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# WEEKLY Current Affairs

# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## London is world's top city brand for second consecutive year

London has claimed the top position for the second year in a row in the newly released Brand Finance Global City Index 2024. Manchester, Liverpool, and Edinburgh each received recognition for their unique attractions, ranging from sports and music to scenic beauty. Following London in the global ranking are New York and Paris, completing the top three, with Tokyo and Dubai rising to 4th and 5th places. This ranking is based on a survey of 15,000 respondents across 20 countries, offering comprehensive global insights into the world's leading city brands.

**Foot notes:**

- London holds the title of the world's top city brand for the second year, as per the Brand Finance Global City Index 2024.
- The survey, the most comprehensive of its kind, involved over 15,000 respondents from 20 countries, assessing perceptions of 100 cities.
- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) included Familiarity, Reputation, and Consideration, evaluating cities as places to live, work, study, visit, retire, and invest.
- Respondents also rated cities across 45 attributes grouped under seven pillars, like Culture & Heritage and Business & Investment.
- London ranks 3rd in Familiarity and Reputation, reflecting its strong global appeal, but lags in Consideration (19th), particularly in affordability (97th).

**About UK:**

**President**: Rishi Sunak

**Founded:** 1922

## Dr. Navin Ramgoolam become Prime Minister of Mauritius

In a major political shift, Mauritius' opposition appears set for victory in the recent legislative elections, as Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth conceded defeat on November 11. Opposition leader Dr. Navin Ramgoolam has taken office as prime minister for a third time, leading his Alliance of Change coalition. Mauritius conducted its 12th parliamentary elections since gaining independence.

**Foot Notes:**

- The opposition, led by Dr. Navin Ramgoolam and the Alliance of Change coalition, is set for a major victory in Mauritius' recent election.
- Incumbent Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth conceded, acknowledging the Alliance Lepep's significant defeat and wishing the new government well.
- This will be Dr. Ramgoolam's third term as prime minister, having previously held the role from 1995 to 2000 and 2005 to 2014.
- Son of Mauritius' first prime minister, Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Navin Ramgoolam has a long history of political leadership.

- His Alliance of Change campaign promised reforms to address economic and social issues and aimed to strengthen international partnerships.
- India and Mauritius have a strong, historically rooted relationship, marked by shared cultural and demographic ties.
- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Ramgoolam, highlighting the "unique partnership" between the nations and inviting him to visit India.

**About Mauritius:**
**Capital**: Port Louis
**Prime Minister**: Navin Ramgoolam

## Shigeru Ishiba Re-Elected as PM of Japan

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba has secured his position after winning a run-off vote in parliament, following a setback in last month's election that saw his coalition lose its majority in the lower house. Ishiba, 67, assumed the role of prime minister from Fumio Kishida, who resigned in September amid a series of scandals that undermined public trust in the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). In a special parliamentary session on Monday, Ishiba triumphed over Yoshihiko Noda, leader of the opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan. Going forward, Ishiba will face challenges, including internal party divisions, economic difficulties, and a shifting international landscape.

**Foot Notes:**

- Ishiba, as leader of a minority government, faces the challenge of gaining opposition support for future bills and budgets, raising concerns of political gridlock.
- A former defence minister, Ishiba earned a reputation for openly criticizing party figures like Kishida and Abe, gaining voter support but causing friction within the LDP.
- He became LDP leader and prime minister on October 1, following a close race among candidates.
- The LDP, Japan's long-ruling party, is increasingly unpopular due to economic issues like inflation, a sluggish economy, and a weak yen.
- Ishiba has promised LDP reforms, economic revival, and increased defence spending.
- He has supported socially liberal policies like marriage equality and separate surnames for couples, though he now seeks more discussion to align with the LDP's conservative views.

**About Japan:**
**Capital**: Tokyo
**Prime minister**: Shigeru Ishiba
**Currency**: Japanese yen

## Donald Trump appointed Pete Hegseth as defense secretary

Pete Hegseth, a veteran of the U.S. Army National Guard, has been praised by Donald Trump for using his platform to "fight for our Military and Veterans." Trump commended Hegseth's advocacy for military personnel and veterans, recognizing his lifelong dedication as a "Warrior for the Troops" and for the country. On Tuesday, Trump announced that he had chosen Hegseth as his Secretary of Defense, describing him as tough, smart, and a strong supporter of the "America First" agenda.

**Foot notes:**

- Pete Hegseth is a Princeton and Harvard graduate and an Army Combat Veteran, having served in Guantanamo Bay, Iraq, and Afghanistan.
- He was awarded two Bronze Stars and a Combat Infantryman's Badge for his battlefield actions.
- Trump praised Hegseth for using his Fox News platform to advocate for military personnel and veterans.
- Hegseth's book, The War on Warriors, highlights the leftwing betrayal of military personnel and advocates for a return to a merit-based, accountable military.
- He has led two Veterans Advocacy organizations, fighting for troops and veterans.
- Trump emphasized that Hegseth would be a strong, patriotic champion of the "Peace through Strength" policy.

## Donald Trump appointed Elise Stefanik as U.N. Ambassador

President-elect Donald Trump has selected Republican Rep. Elise Stefanik to be the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, making this his first Cabinet appointment for his second term. Known for her strong support of Israel and as a close Trump ally, Stefanik has been a prominent figure in Congress, particularly on matters of foreign policy and security. At 40, she has built a career marked by her outspoken backing of Trump and her leadership within the GOP, establishing herself as a key player in both domestic and global politics.

**Foot notes:**

- Rising Star: Elected to represent New York’s 21st District in 2014, at age 30, becoming the youngest woman ever elected to Congress at the time. She has served five terms.
- Leadership Role: Became Chairwoman of the House Republican Conference in May 2021, following Liz Cheney’s removal over Trump criticism.
- Trump Ally: A strong defender of Trump, particularly during his first impeachment and in efforts to expunge both impeachments.
- Defender of Israel: Advocates for Israel, especially after the October 2023 Hamas attacks, and calls for defunding the UNRWA.
- Position on Ukraine: Initially supported aid packages to Ukraine but opposed further assistance, including a $60.8 billion package in 2024.
- House Vacancy: Her potential U.N. appointment could create a vacancy in the House, complicating the GOP’s slim majority.
- Electoral Background: Involved in challenging post-2020 election results but condemned the January 6th Capitol violence.

- Background: Graduated from Harvard, worked for President George W. Bush and Speaker Paul Ryan. Married to Matt with one son, Sam.

## Alix Didier Fils-Aime Sworn in as Haiti's New Prime Minister

Alix Didier Fils-Aime, a businessman, has been sworn in as Haiti's new prime minister, pledging to tackle the nation's critical security challenges and work toward restoring stability. His predecessor, Garry Conille, was removed from office after just five months due to a power struggle with Haiti's transitional council over ministerial appointments.

