

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-JUNE 15, 2022

### TAMIL NADU

- The country's first private train under the Bharat Gaurav scheme – was flagged off from Coimbatore North railway station in Tamil Nadu for a journey to Sainagar Shirdi in Maharashtra on June 14



- ✓ The train will depart from Coimbatore North on Tuesdays and arrive at Shirdi's Sai Nagar on Thursdays
- ✓ After a day break, the train will resume its journey from Sai Nagar on Friday and arrive in Coimbatore North on Saturday
- ✓ With this, the Southern Railway became the first zone in Indian Railways to get the first registered service provider under the 'Bharat Gaurav' scheme
- ✓ Coimbatore-based South Star Rail, which is a part of the conglomerate group - Future Gaming & Hotel Services Pvt Ltd., is the registered service provider that operates the train.
- ✓ The company has paid Rs 1 crore as a security deposit to Southern Railway for the rake with a composition of 20 coaches.
- ✓ Under the 'Bharat Gaurav' scheme, the service providers will offer an all-inclusive package to tourists, including rail travel, hotel accommodation, sightseeing arrangement, visit to historical or heritage sites, and tour guides.

- ✓ Before reaching Shirdi, the train will stop at Tirupur, Erode, Salem Jolarpet, Bangaluru Yelahanka, Dharmavara, Mantralayam Road, and Wadi
- ✓ The ticket also provides an exclusive VIP 'darshan' at Shirdi's Sai Baba Temple
- ✓ Apart from this train, the railways has also planned to operate another tourist circuit train under the Bharat Gaurav scheme soon
  - ✓ This train will take passengers across pilgrimage sites dedicated to Lord Ram across the country in a Sri Ramayana circuit identified under the Swadesh Darshan scheme.
  - ✓ The train will stop at the Ram Janaki temple in Janakpur, Nepal as well.
  - ✓ In this train, two of the coaches will have on-board facility for practicing yoga
  - ✓ The train will depart from Delhi's Safdarjung Station on International Yoga Day on June 21
  - ✓ This will also be the first tourist train to cross international borders and travel to neighbouring Nepal.
  - ✓ It will also be the first such train for tourists with all third AC coaches.
  - ✓ The train will take 18 days to complete its journey and will cover eight states and 12 cities across the country.
- ✓ Indian Railways launched the operation of the theme-based Bharat Gaurav train in November 2021.
- ✓ The objective of this theme is to showcase India's rich cultural heritage and magnificent historical places to the people of India and the world through Bharat Gaurav trains
- **Tata Technologies - has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Tamil Nadu government for the upgradation of overall facilities in government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) across the state**



- ✓ The agreement, valid for five years, seeks to transform 71 ITIs into technology centers with modern infrastructure and training facilities to meet the industry 4.0 standards

- ✓ The total proposed investment under this project would be approximately Rs. 2,204 crore
  - ✓ Tata Technologies is collaborating with the state government and 20 global industry partners to implement this project
  - ✓ As per the agreement, the global engineering and product development digital services firm, Tata Technologies, will develop an Industry 4.0-course curriculum, conduct training programs, and provide equipment and software support at the new centres
  - ✓ Further, the company will also be providing industrial support for trainers' training and ensuring maintenance of the new set-up.
  - ✓ Post upgradation, these technology centers will cater to the advanced skill requirements of students and act as technology & industrial hubs for the MSMEs.
  - ✓ These centers will facilitate skill training in machinery, equipment, tools, hardware, software, and services to be rendered for establishing long-term trades
  - ✓ The areas likely to be covered in training include manufacturing process control & automation, industrial robotics & digital manufacturing, mechanic electrical vehicle, basics design, and virtual verification, and advanced manufacturing.
  - ✓ Apart from long-term courses, short-term skill training will also be provided in areas such as electric vehicle maintenance, robotics, automation, CAD/CAM, CNC machining, advanced plumbing, and additive manufacturing.
  - ✓ The objective of the tie-up is to bridge the gap between academia and industry by establishing modern technology centers to facilitate innovations and skill development of students and industry professionals
- **On June 14, the Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (TANSIM) - conducted its first edition of the 'S2G (Startup to Government) Buy Day' with the officials of Department of Social Defence**
- ✓ The initiative links government departments with startups in their areas to help the respective departments to buy innovative products and solutions from startups
  - ✓ The scheme was first announced during the state finance budget in March
  - ✓ The budget proposed a ceiling limit of Rs 50 lakh to buy from startups without a tendering process.
  - ✓ A total of 133 startups have registered 'online' to pitch their solutions to the officials of the state department of Social Defence
  - ✓ Out of this, 25 startups were chosen to showcase their projects to a panel headed by director of social defence S Valarmathi IAS.
  - ✓ These startups are chosen from the various fields like education, mental health, career guidance and skilling for job opportunities
  - ✓ One product that attracted the visitors and the officials was 'ASUDE'- a board game that the inventor U Abdul Rahman claims is the World's first social thinking game.
  - ✓ The game was played by officials like DGP Sylendra Babu, recently, and he had recommended the game for all policemen to play.

