

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-JUNE 13, 2022

NATIONAL

- **The Union government – has launched a common ‘Rashtriya Puruskar Portal’ to invite nominations for various civilian awards**
 - ✓ This common portal has been developed by the government to bring together all the awards of the various Ministries, Departments and agencies under one digital platform to ensure transparency and public partnership
 - ✓ Presently, nominations/recommendations for the following Awards are open in the common portal – Padma awards, Sardar Patel National Unity Award, Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award, Jeevan Raksha Padak series of Awards and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Telecom Skill Excellence Award

- **The ministry of environment, forest and climate change (MoEFCC) - has declared that setting up of zoos on forest land will be considered a forestry activity**
 - ✓ Consequently, the activity will not be penalised under the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act (FCA), 1980
 - ✓ The decision is expected to benefit the proposed project near Tadoba, Maharashtra, spread over 210 hectares and comprising a jungle safari, a transit treatment centre and a rescue centre.
 - ✓ Others like the cheetah project in Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh could gain too.
 - ✓ Earlier, as per a circular issued on November 13, 2007, activities required to be done in zoos as per the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) did not attract FCA provisions, provided these activities were necessary for ex situ conservation of wild animals, including upkeep.
 - ✓ On June 8, 2022, the MoEFCC has said that construction of zoos on forest land having diversified components, including a few public utility facilities, should be treated as forestry activity.

- **Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari – inaugurated the superstructure replacement of 6 km long Mahatma Gandhi Setu, which is done at a cost of Rs 1,742 crore**



- ✓ Mahatma Gandhi Setu is the lifeline of Bihar, which connects North Bihar with South Bihar.
- ✓ With this superstructure replacement project, the time taken to cross Mahatma Gandhi Setu has been reduced from 2 to 3 hours to 5 to 10 minutes.
- ✓ The four-lane Mahatma Gandhi Setu at Patna on the Ganga River was inaugurated in 1982 by the State Government of Bihar
- ✓ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has tried to rehabilitate this Bridge for the last 15 years unsuccessfully
- ✓ In June 2016, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the project to rehabilitate this Bridge in Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode.
- ✓ The new steel superstructure consisting of about 6,600 metric steel is being provided by replacing the existing distressed concrete superstructure.
- ✓ This is a new type of work being executed in India for the first time.
- ✓ The total length of the bridge is 5,750 metres and it is the third-longest river bridge in India.
- ✓ It remained the longest river bridge in India between 1982 to 2017.
- ✓ The bridge was constructed by Gammon India Limited in ten years.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **Iran - has started its first transfer of Russian goods to India, using a new trade corridor that transits the Islamic Republic.**
- ✓ The Russian cargo consists of two 40-foot containers of wood laminate sheets, weighing 41 tons, that departed St. Petersburg for the Caspian Sea port city of Astrakhan
- ✓ From Astrakhan, the cargo will cross the length of the Caspian to the northern Iranian port of Anzali and will be transferred by road to the southern port of Bandar Abbas on the Persian Gulf.

- ✓ From there it will be loaded onto a ship and sent to the Indian port of Nhava Sheva

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **A two-day conclave of all state chief secretaries – is to be held at Dharamsala in Himachal Pradesh**
- ✓ The conclave will focus on key issues of urban governance, education and agriculture, and ensure co-ordinated efforts of states
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the conclave scheduled on June 16-17.
- ✓ This is the first time such a conference is being held to discuss important issues in detail.

PERSONALITIES

- **On June 12, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II - overtook Thailand's King to become the world's second-longest reigning monarch in history, after France's Louis XIV.**



- ✓ UK celebrated the 96-year-old Queen's Platinum Jubilee to mark 70 years of reign with grand events.
- ✓ Now the Queen has overtaken Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who reigned for 70 years and 126 days between 1927 and 2016, to set another record.
- ✓ Louis XIV of France remains the longest-reigning monarch, with a 72-year and 110-day reign from 1643 until 1715.

