

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS (22 TO 28 DECEMBER 2024)

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WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS (22 TO 28 DECEMBER 2024)



28/12/2024

[Azerbaijan Airline Crash in Kazakhstan](#)

On December 25, 2024, an Azerbaijan Airlines flight, **J2-8243**, crashed near Aktau, Kazakhstan, resulting in the tragic loss of **38 lives** and leaving **29 survivors**. The Embraer 190 aircraft was en route from Baku, Azerbaijan, to Grozny, Russia, when it encountered severe turbulence and loud bangs, leading to a catastrophic crash.

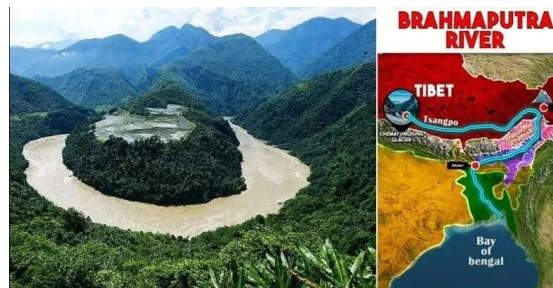
Key Details:

Flight Path: The plane was diverted from its original route due to heavy fog in Grozny and attempted an emergency landing in Aktau.

Survivor Accounts: Passengers reported hearing multiple loud bangs and experiencing a loss of cabin pressure before the crash.

Investigation: Authorities from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Russia have launched investigations to determine the cause of the crash. Initial speculations suggest possible **external interference**, with some sources indicating that Russian air defenses might have mistakenly shot down the aircraft.

Casualties: The crash claimed 38 lives, including both pilots, and left many survivors with serious injuries.



28/12/2024

[China Approves World's Largest Dam on the Brahmaputra River](#)

China has recently approved the construction of the world's largest dam on the Brahmaputra River, located in Tibet near the Indian border. This ambitious project, estimated to cost around \$137 billion, has raised significant concerns in India and Bangladesh.

Key Details:

Location: The dam will be built at a significant gorge in the Himalayan reaches where the Brahmaputra River makes a U-turn before flowing into Arunachal Pradesh and subsequently into Bangladesh.

Scale: The project is expected to exceed one trillion yuan (\$137 billion), surpassing even China's Three Gorges Dam, currently the world's largest.

Purpose: The primary aim is to develop clean energy and respond to climate change and extreme hydrological disasters. The hydropower facility is estimated to generate over 300 billion kWh of electricity annually, enough to supply energy to approximately 300 million people for a year.

Concerns: India and Bangladesh have expressed apprehensions about potential impacts on water flow and regional stability. There are fears that China could control the

water flow and release large amounts of water during conflicts.

Safety Measures: China has assured that extensive geological studies and advanced technology have been employed to ensure the project's safety and minimize ecological impact. The dam will also incorporate measures for disaster prevention and relief.

International Reactions:

India's Response: India has raised concerns about the potential impact on water flow and the ability of China to control water during hostilities. India is also constructing its own dam on the Brahmaputra in Arunachal Pradesh.

China's Assurance: Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning has stated that the project will not negatively affect the lower reaches and that China will continue to maintain communication with countries at the lower reaches through existing channels.



27/12/2024

[Torch Rally for the 38th National Games in Uttarakhand](#)

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama inaugurated the torch procession of the 38th National Games from Haldwani in Nainital district on December 26, 2024.

Route and Duration: The torch will travel through 99 locations across 13 districts over 33 days, covering a distance of 3,823 kilometers.

Culmination: The relay will conclude in Dehradun on January 25, 2025, just before the National Games' inauguration on January 28.

Purpose: The rally aims to raise awareness about the National Games and engage the public in sports activities.

Significance: Hosting the National Games is seen as a historic opportunity for Uttarakhand to foster a sports culture and contribute to the state's development.

About the National Games

History: The National Games are a multi-sport event held in India, showcasing the country's athletic talent.

Frequency: Held every four years, the event brings together athletes from across the nation to compete in various sports.

Purpose: The Games aim to promote sportsmanship, unity, and excellence in sports among Indian athletes.

Inclusion of Traditional Sports: For the first time, yoga and mallakhamb will be included as demonstration sports in the National Games.

Infrastructure Development: Significant investments have been made in sports infrastructure, including new playgrounds, upgraded stadiums, and facilities for various sports.



27/12/2024

[President Murmu Awards Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar to 17 Exceptional Children](#)

President Droupadi Murmu conferred the **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar** on **17 children** in New Delhi on **26 December 2024**.

