

Today in History on 12 NOV

➤ 1930 – First Round Table Conference begins in London to discuss constitutional reforms in India.

The First Round Table Conference was held from November 12, 1930 to January 19, 1931. Congress boycotted the First Round Table Conference meeting as the British government refused to consider Congress' demand for Poorna Swaraj. The First Round Table Conference brought together representatives of the princely states, ethnic populations and the poor. However, without the Congress, there could have been no agreement on Indian issues. You can also register for Testbook's Premier Optional History Coaching for UPSC and start your UPSC IAS preparation journey today.



➤ 2001 - American Airlines' Airbus A-300 crashes in New York, killing 260 passengers.

On November 12, 2001, American Airlines' Airbus A300B4-605R aircraft crashed in Queens, New York

City. 260 people were killed in this accident. These included 251 passengers and 9 crew members. 5 people also died on the ground. It was the second deadliest aviation accident in US history. After this accident, a terrorist attack was initially suspected. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) blamed the wake turbulence generated by Japan Airlines' Boeing 747-400 aircraft for this accident. According to the NTSB, the first officer used excessive rudder control. This put pressure on the vertical stabilizer and it separated from the plane.



➤ 1990 - Traditional coronation of Emperor Akihito in Japan.

Emperor Akihito of Japan was crowned on November 12, 1990. Emperor Akihito was the 125th emperor of Japan. He ascended the throne on January 7, 1989, after the death of his father, Emperor Hirohito. Emperor Akihito's reign was known as Heisei, which means "attaining peace".



➤ 1984 - Britain discontinued the one pound note, introduced coins.

In 1984, Britain discontinued the one pound note and introduced a one pound coin in its place. This announcement was made on November 12, 1984. Finance Minister Nigel Lawson said that the coins would not be more expensive than the notes, but they would last 50 times longer than the notes. There was a history of about 150 years behind the discontinuation of this note.



➤ 1969 - Prime Minister Indira Gandhi expelled from Congress.

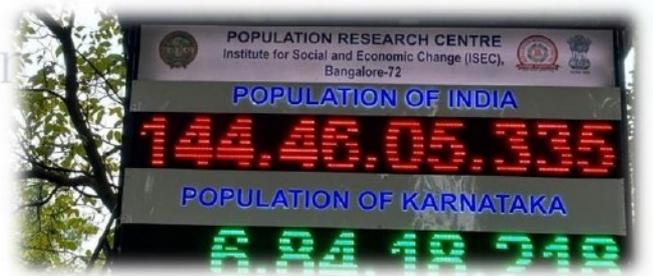
On 12 November 1969, Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi was expelled from the Congress party for violating party discipline. The party eventually split and Indira Gandhi founded a rival organisation, the Indian National Congress (Requisitionist), which came to be known as Congress (R) or Indicate. In the All India Congress Committee, 446 of its 705 members left in Indira's favour.



Important NEWS on 12 NOV

➤ Bengaluru Unveils First Digital Population Clock at ISEC

Bengaluru marked a milestone with the inauguration of its first digital population clock at the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC). This innovative installation will display real-time population estimates for both Karnataka and the entire country, providing citizens, researchers, and policymakers with up-to-date demographic data.



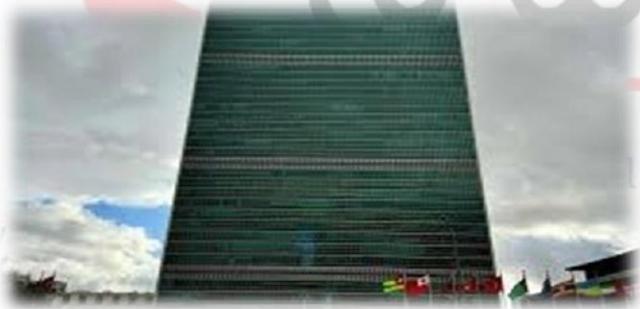
➤ Centre Doubles Stubble Burning Penalty Post Supreme Court Directive

In response to the Supreme Court's criticism of the "toothless" penalties under the Environment Protection Act (EPA) of 1986, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change has doubled the fines on stubble burning. This move aims to curb stubble burning and address the worsening air quality in Delhi and nearby regions.



➤ India Stands Alone in Opposing Pakistan's UN Arms Control Proposal

India did not support Pakistan and Syria's resolution on "conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels" during the First Committee of the UN General Assembly. The resolution, which aimed at promoting arms control in specific regions, was adopted with 179 votes in favor.



➤ RBI Updates KYC Rules to Enhance Verification and Security

In a significant move to strengthen the Know Your Customer (KYC) process, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced six amendments to its KYC Master Directions, effective November, 2024. These updates aim to streamline procedures, ensuring more efficient customer onboarding and aligning with the latest legal frameworks. The changes are designed to make financial transactions more secure, accessible, and reliable, benefiting both consumers and financial institutions.

