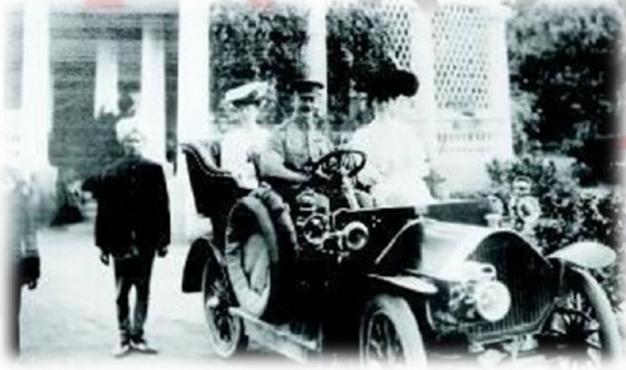


Today in History on 19 DEC

➤ 1927 - Uttar Pradesh Automobile Association was established.

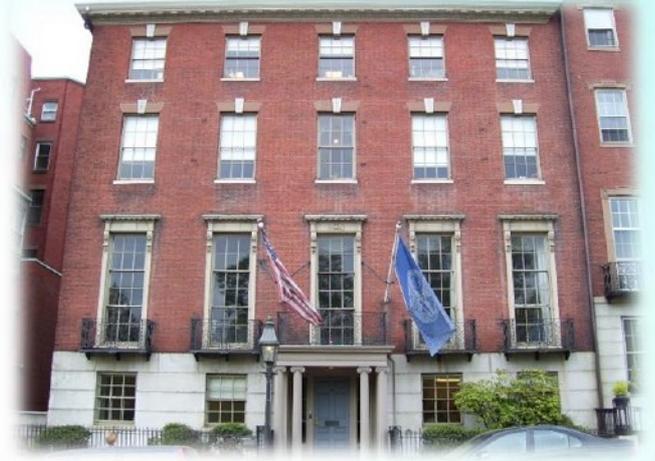
On 19 December 1927, Uttar Pradesh Automobile Association was established. The aim of this association was to encourage the automobile industry in the state and provide a platform for its growth. The association has played a vital role in effectively controlling the trade, services and policies of automobiles. This association still provides significant contribution in automobile related matters in Uttar Pradesh.



➤ 1919 - The American Meteorological Society was founded.

The American Meteorological Society was founded on December 19, 1919. Its purpose was to improve meteorology, weather change, and environmental studies. This society is today one of the leading organizations for providing research, education, and

expertise on weather and climate-related issues around the world.



➤ 1842 - The US recognized Hawaii as a province.

On December 19, 1842, the US recognized Hawaii as a province. Hawaii, which was previously an independent island nation, now became part of the US. This decision of Hawaii was part of America's expansionist approach, which was moving it towards strengthening its position in the Pacific region. In 1959, Hawaii officially became the 50th state of the US.



➤ 1154 – King Henry II becomes King of England.

On 19 December 1154, King Henry II becomes King of England. His reign leads to significant changes in England and France. Henry II reformed the law and justice system and laid the foundation for a strong central administration in England. His administrative policies transformed England into a powerful kingdom and his reign is considered an important time in the medieval politics of England.



➤ 1958 - Sukumar Sen became the first Chief Election Commissioner of the Republic of India.

On 19 December 1958, Sukumar Sen became the first Chief Election Commissioner of the Republic of India. He strengthened the Indian election system and streamlined the electoral process in the country. During his tenure, the first general election process was held in India, which was the largest election after independence. His contribution is considered important in Indian politics and under his guidance

the Election Commission of India established itself as a model across the world.



Important NEWS on 19 DEC

➤ Vice President Dhankhar Inaugurates GSI Geoscience Museum in Gwalior

On the occasion of the inauguration of the GSI Geoscience Museum in Gwalior, Vice President Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, along with several distinguished dignitaries, marked the opening of this state-of-the-art facility. The museum, housed in the historic Victoria Market Building, serves as a hub of knowledge and a tribute to Earth's geological wonders.



➤ VIRAASAT: Weaving the Legacy of Indian Saris

The "Viraasat Sari Festival 2024" is an exclusive handloom sari exhibition organized by the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, at Handloom Haat, Janpath, New Delhi. The festival aims to celebrate the tradition, artistry, and potential of the Indian handloom sector, with a special focus on handwoven saris from various regions of the country.



➤ Russia Offers Visa-Free Travel for Indians in 2025

Indians may soon enjoy visa-free travel to Russia as part of a new initiative expected to begin in the spring of 2025. This move follows bilateral discussions between India and Russia in June 2024, aimed at easing visa restrictions and encouraging group tourist exchanges. Currently, Indian nationals require visas to visit Russia, but the upcoming agreement could significantly streamline travel processes, boosting tourism and strengthening bilateral ties.



