

Today in History on 21 OCT

➤ 1296 - Alauddin Khilji takes over the throne of Delhi:



21 October 1296 - Alauddin Khilji takes over the throne of Delhi. Alauddin Khilji becomes the second ruler of the Khilji dynasty of the Delhi Sultanate.

He gained power by killing his uncle and father-in-law Jalaluddin Khilji. Alauddin made many tough reforms to consolidate his power, such as changes in the market system and agricultural taxes. He successfully faced the Mongol invasions and expanded the Delhi Sultanate extensively.

➤ 1555 - Parliament of England refuses to recognize Philip as King of Spain:

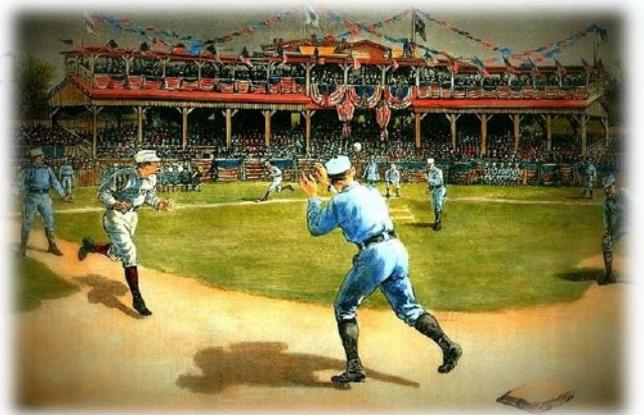


1555 - Parliament of England refuses to recognize Philip as King of Spain. Philip

was the husband of Mary I, Queen of England, and Parliament refused to recognize him as King of Spain. The dispute arose because of political and religious differences between England and Spain. This decision reflects Parliament's attitude towards England's independence, which wanted to keep its country safe from foreign influence.

➤ 1871 - First amateur outdoor athletic games held in the US (New York):

On October 21, 1871, the first amateur outdoor athletic games were held in New York. This event was an important step in the development of American sports culture and was followed by organized sports in schools and colleges. It played an important role in popularizing athletic events.



➤ 1934 - Jayaprakash Narayan formed the Congress Socialist Party:

Jayaprakash Narayan and his colleagues formed a Socialist Party within the Indian National Congress.

Its aim was to establish an egalitarian and independent India based on the principles of socialism. The party became an important stream in the freedom movement and broke away from the Congress and promoted socialist ideology.



➤ 1945 – Women in France get the right to vote for the first time:

After World War II, women in France got the right to vote for the first time on 21 October 1945. This was a major change in French society, giving women political rights and making them a part of society with equality and freedom.



Important NEWS on 21 OCT

➤ Ganguly Takes Charge as JSW Sports Director of Cricket, Heads Delhi Capitals

Sourav Ganguly, the former Indian cricket captain and ex-BCCI President, has been named the Director of Cricket for JSW Sports. In this role, Ganguly will oversee all cricketing operations for the organization, including its key franchises like Delhi Capitals' men's and women's IPL and WPL teams, and Pretoria Capitals, which competes in the SA20 League.



➤ Vivaan Secures Silver, Naruka Takes Bronze at Shooting World Cup

India's shooting contingent made a strong mark at the ISSF World Cup Final with Vivaan Kapoor securing a silver medal in the men's trap event and Anant Jeet Singh Naruka claiming a bronze in the men's skeet competition. These achievements raised India's total medal count to four at the

prestigious event, reflecting the nation's growing prowess in the global shooting arena.



Jharkhand Cabinet Boosts Women's Honorarium and Key Initiatives



In a significant move, the Hemant Soren cabinet in Jharkhand has increased the monthly

honorarium for women under the Maiyaan Samman Yojana from ₹1,000 to ₹2,500. This decision is seen as a response to the BJP's Gogo Didi Yojana, which promises ₹2,100 per month to women as outlined in their election manifesto. Alongside this, the cabinet approved 28 proposals aimed at improving infrastructure, education, and social welfare in the state.

Sanskrit to Become Mandatory in 416 Uttarakhand Madrasas

The Uttarakhand Madrasa Education Board (UMEB) has proposed making Sanskrit a compulsory subject in 416 madrasas across the state. This initiative aims to enhance the educational curriculum and support the academic growth of students. The board plans to formalize this change by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the state's Sanskrit department.



India's First Self-Powered Indoor Air Quality Monitor Launched at Thiruvananthapuram Airport

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh, has inaugurated Pavana Chitra, India's first self-powered indoor air quality monitoring facility, located at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport. This innovative facility is powered by indigenous indoor solar cells developed by the CSIR-NIIST, utilizing locally available materials.



