

Weekly One Liners 23rd to 29th of December 2024

India-Kuwait Elevate Ties to Strategic Partnership

India and Kuwait marked a historic milestone in their bilateral relations during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first official visit to Kuwait on December 21-22, 2024. The visit culminated in the elevation of their ties to a **"Strategic Partnership,"** signifying deeper cooperation across trade, defence, energy, and cultural domains. Kuwait also honored PM Modi with its **highest civilian award, 'The Order of Mubarak Al-Kabeer,'** in recognition of his role in fostering bilateral ties.

Key Highlights of the Visit

1. Formalizing Strategic Partnership

PM Modi and Kuwait's Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah agreed to deepen collaboration through the establishment of new **Joint Working Groups (JWGs) in trade, technology, education, and defence.** The leaders reiterated their commitment to advancing people-to-people ties and sustaining high-level ministerial interactions.

2. Defence and Security Cooperation

The signing of an MoU in defence marked a pivotal step in enhancing bilateral ties. Both nations agreed to conduct joint military exercises, bolster maritime safety, and facilitate co-production of defence equipment. The leaders condemned terrorism in all forms and called for disrupting terror-financing networks and fostering cybersecurity collaboration.

3. Trade and Investment Opportunities

Kuwait lauded India's efforts to create a conducive environment for foreign investments and expressed interest in Indian infrastructure, technology, and food security sectors. Discussions focused on expediting the Bilateral Investment Treaty and strengthening trade linkages by diversifying the export-import portfolio.

4. Energy Partnership

Recognizing the potential for growth, both sides agreed to expand their energy ties beyond the buyer-seller dynamic. Kuwait expressed interest in India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve Program and committed to enhanced collaboration in oil, gas, and renewable energy sectors.

5. Cultural and Educational Exchanges

The renewal of the Cultural Exchange Programme (2025-2029) and Executive Programme on Sports (2025-2028) aimed at fostering deeper cultural ties. Both countries explored avenues for educational cooperation, including digital libraries and EdTech platforms.

Major Agreements and Milestones

Defence MoU: Strengthens bilateral defence ties.

Cultural Exchange Programme: Facilitates collaborations in arts and literature until 2029.

Sports Executive Programme: Strengthens cooperation in sports till 2028.

Kuwait's ISA Membership: Marks a commitment to solar energy collaboration.

Past and Present Linkages

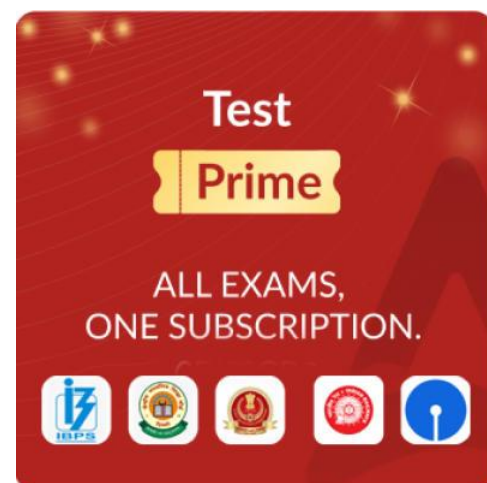
The centuries-old ties between India and Kuwait have evolved from historical trade relationships to strategic economic and political cooperation. Kuwait's recent membership in the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and its interest in food parks align with India's global climate and agricultural initiatives. This partnership reflects mutual benefits and supports regional stability, demonstrating a modern synergy between historical allies.

Future Outlook

This strengthened partnership, underpinned by a shared vision, aims to foster sustainable development and enhance regional security. Both leaders emphasized the need for UN reforms and global cooperation to tackle emerging challenges effectively.

PM Modi Honoured with Kuwait's Top Civilian Award

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded **Kuwait's highest civilian honour, the Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer,** by **Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al Sabah.** This prestigious accolade marks the 20th international honour received by PM Modi, symbolizing his contributions to fostering global partnerships and India's growing influence on the world stage.



Award Details

- The Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer is **Kuwait’s highest knighthood order.**
- It is conferred upon Heads of State, foreign sovereigns, and members of royal families as a gesture of friendship and goodwill.
- Previous recipients include global leaders such as **Bill Clinton, Prince Charles, and George Bush.**

Significance of the Honour

- The award underscores the strong diplomatic ties between India and Kuwait.
- PM Modi dedicated the award to the people of India and the enduring friendship between the two nations.

PM Modi’s Visit to Kuwait

- Modi embarked on a two-day official visit to Kuwait, starting with a visit to an Indian labour camp to show solidarity with the Indian diaspora.
- Held bilateral discussions with,
- Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al Sabah
- Crown Prince, Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah
- Prime Minister of Kuwait, Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al Sabah
- Received a ceremonial Guard of Honour at Bayan Palace.

Diplomatic Engagements

- The visit emphasized cooperation in trade, energy, and labour welfare, showcasing India’s role as a strategic partner.
- PM Modi interacted with the Indian diaspora, acknowledging their contributions to both nations.

Recent International Awards

Last month, PM Modi was conferred,

- The Order of Excellence (Guyana)
- Dominica Award of Honour (Dominica)

PM Modi’s Statement

- Expressed gratitude on social media, saying:
- “I dedicate this honour to the 140 crore people of India and to the strong friendship between India and Kuwait.”

List of International Recognition Awards to PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has earned **numerous international awards over the years**, reflecting his diplomatic leadership and India’s growing global influence. **His recent award, the Order of Mubarak Al-Kabeer from Kuwait**, marks his 20th prestigious international honor. These recognitions acknowledge his contributions to diplomacy, global peace, cultural ties, and strategic relations across different regions. The honors further elevate India’s global stature under his leadership.

