

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 25, 2019

### TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami - flagged off KONA Electric, the fully electric SUV by Hyundai, at the Secretariat on July 24**



- ✓ KONA, which was showcased during the Global Investors Meet earlier this year in Chennai, had its national launch earlier
- ✓ The electric car was assembled in the company's Sriperumbudur unit.
- ✓ According to Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL), the long range green SUV can run 452 km per charge and can reach 100 kmph within 9.7 seconds.
- ✓ The cost of KONA variants would start at ₹25 lakh in Chennai and there were 120 confirmed bookings within 15 days of its launch
- ✓ Hyundai was working along with Indian Oil Corporation Limited to develop infrastructure for providing fast charging facility at select fuel stations in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Chennai
- ✓ HMIL would also invest in the equipment and installation of fast chargers that can charge 80% of the battery capacity in less than an hour.
- ◆ **TANGEDCO'S loss - has increased to ₹7,760 crore in 2017-18, against ₹4,348 crore in 2016-17.**
- ✓ The loss sustained in 2015-16 was ₹5,787 crore
- ✓ When the Central government's UDAY scheme was signed with the State government in January 2017, there were hopes of break even in 2017-18, which was not the case now

- ✓ The various reasons cited for the heavy loss ranges from 100 units of free electricity and the banking of wind energy
- ✓ The increased dependence on purchase of power from various sources of Central generating stations, non-conventional energy and long-term, mid-term and short-term power purchases was also among the reasons cited for the slump
- ✓ Besides, the wage agreement increased the expenditure by more than ₹1,852 crore

◆ **Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS) - will soon be opening their second pet blood bank in the city**

- ✓ The bank is likely to be set up at the Madhavaram campus of the institute by the end of this year
- ✓ The institute had set up their first blood bank in the city in 2010 at the Madras Veterinary College and Hospital in Vepery

## NATIONAL

◆ **The Lok Sabha - passed the UAPA amendment bill on July 24**

### BILL PASSED 287 VOTES TO 8

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Empowers govt to designate an individual as terrorist on suspicion of having terror links; earlier, only an outfit could be named terrorist group</li> <li>➤ Empowers NIA DG to grant approval of seizure or</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>attachment of property</li> <li>➤ Empowers inspector-rank officers to investigate cases; Earlier, only officers of the rank of deputy superintendent or asst police commissioner or above could probe cases</li> </ul>
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- ✓ The bill intends to allow designation of an individual, wanted for terror-related crimes, as a 'Terrorist'
- ✓ The bill, with its amendments to give more power to anti-terror provisions, was passed 287 votes to eight.

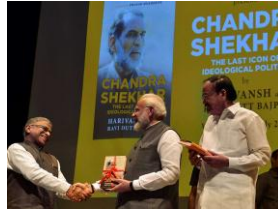
◆ **The Lok Sabha - passed the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill, 2019 by voice vote on July 24**

- ✓ The proposed laws would have provisions to combat three different types of offences — running unregulated deposit schemes, fraudulent default in regulated deposit schemes, and wrongful inducement in relation to unregulated deposit schemes.

◆ **The National Institute of Miners' Health – has been dissolved and merged with the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad**

- ✓ The National Institute of Miners' Health is an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Mines
- ✓ The ICMR-NIOH functions under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

- ◆ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - announced that a grand museum dedicated to all the past Prime Ministers of the country will be built in New Delhi**



- ✓ He made the announcement after releasing a book on former PM Chandra Shekhar, written by Rajya Sabha deputy chairman Harivansh.

## COMMITTEES

- ◆ **The government - reconstituted the group of ministers (GoM) on prevention of sexual harassment at workplace**

- ✓ It will have home minister Amit Shah, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, HRD minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank and women and child development minister Smriti Irani, as members.
- ✓ The government had set up the said GoM in October 2018 following the #MeToo campaign, which had seen several alleged victims of sexual harassment at workplace share their experiences
- ✓ The panel will be responsible to examine the framework to deal with sexual harassment at workplace and give recommendations for strengthening the same

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ◆ **LightSail 2, the first steerable solar sail ever launched – was put into orbit around Earth on July 23**



- ✓ Engineers in California have launched the spacecraft, built for planetary society, after 10 years of planning and over 40,000 donations worth \$7 million
- ✓ With the launch, the ability to sail across the earth, powered by the energy of the sun, is finally becoming a reality.
- ✓ If it succeeds, it will contribute to overcoming one of the greatest limitations of space travel — that the power that steers spacecraft, usually hydrazine fuel, eventually runs out.
- ✓ In contrast, the sun is a source of constant energy, which is always releasing photons into space.

