

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-JUNE 14, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- On June 13, Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin - launched 'Ennum, Ezhuthum Mission' at Azhinjivakkam panchayat union middle school in Tiruvallur district.



- ✓ It is a literacy and numeracy mission that seeks to make all children up to eight years read and write, do basic math without any mistakes.
- ✓ More than sixteen lakh students studying from classes I to III in government and government-aided schools will benefit with the mission
- ✓ Under the mission, the students will be taught reading and writing skills using innovative ways including dance, songs, storytelling and puppetry among others.
- ✓ After a baseline assessment, students in each class will be categorised into three levels Arumbu (first level), Mottu (second level) and Malar (third level) and given worksheets for Tamil, English and maths subjects.
- ✓ Students will learn from these workbooks in the first term in both Tamil and English medium.
- ✓ The mission aims to reduce the learning gaps that happened during the pandemic and also to increase the learning capabilities, creativity and self-confidence of students.

- **Professor Thalappil Pradeep from IIT, Madras - has won the 10th 'Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water' for developing affordable technology for rapid removal of arsenic from drinking water.**



- ✓ His innovative technologies are delivering clean water to more than 1.2 crore people.
- ✓ The prize carries a cash component of \$2,66,000, besides a gold medallion, a trophy, and a certificate.

STATES

- **On June 13, Bengal assembly - passed the West Bengal University Laws (Amendment) Bill 2022, removing the governor from the chancellorship of state universities and replacing him with chief minister Mamata Banerjee.**
- ✓ A total of 167 MLAs voted in favour of the bill and 55 against it.
- ✓ Earlier, the Bengal cabinet had unanimously passed a resolution on May 26 to make the CM the chancellor of the 31 state-run universities.
- ✓ While introducing the bill, state education minister Bratya Basu referred to the Punchhi Commission report
- ✓ The report recommended that the governor should not be burdened with positions and powers not envisaged under the Indian Constitution.
- ✓ Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu had passed similar bills much before Bengal

NATIONAL

- **The government - has decided to grant special remission to certain categories of prisoners as part of celebrations of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' to mark the 75th anniversary of India's Independence.**
- ✓ Jailed convicts who fulfil the conditions for release under the scheme will be set free on three dates — August 15, 2022; January 26, 2023; and August 15, 2023
- ✓ This was announced by the home ministry in a communication to all states and Union territories.
- ✓ As per MHA guidelines, prisoners eligible for grant of special remission include
 - ✓ women and transgender convicts aged 50 years and above;
 - ✓ male convicts aged 60 years and above;

- ✓ physically challenged with 70% disability and more, and
- ✓ youths who committed an offence between 18 and 21 years of age, with no other criminal involvement.
- ✓ However, all prisoners in these categories should have completed 50% of their total sentence period to be eligible for grant of release.
- ✓ Others eligible under this special remission scheme include
 - ✓ terminally ill convicts (duly certified by a medical board);
 - ✓ convicted prisoners who have completed two-thirds of their total sentence period; and
 - ✓ poor or indigent prisoners who have completed their sentence but remain in jail due to non-payment of fine imposed on them (by waiving the fine).
- **The All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) - has become the first accreditation body in the world to have its very own office space in the metaverse**



- ✓ The Information Data Systems Inc. (IDS) unveiled the outlook of the AICTE in the metaverse, which is a simulated digital environment that uses augmented reality (AR) or virtual reality (VR).
- ✓ Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Education and Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched Polyversity, a virtual university
 - ✓ The metaverse university has the simulated presence of various academic institutions, including the premises of AICTE
 - ✓ The virtual Avatar of the Polyversity has a shopping complex, sports complex, auditoriums and even classrooms where a student can attend lectures virtually.
- ✓ IDS has also launched another initiative called Bharat Blockchain Network which is the world's largest academic Blockchain network with over 100 universities and academic partners
- ✓ Further, AICTE launched a portal which would connect interested students with IT companies and start-ups to train them on technical education.

- ✓ The portal has also tied up with companies such as Microsoft, Amazon Web Services, IBM and so on, who would train interested candidates for topics such as blockchain, Artificial Intelligence etc.
 - ✓ The portal would reflect internship and apprenticeship opportunities offered by over 40,000 companies all across the country.
 - ✓ IDS is a multinational corporation headquartered in Michigan, providing services to Fortune 500 clients in various industries since 1996
 - ✓ IDS, a leader in enterprise blockchain technology, is a leading provider of training in emerging technologies such as Blockchain, AI/ML, Cyber Security, and cloud
- **The government - has notified the Green Open Access Rules 2022 recently to further accelerate India's renewable energy programmes.**
- ✓ These regulations are to encourage production, acquisition and use of green energy, including waste-to-energy plants
 - ✓ Green energy refers to the electrical energy generated from renewable sources of energy
 - ✓ The Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy Through Green Energy Open Access) Rules, 2022 aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and green energy for all
 - ✓ As per the notification, consumers can now request green power from discoms— power distribution firms.
 - ✓ Further, green open access is available to any customer, and the open-access transaction maximum for green energy has been dropped from 1 MW (megawatt) to 100 kW in order to allow small users to acquire renewable energy through open access.
 - ✓ If green energy is used to produce green hydrogen and green ammonia, there will be no cross-subsidy premium or additional surcharge
 - ✓ Consumers will receive certificates if they use green energy