➤ Maharishi Valmiki's Name for All ST Schools, Raichur University: CM Siddaramaiah

On the occasion of Valmiki Jayanti, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced that all Scheduled Tribe (ST) residential schools in the state and Raichur University will be named after Maharishi Valmiki. The announcement was made during a programme organized by the Department of Backward Classes Welfare to celebrate the contributions of Valmiki.



➤ RBI Bars Navi Finserv, 3 NBFCs for Lending Violations

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has barred four non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), including Sachin Bansal's Navi Finserv, from sanctioning and disbursing loans starting October, 2024. The ban affects Navi Finserv, Asirvad Microfinance, Arohan Financial Services, and DMI Finance, which were found guilty of charging exorbitant interest rates and failing to comply with regulatory pricing policies.



Current affairs MCQS on 21 OCT

Q.1. Which organization has recently published the World Energy Outlook 2024 report?

- (a) IEA
- (b) World Bank
- (c) IMF
- (d) UNDP

Answer: (a) IEA

According to the World Energy Outlook 2024, India is expected to have the largest increase in energy demand globally over the next decade. The report is published by the International Energy Agency (IEA) and provides key energy trends and projections. It is

estimated that by 2030, more than half of the world's electricity will be generated from low-emission energy sources. India is set to add 12,000 cars a day by 2035, with built-up space increasing by more than 1 billion square metres annually. India's total energy demand will grow by 35% by 2035, with coal use in industries increasing by 50%. Coal-based power generation will increase by 15%.

Q.2. Where was the 'ASEAN India Track-1' Cyber Policy Dialogue held recently?

- (a) Indonesia
- (b) Singapore
- (c) Myanmar
- (d) Thailand

Answer: (b) Singapore

The first ASEAN-India Track 1 Cyber Policy Dialogue was held in Singapore, co-chaired by Amit A Shukla of India's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The two sides discussed the cyber threat landscape, national cyber policies, threat assessments and recent ICT developments at the United Nations. The dialogue focused on cooperation in capacity building and training. It aimed to identify specific areas for joint activities in cybersecurity. The dialogue strengthened the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership while supporting the Joint Statement on Advancing Digital Transformation from the ASEAN-India Summit.

Q.3. Which country has recently become India's major import source?

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

Answer: (a) China

China is now India's biggest import source, importing US\$56.29 billion from April to September this fiscal. The US is the biggest export destination,

with goods worth US\$40.38 billion. Imports from Russia, the UAE and other countries have also increased. The US remains India's biggest trading partner, followed by China.

Q.4. With which country has India recently signed a drone deal worth \$3.5 billion?

- (a) USA
- (b) Israel
- (c) Russia
- (d) France

Answer: (a) USA

India will start getting MQ-9B drones from the year 2029. India has signed a deal with the American company General Atomics for 31 armed drones. These High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) will start arriving from 2029 and all 31 drones will be available by 2030. According to sources, the first MQ-9B drone will be available in 51 months from now. The first delivery will be in January 2029 and all drones will be available by September 2030. Of the 31 MQ-9B drones for which India has signed a deal, 15 are Sea Guardians which will be given to the Indian Navy. Out of the 16 Sky Guardians, eight will be given to the Army and Air Force. This deal is worth about \$ 3.5 billion.

Q.5. Who has recently inaugurated the 6G seminar?

- (a) Hardeep Singh Puri
 - (b) Jyotiraditya Scindia
 - (c) Amit Shah
 - (d) Rajnath Singh
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Answer: (b) Jyotiraditya Scindia

Hon'ble Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia inaugurated the International 6G Symposium on the occasion of ITU-WTSA 24 and IMC 24. Addressing the inaugural ceremony,

Minister Scindia highlighted the transformational potential of 6G, emphasizing its role in driving economic growth and technological innovation. He said, "As 6G standards evolve, the shift towards software-centric technology presents a significant opportunity for India, where we have a large pool of engineering and software talent."

Q.6. Recently, in which country 'Mai Houchongba Festival' has been celebrated?

- (a) Arunachal Pradesh
- (b) Assam
- (c) Nagaland
- (d) Manipur

Answer: (d) Manipur

Mera Hou Chongba Festival 2024, celebrated to strengthen cordial relations between the indigenous communities living in the hills of Manipur and the people of the valley, was celebrated in Imphal. The main event was held at Kangla, a holy place in Imphal, where leaders of indigenous communities from the hill districts joined the celebrations with people from the valley.

Q.7. Who has recently won the title of Femina Miss India 2024?

