

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 24, 2019

### NATIONAL

- ◆ **Union women and child development minister Smriti Irani – moved the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2019 in Rajya Sabha on July 23**

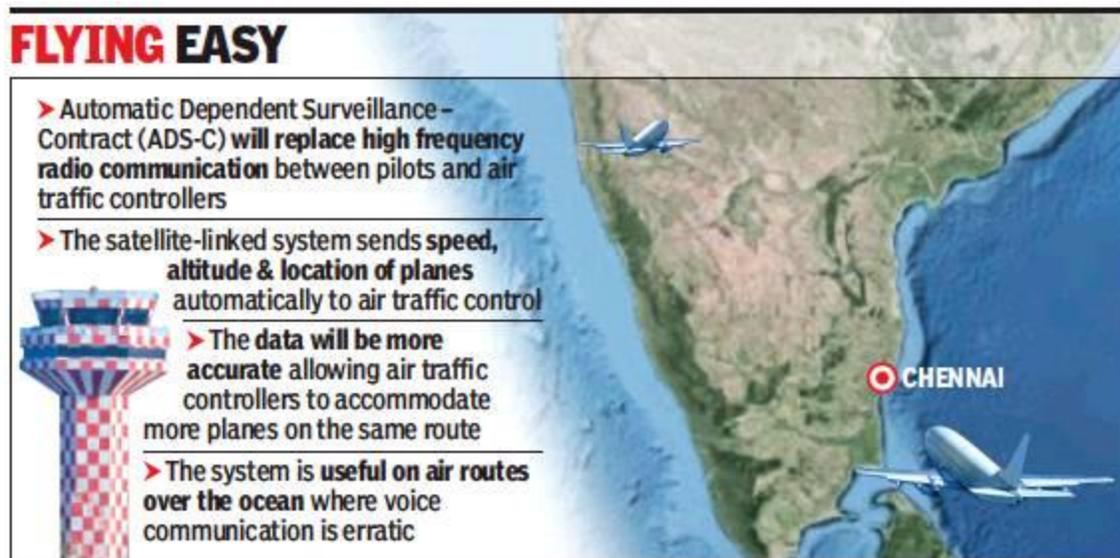


- ✓ The new bill includes death penalty for aggravated sexual assault on children, besides providing stringent punishments for other crimes against minors
- ✓ The proposed changes in the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act also provide for fines and imprisonment to curb child pornography.
- ✓ The bill explains the definition of child pornography as the visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct involving a minor or a child which will include photographs, video, digital or photo generated images
- ✓ It proposes that under Section 15, a fine of ₹5,000 is introduced on the first occasion with regards to punishment for storage of pornographic material involving a child
- ✓ On the second occasion, a fine of ₹10,000 is proposed for not reporting child pornographic material with an intention to share/transmit it, which can be extended to imprisonment if such material is transmitted, displayed, distributed or propagated
- ✓ If such material is used for commercial purposes, then this amendment proposes to extend a minimum punishment by imprisonment for not less than 3 years which may extend to 5 years with fine or with both

◆ **The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill – was passed by the Lok Sabha on July 23**

- ✓ It is aimed at reducing road fatalities, weeding out corruption in transport sector and promoting use of technology to regulate traffic.
- ✓ Several new provisions have been made part of the bill, including hefty fine and punishment for traffic offences such as drunk driving, speeding, holding guardian or vehicle owners responsible for juvenile driving.

◆ **Airports Authority of India - to introduce a satellite-based system by which planes can automatically transmit information about location, speed and altitude to air traffic controllers**



- ✓ It also offers two-way communication between controllers and pilots.
- ✓ Now, automatic dependent surveillance-contract (ADS-C) is set to replace high frequency (HF) radio communication between pilots and controllers over oceans
- ✓ ADS-C allows air traffic controllers to accommodate more planes on an air route one after the other and also reduce the distance between one air route and another by eliminating radio blind spots
- ✓ Chennai air traffic control has ADS-C but it is not widely used
- ✓ Currently, air traffic controllers use a combination of VHF, HF voice communication and ADS-B system.
- ✓ ADS-C is used widely in Delhi to monitor planes flying over mountainous terrain

◆ **The Southern Railway - has figured among three poorly-performing zones of the Indian Railways in resolving the passenger grievances raised through the 'Coach Mitra' mobile application.**

- ✓ Western Railway topped the list, with 61.3% of complaints redressed within 30 minutes of a call, while the Southern Railway stood at 18.1%.
- ✓ The figures for the North Central Railway and the East Central Railway were even worse — 8.2% and 17.1%, respectively.

- ✓ The Coach Mitra app is a single-window system developed to enable passengers to flag issues relating to cleanliness, provision of water, linen quality and electrical fittings on trains
- ✓ A zone-wise analysis of Coach Mitra data for the April-June 2019 period was done to assess the effectiveness, response time and passenger satisfaction for various service requests
- ✓ Eastern Railway, at 68.9%, was the top performer in terms of complaints closed with passenger satisfaction code, followed by the West Central Railway with 62.6% and the East Coast Railway with 59.7%
- ✓ The analysis revealed that a majority of the 23,435 passenger complaints in the three-month period pertained to poor maintenance of toilets, followed by water issues and problems with electrical fittings
- ✓ Around 60% of the complaints in the Southern Railway came from the Thiruvananthapuram division

## **SUPREME COURT VERDICT**

◆ **The Supreme Court - extended the deadline to finalize the register by a month to August 31 (from the earlier July 31)**

- ✓ It had also rejected applications by the Centre and the Assam government seeking re-verification of 20% of National Register of Citizens (NRC) data in border districts

