

Today in History on 31 DEC

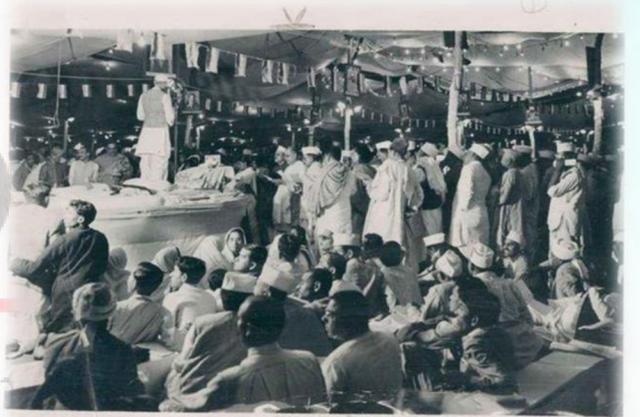
➤ 1802- Peshwa Bajirao II receives British protection.

The second war (1803-05) was caused by Peshwa Bajirao II's defeat of the Holkars (one of the major Maratha clans) and his acceptance of British protection by the Treaty of Bassein in December 1802. Bajirao II was the eighth and last Peshwa (1796-1818). He was the son of Raghunathrao (Raghova). After the death of his Prime Minister Nana Phadnavis, there was a great scramble for his property. Peshwa Bajirao II was removed from office. In the difficult circumstances of the time, he had to accept the help of the British. The British then imposed a subsidiary alliance on the Peshwa.



➤ 1929- Congress workers led by Mahatma Gandhi launched the Poorna Swaraj movement in Lahore.

In the year 1929, Congress workers led by Mahatma Gandhi launched the Poorna Swaraj movement in Lahore. The Indian flag was hoisted by Jawaharlal Nehru on 31 December 1929 on the banks of the river Ravi in Lahore. Congress asked the people of India to celebrate 26 January as Independence Day (see Legacy). The Indian flag was hoisted publicly all over India by Congress volunteers and the general public who aspired for self-rule and wanted to achieve independence.



➤ 1945- The work of ratification of the Charter of the United Nations was completed.

The Charter of the United Nations was signed in San Francisco on June 1945 at the end of the conference of the members of the United Nations held in relation to international organization and the Charter came into force from October 1945. The ordinance of the International Court of Justice is an essential part of this Charter. Articles 23, 27 and 61 of this Charter

were amended by the General Assembly in December 1963 and these amendments came into force from August 1965. The General Assembly made another amendment in Article 61 in December 1971.



➤ 1949- 18 countries recognise the Republic of Indonesia.

Indonesia formally achieved its independence from the Netherlands as the United States of Indonesia on December 1949. The governments of Australia, Britain, Burma, Canada, Cuba, India, Pakistan, the Philippines, and South Africa extended diplomatic assistance (diplomatic recognition) to the Indonesian government on December 1949. The governments of Belgium, Egypt, Portugal, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United States extended diplomatic assistance (diplomatic recognition) to the Indonesian government on December 1949. The governments of France and South Korea extended diplomatic assistance (diplomatic recognition) to the Indonesian government on 30 December 1949.



➤ 1984- Rajiv Gandhi became the seventh Prime Minister of India at the age of 40.

Rajiv Gandhi (20 August 1944 – 21 May 1991), was an Indian politician who was Prime Minister of India from 1984 to 1989, following the assassination of his mother, then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, and became the youngest Indian Prime Minister at the age of 40. He resigned in December 1990, six months before the 1989 elections, and then became Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha before his assassination.



Important NEWS on 31 DEC

➤ RBI Sets Up Panel for Ethical AI Framework in Financial Sector

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted an eight-member committee to develop the Framework for Responsible and Ethical Enablement of Artificial Intelligence (FREE-AI) in the financial sector. Announced during the RBI's December monetary policy meeting, this initiative focuses on guiding the adoption of AI technologies responsibly in financial services such as banks, NBFCs, FinTechs, and payment system operators.



➤ India's Economic Growth Forecast for FY25: 6.5%

India's economic growth is expected to reach 6.5% in FY25 despite facing a subdued first half, as outlined in the Finance Ministry's Monthly Economic Review. The report attributes the slowdown primarily to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) restrictive monetary policy stance and weaker demand. While global uncertainties weigh on the economy, domestic factors like agricultural activity and industrial gains are expected to drive growth in the second half of the fiscal year.



➤ 'Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi' Initiative

Dr Jitendra Singh launched the 'Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi' initiative, aiming to empower Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and decentralize governance. This initiative is part of the broader 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur' campaign, which seeks to enhance governance at the grassroots level by providing elected representatives and officials with modern tools and knowledge for effective decision-making and planning.



➤ PM Modi Chairs 45th PRAGATI Meeting

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 45th PRAGATI meeting on December, 2024, focusing on the review of eight key projects and public grievances. PRAGATI, an ICT-based multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation, facilitates coordination between the Centre and state governments. The projects reviewed in this meeting span sectors such as urban transport, road connectivity, thermal power, and renewable energy, with a combined cost exceeding Rs 1 lakh crore.



