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WEEKLY —  
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## NATIONAL NEWS

### Vikrant Massey Retires From Acting At 37

Vikrant Massey, an industry outsider who rose to fame with hits like *The Sabarmati Report*, *12th Fail*, and *Sector 36*, has surprised his fans by announcing his retirement at 37. In a heartfelt Instagram post, Massey expressed gratitude for the "indelible support" he received and shared his decision to "recalibrate and go back home" to focus on being a husband, father, son, and actor. Prominent casting director Kunal M Shah praised Massey, stating, "Vikrant is at the peak of his career right now. He's a brilliant actor, as seen in *12th Fail* and *Sector 36*. We've rediscovered his talent time and again."

#### Foot notes:

- **Television Debut:** Began acting career in 2007 with Disney's *Dhoom Machhao Dhoom*, gaining fame through TV soaps like *Dharam Veer*, *Balika Vadhu*, *Baba Aiso Varr Dhoondo*, and *Qubool Hai*.
- **Film Breakthrough:** Supporting roles in *Lootera* (2013) and *Dil Dhadakne Do* (2015).
- **Acclaimed performance** as Shyamal "Shutu" Chatterjee in *A Death in the Gunj* (2016).
- **Recent Projects:** Starred in *12th Fail*, *Sector 36*, and *The Sabarmati Report*, addressing the 2002 Godhra train burning and its aftermath.
- **Upcoming Films:** Reportedly includes *Yaar Jigri* and *Aankhon Ki Gustaakhiyan*.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### New agent to Prince of Arcot Endowments appointed

The Government of Tamil Nadu approved the appointment of Nawabzada Ghulam Ghouse as the new agent of the Prince of Arcot Endowments through G.O. (Ms.) No. 106, dated 28.11.2024, issued by the Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, and Minorities Welfare (S2) Department. Nawabzada Ghouse succeeds U. Mohamed Khalilullah, who served as the agent since 1993. Now 91, Khalilullah is praised by the Prince for his 31 years of dedicated service, which saw significant improvements and contributions to the Endowments' development. The Prince expressed gratitude to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin for approving the appointment and supporting the request for the new agent.

#### Foot notes:

- **Appointment:** Nawabzada Ghulam Ghouse, 48, appointed as the new agent of the Prince of Arcot Endowments.
- **Role:** Manages Charitable and Religious Endowments under the Prince of Arcot Endowments Act (1922).

- Location: Endowments are based in Chennai, Tiruchirapalli, and other places in Tamil Nadu.
- Successor: Ghose succeeds U. Mohamed Khalilullah, who served as agent since 1993.
- Acknowledgment: Prince of Arcot thanked Tamil Nadu CM M. K. Stalin for his support in the appointment.

### **Jaishankar Opens Indian Embassy's New Chancery in Italy**

The Government of Tamil Nadu approved the appointment of Nawabzada Ghulam Ghose as the new agent of the Prince of Arcot Endowments through G.O. (Ms.) No. 106, dated 28.11.2024, issued by the Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, and Minorities Welfare (S2) Department. Nawabzada Ghose succeeds U. Mohamed Khalilullah, who served as the agent since 1993. Now 91, Khalilullah is praised by the Prince for his 31 years of dedicated service, which saw significant improvements and contributions to the Endowments' development. The Prince expressed gratitude to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin for approving the appointment and supporting the request for the new agent.

#### **Foot notes:**

- Historical Significance: Italy has been a vital hub for India's historical interactions with Europe, playing key roles as a producer, customer, financier, and carrier in India's commerce.
- Shared Maritime Interests: Both nations are maritime powers with aligned perspectives on global affairs.
- Diplomatic Relations: Frequent high-level interactions highlight the depth of India-Italy relations.
- Strategic Focus: Italian PM Giorgia Meloni's Indo-Mediterranean focus aligns with India's strategic interests, especially in maritime security and global cooperation.
- India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC): Launched during India's G20 presidency in 2023. Enhances connectivity between India, the Middle East, and Europe.
- Global Participation: Jaishankar to represent India at the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Fiuggi. Attending the 10th MED Mediterranean Dialogue in Rome, a key geopolitical forum.
- Diaspora Engagement: The new Chancery improves services and representation for the Indian diaspora in Italy. Strengthens people-to-people ties and fosters cultural connections.

### **Veronica Michelle Bachelet Jeria awarded Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2024**

Former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet has been selected to receive the 2024 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development, as announced by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust on Friday. The decision was made by a jury chaired by former national security advisor and foreign secretary Shivshankar Menon. The prize honors Bachelet's significant contributions to human rights, peace, and equality. The trust highlighted her roles as the first director of UN Women, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and two-term President of Chile. The award also acknowledges her efforts in strengthening India's relations with Chile.

**Foot notes:**

- Michelle Bachelet served as the President of Chile from 2006 to 2010 and again from 2014 to 2018.
- During her presidency, she implemented education and tax reforms, and oversaw the signing of a free trade agreement between India and Chile.
- She led UN Women from 2010 to 2013 and served as UN High Commissioner for Human Rights from 2018 to 2022.
- The Indira Gandhi Prize includes a cash award of Rs 25 lakh and a citation, recognizing her contributions to international peace and development.
- Established in 1986, the prize is awarded annually to individuals and organizations promoting these causes.
- Bachelet has been a consistent champion of gender equality and the rights of marginalized communities, making a lasting impact both domestically and internationally.
- Born on September 29, 1951, in La Cisterna, Santiago Province, Chile, Bachelet faced personal and political adversity during General Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship.

**US President Donald Trump received the 'Patriot of the Year' award**

Donald Trump was honored with the 'Patriot of the Year' award at a Long Island event hosted by Fox Nation. The award, styled to resemble the American flag, was presented following a live rendition of Lee Greenwood's God Bless the USA. In his acceptance speech, the president-elect reflected on his journey to reclaim the White House and asserted that the nation is already reaping the benefits of his electoral victory over Kamala Harris.

**Foot notes:**

- Donald Trump, 78, continued celebrating his electoral and popular vote victories at the event.
- He highlighted his close ties with individuals at Fox, stating: "You have incredible people at Fox."

- Former U.S. Senator David Perdue was named ambassador to China.
- Initially scheduled to be hosted by Defense Secretary nominee Pete Hegseth, the role shifted to Sean Hannity after Hegseth left Fox News to accept his nomination.
- Around 2,000 attendees, dressed elegantly and often adorned with American flags or "Make America Great Again" merchandise, packed the venue.
- Fox News host Sean Hannity emceed the event, describing the honorees as “an eclectic blend of people” worthy of recognition.
- Awards were presented in various categories, including service to veterans, bravery, and courage.
- About a dozen Fox News personalities participated, including Jesse Watters, Laura Ingraham, and Judge Jeanine Pirro, who also served as award presenters.

### **Murdu Fernando Sworn in as Sri Lanka's 48th Chief Justice**

Justice Murdu Nirupa Bindushini Fernando was ceremonially sworn in as the Chief Justice of Sri Lanka on December 2, 2024, by President Anura Kumara Dissanayake at the Presidential Secretariat. Justice Fernando is the 48th Chief Justice of Sri Lanka and the second woman to hold the position, following Justice Shirani Bandaranaike. She succeeds Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya, who recently retired.

#### **Foot notes:**

- Nomination and Swearing-In: Approved by the Constitutional Council. Sworn in on December 2, 2024, at the Presidential Secretariat by President Anura Kumara Dissanayake.
- Ceremony attended by dignitaries, including Dr. Nandika Sanath Kumaranayake, Secretary to the President.
- Educational Background: Alumna of Princess of Wales College, Moratuwa. Earned an LL.B. from the University of Colombo's Faculty of Law.
- Professional Journey: Joined the Attorney General's Department in 1985. Promoted to Deputy Solicitor General in 1997. Became Additional Solicitor General in 2014. Appointed to the Supreme Court in March 2018. Served as Senior Additional Solicitor General and the senior-most judge on the Supreme Court.
- Significance: Justice Fernando's career spans over three decades, reflecting her expertise and commitment to the rule of law. Her appointment marks a progressive step for gender representation in Sri Lanka's judiciary.

### **Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah Becomes Namibia's First Female President**

Namibia elected its first female president last week, with Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah winning the presidential election, despite technical and logistical challenges. The 72-year-old, who currently serves as the country's vice president, secured 57% of the vote, strengthening the ruling South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) party's control since Namibia gained independence from South Africa in 1990. Opposition parties have disputed the results, calling the extension of SWAPO's power illegal and have announced plans to challenge the outcome in court.

• **Foot notes:**

- Nandi-Ndaitwah, a staunch SWAPO supporter, joined the party at 14 and was involved in the underground independence movement in the 1970s that fought against South African apartheid rule in Namibia.
- Primary challenger Panduleni Itula of the Independent Patriots for Change (IPC) received 26% of the vote.
- IPC plans to contest the results in court, citing issues like ballot paper shortages and technical difficulties that caused a three-day voting extension.
- Joined SWAPO in the 1960s as part of Namibia's independence struggle.
- Held senior roles, including foreign minister, and was promoted to vice president in February after President Hage Geingob's death.
- SWAPO received 53% of the parliamentary vote, a drop from 65% five years ago.
- Nandi Ndaitwah is seen as a steady, seasoned diplomat who avoided the corruption scandals that have affected other SWAPO members.

## **US President appointed Warren Stephens as envoy to UK**

US President-elect Donald Trump has selected billionaire investment banker Warren Stephens as the next US ambassador to the United Kingdom. This prestigious position is typically filled by close allies and major donors. Stephens, a prominent Republican donor, contributed \$2 million to a pro-Trump super PAC during the 2024 campaign. He is the chairman, president, and CEO of Stephens Inc., a financial services firm based in Little Rock, Arkansas, which he inherited from his father.

