

Today in History on 25 DEC

➤ 1977: World famous actor Charlie Chaplin dies.

Charlie Chaplin (born April 16, 1889, London, England - died December 25, 1977, Crosier-sur-Vevey, Switzerland) was a British comic actor, producer, writer, director, and composer, widely regarded as one of the greatest screen comedians and one of the most important figures in motion-picture history. Chaplin was named after his father, a British music-hall entertainer. He spent his childhood with his mother, the singer Hannah Hall, after she and his father separated, and made his stage debut at the age of five, replacing his mother.



➤ 1861: India's educationist and Bharat Ratna awardee Madan Mohan Malviya was born.

Malviyaji was born in Prayagraj on 25 December 1861 to Pandit Brajnath and Moonadevi. He was the first and last person in India to be honoured with the honorific title of Mahamana. This great man, who devoted his life to journalism, advocacy, social reform, mother tongue and service to Mother India, founded a university in which his vision was to educate such students and prepare them for the service of the country who could make the country proud.



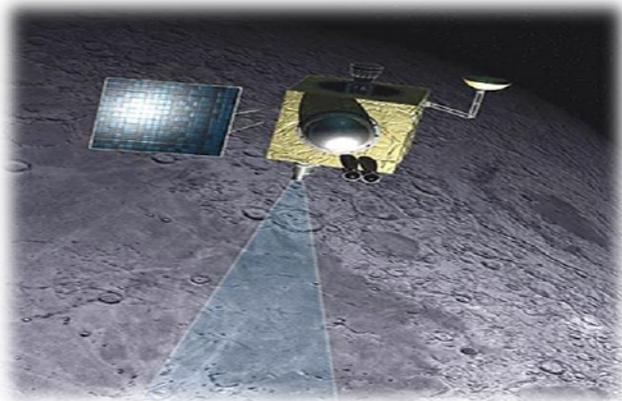
➤ 1998: Russia and Belarus sign an agreement to form a Union.

This process culminated in the establishment of a Union State between the RF and Belarus in December 1999. In December 1998, the Treaty on Equal Rights of Citizens was signed between Belarus and Russia, including access to employment, medical care, and education. Belarus, officially the Republic of Belarus, is a landlocked country in Eastern Europe. It is bordered by Russia to the east and northeast, Ukraine to the south, Poland to the west, and Lithuania and Latvia to the northwest.



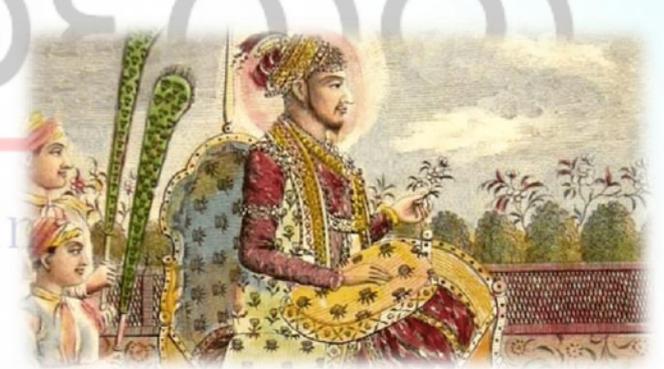
➤ 2008: One of the 11 payloaders of Chandrayaan-1 sent by India into space sent a new picture of the moon.

Chandrayaan-1, India's first mission to the moon, was successfully launched from SDSC SHAR, Srihari Kota in the year 2008. The spacecraft was orbiting around the moon at an altitude of 100 km from the lunar surface for chemical, mineralogical and photo-geologic mapping of the moon. The spacecraft carried 11 scientific instruments built in India, the US, the UK, Germany, Sweden and Bulgaria.



➤ 1771: Mughal ruler Shah Alam II ascends the throne of Delhi under the protection of the Marathas.

In 1771, forces of the Maratha confederacy led by Mahadji Shinde capture Delhi from the Rohillas and bring the Mughal emperor Shah Alam II back to Delhi from exile in Awadh. The Marathas capture Delhi from the Afghan-appointed Zabita Khan Rohilla. Shah Alam II (1728–1806), also known as Ali Gauhar, was the Mughal emperor of India. He succeeded Shah Jahan III as emperor. His kingdom came under the British Empire on 14 September 1803.



