

December - 21

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Historian A.R. Venkatachalapathy, has won the Sahitya Akademi Award, 2024, for his book, Tirunelveli Ezuciyum Vaa. Vuu.ci. Yum 1908.
- ❖ The Legislative Assembly Secretariat of Tamilnadu has declared the Erode East constituency as vacant, following the death of Congress leader E.V.K.S. Elangovan.
- ❖ The 'One Health and Climate Change' of Tamil Nadu symposium was held in Chennai.
- ❖ The Indian Army participated in the 2nd Land Forces Summit (LFS) 2024, along with the Army Chiefs and senior generals from Japan, the US, Australia, and the Philippines.
- ❖ The Centre's air quality panel for Delhi-NCR invoked restrictive measures under stage III of the air pollution control plan amid a sharp dip in air quality due to unfavourable meteorological conditions.
- ❖ Mumbai cricket team defeat Madhya Pradesh and wins its second Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy title.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA), has approved infrastructure projects worth Rs 24,276 crore for the development of a greenfield capital Amaravati.
- ❖ SLINEX 2024, the Bilateral naval exercise between India and Sri Lanka, aims to strengthen maritime cooperation and was held in Visakhapatnam coast.
- ❖ Mount Semeru, located in East Java, Indonesia, erupted recently.
- ❖ Arabic Language Day is celebrated every year on 18 December to commemorate the day when the UNGA adopted the Arabic as the sixth official language of the Organization in 1973.

NATIONAL

129th Constitutional Amendment Bill

- ❖ Two Bills seeking to implement simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies were introduced in the Lok Sabha by the Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal.
- ❖ It seeks to insert/amend the following provisions
 - Inserting new article 82A — simultaneous elections to the House of the People (Lok Sabha) and all legislative Assemblies



- Amending Article 83 -Duration of Houses of Parliament,
- Amending Article 172 -Duration of State Legislatures and
- Amending Article 327 - Power of Parliament to make provision with respect to elections to Legislatures.
- ❖ While a simple majority is required to introduce a Bill to amend the Constitution, its passage requires two-thirds majority.
- ❖ As of one estimate, Two-thirds majority (307) was needed out of the total 461 votes in the Lok Sabha on that day.
- ❖ While 263 members voted in favour of introducing the Bill, 198 opposed it.
- ❖ This is the first time that the electronic voting system was used in the new Parliament.

The Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024

- Aims to implement One Nation, One Election (ONOE) concept
- Proposes simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and State Assemblies
- Seeks to align election schedules across different government levels

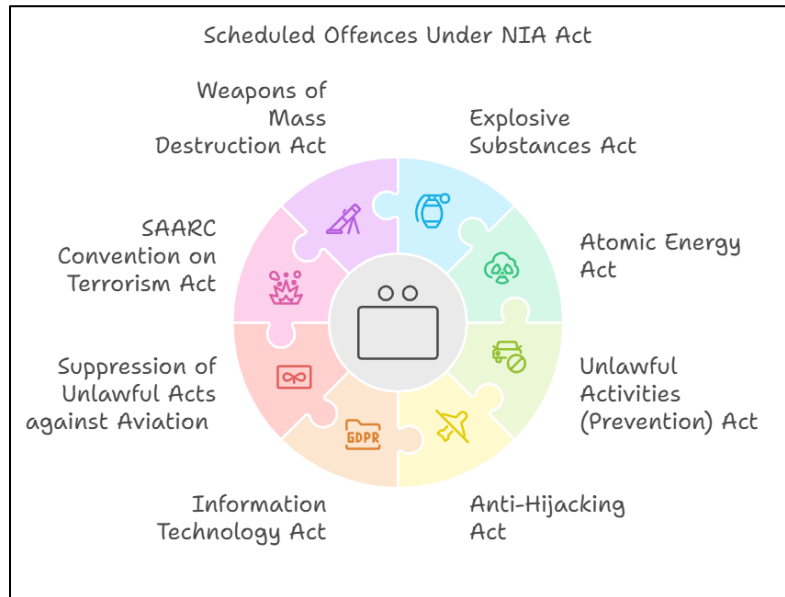
The Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024

- Designed to align elections in Union Territories like Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, and Puducherry with Lok Sabha polls

SC on powers of NIA

- ❖ The Supreme Court ruled that the powers of the NIA are not restricted to probing offences mentioned in the schedule of the NIA Act or accused committing such “scheduled offences”.
- ❖ NIA Act, 2008 specifies categories of scheduled offences that NIA can investigate.
- ❖ The scheduled offences include offence under

- Explosive Substances Act, 1908
- Atomic Energy Act, 1962,
- Anti-Hijacking Act, 1982,
- SAARC Convention (Suppression of Terrorism) Act, 1993 and
- Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 etc.



