

Today in History on 24 DEC

➤ **1798: The Second Anti-French Coalition is signed between Russia and Britain.**

From 1798 to 1801, the Anglo-Ottoman alliance competed with the French for control of Egypt. Their victory resulted in the withdrawal of French forces from the region and also helped safeguard Britain's possessions on the Indian subcontinent. In 1798, France sent an army to secure Egypt, strengthen France's Middle Eastern trade, and open a potential route of attack toward British India. It was led by General Napoleon Bonaparte.



➤ **1924: Indian playback singer Mohammed Rafi was born.**

Mohammed Rafi (24 December 1924 – 31 July 1980) was an Indian playback singer. He is considered one of the greatest and most influential singers of the Indian subcontinent. He recorded songs for over a thousand Hindi films and in many Indian languages as well as some foreign languages, though primarily

in Urdu and Punjabi, which he had a strong command over. He recorded over 7,000 songs in his entire career, spanning across many languages and dialects such as Konkani, Assamese, Bhojpuri, Odia, Bengali, Marathi, Sindhi, Kannada, Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu, Magahi, Maithili, etc.



➤ **1954: Southeast Asian country Laos gains independence.**

Laos and Cambodia gained independence in 1954 under the Geneva Accords. The part of the conference on the Korean question ended without the adoption of any declaration or resolution and is therefore generally considered less relevant. On the other hand, the Geneva Accords dealing with the dissolution of French Indochina had long-term consequences.



➤ 1989: The country's first amusement park 'Essel World' opened in Mumbai.

Essel World is an amusement park located in Gorai, Mumbai. It was started in 1989. This park is owned by Pan India Tourism Private Limited (PIPPL). Essel World and other parks including Water Kingdom etc. are spread over a total area of 64 acres. The presence of a dance floor here is an additional feature of this park, due to which people like to organize parties here.



➤ 2000: Viswanathan Anand became the first Indian to become the World Chess Champion.

Twenty years ago on 24 December, Viswanathan Anand defeated Alexei Shirov of Spain to win the FIDE World Chess Championship 2000 for the first time. With this, he became the first Indian to win this title. The FIDE World Chess Championship 2000 was held in New Delhi and Tehran, the final of which ran from 20 December to 24 December.



Important NEWS on 24 DEC

➤ Aatmanirbhar Bharat Boost: MoD Contracts L&T for K9 VAJRA-T Guns

In a significant move towards enhancing the firepower of the Indian Army and advancing the goals of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, the Ministry of Defense (MoD) signed a Rs 7,628.70 crore contract with Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T) on December, 2024. The procurement involves 155 mm/52 calibre K9 VAJRA-T Self-Propelled Tracked Artillery Guns, a

cutting-edge addition to India's artillery fleet. The agreement was signed in the presence of Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh at South Block, New Delhi, marking a key milestone in India's defense modernization and indigenous manufacturing capabilities.



➤ \$350M India-ADB Loan Agreement Finalized

The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a \$350 million policy-based loan under the second subprogram of the Strengthening Multimodal and Integrated Logistics Ecosystem (SMILE) program. This collaboration aims to enhance India's logistics sector through comprehensive reforms, infrastructure development, and digital integration.



➤ ICICI Bank, Times Internet Launch Premium Metal Credit Card

ICICI Bank and Times Internet have launched the 'Times Black ICICI Bank Credit Card,' a super-premium co-branded card aimed at high-net-worth individuals (HNIs) in India. The card combines exclusive benefits, luxury services, and a unique design, marking a step toward redefining luxury for India's affluent customer segment. Powered by Visa, the card provides a range of perks that cater to the sophisticated lifestyle of professionals and wealthy individuals.



➤ RBI Fines Manappuram Finance and IndusInd Bank for Non-Compliance

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed penalties on IndusInd Bank and Manappuram Finance for failing to adhere to regulatory norms. The fines, amounting to Rs 27.3 lakh for IndusInd Bank and Rs 20 lakh for Manappuram Finance, were imposed following statutory inspections of both companies.



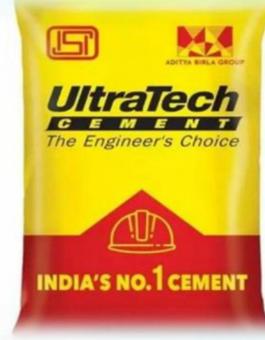
➤ Tata Power and Canara Bank Partner for Rooftop Solar Loans

Tata Power Renewable Energy, a unit of Tata Power, has formed a partnership with the state-run Canara Bank to provide affordable financing options for rooftop solar installations. This collaboration is part of the government's PM Surya Ghar Scheme, which aims to accelerate the adoption of rooftop solar systems across India.



