



17 December 2024

National and International News

<p><b>La Nino</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The India Meteorological Department now anticipates that La Niña will emerge by late 2024 or early 2025, which is also expected to lead to a milder winter due to this delay.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>La Nina means <b>The Little Girl in Spanish</b>. It is also sometimes called <b>El Viejo, anti-El Nino, or simply "a cold event."</b></li> <li>La Nina events represent periods of below-average sea surface temperatures across the east-central Equatorial Pacific.</li> <li>It is <b>indicated by sea-surface temperature decreased by more than 0.9°F for at least five successive three-month seasons.</b></li> <li>The La Nina event is <b>observed when the water temperature in the Eastern Pacific gets comparatively colder than normal, as a consequence of which, there is a strong high pressure over the eastern equatorial Pacific.</b></li> <li><b>Conditions of La Nina:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>La Nina is caused by a build-up of cooler-than-normal waters in the tropical Pacific, the area of the Pacific Ocean between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.</li> <li>La Nina is characterized by lower-than-normal air pressure over the western Pacific. These low-pressure zones contribute to increased rainfall.</li> <li>La Nina events are also associated with rainier-than-normal conditions over southeastern Africa and northern Brazil.</li> <li>La Nina is also characterized by higher-than-normal pressure over the central and eastern Pacific.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Defence</b> <b>SLINEX</b></p> <p><b>Exercise:</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>11th edition of bilateral naval exercise between India and Sri Lanka — SLINEX —</b> will be conducted under the aegis of the Eastern Naval Command (ENC) off Visakahpatnam coast from December 17 to 20.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The exercise will be held in two phases — <b>the Harbour Phase (from December 17 to 18) and the Sea Phase (December 19 to 20).</b></li> <li>Initiated in 2005, SLINEX is a significant series of bilateral naval exercises that have <b>strengthened maritime cooperation between India and Sri Lanka over the years.</b></li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 2024 edition aims to further reinforce the strong <b>maritime ties between India and Sri Lanka while promoting a safe, secure, and rules-based maritime environment.</b></li> <li>• The Indian Navy has deployed <b>INS Sumitra</b>, a Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel of the Eastern Fleet, along with a Special Forces team.</li> <li>• The Sri Lankan Navy is being represented by <b>SLNS Sayura</b>, an Offshore Patrol Vessel, with an embarked Special Forces team.</li> <li>• <b>Other bilateral exercise with Sri Lanka</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Mitra Shakti - Joint Military Exercise.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than 63 lakh teachers were trained through various NISHTHA programs between 2019 and 2022.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA) is a <b>skill and knowledge improving program for teachers and principals in India.</b></li> <li>• The program was launched in 2019 by the <b>Ministry of Education.</b></li> <li>• The goal is to <b>improve the quality of elementary school education and provide the teachers with the necessary training in child development, pedagogy and ICT.</b></li> <li>• The scheme will be implemented in <b>all states and UTs all over India.</b></li> <li>• The programme has been applauded to improve the education quality of India.</li> <li>• <b>Objectives:</b></li> <li>• <b>The scheme equips teachers with essential skills and knowledge through:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 18 activity-based training modules, fostering hands-on learning.</li> <li>◦ Collaboration across multiple departments, ensuring holistic development.</li> <li>◦ Integration of ICT in teaching, learning, and assessment, modernizing education methods.</li> <li>◦ Art-based pedagogy, encouraging creativity and innovation among students.</li> <li>◦ Development of social-personal skills and creating a safe, healthy school environment.</li> <li>◦ Emphasis on school security and safety measures.</li> <li>◦ Inclusive education, focusing on health, well-being, and equal opportunities.</li> <li>◦ Cultivating school leadership qualities among educators.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Uniform Civil Code (UCC)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prime Minister Narendra Modi renewed his pitch for a nationwide Uniform Civil Code (UCC) on Saturday (December 14), recalling the views of veteran leaders Dr BR Ambedkar and KM Munshi on the matter.</li> </ul>



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	<p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Uniform Civil Code refers to a <b>single law for the entire country, applicable to all religious communities in their personal matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption etc.</b></li> <li>• It is intended to <b>replace the system of fragmented personal laws, which currently govern interpersonal relationships and related matters within different religious communities.</b></li> <li>• <b>Constitution of India on UCC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Article 44</b> of the Constitution lays down that the State shall endeavour to secure a Uniform Civil Code for the citizens throughout the territory of India.</li> <li>○ These, as defined in Article 37, are not justiciable (not enforceable by any court) but the principles laid down therein are fundamental in governance.</li> <li>○ These principles consist of all the ideals which the State should follow and keep in mind while formulating policies and enacting laws for the country.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Impeachment against Allahabad HC Judge</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Opposition in Rajya Sabha is preparing to move a motion for impeachment of Allahabad High Court Judge for his controversial remarks inciting communal hatred.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Impeachment Process for Judges in India:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The process involves Parliament passing an address to the President to remove the judge.</li> <li>○ To pass the motion, two-thirds of the MPs present and voting in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha;</li> <li>○ Must approve it, with a majority of more than 50% of the total membership of each House.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Key Constitutional Provisions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Article 124(4):</b> The judge can only be removed by a Presidential order, passed after a majority vote in both Houses of Parliament.</li> <li>○ The vote must come from <b>two-thirds of the members present and voting.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Articles 218</b> of the Constitution extends the same rules to High Court judges.</li> <li>○ The impeachment process ensures <b>judicial independence by maintaining a high bar for removal, limiting political influence.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Grounds for Impeachment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A judge of the Supreme Court or High Court can be impeached on two grounds: “proved misbehaviour” or “incapacity” as per the Constitution of India.</li> <li>○ <b>Further clarified in the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Misuse of office</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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- Grave offences that undermine the judge's integrity
- Contravention of the provisions of the Constitution.
- **Procedure under the Judges Inquiry Act, 1968:**
  - The impeachment motion must be signed by at least **100 MPs in the Lok Sabha and 50 MPs in the Rajya Sabha.**
  - **Committee Formation:** Once the motion is introduced, the Speaker or Chairperson of the respective House forms a three-member inquiry committee:
  - **Headed by the Chief Justice of India** or a Supreme Court judge.
  - The second member is usually a Chief Justice of any High Court.
  - The third member is a distinguished jurist, appointed by the Speaker or Chairman.
  - **Inquiry Process:** The committee investigates the charges, cross-examines witnesses, and regulates its procedure.

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