

Jimmy Carter, 39th U.S. President and Nobel Laureate, Dies at 100

Key Points:

- ❖ Jimmy Carter, the 39th President of the United States, passed away at the age of 100 in his hometown of Plains, Georgia. Despite his one-term presidency, Carter later gained respect for his global peace efforts, winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002.
- ❖ Born on October 1, 1924, in Plains, Georgia.
- ❖ Graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1946.
- ❖ Served in the U.S. Navy's nuclear submarine program before managing his family's peanut farm.
- ❖ The Camp David Accords (1978), securing peace between Israel and Egypt.

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- ❖ Founded the Carter Center in 1982, focusing on human rights, health, and democratic governance worldwide. Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 for his efforts in resolving international conflicts, promoting democracy, and advancing human rights.
- ❖ Remained active in political and humanitarian affairs, writing books and offering commentary on global issues.

Reliance Acquires Karkinos Healthcare for ₹375 Crore

- ❖ In a strategic move to bolster its healthcare portfolio, Reliance Industries, led by Mukesh Ambani, has acquired oncology-focused platform Karkinos Healthcare for ₹375 crore.
- ❖ This acquisition, completed through Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Ltd (RSBVL), is a significant step towards expanding the company's reach in cancer detection, diagnosis, and treatment.
- ❖ Deal Structure: Reliance's subsidiary RSBVL acquired 10 million equity shares and 36.5 million optionally fully convertible debentures of Karkinos for ₹375 crore, with the transaction entirely in cash.

Kaamya Karthikeyan, the youngest woman in the world to climb the seven tallest peaks on the seven continents of the Earth

Key Points:

- ❖ Kaamya Karthikeyan, a 17-year-old student from Navy Children School in Mumbai, has etched her name in history by becoming the youngest female in the world to conquer the Seven Summits.
- ❖ This remarkable achievement includes scaling the highest peaks across all seven continents. Kaamya, an avid adventurer since her childhood, completed this prestigious feat by summiting Mount Vinson in Antarctica on December 24, 2024.
- ❖ This accomplishment highlights her determination, resilience, and passion for mountaineering. Age at Achievement: 17 years old Record: Youngest female to scale the Seven Summits.
- ❖ Africa: Mount Kilimanjaro (Tanzania) Europe: Mount Elbrus (Russia) Australia: Mount Kosciuszko (Australia) South America: Mount Aconcagua (Argentina) North America: Mount Denali (USA) Asia: Mount Everest (Nepal) Antarctica: Mount Vinson (Antarctica)

- ❖ At age 16, Kaamya became the youngest Indian to scale Mount Everest. Her mountaineering journey started at the age of 7, when she first trekked in Uttarakhand.

About Kaamya Karthikeyan

- ❖ Kaamya Karthikeyan is a student of Navy Children's School, in Mumbai. She is the daughter of Commander S. Karthikeyan of the Indian Navy. At the age of seven years, she scaled a peak in Uttarakhand. At the age of 16 years, she climbed Mount Everest, becoming India's youngest climber and the world's second youngest to achieve this feat from the South side (Nepal side). Her achievement was mentioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Mann ki Baat and she was also honoured with Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Shakti Puraskar in 2021.

Her Next Adventure

- ❖ Kaamya will now attempt to conquer the Explorer's Grand Slam. The Grand Slam includes conquering the Seven Mountain Peaks of Mount Everest, Mount Kilimanjaro, Mount Elbrus, Mount Kosciuszko, Mount Aconcagua, and Mount Denali and reaching the North Pole, and the South Pole. Having conquered all the Seven Peaks she will now attempt to reach the North and the South Pole.

About the Seven Peaks of the Seven Continents

- ❖ Following are the seven tallest peaks of the seven continents of the earth.

Mount Everest

- ❖ It is the world's highest mountain peak situated in the Greater Himalayas along the boundary of Nepal and Tibet.
- ❖ The height of the peak is 8,849 meters (29,032 feet).
- ❖ Its height was first accurately measured by the Survey of India in 1852. It was named Peak XV.

- ❖ In 1865 the peak was named Mount Everest in honour of Sir George Everest who was the head of the Survey of India when its height was accurately measured.
- ❖ In Nepal, the peak is called Sagarmatha (Sanskrit language) and in the Tibetan language, it is called Chomolungma ("Goddess Mother of the World" or "Goddess of the Valley").

