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History of December 25

- ◆ **1771** : The Mughal ruler Shah Alam II ascended the throne of Delhi under the protection of the Marathas.
- ◆ **1763** : Maharaja Surajmal of Bharatpur was assassinated.
- ◆ **1892** : Swami Vivekananda meditated for three days on a rock situated in the middle of the sea in Kanyakumari.
- ◆ **1924** : The first All India Communist Conference was held in Kanpur.
- ◆ **2002** : A defense agreement was signed between China and Bangladesh.

Current Affairs Related to 25 December

- ◆ The government allowed 22 states to borrow additional Rs 60,000 crore for the National Pension Scheme. 3 percent of Gross State Domestic Product or exactly Rs 8,59,988 crore has been fixed as the general net borrowing limit for states in FY 2024.
- ◆ Domestic rating agency ICRA increased India's economic growth rate forecast for the current financial year from 6.2 percent to 6.5 percent. However, this is lower than the RBI's revised growth rate estimate of seven percent. The agency said that due to the continuation of decline in commodity prices, the growth rate in the October-December quarter is expected to be better than the previous estimate.
- ◆ King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck of Bhutan unveiled the Gelephu SmartCity project, outlining a massive international city of over 1000 sq km along the Assam border. The picturesque Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan is set to embark on a transformational journey with the announcement of its ambitious Gelephu Smartcity project.
- ◆ India leads the way in remittances and will reach \$125 billion in 2023, outperforming estimates. Global flows to low- and middle-income countries increased by 3.8%, totaling \$669 billion. The report underlines the important role of inclusive labor markets and social protection policies.
- ◆ The Jammu and Kashmir administration has introduced detailed rules for registration of Sikh marriages under the Anand Marriage Act. Jammu and Kashmir administration has taken an important step towards fulfilling the long standing demand of the Sikh community by implementing the Anand Marriage Act. The Act provides statutory recognition to Sikh marriage rituals, allowing Sikh couples to register their marriage under specific rules rather than the Hindu Marriage Act.
- ◆ Hyderabad ranks first in India in terms of food adulteration. In cases of food adulteration, Andhra Pradesh stood next to Telangana. In 2021, a total of 291 cases of food adulteration were reported in 19 major cities of India.
- ◆ The Israeli government gave its approval to the appointment of Reuven Azar as the new Ambassador to India. Azar, who currently serves as Israel's Ambassador to Romania, will also take up the role of non-resident ambassador to Sri Lanka and Bhutan.
- ◆ Indian Armed Forces officers have been awarded the Golden Owl for their outstanding performance. DSCSC courses are designed to prepare senior officers for leadership roles in joint operations and high command. Wing Commander Sumeet Mahajan, Major Rohit and Lieutenant Commander Sunny Sharma were given this award by Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe.
- ◆ India remains the largest recipient of remittances in the world in 2023 with \$125 billion in remittances, according to the World Bank's latest Migration and Development report. Mexico, China, the Philippines and Egypt are among the top five remittance receiving countries in the world. The South Asia region recorded an increase in remittance inflows to India.
- ◆ Rice industry associations have been instructed by the Center to ensure reduction in the retail price of rice with immediate effect. Shri Sanjeev Chopra, Secretary, Department of Food and Public Distribution, convened a meeting with key representatives of the rice processing industry to review the domestic price scenario of non-Basmati rice in New Delhi. It was discussed in the meeting that despite good Kharif crop this year, adequate stock with FCI and various rules regarding export of rice, domestic prices of rice are increasing.
- ◆ Zinc Football Academy, a CSR initiative of Hindustan Zinc has earned the elite 3.Star rating awarded by AIFF, cementing its position among India's top youth development academies.

National & International Current Affairs

1. When is Good Governance Day celebrated every year?

- (A) 23rd December (B) 24th December
(C) 25th December (D) 26th December

(C) Good Governance Day in India is celebrated on 25 December to commemorate the birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, his Samadhi i.e. Sadiyav Atal was dedicated to the nation and reflects his personality as a poet, humanitarian, politician and a great leader. Good Governance Day was established in 2014 to pay tribute to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee for raising awareness about accountability in governance among the people of India.



