



## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 9, 2021**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- **The Tamil Nadu Disaster Management Authority (TNDMA) - has launched a 24X7 helpline (a WhatsApp number) to allow the public to report the actual situation and problems in their locality during natural disasters.**
- ✓ Minister for revenue and disaster management K K S S R Ramachandran urged people to make use of the facility and help the authorities to take precautionary measures.
- ✓ According to TNDMA, public can send information and photographs to the number 94458 69848 to report and prevent any untoward incidents during natural calamities.
- ✓ The information furnished would be forwarded to the authorities concerned and further direction would be issued to take appropriate measures.
- ✓ Apart from this, the department has created a 'Citizen's Corner' in the web portal of TNDMA so that public can share timely information about calamities in their respective areas.
- ✓ The department's central control room has been manned by personnel attached to the national disaster response force, Tamil Nadu disaster response force, fire and rescue service, police and officials from the revenue department.
- ✓ The public can contact the control room at the toll free number, 1070.
- ✓ They can also use the TNSMART app and social media accounts of the TNDMA to share the related information.
  
- **Tamil Nadu government – fixes the prices of 15 essential medical items used in Covid-19 care, including hand sanitizers, masks, PPE kits and oximeters**
- ✓ The state government has brought them under the Tamil Nadu Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning Act, 1949
- ✓ Accordingly, 200ml of hand sanitizer cannot be sold beyond the maximum retail price (MRP) of ₹110

## TN MRP FIXED

Medical items	MRP
Hand sanitisers (200ml)	₹110
PPE Kits (per unit)	₹273
Oxygen mask (per unit)	₹54
Flow meter with humidifier	₹1520
Fingertip pulse oximeter	₹1500
N 95 mask (per unit)	₹ 22
Surgical Mask 2-ply (per piece)	₹3
Surgical Mask 3-ply (per piece)	₹4

- ✓ Similarly, the maximum price fixed for a N95 mask is ₹22 and fingertip pulse oximeters will be available for a maximum retail price of ₹1,500.
- ✓ One unit of sterile gloves and examination gloves should be sold only at ₹15 and ₹5.75, respectively.
- ✓ The notification drafted on June 4 declares that 15 specified medical items are essential articles that can be sold at specified MRP.
- **On June 8, the state education department – issued new admission guidelines for admission of students in Class XI**
- ✓ The government has allowed schools to conduct tests for allotting groups to students in Class XI if they receive more applications than the seats available.
- ✓ The test, consisting of 50 multiple-choice based questions (MCQs), shall be taken from relevant subjects in lower classes
- ✓ The state had cancelled Class X exams due to the pandemic.
- ✓ Since there was no quarterly or half-yearly exam held for Class X, the department has issued the new admission guidelines.
- ✓ If the school receives fewer applications than the available seats, it can allot the seats based on the interest of students.
- ✓ It allowed government and aided schools to increase 10% to 15% seats in each stream in Class XI if the applications are more than the available seats.
- ✓ The circular asked schools to commence online classes for Class XI in the third week of June by following the Covid-19 guidelines.
- ✓ It also asked the schools to start online classes and classes through Kalvi TV for Class XII students.

## NATIONAL

- **The government's revised vaccination programme - will retain priority categorisation for health workers, frontline workers, 45-plus people and those due for second doses followed by the 18-44 age group**

- ✓ Announced by PM Narendra Modi, the new policy will ensure that the centre will procure vaccines for eligible adults above 18, which is to be given at government facilities
- ✓ Further, the centre will facilitate supply and payment for vaccines procured by private hospitals through the National Health Authority's e-platform.
- ✓ The priority categorisation will apply to vaccines procured by the centre, but states may decide their own prioritisation factoring in supply schedules.

