

## Today in History on 19 OCT

### ➤ 1889 - Napoleon Bonaparte's army withdraws

On October 19, 1889, French leader Napoleon Bonaparte withdrew his army from the Russian capital. This move was significant, as it marked the failure of Napoleon's invasion of Russia, which weakened the power of the French Empire. This development changed military strategies in Europe and ultimately led to Napoleon's defeat.



### ➤ 1924 - Abdul Aziz declared Protector of the Holy Places

On 19 October 1924, Abdul Aziz declared himself Protector of the Holy Places in Mecca. This declaration was an important political development in the Islamic world, strengthening Abdul Aziz's position. His move gave a new turn to Islamic religiosity and nationalism, and he played an important role in the protection of the holy places.



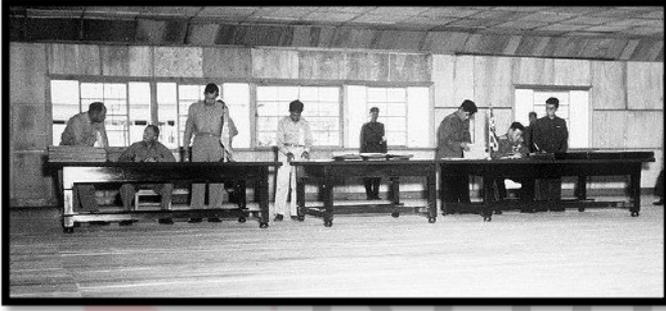
### ➤ 1933 - Germany withdraws from the Allies

On 19 October 1933, Germany announced its withdrawal from the Allies. The move was taken by Adolf Hitler's government and was aimed at restoring Germany's military borders and reviving national pride. This decision created the conditions for World War II and led Germany to more aggressive policies.



#### ➤ 1994 - Historic Agreement for Korea

On 19 October 1994, North Korea and the United States signed a historic agreement in Geneva to keep the Korean Peninsula free from the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The agreement was aimed at maintaining peace and security in the region. It was an important diplomatic achievement, a step towards reducing tensions in Korea.



#### ➤ 1970 - MiG-21 inducted into Indian Air Force

On 19 October 1970, the first Indian-built MiG-21 aircraft was inducted into the Indian Air Force. The aircraft was instrumental in enhancing India's air power and was seen as a premier fighter aircraft. The MiG-21 played a vital role in enabling the Indian Air Force to wage modern warfare and was successfully used in several wars.



#### Important NEWS on 19 OCT

#### ➤ HDFC Opens First Singapore Branch to Expand Global Presence

HDFC Bank has officially opened its first branch in Singapore as part of its strategy to expand its international operations. Granted a wholesale banking license by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), effective from October, 2024, the bank aims to offer a variety of financial products and services to residents of Singapore.



### ➤ SCO Summit 2024: Key Outcomes and Strategic Insights

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit, held in Islamabad on October, 2024, gathered high-level officials from member states to address regional security, economic cooperation, and terrorism. India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, along with leaders from China, Russia, Iran, and Central Asian countries, attended the event. Despite strained India-Pakistan relations and ongoing China-India border disputes, the summit provided a platform for multilateral dialogue, but no bilateral talks were expected.



### ➤ SECL Becomes First Coal Company to Open Four AMRIT Pharmacies

South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), a Chhattisgarh-based subsidiary of Coal India, has opened its fourth AMRIT (Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment) Pharmacy, making it the first coal company to do so. This 216th AMRIT pharmacy, located at SECL's Health Centre in Indira

Vihar Colony, Bilaspur, will provide generic and life-saving medicines at highly subsidized rates, benefiting SECL employees, the general public, and underserved tribal and rural communities.



### ➤ Nayab Saini Sworn in as Haryana CM, BJP Wins Third Term

Nayab Singh Saini was sworn in as Haryana's Chief Minister for the second time, marking BJP's third consecutive term in power in the state. Governor Bandaru Dattatreya administered the oath at a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Ministers, and NDA leaders. Saini's council of 13 ministers also took the oath. Saini, a Dalit leader from Kurukshetra, led the BJP to victory in the October 5 Assembly elections, securing 48 seats in the 90-member house. Saini's rise to the top post continues from his earlier roles in the BJP, including as Haryana BJP chief.



Union law ministry. Justice Khanna, the second-most senior judge of the Supreme Court, will take over the position after Justice Chandrachud's retirement on November 10, 2024.



### ➤ Kaziranga Named India's Second Largest Butterfly Diversity Hub

Kaziranga National Park, renowned for its iconic one-horned rhinoceros, has now gained recognition as India's second-largest butterfly diversity hub. Following Namdapha National Park in Arunachal Pradesh, Kaziranga is home to an impressive 446 butterfly species. This newfound distinction highlights the park's rich biodiversity.