**Foot notes:**

- Prime Minister Alix Didier Fils-Aime emphasized that restoring security is crucial for Haiti's future and pledged his "energy, skills, and patriotism" to address the nation's issues.
- Haiti's interim government, with support from the U.S. and other regional powers, aims to stabilize the country and prepare for elections next year.
- Over 1,200 deaths were recorded between July and September 2024 due to gang violence, with kidnappings and sexual violence ongoing.
- UN Secretary-General António Guterres urged Haitian leaders to prioritize the country's interests and work towards a stable transition.
- Fils-Aime's government faces the complex tasks of addressing both security and political instability ahead of the upcoming elections.

**About Haiti:**

**Capital**: Port-au-Prince
**Official languages**: Haitian Creole, French
**Currency:** Haitian Gourde

## Indian-origin ' Tulsi Gabbard' appointed as US Intelligence Chief

Tulsi Gabbard was appointed as the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) by U.S. President-elect Donald Trump on November 13. The former Democratic Congresswoman and 2020 presidential candidate, who has since aligned with MAGA Republicans, is one of several Trump loyalists appointed to key positions after his election to the White House. Trump expressed confidence in Gabbard's leadership that shw will bring the fearless spirit that has defined her illustrious career to our Intelligence Community, championing our Constitutional Rights, and securing Peace through Strength."

**Foot notes:**

- Tulsi Gabbard, 43, is a U.S. Army reservist and a four-time Democratic Congresswoman from Hawai'i.
- She became the first Hindu to win a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2012.
- Born in 1981 to a Samoan-American father and a mother from the American Midwest, she grew up in Hawai'i.
- Her mother, Carol, was deeply interested in Hinduism and gave all her children Hindu names, including Tulsi.

- At 21, Tulsi became the youngest woman elected to the Hawaii state legislature in 2002 but left for military service in 2004.
- She served in the Hawaii National Guard until 2020 and is now in the U.S. Army Reserve with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

## Shri Anurag Srivastava appointed as High Commissioner of India to Republic of Mauritius

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced the appointment of Shri Anurag Srivastava, a 1999-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, as the next High Commissioner of India to Mauritius. This appointment highlights the significance India places on its strong ties with Mauritius, a key partner in the Western Indian Ocean region. With nearly 70% of Mauritius' 1.2 million population being of Indian origin, the two nations share deep historical, cultural, and demographic connections.

**Foot notes**:

- Historical Ties: India's connection with Mauritius dates back to 1729 when Indian workers arrived under French rule. During British rule, around half a million Indian indentured laborers came between 1834 and the early 1900s, with two-thirds settling on the island.
- Aapravasi Diwas: November 2, marking the arrival of the first workers aboard the Atlas in 1834, is commemorated as Aapravasi Diwas in Mauritius.
- Diplomatic Relations: India and Mauritius established formal diplomatic ties in 1948, 20 years before Mauritius gained independence, fostering a partnership characterized by political engagement and cooperation in areas like maritime security, development, and cultural exchange.
- India's Influence: India has supported numerous projects in Mauritius and established institutions like the Indian Cultural Centre, Mahatma Gandhi Institute, and World Hindi Secretariat, strengthening cultural and people-to-people ties.

# STATE NEWS

## IIT Ropar developed patented Mechanical Knee Rehab Device

Researchers at IIT Ropar have made a major breakthrough in post-surgical knee rehabilitation with the development of a Completely Mechanical Passive Motion (CPM) Machine for Knee Rehabilitation, which has been awarded patent No. 553407. Unlike traditional motorized CPM machines, which are costly and require electricity, this new device is entirely mechanical. It operates using a piston and pulley system that stores air as the user pulls a handle, providing smooth, controlled motion for knee rehabilitation.

**Foot notes:**

- This design eliminates the need for electricity, batteries, or motors, making it lightweight, portable, and more affordable.

- The mechanical CPM machine offers a cost-effective alternative to expensive electric models, which are often inaccessible, particularly in rural areas with unreliable power supply.
- Its portability makes it easy for patients to use at home, reducing the need for extended hospital stays and frequent rehabilitation visits.
- Continuous passive motion (CPM) therapy is vital for knee surgery recovery, aiding joint mobility, reducing stiffness, and speeding up healing.
- The new mechanical CPM machine provides a cost-effective, eco-friendly alternative to traditional electric models, making knee rehabilitation more affordable.
- The development is expected to have a lasting impact on knee rehabilitation, both in India and globally.




# DEFENCE NEWS

## India Launches First Space Defense Exercise Antariksha Abhyas

"Antariksha Abhyas – 2024," a pioneering three-day space defense exercise, is being conducted from November 11 to 13, 2024. Organized by the Defence Space Agency under the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff, the exercise is designed to simulate and address potential threats to space-based assets and services.

**Foot notes:**

- Objective: Enhance India's ability to secure strategic space interests and integrate space capabilities into military operations for national security.
- Focus: Raise awareness of operational dependencies on space-based assets among defense stakeholders and identify vulnerabilities to improve resilience.
- India is well-positioned with a legacy in space exploration and growing military capabilities.
- Emphasis on innovation and collaboration with DRDO, ISRO, and academic institutions.
- Space is increasingly "congested, contested, competitive, and commercial."
- Aligns with India's goals of technological advancement, resilience, and space security.
- Strengthens India's position in a complex, militarized, and commercially active space environment.

## South Western Command Launches Defence Think Tank 'Gyan Shakti'

Jaipur's South Western Command has launched the "Gyan Shakti" think tank to enhance collaboration on defense and security matters among the armed forces, industry, state government, and academia. This initiative seeks to strengthen Rajasthan's defense manufacturing by capitalizing on the state's infrastructure, skilled workforce, and strategic location near the western border.

**Foot notes**:

- The South Western Command, based in Jaipur, has launched the Gyan Shakti think tank to foster dialogue on defense and security matters between the armed forces, industry, State government, and academia.
- The initiative aims to support Rajasthan's vision of becoming a $350 billion economy by 2029.
- Gyan Shakti will leverage the knowledge and experience of veterans to boost defense transformation and encourage their involvement in national security and nation-building efforts.
- Lt. Gen. Manjinder Singh highlighted that the think tank will contribute to India's goals of Rising Rajasthan and Viksit Bharat by 2047.
- The think tank's formation marks a key step in enhancing Rajasthan's defense manufacturing capabilities and creating a collaborative framework for strengthening national security.

