

Bihar Special

Acharya Kishore Kunal

Why in the news?

Acharya Kishore Kunal passed away on 29th December 2024.

- ❖ He was born on August 10, 1950.
 - His early education took place in Muzaffarpur. After this, he graduated in History and Sanskrit from Patna University.
 - Later he became an IPS officer of Gujarat cadre.
 - He was also the Senior Superintendent of Police of Patna.
 - After serving in the Home Ministry, he retired and also became the Vice Chancellor of Sanskrit University, Darbhanga.
- ❖ He has also been the President of the Bihar State Religious Trust Board.



- ❖ He was the Secretary of the Mahavir Mandir Trust of Patna. He is also the founder of a famous school named Gyan Niketan in Patna.

- He rebuilt the Mahavir Mandir and established nine charitable hospitals including Mahavir Arogya Sansthan, Mahavir Cancer Sansthan, Mahavir Vatsalya Hospital, Mahavir Netralaya, Mahavir Senior Citizen Hospital.
- He was also one of the founding members of the Ayodhya Temple Trust.

Polity And Governance

World's Largest Electoral Dataset

Why in the news?

The Election Commission of India has released a comprehensive set of 42 statistical reports for the Lok Sabha elections in 2024.

- ❖ Objective: To enhance the public trust that constitutes the underpinning of India's electoral system.
- Some highlights from the 42 Reports related to Lok Sabha General Election 2024 are listed below:



Electors/ Voters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ For Lok Sabha: 97,97,51,847 Electors in 2024 as compared to 91,19,50,734 in 2019. The increase (%) in Total electors in 2024 over 2019 was 7.43%. ❖ 64.64 crore votes polled in 2024, compared to 61.4 crore in 2019 ❖ EVM+Postal Votes: 64,64,20,869 ❖ EVM Votes: 64,21,39,275 ❖ Male: 32,93,61,948 ❖ Female: 31,27,64,269 ❖ Third Gender: 13,058 ❖ Postal Ballots: 42,81,594 ❖ PC with the highest turnout: 92.3% Dhubri (Assam) ❖ PC with the lowest turnout: 38.7% Srinagar (J&K), compared to 14.4% in 2019. ❖ Number of PCs with Voting Percentage less than 50%: 11 ❖ NOTA got 63,71,839 (0.99%) in 2024 compared to 1.06% in 2019. ❖ 27.09% voter turnout of transgender voters (third gender).
Polling Stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 10,52,664 polling stations in 2024, compared to 10,37,848 in 2019 ❖ Repoll only in 40 Polling Stations [0.0038% of Total Polling Stations] compared to 540 in 2019 ❖ Average number of Electors/Polling Station: 931 ❖ State with the highest number of PS: Uttar Pradesh (1,62,069 PS) ❖ State/UT with the lowest number of PS: Lakshadweep (55 PS) ❖ No. of Parliamentary Constituencies (PCs) with less than 1000 PS: 11 ❖ No. of Parliamentary Constituencies (PCs) with more than 3000 PS: 3 ❖ State with the highest increase in number of Polling Stations in 2024 as compared to that of in 2019: Bihar (4739 PSSs), followed by West Bengal (1731 PSSs).



<p>Women Power</p>	<p>Registered Electors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 47,63,11,240 Women electors out of 97,97,51,847, in 2024, compared to 438537911 in 2019. ❖ 48.62% Female Electors in 2024 compared to 48.09% in 2019. ❖ State with the highest percentage share of Female electors in 2024: Puducherry (53.03%) followed by Kerala (51.56%). ❖ In 2024, the number of female electors per 1000 male electors made a new high i.e. 946, as compared to 926 in 2019. <p>Voting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 65.78% of Female Electors voted in 2024 (excluding Surat) as compared to 65.55% of Male Electors. ❖ Females outnumbered men in 2024 again like in 2019; this is only the second time in the history of GEs to Lok Sabha. ❖ The Parliamentary Constituency with the highest VTR of Female voters: Dhubri (Assam) with 92.17% female voting, followed by Tamluk (West Bengal) with 87.57%. <p>Contesting Candidates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Number of Female Contesting Candidates was 800, compared to 726 Female Contesting Candidates in 2019. ❖ State with the highest number of Female Contesting candidates: Maharashtra [111] followed by Uttar Pradesh [80] and Tamil Nadu [77]. ❖ No Female Contesting candidates in 152 PCs out of all 543 PCs.
<p>Inclusive Elections</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 48,272 registered Third Gender Elector in 2024, compared to 39,075 in 2019. An increase of 23.5% over the five-year period. ❖ State with the highest No. of registered Third Gender Elector: Tamil Nadu (8,467). ❖ 90,28,696 registered PwD Electors in 2024, compared to 61,67,482 in 2019 ❖ 27.09% of transgender voters (third gender) voted in Lok Sabha Elections - 2024 compared to 14.64% in 2019 - almost double. ❖ 1,19,374 registered Overseas Electors in 2024 [Male: 1,06,411; Female: 12,950; Third Gender: 13] compared to 99,844 registered Overseas Electors in 2019.

Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 6 National Parties participated in the Lok Sabha Elections - 2024. Total vote share of these 6 parties was 63.35% of Total Valid Votes. ❖ 7190 candidates forfeited the deposits, compared to 6923 in 2019. ❖ One PC -Surat (Gujarat) was uncontested. ❖ A total of 3921 Independent candidates contested and only 7 of them were elected. 3905 independent candidates forfeited the deposits. Vote Share (%) polled by independent candidates was 2.79% of Total Valid Votes. ❖ There were 279 Independent Female candidates.
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International Relations

WAVES SUMMIT

Why in the news?

India will host the World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) for the first time in 2025.

- ❖ **Objective:**
 - It aims to not only highlight India's advancements in various entertainment sectors but also to bring attention to the country's rich cultural and cinematic legacy.

About the Summit:

- ❖ It is scheduled to take place from February 5-9 in Delhi in 2025.
- ❖ It will draw industry experts from Bollywood, regional cinema, animation, gaming, and entertainment technology, underscoring India's position as a rising powerhouse in content creation.



Economy

Coal Production 2023-24

Why in the news?

India recorded its highest-ever coal production of 997.826 million tonnes (MT) in the financial year 2023-24.

- ❖ It represents an 11.71 percent increase in comparison to the corresponding figure of 893.191 MT in the year 2022-23.
- ❖ According to the year-end review of the Coal Ministry:
 - During the calendar year 2024 (up to December 15, 2024), the country supplied about 963.11 MT of coal as compared to about 904.61 MT of coal during the same period of last year with a growth of about 6.47 percent.

- This comprised a coal supply to the Power Sector of 792.958 MT as compared to 755.029 MT coal during the same period of last year with a growth of 5.02 percent.
- The coal supply to the non-regulated sector during the calendar year was 171.236 MT as compared to 149.573 MT during the same period of last year with a growth of 14.48 per cent.

Mission Coking Coal

- ❖ The Ministry of Coal has launched 'Mission Coking Coal' to enhance domestic coking coal production to reduce the import of coking coal, keeping in view the demand projection of the steel sector.
- ❖ This mission aims to increase domestic raw coking coal production up to 140 MT by FY 2029-30.

Sports

Koneru Humpy

Why in the news?

Grandmaster Koneru Humpy has been crowned FIDE Women's World Rapid Champion 2024.

- ❖ She defeated Irene Sukandar of Indonesia to emerge as the FIDE Women's World Rapid Chess champion in New York.
- ❖ This is her second title in the tournament, after winning it in 2019.



Sachin Tendulkar

Why in the news?

Indian cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar has been awarded honorary membership of the prestigious Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) for his outstanding contribution to the game.



About MCC:

- ❖ Founded in 1838, it is one of the oldest and most influential sporting institutions in Australia.
- ❖ It oversees the management of the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), a venue that has hosted countless historic matches.

Sachin Tendulkar at MCC

- ❖ Tendulkar has a long history of success at the MCG, where he holds the record for the most runs scored at the venue.
- ❖ In five Tests at the MCG, he accumulated 449 runs, including a century and three fifties, at an impressive average of 44.90.
- ❖ His strike rate of 58.69 further signifies his ability to perform under pressure, especially at one of the most iconic cricket grounds where India struggled a ton during his era.

Persons In News

Mikheil Kavelashvili

Why in the news?

Mikheil Kavelashvili, a former pro footballer, has been sworn in as the new president of Georgia.

- ❖ He is an ex-lawmaker for the right-wing ruling Georgian Dream party and former English Premier League soccer star.



News in Short

- ❖ The 18th Elephant and Tourism Festival was organized in Nepal's Sauraha, Chitwan.
 - Chitwan National Park is the first national park in Nepal.
- ❖ China has unveiled its next-generation high-speed train, the CR450 prototype, which has achieved test speeds of 450 kilometres per hour (km/h), making it the fastest train in the world.



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