

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-JUNE 9, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin - inaugurated the Industry 4.0 technology centers in 22 government-run ITIs at an event held at Oragadam in Kancheepuram district on June 8.



- ✓ The inaugural function was attended by Tata Sons Group chairman N Chandrasekaran and other senior Tata group officials
- ✓ Ministers Udhayanidhi Stalin (youth welfare and sports development), Thangam Thennarasu (finance) and T R B Rajaa (industries) were present on the occasion.
- ✓ According to the CM, the initiative will enable the poor and rural students besides youth in the state to get training at low cost and become capable of meeting the expectations of the industries
- ✓ In last June, Tata Technologies had signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Tamil Nadu government to transform 71 government ITIs across the state into Tech Centres with modern infrastructure and training facilities to meet the industry 4.0 standards.

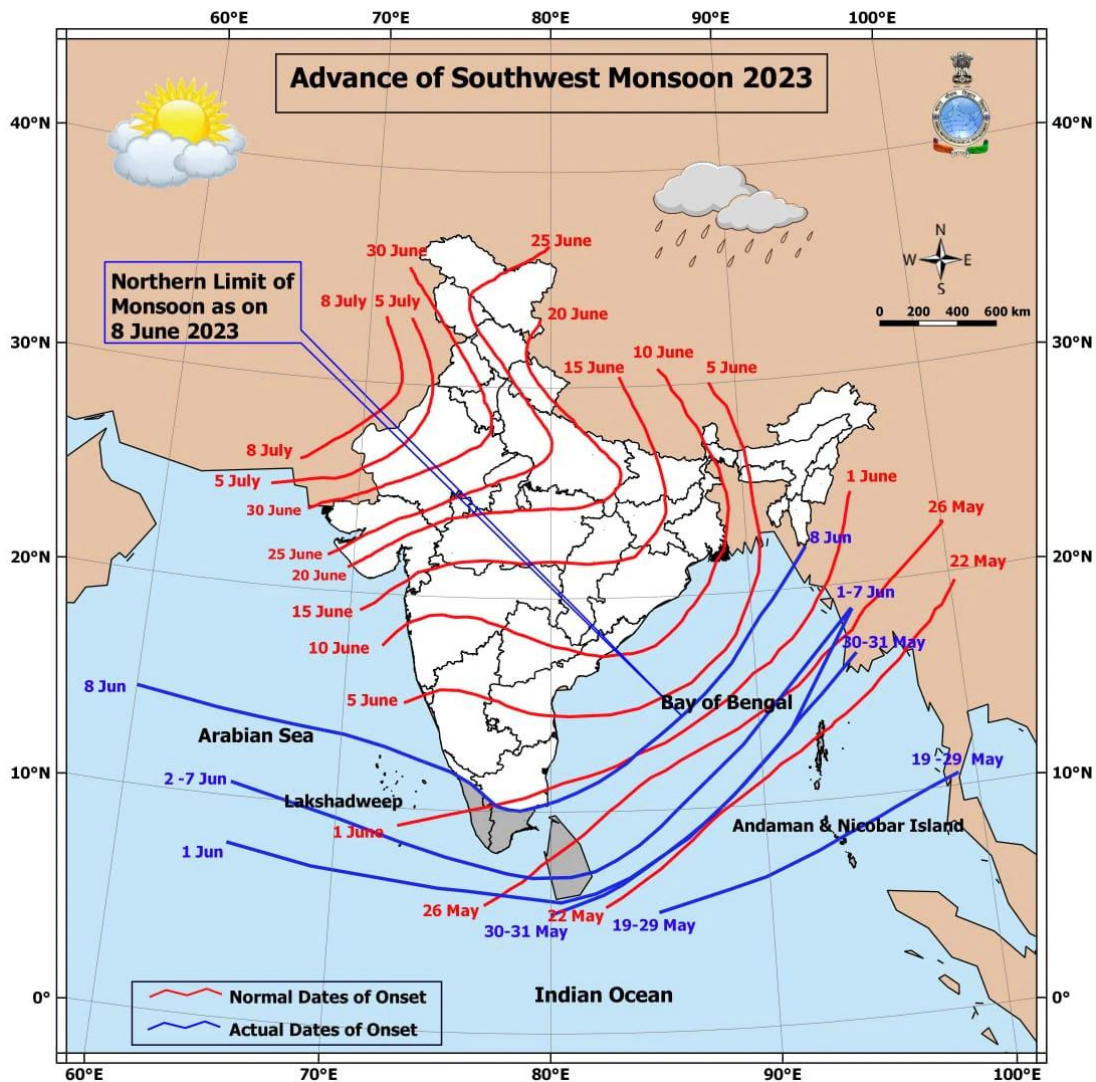
- ✓ It has been planned to upgrade the ITIs at a cost of Rs 2,877.43 crore and in the first phase 22 technology centres were upgraded at a cost of Rs 762.30 crore.
- ✓ Along with the technology transformation of the ITIs, Tata Technologies will also be providing industrial support for trainers' training and ensuring maintenance of the new set-up.
- ✓ Post upgradation, these technology centres will not only cater to the advanced skill requirements of students but also act as technology & industrial hubs for the MSMEs.
- ✓ These modern Industry 4.0 Tech Centres will facilitate upskilling through long-term courses such as manufacturing process control & automation, industrial robotics, mechanic electric vehicle, virtual verification, advanced manufacturing, etc.
- ✓ The centres will also offer short-term upskilling courses in areas of electric vehicle maintenance, robotics, automation, CAD/CAM, CNC machining, advanced plumbing, and additive manufacturing.