## Defence Space Agency Hosts 'Antariksha Abhyas' 2024

India's Defence Space Agency has launched its first tri-services space exercise, "Antariksha Abhyas - 2024," aimed at securing space assets and integrating advanced technologies to enhance national security in space. The exercise includes participation from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Defence Cyber Agency, Intelligence agencies, Strategic Forces Command, ISRO, and DRDO.

**Foot notes:**

- In his opening address, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan emphasized that space, once seen as the final frontier, is now crucial for India's defense and security. He highlighted India's strong space legacy and military capabilities, positioning the nation to tackle challenges in space.
- The CDS stressed that space is becoming more congested, contested, competitive, and commercial. He urged military leaders to secure national interests by fostering innovation and collaborating with DRDO, ISRO, and academia to develop advanced technologies and systems.
- Antariksha Abhyas – 2024 aims to improve understanding of space-based assets and services, operational dependencies on space, and vulnerabilities in the event of disruptions or denial of space services.

- Participants include the Defence Space Agency, Army, Navy, Air Force, Defence Cyber Agency, Defence Intelligence Agency, Strategic Forces Command, ISRO, and DRDO.

### Indian Navy Conducts Largest Coastal Defence Exercise, 'Sea Vigil-24'

The Indian Navy is set to hold the fourth edition of its nationwide coastal defense exercise, Sea Vigil-24, on November 20 and 21. This year's exercise will be the largest yet, spanning India's entire coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and featuring participation from six government ministries, 21 organizations, and multiple defense agencies. Sea Vigil-24 aims to strengthen India's coastal security capabilities, ensure readiness to protect critical coastal infrastructure, and counter maritime threats.

**Foot notes:**

- Preparation for the Coastal Defence and Security Readiness Evaluation (CDSRE) phase began in late October with audits of coastal defense infrastructure across coastal states, Union Territories, Lakshadweep, and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- The exercise involves State Marine Police, Coast Guard, Customs, Fisheries, and other key agencies, alongside military forces.
- The Indian Army and Indian Air Force will provide significant support, deploying ships and aircraft.
- For the first time, officials from the National Security Council Secretariat will participate in the CDSRE phase.
- Sea Vigil-24 will test and enhance India's coastal security, ensuring readiness to defend against maritime threats.
- Local fishing communities, residents, and maritime stakeholders will be involved, along with students from NCC and Bharat Scouts and Guides to raise coastal security awareness.

## BANKING NEWS

### DBS Bank appointed Rajat Verma as Chief Executive Officer for India

DBS Bank's India unit has nominated Rajat Verma, its head of institutional banking, as the bank's new CEO, according to sources familiar with the matter. Verma is set to succeed Surojit Shome, who will retire after leading DBS Bank India since 2015. His nomination has been submitted to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for approval, as required for all CEO appointments in Indian banks. Verma was appointed managing director and head of institutional banking at DBS India last year.

**Foot notes:**

- Rajat Verma, nominated to replace Shome, was appointed DBS Managing Director and head of institutional banking for India last year.
- Before DBS, Verma spent over 26 years at HSBC, where he was head of commercial banking in India.
- DBS has operated in India for about 30 years and has over 530 branches across 19 states.

**About DBS Bank:**
**Headquarters** : Mumbai, Maharashtra
**MD & CEO** : Surojit Shome

# SPORTS NEWS

## Palak-Amit pair won mixed air pistol Gold

Palak Gulia and Amit Sharma clinched the gold medal in the air pistol mixed team event at the World University Shooting Championship, defeating their fellow Indians, Sainyam and Samrat Rana, with a dominant 16-12 victory. This win was part of India's impressive five-medal haul on day 2, which also included three silver medals. The competition took place at the Karni Singh Range, where the Hungarian pair of Sara Rahel Fabian and Redecsi Mate secured the bronze by defeating Chinese-Taipei 16-12.

**Foot notes:**

- In the qualification round, Sainyam (289) and Samrat (290) topped the leaderboard with a combined score of 579, while Palak (285) and Amit (293) finished second with a total score of 578.
- In women's trap, Neeru won silver with 43, Kirti Gupta took bronze with 32, and Zina Hrdlickova of the Czech Republic claimed gold with 45.
- Kirti topped the qualification round with 118/125, and Neeru made the final with 115.
- Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, an Olympian and 2021 World University Games gold medalist, secured silver in the 50m rifle 3-positions with a score of 458.2.
- Palak Gulia and Amit Sharma won gold in the mixed air pistol event, beating Sainyam and Samrat 16-12, with Palak also securing a team gold earlier in women's air pistol.
- In the men's 50m rifle 3-position, Jiri Privratsky edged Aishwary by 4.7 points to take the gold.

## GM Aravindh Chithambaram won the Chennai Grand Masters title

Aravindh Chithambaram, who initially aimed to avoid finishing last, stunned everyone including himself by clinching the title at the second edition of the Chennai Grandmasters classical chess tournament. He triumphed over Levon Aronian (USA) with a 2-0 victory in a blitz tie-breaker on Monday at the Anna Centenary Library auditorium.

**Foot Notes:**

- Aravindh surged into title contention by winning his second consecutive game.
- He defeated GM Parham Maghsoodloo in the final round with black pieces, playing the Queen's Gambit Declined and securing a crucial victory to force a three-way tie at the top.
- Aronian and Arjun faced off in a two-game blitz play-off, with both winning with black pieces to set up a sudden-death decider.

- In the title match, Aravindh capitalized on a late mistake by Aronian to win the first blitz game, and then held firm with black to clinch the title.
- All three players tied on 4.5 points after 7 rounds took home Rs 11 lakh each.

## Pankaj Advani bags record 28th World Billiards title

Indian cue sports legend Pankaj Advani clinched his 28th world title at the IBSF World Billiards Championship in Doha, Qatar, defeating England's Robert Hall 4-2 in the final held on November 9, 2024. This victory marks Advani's seventh consecutive title win at the IBSF World Billiards Championships. The IBSF World Billiards and Snooker Championship is an event for amateur snooker and billiards players. Cue sports, which include billiards, snooker, and pool, involve using a cue stick to strike a ball on a cloth-covered table with pockets at each corner.

**Foot notes:**

- Pankaj Advani won a tense final against Robert Hall, securing his 28th world title at the IBSF World Billiards Championship.
- Advani took an early lead, but Hall responded with a flawless 151 break in the fourth frame to stay in contention.
- Hall leveled the match with a 154 break in the fifth frame, intensifying the pressure.
- Advani responded in the sixth frame, achieving a century break and ultimately winning after a series of strategic safety exchanges.
- Advani credited his brother, Shree, a sports psychologist, for helping him stay focused, dedicating the victory to his country and family.
- Final Score: Advani (India) defeated Hall (England) 151(71)-94(87), 151(147)-0, 150-84, 74(74)-151(151), 6-154(154), 152(105)-46.

