

# Week 1 Current Affairs Update

1<sup>st</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021

## EVENTS

### NATIONAL

#### ENERGY

##### ONE SUN ONE WORLD ONE GRID



**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy launched an initiative called 'One Sun One World One Grid'.

##### Key Points:

- This initiative is launched to interconnect renewable energy by sharing solar resources with more than 140 countries of West Asia and Southeast Asia.
- The interconnection of the grids will be achieved with the help of African Power Pools.
- This initiative aims to provide solar power to the nations who are not getting sufficient sunlight so they are unable to make use of solar power. Hence, by building a common transmission system, solar power benefits can be provided to such countries.

#### ECONOMY

##### CHAMPIONS TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM



**Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020

PM Narendra Modi launched a technology platform called CHAMPIONS (Creation and Harmonics Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output and National Strength).

**Key Points:**

- It is a one-stop-shop solution for MSMEs which will help MSMEs to maintain the current opportunities and to get new ones like medical equipment, PPWE kits, masks etc. the platform thus aims to maintain current market value of MSME as well as improve its value to the national as well as international level.
- CHAMPIONS is a technology-packed control room cum management information system which includes ICT tools, internet, telephone, video conference, AI, Machine learning and data analytics.
- It is based on real-time and its physical infrastructure is built in one of the MSME ministry's rooms in record time.
- The entire ICT architecture for this platform is developed by the National Informatics Center (NIC) at no cost.

**ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURING SCHEME 2.0**



**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Ravi Shankar Prasad has launched a scheme called 'Electronics Manufacturing Scheme 2.0' which is a trilogy of three schemes.

**Key Points:**

- The outlay of 'Electronics Manufacturing Scheme 2.0' is Rs 50,000 crore which will help to boost electronics market in India and which will lead to achieving USD 1 Trillion digital Indian economy and a USD 5 Trillion GDP by 2025.
- The trio sub-schemes included in the main scheme are (a) Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for large scale electronics manufacturing (b) Schemes for Promotion of manufacturing of Electronics Components and Semiconductors (SPECS). (c) Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC 2.0) Scheme.
- The PLI scheme is specifically for mobile phones and possesses an outlay of Rs 40,000 crore. The SPECS scheme has an outlay of Rs 3285 crore and focuses on promotion of electronics component manufacturing in India. The EMC 2.0 sub-scheme aims to provide land for large manufacturing electronics clusters and will provide them with necessary infrastructure support.

## SPORTS

### KHELO INDIA E-PATHSHALA



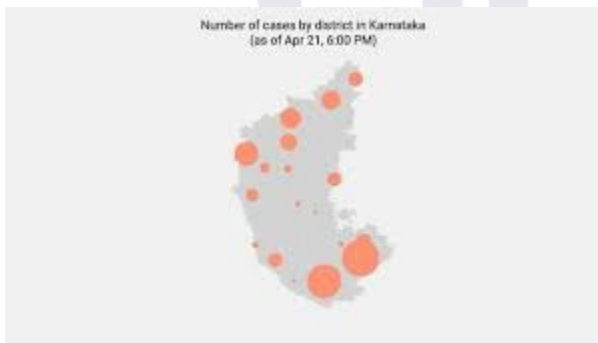
**Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020

Sports Authority of India (SAI) in collaboration with National Sports Federations (NSF) has launched India's first ever sports e-pathshala named as Khelo India e-Pathshala.

#### **Key Points:**

- It is a national level open online coaching and education programme on sports.
- The program was inaugurated by Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju and Union Tribal Affairs and Archery Association of India's President Arjun Munda.
- Coaching of total 21 sports will be given via this e-sports learning platform.

### KARNATAKA LISTENING DASHBOARD FOR COVID-19



**Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020

NASSCOM has delivered an end-to-end coronavirus tracking platform for Karnataka which is named as Karnataka Listening Dashboard for COVID-19.

#### **Key Points:**

- It is an analytics driven platform which will assist Karnataka state in recovering the industrial economy and help them to recover after the reopening stage of the state.
- It is multi-faceted, open architecture which is based on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and works on a real time basis.