- (a) Urvashi Sharma
- (b) Nikita Porwal
- (c) Ketki Raut
- (d) Shalini Mishra

Answer: (b) Nikita Porwal

Nikita Porwal from Madhya Pradesh has made her mark across the country by winning the title of Femina Miss India 2024. The prestigious event was held at Famous Studios in Mumbai, marking the 60th edition of India's prestigious beauty pageant. Competition and Celebrations The Femina Miss India pageant saw the participation of 30 talented contestants representing state winners from 29 states and one union territory. These unique women

gave a tough fight for the coveted title in the grand finale. Nikita Porwal's stellar performance not only won her the crown but also gave her a chance to represent India in the upcoming Miss World pageant.

Q.8. Where has the 27th 'All India Forest Sports Competition' started recently?

- (a) Bhopal
- (b) Pune
- (c) Raipur
- (d) Mumbai

Answer: (c) Raipur

The 27th All India Forest Sports Competition is going to be held in Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh, for which preparations have been completed. Forest Force Chief V Srinivas Rao shared information related to this event in a press conference. More than 3000 participants from all over the country and guests of the forest department will participate in this competition.

Q.9. Recently, which bank has opened its first branch in Singapore to expand its global presence?

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

Answer: (a) HDFC Bank

HDFC Bank has officially opened its first branch in Singapore as part of its strategy to expand its international operations. HDFC Bank has been granted an effective wholesale banking licence by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), allowing the bank to offer various financial products and services to Singapore residents.

Q.10. Where has India's first airport-based 'self-operated indoor air quality monitoring facility' been launched recently?

- (a) Telangana
(b) Thiruvananthapuram
(c) Mumbai
(d) Bengaluru

Answer: (b) Thiruvananthapuram

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh unveiled India's first self-powered indoor air quality monitoring facility Pawan Chitra at Thiruvananthapuram airport. It is an off-grid monitor powered by indigenous indoor solar cells developed by CSIR-National Institute of Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST) using local materials. This air quality monitor has multiple sensors that measure temperature, humidity, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and volatile organic compounds. It also calculates the air quality index and all measurements are displayed on a single screen. NIIST is developing an app that will allow users to view the readings on smartphones and on public display screens at the airport.

Q.11. Where will the 7th 'International Solar Alliance Assembly' be held recently?

- (a) New Delhi
(b) Mumbai
(c) Pune
(d) Gurugram

Answer: (a) New Delhi

The seventh session of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Assembly was inaugurated in New Delhi in the presence of delegates from 60 countries. Minister of New and Renewable Energy and President of the ISA Assembly, Pralhad Joshi, said, "ISA has emerged as a premier platform for global solar cooperation, now comprising 120 member and signatory countries.

Q.12. Who has recently been named as the successor of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud?

- (a) HS Khurana

- (b) Abhinandan Raj
(c) Sanjeev Khanna
(d) None of the above

Answer: (c) Sanjeev Khanna

Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud has named Justice Sanjiv Khanna as his successor in a letter to the Union Law Ministry. Justice Khanna is the second most senior judge of the Supreme Court. Last week, the government had written a letter to the outgoing Chief Justice asking him to send his recommendation as per the procedure. DY Chandrachud will retire on November 8 after completing his two-year term.

Q.13. Who has recently been appointed as the MD of Digital India Corporation of the Ministry of Electronics and IT?

- (a) Arjun Bajpai
(b) Amit Kumar
(c) Akash Tripathi
(d) Ajit Singh

Answer: (c) Akash Tripathi

In a significant move, Akash Tripathi, a 1998 batch officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer (MOD/CEO) of Digital India Group (Digital) and President/Chief Executive Officer (P&CO) of National e-Conference Division (NGD). The proposal for this alternate responsibility has been approved by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

Q.14. Who has recently been appointed as Special Secretary of 'Internal Security Affairs'?

- (a) Surinder Kumar
(b) Ravindra Raina
(c) Anurag Sharma
(d) Praveen Vashisht

Answer: (d) Praveen Vashisht

Senior IPS officer Praveen Vashisht has been appointed as the new Special Secretary (Internal Security) in the Home Ministry. This information has been given in an official order. Vashisht, a 1991 batch Bihar cadre officer of the Indian Police Service (IPS), is currently working as Additional Secretary in the Home Ministry. This important appointment underlines the government's focus on strengthening the internal security of the country.

Q.15. Which has recently been declared as India's second largest 'butterfly diversity centre'?

- (a) Sundarban National Park
- (b) Sanjay National Park
- (c) Namdapha National Park
- (d) Kaziranga National Park

Answer: (d) Kaziranga National Park

Over 446 butterfly species have been recorded in Assam's Kaziranga National Park (KNP), making it the second largest park in India after Namdapha National Park in Arunachal Pradesh. Kaziranga is located in Assam's Golaghat and Nagaon districts. It is the largest untouched area in the floodplain of the Brahmaputra Valley. The park was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985. The Difulu River flows through the main tiger habitat, while the Mordiflu River flows along its southern boundary.