

## Today in History on 16 DEC

### ➤ 1862 - Nepal adopts Constitution

On 16 December 1862, Nepal adopted its Constitution. This Constitution of Nepal became the basis for political and social reforms in the country. The adoption of the Constitution challenged the royal rule and traditional structures in Nepal, and was an important step towards the modernization of the country. After this Constitution, many social and political changes took place in Nepal.



### ➤ 1824 - Great North Holland Canal opened

The Great North Holland Canal was opened on 16 December 1824. This canal was the main waterway connecting the north and south parts of England, which proved to be very important for commercial traffic. The opening of the canal led to a boom in trade and traffic and it became a major route for economic activities.



### ➤ 1929 - Calcutta (now Kolkata) Electricity Supply Corporation begins digging a canal within the Hooghly River

On 16 December 1929, the Calcutta (now Kolkata) Electricity Supply Corporation began digging a canal within the Hooghly River. The purpose of building this canal was to control the flow of water in the river and ensure regional water supply. This project was considered a technological achievement for the time, as it improved water supply and irrigation and also proved beneficial for the industrial sector.



### ➤ 1985 - First Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR) commissioned at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu

On 16 December 1985, India's first Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR) was commissioned at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu. This reactor was an important part of India's nuclear power programme and was aimed at providing a new direction for nuclear power generation. The aim of FBTR was to bring stability in power generation despite limited natural resources like uranium. This project promoted the development of indigenous technologies in India's nuclear power sector.



### ➤ 1993 - 'Education for All' conference begins in New Delhi

On 16 December 1993, the 'Education for All' conference began in New Delhi. The conference was organized in collaboration with the United Nations and other international organizations. The aim of the conference was to promote equal educational

opportunities around the world and ensure access to education for all. The conference provided countries with an opportunity to share their contributions and efforts in the field of education, and proved to be an important step towards improving global education policy.



### Important NEWS on 16 DEC

#### ➤ Bhavesh Jain Appointed as MD & CEO of TransUnion CIBIL

TransUnion CIBIL, a leading insights and information company, has announced Bhavesh Jain as its new Managing Director and CEO, succeeding Rajesh Kumar, who resigned after a five-year tenure. Jain has been instrumental as the Chief Revenue Officer at TransUnion CIBIL for the past five years, bringing decades of experience from Citi, Kone, and Thomson Reuters. His appointment highlights the company's focus on enhancing financial inclusion and digital transformation in India.



### ➤ India to Launch Bharat Antariksha Station by 2035

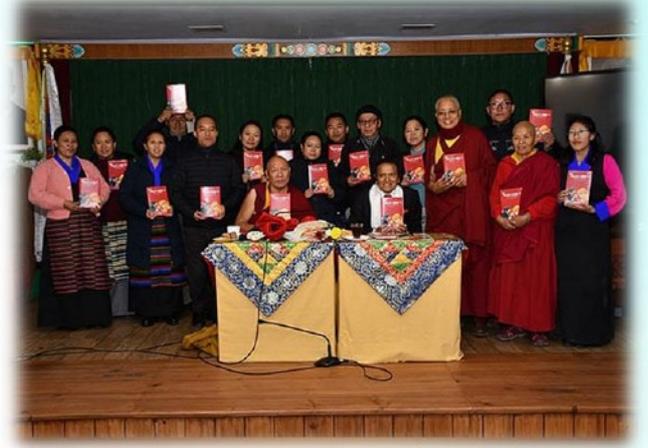
India is poised to reach new heights in space exploration with ambitious plans to establish the Bharat Antariksha Station by 2035 and land an Indian astronaut on the Moon by 2040. Union Minister of State for Science & Technology and Space, Jitendra Singh, unveiled this roadmap during a press conference, emphasizing the country's quest for self-reliance and leadership in global science and technology.



### ➤ Dr Dinesh Shahra Unveils Dalai Lama's Secret to Happiness"

Dr Dinesh Shahra, a renowned philanthropist, author, and thought leader, launched his book, Dalai Lama's Secret to Happiness, at the prestigious Library of Tibetan Works & Archives (LTWA) in Dharamshala. This event highlighted the significance of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's

teachings and their impact on promoting peace and happiness.



### ➤ Indian Film "The Kumbaya Story" Wins tve Global Sustainability Film Award

The Indian film "The Kumbaya Story" has achieved international recognition by winning the Transforming Society Short Film category at the 13th tve Global Sustainability Film Awards (GSFA). The event was held at the iconic BAFTA venue in London. This accolade underscores India's growing influence in the realm of sustainability-focused storytelling.



