

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 13, 2022

### TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu - won the award at the national level for making the highest number of teleconsultations at Ayushman Bharat health and wellness centres.**
- ✓ During the campaign held between October 12 and December 8, there were 22.5 lakh teleconsultations made by the state.
- ✓ National Health Mission (Tamil Nadu) director Shilpa Prabhakar Satish received the award.



- ✓ The National Universal Health Coverage Day was celebrated through an event held in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, with the theme “Build the World We Want: A Healthy Future for All” on December 10.
- ✓ The best performing States were honoured by the Health Ministry during the occasion.
- ✓ Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry officials, Public health experts and national experts attended the event.

- ✓ International Universal Health Coverage (UHC) day is celebrated on December 12 every year to commemorate the significance of UHC
  - ✓ Universal Health Coverage Day is marked to promote the importance of building robust, resilient, world-class healthcare systems
  - ✓ On December 12, 2012, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution encouraging nations to advance efforts toward universal healthcare (UHC)
  - ✓ The United Nations declared December 12th as International Universal Health Coverage Day in 2017
- **The department of expenditure and Union ministry of health and family welfare - have approved the revised cost estimate of Rs.1,978 crore for setting up AIIMS in Madurai**
- ✓ It is 56% higher than the original project cost of Rs.1,264 crore approved by the Union cabinet in 2018.
  - ✓ This was announced by the Union health and family welfare minister Mansukh Mandaviya in the Lok Sabha
  - ✓ The announcement of AIIMS in Madurai was made by the Centre in 2015 and the foundation stone for the institution was laid in 2019.
  - ✓ According to the Minister, the project implementation has been delayed since the project was decided to be taken up under EBR (External Benchmark Rate) Funding through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
  - ✓ In this regard, the loan agreement was signed between the governments of Japan and India in March last year.
  - ✓ According to the Minister, the project implementation period would be five years and eight months from March 2021 to October 2026.
  - ✓ The land for the institution was transferred by the state government to the Union government in February 2020.
- **An 800-year-old Pandya-period trident stone inscription, which has the names of a Chola king and queen - has been found at Oriyur near Thiruvadana in Ramanathapuram district.**

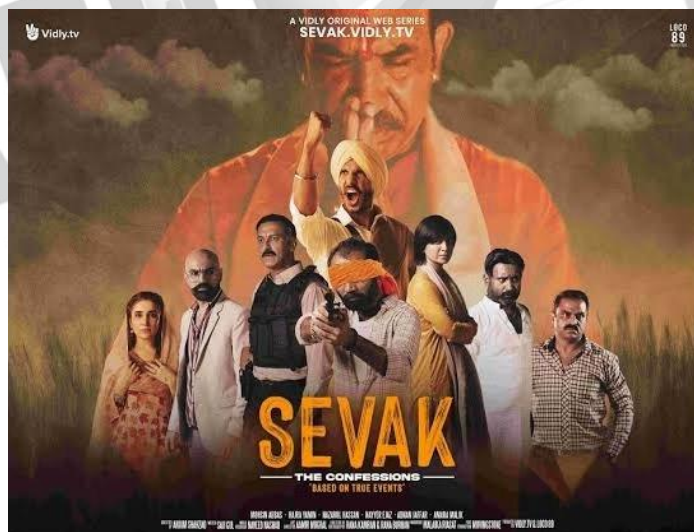


- ✓ This is the first time a trident stone with a Pandya period inscription has been found in the district.
- ✓ It is customary to plant trident-engraved stones on the boundary of the land donated to Shiva temples
- ✓ The trident stones of the Sethupathi period often have inscriptions, but there were no inscriptions on the Pandya period trident stones found till now.
- ✓ The Shiva temple indicated in the inscription is in Thirupunavasal, Pudukottai district, two kilometers away from the village.
- ✓ The two feet high and 1½ feet wide granite stone has 10 lines inscribed on one side and a trident symbol on the other
- ✓ There are two 'nallurs' mentioned in the inscription - Vanavan Madevi Nallur (current Oriyur) and Ulakuyyavantha Nallur.
- ✓ Ulakuyyavanthan refers to Kulothunga Chola I, while Vanavan Madevi was the wife of Rajendra Chola I and the maternal grandmother of Kulothunga Chola I.
- ✓ Based on the writing style, it could be presumed that the age of the stone inscription dates back to the 13 century AD.

