

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **The Southern Zone Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) – suspends approval to expand Ennore Thermal Power Plant and ordered a public hearing on the proposal.**
- ✓ On September 19, the NGT suspended for six months the environmental clearance (EC) granted by the Union environment ministry to Ennore Thermal Power Plant
- ✓ The Plant was seeking to convert its 450MW power plant into 660MW plant
- ✓ Earlier, the Union environment ministry exempted Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) from conducting public hearing
- ✓ The NGT had asked authorities to file a fresh Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) report of the project with inputs from the hearing.
- ✓ Tangedco, the state power utility which established the plant in 1989, had put forth two proposals to expand the existing plant or replace it.
- ✓ To expand the project, Tangedco obtained an environmental clearance in 2008 by conducting a public hearing.
- ✓ Since expansion work could not be completed on time, it sought multiple extensions.
- ✓ But the environment ministry in 2019 refused to extend the validity of the EC beyond 10 years and asked Tangedco to apply for a fresh EC.
- ✓ When Tangedco applied for a fresh EC in January 2019, it sought exemption from conducting public hearing to avoid further delay.
- ✓ The corporation also said that a public hearing was conducted in 2017 for the replacement project on the same premises.
- ✓ The green ministry's expert appraisal committee and subcommittee rejected this request.
- ✓ But after repeated appeals, the ministry in July 2019 agreed to exempt Tangedco from holding public hearing.

- ✓ The current appeal seeks direction to quash the EC granted by the ministry without public hearing as it was in direct violation of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006.
- **Two private engineering colleges in Tamil Nadu – have proposed to offer mechanical engineering and computer science engineering courses in Tamil from 2021-22.**
- ✓ This is the first time since College of Engineering (CEG) in Anna University launched engineering in Tamil 11 years ago
- ✓ With All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) nod, Erode Sengunthar Engineering College in Perunthurai will offer Mechanical Engineering in Tamil while Rathinam Technical Campus in Coimbatore will offer Computer Science in Tamil from this year.
- ✓ Except for CEG, the 16 constituent colleges of Anna University had poor enrolment to Tamil medium courses due to lack of study materials in Tamil and fewer job opportunities.
- ✓ AICTE is translating engineering books in regional languages and Anna University has also already translated 15 subjects in mechanical engineering and released them on the website.
- ✓ There were 719 seats in BE Mechanical Engineering (Tamil) and 659 seats in BE Civil Engineering (Tamil) last year.
- **A stone inscription with Grantha script and a sculpture - have been discovered near Karuvelampatti in Thiruparankundram union in Madurai district.**



- ✓ A team of archaeologists had inspected a two-feet wide and four-feet long rock on an agriculture land in Karuvelampatti.
- ✓ On close inspection, they found that the rock has the 500-year-old Grantha script inscribed on it in four lines.
- ✓ This script is found particularly in Tamil Nadu and Kerala and is said to have originated from the Pallava script.
- ✓ Modern Malayalam is said to be a direct descendant of this script.

- ✓ A relief sculpture, in which the sculpted elements are seen attached to their background is also seen on the rock.
- ✓ The sculpture is 2ft in width and 3ft in length.

NATIONAL

- **India - has developed and released 17 biofortified varieties of different crops for cultivation**
- ✓ The crops are being promoted to reduce malnutrition as they are a source of staple diet rich in micronutrients
- ✓ This was announced by agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar on September 19, while addressing the G20 agriculture ministers' meet



- ✓ The biofortified varieties, developed by various institutions under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), are 1.5 to 3 times more nutritious than the traditional varieties.
- ✓ The newly developed biofortified crops include the rice variety CR DHAN 315, which has excess zinc, and wheat variety HD 3298, enriched with protein and iron.
- ✓ During his address, the Minister appealed to the participating G20 nations to support the celebration of 2023 as 'International Year of Millets' to promote nutrition and sustainable agriculture.
- ✓ While hybrid maize varieties are enriched with lysine and tryptophan, the finger varieties of millet (CFMV1 and 2) are rich in calcium, iron and zinc and small millet (CCLMV1) variety is rich in iron and zinc.
- ✓ The list also includes new varieties of mustard and peanuts.
- ✓ In order to promote use of these biofortified varieties, the government plans to link them with several programmes — Mid-Day Meal and Anganwadi — to make India free from malnutrition
- ✓ At present, India is estimated to have 15.2% of its population which is undernourished.