➤ India Becomes Second Largest Smartphone Market by Unit Volume in Q3 2024

India's smartphone market has become the second largest globally by unit volume and third by value in Q3 2024, according to Counterpoint Research. In this period, India accounted for 15.5% of global smartphone shipments, trailing China's 22% but surpassing the US, which held a 12% share. By value, India's market share slightly rose to 12.3%, from 12.1% a year earlier.



➤ Harsha Vardhan Agarwal to Take Over as FICCI President from Nov 21

The FICCI National Executive Committee Meeting (NECM) has officially announced Harsha Vardhan Agarwal as the President-Elect of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), one of India's leading industry bodies. Agarwal, who currently serves as the Senior Vice President of

FICCI, is set to assume the role of President on November 21, 2024.



➤ Shri JP Nadda Launches Scheme to Strengthen Medical Device Industry

The Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers, Shri JP Nadda, launched the "Scheme for Strengthening the Medical Device Industry," aimed at boosting the sector and making India self-reliant in medical devices. The scheme, with a total outlay of Rs. 500 Crores, covers critical areas such as manufacturing of key components, skill development, clinical studies, infrastructure development, and industry promotion.



Current affairs MCQS on 12 NOV

Q.1. When is World Pneumonia Day celebrated?

- (a) 09 November
- (b) 10 November
- (c) 11 November
- (d) 12 November

Answer: (d) 12 November

World Pneumonia Day is celebrated every year on November 12 around the world to raise awareness, promote prevention and treatment, and take action to combat the disease. The purpose of celebrating World Pneumonia Day is to create awareness about this disease among people.

Q.2. Where was Bengaluru's first digital population clock inaugurated recently?

- (a) Bangalore University
- (b) Indian Institute of Science
- (c) National Institute of Advanced Study
- (d) Institute for Socioeconomic Change

Answer: (d) Institute for Socioeconomic Change

Bengaluru's first digital population clock was inaugurated at the Institute of Socioeconomic Change (ISEC). It provides real-time population estimates for Karnataka and India. The project is a joint effort of ISEC and the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). The clock updates Karnataka's population every 1 minute 10 seconds and India's population every 2 seconds. It aims to raise awareness about population dynamics and support research. Similar clocks will be installed at 18 population research centres across India. Equipped with satellite connections, advanced software and instruments, it will enhance demographic studies and policy analysis.

Q.3. The ban on whose novel "The Satanic Verses" has been lifted?

- (a) Salman Rushdie
- (b) Rasikan Bond

- (c) Arundhati Roy
(d) None of the above

Answer: (a) Salman Rushdie

Rajiv Gandhi had banned the study of Salman Rushdie's controversial book 'The Satanic Verses' in 1988. A petition was filed in the court against this. Now the court has stopped hearing on the petition. The court said that no one is submitting any notice regarding the automobile ban. From this it can be assumed that the ban order does not exist at all. This decision was given by the bench of Justice Line Palace and Justice Boraben Benben.

Q.4. Recently, the government of which country has announced to make a law to ban the use of social media for children below 16 years of age?

- (a) Australia
(b) Japan
(c) Spain
(d) France

Answer(a) Australia

The Australian government has proposed banning social media for children under the age of 16, in what Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has described as a "world first" move and the law could come into force by the end of next year. Australia is testing an age-verification system to prevent children from accessing social media platforms using methods of identification such as biometrics or government identification. If implemented, it would be the first country in the world to enforce a ban through such an age verification system.

Q.5. Recently, which state has launched India's first dedicated 'semiconductor policy'?

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

Answer: (d) Gujarat

In a historic move in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Developed India@2047, the Gujarat government has introduced India's first

'Gujarat Semiconductor Policy 2022-2027'. Led by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, this ambitious policy aims to strengthen Gujarat's position in semiconductor self-reliance, supported by the newly created 'Gujarat State Electronics Mission'.

Q.6. Who has topped the recently released Henley Passport Index 2024?

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

Answer: (b) Singapore

According to the October 2024 Henley Passport Index, Singapore has retained its title as the world's most powerful passport, granting visa-free access to 195 countries. France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Spain are tied for second place with access to 192 countries. The US is ranked 8th with 186 countries, while India is ranked 83rd, allowing access to 58 countries.

Q.7. Which bank has recently launched 'e-bank guarantee facility'?

- (a) ICICI Bank
(b) State Bank of India
(c) Punjab and Sind Bank
(d) HDFC Bank

7. C

(c) Punjab and Sind Bank

Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB) has launched its e-Bank Guarantee (e-BG) facility in collaboration with National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL). This innovative service modernises the traditional bank guarantee process by transforming paper-based issuance into a fully digital one. Now instead of requiring a physical seal and signature, e-stamping and e-signature will be used. The initiative aims to increase efficiency for beneficiaries, reduce verification time and improve transparency. Swarup Kumar Saha, MD & CEO, Punjab & Sind Bank highlighted the significance of this partnership and

said, "We are proud to launch the e-BG facility with NeSL."