- ✓ The game is based on the movement of man and animal during the migration season in search of trees and a drop of water
- ✓ The next 'Buy day' is scheduled for the 30th of this month.
- **On June 14, school education minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi – said that the Illam Thedi Kalvi initiative will be extended for another six months**
- ✓ However, the minister indicated that the initiative may be stopped in a phased manner.
- ✓ The Minister said that the scheme will continue till schools function normally
- ✓ According to the Minister, though schools for classes 1 to 10 reopened on June 13 following summer break, there is still a need for Illam Thedi Kalvi scheme at ground level.
- ✓ 'Illam Thedi Kalvi' (Education at doorsteps) is a scheme announced by the DMK government under Chief Minister M K Stalin to address the learning gap that has evolved due to the closure of schools during the pandemic
- ✓ Volunteers were recruited to take classes to children for two hours a day.

## NATIONAL

- **The government - has decided to recruit 10 lakh people in different central government departments and ministries in 'mission mode' by December 2023**



- ✓ This is the biggest recruitment drive by the Centre in recent decades
- ✓ Nearly 70% of recruitments will be done by the home ministry for filling vacancies in paramilitary and police forces; railway ministry for technical and non-technical staff; education and health ministries for faculty and non-faculty staff; postal department; and the defence ministry
- ✓ Individual ministries and departments will soon come up with the number of vacancies to be filled.



- ✓ The railway ministry has started the process to recruit 1.48 lakh permanent employees in the next year and there are nearly 2.98 lakh vacancies across the railway zones.
- ✓ The scheme was conceptualised by the PM in a marathon meeting with secretaries of central ministries on April 2.
- **On June 14, the government - announced the 'Agnipath' scheme to recruit all new soldiers only for four years**

**AGNIPATH: 46K TO BE SIGNED UP WITH SALARY OF ₹30K-₹40K**

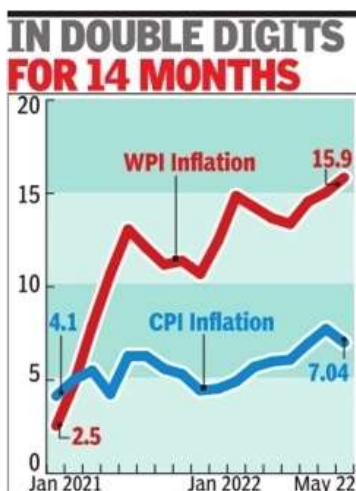
| THE SCHEME   | STATED AIMS  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All recruitment in Army, Navy &amp; IAF (except officers) to be under the pan-country 'Agnipath' scheme</li> <li>➤ <b>46,000 youth</b> (17.5 to 21 age group) to be recruited this year</li> <li>➤ <b>4-year tenure</b> will include 6-month basic training (instead of existing 9 to 11 months)</li> <li>➤ After 4 years, <b>25% Agniveers will be selected</b> for regular cadre for a full term of another 15 years</li> <li>➤ 75% Agniveers will be demobilized with 'Seva Nidhi' exit package of <b>₹11.71 lakh</b> &amp; skill certificates. <b>No pension or gratuity</b></li> <li>➤ Scheme to be progressively be opened for women based on service requirements</li> </ul> |  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Slash ballooning salary &amp; pension bills</li> <li>➤ Reduce average age from existing 32 to 24-26 in 6-7 years</li> <li>➤ Induct tech-savvy youth for future warfare</li> <li>➤ Ensure nation-building through disciplined youth with military ethos in civil society</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>CRITICISM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ No pilot project to test the scheme</li> <li>➤ Will dilute professionalism, military ethos &amp; fighting spirit</li> <li>➤ Takes 7-8 years to become a fully trained combat-ready soldier</li> <li>➤ Agniveers will be risk-averse, with the bulk looking for a second career</li> <li>➤ Will hit the basic ethos of 'Naam, Namak and Nishaan' (reputation of battalion, fidelity &amp; ensign/colours) for which soldiers fight</li> <li>➤ Lead to militarization of society with around 35,000 combat-trained youth being rendered jobless every year</li> </ul>   |  |

