

# Week 2 Current Affairs Update

8<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021

## EVENTS

### NATIONAL

#### Events

#### SPACE

### ISRO SIGNS MOU WITH ARIES FOR SSA AND ASTROPHYSICS



**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020

The Indian Space Research Organisation has signed a MoU agreement with ARIES (Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Science) for the cooperation in the field of Space Situational Awareness (SSA) and Astrophysics.

#### Key Points:

- The aim behind to carry out Space Situational Awareness and its management is to explore aspects like space object orbital tracking space object orbital analysis and space weather study.
- This MoU will make the way for future collaborations between ISRO and ARIES in setting up optical telescope observational facilities for space object tracking, R&D studies in space weather, astrophysics and Near-Earth Object (NEO).
- The main objective of the MoU is to shield the Indian Space assets from the space debris's conjunction threats and R&D of Astrophysics, solar sciences and space environment are the base for future space exploration projects and the key to progress in the Indian Space sector.

#### DEFENCE

### AIRBORNE RESCUE POD FOR ISOLATED TRANSPORTATION

## (ARPIT)



**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Recently the Indian Air Force (IAF) has designed, developed and inducted an Airborne Rescue Pod for Isolated Transportation i.e. ARPIT.

### **Key Points:**

- This pod will be utilised for evacuation of critical patients with infectious diseases including Covid-19 from high altitude areas, isolated and remote places.
- Supporting the Atmanirbhar Bharat Initiative, only indigenous materials have been used to fabricate this pod.
- Requirement of an air evacuation system with facility to prevent spread of infectious aerosol from a Covid-19 patient during air travel was felt by IAF when the disease was declared as a pandemic.

## **DEEP SUBMERGENCE RESCUE VEHICLE COMPLEX**



**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) was inaugurated at Eastern Naval Command (ENC) in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

### **Key Points:**

- The complex is built to accommodate newly designed submarines and its rescue systems and store DSRV assets.
- DSRV complex consists of the submarine rescue vessel, remote-operated vehicle and side-scan sonar and its associated equipment.
- It was inaugurated by Vice-admiral Atul Kumar Jain.

## **ECONOMY**

## INDIAN ECONOMY TO CONTRACT BY 3.2% IN FY 20-21



**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020

The World Bank has released its latest edition of Global Economic Prospects (GEP) for the months of June 2020.

### Key Points:

- The Global Economic Prospects describes analytical growth of various countries by considering various parameters.
- As per the report, India's growth to contract by 3.2% for the financial year 2020-21.
- The growth marked is lower from 4.2% which was forecasted in FY 2019-20 at the end of March 2020.
- The low growth rate is marked due to the situation of lockdown because of the pandemic COVID-19 and has resulted in shunt down of various economical activities in the country.

## ‘TURANT CUSTOMS’—CBIC FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME



**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has launched a flagship programme called ‘Turant Customs’.

### Key Points:

- ‘Turant Customs’ is a reformative programme in order to ensure ease of doing business.
- The flagship programme will make use of technology for faster custom clearance of imported goods.
- By this programme, importers will now get their goods cleared from cus-

toms after a faceless assessment is performed by the custom officers located outside the port of import.

- It is launched in Bengaluru and Chennai and thus these two palaces have become the first phase of this 'Turant Customs' reformative programme. Now, the goods imported to Bengaluru may be assessed by the custom officers situated in Chennai and vice versa.

## AGRICULTURE

### GOI ALLOTS RS 4000 CR TO STATES UNDER 'PER DROP MORE CROP'



**Date:** 11th June 2020

An annual allotment of Rs 4000 crore has been approved by Government of India to State governments under 'Per drop more crop' component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY-PDMC) for FY 2020-21.

#### Key Points:

- The 'Per drop more crop' component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY-PDMC) focusses on the effective use of water in the farms with the help of Micro Irrigation Technologies i.e. Drip and Sprinkler irrigation systems.
- The Drip and Sprinkler irrigation systems help to save water and reduce the use of fertilizers, labour expenses and other costs.
- Also, a Micro Irrigation Fund of Rs 5000 crore has been generated with NABARD in order to facilitate the states with resources in order to expand the usage of Drip and Sprinkler irrigation systems.
- PMKSY Scheme was launched in July 2015 with an outlay of Rs 50,000 crore in five years in order to extend water coverage for irrigation ('Har khet ko pani') and to improve efficient usage of water in farms ('Per drop more crop').

