

# Daily Current Affairs

## 27 December 2024

### Former PM Dr Manmohan Singh Passes Away At 92

- **Former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh passed away** in New Delhi last night. He was 92. Dr Singh breathed his last at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi.
- Dr Singh, who was finance minister under the then **prime minister PV Narasimha Rao**, is considered the architect of economic reforms in 1991 that ushered in an era of economic liberalisation.



- Dr. Manmohan Singh was prime minister for two terms in the **Congress-led UPA government from 2004 to 2014**. He retired from the Rajya Sabha in April this year after serving for 33 years. Born on **26th September 1932**, in a village in the Punjab province of undivided India, he served as India's **13th Prime Minister from 2004 to 2014**.

## ‘Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi’ Initiative

- ‘Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi’ initiative was launched on **Good Governance Day** and commemorates the 100th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- The initiative aims to **strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** through enhanced governance tools and knowledge. The initiative is part of the ‘**Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur**’ campaign, to empower elected representatives and officials in effective governance.



- The focus is on grassroots-level reforms to create lasting change. The program employs various technological tools, which include e-learning platforms, AI-powered chatbots, and mobile applications.
- These resources aim to bridge knowledge gaps and improve service delivery in rural governance. **The initiative commenced in states like** Odisha, Assam, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh. It aligns with the government’s decentralization efforts. The aim is to promote citizen involvement in decision-making processes.
- On the same day, Dr. Singh launched other governance initiatives. A new dashboard on the iGOT Karmayogi platform was introduced. This dashboard now features **1,600 e-learning courses to enhance capacity-building efforts.** **The CPGRAMS Annual Report 2024 was also revealed.**



- **This report assesses the** Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) has resolved over 2.5 million grievances annually, ensuring transparency in public services. A new digital pension application form was introduced. **This form consolidates nine previous forms** into one. It allows for real-time tracking and employs Aadhaar-based e-signatures for efficiency.

## SVAMITVA Scheme

- **SVAMITVA scheme is an initiative aimed** at empowering rural property owners and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will distribute over **58 lakh property cards**, enhancing ownership rights in villages.
- The scheme is designed to provide **a legal record of property ownership**, which can facilitate access to credit and financial services. The primary goal of the **SVAMITVA scheme is to provide property** ownership documentation, reduce property disputes, and improve village-level planning.
- The initiative also seeks to **increase property tax collection, thereby enhancing local governance**. During the event, Prime Minister Modi will interact with beneficiaries to understand their experiences.



- This interaction aims to highlight the positive impact the scheme has on rural livelihoods. **Engaging with beneficiaries encourages a sense of community** and encourages further participation in government initiatives.
- **Approximately 3 lakh 17 thousand villages** have been surveyed using drones. These surveys have **mapped over 1 lakh 37 thousand crore square meters** of residential land. The mapping process is crucial for creating accurate property records and ensuring transparency in land ownership.

## E-GRAMSWARAJ PORTAL & MOBILE APPLICATION AND SWAMITVA SCHEME LAUNCHED

E-GRAMSWARAJ	SWAMITVA SCHEME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare &amp; execute Gram Panchayat Development Plans</li> <li>Real time monitoring &amp; accountability</li> <li>Major step towards digitization down to Gram Panchayat level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Helps to map rural inhabited lands using drones &amp; latest survey methods</li> <li>Ensure streamlined planning, revenue collection &amp; provide clarity over property rights</li> <li>Open up avenues for applying for loans from financial institutions by owners</li> <li>Disputes related to property would also be settled</li> </ul>



## Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi National Eminence Award

- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar recently received the **Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi National Eminence Award** for Public Leadership, presented by the **South Indian Education Society (SIES)**, one of India's oldest educational institutions.
- This award recognises outstanding contributions to public leadership. It is named after a revered **spiritual leader, Maha Periyavar**, who inspired many through his teachings.



- Jaishankar expressed his gratitude for the recognition and brought into light the **influence of Maha Periyavar, particularly through** the song Maithreem Bhajatham, which advocates universal brotherhood. India food delivery Jaishankar discussed India's expanding influence on the global stage.
- He described India as an independent power committed to promoting global good, **especially for the Global South**. His remarks tell the importance of recognizing **India's capabilities and dismissing negative narratives** that hinder its progress. Jaishankar provided examples of India's proactive diplomatic approach.

- He brought into light India's advocacy for dialogue during conflicts, a firm stance against terrorism, and **support for the African Union's inclusion in the G20**. He also mentioned **India's assistance to the Global South during the COVID-19 pandemic**, illustrating India's commitment to global cooperation. The Minister clarified that India's independence should not be confused with neutrality.