Mount Kilimanjaro

- ❖ Mount Kilimanjaro is a volcanic massif (a compact group of mountains) in Tanzania, Africa. It consists of three main extinct volcanoes: Mawenzi (east), Kibo (center), and Shira (west).
- ❖ Kibo with a height of 5,895 meters (19,340 feet) is the highest peak in Africa.
- ❖ In 1987 the peak was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Mount Elbrus

- ❖ It is an extinct volcanic mountain situated in the Caucasian mountain range in Russia.
- ❖ It has twin volcanic cones with the highest cone being 5,642 meters (18,510 feet).

Mount Kosciuszko

- ❖ It is situated in New South Wales, Australia.
- ❖ Height 2228 meters (7,310 feet).
- ❖ It was named in honour of Tadeusz Kościuszko, a Polish patriot and statesman by the
- ❖ Polish explorer Paul Strzelecki in 1840.

Mount Aconcagua

- ❖ It lies in the Southern Andes Mountains of the South American continent.
- ❖ It lies in Argentina and is the highest peak in the Western Hemisphere.
- ❖ Height - 6959 Meters (22,831 feet).

Vinson Massif

- ❖ Height- 4892 meters (16,050 feet).
- ❖ It is situated in the Sentinel Range of the Ellsworth Mountains of western Antarctica.

- ❖ Antarctica is the highest continent on earth (2,200 meters above sea level) followed by Asia.

Mount Denali

- ❖ Mount Denali is the highest peak in North America located in Alaska, the United States of America.
- ❖ It is a block of granite with a height of 6,190 meters (20,310 feet).

Abdul Rehman Makki, the Mumbai 26/11 attack plotter, dies

Key Points:

- ❖ Hafiz Abdul Rahman Makki (70), the deputy chief of the outlawed Jamaat-udDawa (JuD) and the brother-in-law of the mastermind of the 2008 Mumbai attacks, Hafiz Muhammad Saeed passed away from a heart attack in Lahore on 27th December.
- ❖ According to the JuD, he had been at a private hospital in Lahore for a few days, receiving treatment for high diabetes. The Pakistan Mutahida Muslim League (PMML) declared that Makki supported Pakistani ideology, in a statement.



- ❖ He participated in fundraising efforts for the operations of Lashkar-e-Taiba/Tayyiba (LeT), a US-designated Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO), and held several leadership roles within the terror outfit.
- ❖ Makki was a major conspirator in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks of 26/11, which left 175 people dead including the nine terrorists and over 300 injured. He was subjected to an arms embargo, a travel ban and an asset freeze and the United Nations named him a global terrorist in 2023. He was also wanted by the Indian government.

Murzin Wins Rapid World Championship

Key Points:

- ❖ GM Volodar Murzin won the 2024 FIDE World Rapid Chess Championship with an undefeated 10/13 score. At 18 years old, he is the second-youngest rapid world champion in history, after GM Nodirbek Abdusattorov, who was 17 during his victory in 2021.
- ❖ India's Koneru Humpy bagged an epochal second World Rapid Chess Championship title, beating Irene Sukandar of Indonesia here on Sunday.
- ❖ Humpy had won the event back in 2019 at Georgia and the Indian No 1 is only the second player after China's Ju Wenjun to clinch the title more than once. The 37-year-old Humpy finished the tournament with 8.5 out of 11 points.



Bhajan Lal Government scrap newly created 9 districts and 3 division

Key Points:

- ❖ The Bharatiya Janata Party government of Bhajan Lal Sharma in Rajasthan has reversed the decision of the previous Congress government of Ashok Gehlot to create 9 new districts and 3 administrative divisions. In a cabinet meeting held on 28 December 2024, the government decided to abolish the newly created 9 districts out of the 17 announced and the three new divisions.



Prem Chand Bairwa Sub-Committee on New Districts and Division

- ❖ The Bhajan Lal Government in June 2024 set up a five-member Cabinet SubCommittee to review the status of 17 new districts and three divisions created during the previous Ashok Gehlot government.
- ❖ The Chairman of the committee was Deputy Chief Minister Prem Chand Bairwa.
- ❖ The other members were Ministers Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Kanhaiya Lal Choudhary, Suresh Rawat, and Hemant Meena.

Districts that have been retained?

- ❖ Boltora, Beawar, Khuchman, Salumber, Kotputli-Behror, Deedwana, KhairthalTijara, and Phalodi.

District which has been scrapped

- ❖ Anupgarh, Jodhpur Rural, Jaipur Rural, Sanchore, Dudu, Shahpura, Kekri, Neem Ka Thana, and Sangapur City.

