

December - 14

TNPSC BITS


- ❖ ITC Limited surpassed British American Tobacco Plc (BAT) to become the third most valuable tobacco company in the world.
- ❖ Nikhil Dey, an Indian social activist, has been named as the International Anti-Corruption Champion by the US State Department.
- ❖ As per US-based consultancy firm 'Morning Consult', Prime Minister Narendra Modi retained his position as the world's most popular leader with an approval rating of 76 per cent.
 - He is followed by Mexico President Andrés Manuel López Obrador and Swiss Confederation President - Alain Berset.

NATIONAL

SC verdict on Art 370

CHAIN OF EVENTS

<p>▶ Oct 26, 1947 Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession, allowing Jammu and Kashmir to join India</p> <p>▶ Jan 26, 1950 President Rajendra Prasad issued order under Article 370</p> <p>▶ Oct 31, 1951 Constituent Assembly of J&K formed</p> <p>▶ Nov 17, 1956 Constitution of J&K comes into force</p>	<p>▶ 1980s Repeal of Article 370 becomes part of BJP's core agenda</p> <p>▶ June 19, 2018 Governor's rule in J&K after BJP withdraws support to the PDP govt</p> <p>▶ Dec 20, 2019 President's rule in J&K</p> <p>▶ Aug 5-6, 2019 RS and LS pass statutory</p>	<p>resolutions that take away J&K's special status under Article 370</p> <p>▶ August 9, 2019 Parliament passed the J&K Reorganisation Act, which split J&K into two UTs – J&K and Ladakh</p> <p>▶ August 28, 2019 SC refers petitions challenging altering Article 370 to a Constitutional Bench</p> <p>▶ August 2, 2023 Constitution Bench starts hearing the 23 petitions</p>
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- ❖ A Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India unanimously upheld the Central government's 2019 decision to abrogate Article 370.



- ❖ Article 370 of the Constitution conferred special status on the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).
- ❖ The CJI notes that Article 370 was only a provision to take care of the transition from a princely State to the Union.
- ❖ The court held that J&K did not retain any internal sovereignty after its integration and that the concurrence of the State Government was not required to apply the Indian Constitution to the State.
- ❖ It also upheld the carving out of Ladakh as a Union Territory.
- ❖ The court also directed the Election Commission of India to take steps to conduct elections to the J&K Legislative Assembly by September 30, 2024.

Background of special status

- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir enjoyed special status under Article 370 of the Constitution of India.
- ❖ This Article describes it as a temporary provision and that it will cease to be operative if the President issues a public notification to that effect.
- ❖ However, prior to that, a recommendation is necessary from the Constituent Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ As a result of Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir had its own Constitution.
- ❖ All laws passed by Parliament will not be applicable to the State, unless the State government gives its concurrence.
- ❖ The Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1954, lists the Articles and provisions that apply to J&K.
- ❖ Further, the President also listed a set of exceptions under Article 35A of the Constitution.
- ❖ This Article does not figure in the text of the Constitution of India, but figures only in the J&K's Constitution.
- ❖ While the 1954 presidential order constituted a founding legal document for Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ Article 35A protected the exclusive laws – such as the bar on outsiders buying property and women marrying non-Kashmiris losing their property rights - of the State.

Mahua Moitra expulsion

- ❖ Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra was expelled from Lok Sabha on the recommendation of an ethics committee.



- ❖ She was accused of taking bribes, including crore in cash and gifts, for asking questions critical of the government in parliament.
- ❖ Parliamentary Affairs Minister moved a motion to expel the leader for her "unethical conduct", and it was adopted by a voice vote.
- ❖ In Lok Sabha, the privileges committee looks into complaints raised by MPs against officials, media or other MPs.
- ❖ The ethics panel is the only committee that probes a layperson's complaints against lawmakers of Lok Sabha.
- ❖ Ms Moitra has challenged her Lok Sabha expulsion in the Supreme Court.
- ❖ Although Article 122 of the Constitution gives immunity to proceedings in parliament from being challenged in court, she can exercise certain legal rights.
- ❖ The Ethics Committee looks into what is termed as unethical conduct of the MPs.
- ❖ Unethical conduct has not been defined by the Rules.
- ❖ In December 2005, 11 MPs - 10 from Lok Sabha and one from Rajya Sabha - were expelled over a cash-for-query scandal.

LOK SABHA ETHICS COMMITTEE: PROCEDURE FOR COMPLAINTS

- Any individual can file a complaint against a member via another Lok Sabha MP
- An affidavit must be given stating that the complaint is not "false, frivolous, or vexatious"
- Complaints based on media reports or matters that are sub-judice are not entertained by the Committee
- Committee conducts prima facie inquiry and then makes recommendations after evaluation

INTERNATIONAL

Green Voyage 2050 Project

- ❖ India has been selected as pioneer lead country for International Maritime Organization (IMO) Green Voyage 2050 Project.
- ❖ It aims to assist developing countries in their efforts to reduce Green House Gases (GHG) emissions from ships.

- ❖ The countries participating in the Green Voyage 2050 Project are: Azerbaijan, Belize, China, Cook Islands, Ecuador, Georgia, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka.
- ❖ It is a partnership project between the Government of Norway and IMO, launched in 2019.