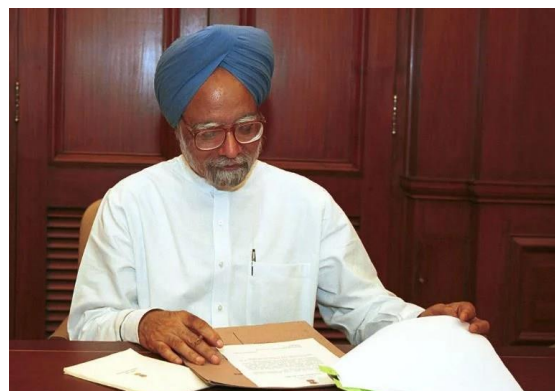
Categories: The children were recognized for their achievements in **Art and Culture, Bravery, Innovation, Science and Technology, Social Service, Sports, and Environment**.

Awards: Each awardee received a **medal, a certificate, and a citation booklet**.

States and UTs: The awardees hailed from **14 states and union territories**.

Veer Bal Diwas Tribute: President Murmu paid homage to the bravery and sacrifice of the Sahibzadas on Veer Bal Diwas, honoring the younger sons of the tenth Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh.

Prime Minister's Interaction: Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with the awardees.



27/12/2024

[Former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh passes away at 92](#)

Former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh passed away on **26 December 2024** at the age of **92** in New Delhi. He had been in poor health for the last few months and was admitted to AIIMS in critical condition. He is survived by his wife **Gursharan Kaur** and three daughters.

Prime Minister: He served as India's **13th Prime Minister** from **2004 to 2014** in the Congress-led UPA government.

Finance Minister: Appointed Finance Minister in **1991**, introduced reforms like rupee devaluation, tax restructuring, and removal of trade barriers.

RBI Governor: Served as the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India from **September 1982 to January 1985**.

Economic Reforms: Dr. Singh is considered the architect of the **1991 economic reforms** that ushered in economic liberalisation in India.

Early Life: Born on **26 September 1932** in Gah, Punjab (now in Pakistan), he pursued economics at Punjab University, Cambridge University, and Oxford University.

Parliamentary Career: Elected to the Rajya Sabha from Assam in **1991**, served as Leader of the Opposition from **1998 to 2004**, and became the first Sikh Prime Minister of India in **2004**.

Awards: Honored with several awards, including the **Padma Vibhushan** in 1987 and the **Euro Money Award for Finance Minister** in 1993.



26/12/2024

[PM Modi Lays Foundation for Ken-Betwa River Linking Project in Madhya Pradesh](#)

Foundation Stone Laid: Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the **Ken-Betwa National River Linking Project** on **25 December 2024** in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh.

Inaugurations: Modi also inaugurated the **Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project** and performed Bhoomi Pujan of **1,153 Atal Gram Sushasan Bhawans**.

Commemorations: A stamp and coin were released in memory of former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** on his 100th birth anniversary.

Project Cost and Funding: The Ken-Betwa project costs **Rs 44,605 crores**, with 90% funded by the Central Government and 10% by State Governments.

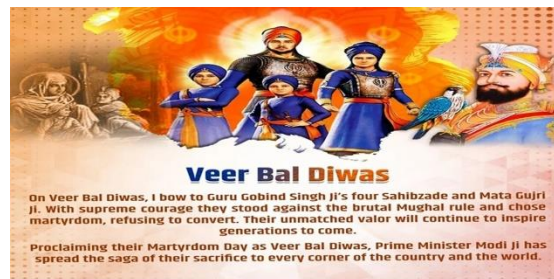
Benefits:

Irrigation: Facilities for more than **8 lakh hectares** in Madhya Pradesh and **2.51 lakh hectares** in Uttar Pradesh.

Drinking Water: Facilities for **44 lakh people** in Madhya Pradesh and **21 lakh people** in Uttar Pradesh.

Power Generation: **103 MW of hydropower** and **27 MW of solar power**.

Economic Impact: Improvement in water levels in Bundelkhand, promotion of industrialization, increased investment, tourism, and employment opportunities.



26/12/2024

[Veer Baal Diwas, December 26: Commemorating Sacrifice and Celebrating Youth Achievements](#)

Veer Baal Diwas is observed annually on **December 26**.

Purpose: The day honors the bravery and sacrifice of Guru Gobind Singh Ji's younger sons, **Baba Zorawar Singh** and **Baba Fateh Singh**.

Historical Significance: In 1704, the Sahibzadas were captured and pressured to renounce their Sikh faith. They refused and were martyred by being bricked alive at Sirhind, Punjab.