Division which has been abolished

- ❖ The three newly created divisions which have been abolished are Pali, Banswara, and Sikar.
- ❖ After the government notification, the seven divisions in Rajasthan will be: Ajmer, Bharatpur, Bikaner, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota, and Udaipur.

Government Reason for the abolition of new Districts and Divisions

- ❖ According to the Rajasthan government, the government took this decision on the following consideration;
- ❖ Newly created districts were not practical and not in the interest of the public.
- ❖ It was a wasteful expenditure that would increase public expenditure and create an additional burden on the government.
- ❖ It has no public utility and was done solely due to political considerations.

Creation of 17 districts and 3 Division during Ashok Gehlot Government

- ❖ In August 2023 the then Congress government of Ashok Gehlot announced the creation of 17 new districts and three divisions. It raised the number of districts in the state to 50 and Division to 10.
- ❖ The decision of the Ashok Gehlot government was based on the recommendation of a high-level committee headed by former civil servant Ram Lubhaya.
- ❖ The Ashok Gehlot also announced the creation of three new districts in October 203 before the assembly election.
- ❖ However no notification was issued by the state government, thus the number of districts in the state was 50.

Two Presidents impeached in South Korea within two week

Key Points:

- ❖ The South Korean Parliament has impeached two presidents within two weeks, plunging the country into political and economic turmoil. Acting President Han Duck-soo was impeached by the South Korean Parliament on 27 December 2024.
- ❖ Han became the first acting President of the country to be impeached since democracy was introduced in the country in 1987. Han Duck-soo was sworn in as the acting President of South Korea on 14 December 2024 after President Yoon Suk Yeol was impeached by the South Korean Parliament.



- ❖ The Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, Choi Sang-mok has been appointed as the new interim leader of South Korea.
- ❖ The South Korean Parliament is a unicameral legislature with a 300-member National Assembly.
- ❖ The opposition parties have a majority in the National Assembly. According to the South Korean constitution, the impeachment of Han Duck-soo needs to be confirmed by the South Korean Constitutional Court within 180 days otherwise it will fail.

Reason for Impeachment of Han Duck-soo

- ❖ The opposition parties filed an impeachment motion against the acting President Han Duck-soo after he refused to appoint three additional judges chosen by the Parliament to the Korean Constitutional Court.
- ❖ According to the South Korean constitution, a president when impeached by the Parliament must be upheld by the Constitutional Court within 180 days.
- ❖ The Constitutional Court consists of nine judges and it needs to rule by a majority, that is six judges, to uphold the impeachment.
- ❖ The Constitutional Court at present has six members and even if one Judge gave a ruling against the impeachment of former President Yoon Suk Yeol then his impeachment will be overruled and he will be restored to his office.
- ❖ Thus the opposition-led Parliament recommended the acting President to appoint three new Judges to the Korean Constitutional Court.
- ❖ The acting president refused to appoint the three new judges as he said that the country needed a bipartisan consensus on this issue.

Impeachment of President Yoon Suk Yeol

- ❖ President Yoon Suk Yeol of the People's Power Party imposed martial law in the country on the night of 3rd December 2024 and had to revoke it within six hours after the opposition-controlled Parliament passed a resolution against it in the early morning of 4 December 2024.
- ❖ According to President Yeol, he imposed an emergency to protect the country from 'anti-state forces'.
- ❖ President was later impeached by the South Korean Parliament which is controlled by the opposition parties on 14 December.

Republic of Korea or South Korea

- ❖ The Republic of Korea or South Korea is situated in the Korean Peninsula in Asia. It came into existence in August 1948 after the partition of the Korean peninsula into South and North Korea (Democratic People's Republic of Korea). It is a highly industrialised country and the fourth largest economy in Asia after China, Japan, and India.
- ❖ Capital: Seoul
- ❖ Currency: South Korean Won
- ❖ Acting President: Choi Sang-mok

Gautam Adani launches new renewable energy brand campaign

Key Points:

- ❖ Adani Group unveiled a new advertising campaign, titled "First the fan will come, then electricity will come", to promote its renewable energy initiatives.
- ❖ The campaign is part of Adani Group's broader commitment to renewable energy. Its renewable unit, Adani Green Energy, aims to develop 50 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030.
- ❖ This includes the ambitious Khavda Renewable Energy Park in Gujarat.

Spanning 538 square kilometres—five times the size of Paris—Khavda is set to become one of the largest renewable energy projects in the world.

RBI sets up panel to develop a framework on ethical use of AI in financial sector

Key Points:

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a committee to develop a Framework for Responsible and Ethical Enablement of Artificial Intelligence (FREEAI) in the Financial Sector. The committee will be led by Pushpak Bhattacharyya, Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Bombay as chairman. The committee aims to draft a governance framework to support ethical AI adoption in India's financial sector, according to the RBI.



