

## Today in History on 02 DEC

### ➤ 1848 - Franz Joseph I becomes Emperor of Austria.

He was the eldest son of Archduke Franz Karl, the brother and heir apparent of Emperor Ferdinand I. Franz Joseph succeeded his father as heir apparent after he abdicated the throne, and became Emperor of Austria at the age of 18, following Ferdinand's abdication at the end of the Hungarian Revolution in 1848.



### ➤ 1971 - The United Arab Emirates declares independence from Britain.

The UAE declared its independence on December 2, 1971, following the completion of treaties with Great Britain. The United States recognized the UAE the following day, on December 3. Prior to 1971, the Trucial Sheikdoms of Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm al-Qaiwain, Fujairah, and Ras al-Khaimah were under British protection. Thus, the United States had very limited relations with these sheikdoms.



### ➤ 1976 - Fidel Castro becomes President of Cuba.

Fidel Alejandro Castro Ruz was a Cuban politician and one of the primary leaders of the Cuban Revolution. He was Prime Minister of Cuba from February 1959 to December 1976 and then President of the Council of State of Cuba (President) until he resigned in February 2008. He was currently First Secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba. He died on 25 November 2016.



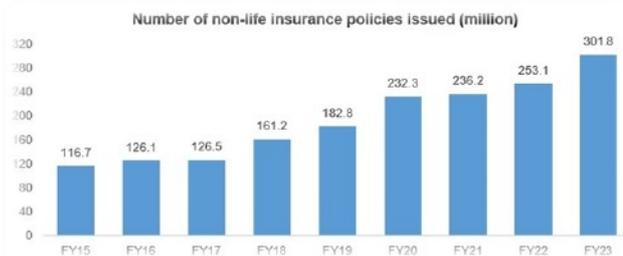
### ➤ 1965 - Border Security Force was established.

On December 19, 1965, the BSF was formed as a special force responsible for guarding India's borders. The Indo-Pakistani War of 1965 began with Pakistani attacks on Indian border posts, which exposed significant structural problems in India's border security strategy. Before the formation of the BSF, the Indo-Pak border was guarded by state police forces from 1947 to 1965. The police forces operated independently of the federal government and had little or no communication with other states.



### ➤ 1999 - Private sector investment in the insurance sector was allowed in India.

The government nationalised the general insurance business in 1971. The insurance sector opened up to private companies after the LPG reforms in 1991. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) was formed in 1999 as an autonomous body to regulate and develop the insurance industry.



## Important NEWS on 02 DEC

### ➤ Sanraksha App launched for Enhancing Rail Passenger Safety

The launch of the 'Sanraksha' mobile application by Indian Railways aims to enhance the safety and security of passengers. It integrates advanced technology, including data analytics and potential AI applications, to train and build the capacity of railway staff while ensuring passenger safety. The app was launched after a successful pilot project in the Nagpur division, and it is being rolled out across various railway zones to create a more secure environment for travelers.



### ➤ Centre Receives 28 Proposals from 23 States for New City Development

The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has received 28 proposals from 23 states for the development of new cities, as part of the central government's initiative to meet the growing demand for urban expansion. This marks a significant step in fulfilling the commitment made in February 2021 to develop eight new cities. The proposals are under scrutiny, with a focus on ensuring quality and adherence to eligibility criteria set by the 15th Finance Commission.



### ➤ 40 Tourism Projects to Revitalize Lesser-Known Destinations Across India

In a bid to promote sustainable tourism and balance tourist traffic, the Ministry of Tourism has approved 40 projects worth over Rs 3,295 crore, aimed at transforming lesser-known destinations into iconic sites. Spanning 23 states, these projects are expected to stimulate local economies and enhance tourism infrastructure. This initiative is in line with the past efforts to reduce overcrowding at popular tourist spots by focusing on underdeveloped regions.



### ➤ IIT Guwahati to Host Nation's Largest Science Festival

The India International Science Festival (IISF) 2024, India's largest science celebration, will take place at IIT Guwahati, Assam, on December, 2024. Organized under the aegis of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), with the National

Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST) as the coordinating body, IISF promotes science-society engagement and interdisciplinary collaboration.



### ➤ India and Bosnia & Herzegovina Strengthen Ties at 4th Foreign Office Consultations

India and Bosnia & Herzegovina held the 4th Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) in Sarajevo, led by Arun Kumar Sahu, Additional Secretary (Central Europe) from India, and Tarik Bukvic, Head of the Department for Asia and Africa from Bosnia. Discussions focused on strengthening bilateral political ties, trade and investment, scientific collaboration, cultural relations, and enhancing people-to-people connections through student and youth exchanges.