**Foot notes:**

- US President-elect Donald Trump appointed businessman Warren Stephens as the US Ambassador to the United Kingdom.
- Trump announced the nomination on social media, praising Stephens as one of the country's most successful businessmen.
- Warren Stephens is the chairman, president, and CEO of Stephens Inc., a privately held financial services company based in Little Rock, Arkansas.

- A significant Republican party supporter, Stephens was a fundraising bundler for Mitt Romney's 2012 presidential campaign.
- Initially supporting conservative groups that opposed Trump in 2016, Stephens later shifted his support to Trump for the 2020 and 2024 presidential elections.
- Trump highlighted Stephens' 38-year leadership in building a successful financial firm and his philanthropic contributions to the community.

### **China Opens First Atmospheric Monitoring Station in Antarctica**

China has launched its first atmospheric monitoring station in Antarctica, significantly enhancing its research presence on the continent. Situated in the Larsmann Hills of East Antarctica, the Zhongshan National Atmospheric Background Station is designed to offer continuous, longterm monitoring of atmospheric components. This initiative will provide crucial data on climate change and the effects of human activity on the environment. The station underscores China's expanding involvement in Antarctic research, reinforcing its ambitions as a 'polar power'.

#### **Foot notes:**

- Zhongshan Station located in a region of unique geographical and scientific value.
- It will monitor atmospheric concentration changes, aiding in understanding global climate shifts, especially in polar regions, which are critical amplifiers of climate change.
- China's growing presence in Antarctica is part of its longterm strategic vision, including exploration of resources like minerals, petroleum, and natural gas.
- The mining ban under the treaty will be up for review in 2048, and China's actions may be preparing for that possibility.
- China's approach seeks to balance environmental protection with resource use, which could influence future discussions regarding the treaty.

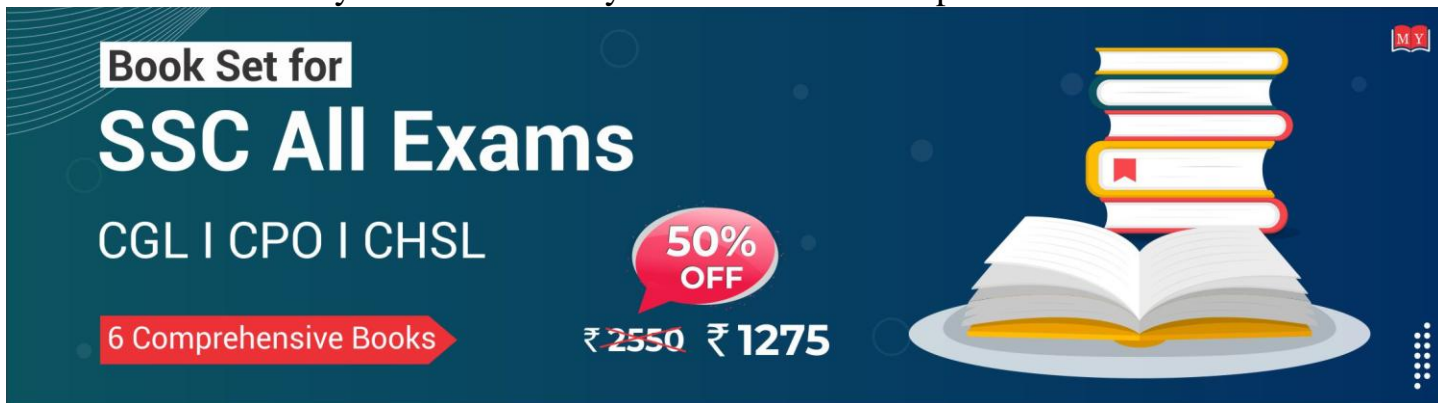
## **STATE NEWS**

### **Harchand Barsat appointed as chairman of COSAMB**

S. Harchand Singh Barsat, Chairman of the Punjab Mandi Board, has been appointed as the Chairman of the National Council of State Agricultural Marketing Boards (Kausamb) in New Delhi. This appointment comes in recognition of his exceptional contributions to the Mandi system in Punjab. The announcement was made by Kausamb Managing Director Dr. J.S. Yadav at a ceremony held at Kisan Bhawan. Barsat becomes the 21st Chairman of Kausamb. During the event, the leadership of Kausamb was officially handed over to him by Shri Aditya Devi Lal Chautala, MLA from Dabwali, Haryana, and former Chairman of Kausamb.

#### **Foot notes:**

- Importance of Farmers: Farmers, known as Annadaata, produce a variety of crops, including vegetables, fruits, and grains, feeding everyone.
- Modernization of Mandi System: Emphasized the need for modernization to ensure clean handling of farm produce from harvest to consumer delivery. Highlighted the changing eating habits, which demand an upgraded system.
- National Mandi System Upgrade: Advocated for unifying India's Mandi system, creating a more efficient and beneficial network for all stakeholders. Aimed to improve the Mandi system to benefit farmers, commission agents, laborers, and traders.
- Collaboration for Welfare: Pledged to enhance the Mandi system through modern techniques for the welfare of the people. Stressed the importance of collective efforts to ensure that every section of society benefits from the improvements.



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### **Arunachal Pradesh Launched 'Mission Arun Himveer'**

The Government of Arunachal Pradesh has launched Mission Arun Himveer to improve market access for local agricultural and horticultural producers. In a significant development, the Arunachal Pradesh Agriculture Marketing Board (APAMB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), North East Frontier, in the presence of Chief Minister Pema Khandu. Provide direct market access for local farmers, SHGs, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and cooperatives. Promote economic growth in rural and border areas. Address employment challenges by encouraging reverse migration to villages.

#### **Foot notes:**

- ITBP will directly purchase fruits, vegetables, meat, and poultry from local farmers through APAMB.
- A revolving fund of 4 crore will facilitate payments, reimbursed after reconciliation by ITBP.
- 400 tons of produce worth 72 lakhs were supplied to the Indian Army under a similar agreement in August 2022.
- Agricultural produce exchange has already started in regions like Tawang, Lower Subansiri, West Siang, Upper Siang, and Lohit.
- MoU signed by APAMB CEO Okit Palling and ITBP NE Frontier Inspector General Akun Sabharwal.



- Ceremony attended by Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein, Chief Secretary, and senior officials from agricultural and allied sectors.
- Deputy Commissioners, farmers, SHGs, and cooperatives participated virtually.

**About Arunachal Pradesh:**

**Capital:** Itanagar (Executive Branch)

**Chief Minister:** Pema Khandu

**Governor:** Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik

**Ekhnath Shinde joined Maharashtra as Deputy CM**

Ekhnath Shinde has agreed to take the oath as deputy chief minister, as announced by party leader Uday Samant on Thursday. Initially, Shinde had hesitated to confirm his cabinet position due to the BJP not meeting his demands, which included the home portfolio for himself as deputy chief minister and the assembly speaker position for a Shiv Sena legislator. Shinde and Fadnavis held two meetings over the past two days. Samant revealed that Shiv Sena MLAs had urged Shinde to take the cabinet position, with many indicating they would refuse ministerial positions if Shinde stayed outside the government.

**Foot notes:**

- The Shiv Sena is expected to receive approximately 12 ministerial positions in the upcoming cabinet reshuffle.
- While the party remains optimistic about the alliance's future, some members feel that Ekhnath Shinde continuing as chief minister could have strengthened the party's position ahead of local body elections.
- Several Shiv Sena MLAs believe that retaining Shinde for a longer period would have boosted morale and improved performance in the upcoming municipal and zilla parishad elections, according to a TOI report.
- Outgoing cabinet ministers are keen to retain their positions, while Shiv Sena leaders are focusing on including new faces in the cabinet.
- The party is looking to balance regional and caste considerations while preparing for local elections.
- With 57 MLAs and four independents backing the party, Shiv Sena faces the challenge of managing diverse expectations.

**Justice Manmohan appointed as Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court**

The appointment follows a recommendation made by the Supreme Court Collegium on November 28. The Collegium, led by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and comprising Justices B.R. Gavai, Surya Kant, Hrishikesh Roy, and Abhay S. Oka, endorsed the elevation of

Justice Manmohan. Justice Manmohan, currently serving as the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court since September 2024, previously held the position of Acting Chief Justice from September 2023. With a distinguished legal career, he was born on December 17, 1962, and earned his LL.B. from Delhi's Campus Law Centre in 1987.

**Foot notes:**

- **Collegium Recommendation:** The Supreme Court Collegium, led by CJI Sanjiv Khanna, recommended Justice Manmohan's elevation to the Supreme Court on November 23, 2024.
- **Supreme Court Composition:** His appointment increases the Supreme Court's strength to 33 judges against the sanctioned 34.
- **Seniority and Representation:** Justice Manmohan is ranked No. 2 in the all-India seniority of High Court judges and is the senior-most judge in the Delhi High Court. Currently, the Supreme Court has only one judge from the Delhi High Court.
- **Family Background:** Born on December 17, 1962, he is the son of the late Jagmohan Malhotra, a former Governor of Jammu and Kashmir and Lt. Governor of Delhi.
- **Education:** Earned an LL.B. from Campus Law Centre, Delhi University, and enrolled as an advocate in 1987.
- **Retirement:** Supreme Court judges retire at 65, while High Court judges demit office at 62.

