

27th December 2024

Demise

Dr. Manmohan Singh



Dr. Manmohan Singh, the former Prime Minister of India, passed away on 26 December 2024 in New Delhi at the age of 92. A towering figure in Indian politics and economics, his contributions have left an indelible mark on the nation.

Early Life and Education

- ❖ **Born:** 26 September 1932, Gah, Punjab Province, British India (now in Pakistan).
- ❖ **Education:**
 - **Panjab University:** BA, MA in Economics.
 - **St John's College, Cambridge:** BA (First Class Honors).
 - **Nuffield College, Oxford:** Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil) in Economics.

Professional Career

- ❖ **Governor, Reserve Bank of India (1982–1985):** Focused on financial stability and monetary policy.
- ❖ **Finance Minister (1991–1996):** Spearheaded economic reforms, lifting India from a financial crisis and setting the stage for rapid growth.
- ❖ **Prime Minister (2004–2014):** Led two consecutive terms, emphasizing inclusive growth, rural development, and economic expansion. His tenure included significant legislation like the Right to Information Act and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

Political Journey

- ❖ **Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha (1998–2004):** Voiced critical insights against the policies of the then-government.
- ❖ **Rajya Sabha Membership:**
 - Represented Assam from 1991 to 2019.
 - Represented Rajasthan from 2019 until his passing in 2024.

Honours Received by Dr. Manmohan Singh

Decoration	Country	Year	Note
Padma Vibhushan	India	1987	The second-highest civilian honour of India.
Order of King Abdulaziz	Saudi Arabia	2010	Special Class, the second-highest civilian honour of Saudi Arabia.
Order of the Paulownia Flowers	Japan	2014	Grand Cordon, the second-highest civilian honour of Japan.

Science and Technology

SPADEX Mission



ISRO will launch India's 'SpaDex' mission from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on December 30

Key Point

- ❖ Under this mission, two small spacecraft will be launched simultaneously from the PSLV-C60 rocket.
- ❖ With the success of the mission, India will become the fourth country in the world capable of space 'docking' technology after America, Russia and China.
- ❖ **Objective:** The objective of this mission is to demonstrate the ability to 'dock' and 'undock' spacecraft in space.
- ❖ The joining of one spacecraft with another is called docking and the separation of two connected spacecraft in space is called undocking.
- ❖ **Significance:** This technology is crucial for India's ambitious missions such as bringing back samples from the Moon, and building of the Indian Space Centre.

Appointment

President appoints new Governors for five states



The President of India has appointed Governors for five states, as announced by the Rashtrapati Bhavan.


Key Point

Name	Current Position	New Position
Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati	Governor of Mizoram	Governor of Odisha
General (Dr.) Vijay Kumar Singh (Retd.)	New Appointment	Governor of Mizoram
Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar	Governor of Bihar	Governor of Kerala
Arif Mohammed Khan	Governor of Kerala	Governor of Bihar
Ajay Kumar Bhalla	Former Union Home Secretary	Governor of Manipur

- ❖ The Governor serves as the chief executive head of the state, adapting principles from the Canadian model.
- ❖ The Governor is appointed by the President via a warrant under the President's hand and seal.
- ❖ This is a nominated position and not an elected one.
- ❖ The Governor serves at the pleasure of the President and can be removed at any time.
- ❖ The Governor takes an oath administered by the Chief Justice of the state's High Court.



Constitutional Provisions Related to the Governor

- ❖ Article 153: Each state must have a Governor, and one individual can serve as Governor for multiple states.
- ❖ This provision was enabled by the 7th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1956.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Appointment: The Governor is appointed by the President and is a nominee of the Central Government. ❖ Articles 157 and 158: These articles define the eligibility criteria for the Governor's position. ❖ Article 163: The Governor acts on the advice of the Council of Ministers, led by the Chief Minister, except in matters where they exercise discretionary powers.
<p>Appointment of chief justices of High Court</p>  <p>Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia</p>	<p>On December 24, 2024, President Droupadi Murmu appointed Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia as Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court and Justice Narender G as Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court.</p> <p>Key point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Justice Sandhawalia has previously worked at the Punjab and Haryana High Court, while Justice Narender G came from the Andhra Pradesh High Court. ❖ The appointments were made following the recommendations made by the Supreme court Collegium. ❖ Qualification Criteria for High Court Judges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ He should be a citizen of India. ➤ He should have held a judicial office in the territory of India for ten years or ➤ He should have been an advocate of a high court for ten years. ➤ The Constitution has not prescribed a minimum age for appointment as a judge of a HC. ➤ The Constitution makes no provision for appointment of a "distinguished jurist" as a judge of a HC in the opinion of the president. (unlike in the case of the SC) <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>About High Court</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Currently, India has a total 25 High Courts established in different states of the country. </div>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Composition: Every HC (whether exclusive or common) consist of Chief Justice and such other judges as PRESIDENT OF INDIA may from time to time deem necessary to appoint. ❖ The judges of a high court are appointed by the President. ❖ High Court judges in India retire at the age of 62.
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Person in News

