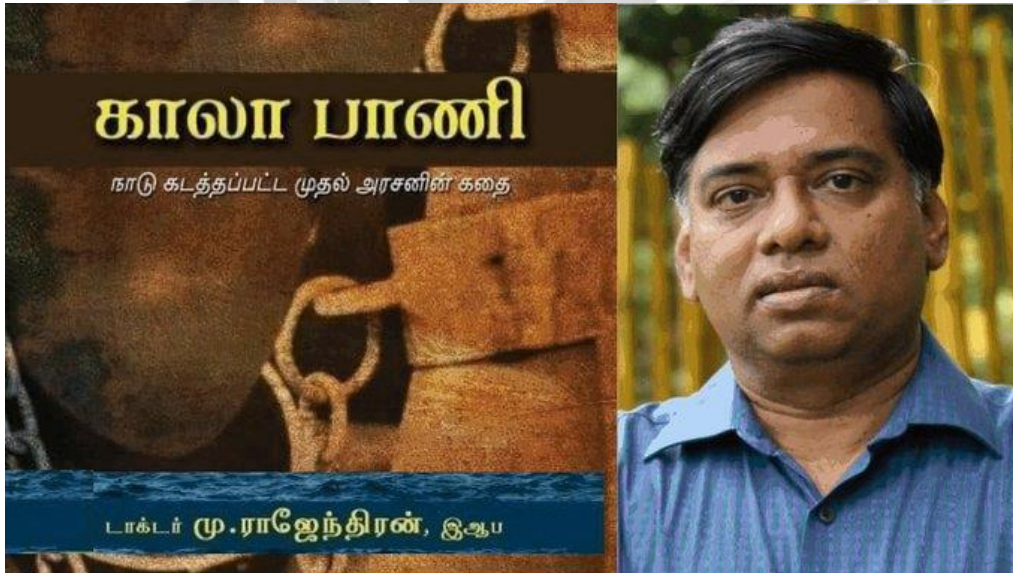


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 23, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- Former IAS officer M Rajendran - was conferred the 2022 Sahitya Akademi award for his novel titled “Kaala Pani - Naadu Kadathapatta Mudhal Arasanin Kadhai”
- ✓ The novel deals about the story of Marudhu brothers and their clans being expatriated by British to the Penang prison.



- ✓ The work portrays the contribution of Tamils for Indian freedom movement.
- ✓ The officer had also authored another book named Vadakarai - Oru Vamasathin Varalaru
- ✓ The book revolves around the story post the battle between the British and Marudhu Brothers that took place in the forests of Kalayarkoil for six months in 1801.
- ✓ This is described as the first protest against Britishers as it took place 56 years before the 1857 Sepoy Mutiny

- ✓ The award carries Rs 1 lakh, a copper plaque and a citation, which would be presented at a later date
- ✓ Rajendran hails from Vadakarai in Madurai district and served as a lawyer with the Madurai district court for three years before joining the civil service.
- ✓ Rajendran had also served as Tiruvannamalai district collector and later served as the state agriculture production commissioner.
- ✓ He has rendered copper inscriptions from the regimes of Chera, Chozha, Pandiya and Pallava kings in layman's language.
- ✓ Apart from Rajendran, Tamil writer K Nalla Thambi was conferred Sahitya Akademi award for his Tamil translation 'Yaad Vashem' of the Kannada novel 'Nentchandra'

NATIONAL

- **On December 22, the government - introduced Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2022 in Lok Sabha**



- ✓ The Acts which are being amended include the Press and Registration of Books Act 1867, the Boilers Act 1923, Indian Forest Act 1927, Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940; Public Debt Act, 1944; Pharmacy Act, 1948; Cinematograph Act, 1952; Copyright Act, 1957; Patents Act, 1970; Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; and Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.
- ✓ The other laws include Trade Marks Act, 1999; Railways Act, 1989; Information Technology Act, 2000; Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002; Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006; Legal Metrology Act, 2009; and Factoring Regulation Act, 2011.
- ✓ The proposed bill amends 183 provisions across 42 Acts administered by 19 ministries and is meant to decriminalise several offences and allow for compounding and rationalisation of penalties
- ✓ These 42 laws are administered by various Union ministries, including finance, food production and distribution, financial services, agriculture, commerce, environment, road transport and highways, posts, electronics and IT
- ✓ The bill was enacted to enhance trust-based governance for ease of living and doing business

