

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 17, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- The 20th Chennai International Film Festival (CIFF) - was formally inaugurated on December 15 by Minister for Information and Publicity MP Saminathan.



- ✓ Supported by the state government with a funding of Rs. 75 lakh this year, the eight-day festival is conducted by Indo Cine Appreciation Foundation (ICAF) in association with PVR Cinemas.
- ✓ A total of 102 films are set to be screened under three sections - Tamil Feature Film Competition (12 films), Indian Panorama (15 films), and World Cinema (75 films) - during the festival.
- ✓ The country in focus this year is Switzerland
- ✓ This will be the first time the festival will have an exclusive screening for women
- ✓ Films recognized at the Oscars, Cannes Festival, and Golden Globes will be screened during the festival.
- ✓ Launched in 2003, this is the first time the festival is happening on a big scale after the Covid pandemic.

NATIONAL

- **On December 16, the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and the CSIR-Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (CSIR-TKDL) - signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for preservation of old manuscripts**



- ✓ The MoU aims at cooperation related to digitization and inclusion of information on traditional knowledge of India from manuscripts and traditional cultural expressions
- ✓ Under the agreement, the country's traditional knowledge in over two crore manuscripts will be digitised and made available in a format which can be understood by the current and future generations.
- ✓ These traditional knowledge exists in diverse languages such as Sanskrit, Hindi, Tamil, Arabic, Persian, Urdu and others
- ✓ The move will also help patent examiners at international patent offices.
- ✓ The joint efforts will not only facilitate protection and preservation of the manuscript knowledge but also enable inclusion of non-written, oral and audio-visual materials related to traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions into the TKDL database.

INTERNATIONAL

- **On December 16, Japan - approved a new national security strategy, which unveils its biggest military buildup since World War 2**
- ✓ The cabinet approved three documents which outlined the strategy shift – the National Security Strategy (NSS), the National Defense Program Guidelines, and the Mid-Term Defense Program.
- ✓ The approved documents warn that Japan's current missile interception systems are no longer sufficient.
- ✓ The sweeping, five-year plan, once unthinkable in pacifist Japan, will make the country the world's third-biggest military spender after the United States and China

- ✓ Under the \$320 billion plan, Japan would stockpile spare parts and other munitions, expand transport capacity and develop cyber warfare capabilities.
 - ✓ The move will now raise Japan's security expenditure from 1% of GDP to NATO's standard of 2% of GDP by 2027.
 - ✓ Under the new strategy, Japan will now buy up to 500 US-made Tomahawk cruise missiles which can reach a distance of 1,250 kilometers (775 miles).
 - ✓ Japan plans to purchase a large number of Lockheed Martin F-35 stealth fighters, as well as a large number of helicopters, submarines, warships, and heavy-lift transport jets over the next five years for its armed forces.
 - ✓ Japan's Self-Defence Forces (SDF) will be reorganised and placed under a newly appointed permanent joint command to respond more quickly to emergencies.
 - ✓ By March 2024, Japan's military personnel will be permitted to use civilian ports and airports.
 - ✓ Further, it will also triple the number of military units equipped with ballistic missile interception capabilities.
 - ✓ Japan will spend close to \$22 billion towards cyber warfare operations and \$14 billion on space capabilities.
- **Indian-origin Dr. Leo Varadkar - will become Ireland's prime minister for a second time under a coalition deal struck after the 2020 election.**



- ✓ Leo Varadkar served as Ireland's Prime Minister from 2017 to 2020.
- ✓ As part of the historic coalition deal, Irish Prime Minister Micheal Martin will now step down on December 17.
- ✓ The rotation of power between Varadkar's Fine Gael and current premier Micheal Martin's Fianna Fail parties is exceptional in Irish history.
- ✓ Leo Varadkar was born to an Irish mother, a nurse by profession, and an Indian immigrant father, a qualified doctor in Dublin

DEFENCE

- **The 16th edition of Indo-Nepal joint training Exercise "SURYA KIRAN-XVI"– commenced on December 16 at Nepal Army Battle School, Saljhandi, located in Lumbini Province in southern Nepal**



