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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

23 November 2023- Daily Current Affairs

<p>Vada Chennai project</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Vada Chennai project, also known as the Vada Chennai Valarchi Thittam (VCT), is a comprehensive infrastructure development initiative launched by the TN government in 2023• Aim is to transform the northern parts of Chennai, the capital city of Tamil Nadu.• The project also aims to address the existing infrastructure deficit and gaps in development in this region, which has historically lagged behind the southern and central parts of the city. <p>Key objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Improve infrastructure and connectivity in North Chennai2. Enhance basic amenities and public services3. Boost economic development and job creation4. Foster a more inclusive and equitable city <p>Major components of the Vada Chennai project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Development of transport infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and public transport facilities2. Upgradation of water supply and sanitation systems3. Improvement of healthcare and educational facilities4. Creation of new housing and commercial spaces5. Enhancement of recreational and green spaces6. Promotion of skill development and entrepreneurship
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Over 50 per cent land meant for SC/ST houses vacant in Tamil Nadu



Context:

As per CAG compliance report:

- More than 50% of the land acquired for distribution to SC/ST individuals in the state is lying vacant, as the scheme has not been linked to housing programmes such as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G) for construction of houses.
- Also, there is a lack of accurate data regarding homeless SC/ST individuals in the state and the scheme's beneficiaries on the Free House Site Patta (FHSP) scheme.

About Free House Site Patta (FHSP) scheme:

- The Free House Site Patta (FHSP) scheme is a government initiative aimed at providing housing plots to landless and economically disadvantaged individuals, primarily from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes, in rural areas of India.
- The scheme aims to address the housing needs of these vulnerable communities and promote their socio-economic empowerment.

Only 25% of 13.92 L sanctioned dwellings constructed in State

Context:

- Despite the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB) completing the construction of 3.44 lakh houses against the demand of 13.92 lakh houses in the State (2015-2021), several such dwellings remain vacant due to distance of the site, lack of infrastructure and others, an audit report on housing for the urban poor has revealed.
- In one project in Kilkadirpur in Kancheepuram, the TNUHDB had completed the construction of 2,112 tenements in September 2020.
- The Board had decided to allot them to 931 beneficiaries who had encroached the Vegavathi River and the remaining to the homeless non-slum EWS (economically weaker section) beneficiaries.
- However, the project was constructed at a distance of 11 km (approximately) from the existing settlement and hence the beneficiaries were reluctant to move to the new location.
- This resulted in non-occupation of the tenements and postponement of housing benefit to the urban poor living in unhygienic conditions besides causing pollution to the river



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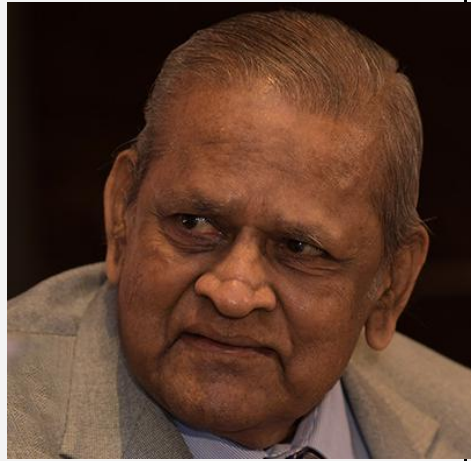
TN MLAs discuss ways to combat climate change



Context:

- TN legislative assembly have gathered together to discuss climate change and understand various ways in which it can be combated at their constituency level.
- This was the **first-of-its-kind initiative undertaken by Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company (TNGCC)**, a special purpose vehicle, which drives the Climate Change Mission.
- TNGCC is Chief Minister **MK Stalin's pet project launched in 2021** to professionally manage three critical natural conservation missions – Tamil Nadu Climate Change, Tamil Nadu Green and Tamil Nadu Wetlands.

Person in News: S.S. Badrinath



Context:

- **S.S. Badrinath (83), founder of Sankara Nethralaya** and eminent vitreoretinal surgeon passed away
- He was a **Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan awardee**
- **Dr. Badrinath, in 1978 founded Sankara Nethralaya** as a unit of the Medical Research Foundation.

About Sankara Nethralaya:

- **Sankara Nethralaya, meaning "Eye Sanctuary" in Sanskrit**, is a renowned **not-for-profit eye hospital** based in Chennai, India.
- Founded in 1978 by Dr. S.S. Badrinath, a visionary ophthalmologist, **Sankara Nethralaya has evolved into a global leader in eye care**, providing comprehensive and affordable services to millions of people.



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