India's First Anti-Pesticide Bodysuit



- ❖ India's first-of-its-kind anti-pesticide bodysuit "Kisan Kavach" has been unveiled recently.

- ❖ It is designed to protect farmers from the harmful effects of pesticide exposure.
- ❖ The bodysuit offers protection against pesticide-induced toxicity, which often leads to severe health complications, including breathing disorders, vision loss, and, in extreme cases, death.

New Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGS) 2024



- ❖ The Centre has unveiled a credit guarantee scheme (CGS) to help small farmers who engage in distress selling.
- ❖ The scheme provides a corpus of Rs 1000 crore to help farmers.
- ❖ It will aid especially small and marginal to access post-harvest loans using electronic warehouse receipts.
- ❖ Under the revamped credit guarantee scheme, banks will issue Agri loans against warehouse receipts (e-NWR).
- ❖ The farmers will also get the opportunity to submit their produce and get issued e-NWRs by the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) registered repositories.
- ❖ It will act as collateral for banks to issue required loans.
- ❖ Farmers can sell their produce when the price goes up.

- ❖ The current post-harvest lending stands at around Rs 40,000 crore out of total agricultural lending Rs 21 lakh crore.

AYUSH New Chairs in 5 countries

- ❖ The Ministry of Ayush has functional academic AYUSH chairs at Bangladesh, Australia, Mauritius, Latvia, and Malaysia.
- ❖ The initiative at foreign institutes is a part of India's broader efforts to promote AYUSH systems of medicine, internationally.
- ❖ Establishing AYUSH Chairs in foreign universities is a key strategy for fostering international collaboration, research, and promoting AYUSH's benefits.
- ❖ The Chair usually aim to advance the academic exchange, research, and public awareness of AYUSH, contributing to its recognition and acceptance in the host country.
- ❖ India signed 24 Country to Country MoUs for Cooperation in field of Traditional Medicine and Homoeopathy with foreign nations.
- ❖ It signed 15 MoUs with International Institutes for setting up of AYUSH Academic Chairs in foreign nations.



Yuva Sahakar Scheme

- ❖ “Yuva Sahakar – Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme” is being implemented by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).
- ❖ It aims to encourage the newly formed cooperative societies with new and/or innovative ideas.
- ❖ The scheme encourages young entrepreneur Cooperative Societies which are in operation for a minimum of 3 months.

- ❖ The loan provided under the scheme is a long-term loan (up to 5 years) and as an incentive.
- ❖ NCDC provides 2% interest subvention on its applicable rate of interest on term loan for the project activities.



SC on Henderson Doctrine

- The pre-requisites which are necessary for Res Judicata are:
 - 1) There must be a final judgment;
 - 2) The judgment must be on the merits;
 - 3) The claims must be the same in the first and second suits;
 - 4) The parties in the second action must be the same as those in the first, or have been represented by a party to the prior action.

- ❖ In a recent case, the Supreme Court explained Henderson doctrine.
- ❖ It is a natural outcome of the Indian doctrine of constructive Res-judicata codified in Explanation IV of Section 11 of the Code of Civil Procedure (CPC).
- ❖ It was propounded in the English case of Henderson versus Henderson, 1843.

- ❖ The Court observed that all issues arising from the same subject matter should be addressed in a single proceeding.
- ❖ It will prevent repetitive and vexatious legal challenges for the same.
- ❖ The court has observed that once a matter has been adjudicated by a competent jurisdiction, parties are categorically barred from re-litigating issues that could have been raised in the previous proceedings, irrespective of negligence or inadvertence.
- ❖ Res Judicata literally translates to "a thing already decided".
- ❖ It applies when:
 - The matter directly and substantially in issue was previously decided
 - The parties are the same or claim under the same title
 - The previous court was competent to try the suit.

INTERNATIONAL

UNGA Resolution for Ceasefire in Gaza



- ❖ The United Nations (UN) General Assembly overwhelmingly approved resolutions demanding an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.
- ❖ It was adopted with 158 votes in favour including India and got nine votes against with 13 abstentions.