## Arshdeep Singh becomes India's second-highest wicket-taker in T20Is

Arshdeep Singh has overtaken Jasprit Bumrah and Bhuvneshwar Kumar, claiming 92 T20I wickets in 59 innings at an average of 18.47. The Indian pacer is now just four wickets away from surpassing Yuzvendra Chahal to become India's leading wicket-taker in T20Is. Jasprit Bumrah: 89 T20I wickets from 69 innings with an economy rate of 6.27. Bhuvneshwar Kumar: 90 wickets from 86 innings with an economy rate of 6.96.

**Foot notes:**

- India posted 219/6, thanks to Abhishek Sharma (50 off 25, 3 fours, 5 sixes) and Tilak Varma (107 off 56, 8 fours, 7 sixes).
- Andile Simelane and Keshav Maharaj each took two wickets for South Africa.
- In the chase, Heinrich Klaasen (41 off 22, 1 four, 4 sixes) and Marco Jansen (54 off 17, 4 fours, 5 sixes) kept South Africa competitive.
- Arshdeep Singh played a key role with both the new ball and in the death overs, claiming three wickets for 37 runs in four overs. Varun Chakaravarthy took two wickets.
- Tilak Varma was named 'Player of the Match' for his outstanding batting.

## Glenn Maxwell becomes third Australian to complete 10,000 T20 runs

Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell became the third Australian and the 16th player worldwide to reach 10,000 T20 runs. He achieved this milestone during the first T20I of a three-match series against Pakistan in Brisbane. Maxwell displayed his trademark power-hitting, scoring 43 runs off just 19 balls, including five boundaries and three sixes, at a blistering strike rate of 226.31. He now joins David Warner and Aaron Finch in Australia's exclusive 10,000 T20 runs club.

**Foot notes:**

- Glenn Maxwell has scored 10,031 runs across 448 T20 matches and 421 innings, with an average of 27.70, seven centuries, and 54 fifties; his highest score is an unbeaten 154.
- Maxwell is the third Australian to surpass 10,000 T20 runs, joining David Warner (12,411 runs) and Aaron Finch (11,458 runs).
- In T20Is for Australia, Maxwell has accumulated 2,643 runs in 114 matches, averaging 30.03 with a strike rate of 155.56, including five centuries (the most by any player) and 11 fifties, with a top score of 145.
- This year, Maxwell has scored 423 runs in 19 innings at an average of 24.88 and a strike rate over 156, with a top score of 120.
- In the rain-shortened first T20I against Pakistan in Brisbane, Australia scored 93/4 in seven overs after Pakistan opted to bowl. Maxwell (43 off 19) and Marcus Stoinis (21 off seven) were key scorers.
- For Pakistan, Abbas Afridi took 2/9, while Haris Rauf and Naseem Shah each claimed a wicket.

## Mumbai won Senior Women's T20 Trophy

Mumbai successfully defended their title in the 2024 Senior Women's T20 Trophy. On Tuesday, November 12, Humaira Kaazi and her team defeated Bengal by 10 wickets at the iconic Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. After winning the championship for the first time last year by defeating Uttarakhand in the final, Mumbai secured back-to-back titles. Opener Dhara Gujjar was their top scorer, making 26 runs off 38 balls, including three fours. At 51 for 6 in 15 overs, Hrishita Basu and Titas Sadhu managed to add 32 runs for the seventh wicket, but it was not enough to push Bengal past the 100-run mark.

**Foot notes:**

- Mumbai successfully defended their Senior Women's T20 Trophy title, beating Bengal by 10 wickets at Wankhede Stadium on November 12.
- Mumbai became the second team after Railways to win consecutive titles.
- Despite missing Jemimah Rodrigues, Mumbai chased down Bengal's modest target of 86 runs in 13 overs.
- Mumbai's captain, Humaira Kaazi, remained unbeaten on 41, and opener Vrushali Bhagat finished on 45 not out.
- Bengal posted only 85 runs, with Dhara Gujjar being their top scorer with 26.
- Mumbai's Jagravi Pawar took 3/13, and Soumya Singh claimed 2/11.

## Asian Games Medalist Prajnesh Gunneswaran Retires from Tennis

Prajnesh Gunneswaran, the 2018 Asian Games bronze medalist, has retired from professional tennis at 35. A former world No. 75, Prajnesh achieved notable wins against top-ranked players and competed in the main draws of all four Grand Slams in 2019. Despite injuries hampering his career, he excelled on the ATP Challenger circuit and was India's top-ranked men's singles player in 2018.

**Foot notes:**

- Early Start: Prajnesh began playing tennis at eight, inspired by his maternal grandfather, and rose through the ranks, winning national titles in every age group from under-12 to under-18.
- Education and Training: He trained in Pune and Bengaluru during his teens and briefly attended the University of Tennessee on a scholarship before turning professional in 2010.
- Injuries: His career was marred by injuries, starting with a 2009 left-arm injury, which limited his play to just six tournaments between 2010 and 2012.
- Professional Highlights: Prajnesh won a bronze medal at the 2018 Asian Games, reached a career-high ATP ranking of 75, and competed in all four Grand Slams in 2019.
- Notable Performances: In 2020, he reached consecutive ATP Challenger finals in the US and played his fifth straight Grand Slam at the Australian Open.
- Setbacks: Injuries and ranking drops forced him to miss events like the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
- Retirement Tributes: Indian tennis stalwarts like Mahesh Bhupathi and Rohan Bopanna congratulated him on his impactful career.

## Paresh Shivalkar Appointed as Head Coach of Maharashtra State Senior Squad

Paresh Shivalkar, an experienced coach from the Poona District Football Association (PDFA), has been appointed Head Coach of the Maharashtra team for the Qualifying Round of the 78th National Football Championship (Santosh Trophy) 2024-25. The tournament begins on Saturday, November 16, in Jaipur, Rajasthan. Maharashtra's 22-member squad includes two city footballers, midfielders Sumeet Bhanudas Kate and Sumit Rajendra Singh Bhandari.