- ✓ The recruitment of 46,000 soldiers, sailors and airmen will begin on an "all-India, all-class" basis within 90 days.
- ✓ The 'Agniveers' will get a monthly salary of Rs.30,000 to Rs.40,000 and 75% of them would be demobilised after four years with an exit package of ₹11.7 lakh.
- ✓ The remaining 25% will be inducted into the regular cadres of the armed forces to serve another 15 years.
- ✓ The Agnipath scheme will also be "progressively opened" for women based on service requirements.

## ECONOMY

- **The Wholesale price inflation - soared to a record high in May due to raising food and fuel prices**
- ✓ As per the data released by the department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) on June 14, inflation, as measured by the wholesale price index (WPI), rose an annual 15.9% in May

- ✓ This is higher than the 15.1% reported in April and above the 13.1% recorded in May 2021.



- ✓ This is the highest inflation in the new series (2011-12) and the highest since the 16% in September 1999.
  - ✓ WPI has been in double digits for 14 consecutive months, highlighting the increasing prices.
  - ✓ The high rate of inflation in May 2022 is primarily due to rise in prices of mineral oils, crude petroleum and natural gas, food articles, basic metals, non-food articles, chemicals and chemical products and food products as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year
  - ✓ The recent data showed food inflation at 10.9%, the highest since the 11.2% recorded in December 2019.
  - ✓ There was a sharp rise in inflation of vegetables (56.4%), potatoes (24.8%), fuel and power (40.6%), and manufactured products (10.1%).
- **French energy major Total Energies - will acquire a 25% stake in Adani New Industries (ANIL), the new energy venture of the Ahmedabad-based group.**

### To Be Largest Integrated Co In Sector

- Adani New Industries (ANIL) will develop green hydrogen production capacity of **1 million tonne per annum** before 2030 in initial phase
- Total has **37.4%** stake in Adani Gas and **50%** in the Dhamra LNG project. The French co also has a **20%** stake in Adani Green Energy
- ANIL aims to be **largest fully integrated green hydrogen player in world**, with presence across entire value chain

“Strategic value of Adani-TotalEnergies relationship is immense at both business level and ambition level

— GAUTAM ADANI,  
ADANI GROUP CHAIRMAN



The new partnership, centred on green hydrogen, is expected to transform the energy landscape both in India and globally — PATRICK POUYANNÉ, TOTAL CEO



- ✓ ANIL is planning to invest \$50 billion over 10 years to create the world's largest green hydrogen ecosystem.
- ✓ In the initial phase, ANIL will develop green hydrogen production capacity of 1 million tonne per annum before 2030.
- ✓ Addressing the JP Morgan India Investor Summit in September '21, Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani had first outlined his green hydrogen plan with an investment of \$20 billion and a target of producing the world's "cheapest green electron".
- ✓ Total and Adani began their association in 2018 when the French major acquired stakes in Adani Gas, city gas distribution, associated LNG terminal, and gas marketing businesses.
- ✓ Total has 37.4% in Adani Gas and 50% in the Dhamra LNG project.
- ✓ It also has a 20% stake in Adani Green Energy, the group's renewable energy arm.
- ✓ ANIL aims to be the largest fully integrated green hydrogen player in the world, with presence across the entire value chain.

