

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-JUNE 3, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin - unveiled a logo - 'Kalaingar 100' from 1924 to 2023 - on the occasion of the centenary birth celebration of former Tamil Nadu CM M Karunanidhi on June 2.



- ✓ The logo was received by the former Governor of West Bengal Gopalkrishna Gandhi at a function held at Kalaivanar Arangam in Chennai.
- ✓ During the event, CM Stalin announced that a convention centre with 5,000 seating capacity spread over an area of 25 acres will be set up in Chennai and the centre will be named after Kalaingar
 - ✓ According to the CM, the convention centre will host international conventions and have exhibition halls, restaurants, parks and spacious parking lots besides providing quality accommodation.
- ✓ The chief minister released a short film on the late CM's contributions and programmes and opened a photo exhibition to mark the beginning of the centenary celebrations.
- ✓ The government proposes to open the Kalaingar library in Madurai and the multi-super specialty hospital in Guindy in Chennai and would hold events in all district headquarters to mark the former Chief Minister's centenary year.

- ✓ The government has planned year-long celebrations to mark the 100th birth anniversary of Karunanidhi, who was born on June 3, 1924.
- **The Tuticorin district administration - has formed a nine-member local management committee to take up the upkeep of the closed Sterlite copper plant in Tuticorin.**
- ✓ The plant has been closed since May 2018 after protests by locals and police firing in which 13 people were shot dead.
- ✓ In April, the Supreme Court allowed Vedanta to take steps for the upkeep of the plant after the company sought permission.
- ✓ The company can evacuate the remaining gypsum and secured land fill (SLF) collection and fix the breach in SLF pit IV as well as maintenance of the green cover around the plant.
- ✓ The nine-member committee will be headed by sub-collector Gaurav Kumar and will have deputy superintendent of police, district environment engineer, factory inspector, fire and rescue department officials and others as members.
- ✓ The committee, which will meet every Monday, also has two of its members from Sterlite copper.

NATIONAL

- **Hundreds were killed and more than 500 were injured - when a passenger train hit the derailed coaches of another train in Odisha's Balasore on June 3.**



- ✓ The horrific train crash involved the Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express, the Shalimar-Chennai Central Coromandel Express and a goods train
- ✓ The accident happened near the Bahanaga Baazar station in Balasore district, about 250 km south of Kolkata and 170 km north of Bhubaneswar
- ✓ The Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express derailed causing back-to-back collisions on adjacent tracks — first with the Shalimar-MGR Chennai Central Coromandel Express and then with a stationary goods train.

- ✓ Odisha and Tamil Nadu will observe a one-day state mourning today to mourn the lives lost in this tragic accident.
 - ✓ The railways announced an ex-gratia of Rs 10 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased, Rs 2 lakh for those grievously injured and Rs 50,000 for those who got minor injuries.
 - ✓ PM Modi announced ex-gratia of Rs. 2 lakh for the families of those who died in the accident, and Rs. 50,000 for the injured from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.
- **India's first offshore wind energy plant – to come up off Tamil Nadu coast before the end of CY2023**
- ✓ Union ministry of new & renewable energy will float a tender for seabed licensing to setup 4 GW of India's first offshore wind energy off Tamil Nadu coast
 - ✓ Currently, 42.8 GW of onshore wind energy has been installed across the country.
 - ✓ India will add 58 GW of wind energy capacity over the next seven years at an investment of over Rs.4 lakh crore.
 - ✓ This would take the cumulative installed capacity of onshore wind energy to 100 GW as part of the Centre's plan to create 500 GW of nonfossil fuel based installed capacity by 2030.
 - ✓ Out of the 58 GW of wind energy, five GW and three GW will be installed in 2023-24 and 2024-25, respectively
 - ✓ Wind energy is produced from nine states with Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh leading the list.
 - ✓ Meanwhile, Union ministry of new & renewable energy has identified 14 sites, each with a capacity to install one GW, off the Tamil Nadu coast in the Gulf of Mannar.
 - ✓ Tenders would be floated before the end of this year for the seabed license, wherein the successful bidder would prepare the detailed project report in five years.
 - ✓ In the first phase, bids would be for leasing out 4GW of power through open access, captive, bi-lateral third party sale and merchant sale.
- **Alstom, a French rail manufacturer - has emerged as the lowest bidder for the Rs 30,000 crore tender for the manufacturing and maintenance of 100 aluminium body Vande Bharat trains.**
- ✓ Alstom had made a bid of Rs 151 crore per trainset, which is 11% lower than the second lowest bid of Rs 169 crore/trainset made by consortium of Staddler and Medha.
 - ✓ This is the first time that Alstom will make and supply locomotives as per the indigenously-developed Vande Bharat designs to the Indian Railways.
 - ✓ The winning bidder will receive Rs 13,000 crore on delivery, with an additional Rs 17,000 crore to be paid over 35 years for maintenance.

