

pravahini

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

11 DEC - 17 DEC



MRP ₹ 50.00



1. Apex court unanimously upheld Article 370

The five-judge Constitution Bench, which included Chief Justice of India Dr. DY Chandrachud, Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, B.R. Gavai, and Surya Kant, J.J., rendered a decision on the petitions challenging the Central



Government's abrogation of Article 370. All members of the Bench supported the Union's decision to revoke Article 370. It also gave direction to the statehood restoration. The Election Commission of India was specifically instructed by Dr. DY Chandrachud, CJI, to hold elections for the J&K assembly by September 30, 2024.

What was Article 370 About?

- Article 370 in the Indian constitution gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, a region disputed by India, Pakistan and China.
- It was drafted by N Gopalaswami Ayyangar, a member of the Constituent Assembly of India, and was added to the constitution as a 'temporary provision' in 1949.
- It allowed the state to have its own constitution, flag and autonomy over most matters except defense, foreign affairs and communications.
- It was based on the terms of the Instrument of Accession, which was signed by the ruler of Jammu and Kashmir, Hari Singh, in 1947 to join India after an invasion by Pakistan.

What did the Court Say?

- **Art 370 was a Temporary Provision:** The court held that Article 370 was a temporary provision and that the State of J&K had no internal sovereignty.
- The court held that Article 370 was meant to be a 'temporary provision' for two primary reasons.
- It served a transitional purpose which was to make an interim arrangement to establish a Constituent Assembly of J&K which would draft the State Constitution.

- It was meant to ease the integration of J&K into the Union of India in the light of the prevailing war-like situation in the State back in 1947.
- **Governor can Assume “all or any” Roles of the State Legislature:** The court upheld the proclamations by referring to the landmark 1994 ruling in ‘SR Bommai v Union of India, 1994’ which dealt with the powers and limitations of the Governor under President’s rule.
- The CJI said that the governor (President in J&K’s case) can assume “all or any” roles of the state legislature and such action must be tested judicially only in extraordinary cases.
- **Concurrence of the State Government isn’t Required:** The court ruled that the President in the exercise of powers under Article 370 (3) of the Constitution can unilaterally notify that Article 370 ceases to exist.
- It further said that there was no requirement for the President to secure the concurrence of the State government in this regard as mandated by the provisions to Article 370(1)(d).
- **Upheld the 2019 Law:** The court upheld the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 to the extent it carved out the Union Territory of Ladakh out of the State of J&K.
- The court also observed that the views of the State legislature regarding the proposed reorganization are recommendatory in nature and not binding on the Parliament.
- **Parliament is Not a mere Law Making Body During President’s Rule:** The Chief Justice held that the power of the Parliament in a State under the President’s rule was not restricted to mere lawmaking. It also extended to executive action.

2. 1st pair of Siberian tigers in India after 12 years arrives in Darjeeling

- Lara and Akamas arrived on Sunday night in two special ambulances from the Kolkata airport after they were flown from Cyprus as a part of an animal exchange programme



- Two endangered Siberian tigers have arrived at Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park in West Bengal's Darjeeling years after the last such big cat died in India at the Nainital Zoo in November 2011 due to age-related problems.
- The Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, the highest altitude in India, hosted a Siberian tiger until 2007. Lara and Akamas arrived there on Sunday night in two special ambulances from the Kolkata airport. They were flown from Cyprus as a part of an animal exchange programme.
- The first ex-situ snow leopard conservation breeding programme started at the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park in 1986. The Red Panda project began four years later.

3. The Memoir of Pushpa Bharti "Yaadein, Yaadein aur Yaadein" has been selected for the 33rd Vyas samman.

★ The KK Birla Foundation announced in an official announcement that renowned Hindi writer Pushpa Bharati's 2016 memoir, Yaadein, Yaadein aur Yaadein, has been shortlisted for the 33rd Vyas Samman, 2023.



- ★ Established in 1991, the prize is granted to a distinguished Hindi literary piece authored by an Indian national that has been published during the past ten years. It comes with a plaque, citation, and ₹4 lakh in cash prize money.
- ★ A selection committee led by renowned literary critic Prof. Ramji Tiwari chose Bharati's Yaadein, Yaadein aur Yaadein for the coveted award after taking into account the works produced between 2013 and 2022.
- ★ The KK Birla Foundation established the Saraswati Samman and Bihari Puraskar in addition to the Vyas Samman. A superb literary work written by an Indian citizen in any of the languages listed in Schedule VIII of the Indian Constitution and published during a ten-year period is awarded the ₹15 lakh

Saraswati Samman. The Bihari Puraskar is intended for Rajasthani/Hindi writers and contains a ₹2.5 lakh monetary prize.

