

## Today in History on 20 DEC

### ➤ 1955 - Indian Golf Union formed.

The Indian Golf Union was founded in December 1955 on the initiative of some senior golfers of Calcutta and with the support of golfers from Delhi, Mumbai and Madras. All the administrative powers of the RCGC were transferred to the IGU after its formation, including the right to conduct the Amateur Golf Championship of India.



### ➤ 1951 - Oman became independent following an agreement between Oman and Britain.

On 20 December 1951, Oman became independent following an agreement between Oman and Britain. Agreements between Oman's rulers and local representatives of British India led to ever-

increasing British involvement in Omani affairs, and eventually Oman became a de facto British protectorate. British interest in Oman and the Persian/Arabian Gulf was based on trade with India.



### ➤ 1991 - Paul Keating becomes the new Prime Minister of Australia.

Paul John Keating is an Australian former politician who served as the 24th Prime Minister of Australia from 1991 to 1996, and as Leader of the Labor Party (ALP). He previously served as Treasurer under Prime Minister Bob Hawke from 1983 to 1991 and as the seventh Deputy Prime Minister from 1990 to 1991. Keating was born in Sydney and left school at the age of 14.



### ➤ 1757 - Lord Clive was made the Governor of Bengal.

Robert Clive was the first Governor of Bengal during the Company's rule, who took over in 1758 after the assassination of the Nawab of Murshidabad in 1757. He was appointed the Governor of Bengal in 1765. Robert Clive fought against the Nawab of Bengal during the Battle of Plassey.



### ➤ 1951 - First nuclear power reactor produces electricity in the US.

On December 20, 1951, electricity is first produced by a nuclear reactor, at the EBR-I experimental station near Arco, Idaho, initially producing 100 kW (the Arco reactor was the first to experience a partial meltdown in 1955). In 1952, a Paley Commission report to President Harry Truman gave a "relatively pessimistic" assessment of nuclear power and called for "aggressive research into the entire field of solar energy."



## Important NEWS on 20 DEC

### ➤ INCOIS Upgrades SARAT for Enhanced Sea Rescue Operations

The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has recently upgraded its Search and Rescue Aid Tool (SARAT) to improve the effectiveness of sea rescue operations. Originally introduced in 2016, SARAT has become a vital tool for the Indian Coast Guard and other agencies. The upgraded version, SARAT 2, comes with advanced features that provide more accurate predictions for missing objects and individuals at sea, optimizing rescue operations.



### ➤ Kisan Kavach – Bharat’s Indigenous Anti-Pesticide Bodysuit

Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, unveiled Kisan Kavach, India’s first indigenous anti-pesticide bodysuit. Developed by BRIC-inStem, Bangalore, in collaboration with Sepio Health Pvt. Ltd., the suit aims to safeguard farmers from pesticide-induced health risks. The launch aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of leveraging science and technology to empower India’s agricultural community.



### ➤ Israel Expands Settlements in Golan Heights Amid Regional Shifts

Israel recently approved a settlement expansion plan in the Golan Heights, allocating over \$11.13 million to boost population and infrastructure in the region. This decision comes amidst rising regional tensions following political changes in Syria, particularly the fall of the Assad regime. Israel aims to double the population in this strategically significant territory.



### ➤ Moldova Joins International Solar Alliance

Moldova has officially joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA), signaling its commitment to renewable energy and sustainability. The ISA Framework Agreement was signed in New Delhi by India’s External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Moldovan Deputy Prime Minister Mihai Popșoi. Moldova’s inclusion comes after Armenia became the 104th full member last month, marking the continued global expansion of the ISA.



### ➤ Uber Unveils ‘Moto Women’ Bike Taxis for Women in Bengaluru

In a move to enhance safety and inclusivity in urban mobility, Uber has launched a pilot program called ‘Moto Women’ in Bengaluru. This service is exclusively designed for female riders and drivers,

offering an on-demand bike taxi option with an emphasis on safety and empowerment. With growing concerns over the uncertainty of bike taxi operations in Karnataka, this initiative aims to provide a safer, more flexible earning opportunity for women while addressing key issues like safety, privacy, and public transport integration.



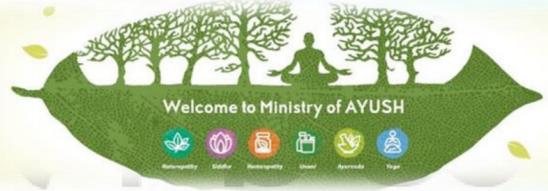
#### ➤ RBI Lifts Restrictions on Edelweiss Group's ECL Finance and ARC

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has lifted the supervisory restrictions on two entities of the Edelweiss Group—ECL Finance Ltd and Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (Edelweiss ARC). These restrictions were imposed in May 2024 due to concerns over regulatory compliance. After significant engagement and corrective actions by the companies, the RBI is satisfied with their adherence to regulatory norms and has allowed their normal operations to resume.



