

## PM launches revamp of 508 Amrit Bharat railway stations

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday virtually laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of 508 railway stations across the country at a cost of over ₹24,470 crore.

The 508 stations are spread across 27 States and Union Territories – 55 each in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan (at a cost of ₹4,000 crore), 49 in Bihar, 44 in Maharashtra (₹1,500 crore), 37 in West Bengal, 34 in Madhya Pradesh (₹1,000 crore), 32 in Assam, 25 in Odisha, 22 in Punjab, 21 each in Gujarat and Telangana, 20 in Jharkhand, 18 each in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, 15 in Haryana, 13 in Karnataka and others.

Mr. Modi said the work was part of the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, under which 1,300 prime railway stations in the country would be redeveloped.

Master plans are being prepared for the development of these stations as “city centres”, with proper integration of both sides of a city. This approach is driven by the vision of the ov-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually laying the foundation stone, on Sunday. ANI

erall urban development of a city, centred on a railway station. These stations will have better seating on platforms, upgraded waiting rooms, free Wi-Fi and other conveniences. The redevelopment will provide modern passenger amenities along with ensuring well-designed traffic circulation, inter-modal integration, and signage for passengers.

Talking about the extension of railways in North-east India, Mr. Modi said that work was going on rapidly on doubling of the lines, gauge conversion, electrification, and new routes.

**CONTINUED ON**

» **PAGE 14**

**RELATED REPORT**

» **PAGE 15**

## + **PM launches revamp of Amrit Bharat stations**

“Soon, all State capitals in Northeast India will be connected by railway network,” the Prime Minister said, adding that Nagaland has got its second station after 100 years.

### **Showcasing culture**

The design of the station buildings will be inspired by local culture, heritage, and architecture. Mr. Modi said that while Jaipur railway stations would have glimpses of the Hawa Mahal and Amer Fort in Rajasthan, Jammu Tawi railway station’s design would be inspired by the Raghunath Mandir. Dimapur station in Nagaland would showcase the architecture of 16 tribes from the region.

Mr. Modi said that in the past nine years, more than 2,200 km of dedicated freight corridors have been constructed across the country, leading to a reduction in the travel time of goods trains. Now, goods trains reach western ports from Delhi-NCR in 24 hours, a trip that used to take 72 hours, he said. Mr. Modi said a 40% reduction in time has been recorded on other routes as well, which has been hugely benefiting entrepreneurs, industrialists, and farmers.

The Prime Minister emphasised that the government aimed to produce green energy from every railway station soon. He also mentioned that LED lights had been installed in nearly 70,000 coaches and the number of bio-toilets in trains had increased 28 times from the 2014 figure. Mr. Modi underlined that all the Amrit stations would be built to the standards of green buildings. “By 2030, India will be a country whose railway network will run on net-zero emissions,” he added.

## PM launches renovation work of eight stations in Chennai division

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

Grand celebrations marked the foundation stone-laying ceremony for the redevelopment of eight railway stations in Chennai Division by Prime Minister Narendra

Modi through virtual mode as part of the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) on Sunday.

Chennai Divisional Railway Manager B. Vishwanath Eerya along with senior railway officials participated in the function

at eight stations of Chengalpattu junction, Perambur, Guduvanchery, Tiruvallur, Tiruttani, Gummidipoondi, Arakkonam and Jolarpettai junction.

The stations are being renovated at a cost of ₹136 crore under the ABSS.

## T.N. students must become important citizens of knowledge society: Murmu

Delivering the 165<sup>th</sup> convocation address of the University of Madras, the President appeals to the alumni to play a significant role in the varsity's growth as a global centre of excellence, and urges the university to reach out to the old students and seek their cooperation for its betterment

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

**P**resident Droupadi Murmu on Sunday said that by taking pride in the immensely rich cultural heritage that they have, the young students of Tamil Nadu should become important citizens of the global knowledge society of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Delivering the 165<sup>th</sup> convocation address of the University of Madras at the Vivekananda Auditorium at Anna University here, she said that Tamil Nadu had been a cradle of civilisation and culture and the rich tradition of Sangam literature was a precious heritage of India. "The great wisdom preserved in *Tirukkural* has been guiding all of us for centuries. The great Bhakti tradition of poetry started in Tamil Nadu and it was taken to the north by the wandering saints. The temple architecture of Tamil Nadu, the statues and sculptures are a tribute to human excellence," she said.

