

Today in History on 26 DEC

➤ **1904: The country's first cross-country motorcar rally started from Delhi to Mumbai.**

26 December 1904 – The country's first cross-country motorcar rally between Delhi and Mumbai was inaugurated. It reports about the motor car rally, most likely the first, in India which began on 26 December 1904 and ended on 2 January 1905. The translation reads- "Automobile In The Country Of Rajahs The Race From Delhi To Bombay."



➤ **1925: Establishment of the Communist Party of India.**

The Communist Party of India (CPI) is a communist party of India. This party was established on 26 December 1925 in Kanpur city. The Communist Party of India was established by M.N. Roy. Its founding conference was presided over by Singaravelu Chettiar. In 1928, the Communist International decided the working system of the Communist Party in India. The general secretary of

this party is D. Raja. It is the oldest communist party of India.



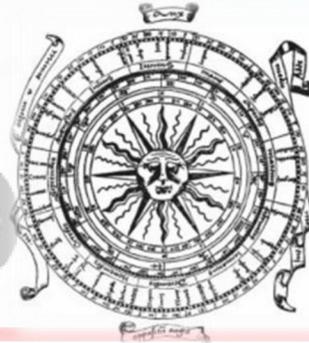
➤ **1997: Naveen Patnaik, son of prominent Odisha leader Biju Patnaik, founded the Biju Janata Dal (BJD).**

Biju Janata Dal (BJD) is a state-level political party in the Indian state of Odisha, led by Naveen Patnaik, son of former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik, who is the current Chief Minister. It was founded on 26 December 1997. Biju Janata Dal has formed many ruling coalitions with the Bharatiya Janata Party at the Center and in Odisha. However, BJD was one of the major secular parties of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). Naveen Patnaik's honest and clean image played an important role in the electoral success of the party.



➤ 1925 – The Gregorian calendar was adopted in Türkiye.

First, a law enacted on 26 December 1925 and banned the use of Hijri and Rumi calendars. Turkey began to use Gregorian calendar officially on 1 January 1926. One calendar prevented the complications of multiple calendars in state affairs. The clock system used by the contemporary world was accepted instead of the Turkish 'sunset clock'.



➤ 2006: Australian spinner Shane Warne created history by taking 700 wickets in international test cricket.

Australian spinner Shane Warne created history by taking the 700th wicket of his test career in the Melbourne Test against England. Warne is the first bowler to take 700 wickets in the history of test cricket. He made England opener Andrew Strauss his 700th victim. Warne, who started his test career against India in Sydney in 1992, is considered one of the best leg spinners in the world.



Important NEWS on 26 DEC

➤ UDAAN Yatri Cafe: A Solution To Expensive Airport Food

To address growing concerns about overpriced food and beverages at airports, the Indian government has launched the 'Udaan Yatri Cafe' initiative. This project aims to offer affordable refreshments to passengers, starting with a pilot at Kolkata's Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport. The initiative was proposed after Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha raised the issue in Parliament, emphasizing the need to reduce the financial burden on air travelers.



Centre Ends No Detention Rules In Schools

The government of India abolished the 'No-detention policy' for students in class 5 and 8 who fail their year end exams. This significant amendment to the Right of children to free and compulsory education rules, 2010 is aimed at improving learning outcomes among students. The revised policy mandates that students who failed their annual exams will be required to retake within two months, failing which they will have to repeat the academic year.



**CENTRE SCRAPS
"NO DETENTION POLICY"**

Ex-IMF Chief Rato Faces New Prison Sentence For Corruption

Former International Monetary Fund (IMF) Chief Rodrigo Rato has been sentenced to nearly five years in a prison by a Madrid-court for corruption related

offences. The 75 year old, who previously served as IMF Chairman from 2004 to 2007 and as deputy prime minister in Spain's People Party (PP Government), has denied any wrongdoing and plans to appeal the decision.



Madhya Pradesh Named "Go-To Global Destination for 2025" by WSJ

Madhya Pradesh has earned global recognition as one of the Wall Street Journal's "Go-To Global Destinations for 2025," showcasing its rich heritage, unique wildlife, and natural beauty. This prestigious acknowledgment builds upon the state's ongoing efforts to establish itself as a premier travel destination. With iconic UNESCO World Heritage Sites like Khajuraho, Panna, and Bandhavgarh, as well as an array of vibrant cultural experiences, Madhya Pradesh is solidifying its position on the global tourism map.



➤ Adani Group Acquires 85.8% Stake in Air Works for Rs 400 Crore Enterprise Value

The Adani Group has announced the acquisition of an 85.8% stake in Air Works, India's largest private-sector Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) company, at an enterprise value of Rs 400 crore. This move solidifies Adani's position in the defence and civil aviation MRO sectors, marking a strategic expansion into an integrated aviation services ecosystem.



