

Today in History on 17 DEC

➤ 1398: Mongol emperor Timurlang captured Delhi.

Timur attacked India in 1398 AD during the reign of Nasiruddin Mahmud, the last ruler of the Tughlaq dynasty. This attack proved fatal for the Tughlaq dynasty. Due to which the Tughlaq dynasty was destroyed. Timur attacked India in 1398 AD. He crossed the Indus and captured Multan and easily conquered Delhi.



➤ 1803: East India Company captured Odisha.

The Marathas ruled over entire Odisha for a few years and finally handed over Angul and the entire region of Odisha to the British East India Company

in 1803 AD and thus began the British era in the history of Angul. During the British rule, the rulers mainly followed the instructions of the Company in ruling the state. When Odisha was formed, there were only 5 districts. The state was established on 1 April 1936. After this, many other districts were created over the years. Odisha has an area of more than 154468 square kilometers.



➤ 1777: France recognizes American independence.

On December 17, 1777, the French Foreign Minister, Charles Gravier, Count of Vergennes, officially acknowledged the United States as an independent nation. The leaders of the American Revolution were colonial separatist leaders who originally sought greater autonomy as British subjects, but later gathered to support the Revolutionary War, which ended British colonial rule over the colonies.



➤ 1907: Ugyen Wangchuck becomes the first king of Bhutan.

Ugyen Wangchuck established the monarchy in 1907, although he had been more or less the de facto ruler for more than a decade. On 17 December 1907, Ugyen Wangchuck was elected unanimously by the representatives of the people, officials and clergy and enthroned as the first hereditary king of Bhutan at Punakha Dzong.



➤ 1996: National Football League launched.

The 1996–97 National Football League, also known as the Philips National League for sponsorship reasons, was the inaugural season of the National Football League. The tournament began on 17 December 1996 and ended on 16 March 1997. Philips India was the main sponsor of the tournament and the total prize money was announced as ₹1.5 crore; the winner would receive ₹35 lakh. Twelve teams participated in the competition.



Important NEWS on 17 DEC

➤ The New Nyaya Sanhita Mechanisms for Quick Justice Delivery

The Nyaya Sanhita, a comprehensive legislative reform, aims to expedite the justice process in India, ensuring quicker and fairer resolution of cases. The law prioritizes the completion of crucial stages of investigation and trial within specific time frames. With a focus on expediting justice for women,

children, and other marginalized sections of society, the Nyaya Sanhita introduces mechanisms that tackle delays in the judicial system.



World's Richest Families 2024 Waltons Family Leads

The Bloomberg list of the world's richest families for 2024 reveals significant wealth disparities among the global elite. The Walton family, which owns Walmart, tops the list, surpassing not just other billionaire families but also the wealth of the world's richest individual, Elon Musk. Notable families from India, including the Ambanis and Mistrys, also made it to the top 25, reflecting the growing influence of Indian billionaires on the global wealth stage.



Romania's Far-Right, Pro-Russian Shift Sparks Alarm for EU and NATO

The unexpected victory of far-right, pro-Russian candidate Călin Georgescu in Romania's presidential race has raised alarms in Brussels, signaling potential shifts that could destabilize the EU and NATO alliances. As Romania's political landscape tilts toward ultranationalism, fears of Moscow's growing influence within Eastern Europe are mounting, particularly after similar shifts in Moldova and Georgia.



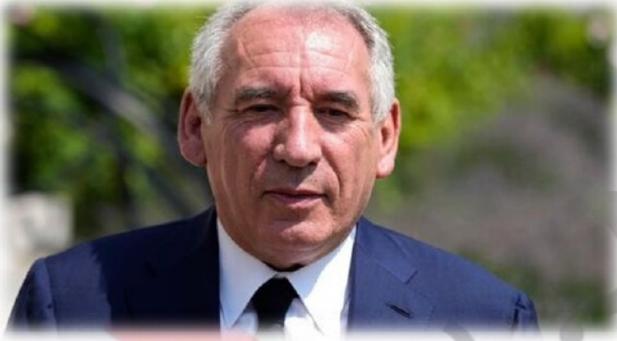
Switzerland Suspends 'Most Favoured Nation' Status to India

In a significant move, Switzerland has decided to suspend the application of the 'Most Favoured Nation' (MFN) clause in its tax treaty with India, a decision that could raise taxes on Indian companies operating in Switzerland. This decision follows a 2023 Indian Supreme Court ruling that altered the interpretation of the MFN clause, reversing a Delhi High Court decision favoring Nestlé.