- ✓ The Indian Railways is aiming at rolling out the first Vande Bharat sleeper train by the first quarter of 2024.
- ✓ The Railways has awarded contracts for the manufacture of 102 Vande Bharat chair trains and 200 Vande Bharat sleeper trains, so far.
- ✓ The Vande Bharat is a semi-high-speed train consisting of 16 self-propelled coaches, which eliminate the need for a separate locomotive
- ✓ These trains feature improvements such as enhanced seating, an anti-bacterial system in the air conditioning, and the ability to accelerate to 160 km/h in just 140 seconds.

INTERNATIONAL

- **The United Arab Emirates (UAE) - has announced its withdrawal from the U.S.-led Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)**
- ✓ The CMF is a maritime coalition responsible for securing Gulf waterways crucial to global oil trade.
- ✓ It is a 34-nation task force working on security, counter-terrorism and counter-piracy in the Red Sea and Gulf areas.
- ✓ The CMF is headquartered in Bahrain alongside the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet and Central Command.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **India - has recently become a member of the Centralized Laboratory Network (CLN), which comprises 15 partner facilities across 13 countries**
- ✓ The CLN focuses on testing vaccines for potential use during pandemics and epidemic disease outbreaks.
- ✓ It operates under the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)
- ✓ The CLN is recognized as the largest international network with standardized testing methods and materials.
- ✓ It undertakes various initiatives to enhance the evaluation process of infectious disease vaccines
- ✓ Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Virology (ICMR-NIV) has become one of the new members of the CLN for testing vaccines

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The 3rd India-Vietnam Maritime Security Dialogue - was held in New Delhi recently on May 31.**
- ✓ During the dialogue, the two sides discussed ways to sustain a secure maritime environment conducive for inclusive growth.
- ✓ They also reviewed maritime cooperation initiatives and ways of reinforcing international and regional mechanisms for comprehensive maritime security.



PERSONALITIES

- **Fourteen-year-old Dev Shah, an Indian-American prodigy - claimed the prestigious title of the 2023 Scripps National Spelling Bee champion.**



- ✓ The eighth-grader from Florida scripted history as the 85th national bee champion by correctly spelling the challenging 11-letter word, 'psammophile'.
 - ✓ The winning word, 'psammophile', refers to a plant or animal that thrives in sandy areas
- ✓ As the 2023 Scripps National Spelling Bee winner, Shah not only claims the prestigious title but also receives a substantial prize of over \$50,000 in cash and additional rewards.
- ✓ Dev is the 22nd champion in the past 24 years with South Asian heritage.
- ✓ His father, Deval, a software engineer, immigrated from India 29 years ago to get master's degree in electrical engineering.
- ✓ The eighth-grader defeated 228 other competitors (including 10 other finalists) from around the US to win the competition

DEFENCE

- **The Multilateral Naval Exercise Komodo - is scheduled to take place from June 4 to 8, 2023, in Makassar, Indonesia.**

- ✓ China's navy will send its destroyer Zhanjiang and frigate Xuchang, both equipped with guided missiles, for the exercise
- ✓ North Korea, Russia, South Korea and the United States are the other countries invited to participate in the exercise
- ✓ The current edition will be the fourth such drill since the first edition took place in 2014
- ✓ The last edition of the exercise were held in 2018 before being suspended due to Covid-19

ECONOMY

- **The government-backed National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (Nabfid) - is looking to lend Rs 4 lakh crore to the infrastructure sector by March 2026.**
- ✓ The company is also looking at setting up a subsidiary to provide credit enhancement to borrowers in infrastructure, which will include urban bodies.
- ✓ Nabfid, which started operations last year, is the youngest development financial institution
- ✓ It is the first to be set up by the government after liberalisation to implement its ambitious plans for the infrastructure sector.
- ✓ The company has started operations with Rs 20,000 crore capital and a Rs 5,000-crore grant from the government.
- ✓ The company has granted in-principle approvals to proposals of Rs 50,000 crore, and final sanctions have crossed Rs 25,000 crore, with road and energy being the major sectors.
- ✓ Nabfid is chaired by veteran banker KV Kamath, who headed ICICI during its DFI days.