Noting that 50% of the 1,85,000 students at the



President Droupadi Murmu handing over the degree certificate to a student during the convocation of the University of Madras. CM M.K. Stalin, Governor R.N. Ravi and Minister K. Ponmudiyar are seen. ANI

university and its affiliated colleges and 70% of the 105 students who received medals were girls, Ms. Murmu said that the university was a shining example of gender equality. "By investing in the education of girls, we are investing in our nation's progress. Educated women can make greater contributions to economy, provide leadership in various sectors and leave a positive impact on society," she added.

She noted that some of her predecessors – Dr. S.

Radhakrishnan, Shri V.V. Giri, Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, Shri R. Venkataraman, Shri K.R. Narayanan and Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam – were the students of the university, besides the first and last Governor-General of free India Rajaji and two Nobel Laureates C.V. Raman and S. Chandrasekar.

Throughout its journey, the university has adhered to providing high standards of academics and an environment that fosters intellectual curiosity and critical thinking, she said,

appealing to the alumni to "play a significant role in its growth as a global centre of excellence and mentor young students". The university should also reach out to the alumni and seek their cooperation for the betterment of the institution, she added.

### Governor's speech

Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi, who peppered his speech with Tamil, urged graduating students to remember that they were products of the Madras Un-

iversity that had produced many great men and women of science, literature, philosophy and art. "You are fortunate to be graduating when our country is experiencing a comprehensive transformation. Unlike the previous years, India is not looked down on as a poor developing country. Today, the world looks at us to find solutions to problems and for leadership. Our country is the fastest growing economy in the world," he said.

### Pursue knowledge: CM

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin called upon students to continue their pursuit of knowledge even after they obtain degrees and get jobs. He quoted a couplet from *Tirukkural* to stress the point: "The more one reads, the better one's knowledge".

"Education is wealth that cannot be stolen. If you pursue science-oriented knowledge based on rationalism and subject anything to question, you will remain invincible," he added. He said that the university had made a permanent contribution not only

to South India, but the entire nation. There were 22 State-run universities in Tamil Nadu and the State had topped in higher education in India, he said.

"Of the 100 best educational institutions in the country, 18 are in Tamil Nadu and of the 100 best universities, 21 are in Tamil Nadu. The State houses 32 of the 100 best colleges in the country. Of the 100 top research institutions, 10 are here. The State has 35 of the 200 best engineering colleges and 11 management educational institutions. It has eight of the 100 best medical colleges and nine of the 40 best dental colleges," the Chief Minister said, attributing the achievement to the "seeds sown" by the Justice Party government 100 years ago.

He further said that while former Chief Minister Kamaraj nurtured school education, the DMK government led by Karunanidhi (in later years) extended the growth in higher education. Vice-Chancellor of the University S. Gowri welcomed the gathering. Minister K. Ponmudiyar participated.



## G-20 negotiators face climate change hurdle

Differences over a common language on climate change hold up talks on Leaders' Declaration; reference to Ukraine conflict is the main reason no G-20 ministerial meeting has issued a joint communique so far; negotiators are burning the midnight oil to resolve issues ahead of summit in Sept.

### NEWS ANALYSIS

**Suhasini Haldar**  
NEW DELHI

**A**fter months of wrangling over language on Ukraine, G-20 negotiators are now worried about reaching a consensus over climate change issues ahead of the leaders' summit in September.