**Bihar Pavilion awarded gold award in the 43rd Indian International Trade Fair**

The Bihar Pavilion at the 43rd India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2024 in Delhi received a gold medal for its design, thematic presentation, and dedication to sustainability, according to officials from the state's industry department. Inaugurated by Industries and Tourism Minister Nitish Mishra, the pavilion showcased Bihar's progressive journey with the theme "Viksit Bihar under Viksit Bharat @ 2047." Alok Ranjan Ghosh, the Director of Industries, praised the award as a testament to the state's efforts in blending tradition with modernity.

**Foot notes:**

- Bandana Preyashi, Secretary, Department of Industries, Government of Bihar, highlighted that the award reinforces the state's commitment to sustainability, inclusivity, and innovation, aligning with its vision of "Viksit Bihar by 2047."
- She emphasized the recognition as a proud moment, showcasing Bihar's cultural richness and economic advancement.
- The success of the pavilion was attributed to the collaborative efforts of the government, local artisans, entrepreneurs, and stakeholders.
- Alok Ranjan Ghosh, Director of Industries, credited the achievement to meticulous planning and inter-departmental collaboration.
- Ghosh described the award as a significant milestone, reaffirming Bihar's position as a forward-looking state that values its heritage while pursuing progress.

- He noted that the Bihar Pavilion symbolizes the state's aspirations and collective efforts toward realizing its vision of "Viksit Bihar by 2047."

**About Bihar:**

**Chief Minister:** NitishKumar

**Capital:** Patna

**Ratapani Wildlife sanctuary declared as 8th Tiger Reserve of MP**

The Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary has been officially declared as the 8th Tiger Reserve of Madhya Pradesh. This significant development aims to provide a protected habitat for the majestic Bengal tiger and other endangered species. Located in the Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh, the Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary is spread over an area of approximately 890 square kilometers. The declaration of this sanctuary as a tiger reserve is expected to boost conservation efforts and ensure the long-term survival of tigers in the region.

**Foot notes:**

- 8th Tiger Reserve: Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary has been declared as the 8th Tiger Reserve of Madhya Pradesh.
- Location: The sanctuary is located in the Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh.
- Area: The Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary covers an area of approximately 890 square kilometers.
- Conservation Efforts: The declaration aims to provide a protected habitat for the Bengal tiger and other endangered species.
- Significance: This move is expected to boost conservation efforts and ensure the long-term survival of tigers in the region.

**UNESCO Declares West Bengal a Top Heritage Tourism Destination**

West Bengal's tourism sector has gained international acclaim, with UNESCO recognizing it as a leading destination for heritage tourism. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee highlighted the state's remarkable strides in religious, heritage, and tea tourism, which have significantly boosted the industry and created employment opportunities for thousands of youth. By enhancing iconic religious and heritage sites, West Bengal is elevating its tourism profile, driving economic growth, and solidifying its role as a key player in India's tourism sector.

**Foot notes:**

- Over 2,400 homestays have been opened, particularly in North Bengal, boosting accommodation options for tourists.
- Development of tourist-friendly amenities in key regions like the Sunderbans, forests, and mountains.
- Establishment of thousands of hotels and facilities, creating significant employment opportunities for local youth.
- Gangasagar Mela: Enhancing Pilgrimage Tourism. Recognized as one of India's largest religious gatherings, second only to the Kumbh Mela.

- Infrastructure upgrades, including a new bridge over the Muriganga River, aim to improve visitor experience.
- Efforts to elevate the Mela's prominence and attract more pilgrims.

### **Srinagar Earns 'World Craft City' Tag**

Srinagar, the picturesque capital of Jammu and Kashmir, has been bestowed with the prestigious title of "World Craft City" by the World Craft Council (WCC). This esteemed recognition makes Srinagar the fourth Indian city to receive this honor, after Jaipur, Bhuj, and Pune. The "World Craft City" tag is a testament to Srinagar's rich cultural heritage and its expertise in traditional crafts, such as carpet weaving, papier-mâché, and woodcarving. This distinction is expected to boost tourism and promote the local handicrafts industry in Srinagar.

#### **Foot notes:**

- **Prestigious Recognition:** Srinagar, the capital of Jammu and Kashmir, has been recognized as a "World Craft City" by the World Craft Council (WCC).
- **4th Indian City:** Srinagar is the fourth Indian city to receive this honor, after Jaipur, Bhuj, and Pune.
- **Rich Cultural Heritage:** This recognition is a testament to Srinagar's rich cultural heritage and its expertise in traditional crafts.
- **Traditional Crafts:** Srinagar is famous for its traditional crafts, including carpet weaving, papier-mâché, and woodcarving.
- **Boost to Tourism and Local Industry:** This distinction is expected to boost tourism and promote the local handicrafts industry in Srinagar.

### **Devendra Fadnavis to be sworn in as Chief Minister of Maharashtra**

Devendra Fadnavis has been elected as the BJP's Legislative Party leader in a crucial meeting, positioning him as the next Chief Minister of Maharashtra. With his appointment confirmed, Fadnavis is set to meet Eknath Shinde at 2 PM at Varsha bungalow, with Ajit Pawar also attending. The meeting will focus on the next steps, the distribution of cabinet portfolios, and finalizing the list of leaders for the oath taking ceremony.

#### **Foot notes:**

- Senior BJP leaders, including Sudhir Mungantiwar and Pankaja Munde, seconded the proposal, confirming Fadnavis's return as CM.
- Fadnavis will take the oath alongside Eknath Shinde of Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), who are expected to be appointed deputy chief ministers.
- The Mahayuti alliance (BJP, Shiv Sena under Eknath Shinde, and NCP under Ajit Pawar) won a resounding victory in the Maharashtra Assembly elections, securing 232 of 288 seats.
- Despite the overwhelming mandate, the alliance initially faced challenges in finalizing leadership roles, particularly due to Eknath Shinde's insistence on remaining CM.

- The deadlock was resolved when Eknath Shinde publicly agreed to step aside for party unity, expressing his willingness to follow decisions made by Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

## DEFENCE NEWS

### India-Cambodia Joint Exercise VINBAX Begins in Pune

The Indian Army and Cambodian Army have launched their inaugural Joint Table Top Exercise, CINBAX, at the Foreign Training Node in Pune. Scheduled from 1st to 8th December 2024, the exercise aims to enhance strategic cooperation, mutual trust, and interoperability. Indian Army: 20 personnel from an Infantry Brigade. Cambodian Army: 20 personnel. Wargaming counter-terrorism operations in alignment with Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

#### Foot notes:

- Enhance trust, camaraderie, and interoperability between Indian and Cambodian forces.
- Improve joint operational efficiency in United Nations peacekeeping missions.
- Promote indigenous defense production by showcasing Indian-made weapons and equipment.
- Counter-Terrorism: Joint planning and execution of CT operations.
- Force Multipliers: Use of advanced technology in sub-conventional warfare.
- Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR): Crisis management training.
- Casualty Management and Logistics: Improved operational support efficiency.
- Atmanirbharta: Highlighting Indian-origin defense equipment.
- Trust Building: Strengthening bilateral military relations and fostering camaraderie.
- Joint Training Task Force: Establishing collaborative frameworks for intelligence and reconnaissance.

### MoA signed between the Arunachal Pradesh government and the Indian Army

A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) has been signed between the Arunachal Pradesh government and the Indian Army for the upkeep and maintenance of the Major Ralengnao Bob Khathing Museum of Valor. The agreement was signed in the presence of Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu in Tawang on Wednesday. Tawang Deputy Commissioner Kangki Darang and Brigadier V S Rajput of the 190 Mountain Brigade officially signed the MoA. The agreement establishes that the management and oversight of the museum will be fully handled by the Indian Army.

#### Foot notes:

- Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu paid tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, India's first Home Minister, who directed Major Bob Khathing to travel to Tawang in

1951 and establish administrative control over the region, which was previously under Tibetan administration.

- This crucial move not only integrated Tawang into India but also embodied Patel's vision of a unified and strong nation.
- CM Khandu acknowledged the contributions of Sardar Patel, Major Bob Khathing, and the then Governor of Assam, Daulat Ram, in securing Tawang as part of India.
- He emphasized that without their efforts, the Monpas and the Tawang region could have been under China-controlled Tibet.
- The Chief Minister expressed gratitude to the Indian Army, particularly the Tawang-based 190 Mountain Brigade, for providing defense land for the museum and agreeing to manage it.
- He assured that the government would provide full support for the museum's maintenance and management whenever necessary.

#### **About Arunachal Pradesh:**

**Capital:** Itanagar

**Chief Minister:** Pema Khandu

**Governor:** Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik

#### **India-Malaysia Joint Military Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI Commenced**

The 4th edition of the India-Malaysia Joint Military Exercise, HARIMAU SHAKTI, began on December 2, 2024, at Bentong Camp in Malaysia's Pahang district. Scheduled to continue until December 15, 2024, this annual exercise aims to strengthen military cooperation between the two nations. The focus is on enhancing the forces' capability to conduct joint counterinsurgency operations in jungle terrain, in accordance with the United Nations Chapter VII Mandate.

#### **Foot notes:**

- Enhance joint military capabilities for counterinsurgency operations in jungle terrain.
- Strengthen defense cooperation and foster stronger bilateral ties between India and Malaysia.
- Focus Areas: Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs): Sharing best practices for joint operations.
- Jungle Warfare: Training for operations in challenging jungle environments.
- Interoperability: Developing seamless operational coordination.
- Camaraderie: Building effective communication and teamwork between forces.
- Historical Context: This is the 4th edition of the exercise.
- The previous edition was held in November 2023 at Umroi Cantonment, Meghalaya, India.

- Strategic Importance: Strengthens defense ties and collaboration on counterinsurgency tactics. Enhances bilateral military relations between India and Malaysia.