### ➤ President Murmu Awarded Honorary Doctorate in Algeria

President Droupadi Murmu, on her three-nation tour, received an Honorary Doctorate in Political Science from Sidi Abdellah Science and Technology Pole University in Algiers on October 2024. Expressing her gratitude, she stated, "It is indeed a humbling experience for me to be honoured with the Honorary Doctorate. This is an honour for my country more than for me as an individual."

### ➤ CJI Chandrachud Nominates Justice Sanjiv Khanna as Successor

Justice Sanjiv Khanna is set to become the 51st Chief Justice of India (CJI), following the recommendation by current CJI DY Chandrachud in a letter to the



### Current affairs MCQS on 19 OCT

**Q.1. What is the primary purpose of the MQ-9B Predator drones recently acquired by India from the United States?**

- (a) Surveillance and reconnaissance
- (b) Agricultural monitoring
- (c) Weather forecasting
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: (a) Surveillance and reconnaissance**

India has bought 31 MQ-9B Predator drones from the US for surveillance and reconnaissance. These drones, made by General Atomics, can be used for anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare. They can fly at an altitude of over 40,000 feet and stay in the air for up to 40 hours, providing real-time information. The deal includes a maintenance, repair and overhaul facility in India, which will boost the capabilities of the Indian Navy and Air Force.

**Q.2. The Union Ministry of Earth Sciences has recently installed "X Band Radar" in which of the following?**

- (a) Bengaluru
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Wayanad
- (d) Jaipur

**Answer: (c) Wayanad**

The Ministry of Earth Sciences has approved the installation of X-band radios in Wayanad district of Kerala after the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting recently approved the installation of X-band radios in the range of 8-12 GHz in the earth's atmosphere. X-band radios emit radio waves in the

range of 8-12 GHz in the earth's atmosphere, which produce high-resolution waves due to their short wavelength. Although higher frequencies get attenuated faster, they are used to monitor artifacts such as ceramics, so that necessary warnings can be given. This publication also provides high time-resolution sampling, which helps in quickly identifying fishing facilities.

**Q.3. Who has recently been appointed as the Chief of the Indian Coast Guard?**

- (a) Amrit Mohan Prasad
- (b) Anil Rai
- (c) S. Parmesh
- (d) Mukesh Gupta

**Answer: (c) S. Parmesh**

Indian Coast Guard Additional Director General S Parmesh has been appointed as the new chief of the maritime force by the central government. He is currently serving as the acting Director General since the demise of his predecessor Director General Rakesh Pal last month. With over three decades of distinguished service, he has held various prestigious coastal and maritime appointments.

**Q.4. Which city hosted the SCO summit recently?**

- (a) Islamabad
- (b) New Delhi
- (c) Beijing
- (d) Moscow

**Answer: (a) Islamabad**

Islamabad hosted the 23rd meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government. Pakistan chaired the meeting, which focused on trade and economic cooperation. India's External Affairs Minister S

Jaishankar led the Indian delegation. It is an important diplomatic event with leaders from India, China, Russia and Central Asian countries attending. The summit aims to address ongoing tensions, particularly between India and Pakistan, while promoting multilateral dialogue. Established in 2001, the SCO has evolved into a major forum for addressing security and economic issues across Eurasia, making the summit particularly important for participating countries.

**Q.5. Recently, in which city of India will 'e-flying taxi' run?**

- (a) Jaipur
- (b) Noida
- (c) Mumbai
- (d) Bengaluru

**Answer: (d) Bengaluru**

Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), which operates the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), has recently partnered with city-based Sarla Aviation to launch electric flying taxis. The two entities signed a statement of cooperation to explore sustainable air mobility, especially electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft.

**Q.6. Where has the 75th 'International Astronautical Congress' started recently?**

- (a) Milan
- (b) London
- (c) Nepal
- (d) Mumbai

**Answer: (a) Milan**

The 75th International Astronautical Congress has begun at the Mico Conference Center in Milan, Italy. Ten thousand space experts, scholars, entrepreneurs and professionals from all over the world are participating in this congress. Italian President Sergio Mattarella also attended the opening ceremony. The theme of this year's congress is 'Responsible Space for Sustainability', which prioritizes topics such as promoting global space technology, future space missions and balancing scientific progress and environmental protection. The week-long congress will have 200 technical sessions, including topics such as sustainable exploration on the Moon and Mars, space-based monitoring for climate change, the role of private companies in the field of space development and artificial intelligence.

**Q.7. Which city has been declared the richest city in the world by sovereign wealth funds recently?**

- (a) Beijing
- (b) Abu Dhabi
- (c) France
- (d) London

**Answer: (b) Abu Dhabi**

Abu Dhabi is estimated to be the richest city in the world in terms of sovereign wealth funds, with a capital of \$1.7 trillion. This significant achievement highlights the city's financial potential and strategic investments. After Abu Dhabi, other major cities include Oslo, where the world's largest sovereign wealth fund, the Norwegian Government Pension Fund Global (NBIM), is located. Other notable cities in this ranking include Beijing, Singapore, Riyadh and Hong Kong. These six cities combined manage nearly two-thirds of the total assets managed by sovereign wealth funds worldwide.