Declaration: Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared December 26 as Veer Baal Diwas in **2022** to commemorate their sacrifice.

2024 Celebrations: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the event at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, and launch the **Suposhit Gram Panchayat Abhiyan** to enhance nutritional outcomes across India.

Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar: President Droupadi Murmu will confer the award on **17 children** for exceptional achievements in **seven categories** in New Delhi. The children hail from **14 states and UTs**.

Categories: Art and culture, bravery, innovation, science and technology, social service, sports, and the environment.

Awards: Each awardee will receive a medal, certificate, and citation booklet.



वित्त मंत्रालय

MINISTRY OF **FINANCE**

26/12/2024

[Arunish Chawla Named New Revenue Secretary; Major Government Appointments Announced](#)

Arunish Chawla: 1992 batch Bihar cadre IAS officer appointed as the **Revenue Secretary** in the Ministry of Finance. Previously Secretary of Pharmaceuticals in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

Amit Agrawal: Chief executive officer of Unique Identification Authority of India, appointed as the new **Pharmaceuticals Secretary**.

Vineet Joshi: Manipur chief secretary, appointed as the **Secretary of Higher Education**.

Neerja Sekhar: Special Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, appointed as the **Director General of the National Productivity Council**.

Rachna Shah: Textiles Secretary, appointed as the **Secretary of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)**.

Neelam Shammi Rao: Secretary of the National Commission for Minorities, appointed as the new **Textiles Secretary**.

Sanjay Sethi: Appointed as the **Secretary of the National Commission for Minorities**.



26/12/2024

[Bumrah Equals Ashwin's Record with 904 Rating Points in ICC Men's Test Bowling Ranking](#)

Jasprit Bumrah has reached **904 rating points** in the ICC Men's Test Bowling Rankings, equaling the highest rating ever achieved by an Indian bowler, previously held by Ravichandran Ashwin.

Upcoming Opportunity: Bumrah has the chance to surpass this record during the **Melbourne Test** beginning on **26 December 2024** between India and Australia in the fourth Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

Outstanding Performance: Bumrah's stellar performance in Brisbane, where he took **9 wickets for 94 runs**, earned him **14 rating points** and solidified his top position in the Test Bowling Rankings.



25/12/2024

[M Raghu & Devika Sihag Wins Senior National Badminton Titles 2024](#)

86th Senior National Badminton Tournament held in Bengaluru from 18 to 24 December 2024.

Men's Singles Champion: Karnataka's M. Raghu defeated Mithun Manjunath (14-21, 21-14, 24-22), saving three match points in the decider.

Women's Singles Champion: Haryana's Devika Sihag secured a comfortable win over Shriyanshi Valishetty (21-15, 21-16).

Men's Doubles Winners: Sanskar Saraswat and Arsh Mohammad.

Women's Doubles Winners: Arathi Sara Sunil and Varshini VS.

Mixed Doubles Winners: Ayush Agarwal and Shruti Mishra.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

The President of India has accepted the resignation of Shri Raghubar Das as Governor of Odisha.

2. The President of India is also pleased to make the following appointments of Governors:-

- (i) Dr Hari Babu Kambhampati, Governor of Mizoram appointed as Governor of Odisha.
- (ii) General (Dr) Vijay Kumar Singh, PVSM, AVSM, YSM (Retd.) appointed as Governor of Mizoram.
- (iii) Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Governor of Bihar appointed as Governor of Kerala.
- (iv) Shri Arif Mohammed Khan, Governor of Kerala appointed as Governor of Bihar.
- (v) Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla appointed as Governor of Manipur.

3. The above appointments will take effect from the dates they will assume charge of their respective offices.

25/12/2024

[President Appoints New Governors in 5 States](#)

The President of India announced the appointment of Governors for five states on **24 December 2024**.

New Appointments:

Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati: Appointed as the Governor of **Odisha** (previously Governor of Mizoram).

General (Dr.) Vijay Kumar Singh (Retd.): Designated as the new Governor of **Mizoram**.

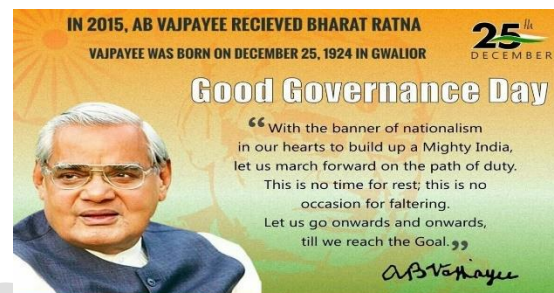
Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar: Currently Governor of Bihar, now appointed as the Governor of **Kerala**.

