

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST 24, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- A draft Comprehensive Mobility transport road map for the Chennai Metropolitan Area – was released by the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA).
- ✓ The roadmap highlights the transport systems in Chennai by the year 2048, when its population is set to explode by another one crore

Mega streets project cost
₹1800cr

Total distance of streets covered
100km

QUICK WIN project
30km

Locations for QUICK WIN PROJECTS
Anna Nagar - New Avadi road

Tondiarpet - Broadway

Nungambakkam - Cathedral road

Mylapore - CP Ramaswamy road

Velachery - Velachery main road

Adyar - Ramachandra aadithanar road

Neighbourhoods to become more livable with improved mobility, more public space, wider pathways and cycle tracks

EYE ON THE FUTURE

A look at the proposed draft policy of CMDA to boost mobility in Chennai in 30 years

Chennai Metropolitan Area (CMA) population in 2048 | **1.8 crore**
current | **98 lakh**

Present share of motorized public transport (Bus+Rail) | **28.20%**
57% in 30 years

14 MAJOR ROADS PROPOSED FOR WIDENING

Chennai-Tiruvallur High Road near Vepampattu
Peripheral Ring Road (Poonjeri (Mamallapuram)
-Chengalpet-Sriperumbudur-Tiruvallur -Kattupalli

23 rail overbridge/underbridge for better connectivity

23 new bus terminus in extended areas of corporation and city outskirts.

14 mass rapid transit system such as bus, light rail transit (LRT) and rail connectivity, including Tambaram To Guindy via Medavakkam by bus or LRT, Airport - Avadi - Redhills through rail

➤ The plan identifies 752 km of roads within CMA for laying pavements or reconstructing existing footpaths on 110 major roads

➤ Improve the fleet strength of MTC buses from 3,740 buses currently to 8,123 by 2048. Of this, 50% buses should be electric

➤ Two new mofussil bus terminuses proposed at Thiruninravur and Nallur near Redhills

32 grade separators, including at Harrington Road Junction

23 multimodal nodes suggested, including Thirumayilai (Luz), Tiruvanmiyur, Washemanpet, Kodambakkam and Villivakkam

26 grade separators for pedestrians, including at Raja Annamalai Mandram, Sterling Road Junction, Kathipara Junction and Taramani-Velachery Road



- ✓ In 2048, the city and its suburbs, extending to about 35 km in all directions, should be largely covered by public transport systems such as bus, light rail transit, metro and railways and pedestrian malls and grade separators in core areas
 - ✓ The exhaustive report has been prepared by Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) in coordination with the CMDA.
 - ✓ After the final plan gets the nod, the suggestions will be executed by the Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority.
 - ✓ As per the report, the share of public transport trips in 2048 will be 57% — double the current share of 28%.
 - ✓ Eighteen locations with high pedestrian footfalls such as Chennai Central, Koyambedu and West Tambaram have been identified for pedestrian malls for easy access to all kinds of establishments
 - ✓ Avvai Shanmugam Salai and Wallajah Road are among 116 identified on-street parking
 - ✓ As per the report, a budget of Rs 1.61 lakh crore would be required to execute the facilities in three phases till 2048
 - ✓ Meanwhile, in another development, the project consultants of the Rs. 1,800 crore 'mega streets project' of the Chennai Corporation submitted their reports to corporation commissioner G Prakash
 - ✓ Under the project, six neighbourhoods of the city will have broad pathways, cycling tracks and an improved road infrastructure within a year's time
 - ✓ The chosen localities are New Avadi road in Anna Nagar, Broadway in Tondiarpet, Cathedral road in Nungambakkam, CP Ramaswamy road in Mylapore, Velachery main road and Ramachandra Aadithanar road in Adyar
- **On August 23, Tamil Nadu – reported another 5,975 Covid-19 infections, taking the total number of cases to 3,79,385 in the state.**
- ✓ The number of people undergoing treatment, however, saw a drop and stood at 53,541 as 6,047 people were discharged
 - ✓ With this, a total of 3,19,327 people were cured of the infection after treatment.
 - ✓ The state recorded 97 deaths on the day.
 - ✓ Chennai had the highest number of deaths at 19, followed by Theni, which was a distant second with seven deaths.
 - ✓ For the first time, Coimbatore reported second highest fresh infections at 392 cases, pushing behind northern districts of Cuddalore, Thiruvallur and Chengalpet, which recorded 380, 354 and 352 cases respectively.
 - ✓ Chennai retained the number one position in terms of highest fresh cases as it recorded 1,298 new cases
 - ✓ On the day, the State health minister C Vijayabaskar inaugurated the state's second plasma bank at Coimbatore medical college Hospital
 - ✓ Further, Salem (261), Kanyakumari (181), Dindigul (178) and Pudukottai (155) recorded high number of cases on the day.
 - ✓ The number of samples tested on the day was 70,127