➤ Gympie-Gympie: The World's Most Toxic Plant

The Gympie-Gympie, scientifically known as *Dendrocnide moroides*, is notorious as the most toxic plant in the world, primarily found in rainforests of Australia, Indonesia, and the Moluccas. Despite its unassuming appearance with heart-shaped leaves, this stinging tree is covered with fine, hair-like trichomes loaded with powerful neurotoxins. Contact with the plant causes excruciating pain described as being "burnt with hot acid and electrocuted at the same time," with effects that can persist for weeks or even months.



➤ Italy Grants Citizenship to Argentina's President

Italy recently granted citizenship to Argentine President Javier Milei based on his Italian ancestry, sparking a wave of criticism in Argentina. This decision highlights ongoing debates over Italy's citizenship laws, particularly concerning descendants of Italian emigrants. Critics argue that the policy is unfair to children of immigrants born in Italy who are often denied citizenship.



Centre Earns ₹8,625 Crore via Disinvestment in 2024-25

The Indian government has so far collected ₹8,625 crore through various minority stake sale disinvestment transactions during the current financial year 2024-25, according to MoS Finance Pankaj Chaudhary in a written reply to the Lok Sabha. While no specific disinvestment target has been set for FY25, the government continues its policy of strategic disinvestment and privatization, aiming to enhance efficiency and economic potential in sectors where competitive markets have matured.

Wholesale Inflation Eases to 1.9% in November Amid Cooling Food Prices

India's wholesale inflation moderated to 1.9% in November, down from 2.4% in October, with food price inflation easing significantly from a 25-month high of 11.6% in October to 8.9%. Despite this, prices for manufactured products, such as food products, furniture, pharmaceuticals, and electrical equipment, continued to rise, contributing to higher inflation in this category.



Current affairs MCQS on 19 DEC

Q.1. When is Goa Liberation Day celebrated?

- (a) 16 December
- (b) 17 December
- (c) 18 December
- (d) 19 December

Answer: (d) 19 December

Goa Liberation Day is celebrated every year on December 19 in India, which marks the day when the Indian armed forces liberated Goa in 1961 after 450 years of Portuguese rule. Several events and celebrations are held in Goa on Goa Liberation Day, although this time the celebrations are expected to be subdued due to the pandemic. On this day, people from three different places in the state take out torchlight processions and reach Azad Maidan.



Q.2. Recently, which country's player 'Imad Wasim' has again retired from international cricket?

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

Answer: (c) Pakistan

35-year-old Pakistani all-rounder Imad Wasim announced his retirement from international cricket. This came after a brief comeback for the T20 World Cup, where Pakistan were eliminated in the first round. Wasim represented Pakistan in 55 ODIs and 75 T20Is, contributing with both bat and ball. He plans to continue playing domestic and franchise cricket.

Q.3. Who has recently won the Women's Junior Asia Hockey Cup 2024 title?

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

Answer: (d) India

The Indian women's junior hockey team successfully defended their Women's Junior Asia Cup title by defeating China 3-2 in the final held in Muscat, Oman. India, the previous winners of the 2023 edition, won the 10th Women's Junior Asia Cup in a thrilling penalty shoot-out after the match ended in a 1-1 draw in regulation time. With this win, India qualified for the 2025 FIH Women's Junior Hockey World Cup in Chile along with China, Japan, South Korea and Malaysia.

Q.4. Recently, Foreign Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar has inaugurated the embassy of which country in New Delhi?

- (a) Moldova
- (b) Ukraine
- (c) Serbia
- (d) Bulgaria

Answer: (a) Moldova

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said the opening of Moldova's embassy in New Delhi will start a "new chapter" that will advance the partnership between the two countries and help further cooperation in key areas. "I express the hope and expectation that in the near future you will see an Indian Embassy in Moldova as well," the minister said in his address at a ceremony to mark the inauguration of the Indian embassy here. Jaishankar termed the opening of the embassy as an "important milestone" in relations between India and the eastern European country Moldova.

Q.5. With whom has Defense Minister Rajnath Singh recently signed an agreement for 12 Sukhoi-30 aircraft?

- (a) Reliance Defence
- (b) Cochin Shipyard
- (c) HAL
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (c) HAL

Taking a step towards the country's self-reliance, the Defence Ministry signed a Rs 13,500 crore contract with Bengaluru-based Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for 12 Sukhoi-30 fighter aircraft and related equipment for the Indian Air Force.

Q.6. Recently the third financial dialogue between India and which country has been held at GIFT City in Gujarat?

- (a) UK
- (b) Indonesia
- (c) China
- (d) Singapore

Answer: (a) UK

The third India-United Kingdom (UK) Financial Markets Dialogue was held at GIFT (Gujarat International Financial Tech) City. The annual dialogue between representatives of financial sector regulators of the two countries discussed ways to cooperate in financial regulation and enhance trade and investment between the two countries. The dialogue supported business-to-business relations

between the two countries and agreed to create the right environment for realising significant commercial opportunities between the markets of these two countries.

Q.7. Who will launch 'Fit India Cycling Tuesday' recently?