**Foot notes:**

- Squad Announcement: The Western India Football Association (WIFA) announced Maharashtra's 22-member squad, featuring players from Mumbai (10), Nagpur (6), Kolhapur (3), Pune (2), and Solapur (1).
- Coach's Second Stint: Paresh Shivalkar, in his second term as Maharashtra's Head Coach, previously led the team to the Santosh Trophy final round in the 2023-24 season.
- Group I Matches: Maharashtra will compete in Group I against Rajasthan, Gujarat, and DNH & DD:

**About Maharashtra:**

**Capital**: Mumbai
**Chief Minister**: Eknath Shinde
**Governor:** C. P. Radhakrishnan




## Tim Southee to Retire from Test Cricket

Tim Southee will retire from Test cricket after the home series against England, set to conclude at Seddon Park, Hamilton, from December 14-18. Southee, New Zealand's leading wicket-taker across all formats with 770 dismissals, has claimed 385 Test wickets in 104 matches, second only to Richard Hadlee. He remains the only bowler to achieve the milestone of 300 Test, 200 ODI, and 100 T20I wickets.

**Foot notes:**

- Tim Southee has made nearly 400 international appearances for New Zealand, becoming the nation's greatest wicket-taker with 770 wickets.
- He has participated in four ICC Men's Cricket World Cups, seven ICC Men's T20 World Cups, two Champions Trophy events, and the inaugural World Test Championship Final in 2021.
- Southee announced his decision to retire from Test cricket to pave the way for emerging New Zealand bowlers.
- Proudly representing New Zealand for 18 years, he described it as the greatest honor of his career.
- Test cricket holds a special place in his heart, and he views the England series as a fitting finale, as his career began against the same team.
- He expressed gratitude to his family, friends, coaches, fans, and supporters who stood by him throughout his journey.

# APPOINTMENT & PERSON IN NEWS

## Justice Sanjiv Khanna takes oath as 51st Chief Justice of India

Justice Sanjiv Khanna took the oath of office as the 51st Chief Justice of India, succeeding Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, whose term concluded on November 10, 2024. Justice Khanna's appointment, based on Justice Chandrachud's recommendation, was officially announced by the

Centre on October 24. He will hold the position for a six-month term, until May 13, 2025, bringing with him a legacy of landmark rulings. The oath was administered by President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

**Foot notes:**

- Background: Justice Khanna comes from a distinguished family of judges. His father, Justice Dev Raj Khanna, was a former Delhi High Court judge, and his uncle, Justice HR Khanna, is famous for his dissent in the 1976 ADM Jabalpur case.
- Legal Career: Began as an advocate in 1983, rising through the Delhi High Court ranks before joining the Supreme Court in 2019.
- Notable Positions: Served as senior standing counsel for the Income Tax Department and as the standing counsel for NCT of Delhi before his judicial elevation.
- Judicial Career: Involved in key cases like the scrapping of electoral bonds, the abrogation of Article 370, and the use of EVMs.
- Successor: Succeeds Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, whose term ended on November 10, 2024.

## CBI Wales appointed Russell Greenslade as new Director

Russell will transition to CBI Wales from his current role as Chief Executive of Swansea Business Improvement District (BID), a position he has held since 2009. With over 20 years of leadership experience, he has built a strong reputation for supporting Welsh businesses and championing economic initiatives that promote community growth and prosperity.

**Foot notes:**

- He previously served as the Chief Executive of Swansea Business Improvement District (BID) since 2009.
- Leadership Experience: Greenslade brings over 20 years of leadership experience to his new role.
- Support for Welsh Businesses: He is known for his strong advocacy for Welsh businesses and economic initiatives.
- Focus on Economic Growth: Greenslade has a well-established reputation for enhancing business communities and fostering prosperity.

**About CBI Wales:**

**CEO**: Alison Orrells

**Founded**: 1965

## Mara Kocho appointed as MD of NEHHDC

Mara Kocho, a pioneering figure from the Nyishi community, has been appointed Managing Director of the North Eastern Handicraft and Handloom Department Corporation (NEHHDC), a Central Public Sector Enterprise under the DoNER ministry. This key appointment is expected to drive growth in the handicraft and handloom sectors across Northeast India. Kocho's inspiring journey from BSNL to NEHHDC showcases his strong leadership and dedication. As

the first Indian Engineering Service (IES) officer from the Nyishi community, he has not only brought pride to his community but also opened doors for others to aim higher.

**Foot notes:**

- Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein congratulated Mara Kocho on social media, expressing excitement about Kocho's role in promoting handicrafts and handlooms in Northeast India.
- Mein expressed his anticipation for Kocho's "active contribution" in advancing these sectors as part of his new role.
- With Kocho as Managing Director, NEHHDC aims to significantly benefit artisans and weavers, highlighting the cultural heritage of Northeast India globally.
- Previously served as BSNL Chief Engineer in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- Born on February 10, 1977, in Rang village, East Kameng district, Kocho is the first Indian Engineering Service (IES) officer from the Nyishi community.
- Held roles in BSNL across Haryana, New Delhi, Shillong, and Guwahati, and was Deputy General Manager (EM) at Hydro Power Development Ltd.
- Earned a Bachelor of Technology in Electrical Engineering from North East Regional Institute of Science & Technology, Nirjuli (2000).

**About NEHHDC:**

**MD**: Mara Kocho

**Founded**: 1977

## Sonu Sood Appointed Brand Ambassador for Thailand Tourism

Sonu Sood, renowned actor, humanitarian, and philanthropist, has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador and Honorary Tourism Advisor for Thailand. Known for his philanthropic efforts, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, this new role broadens his influence globally. His collaboration with Thailand's Ministry of Tourism and Sports aims to promote Thailand as a top travel destination for Indian tourists.

**Foot notes:**

- Global Goodwill Ambassador: Sonu Sood's reputation as a humanitarian grew significantly, especially for his efforts to assist migrant workers during the COVID-19 lockdown by providing transportation, financial aid, and supplies.
- Beloved Philanthropist: His remarkable contributions during the pandemic earned him widespread admiration, making him one of India's most loved philanthropists.
- Thailand Tourism Partnership: Sonu Sood's appointment as Brand Ambassador and Honorary Tourism Advisor reflects his growing international presence and aligns with Thailand's efforts to boost tourism, particularly from India.
- Strategic Collaboration: Thailand's Ministry of Tourism aims to use Sood's popularity in India to attract more Indian tourists, capitalizing on the growing travel interest from India to Southeast Asia.

**About Thailand:**

**Capital**: Bangkok

**Official language**: Thai
**King**: Maha Vajiralongkorn

## Yubi Group appointed Vipul Mahajan as Chief Business Officer

Yubi Group announced the appointment of Vipul Mahajan as its Chief Business Officer. In this role, Mahajan will focus on expanding Yubi's relationships with lenders in private sector, PSU, and international markets. He will also lead efforts to strengthen partnerships with key stakeholders in financial services, including NBFCs, banks, and regulatory bodies. With nearly 20 years of experience in business development, partnerships, go-to-market strategies, and analytics, Mahajan previously served as the head of commercial, fintech, and direct-to-consumer business at TransUnion CIBIL. He has also held leadership positions at Yes Bank, Barclays, and HDFC Bank.