The concerns have grown after two G-20 ministerial meetings on energy transitions, environment and climate in July ended without joint language on a number of key issues, including emissions targets, cutting down on fossil fuels, and climate finance. The differences carried into virtual Sherpa negotiations for a "zero-draft" or first draft of the Leaders' Declaration last week, said a number of sources.

The first meeting was the G-20 Energy Transition Working Group (ETWG) in Goa followed by the G-20 Environment and Climate

Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) held in Chennai last month.

As a result, the language of the Chairman's Summary and Outcome documents recorded a number of "non-agreed paragraphs" amongst G-20 members.

While the Russia-China combine still held out against the G-7 countries over the paragraphs pertaining to Ukraine, with China maintaining that no "geopolitical" issues should be included, the focus is now shifting to the divide between the G-7 or developed world and the developing world on issues pertaining to climate goals and climate finance, and particularly the references to "phasing out" fossil fuels, that many countries, including India and Saudi Arabia opposed fiercely, retaining the term "phasing down" instead.

**Impossible to reconcile**  
According to a source involved in the negotiations, G-20 officials pushed for a resolution for hours, dis-



The concerns have grown after two G-20 ministerial meetings in July ended without joint language on a number of key issues. AP

cussing the climate issues "well into the night and until 5 a.m. for two days" before the G-20 climate meeting, which was attended by a number of key players, including U.S. special envoy John Kerry. Eventually, when it seemed impossible to reconcile positions, Indian negotiators said they preferred to record all the areas of differences in the statement, so as to "preserve the option of forging resolutions during the leaders' summit" on September 9 and 10.

"If we issued a completely toothless document in the outcome document, then we can't bring those

points in later," said an official, pointing out that no country had formally objected to the Chairman's Summary of the discussions.

### Lack of funding

According to the statement issued by the Indian Chair at the end of the ECSWG, differences between members were recorded on global emissions targets of peaking by 2025, and a 60% reduction in emissions by 2035 (compared to 2019), which, developing countries, including India, did not commit to.

Another contentious issue was the lack of funding

promised by developed countries, including the U.S. and Australia, which had committed to providing \$100 billion per year, beginning 2020. As the Chairman's Summary recorded, G-20 members didn't even agree on what could be discussed.

"There exist divergent views among G-20 members on the mandate of the Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group to discuss energy issues in the light of the existence of a separate Energy Transition Working Group. There also exist divergent views on the issues of energy transitions and how to reflect them in this document," said paragraph 64 of the Chairman's Summary and Outcome document released in Chennai.

In addition, climate experts and activist groups are particularly disappointed that the meetings had "diluted ambition" that could derail negotiations ahead of the UN COP28 Climate Change conference to be held in Dubai in November as well.

"We expected a strong, coherent signal, but we did not get that," Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, said after the meeting in Chennai.

The 4th Sherpa meeting is now due in Manesar on the outskirts of Delhi on September 3-6, followed by a meeting of the Finance and Central Bank Deputies on September 5-6. The two groups that represent the "twin tracks" of the G-20 process will then hold joint meetings from September 6 onwards to try and forge a joint statement.

While differences over the reference to the Ukraine conflict have been the main reason no G-20 ministerial meeting thus far has issued a joint communique, the problems over common language on climate change will compound the challenge before negotiators, as India tries to avoid hosting the first G-20 Presidency that fails to issue a "Leaders' Declaration".

## 5% of birds in India are endemic, says Zoological Survey of India publication

Shiv Sahay Singh  
KOLKATA

A recent publication by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) points out that about 5% of the birds found in the country are endemic and not reported in other parts of the world. The publication, *75 Endemic Birds of India*, was recently released on the 108th foundation day of the ZSI.

India is home to 1,353 bird species, which represents approximately 12.4% of the global bird diversity. Of these, 78 (5%) are endemic to the country.

Amitava Majumder, one of the authors of the publication, said three of the 78 species have not been recorded in the past few decades.