#### ➤ India Promotes AYUSH Systems Globally with New Chairs in Five Countries

The Ministry of AYUSH has launched a scheme for the promotion of international cooperation to enhance awareness and recognition of AYUSH systems worldwide. As part of this initiative, India has established AYUSH Chairs at five foreign universities—Bangladesh, Australia, Mauritius, Latvia, and Malaysia. This effort is aimed at advancing academic exchange, research, and public awareness of Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, and Homoeopathy, contributing to their global acceptance.



#### Current affairs MCQS on 20 DEC

Q.1. When is International Human Solidarity Day celebrated?

- (a) 17 December
- (b) 18 December
- (c) 19 December
- (d) 20 December

**Answer:(d) 20 December**

International Human Solidarity Day is celebrated on 20 December. This day celebrates 'unity in diversity' and tells people about the importance of unity of humanity. According to the United Nations Millennium Declaration, solidarity is one of the stock exchanges that is extremely important for international revolution. The United Nations General Assembly proposed the inclusion of this day in the year 2005. This day was first celebrated in the year 2006.

**Q.2. Recently, which country has successfully tested the "Dark Eagle" anti-missile system?**

- (a) Israel
- (b) Russia
- (c) USA
- (d) Germany

**Answer: (c) USA**

The US Army has successfully tested its Long-Range Hypersonic Weapon (LRHW), also known as "Dark Eagle", bringing it closer to becoming a vital weapon in modern warfare. The test, conducted at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, showed the missile's ability to travel at speeds of up to 3,800 miles per hour (Mach 5) and hit robust, heavily defended targets. The achievement is a major milestone in the development of hypersonic weapons for the US military, and it is planned to be operational by 2025.

**Q.3. Recently, the 'Desert Night' war exercise has started in the Arabian Sea between India, France and which country?**

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

**Answer: (d) UAE**

India, France and the United Arab Emirates launched the "Desert Knight" defense exercise to promote trilateral defense cooperation and interoperability of air forces in complex scenarios. The Indian Air Force launched Sukhoi-30MKI, Jaguar, IL-78 mid-air rockets and engineered AEW and C (airborne early-warning and control) systems from Jamnagar, India. French Rafale jets and UAE's F-16 fighter aircraft operated from UAE's Al Dhafra airbase. The exercise involved a large number of military participation and intense maneuvers in the Arabian Sea, southwest of Karachi. It aims to strengthen defense assurance in regions such as China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific and the Persian Gulf. This follows the release of the 2022 three-pronged

nuclear power plants that emphasize defense, technology and energy cooperation.

**Q.4. Recently, which country has joined ISA (International Solar Alliance) as the 105th member?**

- (a) Moldova
- (b) Syria
- (c) Armenia
- (d) Spain

**Answer: (a) Moldova**

Moldova joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as the 105th country. ISA is an international group of countries located between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. These are solar resource-rich countries, called sunshine countries. The agreement to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) was signed between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Moldova's Deputy Prime Minister Mihai Popsoi.

**Q.5. Recently, Mount Semeru volcano of which country has erupted?**

- (a) South Korea
- (b) Japan
- (c) Indonesia
- (d) China

**Answer: (c) Indonesia**

Mount Semeru in East Java, Indonesia, erupted, spewing a towering column of white to grey ash as thick as 1,000 metres into the sky. The eruption caused Indonesia's Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation Center to issue an Orange Volcano Observatory Notice for Aviation, banning flights within a 5 kilometre radius of the volcano.

**Q.6. Recently which country has become the 12th member of the Trans-Pacific Trade Agreement?**

- (a) Britain
- (b) Singapore
- (c) China
- (d) Russia

**Answer: (a) Britain**

Britain officially became the 12th member of the Trans-Pacific trade agreement, which includes Japan, Australia and Canada. Britain wants to deepen ties in the region and strengthen its global trade relations after its exit from the European Union. Britain announced last year that it would join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) as its biggest trade deal after Brexit.

**Q.7. Recently India's first air cargo hub will be built in which country?**

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

**Answer: (b) Noida**

The much-awaited Noida International Airport to be built in Jewar, Noida will give wings to development in entire western Uttar Pradesh. Due to this airport, the country's largest air cargo hub is going to be built in the Yamuna Authority area. Which will transport the products here to the whole world. For this, large cold storages are being built here, while depots of international companies are also being built here.

**Q.8. Recently, the Indian Navy has launched the 'Sampark-4.0' initiative in which country?**

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

**Answer: (a) Maharashtra**

As part of Indian Navy's unwavering commitment to provide quality healthcare services to Naval Ex-Servicemen/Veer Naris and their families, the 4th edition of ECHS (Navy) outreach initiative 'Sampark' is being launched, covering various locations in Maharashtra. Sampark 4.0 will focus on establishing direct communication channels between Ex-Servicemen and ECHS (Navy), thereby fostering a sense of camaraderie and support within the Ex-Servicemen community.