- The dashboard will help officials to get a quick glance of COVID-19 patients in particular areas of the state, hospital capacity etc.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### ‘RESPONSIBLE AI FOR YOUTH’ AND AI PORTAL



**Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020

Union Electronics and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched a National program for youth in India called ‘Responsible AI for Youth’.

#### Key Points:

- He also launched India’s National Artificial Intelligence (AI) portal called [www.ai.gov.in](http://www.ai.gov.in) which is developed by National e-governance division of Ministry of Electronics and IT and NASSCOM as IT partner.
- [www.ai.gov.in](http://www.ai.gov.in) Portal: The portal is a one-stop-shop for a digital solution for AI, its resources and its application in various fields. The portal will also guide institutes and companies with AI queries and will share documents, case studies, research reports related to AI.
- Responsible AI for Youth: The national program will provide a platform to India’ youth and will empower them to inculcate AI-based skills and learn AI tools in order to make them digitally strong and ready for the Digital future of the nation.
- Students belonging from class 8th to 12th are eligible for the program and will be able to attend online training sessions based on the training of AI.

## BANKING & FINANCE

### KISAN CREDIT CARD DAIRY FARMERS



**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

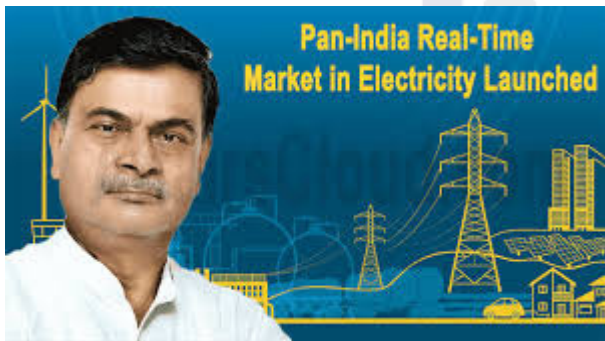
Government of India has come up with a move to launch Kisan Credit Card (KCC) for Dairy farmers.

**Key Points:**

- The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) will prove beneficial to 1.5 crore dairy farmers who come under the category of milk unions and milk producing companies.
- This action of the government for dairy farmers comes under Atma Nirbhar Bharat Package for farmers in India.
- The KKC application format for the dairy farmers to enroll themselves has been generated by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in coordination with the Department of Financial Service.
- The aim behind this scheme is to provide adequate credit facility to the dairy farmers so that they can enhance and meet their dairy farming requirements on a timely basis.

## ENERGY

### PAN-INDIA REAL TIME MARKET (RTM) IN ELECTRICITY



**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Union Minister of State (IC) Power and New and Renewable Energy R.K. Singh has launched Pan-India Real Time Market (RTM) in Electricity through video conference in New Delhi.

**Key Points:**

- This launch has led to uplift the position of the Indian electricity market in the era of few electricity markets in the world which are having RTM.
- RTM enables buyers and sellers pan-India to meet their energy requirement demand as per their requirement in real-time of operation giving rise to thus organized electricity market platform.
- It is based on double-sided closed auctions with uniform prices and will be for every 30 minutes in a day. For each, 15-minute time slot buyers or sellers will have the option of placing buy or sell bids.

- In order to carry out faster transactions and smooth operation in the RTM platform, Power System Operation Control Limited (POSOCO) is working in coordination with National Load Dispatch facilities.

## BANKING

### PAYMENT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FUND



**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020

The Reserve Bank of India has launched 'Payment Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF)'.

#### Key Points:

- The fund has been launched to give boost to the digital payment in India and will be used to create and encourage the acquirers to deploy and adapt Point of Sale (PoS) infrastructure in physical as well as digital modes in tier-3 to tier-6 centers and in north eastern states of India.
- The PIDF is set up with an allocation of Rs 500 crore with an initial contribution of Rs 250 crore by RBI which is half-covering of the fund and rest half will be from card issuing banks and card networks operating in India.

## EDUCATION

### 'TULIP' PROGRAM



**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> June 2020

All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Human Resource Development Ministry and Ministry of Housing and Urban Development have launched a TULIP Program which is an Urban Learning Internship Program.