They are the Manipur bush quail (*Perdica manipurensis*), listed as "endangered" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species with its last recorded sighting in 1907; the Himalayan quail (*Ophrysia superciliosa*), listed as "critically endan-



Malabar grey hornbill

gered" with its last recorded sighting in 1876; and the Jerdon's courser (*Rhinoptilus bitorquatus*), listed as "critically endangered" with its last confirmed sighting in 2009.

ZSI Director Dhriti Banerjee pointed out that the publication highlighted the importance of endemic bird species in the country.

"Since endemic species are restrictive in nature, it is important that their habitats are conserved so that they don't dwindle out. Ornithologists are aware of the facts related to endemic birds, but our effort has been so that common people, particularly students, are aware of these endemic

species found in restricted spaces," Ms. Banerjee said.

The ZSI Director, who is also one of the authors of the publication, pointed out that *75 Endemic Birds of India* came at a time when the country was celebrating 75 years of Independence with the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.

### Many in Western Ghats

The highest number of endemic species have been recorded in the Western Ghats, with 28 bird species.

Some of the species recorded in the country's bio-geographic hotspot are the Malabar grey hornbill (*Ocyrceros griseus*); Malabar parakeet (*Psittacula columboides*); Ashambu laughingthrush (*Montecincla meridionalis*); and the white-bellied sholakili (*Sholicola albiventris*).

Along with Ms. Majumder, Anindya Naskar, a research scholar of the ZSI, has compiled the publication which, along with photographs of the birds, offers vital insights on each species.



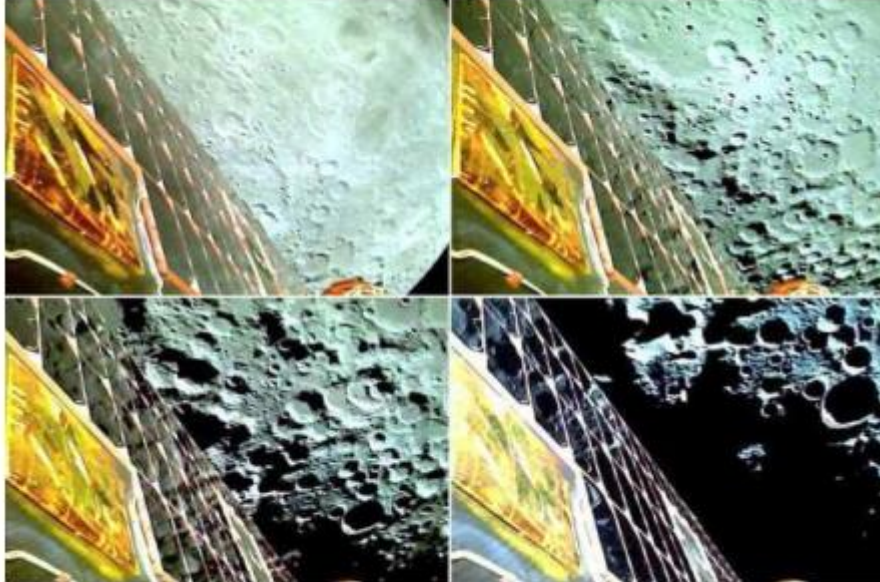
**EVA STALIN IAS ACADEMY - BEST IAS COACHING IN CHENNAI**

**12/24, Muthurangan Muthali St, West Tambaram, Chennai - 600045**

**<https://www.evastalinasacademy.in/>**

**Contact Number - +91-8678969915, +91-9940332851**

### ***Chandrayaan eyes the moon***



**Setting up a tryst:** A day after Chandrayaan-3 entered the lunar orbit and ahead of the the second major manoeuvre, the ISRO on Sunday released a video of the moon 'as viewed by Chandrayaan-3'. ANI

**EVA STALIN IAS ACADEMY - BEST IAS COACHING IN CHENNAI**

**12/24, Muthurangan Muthali St, West Tambaram, Chennai - 600045**

**<https://www.evastalinasacademy.in/>**

**Contact Number - +91-8678969915, +91-9940332851**