- ✓ Addition of 17 new varieties has taken the list of having such biofortified varieties of as many as 16 crops to 71.
- ✓ It includes the highest 22 varieties of wheat followed by 11 of maize, eight of pearl millet, seven of rice and three each of finger millet, mustard and soybean.

AWARDS

- **Politician-writer M Veerappa Moily, Tamil writer Imaiyam and poet Arundhathi Subramaniam - were among the 20 authors who received the Sahitya Akademi Award for 2020 at a ceremony on September 18.**



- ✓ While Moily received the award for his epic poetry 'Sri Bahubali Ahimsadigvijayam' in Kannada, Subramaniam won the award for her poetry collection, 'When God is a Traveller', in English.
- ✓ The other winners in poetry include Harish Meenakshi (Gujarati), Anamika (Hindi), RS Bhaskar (Konkani), Irungbam Deven (Manipuri), Rupchand Hansda (Santali), and Nikhileswar (Telugu).
- ✓ Nanda Khare (Marathi), Maheshchandra Sharma Gautam (Sanskrit), Imaiyam (Tamil) and Sri Hussain-ul-Haque bagged the award for their novels. Apurba Kumar Saikia (Assamese), (late) Dharanidhar Owari (Bodo), (late) Hiday Koul Bharti (Kashmiri), Kamalkant Jha (Maithili) and Gurdev Singh Rupana (Punjabi) have received the award for short stories.
- ✓ The Akademi has named Gian Singh (Dogri) and Jetho Lalwani (Sindhi) the winners for their plays
- ✓ Mani Shankar Mukhopadhyay, popularly known as Shankar received the award for memoir (Bengali).
- ✓ The award, which includes a casket containing an engraved copper plaque, a shawl and an amount of Rs.1,00,000, was presented at the award presentation function.
- ✓ The executive board also announced the Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize 2020 in 24 Indian languages on September 18.
- ✓ The English translation of Kannada novel 'Ghachar Ghochar', written by Vivek Shanbhag and translated by Srinath Perur, and the Hindi translation of Thiruvalluvar's 'Thirukkural' by T E S Raghwan won the award among 22 others.

- ✓ The translation prize carries an amount of Rs.50,000 and a copper plaque which will be presented to the translators of each of these books at a special function to be held sometime later this year

SPORTS

- **Trayvon Bromell - beat his own world-leading time in the 100 metres on September 18, winning the Kip Keino Classic in 9.76 seconds in Nairobi.**



- ✓ The American was a favourite heading into the Tokyo Olympics but failed to reach the final in the event last month
 - ✓ Bromell achieved the previous world record 9.77-second performance in June
 - ✓ Bromell is now tied for sixth on the all-time list.
 - ✓ The 26-year-old Bromell was back in peak form for the World Athletics Continental Tour Gold series event and finished ahead of Kenyan Ferdinand Omanyala, who finished second in an African record 9.77.
 - ✓ The 2004 Olympic champion Justin Gatlin put retirement on hold and settled for third place at the World Athletics continental tour meet in Nairobi, Kenya
 - ✓ The 39-year-old American, who has twice been banned for doping, failed to qualify for this year's Tokyo Games.
 - ✓ But he could not match fellow American Trayvon Bromell and the new Kenyan sprint sensation Ferdinand Omanyala in the finish.
- **Tamil Nadu triple jumper Praveen Chithravel - produced career-best efforts to emerge champions on the final day of the 60th National Open Athletics Championships on September 19**
 - ✓ The 20-year-old Chithravel, whose previous best of 16.51m that came in March 2019, bagged the triple jump gold medal with his opening try of 16.88m.
 - ✓ He is now third on India's top list in hop, step and jump behind Renjit Maheswary (17.30m) and Arpinder Singh (17.17m).
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu's Archana Suseendran won the women's 200m gold in 23.58 seconds.
 - ✓ She had earlier finished second in the women's 100m event.



- ✓ Assam sprinter Amlan Borgohain clocked a sensational time of 20.75 seconds to win the men's 200m final.
- ✓ Only Muhammed Anas Yahia (20.63), Dharambir Singh (20.66), Arokia Rajiv (20.66) and Anil Kumar (20.73) have run a faster time over the distance in the history of Indian athletics.