4. VINBAX-2023- annual training event between India and Vietnam.

The Indian Armed Forces contingent comprising 45 personnel reached Hanoi, Vietnam to take part in the fourth edition of Joint Military Exercise VINBAX-2023.



1. The exercise will be conducted at Hanoi, Vietnam from 11th to 21st December 2023. The Indian contingent comprises 39 personnel from an Engineer Regiment of Bengal Engineer Group and six personnel of Army Medical Corps.
2. Exercise VINBAX was instituted in 2018 and the first edition was conducted at Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. It is an annual training event conducted alternatively in India and Vietnam. Last edition was conducted at Chandimandir Military Station in August 2022.
3. The joint exercise will encourage exchange of ideas and both contingents will jointly rehearse tactics, technique and procedures.

5. Dr. Atul Shah has been awarded the 'Game changing Innovator Award' at 28th COP

Dr. Atul Shah, a plastic surgeon, has been honored with the 2023 REACH Game Changing Innovator award for his groundbreaking contribution to leprosy care.



Surgical Breakthrough

Dr. Shah's 'One in Four Lasso' operative technique, published in the European Journal of Hand Surgery, offered a simpler way to treat leprosy-related deformities.

Dr. Shah's work was acknowledged in the 'Game Changer Innovations' category, emphasizing the impact of grassroots solutions.

6. Tiriyani Block Clinched Top Spot In NITI Aayog's Inaugural Delta Rankings

Tiriyani Block in Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district, Telangana, has achieved a noteworthy milestone for the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) by securing the top spot in the first delta rankings released by NITI Aayog. The rankings, which were made

public during a virtual event at NITI Aayog, highlighted the exceptional work and advancements made by blocks nationwide in June 2023.

Key Performance Indicators(KPIs)Drive Competitiveness

- The rankings were determined based on the performance of blocks and progress achieved in the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) during the month.
- This strategic approach aligns with the spirit of competitive and cooperative federalism, marking the first time that the ranking of blocks has been calculated as part of the Aspirational Blocks Programme



7. Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has launched the Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme.
- ❖ This national forest certification scheme offers voluntary third-party certification designed to promote sustainable forest management and agroforestry in the country.
- ❖ The Forest Management certification is based on the Indian Forest Management Standard, consisting of 8 criteria, 69 indicators and 254 verifiers,



Ministry of Environment, Forest
& Climate Change

which is an integral part of the National Working Plan Code 2023, launched earlier this year.

- ❖ The Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme, will be overseen by the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Council, which will act as a Multistakeholder advisory body.
- ❖ Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal will act as the scheme operating agency and will be responsible for overall management of the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme.
- ❖ The National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies under the Quality Council of India will accredit the certification bodies which will carry out independent audits and assess adherence of various entities on the standards prescribed under the scheme.

8. DAE scientists IDRS Labs join hands to develop Aktocyte tablets for pelvic cancer

- ❖ Scientists from the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and Bengaluru-based IDRS Labs have joined hands to develop Aktocyte tablets for treating pelvic cancer.
- ❖ Experts from Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai; Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai; Advanced Centre for Training Research and Education in Cancer, Navi Mumbai collaborated with the IDRS Labs with a primary aim of minimizing the side effects of radiotherapy.
- ❖ The AKTOCYTE tablets have shown remarkable results, particularly in pelvic cancer patients suffering from radiotherapy-induced Cystitis (Blood in urine).
- ❖ AKTOCYTE has received approval from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), operating under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.



9. Myanmar has surpassed Afghanistan to become the largest producer of Opium in the world.

- Myanmar has become the world's top producer of opium, overtaking Afghanistan in 2023, according to a new United Nations report.
- The 95 percent decline in opium cultivation in Afghanistan after a drug ban by the Taliban in 2022 has seen global supply shift to Myanmar.
- As per data by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Myanmar produced an estimated 1,080 metric tonnes of opium this year used to produce heroin.
- The "Golden Triangle" border region between Myanmar, Laos and Thailand has long been a hotbed of illegal drug production and trafficking, particularly of methamphetamine and opium.