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History of December 31

- ◆ **1929** : Congress workers under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi started a movement for complete independence in Lahore.
- ◆ **1802** : Peshwa Bajirao II received British protection.
- ◆ **1984** : Rajiv Gandhi became the seventh Prime Minister of India at the age of 40.
- ◆ **2003** : The foreign secretaries of India and other SAARC countries began talks ahead of the summit.
- ◆ **1600** : British East India Company was established.
- ◆ **1492** : 1,000,000 Jews were deported from the Sicily region of Italy.

Current Affairs Related to 31 December

- ◆ The Securities and Exchange Board of India has given its approval to the appointment of former Coal India chief Pramod Agarwal as the chairman of Bombay Stock Exchange. This regulatory approval paves the way for Agarwal to assume his role on the Governing Board of BSE, effective January 17, 2024. The move comes as the tenure of current chairman SS Mundra ends on January 16, 2024.
- ◆ The government's cautious stance of shying away from complete privatization is likely to result in missing the FY20 target. As the threat of imminent general elections looms, the government's privatization efforts have slowed, and caution is being exercised in view of possible accusations of selling off national assets. The ambitious disinvestment target for the current financial year is likely not to be met as major projects including Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Shipping Corporation of India and Concor have been put on hold.
- ◆ Central Railway General Manager Ram Karan Yadav has said that panic switches will be installed at 117 railway stations. In his first press conference after assuming charge, Yadav said that Central Railway will install these panic switches at 117 stations of its network. Panic switch will alert Railway Protection Force personnel. In case of any emergency, passengers can press these switches to seek help from RPF.
- ◆ The Ministry of Rural Development has signed an MoU with Reliance Retail's JioMart to increase market access for 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.
- ◆ An important development was seen in the 16th Rajasthan Assembly when veteran BJP MLA Vasudev Devnani was unanimously elected as the Speaker. The proposal for his appointment was moved by Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and seconded by Congress leader and Tank MLA Sachin Pilot.
- ◆ The World Health Organization has issued a warning revealing that more than one million children in Afghanistan are currently suffering from severe malnutrition. This dire situation has prompted an urgent call for international assistance and funding, as countries attempt to deal with the growing crisis.
- ◆ Acclaimed Indian wrestler Sakshi Malik, bronze medalist at the 2016 Rio Olympics, announced her retirement in protest against the recent leadership change of the Wrestling Federation of India. This step has been taken after allegations of sexual exploitation against ousted President Brij Bhushan Singh and the controversial election of his close aide Sanjay Singh.
- ◆ Terminal 2 of Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport received global accolade at UNESCO's Prix Versailles 2023, being recognized as one of the most beautiful airports in the world. Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport Terminal 2 has won global accolades, being recognized as one of the most beautiful airports in the world in the recent announcement of UNESCO's Prix Versailles 2023.
- ◆ Minister of Health and Family Welfare inaugurated SAANS Campaign 2023-2024 in Imphal, Manipur aimed at combating childhood pneumonia and raising public health awareness. Emphasizing the state's commitment to child health care, the Minister also dedicated the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences as the State Neonatal Resource Centre.
- ◆ The Government of India released a captivating video showcasing ten notable moments that will leave a lasting impact on the global stage in 2023.

National & International Current Affairs

1. Recently, the police of which state has decided to make it mandatory for the investigating officers to complete the investigation of cases within 75 days of filing of FIR from January 1, 2024.

(A) Kerala (B) Bihar
(C) Telangana (D) Uttar Pradesh

(B) Bihar Police has decided to make it mandatory for investigating officers to complete investigation of cases within 75 days of filing of FIR from January 1, 2024. The performance of all police stations and district police will also be reviewed on a monthly basis from the first day of the year 2024. Bihar government is preparing to take several steps from January 1, 2024 to make the state police more people-friendly and accountable.



2. How many cooperative banks of Gujarat have been fined by RBI recently?

(A) 4 (B) 5
(C) 7 (D) 9

(A) The Reserve Bank of India recently took decisive action against four co-operative banks in Gujarat and imposed monetary penalties on them for various non-compliances. Fines range from Rs 50,000 to Rs 7 lakh, depending on the seriousness of the regulatory violation.