### **ONSITE REGISTRATION AT ALL CENTRES**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Covaxin dose to be capped at ₹1,410, Sputnik ₹1,145 and Covishield ₹780 in pvt hospitals</li> <li>&gt; Centre's allocation of free doses to states/UTs to be based on popn, disease burden &amp; progress of inoculation. <b>Wastage to affect allotment negatively</b></li> <li>&gt; Domestic vaccine makers can provide 25% of monthly produce directly to pvt hosps. <b>States, UTs to ensure small hosps get their share.</b> Those who can pay encouraged to take vax from pvt hospitals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Centre to provide advance info on doses to be supplied. <b>States must also allocate doses in advance</b> to districts &amp; vaccination centres &amp; <b>put this info in public domain</b></li> <li>&gt; Job prioritisation: Healthcare workers, frontline workers, 45+, people whose 2nd dose is due, 18+. <b>States may decide their own prioritisation</b> factoring in vaccine supply schedules.</li> <li>&gt; Apart from CoWin, all inoculation centres to also provide <b>onsite registration</b></li> </ul>
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- ✓ According to government, private hospitals can charge a maximum of ₹780 for a shot of Covishield, ₹1,410 for Covaxin and ₹1,145 for Sputnik V.
- ✓ The National Health Authority will ensure small and remote private hospitals get timely and equitable access to vaccines
- ✓ The formula for the Centre's allocation to states remains the same and is based on caseload, population and negative marks for wastage.
- ✓ Under the new policy, the government will make all efforts to provide a 15-day advance schedule of supplies.
- ✓ Importantly, all government and private vaccination centres will provide walk-in registration facility for individuals as well as groups of people.
- **The indigenously developed Covid-19 drug 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG) – has been priced at ₹990 per sachet**
- ✓ The drug was developed by scientists at the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), a DRDO laboratory, and is being commercialised by pharma major Dr Reddy's Laboratories.
- ✓ The pricing of 2-DG was announced by a top Dr Reddy's Labs executive at an interactive session organised by Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) on June 8

## **INTERNATIONAL**

- **The first human case of H10N3 bird flu - was reported in eastern province of Jiangsu in China recently**

- ✓ A 41-year-old man, a resident of the city of Zhenjiang, has been confirmed as the first human case of infection with a rare strain of avian influenza virus
  - ✓ No other cases of human infection with H10N3 have been reported globally
  - ✓ Many different strains of bird flu are present in China
  - ✓ However, there is no indication till now that H10N3 can spread easily in humans
  - ✓ H10N3 is low pathogenic, which means it causes relatively less severe disease in poultry and is unlikely to cause a large-scale outbreak
  - ✓ According to WHO, there is no indication of human-to-human transmission and the source of the patient's exposure to the H10N3 virus is not known
  - ✓ There have been no significant numbers of human infections with bird flu since the H7N9 strain killed around 300 people during 2016-2017.
- **New Zealand - has become the latest country to sign space agreement with NASA**
- ✓ New Zealand is the eleventh signatory to Artemis Accords
  - ✓ Artemis Accords is an international agreement which aims to ensure space cooperation and support NASA's plan to return humans to moon by 2024.
  - ✓ It also supports NASA's plan of launching historic human mission to Mars.
  - ✓ New Zealand is particularly interested in the sustainable use of minerals taken from the moon or elsewhere in space
  - ✓ Four years ago, California-based company Rocket Lab made history in New Zealand when it launched a test rocket into space from the remote Mahia Peninsula
  - ✓ Rocket Lab specializes in putting small satellites into orbit and launched its commercial launches in 2018
  - ✓ New Zealand space industry is worth 1.7 billion New Zealand dollars (\$1.2 billion) and space manufacturing generates about NZ\$250 million a year
  - ✓ The other signatories to the Artemis Accords are the U.S., Australia, Britain, Canada, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, South Korea, the United Arab Emirates, and Ukraine
  - ✓ The accord was signed in October 13, 2020 with the objective of expanding and deepening space exploration
- **Microsoft - has recently announced the launch of first "Asia Pacific Public Sector Cyber Security Executive Council".**
- ✓ The council aims to address cyber threats and share best practices across the participating countries.
  - ✓ It consists of 15 policy makers from government and state agencies, as well as technology and industry leaders from Brunei, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand
  - ✓ The council will be supported by cybersecurity professionals from Microsoft
  - ✓ It is set to meet virtually on a quarterly basis to maintain a continuous exchange of information on cyber threats and cybersecurity solutions.

- **The World Health Organisation (WHO) – has given approval for China’s Sinovac Covid-19 vaccine for global use**
- ✓ This is the second China-made Covid-19 vaccine jab to receive World Health Organization (WHO) emergency approval.
- ✓ The WHO recommended the use of vaccine developed by China’s Sinovac Biotech Ltd., for people aged 18 and older
- ✓ It has to be given as a two-dose schedule with a spacing of two to four weeks between shots
- ✓ In May 2021, Sinopharm Group's vaccine received nod for emergency use.
- ✓ Earlier, the WHO has cleared for emergency use the vaccines from Pfizer Inc. and partner BioNTech SE, AstraZeneca Plc, Johnson & Johnson and Moderna Inc.
- ✓ CoronaVac or Sinovac vaccine is an inactivated virus vaccine, that need not be kept in frozen condition
- ✓ It showed the lowest efficacy rate of just 50.7% as per the clinical trials done in Brazil.
- ✓ However, as per the real-time data, it was found to be 94% effective against symptomatic infection, 96% against hospitalization while 98% effective against death.
- ✓ The phase III clinical trial for this vaccine was carried in Chile, Brazil, Indonesia, Philippines, and Turkey.
- **Canada - has recommended “mixing and matching” of AstraZeneca, Pfizer and Moderna Covid-19 vaccines for specific situations**
- ✓ The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) had recommended it based on early research from UK & Spain.
- ✓ It recommended first shot of AstraZeneca vaccine can be given, followed by shots of Moderna or Pfizer.
- ✓ It means, Canadians who had a first dose of Moderna or Pfizer, they can now take any one of two shots as a second dose.
- ✓ This is so, because both the vaccines were prepared with similar mRNA technology.