## APPOINTMENTS

- **On June 14, former Supreme Court judge, Justice (Retd) Ranjana Desai - was appointed chairperson of the Press Council of India, the self-regulatory watchdog for the print media.**



- ✓ Desai replaces Justice (retired) C K Prasad who vacated office in November, 2021.
- ✓ The office of PCI chairman has been lying vacant since then.
- ✓ Justice (Retd) Desai is presently chairperson of the Delimitation Commission of India
  - ✓ The Delimitation Commission is mandated with redrawing the boundaries of assemblies and Lok Sabha constituencies on the basis of the population census.



- ✓ Her appointment was approved by a three-member selection committee comprising the Lok Sabha Speaker, Rajya Sabha Chairman and one member of the Press Council of India chosen by its members.

## OBITUARY

### ➤ Bharatanatyam artiste, M K Saroja (92 years)



- ✓ Veteran artiste M K Saroja, who performed and taught the dance form for seven decades, passed away in Bengaluru on June 13
- ✓ The Padma Shri awardee performed in hundreds of shows in India and abroad and trained students, including some famous names.
- ✓ Born on April 7, 1931 in then Madras, Saroja was trained in Bharatanatyam by Muthukumaran Pillai, the first tutor at the prestigious Kalakshetra Academy in Chennai.
- ✓ Saroja came to Bengaluru as a six-year-old with her family and became the disciple of legendary danseuse Ram Gopal.
- ✓ Saroja married Mohan Khokar, Kalakshetra's first male student, in 1945 and the couple moved to Baroda.
- ✓ They later shifted to Delhi after Khokar was posted at Sangeet Natak Akademi.

## SPORTS

### ➤ Tamil Nadu's Praveen Chitravel - qualified for next month's World championships in Oregon, USA





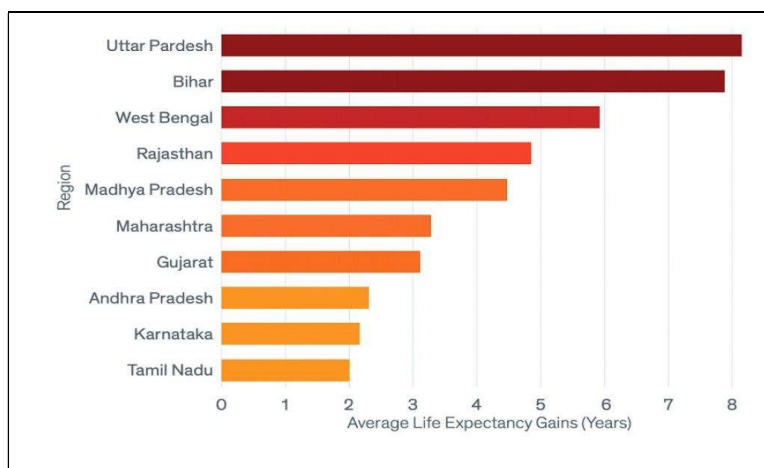
- ✓ Praveen jumped to a distance of 17.18m in the men's triple jump event of the 61st inter-state National athletics championships at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on June 14.
  - ✓ The qualification mark set for the Worlds was 17.14m.
  - ✓ The 21-year-old Praveen overtook the meet record of 17.17m set by Punjab's Arpinder Singh at Lucknow in 2014.
  - ✓ Praveen's effort was the third on the all-time India list.
  - ✓ Praveen, who hails from Thanjavur, won bronze in the 2018 Youth Olympics at Buenos Aires.
  - ✓ He followed that up by making the finals of the World University Games in 2019.
  - ✓ Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu's S Dhana Lakshmi once again won the women's 200m event as she pipped Hima Das in a close finish.
  - ✓ Dhana Lakshmi won the race in 23.27 seconds while Hima crossed the finish line in 23.29 seconds.
  - ✓ The third place went to Maharashtra's Aishwarya Mishra (23.72).
- **The Walt Disney Co. , Viacom18-led JV and Times Internet - have emerged as the big winners in the Indian Premier League (IPL) media rights**
- ✓ The e-auction for the 2023-27 cycle concluded over a period of three days on June 14.
  - ✓ By the time the e-auction was done, the BCCI – parent body that runs the IPL – has earned a handsome Rs 48,390 crore across the four packages sold.
  - ✓ Disney and Viacom had won Packages A and B – TV and digital in India – on the second day of the auction for Rs 44,075 crore