Important NEWS on 25 DEC

➤ India's First Bio-Bitumen Stretch Inaugurated by Nitin Gadkari

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, inaugurated India's first bio-bitumen-based National Highway stretch on NH-44 in Mansar, Nagpur, Maharashtra. This stretch is a milestone in India's road development sector, being the first to employ lignin-based bio-bitumen

technology. The technology, developed by Praj Industries, in collaboration with CSIR – Central Road Research Institute (CRRRI), National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), and Oriental, represents a significant step forward in India's sustainability and self-reliance goals.



➤ Trump Appoints Sriram Krishnan as Senior AI Policy Advisor

US President-elect Donald Trump has appointed Indian American entrepreneur, venture capitalist, and author Sriram Krishnan as Senior Policy Advisor for Artificial Intelligence (AI) at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Krishnan, who has a notable background in tech, will work closely with David Sacks, who has been named the White House AI & Crypto Czar.



➤ Justice Madan Lokur Appointed Chairperson of UN Internal Justice Council

Former Supreme Court Judge of India, Justice Madan B Lokur, has been appointed as the Chairperson of the United Nations Internal Justice Council (IJC) by UN Secretary-General António Guterres. The appointment, confirmed in a letter dated December 2024, is effective immediately and extends until November 12, 2028. The IJC is a critical advisory body to the UN, ensuring the impartiality, professionalism, and independence of its internal justice system.



➤ India-Kuwait Elevate Ties to Strategic Partnership

India and Kuwait marked a historic milestone in their bilateral relations during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first official visit to Kuwait on December, 2024. The visit culminated in the elevation of their ties to a "Strategic Partnership," signifying deeper cooperation across trade, defence, energy, and cultural domains. Kuwait also honored PM Modi with its highest civilian award, 'The Order of Mubarak Al-Kabeer,' in recognition of his role in fostering bilateral ties.



➤ Govt Infuses ₹500 Cr in IFCI to Boost Financial Health

The Indian government has decided to infuse ₹500 crore into the state-owned Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) to strengthen its financial health ahead of the company's restructuring. This infusion will likely increase the government's stake in IFCI beyond its current holding of 71.72% as of September 2024.



➤ Govt Forms Committee to Assess IAF's Capability Development Amid Rising Threats

The Indian Government has formed a high-level committee under Defense Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh to assess the Indian Air Force's (IAF) capability development. This comes amid growing concerns over China's expanding air power and Pakistan's strengthening air force. The committee will evaluate the IAF's requirements, focusing on indigenous design, development, and acquisition

projects. It is expected to submit its report in the next two to three months.



➤ ISRO, ESA Join Hands for Human Spaceflight Advancements

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the European Space Agency (ESA) have signed a landmark agreement to enhance collaboration in human space exploration. This partnership aims to foster astronaut training, mission implementation, and joint research experiments. Signed by ISRO Chairman S. Somanath and ESA Director General Dr. Josef Aschbacher, the agreement establishes a robust framework for cooperation, strengthening the relationship between the two premier space agencies.



Current affairs MCQS on 25 DEC

Q.1. When is Good Governance Day (India) celebrated?

- (a) 22 December
- (b) 23 December
- (c) 24 December
- (d) 25 December

Answer : (d) 25 December

Every year on 25 December, Good Governance Day is celebrated all over India. Actually, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee, 25 December was declared as Good Governance Day to honor him. Since then, Good Governance Day is celebrated on 25 December till date.

Q.2. Recently the 55th GST Council meeting was concluded in which country?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Bengaluru
- (c) Jaisalmer
- (d) None of these

Answer : (c) Jaisalmer

The 55th GST Council Meeting was held in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman. The meeting was attended by Union Minister of State for Finance, Shri Pankaj Choudhary; Chief Ministers of Goa, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Meghalaya and Odisha; Deputy Chief Ministers of Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana; Finance Ministers of States and Union Territories (Assembly Constituencies) and senior officers of the Ministry of Finance and States/UTs.

