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History of December 17

- ◆ **1398** : After a long conflict between the Marathas and the Portuguese, the Maratha government made friends.
- ◆ **1645** : Noorjahan Begum, wife of Mughal emperor Jahangir, died.
- ◆ **1715** : Banda Bahadur Bairagi, the chief of the Sikhs, surrendered to the Mughals in Gurudaspur.
- ◆ **1928** : To avenge the murder of Lala Lajpat Rai, Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev killed Saunders, who had lathi-charged him.

Current Affairs Related to 17 December

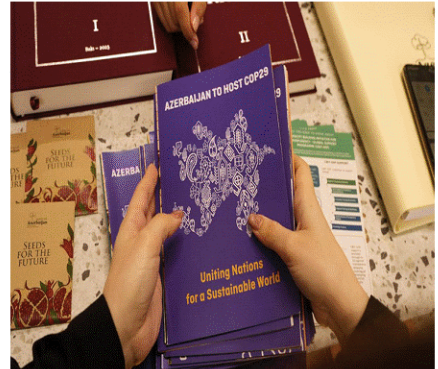
- ◆ Noted writer Pushpa Bharat has been announced to be awarded the Vyas Samman for 2023 for her memoirs Yaadein, Yaadein and Yaadein. This honor given by KK Birla Foundation carries a prize money of Rs 4 lakh along with a citation and a memento. Other members of the committee include Dr. Shyam Sundar Pandey, Aruna Gupta, Prof. Anil Rai, Dr. Vijaya Sati and Dr. Suresh Rituparn, Director of KK Birla Foundation.
- ◆ A contingent of Indian Armed Forces arrived in Hanoi for the joint military exercise VINBAX-2023. VINBAX is an annual training program held alternately in India and Vietnam. The exercise is being conducted in Hanoi, Vietnam from 11 to 21 December 2023. This is the fourth edition of this joint military exercise in 2023. The objective of this exercise is to promote cooperative partnership between the two countries.
- ◆ India's largest state-of-the-art sports science center has been established at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. This sports science center has been designed to cater to the various needs of the athletes. It will also help in injury management, rehabilitation, recovery and performance enhancement. The center will be facilitated by a team of experts including biomechanists, sports scientists, physiotherapists, exercise physiologists, strength and conditioning experts, psychologists, nutritionists, sports masseurs and nurses.
- ◆ The Climate Change Performance Index for the year 2024 was released during the Global Climate Summit in Dubai. India has been ranked 7th in this year's Climate Change Performance Index and remains among the highest performing countries. The first three positions in this report have been kept vacant because no country has performed well enough in all categories of the index to be given an overall good rating.
- ◆ Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur formally inaugurated the Khelo India Para Games 2023 at the KD Jadhav Indoor Hall in New Delhi. More than 1450 participants from 32 states and union territories and service sports boards are participating in the games. This is the first edition of Khelo India Para Games. These initiatives are an important step towards providing equal opportunities to all athletes regardless of their abilities.
- ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appreciated the importance of NaMo Drone Didi scheme. The scheme is helping women become integral stakeholders in their local agricultural supply chains. Under the Drone Didi scheme, drones will be made available to women self-help groups, who can earn additional income by renting them to farmers. Women groups will be given 80% subsidy to purchase drones.
- ◆ The Indian Navy conducted the biennial exercise named Prasthan in the Western Offshore Development Area, Mumbai. It is conducted every six months under the Western Naval Command. Its main objective is to validate measures and procedures to respond to various contingencies that may arise in oil production platforms.
- ◆ The Supreme Court has upheld the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370 that gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir. With the repeal of this article, Jammu and Kashmir and its special state status ended. The decision included a bench headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and comprising Justices Gavai, Surya Kant, Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Sanjiv Khanna.
- ◆ The Shidao Bay Nuclear Power Plant in China's eastern Shandong province has started commercial operations. Which marks the beginning of the era of next generation gas cooled nuclear reactors.
- ◆ He was elected the leader of the BJP Legislature Party during the meeting of 54 newly elected BJP MLAs. The meeting was held in the presence of central observers Arjun Munda, Sarbananda Sonowal and Dushyant Kumar Gautam. He is a resident of Bagiya village near Kansabel in Kunkuri area of Chhattisgarh.

National & International Current Affairs

1. Baku to the future: Where will the UN climate talks 2024 be held?

- (A) Azerbaijan (B) Kazakhstan
(C) America (D) India

(A) An unexpected resolution to the long-running standoff between Azerbaijan and Armenia has been found, setting the stage for Baku, Azerbaijan, to host the UN COP-29 in 2024. The prisoner exchange is part of a deal that underlines the complex relationship between geopolitical dynamics and global efforts to combat climate change.



