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History of December 19

- ◆ **1927** : Great freedom fighters Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan and Roshan Singh were hanged by the British.
- ◆ **1961** : Indian troops entered Goa under Operation Vijay.
- ◆ **2008** : Canara Bank, HDFC and Bank of Rajasthan announced to make housing loans cheaper.
- ◆ **1961** : Goa state became independent.
- ◆ **1154** : King Henry II became king of England.

Current Affairs Related to 19 December

- ◆ Veteran lyricist screenwriter Javed Akhtar will be honored with the Padyapani Lifetime Achievement Award at the Ajanta Ellora Film Festival. The award ceremony will be held at Rukmini Auditorium of MGM University campus. The main objective of this festival is to showcase the best films produced in the recent past. It will be organized till 3-7 January 2024.
- ◆ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has launched the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme. This voluntary national certification initiative aims to encourage sustainable forest management and agroforestry practices in India. The scheme covers forest management certification, tree outside forest management certification and chain of custody certification.
- ◆ All 29 member countries of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence summit adopted the New Delhi Declaration. They agreed to collaboratively develop AI applications in health care and agriculture. GPAI will be a hub for shaping the future of Artificial Intelligence in terms of innovation and collaboration between partner countries. According to the announcement, GPAI will also focus on countries in the Global South and provide the benefits of AI platforms and solutions to all people in the world.
- ◆ According to Mercer's 2023 Quality of Life Index, Pune boasts the second best quality of life in India after Hyderabad. Pune has ranked second best in terms of quality of life in India in the recent ranking of Living Quality Index 2023 by Mercer, a renowned global consultancy for businesses. The city is slightly behind Hyderabad, which marks a significant improvement from the previous ranking.
- ◆ The brand value of the Indian Premier League increased by 28 percent to \$ 10.7 billion. This was stated in a report released by Brand Finance. With this growth the league has attained Dekacorn status. As of now, the brand value of IPL is \$10.7 billion.
- ◆ The Unique Identification Authority of India has taken strict action against operators found guilty of over-charging and has also imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 against them. The move is aimed at ensuring fair and accessible services to all citizens, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrashekhar said, detailing these measures in a written reply in the Lok Sabha.
- ◆ The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Bill 2023 has been passed by the Rajya Sabha. This bill replaces the Election Commission Act 1991. The Bill provides for the appointment, salary and removal of the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners. According to the provisions of the Bill, the President will appoint the CEC and EC on the recommendation of a selection committee.
- ◆ Central Universities Bill, 2023 passed in Parliament. The Bill will amend the Central Universities Act 2009, which establishes central universities for teaching and research in various states. The Bill provides for setting up a Central Tribal University in Telangana. It will be named Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University. It will provide opportunities for higher education and research facilities mainly to the tribal population of India.
- ◆ India's first six lane steel slag based road was constructed connecting NH.6 to Hazira Port. Steel slag is generated as solid waste during steel production. Approximately 180.200 kg of steel slag is generated per tonne of steel production. The Ministry of Steel has funded a R&D project on development of design guidelines and specifications for the use of steel slag in road construction.
- ◆ For the first time, agreement was reached at the COP28 climate summit to reduce the use of fossil fuels. They agreed to prevent the worst effects of climate change and it is the first agreement of its kind, signaling the end of the oil era.

National & International Current Affairs

1. Recently the debt of 12 Indian states will exceed what percentage of GSDP by FY 2024?

- (A) 24% (B) 30%
(C) 35% (D) 40%

(C) Twelve Indian states, including Punjab and West Bengal, are estimated to have debt that exceeds 35% of GSDP by FY 2024, prompting warnings from the RBI. This revelation, detailed in the latest annual publication of the Reserve Bank of India, points to possible fiscal mismanagement and raises concerns about the fragile fiscal position of these states.



2. When is Goa Liberation Day celebrated every year?

- (A) 19th December (B) 20th December
(C) 21th December (D) 22th December

(A) Goa's Liberation Day is celebrated every year on 19 December. On this date in 1961, Goa was liberated from Portuguese rule after a military campaign and an extended independence movement. This day is celebrated in the memory of the Indian Armed Forces who helped Goa gain independence from Portuguese rule.