- ✓ These photons have momentum and thus solar sailing relies on the push of photons to move forward.
- ✓ LightSail 2 is a cubesat (of the size of a bread loaf) with a guiding momentum wheel that keeps the spacecraft at a 90-degree angle to the sun at all times.
- ✓ As LightSail 2 orbits Earth, engineers will attempt to extend the farthest point in its orbit, called apogee
- ✓ The primary mission is to last around a month, and then LightSail 2 could orbit Earth for a year

## APPOINTMENTS

- ◆ **The government - designated power secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla the new home secretary, while moving finance secretary Subhash Chandra Garg to the power ministry.**



- ✓ Bhalla replaces Rajiv Gauba, who was seen as a frontrunner to replace P K Sinha as cabinet secretary.
- ✓ Bhalla will have a fixed two-year tenure till August 2021.
- ✓ Garg, who was in charge of the department of economic affairs, had been designated finance secretary by virtue of being the senior-most bureaucrat in the ministry
- ✓ He is replaced by Atanu Chakraborty — currently secretary of the department of investment and public asset management (Dipam)
- ✓ The government also notified the appointment of Anshu Prakash as the new telecom secretary in place of Aruna Sundararajan, who is superannuating on July 31 and Guruprasad Mohapatra as secretary of the department for promotion of industry and internal trade
- ✓ Himachal Pradesh cadre's Anil Kumar Khachi has been designated the new Dipam secretary

- ◆ **Gujarati-origin politician Priti Patel – was announced as the new home secretary in UK PM Boris Johnson's cabinet**



- ✓ This is the senior-most role ever held by an Indian-origin woman in the British government.

- ✓ The job puts Patel (47) in charge of national security, tackling crime, fighting terrorism and extremism and dealing with illegal immigration
- ✓ She will also be in charge of signing extradition orders
- ✓ It is seen as the joint third-most important in the UK government alongside that of foreign secretary
- ✓ Sajid Javid, ex-home secretary of Pakistani origin, was promoted to the second-most key role - that of the chancellor (finance minister).
- ✓ Priti Patel is a Gujarati born in London to Indian immigrants from Uganda who left shortly before military leader Idi Amin expelled the Asian community
- ✓ Patel, who will determine the UK's post-Brexit immigration strategy, is seen as a rising star in the Tory party and also a possible future PM
- ✓ The UK's first Gujarati woman MP was a vocal supporter of the Leave Campaign in the EU Referendum and is openly pro-Brexit.
- ✓ 2016, she was appointed international development secretary, making her the first woman Indian cabinet minister.

## AWARDS

- ◆ **British-Indian novelist Salman Rushdie's yet-to-be-published novel 'Quichotte' - has made it to the longlist of this year's Booker Prize**

BOOKER NOMINEES ARE	
	Kevin Barry, "Night Boat to Tangier"
Margaret Atwood "The Testaments"	Oyinkan Braithwaite, "My Sister, The Serial Killer"
	Lucy Ellmann, "Ducks, Newburyport"
Salman Rushdie "Quichotte"	Bernardine Evaristo, "Girl, Woman, Other"
	John Lanchester, "The Wall"
	Deborah Levy, "The Man Who Saw Everything"
	Valeria Luiselli, "Lost Children Archive"
	Chigozie Obioma, "An Orchestra of Minorities"
	Max Porter, "Lanny"
	Elif Shafak, "10 Minutes 38 Seconds in This Strange World"
	Jeanette Winterson, "Frankissstein"

- ✓ Rushdie has earlier won the Booker in 1981 for 'Midnight's Children'.
- ✓ The nominees will be narrowed down to a shortlist of six that will be revealed September 3, and the winner will be announced October 14

## SPORTS

- ◆ **Chinese mobile-maker Oppo – will be replaced by Byju's, the Bengaluru based educational technology and online tutoring firm - in the Indian cricket team jersey soon**

