

Today in History on 04 DEC

➤ 1796 - Bajirao II became the Peshwa of the Maratha Empire.

In the year 1796, Bajirao II became the Peshwa of the Maratha Empire. Bajirao II was the Peshwa of the Maratha Empire from 1796 to 1818. During his time, the Maratha Empire began to decline. Conflict with the British began during his reign. Bajirao II was the eighth and last Peshwa. He was the son of Raghunathrao (Raghova). After the death of his Prime Minister Nana Phadnavis, there was a huge scramble for his property. Peshwa Bajirao II was removed from the post.



➤ 1959 - Gandak irrigation and power project signed between India and Nepal.

Gandak irrigation and power project was signed between India and Nepal on 4 December 1959. There is a 740 meter long barrage near Valmiki Nagar. The Eastern Main Canal or Tirhut Canal irrigates Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Vaishali, Samastipur of Bihar and Parswara and Rautahat districts of Nepal.



➤ 1967 - Country's first rocket 'Rohini RH 75' launched from Thumba.

RH-75 (Rohini-75) was the first indigenous rocket developed by ISRO (Indian Space and Research Organization) in India, launched from Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS) in the year 1967. Thumba is close to the magnetic equator and ideal for this program.



➤ 1924 - Gateway of India inaugurated

Before the construction of Gateway of India, a sea wall was built to protect it. Gateway of India was fully constructed in 1924 and was opened to the public on 4 December of the same year. It was inaugurated by the then Viceroy Rufus Isaacs. This 26 meter (85 feet) high structure is made of basalt and is a symbol of victory arch. Boat service is also available near this entrance for tourists to visit the sea.



➤ 1952 - The Grumman XS2F-1 made its first flight.

Two XS2F-1 prototypes and 15 S2F-1 production aircraft were ordered at the same time on 30 June 1950. The first flight was conducted on 4 December 1952, and production aircraft entered service with VS-26 in February 1954. Follow-on versions included the WF Tracer and TF Trader, which became the Grumman E-1 Tracer and Grumman C-1 Trader in the 1962 tri-service designation standardization.



Important NEWS on 04 DEC

➤ Indian-Origin Kash Patel Takes Charge of Director of FBI

US President-elect Donald Trump has announced Kash Patel as the next Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), succeeding Christopher Wray. Patel, a long-time Trump loyalist known for his confrontational stance against the "deep state" and criticism of federal agencies, brings a history of staunch support for Trump's policies.



➤ Telangana Joins Mineral Auction Regime, Auctions Limestone Blocks

Telangana has joined India's mineral auction regime, with the auction of two limestone blocks at Sultanpur and Saidulnama in November. These blocks, essential for cement manufacturing, were auctioned to NCL Industries and Deccan Cement. This marks the state's entry into the Centre's mineral auction system, making it the 14th state to participate.



➤ UP Declares Maha Kumbh Area a New District for 2025 Mela

Uttar Pradesh government has declared the Maha Kumbh area in Prayagraj as a new district, named the Maha Kumbh Mela district, ahead of the grand religious event scheduled for January 2025. This decision marks a crucial step to streamline the administrative and logistical efforts for the smooth organization of the Kumbh Mela, which attracts millions of pilgrims from across the world. The creation of the new district aims to enhance coordination, law enforcement, and resource management for the event.



➤ India-Cambodia Joint Exercise CINBAX Begins in Pune

The Indian Army and the Cambodian Army have commenced their first-ever Joint Table Top Exercise, CINBAX, at the Foreign Training Node in Pune. Scheduled on December 2024, the exercise aims to foster strategic cooperation, trust, and interoperability between the two nations. The contingents, each comprising 20 personnel from the respective armies, are set to focus on wargaming counter-terrorism (CT) operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.



➤ GST Collection for November Rises by 8.5% to ₹1.82 Trillion

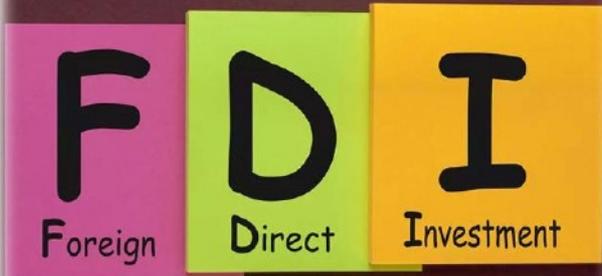
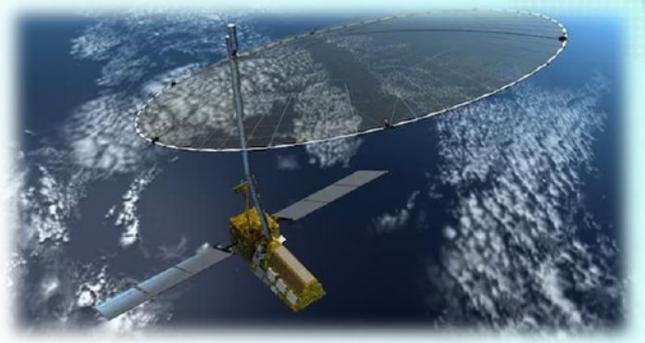
India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue rose by 8.5% to ₹1.82 lakh crore in November 2024, compared to ₹1.68 lakh crore in the same month last year. The growth is primarily driven by higher revenues from domestic transactions, with GST from domestic transactions increasing by 9.4%. This increase is significant, though it follows a previous high of ₹1.87 lakh crore in October, which marked the second-best collection in GST history. In April 2024, India recorded its highest-ever GST collection of over ₹2.10 lakh crore.