<p>'Aisake Valu Eke' as new Prime Minister of Tonga</p> 	<p>On December 24, 2024, politician Aisake Valu Eke was elected for the new Prime Minister of Tonga, Siaosi Sovaleni resigned two weeks prior to this decision more due to voted of no confidence in the Parliament.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>About Tonga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Capital-Nuku'alofa ❖ Currency-Tongan pa'anga. ❖ Prime Minister- Tupou VI </div>
<p>Madan B Lokur</p> 	<p>Retired Supreme Court judge Madan B Lokur has been appointed as the Chairperson of the UN Internal Justice Council.</p> <p>Key point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Internal Justice Council consists of five members appointed by the Secretary- General. The other four members on the list are Carmen Artigas (Uruguay), Rosalie (Australia), Balkin Stefan Brezina (Austria) and Jay Possenal (United States).

Place in News

Indore Air port



IndiGoReach, the CSR wing of IndiGo, launched the Zero Waste Airport Project at Indore Airport.

Key point

- ❖ This project is supported by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and AAS Foundation, Indore.
- ❖ The goal is to build an eco-friendly airport.
- ❖ It follows the 4R strategy, which includes the 3Rs: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle, and the 4th R: Recover.
- ❖ The focus is on minimizing the harmful environmental impact caused by airport activities.
- ❖ It emphasizes adopting new behaviors, identifying stakeholders, and providing training.
- ❖ The project will serve as a model for waste management in the airline industry.

Miscellaneous

National bird of USA



The bald eagle, a symbol of the power and strength of the United States for more than 240 years, earned an overdue honor. officially became the country's national bird.

Key Point

- ❖ President Joe Biden signed a law that amends the United States Code to officially recognize the bald eagle as the national bird.
- ❖ The bald eagle is well-known for its white head, yellow beak, and brown body.
- ❖ The bald eagle has been featured on the Great Seal of the United States since 1782, when the design was finalized.
- ❖ The seal includes the eagle, an olive branch, arrows, a flag-like shield, the motto "E Pluribus Unum," and a constellation of stars..

About bald eagle

- ❖ The bald eagle, scientifically known as *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, is found across most of North America, including Canada, the United States, and northern Mexico. It is one of the largest birds of prey and the only sea eagle that breeds in North America.
- ❖ The expected lifespan of a bald eagle is 20 to 30 years. They protect their eggs by nesting at the tops of tall trees. Females are slightly heavier than males.
- ❖ Their diet consists of live fish, birds, small mammals, snakes, turtles, crabs, and carrion. According to the IUCN Red List, the species is classified as "Least Concern."

Short News

- ❖ 1992 batch Bihar cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Arunish Chawla has been appointed the Revenue Secretary in the Ministry of Finance.
- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath paid tribute to former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee by unveiling his statue at Kudiya Ghat along the Gomti River.
- ❖ Maia Sandu assumed office as President of the Republic of Moldova for a second term on 24 December.
- ❖ AAP (Aam Aadmi Party) national convenor and former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal announced the 'Ambedkar Samman Scholarship Scheme'.
 - Under this, the fees as well as travel and accommodation expenses of Dalit students of Delhi taking admission for higher education in top international universities will be borne. This scheme will also apply to the children of Dalit government employees.
- ❖ Malaysia has extended visa-free entry for Indian citizens until December 31, 2026.
- ❖ Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has been awarded eight national awards by the Public Relations Society of India (PRSI). These PRSI National Awards 2024 were presented at the 46th All India Public Relations Conference held in Raipur during December 20-22, 2024.
- ❖ On December 25, 2024, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh unveiled the Rashtraparv Website and Mobile App in honor of Good Governance Day and the birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. Which of the following birds became the national bird of the United States of America?
- A. Bald Eagle
 - B. Golden Eagle
 - C. Turkey
 - D. Pigeon

Answer -A

2. ISRO will launch India's 'SpaDex' mission from which of the following places?
- A. U R Rao Satellite Centre, Bengaluru
 - B. Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad
 - C. Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram
 - D. Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota

Answer-D