### ➤ World Ayurveda Congress Kicks Off in Dehradun

The 10th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC 2024) and Arogya Expo were inaugurated in Dehradun, marking a historic milestone in the global promotion of Ayurveda. The event witnessed the presence of eminent personalities, including Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Ayush, Shri Prataprao Jadhav; Uttarakhand Chief Minister Shri Pushkar Singh Dhama, etc. With a focus on the theme "Digital Health: An Ayurveda Perspective," the event aims to explore the integration of Ayurveda with modern technological innovations to redefine global healthcare delivery.



### ➤ Trump Named Time's Person of the Year

Time magazine has named Donald Trump as its Person of the Year for 2024, marking the second time he has received this prestigious recognition. The decision highlights Trump's substantial political influence, his historic comeback following his victory in the November 2024 election over Vice President Kamala Harris, and his role in reshaping the American presidency.



### ➤ India's Retail Inflation Eases to 5.48% in November

India's retail inflation moderated to 5.48% in November from 6.21% in October, marking a significant decline driven by easing food prices, particularly vegetables. This shift brought inflation back within the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) target range, raising expectations of a potential rate cut in early 2025. Additionally, industrial production showed positive growth, adding to the optimism for the economy. However, core inflation and volatile food prices remain concerns.

### Current affairs MCQS on 16 DEC

Q.1. Recently the 22nd Divya Kala Mela was organized in which city?

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

Answer: (b) New Delhi

The 22nd Divya Kala Mela was held at India Gate, New Delhi. The 11-day event organised by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities saw participation of 100 artisans, entrepreneurs and artists from 20 states and union territories. It promotes the 'Vocal for Local' movement with handicrafts, eco-friendly products and cultural performances. The event helps Divyangjans achieve economic independence and reaffirms their place in India's progress.

**Q.2. Recently who has been chosen as 'Person of the Year' by the prestigious Time magazine?**

- (a) Benjamin Netanyahu
- (b) Donald Trump
- (c) Vladimir Putin
- (d) Kim Jong Yong

**Answer: (b) Donald Trump**

Time magazine has named President-elect Donald Trump its Person of the Year for 2024, the second time he has received the honor. Trump was previously honored in 2016. Last year, the title went to pop icon Taylor Swift for 2023.

**Q.3. Recently who has become the youngest world chess champion?**

- (a) R Praggnanandhaa
- (b) Ding Liren
- (c) D Gukesh
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: (c) D Gukesh**

Chennai's 18-year-old Gukesh Domraju or D Gukesh has the distinction of becoming the youngest FIDE World Chess Champion by defeating Chinese Grandmaster Ding Liren. D Gukesh broke the record of legendary Russian chess player Garry Kasparov, who became World Champion in 1985 at the age of 22 by defeating fellow Russian Anatoly Karpov. The FIDE World Chess Championship is played in the classical chess format, and the first competitor to win 7.5 points is crowned World Champion.

**Q.4. Recently, Rajendra Meghwar has become the first Hindu police officer of which country?**

- (a) Pakistan
- (b) Indonesia
- (c) Maldives
- (d) Bangladesh

**Answer: (a) Pakistan**

Rajendra Meghwar, from the rural and underdeveloped Badin region of Sindh province, has become Pakistan's first Hindu police officer. According to Krishan Sharma of the Pakistan Hindu Temple Management Committee, Meghwar has been posted as Assistant Superintendent of Police in Faisalabad of the Pakistan Police Service (PSP) after successfully passing the prestigious CSS, a civil service authority examination.

**Q.5. Recently who will host the Khelo India Winter Games in 2025?**

- (a) Lucknow
- (b) Indore
- (c) Mumbai
- (d) Ladakh

**Answer: (d) Ladakh**

The Union Territory of Ladakh and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will jointly host the 2025 Khelo India Winter Games. This intention was announced by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. The 2025 Khelo India Winter Games will be important for Indian athletes as it will also be a selection event for the upcoming Milano-Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics to be held in Italy in February 2026.

**Q.6. Recently Purushottam Upadhyay passed away. Who was he?**

- (a) Singer
- (b) Writer
- (c) Journalist
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: (a) Singer**

Renowned Gujarati singer and musician Purushottam Upadhyaya passed away at the age of

90. His melodious voice and timeless compositions took Gujarati music to unparalleled heights. He left a deep mark in the hearts of the Gujarati community and the diaspora through his works. Upadhyaya's demise marks the end of an era in the music world and his contribution will be remembered by millions.

**Q.7. Recently, Gujarat Giants have appointed whom as their bowling coach?**

- (a) Javagal Srinath
- (b) Nikhil Chopra
- (c) Praveen Tambe
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: (c) Praveen Tambe**

Ahead of the 2025 Women's Premier League (WPL) player auction, Gujarat Giants announced strategic changes to their coaching staff, appointing Pravin Tambe as the new bowling coach and former Australian cricketer Daniel Marsh as the new batting coach. Former Australian batsman Michael Klinger will continue to be the head coach of the team, having joined the side last season.