- ❖ It expressed support for the work of the UN's agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA).
- ❖ For the first time, Germany and Italy, who abstained last December, have voted in favour of a Gaza ceasefire.

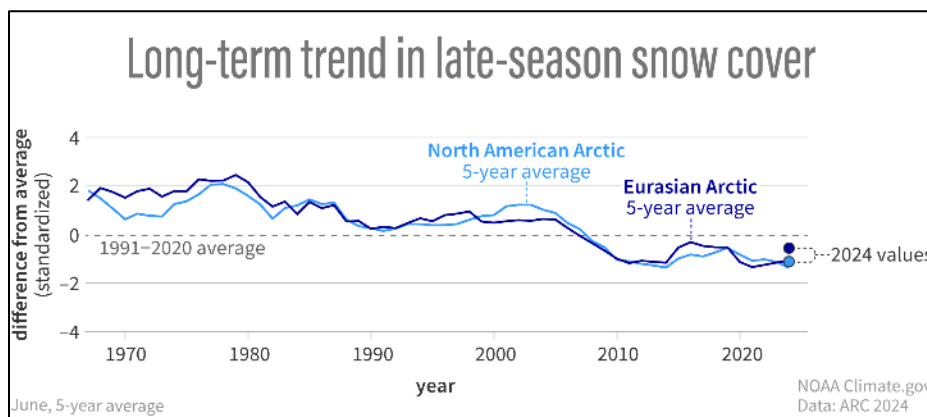
ENVIRONMENT

Little Bunting in Rajasthan



- ❖ Birdwatcher spotted a little bunting, a bird never seen before in Rajasthan.
- ❖ Little bunting, a small migratory bird, typically winters in the northeast India and southern China.
- ❖ It breeds in the taiga regions of northeast Europe and northern Asia.

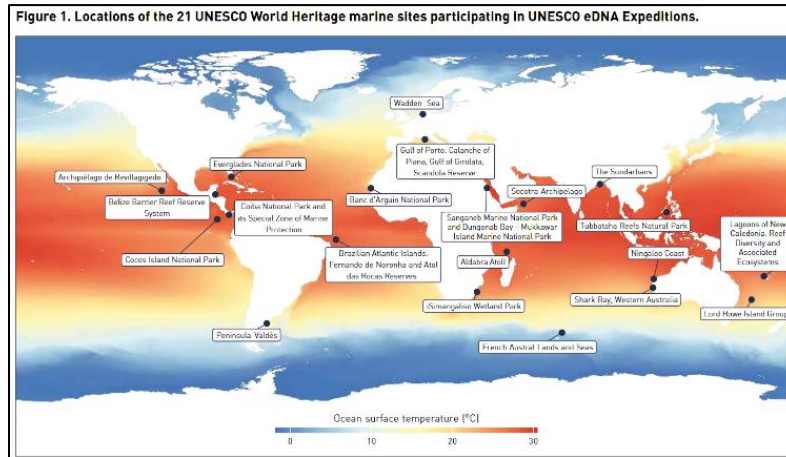
2024 Arctic Report Card



- ❖ For the past 15 years, the Arctic snow season has been one to two weeks shorter than it was historically.
- ❖ Overall, 2024 brought the second-warmest temperatures to the Arctic since measurements began in 1900, and the wettest summer on record.

- ❖ For thousands of years, the Arctic tundra landscape of shrubs and permafrost, or frozen ground, has acted as a carbon dioxide sink.
- ❖ Greenland Ice Sheet continued its 27-year record of ice loss.

Safeguard Ocean Life – UNESCO



- ❖ UNESCO released a report titled ‘Engaging Communities to Safeguard Ocean Life’ based on eDNA expeditions.
- ❖ UNESCO’s marine biodiversity mapping initiative has used environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling to identify nearly 4,500 species across 21 World Heritage sites.
- ❖ Over 70% of these sites are threatened by climate change and hosting about 35% of threatened marine species.
- ❖ Researchers predict that up to all fish species in these areas may surpass their thermal tolerance limits under the most severe climate change scenario.
- ❖ This scenario, known as SSP 8.5 or the ‘business as usual’ pathway, projects a global temperature rise of 4.4°C by the end of the century.

STATES

Punjab Sports Act 2024

- ❖ Punjab cabinet approved the sports department’s plan to enact a new law, the Punjab State (Development & Promotion of Sports) Act, 2024, to promote sports in the state.
- ❖ Punjab will be the first state in the country to do so.
- ❖ The main objective was to adopt best practices for sports and to ensure the fair selection of players.

