

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 22, 2021

STATES

- **Jharkhand - is set to become the first state to issue caste certificates from the campus of every government-run and private school to ensure each child has one within the next six months**
- ✓ This was announced by the State CM Hemant Soren in the assembly on December 21.
- ✓ Odisha started the practice of schools issuing SC, ST and OBC certificates to children in November 2017, but restricted it to government-run institutions.
- ✓ The process was suspended during the pandemic and is yet to resume.
- ✓ In all other states, caste certificates are issued by the offices of district magistrates, block development officers, tehsildars, mamlatdars and other revenue officials.

- **On December 21, Jharkhand - became the third state, after West Bengal and Rajasthan, to pass a bill to prevent mob lynchings.**
- ✓ The state assembly passed the Jharkhand (Prevention of Violence and Mob Lynching) Bill of 2021, introduced on the penultimate day of the ongoing winter session.
- ✓ It was passed within an hour and without any major amendment or debate

NATIONAL

- **On December 21, Union Women and Child Development Minister, Smriti Irani - introduced in the Lok Sabha a Bill to increase the legal age of marriage for women to 21 and recommended the chair that it be sent to a parliamentary panel for scrutiny.**
- ✓ The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill 2021 seeks to raise the legal minimum age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 years, on par with that of men

- ✓ The Bill that seeks to amend the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 was later referred by the Lower House to a parliamentary panel for further scrutiny by a voice vote.
 - ✓ After examining the bill, the panel will present its recommendations before Parliament.
 - ✓ The draft legislation seeks to amend seven personal laws – the Indian Christian Marriage Act; the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act; the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act; the Special Marriage Act; the Hindu Marriage Act; Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act and the Foreign Marriage Act
 - ✓ On December 15, the Union Cabinet had given in-principal approval to the proposal to increase women’s legal marriageable age.
 - ✓ The approval was granted on the basis of the recommendations received by Niti Aayog last December from a task force headed by Jaya Jaitly, former president of the Samata Party
 - ✓ The task force was set up by the Women and Child Development Ministry in June 2020 to examine “matters pertaining to the age of motherhood, imperatives of lowering MMR (Maternal Mortality Rate), improvement of nutritional levels and related issues”.
- **On December 21, Rajya Sabha – passed a bill to link electoral roll data with the Aadhaar ecosystem through voice vote**
- ✓ The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021, which was passed in Lok Sabha on December 20, seeks to weed out fake and bogus voters from electoral rolls
 - ✓ It would also make transfer and deletion of voters’ names easier.
 - ✓ The Bill seeks to allow electoral registration officers to seek Aadhaar number of people who want to register as voters "for the purpose of establishing the identity".
 - ✓ Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said the linking of electoral rolls to Aadhaar number is only voluntary and not compulsory.
- **The construction of the last unit (No. 6) of the Kudankulam nuclear power plant (KNPP) in Tamil Nadu’s Tirunelveli district - was officially launched on December 20 with the first-concreting of the foundation slab of the reactor building**
- ✓ This was announced by state-run Russian nuclear energy corporation Rosatom on December 21
 - ✓ The Unit-6 is the last of the six reactors of 1,000MW capacity each being built by PSU Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) in collaboration with Russia.
 - ✓ Currently, power units’ No. 1 and 2 are operating at the capacity established by the operation schedule.
 - ✓ Power units 3 & 4 and 5 & 6 are being constructed under AES-92 design with VVER-1000 (V-412) reactor type and the most up-to-date safety requirements of IAEA

- **On December 21, the Centre - released standard operating procedures (SOP) for use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) in pesticide application for crop protection, and for spraying soil and crop nutrients.**
- ✓ The SOP carries dos and don'ts for its use and emergency handling plan
- ✓ In recent times, multiple use of drones in farming operations being explored in different states
- ✓ The SOP for drone regulation for pesticide application covers important aspects like statutory provisions, flying permissions, area distance restrictions, weight classification, over-crowded areas restriction, drone registration, safety insurance, piloting certification, operation plan, air flight zones and weather conditions.