➤ Justice GS Sandhawalia as Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court

The Centre has officially notified the appointment of Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia as the new Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court. Justice Sandhawalia, the senior-most puisne Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, has been appointed following a recommendation by the Supreme Court Collegium. His appointment comes after a delay of more than three months and after the retirement of Justice Rajiv Shakti in October 2024.



➤ India Ranks 49th in Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2024

India has made remarkable progress in the 2024 Network Readiness Index (NRI), jumping 11 places from 60th in 2023 to 49th, with an improved score of 53.63. This achievement reflects the country's strengthened commitment to advancing digital infrastructure and technology adoption. The NRI, published by the Portulans Institute, evaluates how effectively nations use technology for governance and citizen engagement, and India's rise in the rankings signifies its growing role as a global leader in technological advancements.



Current affairs MCQS on 26 DEC

Q.1. Which country is the host of ISSF Junior World Cup 2025?

- (a) India
- (b) Australia
- (c) United States
- (d) China

Answer: (a) India

India will host the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup 2025 for rifle, pistol and shotgun events, marking the first time the event will be held in the country. This adds to India's track record of hosting top ISSF events, including the 2023 Senior World Cup in Bhopal and the ISSF World Cup Final earlier this year. NRAI President Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo attributed India's hosting success to the strong support of the government and the sports ministry. Over the past decade, India has hosted nine major ISSF championships, highlighting its role in promoting shooting sports globally. The year 2025 will also see the hosting of India's first shooting league along with regular national competitions.

Q.2. Recently, Prime Minister Modi has received the highest honor of which country?

- (a) Bahrain
- (b) Kuwait
- (c) Qatar
- (d) Dubai

Answer: (b) Kuwait

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was recently awarded Kuwait's highest civilian honour 'The Order of Mubarak the Great'. This honour has been given for his significant contribution in strengthening bilateral relations between Kuwait and India. Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Mashal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah conferred this honour on PM Modi. This occasion is also special because after 43 years an Indian Prime Minister has visited Kuwait.

Q.3. Recently, which country has honored the 'Shri Ram Mandir Project' with the 'Sword of Honor'?

- (a) Japan
- (b) Britain
- (c) France
- (d) Singapore

Answer: (b) Britain

The Ram Mandir project in Ayodhya has received the prestigious 'Sword of Honour' from the British Safety Council, a significant milestone in safety management practices. The British Safety Council conducts a thorough inspection on site, where they check the construction process, site activities, machinery use, operational procedures, implementation of safety equipment and workplace discipline. Only those constructions that receive a five-star rating on all parameters are eligible to enter the competition.

Q.4. Who has recently released the Forest Status Report 2023?

- (a) Bhupendra Yadav
- (b) Amit Shah
- (c) Piyush Goyal
- (d) Ajit Doval

Answer: (a) Bhupendra Yadav

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Shri Bhupendra Yadav released the 'India Forest Status Report 2023' at the Forest Research Institute in Dehradun. It is noteworthy that since 1987, the Forest Survey of India has been publishing the India Forest Status Report on a biennial basis. The Forest Survey of India (FSI) conducts an in-depth assessment of the country's forest and tree resources based on the interpretation of remote sensing satellite data and field-based National Forest Inventory (NFI) and its results are published in the India Forest Status Report (IFSR). India Forest Status Report 2023 is the 18th report in this series.

Q.5. Recently, which airport has become India's first airport to connect 150 destinations?

- (a) Mumbai Airport

- (b) Delhi Airport
(c) Bengaluru Airport
(d) None of the above

Answer: (b) Delhi Airport

Delhi Airport has become the first airport in India to connect 150 destinations. With this, Delhi Airport has strengthened its position as a global aviation hub. Recently, Thai AirAsia X inaugurated direct flights between Delhi and Bangkok-Don Muang (DMK). This route operated by Airbus A330 aircraft will initially run twice a week. There is a plan to increase its frequency to four times a week by mid-January 2025.

Q.6. Which organization launched Jagriti App and Jagriti Dashboard to protect consumers from dark patterns?

- (a) Central Consumer Protection Authority
(b) National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India
(c) Department of Consumer Affairs
(d) Ministry of Home Affairs

Answer: (c) Department of Consumer Affairs

The Department of Consumer Affairs launched 'Jago Grahak Jago App', 'Jagriti App' and 'Jagriti Dashboard' on National Consumer Day 2024 to protect consumers from deceptive dark patterns. Dark patterns are deceptive designs that trick users into unintentional actions, thereby violating consumer rights; the term was coined by Harry Brignull in 2010. 'Jago Grahak Jago App', 'Jagriti App' and 'Jagriti Dashboard' are part of a real-time intelligent system running on the Airavat AI supercomputer under the National Supercomputing Mission.

Q.7. Recently, Foreign Secretary Vikram Mistry has gone on an official visit to which country?