International Awards by PM Modi in 2024

In 2024, Prime Minister of India Awarded with different countries highest award for various decisions. The list of awards won by PM in 2024 are mentioned below.

| Name of the Award | Country Name (Purpose/Info.) |
|--|---|
| Order of Mubarak Al-Kabeer | Kuwait (For symbolizing his contributions to fostering global partnerships and India’s growing influence on the world stage.) |
| Honorary Order of Freedom of Barbados | Barbados (Awarded for fostering global partnerships and strengthening India-Barbados ties.) |
| Order of Excellence | Guyana (Recognized for contributions during the pandemic and strengthening ties with Caribbean countries.) |
| Dominica Award of Honour | Dominica (Recognized for advancing diplomatic relations with Dominica and global outreach.) |
| Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger | Nigeria (Awarded for bolstering India-Nigeria relations and bilateral cooperation.) |
| Order of St. Andrew the Apostle | Russia (Conferred for enhancing the strategic partnership between India and Russia.) |
| Order of the Druk Gyalpo | Bhutan (Bhutan’s highest award, recognizing PM Modi’s role in strengthening India-Bhutan relations.) |

Awards of PM Modi Earlier

| Name of the Award | Country Name and Year (Purpose) |
|---|---|
| Grand Cross of the Order of Honour | Greece-2023 (Recognized for achievements in diplomacy and strengthening India-Greece relations.) |
| Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour | France-2023 (France’s highest honor awarded for efforts to deepen Indo-French relations.) |
| Order of the Nile | Egypt-2023 (Egypt’s highest civilian honor for promoting global peace and bilateral cooperation.) |
| Grand Companion of the Order of Logohu | Papua New Guinea-2023 (Recognized for strengthening India’s ties with Pacific nations and the Indo-Pacific region.) |
| Legion of Merit | United States of America-2020 (Awarded for elevating India-US strategic cooperation to new heights.) |

| Name of the Award | Country Name and Year (Purpose) |
|---|--|
| King Hamad Order of the Renaissance | Bahrain-2019 (Presented for strengthening India-Bahrain relations, particularly in commerce and culture.) |
| Order of Zayed | UAE-2019 (UAE's highest civilian honor recognizing PM Modi's contributions to India-UAE relations.) |
| Rule of Nishan Izzuddeen | Maldives-2019 (Awarded for strengthening India-Maldives relations and maritime cooperation.) |
| Grand Collar of the State of Palestine | Palestine-2018 (Honored for bolstering India-Palestine relations and supporting Palestine's aspirations.) |
| Amir Amanullah Khan Award | Afghanistan-2016 (Afghanistan's top civilian honor for contributions to India-Afghanistan developmental partnerships.) |
| King Abdulaziz Sash | Saudi Arabia-2016 (Saudi Arabia's highest civilian honor awarded for strengthening ties with the Kingdom.) |

New Consumer Protection Apps Launched on National Consumer Day 2024

On **National Consumer Day 2024**, the **Department of Consumer Affairs** launched three new apps aimed at enhancing consumer protection and addressing deceptive online practices. These apps are part of a larger initiative to empower consumers in the digital age, addressing emerging challenges such as dark patterns in e-commerce. This marks a significant step forward from the **Consumer Protection Act of 1986**, which laid the foundation for safeguarding consumer rights in India. The new tools highlight the government's ongoing commitment to consumer empowerment and digital transformation.

Jago Grahak Jago App

The **Jago Grahak Jago App** provides consumers with crucial information about e-commerce platforms, helping them identify potentially unsafe websites. The app alerts users to online shopping risks, aiming to raise awareness and empower consumers to make informed decisions when shopping online.

Jagriti App

Designed to encourage proactive consumer engagement, the **Jagriti App** allows users to report websites suspected of using deceptive online practices, such as dark patterns. These reports are sent to the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) for further investigation, making it easier for consumers to voice their concerns and take action against unfair practices.

Jagriti Dashboard

The **Jagriti Dashboard** aggregates data from the complaints submitted through the **Jagriti App**, offering a comprehensive view of consumer trends. It helps authorities track the prevalence of dark patterns across different platforms, enabling more effective regulation and intervention.

National Consumer Day 2024 Theme and Significance

The theme for **National Consumer Day 2024**, "**Virtual Hearings & Digital Access to Consumer Justice**," underscores the growing need for digital solutions in consumer protection. It highlights the importance of making consumer justice more accessible through virtual hearings, thus empowering consumers to seek redress without needing to be physically present.

Key Consumer Rights to Remember

National Consumer Day is also an opportunity to remind consumers of their rights under the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**. These rights include the right to safety, information, choice, being heard, seeking redressal, and consumer education—principles that guide the government's ongoing efforts to protect consumers in both the physical and digital marketplace.

Republic Day 2025: 15 States, 11 Ministries to Present Tableaux

The Ministry of Defence announced the **theme for the Republic Day 2025 tableaux** as "**Swarnim Bharat: Virsat aur Vikas**" (Golden India: Heritage and Development). This year's tableaux will showcase the dynamic relationship between India's rich heritage and its ongoing development. The display will take place on **Kartavya Path** and feature creative exhibits from various states, Union Territories, and central ministries. Aimed at highlighting India's diversity, the Republic Day tableaux will offer a glimpse of the country's cultural roots and modern progress.

Key Facts About Republic Day Parade Tableaux

- **Theme:** "Swarnim Bharat: Virsat aur Vikas" (Golden India: Heritage and Development).
- **Event:** Annual Republic Day Parade on **Kartavya Path**.

Participants

- **States and Union Territories (15):** Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.
- **Union Ministries and Departments (11):** Tableaux from the Union government will also be featured.
- **Alternative for Unselected States/UTs:** States and UTs not selected for **Kartavya Path** can showcase their tableaux at the **Bharat Parv** held at **Red Fort** from **January 26 to 31, 2025**.

Selection Process

- The Ministry of Defence emphasized that the selection of states and ministries was conducted in a fair, transparent, and merit-based manner. The process involved several steps to ensure high-quality representation,
- **Proposals Invited:** States, Union Territories, and Union ministries were invited to submit their proposals for the tableaux.
- **Expert Committee:** A panel of experts, including professionals in art, culture, music, architecture, and choreography, evaluated the submissions.
- **Selection Criteria:** The main criteria for selection included:
- **Originality:** The uniqueness of the tableau concept.
- **Creativity:** Innovative presentation of ideas.
- **Aesthetic Composition:** Visual appeal and balance in design.
- **Heritage and Development:** A clear representation of India’s cultural heritage and progress.
- **Incorporation of Feedback:** Based on recommendations from a senior-level meeting held in April 2024, the selection process was enhanced to ensure better quality and diversity in the tableaux.
- **Exclusion of Repetitive Ideas:** Proposals that showcased similar ideas were excluded to ensure variety and uniqueness.

Key Highlights

- The theme aims to portray India’s journey from rich cultural roots to modern achievements, balancing both heritage and development.
- The selected states, UTs, and ministries will represent India’s diversity, including historical, cultural, and technological advancements.
- The initiative is designed to present India’s progress and heritage to a global audience, showcasing the country’s unity in diversity.