## **BANKINGNEWS**

### **ANZ appointed Sam Garland as Group General Manager**

ANZ has appointed Sam Garland as Group General Manager of Internal Audit. Reporting directly to the Chair of the Audit Committee, Christine O'Reilly, he will also have an internal management reporting line to ANZ CEO Shayne Elliott. With two decades of experience in professional services and extensive expertise in the financial sector, Mr. Garland joins ANZ from PwC Australia. At PwC, he served as the Banking and Capital Markets Leader, overseeing client relationships and providing assurance, risk management, regulatory guidance, and support for complex transformations.

#### **Foot notes:**

- Mr Garland succeeds Paul Orton, who will retire after 14 years at ANZ. Mr Orton has been a trusted leader and demonstrated unquestionable integrity throughout his many leadership roles at ANZ, and in particular while leading Group Internal Audit since 2021.
- Mr Garland will be based in Melbourne and commences in the role in early 2025.
- Mr. Garland will succeed Paul Orton, who is retiring after 14 years at ANZ.
- Paul Orton has been a trusted leader, showing exceptional integrity during his leadership roles, especially as the head of Group Internal Audit since 2021.
- Mr. Garland will be based in Melbourne and is set to begin his role in early 2025.

### **South Indian Bank Inaugurates Second Mega Currency Chest in Kakkanad**

South Indian Bank (SIB), a leading scheduled commercial bank in India, has expanded its banking infrastructure by inaugurating its second Mega Currency Chest in Kakkanad, Ernakulam, which also marks its sixth currency chest overall. The facility was officially opened today by Mr. Thomas Mathew, Regional Director for Kerala & Lakshadweep at the Reserve Bank of India, Thiruvananthapuram, along with key bank officials.

#### **Foot notes:**

- South Indian Bank has inaugurated a new currency chest at Kakkanad to serve its branches in Ernakulam and adjacent regions.
- The expansion is aimed at improving cash management, enhancing the bank's ability to handle high volumes of currency, and ensuring greater operational efficiency and faster service delivery.
- Thomas Mathew, Regional Director for Kerala and Lakshadweep at the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), emphasized that currency management is central to the RBI's responsibilities and that such currency chests ensure quality currency notes are available to the public.

- The new currency chest strengthens South Indian Bank's infrastructure and enhances its position as a leading financial institution in the region.
- Mr. Thomas Mathew highlighted the partnership between RBI and South Indian Bank in providing reliable currency management services.
- The new addition is part of South Indian Bank's ongoing efforts to meet the changing needs of its customers across the region.

## SPORTS NEWS

### Pakistan won U-19 Asia Cup

Pakistan emerged as the champions of the U-19 Asia Cup, securing a dominant victory in the tournament. The team displayed exceptional skill and determination throughout the competition. Their performance highlighted their strength in youth cricket. The win adds another prestigious title to Pakistan's cricketing achievements. It also marks a significant milestone for the development of young cricketers in the country.

#### Foot notes:

- Pakistan clinched the U-19 Asia Cup title with a commanding performance in the final.
- The team showcased impressive skills and teamwork throughout the tournament.
- Their victory highlighted the emerging talent in Pakistan's youth cricket scene.
- The win adds a prestigious trophy to Pakistan's cricketing legacy.



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### Deepika Kumari rises to 3rd spot in World Archery Rankings

Indian recurve archer Deepika Kumari has climbed to third place in the latest World Archery Rankings with 237.5 points, trailing Casey Kaufhold of the USA (264.5) and leader Lim Sihyeon of Korea (305). After taking a break in 2023 following the birth of her child in December, Deepika returned to competition this year, securing a medal at the Asia Cup in Baghdad. The three-time Olympian finished fourth at the Yecheon 2024 Hyundai Archery World Cup Stage 2 in May..

#### Foot notes:

- Deepika's dominance is evident as the second-ranked Indian recurve archers, Ankita Bhakat and Bhajan Kaur, are tied at 34th with 111 points each.



- Despite missing the podium at the Paris Olympics, the 30-year-old made a strong comeback by winning a silver medal at the Archery World Cup Final in Mexico in October.
- Dola Banerjee remains the only Indian to win World Cup Final gold (Dubai, 2007).
- Deepika Kumari's Record: Sixth medal in nine World Cup Final appearances; first since becoming a mother in 2022. Runner-up in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, and 2024; bronze medalist in 2018.

### **Mizoram won 14th Hockey India Sub-Junior Women National Championship**

On the fifth day of the 14th Hockey India Sub Junior Women National Championship 2024, held at the South Central Railways Sports Complex in Secunderabad, Telangana, Hockey Mizoram, Hockey Haryana, Hockey Bihar, Hockey Bengal, and Hockey Maharashtra each secured three points in their respective matches. The day began with a goalless draw between Kerala Hockey and Hockey Arunachal in Pool E.

#### **Foot notes:**

- Hockey Bengal defeated Le Puducherry Hockey 7-1 in Pool H.
- Captain Bulbul Kumari Shaw scored a hat-trick (2', 23', 55').
- Purba Chakraborty (24', 32') and Piyali Oraw (16', 29') scored braces.
- Manasvi B.U scored for Le Puducherry Hockey (50').
- In Pool F, Hockey Jammu and Kashmir forfeited their match against Hockey Bihar, and Hockey Bihar was awarded a 5-0 win.
- In the final match of the day, Hockey Maharashtra defeated Hockey Gujarat 1-0 in Pool G.
- Captain Yashasvi Kubde scored the winning goal in the second quarter (29').

#### **About Mizoram:**

**Capital:** Aizawl

**Chief Minister:** Lalduhoma

### **Historic Bronze Medal for India in e-Football at Asian E-sports Games**

Pavan Kampelli secured the bronze medal in eFootball at the 2024 Asian Esports Games in Bangkok, making India's first-ever podium finish in the event. Known as 'Mr. Tomboy', Kampelli triumphed over 2022 eFootball World Finals Winner (Mobile), Asgard Azizi of Indonesia, with a 2-1 victory. Despite a tough beginning against TXRO of Thailand, Kampelli displayed remarkable skill to clinch the bronze.

#### **Foot notes:**

- India's Pavan Kampelli secured the bronze medal in eFootball at the 2024 Asian Esports Games in Bangkok, marking the country's first-ever podium finish in the event.
- Known as 'Mr Tomboy,' Pavan defeated the 2022 eFootball World Finals Winner (Mobile), Asgard Azizi of Indonesia, 2-1 on his way to the bronze.

- Despite a challenging start against the eventual champion, TXRO of Thailand, Pavan displayed incredible resilience, bouncing back with 2-1 victories over players from Indonesia, Syria, and Laos to clinch the historic medal.
- Pavan advanced to the Lower Bracket Final, where he fought valiantly against TXRO for a place in the Grand Finals but was narrowly defeated.

### **Jay Shah Became a Youngest ICC Chairman in History**

At 36, Jay Shah becomes the youngest Chairman in ICC history. He takes over from Greg Barclay, recognizing his impactful four-year tenure. Shah's appointment marks a pivotal moment for global cricket, with opportunities to expand the sport's reach and inclusivity.

#### **Foot notes:**

- Drive cricket's inclusion in the LA28 Olympic Games.
- Promote inclusivity and global popularity of cricket.
- Support the growth of women's cricket while maintaining a balance across formats.
- Strategic Goals: Engage and expand the global cricket fanbase. Enhance resources and opportunities for cricketers worldwide. Sustainably grow the sport through collaboration with ICC teams and member nations.
- Administrative Experience: He was secretary of BCCI since 2019, former district and state-level cricket administrator with the Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA).
- Acknowledgment: Expresses gratitude to Greg Barclay for his impactful leadership and contributions as ICC Chairman.

### **Gujarat's Urvil Patel becomes 1st batter to score two T20 centuries in U40 balls**

Gujarat opener Urvil Patel struck his second T20 century in just six days during the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy match against Uttarakhand at the Emerald High School Ground. Patel raced to a 36ball century, guiding Gujarat to a dominant eightwicket win in just 13.1 overs. With this century, Patel became the first player in T20 cricket history to score two hundreds in under 40 balls. This achievement follows his recordbreaking 28ball century against Tripura on the same ground the previous week.

#### **Foot notes:**

- Chasing 183, Urvil Patel played a sensational knock, finishing unbeaten on 115 off 41 balls, including 8 fours and 11 sixes, leading Gujarat to victory with 41 balls to spare.
- In a previous game, Patel smashed an unbeaten 113 off 35 balls while chasing 156, including 12 sixes and 7 fours, securing a win in just 10.2 overs. His 28ball century was the fastest by an Indian in T20 cricket, and his strike rate of 322.86 is the secondhighest in T20s, only behind Estonia's Sahil Chauhan (27ball hundred).
- One year ago, Patel scored the secondfastest List A hundred in Indian cricket, reaching 100 in just 41 balls against Arunachal Pradesh.
- IPL 2023: Patel was part of the Gujarat Titans squad, picked for 20 lakh. Despite his explosive performances, he was released by the franchise ahead of the IPL 2024 auction.

- IPL 2025: Patel entered the Mega Auction with a base price of 30 lakh but went unsold.

### **India Beat Hong Kong In Asian Women's Handball Championship**

India kicked off their campaign in the 20th Asian Women's Handball Championship (AWHC) 2024 with a hard-fought 31-28 victory over Hong Kong China at the Indira Gandhi Arena in New Delhi. The win was powered by standout performances from Bhawana Sharma and Menika. The Indian team started strongly, with Priyanka Thakur scoring the tournament's opening goal for the hosts. Thakur, a key player in India's landmark triumph at the 2022 Asian Women's Junior Handball Championship, set the tone early in the game.

