

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS - JULY 1, 2021

### TAMIL NADU

- On June 30, South Korean car major Hyundai - rolled out its 10 millionth car in India from its factory in Sriperumbudur off Chennai



- ✓ Hyundai's latest model — 6-to-7 seater premium SUV Alcazar — became the 10 millionth car to be rolled out of the production line
- ✓ Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin signed on the car bonnet to mark the occasion
- ✓ Hyundai has manufactured over 9 million cars at this facility till now.
- ✓ Hyundai began operations at its manufacturing facility in September 1998 with the commissioning of its first integrated car manufacturing plant outside South Korea
- ✓ Last year, Hyundai revised its annual production capacity to 7.5 lakh units from the earlier 7.3 lakh units.

- ✓ Of this, 27% of the production is meant for exports and 73% for the domestic market
- ✓ Currently 40% of Hyundai's production comprises SUVs, including Creta and Venue
- **R Jagannathan – is appointed as the new vice-chancellor of Periyar University by Governor Banwarilal Purohit on June 30**



- ✓ He will remain in charge of the Salem-based University for a period of three years from the date of assuming office.
- ✓ Jagannathan has 39 years of teaching experience.
- ✓ He has served the Tamil Nadu Agriculture University, Coimbatore as the Dean (agriculture), Professor and Head of Department of agricultural meteorology and adjunct faculty.
- ✓ He has a vast research experience and published 55 research papers in indexed journals, presented 14 papers in international events and organized 5 international academic, research events.
- ✓ Jagannathan has presented seven research papers in national-level conferences
- ✓ He has authored a book, besides co-authoring another four books.
- ✓ Jagannathan has executed eight research projects worth Rs.764 lakh and guided 14 PhD scholars.
- ✓ He also has a patent and two international memoranda of understandings to his credit.
- ✓ Jagannathan conceived and implemented extension outreach programmes and social indulgence schemes like on-campus training for farmers of tsunami affected areas
- ✓ Besides, he also conducted mass awareness programmes on new agricultural technology and 20 automated weather based agro-advisory system awareness programmes for the Department of Agriculture.
- ✓ The Association of Agrometeorologists had conferred the award of service to Jagannathan for his contribution in the field of agro meteorology in India in 2017.

- ✓ The Periyar University was set up by the government of Tamil Nadu in 1997 and it has 106 colleges affiliated with it.
- ✓ The tenure of its former Vice-Chancellor P Kolandaivel had ended earlier in January 2021 and was extended until further notice.

## NATIONAL

- **The delimitation commission - to visit J&K from July 6 to July 9 to interact with political parties, public representatives and officials of the Union Territory**
  - ✓ The commission is headed by retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai
  - ✓ It would gather information and inputs on the process of delimitation for raising the number of assembly and Parliament seats in J&K.
  - ✓ The ongoing process of delimitation is mandated under the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019
  - ✓ The delimitation commission was constituted in March 2020 and its term was extended by another year in March 2021 in view of the ongoing pandemic.
  - ✓ Besides Desai, the commission has two ex-officio members and five associate members.
  - ✓ The two ex-officio members are chief election commissioner Sushil Chandra and state election commissioner of J&K K K Sharma
  - ✓ The associate members are Dr Jitendra Singh (junior minister and MP), Jugal Kishore Sharma (MP), Dr Farooq Abdullah, Mohammad Akbar Lone and Hasnain Masoodi. Singh and Sharma are from BJP and come from the Jammu division, while Abdullah, Lone and Masoodi belong to National Conference and are from Kashmir division.
- **The World Bank - has approved a \$500 million programme to support India's informal workforce, including gig workers and migrants**
  - ✓ Of the total commitment, \$112.5 million will be financed by a credit from the International Development Association (IDA), World Bank's concessional lending arm
  - ✓ The remaining \$387.5 million will be provided as a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).
  - ✓ The latest assistance is granted further to the \$1.15 billion committed already by World Bank to support schemes in the country under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana
  - ✓ This aid is offered as per a program called 'Creating a Coordinated and Responsive Indian Social Protection System (CCRISP)
  - ✓ With this, the total World Bank funding to help the poor and vulnerable households since the start of the pandemic stands at \$1.65 billion.

# SUPREME COURT

- **Justice Ashok Bhushan – ends his tenure at the Supreme Court on June 30**



- ✓ Justice Bhushan is due to retire on July 4, but he chose to bid farewell four days before his scheduled retirement
- ✓ Justice Bhushan was part of the bench that decided historic cases such as the Ayodhya title suit, validity of Aadhaar and the entry of women into the Sabarimala shrine
- ✓ Justice Bhushan had authored a 116-page addendum to the historic and unanimous verdict of the five-judge bench in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case
- ✓ Even on the last day in office, a bench of Justices Bhushan and M R Shah directed the Centre to provide ex-gratia relief under the Disaster Management Act to the families of the people who died due to Covid-19.
- ✓ The customary farewell was attended by judges, attorney general for India KK Venugopal, solicitor general Tushar Mehta, and the office bearers of Supreme Court Bar Association and Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association.
- ✓ Hailing from Jaunpur in Uttar Pradesh, justice Bhushan was sworn in as a high court judge in July 2014.
- ✓ He was elevated to the Supreme Court on March 26, 2015.

## INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **Brazil - has decided to suspend a \$324 million contract to buy 20 million doses of Bharat Biotech's Covaxin after 'serious accusations' of irregularities**
- ✓ The contract for the acquisition of the Covaxin vaccine was signed by the two sides on February 26 for the import of 20 million doses of Covaxin during the second and third quarters of 2021.
- ✓ The negotiation between the Brazil government and Need Medicines -- the Brazilian pharmaceutical company that brokered the deal -- has been under the investigation

- ✓ Brazilian President Bolsonaro is being accused of overlooking possible corruption in a deal to purchase Covid-19 vaccines
- ✓ Indian drugmaker, Bharat Biotech insisted that it has neither received any advance payments nor supplied any vaccines to Brazil
- ✓ The pricing for Brazil has also been indicated at \$15 per dose.

### NO ADVANCE PAYMENT, SAYS BHARAT BIO

➤ Health official Luis Ricardo Miranda said he faced pressure to greenlight import of Covaxin and that there were irregularities in invoices, particularly a \$45m upfront payment to Singapore-based co

➤ In March, Miranda and his brother brought their concerns to Bolsonaro, who promised a probe, which was never initiated. Bolsonaro ordered the brothers investigated

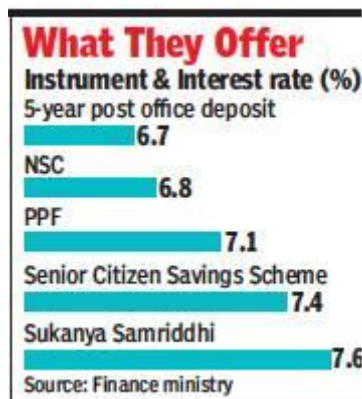
➤ Contract in Feb, but gov't hadn't yet made any payments nor were any doses provided

“As of 29th June 2021, Bharat Biotech has not received any advance payments nor supplied any vaccines to MOH Brazil... BB has followed a similar approach towards contracts, regulatory approvals and supplies in several countries worldwide, where Covaxin is being supplied successfully —Bharat Biotech

- ✓ Bharat Biotech and Precisa Medicamentos are conducting a 5000-subject phase III clinical trial in Brazil
- ✓ Precisa Medicamentos is Bharat Biotech's partner in Brazil, providing assistance, guidance, and support with regulatory submissions, licensure, distribution, insurance, conduct of phase III clinical trials, etc.
- ✓ The Emergency Use Authorisation for Covaxin was granted by Brazil on 4 June

## ECONOMY

- **The government - has decided to leave small savings rates unchanged for the July-September quarter**
- ✓ This is the fifth straight quarter where rates have been left unchanged
- ✓ Currently, SBI offers the highest rate of 5.4% on fixed deposits with a tenure of 5-10 years.
- ✓ In contrast, PPF deposits will offer 7.1% and that too tax-free.
- ✓ The senior citizens' scheme will fetch an interest rate of 7.4% per annum, while the National Savings Certificate will fetch 6.8%, Kisan Vikas Patra 6.9% and 5-year time deposits 6.7%



- ✓ In April, the government had withdrawn a sharp cut of 40-110 basis points in interest rates on various small savings schemes for the April-June quarter, within 24 hours of announcing the same

## APPOINTMENTS

- **The U.S. State Department - announced the appointment of Atul Keshap as the interim Chargé d’Affaires (CDA) in New Delhi**



- ✓ Keshap, a senior foreign service officer with years of experience in South Asia, replaces former deputy secretary of state Daniel Smith, who is retiring
- ✓ Keshap most recently served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs
- ✓ He is also the Vice Chancellor of the College of International Security Affairs at the National Defense University, Fort McNair, Washington, DC
- ✓ Keshap was formerly the U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka and the Maldives and played a key role in developing the U.S.-Maldives defence relationship
- ✓ After joining US foreign service in 1994, he also served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia and was posted previously to the American Embassy in New Delhi.
- ✓ In 2018, he received one of the State Department’s highest honours, the Distinguished Honor Award, in recognition of his leadership in advancing US interests in the Indian Ocean Region

## SPORTS

- **Indian-American Abhimanyu Mishra – becomes the youngest Grandmaster in chess**



- ✓ The chess prodigy from New Jersey in the United States earned his third GM norm in Budapest, Hungary at the age of 12 years, 4 months and 25 days
- ✓ At the age of six, he became the youngest national champion in the United States, while at the age of nine, he became the youngest National Master.
- ✓ On November 12, 2019, Mishra made history in becoming the youngest International Master, eclipsing the record held by India's Praggnanadhaa by a mere 17 days.
- ✓ Mishra broke GM Sergey Karjakin's record that was standing for 19 years, having already crossed the required 2500 Elo rating barrier
- ✓ Karjakin had achieved that distinction on August 12, 2002 at the age of 12 year and 7 months.
- ✓ Mishra earned his first GM norm in April, the second in May, and the third one — which is required to become a Grand Master, now at the Vezerkepzo GM Mix.

