

# GREEN EARTH TIMES

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## Happy New Year 2025

### National Events

#### President Confers PM Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2024

December 27, 2024

President Droupadi Murmu presented the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2024 on December 26, 2024, to 17 exceptional children from across India. These awards honour remarkable achievements in seven categories: art and culture, bravery, innovation, science and technology, social service, sports, and environment. During the ceremony, the President lauded the awardees for their exceptional contributions and emphasized the importance of providing opportunities to nurture children's talents. She highlighted the courage and patriotism demonstrated by these young achievers, which inspire confidence in India's future.



#### India's First Bio-Bitumen Stretch Inaugurated by Nitin Gadkari

December 23, 2024

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, inaugurated India's first bio-bitumen-based



#### Dr Manmohan Singh Passes Away at 92

December 27, 2024

Dr Manmohan Singh, former Prime Minister of India, passed away in New Delhi at the age of 92. He died at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences after being admitted in critical condition. Singh had been unwell for several months and lost consciousness at home before his hospitalization and despite medical efforts, he was declared dead at 9:51 PM.



As Finance Minister under Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, Singh played a very important role in liberalizing India's economy in 1991. His policies aimed to reduce government control, promote foreign investment, and enhance economic growth. These reforms marked a shift in India's economic landscape. Dr Singh served as Prime Minister from 2004 to 2014, leading the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government. His administration focused on inclusive growth, poverty alleviation, and social welfare. He was known for his calm demeanour and economic expertise.

National Highway stretch on NH-44 in Mansar, Nagpur, Maharashtra. This stretch is a milestone in India's road development sector, being the first to employ lignin-based bio-bitumen technology.

#### Ayodhya Ram Temple Wins Global Safety Excellence Award

December 18, 2024

The Ram temple project in Ayodhya has achieved a significant milestone by being awarded the 'Sword of Honour' from the British Safety Council. This accolade underscores the exceptional safety measures implemented during the temple's construction. The award is a testament to the meticulous planning, execution, and adherence to global safety standards, making it a model for construction projects worldwide.



#### Republic Day 2025: 15 States, 11 Ministries to Present Tableaux

December 24, 2024

The Ministry of Defence announced the theme for the Republic Day 2025 tableaux as "Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas" (Golden India: Heritage and Development). This year's tableaux will showcase the dynamic relationship between India's rich heritage and its ongoing development. The display will take place on Kartavya Path and feature creative exhibits from various states, Union Territories, and central ministries. Aimed at highlighting India's diversity, the Republic Day tableaux will offer a glimpse of the country's cultural roots and modern progress.



Continued on page 2...

### Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar

President Droupadi Murmu presented the **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar** to 17 children from, recognising their exceptional courage and outstanding achievements in various fields, including art, culture and sports. The award honours extraordinary accomplishments in seven categories: art and culture, bravery, innovation, science and technology, social service, sports and environment.

**Sindhoora Raja**, at just 15 years old, has proven that age is no barrier to brilliance. Hailing from Ullal, Mangaluru, and now pursuing her education in Bengaluru, she stands tall as an innovator, problem-solver, and inspiration. Her groundbreaking projects and relentless curiosity have earned her India's highest civilian award for children—the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar—presented by President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan.



She was named a World Science Scholar for her scientific pursuits, during which she took courses and worked on projects under Nobel laureates and Breakthrough Prize winners. Her first breakthrough project was Healix, a Self-Stabilising Device for Parkinson's Patients. This low-cost, high-impact device aims to help patients regain mobility and independence, making their lives easier and more comfortable. In 2023, Sindhoora presented her brain-age model at the prestigious Future Port Awards in Prague, where she won first prize and a €2,000 grant for her extraordinary work.

Sindhoora Raja's journey is proof that curiosity and hard work can take you places! She has shown that no dream is too big.

### Multiple Choice Quiz-09 Mix Bag

- How many players are there in one Baseball team?
  - 5
  - 8
  - 9
  - 10
- How many sides does the Pentagon have?
  - 5
  - 6
  - 8
  - 9
- What does 4G mean?
  - Four grandfathers
  - Forefathers
  - Four generations
  - Fourth generation
- Which country recently hosted the 2024 Summer Olympics?
  - Australia
  - France
  - China
  - India
- Which country is known as the "Land of the Rising Sun"?
  - Australia
  - Japan
  - China
  - Singapore
- What is Nagpur famous for?
  - Apples
  - Mangoes
  - Oranges
  - Grapes
- When is Earth day celebrated?
  - 22 March
  - 22 November
  - 22 May
  - 22 April

#### Quiz-08 Answers

1. (c) 2. (a) 3. (d) 4. (b) 5. (b) 6. (c) 7. (d)

Answers to Quiz-09 in the next issue.