- He asserted that India would pursue its national interests while engaging with global issues. Jaishankar emphasised **that India's approach reflects its understanding of challenges** and its capability to devise effective solutions. Jaishankar brought into light initiatives aimed at reviving **traditional practices, such as promoting millets (Shree Anna) and yoga**. These efforts, he explained, enhance India's visibility worldwide and demonstrate respect for its cultural heritage.
- He noted that these initiatives are critical to India's journey toward prosperity. Jaishankar concluded by acknowledging the lasting impact **of Maha Periyavar's teachings**. He expressed that these principles continue to inspire India's path forward, reinforcing the importance of tradition in contemporary progress.

## Youth Co:Lab Innovation Challenge

- The seventh **Youth Co:Lab National Innovation Challenge** has been launched for 2024-2025, and is a collaboration between **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),** and Citi Foundation.
- The challenge specifically targets young entrepreneurs, especially those with disabilities, to **develop innovative solutions that enhance opportunities** for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). The **primary aim is to encourage social entrepreneurship and sustainable development.**



- The challenge seeks to empower participants to create solutions in various fields, **including Assistive Technology, inclusive education,** and accessible care models. Applications are currently open for young entrepreneurs interested in participating.



- Candidates can submit their innovative ideas that focus on **improving the quality of life for PwDs**. Youth Co:Lab has been **operational since 2017, promoting youth engagement** in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In India, the program commenced in 2019 and has successfully reached over 19,000 participants.
- It has supported **approximately 2,600 youth-led entrepreneurial projects**. This year, the challenge places particular emphasis on startups that are created by and for persons with disabilities. This focus aims to encourage an inclusive entrepreneurial environment and enhance the representation of PwDs in the innovation space.

## Madhya Pradesh Named A Global Destination For 2025

- **Madhya Pradesh has recently gained** international recognition as the Wall Street Journal named it one of the **Go-To Global Destinations for 2025**. This accolade showcases the state's rich heritage, diverse wildlife, and stunning landscapes.
- **Madhya Pradesh is home to numerous UNESCO World Heritage Sites**. Notable sites include **Khajuraho, famous** for its intricate temples and sculptures. The state also features the ancient city of Mandu, with its historical architecture. Cultural festivals, local crafts, and traditional dance forms enhance the state's vibrant cultural tapestry.





- The state boasts **several tiger reserves and national parks**. **Bandhavgarh National Park** is renowned for its tiger population. Panna National Park offers breathtaking scenery and diverse wildlife.



- These parks provide opportunities for wildlife safaris and eco-tourism experiences. **Madhya Pradesh features diverse natural landscapes**. The state is dotted with picturesque hills, rivers, and waterfalls. Popular natural attractions include the scenic Pachmarhi hills and the stunning **Dhuandhar Waterfall**.
- These locations are ideal for nature enthusiasts and adventure seekers. The **Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board actively promotes tourism**. Initiatives include enhancing infrastructure and promoting sustainable tourism practices. The government aims to improve accessibility to major attractions. This focus helps attract both domestic and international tourists.

## **Bald Eagle Designated As US National Bird**

- **Bald eagle**, a symbol of the power and strength of the **United States** for more than 240 years, earned an overdue honor. It officially became the country's national bird.
- **President Joe Biden signed into law legislation** sent to him by Congress that amends the **United States Code to correct what** had long gone unnoticed and designate the bald eagle – familiar to many because of its **white head, yellow beak and brown body** – as the national bird.



- The **bald eagle** has appeared on the **Great Seal of the United States**, which is used in official documents, **since 1782**, when the design was finalized. The seal is made up of the eagle, an olive branch, arrows, a flag-like shield, the motto “E Pluribus Unum” and a constellation of stars.

### 3 Indians In Forbes' 2024 Power Women List

- Forbes has unveiled its **21st annual list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women**, a prestigious ranking that celebrates influential figures across business, entertainment, **politics, philanthropy, and policymaking**. This year, three Indian women have made their mark on the global stage with remarkable achievements in their respective fields. They include **Nirmala Sitharaman, Roshni Nadar Malhotra, and Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**, whose contributions to their industries have earned them prominent spots on the list.



- **Nirmala Sitharaman (Rank 28 overall)**
- Position: Finance Minister of India
- Achievements : First woman to hold these roles full-time in May 2019.
- Played a significant role in managing India's \$4 trillion economy, with projections to become the third-largest economy by 2027.
- Advocates for women's financial empowerment, supporting entrepreneurship and financial literacy.
- Former positions at BBC World Service and National Commission for Women.



- **Roshni Nadar Malhotra (Rank 81 overall)**
- Position: Chairperson Of HCL Technologies And CEO Of HCL Corporation
- Achievements: Oversees Strategic Decisions For The \$12 Billion HCL Technologies, Founded By Her Father In 1976.
- Trustee Of Shiv Nadar Foundation, Which Focuses On Transformative Education.
- Founder Of The Habitats Trust, Dedicated To Conserving Natural Habitats And Species.