STATES

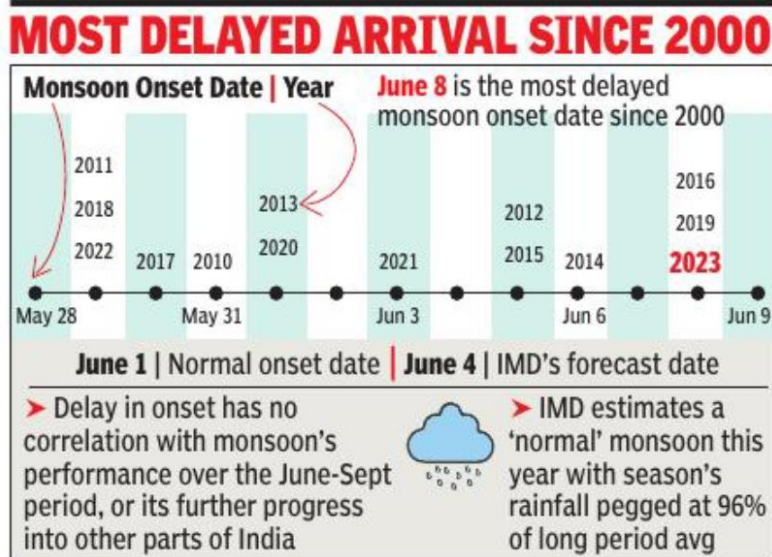
- **Kerala - has emerged as the top state, among the large ones, in maintaining high food safety standards**
- ✓ This is based on the latest State Food Safety Index (SFSI) that was released by health minister Mansukh Mandaviya on June 7.
- ✓ Among the larger states, Punjab and Tamil Nadu stood second and third, while Goa emerged as the leader among the smaller states
- ✓ Among the Union Territories, Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi and Chandigarh secured the first, second, and third ranks respectively.
- ✓ The SFSI evaluates the performance of states and UTs across six different aspects of food safety — human resources and institutional data, compliance, food testing infrastructure, surveillance, training and capacity building, and consumer empowerment.
- ✓ To ensure food quality standards across the country, the Union Health Minister announced that the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) will train 25 lakh food business operators in the next three years.

NATIONAL

- **India Meteorological Department (IMD) - has said that Southwest Monsoon has set in over Kerala on June 8.**
- ✓ According to the IMD, the conditions are favourable for further advance of Southwest monsoon into some more parts of central Arabian Sea, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and southwest, Central and northeast Bay of Bengal in the next 48 hours.