President Appoints New Governors For Five States

In a significant move aimed at reorganizing governance and addressing political and administrative challenges, **President Droupadi Murmu** announced the **appointment of two new governors and reassigned three others across five states**. The reshuffle reflects a strategic approach to strengthen leadership in regions grappling with political unrest, administrative challenges, and security concerns. The respective states are **Kerala, Bihar, Odisha, Manipur and Mizoram**.

Key Appointments and Transfers

1. Ajay Kumar Bhalla Appointed As a Manipur Governor

Background

- **Replaces:** Anusuiya Uikey
- Former Union Home Secretary with a distinguished career as a 1984-batch IAS officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre.
- Retired on August 22, 2024, after over five years in the position, making him one of the longest-serving Home Secretaries.
- Played a pivotal role in drafting key legislations like the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, and the three new criminal laws.

Significance

- Brings first-hand knowledge of the security situation in Manipur, which has been embroiled in ethnic violence between the Meitei and Kuki communities since May 2023.
- The conflict has claimed over 250 lives and continues to challenge the state’s governance.

2. Arif Mohammed Khan Transferred To Bihar

Background

- **Previous Role:** Governor of Kerala
- Known for his intellectual stance and political acumen.
- Had frequent confrontations with the Pinarayi Vijayan-led Left Front government in Kerala over various issues.

Significance

- His transfer marks a politically significant move, potentially to ease tensions in Kerala.
- Succeeds Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar in Bihar.

3. Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar Resassigned To Kerala

Background

- **Previous Role:** Governor of Bihar
- An experienced administrator with an understanding of political dynamics.

Significance

- This exchange of governors between Kerala and Bihar is seen as a strategic decision to balance governance in both states.

4. Hari Babu Kambhampati Transferred To Odisha

Background

- **Previous Role:** Governor of Mizoram
- A seasoned leader with administrative experience in Mizoram.

Significance

- Replaces Raghubar Das, whose resignation has been accepted.

5. General Dr. Vijay Kumar Singh Appointed As Governor of Mizoram

Background

- **Replaces:** Hari Babu Kambhampati
- A decorated retired Army officer and former Union Minister.
- Twice elected MP from Ghaziabad on a BJP ticket (2014, 2019).

Significance

- His military and administrative experience is expected to contribute to the development and stability of Mizoram.

Political and Administrative Implications

Addressing Regional Challenges

- Ajay Bhalla's appointment to Manipur is critical, given the state's ongoing ethnic violence and security concerns.
- The leadership change aims to bring stability and effective governance to the region.

Balancing Political Dynamics

- The exchange of governors between Kerala and Bihar reflects efforts to manage political tensions and ensure smooth governance.

Strategic Appointments

- General V.K. Singh's military background brings a strategic perspective to Mizoram, enhancing its security framework.
- Hari Babu Kambhampati's transfer to Odisha ensures continuity in administrative leadership.

Administrative Expertise

- All appointments highlight the emphasis on experienced and proven leaders to address complex challenges in their respective states.

PM Rashtriya Bal Puraskar Awards 2024

President Droupadi Murmu presented the **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2024** on December 26, 2024, to **17 exceptional children** from across India. These awards honor remarkable achievements in **seven categories: art and culture, bravery, innovation, science and technology, social service, sports, and environment**. During the ceremony, the President lauded the awardees for their exceptional contributions and emphasized the importance of providing opportunities to nurture children's talents. She highlighted the courage and patriotism demonstrated by these young achievers, which inspire confidence in India's future.

Highlights of The Award Ceremony 2024

- **Number of Awardees:** 17 children (7 boys and 10 girls).
- **Categories:** Art and Culture, Bravery, Innovation, Science and Technology, Social Service, Sports, and Environment.
- **Award Distribution:** Winners hailed from 14 states and union territories.

Notable Awardees and Their Achievements

Art and Culture

- **Keya Hatkar (14 years):** An author and disability advocate excelling in art and culture.
- **Ayaan Sajad (12 years):** A Sufi singer from Kashmir contributing to Kashmiri music.
- **Vyas Om Jignesh (17 years):** A cerebral palsy-affected Sanskrit scholar who memorized over 5,000 slokas.

Bravery

- **Saurav Kumar (9 years):** Saved three girls from drowning.
- **Loanna Thapa (17 years):** Rescued 36 residents from a fire.

Innovation

- **Sindhoora Raja (15 years):** Developed self-stabilizing devices for Parkinson's patients.
- **Risheek Kumar (17 years):** Founded Kashmir's first cybersecurity firm.

Sports

- **Hembati Nag:** A judo player from a Naxal-affected area who won silver at the Khelo India National Games.
- **Anish Sarkar:** Youngest FIDE-ranked chess player at the age of three.