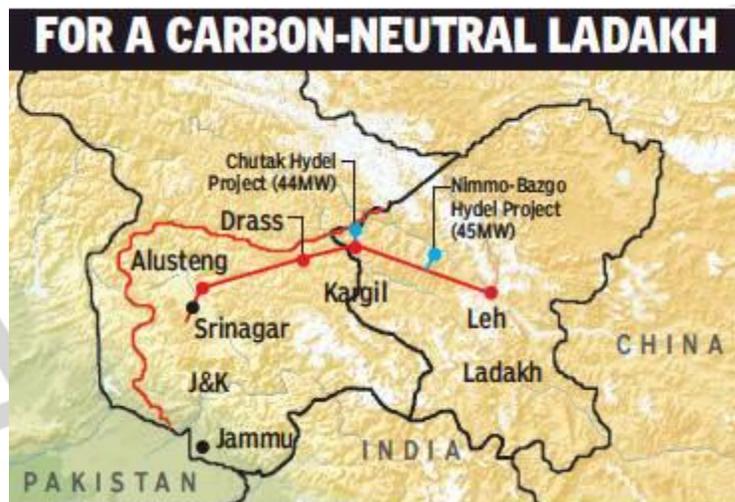
- **On August 23, Chennai and suburban areas – witnessed ‘Markos 1957’, the comet spotted in Czechoslovakia on the same day.**
- ✓ It was sighted between 7.30 p.m. and 8.15 p.m in the areas adjoining Chennai
- ✓ It appeared on the western sky about 15 degrees above the horizon.
- ✓ The comet had a fairly long tail and was pointing towards the north.
- ✓ In fact, the Comet’s appearance over the city was reported during the last three days.

NATIONAL

- **On August 23, the Centre - announced standard operating procedures (SOP) for resuming film and television programme shooting across the country.**
- ✓ This was announced by the information and broadcasting minister Prakash Javadekar in New Delhi.
- ✓ The SOPs include use of a mask for everyone who’s not facing the camera on the sets of a film or a TV serial, maintaining six-feet social distancing, barring visitors from entering sets, compulsory thermal screening, and ban on sharing of costumes, wigs, and makeup items.
- ✓ Makeup artistes and hair stylists shall use PPE kits, while production team should involve minimum cast and crew members
- ✓ Physical distancing of at least 6 feet to be followed at all locations at all times, while sitting, in queue, etc
- ✓ As per the SOPs, only actors who will be in front of the camera are exempted from wearing masks.
- ✓ They also mention that COVID-19 coordinators will have to ensure that everyone concerned has installed and updated the Aarogya Setu app on their mobile phones.
- ✓ The SOPs mention that older artistes should take extra precautions, and they should preferably not be exposed to any front-line work.
- ✓ Common locations such as sets, cafeteria, make-up rooms, edit rooms, vanity vans and washrooms have to be sanitised regularly.
- ✓ The Ministry has advised the industry to discontinue usage of lapel microphones.
- ✓ In March, film shoots across the world, including India, were stalled for an indefinite period because of the coronavirus pandemic.