**Q.8. Which space organization has launched the Europa Clipper mission to explore Jupiter's moon?**

- (a) ISRO
- (b) NASA
- (c) CNSA
- (d) ESA

**Answer: (b) NASA**

NASA has launched Europa Clipper, the largest spacecraft ever built for a planetary mission. The spacecraft aims to investigate whether Jupiter's moon Europa has conditions suitable for life, focusing on the vast subsurface ocean hidden beneath its thick outer layer of ice. The robotic solar-powered probe will enter orbit around Jupiter in 2030 after travelling about 2.9 billion kilometres in 5 years and 6 months. Europa Clipper is named after its destination, Jupiter's icy moon Europa. Europa Clipper will operate in an intense radiation environment around Jupiter, the solar system's largest planet.

**Q.9. Which IIT has recently developed space-saving multipurpose furniture for children?**

- (a) IIT Kanpur
- (b) IIT Delhi
- (c) IIT Mumbai
- (d) IIT Guwahati

**Answer: (d) IIT Guwahati**

A team from IIT Guwahati, led by Professor Supradip Das, has designed a space-saving and multi-functional furniture that can be transformed into eight different configurations. Developed using a 'prototype-driven innovation' approach, this flat-packed, easy-to-assemble furniture aims to meet the

growing demand for adaptable furniture in small urban and rural homes.

**Q.10. Who has recently been selected as the ICC Player of the Month for September 2024?**

- (a) Kamindu Mendis
- (b) Tammy Beaumont
- (c) Both of the above
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: (c) Both of the above**

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the Players of the Year for September 2024, with Sri Lanka's Kamindu Mendis and England's Tammy Beaumont being honoured for their outstanding performances. Both players have won this prestigious award for the second time for their consistent and outstanding ability in international cricket.

**Q.11. India and which country have recently signed an audio-visual co-production agreement?**

- (a) Colombia
- (b) China
- (c) Russia
- (d) America

**Answer: (a) Colombia**

India and Colombia have signed an Audio-Visual Co-Production Agreement, which will provide Indian and Colombian filmmakers access to a platform for collaboration in various aspects of filmmaking. The Agreement is expected to further strengthen ties between key sectors of the film industry of the two countries and open a new chapter of cooperation. The Agreement was signed by Hon'ble Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting Dr. L. Murugan

and His Excellency Mr. Jorge Enrique Rojas Rodriguez, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Colombia in India.

**Q.12. India has recently expelled the acting High Commissioner of which country?**

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

**Answer: (b) Canada**

Canada has expelled six Indian diplomats and consular officials in connection with an investigation into the killing of a Sikh separatist leader in British Columbia last year. India had earlier said it had ordered the expulsion of six top Canadian diplomats, including the acting high commissioner, and said it had recalled its envoy from Canada, contradicting Canada's statement that it had expelled the envoy.

**Q.13. Who has recently been appointed as the MD and CEO of Bandhan Bank?**

- (a) Arjun Bajpai
- (b) Satyadeep Gupta
- (c) Parth Pratim Sengupta
- (d) Ajit Sharma

**Answer: (c) Parth Pratim Sengupta**

In a significant development in the Indian banking sector, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Partha Pratim Sengupta as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bandhan Bank. He has been appointed for a term of three years. Sengupta's appointment comes after the resignation of Bandhan Bank's founder MD and CEO

Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, who recently resigned from his post.

**Q.14. Who has recently inaugurated the ITU World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2024?**

- (a) Amit Shah
- (b) Hardeep Singh Puri
- (c) Narendra Modi
- (d) Rajnath Singh

**Answer: (c) Narendra Modi**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the ITU World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2024 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. Earlier, PM Modi inspected the exhibition at the International Telecommunication Union- World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (ITU-WTSA) 2024. Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia was also present during this. For the first time, ITU-WTSA is being organized in India and Asia-Pacific. 3,000 industry leaders, policy makers and technical experts from more than 190 countries are participating in ITU-WTSA.

**Q.15. Who has recently won the Shanghai Masters title?**

- (a) Jannik Sinner
- (b) Roger Federer
- (c) Novak Djokovic
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: (a) Jannik Sinner**

World number one men's tennis player Jannik Sinner of Italy defeated 24th Grand Slam winner Novak Djokovic of Serbia in the final to win the singles title of the ATP Shanghai Masters 1000. The

ATP Shanghai Masters 1000 was held in the Chinese city of Shanghai. The Shanghai Masters is played on hard courts.

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