DEFENCE

- **Indian Army – is participating in a multinational peacekeeping exercise “Ex Khaan Quest 2022” being held in Mongolia**



- ✓ The exercise features participation of military contingents from 16 countries, including India
 - ✓ Indian Army is represented by a contingent from the Ladakh Scouts
 - ✓ The 14-day exercise, which commenced on June 6, is aimed at enhancing interoperability, building military to military relationships, developing peace support operations and military readiness among participating nations.
 - ✓ The exercise will also enable sharing of best practices between the Armed Forces of participating nations and will include field training exercises, combat discussions, lectures and demonstration.
- **The funding limit for innovative defense projects under the Technology Development Fund (TDF) - was raised to Rs 50 crore per project, from the current limit of Rs 10 crore.**
- ✓ The TDF programme is executed by the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO)
 - ✓ It supports the local development of components, products, systems and technologies by micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and start-ups.
 - ✓ The program facilitates up to 90% of the total project cost and allows industry to work in consortium with another industry/university
 - ✓ There are four programs under which small defense companies can approach the Department of Defense to fund innovative projects - iDEX (Innovation for Defense Excellence); iDEX Prime; the TDF and Make II and Make III projects
 - ✓ iDEX is a smaller, military-run program that seeks innovative solutions for specific functional challenges encountered in the field with a limit of Rs 1.5 crore
 - ✓ The TDF aims to develop products not only for the army, but also for other strategic industries such as the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).
 - ✓ Till now, 56 projects have been sanctioned under the Technology Development Fund scheme.

ECONOMY

- **Chinese technology giant Tencent - has acquired a stake worth \$264 million in Walmart-backed Flipkart from its former co-founder Binny Bansal.**
- ✓ Tencent holds 0.7% stake in Singapore-incorporated Flipkart, following the transaction that was completed in October last year
 - ✓ Flipkart's valuation rose to \$37.6 billion in July last year, when the company raised \$3.6 billion in a funding round
 - ✓ The funding was led by several investors, including GIC, Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPP Investments), SoftBank Vision Fund 2 and Walmart.
 - ✓ Bengaluru-headquartered Flipkart is aiming for a valuation of \$60-70 billion for its IPO after having raised its earlier target of \$50 billion.

- ✓ When US retailer Walmart bought 77% stake in the company for \$16 billion in 2018, the company was valued at \$21-22 billion.
 - ✓ Bansal, who served as chairman and group CEO at Flipkart, had quit abruptly after Walmart's takeover following a probe, amid allegations of personal misconduct.
 - ✓ Post his tenure at Flipkart, Bansal, has backed early stage fund 021 Capital and invested in several startups in India, including electric mobility startup Ather and insuretech company Acko.
 - ✓ Unlike Binny Bansal who holds 1.8% in the company, Flipkart's other co-founder Sachin Bansal, sold his entire 5.5% stake in Flipkart for \$1 billion.
 - ✓ Tencent has already invested in several Indian startups such as Swiggy, Byju's and Udaan
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) – has doubled the limits for individual housing loans being extended by urban cooperative banks (UCBs) and rural cooperative banks (RCBs) to ensure credit flow to the housing sector**
- ✓ The limits for tier-I and tier-II UCBs have been revised from Rs 30 lakh to Rs 60 lakh and Rs 70 lakh to Rs 1.40 crore, respectively
 - ✓ The limits have been revised from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 50 lakh for RCBs with assessed net worth less than Rs 100 crore and for other RCBs, the limits would increase from Rs 30 lakh to Rs 75 lakh
 - ✓ The individual housing loan limits for UCBs and RCBs were last fixed in 2011 and 2009, respectively, and have now been revised taking into account the increase in house prices.
 - ✓ The RBI has also permitted RCBs to finance residential real estate projects to support affordable housing and inclusive growth.
 - ✓ Further, the RBI allowed UCBs to provide doorstep banking services to meet the needs of customers, especially senior citizens and differently abled persons.
 - ✓ This would bring UCBs on par with scheduled commercial banks which already provide such services.
 - ✓ The RBI has also decided to allow RCBs — state cooperative banks and district central banks — to extend finance to commercial real estate – residential housing within the existing aggregate housing finance limit of 5% of their total assets
- **Meta-owned WhatsApp - has recently announced a new initiative called 'SMBSaathi Utsav'**
- ✓ The initiative aims to support small businesses by helping them adopt digital mediums such as the WhatsApp Business App to run their business.
 - ✓ SMBSaathi Utsav has launched a pilot in Jaipur's Johri Bazaar and Bapu Bazaar where over 500 small businesses are being trained on various aspects of running their business online.

