

11 November 2024

SC Overturns its 1967 judgement, which denied minority status to AMU

Key Points:

- ❖ On his last day as the Chief Justice of India, Justice D Y Chadrachud led 7-member constitutional bench of the Supreme Court (4 in favour and three against) overturned the previous 5-judge constitutional bench judgement in the Azeez Basha vs Union Of India 1967 case on the 'minority status' of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU). The Supreme Court delivered the judgement on 8 November 2024.
- ❖ In the **Azeez Basha vs. Union of India case**, the Supreme Court declared that AMU was not a minority educational institution as it was established through an act of legislature. The court opined that an institution established by an act of legislature cannot claim to be a minority institution.



- ❖ Aligarh Muslim University is a collegiate, central, and research university located in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, India, which was originally established by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan as the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College in 1875. Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College became Aligarh Muslim University in 1920, following the Aligarh Muslim University Act.
- ❖ The university offers more than 300 courses in traditional and modern branches of education, and is an institute of national importance as declared under seventh

schedule of the Constitution of India at its commencement.

- ❖ The Aligarh Muslim University was set up under the provisions of the Aligarh Muslim University Act 1920.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has now held that a future regular bench of the Court will decide whether Aligarh Muslim University is a minority educational institution based on the majority judgement in the present case.

Background to the Case?

- ❖ The Constitution of India under Article 30 guarantees the right of the minority to establish and administer their own educational institutions. The minority has been defined based on religion or language.
- ❖ In the Azeez Basha vs. Union of India case, the minority status of the AMU was challenged. The 5-member constitutional bench of the Supreme Court held that the University was not a minority institution as it was established by law (statute).
- ❖ In the Malay Shukla Vs Aligarh Muslim University case 2006, the Allahabad High Court relied upon the Supreme Court judgement of the Azeez Basha case, held that the Aligarh Muslim Muslim University was not a minority institution and it cannot reserve 50 per cent Post Graduate Medical seats for muslims.
- ❖ In 1981, the government amended the AMU Act, 1920, to say that the institution was established by the Muslim community to promote the cultural and educational advancement of Muslims in India.
- ❖ In 2005, AMU provided 50% reservation for Muslims in postgraduate medical programs. In 2006, the Allahabad HC struck down both the university order and the 1981 amendment on the ground that AMU was not a minority institution as per Azeez Basha.

- ❖ This judgment was challenged at the SC, and in 2019 the matter was referred to a seven-judge Bench.

Bengaluru Unveils First Digital Population Clock at ISEC

Key Points:

- ❖ On Friday, November 8, Bengaluru marked a milestone with the inauguration of its first digital population clock at the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC). This innovative installation will display real-time population estimates for both Karnataka and the entire country.
- ❖ On Friday, November 8, Bengaluru marked a milestone with the inauguration of its first digital population clock at the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC).
- ❖ This innovative installation will display real-time population estimates for both Karnataka and the entire country, providing citizens, researchers, and policymakers with up-to-date demographic data.



Real-Time Updates

- ❖ Provides continuous updates, Karnataka's Population: Refreshes every 1 minute and 10 seconds.
- ❖ **India's Population : Updates every 2 seconds. Establishment Created by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.**

PV Sindhu Lays Foundation for World-Class Badminton Centre in Visakhapatnam

Key Points:

- ❖ PV Sindhu laid the foundation for the PV Sindhu Centre for Badminton and Sports

Excellence in Visakhapatnam, aiming to create a world-class sports training facility. Spanning three acres, the project received land from the Andhra Pradesh government in 2021.

- ❖ India's celebrated badminton star and Olympic medallist, PV Sindhu, laid the foundation stone for the PV Sindhu Centre for Badminton and Sports Excellence on November 7, in Chinna Gadili village on the outskirts of Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ This academy is a milestone project aimed at nurturing young talent and elevating Indian badminton to global standards.