- ❖ The Committee will assess the current level of adoption of AI in financial services, globally and in India, review regulatory and supervisory approaches on AI with focus on financial sector globally and identify potential risks associated with AI, if any and recommend an evaluation, mitigation and monitoring framework and consequent compliance requirements for financial institutions, including banks, NBFCs, FinTechs, PSOs, etc. The Committee will submit its report within six months from the date of its first meeting.

Recent Committee in News

- ❖ Govt forms committee to look into IAF's overall capability development; Chaired by the Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh,

- ❖ The GST Council constituted a 13-member GoM to suggest GST rates on premiums of various health and life insurance products; Chaired by – Samrat Choudhary
- ❖ Supreme Court sets up panel to amicably resolve farmers' agitation; chaired by Justice Nawab Singh.
- ❖ Revenue Department in the finance ministry formed a panel to simplify the decades-old I-T Act. – chaired by V K Gupta
- ❖ GoI constitutes a committee to monitor the current situation on Indo-Bangladesh Borderheaded by ADG of BSF.

29 December – International Cello Day

Key Points:

- ❖ International Cello Day is an annual event that is observed on December 29 in several countries around the world.
- ❖ The day aims to honour the life and contributions of the legendary cellist Pablo Casals, who was born on this day.
- ❖ Casals is believed to be one of the greatest cellists of all time and is credited with elevating the cello to its prominent status as a solo instrument in classical music.



Lakshya Sen bags bronze at the King Cup International Badminton Open

- ❖ Lakshya Sen from India secured third place at the King Cup International Badminton Open by defeating French player Alex Lanier in straight games. The 23-year-old earned a prize of approximately ₹36 lakh.



Jasprit Bumrah Creates History with Best Bowling Average Among 200+ Test Wicket-Takers

Key Points:

- ❖ India's pace ace Jasprit Bumrah carved his place in cricketing history, becoming the bowler with the best average among those with 200 or more Test wickets. Bumrah also emerged as the fastest Indian pacer to reach the 200-wicket milestone in Test cricket. The historic feat unfolded on the fourth day of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy's fourth Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, where Bumrah dismissed Australia's Travis Head to claim his landmark 200th wicket.



- ❖ Further, he achieved the landmark with his 8484th legal delivery in Test cricket, making him the fastest Indian to reach 200 wickets in terms of balls bowled. He eclipsed Mohammed Shami, who reached the same milestone after 9896 deliveries. Overall, Bumrah is now the fourth-fastest bowler to achieve 200 wickets, behind Waqar Younis (7725 balls), Dale Steyn (7848 balls), and Kagiso Rabada (8154 balls).

Sikkim Celebrates Kagyad Dance Festival

Key Points:

- ❖ Sikkim celebrated the annual Kagyad Dance festival at Tsuklakhang Palace in Gangtok with tradition.
- ❖ Enacted on the 28th and 29th day of the 10th month of the Tibetan Lunar Calendar (early December), it is a vibrant cultural event drawing both locals and international tourists seeking spiritual blessings.
- ❖ The festival concludes with the ritualistic burning of effigies, representing the victory of good over evil.



K N Renuka Pujar becomes the first transgender woman to be appointed as a guest lecturer at Karnataka University

Key Points:

- ❖ 27-year-old K N Renuka Pujar has become the first transgender individual to be appointed as a guest lecturer at a university in Karnataka. Pujar, who completed her post-graduation in Kannada, joined the Kannada Department at Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University's Nandihalli campus (PG Centre) earlier this month.



Gujarat CM launches 'SWAR' platform to overcome language barriers

Key Points:

- ❖ Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has launched a new citizen-centric initiative called the SWAR (Speech and Written Analysis Resource) platform. The SWAR (Speech and Written Analysis Resource) platform was launched on the occasion of Good Governance Day on December 25.
- ❖ This innovative platform leverages technology to overcome language barriers. The Speech-to-Text feature has also been integrated into the Gujarat CMO website. The Chief Minister's Office (CMO), in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's Bhashini Team (National Language Translation Mission), has developed the SWAR platform.



India to host World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit – WAVES for first time in 2025

Key Points:

- ❖ India will host the World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) for the first time in 2025. The WAVES Summit is poised to serve as a global platform for India's creative talents, fostering collaborations and showcasing the country's potential as a hub for world-class content creation.
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**World Audio Visual &
Entertainment
Summit (WAVES) 2025**



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