## NATIONAL

- **On December 12, the University Grants Commission (UGC) – announced the new curriculum and credit framework for the four-year-undergraduate programme**
- ✓ In view of National Education Policy recommendations, UGC has revised the existing Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) and developed Curriculum and Credit Framework for undergraduate programmes.
- ✓ The framework suggests a minimum of 120 credits for a three-year UG and 160 credits for a four-year UG programme.
- ✓ The minimum number of credits suggested for a semester is 20.
- ✓ Under the new framework, students will be provided with multiple entry and exit options, flexible degree options with single major, double major, multi or interdisciplinary choices and a curriculum built with employability skills in addition to academic subjects.
- ✓ Further, students will have the flexibility to move from one institution to another enabling them to have multi and/or interdisciplinary learning.
- ✓ They can even switch to alternative modes of learning (offline, ODL, Online learning, and hybrid modes of learning).
- ✓ As per the new curriculum, all undergraduate students will have to undergo three introductory-level courses in various areas
  - ✓ This include natural and physical sciences, mathematics, statistics and computer applications, commerce and management, humanities and social sciences and library, information and media sciences.

- ✓ Further, value-added courses common to all UG students include understanding India, environmental science, digital and technological solutions and health and wellness, yoga education, sports and fitness.
  - ✓ Apart from the multiple entry and exit options made available to students, candidates can re-enter within three years and start again where they left off, but complete their degree in a maximum time frame of seven years.
  - ✓ According to the UGC, higher education institutions can implement the curriculum from the 2022-23 academic session itself.
  - ✓ The students already enrolled and pursuing a three year UG programme as per the existing Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) are eligible to pursue a four-year undergraduate programme.
  - ✓ The curriculum consists of major stream courses, minor stream courses and courses from other disciplines, language courses, skill courses, and a set of courses on environmental education, understanding India, digital and technological solutions, health and wellness, Yoga education, and sports and fitness.
- **On December 12, the Centre - has blocked a website, two mobile applications, four social media accounts and one smart TV app of Pakistan-based OTT platform Vidly TV.**



- ✓ The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting issued the directions under the emergency powers of the IT Rules 2021.
- ✓ The OTT platform had recently released a web-series titled “Sevak: The Confessions”, which was found to be detrimental to national security, defence, sovereignty, integrity, public order and India’s friendly relations with foreign states
- ✓ According to the ministry, the web series showed events like Operation Blue Star and its aftermath, the demolition of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya, the Malegaon blast, the Samjhauta Express blast among others, with distorted facts.

- ✓ Further, the web series was attempting to promote separatism, disaffection and disillusionment among the Sikh community towards India, and portraying Operation Blue Star as a massacre of innocent Sikhs.
  - ✓ It is suspected that the web-series was sponsored by the Pakistani information operations apparatus.
  - ✓ The first episode of the series was released on November 26, the anniversary of the terror attacks on Mumbai in 2008.
  - ✓ Three episodes of the web-series have been released so far.
- **Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) - is starting a School of Indian Languages to promote the country's diverse history, culture, regional literature**
- ✓ To be funded by various state governments, the new School will offer courses on different languages from next year
  - ✓ The School of Indian Languages would house centres for different states where literature, culture and history would be taught.
  - ✓ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin recently sanctioned about Rs 10 crore for the Centre for Tamil Studies.
  - ✓ Four more states — Odisha, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Assam will give Rs 10 crore each for their own Language Centres
  - ✓ The school will help students develop a deeper knowledge about different Indian languages
  - ✓ On December 12, JNU also kicked off Tamil Heritage Week and Indian Languages Week.
  - ✓ The event is being organised to implement PM Narendra Modi's vision and mission of celebrating the history and heritage of Indian languages across the country

## **INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS**

- **Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar - will be on a four-day visit to Sri Lanka from December 13**



- ✓ Admiral Kumar has been invited as the chief guest and reviewing officer for the commissioning parade at the Sri Lankan Naval and Maritime Academy at Trincomalee on December 15.
- ✓ Admiral Kumar will interact with senior political and defence leadership of Sri Lanka during the visit
- ✓ The visit will further enhance the long standing bilateral defence cooperation, specifically in the maritime domain.
- ✓ The visit comes amidst Chinese spy ships taking Colombo's help in refuelling and replenishment during their long-range navigation into the Indian Ocean Region.
- ✓ In early-August, India had conveyed its serious concerns to Sri Lanka about the docking of Chinese research and space-tracking vessel, Yuan Wang-5, at its southern port of Hambantota.
- ✓ This had initially led Sri Lanka to defer the docking but it had later allowed the docking from August 16 to 22.
- ✓ India is concerned that China wants to use Hambantota port for logistical replenishments by its warships and submarines on a regular basis in the future.
- ✓ It has to be recalled that China has obtained the port on a 99-year lease for commercial purposes in 2017 using its debt-trap policy