- **Kiran Mazumdar Shaw (Rank 82 overall)**
- Position: Founder And Chairperson Of Biocon
- Achievements: Built Biocon Into A Global Biopharmaceutical Powerhouse.
- Biocon's Expansion Includes One Of Asia's Largest Insulin Manufacturing Facilities In Malaysia.
- Raised \$362 Million Through Biocon-backed Bicara Therapeutics' Ipo In 2024.
- A Notable Philanthropist, Donating \$7.5 Million For Cancer Research In 2019.



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## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Wall Street Journal Declared Which State A Global Destination For 2025

- A. Gujarat
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Tamil Nadu

**ANSWER: C**

2. Bald Eagle Declared As National Bird Of

- A. Egypt
- B. China
- C. USA
- D. Peru

**ANSWER: C**



**3. Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project Is Inaugurated In Which State**

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Bihar
- D. Jharkhand

**ANSWER: A**

**4. Kilauea Volcano Is Located In Which Country**

- A. Kuantan (Malaysia)
- B. Andaman (India)
- C. Hawaii (United States of America)
- D. Sumatra (Indonesia)

**ANSWER: C**

**5. Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2024 Is Instituted By Which Ministry**

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry of Science and Technology
- C. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- D. Ministry of Defence

**ANSWER: C**

**6. Lion-tailed Macaque Is Mainly Found In Which Region Of India**

- A. Eastern Ghats
- B. Himalayas
- C. Western Ghats
- D. North eastern

**ANSWER: C**

**7. What Are "Archaea"**

- A. Primitive microorganisms
- B. Asteroid
- C. Invasive weed
- D. Type of Virus

**ANSWER: A**

**8. Sagar Island, Is Located In Which State/UT**

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. West Bengal
- C. Lakshadweep
- D. Goa

**ANSWER: B**

**9. Kirkuk Which Was Seen In The News, Is Located In Which Country**

- A. Israel
- B. Iraq
- C. Australia
- D. Greece

**ANSWER: B**

**10. Who Won Gold Medal At Senior National Shooting Championship 2024 In Bhopal**

- A. Dhanush Srikanth
- B. Shahu Tushar Mane
- C. Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil
- D. Yash Vardhan

**ANSWER: B**

**11. Who Has Been Appointed As The As The 9th Chairperson Of National Human Rights Commission**

- A. V. Ramasubramanian
- B. S.P.Kurdukar
- C. Ramkrishna Gavai
- D. Kuldip Singh

**ANSWER: A**

**12. NITI Aayog Has Launched Youth Co:Lab Initiative With Which International Organization**

- A. World Bank
- B. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- C. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- D. International Monetary Fund

**ANSWER: B**

**13. What Is The Theme Of National Consumer Day 2024**

- A. Empowering Consumers Through Clean Energy Transitions
- B. Consumer Protection in the era of E-Commerce
- C. Fair Digital Finance
- D. Virtual Hearings & Digital Access to Consumer Justice

**ANSWER: D**

**14. Justice GS Sandhawalia Has Been Appointed As The Chief Justice Of Which High Court In 2024**

- A. Haryana
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Gujarat
- D. Himachal Pradesh

**ANSWER: D**

**15. What Is The Theme For The 2025 Republic Day Tableaux**

- A. Aatmanirbhar Bharat
- B. Unity in Diversity
- C. Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas
- D. India's Journey to Progress

**ANSWER: C**

**16. Who Among The Following Indian Women Is Not In Forbes' 2024 List Of The World's 100 Most Powerful Women**

- A. Kiran Mazumdar Shaw
- B. Roshni Nadar Malhotra
- C. Nirmala Sitharaman
- D. Indra Nooyi

**ANSWER: D**

**17. Which Prestigious Award Recently Conferred Upon External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar For Public Leadership**

- A. Padma Bhushan
- B. Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi National Eminence Award
- C. External Affairs Minister of The World
- D. Gandhi Peace Prize

**ANSWER: B**

**18. Where Was The Pilot Project For The Udaan Yatri Cafe Launched**

- A. Delhi International Airport
- B. Bengaluru Kempegowda International Airport
- C. Kolkata's Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport
- D. Mumbai Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport

**ANSWER: C**

**19. Who Was Appointed As The Chairperson Of NHRC**

- A. V. Ramasubramanian
- B. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani
- C. Arun Kumar Mishra
- D. Droupadi Murmu

**ANSWER: A**

**20. Which Of The Following Rulers Of Delhi Sultanate Abolished The Iqtas**

- A. Alauddin Khilji
- B. Muhammad Tughlaq
- C. Firozshah Tughlaq
- D. Balban

**ANSWER: A**