➤ François Bayrou: Macron's New Prime Minister Amid Political Turmoil

French President Emmanuel Macron has appointed François Bayrou as the new Prime Minister of France, his third this year, amidst a worsening political crisis. Bayrou, a veteran centrist and close Macron ally, faces immediate challenges of navigating a divided parliament to pass critical legislation, particularly the contentious 2025 budget bill.



➤ India's GDP Growth Projections for FY25 Revised Downward

India's GDP growth projections for FY25 have been revised downward by multiple agencies, reflecting cautious optimism amid global and domestic challenges. CARE Ratings has lowered its FY25 GDP growth estimate from 6.8% to 6.5%, citing a contraction in corporate profitability, reduced public capital expenditure (capex), and sluggish urban consumption in the first half of FY25. Similarly, Fitch Ratings adjusted its forecast to 6.4% from earlier estimates of 7%, while the Asian Development Bank (ADB) pegged its projection at 6.5%.



➤ BOBCARD Launches TIARA Credit Card

BOBCARD has launched the TIARA Credit Card, a premium, women-centric offering designed to empower modern women. This card is packed with rewards across various categories such as travel, lifestyle, dining, entertainment, and health, providing women with the tools to manage their finances without compromising on lifestyle. The launch event, held at Pinkathon, featured notable personalities like Milind Soman and Ankit Konwar.



Current affairs MCQS on 17 DEC

Q.1. When is Minority Rights Day celebrated in India?

- (a) 15 December
- (b) 16 December
- (c) 17 December
- (d) 18 December

Answer: (d) 18 December

Minority Rights Day is observed every year on December 18. The United Nations adopted and disseminated the Statement on Individual Rights relating to religious or linguistic national or ethnic minorities on December 18, 1992. Minority Rights Day upholds the right to freedom and equal opportunities for minorities in India and creates awareness about their rights.

Q.2. Recently the play-off tournament of FIFA Football Women's World Cup 2027 will be held in which country?

- (a) Argentina
- (b) Brazil
- (c) Portugal
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (b) Brazil

The 2027 Women's World Cup will be played in Brazil from June 24 to July 25. FIFA, the international governing body of football, announced the dates. The Women's World Cup, being played for the first time in South America, will feature 32 teams. Brazil has one of CONMEBOL's three spots as hosts. UEFA has the most spots at 11, followed by the AFC with six, CAF and CONCACAF with four each and the OFC with one. The other spots will be determined through playoffs.

Q.3. Recently which country will host the 2034 Men's FIFA World Cup?

- (a) Saudi Arabia
- (b) Spain
- (c) Germany
- (d) Brazil

Answer: (a) Saudi Arabia

FIFA, the world football's governing body, has awarded the right to host the 25th FIFA Men's Football World Cup to Saudi Arabia. The decision to award the right to host the 2034 FIFA Men's Football World Cup was taken at the FIFA Extraordinary Congress held in Zurich, Switzerland. All 211 FIFA members attended this extraordinary congress virtually. Saudi Arabia was the only country in the

race to host the 2034 FIFA Men's World Cup. The 23rd FIFA Men's World Cup will be hosted by Mexico, Canada and the United States in 2026 and 48 teams will participate in this competition.

Q.4. Recently President Draupadi Murmu has conferred the honorary rank of 'General of the Indian Army' to the Army Chief of which country?

- (a) Nepal
- (b) Bhutan
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) Maldives

Answer: (a) Nepal

Indian President Draupadi Murmu conferred the honorary title of 'General of the Indian Army' to Nepal Army Chief General Ashok Raj Sigdel. The ceremony took place at Rashtrapati Bhavan, reflecting the tradition of mutual respect and deep military ties between India and Nepal since 1950. The ceremony also underlines the shared commitment of the two countries to further strengthen defense cooperation and friendly relations.

Q.5. Recently the 9th Defense Dialogue between India and which country was held in New Delhi?

- (a) Malaysia
- (b) Japan
- (c) France
- (d) Thailand

Answer: (d) Thailand

The 9th India-Thailand Defence Dialogue was held in New Delhi, during which the two sides agreed to the early establishment of a joint working group to "monitor cooperation in areas of defence industry". India and Thailand also agreed to exchange subject matter experts between their armed forces to "further enhance regular engagement in specific areas".

Q.6. Who has recently unveiled the revolutionary quantum chip "Willow"?

- (a) Google

- (b) Intel
(c) Meta
(d) Tesla

Answer: (a) Google

Elon Musk and Google recently had an interesting discussion on the progress of quantum computing. The tech world is abuzz with excitement as Google has unveiled its latest quantum chip, named "Willow". This cutting-edge technology has caught the attention of none other than Elon Musk, the innovative entrepreneur behind Tesla and SpaceX.

Q.7. Recently BMW Group has signed an agreement with whom to transform the educational landscape in rural India?