#### **Foot notes:**

- India commenced their campaign in the 20th Asian Women's Handball Championship (AWHC) 2024 with a thrilling 31-28 win over Hong Kong China at the Indira Gandhi Arena, New Delhi, on Tuesday.
- Bhawana Sharma and Menika delivered stellar performances, with Bhawana earning the Player of the Match honor, adding to her reputation as the Best Player from the Junior Championships.
- Thakur, a standout player in India's historic win at the 2022 Asian Women's Junior Handball Championship, set the tone for the match.
- Experienced campaigner Menika followed suit, contributing significantly to India's early advantage.
- Kazakhstan shocked favorites China with a 28-26 win, driven by a stellar performance from goalkeeper Zhannat Aitenova, who earned Player of the Match.

### **India Won 5th Junior Hockey Asia Cup**

In an electrifying final in Muscat, the Indian men's junior hockey team clinched their fifth Junior Asia Cup title with a 5-3 victory over arch-rivals Pakistan on December 4, 2024. This win marks India's third consecutive championship, following their triumphs in 2015 and 2023, and adds to their title wins in 2004 and 2008. The star of the match was Arajjeet Singh Hundal, who delivered a stellar performance by scoring four goals, leading India to a memorable victory.

#### **Foot notes:**

- Arajjeet Singh Hundal's Heroic Performance: Scored four goals, including three penalty corners and one field goal. 4th Minute Converted the first penalty corner. 18th Minute: Added another penalty corner goal.
- 47th Minute: Netted a field goal after a missed penalty corner. 54th Minute: Sealed the win with his third penalty corner conversion.
- Other Goal Contributions: Dilraj Singh scored a field goal in the 19th minute.
- Pakistan's Fightback: Sufyan Khan: Scored two penalty corner goals (30th and 39th minutes). Hannan Shahid: Scored a field goal in the 3rd minute.
- Match Dynamics: Both teams displayed high intensity, particularly in the first quarter.

- India gained momentum in the second quarter, turning the game in their favor.
- Bronze Medal Match: Japan: Defeated Malaysia 2-1 to claim third place in the tournament.
- Tournament Context: India's win was against an undefeated Pakistan team until the final.

## APPOINTMENT & PERSON IN NEWS

### Harinath Mishra appointed secretary (security) in Cabinet Secretariat

Senior IPS officer Harinath Mishra, currently serving as Special Director General in the Intelligence Bureau, has been appointed as Secretary (Security) in the Cabinet Secretariat. A 1990-batch IPS officer from the Kerala cadre, Mishra's appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). He will succeed Swagat Das in this role, as per an order issued by the Ministry of Personnel.

#### Foot notes:

- Mishra, a 1990-batch IPS officer (Kerala cadre), currently Special Director General, Intelligence Bureau.
- Appointed Secretary (Security) in the Cabinet Secretariat, succeeding Swagat Das, who retires Saturday.
- The Secretary (Security) oversees the Special Protection Group (SPG), responsible for the prime minister's security.
- ACC approved his re-employment term's curtailment "with immediate effect" at the request of the Election Commission.
- Mishra, a Bihar native, previously served as IG Crime Branch in his home cadre and held various district-level postings.

### Vijay Chandok Joins as MD & CEO of NSDL

Ay Chandok has been appointed as the Managing Director and CEO of the National Securities Depository (NSDL). He will lead the organization through a transformative phase, focusing on improving market operations and providing secure, efficient, and innovative solutions for stakeholders. With nearly 30 years of leadership experience, Chandok specializes in corporate finance, relationship management, credit risk, credit analysis, and risk management.

#### Foot notes:

- Chandok has over three decades of experience in the BFSI sector.
- Held pivotal roles in the ICICI Group, including: Executive Director on the Board of ICICI Bank, Managing Director and CEO of ICICI Securities Ltd, Currently associated with NSDL.
- Have studied Master's in Management Studies (MMS) from NarseeMonjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS), Mumbai. Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering from IIT-BHU, Varanasi (formerly IT-BHU).

- Recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award from NMIMS in 2017.
- Career Milestones at ICICI: Joined ICICI Bank as a management trainee in 1993. Progressed to general manager before becoming president in 2010. Elevated to Executive Director of the bank in 2016.

**About NSDL:****Founded:** 1996**CEO:** Padmaja Chunduru**Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala's Reappointed as WTO Director-General**

Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala assumed office as the Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO). A distinguished global finance expert and economist, she brings over 40 years of experience spanning Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, and North America. Previously, she served as Chair of the Board for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and was a board member for Standard Chartered PLC and Twitter Inc. Dr. Okonjo-Iweala also held key roles as the African Union (AU) Special Envoy, tasked with securing international financial support to combat COVID-19 and as the WHO Special Envoy for the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator.

**Foot notes:**

- Consensus Builder: Renowned for her ability to foster trust and build consensus among governments and stakeholders.
- Trailblazing Minister: Served as Nigeria's Finance Minister (2003–2006, 2011–2015) and briefly as Foreign Minister in 2006, the first woman to hold both roles.
- Reform Advocate: Led significant reforms that enhanced the efficiency of Nigeria's ministries and government operations.
- World Bank Career: Spent 25 years as a development economist, rising to Managing Director, overseeing an \$81 billion portfolio and spearheading critical initiatives during global crises.
- Trade Advocate: Championed trade as a tool for poverty reduction and economic growth, contributing to Nigeria's trade policy overhaul.
- World Bank Presidency: First African and female candidate for World Bank President in 2012, with global backing.
- Global Influence: Featured in Forbes' Top 100 Most Powerful Women (7 times) and TIME's Most Influential People (2014, 2021).
- Anti-Corruption Fighter: Recognized by Transparency International among inspiring female anti-corruption leaders.

**Indian-Origin Kash Patel Takes Charge of Director of FBI**

US President-elect Donald Trump has named Kash Patel as the next Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), succeeding Christopher Wray. Patel, a staunch Trump supporter,

is recognized for his firm backing of Trump's policies and his outspoken criticism of federal agencies, including the FBI, which he has accused of undermining the former president's agenda.

**Foot notes:**

- Career Transition: Shifted from law to politics in 2016 as an aide to Devin Nunes.
- Russiagate Role: Played a pivotal role in investigating FBI wiretapping of Carter Page and the Steele dossier, solidifying his status as a Trump loyalist.
- Impeachment Defense: Defended Trump during his first impeachment trial over alleged Ukraine misconduct.
- Author of Government Gangsters: Advocates for aligning government with Trump's principles and removing officials obstructing Trump's agenda.
- Post-Administration Actions: Supported Trump during the Mar-a-Lago documents investigation. Backed claims of a standing declassification order.
- Key Roles: Aide to Devin Nunes, Russiagate investigator, impeachment defense.
- Significance: Embodies Trump's vision to reshape federal institutions.

### **Eurogrip Tyres Appoints M.S. Dhoni as Brand Ambassador**

Eurogrip Tyres, a prominent Indian brand known for its 2 and 3-wheeler and off-highway tyres, has appointed M.S. Dhoni, the iconic cricketer, as its brand ambassador. This collaboration reflects Eurogrip Tyres' core values of performance, reliability, and safety, aiming to boost the brand's visibility and trust among consumers. M.S. Dhoni's strong affinity for motorcycles and his focus on performance, reliability, and passion for riding align perfectly with the brand's

**Foot notes:**

- Eurogrip Tyres and M.S. Dhoni share common values such as performance, dependability, and a passion for riding.
- Dhoni has a strong connection to motorcycles, which dates back before his cricket career.
- He emphasizes the importance of choosing the right tyres to ensure a safe and enjoyable ride.
- P. Madhavan, EVP of Marketing & Sales at TVS Srichakra Ltd., expressed enthusiasm about the partnership, noting that Dhoni embodies the brand's core values.
- The collaboration highlights innovation, reliability, and performance for modern riders.
- Eurogrip Tyres has over 40 years of experience in tyre design and manufacturing.
- The brand offers a wide variety of products for diverse needs and applications.
- Eurogrip's products are designed in Milan, Italy, and undergo global testing and certification, ensuring high-quality standards.

### **Amit Narang appointed next ambassador of India to Slovenia**

Shri Amit Narang (IFS: 2001), presently Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Slovenia. Born on January

28, 1975, Narang assumed his role as Ambassador to Oman on October 24, 2021. Prior to this, he led the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) Division of the MEA, managing India's bilateral relations with key maritime neighbors, as noted by the Embassy of India in Oman.

**Foot notes:**

- MEA Roles: Served as Chief Vigilance Officer of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). Oversaw India's consular and visa policy, focusing on welfare initiatives for the overseas Indian diaspora.
- China Expertise: Holds an Advanced Diploma in Chinese language.
- Served in China twice: 2003-2007: Worked on bilateral economic and commercial relations.
- 2016-2018: Served as Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of India, Beijing.
- India's lead negotiator for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, The Addis Ababa Action Agenda.
- Counselor at the Permanent Mission of India to the UN in New York (2013-2016).
- He represented India in UNFCCC climate change negotiations at COP meetings in Cancun, Durban, Doha, Lima, and Paris, culminating in the adoption of the Paris Agreement (COP21) in 2015.

**IFS officer Ashok Kumar appointed as Indian envoy to Belarus**

Ashok Kumar, currently serving as the High Commissioner of India to Zambia, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Belarus, according to a statement by the Ministry of External Affairs. University of Delhi Alumnus: Holds a B.Sc. (Hons) in Geology, an M.Sc. in Applied Geology, and an M.Phil. in Engineering Geology. He had 23 years in the Indian Foreign Service, handling diverse assignments in diplomacy, administration, and cultural promotion.

