

Today in History on 14 DEC

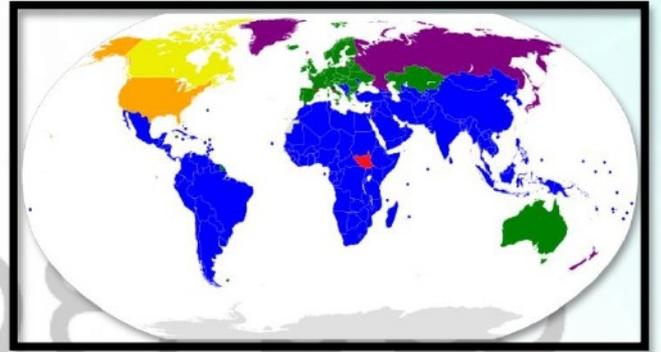
- **1687 - East India Company creates municipal corporation in Madras (India).**

India got its first municipal administration with the establishment of Chennai Municipal Corporation in 1687. Subsequently, Kolkata and Mumbai Municipal Corporations were established in 1726. Municipal bodies have a long history in India. The first such municipal corporation was established in 1688 in the former Madras Presidency town. After India gained independence in 1947, Madras continued as the capital of Madras State and present-day Tamil Nadu. The city was officially renamed Chennai in 1996.



- **1997 - All countries in the world agree to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.**

Before the Paris Agreement, the world's only legally binding instrument for reducing greenhouse gas emissions was the Kyoto Protocol of 1997. The Protocol has been ratified by 192 parties to the UNFCCC, including the European Union and its member countries. China is the world's largest emitter of carbon dioxide, emitting 11,397 million metric tons in 2022.



- **1911 - Roald Amundsen's journey to the South Pole.**

Roald Amundsen was a Norwegian explorer who made adventures in the polar regions. He led an expedition to the South Pole in 1910–12, which led to its discovery in 1911. He was the first undisputed explorer to reach the North Pole in 1926. He was the first to travel the Northwest Passage in 1903–06.



➤ 1921 - Annie Besant was conferred the degree of 'Doctor of Letters' by Banaras Hindu University.

On December 1921, Annie Besant was conferred the degree of 'Doctor of Letters' by Banaras Hindu University. Annie Besant was a great leader of the Indian National Movement and made significant contributions to Indian culture, education and freedom struggle. To awaken the spiritually and politically asleep India, Annie Besant, who called India her home, studied religions around the world in depth. She studied those religions and understood that the religion of the Vedas and Upanishads is the true path.



➤ 1982 - The great Green Gate between the British colony of Gibraltar and Spain reopens after 13 years.

The border at La Línea remained closed for over 13 years, until it was partially reopened to Spanish and Gibraltar pedestrians on 15 December 1982, and fully reopened to motor vehicles on 5 February 1985 in preparation for Spain's accession to the European Community in 1986. In 1982, the land border was reopened. As a result of an agreement signed in Córdoba between Gibraltar, the United Kingdom and Spain on 18 September 2006, the Spanish government agreed to relax border controls on the border, which have caused locals trouble for decades; in return, the UK paid increased pensions to Spanish workers who lost their jobs when Franco closed the border.



Important NEWS on 14 DEC

➤ Lok Sabha Passes Railways (Amendment) Bill 2024 Amid Disruptions

The Lok Sabha passed the Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024 during the Winter Session despite

disruptions, with Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw addressing concerns over potential privatisation. The bill aims to subsume the Railway Board Act, 1905, into the Railways Act, 1989, simplifying the legal framework while empowering the Railway Board with statutory powers.



➤ India to Triple Atomic Power Capacity by 2031

India's atomic power capacity has seen remarkable growth, nearly doubling from 4,780 MW in 2014 to 8,081 MW in 2024. Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, in a statement to the Lok Sabha, highlighted that this progress was achieved in just a decade, a milestone that traditionally took over 60 years. The government's push for political leadership and technical expertise has enabled these strides. By 2031-32, India's atomic power capacity is projected to triple to 22,480 MW, further solidifying the nation's leadership in nuclear energy.



➤ Bhopal and Kurukshetra Set Historic Records on Gita Jayanti 2024

On Gita Jayanti 2024, Bhopal and Kurukshetra achieved remarkable milestones, making the event unforgettable in the annals of religious and cultural history. Bhopal set a Guinness World Record with over 5,000 Acharyas collectively reciting verses from the Bhagavad Gita, while Kurukshetra witnessed the participation of 1.5 crore people globally through a virtual platform.



➤ Centre to Incubate 8 New Smart Cities Under New Cities Scheme

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched a new scheme extending the Smart City Mission, with an allocation of Rs 8,000 crore as a performance-based challenge fund for incubating 8 new cities. This initiative aims to manage the rapid urbanization pressures following the success of the Smart Cities Mission. Under this scheme, each state can have only one new city through the allocated fund.