National Affairs

- **Nitin Gadkari**, Union Minister for **Road Transport and Highways**, inaugurated **India's first bio-bitumen-based National Highway stretch** on **NH-44** in **Mansar, Nagpur, Maharashtra**. The stretch uses **lignin-based bio-bitumen technology** developed by **Praj Industries** in collaboration with **CSIR-CRRI, NHAI, and Oriental**. This milestone represents a significant advancement in **sustainability and self-reliance** in India's road development sector. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Indian government** abolished the **No-detention policy** for **Class 5 and 8** students, which previously ensured automatic promotion. Under the new amendment to the **Right to Education rules, 2010**, students failing their year-end exams must retake them within **two months**. If they fail again, they will have to **repeat the academic year**. This rule affects over **3,000 centrally run schools**, including **Kendriya Vidyalayas, Sainik Schools, and Navodaya Vidyalayas**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The Indian government launched the 'Udaan Yatri Cafe' initiative to address concerns over overpriced food at airports. The pilot project, located at **Kolkata's Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport**, offers **affordable refreshments** like water, tea, coffee, and snacks. If successful, the initiative will expand to other **Airports Authority of India (AAI)-run airports**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Queen's University Belfast** and **Coventry University** have applied to set up international campuses at **GIFT City in Gujarat**, marking a significant step as **India** relaxes regulations for foreign institutions. **Queen's University** plans to offer **postgraduate** programs, while **Coventry University**, with existing global campuses, will expand its presence in **India**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** chaired a review meeting of **Bhartiya Beej Sahkari Samiti Limited (BBSSL)** in New Delhi, highlighting its role in realizing **PM Modi's vision** of "Sehkar Se Samridhi" by empowering farmers through traditional seed preservation. **Key objectives** included expanding the cooperative network by connecting with **20,000 additional cooperatives** by **2025-26**, focusing on **sustainable seeds** with lower water and pesticide needs, and evaluating the **nutritional value** of indigenous and hybrid seeds through organizations like **IFFCO** and **KRIBHCO**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **IndiGoReach** launched the **Zero Waste Airport Project** at **Indore Airport** in collaboration with the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** and **AAS Foundation**. The initiative aims to minimize environmental impact using the **4R strategy: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Recover**. The project focuses on **sustainable waste management, behavioral change, and stakeholder engagement**, targeting both airport staff and passengers. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath** and **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the 'Atal Yuva Maha Kumbh' in **Lucknow** to honor the **100th birth anniversary** of former PM **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**. The event celebrated his **legacy**, with **cultural tributes**, recognition of **meritorious students**, and discussions on Vajpayee's contributions. December 25 is also observed as **Good Governance Day**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On the **20th memorial day** of the **2004 tsunami**, **Puducherry** organized various events across affected districts. In **Nagapattinam**, wreath-laying and candle lighting honored **6,065 victims**, led by **P. Akash** and others. **Velankanni** saw a **3-km procession** with interfaith prayers, led by **Fr. R. Irudayaraj**. **Mayiladuthurai** focused on victims of **Tharangambadi taluk** with floral tributes. **Karaikal** held ceremonies and prayers at multiple locations, led by **P. R. N. Thirumurugan** and others. ([Click here to read article](#))

States in the News

- **Madhya Pradesh** has been recognized by the **Wall Street Journal** as a "Go-To Global Destination for 2025," highlighting its **heritage, wildlife, and natural beauty**. The state features iconic **UNESCO World Heritage Sites** like **Khajuraho, Panna, and Bandhavgarh**, along with vibrant **cultural experiences** and **nine Tiger Reserves**. The **Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board** is actively promoting these attractions to enhance global travel interest. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Rajnath Singh** and **Yogi Adityanath** unveiled a statue of **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** at **Kudiya Ghat in Lucknow** on December 25, 2024, to honor his legacy. The event celebrated Vajpayee's contributions to India, with **sculptor Amarpal Singh** being felicitated for his craftsmanship. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Ladakhi Losar**, a vibrant New Year festival, celebrates Ladakh's culture and traditions. Organized by **LAHDC Leh** and the **Culture Academy**, the celebrations, running from **December 20 to 31**, featured cultural performances, traditional dishes, and community feasts. The festival emphasizes **heritage preservation**, eco-friendly practices, and adapting traditions to modern times, while fostering a sense of community and pride among **villagers** and tourists. ([Click here to read article](#))

International Affairs

- **Donald Trump**, US President-elect, has appointed **Indian-American entrepreneur and venture capitalist Sriram Krishnan** as **Senior Policy Advisor for Artificial Intelligence (AI)** at the **White House Office of Science and Technology Policy**. Krishnan will work with **David Sacks**, the **White House AI & Crypto Czar**, to ensure **America's leadership in AI**, shape AI policy, and collaborate with the **President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Rodrigo Rato**, former **IMF Chief** and **Spain's Deputy Prime Minister**, was sentenced to **four years, nine months, and one day** in prison by a Madrid court for **corruption, tax offences, and money laundering**. He was convicted on three counts and ordered to pay over **€2 million** in fines, along with **€568,413** in penalties to **tax authorities**. Rato denies wrongdoing and plans to **appeal** the decision. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Aisake Valu Eke** has been elected as **Tonga's new Prime Minister** following the abrupt resignation of **Siaosi Sovaleni**. This political transition comes amid challenges such as **strained monarchy-government relations, economic hardships, and the aftermath of natural disasters**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- An **Azerbaijan Airlines Embraer 190** jet crashed near **Aktau, Kazakhstan**, after being rerouted due to heavy fog. The flight, en route from **Baku to Grozny**, had 62 passengers and 5 crew members onboard. Several passengers were injured in the emergency landing, with a passenger capturing footage of the incident. The crash underscores the risks of rerouting and the unpredictability of air travel emergencies. ([Click here to read article](#))
- China has approved the construction of the world's largest dam on the **Yarlung Zangbo (Brahmaputra) River** in **Tibet**, raising **strategic and environmental concerns** for **India and Bangladesh**. Estimated at **\$137 billion**, the dam could give China control over water flow, potentially flooding Indian border areas during conflicts. In response, India is building its own dam in **Arunachal Pradesh**. Both countries have a **data-sharing framework** through the **Expert Level Mechanism (ELM)**, which was reaffirmed during talks between India's NSA and China's Foreign Minister. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **Christmas Eve 2024**, President **Joe Biden** signed a historic law officially recognizing the **bald eagle** as the **national bird** of the United States. While the eagle has symbolized the country since 1782, it was never formally designated until this legislation, led by **Minnesota lawmakers**. The move honors the eagle's representation of **strength, courage, and freedom**, as well as its remarkable recovery from near extinction. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Ocean Anoxic Event 1a (OAE 1a)**, occurring 120 million years ago, was triggered by massive volcanic eruptions releasing **CO₂**, causing **global warming** and **oceanic anoxia**. This event disrupted marine ecosystems, leading to **plankton extinction** and the formation of **black shale deposits**. Volcanic activity, particularly from the **Ontong Java Nui complex**, caused oceanic oxygen depletion, creating **anoxic marine basins** like the **Black Sea**. OAE 1a offers insights into modern **climate change** and its potential impacts on marine life. ([Click here to read article](#))

- A **federal-level emergency** was declared in Russia following a **catastrophic oil spill** on December 15, caused by damage to two Russian-flagged oil tankers near the **Kerch Strait**. The spill released thousands of tons of **mazut** into the **Black Sea**, affecting 55 kilometers of coastline. Despite local cleanup efforts, the crisis escalated, prompting **federal intervention** as the regional authorities lacked sufficient resources to handle the disaster. The spill has severely impacted **marine ecosystems, local communities, and the coastal economy**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