- ❖ Five-member committee will select the team to represent a district or the state.
- ❖ A five-member sexual harassment committee at the district level also will be notified by the district magistrate.



SPORTS

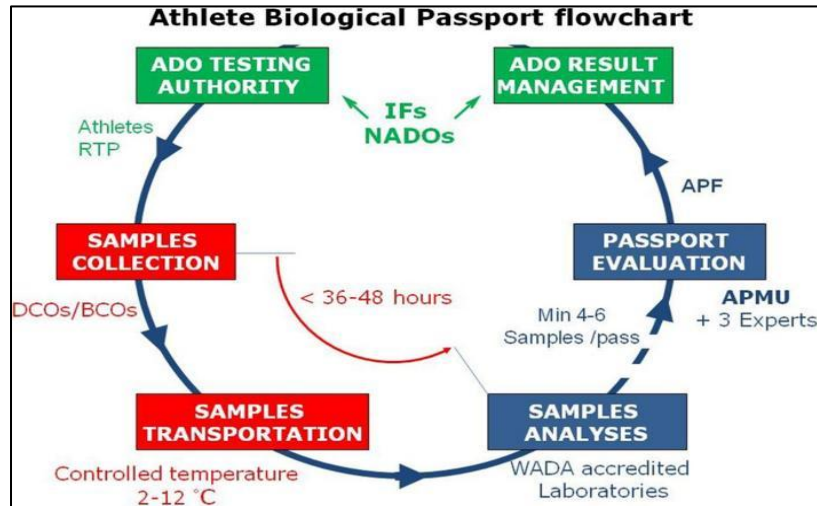
2024 WTA Awards



- ❖ Aryna Sabalenka was crowned Player of the Year as all the winners of the 2024 WTA (Women's Tennis Association) Awards.
- ❖ Emma Navarro earned the Most Improved Player accolade.

- ❖ Paula Badosa was named Comeback Player of the Year.
- ❖ Lulu Sun received the Newcomer of the Year award.
- ❖ The Doubles Team of the Year honor went to Sara Errani and Jasmine Paolini.

Athlete Biological Passport



- ❖ The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has granted approval to the Delhi-based National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) to establish an Athlete Passport Management Unit (APMU).
- ❖ NDTL will manage the biological profiles of athletes with an aim to ensure fair play in sports.
- ❖ The Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) is an advanced anti-doping tool that well monitors an athlete's biological markers over time.
- ❖ By analysing variations in parameters such as blood and steroid profiles, the ABP helps to ensure fair play in sports and to protect clean athletes.
- ❖ India was ranked first among countries with the highest percentage of dope offenders in the 2022.
- ❖ India's number of doping violations were higher than some of the major sporting nations like Russia (85), USA (84), Italy (73) and France (72).

SPORTS

Ashwin's retirement

- ❖ The Indian cricketer Ravichandran Ashwin has announced his retirement from the international cricket.

- ❖ He ended his 14-year journey with 537 Test wickets, which is only second to Anil Kumble's 619 wickets.
- ❖ Ashwin played 116 ODIs, taking 156 wickets. In 65 T20Is, he claimed 72 wickets.
- ❖ With 765 international wickets across formats, Ashwin is India's second-highest wicket-taker, behind Kumble (953).
- ❖ He achieved the distinction of being the first bowler to reach 100 wickets in World Test Championship.
- ❖ He also currently leads WTC's wicket-taking charts with 195 dismissals in 41 matches.