➤ RINL Wins Gold at AP State Energy Conservation Awards 2024

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP), has won the prestigious Gold Award at the Andhra Pradesh State Energy Conservation Award 2024. The award, presented by the State Energy Conservation Mission of Andhra Pradesh, recognizes RINL's impactful initiatives in energy conservation in the iron and steel sector. This achievement highlights the company's commitment to sustainability and innovation in harnessing waste energy over the past three years.

➤ Nvidia Unveils the Jetson Orin Nano Super Generative AI Supercomputer

Nvidia has recently announced the launch of its Jetson Orin Nano Super Generative AI supercomputer, marking a significant advancement in affordable AI solutions. With a price-tag of \$249, this new model is significantly more affordable compared to its predecessor, which was priced at \$499. The new Jetson Orin Nano promises to deliver exceptional AI performance, making it an ideal choice for a variety of users, including hobbyists, developers, and students.



➤ President Confers PM Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2024

President Droupadi Murmu presented the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2024 on December, 2024, to 17 exceptional children from across India. These awards honor remarkable achievements in seven categories: art and culture, bravery, innovation, science and technology, social service, sports, and environment. During the ceremony, the President lauded the awardees for their exceptional contributions and emphasized the importance of providing opportunities to nurture children's talents.



Current affairs MCQS on 31 DEC

Q.1. How many medals has India won in the recent Asian Youth and Senior Weightlifting Championship?

- (a) 33
- (b) 12
- (c) 25
- (d) 30

Answer: (a) 33

The young Indian weightlifting contingent finished its campaign at the Asian Youth & Junior Weightlifting Championships 2024 with 33 medals - seven gold, 16 silver and 10 bronze medals. Jyoshna Sabar of Uttar Pradesh won three gold medals and a new Asian record at the event. The Indian weightlifting contingent won a total of 42 medals at the 2023 Asian Youth & Junior Weightlifting Championships held in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

Q.2. Kanha, Pench and Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserves are located in which state?

- (a) Rajasthan
- (b) Odisha
- (c) Kerala
- (d) Madhya Pradesh

Answer: (d) Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh will relocate 15 tigers (12 tigresses and 3 tigers) to Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Odisha after the approval of the central government. The tigers will be relocated from Bandhavgarh, Kanha and Pench Tiger Reserves. These tiger reserves are located in Madhya Pradesh. Madhya Pradesh leads in tiger population in India with 785 tigers, followed by Karnataka (563) and Uttarakhand (560). Ratapani forest was recently notified as the eighth tiger reserve of Madhya Pradesh.

Q.3. Where has Hero Future Energies recently launched a 29 MW solar project?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Odisha

Answer: (c) Karnataka

Hero Future Energies (HFE) has commissioned a 29 MW solar project in Chitradurga, Karnataka. The solar project is expected to generate 33 million units of green energy annually, the company said in a statement. This will reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions by 31,624 tonnes. The company said that this 'open access' system project will meet the power needs of the commercial and industrial (C&I) sector. Under the open access system, large electricity consumers are free to buy electricity from a supplier of their choice instead of the local distribution company.

Q.4. Who recently chaired the review meeting of the Indian Seeds Cooperative Society Limited (BSSL)?

- (a) Narendra Modi
- (b) Piyush Goyal

(c) Amit Shah
(d) Shivraj Singh Chauhan
Answer: (c) Amit Shah

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah chaired a review meeting of the Indian Seed Cooperative Society Limited (BSSSL) in New Delhi. The meeting was attended by Ministers of State for Cooperation Shri Krishan Pal and Shri Murlidhar Mohal, Cooperation Secretary Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani and senior officials. Shri Shah emphasized the important role of BSSSL in preserving and propagating traditional seeds of India to empower farmers to realize Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of "Sahkar se Samridhhi".

Q.5. The President of which country has recently dissolved the Parliament?

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

Answer: (b) Germany

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier ordered the dissolution of parliament and scheduled new elections for Feb. 23 in the wake of the collapse of Chancellor Olaf Scholz's coalition, saying it was the only way to give the country a stable government capable of tackling its problems.

Q.6. President Draupadi Murmu has recently awarded the Prime Minister National Bal Puraskar to how many children?

- (a) 17
- (b) 20
- (c) 18
- (d) 12

Answer: (a) 17

President Draupadi Murmu presented the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2024 to 17 exceptional children. These awards are given for outstanding achievements in seven categories: art and culture, gallantry, innovation, science and technology, social service, sports and environment.

During the ceremony, the President lauded the unique achievements of the awardees and underlined the importance of providing opportunities to encourage children's talents. She described the courage and patriotism shown by these young achievers as a source of inspiration for India's future.

Q.7. Where was the Divyang Cricket Championship Trophy organized recently?

- (a) Pakistan
- (b) India
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) Nepal

Answer: (c) Sri Lanka

The Indian team will participate in the Divyang Champions Trophy cricket tournament to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from January 12 to 21. The Disabled Cricket Council of India (DCCI) gave this information. Apart from India, teams from England, Sri Lanka and Pakistan will also participate in this tournament. DCCI General Secretary Ravi Chauhan said in a statement issued here, "India's participation in the Champions Trophy 2025 is a matter of pride for the whole country."