Arif Mohammed Khan: Previously Governor of Kerala, now assigned as the Governor of **Bihar**.

Ajay Kumar Bhalla: Former Union Home Secretary, appointed as the Governor of **Manipur**.

Effective Dates: The appointments will take effect from the dates the appointees assume charge of their respective offices.

Resignation Accepted: The resignation of Odisha's outgoing Governor, **Raghubar Das**, has been accepted by the President.



25/12/2024

[Good Governance Day on December 25th](#)

Good Governance Day is observed annually on **December 25th** in India to honor the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**. Instituted in 2014 by the Narendra Modi government, this day aims to promote **transparency, accountability, and efficiency** in public administration.

Significance

Good Governance Day highlights the importance of ethical leadership and responsible governance. It serves as a reminder for both leaders and citizens to uphold high standards of governance to ensure sustainable development and public welfare.

Celebrations

The day is marked by various initiatives and activities, including:

Awareness Campaigns: Programs focusing on digital transformation, participatory democracy, and responsive public services.

Educational Activities: Schools, colleges, and government organizations host debates,

speeches, and workshops to encourage youth participation in nation-building.

Inspirational Messages: Quotes by Atal Bihari Vajpayee are shared to inspire ethical governance and public service.



CHAMPIONS TROPHY 2025 - PAKISTAN
19 FEBRUARY - 9 MARCH 2025

DATE	VENUE	TEAMS
WED 19 FEB '25	KARACHI	PAK V NZ
THU 20 FEB '25	DUBAI	IND V BAN
FRI 21 FEB '25	KARACHI	AUS V SA
SAT 22 FEB '25	DUBAI	IND V BAN
SUN 23 FEB '25	KARACHI	AUS V SA
MON 24 FEB '25	DUBAI	IND V BAN
TUE 25 FEB '25	KARACHI	AUS V SA
WED 26 FEB '25	DUBAI	IND V BAN
THU 27 FEB '25	KARACHI	AUS V SA
FRI 28 FEB '25	DUBAI	IND V BAN
SAT 01 MAR '25	KARACHI	SA V ENG
SUN 02 MAR '25	DUBAI	NZ V IND
MON 03 MAR '25	KARACHI	RESERVE
TUE 04 MAR '25	DUBAI	RESERVE
WED 05 MAR '25	KARACHI	RESERVE
THU 06 MAR '25	DUBAI	RESERVE
FRI 07 MAR '25	KARACHI	RESERVE
SAT 08 MAR '25	DUBAI	RESERVE
SUN 09 MAR '25	DUBAI	FINAL
MON 10 MAR '25	DUBAI	FINAL

GROUP A: INDIA, NEW ZEALAND, PAKISTAN, BANGLADESH
GROUP B: SOUTH AFRICA, AUSTRALIA, AFGHANISTAN, ENGLAND

25/12/2024

[Fixtures for ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025](#)

The ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025 in Cricket will take place from **19th February to 9th March 2025**.

Host: Pakistan will host its first global cricket tournament since 1996, alongside the UAE as a neutral venue.

Group A Teams: India, Bangladesh, New Zealand, and Pakistan.

Group B Teams: Afghanistan, Australia, England, and South Africa.

Opening Match: The tournament begins with Pakistan facing New Zealand on **19th February in Karachi**.

India's Matches: India's first match is against Bangladesh on **20th February in Dubai**, followed by a match against Pakistan on **23rd February in Dubai**.

Venues: Matches will be held in **Lahore, Karachi, and Rawalpindi** in Pakistan, and **Dubai** in the UAE.

Semi-finals and Final: The first semi-final will be on **4th March in Dubai**, the second semi-final and final on **5th March and 9th March in**

Lahore. If India qualifies, these matches will be in Dubai.



24/12/2024

[V. Ramasubramanian appointed as NHRC Chairperson](#)

Retired Supreme Court judge **V. Ramasubramanian** has been appointed as the new chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) by President **Droupadi Murmu** on 23 December 2024.

Other Appointments: Priyank Kanoongo and Dr. Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi (Retd.) have also been appointed as members of the NHRC.

Background: Justice Ramasubramanian served as a Supreme Court judge from **September 23, 2019, to June 29, 2023**.

Vacancy: This appointment fills the vacancy left by former NHRC chairperson **Justice Arun Kumar Mishra**, who concluded his tenure on June 1, 2024. Following Mishra's retirement, **Vijaya Bharathi Sayani** served as the acting chairperson.