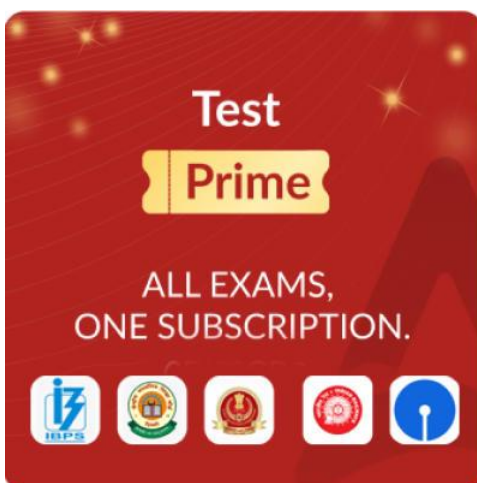
- **ISRO** and the **European Space Agency (ESA)** have signed a landmark agreement to boost collaboration in **human space exploration**. The partnership will focus on **astronaut training, mission implementation, and joint research experiments**. Signed by **ISRO Chairman S. Somanath** and **ESA Director General Dr. Josef Aschbacher**, the agreement establishes a strong framework for cooperation, enhancing the relationship between the two space agencies. ([Click here to read article](#))

Books and Authors

- At the launch of '**The Unyielding Judge: The Life and Legacy of Justice A.N. Grover**', **Attorney General R. Venkataramani** emphasized the importance of **judicial integrity** and how a judge's resistance to temptation shapes their stature. The event honored **Justice Grover**, renowned for his pivotal role in the **1973 Kesavananda Bharti case**, which upheld the **basic structure doctrine** of the **Indian Constitution**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **SEBI** issued an interim order banning **Sachin Bakul Dagli**, an equity dealer at **PNB MetLife**, and eight other entities for involvement in a **front-running scheme**. This fraud, active for over three years, resulted in illegal gains of **₹21.16 crore** by misusing **non-public trade information**. The investigation, covering **January 1, 2021, to July 19, 2024**, revealed violations of **SEBI's PFUTP regulations** and the **SEBI Act**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Indian government** will inject **₹500 crore** into **Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI)** to improve its financial health ahead of restructuring. This infusion is expected to raise the government's stake in IFCI, currently at **71.72%** (as of September 2024). The decision was approved in the **Supplementary Demand for Grants for 2024-25** in the **Lok Sabha**, with funds reallocated from savings, ensuring no extra cash outflow. ([Click here to read article](#))



- **Adani Group** has acquired an **85.8% stake** in **Air Works**, India's largest private-sector **Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO)** company, valued at **Rs 400 crore**. This acquisition strengthens Adani's position in the **defence and civil aviation MRO** sectors, expanding into an integrated aviation services ecosystem. **Air Works**, with operations in **35 cities**, over **1,300 personnel**, and approvals in **20+ countries**, specializes in both **civil and defence MRO services**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **December 20, 2024**, India and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signed a **\$500 million loan agreement** to support **sustainable infrastructure projects** aligned with India's **climate goals**. The loan, guaranteed by the government, will be channeled through **India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL)** for **green projects** in sectors like **energy transition, urban development, education, and healthcare**. The partnership emphasizes **environmentally sustainable infrastructure and long-term investment** to support India's **net-zero emissions** commitment. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has formed an **eight-member committee** to create the **Framework for Responsible and Ethical Enablement of Artificial Intelligence (FREE-AI)** in the financial sector. Led by **Pushpak Bhattacharyya** from IIT Bombay, the committee will assess global and Indian AI adoption, review regulatory approaches, and recommend ethical governance in areas like **banks, NBFCs, FinTechs, and payment systems**. It will also identify AI risks and propose mitigation strategies, with the final report due in six months. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's economic growth is projected to reach **6.5% in FY25**, despite a sluggish first half, according to the **Finance Ministry's Monthly Economic Review**. The slowdown is mainly due to the **RBI's restrictive monetary policy** and **weaker demand**. However, **agricultural activity** and **industrial gains** are expected to boost growth in the second half, offsetting global uncertainties. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has allowed **full-KYC prepaid payment instruments (PPIs)** like **digital wallets, gift cards, and metro rail cards** to make and receive **UPI payments** through third-party apps like **Google Pay** and **PhonePe**. This move aligns with **RBI's Payments Vision 2025**, enhancing **payment interoperability** and boosting **digital payment adoption**. The decision enables **PPI issuers** to link their customers' **KYC-compliant PPIs** to **UPI handles**, streamlining transactions and eliminating the need for issuer-specific platforms. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **current account deficit (CAD)** for **Q2 FY2024-25** moderated to **\$11.2 billion (1.2% of GDP)** from **\$11.3 billion (1.3% of GDP)** due to strong **services exports** and improved

