



FVF RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS -November

TAMIL NADU

- Chief Minister MK Stalin - chaired the first meeting of Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (CUMTA) on November 17



- ✓ Minister for Housing and Urban Development S. Muthusamy, Minister for Transport S.S. Sivasankar, Chief Secretary V. Irai Anbu and senior officials were present in the meeting.
- ✓ This is the first time the board met since its inception 12 years ago.
- ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin, while presiding over the meeting, highlighted the importance of an efficient public transport system to reduce congestion, pollution and number of private vehicles on the road.
- ✓ Decongestion of school and college zones, Metro rail connectivity between Airport and Kilambakkam bus terminus, common ticketing system and GIS-based platform for upgrading city's transport system were some key focus areas at the first CUMTA meeting.
- ✓ Further, ongoing projects of various departments including CMRL, TNRDC, CMDA and NHAI worth Rs.69,000 crore and proposed work to the tune of Rs.26,000 crore were discussed.

- ✓ During the meeting, the CM launched an exclusive website - www.cumta.gov.in - for the authority
 - ✓ The Chief Minister has directed CUMTA to take measures to reduce congestion around schools and college zones.
 - ✓ With respect to an integrated ticketing for CMRL, MTC and the Railways, CUMTA has been asked to conduct an analysis of the existing system and develop a mobile application.
 - ✓ Meanwhile, integrated ticketing facilities will also be introduced on CUMTA website in the future.
 - ✓ The Comprehensive Mobility Plan was highlighted as the main function of CUMTA in the meeting.
 - ✓ During the meeting, the second amendment to the CUMTA Act, which seeks to bring in a two-tier structure, was approved by the authority
 - ✓ Accordingly, the CUMTA will be supported by an executive committee headed by the chief secretary.
 - ✓ The executive committee will be responsible for the decisions related to implementation and operations, whereas the authority will be responsible for major policy-level decisions about urban transport in CUMTA jurisdiction.
 - ✓ CUMTA has officials from Chennai Corporation, Highways Department, Transport Department, Southern Railway, Chennai Metrorail Limited, Police department and others as members
 - ✓ The Cumta Act was passed in 2010 during the regime of then chief minister M Karunanidhi, but it was notified only in January 2019
 - ✓ It was later amended in September 2020 by appointing the chief minister as chairman.
 - ✓ The Act seeks coordination and streamlining of the activities of agencies involved in planning, operating and managing transportation systems
- **On November 17, Finance minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan – unveiled an ‘Ancient DNA’ laboratory and biosafety level-3 research and diagnostic facility at the campus of Madurai Kamaraj University (MKU)**



- ✓ The Ancient DNA laboratory will be useful in analysis of samples that were retrieved from archaeological excavations, particularly in south Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ This lab has been set up by following the models at University of Chicago and Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, Lucknow.
- ✓ The ancient DNA lab facility was set up at a cost of Rs.3.3 crore including the equipment installed
- ✓ MKU is collaborating with Department of Archaeology, government of Tamil Nadu, and the skeletal samples from Konthagai, Sivagalai, Kodumanal, Mayiladumparai, and Adhichanallur are analysed in the University.

NATIONAL

- **The Union government - has filed a review petition in the Supreme Court to recall its November 11 order allowing the release of all six convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case**
- ✓ The Centre said that the order granting remission to the convicts was passed without affording an adequate opportunity of hearing to Union of India
- ✓ On November 11, the top court had ordered the premature release of six convicts - Nalini, R P Ravichandran, Santhan, Murugan, Robert Payas and Jayakumar
- ✓ On November 13, Nalini Sriharan, her husband Murugan -- a Sri Lankan national -- along with another convict Santhan, also from Sri Lanka, were released from the Vellore prison.
- ✓ Two other Sri Lankan nationals, Robert Payas and Jayakumar, were released from the Puzhal prison in Chennai.
- ✓ All the four Sri Lankan nationals were lodged at the special refugee camp in Tiruchirappalli
- ✓ Nalini was the longest-serving woman prisoner in the country and was arrested in 1991 when she was 24 years old
- ✓ Invoking its extraordinary power under Article 142 of the Constitution, the top court had on May 18 ordered the release of Perarivalan, who had served over 30 years in jail.
- ✓ On May 11, 1999, the SC had confirmed the death sentence awarded to Nalini, Santhan, Murugan and Perarivalan and commuted the death sentence to life imprisonment for Robert Payas, Jayakumar and Ravichandran.
- ✓ It had quashed the conviction and death sentence for the remaining accused.
- ✓ Former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated by a woman suicide bomber named Dhanu at a poll rally in Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu on the night of May 21, 1991

DEFENCE

- **For the first time, six women officers - cleared the prestigious Defence Services Staff Course (DSSC) / Defence Services Technical Staff Course (DSTSC) Exam**
- ✓ Out of six, four women officers will undergo a one year course at Defence Services Staff College, Wellington alongside their male counterparts from all three services.
- ✓ Amongst the remaining two women officers, one is on the reserve list of Defence Services Technical Staff Course and another is shortlisted for Administration & Logistics Management Course (ALMC)/ Intelligence Staff Course (ISC).
- ✓ The women officers will be imparted training and orientation on operational, military intelligence, operational logistics and administrative aspects of staff appointments.
- ✓ More than 1500 officers of the Indian Army appear in the Defence Services Staff Course/ Defence Services Technical Staff Course entrance exam, which is held annually in the month of September
- ✓ This year, for the first time, 22 women officers of the Army, who have been granted Permanent Commission in the respective arms and services, appeared in the exam.
- ✓ These women officers are from Army Service Corps, Army Air Defence, Army Ordnance Corps, Corps of Signals, Corps of Intelligence, Corps of Engineers and Corps of EME

APPOINTMENTS

- **C V Ananda Bose, a former bureaucrat belonging to the Kerala cadre - will be the new Bengal governor, according to a Rashtrapati Bhavan communique dated November 17.**



- ✓ The 71-year-old will replace La Ganesan, governor of Manipur who was given additional charge of Bengal
- ✓ Former Bengal governor, Jagdeep Dhankhar stepped down in July to be later elected the Vice-President of India.
- ✓ Bose joined the civil services in 1977 after doing his MA in English from Kerala University and PhD in habitat and environment from BITS, Pilani.

- ✓ Bose, during his 34-year career, has worked as the secretary to the Kerala CM and as principal secretary in various departments like education, forest and environment, labour, general administration and revenue board.
- ✓ He has been the district collector of Quilon district (now Kollam) in Kerala and last served as an administrator in the National Museum here before superannuating in 2011.

