

## Today in History on 18 DEC

### ➤ 1956 - Japan assumes the presidency of the United Nations.

On December 18, 1956, Japan became the 80th member state of the United Nations, which was founded in response to the two preceding world wars, with the aim of protecting future generations from the horrors of war. Since its accession, Japan has actively contributed to world peace and prosperity through the United Nations. The United Nations is an international organization with a universal character, which includes almost all countries of the world (193 countries as of December 2016). With a high level of specialization, it addresses various challenges that the international community faces in various fields, including conflict resolution and peacebuilding, counter-terrorism, disarmament and non-proliferation, development, human rights, environment and climate change, and disaster risk reduction.



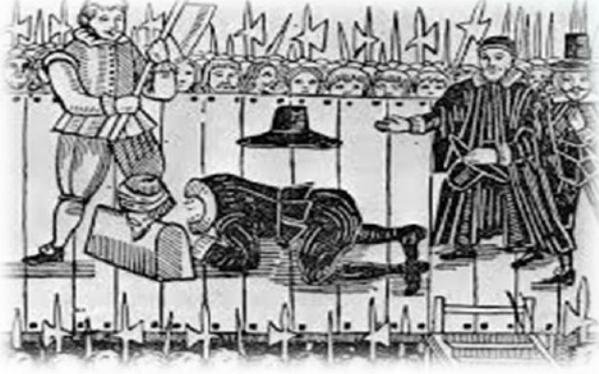
### ➤ 1966 - Saturn's satellite Epi Methilys is discovered.

Audouin Dollfus observed a moon on December 15, 1966, which he proposed to name "Janus". On December 18, Richard Walker made a similar observation that is now credited as the discovery of Epimetheus. At the time, however, it was believed that there was only one moon with the given orbit, which became informally known as "Janus".



### ➤ 1969 - Capital punishment abolished in England.

In 1965, the death penalty for murder in Britain was suspended for five years and made permanent in 1969. However, the death penalty for all crimes was not abolished in Britain until 1998. The last executions in Britain were on 13 August 1964, when Peter Allen and Gwynne Evans were executed.



#### ➤ 1960 - Inauguration of the National Museum in New Delhi.

The first phase of the National Museum building was formally inaugurated by the Vice President of India, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan on 18 December 1960. The second phase of the building was completed in 1989. The outline for establishing the National Museum in Delhi was prepared by the Maurice Gwyer Committee in May 1946.



#### ➤ 1946 - Famous film director Steven Spielberg was born.

Steven Allan Spielberg (born December 18, 1946) is an American film director, screenwriter, producer, and studio entrepreneur. In a career spanning more than four decades, Spielberg's films have covered a wide range of themes and genres. Spielberg's early science-fiction and adventure films were seen as archetypes of modern Hollywood blockbuster filmmaking.



#### Important NEWS on 18 DEC

#### ➤ Pioneering Green Steel: India's New Framework

India reached a significant milestone in its commitment to decarbonizing the steel sector and transitioning toward a low-carbon economy. Shri H D Kumaraswamy, Union Minister of Steel & Heavy Industries, officially released India's first-ever Taxonomy of Green Steel during an event at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi. The release of this framework positions India as a global leader in defining and advancing green steel production, a sector crucial to

achieving the nation's environmental and sustainability targets.



### ➤ India Launches First Diabetes Biobank in Chennai

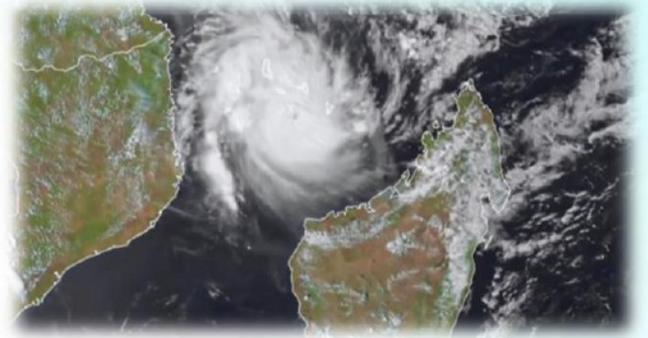
India's first diabetes biobank has been established in Chennai, a collaboration between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF). This biobank, a crucial step in advancing scientific research, will collect, process, store, and distribute biological samples to study diabetes, its causes, variations, and related disorders, contributing to global health research.



### ➤ Cyclone Chido Hits Mozambique, Wrecks Havoc in Mayotte

Cyclone Chido, a Category 4 storm, caused widespread destruction in Mayotte before making landfall in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado province on December, 2024. This powerful storm wreaked

havoc on Mayotte, leaving entire neighborhoods flattened and causing severe damage. After crossing the Mozambique Channel, Cyclone Chido intensified and impacted northern Mozambique, with strong winds exceeding 200 km/h and heavy rainfall, threatening lives and properties.