### Our Publications

Mathematics 1 to 8 For CBSE & ICSE	Mathematics 1 to 8 For CBSE & ICSE	Science 1 to 8 For CBSE & 3-5 ICSE	Science 1 to 8 For CBSE & 3-5 ICSE	GK 1 to 8	Computer (Windows 10) 1 to 8 for CBSE & ICSE	Computer (Windows 10) 1 to 8 for CBSE & ICSE
Moral Education 1 to 8	EVS 1 to 5	Hindi Pathmala 1 to 8	Hindi Pathmala 1 to 8	Computer (Windows 7) 1 to 8	Computer (Windows 7) 1 to 8 For CBSE & ICSE	Computer (Windows 7) 1 to 8 For CBSE & ICSE
English Grammar 1 to 8	English Reader 1 to 8	Hindi Vyakaran 1 to 8	Semester Series 1 to 5	Art & Craft A, B, C & 1 to 8	Art & Craft (With Material) A, B, C & 1 to 5	Art & Craft (With Material) A, B, C & 1 to 5
<b>Twinkling Stars</b> A series of 25 books for kindergarten						
Alphabet Nursery, KG	Alphabet Nursery, KG	Alphabet Cursive Nursery, KG	Alphabet Cursive Nursery, KG	Hindi Akshar Gyan Nursery	Hindi Shabd Gyan KG	Alphabet Picture Book

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## International Events

### US Declare Bald Eagle as National Bird After 250 Years

December 27, 2024

On Christmas Eve 2024, President Joe Biden signed a historic law officially designating the bald eagle as the national bird of the United States. Although the bald eagle has been an enduring emblem of the country, appearing on the Great Seal of the US since 1782, it was never formally recognized as the national bird until this legislation.



### India and France Collaborate to Establish World's Largest Museum

December 20, 2024

The Ministry of Culture, in partnership with France Museums Development (FMD), has launched an ambitious project to develop the Yuga Yugeen Bharat National Museum as a global cultural landmark. Spanning approximately 1,55,000 square metres across the North and South Blocks in New Delhi, the museum will celebrate India's civilizational history and serve as a cornerstone of the Central Vista Redevelopment Project.



December 16, 2024, marking a significant shift in the nation's political landscape. His victory comes amid growing concerns over Georgia's alignment with Russia, following constitutional changes that replaced direct presidential elections with a 300-seat electoral college.



### Trump Named Time's Person of the Year

December 13, 2024

Time magazine has named Donald Trump as its Person of the Year for 2024, marking the second time he has received this prestigious recognition. The decision highlights Trump's substantial political influence, his historic comeback following his victory in the November 5 election over Vice President Kamala Harris, and his role in reshaping the American presidency. Time's recognition of Trump underscores the significant impact he has had on American politics and the world stage.



### President Murmu Confers Honorary General Rank to Nepal Army Chief

December 13, 2024

President Droupadi Murmu, honoured Nepal's Army Chief, General Ashok Raj Sigdel, with the prestigious honorary rank of 'General of the Indian Army.' This event, held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, reflects the enduring tradition of mutual respect and deep military ties between India and Nepal, which dates back to 1950. This ceremony also emphasizes the shared commitment of both nations to further strengthen their defence collaboration and friendly relations.



### Elon Musk Reaches \$400 Billion Milestone and Created History

December 13, 2024

Elon Musk, the CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, has recently made history by becoming the first individual to surpass a net worth of \$400 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. This remarkable achievement reflects his growing influence and success across multiple ventures, including SpaceX, Tesla, and his AI project, xAI. Musk's wealth trajectory has been fuelled by a combination of insider share sales, stock market performance, and strategic political connections, making him the richest person in the world.



### Dubai Breaks Record with World's Largest Gold Bar, Weighing Over 300 KG

December 10, 2024

Dubai has revealed the world's largest gold bar, setting a new Guinness World Record on December 8, 2024. Weighing 300.12 kg, the bar is valued at approximately \$25 million (₹211 crore). Displayed at the Dubai Gold Souk Extension, this monumental gold bar is a symbol of Dubai's commitment to excellence in the precious metals industry. The Emirates Minting Factory, which crafted the bar, spent 8 to 10 hours creating it, ensuring it met Guinness standards.



