

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—FEBRUARY 11, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- The state industries promotion corporation Limited (SIPCOT) of Tamil Nadu - is to create an exclusive e-vehicle park at Manallur on the outskirts of Chennai and four industrial parks in other parts of the state.

DEVELOPING AREAS	AREA (acres)	PROJECT COST (₹crore)
Manaparai in Trichy	1,077	500
Tindivanam in Villupuram	719	300
Oragadam phase II, Kancheepuram	616	126
Vallam Vadagal phase II, Kancheepuram	325	360
Manallur, Tiruvallur	691	250

- ✓ The industrial parks would come up at a cost of Rs1,536 crore in more than 3,500 acres of land in Manallur in Thiruvallur district, Vallam Vadagal (phase-II) and Oragadam (phase-II) in Kancheepuram district, Manaparai in Trichy and Tindivanam in Villupuram.
- ✓ The new industrial parks would take the number of Sipcot industrial parks to 26 from the existing 21 parks.
- ✓ The upcoming Manallur industrial park in a span of 691 acres has been designed exclusively to establish e-vehicle and its component manufacturing industries.
- ✓ As part of the project, a skill development centre would be established at a cost of Rs 25 lakh
- ✓ The centre would provide training related to e-vehicle and auto components to the youngsters.
- ✓ Further, electronic and electrical parts manufacturing and assembling industries would come in Manallur.
- ✓ Apart from this, automobile-based industries, synthetic organic chemicals and integrated paint industries and allied industries would also come up in the park.

- ✓ The industrial park in Vallam Vadagal (phase -II) that would come in Oragadam (phase - II) would house industries that do not fall under the environmental impact assessment (EIA) notification 2006.
- **On February 10, the Tamil Nadu government - announced 'New Entrepreneur-cum-Enterprise Development Scheme – Special Initiative for Migrants (NEEDS-SIM)'**
 - ✓ The new scheme will help making 3.6 lakh Tamil foreign returnees to the state during Covid-19 pandemic into entrepreneurs.
 - ✓ According to a Government order issued on February 5, loan will be provided to foreign returnees to start business in the state
 - ✓ The scheme would come with certain incentives and relaxations of the existing NEEDS, which is being promoted by the industries department.
 - ✓ The scheme is applicable to all those who returned to Tamil Nadu from abroad since January 1, 2020.
 - ✓ Due to Covid-19, the state has seen 3.6 lakh Tamils returning from various countries by air and ship until January 31, 2021.
 - ✓ The returnees have expertise in various sectors and the new scheme would facilitate them to start new businesses in the state
 - ✓ The state has been promoting NEEDS to help the first-generation entrepreneurs.
 - ✓ It provides a capital subsidy of 25% of the project cost subject to a maximum of ₹30 lakh.
 - ✓ Interest subvention of 6% is also extended on the loan availed.
- **Greater Chennai Corporation Commissioner G. Prakash - inaugurated a Miyawaki forest located near the Secretariat on February 10.**



- ✓ The civic body, which successfully raised a similar forest initially at Kotturpuram, is planning to develop such forests in all the 15 zones.
- ✓ The Corporation had handed over 3,000 sq ft of barren land to the Inner Wheel Club of Madras for raising the Miyawaki forest.
- ✓ The Inner Wheel Miyawaki Park was started in September 2020

- ✓ It has 837 trees of 30 indigenous varieties
- ✓ Miyawaki forests are developed based on a Japanese method of restoration of degraded land, planting species of trees, plants and shrubs, regenerating all layers of original forests in a particular area.

NATIONAL

- **On February 10, the Rajya Sabha - passed the Major Port Authorities Bill**
- ✓ The new Bill seeks to provide greater autonomy and flexibility to ports under the central government
- ✓ It aims to create a Board of Major Port Authority for each such entity and replace the existing port trusts.
- ✓ The bill had already been passed by the Lok Sabha last year.
- ✓ In the Upper House, the bill was passed with 84 members supporting the bill and 44 members voting against it

- **Union Minister for Steel, Dharmendra Pradhan - said that the Government has given its approval for inclusion of 'Specialty Steel' under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme.**
- ✓ For this purpose, a 5-year financial outlay of Rs 6322 crore has also been approved.
- ✓ The Production Linked Incentive scheme was launched with an aim of giving incentives to the companies on their incremental sales of those products which are manufactured in domestic units.
- ✓ This scheme also invites the foreign companies to set units in India.
- ✓ It seeks to encourage the local companies in order to set up and expand the manufacturing units.
- ✓ Speciality steels are also called as alloy steels, which have special properties to provide a superior performance under specific conditions

- **The Centre - has set up a Nodal Authority in order to frame the 'Approved Standardised Deep-Sea Fishing Vessels Design and Specifications' (ASDDS).**
- ✓ The nodal authority will be headed by the director of Central Institute of Fisheries Technology.
- ✓ It would also comprise of the representatives from the Naval Architecture Department of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur or IIT Madras; Cochin Shipyard Ltd and the Indian Register of Shipping.
- ✓ The authority would help the fisheries departments of states to implement the central scheme, Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).
- ✓ The ASDDS will provide a framework of minimum basic design parameters for the construction of vessels