2. Recently, the cabinet of which state has approved the proposal to build an Advanced Pediatric Center?

- (A) Uttar Pradesh (B) Maharashtra
(C) Odisha (D) Rajasthan

(A) Yogi Cabinet has taken an important decision to establish the first Advanced Pediatric Center in the state. This center will be established in PGI. This will be the first such center in the state, where all the diseases related to children will be treated by different pediatric experts. This facility is not yet available in any institute or medical college of the state.



3. Recently, India and ADB have signed an agreement on how many million dollar loan for the development of the industrial corridor?

- (A) 100 million dollars (B) 1500 million dollars
(C) 200 million dollars (D) 250 million dollars

(D) India and ADB committed a \$250 million policy-based loan focused on boosting manufacturing competitiveness, strengthening national supply chains, and promoting integration with global value chains. This financial assistance is part of the Industrial Corridor Development Programme, which aims to enhance manufacturing competitiveness, strengthen national supply chains and integration with global value chains.



4. Recently TIWB has started St. Lucia program by making which country its administrative partner?

- (A) Sri Lanka (B) Israel
(C) India (D) America

(C) Tax Inspectors Without Borders, led by UNDP and OECD, launched a significant program in Saint Lucia. The program aims to strengthen and enhance Saint Lucia's tax administration. Tax administration plays an important role in the economic development and stability of a country.



5. Who has recently won the MRF Formula 2000 crown?

- (A) Marco Bezenchi (B) Sandeep Kumar
(C) Chetan Surinani (D) None of these

(B) Recently Sandeep Kumar won the MRF Formula 2000 title, while Chetan Surinani won the Formula 1600 title. Diljit TS took two titles, taking the overall victory in the Super Stock and Formula LGB 1300 categories.



6. Who has recently become the 8th bowler in the world to take 500 or more wickets in Test cricket?

- (A) Nathan Lyon (B) Adam Zampa
(C) Ravindra Jadeja (D) None of these

(A) Recently, Nathan Lyon has become the 8th bowler in the world to take 500 or more wickets in Test cricket. He has created this record in the first match of the home Test series against Pakistan. Faheem Ashraf's wicket in the second innings of the first Test match between Australia and Pakistan at Perth ground was the 500th wicket of Nathan Lyon's Test career.



7. Which AI has recently translated Prime Minister Modi's speech into Indian languages in real time?

- (A) Reading AI (B) Translate AI
(C) Bhashini AI (D) None of these

(C) PM Modi used government-developed AI language tool Bhashini for real-time translation in a speech in Uttar Pradesh, thereby promoting communication between different linguistic communities. The tool, developed by the government, aims to facilitate real-time translation, promoting communication between diverse linguistic communities within the country.



8. Where has Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar recently inaugurated the Atal Health Fair?

- (A) Jaipur (B) Lucknow
(C) New Delhi (D) Ladakh

(B) Recently, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the Atal Health Fair at PNT Ground in Rajajipuram, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. On this occasion, the Vice President said that Atal Bihari Vajpayee led Lucknow and the country for a long time.



9. Recently, PM Modi inaugurated how many kilometers long section of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor?

- (A) 402 kilometers (B) 550 kilometers
(C) 601 kilometers (D) 705 kilometers

(A) The 402 km long section of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor from New Deen Dayal Upadhyay Junction to New Bhaupur Junction was inaugurated. The inauguration of this section is an important part of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor. It has been built at a cost of Rs 10,903 crore.



10. Recently, by how much percentage has the gross collection of direct taxes for the financial year 2023-2024 been recorded?

- (A) 10% (B) 14%
(C) 17% (D) 21% ₹

(C) Before adjusting refunds, the gross collection of direct taxes was more than Rs 15 lakh 95 thousand crore as against Rs 13 lakh 63 thousand crore in the corresponding period of 2022-2023. Advance tax collection for the financial year 2023-2024 was more than Rs 6 lakh 25 thousand crore, which shows an increase of 19.94%.