Operation Storm Makers II



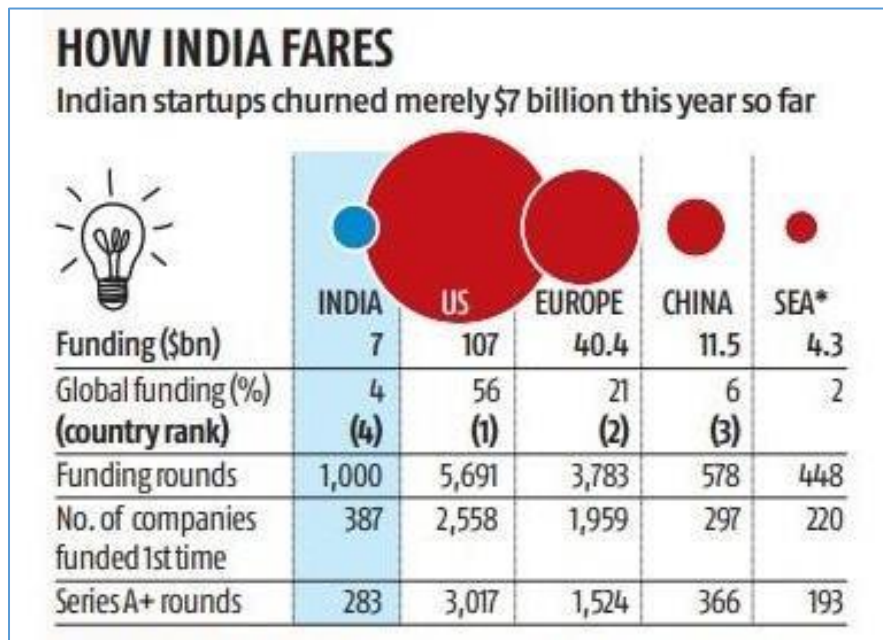
- ❖ The “Operation Storm Makers II”, the Interpol exercise resulted in the arrest of 281 persons in different countries.
- ❖ They are charged such as human trafficking, passport forgery, corruption, telecommunications fraud, and sexual exploitation.
- ❖ While 149 human trafficking victims were rescued, over 360 investigations were opened.

- ❖ Law enforcement agencies in 27 countries across Asia and other regions were mobilised for the operation.
- ❖ The Telangana police registered one of the first cases in India of human trafficking committed for the purpose of forcing victims to commit cyber fraud.

ECONOMY

Startup funding

- ❖ India slipped to fourth position in the global ranking among the highest-funded geographies in 2023.
- ❖ It recorded lowest funding in five years.
- ❖ India is in third spot globally in 2021 as well as in 2022.
- ❖ By receiving only \$7 billion in total funding, now it behind the US, the UK and China.
- ❖ For 2023, the funding declined across all stages, with late-stage funding dropping over 73%, followed by early-stage funding (70%) and seed-stage funding (60%).

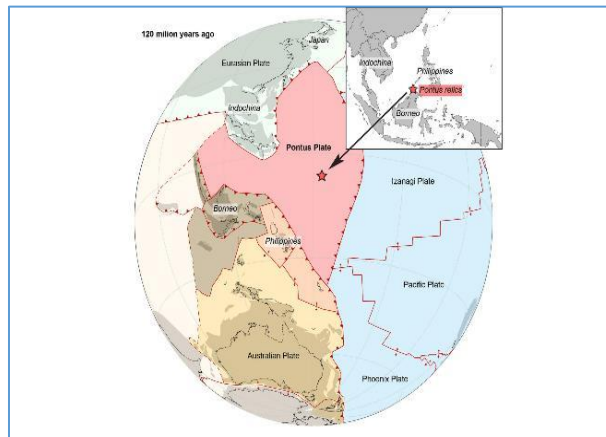


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Pontus plate

- ❖ Scientists have found an ancient tectonic plate in Southeast Asia that had disappeared at least 20 million years ago.

- ❖ Called the Pontus plate, the fragments of the crust were discovered in the South China Sea near Borneo Island.
- ❖ This tectonic plate was once about 15 million square miles in size, approximately one-quarter of the Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ It is estimated that the Pontus plate formed part of the world's crust before the break-up of the supercontinent Pangaea.
- ❖ But it got subducted beneath the earth over the last millions of years.
- ❖ It has been christened "Pontus plate" because it was submerged under an ocean known as the Pontus Ocean at the time of its existence.



ENVIRONMENT

Eastern Ghats Nature Interpretation Centre



- ❖ This ambitious project has been officially opened to the public.
- ❖ It is located along the periphery of the Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary in Visakhapatnam.

- ❖ The centre is a first-of-its-kind art-led project of the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department.
- ❖ This centre showcases the critical ecosystems of the Eastern Ghats and also shows the association of tribal communities with the forests.

STATES

Mohan Yadhav - Madhya Pradesh CM

- ❖ Mohan Yadhav has been announced as the new CM of Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ His party (BJP) won 163 seats in the 230-member assembly.
- ❖ The state will have two deputy chief ministers - Rajendra Shukla and Jagdish Devda.
- ❖ Mohan Yadav is an OBC leader and three-time BJP MLA from Ujjain South.
- ❖ He has previously served as higher education minister of Madhya Pradesh.