**Foot notes:**

- Vipul Mahajan has joined Yubi Group as Chief Business Officer, bringing extensive experience in business development, partnerships, and analytics.
- He has held leadership roles at Yes Bank, Barclays, and HDFC Bank, where he implemented innovative product solutions and drove business growth using platforms, data, and analytics.
- Mahajan has also contributed to the RBI's Standing Committee on Strengthening Analytical Framework, enhancing its analytics framework.
- Expressing enthusiasm for his new role, Mahajan looks forward to contributing to Yubi's vision and expanding its market presence in the financial services space.
- Yubi Group, founded in 2020 by CEO Gaurav Kumar, supports the entire debt lifecycle and has facilitated over Rs 140,000 crore in debt volumes, serving 17,000+ enterprises and 6,200+ investors and lenders.

## Amandeep Johl Appointed CEO of Professional Golf Tour of India

Amandeep Johl has been appointed as the CEO of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), starting in January 2025. With 34 years of experience in Indian and Asian golf, Johl succeeds Uttam Singh Mundy, who was instrumental in founding PGTI. PGTI President and cricket legend Kapil Dev commended Johl's leadership, highlighting its importance for the growth of Indian golf.

**Foot notes:**

- The Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) announced on Wednesday that Amandeep Johl will step in as its new CEO starting January 2025. Johl, a highly respected figure in Indian golf, brings a wealth of experience to this role.
- His appointment follows another key leadership change with cricket legend Kapil Dev taking on the position of PGTI President in June this year. Johl will succeed Uttam Singh Mundy, who has played a pivotal role in PGTI since its inception.

- Johl, a former PGTI board member, will officially take charge on January 1, assisting Mundy with the handover process until December 31.

## Indian Oil Welcomes Arvindar Singh Sahney as New Chairman

Arvindar Singh Sahney has been appointed as the new chairman of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the country's largest oil firm, according to an official order from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on November 13, 2024. Sahney currently holds the position of Executive Director of Business Development in IOC's Petrochemicals division.

**Foot notes:**

- In August, Sahney was initially selected as Director of Business Development but has now been elevated to chairman.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved his five-year tenure, effective from the date he assumes office, until superannuation or further orders.
- The chairman role has been vacant since Shrikant Madhav Vaidya completed his extended term on August 31, 2024. Satish Kumar Vaduguri, Director of Marketing, served as acting chairman in the interim.
- Sahney is the second individual, after B Ashok in 2014, to be appointed as chairman without prior board-level experience.
- Indian Oil Corporation, a Fortune 500 company, plays a key role in India's oil and gas sector, contributing to national energy security and supply.

**About Indian Oil:**

**Headquarters**: New Delhi

**Founded:** 1964

## Pankaj Tripathi appointed as brand ambassador of MP Tourism

Pankaj Tripathi, who has shot extensively in Madhya Pradesh for films like Stree and Oh My God 2, expressed his honor at being named the face of the state's tourism. The actor, who is passionate about travel, shared his excitement about promoting the state's diverse beauty to a global audience.

**Foot notes:**

- Pankaj Tripathi, known for films like Stree, Stree 2, Lukka Chhupi, Oh My God 2 and Ludo, has been named the face of Madhya Pradesh Tourism.
- He expressed his honor and excitement to showcase the state's diverse beauty, given his passion for travel.
- Tripathi highlighted Madhya Pradesh's natural beauty, historic architecture, and rich biodiversity after spending significant time exploring it.
- Madhya Pradesh Tourism aims to attract tourists by highlighting attractions like UNESCO World Heritage sites, wildlife sanctuaries, and cultural landmarks.
- Notable sites include the temples of Khajuraho, Gwalior's forts, and the jungles of Kanha and Bandhavgarh.

- Tripathi's recent success in Stree 2, one of the highest-grossing Hindi films of the year, adds to his widespread influence and appeal.

## AAP's Mahesh Kumar Khichi elected as Delhi mayor

Mahesh Khichi of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) was elected as Delhi's mayor, a notable win for the ruling party ahead of next year's Assembly elections. AAP councillors celebrated the victory of Khichi, a Dalit candidate, with "Jai Bhim" slogans. Khichi narrowly defeated the BJP's Kishan Lal by three votes, securing 133 votes against Lal's 130. Of the 256 votes cast, two were declared invalid.

**Foot notes:**

- AAP's Victory: AAP won a closely contested MCD mayoral election after months of tension with the BJP.
- Delayed Polls: The election, originally scheduled for April, was postponed due to procedural delays.
- Congress Boycott: Congress boycotted the vote, demanding a full mayoral term instead of the offered four months, citing concerns for the Dalit candidate.
- House Uproar: Led by Congress Leader Nazia Dhanish, members protested in the MCD House, accusing AAP of being anti-Dalit, while AAP countered with slogans supporting Kejriwal.




## Vivo Appoints Suhana Khan as Y-Series Brand Ambassador

Vivo, the global smartphone brand, has unveiled Bollywood star Suhana Khan as the new ambassador for its Y-Series smartphones. Known for her fresh style and vibrant personality, Khan embodies the bold and youthful essence of the Y Series, celebrated for its smart functionality and striking design. As a rising star, Khan connects effortlessly with young audiences, making her a perfect fit for the role. Vivo believes her growing popularity will enhance the brand's appeal among consumers who prioritize style and exceptional camera performance.

**Foot notes:**

- Vivo Y300 Launch: Vivo is introducing the Y300, the latest in the Y Series, featuring enhanced style and advanced camera technology.
- New Brand Ambassador: Bollywood actor Suhana Khan, who debuted in Zoya Akhtar's The Archies, is the new face of Vivo's Y Series.

- Brand Alignment: Geetaj Channana, Head of Corporate Strategy at Vivo India, highlights Suhana's dynamic personality and style as a perfect match for the Y Series' blend of cutting-edge design and smart functionality.
- Youth Appeal: With her growing popularity among young audiences, Suhana Khan will help elevate the Y Series' appeal and bring fresh, exciting experiences to consumers.

**About Vivo:**
**CEO**: Shen Wei
**Founded:** 2009
**Headquarters**: Dongguan, China

# AWARD NEWS

## Phillip Noyce Honored with Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award

Veteran Australian filmmaker Phillip Noyce, acclaimed for films like Clear and Present Danger, Salt, and Rabbit-Proof Fence, will be awarded the prestigious Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award at the 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI). The festival, scheduled to take place in Goa from November 20-28, 2024, has designated Australia as this year's Country of Focus.