- (a) Amazon
(b) Meta
(c) UNICEF
(d) Tesla

Answer: (c) UNICEF

BMW Group and UNICEF have joined hands to improve the education of 100,000 Indian children. The program targets four states and emphasizes on STEM skills. It will benefit marginalized girls in rural areas. The initiative covers Assam, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. It is part of a larger global partnership between BMW and UNICEF.

Q.8. Who has recently been appointed as the new Executive Director of Yes Bank?

- (a) Manish Jain
(b) Rajiv Sinha
(c) Alok Mandal
(d) Ajit Sinha

Answer: (a) Manish Jain

Yes Bank has announced that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Manish Jain as Executive Director (Whole-time Director) of the Bank. The move follows a proposal made earlier by the Board of Directors of the Bank and will be subject to the approval of Yes Bank shareholders. Manish Jain, who has joined Yes Bank since

September 2023, has gained extensive experience in corporate and wholesale banking.

Q.9. By which date will India establish its own space station?

- (a) 2032
(b) 2050
(c) 2030
(d) 2035

Answer: (d) 2035

India is achieving new achievements one after another in the field of space. Now Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh has made a big announcement. He said that India will have its own space station by 2035. The Union Minister said that we are going to build our own space station by 2035. It will be known as the Indian Space Station. Apart from this, by 2040 we can land an Indian on the moon.

Q10. Recently 'François Bayrou' has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of which country?

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

Answer: (a) France

French President Emmanuel Macron named François Bayrou as prime minister, becoming France's second prime minister in three months. France's right-wing and left-wing lawmakers voted together on a historic no-confidence motion last week, forcing Prime Minister Michel Barnier and members of his Cabinet to resign. Bayrou, 73, a key partner in Macron's centrist coalition, has been an important figure in French politics for decades.

Q11. Recently the 10th World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo was organized in which country recently?

- (a) Lucknow
(b) Dehradun
(c) Bhopal

(d) Surat

Answer: (b) Dehradun

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama inaugurated the 10th World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo 2024 in Dehradun. The first Ayurveda conference was held in Kochi, Kerala in 2002. It is held every two years, and the 9th edition of the World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo was held in Goa by December 2022.

Q.12. Who chaired the 4th 'National Conference of Chief Secretaries' of India in 2024?

- (a) Defence Minister of India
- (b) Home Minister of India
- (c) Prime Minister of India
- (d) President of India

Answer: (c) Prime Minister of India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 4th National Conference of Chief Secretaries in New Delhi. This conference strengthens the Centre-State partnership and strengthens cooperative federalism. The previous conferences were held in Dharamshala (June 2022) and New Delhi (January, December 2023). The 2024 conference focuses on integrated development agenda and strategic development planning.

Q.13. Recently, Prime Minister Modi has launched major development projects worth ₹5700 crore in which city of UP recently?

- (a) Ayodhya
- (b) Lucknow
- (c) Varanasi
- (d) Prayagraj

Answer: (d) Prayagraj

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 167 projects worth Rs 5500 crore. This includes major projects like upgradation and development of railway stations for passenger facilities as well as ROB flyovers, widening, strengthening and beautification of roads. Apart from this, projects related to paved ghats, river front, sewerage, drinking water facilities along with power supply

were also inaugurated. Through all these projects, not only will the devotees get the benefit of facilities during the Maha Kumbh, but the people of Prayagraj will be able to use all these facilities even after the Maha Kumbh. These projects will show a new direction of progress to Prayagraj.

Q.14. Who has been appointed as the Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra recently?

- (a) Sudiptsen Gupta
- (b) Tarun Chugh
- (c) Ashwini Bhide
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (c) Ashwini Bhide

Ashwini Bhide, a 1995 batch IAS officer and managing director of Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation (MMRC), has been appointed as the principal secretary to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. She will replace IAS Brijesh Singh with immediate effect. Bhide, who has been heading the MMRC since 2015, will continue to handle her current responsibilities in the MMRC until further orders. Known for her extensive administrative experience, Bhide has played a key role in the development of Mumbai's metro infrastructure.

Q.15. Who has recently written the book 'New India Modi Vision and Development'?

- (a) Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
- (b) Dr. Dinesh Shahra
- (c) Nilabhra Sengupta
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a) Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat released a book titled Naya Bharat - Modi's Vision and Development. The book is based on the development works and schemes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his vision. The Minister said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, about 27 crore people have been lifted out of poverty in the last 10 years. He also said

that the implementation of schemes has been smooth in the last ten years. Shri Shekhawat said that the book reflects the development of the country under the leadership of the Prime Minister and the changing outlook of the world.

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