- ✓ The government has also proposed that after the new law comes into force, for every three years, the minimum fine and penalty will increase by 10%.
- ✓ The bill was referred to 31-member joint committee of the Houses for scrutiny at the request of commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal, who introduced it.
 - ✓ The members from the Lok Sabha in the committee include PP Chaudhary, Sanjay Jaiswal, Queen Ojha, Rajendra Agrawal, Gaurav Gogoi, A Raja, Rajendra Agarwal, Poonam Pramod Mahajan, and Sougata Ray, while the names of 10 members of the Rajya Sabha will be announced later.
- ✓ Various minor violations across legislations, some going back over a century, which involved jail term are being decriminalized in this most comprehensive exercise
- ✓ The list includes aspects like carrying or using nonbiodegradable nature-polythene bags, which carried an imprisonment of up to six months under the Cantonments Act, 2006.
 - ✓ The monetary penalty of up to Rs.5,000 for the first offence is being retained, with subsequent violations attracting a fine of Rs.10,000.
- ✓ Similarly, imprisonment of up to two years under Indian Post Office Act, 1898 for sending unpaid postal articles is being removed
- ✓ Further, the case with pasturing of cattle that attracted up to six months in jail under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 has been removed, although the fine of Rs.500 is proposed to be retained.
- ✓ The provision in the Railways Act, 1989, which allowed for jail and penalty for those begging in coaches or railway stations has been changed as “No person shall be permitted to beg in any railway carriage or upon any part of the railway.”
- ✓ Further, the provisions in the Tea Act, 1953 that allowed the government for levy of penalty for “illicit cultivation” and removal of tea planted without permission are removed along with certain provisions for imprisonment.
- ✓ Giving false information to the legal metrology officer, controller or director under Legal Metrology Act, 2009 is proposed to be made a compoundable offence by paying a monetary penalty.
- ✓ Provisions in the Collection of Statistics Act 2009 are also proposed to be decriminalised with minor procedural offences like failure to produce books, accounts, documents, or records or making false or misleading statements.
 - ✓ Provisions for imprisonment are being removed, and in some cases, are being replaced with fine.
- ✓ Similarly, imprisonment under the Public Debt Act for making a false statement is also being omitted.
- ✓ The provisions in the Warehousing Act and Food Corporations Act that allowed for a jail term for those using the name of the entities without their consent are now proposed to be dropped.
- ✓ At the same time, penalty for fudging of books under the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act has been enhanced significantly while the provision for jail term has been removed.

- ✓ Amendments to the penalties under the High Denomination Bank Notes (Demonetisation) Act, 1978 have also been proposed.
- ✓ Further, the bill proposes to drop the controversial Section 66A of the Information Technology Act where there are adverse court rulings.
- **Union Minister for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Dr. Jitendra Singh - has inaugurated Good Governance Week celebrations from 19-25 December 2022 with a nationwide launch of “Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore” campaign**



- ✓ Several good governance activities have been planned during the nationwide campaign based on the theme 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore' (governance towards village).
- ✓ As many as 3,120 new services identified by district collectors across the country were added for online service delivery during the five-day 'Prashasan Gaon ki Ore' campaign
- ✓ The nationwide campaign for redressal of public grievances and improving service delivery will be held in all districts, states and Union territories of India.
- ✓ The good governance week, or Sushasan Saptah, will witness the nation's grievance redressal platforms functioning in unison -- grievances received on Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) will be redressed along with grievances received on state portals
- ✓ In the category of redressal of public grievances, Madhya Pradesh districts have identified a target of 16,67,295 grievances while Tamil Nadu districts have identified 1,38,621 grievances for redressal
- ✓ Good Governance Day is celebrated on December 25th every year to honor the birthday of former Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- ✓ AB Vajpayee was the Prime Minister of India from 1998 to 2004 and played a pivotal role in shaping the country's political landscape.

INTERNATIONAL

- **The Biden administration - has announced that it would provide its key Patriot missile defence system to Ukraine to assist it in its fight against Russia.**

WHY PATRIOT MISSILE SYSTEM IS A BIG DEAL

Ukraine says it needs Patriot air defence system urgently to fend off Russian attacks

WHAT IS THE PATRIOT SYSTEM?

