

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 9, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **A two-day traditional paddy festival organized by an organic farming group - began at Thiruthuraipoondi in Tiruvarur district on June 8**



- ✓ The festival aims to revive and promote traditional paddy breeds among farmers
- ✓ It being held after the demise of noted organic farmer Nel Jayaraman who played a crucial role in reviving many traditional paddy varieties
- ✓ More than 5,000 farmers from West Bengal, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and various districts of Tamil Nadu are participating
- ✓ Those who obtained seeds in previous editions of the paddy festival handed over to the organizers double the quantity of seeds after cultivating and harvesting them.
- ✓ A seed committee comprising the organizers from Create (Consumer, Research, Education, Action, Training and Empowerment) organic farming group verified the quality of seeds received
- ✓ A few farmers who were participating in the event for the first time were provided the seeds of traditional varieties such as Poonkar, Karuppu Kavani, Maapillai Samba, Kullakaar and Kaatuyanam free of cost
- ✓ Around 80 stalls have been established to display the 174 traditional paddy breeds revived through the farmers' group



- ✓ The organizers urged the government to set up a traditional paddy research centre in Jayaraman's name in Tiruvarur.
- ✓ Nel Jayaraman died fighting cancer in December last year

◆ **Tamil Nadu Agricultural University's sustainable and organic farming department - will set up the lab for testing pesticide residue on its Coimbatore campus in three months**

- ✓ Organic farmers will soon have access to the laboratory that exclusively tests produce for pesticide residue
- ✓ The lab will have equipment worth ₹1crore to check the presence of 26 known pesticides
- ✓ Produce can be tested for around ₹5,000.

◆ **Real-time monitoring of Chennai City using facial recognition cameras and other Smart City projects - will start by August 3, covering over 700 spots in the city**



- ✓ Work on the integrated command and control centre covering 12 agencies, has also started at the Ripon Buildings
- ✓ A pilot project for the installation of smart poles at Jeeva Park has started along with an Emergency call box installed in the park.
- ✓ At least 100 parks, such as the Natesan Park and Panagal Park, will get smart poles shortly
- ✓ Any resident who needs assistance from the Corporation, the police or any civic agency can press the button in the emergency call box of the smart poles and personnel at the control centre at the Ripon Buildings will be able to see the video of the resident and take action in real time
- ✓ The smart poles provide two-way communication between the user and the officials
- ✓ The smart poles will have several other components, including CCTV cameras, LED fittings, WiFi, environment sensor, rain gauge, flood sensor and public announcement system
- ✓ The smart poles have been designed to withstand a wind speed of 180 km per hour.
- ✓ For example, a woman can report a case of chain-snatching through the emergency call box from 100 locations and the police will be alerted to start tracking the criminal immediately
- ✓ Officials will be able to make public announcements from the Ripon Buildings.
- ✓ The system will even alert officials after identifying unusual activity in the neighbourhood.

◆ **Government Royapettah hospital – to commence the state’s first exclusive ‘pain’ relief centre for cancer patients from next week**



- ✓ It will be the first instance of a government hospital having the exclusive centre for cancer patients
- ✓ It will be set up with the assistance of National health mission, at a budget of Rs 15 lakhs
- ✓ Apart from Chennai, such centres will be set up at 12 places including Ariyalur, Karur, Pudukottai, Dharmapuri and Dindugul

STATES

◆ **The Kerala police - are partnering with Interpol and the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMC) to combat child porn**

- ✓ The association involves transfer and development of the latest artificial intelligence-powered cyber tools to crack down on a range of crimes.
- ✓ Interpol had provided the State police access to its latest cyber investigation tool, the Internet Crimes Against Children and Child Online Protective Services (ICACCOPS) programme
- ✓ The ICACCOPS helped the police track online searches for child abuse material to identify the IP addresses and track the physical location of those who upload or download or share child porn obsessively

NATIONAL

◆ **The Maldivian government - conferred on Prime Minister Narendra Modi ‘Order of the Distinguished Rule of Izzudeen’ (Nishan Izzudeen), its highest civilian award on June 8**



- ✓ The prestigious award was presented to Modi by President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih during a ceremony
- ✓ The honour is in recognition of the many services he has performed to “cement the longstanding, amicable ties between the two countries, and for the assistance Indian government continues to provide to the Maldives
- ✓ Among those who have been given the same honour in the past are Duke of Edinburgh, Earl Mount-baton (1972), President of South Korea Chun Doo Hwan

(1984), Commonwealth secretary general Shridath Ramphal (1989), Prince of Saudi Arabia Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud (2009) and President of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas (2013)