## Key Points:

- It is launched with an aim to provide internship opportunities to fresh graduates in the urban areas as well as in smart cities.
- This program will help to generate new ideas of opportunities in the youth and will help them to adapt modern technologies and techniques so that they can utilize their skill sets in the areas they will work.
- Thus this program will add value to the market by developing skills in the upcoming fresh graduates in various fields like transport, urban planning, engineering, municipal finance etc.

## ENVIRONMENT

### ‘NAGAR VAN’ OR ‘URBAN FOREST’ SCHEME



**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> June 2020

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2020 (5th June), the central government has come up with a scheme titled as ‘Nagar Van’ or ‘Urban Forest’ Scheme.

## Key Points:

- Under this scheme, forests in the urban areas of the country will be developed within a span of 5 years.
- The scheme was launched by Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar. And he assured to give ‘Time for Nature’ during the launch of the scheme.
- Thus the World Environment Day was celebrated by giving importance to the theme ‘Biodiversity’ decided by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and also by launching ‘Urban Forest’ Scheme as urban forest is the best way to bridge the gap of climate change.

### ‘PREVENTION OF HUMAN AND ANIMAL MORTALITY ON HIGHWAYS’



**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari launched a campaign called 'Prevention of Human and Animal Mortality on Highways'.

### Key Points

- The campaign was launched via video conference and aims to reduce deaths caused due to accidents on roads and highways.
- This campaign was launched because India has witnessed about 5 lakh road accident cases every year in which 1.5 lakh people lost their lives.
- The campaign will generate awareness and will educate people to carry out road safety and following road rules so that there will be a stoppage of deaths in humans as well as animals who get injured due to road accidents.
- The campaign aims to reduce this death and injury due to road accidents count by 20-25% by March 2021.

## INTERNATIONAL

### REPORTS & INDICES

#### STARTUP ECOSYSTEM RANKING REPORT 2020



**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

Startup Blink which is a global innovation mapping and research company has released its Startup Ecosystem Ranking Report 2020 titled as 'Countries Global Ranking of Startup Ecosystem 2020'.

### Key Points:

- From the report, India is ranked at 23<sup>rd</sup> position for 2020. Whereas for 2019 India ranked at 17<sup>th</sup> position and has thus marked a drop of 6 places for 2020.



- The ranking is topped by the United States followed by the United Kingdom.
- Among the cities ranking report titled as ‘2020 Cities Global Ranking of Startup Ecosystem’, only 4 Indian cities have stood at various ranking positions in the report. The cities are Bengaluru (14th rank), New Delhi (15th rank), Mumbai (22nd rank) and Hyderabad (96th rank).

## **TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION (THE) ASIA UNIVERSITY RANKING**



**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> June 2020

In the Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Ranking report, India has become the third most represented country which is having its 8 institutes in top 100 lists.

### **Key Points:**

- From Indian Institutes, the list is topped by Indian Institute of Science (IISc) which is at the rank position of 36th.
- Total 6 IITs and Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT) are featured in the top 100 list.
- The most represented country is Japan in the Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Ranking report; with about 110 institutes included in it.

## **SPACE**

### **SANSA AND NASA TO SUPPORT HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT MISSIONS TO THE MOON AND MARS**



**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020

The South African National Space Agency (SANSA) has collaborated with National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to support human space-flight missions to the Moon, Mars and beyond.

### **Key Points:**

- Now South Africa has thus become the 4th country to host a deep-space ground station after the US, Spain and Australia.
- The 4th site for this mission will be integrated into an existing network of currently available 3 sites and thus will increase coverage and redundancy to analyze view for human spaceflight missions.
- The station will be operated, maintained and managed by SANSA.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **INDIA SIGNS MOU WITH BHUTAN**



**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020

India signs MoU with Bhutan to improve the cooperation in the areas of Environment.

### **Key Points:**

- The MoU was approved by a cabinet committee chaired by PM Narendra Modi.
- The MoU will promote a long term cooperation between India and Bhutan to protect the environment and manage natural resources.
- Both the countries will also work together in the fields of Air pollution control, water management strategies, climate change etc.
- The tenure of the agreement is 10 years.