- ✓ Launched in collaboration with Josh Talks, the initiative aims to educate and help small businesses unlock the potential of their business through WhatsApp
- ✓ The SMBSaathi Utsav is the second phase of the SMBSaathi campaign.
- ✓ To help the businesses revive from the Covid-induced lockdowns, WhatsApp launched the SMBSaathi initiative earlier this year
- ✓ The initiative highlighted inspiring stories of business owners across India who pivoted to digital ways of doing business during the pandemic.
- ✓ India is home to approximately 6.3 Cr MSMEs accounting for 30% of the country's GDP and employing over 110 million people at present.

SPORTS

- **The first day of the e-auction - for the media rights of the Indian Premier League (IPL) concluded on June 12**
- ✓ During the ongoing auction for IPL media rights of 2023-2027 cycle, the TV and digital rights value touched Rs 43,000 crore



THE STORY SO FAR...

Bids for: IPL media rights for 2023-27 cycle.

Process of auction & agency: E-auction, being conducted by agency M-Junction

How's the bidding planned: E-auction for four separate buckets of rights: a) TV (India); b) Digital (India); c) Non-exclusive set of 18 matches for digital (India); d) Rest of the world.

Bidders: Viacom-led JV, Disney+Hotstar, Sony Pictures (Now Culver Max Entertainment), Zee Group, SuperSport, Times Internet, FunAsia.

Total no. of matches on sale: 74 for 2023-24, 84 for 2025-26, 94 for 2027.

Reserve prices (for 410 matches): Rs 36,400 crore.

DAY ONE ACTION: Viacom-led JV, Disney+Hotstar, Culver Max and Zee Group competed for Packages A & B.

Base prices for A (TV, India) & B (Digital, India): Rs 49 crore and Rs 33 crore respectively per match.

AUCTION RESULTS AS OF DAY ONE: TV India rights went from **Rs 49 crore to Rs 57 crore** per match; Digital India rights went from Rs 33 **crore to Rs 48 crore** per match. **Total revenues on Day One: Rs 43,050cr.**

WHAT TO EXPECT ON DAY TWO: The competition to bag **Packages A & B** will most likely continue throughout Day Two and is likely to take the price beyond **the Rs 50,000 crore mark.**

Packages C & D: These packages could possibly be brought out for e-auction on Day Three, unless Packages A & B get sold by late evening on Day Two.

Base prices for Packages C & D: Rs 16 crore and Rs 3 crore per match.

Timings of e-auction: Starts at 11 am

IPL VS OTHER LEAGUES

IPL 2018-22:

Total matches per season: 60 for first four years and 74 in 2022.

Media Rights value: \$2.55b

Per match value: \$7m

NFL 2014-2022

Total matches: 272 per season

Media rights value: US\$43b

Per match value: US\$17m

EPL 2019-22

Total matches per season: 380

Media rights value: US\$12b

Per match value: US\$11m

NBA

Total matches per season: 1230

Media rights value: US\$23b

Per match value: US\$2m

IPL 2023-27 (so far)

