

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 9, 2022

### TAMIL NADU

- **The Tamil Nadu government – has decided to return 8,373 acres of land to thousands of original owners from 11 villages in Ariyalur district**
  - ✓ The land was acquired in favour of the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited (TIDCO) for an integrated lignite mining-cum-power project in Ariyalur district's Udayarpalayam taluk
  - ✓ The government arrived at the decision as the project was found to be economically unviable after the landowners won a court case, seeking higher compensation for their land.
  - ✓ As per the latest Government Order, the original owners will not be required to return the compensation of Rs.35,000 per acre given by the State at the time of acquisition in 1997.
- **Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (StartupTN) - has launched S2G Buy Day to link entrepreneurs and the government, as part of the initiative to strengthen the startup ecosystem in the state.**
  - ✓ The S2G Buy Day will be a series of events focusing on two departments every month to enable niche startups sell their products and solutions.
  - ✓ Under the initiative, government departments and public sector undertakings will be allowed to directly procure innovative products and services valued up to Rs. 50 lakh from startups in Tamil Nadu.
  - ✓ Accordingly, government departments will put forward their requirements on focus areas for startups to sell their innovative products and solutions to the department.
  - ✓ The requirements of the department will be uploaded on the StartupTN official website and shared in public forums.
  - ✓ The S2G Buy Day is organised in line with the Tamil Nadu government's budget announcement for 2022-23
  - ✓ The first of the series is for the state department of social defence, which is looking to help 44,000 underprivileged children.

## STATES

- **The Chandigarh Administration and the Indian Air Force (IAF) - signed an MoU to set up the country's first Indian Air Force Heritage Centre in Chandigarh**



- ✓ The project is expected to be completed before this year's Independence Day
- ✓ The signing ceremony was attended by Punjab governor and Chandigarh administrator Banwarilal Purohit, Chandigarh Member of Parliament Kirron Kher, Member of Parliament, air chief marshal VR Chaudhari, and adviser to the administrator Dharam Pal.
- ✓ The chief of air staff also presented a model replica of a propeller of an IAF aircraft as the first artefact of the centre
- ✓ The museum will exhibit simulators, decommissioned aircraft, aero-engines, and other memorabilia
- ✓ Vintage aircraft such as the 1971-fame Gnat vintage aircraft, which shot many a Pakistani Sabre aircraft down, and an MiG 27 are expected to be displayed at the centre
- ✓ On August 27 last year, the UT Administration and the IAF had signed an Agreement in Principle (AIP) for setting up of the heritage centre in the presence of the then UT Administrator VP Singh Badnore and had started the work

## NATIONAL

- **On June 8, the government - cleared a 4-9% increase in minimum support price (MSP) for the 14 mandated Kharif crops for 2022-23 marketing season**
- ✓ Among the various crops, a steeper hike is proposed for oilseeds such as soybean, sesamum and sunflower seed, climate-resilient coarse grain jowar and pulses such as moong.
- ✓ The MSP for paddy (common grade) — the most popular water-guzzling Kharif crop — has been fixed at Rs 2,040 a quintal, which is a hike of only Rs 100 per quintal or 5% over the support price in previous marketing season.

## HIKE FOR ALL CROPS

New MSP of kharif crops in 2022-23

Crop	New MSP*	% hike over 2021-22
Soybean	4,300	₹350 (Absolute*) 8.8
Jowar	2,970	₹232 8.4
Sesamum	7,830	₹523 7.1
Moong	7,755	₹480 6.5
Sunflower Seed	6,400	₹385 6.4
Cotton	6,080	₹354 6.1
Ragi	3,578	₹201 5.9
Groundnut	5,850	₹300 5.4
Niger Seed	7,287	₹357 5.1
Paddy	2,040	₹100 5.1
Maize	1,962	₹92 4.9
Tur	6,600	₹300 4.7
Urad	6,600	₹300 4.7
Bajra	2,350	₹100 4.4

\*Rs per quintal; Paddy (Common); Jowar (Hybrid); Cotton (Medium Staple)