Patriot, which stands for Phased Array Tracking Radar for Intercept on Target, is a theatre-wide surface-to-air missile defence system built by Raytheon Technologies Corp and considered one of the most advanced air defence systems in the US arsenal. It was first used in combat during the 1991 Gulf War, with batteries protecting Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Israel, and later used during the US invasion of Iraq in 2003

HOW IT WILL HELP UKRAINE

While the Patriot system is designed to intercept threats like aircraft and ballistic missiles, it can also shoot down the 'kamikaze' drones Russia has frequently sent to hit Ukrainian critical infrastructure. But it would be an extremely expensive way to destroy drones that only cost thousands of dollars

Patriot missile launcher system at a Turkish military base in Gaziantep



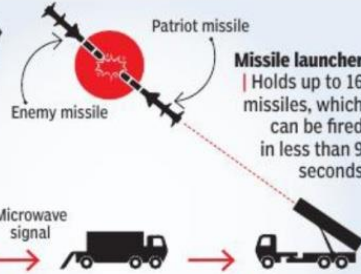
Photos AFP & AP | Source: Reuters

HOW IT WORKS

Radar range
100km
(62miles)



Radar | Scans sky to detect and locate incoming enemy threat



Missile launcher | Holds up to 16 missiles, which can be fired in less than 9 seconds

Control station | Guides missiles to target and can alter timing of detonation

Source: Raytheon Company

\$1 billion

Cost of new single Patriot battery, with \$400m for the system and \$690m for the missiles

240

Patriot systems built by Raytheon

18

countries use it

150

ballistic missiles intercepted in combat by system since 2015

WHEN WILL IT ARRIVE IN UKRAINE?

US say the Patriot system will first arrive in Germany, where Ukrainian troops will learn how to use them. The training can take months, with each system requiring dozens of troops to operate. Ukraine will then have to decide how & where to deploy the system without it being destroyed by Russian forces



- ✓ This will be the first-ever handover of such a defence system to Ukraine and strengthen the Ukrainian defence.
- ✓ The Patriot is a surface-to-air guided missile system that was first deployed in the 1980s and can target aircraft, cruise missiles and shorter-range ballistic missiles
- ✓ The White House stated that the Patriot missile system would be part of another \$1.85 billion in aid to Ukraine.
- ✓ The package also includes military vehicles, mortars, ammunition for HIMARS (High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems), and small arms.
- ✓ The package consists of only one Patriot battery, which will have eight launchers, each having a capacity of four missile interceptors.
- ✓ The aid has been announced at a time when Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is visiting the US to strengthen the military ties between the two countries.

- **On December 18, the European Union (EU) - has agreed to a carbon border tax, signifying the world's first and largest such reform.**
- ✓ The Carbon Border Tax (CBT) is aimed at making the EU economy completely carbon-neutral by the year 2030.
- ✓ The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), also known as the carbon border tax, is a type of duty which will be placed on imports to the EU based on the number of carbon emissions that have been incurred in the production of a particle item or product.
- ✓ This measure makes it necessary for carbon-intensive industries to comply with stricter emission standards.
- ✓ The tax is expected to discourage emissions by putting a price on carbon.
- ✓ With calculations for the carbon prices introduced, companies should buy certificates that will contain information on emissions generated during the production process of the imported goods.
- ✓ The carbon border tax would first be applied to industries such as iron, steel, cement, aluminium, fertilisers, electricity production, and hydrogen before being extended to other goods.
- ✓ The European Parliament and Council are yet to formally approve the deal before it comes into force in 2026.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **India - has recently launched a new initiative "Group of Friends" to promote accountability for crimes against peacekeepers.**



- ✓ The co-chairs of the "Group of Friends to Promote Accountability for Crimes Against Peacekeepers" are India, Bangladesh, Egypt, France, Morocco, and Nepal.
- ✓ The Group of Friends will strive to promote accountability for all acts of violence against UN peacekeepers and to facilitate capacity building and technical support for the host state's authorities

- ✓ It will serve as an informal forum at the United Nations to exchange information, share best practices, and mobilise resources aimed at facilitating accountability for crimes committed against peacekeepers
- ✓ The Group of Friends will convene two meetings of its members per year, organise and host one event per year involving Permanent Missions and other stakeholders, and hold two meetings of its members per year
- ✓ India is currently holding the presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

DEFENCE

- **India and Japan - will conduct their first-ever air combat exercise next month in a significant development in their expanding military ties**
- ✓ The exercise 'Veer Guardian' will be conducted at the Hyakuri and Iruma air bases in Japan from January 16 to 26, 2023
- ✓ India will deploy four Sukhoi-30MKI fighters supported by two C-17 Globemaster-III strategic lift aircraft, one IL-78 mid-air refueler and around 150 IAF personnel for the exercise
- ✓ Japan, in turn, will deploy F-2 and F-15 fighters, among assets, for the exercise.