## SAHAKAR MITRA SCHEME



**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Union Agricultural and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched Sahakar Mitra – a Scheme on Internship Programme (SIP) of NCDC (National Cooperative Development Corporation).

**Key Points:**

- This scheme will provide practical experience of the co-operative and professional world to the youth of India.
- It will also offer assured project loans on liberalized terms to young professionals in the start-up industry.
- In this scheme young professionals from academic institutes will be working with NCDC in order to incorporate skills like leadership and entrepreneurship in them by playing the role of FPO (Farmer Producer Organisation).
- The co-operatives involved in this, will provide paid internships so that young professionals can learn the skills in a self-reliant manner.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### JOINT SCIENCE COMMUNICATION FORUM



Department of Science and Technology (DST)

**DST**

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Joint Science Communication Forum is constituted by DST (Department of Science and Technology).

**Key Points:**

- It is constituted to facilitate interaction, co-operation and co-ordination among various public sector science communication institutions and agen-

cies.

- The forum will be serviced by Secretariat at the National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC), Department of Science and Technology.
- The forum will work on developing strategies for effective planning and implementation of science communication programmes at macro and micro levels in India.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### FIRST 'FULLY DIGITAL' CONSTRUCTION SECTOR ORGANISATION



**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> June 2020

National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has become the first fully digitalized organisation under the construction sector category.

#### **Key Points:**

- NHAI has propelled the use of cloud-based technology and AI-powered big data analytics platform, which is powered by Data Lake and project management services.
- Thus the organisation has transformed itself from a manual working management process to an online portal management process.
- From now onwards, all the documentation, contractual decisions and approvals will be made through an online portal.
- All this documentation process and the inter organisation will now be performed digitally by using the advanced arrangement in the cloud-based 'Information Lake' connected with GIS labelling and unique project ID, so the task information can be effectively recovered as and when required from any area.

## HEALTHCARE

### AROGYA PATH WEB BASED SOLUTION



**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Government of India has launched an Arogya Path which is a web-based solution which provides availability of critical healthcare supply commodities on a real-time basis.

**Key Points:**

- The web-based solution is made available by the government of India on CSIR National Healthcare Supply Chain Portal.
- The portal will enable manufacturers and suppliers to display their health care commodities and healthcare solutions on Arogya Path so that the customers will be able to reach the nearby pathological lab, medical store and hospitals effectively.
- It is developed in partnership with Sarvodaya Infotech.
- It is launched to tackle and deal with national health emergency arisen due to the pandemic COVID-19.

**ENVIRONMEN**

**‘I-FLOWS’- A FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM**



**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020

A state of the art flood warning system called ‘I-FLOWS’ has been launched in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It is launched by Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Science and Technology, Earth Science Dr, Harsh Vardhan Rathore along with CM of Maharashtra Uddhav Thackeray.

**Key Features:**

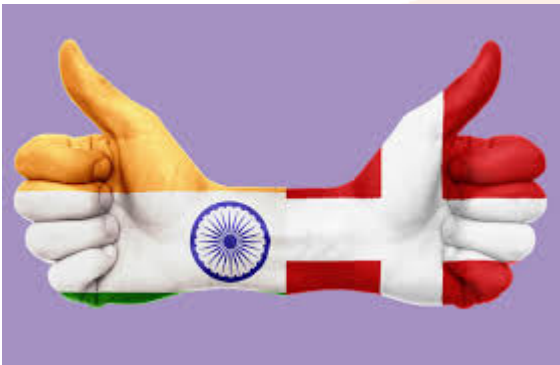
- ‘I-FLOWS’ is a state of the art Integrated Flood Warning System.

- It is launched with an aim to alleviate and monitor the flood activities by providing early warning in the city during high rainfall and cyclone conditions.
- It is developed by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) and the Ministry of Earth Science.
- The 'I-FLOWS' flood warning system provides estimates of flood situation up to 3 days in advance and also provides 3 hours to 6 hours nowcast describing immediate weather updates and in low lying areas forecasts up to 12 hours in advance.

## INTERNATIONAL

### MOUS & AGREEMENTS

#### INDO DENMARK ENERGY CO-OPERATION



**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020

India has signed a MoU with Denmark in the field of Energy Co-operation in order to develop the power sector.