### Nebraska Declares December 6 as Mahatma Gandhi Remembrance Day

December 7, 2024

A bust of Mahatma Gandhi was revealed at the Nebraska State Capitol on December 6, 2024, marking the day as "A Day of Remembrance for Mahatma Gandhi". Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen declared this special day to honour Gandhi's principles of non-violence, tolerance, and justice, emphasizing their relevance in today's world.



## Person in News

### Kaamya Karthikeyan: Youngest Female to Conquer Seven Summits

December 30, 2024

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.



### Tabla Maestro Ustad Zakir Hussain Passes Away at 73

December 17, 2024

Ustad Zakir Hussain, the renowned tabla maestro, passed away recently, leaving behind a deep musical legacy. His contributions to music transcended borders, and he inspired countless musicians worldwide. Hussain's journey exemplified the balance between technical mastery and creative expression, showcasing the true essence of artistry.



Hussain's magnetic stage presence captivated audiences worldwide. He possessed an extraordinary ability to engage listeners, ensuring each performance resonated with emotion.

### Chennai-Born Caitlin Sandra Neil Crowned Miss India USA 2024

December 20, 2024

Caitlin Sandra Neil, a 19-year-old Indian-American teenager born in Chennai, India, has been crowned Miss India USA 2024 at the annual pageant held in New Jersey. A second-year student at the University of California, Davis, Caitlin aspires to leave a positive impact on her community, with a focus on women's empowerment and literacy.

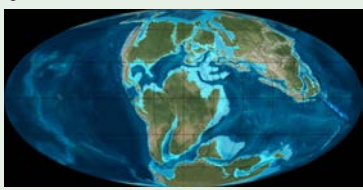


## Save Environment

### Ocean Anoxic Event 1a (OAE 1a)

December 27, 2024

Scientists have recently studied ancient rocks and fossils from Mount Ashibetsu in Japan and uncovered details about Ocean Anoxic Event 1a (OAE 1a), which occurred approximately 119.5 million years ago. This event caused a critical lack of oxygen in the oceans and led to extensive extinctions, particularly among plankton.



OAE 1a was likely triggered by massive undersea volcanic eruptions. These eruptions released vast amounts of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), which warmed the planet and disrupted ocean oxygen levels. The combination of high CO<sub>2</sub> and low oxygen created a hostile environment for marine life.

### Indore Airport to Become India's First Zero-Waste Airport

December 24, 2024

Indore, recognized as India's cleanest city, is making strides in sustainability, and is set to become the first zero-waste airport



in the country on December 22. This initiative focuses on comprehensive waste management, recycling waste generated by both the airport and its aircraft. The airport has implemented a complete waste management system. This system will recycle waste from planes, shops, gardens, and toilets. Wet waste will be transformed into fertilizer, contributing to a circular economy.

### 20% Marine Species Face Endangered due to Warming Waters: UNESCO Report

December 26, 2024

Nearly 20% of species in UNESCO World Heritage marine sites are experiencing heat stress, which threatens their survival and disrupts marine ecosystems. A report indicates that 881 out of 4,406 marine species have exceeded their heat tolerance, which includes 342 fish species, 135 types of algae, and various marine mammals. Iconic species affected include the Caribbean reef shark and the Atlantic bottlenose dolphin.



### Arctic's First Ice-Free Day by 2030: Recent Study

December 14, 2024

According to a recent study, the Arctic Ocean

is projected to experience its first ice-free day by 2030. This occurs due to the increasing levels of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere, which contribute to global warming. Researchers from the University of Gothenburg and the University of Colorado Boulder conducted this study, revealing that the decline of Arctic sea ice has been unprecedented in the last 1,500 years.



### Madhav Gadgil Receives Champions of the Earth Award

December 12, 2024

The United Nations honoured ecologist Madhav Gadgil with the Champions of the Earth Award, which is the UN's highest environmental recognition. Gadgil's contributions focus on the Western Ghats, a vital biodiversity hotspot in India. Madhav Gadgil chaired the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel, and studied the impacts of population growth and development. In 2011, they recommended declaring the entire Western Ghats an Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA).



### India Welcomes Its 57th Tiger Reserve: Ratapani Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh

December 4, 2024

The Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, has officially announced the notification of the Ratapani Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh as India's 57th Tiger Reserve. This remarkable step emphasizes India's commitment to tiger conservation and highlights the nation's dedication to preserving its rich biodiversity.