### **KEY HEARING ON AUGUST 7**

➤ Fresh re-verification redundant as coordinator's report said that during scrutiny of 36 lakh claims and 2 lakh objections, 27% of NRC data had been reverified, says SC

➤ SC will hear on Aug 7 whether or not to allow inclusion of a person in NRC if one of her/his parents figured in the doubtful voter or declared foreigner category

- ✓ A bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice R F Nariman said fresh re-verification is not needed as state NRC coordinator Prateek Hajela's report stated that during scrutiny of 36 lakh claims and 2 lakh objections, as much as 27% of NRC data had been reverified

# INTERNATIONAL

- ◆ **Boris Johnson – to replace Theresa May as prime minister of Britain after winning the leadership of the Conservative Party on July 23**

## MAN WHO ASPIRES TO BECOME CHURCHILL 2.0

Boris Johnson aspires to be a modern-day Winston Churchill. Critics fear he's a British Donald Trump. Johnson once said he had as much chance of becoming PM as of finding Elvis on Mars

### HIS POLITICAL CAREER IN NUMBERS....

7 years  
MP for  
Henley  
(2001-2008)

8 years  
Mayor of  
London  
(2008-2016)

4 years  
MP for  
Uxbridge and  
South Ruislip  
2015-

2 years  
Foreign  
Secretary  
(2016-2018)



### CHALLENGES AHEAD

**BREXIT** | Says will lead Britain out of the EU on October 31, with or without a divorce deal. But the EU has repeatedly said it will not renegotiate the legally binding part of exit deal

**GOVERNANCE** | He must show he can win votes in parliament. The opposition is likely to test his ability to govern by calling a vote of no confidence

**TRUMP AND THE US** | He needs a good relationship with the US to mitigate any impact of stepping away from the EU – its biggest trading partner. But ties between the allies have suffered after the leak of memos from the British ambassador to US which reportedly described Trump's administration as inept

**IRAN** | US and European allies are pulling in different directions over the best approach to Iran's nuclear programme, leaving Britain with a difficult choice about who to align with

### FORMER 'SON-IN-LAW' OF INDIA

Boris Johnson has in the past described himself as a 'son-in-law of India' by virtue of marriage to now estranged wife **Marina Wheeler**, who is half-Indian.



A number of Brexiteers – including **Indian-origin MPs Priti Patel and Rishi Sunak** – both supporters of Boris Johnson, are expected to be part of his new team

“When I was with PM Modi, I stressed that UK and India are two modern democracies who should work closely together to promote trade and prosperity, improve global security and tackle the challenges our countries face – In an open letter to Indian diaspora earlier this month, Johnson played up his strong relationship with India

- ✓ Johnson, the face of the 2016 Brexit referendum, won the votes of 92,153 members (66%) of the Conservative Party, almost twice as many as his rival, foreign secretary Jeremy Hunt (46,656 votes).
- ✓ Johnson, a former London mayor, is an avowed Brexit supporter who has promised to lead Britain out of the European Union with or without a deal by the end of October

## DEFENCE

◆ **The Indian armed forces - to conduct the country's first ever simulated space warfare exercise 'Ind-SpaceEx' this week to assess imminent threats beyond Earth**

- ✓ The tri-Service integrated defence staff (IDS) under the defence ministry is conducting the two-day "Ind-SpaceEx", with all military and scientific stakeholders on July 25 and 26

## ECONOMY

◆ **The International Monetary Fund (IMF) - has cut India's growth forecast for 2019-20 to 7% from its forecast in April of 7.3% on poor demand conditions**

- ✓ The IMF's World Economic Outlook July update also cut India's growth forecast in 2020-21 to 7.2% from the previous estimate of 7.5%.
- ✓ This latest cut in the forecast follows a series of cuts by the IMF in its previous updates.
- ✓ In April, the IMF had cut India's growth forecast for 2019-20 to 7.3%, which was 0.2 percentage points lower than the forecast made in January, which itself was 0.1 percentage points lower than the forecast made in October 2018.
- ✓ The forecast of 7.2% growth for 2020-21 is 0.5 percentage points lower than what was forecast made in October and January.
- ✓ The IMF has also cut its forecast for world GDP growth by 0.1 percentage point each in 2019 and 2020 to 3.2% and 3.5%, respectively.
- ✓ The 7% forecast for 2019-20, however, is in line with those made by the Reserve Bank of India, Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian and the Asian Development Bank.

## APPOINTMENTS

◆ **Pakistan Cricket Board's chairman Ehsan Mani - has been appointed as the head of the ICC's influential Finance & Commercial Affairs committee.**



- ✓ Another PCB official, Salman Naseer, who is its general counsel and barrister, has been included on the ICC's Safeguarding panel

# AWARDS

- ◆ **Carnatic vocalist S Sowmya - has been chosen for Music Academy's Sangita Kalanidhi award.**



- ✓ Sowmya, who had received a PhD from University of Madras, is part of the faculty at Music Academy's Advanced School of Carnatic Music
- ✓ Senior performer Seetha Narayanan and M S Sheela, who has been trained under Sangita Kalanidhi R K Srikantan, will receive the Sangita Kala Acharya award
- ✓ Popular nagaswaram artist Vyasarpadi Kothandaraman and Rajkumar Bharathi, the great grandson of poet Subramani Bharathi, will be given the T T K awards.
- ✓ Arati N Rao, assistant professor at Jain University in Bengaluru, will get the Musicologist award.
- ✓ The Nritya Kalanidhi Award for Dance will be conferred on former director of Kalakshetra Foundation Priyadarsini Govind, who had received the Kalaimamani award from the government of Tamil Nadu
- ✓ Overall, Seven people have been selected for five awards including Sangita Kala Acharya and T T K awards

