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## History of December 29

- ◆ **1530** : Mughal ruler Babar's son Humayun became his successor.
- ◆ **1972** : Metro rail work started in Calcutta.
- ◆ **1977** : The world's largest open air theater drive opened in Bombay.
- ◆ **1996** : Guatemala and the leaders of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Union sign an accord ending 36 years of civil war.
- ◆ **1911** : Mongolia became independent from the rule of the Qing dynasty.

## Current Affairs Related to 29 December

- ◆ Scientists discovered volcanic activity on a plain called Elysium Planitia on Mars. Scientist's research shows that volcanic activity may have occurred in the last 120 million years. Elysium Planitia is the youngest volcanic field on Mars and its study will help in better understanding of Mars.
- ◆ Textile Ministry launched Paat Mitro, a mobile application to provide important information about MSP and agronomy to jute farmers. It will provide information on latest farming practices and minimum support prices, jute grade standards, farmer centric schemes like Jute iCare, weather forecast, etc.
- ◆ The Dynamic Stochastic General Equilibrium Model of the Reserve Bank of India has estimated retail inflation to be 4.8% in FY 2025. Based on the DSGE model's retail inflation forecast, the repo rate is expected to remain at 6.5% for most of FY2025.
- ◆ Lok Sabha passes Telecom Bill 2023. This Bill will replace the Indian Telegraph Act 1885, the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act 1933 and the Telegraph Wire Act 1950. The objective of this bill is to reform the regulatory and licensing regime for telecommunications. Also, this bill will remove obstacles in the creation of telecommunication infrastructure.
- ◆ According to India Skills Report 2024, Kerala is the most preferred state to work in India. Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram have emerged as major employment destinations for the youth in the country. According to the report, both men and women in urban areas prefer to work regardless of their age.
- ◆ Suzlon Group has finalized a key agreement with REC Limited, which aims to enhance working capital capacity. These strategic partnerships are important to execute current orders and future projects. This strategic partnership is set to enhance Suzlon's ability to meet its working capital needs, which is critical to execute its extensive current order book and potential future projects.
- ◆ UNESCO has awarded the Rambagh Gate and Ramparts in Amritsar, Punjab. It has also awarded heritage conservation projects related to Church of the Epiphany in Haryana and Bikaner House in Delhi. Rambagh Gate and Ramparts project received the highest honour, Excellence Award.
- ◆ Vice President of India Jagdeep Dhankhar launched this new logo of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. The new logo was unveiled at the Global Professional Accountants Convention held recently in Gandhinagar. It consists of the letters CA in blue with the tricolor tick mark on a white background.
- ◆ MediaTek and Nvidia, semiconductor leaders, have united to advance AI in the automotive industry, transforming in-car experiences and setting new standards for smart vehicles. Semiconductor powerhouses MediaTek and Nvidia have formed a strategic partnership aimed at bringing artificial intelligence to the forefront of the automotive industry.
- ◆ Unique prehistoric rock art paintings have been discovered in Andriamelô Cave in western Madagascar. Pictorial art with human, animal figures and nature has been discovered in this cave. Some scenes relate to religious motifs from Egypt of the Ptolemaic period. Other findings of writing on the walls of this cave reveal connections to Ethiopia and the African Arab world.
- ◆ The Gaja Capital Business Book Prize 2023 has crowned two extraordinary stories, Against All Odds: The IT Story of India and Winning Middle India: The Story of India's New Age Entrepreneurs.
- ◆ India saw a significant increase in long-term thermal coal imports from the US in November, reaching 1.40 MT.



## National & International Current Affairs

**1. Recently, the President of which country has been invited for the Republic Day celebrations of India in 2024?**

- (A) France (B) Britain  
(C) Japan (D) America

(A) French President Emmanuel Macron will be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations in New Delhi. In a testament to the enduring friendship between India and France, President Emmanuel Macron is going to be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations in New Delhi. This is the sixth instance of a French leader gracing this prestigious occasion and highlighting the importance of bilateral relations.



**2. Recently, the Center has directed the states to release additional installments of how many crore rupees as tax transfer.**

- (A) Rs 52,320 crore (B) Rs 65,999 crore  
(C) Rs 72,961 crore (D) Rs 80,961 crore

(C) The Central Government has directed the State Governments to release additional installment of Rs 72,961.21 crore to finance various social welfare schemes and infrastructure development. In anticipation of the upcoming festivals and New Year, the Central Government has approved this additional release to enhance the financial capabilities of the State Governments.



