviour. If your account falls into this category, it is essential to either reactivate it or face potential closure.

Aspect	Inactive Bank Account	Dormant Bank Account
	active	restrictions may apply
Transactions	No transactions, but the account can still receive funds	No transactions allowed
Interest and Charges	Interest may still accrue, and charges may apply	Interest may cease, dormant account fees may apply
Reactivation	Can be reactivated by performing a	Requires specific reactivation process or
Access to Funds	Funds can be withdrawn anytime	Restricted access, may require reactivation
Communication	Bank may send reminders or notifications	Limited communication from the bank

Zero Balance Accounts

- ❖ Accounts that maintain a zero balance for an extended period will also be subject to closure. The RBI's objective is to prevent the misuse of such accounts, minimise financial risks, and encourage customers to maintain active relationships with their banks. Additionally, this measure is intended to strengthen Know Your Customer (KYC) norms and ensure that all customer information is up to date and accurate.
- ❖ If your account has been dormant for over two years, it is crucial to take immediate action to reactivate it.
- ❖ The first step is to complete the KYC (Know Your Customer) process, if not already done. You may need to visit your bank or update your details online. To avoid your account being flagged as inactive, ensure that your KYC details are updated regularly.
- ❖ This includes verifying your identity and address with the bank whenever required. Banks often require a minimum balance to be maintained in an account. Be sure to check your bank's specific guidelines and maintain the required balance to prevent your account from being considered inactive.
- ❖ Also, while offline banking options are still available, prioritising digital banking channels not only offers convenience but also aligns with the RBI's push towards a more modern banking system.

