

## Top 10 Current Affairs Questions of Today - December 17, 2024

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Our daily current affairs are perfect for busy people who want to stay up-to-date on the latest events. They are short, engaging, and easy to understand, and they cover a wide range of topics, from politics and business to sports and entertainment.

Today's blog will be on the current affairs of 17th December 2024. So, check out the current affairs and stay up-to-date. You can download PDF also for current affairs today.

Let's check this news about (Green Steel Standards) Then, we will move ahead.

## India Sets First-Ever Green Steel Standards

India has become the first nation to establish a definition for "green steel" with a limit of 2.2 tonnes of CO2 emissions per tonne of finished steel. The steel is rated using a star system: five stars for emissions below 1.6 tonnes, four stars for 1.6-2.0 tonnes, and three stars for 2.0-2.2 tonnes. To support this, the government is launching a ₹15,000 crore Green Steel Mission, with a goal of allocating 37% of public procurement to five-star steel. The industry requires ₹260,000-270,000 crore in investment to transition to cleaner production methods.

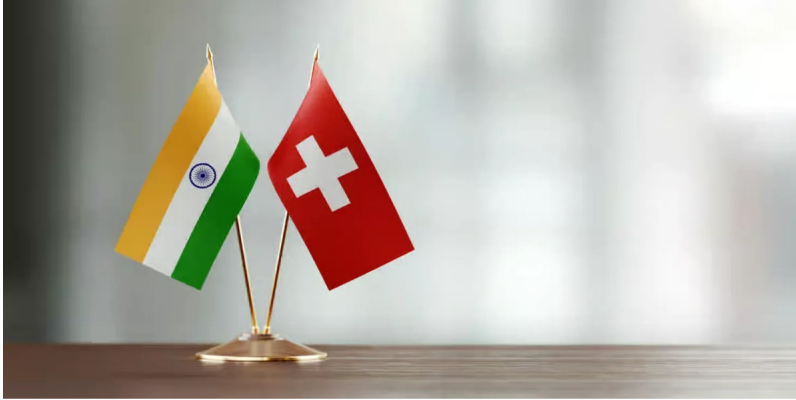


[Image Source: Mint]

## Switzerland Drops Most-Favored-Nation Clause with India

Switzerland has removed the Most-Favored-Nation (MFN) clause from its tax agreement with India, following a 2023 Supreme Court ruling. Effective January 1, 2025, the tax rate on dividends for Indian companies in Switzerland will rise from 5% to 10%. The change stems from a ruling clarifying that the MFN clause does not automatically apply to new OECD members. This decision, impacting India's investment climate, could lead other countries to reconsider their tax agreements, according to experts.

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[Image Source: Mint]

## France's Fourth Prime Minister in year 2024

President Emmanuel Macron appointed François Bayrou as France's new prime minister, following Michel Barnier's resignation. Bayrou, a veteran centrist and close Macron ally, faces the challenge of managing a fractured parliament and pushing through urgent legislation, including an emergency budget to avoid a government shutdown. This marks France's fourth prime minister appointment in 2024, highlighting ongoing political instability. Bayrou's political experience and centrist approach are seen as crucial for stabilizing the divided political landscape in France.



[Image Source: BBC News]

## PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Scheme Hits Milestone

The PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, launched in February, has achieved over 6.85 lakh solar installations, nearing a decade's worth of growth in just one year. The scheme, aiming for one crore rooftop solar installations by 2027, has seen high demand, particularly for the 3-5 kW segment. Gujarat leads with the most installations, followed by Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. The program provides up to 40% subsidies, promoting solar energy, reducing power bills, creating jobs, and saving the government Rs 75,000 crore annually.

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[Image Source: Mint]

## National Energy Conservation Day

National Energy Conservation Day, observed on December 14, highlights the importance of energy efficiency in India's sustainable development. Established in 1991, it serves as a reminder of the need to conserve energy and reduce environmental degradation. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) recognizes outstanding efforts through the National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA). Key initiatives like the Perform Achieve and Trade (PAT) scheme, the "Go Electric" campaign, and the UJALA program demonstrate India's commitment to energy sustainability, fostering a greener future for all.



[Image Source: Mint]

## Dark Eagle Outperforms Russian Anti-Missile Systems

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The United States has developed the advanced anti-missile system, Dark Eagle, capable of intercepting enemy missiles at speeds of 20,826 km/h. Featuring a hypersonic glide warhead, it was successfully tested at Cape Canaveral against ballistic, cruise, and hypersonic missiles. Dark Eagle outperforms Russian systems like the S-300V4, S-400, and S-500, particularly against manoeuvrable hypersonic threats. This development follows discussions on Russia's Oreshnik missile, intensifying the global missile defence arms race.



[Image Source: BBC News]

## India's eCourts Project Expands Digital Infrastructure

The eCourts Mission Mode Project seeks to modernize India's judiciary through the integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The project is executed in phases, with continuous collaboration between the Department of Justice and the eCommittee of the Supreme Court. Phase I (2011-2015) concentrated on basic computerization, while Phase II (2015-2023) upgraded ICT infrastructure in courts. Phase III, initiated in 2023, introduces Digital Courts, digitized records, and enhanced video conferencing features.



[Image Source: Mint]

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## India, Iran, Armenia Discuss INSTC Connectivity

The second round of India-Iran-Armenia Trilateral Consultations in New Delhi focused on strengthening the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and enhancing Chabahar Port's role. The discussions emphasized boosting trade, tourism, and cultural exchanges while addressing regional challenges. Armenia introduced its "Crossroads of Peace" initiative, and committed to the INSTC by approving a \$200 million loan for the Kajaran tunnel project. The INSTC serves as an alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative, with countries like Uzbekistan showing interest.



[Image Source: BBC News]

## Desert Knight Enhances Trilateral Defence Cooperation

India, France, and the UAE have launched the "Desert Knight" air combat exercise over the Arabian Sea, aimed at enhancing defence cooperation. The three-day exercise, 350-400 km southwest of Karachi, involves Indian Sukhoi-30MKIs, French Rafale jets, and UAE F-16s. Its goal is to improve interoperability, share tactics, and boost operational readiness in complex combat scenarios. The exercise strengthens military ties in the Indo-Pacific and Persian Gulf regions, responding to growing concerns over China's influence. It continues efforts from a 2022 trilateral collaboration framework.

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[Image Source: NDTV]

## Arctic Ocean Expected to Be Ice-Free by 2030

A recent study predicts that the Arctic Ocean will experience its first ice-free day by 2030 due to rising greenhouse gas levels and global warming. Researchers from the University of Gothenburg and the University of Colorado Boulder highlight that Arctic sea ice has been declining at a rate of 12.6% per decade over the past 40 years. This accelerated loss could lead to prolonged ice-free periods, exacerbating global warming and threatening Arctic ecosystems. Immediate action to reduce emissions is necessary to mitigate further environmental damage.



[Image Source: BBC News]

comment below your score, considering each question has 1 mark only. If you scored 8 to 10, congratulations! You are one step closer to selection. If you have scored 5 to 8 marks, then you are doing well, keep it up. If you have scored less than 5 marks then you need to work a little harder on this subject. But don't worry, we are here to help you master the subject.

Keep trying! We will meet again with another set of questions in daily current affairs quiz.