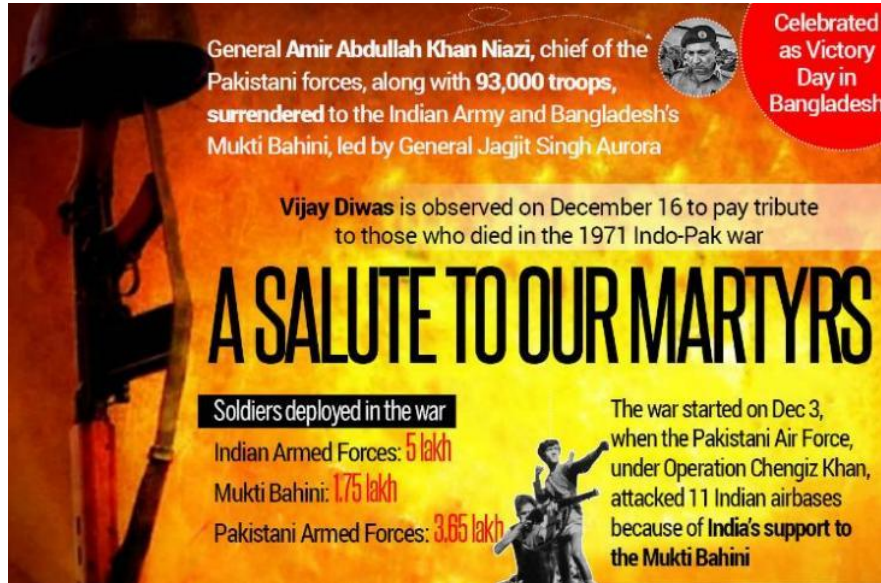


IMPORTANT DAYS

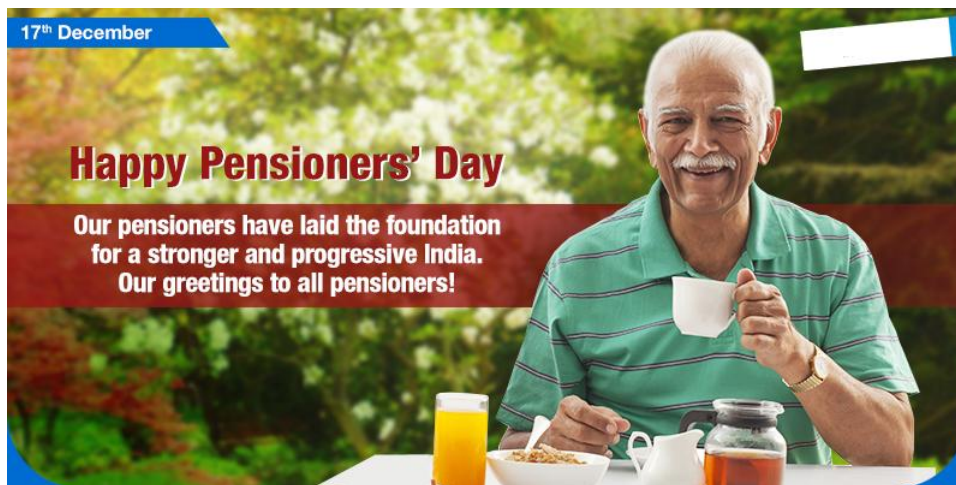
Vijay Diwas 2024 - December 16

- ❖ This day commemorates India's decisive victory over Pakistan in the 1971 War.

- ❖ The defeat resulted in the liberation of East Pakistan from Islamabad's control and the birth of Bangladesh.
- ❖ This day celebrates the sacrifice, bravery, and strategic brilliance of the Indian Armed Forces.



Pensioners Day 2024 - December 17



- ❖ On this day in 1982 that the Supreme Court delivered a landmark judgment guaranteeing dignity and decency to retired officials and pensioners.
- ❖ The late D.S Nakara fought for years to bring dignity and grace to the community, through the judgment.
- ❖ The liberal pension system implemented by the Centre in 1979 was relatively beneficial for pensioners.

- ❖ However, it was limited to those who retired after March 31, 1979.
- ❖ D. S. Nakara approached the court against this discrimination.
- ❖ The Royal Commission on Civil Establishments, in 1881, first awarded pension benefits to government employees.
- ❖ The Government of India Acts of 1919 and 1935 made further provisions.

International Migrants Day 2024 - December 18



- ❖ This day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2000.
- ❖ The UNGA had established a set of obligations to improve migrant safety in 1960, at its first-ever conference on massive refugee migrations.
- ❖ In 1990, the UNGA has approved the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.
- ❖ 2023 had the greatest yearly Migrants death toll ever, with more than 8500 deaths.

MISCELLANEOUS

World's Richest Families 2024

- ❖ The Walmart Waltons have reclaimed the top spot as the world's wealthiest family, with \$432.4 billion.
- ❖ The United Arab Emirates' ruling family, with a wealth of \$323.9 billion secured the second position on this year's list.
- ❖ Qatar's Al Thani royal family, valued at \$172.9 billion, ranks third on the list.
- ❖ From India, the Ambanis secured the 8th position (\$99.6 billion).

❖ The Mistrys of Shapoorji Pallonji (\$41.4 billion) landed at 23rd on the list.