| PACKAGE A<br>(TV, Indian subcontinent): | PACKAGE B<br>(Digital, Indian subcontinent): | PACKAGE C<br>(Digital, special bouquet India): | PACKAGE D<br>(Rest of the World, TV and digital) | OVERALL VALUE                   |
|---|--|--|--|---------------------------------|
| Total games <b>410</b>                  | Total games <b>410</b>                       | Total games <b>98</b>                          | Total games <b>410</b>                           | Total games <b>410</b>          |
| Base price <b>Rs 49 cr per game</b>     | Base price <b>Rs 33 cr per game</b>          | Base price <b>Rs 16 cr per game</b>            | Base price <b>Rs 3 cr per game</b>               | Total worth <b>Rs 48,390 cr</b> |
| Total worth <b>Rs 23,575 cr</b>         | Total worth <b>Rs 20,500 cr</b>              | Total worth <b>Rs 3,258 cr</b>                 | Total worth <b>Rs 1,058 cr</b>                   | Per match <b>Rs 118.0 cr</b>    |
| Per match <b>Rs 57.5 cr</b>             | Per match <b>Rs 50 cr</b>                    | Per match <b>Rs 33.24 cr</b>                   | Per match <b>Rs 2.6 cr</b>                       |                                 |

- ✓ Disney bid at Rs 57.5 crore per game (total of Rs 23,575) for TV and Viacom bid at Rs 50 crore per game (total of Rs 20,500 crore) for digital.
- ✓ Later, Viacom got Package C – the set of 98 non-exclusive matches on digital across five years – at Rs 33.24 crore per match (total of Rs 3,258).
- ✓ Times Internet bagged three of the five Rest of the World Territories while Viacom bagged the other two.
- ✓ In the list of bidders for TV that was won by Disney, Sony was second in the competition followed by Viacom.
- ✓ Viacom18 is a TV and streaming group backed by billionaire industrialist Mukesh Ambani

# REPORT

- **The air quality life index (AQLI) analysis – was released by the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC) on June 14**
- ✓ As per the report, air pollution shortens average life expectancy in India by five years



- ✓ The air pollution would cut 7.6 years of life expectancy of 40% of Indians who live in the Indo-Gangetic plains, says the report
- ✓ The states that are likely to be affected includes Bihar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal
- ✓ In India, apart from air pollution, child and maternal malnutrition reduces the life expectancy by about 1.8 years and smoking reduces by an average 1.5 years.
- ✓ In the case of Delhi, the world's most polluted capital, people would lose 10 years of their lives in case of not adhering to the new WHO standards.
- ✓ The report noted that the country's entire population — all 1.3 billion — breathe air with particulate pollution level well above the WHO guideline.
- ✓ Also, more than 63% breathe air worse than the national air quality standard of 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.
- ✓ India had in 2019 launched its National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) with the goal to reduce particulate pollution by 20-30%, relative to 2017 levels, by 2024.
- ✓ Since 1998, India's average annual particulate pollution (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) has increased by over 61% .
- ✓ India is the second most polluted country in the world after Bangladesh, which is set to lose nearly seven years of life expectancy due to air pollution.
- ✓ Nepal (4.1 years), Pakistan (3.8 years) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (2.9 years) are the other countries on the list.
- ✓ The report also mentioned that the air pollution reduces the global life expectancy by two years