### India's Tiger Population Doubles Since 2006, Reaches 3,682 in 2022

December 4, 2024

India's tiger population has grown remarkably, reaching 3,682 in 2022 from 1,411 in 2006, doubling in just over 15 years. The rise reflects a significant annual increase of 6% in consistently monitored areas, with numbers rising from 2,967 in 2018. This achievement has been driven by focused conservation efforts under Project Tiger and measures implemented by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).



## Sports

### Gukesh Shatters Records to Become Youngest World Champion

December 12, 2024

Dommaraju Gukesh's rise to becoming the youngest chess world champion is a story of relentless ambition, focus, and resilience. At the age of 18, Gukesh defeated reigning champion Ding Liren in a grueling three-week-long contest in Singapore, surpassing Garry Kasparov's record as the youngest chess world champion in history. His journey from a young boy declaring his ambition to this historic feat showcases extraordinary dedication and talent.



### Third Fastest List-A Century Anmolpreet's Record Breaking Knock

December 23, 2024

Punjab's top order batter, Anmolpreet Singh, scripted history by scoring a third fastest List A century in



just 35 balls during Vijay Hazare Trophy match against Arunachal Pradesh in Ahmedabad. This incredible feat places him behind only Jake Fraser McGurk (29 Balls) and AB de villiers (31 Balls) in all-time records for List A centuries.

### India Clinches Women's U19 T20 Asia Cup title

December 23, 2024

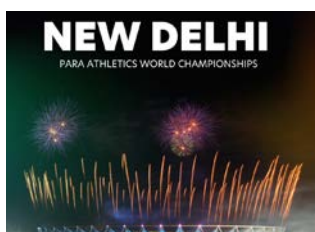
India clinched the inaugural U19 Women's Asia cup T20 title by defeating Bangladesh by 41 runs in the final held at the Bayuemas Oval, Kuala Lumpur on December 22, 2024. The victory was powered by a stellar half century from Gongadi Trisha and an impressive bowling performance, highlighting India's dominance in the tournament.



### Delhi to Host 2025 Para Athletics World Championships

December 21, 2024

India is set to host the 2025 Para Athletics World Championships, marking a historic moment for the country as it becomes the first time this prestigious event will be held in India. The competition is scheduled to



take place between September 26 and October 5, 2025, at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi. This event will be the 12th edition of the Para Athletics World Championships and the fourth time it is being held in Asia. More than 1,000 athletes from over 100 nations are expected to participate in this landmark event, which will also serve as a critical qualifier for the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympic Games.

### Afridi Becomes Youngest to Achieve 100 Wickets in All Formats

December 12, 2024

Fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi has cemented his place in cricket history by becoming the youngest bowler to take 100 wickets in all three formats of the game. He achieved this remarkable milestone during the first T20I against South Africa, making him the first Pakistani bowler to reach this feat.



### 9-Year-Old Aarit Kapil Stuns Chess Grandmaster

December 10, 2024

Nine-year-old Aarit Kapil, a budding chess prodigy from Delhi, made history by becoming the youngest Indian to defeat a chess Grandmaster. In a thrilling encounter during the ninth round of the KIIT International Open Tournament, Aarit emerged victorious against Raset Ziatdinov, a 66-year-old Grandmaster from the United States. At just 9 years, 2 months, and 18 days old, Aarit not only set a national record but also became the third-youngest player



### Bumrah Surpasses Kapil Dev to Become India's Top Wicket-Taker in Australia

December 18, 2024

Jasprit Bumrah etched his name in history by becoming India's highest wicket-taker in Test cricket on Australian soil, surpassing the legendary Kapil Dev's tally of 51 wickets. This milestone was achieved on December 18, 2024, during the fifth day of the third Test between India and Australia at The Gabba, Brisbane. Bumrah now has 52 wickets in Australia, making him the Indian bowler with the most Test wickets in the country.



### Ashwin's Retirement: A Historic Cricket Career Concludes

December 18, 2024

Ravichandran Ashwin, one of India's premier spinners, has announced his retirement from international cricket at the end of the third Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test in Brisbane on December 18, 2024. The announcement marked the conclusion of a remarkable 14-year international career. Known for his tactical brilliance and record-breaking achievements, Ashwin's retirement follows a stellar career in which he became one of India's greatest match-winners.



globally to achieve this feat under classical time control.