**Foot notes:**

- Philip Noyce's Impact: Known for shaping suspense and action genres, Noyce's films like Patriot Games, Clear and Present Danger, and Salt have made significant contributions to both mainstream and critical cinema.
- Masterclasses & Panels: The festival will host 25+ masterclasses and panel discussions with industry icons, including AR Rahman, Shabana Azmi, Mani Ratnam, Vidhu Vinod Chopra, Philip Noyce, and John Seale.
- Topics of Focus: Sessions will cover sound design, acting in the digital age, and the future of filmmaking.
- Additional Screenings: Six extra theaters for screenings, including INOX Madgaon, INOX Ponda, and Z Square Samrat Ashok, along with Picture Time inflatable theaters across Goa.
- Accessibility Partnership: Svayam ensures accessibility for people with reduced mobility, offering features like audio descriptions and sign language interpretation.
- Unified Branding: All festival venues will have unified décor and branding in collaboration with NID, Ahmedabad.

## Samantha Harvey Won Booker Prize for Fiction with "Orbital"

British author Samantha Harvey has won the prestigious Booker Prize for Fiction for her novel Orbital. The novel offers a thought-provoking and imaginative exploration set aboard the International Space Station (ISS). Described by Harvey as a "space pastoral," it examines the

fragility of Earth and the deep connection humans share with the planet, all through the lens of astronauts in orbit.

**Foot notes:**

- Samantha Harvey won the prestigious Booker Prize for Fiction, receiving a £50,000 prize.
- She is the first British writer to win the Booker since 2020.
- Harvey's previous works include four novels and a memoir about insomnia, but Orbital brought her widespread recognition.
- Orbital, with only 136 pages in the UK paperback edition, is one of the shortest Booker-winning novels.
- The novel is praised for its "crystalline writing" and "capaciousness" of its narrative, with Edmund de Waal describing it as a work that "rewards slow reading."
- Harvey reacted with surprise and gratitude, planning to spend the prize money on taxes, a new bike, and a trip to Japan.
- She dedicated her win to those advocating for peace and the preservation of the Earth, aligning with the themes of her novel.

## ThedaCare receives Regents Business Partnership Award at UWO

The Universities of Wisconsin and the Board of Regents presented the Regents Business Partnership Award to ThedaCare on Friday, Nov. 15, at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. Universities of Wisconsin President Jay Rothman spoke at the event, highlighting ThedaCare's strong collaboration with UWO. The award honors partnerships that contribute to Wisconsin's economic growth and vitality. ThedaCare has been a key academic partner for UWO and regularly employs talented graduates from a variety of disciplines.

**Foot notes:**

- UW-Oshkosh values its partnership with ThedaCare, especially with the new ThedaCare campus being built in downtown Oshkosh, which will strengthen this collaboration.
- Universities of Wisconsin President Jay Rothman emphasized that universities like UWO are producing graduates who businesses like ThedaCare hire, with some businesses identifying potential employees early through internships.
- ThedaCare is nearing completion of a new health center on the Fox River in Oshkosh, which will complement the city's redevelopment efforts.
- Jenny Nikolai, Vice President at ThedaCare, expressed pride in supporting UWO students and its positive impact on regional patient care.

**About ThedaCare:**

**CEO**: Imran Andrabi

**Founded:** 1980

# IMPORTANT DAYS NEWS

## National Education Day is celebrated on 11th November

National Education Day, celebrated annually on November 11 in honor of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, India's first education minister, commemorates his contributions to advancing scientific knowledge and primary and secondary education in India. This day highlights the vital role of education in shaping the nation's future, encouraging creativity and innovation. Let's explore the significance and history of National Education Day and reflect on some inspiring quotes by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

**Foot notes:**

- India observes National Education Day each year on November 11 to honor Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first education minister after independence.
- In 2024, National Education Day will be celebrated on Monday, November 11, focusing on the theme of inclusive, high-quality education.
- This theme emphasizes equipping individuals with skills and knowledge for a changing world, fostering critical thinking, creativity, and emotional intelligence.
- As the first education minister, Azad prioritized education for the rural poor and girls, promoted adult literacy, advocated free and compulsory education for children up to age 14, expanded primary education, and diversified secondary education with vocational training.

## World Pneumonia Day celebrated on 12th November

World Pneumonia Day, observed annually on November 12, is focused on raising awareness of pneumonia a serious but preventable and treatable respiratory illness. This day aims to draw global attention to the impact of pneumonia, especially on children under five and the elderly, who are at the highest risk. Health organizations, governments, and communities unite in a coordinated effort to highlight preventive measures, advocate for improved treatment options, and work to reduce the disease's mortality rate.

**Foot notes:**

- Highlighting Global Disparities: Raises awareness of the disproportionate impact on children in developing regions, promoting improved healthcare access.
- Mobilizing Resources: Supports funding for research, better healthcare accessibility, and vaccination programs.
- Promoting Vaccination: Increases awareness of vaccines like pneumococcal and influenza for pneumonia prevention.
- Public Education and Advocacy: Educates people on early symptom recognition, treatment options, and preventive measures.
- These efforts aim to lower pneumonia-related mortality, foster resilient communities, and build healthier, informed populations.

## World Kindness Day 2024 is observed on 13th November

World Kindness Day 2024 is observed on November 13th. Although it is not officially recognized by the United Nations, many small organizations worldwide celebrate it. India also marks this day to promote kindness among people. The goal of the celebration is to highlight the importance of kindness, a value that brings people together and spreads love. Various awareness programs are held on this day to encourage the understanding that kindness is an essential human quality. It is believed that kindness can help reduce conflicts between countries and nations.

**Foot notes:**

- Pandemic Impact: The world faced immense challenges during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, with doctors, nurses, and support staff showing immense kindness in saving lives through their dedication and love.
- Chennai Floods: During the Chennai floods, many young volunteers risked their lives to provide food and essential services to those in need.
- Kindness in Crisis: Acts of kindness during such crises highlight how it can save lives and bring communities together.
- Global Harmony: Kindness helps reduce conflicts between people and nations.
- World Kindness Day 2024: Celebrated to raise awareness about kindness and its transformative impact on society.

## World Diabetes Day observed on 14th November

World Diabetes Day (WDD) is observed annually on November 14 to raise awareness about diabetes, a chronic condition impacting millions worldwide. Organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), the event highlights diabetes prevention, health risks, and strategies for managing and living well with the disease. Each year, WDD adopts a new theme, often focusing on key areas such as nutrition, physical activity, mental health, or access to healthcare for people with diabetes.

**Foot notes:**

- World Diabetes Day (WDD) was established by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1991 due to rising concerns about diabetes as a global health issue.
- In 2006, the United Nations formally recognized WDD by adopting Resolution 61/225, identifying diabetes as a significant global health concern.
- November 14 was chosen as it marks the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting, who, along with Charles Best, co-discovered insulin in 1921.
- The discovery of insulin transformed diabetes from a fatal disease into a manageable condition.