Q.3. Recently which country will host the World Boxing Congress in 2025?

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

(d) Russia

Answer : (b) India

India will host the World Boxing Cup Final and the 3rd World Boxing Congress in New Delhi in November 2025. The events are being organized by the Indian Boxing Federation, reflecting India's growing importance in global boxing. The World Boxing Cup Final is a year-end tournament featuring the top male and female boxers based on points earned in three ranking events. The ranking tournaments in 2025 will be held in Brazil (March), Germany and Kazakhstan. The World Boxing Congress is an annual meeting of national boxing federations, previously held in Germany (2023) and the US (2024).

Q.4. Recently, which position has India achieved in the World Economic Forum's Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024?

- (a) 35th
- (b) 36th
- (c) 39th
- (d) 32nd

Answer : (c) 39th

India is ranked 39th among 119 countries in the World Economic Forum's Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024. India has strengthened its position due to better infrastructure and favorable government policies. Union Tourism and Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said that although India was ranked 54th in 2021, it was adjusted to 38th under the new methodology.

Q.5. Recently which country has become the third largest pharma market globally?

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

Answer : (d) India

Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers Anupriya Patel said that India's pharma industry is considered the third largest industry in the world by

volume and the value of the pharmaceutical market is expected to reach \$50 billion in FY 2023-24. In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, Union Minister Anupriya Patel said that the domestic consumption value of the pharmaceutical market in FY 2023-24 was \$23.5 billion, and the export value was \$26.5 billion. The Indian pharmaceutical industry has a strong presence globally. It is also ranked 14th in terms of the value of production, which includes generic drugs, bulk drugs, over-the-counter drugs, vaccines, biosimilars and biologics.

Q.6. Recently, which state has been sanctioned a loan of 42 million dollars from ADB (Asian Development Bank) to restore and stabilize its coastline?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Kerala
- (d) Odisha

Answer : (a) Maharashtra

The Central government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a \$42 million loan agreement to promote coastal and coastal conservation in Maharashtra. The initiative aims to enhance the resilience of coastal communities and ecosystems by adopting hybrid approaches such as offshore reefs, reef protection works and nature-based solutions such as beach and dune nourishment. Advanced techniques including remote sensing and climate change impact forecasting will improve shoreline management while addressing issues in the tourism and fisheries sectors.

Q.7. Where was the 11th summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization of the Developing Eight (D-8) held recently?

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

Answer : (c) Egypt

The 11th summit of the Developing Eight (D-8) Economic Cooperation Organization was held in the New Administrative Capital of Egypt. The New Administrative Capital of Egypt is being built on the outskirts of the existing capital city of Cairo and is intended to become the new capital of Egypt.

Q.8. Recently, who has been appointed as the Chairman of the United Nations Internal Justice Council?

- (a) Madan Lokur
- (b) Mrinal Garg
- (c) Ravindra Joshi
- (d) None of the above

Answer : (a) Madan Lokur

Former Supreme Court judge Madan B Lokur has been appointed Chairperson of the United Nations Internal Justice Council for a term ending November 12, 2028. In a message sent to Justice Lokur, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the retired apex court judge will head the council, which also comprises other eminent jurists.

Q.9. Recently, the 72nd Plenary Session of the North Eastern Council (NEC) was held at which place?

- (a) Itanagar
- (b) Dispur
- (c) Agartala
- (d) None of the above

Answer : (c) Agartala

Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the 72nd Plenary Session of the Northeast Council (NEC) at Pragma Bhavan in Agartala. During this, Home Minister Amit Shah said that for a long time, the Northeast was only an issue of speeches for New Delhi, but due to his sensitivity, Prime Minister Modi brought the Northeast to the center of development. In these 10 years, there has been unprecedented development of infrastructure in this region. Prime Minister Modi has also worked to reduce the distance between the hearts of the people of the Northeast and Delhi. When the Prime Minister himself gave prominence to the Northeast, a lot of

development work was done here. Whatever disputes were there here, our government has worked to end them.