### ➤ UK Joins Indo-Pacific Bloc: A Post-Brexit Trade Milestone

The United Kingdom officially became the first European nation to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). This significant move, a result of the UK's post-Brexit strategy, aims to boost the country's economy by providing new business opportunities and trade benefits across the Indo-Pacific region. The UK's entry into the bloc was formalized after the ratification of the accession treaty by most CPTPP members, with several more expected to follow.



### Dark Eagle Hypersonic Missile Tested by US Armed Forces

The US military has successfully tested its Long-Range Hypersonic Weapon (LRHW), also known as "Dark Eagle," bringing it closer to being fielded as a crucial asset in modern warfare. The test, conducted at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, demonstrated the missile's ability to travel at speeds exceeding 3,800 miles per hour (Mach 5), and its capability to strike distant and well-defended targets.



### Uttarakhand Unveils India's First Yoga Policy to Become Global Yoga Hub

Uttarakhand, famously known as "Devbhoomi," is set to become the first Indian state to implement a dedicated Yoga Policy, aimed at transforming the state into a global yoga destination. With Rishikesh already recognized as the "Yoga Capital of the World," this initiative builds on the state's rich cultural and spiritual legacy while aligning with the AYUSH policy's success.



### Mikheil Kavelashvili Becomes Georgia's New President

Mikheil Kavelashvili, the 53-year-old former footballer, was elected president of Georgia on December, 2024, marking a significant shift in the nation's political landscape. His victory comes amid growing concerns over Georgia's alignment with Russia, following constitutional changes that replaced direct presidential elections with a 300-seat electoral college.

### Current affairs MCQS on 18 DEC

Q.1. When is International Migrants Day celebrated?

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

(d) 18 December

**Answer: (d) 18 December**

International Migrants Day is observed globally on December 18 every year. The day is organised by the United Nations through the relevant agency International Restoration Society for Migration (IOM). The day marks the arrival of more than 272 million people, of whom more than 41 million are migrants by origin, and face new challenges every day.

**Q.2. Recently, which country's player 'Mohammad Aamir' has retired from international cricket?**

- (a) Afghanistan
- (b) Pakistan
- (c) Bangladesh
- (d) None of these

**Answer: (b) Pakistan**

Pakistan's left-arm fast bowler Mohammad Amir retired from international cricket after playing several months in the T20 World Cup. Amir was banned from cricket for five years between 2010 and 2015 for match-fixing and was also jailed for some time for the offence. He retired from all forms of international cricket in 2020.

**Q.3. Recently, which country has revoked India's Most Favoured Nation status?**

- (a) Brazil
- (b) Germany
- (c) Italy
- (d) Switzerland

**Answer: (d) Switzerland**

Switzerland has withdrawn the most favoured nation (MFN) status granted to India, which will result in increased tax burden on Indian companies operating in the central European country. Switzerland's action comes after India's Supreme Court rejected the automatic applicability of the MFN clause under a bilateral tax treaty in a case involving Swiss firm Nestle.

**Q.4. Recently, the President of which country has come to India on a two-day visit?**

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

**Answer: (a) Sri Lanka**

Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake will be on a two-day official visit to India. This will be his first international visit after assuming office in September. This was announced by Sri Lankan Cabinet spokesman and Health Minister Nalinda Jayatissa. He confirmed that President Dissanayake will meet President Draupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss and enhance bilateral relations.

**Q.5. Recently, how many Indian women have been included in Forbes' list of 100 most powerful women?**

- (a) Three
- (b) Four
- (c) Five
- (d) Six

**Answer: (a) Three**

Business magazine Forbes released its annual list of the 100 most powerful women in the world for the year 2024. It includes 3 women from India. This list includes Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, HCL Corporation CEO Roshni Nadar Malhotra and Biocon founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw.

**Q.6. Recently, Asia's first geology museum has been prepared in which country?**

- (a) India
- (b) Japan
- (c) China
- (d) Singapore

**Answer: (a) India**

Vice President of India Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the state-of-the-art Geology Museum of the Geological Survey of India (GSI) at the Victoria

Market Building in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh by cutting the ribbon and unveiling the plaque. The event was a remarkable celebration that seamlessly blended the grandeur of tradition and the marvels of modern innovation.

**Q.7. Where has the 23rd National Athletics Championship 2024 for the blind started recently?**

- (a) Kolkata
- (b) Surat
- (c) Mumbai
- (d) Nadiad

**Answer: (d) Nadiad**

The 23rd National Blind Athletics Championship was inaugurated at Nadiad in Gujarat. Organised every two years by the Indian Blind Sports Association (IBSA), the championship will see over 150 talented participants in various sports over the next three days celebrating the indomitable spirit of these exceptional athletes, said a release from the National Athletics Championships for the Blind.

