

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 21, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- **The Tamil Nadu government - has appointed Justice Raja Elango and V Kannadasan as members of the state human rights commission.**



- ✓ The decision was made by a selection committee convened on December 20 at the state secretariat.
- ✓ The meeting was headed by Chief Minister M K Stalin, while assembly speaker M Appavu also participated in the meeting.
- ✓ Justice Raja Elango was a former judge of Madras and Andhra Pradesh high courts, and V Kannadasan is DMK legal wing deputy secretary and advocate
- ✓ During 1996-2001, Justice Raja Elango served as Chennai city public prosecutor and as a special public prosecutor for corruption cases.
- ✓ Later, he was appointed as the state public prosecutor and was elevated as a judge of the Madras high court in 2006.
- ✓ In 2010, he was transferred to the Andhra Pradesh high court and later to Telangana high court, from where he retired.
- ✓ Advocate Kannadasan, a native of Mayiladuthurai, has more than 25 years of professional experience.

- ✓ He has specialised in civil, criminal and human rights cases and is an expert in prison and prisoner rights issues.
- ✓ He served as special public prosecutor for the human rights court in Chennai from 2006 to 2011.
- **Central council for research in Siddha, National Institute of Siddha and department of Indian medicine and homeopathy – will jointly organise the 6th Siddha Day 2023 celebrations in Trichy on January 9.**
- ✓ It is being held to mark the “birthday” of sage Agathiyar which falls on the Tamil star of ‘Aayilyum natchathiram’ in the month of Margazhi.
- ✓ With this year’s theme being ‘Siddha diet and nutrition for healthy life,’ the celebration will be held on January 8 and 9 with the support of the Union ministry of Ayush.

NATIONAL

- **On December 20, the Archaeological Survey of India - announced that three new sites in India have been added to the tentative list of Unesco world heritage sites**
- ✓ They are the iconic Sun Temple in Gujarat’s Modhera, the historic Vadnagar — PM Narendra Modi’s birthplace — and the rock-cut relief sculptures of Tripura’s Unakoti.
- ✓ The Sun Temple of Modhera in Gujarat is regarded as a gem in temple architecture and represents the Solanki style of decorative architecture.
- ✓ Unakoti is located in north-eastern Tripura and is known as an ancient holy place associated with Shiva worship.
- ✓ Vadnagar municipality is a multi-layered historic town, whose history stretches back to nearly 8th Century BCE.
- ✓ Adding a place to the tentative list is a prerequisite for it to make the cut on the final list.
- ✓ At present, India has 52 sites, including Varanasi and Satpura Tiger Reserve, on Unesco’s tentative list.
- ✓ Last year, India had moved a proposal to add six sites to the tentative list.

INTERNATIONAL

- **The congressional committee that investigated last year’s attack on the US Capitol - recommended that criminal charges be filed against former US President Donald Trump.**
- ✓ The House Select Committee blamed Trump for the violent attack on the Capitol by his supporters.
- ✓ It is the first time in US history that Congress has recommended charges against a former president.

- ✓ Following Donald Trump's defeat in the 2020 presidential election, his supporters stormed Congress on January 6, 2021 in a bid to stop the certification of Joe Biden's victory as President
 - ✓ Five people, including a police officer, died during or shortly after the incident and more than 140 police officers were injured
 - ✓ On December 18, four days after the Electoral College voted, Trump had called for supporters to attend a rally before the January 6 congressional vote count.
 - ✓ The House Select Committee to investigate the January 6th attack (also known as the January 6th Committee) was created by Congress to investigate the circumstances around the attack on the Capitol.
 - ✓ Outgoing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi appointed the committee, made up of seven Democrats and two Republicans, and they held their first meeting in July 2021.
 - ✓ The committee unanimously recommended that the Justice Department charge Trump on multiple crimes, including obstruction of an official proceeding, conspiracy to defraud the United States, conspiracy to make a false statement, and inciting, assisting, aiding or comforting an insurrection
 - ✓ If Trump were convicted of the crimes the committee has accused him of committing, he could face hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines, up to 20 years in prison and prohibition from running for future political office
 - ✓ Donald Trump accused House lawmakers of recommending "fake charges" against him
- **On December 20, the Taliban authorities - ordered a nationwide indefinite ban on university education for females**
- ✓ After the takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban, universities were forced to implement new rules including gender-segregated classrooms and entrances, while women were only permitted to be taught by women professors or old men
 - ✓ Most young girls across the country have already been banned from secondary school education
 - ✓ The Taliban have implemented their strict interpretation of Islamic 'Sharia' law since taking over control of the country last year.
 - ✓ They have banned girls from middle school and high school, restricted women from most employment and ordered them to wear head-to-toe clothing in public.
 - ✓ Women are also banned from parks, funfairs and gyms and prevented from travelling without a male relative.
 - ✓ The Taliban were ousted in 2001 by a U.S.-led coalition for harboring al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden and returned to power after America's chaotic departure last year