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

### VIRTUAL GLOBAL VACCINE SUMMIT 2020



**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Virtual Global Vaccine Summit 2020 was conducted on 4th June 2020 and was hosted by the United Kingdom.

#### Key Points:

- United Kingdom's Prime Minister Boris Johnson led the Global Vaccine Summit 2020.
- Over 50 countries along with their business leaders, civil societies, government ministers, UN agencies etc. participated in the summit.
- India was represented by PM Narendra Modi.
- In the summit, India pledged to contribute 15 million US dollars to Gavi. Gavi is an International Vaccine Alliance which coordinates vaccinations across the world.

### INDIA AND AUSTRALIA VIRTUAL BILATERAL SUMMIT



**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> June 2020

India and Australia Virtual Bilateral Summit was held between the PM of India Narendra Modi and PM of Australia Scott Morrison.

#### Key Points:

- In this summit, India and Australia have signed seven different agreements in various fields.
- The two nations also announced a joint statement on Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between them and also announced a joint declaration on shared vision for Maritime cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

- The agreements signed are:
- Framework arrangement on cyber and cyber-enabled critical technology operation.
- In the field of mining and processing of critical and strategic minerals
- MoU for arrangements concerning mutual logistics support (MLSA)
- MoU in the field of cooperation in Defence
- MoU for public administration and governance reforms
- MoU for vocational education and training
- Water resources management

## ENERGY

### HEALTHY AND ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDINGS INITIATIVE



**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) has partnered with MAITREE Program (Market Integration and Transformation Program for Energy Efficiency) to launch the Energy Efficient Buildings Initiative.

**Key Points:**

- MAITREE Program is launched by USAID (US Agency for International Development).
- This Healthy and Energy Efficient Buildings Initiative is a part of India US bilateral partnership between the Power ministry of India and USAID.
- The initiative is launched with an aim to make workplaces, corporate offices etc. healthier and greener.
- Under this initiative, cost-effective energy efficiency measures will be adopted to create energy-efficient practices within buildings and focus on cooling measures, thus by addressing air quality, improving comfort in terms of energy usage.



# PEOPLE

## NATIONAL

### APPOINTMENTS

#### UDAY KOTAK



**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**Why in news:** Appointed as the President of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

#### **Key Points:**

- Uday Kotak, the MD and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank now has taken over as President of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- He will be replacing Vikram Kirloskar.
- Besides him Sanjiv Bajaj has been appointed as Vice President of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

#### M NETHRA



**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**Why in news:** Appointed as 'Goodwill Ambassador (GWA) for the Poor' by the United Nations Association for Development and Peace (UNADAP)

#### **Key Points:**

- A 13-year-old girl from Madurai, Tamil Nadu named M Nethra was appointed as 'Goodwill Ambassador (GWA) for the Poor' by the United Nations Association for Development and Peace (UNADAP).

- She has been honored in due recognition of her philanthropy to spend his savings of Rs 5 lakh on the hapless migrant labourers, who are hit hard by the Coronavirus-induced lockdown.
- In this position she will get the opportunity to address the upcoming Civil Society forums at the UN conferences in New York and Geneva.

## INTERNATIONAL

### AWARDS & HONOURS

#### JAVED AKHTAR



**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**Why in news:** Becomes only Indian to bag prestigious Richard Dawkins Award.

#### **Key Points:**

- Veteran writer-lyricist Javed Akhtar is honoured to be named this year's recipient of the Richard Dawkins Award.
- Akhtar became the first Indian to be given the honour for critical thinking, holding religious dogma up to scrutiny, advancing human progress and humanist values.
- Every year, the award recognises a distinguished individual from the field of science, scholarship, education, or entertainment, who publicly proclaims the values of secularism and rationalism and upholding scientific truth.



# ISSUES

## NATIONAL

### AGRICULTURE

#### LOCUST ATTACK



**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020

#### Key Highlights:

- At a time when India is grappling with Covid-19, a locust crisis is swarming over northern parts of the country, with several states issuing advisories to prevent a desert locust attack.
- With India battling the worst desert locust outbreak in three decades, the crop-destroying insects have now spread to Punjab, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh after arriving in Rajasthan.
- In its latest update, the United Nations's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) desert locust information center said much of these movements were associated with strong westerly winds from the Bay of Bengal.
- The insects feed on a large variety of crops. If not controlled, locust swarms can threaten the food security of a country.