### Syed Modi 2024: Sindhu, Lakshya End Drought; Treasa-Gayatri Make History

December 3, 2024

The Syed Modi India International Super 300 tournament in Lucknow marked a significant achievement for Indian badminton, as PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen ended their respective title droughts. Sindhu claimed her third title at the event, while Lakshya secured his first, and the women's doubles duo, Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, made history by becoming the first Indian women's pair to win the title since 2009.



Delegates from approximately 40 to 50 countries, including the US, UK, Australia, Argentina, Sri Lanka, Germany, and Canada, will attend, denoting the event's international importance.

### Universal Health Coverage Day 2024: Ensuring Health for All

December 13, 2024

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day is observed annually on December 12, serving as a rallying point for the global movement advocating for health for all. Initiated by the World Health Organization (WHO), UHC aims to provide access to quality health services for everyone without causing financial hardship. This day marks a critical opportunity to reflect on progress and mobilize action toward achieving this essential goal.



### Uttarakhand Reveals India's First Yoga Policy to Become Global Yoga Hub

December 16, 2024

Uttarakhand, famously known as "Devbhoomi," is set to become the first Indian state to implement a dedicated Yoga Policy, aimed at transforming

## Art & Culture

### Losar Festivities Illuminate Ladakh with Culture and Unity

December 26, 2024

Ladakhi Losar, marking the New Year in the Tibetan calendar, is a vibrant festival celebrated with great enthusiasm across Ladakh. Deeply rooted in the region's culture and heritage, Losar is more than a festive occasion; it is a time for reflection, community bonding, and the preservation of Ladakhi traditions.



### Abathsayeshwarar Temple Wins UNESCO Award for Heritage Restoration

December 11, 2024

The Abathsayeshwarar Temple in Thukkatchi, a 1,300-year-old Chola dynasty structure in Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur district, has gained international recognition by UNESCO's 2023 Award of Distinction for its exceptional conservation efforts. The temple was constructed by Kings Vikrama Chola and Kulothunga Chola and featured five prakarams or enclosures.



UNESCO praised the restoration for revitalising the temple, combined modern conservation techniques with traditional methods.

### Uber Shikara: India's First Water Transport Service

December 3, 2024

Uber has introduced Asia's first water transport service, Uber Shikara, in Dal Lake, Jammu and Kashmir, which blends technology with traditional shikara rides to enhance the tourist experience. Tourists can now book shikara rides through the Uber app that allows advance bookings from 12 hours to 15 days ahead, which aims to streamline the tourist experience. Uber Shikara currently collaborates with seven local shikara operators. The company plans to expand this number based on demand. The shikaras are stationed at Nehru Park, a picturesque location on Dal Lake.



## Health and Fitness

### WHO Endorses New Obesity Treatment Options

December 23, 2024

Recently, the World Health Organization (WHO) approved GLP-1 receptor agonists as a treatment for obesity, such as semaglutide and tirzepatide, to mimic hormones that regulate appetite and blood sugar. The WHO emphasizes that while healthy eating and exercise are crucial, they alone cannot solve the obesity epidemic.



### Russia Develops mRNA Cancer Vaccine, Offers It for Free

December 20, 2024

Russia has made strides in cancer treatment with the announcement of a new mRNA vaccine. This vaccine aims to be available to patients free of charge by early 2025 and has undergone promising pre-clinical trials, showing potential to suppress tumour growth and prevent cancer spread.



### 'CHARAK' Initiative

December 17, 2024

Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) has recently introduced a CSR initiative named 'CHARAK', aimed at improving healthcare in the Singrauli region. This program focuses on providing free medical treatment for serious illnesses to economically disadvantaged individuals. The initiative aligns with the Ministry of Coal's commitment to community welfare and health.



### World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo 2024

December 13, 2024

Uttarakhand is set to host the World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo 2024 from December 12, which aims to promote Ayurveda on a global scale and explore its integration into modern healthcare systems.



the state into a global yoga destination. With Rishikesh already recognized as the "Yoga Capital of the World", this initiative builds on the state's rich cultural and spiritual legacy while aligning with the AYUSH policy's success. The policy, envisioned by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, integrates yoga, Ayurveda, and wellness into a comprehensive development strategy for tourism, health, and employment.



### Global Promotion of AYUSH Systems of Medicine

December 19, 2024

The Ministry of Ayush has launched a comprehensive initiative to promote AYUSH systems of medicine internationally, which aims to enhance global awareness and recognition of Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, and Homeopathy. The initiative also seeks to encourage research collaborations and support the export of AYUSH products.