➤ FDI Inflows Jump 45% to USD 29.79 Billion in H1 FY 2024-25

India's foreign direct investment (FDI) surged by 45% to USD 29.79 billion in the first half of FY 2024-

25, compared to USD 20.5 billion in the same period last year. This growth is attributed to strong inflows in the services, computer, telecom, and pharma sectors, driven by key investors from Mauritius, Singapore, and the US. The July-September quarter alone saw a 43% increase, amounting to USD 13.6 billion, highlighting robust foreign confidence in India's economic landscape.



Current affairs MCQS on 04 DEC

Q.1. When is World Soil Day celebrated?

- (a) 02 December
- (b) 03 December
- (c) 04 December
- (d) 05 December

Answer: (d) 05 December

World Soil Day is celebrated every year on 5 December and aims to highlight the importance of soil. Soil degradation is happening rapidly due to the poor condition of the soil, which is becoming a serious environmental issue around the world. About 45 years ago, the 'Save Soil Movement' was started in India. Its aim is to draw people's attention towards soil conservation and sustainable management. To make people aware about soil erosion, which is a serious environmental problem, known as the decline in the condition of the soil.

Q.2. Recently, Union Sanskrit Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat inaugurated a painting exhibition titled "Shunyata" in?

- (a) Kolkata
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Delhi
- (d) Surat

Answer: (c) Delhi

Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat inaugurated the special exhibition 'Shunyata: Shunyata' at the National

➤ AOMSUC-14 Innovating Weather Monitoring

The 14th Asia-Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users' Conference (AOMSUC-14) is scheduled to take place from December 4-6, 2024, in New Delhi, India. Hosted by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, this event will bring together meteorologists, satellite operators, scientists, and young researchers from across the globe. Aimed at fostering collaboration and advancing satellite meteorology, the conference will include oral and poster presentations, panel discussions, and a training workshop.

Museum in New Delhi. The event was attended by Dr BR Mani, Head of National Museum and a large gathering of people from Haveli, psychologists, experts, artists and museums.

Q.3. Who has been re-elected to the United Nations Peace Commission recently?

- (a) India
- (b) Italy
- (c) France
- (d) Germany

Answer: (a) India

India has been re-elected to the UN Peacebuilding Commission for the term 2025-2026. India's current term on the commission was ending on December 31. "India has been re-elected to the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) for the term 2025-2026," India's Permanent Mission to the UN said in a post on X.

Q.4. Recently, ECI (Election Commission of India) has approved whom to become the Chief Electoral Officer of Delhi?

- (a) R Ellis Vaz
- (b) Dinesh Bhatia
- (c) Ashok Chandra
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a) R Ellis Vaz

Ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections, the Election Commission has appointed senior IAS officer R Alice Vaz as the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Delhi. She is currently serving as Secretary in the Directorate of Higher Education, Delhi. She will replace P Krishnamurthy who was appointed CEO of Delhi in August 2023.

Q.5. Who has been awarded the 'United Nations Global Excellence Award' recently?

- (a) Dr. Basant Goyal
- (b) Deepak Mehta
- (c) Prabhakar Kumar
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a) Dr. Basant Goyal

Dr Basant Goel was honoured as the Chief Guest at the United Nations Global Excellence Awards in Dubai, where he also received a Doctorate from the United States of America International University (Honoris Causa) for his outstanding contribution to healthcare and philanthropy. With academic achievements including a Bachelor of Pharmacy, a PhD in Diabetes and a Doctorate in Health Sciences from prestigious US institutions, Dr Goel's dedication to improving lives is gaining widespread recognition.

Q.6. Notre-Dame Cathedral seen in the news is located in which country?

- (a) India
- (b) France
- (c) Russia
- (d) United Kingdom

Answer: (b) France

The French President praised more than 1,000 artisans who rebuilt the Notre-Dame Cathedral after a devastating fire in 2019. Notre-Dame is a famous Gothic cathedral located in Paris, France. It is known for its size, age and architectural features. Its construction began in 1163 and continued throughout the Gothic period, being completed by 1250. It was the site of important events including Napoleon's coronation and royal weddings. A fire on April 15, 2019 badly damaged the roof and spire. The cathedral is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, featuring naturalistic sculptures and stained glass windows.