➤ Coca-Cola Sells 40% Stake in India Bottling Business to Jubilant Bhartia Group

Coca-Cola has announced a strategic partnership with Jubilant Bhartia Group, selling a 40% stake in Hindustan Coca-Cola Holdings (HCCB) for ₹12,500 crore. This move is in line with Coca-Cola's global refranchising strategy and strengthens its presence in India, its fifth-largest market. The deal marks a major entry into the bottling sector for Jubilant Bhartia Group, which will leverage its operational expertise from businesses like Domino's and Dunkin' to boost the growth of Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages (HCCB), Coca-Cola's largest bottler in India.



➤ OpenAI Launches Sora Turbo for AI Video Generation

OpenAI has officially launched its much-anticipated AI video generation model, Sora, for paid subscribers. The model, introduced as Sora Turbo, allows users to generate up to 20-second-long videos in 1080p resolution. Initially announced earlier this year, its release was delayed for nine months as OpenAI worked to enhance privacy and safety features.



➤ Khelo India Winter Games 2025 Leh and Gulmarg Announced as Hosts

The Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) have emerged as a premier event in India's sporting calendar, promoting winter sports and identifying talent for international competitions. The 2025 edition promises to continue this tradition with thrilling ice and snow events hosted in the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir.



Current affairs MCQS on 14 DEC

Q.1. Recently, which country has developed the world's first carbon-14 diamond battery?

- (a) China
- (b) Russia
- (c) United Kingdom
- (d) France

Answer: (c) United Kingdom

Scientists at the University of Bristol and the UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) in the United Kingdom have developed the world's first carbon-14 diamond battery using radioactive decay, synthetic diamonds and plasma chemistry. It uses carbon-14, a radioactive isotope with a half-life of 5,700 years, which emits short-range radiation that is absorbed by solids. The battery works like solar panels but captures fast-moving electrons within a diamond structure. It powers healthcare equipment such as pacemakers, hearing aids and ophthalmic devices, which last for years without needing to be replaced. It is ideal for extreme environments on Earth and in space, providing a long-lasting energy source for spacecraft without needing recharge or replacement.

Q.2. Who has recently launched the "Amrit Gyan Kosh" portal to strengthen Indian governance training?

- (a) Dr. S. Jaishankar
- (b) Piyush Goyal
- (c) Dr. Jitendra Singh
- (d) None of these

Answer: (c) Dr. Jitendra Singh

To enhance governance training in India, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launched the "Amrit Gyan Kosh" portal as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations. Aimed at strengthening public administration training, the portal was unveiled along with the inauguration of the "Advanced Case Writing and Teaching Workshop", a flagship initiative of the Capacity Building Commission (CBC). Organised in collaboration with the Stanford

Leadership Academy for Development and the Asian Development Bank Institute, the workshop aims to enhance the capacity of public administrators through case-based teaching methodologies.

Q.3. Recently, which country has unveiled the world's largest gold brick?

- (a) Sudan
- (b) Dubai
- (c) Austria
- (d) None of these

Answer: (b) Dubai

Dubai unveiled the world's largest gold brick, setting a new Guinness World Record. Weighing 300.12 kg, the gold brick is worth around ₹211 crore (\$25 million). Displayed at the Dubai Gold Souk Extension, this historic gold brick symbolises Dubai's commitment to excellence in the precious metals industry. It was produced in 8 to 10 hours by the Emirates Minting Factory following Guinness standards. Visitors got a chance to take pictures with the brick, further reinforcing Dubai's global leadership position in gold and luxury trade.

Q.4. Recently, the Odisha Masters 2024 badminton tournament has started in which city?

- (a) Cuttack
- (b) Bhubaneswar
- (c) Puri
- (d) Bhopal

Answer: (a) Cuttack

The Odisha Masters 2024 in badminton has begun in Cuttack, Odisha and will go on till December 15. Emerging Indian talents will be in the lead role in this BWF Super 100 event. This is the last BWF World Tour tournament of the year. India, who have won five titles in recent weeks, will look to continue their strong form.

Q.5. The fourth edition of the India Internet Governance Forum has started in which city recently?

- (a) Bengaluru

- (b) Lucknow
(c) New Delhi
(d) Mumbai

Answer: (c) New Delhi

India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) 2024 is being organized at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. It is being supported by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the National Internet Exchange of India. Its fourth edition is being held under the theme "Innovations in Internet Governance for India".

Q.6. DPIIT has recently signed an agreement with which company to invest and guide Indian startups?

- (a) Flipkart
(b) Amazon
(c) Google
(d) None of the above

Answer: (a) Flipkart

Homegrown e-commerce company Flipkart said it has signed a MoU with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to provide strategic support, resources and market opportunities to startups to expand and scale. Under the collaboration, startups will get access to industry reports, research papers.

Q.7. Which word has Merriam Webster recently declared as the word of the year for 2024?