➤ CCI Approves UltraTech's ₹3,954 Cr India Cements Deal

UltraTech Cement, a flagship company of the Aditya Birla Group, has secured approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for its ₹3,954-crore acquisition of India Cements Ltd (ICL). This acquisition marks a strategic move by UltraTech to strengthen its position in the southern cement market, particularly in Tamil Nadu. The deal, involving a significant stake acquisition and an open offer, aligns with UltraTech's ambitious growth strategy to enhance its installed capacity and achieve global leadership in the cement industry.



➤ NTPC to Establish Nuclear Power Project in Bihar, Says CMD Gurdeep Singh

NTPC, a leading power giant in India, has unveiled its plans to set up a nuclear power project in Bihar as part of its strategy to diversify its energy portfolio. This move is aimed at bolstering NTPC's commitment to expanding its non-fossil energy capacity and contributing to the country's energy needs in the future. The company's Chairman and Managing Director, Gurdeep Singh, highlighted the importance of nuclear energy for the energy sector in the coming decades and outlined the potential benefits for both NTPC and the state of Bihar.



Current affairs MCQS on 24 DEC

Q.1. When is National Consumer Rights Day celebrated?

- (a) 21 December
- (b) 22 December
- (c) 23 December
- (d) 24 December

Answer: (d) 24 December

National Consumer Rights Day is celebrated every year on 24 December. It was on this day in 1986 that the Consumer Protection Act 1986 received the assent of the President and thus came into force. The Act aims to provide effective protection against various forms of exploitation such as inferior goods, deficiency in services and unfair trade.

Q.2. Where will India's largest AI city be built on 200 acres?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Assam
- (c) Hyderabad
- (d) Bengaluru

Answer: (c) Hyderabad

The Congress government led by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy in Telangana has celebrated the first anniversary of its tenure with the "Telangana Rising" campaign. CM Reddy is focusing on Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve the future of the state. The state government wants to make Hyderabad the AI capital of India. To achieve this, it is planning to build an AI city on 200 acres here.

Q.3. Recently, India has partnered with which country to establish the National Museum of the Age of India?

- (a) America
- (b) China
- (c) France
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (c) France

India and France signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the development of a new

National Museum on the lines of the Louvre in Paris in the historic North Block and South Block of the national capital. The museum, called Yug Yugin Bharat, will be the largest museum in the world when completed. The agreement was signed by Hervé Barberet, Director General and CEO of Museums France and B R Mani, Director General of the National Museum of India.

Q.4. Recently, where is the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championship 2024 being organized?

- (a) Doha
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Dubai
- (d) Kuwait

Answer: (a) Doha

A 28-member Indian weightlifting contingent will look to make a mark at the Asian Youth & Junior Weightlifting Championships 2024 in Doha, Qatar. 15 Indian weightlifters will compete in the junior division (15 to 20 years of age), while 13 from the country will compete at the youth level (13 to 17 years of age).

Q.5. Where was the 24th BIMSTEC meeting held recently?

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

Answer: (b) Thailand

India participated in the 24th BIMSTEC Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) hosted virtually by Thailand. India was represented by Jaideep Mazumdar, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The meeting reviewed the progress made by BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) since the last SOM held in March 2023 and discussed key areas of regional cooperation. Various documents and new cooperation mechanisms were finalized in the meeting and

preparations for the upcoming 6th BIMSTEC Summit were also discussed.

Q.6. Where has NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation) recently announced to set up a nuclear power project?

- (a) Bihar
- (b) Rajasthan
- (c) Odisha
- (d) Gujarat

Answer: (a) Bihar

Power major NTPC is planning to set up a nuclear power project in Bihar. The company's Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) Gurdeep Singh said the move will expand the company's non-fossil energy portfolio. Addressing a session at the 'Bihar Business Connect 2024' summit here, he said NTPC has also requested the state government for land at a suitable location to pursue its nuclear plans.

Q.7. Recently Micromax has partnered with which country's storage chip company?

- (a) Japan
- (b) Taiwan
- (c) China
- (d) Malaysia

Answer: (b) Taiwan

Electronics company Micromax and Taiwanese storage chip company Phison have set up a joint venture MIPHI to design and manufacture AI-based 'storage chipset modules' locally. Rahul Sharma, co-founder of Micromax Informatics, said the company has started production at its Noida plant. Phison is a leader in NAND controller and NAND storage technologies. We have partnered with them to set up a joint venture in India, in which Micromax will have 55 per cent stake and Phison will have 45 per cent stake.

