

Today in History on 28 DEC

➤ 1885- Congress founded in Bombay.

The Indian National Congress, commonly known as the Congress Party or simply Congress, is a political party in India. Founded on 28 December 1885, it was the first modern nationalist movement to emerge in the British Empire in Asia and Africa. From the late 19th century, and especially after 1920, under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, the Congress became the major leader of the Indian independence movement.



➤ 1926- Imperial Airways begins passenger and postal service between India and England.

On 28 December 1926, Imperial Airways begins passenger and postal service between India and England. Imperial Airways was an early British commercial long-haul airline, operating from 1924 to 1939 and mainly serving the British Empire's routes to South Africa, India, Australia, and the Far

East, including Malaya and Hong Kong. Passengers were usually businessmen or colonial administrators, and most flights carried about 20 passengers or fewer.



➤ 1928- First talking film Melody of Love was screened in Kolkata.

In December 1928 Universal's Melody of Love (A.B. Heath) was released by Madan Theatres at Elphinstone Palace, Kolkata and on 21 February at Excelsior Theatre, Mumbai. On 14 December 1929 Universal's Show Boat was released at Excelsior Theatre.



➤ **1896- Vande Mataram was sung for the first time at the Kolkata session of the Indian National Congress.**

Vande Mataram was sung for the first time before the gathering at the 12th annual Congress session of the INC (Indian National Congress) held in Calcutta in 1896. This Congress session was presided over by Rahimtulla M Sayani. It was declared the national song in the year 1937 through a resolution passed by all the members. Rabindranath Tagore sang Vande Mataram at the Calcutta Congress session held at Beadon Square in 1896. Dakhina Charan Sen sang it five years later in 1901 at another session of the Congress in Calcutta. Poetess Sarala Devi Choudurani sang it at the Benares Congress session in 1905.

In 1896 Congress session in Calcutta, **Vande Mataram** was sung for the first time.



➤ **1937 - Ratan Tata, Indian industrialist born**

Ratan Tata (28 December 1937–9 October 2024) was an Indian industrialist who served as the chairman of the Tata Group and Tata Sons. He was the chairman of the Tata Group, India's largest business entity, from 1991 to 2012. Additionally, he was also the executive chairman of the group from October 2016 to February 2017. Under his leadership, the Tata Group expanded globally and made several significant acquisitions. After receiving the Padma Bhushan, India's third highest civilian honour, in 2000, he received the Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest civilian honour, in 2008.



Important NEWS on 28 DEC

➤ **Defence Ministry Launches Rashtraparv Website & App on Good Governance Day**

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh launched the Rashtraparv Website and Mobile App, commemorating the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and marking

Good Governance Day. The platform, developed by the Ministry of Defence, aims to provide a transparent and citizen-centric approach to the organization of key national events such as Republic Day, Beating Retreat, and Independence Day.



➤ Horror Unfolds Azerbaijan Airline Crashes in Kazakhstan

Azerbaijan Airlines plane, an Embraer 190 jet, crashed near the city of Aktau in Kazakhstan after being rerouted due to heavy fog. The plane, traveling from Baku, Azerbaijan, to Grozny, Russia, was carrying 62 passengers and five crew members. While the emergency landing was forced, the crash left several passengers injured. A passenger aboard the plane captured footage documenting the chaotic scenes before and after the mishap.



➤ Tonga Elects Aisake Valu Eke as New Prime Minister

Tonga's parliament has elected veteran politician Aisake Valu Eke as its new Prime Minister after Siaso Sovaleni's abrupt resignation. The political transition comes at a time of significant challenges, including strained monarchy-government relations, economic hardships, and the aftermath of natural disasters.



➤ Losar Festivities Illuminate Ladakh with Culture and Unity

Ladakhi Losar, marking the New Year in the Tibetan calendar, is a vibrant festival celebrated with great enthusiasm across Ladakh. Deeply rooted in the region's culture and heritage, Losar is more than a festive occasion; it is a time for reflection, community bonding, and the preservation of Ladakhi traditions. This year's celebrations are particularly notable as they coincide with Christmas and New Year, creating a grand and inclusive festive atmosphere.



➤ Indore Airport Launches Waste Processing Unit In Green Initiative

IndiGo's CSR initiative, IndiGoReach, has launched the Zero Waste Airport Project at Indore Airport, in partnership with the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and AAS Foundation, Indore. This project aims to create a sustainable and eco-friendly airport by utilizing the 4R strategy: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Recover.



➤ Arunish Chawla Appointed as New Revenue Secretary in Finance Ministry

Arunish Chawla, a senior IAS officer of the 1992 batch from the Bihar cadre, has been appointed as the new Revenue Secretary in the Ministry of Finance. This follows the vacancy created after Sanjay Malhotra's appointment as RBI Governor. Chawla will take charge from Ajay Seth, who had been handling the additional responsibility of Revenue Secretary since Malhotra's appointment.



➤ PM Modi Launches Ken-Betwa River-Linking Project

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone for the Ken-Betwa river-linking project, aimed at addressing the severe water scarcity issues in the Bundelkhand region. The project, which will channel excess water from the Ken River in Madhya Pradesh to the Betwa, promises to improve water access for millions. It is expected to benefit around 4.4 million people in 12 districts of Madhya Pradesh and 2.1 million in 10 districts of Uttar Pradesh, providing drinking water and boosting agricultural irrigation. With an estimated cost of ₹44,605 crore, the project will also generate hydropower and solar energy, improving the region's overall development.