24/12/2024

[National Consumer Day: December 24](#)

National Consumer Day is observed annually on **December 24**. The day aims to raise

awareness about consumer rights and responsibilities.

Historical Significance: The day commemorates the enactment of the **Consumer Protection Act 1986**, which received presidential assent on December 24, 1986.

Consumer Rights: The act grants consumers the right to be protected, informed, heard, and to seek redressal against unfair trade practices.

2024 Theme: The theme for National Consumer Day 2024 is **“Virtual Hearings & Digital Access to Consumer Justice”**.

Key Initiatives: Union Minister Pralhad Joshi launched several initiatives, including the **Jago Grahak Jago App**, **Jagriti App**, and **Jagriti Dashboard** to protect consumers from deceptive online practices.



24/12/2024

[Kristrunn Frostadottir Becomes Iceland's Youngest Prime Minister](#)

Iceland's new government, led by Prime Minister **Kristrunn Frostadottir** of the Social Democratic Alliance (SDA), took office on **21 December 2024**.

Youngest Prime Minister: Frostadottir, born in 1988, is Iceland's youngest prime minister. She was elected to parliament in 2021 and became SDA leader in 2022.

Three-Party Coalition: The coalition includes the **SDA, the Liberal Reform Party (LRP), and the People's Party (PP)**. The SDA and LRP each

hold four ministerial portfolios, while the PP has three.

First Meeting: The new cabinet held its first formal meeting at the presidential residence, Bessastadir, with President **Halla Tomasdottir** in attendance.

Cabinet Priorities: Frostadottir outlined priorities of stabilising Iceland's economy by reducing interest rates, enforcing stricter public finance controls, and fostering value creation.

Election Victory: The SDA emerged as the biggest winner in Iceland's parliamentary election held on **November 30**.



24/12/2024

[ICC Champions Trophy 2025: India's Matches to be Held in UAE, Confirms PCB](#)

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has designated the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** as the neutral venue for India's matches in the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy.

Reason: This decision follows India's refusal to travel to Pakistan due to security concerns.

Confirmation: The International Cricket Council (ICC) confirmed on December 19 that all India's matches, including potential semifinals and the final, will be played at a neutral venue under a hybrid hosting model.

Likely Location: While the PCB did not specify the exact location, **Dubai** is widely expected to host the matches.

Group Stage: India has three group-stage games, including a highly anticipated clash with Pakistan.

Further Matches: Should India advance, the UAE will also host one of the semifinals and the final.

Resolution: The decision resolves a standoff between the two cricketing rivals and clears the way for the ICC to announce the schedule for the eight-team, 50-over tournament.

Historical Context: India and Pakistan have not toured each other's countries since 2012 due to ongoing political tensions, with their cricketing interactions limited to neutral venues and ICC events.



24/12/2024

[Indian-American Sriram Krishnan Appointed as Senior White House Policy Advisor on AI](#)

President-elect **Donald Trump** appointed Indian-American entrepreneur **Sriram Krishnan** as the **Senior White House Policy Advisor on Artificial Intelligence (AI)**.

Collaboration: Krishnan will work closely with **David Sacks**, the White House AI and Crypto Czar, to shape AI policy across the federal government.

Background: Born in **Chennai**, Krishnan moved to the United States after graduation and began his career at **Microsoft** as a founding member of **Windows Azure**.

Career: Besides being a seasoned tech leader, Krishnan is also a **venture capitalist, podcaster, and author**.



23/12/2024

[PM Modi Honoured with Kuwait's Highest Civilian Award, "The Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer"](#)

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was awarded **Kuwait's highest civilian honor, The Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer**, by **Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al Sabah**, the Amir of Kuwait, during his state visit on **22nd December 2024**.

Significance: The award symbolizes the enduring partnership between **India and Kuwait**.

Bilateral Talks: PM Modi held talks with the Amir, focusing on strengthening **India-Kuwait relations**, which have now been elevated to a **Strategic Partnership**.

Historical Context: This is the **first visit** by an Indian Prime Minister to Kuwait in **43 years**.



23/12/2024

[India State of Forest Report 2023: Forest and Tree Cover at 25.17% of the Country's Geographical Area](#)

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Bhupender Yadav**, released

the **India State of Forest Report 2023** (ISFR 2023) on **21st December 2024** at the Forest Research Institute in Dehradun.

Total Forest and Tree Cover: The total forest and tree cover in India is **827,357 square kilometers**, representing **25.17%** of the country's geographical area.