- ✓ It will cover the basic design aspects including the Outline Specifications, Basic Calculation, General Arrangement and Basic Structural Drawings.
- ✓ ASDDS will be prepared by Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL) and technically vetted by Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT).
- ✓ The 'In Principle' approval for the design concepts will be given by the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS).
- ✓ Deep-Sea Fishing Vessels (DSFV's) were also constructed in compliance with the ASDDS.
- ✓ The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana is a flagship scheme that focuses on the sustainable development of the fisheries sector.
- ✓ It will be implemented for a five-year period.
- ✓ The scheme was launched with an estimated investment of Rs 20,050 crores on April 1, 2020 in all States and Union Territories under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Package.
- ✓ Out of this amount, an investment of about Rs 12,340 crores is allocated for the beneficiary-oriented activities in Inland fisheries, Marine and Aquaculture.
- ✓ Further, a financial grant of Rs 7,710 crores was allocated for fisheries infrastructure.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **On February 10, the Supreme Court - stopped further dismantling of the decommissioned aircraft carrier INS Viraat**
- ✓ Currently, the 62-year-old warship is being dismantled at the ship-breaking facility in Alang scrapyard
- ✓ The apex Court's direction comes after the plea of a private company which offered ₹100 crore to buy the ship and convert it into a museum and war memorial.
- ✓ A bench of Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian issued notices to the Union government and the scrap dealer, Shree Ram Group
- ✓ The scrap dealer had purchased the retired warship for nearly ₹35 crore in auction.
- ✓ The aircraft carrier was commissioned into the UK's Royal Navy in 1959 as HMS Hermes
- ✓ It had played a decisive role in the British victory over Argentina in the Falklands war in 1982.
- ✓ India had acquired the aircraft carrier in 1986 and inducted it into the Indian Navy after an extensive refit.
- ✓ Petitioner Envitech Marine Consultants Pvt Ltd had expressed its intent to preserve the warship as a museum and war memorial.

INTERNATIONAL

- **China's Tianwen-1 probe - entered Mars orbit on February 10 after a seven month voyage**
- ✓ The spacecraft is on a mission to land a rover and collect data on underground water and possible signs of ancient life
- ✓ The orbiter-rover combo became the second spacecraft in two days to reach the planet after UAE's probe "Amal" (Hope)
- ✓ The United Arab Emirates' (UAE) first mission 'Hope' to Mars reached the red planet and entered orbit on February 9 after a seven-month, 494 million km journey

CONFERENCES, FESTIVALS & SUMMITS

- **Minister of Textiles Smriti Irani – to launch the website of the India Toy Fair, 2021 on February 11**



- ✓ The launching event will also be attended by Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank and Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in New Delhi
- ✓ India's first ever toy fair will be held from February 27 to March 2, 2021.
- ✓ It is being organised by the Ministry of Textiles in association with the Ministry of Education and the ministry of commerce and industry.
- ✓ It is a virtual event that will be organised with the aim of engaging the children in teaching, learning and promoting the indigenous toy industry.
- ✓ Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar, Centre for Creative Learning (CCL) has developed over 200 toys to showcase in fair.
- ✓ The fair would also comprise of 75 exhibition stalls of the State Council for Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Ministry of Education, National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL).
- ✓ The idea to organise a toy fair was first raised by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mann Ki Baat address on August 30, 2020.

- ✓ In his address the prime minister highlighted the huge potential of toys market and the opportunities which can be used to promote the indigenous toys.
- ✓ The Centre for Creative Learning (CCL) was established in April 2017.
- ✓ It comprises of a 10-member team that nurture the scientific temper and creativity in students and teachers.
- ✓ CCL has created over 200 toys and models to showcase in the virtual event.
- ✓ It is also playing a role of an expert group for the content provider for the toy fair.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) - is exploring the possibility of developing a new propulsion technology to fuel spacecraft for its future deep space missions.**
- ✓ According to Isro, the new technology is called 'alpha source thermoelectric propulsion technology'
- ✓ In this regard, Isro's UR Rao Satellite Centre in Bengaluru had issued an invitation for 'expression of interest' (Eoi) on January 28
- ✓ The Eoi is invited for "design and modelling; simulation and analysis; testing and qualification of 100W Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generator (RTEG) without radio isotope."
- ✓ RTEG will have less mass than solar cells of equivalent power, thereby allowing more compact spacecraft that can navigate easier in space.
- ✓ Many missions of Nasa and Russia, Besides China's 2013 Chang'e 3 mission to the moon and its rover Yutu had used RTEG.
- ✓ The RTEG will be useful for long duration missions where alternative energy is not available
- ✓ After another Mars mission, Isro is planning to send missions to Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune and Uranus.
- ✓ According to Isro, the RTEG system should be capable of operating in vaccum conditions of deep space, dusty, carbon dioxide-rich and corrosive environments.
- ✓ Moreover, the RTG's weight should be 20kg or less, with a life span of 20 years or more and survive indefinitely without damage when stored in the atmosphere at temperatures as high as 50 °C.

DEFENCE

- **India - is now conducting its largest-ever naval combat exercise 'Tropex' to test the Navy's operational preparedness in the Indian Ocean Region**
- ✓ The biennial 'Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise' (Tropex) involves warships, submarines, fighter jets, maritime patrol aircraft and helicopters
- ✓ In the first phase, the Navy had conducted coastal defence exercise 'Sea Vigil' along the entire coastline and island territories on January 12-13.

- ✓ The exercise was participated by the Indian Navy, Marine Police of 13 coastal States and Union Territories and the Coast Guard, besides other stakeholders
- ✓ It was followed by a large-scale tri-Service joint amphibious exercise called “Amphex-21”
- ✓ It was conducted in the Andaman and Nicobar islands from January 21 to 25.
- ✓ And now, major combat drills are being conducted under Tropex, which include “multiple on-target ordnance deliveries” including missiles, torpedoes and rockets being fired from frontline warships, aircraft and submarines.
- ✓ The exercise will end in the third week of February 2021.
- ✓ It will witness the participation of all three Commands of Indian Navy besides the Tri-Services Command.