- ✓ Since MSP gives a signal to farmers on opting for particular crops, the announcement may encourage them to go for higher acreage of oilseeds.
- ✓ This year, India faces additional pressure on the oilseeds front as the Ukraine-Russia war has disrupted supply of sunflower oils, sending prices soaring globally.
- **The latest phase of flagship campaign of National Cadet Corps (NCC), Puneet Sagar Abhiyan – concluded on June 5, the World Environment Day.**
- ✓ About 74,000 cadets from 10 States and 4 Union Territories participated in the campaign that kicked off on May 30, 2020.
- ✓ The NCC cadets were also joined by NCC Alumni, locals and tourists in several places across the country.



- ✓ The waste collected during the campaign was disposed off in an environment friendly manner in cooperation with Government/Private agencies
- ✓ Puneet Sagar Abhiyan was launched by NCC to clean sea shores/beaches and other water bodies including rivers & lakes and to increase awareness amongst

the local population about importance of keeping the beaches and river fronts clean

- ✓ The exercise was aimed at removing the plastic and other waste material and to keep the water clean and safe from pollution.
- ✓ The campaign is being continued across the country since its launch in December 2021

## INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **On June 8, India and Vietnam - signed a “joint vision” document to “significantly enhance the scope and scale” of their bilateral defence ties by 2030**



- ✓ Further, both the countries have also finalised a reciprocal logistics support pact to allow their militaries to use each other's bases for repair and replenishment of supplies.
- ✓ This came after extensive talks between defence minister Rajnath Singh and his Vietnamese counterpart General Phan Van Giang at Hanoi
- ✓ The close defence and security cooperation between India and Vietnam is an important factor for stability in the Indo-Pacific region

## ECONOMY

- **On June 8, the RBI's six-member monetary policy committee (MPC) - voted unanimously to raise the policy repo rate by 50 basis points (half a percentage point) to take it to 4.9% in a bid to contain inflation.**
- ✓ The RBI's action will push up the cost of mortgages as more than 90% of bank home loans are linked to the repo rate
- ✓ The MPC noted that inflation is likely to remain elevated for the first three quarters of the current financial year and fixed the inflation for the year at 6.7% from the earlier prediction of 5.7%
- ✓ The real GDP growth rate for the year has been retained at 7.2%



- ✓ Consequently, the standing deposit facility (SDF) rate stands adjusted to 4.65% and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the bank rate to 5.15%
- ✓ On May 4, in an unscheduled announcement, the RBI had hiked the repo rate — the rate at which RBI lends to banks — by 40 bps and the CRR by 50 bps

## SPORTS

- **Indian women's cricket legend Mithali Raj - announced her retirement from all forms of international cricket on June 8**
- ✓ Mithali made her debut at the age of 16 for India in 1999 and played 12 Tests, 232 ODIs and 89 T20Is.
- ✓ Mithali set several records in her illustrious career and her aggregate of 10,868 international runs in 333 matches — ODIS, Tests and T20I — is the most scored by a player in women's cricket
- ✓ Mithali is the only Indian captain — man or woman — to have led the side in two 50-over World Cup finals (2005 and 2017)
- ✓ The 39-year-old scored 7,805 runs in ODIs and became the only female cricketer to score more than 7,000 run
- ✓ She is also the first player to score 7 consecutives 50s in ODIs and holds the record for scoring most half-centuries in women's ODIs
- ✓ During 2018 Women's Twenty20 Asia Cup, Mithali became the first player from India - among male or female - to score 2000 runs in T20Is.
- ✓ She is also the first woman cricketer to score 2000 runs in women's T20 internationals
- ✓ Mithali had earlier announced her retirement from T20 internationals in September 2019.
- ✓ She also holds the record of being first woman to complete 20 years in international cricket.
- ✓ Mithali captained India in the ICC Women's World Cup earlier this year in New Zealand, where India failed to qualify for the semifinals.