**Q.8. Recently who will be honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Directors Guild of America Awards?**

- (a) Ang Lee
- (b) Robert Downey
- (c) Vin Diesel
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: (a) Ang Lee**

Acclaimed filmmaker Ang Lee will be honored with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award at the 77th Annual Directors Guild of America (DGA) Awards on February 8, 2025. Lee, the Academy Award-winning director behind classic films such as Brokeback Mountain and Life of Pi, will become the 37th filmmaker in history to receive the prestigious honor.

**Q.9. Recently who has become the first female cricketer to score 4 ODI centuries in a calendar year?**

- (a) Alice Perry
- (b) Beth Muni
- (c) Smriti Mandhana
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: (c) Smriti Mandhana**

Smriti Mandhana etched her name in history as she became the first female cricketer to score four ODI centuries in a calendar year. The elegant left-hander achieved the remarkable feat during the third and final ODI against Australia in Perth. Mandhana's ability to anchor an innings and score quick runs when needed has been a key factor in the team's success, but this time her innings went in vain as India lost to Australia by 83 runs at the WACA.

**Q.10. Who has topped India in the recently released QS World University Rankings?**

- (a) IIT Delhi
- (b) IIT Kharagpur
- (c) IIT Mumbai
- (d) IIT Guwahati

**Answer: (a) IIT Delhi**

Global higher education specialist QS Quacquarelli Symonds released the third edition of the 'QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2025'. This year IIT Delhi has topped the list (ranked 171 globally), improving by 255 ranks, followed by IIT Kharagpur with an improvement of 147 ranks to 202 globally, and IIT Bombay with an improvement of 69 ranks to be ranked third (ranked 234 globally).

**Q.11. What is the name of the chatbot launched by the Prime Minister to assist devotees during the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025?**

- (a) Prayagraj Bot
- (b) Kumbh Sahayak
- (c) MelaBot
- (d) Sangam

**Answer: (b) Kumbh Sahayak**

PM launches Kumbh Sahayak Chatbot for Maha Kumbh Mela 2025. Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 will be held in Prayagraj from January 13 to February 26,

2025. The chatbot blends culture and technology to enhance the experience of devotees. It offers text and voice interactions for a seamless and engaging experience. It aims to guide and update lakhs of attendees during the mega event.

**Q.12. Who has recently been selected as the ICC Players of the Month for November 2024?**

- (a) Danny Wyatt Hodge
- (b) Haris Rauf
- (c) Both of the above
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: (c) Both of the above**

Star Pakistan pacer Haris Rauf and England women opener Danni Wyatt-Hodge have bagged the ICC Players of the Month award for November 2024. Rauf beat his rivals Jasprit Bumrah and Marco Jansen to win the award, leading Pakistan to back-to-back wins following Noman Ali's feat in October.

**Q.13. Which position has India secured in the Asian Women's Handball Championship 2024 recently?**

- (a) Third
- (b) First
- (c) Fifth
- (d) Sixth

**Answer: (d) Sixth**

Japan defeated South Korea 25-24 to win the 20th Asian Women's Handball Championship. The Indian handball team finished sixth at the 2024 Asian Women's Handball Championship, the country's best ever performance. The tournament was held for the first time in India at the Indira Gandhi Arena, organized by the Asian Handball Federation and the World Handball League.

**Q.14. Who has recently been awarded an honorary doctorate in music and culture?**

- (a) Sudipta Sen Gupta
- (b) Tarun Chugh
- (c) Sanjay Tandon
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: (c) Sanjay Tandon**

In historic recognition for his groundbreaking contributions to music rights management and cultural preservation, Sanjay Tandon has been conferred an Honorary Doctorate by Stanford International University. This prestigious honour celebrates Tandon's unwavering commitment to protecting the intellectual property rights of singers and composers around the world, as well as his strategic leadership in transforming the music industry ecosystem.

**Q.15. Who has recently released the book 'The Secret of Dalai Lama's Happiness'?**

- (a) Dr. Dinesh Shahra
- (b) Devjit Saikia
- (c) Nilabhra Sen Gupta
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: (a) Dr. Dinesh Shahra**

Renowned philanthropist, author and thinker Dr Dinesh Shahra released his book, The Dalai Lama's Secret of Happiness, at the prestigious Tibetan Works and Archives (LTWA) Library in Dharamshala. The event highlighted the significance of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's teachings and their impact on promoting peace and happiness. The event was attended by scholars, dignitaries and cultural representatives who gathered to celebrate Tibetan culture, spirituality and the wisdom shared through Dr Shahra's latest work.