



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 2, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **On December 1, Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami – announced that the state will soon appoint a commission to conduct a survey and collect caste-wise data of the population and submit a report to the government.**
 - ✓ The announcement came on a day when the PMK commenced its agitation, seeking 20% reservation for vanniyaars in government jobs and higher education.
 - ✓ In September, the PMK had demanded the constitution of a commission to identify the beneficiaries of reservation from each caste, including the backward, most backward and the SC and ST communities, and submit a report within three months.
 - ✓ The state's announcement refers to collecting caste-wise data and not beneficiaries.
 - ✓ Following the PMK's agitations demanding 20% reservation in 1987, the DMK government had included 108 other castes while creating the MBC segment and set aside 20% reservation in 1989.

- **The fourth edition of the United Economic Forum (UEF) world summit and trade expo - is scheduled to be held from December 4 in Chennai**
 - ✓ Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami will be inaugurating this virtual meet.
 - ✓ The three-day summit is organised by the UEF Chamber of Commerce
 - ✓ The virtual event will bring together over 80 eminent speakers from 30 countries across the world.
 - ✓ Over 6,000 delegates are expected to participate in the summit.
 - ✓ The event would have thematic sessions on topics including entrepreneurship, Covid-19 and the travel industry, 'Re-imagining the restaurant business for the new normal' and 'Tamil Nadu, a land of opportunities', among others.
 - ✓ The event would provide a platform to entrepreneurs, companies, educationists, policy makers, and business organisations to get connected with the global audience.

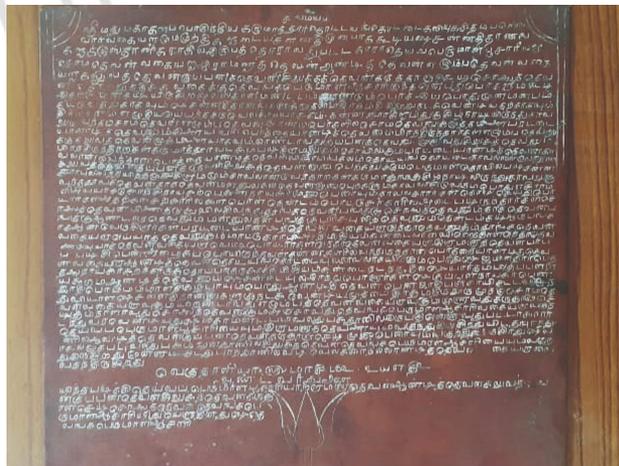
- **The Tamil Nadu government - plans to make registration of real estate joint venture agreements 'mandatory' and reduce the fee to be paid from 11% of guideline value to 2%.**
- ✓ Considering Chennai Metropolitan Area (CMA) alone, more than 75% of residential and commercial projects are joint ventures
- ✓ The registration fee of 11% includes 7% of the guideline value of the land as stamp duty and 4% as registration fee.
- ✓ Once registration is made mandatory, landowners become legally binding to the agreements signed
- ✓ The rule change requires an amendment to the Registration Act, 1908, a central Act, which needs the Union government's nod.
- ✓ Joint venture agreement involves the transfer of property rights and are considered on a par with sale deeds since the landlord gives a portion of their land to the developer to monetise
- ✓ In 2019, the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) issued planning permission for 550 housing and office space projects.
- **Israeli delegates - visited cut flowers centre at Kothanur near Thally in Krishnagiri on December 1**



- ✓ Consul general of Israel to South India, Jonathan Zadka and his deputy Ariel Seidman visited the Indo-Israel joint agriculture project (IIAP) at Kothanur.
- ✓ Collector V Jayachandra Bhanu Reddy accompanied the delegates.
- ✓ Israel had helped to set up 29 centers of excellence throughout India as part of its bilateral cooperation in agriculture.
- ✓ One of the centres for cut flowers is at Kothanur, which was inaugurated on December 6, 2017.
- **The cyclonic storm Burevi over Bay of Bengal – is likely to cross the Indian coast on the early morning of December 4 between Kanyakumari and Pamban**
- ✓ The storm will make the initial landfall near Trincomalee in Sri Lanka on December 2.



- ✓ It may take the same route as Cyclone Ockhi, which impacted Sri Lanka, the southern parts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala in 2017
- ✓ The system is expected to bring heavy to extremely heavy rainfall in many parts of south Tamil Nadu and light to moderate spells over Chennai for the next 48 hours.
- ✓ Burevi will be the second cyclonic storm in a week making landfall in Tamil Nadu after Cyclone Nivar, which crossed near Marakkanam on November 25 night.
- ✓ It is also the third cyclone, after Amphan and Nivar, to form over Bay of Bengal this year.
- ✓ The name "Burevi" has been given by Maldives, which means black mangroves.
- ✓ According to IMD's forecast track of the cyclone, the storm is likely to emerge again over the sea near south Kerala coast after crossing the south Tamil Nadu coast.
- ✓ Nine teams of the national disaster response force are stationed in Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli, Tuticorin and Madurai districts.
- **A copper plate of the 18th century Nayak period - has been found from a villager in Karisalpatti in Karumathur, 25km from Madurai**



- ✓ The plate mentions about the 'watch-and-ward' social order system that was prevalent in the village during the Nayak period
- ✓ There are 40 lines of Tamil script written on the plate, which highlights the social life of the people in this region
- ✓ The inscriptions refer to the fine and imprisonment for committing the crime during the Nayak era.