BUSINESS/ECONOMY

- **Maruti Suzuki India - has signed an agreement with Kamarajar Port for export of passenger vehicles to global markets.**



- ✓ Kamarajar Port will be used for exports to Africa, Middle East, Latin America, ASEAN, Oceania & SAARC regions
- ✓ The agreement is for a period of five years, starting December 2022.
- ✓ To facilitate automobile exports, a car-cum-general cargo berth has been developed and commissioned by Kamarajar Port.
- ✓ The agreement will help to decongest the Mumbai Port, Mundra Port and Pipavav Port, which are being used by the company to export vehicles at present.

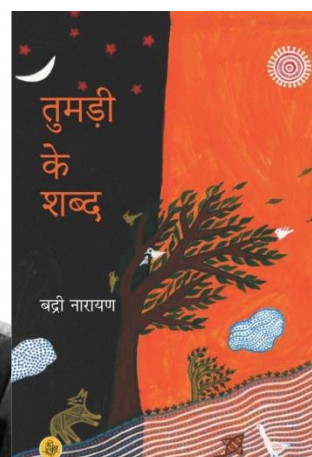
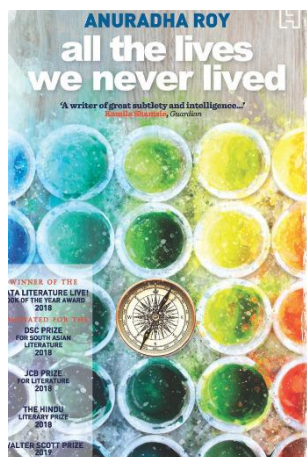
- ✓ The vehicles to be exported will be sent to the pre-delivery inspection (PDI) center at the Kamarajar Port, and subsequently shipped.
- ✓ Kamarajar Port has a capacity to park 14,000 cars.
- ✓ Maruti Suzuki registered its highest ever exports in FY 2021-22, dispatching over 2.38 lakh units to over 100 countries.

AWARDS

- **The winners of the 2022 Sahitya Akademi awards - were announced on December 22**
- ✓ The awards are given to writers in 23 Indian languages, including translations, in recognition of their exemplary contribution in the field of literature

Category	Awardees
Poetry	Rashmi Choudhury (Bodo), Badri Narayan (Hindi), Ajit Azad (Maithili), Koijam Shantibala (Manipuri), Gayatribala Panda (Odia), Janardan Prasad Pandey 'Mani' (Sanskrit), Kajli Soren (Jagannath Soren) (Santali)
Short Stories	Manoj Kumar Goswami (Assamese) and Sukhjot (Punjabi)
Novel	Anuradha Roy (English), Maya Anil Kharangate (Konkani), Praveen Dashrath Bandekar (Marathi), M. Rajendran (Tamil), Madhuranthakam Narendra (Telugu) and Anis Ashfaq (Urdu)
Play/Dramas	Veena Gupta (Dogri), Kamal Ranga (Rajasthani) and K.B. Nepali (Nepali)
Literary Criticism	Farooq Fayaz (Kashmiri), M. Thomas Mathew (Malayalam)
Autobiographical Essays	Gulam Mohammad Shaikh (Gujarati)
Collection of Articles	Mudnakudu Chinnaswamy (Kannada)
Literary History	Kanhaiyalal Lekhwani (Sindhi)

- ✓ The awards honoured seven poetry books, six novels, two short story collections, two literary criticism, an anthology of autobiographical essays, a collection of articles and a book on literary history.
- ✓ Anuradha Roy's 'All the Lives We Never Lived' won the award in the English language category
 - ✓ This book also won the prestigious Tata Book of the Year Award for Fiction in 2018
 - ✓ Roy has previously written 'An Atlas of Impossible Longing', 'The Folded Earth' and 'Sleeping on Jupiter' which won the DSC Prize for Fiction 2016.
 - ✓ The book 'Sleeping on Jupiter' was also longlisted for the Man Booker Prize in the year 2015.
- ✓ N Kalyan Raman's translation of Perumal Murugan's Tamil novel 'Poonachi' into English novel 'The Story of a Black Goat' won the Sahitya Akademi Prize for Translation.
- ✓ Telugu author Madhuranthakam Narendra was among the literary giants who were honoured with the award.