**Foot notes:**

- Early Posting: Began his diplomatic career at the Embassy of India in Syria (2000-2003), where he learned Arabic and served as Second Secretary.
- Jeddah Posting: Assigned to the Consulate General of India in Jeddah in 2004, handling the Commercial and Community Welfare departments.
- Headquarters Role: Returned to New Delhi in 2006 as Deputy Secretary in the East and Southern Africa Division, overseeing EAC, COMESA, SADC, and development cooperation projects.
- Finance Division: Later transferred to the Integrated Finance Division of the Ministry of External Affairs.
- His extensive experience in diplomatic and administrative roles positions him well for his new assignment in Belarus

**Kalinga Lancers appoint Valentin Altenburg as head coach**

The Kalinga Lancers have appointed Valentin Altenburg as their head coach for the upcoming Hockey India League (HIL) season. Altenburg, 43, is a highly regarded figure in international hockey, renowned for his tactical acumen, leadership qualities, and extensive experience with the German national team. Altenburg made history as the youngest senior men's coach in the German Hockey Association (DHB). Led the German men's team to a bronze medal at the 2016 Rio Olympics.

**Foot notes:**

- Altenburg has expressed excitement about joining the Kalinga Lancers as head coach.
- Praised Indian hockey and looks forward to contributing to the team's success.
- The squad includes a mix of young talent and experienced players.
- Altenburg's Olympic experience is expected to be a key asset.
- Upcoming Match: The Kalinga Lancers are set to face UP Rudras in their opening match on December 30.

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## AWARD NEWS

### Dr. Basant Goel honored with UN Global Excellence Award

Dr. Goel's global reputation was further enhanced with the 'Bharat Kirtimaan' Award from the British Parliament, recommended by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He was appointed as the Global Ambassador for the International Siddhashram Shakti Centre for the U.S.A., U.K., and India, an announcement made during King Charles III's birthday celebration on November 14, 2024. His commitment to healthcare and philanthropy, along with visionary leadership, continues to inspire change and strengthen cultural and international ties.

**Foot notes:**

- Dr. Basant Goel was honored as the Guest of Honor at the United Nations Global Excellence Award in Dubai.
- He was awarded a Doctorate (Honoris Causa) by the United States of America International University for his exceptional contributions to healthcare and philanthropy.
- Dr. Goel holds a Bachelor of Pharmacy, a Ph.D. in Diabetes, and a Doctorate in Health Science from prestigious U.S. institutions.



- His humanitarian efforts gained international recognition, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, earning accolades from the World Book of Records (London).
- His leadership in organizing blood donation drives led to a Guinness World Record for the most blood donations in a single camp, with 200 units of blood donated daily across India.

### **Vikrant Massey Honored as Indian Film Personality of the Year at IFFI**

Actor Vikrant Massey was honored with the esteemed Indian Film Personality of the Year award at the grand finale of the 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa. The award was presented by Goa Chief Minister Shri Pramod Sawant and Shri Sanjay Jaju, Secretary of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, in acknowledgment of Massey's outstanding contributions to Indian cinema.

#### **Foot notes:**

- Vikrant Massey's journey is a powerful example of how dreams and perseverance can lead to remarkable success.
- He expressed excitement about the future, highlighting that many aspects of his acting skills are yet to be discovered, urging audiences to stay tuned.
- Massey's notable films include: Dil Dhadakne Do (2015), A Death in the Gunj (2016), Dolly Kitty Aur Woh Chamakte Sitare (2019), Ginny Weds Sunny (2020), Cargo (2020).
- His performances have earned critical and audience acclaim, showcasing his versatility and dedication.
- Known for portraying relatable characters, he has become a true representation of the common man's voice in cinema.
- As he explores new acting dimensions, Massey's contributions are expected to leave a lasting impact on the Indian film industry.

### **Scottish Sikh Artist Jasleen Kaur Won 2024 Turner Prize**

Scottish Sikh artist Jasleen Kaur, born in Glasgow, has won the 2024 Turner Prize, one of the most prestigious awards in contemporary art. Renowned for her poignant exploration of personal, political, and spiritual themes, Kaur was recognized for her solo exhibition *Alter Altar*. The exhibition weaves together sculpture, sound, and music to delve into themes of community, cultural inheritance, and anti-colonial struggles. Kaur's work is acclaimed for its inventive storytelling, using everyday objects to convey powerful narratives of resilience, memory, and identity.

#### **Foot notes:**

- Her exhibition *Alter Altar* at Tate Britain, featuring sculptures brought to life through sound and music.
- Skillful weaving of personal, political, and spiritual themes in her artwork.

- Audience participation, reflecting Sikh community traditions of inclusivity and interaction.
- Celebrated for addressing themes of family memory, community struggles, and cultural resilience.
- Earned widespread recognition from the Sikh community and her upbringing circles in Glasgow.
- Studied jewelry-making and applied art, sparking her interest in storytelling through objects.
- Commended by the Turner Prize jury for evoking solidarity and joy through playful combinations of materials and sound.

### **India Won ISSA Good Practice Award for Asia-Pacific 2024**

India has been honored with the prestigious ISSA Good Practice Award for Asia and the Pacific 2024, presented by Dr. Mohammed Azman, President of the International Social Security Association (ISSA), at the Regional Social Security Forum in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) was also recognized with five Certificates of Merit for its innovative social security delivery practices. These awards highlight EPFO's efforts to improve service delivery, communication, and inclusivity, benefiting its extensive and diverse workforce.

#### **Foot notes:**

- India's EPFO was awarded the prestigious ISSA Good Practice Award for its continuous efforts in reforming and enhancing the country's social security systems.
- The award was presented at the Regional Social Security Forum in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, a key platform for discussing social security issues.
- EPFO transformed the judicial inquiry process by moving to online e-proceedings, reducing delays, increasing transparency, and ensuring fairness in determining dues from defaulting employers.
- The Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0 programme brings EPFO services closer to members by holding grievance resolution camps on the 27th of each month across the country, improving access to essential services like claim submission and grievance redressal.
- EPFO established multilingual call centres to assist members in 12 major regional languages, improving member satisfaction by resolving issues in their preferred language.
- The Prayaas Initiative ensures Pension Payment Orders (PPO) are issued on the day of retirement for members of the Employees' Pension Scheme (1995), improving the pension disbursement process and prioritizing pensioners.

### **Maria Victoria Juan Wins Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award 2024**

Nurse Maria Victoria Juan from the Philippines, a Consultant with the Philippine Army Health Services and Colonel in the Reserve Force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, has been

honored with the Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award 2024. She received a prize of USD 250,000 at a prestigious ceremony held in Bengaluru, India. The announcement was made by Dr. Azad Moopen, Founder Chairman of Aster DM Healthcare, in the presence of government officials, Bollywood actress Sonali Bendre, Alisha Moopen (Managing Director and Group CEO, Aster DM Healthcare), T J Wilson (Executive Director and Group Head, Governance & Corporate Affairs, Aster DM Healthcare), and other distinguished guests.

**Foot notes:**

- **Launch and Purpose:** The Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award was initiated in 2021 by Aster DM Healthcare to honor and celebrate the remarkable contributions of nurses globally.
- **2024 Participation:** The 2024 edition received 78,000 applications from nurses in 202 countries, reflecting a 50% growth compared to 2023.
- **Recognition of Excellence:** Dr. Azad Moopen, Founder Chairman of Aster DM Healthcare, emphasized the vital role of nurses in healthcare, describing them as the "backbone of healthcare" who provide compassionate care and significantly impact the healthcare system.
- **Inspiration and Impact:** Dr. Moopen highlighted Maria Victoria Juan as a model of nursing excellence, inspiring the global healthcare community, and applauded the efforts of all top 10 finalists and participants.
- **Global Acknowledgment:** A special message from Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, congratulated the finalists and commended Aster DM Healthcare for recognizing the essential role of nurses.
- **Goal of the Awards:** The initiative aims to spotlight and celebrate the often-overlooked contributions of nurses who go above and beyond to make a difference in patients' lives and their communities.

### **ESIC Wins 4 Awards at Asia-Pacific Social Security Forum**

The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) received one Certificate of Merit with Special Mention for its mobile application (Ask An Appointment - AAA+) and three Certificates of Merit in the categories of Occupational Accident and Disease, Sustainable Investment, and System Resilience at the Regional Social Security Forum for Asia and the Pacific (RSSF Asia-Pacific). The forum, organized by the International Social Security Association (ISSA), took place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on December 3, 2024. Shri Ashok Kumar Singh, Director General of ESIC, received the awards on behalf of the corporation.

**Foot notes:**

- **Recognition at RSSF Asia-Pacific:** ESIC received four prestigious awards at the Regional Social Security Forum for Asia and the Pacific (RSSF Asia-Pacific) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. These included one Certificate of Merit with Special Mention for the "Ask An Appointment - AAA+" mobile app and three Certificates of Merit in categories such as Occupational Accident and Disease, Sustainable Investment and System Resilience.

- Acknowledgement for Excellence: The awards were presented for ESIC's outstanding service delivery in various social security benefits, highlighting its commitment to innovation, efficiency, and social inclusion in healthcare and social security services for India's working population.
- Impact on ESIC's Global Reputation: This recognition boosts ESIC's international standing and reinforces its commitment to sharing best practices and improving the global effectiveness of social security systems.
- AAA+ Mobile App Features: Available on Android and iOS, the app serves insured persons, beneficiaries, staff, and ESI pensioners, offering access in eight languages, including English, Hindi, and six regional languages.
- ISSA, founded in 1927 under the ILO, is the global leader in social security systems, connecting institutions, government departments, and professionals.

