

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS (JULY 26 TO AUGUST 01)

IMPORTANT EVENTS

- **JULY 29 - International Tigers day**

CURRENT AFFAIRS: INDIA

Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana: 100 Electric Potter Wheels distributed

- The **Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah** distributed 100 electric potter wheels under **Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana of KVIC (Khadi and Village Industries Commission)**.
- The electric potter wheels were distributed to the marginalized potter community under **Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**. The wheels were distributed to the artisans who were trained under **Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana of KVIC**.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)

Government ministry

Headquarters

Mumbai

Agency executive

Vinai Kumar Saxena (Chairperson)

For North Korea, India has extended medical assistance worth about USD ONE million

- **Government of India (GoI)** has sent **\$1 million** worth of anti-tuberculosis medicine to North Korea per a request from the **World Health Organization (WHO)**.
- India has extended medical assistance worth about \$1 million to North Korea in response to a request received from WHO. The information was announced by the Union Ministry of External Affairs.

North Korea

Country in East Asia

Capital

Pyongyang

Supreme leader

Kim Jong-un

Currency

North Korean won

Government has extends deadline for filing income tax returns till SEP 30

- Considering current global pandemic COVID-19 the GoI on Wednesday for the 3rd time extended the deadline for filing income tax returns for 2018-19 financial year for two months till Sep 30.
- Before this in March, the due date was extended from March 31 to June 30 for the first time and again in late June, it was extended by a month till July 31.
- The rule also lay norms to provide relaxations for senior citizens on interest payments on self-assessment tax. In the case of a senior citizen, those not having business or income from the profession will not be required to pay advance tax.

Income Tax Department

Government agency

Founded

1860

Headquarters

New Delhi

S.N. Bose National Centre For Basic Sciences (SNBNCBS) develops a No-touch & Painless device for non-invasive screening of bilirubin level in new-borns

- **SNBNCBS**, Kolkata, an autonomous research Institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India has developed “**AJO-Neo**”, a No-touch and Painless device for non-invasive screening of bilirubin level in new-borns.

SNBNCBS Type

Autonomous, Research Institute

Established

1986; 34 years ago

Director

Prof.Samit Kumar Ray

Affiliations

Department of Science and Technology (India)

Power Finance Corporation has signed an agreement with IIT- Kanpur for Training, Research, & Entrepreneurship Development in Smart Grid Technology

- **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)**, a public sector undertaking (PSU) under the **Ministry of Power**, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with **Indian Institute of Technology - Kanpur (IIT-K)**.
- Aims is to support Training, Research, & Entrepreneurship Development in Smart Grid Tech.

PFC Headquarters

New Delhi

Owner

Government of India (52.63%)

Founded

July 1986

Key people

Ravinder Singh Dhillon IAS; (Chairman & MD)

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Supreme Court building of Mauritius

- Indian PM Modi & Mauritian PM Pravin Kumar Jugnauth on Thursday virtually inaugurated the new Supreme Court building at Port Louis.
- The building has constructed with Indian assistance as India sign of cooperation with countries in the Indian Ocean Region. The inauguration process has been done online through video conferencing in the presence of senior members of the judiciary from Mauritius and other esteemed delegates from both the country as well.

Mauritius Country in East Africa

Currency Mauritian rupee

Capital Port Louis

On 1st August India has celebrates as Muslim Women's Rights Day

- On the occasion of the first anniversary of law-making Triple Talaq a criminal offence which got Presidential nod last year after getting approval from the Parliament, the day is declared as the Muslim Women's Rights Day across the country.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: INTERNATIONAL

Australia to force United State tech giant Facebook & Google to pay news publishers

- For the first time in a landmark move to protect independent journalism Australia will force US tech giant Facebook Inc. and Alphabet Inc's Google to pay Australian media publishers for news content.
- Thus, Australia will become first such country which will help its native media company to gain royalty under the royalty-style system. If everything goes well between the stakeholders it will become law later this year.

Google Technology company

CEO Sundar Pichai (2 Oct 2015–)

Founded 4 September 1998, Menlo Park, California, United States

Founders Larry Page, Sergey Brin

UNs Report: Significant Increase in ISIS Terrorists in Kerala & Karnataka

- UN report recently warned that there is significant increase in ISIS terrorists in Kerala and Karnataka. The report was titled "Report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team concerning ISIS".

ISIS The Islamic State is also known as ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) or Daesh. It is Sunni Jihadist group that seized large swathes of territory in eastern Syria since 2014.