INTERNATIONAL

- **Canada - has launched the 'Greenhouse Gas Offset Credit System' to tackle emissions, pollution and to promote clean, green economy**
- ✓ The system is part of Canada's 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan
 - ✓ It is a market-based incentive to undertake innovative projects that reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs) by preventing emissions and removing GHGs from the atmosphere.
 - ✓ The system will be applicable to projects undertaken by municipalities, foresters, farmers, Indigenous communities, and others
 - ✓ These projects can generate one tradeable 'offset credit' for every tonne of emissions they reduce or remove from the atmosphere
 - ✓ Once a credit is earned, it can be sold to others to help them meet their compliance obligations or emissions reduction goals under the system

- ✓ The reduction of greenhouse gases from waste, which is responsible for 7% of greenhouse gases in Canada, is a key component for achieving Canada's emissions reduction targets.

DEFENCE

- **The government - is all set to announce the details of 'Agnipath' scheme that seeks to recruit bulk of its soldiers only for four years**
- ✓ The move is aimed at reducing the increasing salary and pension bills of more than 14-lakh strong armed forces.
- ✓ The exact provisions of the Agnipath scheme, which was earlier called 'Tour of Duty', are likely to be announced with the Army, IAF and Navy chiefs in attendance on June 14.
- ✓ The Agnipath scheme will see around 45,000 youngsters in the age group of 17.5 to 21 being annually inducted into the armed forces for a four year duration
- ✓ The duration will include six months of basic training and the youngsters will be paid a monthly salary of Rs. 30,000-40,000 and allowances.
- ✓ They will be entitled to awards, medals and insurance cover like the regular cadre of soldiers, airmen and sailors.
- ✓ After four years, only 25% of the 'Agniveers' will be retained or re-enlisted in the regular cadre based on merit, willingness and medical fitness.
- ✓ They will then serve for a full term of another 15 years.
- ✓ The first four years, served under a contract, are not likely to be taken into consideration for the fixation of the final pensionary benefits.
- ✓ The other 75% Agniveers will be demobilised, with an exit or 'Seva Nidhi' package of Rs 11-12 lakh, partly funded by their monthly contributions, as well as skill certificates and bank loans for help in their second careers
- ✓ As per the government, the Agnipath scheme is aimed at reducing the salary component in the revenue expenditure along with the pension bill and consequently increase the funds for military modernisation
 - ✓ It has to be recollected that these two together account for roughly half of the annual defence budget of Rs 5.2 lakh crore
- ✓ The Agnipath recruitment will be on all-India, all-class enrolment without affecting the regimental system in the Army and without including officers

ECONOMY

- **The Indian rupee - hit a new record low and breached 78 mark against the dollar for the first time ever on June 13**
- ✓ A strengthening dollar and US treasury yields, elevated global crude oil prices and a sharp sell-off in equity markets, have kept the domestic currency under pressure
- ✓ On the other hand, India's benchmark 10-year bond yield was trading at 7.60% on June 13, highest since February 28, 2019.

- ✓ After touching the 77 per dollar mark in March, the Indian rupee is plunging to new lows as US inflation climbed to a whopping 8.6%, the biggest surge since December 1981.

SPORTS

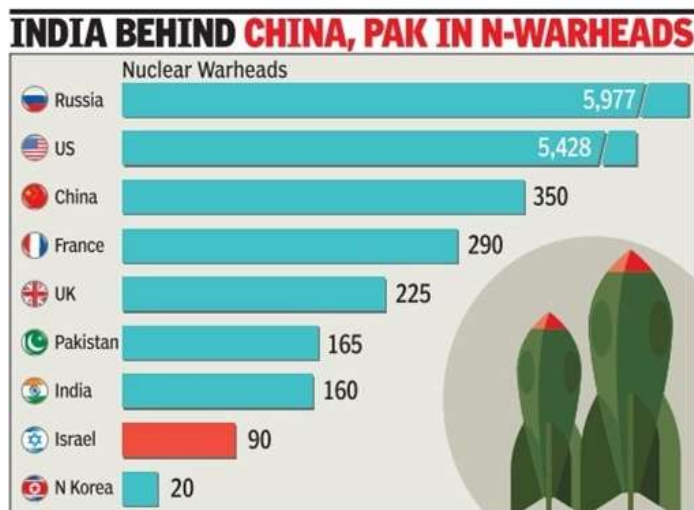
- The Board of Control from Cricket in India (BCCI) - is set to make in excess of Rs 45,000 crore from the sale of the broadcast rights for the 2023-2027 cycle.

