

The week from 23 Dec 2024 to 29 Dec 2024

Former PM Shri Manmohan Singh passed away aged 90. A noted economist, and Governor of the RBI, he served as the Finance Minister of India under Shri PV Narasimha Rao. When he initiated the liberalisation of the Indian economy. He then served as PM of the UPA coalition governments from 2004-2009; and 2009-2014.

South Africa secured a place in the Final of the World Test Championship by beating Pakistan by two wickets in a close finish at Centurion. Chasing 148 for victory, the Proteas fell from 96-4 to 99-8, thanks to recalled Pakistan seamer Mohammad Abbas (6-54). Kagiso Rabada hammered 31 not out from 26 balls to take the South Africans home.

3 Indian women were named in the Forbes 21st annual list of the world's most powerful women. These are Nirmala Sitharaman, Roshni Nadar Malhotra, and Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw. This ranking celebrates women achievers across business, entertainment, politics, philanthropy, and policy making.

National Consumer Day was celebrated in India on 24 December. It commemorates the enactment of the Consumer Protection Act of 1986. For 2024, the theme is 'Virtual Hearings & Digital Access to Consumer Justice'.

The 100th birth anniversary of Atal Behari Vajpayee was observed on 24 December 2024. Thrice PM of India, he was the first non-Congress PM to complete a 5-year term as PM (1999-2004). He was elected to the Lok Sabha 10 times, and twice to the Rajya Sabha. He founded the Bharatiya Janata Party and its predecessor, the Bharatiya Jana Sangh.

An Azerbaijan Airlines aircraft, an Embraer 190, crashed hundreds of kilometres away from its intended destination. The plane travelling from Baku (Azerbaijan) to Grozny (Russia) had 67 persons on board, of whom 38 died in the tragic crash. It is still not clear why the plane went off-course, or what caused the crash.

Twelve students and two teachers from Dyal Singh Public School's main branch at Karnal have been recognised by NASA's International Astronomical Search Collaboration (IASC) for the provisional discovery of a main belt asteroid, TD40, found in data provided by the Pan-STARRS telescope.

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