



## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JANUARY 08, 2026

### NATIONAL

- **India Becomes First Country to Commercially Produce Bio-Bitumen**
- ✓ India has achieved a historic global milestone by becoming the first country in the world to commercially produce bio-bitumen for use in road construction, representing a transformative step toward sustainable highways.
- ✓ Bio-bitumen is produced from biomass and agricultural waste, eliminating the practice of crop residue burning, a major contributor to seasonal air pollution, particularly in northern India affecting millions of citizens.
- ✓ The innovation aligns with Viksit Bharat 2047 and Atma Nirbhar Bharat, converting agricultural waste into valuable construction inputs while reducing dependence on imported bitumen and petroleum-derived materials.

### INTERNATIONAL

- **India-Bhutan Judicial Exchange MoU**
- ✓ The Supreme Court of India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bhutan to exchange young legal professionals.
- ✓ Chief Justice of India Surya Kant welcomed two law clerks from Bhutan to work in the Supreme Court, marking closer judicial cooperation.
- ✓ Under the MoU, two Bhutanese law clerks will work in the Supreme Court of India for a tenure of three months.

- ✓ The clerks will receive the same honorarium as Indian law clerks, and travel expenses will be borne by the Supreme Court of India.
- ✓ The initiative aims to strengthen judicial diplomacy, provide Bhutanese judiciary exposure to India's legal system, and enhance regional cooperation under India's Neighbourhood First policy.

## APPOINTMENTS

- **Chairman of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)**
- ✓ Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, appointed distinguished scientist A. K. Balasubrahmanian as the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), India's apex nuclear safety regulator, for three years.
- ✓ His career spans almost 40 years in the design, development, safety assessment, construction, and commissioning of Nuclear Power Plants (NPP).
- ✓ Contributed to first-of-a-kind systems with indigenous safety features, promoted self-reliance in nuclear reactor technology, and represented India in international conferences and technical forums on reactor technology and safety.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Cloud-9**
- ✓ National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)'s Hubble Telescope discovered a starless, gas-rich, dark-matter cloud, which is nicknamed 'Cloud-9'.
- ✓ This newly discovered dark matter-dominated cloud, considered a 'relic' or remnant of early galaxy formation, is located 14 million light-years from Earth near the spiral galaxy Messier 94.
- ✓ Cloud-9 is invisible in visible light and only detectable by its hydrogen, which makes it a rare 'fossil' from the universe early days.