- (a) Brain rot
(b) BRAT
(c) Polarization
(d) None of the above

Answer: (c) Polarization

Merriam-Webster declared "polarization" its word of the year 2024, reflecting the deep divisions exposed by the US presidential election. The word's usage increased amid sharp disagreements over political issues, pop culture and even memes. Ironically, the word itself finds common ground across the political spectrum.

Q.8. Consumer Confidence Survey is released bi-monthly by which institution?

- (a) RBI
(b) NITI Aayog
(c) Ministry of Finance
(d) NABARD

Answer: (a) RBI

The latest Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS) conducted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) shows weakening consumer confidence in the economy, employment, income and spending. The survey indicates that consumer optimism drives more spending, while pessimism can lead to a slowdown. It is released bi-monthly by the RBI. It uses the Current Situation Index (CSI) and Future Expectations Index (FEI) as key indicators. The FEI rose 0.5 points to 121.9, reflecting greater optimism for future spending. The CSI fell 0.7 points to 94 in November 2024, indicating weaker sentiments except for household spending.

Q.9. INS Tushil, which was recently inducted into the Indian Navy, has been built in collaboration with which country?

- (a) Italy
(b) Russia
(c) France
(d) Germany

Answer: (b) Russia

Russian-built guided missile frigate INS Tushil was inducted into the Indian Navy in Kaliningrad, Russia in presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi and other senior officials. The event is a significant milestone in India-Russia naval cooperation and showcases India's maritime might amid growing Chinese presence in the Indian Ocean. This advanced warship is a result of a deal signed between India and Russia in 2016 for four stealth frigates aimed at enhancing the Indian Navy's capabilities.

Q.10. Recently, Industrial Engineering and Manufacturing Expo-2024 will start at which place?

- (a) Indore
- (b) Jaipur
- (c) Surat
- (d) New Delhi

Answer: (a) Indore

Future Events is organizing Indore Engineering & Manufacturing Expo 2024 on 13th to 16th December 2024 at Profit Ganga Exhibition Centre, Indore, Bhopal, India. Indore Engineering & Manufacturing Expo is Central India's SME Conclave for manufacturers, suppliers, distributors and traders. It will provide real opportunities for businesses who want to showcase their products and services to key audiences, helping them develop new business relationships across India. It is the only platform with more opportunities where participants can be sure that they will get great response instantly.

Q.11. Who has won the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix recently?

- (a) Max Verstappen
- (b) Lewis Hamilton
- (c) Lando Norris
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (c) Lando Norris

Lando Norris won the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, the first Formula One constructors' title for McLaren since 1998, after teammate Oscar Piastri collided with Max Verstappen on the opening lap and finished 10th. Carlos Sainz and Charles Leclerc finished second and third for Ferrari, McLaren's historic rivals and the only team that could beat them to the championship.

Q.12. Who has been recognized as the emerging star woman leader in the banking sector recently?

- (a) Bharti Kohli
- (b) Alka Tiwari
- (c) Puneet Seth
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a) Bharti Kohli

43-year-old Bharti Koli from Vizianagaram district of Andhra Pradesh has been recognised by the

Women We Admire group as an emerging woman leader in the banking sector 2024. Her remarkable contribution in data management has earned her this prestigious honour. Currently, Bharti is working as the Director of Data Management Office of Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) in New York, USA.

Q.13. Who has recently become the 2024 WTA Player of the Year?

- (a) Lulu Sun
- (b) Aryna Sabalenka
- (c) Emma Navarro
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (b) Aryna Sabalenka

Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus has been named the WTA (Women's Tennis Association) Player of the Year for 2024. This is the first time Aryna Sabalenka has won the WTA Player of the Year award. The international tennis media, recognized by the WTA, the women's professional tennis governing body, votes to select the best players, tournaments and coaches of the year after the conclusion of the WTA calendar year.

Q.14. Who has been awarded the Jesse Daniel Award 2023 recently?

- (a) Sudiptasena Gupta
- (b) Tarun Chugh
- (c) Shaji N Karun
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (c) Shaji N Karun

The JC Daniel Award 2023 has been presented to Shaji N Karun. Shaji N Karun is an eminent film director, cinematographer and screenwriter of Indian cinema. The award is given for his notable contribution to Malayalam cinema. This honor is the highest film award of the Government of Kerala, given for lifetime contribution to the film industry of the state.

Q.15. Who has been appointed as the MD of Amul recently?

- (a) Jayen Mehta
(b) Devjit Saikia
(c) Rahul Agarwal
(d) None of the above

Answer: (a) Jayen Mehta

Amul Managing Director Jayen Mehta's term has been extended till 2029-2030. Mehta, who has been with the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) since 1991, has played a key role in shaping the AMUL brand through various positions in the marketing department. His extended leadership marks a significant phase for the dairy giant as it continues to flourish under his direction. The move follows his interim appointment as MD in January 2023, succeeding R.S. Sodhi, who led AMUL for over a decade.