**Key Points:**

- The MoU was signed between the Power ministry of India and the ministry for energy utilities and climate of Denmark.
- The two countries will boost their power sector on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit.
- The MoU will establish collaboration in the areas like offshore wind, energy planning for future, forecasting energy demand, grid technology, consolidations of grid codes to operate them efficiently for variable generation operations, flexibility in power purchase agreements, incentivize power plant flexibility, renewable energy production and its usage.

### REPORTS & INDICES



## ENVIRONMENT PERFORMANCE INDEX 2020



**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Yale University and Columbia University have jointly released Environment Performance Index 2020 (EPI 2020).

### Key Points:

- India has ranked at 168th position among 180 countries with a score of 27.6 out of 100 in Environment Performance Index 2020.
- The list has been topped by Denmark with a score of 82.5.
- Under the category of air quality, India has stood at 179th at the 2020 EPI.
- Under the category of biodiversity and habitat, India has stood at 148th at the 2020 EPI.
- Under the category of climate change mitigation, India has stood at 106th at the 2020 EPI.

## QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKING 2021



**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Quacquarelli Symonds (QC) World University Ranking for 2021 is released.

### Key Points:

- The ranking is topped by Massachusetts Institute for Technology (MIT) followed by Stanford University and Harvard University.
- Only 3 Indian Institutes are included in the top 200 ranking category which are namely, IIT Bombay, Indian Institute of Science Bangalore and IIT Delhi.
- IIT Bombay is ranked at 172nd position, Indian Institute of Science Bangalore is ranked at 185th position and IIT Delhi is at 193rd position.

## 2020 NATURE INDEX



**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> June 2020

The Nature Index 2020 highlights the ranking of the academic institutions globally. The currently released Nature Index 2020 report analyses the institutions in terms of high quality research in the natural science field based on the research data published by them in top journals from 1st Jan 2019 to 31st Dec 2019.

**Key Points:**

- As per the report, the top three institutions are Chinese Academy of Sciences holding 1st rank, followed by Harvard University of USA and Max Planck Society, Germany.
- Top three Indian institutions in terms of global rank holding are Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) (160th rank), IISc Bangalore (184th rank) and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) (260th rank).
- Top three DST institutions among India included are Indian Association for Cultivation of Sciences (IACS) Kolkata, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCAR) Bangalore and S.N. Bose National Center for Basic Sciences Kolkata.

**ENVIRONMENT**

**TECH MAHINDRA SIGNS UNGC INITIATIVE**



**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020

The IT giant Tech Mahindra has signed a declaration of United Nations Global

Compact (UNGC) initiative to reduce the carbon dioxide emissions and energy conservation using latest technologies like IoT, AI and blockchain.

**Key Points:**

- Already 155 global companies have inked this initiative of UNGC.
- Tech Mahindra has assured to raise the target of renewable energy to 50% by 2025.
- It will be supporting the activities targeted to hold global temperature rise to within 1.5 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels, in order to reach net-zero emissions before 2050.
- Until now Tech Mahindra has taken steps towards a green economy by adopting a low emission technology path to increase the use of renewable energy from 1.7% in 2016 to 18% in 2020.

**SOCIAL**

**WEST BENGAL GETS RS 1950 CRORE LOAN FROM WORLD BANK**



**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020

World Bank has granted financial support by providing a loan amount of Rs 1950 crore to West Bengal.

**Key Points:**

- The loan amount will help West Bengal to tackle the pandemic situation of COVID-19 and to carry out development work in the state.
- Out of this total loan amount, Rs 850 crore will be utilised for social welfare schemes by West Bengal and rest Rs 1100 crore will be utilised for Industrial Infrastructure.



# PEOPLE

## NATIONAL

### OBITUARIES

#### GULZAR DEHLVI



**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Veteran Poet Gulzar Dehlvi passed away after recovering from COVID-19.

#### Key Points:

- The Veteran Urdu poet Anand Mohan Zutshi ‘Gulzar’ Dehlvi passed away after recovering from COVID-19 in less than a week.
- Gulzar was the editor of “Science ki Duniya”, the only science magazine published in Urdu by the Government of India. It was launched in 1975.
- Gulzar was associated with freedom movements. He is a Padmashree awardee.
- He was a part of a number of mushairas namely Jashn-e-Rekhta and Jigar Fest.