- ✓ The Met department announced the monsoon's onset after the rainfall and cloud formations met all the conditions including depth of westerly winds over southeast Arabian sea.



- ✓ Besides, there has been widespread rainfall over Kerala during the past 24 hours — yet another condition to be considered for announcement of the onset.
 - ✓ A delayed monsoon, however, has no correlation with the quantity and distribution of rainfall in the June-September season as well as the pace of its progress over the remaining parts of the country.
 - ✓ The IMD had on May 16 predicted the onset of monsoon over Kerala on June 4 with a model error of ± 4 days.
 - ✓ The IMD has already predicted “normal” monsoon this year, despite evolving El Nino conditions (unusual warming of surface waters in eastern Pacific Ocean), linked to weak monsoon rain.
 - ✓ The southwest monsoon normally sets in over Kerala on June 1 with a standard deviation of about seven days.
 - ✓ The southeast monsoon arrived in the southern state on May 29 last year, June 3 in 2021, June 1 in 2020, June 8 in 2019 and May 29 in 2018.
- **The Centre - has approved 30 new government and 20 private medical colleges besides adding nearly 2,000 seats in existing colleges.**
- ✓ With this, the number of MBBS seats in the country is set to cross the one lakh mark.
 - ✓ The newly approved medical colleges are spread across states, with 13 colleges for Telangana, followed by five each in Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan.
 - ✓ Four new medical colleges have been approved for Maharashtra and three each for Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
 - ✓ Two colleges each have been approved for West Bengal, Odisha, and Jammu & Kashmir and one each for UP, Madhya Pradesh and Nagaland
 - ✓ With these additions, the actual increase in MBBS seats in the country will be 8,195.
 - ✓ The total number of medical colleges in India has now reached 702 and the number of MBBS seats stands at 1,07,658
- **India's first all-women Haj flight - successfully took off from Kozhikode to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia on June 8.**



- ✓ This remarkable feat was achieved by an all-women crew of Air India Express (AIXL), India's first international budget airline.
 - ✓ The first flight out of Kerala was for pilgrims in the non-mahram category that enables women above 45 and travelling in a group to make the pilgrimage without any male family member escorting them
 - ✓ Air India's Flight IX 3025 carried a total of 145 women pilgrims who were embarking on their Haj pilgrimage, along with an all-female crew in the cockpit and cabin, and women handling ground operations.
 - ✓ Leading the crew was Capt. Kanika Mehra and First Officer Garima Passi piloted the aircraft throughout the flight.
 - ✓ John Barla, Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs, flagged off the flight.
 - ✓ India has the highest percent of female pilots in the world at 12.4%
 - ✓ As per Air India, women constitute over 40% of the airline's workforce, and 15% of the 1,825 pilots are women, making it the airline with the highest number of female pilots
 - ✓ Earlier, the airline made history with its first non-stop flight in 2021, when the longest non-stop flight by an Indian airline was flown by four women pilots from San Francisco to Bengaluru
 - ✓ The all-women cockpit crew consisted of Captain Zoya Agarwal, Captain Papagari Thanmai, Captain Shivani Manhas, and Captain Akansha Sonaware.
 - ✓ In 2020, Captain Zoya Agarwal volunteered to lead rescue operations during the Covid-19 pandemic and co-piloted the first rescue flight by Air India.
 - ✓ The captain also made history when she piloted the airline's first Boeing 777 aircraft over the Hindu Kush mountain range.
 - ✓ Captain Zoya Agarwal's accomplishments made her the first Indian woman to be accepted into the US Aviation Museum.
 - ✓ Agarwal is also the only living person to be honoured by the SFO Aviation Museum.
- **The Union home ministry - has approved a relief package of nearly Rs.102 crore for the people of Manipur displaced by the ethnic violence that broke out early last month.**
- ✓ During his Manipur visit last week, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had asked the Government of Manipur to send a request to MHA for relief package for displaced people.
 - ✓ Violence broke out in the northeastern state after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts on May 3 to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.
 - ✓ So far, nearly 100 people lost their lives and over 300 injured ever since the ethnic violence broke out over a month ago
 - ✓ A total of 896 arms, 11,763 ammunition and 200 bombs of different kinds have been recovered so far