Q.7. Where has the 13th 'National Seed Conference' started recently?

- (a) Lucknow
- (b) Varanasi
- (c) Jaipur
- (d) Mumbai

Answer: (b) Varanasi

The 13th National Seed Conference 2024 organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare was virtually inaugurated by Shri Shivraj Singh

Chouhan. The three-day conference was organized at the International Rice Research Institute South Asia Regional Center (ISARC), Varanasi.

Q.8. In which state has the two-day 'Mahabodhi Mahotsav' started recently?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Odisha
- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Bihar

Answer: (c) Madhya Pradesh

The two-day Mahabodhi Festival will begin at Sanchi, a famous Buddhist tourist and UNESCO World Heritage site located in Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh. Union Minister for Minority Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju will inaugurate it. Followers of Buddhism from many countries including Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Thailand and Japan will participate in the festival.

Q.9. Which state has recently been declared as the participating state in the famous Hornville Festival?

- (a) Mizoram
- (b) Sikkim
- (c) Assam
- (d) Jharkhand

Answer: (b) Sikkim

Sikkim Chief Minister Pema Tamang has officially flagged off the Nagaland contingent for this year's Hornbill Festival, with Sikkim being recognised as the partner state for the event. The Sikkim CM expressed his happiness about the partnership, stressing that it reflects shared cultural values and promotes unity between the states. He said the partnership is not only to celebrate culture between the two states but also to strengthen their ties.

Q.10. Recently 'Dr Prithvindra Mukherjee' passed away. Who was he?

- (a) Researcher
- (b) Singer
- (c) Journalist
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a) Researcher

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the death of Indian researcher and author Dr Prithvindra Mukherjee. He said Dr Mukherjee was a versatile personality and was also fond of music and poetry. "Dr Prithvindra Mukherjee was a versatile personality who left a strong mark in the intellectual world. He was also fond of music and poetry. His works and creations will be admired for years to come. His efforts to preserve India's history, especially during the freedom struggle, and to deepen India-France relations were equally remarkable.

Q.11. Who has recently released Vikram Sampath's book 'Tipu Sultan - The Saga of the Mysore Interregnum'?

- (a) Dharmendra Pradhan
- (b) Ashwini Vaishnav
- (c) Dr. S. Jaishankar
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (c) Dr. S. Jaishankar

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar released Vikram Sampath's book Tipu Sultan-The Saga of the Mysore Interregnum in New Delhi. Addressing the release ceremony, Dr Jaishankar highlighted that the book not only captures the flavour of a fast-moving and complex era but also gives insights into politics, strategy, administration, sociology and diplomacy. Dr Jaishankar said Tipu Sultan has a reputation as a prominent figure who resisted the imposition of British colonial control on India. He said it is a fact that Tipu Sultan's defeat and death can be considered a turning point for the fate of peninsular India.

Q.12. Who has recently chaired the credit outreach programme in Bihar?

- (a) Nirmala Sitharaman
- (b) Dr. S. Jaishankar
- (c) Piyush Goyal
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a) Nirmala Sitharaman

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the Credit Outreach Programme in Darbhanga, Bihar. Minister for Food Processing Industries, Government of India, Shri Chirag Paswan and Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Samrat Choudhary also attended the programme.

Q.13. Who has recently joined as MD and CEO of NSDL (National Securities Depository Limited)?

- (a) Sumit Dharmawardhan
- (b) Keshav Chandra
- (c) Vijay Chandok
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (c) Vijay Chandok

National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL) said financial market veteran Vijay Chandok has joined it as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. Prior to joining NSDL, Chandok was serving as MD and CEO of ICICI Securities. He held key roles in the ICICI Group, including joining the board of ICICI Bank as an executive director.

Q.14. Recently, the African country Chad has formally terminated the security and defense cooperation agreement with which country?

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

Answer: (b) France

Chad's government said it has terminated its defence cooperation agreement with France, which could lead to French troops leaving the central African country. In a statement, Chad's foreign ministry said the country, a key Western ally in the fight against Islamist militants in the region, wants to fully exert its sovereignty after more than six decades of independence. It said the decision to terminate the defence cooperation agreement, which was revised in 2019, would enable it to redefine its strategic partnership.

Q.15. Recently, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has approved 500 new Panchayat Ghar i.e. Gram Parishad in which country?

- (a) Jammu and Kashmir
- (b) Assam
- (c) Manipur
- (d) Odisha

Answer: (a) Jammu and Kashmir

There is a good news for the people of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. 500 new Panchayat houses will be built in the Union Territory. Mohammad Ejaz Asad, Secretary, Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Affairs, gave this information. He said that the state administration is committed to making the Panchayat Raj institutions in Jammu and Kashmir completely strong and effective. All necessary steps are being taken to ensure that the benefits of the state and central government schemes for the development of rural areas reach every eligible citizen.