**RECORD BREAKER**

- > **7,805** runs from 232 ODIs, the **most in the format**
- > **10,868** runs in all formats— the **most in women's cricket**
- > Only Indian woman cricketer to score **Test double ton**
- > **89** wins out of 155 — the **most by any women's skipper** in ODIs



- ✓ She led India to the finals of two World Cups, 2005 and 2017, but could not win the coveted trophy
- ✓ The stylish batter scored 2,364 runs in 89 T20Is, the most by an Indian woman till date.
- ✓ Mithali also represented India in 12 Test matches, scoring 699 runs.
- ✓ She scored eight international centuries and 85 fifties.
- ✓ Her innings of 214 against England in 2002 remains the second-highest individual score by a batter in women's Test cricket.
- ✓ Mithali is a recipient of the Arjuna award, a Padma Shri awardee, and winner of the Khel Ratna in 2021.

## RANKINGS

- **The Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) - released the 19th edition of its university rankings on June 8**
- ✓ Globally, the Top 5 — MIT (11th consecutive year), Cambridge, Stanford, Oxford and Harvard (in descending order) — from last year remain unchanged barring swapping positions.
- ✓ Among Indian universities, five of the Top 10 are from the category of the Institution of Eminence (IoE) tag

India top 10	2023	Position in 2022	Change
IISc Bengaluru	155	186	31
IIT Bombay	172	177	5
IIT Delhi	174	185	11
IIT Madras	250	255	5
IIT Kanpur	264	277	13
IIT Kharagpur	270	280	10
IIT Roorkee	369	400	31
IIT Guwahati	384	395	11
IIT Indore	396	NA	NA
University of Delhi	521-530	501-520	-20

- ✓ While IIT-Bombay has risen five places, IIT-Delhi (India's third) has climbed 11 places.
- ✓ IISc-Bengaluru is now the fastest-rising South Asian university, after gaining 31 places in this year's rankings up from 186th position last year.
- ✓ It has also held its position as the world's top research university, ahead of (in the descending order of rank in research) Harvard, Princeton University, California Institute of Technology and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, among others.

- ✓ This year, three others — IITs in Guwahati (37th) and Roorkee (47th) and new entrant University of Madras (48th) — also made it to the elite list of global Top 50 research institutions.
- ✓ Among 41 Indian universities featured in the list, 12 improved their rankings, 12 remained stable, 10 saw a decline and seven were new entrants.
- ✓ In the latest rankings, IISc (155) raced ahead of IIT-Bombay (172) which was last year's India leader at 177.
- ✓ Top universities like Delhi University, University of Hyderabad, JNU, Jamia Millia Islamia, IIT-Bhubaneswar and Jadavpur University, among others have seen a decline in their rankings.
- ✓ Among other highlights, University of Calcutta holds the highest percentage of female students (63%).
- ✓ Amity University employs the highest percentage of female faculty (58%).
- ✓ In the QS's employer reputation metric, IIT-Bombay and IIT-Delhi are the only two national universities to feature among the world's Top 100 in this crucial metric, ranking 59th and 72nd respectively.
- ✓ This year's QS World University Rankings is the largest ever, with 1,418 institutions across 100 locations, up from 1,300 last year

## **INTERNATIONAL DAY**

### ➤ **World Oceans Day - June 8**



- ✓ The World Oceans Day is observed every year to highlight the role of oceans in sustaining life on Earth and to inspire action to conserve it.
- ✓ According to the United Nations (UN), oceans are the lungs of our planet and a major source of food and medicine, and a critical part of the biosphere
- ✓ Theme 2022 - 'Revitalisation: Collective Action for the Ocean'
- ✓ The idea to celebrate World Oceans Day was first proposed by the Oceans Institute of Canada at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992
- ✓ Later, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution on December 5, 2008, and designated June 8 as World Oceans Day.

- ✓ Since 2002, the World Ocean Network has been conducting ocean awareness events on June 8 with the help of sponsorship from UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.
- ✓ Apart from UNESCO, other agencies under the aegis of the UN such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and FAO also work to protect marine and coastal ecosystems.
- ✓ Oceans cover 71% of the Earth's surface while they hold 97% of the water found on our planet.
- ✓ Oceans also absorb nearly 30% of carbon dioxide produced by humans, which helps in mitigating global warming.