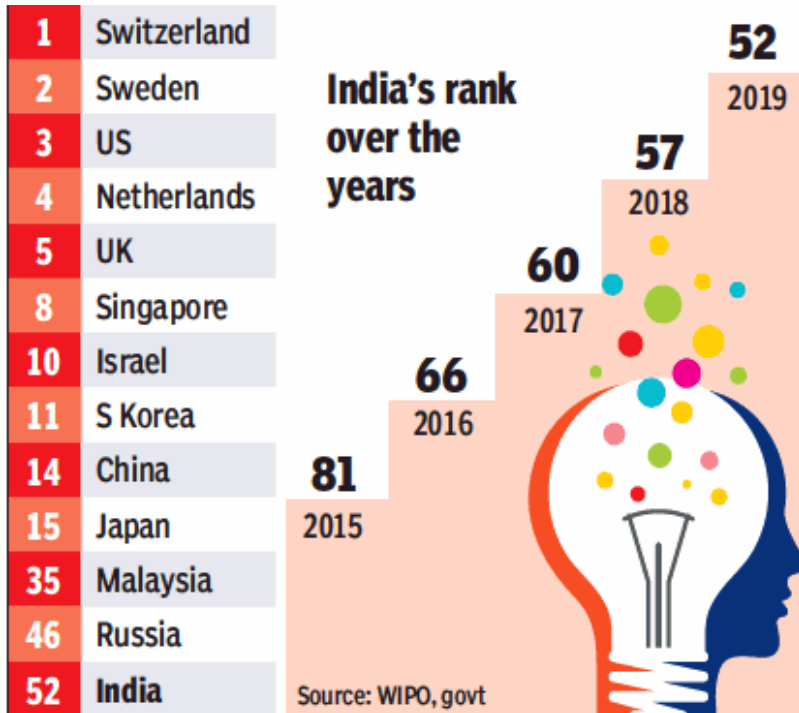
<p><b>₹ 1,079cr</b> Oppo's winning bid for Team India jersey rights from 2017-'22</p> <p><b>That works out to</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ ₹4.6cr for a bilateral match</li><li>➤ ₹1.56cr per ICC/Asia Cup tie</li></ul> <p>Oppo has reassigned the rights to Byju's &amp; will pay it a minor amount to help make full payment. BCCI will receive the same amount from Byju's till 2022 and will not incur any loss</p>	 <p>Oppo now finds the value at which it acquired the rights to be 'extremely high &amp; unsustainable'</p>		
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- ✓ Oppo has decided now to exit the space and reallocate the rights to Byju's because it now finds the value at which it acquired the rights in 2017 to be “extremely high” and “unsustainable”.
- ✓ Team India jersey with Oppo logo will be seen only till the end of the forthcoming West Indies series
- ✓ Once South Africa's tour of India in September commences, Byju's will take over the jersey
- ✓ Oppo had made a winning bid of about ₹1,079 crore for the jersey rights in March 2017 for a period of five years, which runs up to March 31, 2022
- ✓ Byju's, founded by the Kerala-based entrepreneur Byju Ravindran, is valued currently at around Rs 38,000 crore
- ✓ Think & Learn Pvt Ltd —Byju's parent company – had received seed funding in 2013 to get started.
- ✓ As of the present financial year, it is learnt to have secured funding in excess of \$750 million from global investors, including the Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative.
- ✓ Oppo's winning bid in 2017 worked out to Rs 4.6 crore per bilateral match and Rs 1.56 crore per ICC or Asia Cup match.
- ✓ In the previous deal, Star had paid the BCCI Rs 1.92 crore per bilateral and Rs 61 lakh per ICC and Asia Cup game
- ✓ Incidentally, when Oppo replaced Star in 2017 with the winning bid, its own sister concern Vivo (they're both owned by Chinese corporate BBK Electronics) came up with the second highest bid of around Rs 750 crore
- ✓ Vivo also holds the IPL title rights.

# RANKINGS – GLOBAL INNOVATION INDEX

## ◆ India – is ranked at 52<sup>nd</sup> position in the Global innovation Index 2019 with the jump of five places from last year

- ✓ The report also highlighted that India stands out in the world's top science and technology clusters, with Bengaluru, Mumbai, and New Delhi featuring among the top 100 global clusters
- ✓ The report was brought out by the UN World Intellectual Property Organisation, INSEAD and CII



### 10 FACTORS THAT HELPED INDIA IMPROVE ITS RANKING

- Among top global innovation drivers in ICT services exports
- Labour productivity growth (4th)
- Improvement in patents by origin, and intellectual property receipts
- Political & operational stability
- Ease of starting business
- Quality of graduates in science & engineering, thanks to IIT-Bombay, Indian Institute of Science-Bengaluru and IIT-Delhi, which are among top 10 universities in middle-income economies
- Bengaluru, Mumbai and New Delhi feature among top 100 global science and technology clusters
- Share in global R&D spend has increased from 1.8% in 1996 to 2.9% in 2017, but slower than some other countries
- In Global R&D companies, India reaches 15th spot
- Does well on ease of getting credit (20th), microfinance gross loans (23rd), market capitalisation (20th), and VC deals (30th)

### Where India lags?

- Infrastructure (79th)
- Business sophistication (65th)
- Creative outputs (78th)
- Low score for females employed with advanced degrees
- Slips on logistics performance
- Printing and other media not a strength

“Our aspiration is to be in top 25 ranking in the coming years... Five years ago, we had 16,000 patents. Now we have 85,000 patents to our credit

**Piyush Goyal**  
Commerce & Industry Minister