net services receipts. Despite a **higher merchandise trade deficit of \$75.3 billion**, driven by increased imports, **services exports** in categories like **computer services, business services, travel, and transportation** grew significantly. The **CAD** is expected to rise to **2.5-2.7% of GDP in Q3** due to a record-high **trade deficit** in November. ([Click here to read article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- **Justice Madan B Lokur**, former **Supreme Court Judge of India**, has been appointed as the **Chairperson** of the **United Nations Internal Justice Council (IJC)** by **UN Secretary-General António Guterres**. The appointment, effective from **December 19, 2024**, lasts until **November 12, 2028**. The IJC ensures the **impartiality, professionalism, and independence** of the UN's internal justice system, marking a significant achievement for **India** and highlighting Justice Lokur's **global legal stature**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Chairperson post of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** remained vacant after **Justice Arun Kumar Mishra's** tenure ended on **June 1, 2024**. On **December 23, 2024**, **President Droupadi Murmu** confirmed the appointment of **V. Ramasubramanian**, former **Supreme Court judge and Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court**, as the new chairperson. His appointment follows the acting leadership of **Vijaya Bharathi Sayani** and a selection committee led by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Centre** has appointed **Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia** as the new **Chief Justice** of the **Himachal Pradesh High Court**, following a recommendation by the **Supreme Court Collegium**. Sandhawalia, the senior-most puisne judge of the **Punjab and Haryana High Court**, replaces **Justice Rajiv Shakdher**, who retired in **October 2024**. His appointment comes after a delay of over **three months**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Arunish Chawla**, a senior IAS officer from the **1992 batch (Bihar cadre)**, has been appointed as the new **Revenue Secretary** in the **Ministry of Finance**. This follows the vacancy created after **Sanjay Malhotra's** appointment as **RBI Governor**. Chawla will take over from **Ajay Seth**, who held the additional charge. Chawla will also continue to hold the additional responsibility of the **Ministry of Culture** until a regular appointment is made. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Bank's** share price surged by **7.4%** on **December 26, 2024**, after **Amitava Chatterjee** was appointed as the new **MD and CEO** for a three-year term, starting **December 30, 2024**. His appointment was approved by the **RBI**, following the retirement of **Baldev Prakash** on **December 27, 2024**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **SC Collegium** has recommended judges for various projects. Key recommendations include **Chandra Shekhar Sharma**, **Pramil Kumar Mathur**, and **Chandra Prakash Shrimali** for **Rajasthan**, **Ashish Naithani** for **Uttarakhand**, **Pravin Sheshrao Patil** for **Bombay**, and **Praveen Kumar Giri** for **Allahabad**. **Justice G Narendar** is recommended as **Chief Justice** for **Uttarakhand**, and **Justice GS Sandhwalia** for **Himachal Pradesh**. These recommendations aim to address the **sanctioned vs. current judge** ratios in various high courts. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Indian **public sector banks (PSBs)** reported a **25% increase** in net profit for **H1 2024-25**, reaching **Rs 85,520 crore**, up from **Rs 68,500 crore** in H1 2023-24. This growth is driven by low **NPAs**, strong **credit growth**, and a solid **capital adequacy ratio**. PSBs recorded their highest-ever net profit of **Rs 1.41 trillion** in **FY24**, with the **Gross NPA ratio** dropping to **3.12%** in September 2024 from **14.58%** in March 2018. Profits are expected to surpass **Rs 1.5 trillion** for **FY25**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Asia has joined **World Boxing**, strengthening the sport's Olympic presence, including for **LA 2028**. The **Boxing Federation of India (BFI)** played a key role, securing **seven influential positions**. **Ajay Singh**, BFI president, will serve on the board, while other officials hold roles in the **Olympic Commission**, **Finance and Audit Committee**, **Constitution Commission**, **Sports and Competition Commission**, and **Medical Commission**. **Lovlina Borgohain**, Olympic medallist, was appointed to the **Athletes' Commission** to ensure athlete representation in the sport's future. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Dr. Sandip Shah** has been appointed as the new **Chairperson** of the **National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)**. With over three decades of experience in **healthcare**, **pathology**, and **diagnostics**, Dr. Shah is a **Gold Medalist** in **MD Pathology** and **Bacteriology** from **B.J. Medical College**, Ahmedabad. His appointment supports NABL's mission to improve quality and reliability in testing and calibration services. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **December 25, 2024**, **Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh** launched the **Rashtraparv Website and Mobile App** to mark **Good Governance Day** and **Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birth anniversary**. Developed by the **Ministry of Defence**, the platform aims to enhance transparency and citizen access to information regarding national events like **Republic Day**, **Beating Retreat**, and **Independence Day**. The initiative focuses on **better accessibility** and **information sharing** based on feedback from **states** and **attendees**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **SLINEX 24** (Sri Lanka-India Exercise 2024) took place from **December 17 to 20, 2024**, in **Visakhapatnam**, aimed at enhancing **maritime cooperation** and **interoperability** between the Indian and Sri Lankan navies. The exercise, held under the **Eastern Naval Command**, featured a **Harbour Phase** and **Sea Phase**, with participation from both navies' **Special Forces** and key naval vessels, promoting a **rule-based maritime domain** in the **Indian Ocean**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In FY 2023-24, India's **defence exports** reached a record **Rs 21,083 crore (USD 2.63 billion)**, marking a **32.5% growth**. Indigenous defence production also set a record at **Rs 1,26,887 crore**, up **16.7%** from the previous year. This success highlights India's strengthened **defence sector**, driven by both **private sector** and **Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs)**, contributing to a **self-reliant defence ecosystem**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

Defence News

- The **Indian Government** has formed a high-level committee under **Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh** to assess the **Indian Air Force's (IAF)** capability development amid concerns over **China's expanding air power** and **Pakistan's strengthening air force**. The committee will focus on **indigenous design**, **development**, and **acquisition** projects and is expected to submit its report in **2-3 months**, addressing gaps in **IAF's fighter aircraft** and **missile capabilities**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar** was awarded the **Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi National Eminence Award** for **Public Leadership** by the **South Indian Education Society (SIES)**. The award recognizes his significant contributions to **India's foreign policy** and global leadership. In his speech, Jaishankar highlighted India's **growing assertiveness** on the international stage and stressed the importance of **confidence** in the nation's capabilities. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL)**, the corporate entity of **Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP)**, won the **Gold Award** at the **Andhra Pradesh State Energy Conservation Award 2024**. The award recognizes RINL's **energy conservation** initiatives in the **iron and steel sector**, emphasizing its commitment to **sustainability** and **innovation** in harnessing **waste energy** over the past three years. ([Click here to read article](#))

Summits and Conferences News

- On December 26, 2024, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** chaired the 45th **PRAGATI meeting**, reviewing **eight key projects** worth over **Rs 1 lakh crore** in sectors like **urban transport, road connectivity, thermal power, and renewable energy**. PRAGATI, an ICT-based platform for **Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation**, focuses on **coordination** between the **Centre and state governments**. Modi stressed **timely execution**, resolving **public grievances**, and adopting **innovative practices** for project implementation. ([Click here to read article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- India has risen **11 places** in the **2024 Network Readiness Index (NRI)**, moving from **60th** in 2023 to **49th**, with an improved score of **53.63**. This reflects India's commitment to advancing **digital infrastructure** and **technology adoption**. The **NRI**, published by the **Portulans Institute**, evaluates how nations use technology for **governance** and **citizen engagement**, highlighting India's growing role as a global **technological leader**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Forbes** released its **21st annual list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women**, recognizing influential figures across various fields. This year, **three Indian women—Nirmala Sitharaman, Roshni Nadar Malhotra, and Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw—**earned prominent spots for their remarkable achievements in **business, politics, and philanthropy**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Sports News