The Odisha government officially announced the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 beginning with the 2024-25 academic session

Key Points:

- ❖ The Odisha government has officially announced the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 across state-run universities and affiliated colleges, beginning with the 2024-25 academic session.
- ❖ The Chief Minister's Office, in a press release issued on Saturday evening, highlighted the policy's transformative approach aimed at modernizing Odisha's higher education system. The adoption of NEP 2020 introduces a revamped, four-year undergraduate program that provides students with the opportunity to obtain a certificate, diploma, degree, or honors degree each successive year of study.
- ❖ To support the policy's flexible academic structure, a statelevel credit framework aligned with University Grants Commission (UGC) guidelines has been developed. This framework facilitates the accumulation of credits through diverse avenues such as skill development, internships, community

service, extracurricular activities, and participation in programs like the National Cadet Corps (NCC) and National Service Scheme (NSS).

- ❖ It also allows students greater freedom in selecting subjects and offers multiple entry and exit points, with a seven-year window for degree completion.
- ❖ The NEP rollout aims to enhance the quality, autonomy, and inclusivity of Odisha's higher education. Emphasizing research, innovation, and practical skills, the policy is designed to equip students with industry-relevant expertise through hands-on internships and a job-oriented curriculum that reflects contemporary industry needs.
- ❖ To support the updated academic structure, a comprehensive model syllabus has been approved, encompassing 40 core undergraduate subjects, two skill enhancement courses, 112 multidisciplinary subjects, 14 vocational courses, 56 value-added courses, and 84 skill development courses.
- ❖ The NEP 2020 aims at making **"India a global knowledge superpower"**. It is only the 3rd major revamp of the framework of education in India since independence.
- ❖ The two earlier education policies were brought in 1968 and 1986. Ensuring Universal Access at All Levels of schooling from pre-primary school to Grade 12.
- ❖ Ensuring quality early childhood care and education for all children between 3-6 years. New Curricular and Pedagogical Structure (5+3+3+4) corresponds to the age groups of 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years respectively.
- ❖ It covers four stages of schooling: Foundational Stage (5 years), Preparatory Stage (3 years), Middle Stage (3 years), and Secondary Stage (4 years).

5+3+3+4 curriculum system replacing existing 10+2 system.

- ❖ 3-8 years of age: 3 years pre school education + Classes 1 and 2
- ❖ 8-11 years of age: classes 3 to 5
- ❖ 11-14 years of age: classes 6 to 8
- ❖ 14-18 years of age: Classes 9-12

India, Australia Launch Joint Military Drill Austrahind in Maharashtra

Key Points:

- ❖ The third edition of the joint military exercise AUSTRAHIND commenced today at the Foreign Training Node in Pune, Maharashtra. The exercise, scheduled from 8th to 21st November 2024, is a key annual event held alternately in India and Australia.
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Harsha Vardhan Agarwal to Take Over as FICCI President from Nov 21

Key Points:

- ❖ The FICCI National Executive Committee Meeting (NECM) has officially announced Harsha Vardhan Agarwal as the President-Elect of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), one of India's leading industry bodies.

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- ❖ Agarwal, who currently serves as the Senior Vice President of FICCI, is set to assume the role of President on November 21, 2024.

About Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)

- ❖ Established: 1927
- ❖ Type: Non-government, not-for-profit organization
- ❖ Significance: Largest and oldest apex business organization in India
- ❖ Historical Role: Played a key role in India's independence struggle and industrialization.

Nitin Gadkari inaugurates 83rd Indian Roads Congress at Raipur

Key Points:

- ❖ Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, inaugurated the 83rd session of the Indian Roads Congress at Raipur, Chhattisgarh on 8 November 2024.
- ❖ The 83rd session of the Indian Road Congress, organised by the apex body of Indian highway engineers, will be held from 8 to 11 November 2024 at Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ The main aim of the Indian Road Congress is to formulate Standards, Codes, Specifications, and Manuals related to roads, bridges, and road transport for

adoption by central government road agencies to construct and maintain sustainable road infrastructure for the country's overall development.