**3. Which ministry has recently unveiled the portal for innovative geo-science exploration?**

- (A) Ministry of Mines (B) Ministry of Textiles  
(C) Ministry of Finance (D) Ministry of Education

(A) Ministry of Mines launched the launch of National Geoscience Data Repository Portal led by GSI and BISAGN, which will revolutionize access to critical geoscience data. Ministry of Mines marked a historic moment with the launch of National Geoscience Data Repository Portal. This initiative, led by the Geological Survey of India and Bhaskaracharya Institute of Space Applications and Geoinformatics, is set to revolutionize access to critical geoscience data.



**4. Which bank has recently received RBI approval for the reappointment of Sandeep Batra as executive director?**

- (A) BOI Bank (B) HDFC Bank  
(C) ICICI Bank (D) PNB Bank

(C) ICICI Bank has received the approval of the Reserve Bank of India for the reappointment of Sandeep Batra as Executive Director. The approval given through an official letter is effective from December 23, 2023 to December 22, 2025. Sandeep Batra has been serving as ED on the board of ICICI Bank since July 2018 and is overseeing the corporate centre.



**5. Recently the government has given the Life Insurance Corporation of India the freedom to acquire what percentage of minimum public shareholding within 10 years?**

- (A) 25% (B) 32%  
(C) 40% (D) 50%

(A) The government has allowed Life Insurance Corporation of India to acquire minimum public shareholding of 25% within 10 years. LIC has got 10 years time to bring public shareholding to 25 percent. LIC can now reduce public shareholding to 75 percent by 2032. At present the public shareholding in LIC is only 2.55 percent.

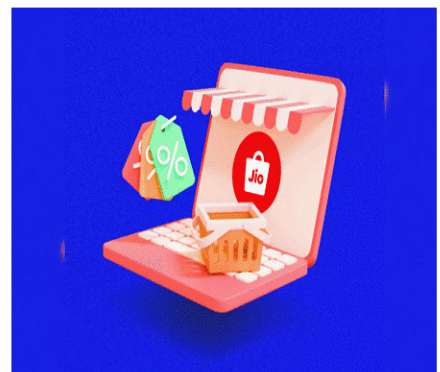




**6. Recently, with whom has the Ministry of Rural Development signed an agreement to increase the reach of self-help groups?**

- (A) Amazon (B) Jio Mart  
(C) Flipkart (D) None of these

**(B)** The Ministry of Rural Development has signed an MoU with Reliance Retail's JioMart to increase market access for the products of Self Help Groups under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Rural Livelihood Mission. In a related program, Additional Secretary, Rural Livelihood Mission, Charanjit Singh said that with this tie-up, SHGs will be able to join as sellers on the e-commerce platform and will be able to deliver their products to a large customer base.



**7. Recently UNESCO has awarded Rambagh Gate and Ramparts.**

- (A) Amritsar (B) Jaipur  
(C) Varanasi (D) Indore

**(A)** Recently, the strong urban regeneration of Rambagh Gate and Ramparts in Punjab, the heritage conservation project related to Church of Epiphany in Haryana and Bikaner House in Delhi were awarded under various UNESCO categories. Twelve projects from China, India and Nepal were selected for this year's UNESCO Asia Pacific Prize for Cultural Heritage Conservation.



**8. In which state has the World Bank recently approved a \$300 million program?**

- (A) Kerala (B) Karnataka  
(C) Goa (D) Tamil Nadu

**(D)** Recently the World Bank approved a US\$300 million program to boost urban water and sewerage systems in Tamil Nadu. According to the World Bank, the newly approved USD 300 million Tamil Nadu Climate Resilient Urban Development Program is set to increase access to quality water and sewerage services, promoting climate resilient cities in the face of increasing climate shocks such as floods and droughts.



**9. According to the recent WHO report, in which country more than 10 lakh children are facing malnutrition?**

- (A) Afghanistan (B) Sri Lanka  
(C) Pakistan (D) India

**(A)** More than 1 in 10 Afghan children are facing severe malnutrition, according to a recent WHO report calling for urgent international assistance and funding as the country attempts to deal with the growing crisis. Are.



**10. Who has recently won the prestigious FIH Awards?**

- (A) Hardik Singh (B) Savita Punia  
(C) A and B both (D) None of these

**(C)** Recently, Savita won the FIH Women's Goalkeeper of the Year award for the third consecutive time after winning it in 2021 and 2022. The Indian custodian has been in excellent form throughout 2023. India's Hardik Singh was named the Men's Player of the Year for the year 2023 by the International Hockey Federation.