3. Recently, the food processing industry has progressed due to the investment of how many crores of rupees under the PLI scheme.

- (A) Rs 2,000 crore (B) Rs 4,000 crore
(C) Rs 6,500 crore (D) Rs 7,000 crore

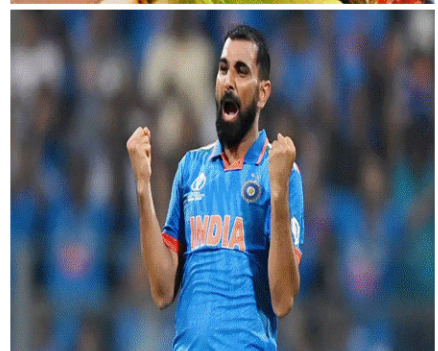
(D) The Food Processing Ministry has revealed substantial growth in the sector, with beneficiaries of the production linked incentive scheme investing an astonishing Rs 7,126 crore. The PLI scheme led by the Ministry aims to address important aspects of the food processing industry.



4. Recently BCCI has recommended Arjuna Award for which cricketer?

- (A) Rohit Sharma (B) Mohammed Shami
(C) Virat Kohli (D) Suryakumar Yadav

(B) The Board of Control for Cricket in India has sent the name of Indian fast bowler Mohammed Shami for the Arjuna Award. This fast bowler's name has been recommended after his brilliant performance in the World Cup. Shami took the maximum of 24 wickets in seven matches in the tournament. Men's doubles badminton pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have been selected for the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.



5. India and which bank signed a \$200 million loan for the Uttarakhand Climate Resilient Power System Development Project?

- (A) ADB (B) BOI
(C) PNB (D) RBI

(A) India and ADB signed a \$200 million loan agreement to improve the quality, efficiency and reliability of power supply in Uttarakhand. This project will help in strengthening the power system infrastructure and help in achieving the goal of providing 24x7 electricity to the residents.



6. Which IIT has recently developed AMRUT technology to remove arsenic and metal ions from water?

- (A) IIT Madras (B) IIT Kanpur
(C) IIT Mumbai (D) IIT Bengaluru

(A) AMRUT (Arsenic and Metal Removal by Indian Technology) uses nano-scale iron oxy-hydroxide. When water is passed through it, it removes arsenic. These water purifier technologies have been developed for both household and community levels. The Government is committed to providing safe and potable tap water supply to all rural households.



7. Recently, how many bills have been introduced in the Lok Sabha by Union Home Minister Amit Shah to change the criminal laws of the British era?

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

(C) Union Home Minister Amit Shah introduced three redrafted bills in the Lok Sabha to replace the existing British-era criminal laws. The new bills include changes recommended by a parliamentary committee. The Indian Penal Code Bill 2023 will replace the Indian Penal Code 1860.



8. Recently, Dr. Atul Shah's transformative innovation for the care of which disease has been honored with a global award?

- (A) Cancer (B) Leprosy
(C) Smallpox disease (D) None of these

(B) Recently, plastic surgeon Dr. Atul Shah has been honored with the 2023 REACH Game Changing Innovator Award for his groundbreaking contribution to leprosy care. Three decades ago, Dr. Shah devised a simple surgical technique, the One in Four Lasso, to correct the deformity in leprosy patients.



9. Which country has recently won the Admiral Cup 2023 at the Indian Naval Academy?

- (A) Italy (B) Japan
(C) India (D) Britain

(A) The 12th edition of the Admiral's Cup Sailing Regatta concluded with a grand reception at the Ettikulam Beach of the Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala. The Italian team led by Midshipman Avalon Antonioni and Midshipman Creati Carlo Leonardo captured the Admiral Cup 2023.



10. Recently, the first pair of Siberian tigers in India has reached Darjeeling after how many years?

- (A) 7 years (B) 9 years
(C) 12 years (D) 15 years

(C) Two endangered Siberian tigers arrive at the Padya Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park in Darjeeling, West Bengal. Siberian tigers Lara and Akamas reached Darjeeling in two special ambulances from Kolkata Airport after 12 years. The last Siberian tiger was euthanised at the Nainital Zoo in November 2011 due to age-related problems.