Q.8. Where has the 8-day North East Adi Mahotsav been inaugurated recently?

- (a) Itanagar
- (b) Imphal
- (c) Guwahati
- (d) Tezpur

Answer: (c) Guwahati

Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram inaugurated the eight-day 'North East Aadi Mahotsav'. This National Tribal Festival celebrates the rich tribal culture, craftsmanship, food and commerce of the tribal communities of India. Organised by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in collaboration with Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd (TRIFED), the event is being held at the Veterinary College playground at Khanapara in Guwahati.

Q.9. Which country and India have recently agreed to increase cooperation in water resources and energy?

- (a) Sri Lanka
- (b) Nepal
- (c) Bhutan
- (d) Maldives

Answer: (b) Nepal

Nepal and India have agreed to expedite hydropower projects and enhance cooperation in energy, water resources and other key sectors, a top Nepal minister said. Nepal's Energy and Water Resources Minister Deepak Khadka, who was on a visit to India, made the remarks during a brief interaction with media persons on his arrival at the Tribhuvan International airport here. During the visit, which he described as "important" and "fruitful", Khadka met India's Energy Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Water Resources Minister C R Patil and discussed enhancing cooperation on energy, water resources and irrigation.

Q.10. Where has the second edition of the Indian Military Heritage Festival started recently?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Udaipur
- (c) Mumbai
- (d) Jaipur

Answer: (a) New Delhi

The annual Indian Military Heritage Festival (IMHF) was held in New Delhi. The two-day festival is being held for the second time. The event aims to engage global and Indian think tanks, companies, public and private sector undertakings, non-profit organisations, academics and research scholars to focus on India's national security, foreign policy, military history and military heritage.

Q.11. Recently the 83rd annual session of the 'Indian Road Congress' has started in which city?

- (a) Bhopal
- (b) Raipur
- (c) Jaipur
- (d) Indore

Answer: (b) Raipur

The 83rd annual session of the Indian Road Congress will be held at Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Auditorium and Science College Campus in the capital Raipur. Deputy Chief Minister and Public Works Minister Arun Saw gave necessary instructions regarding the preparations of the session to all the officials associated with the convention, including departmental secretary Dr. Kamalpreet Singh.

Q.12. Recently which IIT has signed an agreement for a collaborative study on homeopathy project?

- (a) IIT Kharagpur
- (b) IIT Kanpur
- (c) IIT Delhi
- (d) IIT Jaipur

Answer: (a) IIT Kharagpur

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy

(CCRH) for collaborative studies on a project titled "Characterisation, standardisation and analysis of Fourier transform infra-red spectroscopic studies and Raman studies in homeopathic potentised drugs and potentised drugs (e.g. X-ray, electricity, magnetis pols australis, etc.)".

Q.13. Which shipyard built India's first indigenous aircraft carrier Vikrant?

- (a) Mazagon Dock Limited
- (b) Cochin Shipyard Limited
- (c) Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited
- (d) Hindustan Shipyard Limited

13. B

Answer: (b) Cochin Shipyard Limited

The President of India recently witnessed a demonstration on INS Vikrant, India's first indigenously designed and built aircraft carrier. Designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and built by Cochin Shipyard Limited, it reinforces India's position as a 'blue water navy' with global reach, joining the US, Russia, France, the UK and China in an elite group capable of building aircraft carriers. The ship has a displacement of 43,000 tonnes, an endurance of 13,890 kilometres, and can accommodate up to 30 aircraft, including fighter jets and helicopters. It uses the STOBAR method for aircraft operations.

Q.14. Recently the third India-Australia joint military exercise, Australia has started in which city?

- (a) Kolkata
- (b) Pune
- (c) Brisbane
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (b) Pune

The third edition of the India-Australia joint military exercise began at the Foreign Training Node in Pune. The exercise will go on till November 21. Exercise Austrahind was started in Rajasthan in 2022 and has since become an annual event that is held alternately in India and Australia. The aim of the exercise is to promote cooperative partnerships between the two

countries and share best practices between the two sides. The previous edition of the same exercise was held in Perth, Australia in December 2023. The Indian contingent comprising 140 personnel in the 2024 exercise will be represented mainly by a battalion of the Dogra Regiment and 14 personnel from the Indian Air Force.

Q.15. Who has been appointed as the Chief of Staff of the White House recently?

- (a) Suzy Wills
- (b) Shamaya Sandhu
- (c) Usha Chilukuri Vance
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a) Suzy Wills

President-elect Donald Trump has appointed Suzy Wills, the manager of his victorious campaign, as White House chief of staff, the first woman to hold the influential position. Wills is widely credited both within and outside Trump's circle with having run one of the most disciplined and well-executed campaigns ever, and was seen as a leading contender for the position. She has largely stayed out of the spotlight, even refusing to take a microphone to speak during Trump's victory celebrations.