

Subramania Bharati

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the compendium of the complete works of Tamil poet and freedom fighter Subramania Bharati on his 143rd birth anniversary.

Key Points

- ❖ The collection is titled 'Kaala Varisayil Bharathi Padaippugal'.
- ❖ It is the complete collected works of Mahakavi Bharathiyar in chronological order.
- ❖ It is collated by Seeni Viswanathan.

About Subramania Bharati

- ❖ He was an Indian writer of the nationalist period and is regarded as the father of the modern Tamil literary style.
- ❖ He is also known as the 'Mahakavi Bharathiyar', Bharati's strong sense of social justice drove him to fight for self-determination.
- ❖ Some of his most important works include Kannan pattu, Panchali Sapatham, Kuyil pattu, Pudiya Russia and Gnanaratham.

One Nation One Election

On 12th December 2024, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the "One Nation, One Election" bill.

More on News

- ❖ The government is likely to bring a comprehensive bill on the same in the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament.

Background

- ❖ One Nation, One Election (ONOE) means that Lok Sabha, state Assembly, and local body (urban or rural) elections will be held in the same year, if not at the same time.
- ❖ This was the norm from independence until 1967, with four electoral cycles held during that period, starting with the first general election in 1951/52. However, this practice occurred only three more times—during the 1957, 1962, and 1967 elections.
- ❖ The premature dissolution of some state governments in 1968 and 1969, as well as the early termination of the Lok Sabha in 1970, disrupted the simultaneous poll cycle.
- ❖ Currently, general, state, and local body elections are out of sync, following timelines dictated by the terms of each elected body.

Committee on ONOE

- ❖ In September 2023, an eight-member committee was set up, headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind, to examine and make recommendations for holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha, state Assemblies, municipalities and panchayats.
- ❖ In March 2024, the High-level Committee on Simultaneous Elections, chaired by Kovind, submitted its report to President Droupadi Murmu.
- ❖ **Committee recommendations:** The Kovind-led Committee recommended bringing state, local, and general elections under one phase by 2029. The report said the elections would be synced in two phases.
 - To begin with, it suggests syncing the Lok Sabha and state Assembly elections.
 - After that, the Panchayat and Municipality elections should be held within 100 days of the Lok Sabha and State elections, it added.

- The Committee has also said there needs to be a single electoral roll and Electoral Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) for General, state and local elections.

Challenges in Implementing

- ❖ Conducting multiple elections strains state resources, keeps political parties in perpetual campaign mode, and leads to corrupt practices.
- ❖ Despite potential benefits, the proposal faces opposition, with critics citing concerns about the democratic spirit, dominance of national issues over local concerns, and the need for constitutional amendments.
- ❖ Implementing simultaneous elections requires constitutional amendments, a two-thirds majority in Parliament, and ratification by at least half the states.
- ❖ Amendments to key articles, including 83, 85(2)(B), 174(2)(B), 356, and 75(3), along with changes to the Representation of People's Act, 1951, pose significant challenges.
- ❖ Ensuring sufficient EVM availability, polling, and security staff adds to the complexity.

Lok Sabha Passed Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024

On 11th December 2024, the Lok Sabha passed the Railways (Amendment) Bill 2024.

Key Points

- ❖ The Bill was passed by a voice vote.
- ❖ The bill seeks to amend existing railway laws to enhance the functioning and independence of the Railway Board.
 - The Bill proposes the incorporation of the Indian Railway Board Act, 1905 in the Railways Act, 1989. This will reduce the need to refer to two laws.

World Ayurveda Congress

The 10th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC 2024) and Arogya Expo were inaugurated in Dehradun.

Key Points

- ❖ Organised: It is a biennial event organised by the World Ayurveda Foundation (WAF), an initiative of Vijnana Bharati.
- ❖ This year's edition of this landmark event is set to unite Ayurveda practitioners, researchers, and enthusiasts from around the globe.

- ❖ Theme: The central theme for the WAC2024 is, "Digital Health: An Ayurveda Perspective," will delve into the transformative potential of modern technologies in advancing Ayurveda.

Kalagram

Ministry of Culture to set up and run a cultural village Kalagram in Prayagraj during the Mahakumbh.

Key Points

- ❖ The Ministry of Culture has planned to set up and run a cultural village 'Kalagram' in Prayagraj during the upcoming Maha Kumbh.
- ❖ It will be set up in a 10.24-acre area.
- ❖ It will showcase the rich, spiritual and cultural heritage of the country by emerging artists, National School of Drama productions, and Zonal Cultural Centre ensembles.

