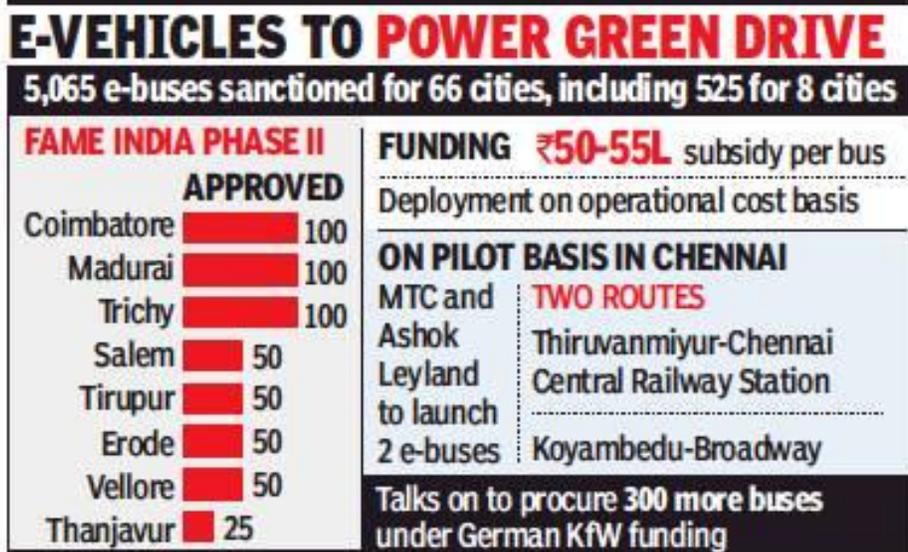


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST 9, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **The Union Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Ministry - sanctioned 525 electric buses for Tamil Nadu on August 8**
 - ✓ The first two e-buses, built by Ashok Leyland, in Chennai are expected to be launched this month



- ✓ These buses are likely to be operated along Thiruvanmiyur-Central Railway Station and Koyambedu-Broadway routes.
- ✓ Besides, a deal related to the procurement of 300 more e-buses through German funding (KfW) will also be shortly announced by the Government
- ✓ The centre sanctioned 5,065 e-buses for 66 cities, including 525 for eight cities, under Phase II of Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) India scheme
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has been allotted the fourth highest under the FAME project with Maharashtra getting the highest of 725 e-buses, Uttar Pradesh a total of 600 and Gujarat 550

- ✓ On average, cost of an e-bus varies between ₹1.5-₹2 crore depending on the length of the vehicle and the central government is expected to provide ₹55 lakh subsidy for each of the buses to be procured
- ✓ These vehicles would be charged at the end of every 12-15 km trip for a short duration.
- ✓ The buses are expected to run for about 4 billion km over their lifetime.

NATIONAL

◆ **President Ram Nath Kovind – gives his assent to the National Medical Commission (NMC) Bill, making it into a law on August 8**

- ✓ The NMC will replace the scam-tainted Medical Council of India, which was dissolved by the President in 2018 after appointing a Board of Governors to perform its functions
- ✓ The NMC bill replaces the nearly 63-year-old Indian Medical Council Act.
- ✓ As per the bill's provisions, there will be single National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) to admit students to all medical colleges including AIIMS and JIPMER along with a common counseling
- ✓ As per the Section 15 (1) of the bill, instead of the final-year MBBS exam, the National Exit Test (NEXT) is proposed
- ✓ This single examination will grant the licence to practise medicine, an MBBS degree, and also serve as an entrance to postgraduate courses.
- ✓ There will also be a screening test for foreign medical graduates
- ✓ The bill also seeks to regulate the course fees of 50% seats in private colleges as well as deemed universities.

◆ **The Supreme Court – to hear the appeals in Ayodhya case on all the five working days in a week**

BENCH GETS 24 MORE DAYS

➤ Breaking tradition, SC to hear case on all five working days – from Monday to Friday – instead of 3 days

➤ 5-judge bench gets 24 days more for hearing before CJI Gogoi retires on November 17

➤ In 2011, SC had stayed Allahabad HC order dividing land among 3 parties – Ram Lalla, Nirmohi Akhara & Sunni Waqf Board

- ✓ A bench of CJI Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S A Bobde, D Y Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S Abdul Nazeer had announced the departure from the tradition of three-day-a-week hearing by constitution benches
- ✓ So far, constitution benches heard important matters for only three days a week — from Tuesday to Thursday.
- ✓ Mondays and Fridays are devoted to hearing fresh cases.
- ✓ The bench decided that they should maintain their focus on the Ayodhya case, whose records run into over 20,000 pages.
- ✓ In its September 30, 2011 judgment, the Allahabad HC had divided the core disputed area into three equal parts and allotted one part each to Ram Lalla, Nirmohi Akhara and Sunni Waqf Board.