Forest Cover: 715,343 square kilometers

Tree Cover: 112,014 square kilometers

Growth in Cover: The forest and tree cover has increased by **1,445 square kilometers** since the **2021 assessment**, with **156 square kilometers** added to forest cover and **1,289 square kilometers** to tree cover.

Technology in Forest Management: The Forest Survey of India (FSI) uses **advanced technology** for **real-time fire alerts** and forest fire services to improve forest management.

Assessment Method: The report is published biennially, using **satellite data** and **field-based surveys** for a comprehensive assessment of forest and tree resources in India.



23/12/2024

[Madhya Pradesh recognized as one of 'Go-To Global Destinations for 2025' by Wall Street Journal](#)

Recognition: Madhya Pradesh has been named one of the **"Go-To Global Destinations for 2025"** by the *Wall Street Journal*.

Key Features: The accolade recognizes the state's **rich heritage, unparalleled wildlife, and exceptional natural beauty**.

Tourism Official's Statement: Sheo Shekhar Shukla, Principal Secretary of Tourism and Culture, stated that this recognition solidifies Madhya Pradesh's status as a **world-class travel destination**, offering unique experiences with its UNESCO sites, Tiger Reserves, and vibrant culture.

Highlighted Sites: The recognition emphasizes UNESCO World Heritage sites such as **Khajuraho, Panna, and Bandhavgarh**, known for their cultural significance, wildlife, and stunning landscapes.



23/12/2024

[India Wins Under-19 ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup 2024](#)

India won the inaugural **Under-19 ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup** on **22nd December 2024** in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, defeating Bangladesh by **41 runs**.

India's Performance: Scored **117/7**, with Gongadi Trisha top-scoring with **52 runs**.

Bowling Highlights: Aayushi Shukla took **3 wickets**, while Parunika Sisodia and Sonam Yadav claimed **2 wickets each**.

Bangladesh's Performance: Bowled out for **76 runs** in 18.3 overs; Farjana Easmin took **4 wickets** for Bangladesh.

Tournament: Started on **15th December 2024**, featuring 6 teams. India, led by **Niki Prasad**, remained **unbeaten**.



31 December 2018

Dear Justice Lokur,

I have the pleasure to appoint you, with immediate effect, as a member of the Internal Justice Council (IJC), in the capacity of Chairperson, for a term ending on 12 November 2022.

The other members of the Council (in alphabetical order) are: Mr. Justice Jitendra Kumar Mishra, Chief Justice of India, appointed by the President of India; Mr. Justice Dipak Kumar Singh, Chief Justice of India, appointed by the President of India; Mr. Justice Dipak Kumar Singh, Chief Justice of India, appointed by the President of India; Mr. Justice Dipak Kumar Singh, Chief Justice of India, appointed by the President of India.

Please accept my congratulations on your appointment to the Council, a key pillar of the system of administration of justice in the United Nations.

I would be pleased if you would consider your acceptance of this appointment at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,
 António Guterres
 António Guterres

23/12/2024

[Madan Lokur Appointed as Chairperson of the United Nations Internal Justice Council \(IJC\)](#)

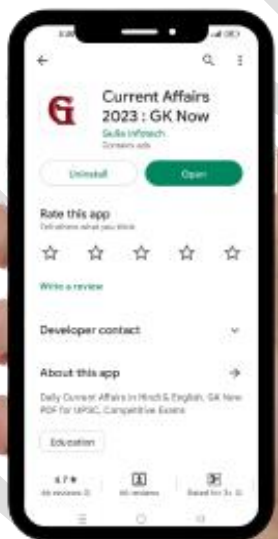
Appointment: Former Supreme Court judge Madan B. Lokur has been appointed as the Chairperson of the United Nations Internal Justice Council (IJC).

Tenure: His term will last 4 years, ending on **12th November 2028**.

UN Secretary-General’s Communication: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres expressed pleasure in appointing Justice Lokur, effective immediately.

Purpose of IJC: The IJC was established by the UN General Assembly to ensure **independence, professionalism, and accountability** in the administration of the UN’s justice system.

Justice Lokur’s Background: He retired as a Supreme Court judge on **31st December 2018**, after serving for more than 6 years.



CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQS (22 TO 28 DECEMBER 2024)

Q.: Where is the world's largest dam on the Brahmaputra River being constructed?

- A. China
- B. India
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Nepal

Ans: A. China

China has recently approved the construction of the world's largest dam on the Brahmaputra River, located in Tibet near the Indian border.

Q.: Which river is the Brahmaputra known as in Tibet?