Q.8. Who has recently become the first person to reach a net worth of \$500 billion?

- (a) Bernard Arnault
- (b) Jeff Bezos

- (c) Elon Musk
- (d) None of these

Answer: (c) Elon Musk

According to Bloomberg, Elon Musk has achieved a new milestone as his net worth reached \$500 billion. Musk's wealth surged after Donald Trump won the US election as he supported him spending millions of dollars in his campaign. Musk is the CEO of top carmaker Tesla and leads NASA-contracted SpaceX. He also owns social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

Q.9. Recently Meena Ganesh passed away. Who was she?

- (a) Actress
- (b) Journalist
- (c) Writer
- (d) None of these

Answer: (a) Actress

Veteran Malayalam cinema and serial actress Meena Ganesh passed away at the age of 81. She was an iconic figure of Malayalam theatre and cinema, known for her versatile acting in over 100 films and numerous stage productions. Despite being away from acting in recent years due to health issues, Meena's legacy continues to be celebrated in the Malayalam entertainment industry.

Q.10. Recently the Indian women's team has scored its highest score in T20I cricket history against which team?

- (a) West Indies
- (b) England
- (c) Australia
- (d) None of these

Answer: (a) West Indies

The Indian women's team registered their highest team score in Women's T20I cricket during the third match against the West Indies at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai. India scored 217 for four in the first innings, breaking their previous record of 201 for five against the UAE earlier this year.

Q.11. What is the rank of India in the Network Readiness Index 2024?

- (a) 35th
- (b) 42nd
- (c) 49th
- (d) 54th

Answer: (c) 49th

India is ranked 49th in the Network Readiness Index 2024 (NRI 2024), moving up 11 places from last year. The Network Readiness Index, published by the Portolans Institute, evaluates countries based on the use of technology in governance, citizen engagement and influence. India's score increased from 49.93 in 2023 to 53.63 in 2024, reflecting progress in technology and digital infrastructure. Key areas driving this growth include artificial intelligence, mobile networks and broadband development. These technologies make life easier and support global research efforts. The improved ranking underlines India's progress in digital transformation and its emergence as a global tech leader.

Q.12. Recently, the Asian Roll Ball Championship is being organized in which state?

- (a) Bihar
- (b) Assam
- (c) Goa
- (d) Haryana

Answer: (c) Goa

The 4th Asian Roll Ball Championship was held in Goa, India. The event took place at the Manohar Parrikar Indoor Stadium in Magro. The championship was organized in collaboration between the Roll Ball Federation of India and the Goa Roll Ball Association. It was supported by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and the Sports Authority of India. The championship was a celebration of sportsmanship, unity and cultural exchange. It was also an important step in promoting the sport of roll ball, which is gaining popularity globally.

Q.13. In the recently released 'World Hockey Ranking', the Indian men's team has been ranked at what position?

- (a) First
- (b) Seventh
- (c) Ninth
- (d) Fifth

Answer: (d) Fifth

The Indian men's hockey team has ranked fifth in the latest FIH World Rankings after a stellar performance at the 2024 Paris Olympics, where they secured two consecutive Olympic medals for the first time since 1972. This is a significant achievement in Indian hockey, which has a rich history of success in the sport.

Q.14. Who has recently written the book 'Bring It On: The Incredible Story of My Life'?

- (a) Deepa Malik
- (b) Mrinal Garg
- (c) Ravindra Joshi
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a) Deepa Malik

HarperCollins India proudly announces the upcoming publication of 'Bring It On: The Incredible Story of My Life', the autobiography of India's most celebrated para-athlete, Dr Deepa Malik. This remarkable autobiography promises to offer readers an unfiltered view of her extraordinary life, her relentless pursuit of success, and her determination to overcome challenges.

Q.15. Recently, the 'Banglar Bari' housing scheme has been launched in which state?

- (a) West Bengal
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Assam

Answer: (a) West Bengal

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has launched the "Banglar Bari" housing scheme. It is a state government-funded initiative aimed at providing affordable housing to the people of West Bengal.

Bengal. The move comes in response to the alleged central government negligence in allocating funds under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). The scheme was launched at the state secretariat Nabanna, where Rs 60,000 was distributed as the first installment to 42 beneficiaries from 21 districts.

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