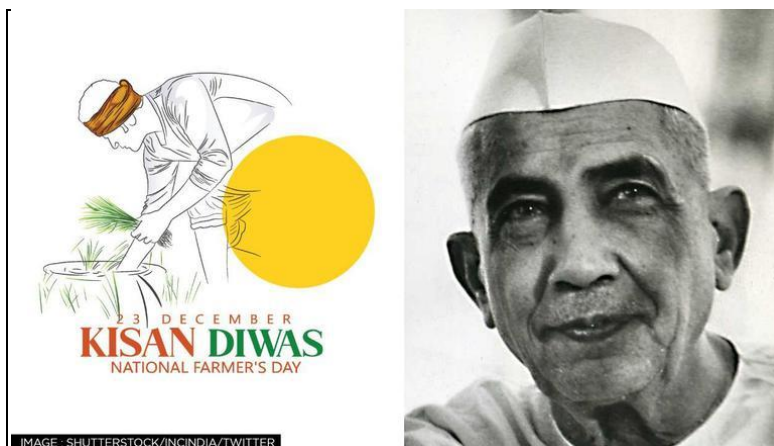


- ✓ Retired Lucknow University professor Anis Ashfaq has bagged the prestigious award for his Urdu novel, 'Khwab Saraab'.
- ✓ Director of Govind Ballabh Pant Social Science Institute and a noted Hindi litterateur and poet Prof Badri Narayan has been given the top award for his collection of poems 'Tumdi Ke Shabd' (Hindi)
 - ✓ Badri Narayan is an eminent Hindi poet, who has been honoured with Bharat Bhushan Samman, Banarasi Prasad Bhojpuri Samman, Kedar Samman, Spandan Kirti Award, Rashtrakavi Dinkar Award, Shamsheer Samman and Meera Smriti Samman.
 - ✓ He has participated in Jaipur Literary Festival 2022 and Sahitya Akademi International Literature Festival among others
 - ✓ 'Tumadhi ke Shabd' is a collection of around 70 poems describing the philosophical voice of the common people, in 2019.
- ✓ Head of Sahitya department of Central Sanskrit University's Ganga Nath Jha campus, Prof Janardan Prasad Pandey 'Mani' has been given the Sahitya Akademi Award for his poetic work 'Deep Manikkayam' (Sanskrit)
 - ✓ Prof Pandey has been awarded by the President of India and also has over two dozen awards like Kalidas Award and Panditraj Jagannath Award.
- ✓ The Bhasha Samman award went to Udaya Nath Jha for his invaluable contribution in the field of classical and mediaeval literature in the East.
 - ✓ Jha is a professor and head of Sahitya department at Central Sanskrit University in Puri, Odisha.
 - ✓ He is fluent in Sanskrit, Hindi, Odia, English, Maithili, Bengali, Assamese, Bhojpuri, and Gujarati.
- ✓ Poet Pawan Nalat was honoured with the 'Yuva Praskar' award (an award reserved for those under 35 years of age) for his Marathi Poetry collection 'Mi Sandarbha Pokharatoy'.
- ✓ The books were chosen on the basis of suggestions given by a jury of language experts.
- ✓ The award, in the form of a casket containing an engraved copper-plaque, a shawl, and cash prize will be presented to the awardees at a ceremony.

- ✓ Authors will receive a cash prize of Rs 1,00,000 each, and translators, Rs 50,000 each, for their winning books

NATIONAL DAY

➤ National Farmers' Day (Kisan Diwas) – December 23



- ✓ On December 23, National Farmers Day, also known as Kisan Diwas, is observed to honour and recognise farmers as the foundation of the nation
- ✓ This day was chosen to commemorate the birth anniversary of Choudhary Charan Singh, India's fifth Prime Minister, who worked for the welfare of farmers of the nation
- ✓ Chaudhary Charan Singh, the Uttar Pradesh-based Kisan Leader, was president of the country from July 28, 1979 until January 14, 1980.
- ✓ Chaudhary Charan Singh is fondly hailed as the “champion of India's peasants”.
- ✓ During his tenure, he placed much importance on creating awareness about the contribution of farmers to the economy.
- ✓ As Revenue Minister for Land reforms in Uttar Pradesh, he introduced major land reforms, deemed an unparalleled contribution to improving the farm sector.
 - ✓ Some of his notable reforms were the Debt Redemption Bill of 1939, the Land Holding Act of 1960, and the Zamindari Abolition Act, of 1950.
 - ✓ These reforms helped farmers get relief from moneylenders which consequently reduced the suicide rates among them
- ✓ Several literary works, including 'Abolition of Zamindari,' 'Joint Farming X-rayed,' 'India's Poverty and its Solution,' and 'Peasant Proprietorship,' were written by Charan Singh to emphasise the farmers' cause.
- ✓ In 2001, the government declared Kisan Diwas in honor of Charan Singh's birth anniversary.
- ✓ Singh passed away in 1980 but will always be remembered for his service with a memorial in his name in New Delhi's Raj Ghat, known as the 'Kisan Ghat'.