DEFENCE

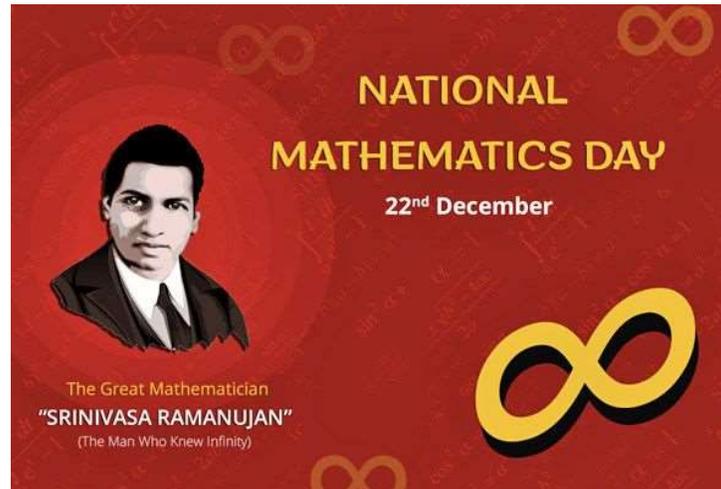
- **The Indian Air Force (IAF) - is deploying the first squadron of the S-400 air defence missile system in the Punjab sector.**



- ✓ Parts of the Russian surface-to-air long-range missile system had started reaching India earlier this month and the unit is expected to be operationalized in the next few weeks
- ✓ The S-400 air defence system was contracted for by India in a deal worth around ₹35,000 crore and five squadrons would be provided to India for tackling air threats from up to 400 km.
- ✓ The S-400 missile defence system is equipped with four different missiles which can engage enemy aircraft, ballistic missiles, and AWACS planes at 400 km, 250 km, the medium-range 120 km and the short-range 40 km
- ✓ The US, which is also India's main defence partner, had expressed its disapproval towards the S-400 missile deal
- ✓ However, India contended that the negotiations began years before Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) was enacted
- ✓ A purchase agreement for the deal was signed in 2015 and a deal worth \$4.5 billion was finalised in 2018.

NATIONAL DAY

➤ National Mathematics Day – December 22



- ✓ The National Mathematics Day is observed in India every year on December 22 in honour of birth anniversary of mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan (1887-1920).
- ✓ The day marks the importance of mathematics in our life and encourages people to develop self-learning and rationale skills.
- ✓ Ramanujan was born on December 22, 1887, in Tamil Nadu's Erode district
- ✓ He had enrolled in Madras' Pachaiyappa College at the age of 14 and won a scholarship to study at Kumbakonam's Government Arts College at the age of 17.
- ✓ In 1912, Ramanujan started working as a clerk in the Madras Port Trust
- ✓ At the age of 26, Ramanujan was invited to the University of Cambridge for his statements on 120 mathematical theorems on infinite series, continued fractions, improper integrals and number theory.
- ✓ Ramanujan received his Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree from Cambridge in 1916 and went on to publish several brilliant papers on his subject with the help of Professor GH Hardy of Trinity College, Cambridge University
- ✓ He was elected to the London Mathematical Society in 1917 and returned to India in 1919
- ✓ The mathematician went on to become the first Indian to be elected a Fellow at Trinity College and was also the youngest Fellow of Royal Society in London for his work on Elliptic functions and theory of numbers.
- ✓ Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had in 2012 announced December 22 as National Mathematics Day, while paying tribute to Ramanujan in Chennai.
- ✓ Singh's announcement had come during his visit to the Madras University on Ramanujan's 125th birth anniversary.
- ✓ The life of this exceptionally gifted mathematician was portrayed by British-Indian actor Dev Patel in 2015 film 'The Man Who Knew Infinity'

- ✓ Having compiled more than 3,000 mathematical results and equations, Ramanujan died at the young age of 32 owing to deteriorating health due to tuberculosis on April 26, 1920.
- ✓ In the year 1918, Ramanujan was credited with discovering the number 1729, also called as Hardy-Ramanujan number, as the smallest number which can be expressed as the sum of two different cubes in two different ways - $12^3 + 1^3$, and $10^3 + 9^3$.
- ✓ In the year 2019, the Royal Society also remembered Ramanujan's contribution by tweeting a special message for him
- ✓ Professor Neena Gupta, a mathematician at the Indian Statistical Institute in Kolkata, has been awarded the 2021 DST-ICTP-IMU Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematician
- ✓ The Ramanujan Prize is given annually to an eminent Mathematician by the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Trieste and the government of India.