STATES

- **The Uttar Pradesh government - is planning to withdraw a scheme that has been providing incentives to interfaith marriage during the last 44 years**
- ✓ This comes after the UP government's recent 'Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion' ordinance banning "forced" conversions in the state
- ✓ The Intercaste & Interfaith Marriage Incentive Scheme has been in place since 1976
- ✓ The scheme was initiated by the National Integration Department in Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ When Uttarakhand was carved out of the state, it retained the incentive plan of providing ₹50,000 to the interfaith couples
- ✓ But now, Uttarakhand, is also considering withdrawal of the scheme.
- ✓ To avail the scheme, an interfaith couple can apply to the district magistrate within two years of marriage.
- ✓ After verification, the district magistrate forwards the application to the UP national integration department.
- ✓ In 2017, the state government had added a caveat to the scheme — the interfaith couple could not convert after they got married, or they would lose the incentive.

- **The Kerala government - has banned PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), an international consultancy, from participating in projects promoted by the Electronics and IT Department for the next two years.**
- ✓ The government found that PwC "did not perform a comprehensive background check" while appointing UAE gold smuggling case suspect Swapna Suresh in the project management unit of the Space Park

NATIONAL

- **On December 1, the Union law ministry - notified the appointment of 10 new judges to the Madras high court**
- ✓ The new appointment takes the total number of judges in the High court to 64 as against the sanctioned strength of 75.
- ✓ The new judges appointed includes Kannammal Shanmuga Sundaram, Sathikumar Sukumara Kurup, Murali Shankar Kuppuraju, Manjula Ramaraju Nalliah, Thamilselvi T Valayapalayam, G Chandrasekharan, A A Nakkiran, Sivagnanam Veerasamy, Ilangovan Ganesan and Ananthi Subramanian
- ✓ They are all senior district judges who will be appointed as additional HC judges, initially for a period of two years.
- ✓ On September 23, the Supreme Court collegium approved their elevation.

- ✓ As per rules, one-third of high court judges will be elevated from the subordinate judiciary, while the rest will be selected from Bar.
- **The Election Commission – has sent a proposal to law ministry for allowing the Non-resident Indians (NRIs) to vote remotely from their country of residence**
 - ✓ At present, the NRIs must cast their vote in person in India
 - ✓ As per the EC's suggestion, the NRIs are to be allowed to vote through electronically-transmitted postal ballot system (ETPBS)
 - ✓ This facility is already available to service voters that include members of the armed forces, paramilitary and government employees serving abroad.
 - ✓ Once approved by the Law ministry, the new system will be implemented in general elections due in May next year to legislative assemblies of Assam, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry
 - ✓ In a November 27 letter addressed to the law secretary, EC proposed necessary amendments be made in the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, "at the earliest"
 - ✓ In general, overseas electors are not in a position to be present in their polling area as travelling to India for this purpose is a costly affair
 - ✓ Further, they cannot leave their country of residence owing to compulsions like employment, education or other engagements.
- **On November 30, Cybersecurity major Kaspersky - said it has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) for collaboration in the area of cybersecurity.**
 - ✓ The MoU will facilitate cooperation for detection of latest cyber threats and to devise security measures.

HIGH COURT VERDICT

- **On December 1, the Madras high court - granted interim stay on the Union government's gazette notification declaring eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary**
 - ✓ The interim stay was granted based on the fact that no public hearing was conducted on the project.
 - ✓ A division bench of Justices N Kirubakaran and B Pugalendhi also sought details of mining licences issued by the authorities and directed not to carry out any mining activities in the area.
 - ✓ The Centre had issued the notification on February 20, demarcating villages around the sanctuary and asked the people to submit written objections within two months.
 - ✓ No public hearing was conducted in this regard and the people were not able to send their objections, due to Covid-19 restrictions
 - ✓ However, the central government had finalized the notification in September.

DEFENCE

- **The naval version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile - was successfully tested from a warship in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands territory of Bay of Bengal on December 1**



- ✓ The testing involved “live firings” of the “precision-strike weapon” over the last week
- ✓ The 290-km range BrahMos missile launched from destroyer INS Ranvijay successfully hit the target, a decommissioned ship, “at maximum range with pinpoint accuracy after performing complex manoeuvres”
- ✓ DRDO chairman Dr G Satheesh Reddy congratulated the Navy for the successful test.
- ✓ All the four missiles launched over the last week precisely hit their targets.
- ✓ BrahMos Aerospace is a joint venture of India and Russia aimed at producing lethal weapon that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft and land.

SPORTS

- **N. Ramachandran - was elected member of the World Triathlon audit committee at the World Triathlon Congress and elections on November 29.**



- ✓ Ramachandran is the current CEO of Indian Triathlon Federation and former Indian Olympic Association president

NATIONAL DAY

➤ **National Pollution Control Day – December 2**

- ✓ The day is observed in the memory of the people who lost their lives in the Bhopal Gas Tragedy
- ✓ It is celebrated every year to make the people aware of laws that exist in India that help to contain pollution.



- ✓ The Bhopal gas tragedy occurred on December 2nd and 3rd, 1984.
- ✓ During the accident, poisonous chemical 'methyl isocyanate' leaked from a pesticide plant Union Carbide India Limited in Bhopal.
- ✓ This exposed more than 500 thousand people to the poisonous gas, while around 2259 people died immediately.
- ✓ Later the Government announced that the tragedy killed around 25,000 people.
- ✓ It was considered as the biggest industrial disaster in the world.
- ✓ India is home to 21 out of 30 polluted cities in the world.
- ✓ According to World Health Organization, around 140 million people in the country breath polluted air that is ten times above the safe limit set by WHO.