2. Recently, how many crores of rupees will India spend on climate change adaptation in the next seven years?

- (A) Rs 27 crores (B) Rs 40 crores
(C) Rs 57 crore (D) Rs 90 crore

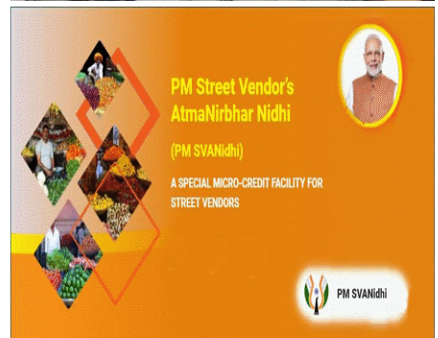
(C) India will spend a total of Rs 57 crore over the next seven years on climate change adaptation, so that the situation of climate change can be prevented from becoming more adverse. Climate induced damage can further increase this amount to Rs 15.5 lakh crore. Its objective is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



3. PM Swanidhi Yojana distributed loans worth how many crores of rupees to street vendors.

- (A) Rs 5,977 crore (B) Rs 9,790 crore
(C) Rs 11,560 crore (D) Rs 18,995 crore

(B) The government said in the Rajya Sabha that so far a total of loans worth Rs 9790 crore have been distributed to the beneficiaries of the PM Street Vendor Self-reliant Fund Scheme. This scheme was launched during the Covid pandemic as a micro loan scheme for street vendors in cities, with the aim of providing loans up to Rs 50,000.



4. Who will host the four-day 27th WAIPA World Investment Conference recently?

- (A) India (B) Russia
(C) Australia (D) China

(A) The 27th World Investment Conference of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies is being organized in New Delhi. It is being organized at India International Convention and Expo Center Yashobhoomi. It is the largest ever world investment conference under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade. The World Investment Conference of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies is being held in India for the first time.



5. Which bank has recently launched Nari Shakti Savings Account for women?

- (A) SBI (B) RBI
(C) BOI (D) BOB

(C) Bank of India has unveiled Nari Shakti Savings Account designed for women aged 18 years and above with independent income sources, marking an important step towards promoting financial independence of women. This exclusive savings bank product is specially designed to cater to the needs of women aged 18 years and above.



6. Recently Dr. Mohan Yadav has been declared the new Chief Minister of which state?

- (A) Rajasthan (B) Bihar
(C) Uttar Pradesh (D) Madhya Pradesh

(D) Dr. Mohan Yadav has been unanimously elected as the new Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh. Senior BJP leader Shivraj Singh Chauhan proposed the name of Mohan Yadav as the new leader of the legislature party. Jagdish Deora and Rajendra Shukla have been nominated as Deputy Chief Ministers. Narendra Singh Tomar will become the Assembly Speaker.



7. Who launched the recently developed India 2047: Voice of Youth initiative?

- (A) Amit Shah (B) Narendra Modi
(C) Rajnath Singh (D) None of these

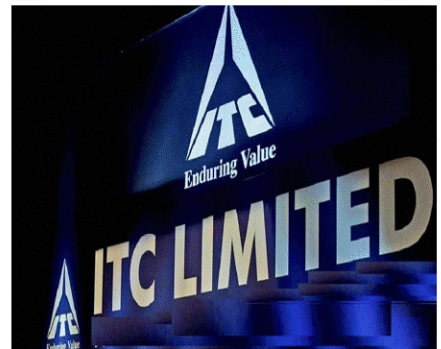
(B) PM Narendra Modi launches Vikas Bharat 2047: Voice of Youth initiative. On this occasion, PM Modi said that this is the right time for India and the youth should use this Amrit Kaal for a developed India. The aim of this initiative is to integrate the youth of the country to build a developed India.



8. Which has recently become the third most valuable tobacco company in the world?

- (A) Philip Morris (B) Altria Group
(C) ITC Limited (D) None of these

(C) ITC Limited has emerged as the third most valuable tobacco company globally, overtaking British American Tobacco. The change follows a selloff in BAT shares, underscoring ITC's dynamic business diversification.



9. Who has recently won the gold medal in the 100 meter event of the Regional Athletics Competition?

- (A) Abbas Zaidi (B) Rahul Singh
(C) Kiran Kumar (D) None of these

(A) Secured the ticket for the national competition by winning gold medal in the zonal and regional athletics competition of CISCE Sports 2023. Kayam Abbas Zaidi, who started athletics in February 2023, has secured a place in CISCE National by winning 4 gold medals in 100-200 meter race.



10. How many new nuclear powered submarines has Russian President Vladimir Putin unveiled recently?

- (A) 1 (B) 2
(C) 3 (D) 4

(B) Recently Russian President Vladimir Putin has unveiled two new nuclear powered submarines. Russian lawmakers have backed a record increase in military spending, which will account for about a third of all outlays in 2024. Russian President Vladimir Putin inaugurated the Krasnoyarsk and Emperor Alexander III submarines at the Sevmash shipyard in Severodvinsk.