DEFENCE

- **On December 20, the Indian Navy - received the fifth scorpene-class submarine 'INS Vagir' ahead of its planned commissioning next month.**



- ✓ The Kalvari-class submarine was built under Project-75, which involves the indigenous construction of six submarines of Scorpene design
- ✓ It was constructed at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai in collaboration with the Naval Group of France.
- ✓ Launched on Nov 12, 2020, Vagir commenced the sea trials from February 1, 2022
- ✓ Vagir is equipped with long-range guided torpedoes as well as anti-ship missiles for attacking the enemy whilst underwater or on surface.
- ✓ It can carry out multifarious missions typically undertaken by any modern submarine, which include anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, intelligence gathering, mine laying and area surveillance.
- ✓ Earlier in November 2021, the Indian Navy had commissioned a fourth scorpene-class submarine, INS Vela, which formed part of the Western Naval Command's submarine fleet.
- ✓ The Indian Navy's first anti-submarine warfare corvette, dubbed "Arnala" was launched in Chennai by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers
- ✓ Under the over Rs.23,000 crore 'Project-75' under way, the Navy has so far commissioned four Scorpenes, INS Kalvari, INS Khanderi, INS Karanj and INS Vela, while the sixth and the last, Vagsheer, will be delivered next year.
- ✓ On December 18, the Navy commissioned the indigenously built guided missile destroyer INS Mormugao.

RANKINGS

- **Puducherry - has bagged the top slot with the highest score of 65.99 out of 100 in the country on the 'social progress index'**
- ✓ Lakshadweep and Goa closely follow with scores of 65.89 and 65.53, respectively.
- ✓ Assam, Bihar and Jharkhand have scored the lowest, securing 44.92, 44.47, 43.95 respectively.

- ✓ The index shows that Tamil Nadu has achieved the highest component score of 72 under the 'opportunity' dimension.
- ✓ The index, formulated by the Institute for Competitiveness and Social Progress Imperative, was submitted to the Economic Advisory Council-Prime Minister (EAC-PM)
- ✓ The report, titled 'Social Progress Index: States and Districts of India', was released by EAC-PM chairman Bibek Debroy on December 20.
- ✓ SPI is a comprehensive tool intended to be a holistic measure of the social progress made by the country at the national and sub-national levels.
- ✓ It assesses the performance of states and districts on three dimensions of major social progress — basic human needs, foundations of well-being, and opportunity.
- ✓ For the dimension of basic human needs, Goa, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, and Chandigarh are the top four states
- ✓ Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, and Goa emerged as the best-performing states for the Foundations of Wellbeing
- ✓ As per the report, Aizawl (Mizoram), Solan (Himachal Pradesh) and Shimla (Himachal Pradesh) have emerged as the top three best-performing districts.
- ✓ The index also focusses on the progress in aspirational districts and only 27 out of 112 districts under the Aspirational District Programme (ADP) have scored above the national average on the Social Progress Index (SPI).
- ✓ The report also covers India's performance based on the global SPI that is brought out by Social Progress Imperative since 2013.
- ✓ In the latest report released in September 2022, India has been ranked 110th in the world on the index, scoring 60.19/100, and ranked in the fourth tier of performance.
- ✓ India's aggregate SPI score of 60.19 in 2022 is slightly lower than the world average of 65.24.
- ✓ The index covers 169 countries with scores covering the period 2011-22.

