

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-AUGUST 23,2023

TAMIL NADU

- The Tamil Nadu government - is planning to establish the 'India Centre for Advanced Manufacturing' in Chennai.



- ✓ The India Centre for Advanced Manufacturing aims to support companies in their innovation, sustainability, and R&D endeavours.
- ✓ It is proposed as an initiative to involve national and international collaboration in advanced technologies.
- ✓ The proposed centre is likely to be operational by January 2024 in line with the Global Investors Meet.
- ✓ On August 22, the government and WEF representatives held a public-private discussion in Chennai to take forward plans for the centre and discuss its specifications.
- ✓ T.R.B. Rajaa, Minister for Industries, Investment Promotion, and Commerce, expressed the government's commitment to establishing the India Centre for Advanced Manufacturing in partnership with the World Economic Forum.
- ✓ The industrialists hailed from various sectors including electronics, automobile, and general manufacturing, and representatives from Guidance Tamil Nadu, the MSME Department, TIDCO, and TNSDC were also present.

- ✓ The discussion highlighted three key focus areas for the Centre — technology adoption and innovation, industry-academia engagement, and sustainable production.
 - ✓ The centre will support high-end innovation, new business models, and digital transformation for manufacturing companies, including SMEs.
 - ✓ It will also promote industry-academia collaboration for workforce upskilling, and support research and development around supply chain decarbonization and circularity.
- ✓ In April, former industries minister Thangam Thenarasu had informed the state assembly about plans to set up an advanced manufacturing centre and mentioned that Guidance will act as the operational arm of the World Economic Forum's Advanced Manufacturing Value Chain platform
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has already established three Centres of Excellence along with corporate partners Siemens, G E and Dassault Systemes to support startups and MSMEs.
- ✓ Additionally, Industrial Innovation Centres (IICs) have also been set up at SIPCOT Parks in Sriperumbudur and Hosur.
- ✓ The state government is also considering setting up knowledge parks in major cities in partnership with international research institutes to build capabilities in the areas such as semiconductor, green hydrogen, and solar PV module manufacturers.
- **The Airports Authority of India (AAI) - has signed an agreement with Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) India to provide communication, navigation, surveillance and air traffic management services at Neyveli airport.**



- ✓ The airport, owned by NLC, is being developed under the regional connectivity scheme (Udan) to promote air connectivity between unserved and underserved regions.
- ✓ The AAI will provide air traffic services for operating flights.
- ✓ Further, another agreement will be signed soon for operation and maintenance of the airport.
- ✓ After the agreements are signed, NLC will apply for a licence.

- **The Integral Coach Factory (ICF) - has received the prestigious National Projects Excellence Award from the Indian Project Management Associates (PMA)**
- ✓ This award was received by ICF for the design and manufacture of Vande Bharat project, India's first semi high speed trainset.
- ✓ ICF general manager B G Mallya received the award from Vijay Kumar Saraswat, member, Niti Aayog, at a national awards ceremony organised by Indian Project Management Associates on August 21
- ✓ This award is given by the PMA for projects of National Excellence every year.
- ✓ There are four other projects that have been selected for the award along with Vande Bharat Train
- ✓ These include the projects for India's indigenous Aircraft Carrier INS Vikrant and the Chenab Rail Bridge.

NATIONAL

- **Legendary Cricketer and Bharat Ratna Awardee, Sachin Tendulkar – was declared as the Election Commission of India's (ECI) National Icon to create awareness among voters and encourage their participation in the electoral process.**
- ✓ On August 23, a Memorandum of Understanding will be signed between ECI, represented by chief election commissioner Rajiv Kumar and election commissioners Anup Chandra Pandey and Arun Goel, and Tendulkar, who had also been a nominated member of Rajya Sabha.



- ✓ As per terms of the MoU, the cricketer will push EC's endeavour to raise voter awareness and educate the electorate about the value and significance of each vote in nurturing a vibrant democracy.

- ✓ The Election Commission has continuously associated itself with renowned Indians from various fields and designates them as its national icons to motivate voters.
 - ✓ Last year, the Commission recognized famous actor Pankaj Tripathi as the National Icon.
 - ✓ Earlier, during the 2019 Lok Sabha Elections, Cricketer MS Dhoni, Actor Aamir Khan, and Boxing Champion Mary Kom were the ECI national icons.
- **Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari - launched the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP) on August 22 in New Delhi**



- ✓ The Bharat NCAP aims to enhance road safety by elevating vehicle safety standards for up to 3.5-tonne vehicles in India.
- ✓ The new crash safety assessment system for cars will certify how safe the vehicles are on a scale of “one to five”, helping people decide to go for safer ones.
 - ✓ Based on the performance of the car in the tests, car will be awarded star ratings for Adult Occupants (AOP) and Child Occupant (COP)
- ✓ Under this programme, car manufacturers can voluntarily offer their cars tested as per Automotive Industry Standard (AIS) 197
 - ✓ However, as per the new norm, only the “base variant” will undergo the test.
 - ✓ Base variant means the one which has basic level safety, comprising all the features that are fitted as standard across the model range.
- ✓ Currently, the manufacturers need to send their cars abroad for certification.
- ✓ With high safety standards, Indian cars will be able to compete better in the global market, increasing the export potential of car manufacturers in India.
- ✓ The Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (BNCAP) will come into force from October 1 and the first set of test results are likely to be published by December.
- ✓ BNCAP will be led by the Central Institute of Road Transport (CIRT).
- ✓ With this, India becomes the fifth country in the world after the US, China, Japan and South Korea to have an indigenous car crash test programme.

PERSONALITIES

- **Ruth John Koyyala, a 29-year-old from Telangana - has created history by becoming the first in India to qualify for a postgraduate degree in medicine under the transgender category.**



- ✓ She is currently working as a medical officer at the state-run Osmania General Hospital (OGH) in the Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) section that deals with HIV/AIDS.
- ✓ The 28-year-old, who has been living in Hyderabad, got admission into the MD Emergency Medicine at ESI Hospital
- ✓ Last year, Dr Ruth along with Prachi Rathod became the first transgenders to get government jobs in Telangana
- ✓ Dr Koyyala had qualified for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET-PG) in 2021 and was denied a seat under the trans category, and instead was shortlisted for counselling under the female category.
- ✓ In 2014, the Supreme Court had recognised transgenders as third gender and provided reservation to them in admission to education institutions and jobs.
- ✓ In June 2023, the Telangana high court intervened by issuing interim orders to establish provisions allowing Ruth to apply under the transgender category.

DEFENCE

- **On August 21, INS Sunayna - reached Durban and conducted a “passage exercise” with South African warship ‘SAS King Sekhukhune I’**
- ✓ The warship is now at Durban in a move to boost goodwill, mutual cooperation and “interoperability” between the navies of the two countries.
- ✓ INS Sunayna’s visit commemorates 30 years of diplomatic partnership between India and South Africa and coincides with PM Narendra Modi’s visit to South Africa for the BRICS summit
- ✓ During the port call, the two navies will share best practices and experiences through professional interactions, subject matter expert exchanges and cross

deck visits



- ✓ INS Sunayna is a Saryu-class patrol vessel with a displacement of 2,200-tonne
- ✓ India had also conducted a field training exercise for several African countries at Pune in March.

