



# CURRENT AFFAIRS

13 July 2020

## Today's Important News

Russia becomes first nation to complete human trials of Corona-virus vaccine.

### 1. Indian Army to order second batch of 72,000 assault rifles from US

- The Indian Army has decided to place another order for 72,000 Sig 716 assault rifles from the United States. This will be the second batch of rifles being ordered from the US, as the first lot comprising 72000 rifles has already been delivered to the Army.
- The first batch of American assault rifles will be used by the troops in Northern Command and other operational areas.
- According to defence sources, the Army has decided to place an order for 72000 more of such rifles under the emergency financial powers granted by the centre to the armed forces amid India's ongoing border dispute with China.



#### Foot Notes:

**About Indian Army:**

**Indian Army Chief:** General Manoj Naravane

### 2. Russia becomes first nation to complete human trials of Coronavirus vaccine

- Russia has become the first nation to successfully complete the human trials of COVID vaccine. Russia's COVID vaccine has proven to be effective, as per the results of the trials.
- Chief Researcher Elena Smolyarchuk informed on July 12, 2020 that the human trials of Russia's COVID vaccine have been completed and the volunteers will be discharged soon. Smolyarchuk is the head of Center for



Clinical Research on Medications at Russia's Sechenov University.

- Smolyarchuk confirmed that the research has been completed and it proved that the vaccine was safe. The first group of volunteers is expected to be discharged on July 15, while the second group will be discharged on July 20.

**Foot Notes:**

**About Russia:**

**Capital:** Moscow

**President:** Vladimir Putin

**Prime Minister:** Mikhail Mishustin

### 3. Union Home Minister Amit Shah launches CAPFs nationwide tree plantation drive

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah yesterday launched the Central Armed Police Forces-CAPFs nationwide tree plantation drive. Under this drive, saplings were planted by the jawans of Central Armed Police Forces in Chhattisgarh. The personnel of BSF, CRPF, ITBP and CISF - deployed in Chhattisgarh for Anti-Naxal operations, planted saplings in their respective campuses as well as in their places of deployment.
- The Inspector General of Border Security Force, J.S.N.D. Prasad said that by planting saplings, paramilitary forces are also playing their role in preserving and promoting the environment as well as to check the pollution and save the Earth.



### 4. Dr. Vidhu P. Nair appointed India's next Ambassador to Turkmenistan

- Dr. Vidhu P. Nair has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Turkmenistan.
- Dr Nair, who is a 2002 batch IFS officer, is presently Director in the External Affairs Ministry.
- He is expected to take up the assignment shortly.



**Foot Notes:**

**About Turkmenistan:**

**Capital:** Ashgabat

**Currency:** Turkmenistan manat

**President:** Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow

**Official language:** Turkmen

### 5. IIT Kanpur develops UV sanitizing device 'SHUDDH' to make room COVID free

- Due to Covid Pandemic People are nowadays afraid of touching anything around, specifically in the areas where masses have to come. To solve this problem Imagineering Laboratory department of IIT Kanpur has developed an Ultraviolet (UV) sanitizing product named SHUDDH.
- Smartphone operated Handy Ultraviolet Disinfection Helper that is SHUDDH has six UV lights of 15 Watts each that can be individually monitored from a distance.
- Initial testing has proved that the device at its full operation can disinfect a 10x10 squared feet room in about 15 minutes.



- SHUDH can assist in killing the spread of corona virus at the highly prone places such as hospitals, hotels, malls, offices and schools.

**Foot Notes:**

**About IIT Kanpur:**

**Chairman:** K Radhakrishnan

**Director:** Abhay Karandikar

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**6. His Holiness Dalai Lama's biography to release in 2020**

- A new biography on the life and times of Tibetan spiritual leader His Holiness Dalai Lama, will be released this year.
- Titled 'His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama: An Illustrated Biography', the book is written by Tenzin Geyche Tethong and will be published by Roli Books.
- It will also be published in other languages including Russian, German, Italian, Dutch.
- Tenzin Geyche Tethong has been associated with the Dalai Lama for over four decades as his close aide and advisor.
- The 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso is the current Dalai Lama.
- He now lives in Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh, fled from Tibet and came to India at the age of 23.
- His teachings of peace and non-violence and freedom has won him the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize in the year 1989.



**7. Indian Army to acquire 'Raven' and 'Spike Firefly' UAV's for reconnaissance missions**

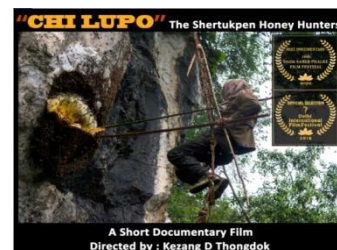
- Talks on sharpening the infantry of the Indian Army continues as the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) is likely to acquire the remotely controlled unmanned aerial vehicle- Raven from the United States and Israel's Spike Firefly.



- As per media reports, procurement of 200 pieces of Aero Vironment RQ-11 Raven and talks for purchase of Israeli flying ammunition- Spike Firefly is in advance level.
- The RQ-11 Raven is a remotely controlled unmanned aerial vehicle that is launched with hand. It is manufactured by Aero Vironment (U.S. California based Defence Contractor).
- RQ-11 Raven can fly up to an altitude of 500 feet from the ground level with a speed of between 45-97 Kilometers per hour. RQ-11 Raven can fly up to 10 Kilometres.
- The Spike Firefly is developed under a joint venture of Israeli company- Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Israel's Ministry of Defence. The Spike Firefly has loitering capability and can be carried by a soldier as a part of his kit.

#### 8. Arunachal Pradesh filmmaker Kezang D Thongdok bags Dada Saheb Phalke Award

- Kezang D Thongdok, an independent filmmaker has bagged the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2020. Thongdok's short documentary 'Chi Lupo' artfully sketches the custom of honey hunting practised in the Shertukpen community wherein 'Chi' means honey and 'Lupo' means hunters.
- Honey is an integral part of this community and is used for preparing various delicacies and valued for medicinal properties.
- To keep this tradition of indigenous practice of honey hunting alive, Kezang D Thongdok documented the age old tradition of honey hunting.



#### Foot Notes:

**Capital:** Itanagar

**Governor:** B. D. Mishra

**Chief Minister:** Pema Khandu

#### 9. MP govt to run 'Roko -Toko' campaign for those who do not wear masks

- Madhya Pradesh will now run a Roko -Toko means stop campaign for those who do not wear masks. Now selected voluntary organizations will provide masks to the people who do not wear masks in public places and will charge an amount of Rs 20 per mask from the concerned.
- The selected organizations will be provided 100 masks created under 'Jeevan Shakti Yojana' on credit. On sale of the mask, the organizations will pay the concerned urban body at the rate of Rs 11 per mask.



#### Foot Notes:

**About Madhya Pradesh:**

**Capital:** Bhopal

**Governor:** Anandiben Patel

**Chief Minister:** Shivraj Singh Chouhan

#### 10. Renowned Gujarati Cartoonist Avad Bin Hassan Jami passes away

- One of the most senior and popular cartoonists of Gujarat, Avad Bin Hassan Jami, has passed away. He was 77. He was popularly known as "Jami". His cartoons were published in Gujarati magazine "Abhiyan" for over two decades.



- He was a drawing teacher at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Jamnagar and became a full-time cartoonist after retirement.



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