# OBITUARY NEWS

## Veteran Tamil Actor Delhi Ganesh passed away at 80

Veteran Tamil actor Delhi Ganesh, known for his versatile performances in supporting roles over a distinguished four-decade career, passed away at the age of 80 on the night of November 9, 2024, due to health complications. In a heartfelt statement, his family shared, "We deeply regret to inform that our father, Mr. Delhi Ganesh, has passed away on November 9 around 11 PM." His mortal remains are in Ramapuram, Chennai, with last rites planned for November 11. Delhi Ganesh's career spanned over 400 films, where he skillfully portrayed roles ranging from comedic to villainous and touching supporting characters.

**Foot notes:**

- Delhi Ganesh began his film career in 1976 with Pattina Pravesam, directed by K. Balachander, who also gave him his stage name.
- He briefly played a lead role in Engamma Maharani (1981) but gained fame through his extensive work in supporting roles.
- Some of his notable films include Sindhu Bhairavi (1985), Nayakan (1987), Michael Madana Kama Rajan (1990), Aahaa..! (1997), and Thenali (2000), where he blended humor with depth.
- Ganesh earned the Tamil Nadu State Film Award Special Prize for Pasi (1979) and received the Kalaimamani award in 1994 from then-Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa.
- In later years, he appeared in television and short films, notably as Alfred Pennyworth in What If Batman Was from Chennai and in Dhuruvangal Pathinaaru (2016).
- He was an active member of the Delhi-based theater group Dakshina Bharata Nataka Sabha, where he honed his acting skills through live performances.

## Former Member of Parliament Mahendra Singh Mewar Passes Away

Mahendra Singh Mewar, former Member of Parliament from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and a member of the historic Mewar royal family, passed away on November 10, 2024, at the age of 83. He had been receiving treatment at a private hospital in Udaipur, Rajasthan, where he succumbed after several days of illness. Known for his impact on the social and political spheres of Rajasthan, Mewar was a respected and influential figure.

**Foot notes:**

- Royal Heritage: Mahendra Singh Mewar was a descendant of the legendary Maharana Pratap, known for his defense of Mewar against Mughal invasions, making Mewar's heritage central to his identity.
- Preservation of Culture: A prominent figure in Rajasthan, he dedicated himself to preserving the region's cultural heritage and traditions.
- Political Career: Elected to the Lok Sabha from Chittorgarh in 1989 as a BJP member, he represented his constituents with a focus on social welfare and development.

- Public Service: Known for his strong connection to the needs of his people, he was respected for his dedication to public service and community upliftment.
- Lasting Legacy: His life's work in both politics and cultural preservation has left a significant mark on Rajasthan's social and political landscape.

## Legendary Bengali Theatre Personality Manoj Mitra passed away

Renowned theatre personality Manoj Mitra of West Bengal passed away at the age of 86 on Tuesday morning after a prolonged age-related illness. He took his last breath at 8:50 am in a private hospital in Kolkata, as confirmed by his brother, writer Amar Mitra. The body will be taken to Rabindra Sadan at 3 pm for the public to pay their respects. Mitra, celebrated for his contributions to both stage and screen, is remembered fondly by Bengali audiences for his role in Bancharamer Bagan (1980).

**Foot notes:**

- Mitra started his acting journey in 1957 and made his film debut in 1979; he also taught philosophy at various colleges before leading the Drama Department at Rabindra Bharati University.
- His first play, Mrityur Chokhe Jal, was written in 1959, but he gained major recognition with the play Chak Bhanga Madhu in 1972.
- Mitra founded the theatre group Sundaram and later briefly formed Ritayan before returning to Sundaram.
- Known for plays like Absanna Prajapati, Neela, Singhdwar, and Fera, he made a mark on both stage and screen.
- He acted in several acclaimed films by directors like Tapan Sinha, Satyajit Ray, and Buddhadeb Dasgupta, including the iconic Bancharamer Bagan, based on his play Sajano Bagaan, and roles in Ghare Baire and Ganashatru.

## Veteran British Actor Timothy West passed away

British actor Timothy West, renowned for his distinguished career across stage, television, and film, has passed away at the age of 90. His legacy includes iconic roles in Shakespearean plays, popular TV dramas like EastEnders, and classic films such as The Day of the Jackal. West was not only celebrated for his performances but also for his personal life, being the cherished husband of actress Prunella Scales, known for her role in the beloved sitcom Fawlty Towers. With a career spanning over six decades, West became a familiar figure on British television.

**Foot notes:**

- Timothy West's early film career included a notable role as Commissioner Berthier in The Day of the Jackal (1973), an adaptation of Frederick Forsyth's thriller.
- He also starred in Cry Freedom (1987), portraying a key figure in the story of anti-apartheid activist Steve Biko.
- West made significant contributions to British television, with roles in Coronation Street and EastEnders, including his memorable portrayal of Stan Carter for over a year.

- He appeared in the historical drama Gentleman Jack, showcasing his versatility.
- West took on a wide range of roles, from Shakespearean plays to adaptations of works by Roald Dahl and Charles Dickens, including Oliver Twist.
- Alongside his acting career, West shared a love for travel with his wife, Prunella Scales, as seen in the TV series Great Canal Journeys, where they explored British waterways in narrowboats while navigating Scales' dementia.

## Princess Yuriko of Japan passed away

Princess Mikasa, the eldest member of Japan's imperial family, passed away on Friday at 101. The great-aunt of Emperor Naruhito had been hospitalized in Tokyo since March due to a stroke and pneumonia. Born in 1923 as Yuriko Takagi to an aristocratic family, she married Prince Takahito, the younger brother of wartime Emperor Hirohito, at the age of 18. Following her marriage, she was titled "Her Imperial Highness The Princess Mikasa." Together, they had five children: two daughters and three sons.

**Foot notes:**

- World War II Struggles: Princess Mikasa gave birth to her first child in 1944 during WWII. After their home was destroyed in an air raid, she and her baby sought shelter.
- Historic Surrender: Emperor Hirohito surrendered in 1945 following the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, ending Japan's brutal wartime expansion.
- Prince Mikasa's Stance: Her husband, Prince Mikasa, supported ending the war but faced resistance from young officers who visited their shelter to argue against his views.
- Tense Atmosphere: Princess Mikasa described the period as "very frightening," with heated and tense arguments near their shelter.
- Legacy: Beyond royal duties, Princess Mikasa’s life reflected Japan’s transition through war, recovery, and modernization. She leaves behind five children and a profound historical legacy.


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