- A. Yangtze
- B. Yarlung Zangbo
- C. Yellow River
- D. Mekong

Answer: B. Yarlung Zangbo

Explanation: The Brahmaputra River is known as the **Yarlung Zangbo** in Tibet. The river originates in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China, where it is called the Yarlung Zangbo River or simply Zangbo. It flows eastward through Tibet before making a sharp southward turn at the Great Bend, entering India through Arunachal Pradesh, and becoming the Brahmaputra. As it flows further downstream, it eventually enters Bangladesh, where it is known as the Jamuna River.

Q.: Which country's air defenses are speculated to have mistakenly shot down Azerbaijan Airlines flight J2-8243 near Aktau, Kazakhstan, on December 25, 2024?

- A. Azerbaijan
- B. Kazakhstan
- C. Russia
- D. Turkey

Ans: C. Russia

Initial speculations suggest possible **external interference**, with some sources indicating that Russian air defenses might have mistakenly shot down the aircraft.

Q.: What role is Former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh widely regarded as the architect of?

- a) India's Independence Movement
- b) India's Economic Liberalisation in 1991
- c) The Green Revolution
- d) The Space Program

Ans: b) India's Economic Liberalisation in 1991

Dr. Singh is considered the architect of the **1991 economic reforms** that ushered in economic liberalisation in India.

Q.: Which former Prime Minister of India served as the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

- a) Indira Gandhi
- b) Rajiv Gandhi
- c) Dr. Manmohan Singh
- d) Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Ans: c) Dr. Manmohan Singh

He Served as the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India from **September 1982 to January 1985**.

Q.: Which of the following categories were included for the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar awards?

- (A) Art and Culture, Bravery, Innovation, Science and Technology, Social Service, Sports, and Environment.
- (B) Bravery, Politics, Science, Literature, and Sports
- (C) Innovation, Art and Culture, Literature, and Mathematics
- (D) Social Service, Environment, Politics, and Agriculture

Answer: (A) Art and Culture, Bravery, Innovation, Science and Technology, Social Service, Sports, and Environment.

President Droupadi Murmu conferred the **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar** on **17 children** in New Delhi on **26 December 2024**. **Categories:** The children were recognized for their achievements in **Art and Culture, Bravery, Innovation, Science and Technology, Social Service, Sports, and Environment**.

Q.:Where will the 38th National Games be held from January 28, 2025?

- A. Gujarat
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Karnataka
- D. Punjab

Ans: B. Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama inaugurated the torch procession of the 38th National Games from Haldwani in Nainital district on December 26, 2024.

Q.: Which Indian bowler has reached 904 rating points in the ICC Men's Test Bowling Rankings in December 2024, equaling the highest rating ever achieved by an Indian bowler?

- a) Anil Kumble
- b) Harbhajan Singh
- c) Jasprit Bumrah
- d) Ravindra Jadeja

Ans: c) Jasprit Bumrah

Jasprit Bumrah has reached **904 rating points** in the ICC Men's Test Bowling Rankings, equaling the highest rating ever achieved by an Indian bowler, previously held by Ravichandran Ashwin.

Q.: Who has been appointed as the Revenue Secretary in the Ministry of Finance?

- a) Amit Agrawal
- b) Vineet Joshi
- c) Arunish Chawla
- d) Neerja Sekhar

Ans: c) Arunish Chawla

Arunish Chawla: 1992 batch Bihar cadre IAS officer appointed as the **Revenue Secretary** in the Ministry of Finance in December 2024.

Q.: Whose bravery and sacrifice is honored on Veer Baal Diwas annually on December 26?

- a) Mahatma Gandhi's children
- b) Guru Gobind Singh Ji's younger sons
- c) Subhas Chandra Bose's nephews
- d) Jawaharlal Nehru's grandchildren

Ans: b) Guru Gobind Singh Ji's younger sons

Veer Baal Diwas is observed annually on **December 26**. The day honors the bravery and sacrifice of Guru Gobind Singh Ji's younger sons, **Baba Zorawar Singh** and **Baba Fateh Singh**.

Q.: Which former Prime Minister's 100th birth anniversary was commemorated during the foundation stone laying ceremony of Ken-Betwa River Linking Project?

- a) Jawaharlal Nehru
- b) Indira Gandhi
- c) Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- d) Rajiv Gandhi

Answer: c) Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Foundation Stone Laid: Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the **Ken-Betwa National River Linking Project** on **25 December 2024** in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh on the occasion of **100th birth anniversary** of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Q.: Which country is hosting the ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025?