- **Union Minister Jitendra Singh - inaugurated the two-day “Lavender Festival” in Jammu and Kashmir’s Bhaderwah Valley recently on June 4**



- ✓ The festival, organized by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), is part of their ‘One Week One Lab Campaign’.
- ✓ It showcases the progress made in lavender cultivation and its impact on the local community in the region.
- ✓ Bhaderwah region offers ideal conditions for lavender cultivation in terms of land and climate.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in the 99th edition of Mann ki Baat, appreciated the efforts of the CSIR-IIIM in supporting farmers in the cultivation of Lavender in Bhaderwah under the CSIR-Aroma Mission.
- ✓ The project is being directly monitored by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of the Ministry of Science and Technology
- ✓ The CSIR-aroma Mission has been instrumental in promoting lavender cultivation in the temperate regions of Jammu and Kashmir
- ✓ As part of the mission, the CSIR-IIIM has provided more than 30 lakh free lavender plants to farmers in different districts of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✓ The institute has also offered end-to-end technology packages for cultivation, processing, value addition, and marketing of lavender crops

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **India - recently conducted Asia's first demonstration of performance-based navigation for helicopters using GAGAN satellite technology for a flight from Juhu to Pune, as part of Project ‘Akash’**
- ✓ GAGAN (GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation) is an Indian Satellite-Based Augmentation System (SBAS) jointly developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Airports Authority of India (AAI)
 - ✓ It is the first such system developed for India and neighbouring countries in the equatorial region.

- ✓ It should be noted that there are only four Space-Based augmentation systems available in the world namely India (GAGAN), Europe (EGNOS), Japan (MSAS) and the US (WAAS).



- ✓ Performance-Based Navigation (PBN) is a modern navigation concept that enables precise and efficient aircraft operations
- ✓ GAGAN provides additional accuracy, availability, and integrity required to enable users to rely on GPS for all phases of flight within its service volume
- ✓ GAGAN also provides the capability for increased accuracy in position reporting, enabling more uniform and high-quality Air Traffic Management (ATM).

BUSINESS/ECONOMY

- **The government-backed open network for digital commerce (ONDC) - has launched business-to-business (B2B) transactions**
- ✓ The move is expected to benefit scores of small and medium establishments by giving them access to a wider market for their products.
- ✓ The B2B transactions on ONDC are being powered by tech startups SignCatch and Rapidor
- ✓ The start-ups have jointly enabled both the B2B buyer and seller side platforms on the network, allowing interoperability between buyers and sellers.
- ✓ The B2B launch is currently in the alpha mode.

APPOINTMENTS

- **The United Arab Emirates – took over the presidency of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) at the 77th executive council session held in Geneva from June 5 to 6.**
- ✓ Dr Abdulla Al Mandous, Director-General of the National Centre of Meteorology (NCM) in the UAE, has been elected as the new president of WMO for a four-year term from 2023 to 2027.
- ✓ He will succeed Gerhard Adrian of Germany.
- ✓ Mandous is Permanent Representative of UAE with WMO since 2008 and president of the Regional Association for Asia since 2017

- ✓ The United Arab Emirates will host the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) in December this year.



- ✓ Besides, Celeste Saulo of Argentina has been appointed as the first female Secretary-General of the UN Climate and weather agency
- ✓ Saulo is currently the first vice-president of WMO.
- ✓ She assumes office on January 1, 2024 and succeeds Petteri Taalas, who has completed his two-term mandate.
- ✓ Further, Daouda Konate (Ivory Coast) was elected first vice-president, Eoin Moran (Ireland) second vice-president, and Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra (India) third vice-president.

