

The week from 30 Dec 2024 to 05 Jan 2025

James 'Jimmy' Earl Carter Jr. died aged 100. A Democrat, he served as the 39th US President (1977-81). In 2002 he won the Nobel Peace Prize "for his decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development."

Australia beat India 3-1 to regain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy after 10 years. In the 5th test at Sydney, Australia beat India by 6 wickets. Indian stand-in skipper Jasprit Bumrah was Player-of-the-Series for his outstanding fast bowling which fetched him 32 wickets, the most on either side. Travis Head top-scored with 448 runs.

China has approved the construction of what will be the world's largest hydropower dam. The dam, which will be located on the Yarlung Tsangpo river, which is known as the Brahmaputra in India, could generate three times more energy than the Three Gorges Dam, currently the world's largest hydropower plant.

Social activist Aruna Roy was named among BBC's 100 Women of the Year 2024. The recognition celebrates her dedication to championing the rights of the marginalised, promoting government transparency and empowering grassroots communities across India. In 1990, Ms Roy, a former IAS officer, co-founded the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS).

Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin announced a \$1 million prize for deciphering the Sindhu-Saraswati (Indus Valley) script, which he said remains an unsolved riddle for over a century. He announced this at whilst inaugurating a conference to commemorate the centenary of the announcement of the discovery of the civilisation, back in 1924.

Tomiko Itooka, a Japanese woman, recognised as the world's oldest person by Guinness World Records, died aged 116 in the city of Ashiya, Hyogo Prefecture. She became the oldest person in the world after Spain's Maria Branyas Morera passed away in August 2024 at age 117.

US President Joe Biden honoured 19 persons with the Presidential Medal of Freedom-America's highest civilian honour. These include Hillary Clinton, Ralph Lauren, Lionel Messi, U2 frontman Bono and philanthropist George Soros. According to the White House, they are "good people who have made extraordinary contributions to their country and the world".

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