### **Tamil Nadu wins FICCI award for best state promoting sports**

Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin met Chief Minister M.K. Stalin at the Secretariat on Wednesday to present the 'Best State Promoting Sports' award, which Tamil Nadu received at the FICCI Turf 2024 14th International Sports Meet in New Delhi. The award recognizes Tamil Nadu's efforts in promoting sports through initiatives such as Providing incentives worth 104.22 crore to 3,345 medal-winning sportspersons, a scheme introduced by the DMK government after assuming office.

#### **Foot notes:**

- Award Recognition: Tamil Nadu was honored with the 'Best State Promoting Sports' award at the FICCI Turf 2024 14th International Sports Meet in New Delhi.
- 104.22 crore disbursed as incentives to 3,345 medal-winning sportspersons.
- 13.33 crore allocated through the Tamil Nadu Champions Foundation to 585 sportspersons for purchasing kits and equipment.
- Kalaigiar Sports Kits Initiative: Distributed sports equipment to 12,525 village panchayats.
- Sporting Events: The State hosted a series of sports events, showcasing its commitment to promoting athletic excellence.
- Award Ceremony: Atulya Misra, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Youth Welfare and Sports Development, and J. Meghanatha Reddy, Member Secretary, Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu, received the award on November 30 in New Delhi.

#### **About Tamil Nadu:**

**Capital:** Chennai

**Chief Minister:** M K Stalin

**Governor:** R. N. Ravi

## IMPORTANT DAYS NEWS

### World Computer Literacy Day is observed on 2nd December

World Computer Literacy Day is observed annually by the National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT) to commemorate the company's 20th anniversary. The day aims to promote computer literacy, particularly among women and children. As computers play an increasingly crucial role in future work environments due to their technological contributions, Computer Literacy Day 2024 serves as a reminder that many people still lack basic computer skills. The day focuses on connecting women and children with technology, fostering an environment conducive to new innovations.

#### Foot notes:

World Computer Literacy Day was launched in 2001 by NIIT to celebrate its 20th anniversary.

- NIIT (National Institute of Information Technology) was founded in 1981 by Rajendra Singh Pawar and Vijay K. Thadani.
- Since its establishment in 1981, NIIT has expanded its reach to over 30 countries worldwide.
- World Computer Literacy Day celebrates the transformative impact of computers and technology on the world.
- For World Computer Literacy Day 2024, consider donating to charities to help increase access to computers and enhance computer literacy skills.
- Encourage using computers for more than just gaming or email—celebrate the day by putting them to productive use.
- Celebrate by posting on social media with the hashtag #computerliteracyday to raise awareness about the importance of computer literacy.

### International Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed on 3rd December

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD), observed every year on December 3, honors the resilience, contributions, and leadership of persons with disabilities (PwDs) around the world. It serves as a reminder of the global commitment to fostering inclusivity, advocating for PwD rights, and creating equitable opportunities for all. This year's theme, "Amplifying the leadership of persons with disabilities for an inclusive and sustainable future," highlights these efforts. To address policy issues and enhance the welfare and empowerment of PwDs, the Department of Disability Affairs was established on May 12, 2012, under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. It was later renamed the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities on December 8, 2014.

#### Foot notes:

- **Focus:** Ensure equal opportunities, social justice, and empowerment of PwDs, and support the implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.
- Assistance to Persons with Disabilities for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP) Scheme:

- Objective: Provide grants-in-aid to implementing agencies to assist PwDs in acquiring durable, scientifically manufactured aids and appliances.
- Goal: Enhance physical, social, and psychological rehabilitation and improve economic potential by reducing the effects of disabilities.
- Schemes for Implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 (SIPDA):
- Purpose: A comprehensive Central Sector Scheme to implement the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.
- Structure: Includes 10 sub-schemes, revised in August 2021 for operation from 2021–22 to 2025–26.

### **Indian Navy Day observed on 4th December**

Indian Navy Day, observed every year on December 4, honors the courage, achievements, and steadfast commitment of the Indian Navy in protecting the nation's maritime boundaries. It also marks the success of Operation Trident during the 1971 IndoPak War, a key event in India's military history. Indian Navy Day is more than just a ceremonial occasion; it serves as a tribute to the brave personnel of the Indian Navy who tirelessly safeguard the country's maritime sovereignty. The day recognizes their sacrifices and celebrates their exceptional skills in ensuring security across the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

#### **Foot notes:**

- Indian Navy Day is not just a ceremonial event. It honours the brave personnel of the Indian Navy who defend the nation's maritime sovereignty, acknowledging their sacrifices and exceptional skills in securing the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- India's Maritime Assets: Coastline is over 7,500 kilometers, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ): Spans more than 2 million square kilometres, the Indian Navy plays a key role in protecting these vast assets, reinforcing India's position as a major regional power.
- History Behind Indian Navy Day: The origins trace back to Operation Trident during the 1971 IndoPak War. On the night of December 4, 1971, the Indian Navy, led by Commodore Kasargod Pattanashetti Gopal Rao, launched a missile attack on Pakistan's Naval Headquarters in Karachi, crippling Pakistan's maritime capabilities.
- Key Highlights of Operation Trident: Use of missile boats: INS Veer, INS Nipat, INS Nirghat. Sinking of three Pakistani ships, including PNS Khaibar. Minimal Indian casualties. Significant damage to Pakistan's naval infrastructure.
- Theme: "Strength and Capability through Innovation and Indigenization" – highlighting the Navy's focus on achieving selfreliance in defense technologies, aligning with India's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat (SelfReliant India) for enhanced maritime security and operational efficiency.

### **International Volunteer Day is observed on 5th December**

The United Nations (UN) observes International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development on December 5 each year. Also known as International Volunteer Day (IVD), this occasion offers a platform for volunteers worldwide to unite and showcase their vital contributions to social and economic development. It serves as a reminder of the transformative impact of volunteerism in tackling global challenges and promoting sustainable progress at local, national, and international levels.

**Foot notes:**

- Most evident during challenging times such as combating climate change, addressing conflicts, and tackling social injustices.
- Volunteers are often the first responders, demonstrating unmatched courage, dedication, and selflessness.
- Volunteers enrich communities by promoting a culture of service and strengthening intergenerational bonds.
- They contribute to progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Volunteerism bridges gaps, fosters understanding, and empowers individuals to take charge of their own development.
- Described as an intergenerational cycle, where each generation contributes to and learns from the collective effort.
- 1985: The UN General Assembly established International Volunteer Day on December 17, 1985 (Resolution 40/212), encouraging governments worldwide to observe it annually on December 5.
- The goal was to raise awareness of volunteer service and inspire greater participation.

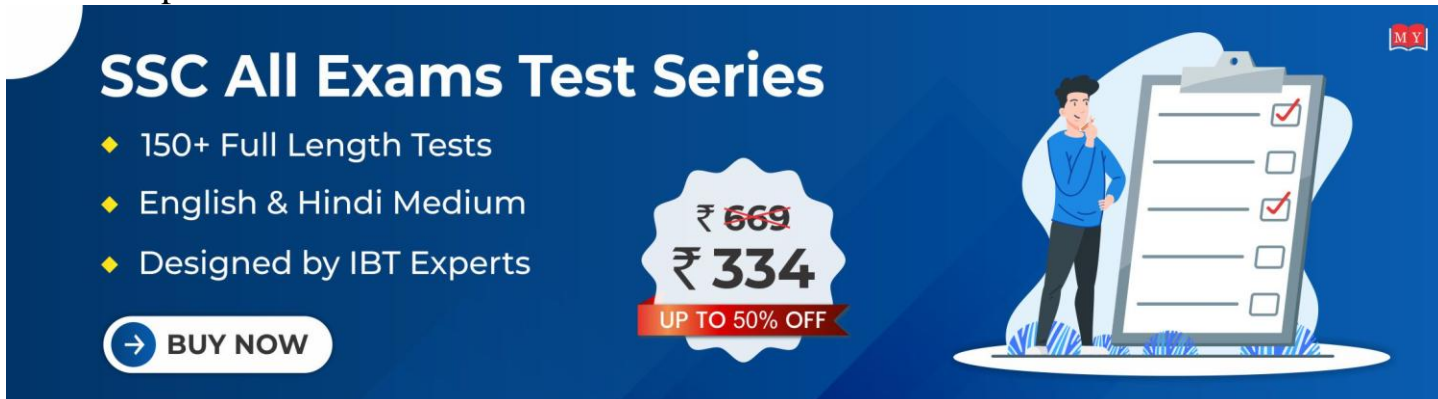
**All India Civil Defence and Home Guards Day observed on 6th December**

All India Civil Defence and Home Guards Day is observed annually on December 6 to honor the dedication and contributions of the Home Guards and Civil Defence organizations. The day also commemorates the establishment of the Home Guard force, which was first formed on December 6, 1946, in the Bombay Province as a voluntary citizen force to support the police in maintaining law and order. Over time, the force has grown into a vital auxiliary unit, playing a crucial role in responding to crises, natural disasters, and emergencies. The Home Guards concept originated in pre-independence India to create a voluntary force that could assist the police during civil unrest and communal tensions.

**Foot notes:**

- The initiative began in the Bombay Province, which became the first to establish the force, later serving as a model adopted by other states.
- Following the 1962 Chinese aggression, the central government emphasized the need for a unified voluntary force.
- States and Union Territories were advised to merge their voluntary organizations into a uniform structure.

- The Home Guards were formally established under the Home Guards Act and Rules, which differ by state and Union Territory.
- Maintain essential services, promote communal harmony, and protect vulnerable groups.
- Participate in socio-economic welfare initiatives.
- Engage in border patrolling, anti-dacoity operations, crime prevention, election duties, and prohibition enforcement.