### ENVIRONMENT

#### SUNDARBANS DEVASTATED BY CYCLONE AMPHAN



**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## Key Highlights:

- The powerful cyclone that struck India and Bangladesh last month passed through the vast mangrove forests of the Sundarban delta.
- The storm's impact was devastating for the millions who live in the Sundarbans. About 28% of the Sunderbans has been damaged.
- Despite the massive plantation drives, it may take years to restore the mangroves. Experts say the mangroves not only reduce wind speed but break the waves during a storm surge caused by a cyclone.
- Cyclone Amphan hit on May 20 with heavy rains, a massive storm surge and sustained winds of 170 kilometers per hour and gusts of up to 190 kph. It passed directly through the Sundarbans, devastating it.
- The lives of the estimated 4.5 million people in the region are tied to the fragile ecosystem. Farming, fishing, collecting honey and tourism are the few employment opportunities available.

## INTERNATIONAL

## SOCIAL

### VIOLENT PROTESTS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES



**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## Key Highlights:

- George Floyd, an African American, died while being restrained by the police in Minnesota state of USA. Video footage showed an officer kneeling on Floyd's neck as he gasped for breath.
- The death has triggered violent unrest in the state. Protests have also taken place in other parts of the US and Europe.
- People even claim that the "Black Lives Matter" movement is back. The Black Lives Movement is an African-American movement that campaigns against violence and racism towards black people.
- The movement that began in 2013, campaigns against killings of black people, police brutality, racial profiling and racial inequality in the United States.





### HEALTHCARE

#### ELISA-BASED ANTIBODY TEST



**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020

#### Key Features:

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has advised the States to conduct sero-surveys to measure the coronavirus exposure in the population using IgG ELISA Test.
- As per the direction of the council, the coronavirus (COVID-19) exposure in the general population as well as in high-risk populations would be measured and the outcome will help “decide the future course of action against the pandemic”.
- ELISA is also a form of a ‘rapid test’ that take much lesser time and do not need a laboratory process to detect antibodies.
- ELISA-based tests are blood-based tests, which have high sensitivity and specificity.

### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

#### ‘ULTRA SWACHH’—BY DRDO



**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

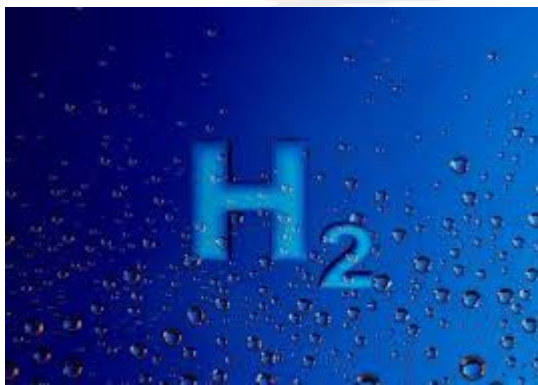
### Key Feature:

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed a disinfection unit called 'Ultra Swachh'.
- The disinfection unit will help to disinfect materials like electronic equipment, fabrics, PPE kits etc.
- The 'Ultra Swachh' follows International Standards of Industries, Personal and Environmental Safety.
- It is based on two different variants namely Ozonated Space and Trinetra Technology.

## INTERNATIONAL

### ENERGY

#### LOW COST AND EFFICIENT WAY TO GENERATE HYDROGEN FROM WATER



**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> June 2020

#### Key Features:

- Researchers at the Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS) have discovered a catalyst called Molybdenum Dioxide (MoO<sub>2</sub>) which has proven to be a low cost and efficient way to generate hydrogen from water.
- MoO<sub>2</sub> nanomaterials are annealed in the hydrogen atmosphere and possess the ability to act as an efficient catalyst.
- With the help of MoO<sub>2</sub>, hydrogen can be generated from water and produces water on energy generation without any carbon footprint.
- The discovery of MoO<sub>2</sub> has led to the replacement of the currently employed catalyst Pt which is very expensive and is limited in the resource.