### ➤ Cyclone Fengal to Cross TN-Puducherry Coast: IMD and ISRO on High Alert

The deep depression over the Southwest Bay of Bengal, likely to intensify into Cyclone Fengal, is set to make landfall between Karaikal and Mahabalipuram on November 2024, bringing heavy rainfall and strong winds to Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. ISRO and IMD are actively monitoring the system, with ISRO satellites EOS-06 and INSAT-3DR providing real-time updates.



### ➤ India Tests K-4 Missile from INS Arighaat

India has achieved a significant milestone by successfully testing the K-4 nuclear-capable ballistic missile with a range of 3,500 km from the nuclear-powered submarine INS Arighaat in the Bay of Bengal. This test strengthens India's nuclear deterrence and places the nation among the select few capable of launching nuclear missiles from land, air, and sea.



### Current affairs MCQS on 02 DEC

Q.1. Where was the All India Conference of Directors General/Inspectors General of Police 2024 held recently?

- (a) Hyderabad
- (b) New Delhi
- (c) Bhubaneswar
- (d) Chennai

Answer: (c) Bhubaneswar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the All India Conference of Directors General/Inspectors General of Police 2024 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The three-day conference focused on national security issues such as terrorism, insurgency, coastal security, new criminal laws and narcotics. President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service was awarded. The conference serves as a platform for police professionals to discuss crime control, law and order and internal security threats. It included yoga sessions, business sessions and thematic food tables for informal discussions. This was the 59th conference, continuing the tradition started in 2014.

Q.2. In the recently released Network Readiness Index 2024, India has been placed at what position?

- (a) 32nd
- (b) 18th
- (c) 17th
- (d) 49th

Answer: (d) 49th

India has been ranked 49th in the Network Readiness Stock 2024 published by Oxford University's Portulance Institute and Saïd Business School. Last year it was ranked 60th and this year it has improved its rank to 11th position. The US has topped the Network Readiness Stock for the third consecutive year, followed by Singapore. The Network Readiness Stock ranks 133 industries (countries) based on their citizens' access to and use of information and communication technology (ITC).

**Q.3. Recently, bilateral exercise Agniwarrior 2024 has started between India and which country?**

- (a) Singapore
- (b) Germany
- (c) France
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: (a) Singapore**

Bilateral military exercise "Agni Warrior 2024" between India and Singapore was held at Deolali Field Firing Range in Maharashtra. It aims to strengthen interaction between artillery units of the two countries. The exercise involves joint fire power planning and execution using new generation equipment. It aims to enhance mutual understanding and interoperability of procedures and exercises between the two armies.

**Q.4. Who has recently been nominated by Donald Trump as Special Envoy for Russia and Ukraine?**

- (a) Keith Kellogg
- (b) Mike Waltz
- (c) Susie Wills
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: (a) Keith Kellogg**

In a bold move signaling a renewed commitment to resolving the Ukraine crisis, President-elect Donald Trump has appointed retired Lt. Gen. Keith Kellogg as special envoy for Ukraine and Russia. This key appointment, announced by Trump as he prepares for his second term, underscores his intention to take decisive steps to address one of the most

significant geopolitical challenges of the last two years. Kellogg's nomination signals a strategy focused on dialogue and peace, yet the exact outlines of Trump's plan remain unclear.

**Q.5. Recently, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has won which medal for excellence at IITF 2024?**

- (a) Silver
- (b) Bronze
- (c) Gold
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: (b) Bronze**

Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) was awarded Bronze Medal under Empowered India category for outstanding performance at 43rd India International Trade Fair (IITF-2024) held at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Dr Bijay Kumar Behera, Economic Adviser, MoPR received the prestigious award during the award distribution ceremony organized by India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO).

**Q.6. Recently, where has India's first 'Green Hydrogen Fuel Station' been inaugurated?**

- (a) Kolkata
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Leh
- (d) Jaipur

**Answer: (c) Leh**

India has recently inaugurated its first green hydrogen fueling station in Leh, Ladakh, a milestone in the green mobility sector. The project was completed by Amara Raja Infra for NTPC Limited, with the aim to promote emission-free transportation in the region.