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## OBITUARY NEWS

### Malaysian billionaire tycoon Ananda Krishnan passed away

Ananda Krishnan, one of Malaysia's wealthiest tycoons with a diverse business empire spanning telecommunications, media, petroleum, and real estate, has passed away at the age of 86. His investment holding company, Usaha Tegas, confirmed his death on Thursday, stating that he died peacefully, with the family requesting privacy. The cause of death was not disclosed. Ranked as Malaysia's sixth-richest individual by Forbes, Ananda Krishnan had a net worth of \$5.1 billion (22.6 billion ringgit). He amassed most of his wealth during the 1980s and 1990s.

#### Foot notes:

- Ananda Krishnan was a founding director of the state oil company Petronas.
- He pitched the idea of building the 88-story Petronas Twin Towers to then-Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and led its construction, transforming a horse racing track into an iconic landmark, reshaping Kuala Lumpur's skyline.
- Ananda made significant contributions to education, the arts, sports, and humanitarian causes in Malaysia.
- His wealth was impacted in 2018 when Indian authorities linked him to a major corruption scandal involving top government officials. Arrest warrants were issued for him and his former deputy, but neither was apprehended or extradited.



- His only son became a Buddhist monk in Thailand, and his two daughters were not involved in his business ventures.

### **Dr.Prithwindra Mukherjee passed away**

Dr.Prithwindra Mukherjee was a distinguished intellectual, passionate about music, poetry, and preserving India's history. He made significant contributions to strengthening India-France ties. He was the grandson of the renowned revolutionary Jatindranath Mukherjee (Bagha Jatin).He joined the Sri Aurobindo Ashram in 1948 and was involved in both studying and teaching at the Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education.Dr. Mukherjee was recognized as a poet before the age of twenty by the Sahitya Akademi, which featured him in its manuals and anthologies. He passed away on 30th November.

#### **Foot notes:**

- He translated works of French authors such as Albert Camus, Saint-John Perse, and René Char into Bengali, and also translated Bengali authors into French.
- In 1966, he moved to Paris on a French Government Scholarship.
- He defended his Doctorat d'Université thesis on Sri Aurobindo at the Sorbonne.
- He lectured at two Paris faculties, worked as a producer on Indian culture and music for Radio France, and was a freelance journalist for both Indian and French press.
- His works and compositions, alongside his efforts to preserve historical knowledge and promote cultural exchange, will continue to be admired.

### **Former Australia cricketer Ian Redpath passed away**

Former Australia batter Ian Redpath has passed away at the age of 83. Redpath, known for his resolute opening stance, had a distinguished international career spanning from 1964 to 1976, during which he played 66 Tests and five One Day Internationals (ODIs). He came agonizingly close to scoring a century on his Test debut against South Africa at the MCG, dismissed for 97 by Joe Partridge. Reflecting on the moment, Redpath once recalled, "I hit an off-drive for four, and there was another one I thought was in the same spot, and I licked my chops. Beautiful follow-through, it was," in an interview with Nine newspapers last year.

#### **Foot notes:**

- Ian Redpath scored seven more centuries after his Test debut, including a career-best 171 against England at Perth in 1970.
- He ended his Test career with three centuries in four innings against West Indies in 1975-76.

- On his first century in that series at the MCG, Wisden wrote that Redpath "ducked and weaved" effectively, completing an important century for Australia that demonstrated his long-term value.
- Gideon Haigh described Redpath as a tough batsman to dismiss, known for playing straight, with a short pick-up, mostly off the back foot, and adept at swaying and ducking bouncers in pre-helmet days.
- He was the last Australian to play as an amateur, turning down his match fee in 1963-64 to maintain his amateur Australian Rules Football career.
- Redpath served as vice-captain to both Ian and Greg Chappell, and batted alongside Greg when he scored a debut century against England in 1970-71.

### **Former CBI Director Vijay Shankar passed away**

Former CBI Director Vijay Shankar passed away on Tuesday at the age of 76 after a prolonged illness, according to his family. He had been hospitalized at a private facility in Noida. In line with his final wish, his mortal remains will be donated to AIIMS. A 1969batch IPS officer from the Uttar Pradesh cadre, Shankar served as the Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) from December 12, 2005, to July 31, 2008.

#### **Foot notes:**

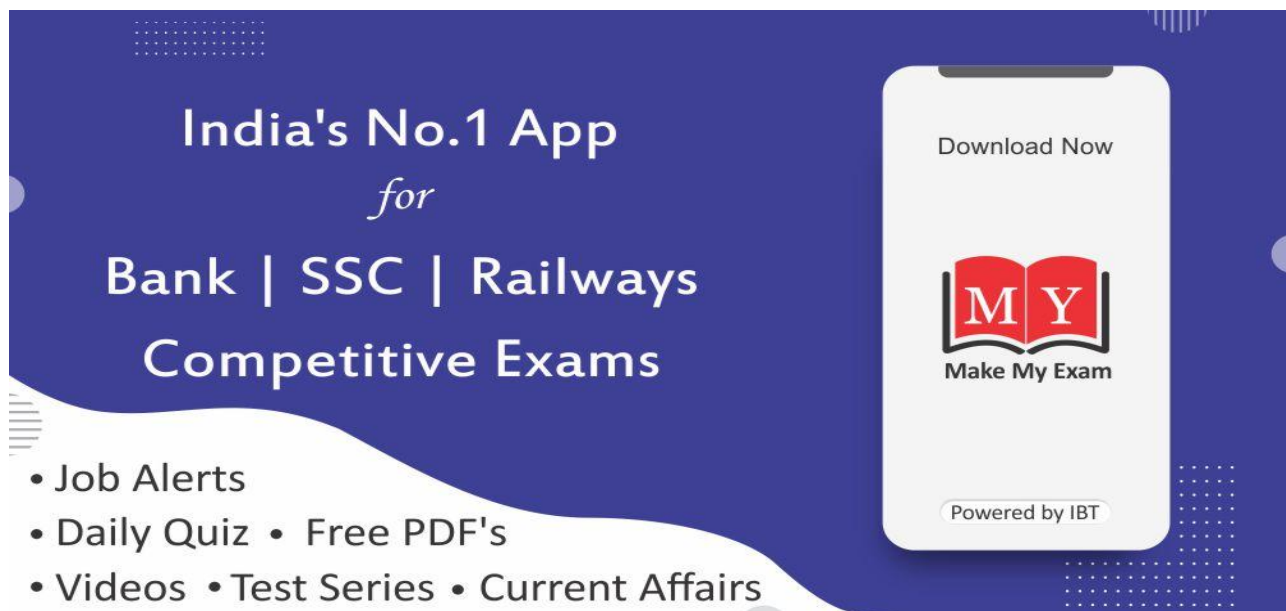
- Vijay Shankar served as Inspector General in the Border Security Force (BSF) and was posted in Jammu and Kashmir during the peak of militancy in the 1990s.
- He headed the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), responsible for securing India's borders with Nepal and Bhutan.
- Shankar was a recipient of the prestigious President's Police Medals for Distinguished and Meritorious Service.
- He served in the Uttar Pradesh Police and was posted in Moscow under the Ministry of External Affairs.
- Before being appointed as the CBI Director, Shankar led the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Civil Defence, and Home Guards.

### **Australian Davis Cup Icon Neale Fraser passed away**

Neale Fraser, one of Australia's most revered tennis players and captains, has passed away at the age of 91. A legendary figure in the sport, Fraser's impact as both a player and Davis Cup captain defined a golden era for Australian tennis. Known for his skill in both singles and doubles, Fraser won 19 Grand Slam titles and guided Australia to eight Davis Cup victories, cementing his status as a tennis icon.

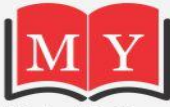
**Foot notes:**

- Davis Cup Contributions: Played a key role in Australia's Davis Cup victories in 1959, 1960, 1961 and 1962 under coach Harry Hopman.
- Captaincy Legacy: Served as the Australian Davis Cup captain from 1970 to 1993, leading the team to victories in 1973, 1977, 1983, and 1986. His 24-year tenure as captain is among the longest and most successful in Davis Cup history.
- Philippe Chatrier Award: Honored by the International Tennis Federation in 2008 for his exceptional contributions to tennis.
- World Number One: Regarded as one of the best players of his era, dominating during Australia's golden age in tennis.
- Golden Era of Tennis: Fraser was integral to Australia's dominance in tennis during the mid-20th century.
- Mentorship: As captain, he guided and mentored generations of Australian tennis players, leaving a lasting influence on the sport.
- Cultural Icon: Fraser's contributions went beyond tennis, inspiring a legacy of sportsmanship and excellence.



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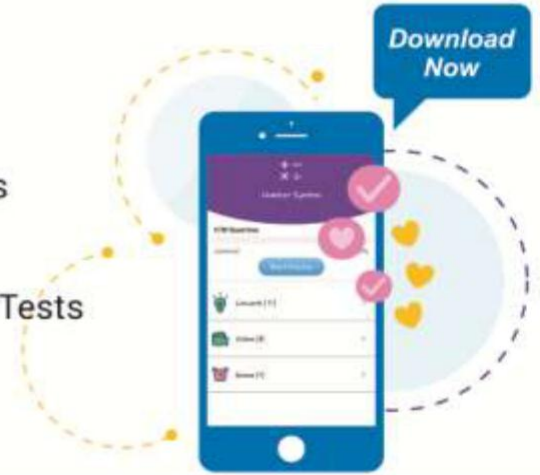
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