## **ECONOMY**

- **On June 8, the World Bank - slashed India’s GDP growth estimate for the current fiscal year to 8.3% from its previous projection of 10.1%, citing the impact of the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.**
- ✓ Cases have reduced now and the unlock process is underway across cities.
- ✓ Accordingly, for India, GDP in fiscal year 2021-22 starting April 2021, is expected to expand 8.3%.
- ✓ Growth in FY 2022-23 is expected to slow to 7.5%, reflecting impacts of Covid-19.
- ✓ China is estimated to grow by 8.5% in 2021 and growth is projected to slow to 5.3% in 2022.

- ✓ The global economy is expected to expand 5.6% in 2021, the fastest post-recession pace in 80 years, largely based on strong growth from a few major economies.

## APPOINTMENTS

- **Former Uttar Pradesh chief secretary Anup Chandra Pandey - assumed charge as the second election commissioner on June 9**



- ✓ The three-member Election Commission (EC) is headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and Rajiv Kumar is the other election commissioner.
- ✓ Pandey was appointed as an election commissioner on June 8 after the retirement of former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora in April.
- ✓ Pandey, a 1984-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of UP cadre, has worked in various ministries and departments at the centre and state cadre of Uttar Pradesh
- ✓ Pandey had served in the Defence and Labour and Employment Ministries.
- ✓ He will demit office in February 2024 on attaining the age of 65.
- ✓ Pandey retired as the Uttar Pradesh chief secretary in August 2019.
- ✓ Prior to joining the EC, he served as a member of the National Green Tribunal Oversight Committee, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ He also served as industrial development commissioner of Uttar Pradesh
- ✓ The state organised the Kumbh Mela at Prayagraj and the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas successfully when he was the chief secretary in 2019
- ✓ Pandey has also authored a book titled 'Governance in Ancient India', which explores the evolution, nature, scope, functions and all related aspects of ancient Indian Civil Service from the Rig Veda period to 650 AD
- ✓ The EC will oversee upcoming crucial assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Punjab, Manipur and Uttarakhand in 2022.

## OBITUARY

- **Noted journalist, Tamil film dialogue writer and director, K Sornam – passed away on June 8 at the age of 88 following a brief illness**

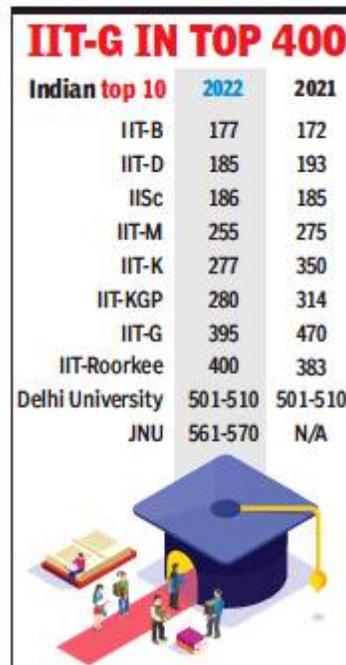


- ✓ Sornam was born in Thirukkuvalai village in Tiruvarur district, which was the hometown of M Karunanidhi, former chief minister.
- ✓ He rose beyond being a relative of Karunanidhi and established himself as a multifaceted personality.
- ✓ Sornam, whose name appears as Swarnam or Swornam in film credits, had written dialogues for 17 films of MGR including 'Nam Naadu' and 'Adimai Penn'.
- ✓ He had directed a few Tamil films including 'Ore Raththam', written by Karunanidhi and released in 1987, which featured chief minister M K Stalin as an actor.
- ✓ He was the editor-in-charge for the magazine Ilaya Suriyan and was in-charge of 'Pudhaiyal', a weekly supplement published in 'Murasoli' newspaper
- ✓ Sornam was honoured with the Kalaignar Award in 2005.
- ✓ Sornam went on to head the film institute in Chennai, besides being the secretary of Tamil Eyal Isai Nadaga Manram, a stateowned body.