## **CONFERENCES & SUMMITS**

- **The 17<sup>th</sup> Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM) of the International Labour Organization (ILO) – was held in Singapore from December 6 to 9.**



- ✓ The meeting was held under the theme ‘Integrated policy agenda for a human-centred recovery that is inclusive, sustainable and resilient’
- ✓ It had set ten-point priorities of national action with the adoption of the “Singapore Declaration”.
- ✓ The declaration seeks to draw attention for the member countries to deal with the issue of dwindling wages of workers, inflation and unemployment.
- ✓ The APRM discussed issues affecting employment and the world of work in Asia, the Pacific and Arab States

- ✓ The 17th APRM was attended by 388 delegates – including 22 ministers and vice-ministers – representing governments and workers’ and employers’ organizations from 35 countries in Asia, the Pacific and Arab States region
- ✓ The last APRM was held in Bali, Indonesia in 2016.

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **On December 11, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) - successfully launched the Rashid moon rover, marking its first mission to the surface of the moon.**



- ✓ The rover was deployed on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket onboard HAKUTO-R, a Japanese lunar lander, from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, the United States.
- ✓ The lander dimensions are just over 2 by 2.5 metres, and it is equipped with the rover weighing 10 kilograms.
- ✓ The Rashid Rover was built by Dubai’s Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC), in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), as part of a project launched in 2017
- ✓ According to MBRSC, the Rashid rover will provide “novel and highly valued data, images, and insights,” as well as “collect scientific data on matters relating to the origin of the solar system, our planet and life.”
- ✓ The rover will also carry a Langmuir probe, which will study the Moon’s plasma and seek to explain the reason behind the stickiness of the Moon’s dust
- ✓ It will land on the surface of the moon in April of next year 2023 in the Atlas crater located in the far north of the moon
- ✓ Only Russia, the U.S. and China have achieved “soft landings” on the moon, beginning with the former Soviet Union’s Luna 9 in 1966
- ✓ Rashid Rover, the Arab world’s first lunar rover, is named after late Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, former Ruler of Dubai.
- ✓ Japanese lander, HAKUTO-R was developed by the Japanese lunar exploration company "iSpace"
  - ✓ It was one of five finalists in the international Google Lunar XPrize competition, a challenge to land a rover on the Moon

- ✓ In September, MBRSC signed an agreement with China National Space Administration to have joint space explorations, including sending the next UAE rover aboard the Chang'e-7 to land on the moon, which is reportedly planned to launch in 2026.

## AWARDS

- **SS Rajamouli's period action film 'RRR' - has been nominated for two Golden Globe awards under the Best Picture non-English language category and the Best Original Song category**



- ✓ RRR, a pan-India magnum opus, will compete for the award with Korean romantic mystery film 'Decision To Leave', German anti-war drama 'All Quiet on the Western Front', Argentine historical drama 'Argentina, 1985' and French-Dutch coming-of-age drama 'Close'.
- ✓ The original song nominees are Carolina from Where the Crawdads Sing, music by Taylor Swift; Ciao Papa from Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio, music by Alexandre Desplat; Hold My Hand from Top Gun: Maverick, music by Lady Gaga, BloodPop, Benjamin Rice; Lift Me Up from Black Panther: Wakanda Forever, music by Tems, Rihanna, Ryan Coogler, Ludwig Göransson; and Naatu Naatu from RRR, music by M.M. Keeravani.
- ✓ 'RRR' narrates a fictional tale of two real-life freedom fighters set in the 1920s
- ✓ It features Jr NTR, Ram Charan, Ajay Devgn, Alia Bhatt, Olivia Morris, Samuthirakani, Alison Doody and Ray Stevenson in key roles.
- ✓ RRR, released on March 24 this year, has grossed over Rs 1200 crore globally
- ✓ On December 11, the Music Director of the movie, M M Keeravani won the award for the Best Original Score at the Los Angeles Film Critics Association, where Rajamouli was the runner-up for the Best Director prize
- ✓ The film has bagged various international awards including Rajamouli's Best Director award by the New York Film Critics Circle.
- ✓ The film also bagged the Saturn award in the Best International Film category.
- ✓ The National Board of Review named RRR as one of its ten best films of the year.



- ✓ The blockbuster movie also bagged the second position in the Best Picture category at the Hollywood Critics Association Midseason Awards 2022.
- ✓ The 80<sup>th</sup> Golden Globes, presented by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, will be held in Los Angeles on January 10, with stand-up comedian Jerrod Carmichael hosting the ceremony.
- ✓ 'RRR' is also in the race to secure nominations in various categories for the Academy Awards (Oscars) 2023.