Schengen Area

On 12th December 2024, the European Union approved the full membership of Bulgaria and Romania in the Schengen Area, effective from 1 January 2025.

Key Points

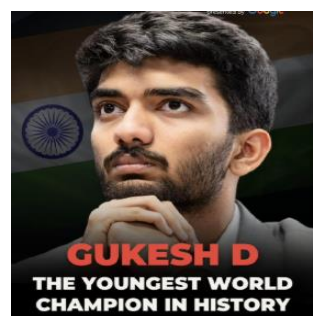
- ❖ Schengen is the world's largest free travel area.
- ❖ It currently includes 29 countries: 25 of the EU's 27 member states, as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland.
- ❖ It comprises a population of 420 million.
- ❖ Since joining the EU, Bulgaria and Romania have implemented parts of the Schengen legal framework, such as those governing external border controls, police cooperation, and the use of the Schengen Information System.
- ❖ Border controls within the Schengen Area were first removed in 1985 between France, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg. Although Cyprus has not yet removed internal border checks, Ireland remains outside the Schengen Area.

Person In News- Sports

Gukesh D

- ❖ He became the youngest World Chess champion.

- ❖ He is 18-year-old and became the first teenager to win the World Chess Championship after beating China's Ding Liren.
- ❖ Gukesh also became only the second Indian after the legendary Viswanathan Anand to win the prestigious title.



Awards/Titles

Directors Guild of America's Awards

- ❖ Ang Lee to receive Directors Guild of America's Lifetime Achievement Award for his incredible contributions to the world of films.
- ❖ The DGA's Lifetime Award is the highest that the guild bestows on filmmakers.
- ❖ Ang Lee will be the 37th recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the guild.
- ❖ The last director to receive it was Spike Lee in 2022.

- ❖ Ang Lee is best known for highly acclaimed films like Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, Brokeback Mountain, Sense and Sensibility, 1997's The Ice Storm, 2003's Hulk and 2012's Life of Pi.
- ❖ Ang Lee is a two-time Oscar winner in the Best Director category – Brokeback Mountain and Life of Pi.



About the DGA:

- ❖ The Directors Guild of America Awards are issued annually by the Directors Guild of America.
- ❖ The first DGA Award was an "Honorary Life Member" award issued in 1938 to D. W. Griffith.

Important Days/Dates

December 12

International Day of Neutrality 2024

- ❖ International Day of Neutrality was officially declared in a resolution passed by the UN General Assembly in February 2017 and was celebrated on December 12 the same year.



- ❖ The duties and rights of a neutral country are set in the Hague Convention of 1907.
- ❖ **Neutrality:** In international law, a sovereign state that refrains from any participation in a war with or between other countries and maintains an attitude of indifference towards belligerents is defined as a neutral country. In return, belligerents should respect this impartiality.
- ❖ A country in a permanent state of neutrality will remain as such in all future wars.
- ❖ In 1815, the first country to declare its permanent status of neutrality was Switzerland.
- ❖ But Turkmenistan is the only state that is recognized as neutral by the United Nations.

Important News- Other States

Andhra Pradesh

- ❖ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has sanctioned a USD 788.8 million results-based loan to Andhra Pradesh for the development of Amaravati as a green and smart capital city that offers world-class infrastructure.

- ❖ The “Amaravati Inclusive and Sustainable Capital City Development Programme” is designed to transform Amaravati into a growth hub for the region, enhancing economic prospects, providing job opportunities, and improving living conditions of the residents.

Miscellaneous

- ❖ Indian film "The Kumbaya Story" has bagged a trophy at the 13th tve Global Sustainability Film Awards held at the BAFTA.
 - It is Produced by the Kumbaya Producer Co. Ltd. The movie clinched the award in the Transforming Society Short Film category.
 - "The Kumbaya Story" narrates the inspiring journey of resilient women who have transformed their lives through the art of weaving, culminating in the establishment of the Kumbaya Producer Company.

- ❖ Elon Musk becomes first person to reach \$400 Billion net worth.
- ❖ FIFA confirmed that Saudi Arabia will host the 2034 Men's World Cup, while the 2030 edition will be held in Spain, Portugal, and Morocco, with additional matches in three South American countries.
- President-elect Donald Trump has been named the 2024 TIME Person of the Year. It is the second time he has received this honour (the first time was in 2016). "In 2023, TIME magazine's Person of the Year was Taylor Swift for her success in the field of



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