◆ **The Central Board of Direct Taxes – had steeply increased the threshold limits for filing of appeals by the income tax department with tax tribunals, high courts and the Supreme Court**

- ✓ The move intends to cut down litigation backlog and usher in a tax-friendly regime
- ✓ With the new limits, the I-T department cannot file an appeal before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) unless the “tax effect” is ₹50 lakh, which was ₹20 lakh earlier.
- ✓ The limits for appeals before the high courts and the Supreme Court are now ₹1 crore and ₹2 crore, respectively

◆ **The Virasat-e-Khalsa museum - in Punjab’s Anandpur Sahib town is all set to enter the Asia Book of Records for becoming the most visited museum in the Indian sub-continent on a single day.**



- ✓ The museum had witnessed a record footfall of 20,569 visitors on a single day on March 20, becoming the most visited museum in the Indian sub-continent on a single day. Virasat-e-Khalsa was built to commemorate the rich history and culture of Punjab and Sikhism and was inaugurated in November 2011
- ✓ Earlier, Virasat-e-Khalsa made it to Limca Book of Records in the February 2019 edition and India Book of Records as the country’s top-ranked museum in terms of the number of visitors.
- ✓ The museum has also been conferred an award by the Punjab Energy Development Agency in a State-level energy conservation competition, for cutting down electricity consumption

DEFENCE

◆ **The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) - approved the procurement of a Software Defined Radio (SDR) and the Next Generation Maritime Mobile Coastal Batteries (NGMMCB) for the Navy.**

- ✓ The NGMMCB will be fitted with the BrahMos surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missiles and deployed along the coast
- ✓ The SDR has been designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation, Bharat Electronics Limited and the Navy's Weapons Electronics Systems Engineering Establishment (WESEE).
- ✓ It will facilitate high-speed data and secure voice communication with anti-jamming capability.

AWARDS

◆ **Former president and Congress veteran Pranab Mukherjee - was awarded the Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian honour, by President Ram Nath Kovind on August 8**



- ✓ The country's 13th president Pranab Mukherjee, along with the late Assamese singer-composer Bhupen Hazarika and the late social activist Nanaji Deshmukh, had been conferred the honour on January 25
- ✓ Hazarika and Deshmukh were given the Bharat Ratna posthumously.
- ✓ Hazarika's son Tej received the award on his father's behalf while chairman of Deendayal Research Institute Virendrajeet Singh received the Bharat Ratna on behalf of Deshmukh
- ✓ Hazarika, an acclaimed poet and filmmaker, was responsible for introducing the culture and folk music of Assam and north-east India to Hindi cinema
- ✓ Deshmukh, one of the founding members of Bharatiya Jana Sangh, Deshmukh established a chain of RSS-inspired schools throughout India



- ✓ Mukherjee became the fifth president to receive this award.
- ✓ He served as the president of the country between 2012 and 2017
- ✓ He has the rare distinction of serving as Foreign, Defence, Commerce and Finance Minister apart from being the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission
- ✓ In seventies and eighties, he was instrumental in setting up regional rural banks (1975) and the EXIM Bank of India as well as National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (1981-82)
- ✓ Mukherjee is also author of a modified formula for resource sharing between the Centre and the states in 1991 which came to be known as the Gadgil-Mukherjee formula.
- ✓ Mukherjee also served on the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and African Development Bank
- ✓ He was conferred the Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest civilian award, in 2008.
- ✓ He has also been given the Best Parliamentarian Award in 1997 and Best Administrator in India Award in 2011.
- ✓ Mukherjee was rated one of the best five finance ministers in 1984, according to a survey conducted by the Euro Money journal.
- ✓ Former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and founder of Banaras Hindu University Madan Mohan Malviya were given the award by the Narendra Modi government in 2015.

◆ **Former U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia and President, World Food Prize Foundation, Kenneth M. Quinn – was conferred with Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Environment Protection**



- ✓ The award was presented by the Rotary Club of Madras East and Cavinkare Private Ltd.,

SPORTS

◆ **South African spinner Colin Ackermann - claimed a new T20 World bowling record when he took seven wickets for just 18 runs in a Vitality Blast T20 match**

- ✓ The 28-year old Ackermann achieved the record while captaining Leicestershire Foxes in a match against Birmingham Bears



BEST T20 BOWLING FIGURES

Name	Team	Figures	Year
Colin Ackermann	Leicestershire	4-0-18-7	2019
Arul Suppiah	Somerset	3.4-0-5-6	2011
Shakib al Hasan	Barbados Tridents	4-1-6-6	2013
Lasith Malinga	Melbourne Stars	4-1-7-6	2012
Kyle Jamieson	Canterbury	4-0-7-6	2019
Ajantha Mendis	Sri Lanka	4-2-8-6	2012
Phaphama Fojela	Border	3.2-1-9-6	2014
Ish Sodhi	Adelaide Strikers	3.3-0-11-6	2017

- ✓ Malaysian bowler Arul Suppiah held the previous world record when he claimed 6-5 for Somerset against Glamorgan in July 2011