- (a) Indonesia
(b) Maldives
(c) Egypt
(d) Mauritius

Answer: (d) Mauritius

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri will be on an official visit to Mauritius. This visit is the first high-level bilateral talks between India and Mauritius after the formation of a new government in Mauritius under the leadership of Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam. According to the Ministry of External Affairs, this visit is a continuation of regular high-level exchanges between the two countries and reflects the priority India gives to its relations with Mauritius under its Vision Sagar, Africa Forward policy and commitment to the Global South.

Q.8. Where has the third season of the World Tennis League concluded recently?

- (a) Beijing
(b) Tokyo
(c) Abu Dhabi
(d) None of the above

Answer: (c) Abu Dhabi

Abu Dhabi [UAE] Game Changers Falcons won the World Tennis League Season 3 title by defeating TSL Hawks 20-16 at the iconic Etihad Arena. Despite losing the first two sets in the women's doubles and women's singles, Game Changers Falcons made a stunning comeback and dominated the men's doubles and men's singles to win the title in thrilling fashion.

Q.9. Recently, who has launched India's first anti-pesticide bodysuit 'Kisan Kavach'?

- (a) Nirmala Sitharaman
(b) Shivraj Singh Chouhan
(c) Dharmendra Pradhan
(d) Jitendra Singh

Answer: (d) Jitendra Singh

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh unveiled India's first anti-pesticide bodysuit Kisan Kavach, designed to protect farmers from the harmful effects of pesticides. This groundbreaking innovation is a major step towards ensuring the safety of farmers and empowering the farming community through science and technology. The event also witnessed distribution of the first batch of Kisan Kavach suits

to farmers, emphasizing the importance of farmer safety.

Q.10. Recently, 'Times Internet' has launched a premium metal credit card in collaboration with which bank?

- (a) SBI Bank
- (b) Yes Bank
- (c) ICICI Bank
- (d) HDFC Bank

Answer: (c) ICICI Bank

ICICI Bank and Times Internet have launched the 'Times Black ICICI Bank Credit Card', a super-premium co-branded card for India's high-net-worth individuals (HNIs). The card comes with exclusive benefits, luxury services and a unique design, a step towards redefining luxury for India's affluent customer base. It is powered by Visa and offers a host of features keeping in mind the sophisticated lifestyle of professionals and affluent individuals.

Q.11. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of Telangana Film Development Corporation recently?

- (a) Dil Raju
- (b) Mrinal Garg
- (c) Ravindra Joshi
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a) Dil Raju

South India's well-known producer Dil Raju has recently been appointed as the Chairman of Telangana Film Development Corporation (TFDC) by the Telangana government. He officially took charge by performing puja in his chamber. On this occasion, Dil Raju thanked Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkatreddy for appointing him to this post.

Q.12. Who has recently won the men's 50m rifle 3 position title?

- (a) Kiran Ankush Jadhav
- (b) Swapnil Kusane
- (c) Aishwarya Pratap Singh Jadhav

(d) None of the above

Answer: (a) Kiran Ankush Jadhav

Kiran Jadhav defeated Asian Games silver medallist Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar and Paris 2024 Olympics bronze medallist Swapnil Kusale to win the men's 50m rifle 3 positions title at the National Shooting Championship 2024. Kiran scored 155.8 on her knees, 155.3 lying down and 155.2 standing in the competition played at the MP Shooting Academy in Bhopal. With this, he secured the first position with a total of 465.8 points.

Q.13. Recently, India has signed a loan agreement of \$350 million with which bank under the SMILE program?

- (a) World Bank
- (b) Asian Development Bank
- (c) NDB
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (b) Asian Development Bank

Recently, India and ADB signed a landmark policy-based loan of \$350 million under the second sub-programme of the Multimodal and Integrated Logistics Ecosystem (SMILE) program. The SMILE program, a flagship policy-based initiative, takes a comprehensive approach to logistics reforms. Spread across two sub-programmes, the program is designed to enhance the competitiveness of India's manufacturing sector and strengthen the resilience of supply chains.

Q.14. Who has been recently honoured with the Medical Excellence Award at the UK House of Commons?

- (a) Phillip Noyce
- (b) Urmila Choudhary
- (c) Ravindra Kumaran
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (c) Ravindra Kumaran

Ravindran Kumaran, Senior Consultant Gastrointestinal Surgeon at Apollo First Med Hospital, Chennai was recently honoured with the prestigious Global Medical Excellence Award in

Bariatric Surgery. The award ceremony took place at the House of Commons of the British Parliament in London.

Q.15. Who has been honoured by King Charles III recently?

- (a) Emma Thomas
- (b) Christopher Nolan
- (c) Both of the above
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (c) Both of the above

Christopher Nolan and Emma Thomas have been knighted and dame respectively for their contributions to cinema. The honours, personally approved by King Charles III, were given during a ceremony at Buckingham Palace, where the royal family themselves praised their work.