<p>BID WINNERS TILL NOW</p> <p>Package 'A': Name not disclosed – Rs 23,575 crore at Rs 57.5 crore per game.</p> <p>Package 'B': Sources say Viacom – Rs 20,500 at Rs 48 crore per game.</p> <p>Total value for Packages A & B: Rs 107.5 crore.</p> <p>WHAT'S ON FOR TUESDAY</p> <p>Package 'C': 98 matches over five years in a cluster of 18 to 20</p>	<p>matches per season for non-exclusive rights at a base price of Rs 16 cr per game – bidding on at Rs 18.75 crore;</p> <p>Package D (Rest of the world): Viacom has bought Australia and Europe territories while bidding is one for US and middle-east.</p> <p>Total number of matches on sale: 74 for 2023 and 24, 84 for 205 and 26, 94 for 2027.</p> <p>Reserve prices (for 410 matches): Rs 36,400 crore.</p> <p>What the bids are for: IPL media</p>	<p>rights for 2023-27 cycle.</p> <p>Process of auction and agency: E-auction, being conducted by agency M-Junction</p> <p>How the bidding is 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.</p> <p>Who the bidders are: Viacom-led JV, Disney+Hotstar, Sony Pictures (Now Culver Max Entertainment), Zee Group, SuperSport, Times Internet, FunAsia.</p>
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- ✓ On the second day of e-auction, Star India is said to have retained the television rights for the Indian subcontinent (Package A) while Viacom18 bagged the digital rights (Package B), for an unprecedented figure in the Indian sports broadcasting history.
- ✓ Disney Star won Package A for Rs 23,575 crore while Viacom18 bagged the digital rights with a whopping bid of Rs 20,500 crore
- ✓ Interestingly, the reserve price for both these categories was Rs. 49 crore and Rs. 33 crore, respectively
- ✓ The BCCI will make Rs 44,075 crore for 410 matches between 2023 and 2027, from only the sale of the Indian subcontinent TV and digital rights
- ✓ The cost per match has risen to Rs 107.5 crore, nearly twice the amount paid in the previous cycle.
- ✓ Notably, Star India had paid Rs 16,347.5 crore for a composite bid for TV and digital rights in 2017 for the 2018-22 cycle at 60 matches per year
- ✓ The bidding for Package C, a special package of non-exclusive matches that include opening game, final, three play-offs and a few weekend double headers (18 per season), and Package D (overseas TV and digital) will continue on June 14
- ✓ Earlier, Global retail giants Amazon had earlier pulled out of the Indian Premier League media rights auction race

RANKINGS

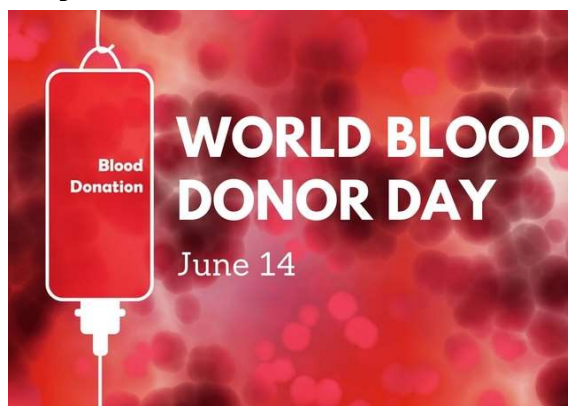
- The US and Russia - together account for 90% of all nuclear weapons around the globe, as per the latest Stockholm International Peace Institute (Sipri) report released on June 13



- ✓ A total of nine nuclear-armed countries together possess an estimated 12,705 nuclear warheads, says the report
- ✓ Of these, about 9440 were in military stockpiles for potential use
- ✓ The nine nuclear-armed states are the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea)

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- World Blood Donor Day – June 14



- ✓ The Blood Donor Day is celebrated every year to raise awareness about the need for blood donation and to thank voluntary blood donors for their life-saving noble act
- ✓ The day aims to promote regular blood donations and to support blood donor organizations and other non-governmental organizations for their campaigns.

- ✓ The host nation for World Blood Donor Day 2022 is Mexico
- ✓ Theme 2022 - "Donating blood is an act of solidarity. Join the effort and save lives"
- ✓ World Blood Donor Day was founded in 2004 by the World Health Organization (WHO)
- ✓ Then, it was formally established by WHO and its 192 member states during the 58th World Health Assembly in May 2005
- ✓ The first World Blood Donor Day was organised by WHO in collaboration with Red Cross on June 14, 2005
- ✓ This day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Karl Landsteiner, who was born on June 14, 1868.
- ✓ Landsteiner was awarded the Nobel Prize in the year 1930 for distinguishing human blood into A, B, AB and O groups.