- ✓ The Surya Kiran is a 14-day long joint training based on counter-insurgency operations in the jungle and mountainous terrain.
 - ✓ The exercise aims to enhance interoperability in jungle warfare and counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrain and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief under UN mandate.
 - ✓ As many as 350 army personnel will take part in the joint exercise from both sides
 - ✓ Launched in 2011, the joint military exercise will enhance the level of defence cooperation which will further foster the bilateral relations between the two nations
 - ✓ Last year, the 15th India-Nepal combined battalion-level military training exercise 'Surya Kiran' took place in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.
 - ✓ The biannual exercise, which takes place alternately in both countries, aims to establish military relations in inaccessible mountainous areas by the soldiers of both countries
- **India - has received all 36 Rafale aircraft from France, with the last aircraft landing in the country on December 15**



- ✓ The fighter jets are stationed at Ambala, Haryana and Hasimara in West Bengal.
- ✓ India and France had signed the inter-government agreement in 2016, under which Paris agreed to provide 36 Rafale fighter jets at a cost of Rs.58,000 crore to India.

- ✓ The first batch of five Rafale jets from France's Dassault Aviation had arrived at the Air Force Station Ambala on 29th July, 2020.
- ✓ A squadron of Rafale will monitor the western border and northern border with Pakistan, while another squadron will monitor the eastern border area of India
- ✓ Recently, the Air Force had successfully tested long-range Meteor missile and Scalp air-to-ground missile from Rafale
- ✓ The Rafale is a 4.5 generation aircraft with long range air to air and air to ground missiles along with advanced radar and electronic warfare capabilities

APPOINTMENTS

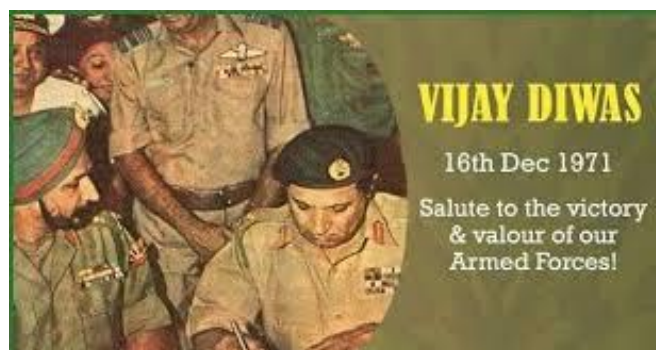
- On December 15, Harvard University - named Claudine Gay, the school's dean of Faculty Arts and Sciences, as its 30th president



- ✓ Gay is the first Black person and only the second woman to hold the job.
- ✓ She is the daughter of Haitian immigrants who joined Harvard as a professor in 2006
- ✓ Gay succeeds Lawrence Bacow as president of the nearly 400 year-old Ivy League university.
- ✓ She will take over in July 2023.

NATIONAL DAY

- Vijay Diwas – December 16



- ✓ Vijay Diwas is celebrated every year to honour the victory of Indian armed forces over Pakistan in the 1971 war.

- ✓ India declared victory on this day 51 years ago after Pakistan signed the Instrument of Surrender.
- ✓ On the day, India pays homage to all the soldiers who defended the nation.
- ✓ The chief of the Pakistani forces, General Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi surrendered to the joint forces of Indian Army and Bangladesh's Mukti Bahini, along with 93,000 Pakistani troops.
- ✓ The war started when Pakistan launched air strikes on 11 Indian airbases on December 3, 1971
- ✓ The war resulted in the birth of Bangladesh, which was then East Pakistan
- ✓ The day is also observed in Bangladesh as 'Bijoy Dibos', marking the country's formal independence from Pakistan
- ✓ More than 3,800 Indian and Pakistani soldiers had lost their lives in the war that lasted for 13 days
- ✓ Eight months after the war, in August 1972, India and Pakistan settled the Shimla agreement.
- ✓ Under the agreement, India agreed to release the 93,000 Pakistani prisoners-of-war