## RANKINGS

- **The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore - has been ranked as the world's top research university, achieving a perfect score of 100 on 100 in the metric of citations per faculty (CPF)**
- ✓ IIT-Guwahati too emerged as a top research institution from India, being ranked 41st for CPF (which measures research impact) among the top 50 globally.
- ✓ The rankings analysed the distribution and performance of 14.7 million academic papers published between 2015 and 2019, and the 96 million citations received by those papers.
- ✓ This was revealed in the 18<sup>th</sup> edition of QS World University Rankings 2022, released on June 8 by the QS Quacquarelli Symonds, global higher education analysts.
- ✓ The rankings were done on 13,000 varsities, 145 more than in last year's edition, from across 197 locations this year.
- ✓ Indian universities have made consistent progress in QS's Academic Reputation (AR) metric with 20 of the 35 entrants having improved their scores.

- ✓ In the overall rankings, despite having fallen five places from 2021 rankings, IIT-Bombay is India's top ranked institution for the fourth consecutive year at the world university rankings



- ✓ In the 18th edition of the world's most-consulted international university rankings, three Indian universities find place among the global top 200.
- ✓ There are also record-breaking performances for three of India's IITs.
- ✓ IIT-Delhi has become India's second-best university, having risen from 193rd to 185th, overtaking IISc Bangalore, which ranks joint-186th.
- ✓ Among other top performers, IIT-Madras has risen 20 places, and now ranks joint-255th, which is its highest position since 2017.
- ✓ IITKharagpur also improved its performance and is ranked at 280th, while IIT Guwahati (joint-395th) enters the global top-400 for the first time ever.
- ✓ However, Indian institutions continue to struggle in institutional teaching capacity with 23 of India's 35 universities have suffered declines in QS's faculty/ student ratio indicator, with only six recording improvements.
- ✓ And no Indian university ranks among the top 250 for faculty/ student ratio.
- ✓ Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is ranked as the world's best university.
- ✓ Harvard University (5<sup>th</sup>) falls out of the top three – its lowest-ever rank - to be replaced by the University of Oxford (2<sup>nd</sup>, up from 5<sup>th</sup>) and the University of Cambridge (joint-3<sup>rd</sup>, shared with Stanford University).

<b>QS World University Rankings 2022: Global Top 20</b>			
<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	MIT	USA
<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	University of Oxford	UK
<b>3=</b>	<b>7</b>	University of Cambridge	UK

<b>3=</b>	2	Stanford University	USA
<b>5</b>	3	Harvard University	USA
<b>6</b>	4	California Institute of Technology	USA
<b>7</b>	8	Imperial College London	UK
<b>8=</b>	6	ETH Zurich	Switzerland
<b>8=</b>	10	UCL	UK
<b>10</b>	9	University of Chicago	USA
<b>11</b>	11	National University of Singapore	Singapore
<b>12</b>	13	Nanyang Technological University	Singapore
<b>13</b>	16	University of Pennsylvania	USA
<b>14=</b>	14	Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne	Switzerland
<b>14=</b>	17	Yale University	USA
<b>16</b>	20	University of Edinburgh	UK
<b>17</b>	15	Tsinghua University	Mainland China
<b>18</b>	23	Peking University	Mainland China
<b>19</b>	19	Columbia University	USA
<b>20</b>	12	Princeton University	USA

- ✓ National University of Singapore (11<sup>th</sup>) and Nanyang Technological University (12<sup>th</sup>) remain as the top universities of Asia

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **World Ocean Day - June 8**



- ✓ The day aims to raise awareness about the impact of economic activities and human actions on ocean with a pledge to preserve them
- ✓ Theme 2021 - 'The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods'
- ✓ The theme is especially relevant in the lead-up to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, which will run from 2021 to 2030.
- ✓ On June 8, 1992 at the Earth Summit of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), Oceans Institute of Canada proposed the idea for an International day for oceans.

- ✓ Following this, UN general assembly passed the resolution on December 5, 2008 to designate this day.
- ✓ Oceans support and promote life, covering over 70% of the planet and produce at least 50% of the planet's oxygen
- ✓ They also absorb about 30% of carbon dioxide produced by humans, mitigating the impacts of global warming.
- ✓ However, the human activities — like garbage disposal, oil leaks, sewage, etc. — have been impacting the oceans in a larger extent