- India has been announced as the host of the **ISSF Junior World Cup 2025**, confirmed by the **ISSF on December 20, 2024**. This marks the **ninth** top-level shooting championship hosted by India, highlighting its growing reputation as a global hub for **shooting sports** and adding to the **National Rifle Association of India's (NRAI)** impressive track record. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India clinched the **inaugural U10 Women's Asia cup T20 title** by defeating Bangladesh by 41 runs in the final held at the Bayuemas Oval, Kuala Lumpur on December 22, 2024. The victory was powered by a stellar half century from Gongadi Trisha and an impressive bowling performance, highlighting India's dominance in the tournament. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Punjab's top order batter, Anmolpreet Singh**, scripted a history by scoring a **third fastest List A century in just 35 balls** during Vijay Hazare Trophy match against Arunachal Pradesh in Ahmedabad. This incredible feat places him behind only Jake Fraser McGurk (29 Balls) and AB de villiers (31 Balls) in all time records for List A centuries. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Daniil Savelev**, the Russian tennis player, has been handed a **two-year suspension** for testing positive for the banned substance **meldonium** in **July 2024**. The **International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA)** confirmed the doping was **unintentional**, caused by confusion with family medication. Savelev accepted the suspension, which will last until **August 2026**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On December 26, 2024, **Virat Kohli** was fined **20%** of his match fee and received **one demerit point** for a **shoulder barge** against Australian player **Sam Konstas** during the **Boxing Day Test** at the **MCG**. The incident occurred after the 10th over of Australia's innings, and Kohli was found guilty of breaching **Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct** for inappropriate physical contact. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Sachin Tendulkar** has been appointed an **Honorary Cricket Member** of the prestigious **Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC)**, recognizing his extraordinary contributions to cricket over his 24-year career. The **MCC**, known for managing the iconic **Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG)**, awards honorary memberships to individuals who have made significant impacts on the sport. ([Click here to read article](#))

Schemes and Committees News

- Arvind Kejriwal**, AAP leader, launched the **Dr Ambedkar Samman Scholarship** to fund **Dalit students** from **Delhi** for higher education in top **foreign universities**. Announced before the **Delhi Assembly elections**, the scheme honors **Babasaheb Ambedkar** and counters the **BJP's** alleged disrespect toward him. The **Delhi government** will cover all costs for education, travel, and accommodation for students admitted to premier global institutions. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi** laid the foundation for the **Ken-Betwa river-linking project**, aimed at addressing **water scarcity** in **Bundelkhand**. The project will channel water from the **Ken River** to the **Betwa**, benefiting **4.4 million people** in **Madhya Pradesh** and **2.1 million** in **Uttar Pradesh**. With an estimated cost of **₹44,605 crore**, it will provide **drinking water**, boost **agricultural irrigation**, and generate **hydropower** and **solar energy**, promoting overall regional development. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)**, led by **Arvind Kejriwal**, has launched the **Dr. Ambedkar Samman Yojana** to support **Dalit students** pursuing **higher education abroad**. The scheme covers all educational expenses, including **tuition, travel costs**, and other essential fees. It aims to empower **Dalit students** by eliminating financial barriers, aligning with **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's** vision of educational equality for marginalized communities. ([Click here to read article](#))

- On **Good Governance Day**, Dr. **Jitendra Singh** launched the '**Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi**' initiative to empower **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** and decentralize governance. Part of the '**Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur**' campaign, it aims to improve grassroots governance by providing **modern tools and knowledge** for effective decision-making. The initiative uses **technology-driven solutions** like **e-learning platforms, AI-powered chatbots, and mobile apps** to enhance **public service delivery** and foster **sustainable development** in rural India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Nvidia has launched the **Jetson Orin Nano Super Generative AI supercomputer** at an affordable price of **\$249**, a significant drop from its predecessor's **\$499**. This model offers a **1.7x improvement in generative AI inference performance** and a **70% increase** in overall performance, reaching **67 INT8 TOPS**. Additionally, its **memory bandwidth** is boosted by **50% to 102GB/s**, enhancing its ability to process complex AI tasks, making it ideal for **hobbyists, developers, and students**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Science and Technology News

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is launching the **Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX)** mission in **December 2024** aboard **PSLV-C60**. The mission will demonstrate autonomous **space docking** with two spacecraft, **SDX01 (Chaser)** and **SDX02 (Target)**, in **low-Earth orbit**. Key objectives include **rendezvous, docking, undocking, power transfer, composite spacecraft control, and payload operations** post-undocking, advancing India's space capabilities for **lunar missions, the Bharatiya Antariksha Station (BAS), and satellite servicing**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, **NITI Aayog**, and **UNDP**, in partnership with **Citi Foundation**, launched the 7th edition of the **Youth Co:Lab National Innovation Challenge for 2024-2025**. Introduced in India in 2019, the initiative has empowered over **2,600 youth-led social innovation teams**. This year, it focuses on **social entrepreneurship** to enhance opportunities and well-being for **Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)**, advancing **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Glass Child Syndrome** refers to the emotional challenges faced by siblings of children with **chronic illnesses or disabilities**. These siblings often feel **invisible** and suppress their own needs to avoid adding stress to their already overburdened parents. The syndrome can lead to **perfectionism, anxiety, and strained adult relationships**. **Cultural factors**, like traditional roles in **Asian families**, may worsen these feelings, making it harder for these children to express their emotional needs. The term was highlighted by **Alicia Maples** in a **2010 TEDx talk**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India's first **Undergraduate Minor Programme in Quantum Technologies**, launched by **AICTE** and **National Quantum Mission (NQM)**, will begin in the next academic session. Targeting engineering students in their third or fourth semester, the program focuses on subjects like **quantum mechanics, quantum computing, quantum cryptography, and quantum algorithms**. This initiative aims to develop a skilled workforce in **quantum technologies**, contributing to **cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and high-performance computing** while advancing India's position in the global quantum arena. ([Click here to read article](#))

Important Days News

- **National Mathematics Day**, celebrated on **December 22**, honors **Srinivasa Ramanujan**, one of history's greatest mathematicians. It was first announced in **2012** by India's former Prime Minister, **Dr. Manmohan Singh**, to recognize Ramanujan's significant contributions to **mathematics**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **National Farmers' Day** or **Kisan Diwas** is celebrated on **December 23** to honor **farmers** and commemorate the birth anniversary of **Chaudhary Charan Singh**, India's fifth Prime Minister. Known for his focus on **rural development** and **farmer welfare**, Singh championed **land reforms** and policies to improve the agrarian economy. The day emphasizes empowering farmers for a sustainable future. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **National Consumer Day** is celebrated on **December 24** in India to raise awareness about **consumer rights** and business responsibilities. It commemorates the **Consumer Protection Act of 1986**. The 2024 theme, "**Virtual Hearings & Digital Access to Consumer Justice**," highlights technology's role in empowering consumers. This year, **Union Minister Pralhad Joshi** will launch initiatives such as the **Jago Grahak Jago App, Jagriti App, and Jagriti Dashboard** to enhance **consumer awareness** and provide **digital redressal** mechanisms. ([Click here to read article](#))