- (a) Dr. S. Jaishankar
- (b) Piyush Goyal
- (c) Mansukh Mandaviya
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (c) Mansukh Mandaviya

Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Dr Mansukh Mandaviya will flag off the 'Fit India Cycling Tuesday' initiative in New Delhi. On the same day, a cycling event will be organised at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) Regional Centre in Gandhinagar. The event in Gandhinagar will see Paralympic gold medallist Navdeep Singh lead a 3-km cycling joy ride to Swarnim Park. The event will be attended by top athletes from RC Gandhinagar, including athletes from handball and kabaddi, as well as local fitness enthusiasts and sports lovers.

Q.8. The Union Home Minister has recently awarded the prestigious President's insignia to the police of which state?

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

Answer: (a) Chhattisgarh

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah presented the prestigious 'President's Colour' to Chhattisgarh Police in Raipur on the first day of his visit to Chhattisgarh. Several dignitaries including Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Dev Sai and Deputy Chief Minister Shri Vijay Sharma were present at the ceremony.

Q.9. RBI has recently decided to increase the limit of agricultural loan without collateral from Rs 160000 to how much?

- (a) 250000
- (b) 180000
- (c) 200000
- (d) 350000

Answer: (c) 200000

In a significant move to provide credit to the agriculture sector for supporting activities and to meet rising costs, the Reserve Bank of India today announced an increase in the limit of additional agricultural loans. The current loan limit of Rs. 1.6 lakh per borrower has been increased to Rs. 2 lakh. This decision has been taken in view of the impact of inflation and rising cost of agriculture on farmers. It aims to provide better financial access to farmers and ensure that they have adequate resources to meet their operational and developmental needs without any security constraints.

Q.10. Mikhail Kavelashvili was elected the new President of which country?

- (a) Estonia
- (b) Georgia
- (c) Bulgaria
- (d) Croatia

Answer: (b) Georgia

Former Georgian national footballer Mikheil Kavelashvili was elected unopposed as President of Georgia amid an opposition boycott. He is pro-Russian and anti-Western, replacing pro-Western President Salome Zourabichvili, who had denounced his election. The role of the president in Georgia is mostly ceremonial, while real power rests with the prime minister. Kavelashvili, founder of the People's Power Party, was backed by the ruling Georgian Dream party and won 224 out of 225 votes in the electoral college. The opposition boycotted the October 2024 parliamentary elections, alleging fraud. He will take office on December 29, 2024.

Q.11. Who has recently unveiled "Gencast" for weather forecasting?

- (a) Amazon
- (b) Meta

- (c) Google
(d) None of the above

Answer: (c) Google

Google's DeepMind team recently launched Gencast, a new AI model that excels at predicting the weather and has surpassed the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF). Gencast provides faster and more accurate forecasts up to 15 days in advance.

Q.12. Who has recently been elected Honorary Fellow of the 'International Diabetes Federation'?

- (a) Dr. Mohan
(b) Sanjay Murthy
(c) Punit Goenka
(d) Ajit Bansal

Answer: (a) Dr. Mohan

Dr. V. Mohan, chairman of Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Specialties Centre and Madras Diabetes Research Foundation, has been elected an Honorary Fellow of the International Diabetes Federation. The honour is given to individuals who have made outstanding contributions in the field of diabetes care, research and advocacy, a press release said. Dr. Mohan is one of 17 individuals from across the world and two from India, along with diabetes specialist A. Ramachandran, to receive the honour.

Q.13. Recently Zakir Hussain passed away, who was he?

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

Answer: (c) Tabla player

Tabla maestro Zakir Hussain died at a hospital in San Francisco. Hussain won four Grammy Awards in his career, three of them at the 66th Grammy Awards earlier this year. In his six-decade career, the musician worked with many renowned international and Indian artistes but it was his 1973 musical project with English guitarist John McLaughlin, violinist L. Shankar and percussionist

T.H. 'Vikku' Vinayakram that introduced Indian classical music with elements of jazz in a fusion that was hitherto unknown.

Q.14. India's first diabetes biobank has been established in which city?

- (a) Chennai
(b) Mumbai
(c) Kolkata
(d) Hyderabad

Answer: (a) Chennai

India's first diabetes biobank has been set up in Chennai by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF). It stores biological samples to support scientific research with the approval of ICMR. The biobank focuses on studying the causes, variations and related disorders of Indian diabetes. Blood samples are collected from two ICMR studies: the India Diabetes (INDIAB) study (2008-2020) and the ongoing registry of young-onset diabetes (since 2006).

Q.15. Who has recently unveiled the 'Green Steel Classification for India'?

- (a) HD Kumaraswamy
(b) Amit Shah
(c) Rajnath Singh
(d) Piyush Goyal

Answer: (a) HD Kumaraswamy

India has achieved a significant milestone in its resolve to decarbonise the steel sector and move towards a low carbon economy. Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries Shri H D Kumaraswamy officially released India's first "Green Steel Taxonomy" at an event held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. This framework establishes India as a global leader in defining and advancing green steel production, which is critical to achieving the country's environmental and sustainable development goals.