Total matches across five years: 410

Bids received on Day One: \$5.59b

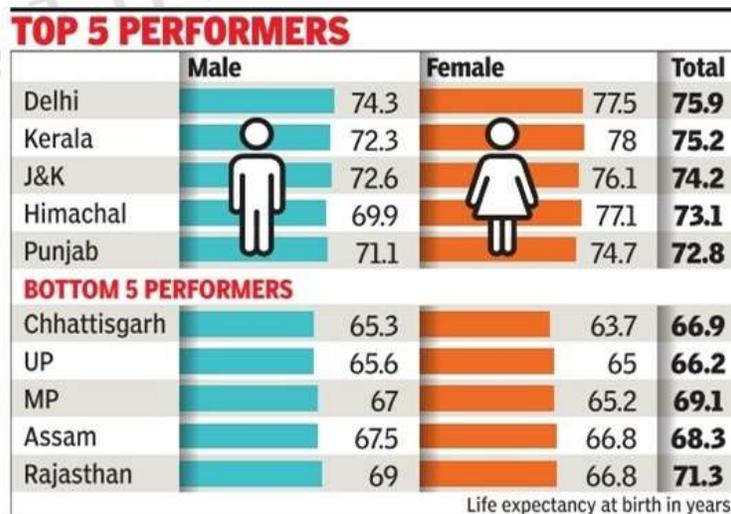
Per match value: \$13m

(Final figures will change after the auction is over) *Figures are approximate

- ✓ Last time, Star India bought rights for both TV and digital with a composite bid of Rs. 16,347.50 crore
- ✓ The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has set a reserve price of nearly Rs 33,000 crore for the current media rights cycle
- ✓ Disney-Star, Sony Pictures Networks India, and Viacom18 are competing for the TV rights for the Indian subcontinent for all games, which is the package A.
- ✓ For digital rights for the Indian subcontinent, which is package B, Zee was competing with Disney+ Hotstar and Jio, part of the Reliance-backed Viacom18 combine.
- ✓ Dream11, FanCode while Sky Sports (UK) and Supersport (South Africa) will be competing for overseas TV and digital rights
- ✓ On a per-match basis, the IPL is now just behind the US' National Football League (NFL) in terms of cost to a broadcaster at \$13.5 million (Rs 105 crore).
- ✓ The NFL has a per-match value of \$17 million (Rs 132.26 crore), while the Premier League (English football league) has a per-match value of \$11 million (Rs 85.58 crore).
- ✓ The bidding for TV and digital rights has not concluded yet and the final winners are expected to be announced on June 13.
- ✓ E-auction agency M-Junction is conducting the IPL media rights auction

LIFE EXPECTANCY IN INDIA – A REPORT

- **India's life expectancy at birth - went up to 69. 7 in the 2015-19 period, well below the estimated global average life expectancy of 72. 6 years.**
- ✓ This was revealed in the recent data from “abridged life tables” 2015-19 of the sample registration system (SRS)



- ✓ As per the report, the gap between life expectancy at birth and life expectancy at age one or age five is the biggest in states with the highest infant mortality (IMR) - Madhya Pradesh (38) and Uttar Pradesh (43)

- ✓ Madhya Pradesh has the highest IMR of 43 while Uttar Pradesh has the second highest IMR of 38
- ✓ India had added about 20 years to its life expectancy at birth from 49. 7 in 1970-75 to 69. 7 by 2015-19.
- ✓ Odisha has had the highest increase, of over 24 years, from 45. 7 to 69. 8 years followed by Tamil Nadu, where it increased from 49. 6 to 72. 6.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh had the second lowest life expectancy of 65. 6 in 2015-19, after Chhattisgarh with just 65. 3.

C'GARH HAS LOWEST LIFE EXPECTANCY

	Male	Female	Total (in %)
Delhi	74.3	77.5	75.9
Kerala	72.3	78	75.2
J&K	72.6	76.1	74.2
Himachal Pradesh	69.9	77.1	73.1
Punjab	71.1	74.7	72.8
Maharashtra	71.6	74	72.7
Tamil Nadu	70.6	74.9	72.6
West Bengal	71	73.2	72.1
Uttarakhand	67.6	73.9	70.6
Andhra Pradesh	68.9	71.8	70.3
Gujarat	67.9	72.8	70.2
Haryana	67.7	72.6	69.9
Odisha	68.5	71.1	69.8
Karnataka	67.9	71.3	69.5
Jharkhand	70.2	68.8	69.4
Bihar	69.6	68.8	69.2
Rajasthan	66.8	71.3	69
Assam	66.8	68.3	67.5
Madhya Pradesh	65.2	69.1	67
Uttar Pradesh	65	66.2	65.6
Chhattisgarh	63.7	66.9	65.3
India	68.4	71.1	69.7

Source: SRS abridged life tables 2015-19

- ✓ Within India, there are huge variations across states and between urban and rural areas.

- ✓ Urban women in Himachal Pradesh had the highest life expectancy at birth of 82.3 years while at the other end, rural men in Chhattisgarh had the lowest, just 62.8 years.
- ✓ Kerala is the only state where rural life expectancy was higher than urban life expectancy for both men and women, while in Uttarakhand that was the case among women.
- ✓ Bihar and Jharkhand remained the only states where male life expectancy was higher than for women in both urban and rural areas.
- ✓ In the neighbourhood, Bangladesh and Nepal, which had lower IMRs than India (24 compared to 28), now have higher life expectancy at birth of 72.1 and 70.5 respectively, according to the UN's Human Development Report, 2019.
- ✓ Japan has the highest life expectancy of 85.