3. How many new criminal justice bills has President Draupadi Murmu approved recently?

(A) 2 (B) 3
(C) 4 (D) 5

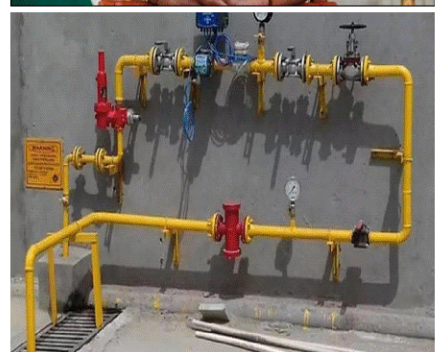
(B) President Draupadi Murmu assent to three new criminal justice bills were passed by Parliament last week. The three new laws - the Indian Judicial Code, the Indian Civil Defense Code and the Indian Evidence Act - will replace the British-era Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872.



4. Which state is recently ready for a comprehensive city gas distribution policy?

(A) Tamil Nadu (B) Kerala
(C) Rajasthan (D) Haryana

(D) Haryana Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal held a meeting. He said that the state government is on the verge of introducing a comprehensive city gas distribution policy. This policy is a proactive step towards streamlining the processes to ensure efficient and timely permissions to pursue gas infrastructure development in the State.



5. Recently the Chief Minister of which state has inaugurated the Neuro Update 2023 conference.

(A) Gujarat (B) Telangana
(C) Karnataka (D) Maharashtra

(A) Recently the Chief Minister of Gujarat state has inaugurated the Neuro Update 2023 conference. On this occasion, the Chief Minister said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, today development has reached the last person of the country through the politics of development. Earlier, it was very difficult from the economic point of view for the common people to get health services in a private hospital.



6. Where did Home Minister Amit Shah recently inaugurate projects worth Rs 3500 crore for justice reforms?

- (A) Ahmedabad (B) Chandigarh
(C) Lucknow (D) None of these

(B) Recently, Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched nine projects worth more than Rs 3500 crore in Chandigarh. Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched nine projects worth Rs 368 crore in Chandigarh. He also laid the foundation stone of 3 projects worth Rs 3200 crore.



7. Who has recently approved the progress on the decisions of the UCC Drafting Committee?

- (A) Uttarakhand (B) Karnataka
(C) Telangana (D) Gujarat

(A) Recently the state of Uttarakhand approved progress on the decisions of the UCC Drafting Committee. The formation of the committee is based on the recommendations of the Land Law Committee established earlier for the overall welfare of the state. The committee will contribute to development projects while ensuring a balance between land requirement and conservation of available land in the state.



8. According to the recent report, by how much percent has coal based electricity production increased in India?

- (A) 5% (B) 6%
(C) 8% (D) 10%

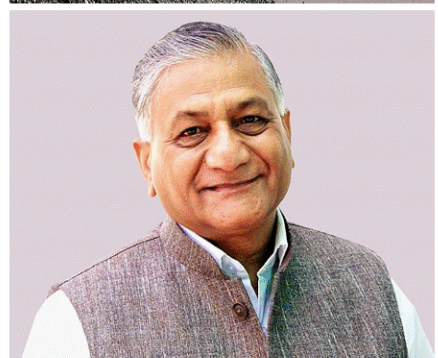
(C) According to the Coal Ministry, domestic coal-based power generation increased by 8% to 780 billion units. The Coal Ministry has said that during the period April to November this year, domestic coal-based power generation has increased by more than 8 percent to about 780 billion units. Which was 718 billion units during the same period last year.



9. Recently Digi Yatra facial recognition technology has been implemented in how many Indian airports?

- (A) 10 (B) 13
(C) 15 (D) 18

(B) Recently Digi Travel facial recognition technology has been implemented at 13 Indian airports. Data shared by a traveler to Digi Yatra is stored in an encrypted format. To avail this service, the passenger has to register his/her details on the DigiYatra app using Aadhaar based verification and self image capture.



10. Who has been given the first ticket of Ultimate Kho-Kho League recently?

- (A) Piyush Goyal (B) Anurag Thakur
(C) Amit Shah (D) Naveen Patnaik

(D) Recently, the first ticket of Ultimate Kho-Kho League was given to Naveen Patnaik. The Ultimate Kho Kho League is being held at JN Indoor Stadium, Cuttack. Promoting the traditional Indian game of Kho Kho is important to us and the Ultimate Kho Kho League provides an opportunity to the public to enjoy the thrill of this unique game.