**Q.9. Recently who has been appointed as the Country Manager of Google India?**

- (a) Deepti Agarwal
- (b) Praveena Rai
- (c) Preeti Lobana
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: (c) Preeti Lobana**

Technology giant Google announced the appointment of Preeti Lobana as its new country manager and vice president for India. She will replace Sanjay Gupta, who recently took over the top position of President of Asia Pacific region at Google. A release issued by Google said that as the new country manager and vice president for India, Lobana will play a key role in shaping Google's strategy to bring the transformative power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to all customers and promote innovation.

**Q.10. Recently who has unveiled India's first yoga policy, which will become the 'Global Yoga Center'?**

- (a) Uttarakhand
- (b) Bihar
- (c) Odisha
- (d) Haryana

**Answer: (a) Uttarakhand**

Uttarakhand, popularly known as Devbhoomi, is going to become the first state in India to implement a dedicated yoga policy. The aim of this policy is to transform the state into a global yoga hub. Rishikesh, already known as the "capital of yoga", will further strengthen the cultural and spiritual heritage of the state through this initiative. The policy, conceptualised by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, aims to integrate yoga, Ayurveda and wellness for the development of tourism, health and employment.

**Q.11. Recently, the book 'Many Ramayana's Many Lessons' written by whom will be published?**

- (a) Anand Neelkanthan
- (b) Sanjay Murthy

- (c) Punit Goenka  
(d) None of the above

**Answer: (a) Anand Neelkantan**

HarperCollins India is delighted to announce the publication of bestselling author Anand Neelakantan's upcoming book 'Many Ramayanas, Many Lessons'. The Ramayana is not one story - it is a collection of stories that span centuries, cultures and languages. Woven from countless threads, from traditions in Southeast Asia to retellings in Central Asia, the epic offers a new truth, a new perspective and a new world to explore.

**Q.12. What is the name of the scheme launched by the government to facilitate loan assessment for farmers through e-NWR?**

- (a) Warehouse Loan Guarantee Scheme  
(b) Kisan Empowerment Scheme  
(c) Loan Guarantee Scheme  
(d) e-Kisan Loan Scheme

**Answer: (c) Loan Guarantee Scheme**

The Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGS) for pledge financing based on Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (e-NWR) was launched to protect small farmers from distress sale of crops. It aims to provide credit to small farmers to prevent distress sale of crops. A fund of Rs 1,000 crore has been allocated for post-harvest finance. Farmers can avail loans against Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (e-NWR) after storing commodities in WDRA-accredited warehouses. The loan coverage includes up to Rs 75 lakh for agricultural purposes and up to Rs 200 lakh for non-agricultural purposes. The scheme improves access to credit and provides financial assistance to farmers after harvest.

**Q.13. Where was Gujarat's first Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Testing (OSAT) plant opened?**

- (a) Rajkot  
(b) Surat  
(c) Vadodara  
(d) Ahmedabad

**Answer: (b) Surat**

Gujarat-based semiconductor company Suchi Semicon inaugurated Gujarat's first OSAT (Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Testing) plant in Surat. The 30,000 sq ft facility provides assembly, testing and packaging services for semiconductor components. It supports industries such as automotive, consumer electronics and industrial applications. The plant was inaugurated by Union Minister CR Patil and Gujarat Home Minister Harsh Sanghvi. The move strengthens India's position in the global semiconductor supply chain and makes Gujarat a hub of high-tech manufacturing and innovation.

**Q.14. Who has recently won the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2024?**

- (a) Madhya Pradesh  
(b) Uttar Pradesh  
(c) Assam  
(d) Mumbai

**Answer: (d) Mumbai**

Under the captaincy of Shreyas Iyer, Mumbai defeated Madhya Pradesh and won the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy of the 2024-25 season. Mumbai defeated Madhya Pradesh by 5 wickets in the final played at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru to win their second Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. The Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy is a domestic championship organized by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) played in T20 format. The 2024-25 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy was held at various venues in India. The final was played at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. This season of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy was played by 38 teams participating in the Ranji Trophy, which were divided into five groups.

**Q.15. Recently Padma Shri award winner Jodhiya Amma has passed away. Who was she?**

- (a) Baiga painter  
(b) Writer  
(c) Sculptor

(d) Journalist

**Answer: (a) Baiga painter**

Padma Shri awardee Madhya Pradesh's famous Baiga tribal artist Jodhaiya Bai died after a prolonged illness in Umaria district. She was 86 years old. The painter, who played an important role in giving international recognition to Baiga tribal art, died in Lodha village of Umaria district. Jodhaiya Bai will be awarded the country's fourth highest civilian award Padma Shri in 2023 for her special contribution in the field of art.