- **The government - has announced new norms for the enforcement of ‘rules of origin’ provisions for allowing preferential rate of customs duties on products imported under free trade agreements.**
- ✓ The new guidelines aims to check inbound shipments of low quality products and dumping of goods by a third country routed through an FTA partner country.
- ✓ These rules “shall apply to import of goods into India where the importer makes a claim of preferential rate of duty in terms of a trade agreement”

- ✓ The “rules of origin” provision envisages the minimal processing that should happen in the FTA country so that the final manufactured product may be called originating goods in that country.
 - ✓ Under this provision, a country that has signed an FTA with India cannot dump goods from some third country in the Indian market by just putting a label on it.
 - ✓ It has to undertake a prescribed value addition in that product to export to India.
 - ✓ India has signed FTAs with several countries, including Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and ASEAN members
- **The government - is implementing a ₹1,200 crore project to link Nubra valley in the country’s northern tip, and Zaskar, among the least-explored regions of Kargil, with the national power grid**
- ✓ The move is considered as one of the first building blocks of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s plan to make Ladakh carbon-neutral.



- ✓ With the project, the Srinagar-Leh transmission line will be extended to power Nubra and Zaskar.
- ✓ REC (formerly Rural Electrification Corporation) has been asked to implement the project.
- ✓ The project will improve ease of living for people living in these areas ensuring regular power supply and remove dependence on diesel generators, as per the power minister Raj Kumar Singh
- ✓ The project envisages laying two 220kv lines across some of the world’s highest mountains and inhospitable terrains.
- ✓ A 20km line will run from Dras, the world’s second-coldest inhabited place some 50km from Kargil, to Padum, the main habitation in Zaskar.
- ✓ Another line will be set up from Phyang near Leh to Nubra block HQ Diskit, 120km in the north.
- ✓ This line will be built across 18,38ft high Khardung La, the world’s highest motorable road.

- ✓ Both the lines are to be completed in 24-36 months, depending upon weather conditions.
- ✓ Ladakh was isolated from the national grid till January 2019 when central utility PowerGrid switched on a 350km transmission line linking Leh with Alusteng near Srinagar via Dras-Kargil.
- **On August 23, the country – reported 62,042 fresh cases, taking the total coronavirus tally past three million mark to 31 lakh, as per data collated from state governments.**
- ✓ This was a drop from the record 70,488 cases recorded a day earlier.
- ✓ India continued to be placed behind Brazil and the United States in the overall case load
- ✓ Further 856 deaths were also reported on the day, taking the overall death count over 56,000 mark
- ✓ This was the first time since August 11 that the daily Covid-19 toll had dipped below 900
- ✓ Maharashtra's tally dipped from 14,400 a day earlier to 10,441
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh's count was down from 10,276 to 7,895 while Karnataka's case tally dropped from 7,330 to 5,938.
- ✓ On August 22, India reported having tested a million samples — the first time it surpassed this milestone

INTERNATIONAL

- **The World Health Organization - has said that children aged 12 and over should wear masks to help tackle the Covid-19 pandemic under the same conditions as adults, while kids between six and 11 should wear them on a risk-based approach.**
- ✓ Kids aged 12 and over should wear a mask when one-metre distance from others can't be guaranteed and there is widespread transmission in the area
- ✓ This was announced by the WHO and Unicef in a document on the WHO website on August 21
- ✓ Whether kids between six and 11 should wear masks depends on the intensity of transmission in the area, the child's ability to use the mask, access to masks and adequate adult supervision.
- ✓ Kids aged five years and under should not be required to wear masks based on the safety and overall interest of the child, as per the report.

SPORTS

- **Pakistan batting great Zaheer Abbas, outstanding South Africa all-rounder Jacques Kallis and Australia women's star Lisa Sthalekar were all inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame on August 23.**



- ✓ Zaheer, 73, a prolific run-scorer during the 1970s and 1980s with both Pakistan and English county side Gloucestershire, was nicknamed the 'Asian Bradman'
- ✓ Zaheer was also a former president of the global governing body, ICC and the only player from Asia to have scored a hundred first-class hundreds.
- ✓ Kallis, 44, is the only player to score at least 10,000 runs and take at least 250 wickets in both Test and ODI cricket.
- ✓ India-born off-spinner Sthalekar, 41, was the first woman to achieve the double of 1,000 runs and 100 wickets in ODI cricket
- ✓ The Hall of Fame includes 27 Australians, 28 England players, six India cricketers, three from New Zealand, four from South Africa, one Sri Lankan and 18 from the West Indies.