Q.8. How many people have taken oath as Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court?

- (a) Guhanathan Narendra
- (b) V Raghavan
- (c) Amit Sirohi
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a) Guhanathan Narendra

Governor Lieutenant General Gurmeet Singh (Retd) administered the oath of office to the newly appointed Chief Justice of Nainital High Court Gunnath Narendra at Raj Bhavan. Chief Secretary Radha Raturi read the warrant issued by the President appointing Justice Gunnath Narendra as the Chief Justice of the High Court. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, First Lady Gurmeet Kaur, Cabinet Minister Subodh Uniyal, Dr. Dhan Singh Rawat, former Chief Minister Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal

'Nishank', MP Trivendra Rawat, DGP Deepam Seth, Registrar General of Nainital High Court Kahkashan Khan, Secretary to Governor Ravinath Raman, Legal Advisor Amit Kumar Sirohi etc. were present in the swearing-in ceremony.

Q.9. Where was the 20th 'Tsunami Memorial Day' celebrated recently?

- (a) Karnataka
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Puducherry
- (d) Gujarat

Answer: (c) Puducherry

The 20th anniversary of the 2004 tsunami was observed in the coastal districts of Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai and Karaikal in Tamil Nadu. Events were held to pay tribute to the victims of the devastating disaster, recognise the resilience of survivors and mark the progress made in rebuilding the affected communities. The events included wreath-laying ceremonies, processions and interfaith prayers, attended by government officials, local leaders and community members.

Q.10. Whom has MCC announced to honor with the membership of the club recently?

- (a) Sachin Tendulkar
- (b) Rohit Sharma
- (c) Mahendra Singh Dhoni
- (d) Virat Kohli

Answer: (a) Sachin Tendulkar

The Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) said that Indian legend Sachin Tendulkar has accepted an invitation to become an honorary member of the prestigious body. Founded in 1838, the MCC is one of Australia's oldest sporting clubs and is responsible for the management and development of the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), one of the sport's premier venues.

Q.11. The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) mission was established to maintain peace between which forces?

- (a) Israel and Syria
- (b) India and Pakistan
- (c) Russia and Ukraine
- (d) Iran and Israel

Answer: (a) Israel and Syria

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres paid tribute to Brigadier General Amitabh Jha of India serving with the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Golan Heights. UNDOF was established in 1974 to maintain a ceasefire and monitor the demilitarised buffer zone between Israel and Syria. The mission's mandate is renewed every six months and extended until June 2025. UNDOF is funded annually by the UN General Assembly. India is the third-largest troop and police contributor to UNDOF. The Golan Heights is a mountainous region, part of Syria, occupied by Israel since 1967. UNDOF is headquartered at Camp Faouar.

Q.12. Recently, the sacrifice and bravery of Sahibzadas of 'Guru Govind Singh' will be included in the curriculum of which state?

- (a) Madhya Pradesh
- (b) Rajasthan
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Gujarat

Answer: (a) Madhya Pradesh

The Madhya Pradesh government has also decided to include the story of the bravery of Guru Gobind Singh's sons in the school curriculum to teach children. Reacting to the state government's decision to include a chapter on the martyrdom of Guru Gobind Singh's sons, Harvinder Singh of Gurdwara Prabandhak Samiti, Hamidia Road, Bhopal, said, "This is a welcome move by the Madhya Pradesh government. Sahibzadas of Guru Gobind Singh sacrificed their lives for humanity and 'dharma'. This teaches us to respect our religion."

Q.13. Recently, which country is building the world's largest hydroelectric dam?

- (a) Russia
- (b) America

- (c) Saudi Arabia
(d) China

Answer: (d) China

China defended its plan to build the world's biggest dam on the Brahmaputra river in Tibet, saying the project will have no negative impact on other countries and safety issues have been addressed through decades of study. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning dismissed concerns over the massive project, estimated to cost \$137 billion, being built in an ecologically fragile Himalayan region located on a tectonic plate boundary that is prone to frequent earthquakes.

launched by two-time Olympic champion Lin Dan of China.

Q.14. Recently, which ministry has launched the 'Rashtraparv' website and app?

- (a) Ministry of Health
(b) Ministry of Home Affairs
(c) Ministry of Defence
(d) Ministry of Transport

Answer: (c) Ministry of Defence

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh launched the RashtraParv website and mobile app on the occasion of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birth anniversary and Good Governance Day. The platform, developed by the Defence Ministry, aims to make the organisation of national events like Republic Day, Beating Retreat and Independence Day transparent and citizen-centric.

Q.15. Where will the King Cup International Open 2024 be held recently?

- (a) Shenzhen
(b) New Delhi
(c) Manila
(d) London

Answer: (a) Shenzhen

Commonwealth Games champion Lakshya Sen is among the top eight players participating in the King Cup International Badminton Open 2024 to be held in Shenzhen, People's Republic of China. Eight men's singles players will compete for the coveted title in the first edition of the badminton tournament