**Q.8. Recently, the World Bank has approved a loan of \$ 325.10 million for which state to increase the income of farmers?**

- (a) Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Bihar
- (c) Haryana
- (d) Rajasthan

**Answer: (a) Uttar Pradesh**

The World Bank has approved a \$325.10 million loan to the Uttar Pradesh government to increase the income of farmers in the state. The loan will fund the Uttar Pradesh Agricultural Development and Rural Enterprise Ecosystem Strengthening (UP-AGRIS) project costing Rs 3,903 crore or \$500 million. The project aims to improve crop productivity and increase the income of farmers in the state.

**Q.9. Where has the 29th International Kerala Film Festival started recently?**

- (a) Kozhikode
- (b) Wayanad

- (c) Thiruvananthapuram
- (d) Kochi

**Answer: (c) Thiruvananthapuram**

The 29th edition of the International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK) began with a grand opening ceremony at Nishagandhi Auditorium in Thiruvananthapuram. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the festival. Filmmaker Ann Hui was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the festival. The award consists of Rs 10 lakh and a statuette. Renowned actress Shabana Azmi attended the event as the chief guest. She was also honoured at the event.

**Q.10. Recently, the President of which country has been removed after impeachment?**

- (a) South Korea
- (b) Japan
- (c) Ukraine
- (d) Paris

**Answer: (a) South Korea**

South Korean President Yun Suk-yol has been impeached by the National Assembly for his short-lived attempt to impose martial law, a move that threw South Korea into political turmoil during his presidency. The unicameral National Assembly voted by 204 to 85 to impeach Yun, the second such vote in eight days. Three members abstained and eight votes were declared invalid.

**Q.11. Who tops the list of 25 richest families in the world recently released by Bloomberg?**

- (a) Al-Nahyan
- (b) Al Thani
- (c) Walton
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: (c) Walton**

Bloomberg has released the list of the world's 25 richest families. This year their wealth has increased by Rs 34.5 lakh crore. The Walton family, which runs the consumer retail company Walmart, tops the list. Last year it was in the second position. The total net worth of this family is Rs 36.7 lakh crore. This is Rs

14.6 lakh crore more than last year. The royal families of UAE and Qatar are at the second and third positions in the list. The Ambani family is at the 8th position with a net worth of Rs 8.45 lakh crore. India's Mistry family is at the 23rd position with a net worth of Rs 3.5 lakh crore. This family is the owner of Shapoorji Pallonji Group.

**Q.12. Recently, the three-day 'World Hindu Economic Forum' has been inaugurated in which?**

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) Pune
- (c) Nagpur
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: (a) Mumbai**

Dr. Rajkamal Gupta, member of the Central Management Committee of Vishwa Hindu Parishad, issued a press release stating that this year the session of Vishwa Hindu Economic Forum 2024 will be held at Jio Convention Center in Mumbai. In which intellectuals like Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, International Convenor of Economic Forum Vigyanananda and National Convenor of Economic Forum Shiv Prasad TR will be present.

**Q.13. Recently, the world famous 'Surajkund Mela 2025' will be organized in which?**

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

**Answer: (d) Faridabad**

Surajkund International Crafts Mela (Fair) is held every year at Surajkund in Faridabad, Haryana, India. The upcoming 38th edition of the fair will be held from 7 to 23 February 2025. The fair occupies a pride of place in the international tourist calendar and attracts over one million visitors including thousands of foreign tourists. Surajkund Mela is unique as it showcases the richness and diversity of India's handicrafts, handlooms and cultural fabric, and is the largest craft fair in the world.

**Q.14. Recently, the 21st livestock census has been started in which state?**

- (a) Rajasthan
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Haryana
- (d) Punjab

**Answer: (c) Haryana**

Taking a step towards furthering livestock and poultry development, Haryana Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shyam Singh Rana inaugurated the 21st Livestock Census Campaign at the Government Veterinary Hospital at Radaur in Yamuna Nagar district. The event officially marked the start of the state-wide door-to-door survey to collect comprehensive data on domestic animals and poultry.

**Q.15. Francois Bayrou has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of which country?**

- (a) France
- (b) Ireland
- (c) Cyprus
- (d) Denmark

**Answer: (b) Ireland**

73-year-old centrist leader François Bayrou has been named Prime Minister of France by Emmanuel Macron after Michel Barnier was ousted from office following a confidence vote. Bayrou leads the Modem party, which is part of Macron's centrist coalition. He is known as the "third man" in French politics for his centrist approach during the 2007 presidential election. He is the high commissioner for planning, the mayor of Pau, and the president of the European Democratic Party. Born to a wealthy farming family near the Pyrenees, he taught Latin and Greek before entering politics in the 1980s. He served as education minister and was a member of both the National Assembly and the European Parliament.