Q.10. Recently, which state government has launched "Sanjeevani Yojana" for citizens above 60 years of age?

- (a) Delhi
- (b) Telangana
- (c) Punjab
- (d) Kerala

Answer : (a) Delhi

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal said registration will begin for the Delhi government's flagship Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana, which provides monthly assistance of Rs 1,000 to women aged 18 years and above. The former Delhi chief minister said AAP workers will start collecting names of senior citizens above 60 years of age for the Sanjivani Yojana promised by him earlier this week.

Q.11. Recently, the World Bank has approved how many million dollars for the development of Amaravati?

- (a) 600
- (b) 900
- (c) 500
- (d) 800

Answer : (d) 800

The World Bank (WB) has approved \$800 million for the first phase of the Amaravati Integrated Urban Development Programme, the dream state capital project of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. The government has drawn up the Amaravati Masterplan for the 217 sq km area, which can accommodate 3.5 million people by 2050. The project aims to establish the city as a well-maintained, climate-resilient growth hub in Andhra Pradesh that will create jobs and improve the lives of its current and future residents, especially the most vulnerable.

Q.12. Which organization released the 'India State of Forest Report 2023 (ISFR 2023)?

- (a) Central Pollution Control Board
- (b) Botanical Survey of India
- (c) Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education
- (d) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Answer : (d) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

The Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change recently released the 'India State of Forest Report 2023' (ISFR 2023) at the Forest Research Institute, Dehradun. The report, published biennially by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) since 1987, assesses forest and tree resources using satellite data and the National Forest Inventory (NFI). India's forest and tree cover is 8,27,357 sq km (25.17% of the country's area), with forest cover being 7,15,343 sq km (21.76%) and tree cover being 1,12,014 sq km (3.41%). Forest and tree cover has increased, with states like Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Mizoram, Gujarat and Odisha witnessing significant increase. 19 States/UTs have more than 33% forest cover, of which eight have more than 75% forest cover. The mangrove area is 4,992 square kilometers and bamboo areas have increased. India's carbon stock has reached 30.43 billion tonnes, surpassing the 2030 carbon sink target.

Q.13. Recently, Tata Power has signed an agreement with which bank to extend the PM Surya Ghar Free Electricity Scheme?

- (a) SBI Bank
- (b) BOB Bank
- (c) HDFC Bank
- (d) Canara Bank

Answer : (d) Canara Bank

Tata Group company Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL) announced an agreement with Canara Bank. Its aim is to expand the PM Surya Ghar Free Electricity Scheme. The company said in a

statement that the objective of this initiative is to provide finance options to the people in the PM Surya Ghar Yojana, so that this scheme can be made affordable. Under this scheme, a loan of Rs 2 lakh can be given for solar systems up to 3 kW capacity. Here 10 percent margin money will have to be paid. This loan taken without pledging anything will have to be paid at the rate of 7 percent interest and the maximum period of this loan will be up to 10 years.

Q.14. Recently who has become the top tourist destination of Uttar Pradesh in 2024?

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

Answer : (d) Ayodhya

Uttar Pradesh has set new tourism records, attracting a remarkable 476.1 million tourists between January and September 2024. At the forefront of this boom is the spiritual heart of the country, Ayodhya, which has overtaken Agra's Taj Mahal to become the state's most visited destination, according to a Money control report. The Uttar Pradesh tourism department reported that Ayodhya attracted 135.5 million domestic tourists and 3,153 international visitors during this period. The inauguration of the Ram temple has largely been the driving force behind this boom. In comparison, Agra received 125.1 million visitors, including 115.9 million domestic travelers and 924,000 international tourists.

Q.15. Recently, Uttar Pradesh has signed a MoU with which state government for the implementation of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat?

- (a) Manipur
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Andhra Pradesh

Answer : (a) Manipur

Uttar Pradesh and Manipur have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to

implement the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme as twin states. The agreement was signed between representatives of the two state governments in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh in December 2024. Manipur is the third state with which Uttar Pradesh has signed an MoU under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme. Before Manipur, Uttar Pradesh had also signed such MoUs with Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya.