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History of December 21

- ◆ **1898** : Chemists Pierre and Marie Curie discovered radium.
- ◆ **1952** : Saifuddin Kitchlew became the first Indian to receive the Lenin Peace Prize of the then Soviet Union.
- ◆ **1974** : INS Satvahan, the country's first submarine training ship, was commissioned into the fleet at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ◆ **1923** : Nepal became a completely independent country after being freed from the status of a British protectorate.

Current Affairs Related to 21 December

- ◆ The government is planning to launch a revised incentive scheme of up to Rs 10,000 crore for setting up electronic and semiconductor component plants in the country. This scheme will be a modified version of the scheme to promote manufacturing of electronic components and semiconductors. This scheme is likely to be launched in the next financial year. After Micron got approval to set up an ATMP unit in Gujarat, more subsidiaries are considering setting up associated units. The government will increase the fund to two or three times the current size in the next iteration of the scheme.
- ◆ Indian wrestler Final Panghal has been named the Rising Star of the Year among women by the sport's global governing body United World Wrestling. It has been a remarkable season for the 19-year-old dynamo, who competes in the 53 kg category, as she has not only won accolades but also left behind senior veteran Vinesh Phogat in the same weight category.
- ◆ Fifteen opposition MPs, 14 from the Lok Sabha and one from the Rajya Sabha, have been suspended from Parliament for irregular conduct in Parliament. Among the suspended MPs, nine are from Congress, two from CPM, two from DMK and one from CPI. Lok Sabha passed a resolution suspending five Congress MPs for the remaining period of the winter session.
- ◆ Manish Malhotra designed dresses for the crew members of Air India. After a period of almost six decades, the uniforms of Air India's cabin crew and pilots are being changed. Well-known Indian designer Manish Malhotra has designed these uniforms very well and has given it a new look.
- ◆ Global rating agency Moody's Investors Service recently affirmed the Baa2 rating for Reliance Industries Limited while maintaining a stable outlook. This affirmation reflects RIL's substantial market presence and strong performance across its diverse business areas.
- ◆ To increase the firepower of the Indian Army soldiers, the Defense Ministry has approved the proposal to purchase about 6400 rockets for the Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher System. This proposal of Rs 2800 crore has been approved in the recent meeting of the Defense Acquisition Council of the Defense Ministry. In view of the tension on the border, this deal is considered important.
- ◆ Union Minister Arjun Munda inaugurated the ASEAN-India Millet Festival in New Delhi. The main objectives of the festival are to increase awareness and establish a larger market for millets and millet-based products.
- ◆ Ruling Congress candidate G Prasad Kumar was elected Speaker of the 3rd Telangana Assembly. Shri Prasad Kumar has been unanimously selected for this prestigious post as no other nominations were filed till the last date for filing nominations ended. He is the first Dalit Speaker of the Telangana Assembly. The new Speaker received the support of 111 MLAs, except eight BJP MLAs, in the 119-member House.
- ◆ Scientists from the Department of Atomic Energy and Bengaluru-based IDRS Labs have partnered to develop Actocyte tablets for the treatment of pelvic cancer. Experts from BARC, Tata Memorial Hospital and Advanced Center for Training Research and Education in Cancer collaborated with IDRS Labs with the primary objective of reducing the side effects of radiotherapy. Actocyte tablets have shown remarkable results, especially in pelvic cancer patients suffering from radiotherapy induced cystitis.
- ◆ The net direct tax collection of the Government of India in the first eight months of the current financial year i.e. April-November period reached 58.34 percent of the budget estimate. According to the data released by the Finance Ministry, the net direct tax collection during the April-November period reached the level of Rs 10.64 lakh crore.

National & International Current Affairs

1. Recently, how many more airports will be constructed in Uttar Pradesh in the next two years?

- (A) 2 (B) 5
(C) 7 (D) 9

(D) Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia announced that nine more airports will be constructed in Uttar Pradesh in the next two years. Jyotiraditya Scindia said that only 74 airports were constructed in the 65 years after independence, whereas in the last nine years of the Modi government, 75 airports have been developed, taking the total number to 149.



2. When is World Saree Day celebrated every year?

- (A) 21st December (B) 22nd December
(C) 23rd December (D) 24th December

(A) World Saree Day is an attempt to recognize and celebrate the beauty of this traditional garment. It is celebrated every year on 21 December. Sarees are one of the most exquisite, beautiful and graceful gifts made by Indian artisans and passed down for centuries.



3. Recently, how many crores of rupees will Tata Steel invest in the Center for Innovation in London?

- (A) Rs 40 crore (B) Rs 70 crore
(C) Rs 100 crore (D) Rs 150 crore

(C) Tata Steel, a global steel leader has launched an unprecedented collaboration with Imperial College London to establish a Center of Innovation in Sustainable Design and Manufacturing in London. The MoU is a strategic partnership aimed at accelerating technology development and deployment in critical sectors, attracting talent and fostering a strong industry-academia collaborative ecosystem.



4. Which state government has recently launched a free bus travel scheme for women and transgenders?

- (A) Odisha (B) Uttar Pradesh
(C) Telangana (D) Madhya Pradesh

(C) The Telangana government has fulfilled its promise of free travel for women and transgenders in state-owned State Transport Corporation buses. The state government has issued orders regarding this. This initiative is part of the six guarantees given by the Congress during the recently concluded assembly elections.



5. Recently, IMF will provide 33.7 million dollars to which country to improve the economy?

- (A) Bangladesh (B) Sri Lanka
(C) Pakistan (D) France

(B) The IMF Executive Board has completed the first review under the 48-month Extended Fund Facility with Sri Lanka. With this, assistance of about 33.7 million US dollars will be provided to the country facing cash crunch to restore macroeconomic and credit stability.



6. Who has topped the ICC T20 batting rankings recently?

- (A) Aiden Markram (B) Suryakumar Yadav
(C) Mohammed Shami (D) Mahendra Singh Dhoni

(B) Recently, Suryakumar Yadav has topped the ICC T-20 batting rankings. Pakistan's batsman Mohammad Rizwan, all the players are still behind Surya. Surya's points have also increased. Surya had recently scored a brilliant half-century in the second T20 match against South Africa.



7. Recently the Chief Minister of which state has launched the scheme for doorstep services?

- (A) Punjab (B) Odisha
(C) Haryana (D) Gujarat

(A) Recently the Chief Minister of Punjab state has launched the scheme for doorstep services. Under the Bhagwant Mann Sarkar Tuhade Dwar scheme, people will get 43 services including certificate of birth, marriage, death, income, residence, caste, rural area, border area, backward area, pension, payment of electricity bills and land demarcation.



8. Recently India and which country have started talks on free trade agreement?

- (A) Norway (B) Britain
(C) Oman (D) Sweden

(C) India's Commerce Department officials are actively negotiating a free trade agreement with Oman in Muscat, with the aim of signing a deal by the end of the month. This development assumes significance as talks between India and the Gulf Cooperation Council have faced hurdles. If successful, Oman will become the second GCC member after the UAE to sign an FTA with India.



9. Recently ADB increased India's growth rate estimate to how many percent?

- (A) 5.3% (B) 6.7%
(C) 8.5% (D) 10.9%

(B) The Asian Development Bank has increased the estimate of the growth rate of India's economy to 6.7 percent for the current financial year i.e. 2023-2024. ADB had estimated a growth rate of 6.3 percent in September. India's GDP growth in the second quarter of the current financial year was 7.6 percent higher than expected, due to which the bank had to revise its estimates.



10. Who has recently been awarded the ICC Women's Player of the Month for November 2023?

- (A) Nahida Akhtar (B) Deepti Sharma
(C) Harmanpreet Kaur (D) None of these

(A) Recently, Australia's left-handed batsman Travis Head and Bangladesh's all-rounder Nahida Akhtar were selected as ICC Players of the Month in the men's and women's categories for November 2023. Travis Head defeated compatriot Glenn Maxwell and Indian fast bowler Mohammed Shami to capture the trophy.