- ✓ Modi gifted a cricket bat signed by the Indian cricket team to Maldivian President Ibrahim Solih who wants his country to have a cricket team
- ✓ After the talks, Mr. Modi said the two countries have agreed to start a ferry service between Kochi and the Maldives.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the Maldives on June 8, his first state visit abroad since being re-elected to office, was marked by the signing of six key agreements
- ✓ The Memoranda of Understanding covered areas such as hydrography, health, passenger and cargo services by sea, capacity-building in customs and civil service training
- ✓ A technical agreement on sharing 'White Shipping Information' between the Indian Navy and the Maldives National Defence Force was also signed to facilitate exchange of prior information on the movement of commercial and non-military vessels.
- ✓ Among the highlights of the visit was the inauguration, as reported earlier, of a coastal surveillance radar system and also a training centre which India has built for the Maldivian defence forces for 'remote link' connectivity
- ✓ The two countries also agreed to further strengthen maritime cooperation and work together for peace and stability in the Indian Ocean
- ✓ India has signed the \$800-million Line of Credit Agreement in March 2019 for assisting Maldives in achieving sustainable social and economic development

◆ **Prime Minister Modi - will arrive in Colombo on June 9 for a brief four-hour visit**

- ✓ The visit sought to express a strong message of solidarity with Sri Lankans, less than two months after the Easter terror attacks that killed over 250 people, including 11 Indians
- ✓ He is the first foreign head of state to visit the island after the carnage

◆ **For the first time since it became law in 2005, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) - will have non-human beneficiaries — the rare golden langur (Trachypithecus geei) - in a reserve forest in western Assam's Bongaigaon district**

- ✓ On June 5, the district authorities launched a ₹27.24 lakh project under the MGNREGA to plant guava, mango, blackberry and other fruit trees to ensure the food for the resident golden langurs of the 17 sq.km. Kakoijana Reserve Forest
- ✓ This is the first time MGNREGA is being used with a focus on food for a primate species



- ✓ The project involves the planting of 10,575 saplings and seedlings of fruit-bearing trees
- ✓ Several golden langurs have died due to electrocution and in road accidents while looking for food beyond the reserve forests

◆ **The southwest monsoon - has set in over Kerala on June 8 after a delay of one week considering the normal onset date of June 1**

- ✓ The IMD (India Meteorological Department) announced the onset of monsoon considering the enhanced cloudiness, westerlies gaining strength and a persistent cyclonic circulation over Lakshadweep and neighbouring regions
- ✓ Orange alert has been sounded in Ernakulam and Malappuram districts of the state
- ✓ In April, the IMD said that the monsoonal June-September rainfall would be 96% of the Long Period Average (LPA), which is just shy of “below normal” rainfall
- ✓ The LPA of the season rainfall over the country as a whole for the period 1951-2000 is 89 cm
- ✓ The rains in June are likely to be impacted due to the El Nino phenomenon, although a weak one.
- ✓ According to data from the IMD, India received 99 millimetres (mm) rainfall between March and May — with 23% below the normal rainfall during this time of the year.
- ✓ It has been the lowest in the last five years, and second lowest in the last 65 years

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

◆ **India and Portugal - will cooperate in the setting up of a national maritime heritage museum at ancient Indian site of Lothal in Gujarat.**



- ✓ The Indian Navy will be a stakeholder in the project and the Portuguese Navy has agreed to assist with their experience of administering the maritime museum in Lisbon
- ✓ The Government of India has allocated a grant for building the maritime museum and the foundation stone for the project was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March.

- ✓ The project is being implemented by the Ministry of Shipping through its Sagarmala programme, with the involvement of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

AWARDS

◆ **Jimmy Carter, Ex-President of United States of America (USA) – to receive the inaugural George H. W. Bush Award for Statesmanship on June 12, 2019 in Atlanta, US**



- ✓ The award recognizes his contributions to relations between U.S. and China
- ✓ Jimmy Carter was former governor of Georgia (1971-1975) and later served as 39th president of United States from 1977-1981
- ✓ During his tenure, Joint Communiqué on Establishment of Diplomatic Relations was signed on 1 January 1979 which stated official beginning of Diplomatic relation between US and China and two countries would eventually open Embassies on 1 March 1979
- ✓ He also announced withdrawal of all U.S. military personnel from Taiwan and end to Sino-American Mutual Defense Treaty signed with China

SPORTS

◆ **23-year old Australian Ashleigh Barty – defeated 19-year old Czech Marketa Vondrousova 6-1, 6-3 to lift the French Open Tennis Crown on June 8 in Paris**



- ✓ With the win, Barty becomes the second Australian to win the French Open after Margaret Court, who won the last of five trophies in 1973
- ✓ Incidentally, the final was the youngest major final since Roland Garros, 2008 (Ana Ivanovic and Dinara Safina)
- ✓ When the new rankings come out on June 10, she will rise to No.2, the highest for an Aussie since 1976.
- ✓ Barty is currently ranked at eighth seed
- ✓ When Barty returned to the WTA Tour three years ago after enjoying a season of cricket, she was ranked No. 623.
- ✓ The 38th-ranked Vondrousova was playing in only her ninth major tournament and this was her first trip beyond the fourth round.