- ❖ Based on the recommendation of the Jayakar Committee on Indian Road Development, the Indian Road Congress was constituted in 1934. The Indian Road Congress is the apex body of Highway engineers in the country, with its headquarters in New Delhi.

3rd Summit of the European Political Community

Key Points:

- ❖ The 3rd Summit of the European Political Community was held in Budapest, Hungary, on 7 November 2024. It was hosted by the Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban.
- ❖ Around 40 European leaders attended the Summit of the European Political Community.
- ❖ On the suggestion of French President Emmanuel Macron and in the background of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the European Union set up the European Political Community.
- ❖ The 27-member European Union is the main driving force behind the European Political Community.
- ❖ The first summit meeting of the European Political Community took place in Prague on 6 October 2022, and Chişinău, Moldova, hosted the second summit meeting in June 2023.

International Conference in Support of Lebanon's People and Sovereignty

Key Points:

- ❖ The International Conference in Support of Lebanon's People and Sovereignty was held in Paris, France, on 24 October 2024. It was organised by French President Emmanuel Macron with the support of the United Nations.

- ❖ The conference's main aim was to raise aid for the country, which has become a battleground between Israel and Hezbollah.
- ❖ The donor countries pledged \$1 billion for Lebanon, of which \$800 million will be for humanitarian purposes and \$200 million will be used to support Lebanon's security forces.
- ❖ Capital of Lebanon: Beirut.

Shiv Nadar India's most generous philanthropist, Nikhil Kamath youngest

Key Points:

- ❖ Shiv Nadar, the founder of HCL Technologies, has retained his position as India's most generous philanthropist for the third time in five years.
- ❖ The 79-year-old tech magnate donated Rs 2,153 crore in the financial year 2024 — translating to Rs 5.9 crore every single day, according to the EdelGive-Hurun India Philanthropy List 2024.
- ❖ Nadar's philanthropic work is primarily channeled through the Shiv Nadar Foundation, with a strong emphasis on education and technology-driven initiatives.
- ❖ Rohini Nilekani, co-founder of Infosys and wife of Nandan Nilekani, took the lead as the most generous woman on the list with an annual donation of Rs 154 crore.
- ❖ The EdelGive-Hurun India Philanthropy List 2024 has revealed a remarkable surge in charitable donations across the country, with a collective donation of Rs 8,783 crore by 203 philanthropists, marking an impressive 55% increase in donations compared to two years ago.
- ❖ The EdelGive-Hurun India Philanthropy List 2024 saw significant milestones in India's charitable landscape.
- ❖ 18 philanthropists donated over Rs 100 crore annually — a tenfold increase from 2019, showcasing a growing trend among

the country's wealthiest to contribute larger sums. 30 philanthropists donated over Rs 50 crore (a 125% increase from 2019). 61 philanthropists donated over Rs 20 crore, marking a 128% increase from five years ago. Nikhil Kamath, co-founder of Zerodha, has become the youngest philanthropist featured in the EdelGive-Hurun India Philanthropy List 2024 at just 38 years old.



Harmanpreet Singh wins FIH Player of the Year; PR Sreejesh receives Goalkeeper of Year title at FIH Hockey Awards

Key Points:

- ❖ Indian Men's Hockey Team captain Harmanpreet Singh and former goalkeeper PR Sreejesh have won the FIH Player of the Year and Goalkeeper of the Year titles for the year 2024.
- ❖ Both Harmanpreet and Sreejesh received recognition during the 49th FIH Statutory Congress in Oman.
- ❖ Two-time Olympic bronze medallist Harmanpreet received over 63 per cent of all votes cast in his category. Similarly, Sreejesh was highly popular among voters, polling over 62 per cent of all votes in his category.
- ❖ The winners were selected through a voting process involving an expert panel, national hockey associations, fans, and media. Harmanpreet Singh won his third FIH Player of the Year award in 2024, having won it in 2021 and 2022.
- ❖ Incidentally, another Indian, Hardik Singh, won the 2023 Award. Long-time Indian men's hockey team goalkeeper PR Sreejesh won his third FIH Goalkeeper of the Year award.