**Q.7. Where has the 'National Postal Exhibition' been organized recently?**

- (a) Lucknow
- (b) Patna
- (c) Jaipur
- (d) Bhopal

**Answer: (b) Patna**

The Postal Department is going to organize a three-day Bihar Stamp Exhibition at Gyan Bhawan in Patna. On the occasion of the Bihar Stamp Exhibition, a special cover on folk singer Padma Bhushan Sharda Sinha will be released. This will be the first special copperplate issued by the Postal Department within just a month of the death of an artist in the 150-year history of the Indian Postal Department.

**Q.8. Recently, what is the percentage increase in India's milk production in 2023-24?**

- (a) 5.62%
- (b) 4.56%
- (c) 4.29%
- (d) 3.78%

**Answer: (d) 3.78%**

According to the Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2024 report, India's milk production is projected to grow by 3.78% to reach 239.30 million tonnes in 2023-24, retaining its position as the world's largest milk producer. This growth is attributed to improved productivity of dairy cattle and increased per capita milk availability.

**Q.9. Recently, the Ministry of Mines has won which medal for excellence at IITF 2024?**

- (a) Bronze
- (b) Gold
- (c) Silver
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: (b) Gold**

The pavilion of the Ministry of Mines won the Gold Award at the India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2024 for excellence in display. It showcased contributions to a developed India by 2047, attracting over 80,000 visitors. The ministry donated 70,000 copper strips and 775 copper rods to the Ram Mandir. Sustainability was promoted with recycling machines by Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre (JNARDDC), providing vouchers. Women empowerment was highlighted, with SHGs earning over ₹10 lakh in 14 days, emphasising economic development at the grassroots level.

**Q.10. Who will host the 2024 'India International Science Festival'?**

- (a) IIT Guwahati
- (b) IIT Kanpur
- (c) IIT Delhi
- (d) IIT Jaipur

**Answer: (a) IIT Guwahati**

For the first time, the prestigious India International Science Festival will be organised in the Northeast region of the country. Indian Institute of Technology - Guwahati will host the 10th India International Science Festival 2024. India International Science Festival is the largest science event in the country, involving the general public and the scientific community.

**Q.11. Recently, para athlete 'Rinchen Yudo' has won which medal in the World Para Poomse Taekwondo Championship?**

- (a) Bronze
- (b) Silver
- (c) Gold
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: (a) Bronze**

Rinchen Yudol, a renowned Para Taekwondo athlete from Ladakh, has etched her name in Indian sports history by winning a bronze medal in the first World Para Poomse Taekwondo Championship held in Bahrain. Her achievement is also significant as she has become the first woman from the Union Territory of Ladakh to win a medal in this prestigious competition.

**Q.12. Recently which IIT has developed 'untargeted' stealth technology?**

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

**Answer: (a) IIT Kanpur**

High technology collaboration between indigenous defence industry and academia has started yielding

results. The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT-K) announced a breakthrough in stealth technology that will make combat systems like tanks and fighter aircraft invisible or nearly invisible to enemy radars. Named the "Meta-Material Surface Cloaking System" (MSCS), it has been nicknamed Anlakshya by its inventors from IIT-K. It is of major interest to the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in the development of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) – a "stealth fighter" that is being engineered to be nearly invisible to enemy air defence radars.

**Q.13. Recently 'Masato Kanda' has been elected the 11th president of which bank?**

- (a) ADB
- (b) BRICS
- (c) NDB
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: (a) ADB**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said its Board of Governors has unanimously elected Masato Kanda as the 11th President of ADB. Mr Kanda (59) is currently serving as a special adviser to the Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Japan. He will replace Masatsugu Asakawa on February 24, 2025. Mr Asakawa will step down on February 23 next year.

**Q.14. Who has recently been awarded Singapore's 'highest art honour'?**

- (a) Manik Kotwal
- (b) Devendra Kumar
- (c) G. Retnam
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: (c) G. Retnam**

Two veteran artists were awarded Singapore's highest arts honour, the Cultural Medallion. Classical musician Ghanavenothen Retnam and painter Siu Hock Meng were honoured for their contributions to Indian music and visual arts respectively.

**Q.15. Who has recently been awarded the Rochdale Pioneers Award of ICA (International Cooperative Alliance)?**

- (a) U.S. Awasthi
- (b) Ashok Chandra
- (c) Vinod Kumar
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: (a) U.S. Awasthi**

IFFCO Managing Director Dr U S Awasthi has been conferred with the prestigious Rochdale Pioneers Award by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) for his exceptional contribution to the development of cooperatives in India. The award also recognises IFFCO's principles and his efforts to promote the Indian cooperative model globally.