- a) India
- b) Australia
- c) Pakistan
- d) England

Ans: c) Pakistan

The ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025 in Cricket will take place from **19th February to 9th March 2025**. Pakistan will host its first global cricket tournament since 1996, alongside the UAE as a neutral venue.

Q.: General (Dr.) Vijay Kumar Singh (Retd.) has been appointed as Governor of which state in December 2024?

- a) Bihar
- b) Mizoram
- c) Manipur
- d) Odisha

Ans : b) Mizoram

General (Dr.) Vijay Kumar Singh (Retd.): Designated as the new Governor of **Mizoram** by President of India on **24 December 2024**.

Q. When is Good Governance Day observed annually in India?

- a) December 26
- b) December 25
- c) January 1
- d) October 2

Ans: b) December 25

Good Governance Day is observed annually on **December 25th** in India to honor the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.

Q.: Who won the men's singles title at the 86th Senior National Badminton Championships 2024?

- a) Mithun Manjunath
- b) M. Raghu
- c) Sanskar Saraswat
- d) Ayush Agarwal

Answer: b) M. Raghu

Karnataka's M. Raghu defeated Mithun Manjunath (14-21, 21-14, 24-22), in the final of 86th Senior National Badminton Tournament held in Bengaluru on 24 December 2024.

Q.: Who has been appointed as the Senior White House Policy Advisor on Artificial Intelligence by President-elect Donald Trump?

- a) Sundar Pichai
- b) Sriram Krishnan
- c) Satya Nadella
- d) Vinod Khosla

Ans: b) Sriram Krishnan

President-elect **Donald Trump** appointed Indian-American entrepreneur **Sriram Krishnan** as the **Senior White House Policy Advisor on Artificial Intelligence (AI)**.

Q.: Where will India's matches in the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy be held?

- a) Pakistan
- b) India
- c) United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- d) England

Ans: c) United Arab Emirates (UAE)

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has designated the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** as the neutral venue for India's matches in the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy.

Q.: Who became Iceland's youngest Prime Minister in December 2024?

- a) Katrín Jakobsdóttir
- b) Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson
- c) Kristrun Frostadottir
- d) Bjarni Benediktsson

Ans: a) Katrín Jakobsdóttir

Iceland's new government, led by Prime Minister **Kristrun Frostadottir** of the Social Democratic Alliance (SDA), took office on **21 December 2024**. Frostadottir, born in 1988, is Iceland's youngest prime minister.

Q.: When is National Consumer Day observed annually in India?

- a) December 1
- b) December 24
- c) January 1
- d) October 2

Answer: b) December 24

Q. Who has been appointed as the new chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in 2024?

- a) Arun Kumar Mishra
- b) Priyank Kanoongo
- c) V. Ramasubramanian
- d) Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi

Ans: c) V. Ramasubramanian

Retired Supreme Court judge **V. Ramasubramanian** has been appointed as the new chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) by President **Droupadi Murmu** on 23 December 2024.

Q.: Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of the United Nations Internal Justice Council (IJC) in December 2024?

- a) Justice Dipak Misra
- b) Justice Ranjan Gogoi
- c) Justice Madan B. Lokur
- d) Justice Sharad Bobde

Answer: c) Justice Madan B. Lokur

Former Supreme Court judge Madan B. Lokur has been appointed as the Chairperson of the United Nations Internal Justice Council (IJC).

Q.: Which team won the inaugural Under-19 ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup 2024?

- a) Bangladesh
- b) Sri Lanka
- c) India
- d) Pakistan

Answer: c) India

India won the inaugural **Under-19 ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup** on **22nd December 2024** in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, defeating Bangladesh by **41 runs**.

Q.: Which Indian state has been recognized by the Wall Street Journal as one of the "Go-To Global Destinations for 2025"?

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Kerala
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Gujarat

Answer: c) Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh has been named one of the **"Go-To Global Destinations for 2025"** by the *Wall Street Journal*.

Q.: What percentage of India's geographical area is covered by forest and tree cover as per the latest India State of Forest Report 2023?

- a) 20.17%
- b) 25.17%
- c) 30.17%
- d) 35.17%

Answer: b) 25.17%

The total forest and tree cover in India is **827,357 square kilometers**, representing **25.17%** of the country's geographical area.

Q.: Which highest civilian honor was conferred on Prime Minister Narendra Modi by Kuwait in December 2024?

- a) Order of Merit
- b) The Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer
- c) Order of Kuwait
- d) The Golden Crescent

Answer: b) The Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was awarded **Kuwait's highest civilian honor, The Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer**, by **Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al Sabah**, the Amir of Kuwait, during his state visit on **22nd December 2024**.