- **Good Governance Day** (Sushashan Diwas) is observed annually on **December 25** in India to raise awareness about **government accountability**. The day marks the birth anniversary of **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**, former Prime Minister and a revered leader. Established in **2014**, it also commemorates his receipt of the **Bharat Ratna**, India's highest civilian award, on **December 23, 2014**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Veer Bal Diwas**, observed annually on **December 26**, honors the martyrdom of **Sahibzada Zorawar Singh** and **Sahibzada Fateh Singh**, the young sons of **Guru Gobind Singh**. At ages **nine** and **seven**, they chose death over compromising their faith, symbolizing **sacrifice, justice, and fortitude**. Instituted by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** in **2022**, the day commemorates their martyrdom on **13 Poh, Bikrami**, when they were tortured by **Wazir Khan** for refusing to convert to **Islam**. Their courage inspired the **Sikh community** to fight against injustice. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **International Day of Epidemic Preparedness**, observed on **December 27**, emphasizes the importance of investing in **public health systems** to prevent, detect, and respond to **infectious disease outbreaks**. Established by the **UN General Assembly** in **2020**, the day raises awareness and strengthens **global partnerships** for **epidemic preparedness**. It was created in response to the **COVID-19 pandemic**, highlighting the need for **resilient healthcare systems** and international collaboration to tackle health threats. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Shyam Benegal**, the renowned filmmaker known for his **socially relevant** and **realistic films**, passed away on **December 23, 2024**, in **Mumbai** at the age of **90** due to **kidney-related ailments**. His work bridged **commercial** and **art-house cinema**, making him one of India's greatest filmmakers. Benegal's films, rich in **social themes** and **poignant narratives**, left a lasting impact on **Indian cinema**, marking the end of an era. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Vasudevan Nair**, popularly known as **MT**, was a celebrated **writer, screenwriter, and filmmaker** from **Kerala**. Born in **1933**, his works explored **human emotions** and **rural life**, leaving a lasting legacy in **Malayalam literature** and **cinema**. With a career spanning over seven decades, his contributions resonate with both common people and intellectuals. MT's passing at **91** marks the end of an era in **Indian literature** and **cinema**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Dr. Manmohan Singh**, former **Prime Minister** of India (2004-2014), passed away at 92. A distinguished **economist** and **statesman**, he played a key role in **India's economic liberalization** in the 1990s. His contributions greatly impacted India's political and economic landscape. Among his national honours, he received the **Padma Vibhushan** in 1987, India's second-highest civilian award. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Osamu Suzuki**, the long-serving **chairman** and **CEO** of **Suzuki Motor Corporation**, passed away at 94 on **Christmas Day 2024**. He was credited with transforming Suzuki into a **global automotive powerhouse** and played a key role in revolutionizing the **Indian car market**. Known for his **frugality** and sharp business sense, Suzuki led the company for over **four decades**, shaping it into a leader in **small cars**. His death marks the end of an era for the company. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Government of India** has decided to allocate space for a **memorial** to honor **Dr. Manmohan Singh**, former Prime Minister, following his death on **December 26, 2024**. The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** confirmed the decision, acknowledging his significant contributions to India's **economic development** and global stature. The announcement was made by **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** to **Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge** after a **Cabinet meeting**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Obituaries News

- **Rohan Mirchandani**, the co-founder of the popular brand **Epigamia**, tragically passed away at the age of **42**. known for his entrepreneurial spirit and visionary leadership, Rohan played a pivotal role in transforming Epigamia into a household name. His untimely demise has left the business community and his admirers deeply saddened. ([Click here to read article](#))

Static Takeaways

| Sr. No | Bank/Orgn./Country/State | Static Details |
|--------|---|---|
| 1 | Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) | Chairman - Madhabi Puri Buch HQ - Mumbai |
| 2 | ADB (Asian Development Bank) | President - Masatgasu Asakawa HQ - Manila, Philippines |
| 3 | RBI (Reserve Bank of India) | Governor - Sanjay Malhotra HQ- Mumbai |
| 4 | Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) | CMD - Ajit Kumar Saxena Head office - Andhra Pradesh |

Weekly One Liners 23rd to 29th of December 2024

| Sr. No | Bank/Orgn./Country/State | Static Details |
|--------|---|--|
| 5 | NVIDIA | CEO - Jensen Huang HQ - California |
| 6 | Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) | Chairman - S Somnath Head office - Bengaluru |
| 7 | European Space Agency (ESA) | DG - Josef Aschbacher HQ - Paris |
| 8 | Spain | President - Pedro Sanchez Capital - Madrid |
| 9 | China | President - Xi Jinping Capital - Beijing |
| 10 | Azerbaijan | President - Ilham Aliyev Capital - Baku |
| 11 | Kazakhstan | President - Kassem Jomart Tokayev Capital - Astana |
| 12 | USA | President - Biden (Trump from 20th January 25) Capital - Washington D.C. |
| 13 | Melbourne Cricket Council | HQ - London |
| 14 | Minister of External Affairs | Shri. S. Jaishankar |
| 15 | Minister of Home Affairs | Shri. Amit Shah |
| 16 | Minster of Defence | Shri. Rajnath Singh |
| 17 | Defense Secretary | Shri. Rajesh Kumar Singh |
| 18 | Revenue Secretary Finance | Shri. Arunish Chawla |
| 19 | Minster of Road, Highways and Transport | Shri. Nitin Gadkari |
| 20 | Uttar Pradesh | Governor - Anandiben Patel CM - Yogi Adityanath Capital - Lucknow |
| 21 | Madhya Pradesh | Governor - Mangu Bhai Patel CM - Mohan Yadav Capital - Bhopal |
| 22 | Mizoram | Governor - Dr. Vinay Kumar Singh CM - Lalduhoma Capital - Aizawl |
| 23 | Delhi | L. Governor - Vinai Kumar Saxena CM - Atishi Marlana Capital - New Delhi |
| 24 | Bihar | Governor - Arif Mohammed Khan CM - Nitish Kumar Capital - Patna |
| 25 | Kerala | Governor - Rajendra Arlekar CM - Pinarayi Vijayan Capital - Thiruvananthapuram |