Current affairs MCQS on 28 DEC

Q1. When is International Cello Day celebrated

- (a) 25 December
- (b) 28 December
- (c) 29 December
- (d) 27 December

Answer: (c) 29 December

Although for some of us, every day is cello day, International Cello Day (ICD) is an official designation, celebrated each year on December 29th. Why this specific day? ICD honors the legacy of the cello and its most influential players, particularly the legendary Pablo Casals, born 29 December 1876.

Q2. The book 'Ente Jeevitham Niraye' written by whom among the following was launched?

- (a) Bob Budward
- (b) Gauri Grover
- (c) Dr. K. Thomas Mathew
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (c) Dr. K. Thomas Mathew

Goa Governor P.S. Sreedharan Pillai released 'Ente Jeevitham Niraye: The Autobiography of a Nephrologist' written by Dr. K. Thomas Mathew, in Kozhikode. Chairman and managing director of Baby Memorial Hospital Dr. K.G. Alexander received the book while Thottathil Raveendran, MLA, presided over the event.

Q3. Recently, Justice GS Sandhwalia has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the High Court of which of the following states?

- (a) Himachal Pradesh
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Bihar
- (d) Uttar Pradesh

Answer: (a) Himachal Pradesh

The Centre has appointed Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhwalia as the Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court. Formerly the senior-most puisne Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court,

his appointment, recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium, follows a three-month delay.

Q4. Tennis star Daniil Savelev of which of the following countries has been banned for 2 years due to doping?

- (a) Germany
- (b) Russia
- (c) Spain
- (d) France

Answer: (b) Russia

Russian tennis player Daniil Savelev has accepted a two-year suspension for doping, the International Tennis Integrity Agency said. The ITIA said that Savelev tested positive for the prohibited substance meldonium in July 2024. He has been provisionally suspended since August of this year.

Q5. Recently, woman Prime Minister Kristen Frostadotti of which country has taken charge?

- (a) Finland
- (b) Spain
- (c) Norway
- (d) Iceland

Answer: (d) Iceland

Iceland's president presented a new government under Social Democratic Prime Minister Kristrun Frostadottir that aims to cut inflation and interest rates and hold a referendum on European Union membership by 2027, public broadcaster RUV said.

Q6. Recently, the country's first digital museum made of Jaisalmer stones has been opened in which of the following?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Haryana
- (d) Punjab

Answer: (a) Maharashtra

Its name is "Abhay Prabhavana". It is located on the banks of Indrayani River on Mumbai-Pune highway in Pune district of Maharashtra.

Q7. Recently, Indian businessman Ravi Pillai has received the highest award of which of the following countries?

- (a) Indonesia
- (b) Bahrain
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) Japan

Answer: (b) Bahrain

Indian businessman Dr Ravi Pillai has been awarded Bahrain's prestigious national honour, the Medal of Efficiency, in recognition of his significant contributions to the progress and development of the kingdom, making him the only foreign national to receive the title.

Q8. Recently, General VK Singh has been appointed as the Governor of which of the following states?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Odisha
- (c) Assam
- (d) Mizoram

Answer: (d) Mizoram

President Droupadi Murmu appointed Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, former Union home secretary Ajay Bhalla, and ex-army chief and former Union minister General (retd) VK Singh as new governors of Bihar, Manipur and Mizoram, respectively, a statement issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan said.

Q9. Who among the following has been appointed as a member of the Bahrain International Commercial Court?

- (a) Sanjay Kaul
- (b) Amit Goyal
- (c) Abhijit Majumdar
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a) Sanjay Kaul

Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul appointed member of Bahrain International Commercial Court.

Q10. In which of the following will the National Science Drama Festival be organized?

- (a) Hyderabad
- (b) Surat
- (c) Delhi
- (d) Bengaluru

Answer: (c) Delhi

National Science Drama Festival to be held on 27th and 28th December, 2024. One of the premier events of the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), the National Science Drama Festival 2024 is set to unfold at the National Science Centre, Delhi on 27th and 28th December 2024.

Q11. Which of the following banks has done the first gold forward deal from Gujarat GIFT City?

- (a) HDFC Bank
- (b) Yes Bank
- (c) ICICI Bank
- (d) Bank of Baroda

Answer: (a) HDFC Bank

HDFC Bank Carries Out First Gold Forward Deal from GIFT City. HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank, has made history by executing the first gold forward deal from the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City).

Q12. Which country has ranked first in the recently released 'Network Readiness Index'?

- (a) Singapore
- (b) Japan
- (c) Finland
- (d) America

Answer: (d) America

The 2024 Network Readiness Index (NRI), published by the Portulans Institute and Saïd Business School at the University of Oxford, has ranked the United States as the world leader in network readiness for the third consecutive year.

Q13. In which of the following, a 100-day TB eradication campaign has been launched?

- (a) Punjab

- (b) Assam
(c) Kerala
(d) Haryana

Answer: (d) Haryana

India will take a bold step towards eliminating tuberculosis (TB), a disease that continues to affect millions across the nation. The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, will officially launch the ambitious 100-Day TB Elimination Campaign in Panchkula, Haryana

Q14. Who among the following has received the 'Shri Chandrashekharendra Saraswati Award' for leadership?

- (a) Shivraj Singh Chouhan
(b) Dharmendra Pradhan
(c) Dr. S.Jaishankar
(d) None of the above

Answer: (c) Dr. S.Jaishankar

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar received the Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi National Eminence Award for Public Leadership from the South Indian Education Society (SIES). He expressed gratitude to SIES, one of India's oldest educational societies, for the honor.

Q15. Which of the following countries has extended visa exemption for citizens of India and China till 2026?

- (a) Maldives
(b) Singapore
(c) Thailand
(d) Malaysia

Answer: (d) Malaysia

Malaysia has officially extended its visa exemption for Indian nationals until December 31, 2026, allowing them to visit the country without a visa for up to 30 days.