Sixth BRICS Environment meeting held in Russia, online via video conferencing

- The Environment Ministers of 6th BRICS countries took part in the 6th BRICS Environment meeting. It was held online via video conferencing under the presidency of Russia.
- Representing India at the meeting Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar emphasized India's concern towards attaining SDG (Sustainable Development Goal).

BRICS Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
Founded June 2006
State Leaders Jair Bolsonaro; Vladimir Putin; Narendra Modi; Xi Jinping; Cyril Ramaphosa
Founders India, China, Brazil, Russia

ADB approves 3 million US Dollar to India to fight against COVID-19

- **Asian Development Bank** has approved USD 3 million (equivalent to Rs 22 crore) grant to India from the Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund to support India's battle against COVID-19.
- The grant is financed by the Japanese government. It will be used to seek thermal scanners, enhancement of disease surveillance and early detection, contact tracing, and treatment.

Asian Development Bank Headquarters Mandaluyong, Philippines
President Masatsugu Asakawa
Founded December 19, 1966
Purpose Economic development

CURRENT AFFAIRS: SPORTS

For National Sports Awards 2020, Centre comes up with the sport committee

- The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports on Friday came up with a selection committee for selecting awardees for various sports awards for the year 2020.
- Awards Included:
 - I. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna,
 - II. Dronacharya Awards,
 - III. Arjuna Awards,

- IV. Dhyan Chand Awards,
- V. Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar Awards,
- VI. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy

CURRENT AFFAIRS: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Asus: Convertibles, gaming laptops in Indian Market demand in the consumer PC segment

- **Taiwanese technology** is major Asus on Thursday said it is witnessing strong sales of 'convertibles' and gaming laptops in the Indian market, with demand for computing devices at par with pre-COVID levels, a top executive said.

Asus	Computer hardware company
Headquarters	Beitou District, Taipei, Taiwan
Founded	2 April 1989, Taipei, Taiwan
Founders	T.H. Tung, Wayne Hsieh, M.T. Liao, Ted Hsu

CURRENT AFFAIRS: SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Ministry of Earth Sciences announced National Awards for excellence in Earth System Science

- **MoES** has mandated to provide the nation with the best possible services for weather, climate, ocean, coastal and natural hazards, for the Public Safety and socio-economic benefits.
- MoES aims to recognize major scientific contributions made by eminent scientists/engineers in various fields of Earth System Science.

Ministry of Earth Science Departments	India Meteorological Department
Minister responsible	Dr Harsh Vardhan
Founded	2006
Officeholders	Y. S. Chowdary (Minister of State), Harsh Vardhan (Minister)

India to take up clinical trials of OXFORD Vaccine COVISHIELD

- **University of Oxford and AstraZeneca** have shown successful clinical trials on the COVID-19 vaccine, COVISHIELD.
- **World Health Organization (WHO)** stated that the first use of the vaccine is expected in early 2021.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: DEFENSE

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) launched Dare to Dream 2.0 contest for innovators & startups

- **DRDO** has launched its innovation contest '**Dare to Dream 2.0**' on 27 July 2020, the 5th death anniversary of former President and noted scientist Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.

DRDO Headquarters location

New Delhi

Founded

1958

Minister responsible

Rajnath Singh, Minister of Defence

Subsidiaries

Gas Turbine Research Establishment, Defence Scientific Information & Documentation centre

CURRENT AFFAIRS: ENVIRONMENT

Delhi: During lockdown, UN report reported Nitrogen Dioxide levels fell over 70%

- The **UN policy brief** stated that **Levels of nitrogen dioxide** fell by more than **70%** during the lockdown in New Delhi.
- It also stated that nitrogen dioxide fell 40% in urban areas in China, 20% in Belgium and Germany, and 19-40% in different areas of the US.

Nitrogen dioxide

Nitrogen dioxide (N₂O) is one of a group of gases called nitrogen oxides. Nitrogen dioxide is naturally formed in the atmosphere by lightning and some are produced by plants, soil, and water. Nitrogen dioxide is a major air pollutant as it contributes to the formation of photochemical smog.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: AGRICULTURE

Kashmir: Saffron gets Geographical Indication certification

- Saffron grown in **Kashmir** has received the **geographical indication (GI)** tag, with Lieutenant Governor G C Murmu saying that it is a major historic step in bringing the valley's brand on the global map.
- The Union government issued a certificate of GI registration for the saffron grown in the Kashmir Valley, an official spokesperson said.