- ❖ PR Sreejesh, who, due to his formidable goalkeeping, was also called as the 'the Great Wall of India', had won the award in 2021 and 2022 also.



10 November – World Science Day for Peace and Development

Key Points:

- ❖ World Science Day for Peace and Development is celebrated annually on November 10, serves as a significant reminder of the vital role that science plays in society and its contribution to global peace and sustainable development.
- ❖ Organized by UNESCO since 2001, this day emphasizes the importance of connecting science with society and ensuring that scientific knowledge is shared widely, making it relevant and accessible to everyone. Theme 2024 – Youth at the Forefront.



Govt launches Rs 500 crore scheme to strengthen medical devices industry

Key Points:

- ❖ Union Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister JP Nadda has launched a Rs 500 crore scheme to strengthen India's medical devices industry, focusing on critical areas such as manufacturing key components and accessories, skill development,

support for clinical studies, development of common infrastructure, and industry promotion.

- ❖ This initial outlay of Rs 500 crore will be for three years, up to financial year 2026-27.
- ❖ The overall scheme consists of five components, including common facilities for medical device clusters, capacity building and skill development, a marginal investment scheme for reducing import dependence, clinical studies support.
- ❖ Under the scheme, Rs 110 crore has been allocated to strengthen infrastructure through the creation of common facilities such as research and development (R&D) labs, design and testing centres, and animal labs for around 20 medical device clusters in India.
- ❖ This will also include the enhancement of testing facilities. The government will also provide a support scheme worth Rs 100 crore for clinical studies of medical devices, enabling developers and manufacturers to apply for financial assistance for animal studies and, if successful, for human trials to validate MedTech products.

10 November – World Immunization Day 2024

Key Points:

- ❖ World Immunization Day, observed annually on November 10.
- ❖ Objective – To raise awareness about the vital role vaccines play in preventing infectious diseases and protecting public health.
- ❖ Immunization is one of the most effective and cost-efficient intervention for controlling and eradicating diseases, saving millions of lives globally each year.
- ❖ The Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) is one of India's most comprehensive public health initiatives, aiming to provide

life-saving vaccines to millions of newborns and pregnant women each year.

- ❖ Initially launched in 1978 as the Expanded Programme on Immunization, it was rebranded as the UIP in 1985 when its coverage was extended beyond urban centres to rural areas.

9 November – National Legal Service Day

Key Points:

- ❖ National Legal Services Day is observed every year on 9 November across the country. The day is primarily celebrated to promote legal awareness and ensure access to justice for all citizens, especially those from marginalized communities.
- ❖ This day is to educate people about their legal rights and promote mechanisms for dispute resolution through a number of projects and activities to create a more equitable society. Theme 2024 – Celebrating equal access to justice.



9 November – Uttarakhand Foundation Day

Key Points:

- ❖ Uttarakhand Foundation Day is annually celebrated on November 9, and in 2024, it marks the 24th anniversary of the formation of the state.
- ❖ Uttarakhand is commonly referred to as the “Land of the Gods (Devbhumi),” due to several Hindu pilgrimage sites in the state.

- ❖ Originally known as Uttaranchal, it formed the 27th state of India, with the name being officially changed to Uttarakhand in 2007.



- ❖ The state of Uttarakhand was formed on November 9, 2000, after a prolonged struggle by the people of the region, who sought a separate state due to cultural, geographic, and administrative differences from Uttar Pradesh.

Pankaj Advani wins IBSF World Billiards Championship 150-up title

Key Points:

- ❖ India's Pankaj Advani has won the IBSF World Billiards Championship 150-up format title.
- ❖ He defeated England's Robert Hall in the final clash of the tournament at Doha in Qatar. Earlier, Pankaj had defeated his compatriot Sourav Kothari 4-2 in the semifinal.
- ❖ Sourav settled for the bronze medal.