### APPOINTMENTS

#### BRAJENDRA NAVNIT



**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Why in news: Appointed as India's new ambassador to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

**Key Points:**

- India appointed Brajendra Navnit, a 1999 batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre as India's new ambassador to the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- Navnit who was till recently served as a joint secretary in the prime minister's office.
- He will replace the current ambassador JS Deepak in Geneva for a period of three years.

**INTERNATIONAL**

**OBITUARIES**

**KURT THOMAS**



**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020

World champion Gymnast Kurt Thomas passed away

**Key Points:**

- Kurt Thomas, the winner of the first World Championship gold medal in the history of US gymnastics, passed away.
- Thomas, known for his original and daring skills, won a record total of eight world medals, three of them gold, at the 1978 and 1979 World Championships.
- His record has since been tied by Simone Biles, who accomplished the feat at the 2018 world championships.



# ISSUES

## NATIONAL

### ENVIRONMENT

#### ASSAM GAS LEAK



**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020

#### **Key Highlights:**

- Since the morning of May 27, natural gas has been continuously flowing out of a gas well in Assam following a blowout — or a sudden, uncontrolled release of gas/oil.
- This happened after the blowout at the Oil India Limited's (OIL) Baghjan gas well in Assam's Tinsukia district.
- People from surrounding villages have been evacuated, while a variety of fish and an endangered Gangetic dolphin have died.
- The current discharge is at 90,000 SCMD at a pressure of 4,200 PSI, far higher than the normal producing pressure of around 2,700 PSI.
- The pressure balance in a well may be disturbed leading to 'kicks' or changes in pressure. If these are not controlled in time, the 'kicks' can turn into a sudden blowout.
- There are many possible reasons behind blowouts, "from simple lack of attention, poor workmanship, bad maintenance, old age, sabotage to morpho-tectonic factors".

## KRISHNA AND GODAVARI WATER UTILISATION



**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020

### Key Highlights:

- The Union government is going to take stock of water utilisation from the Krishna and Godavari rivers following Telangana and Andhra Pradesh filing complaints against each other.
- The Union Ministry of Jal Sakthi has asked the Chairpersons of the Krishna and Godavari River Management Boards to procure the details of the irrigation projects in Maharashtra and Karnataka, too, and submit them to the Centre in a month.
- The main objective of the exercise appears to be to assess whether surplus water will be available for the new projects in the light of the disputes.
- The issue is that the two States- AP and Telangana- share stretches of the Krishna and the Godavari and own their tributaries.
- They have embarked on several new projects without getting clearance from the river boards, the Central Water Commission and the apex council comprising the Union Water Resources Minister and the Chief Ministers, as mandated by the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.

**INTERNATIONAL**

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### SIKKIM- TIBET CONVENTION OF 1890



**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## Key Highlights:

- The skirmishes and the standoff between Indian and Chinese troops at Naku La in Sikkim last month, in an area of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) has brought back the focus onto the historical Sikkim-Tibet Convention of 1890.
- Experts say, as per this convention, Naku la belongs to India. Besides, Prior to Sikkim's merger with India in 1975, China has officially accepted this demarcation.
- The convention was signed between Britain and Chinese kingdom at Calcutta Convention in 1890. Of the eight Articles mentioned in the treaty, Article 1 is of critical significance.
- As per Article (1), it was agreed that the boundary of Sikkim and Tibet shall be the crest of the mountain range separating the waters flowing into the Sikkim Teesta and its affluents, from the waters flowing into the Tibetan Mochu and northwards into other rivers of Tibet.



dishana  
Nurturing Ambitions

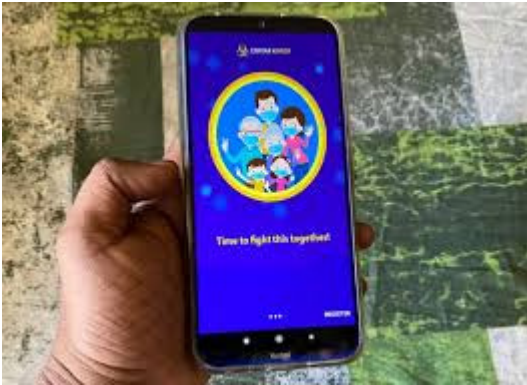


# IDEAS

## NATIONAL

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

#### COVID BEEP APP



**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020

#### Key Features:

- COVID BEEP app is India's first indigenous wireless physiological parameter monitoring system for coronavirus patients.
- Its acronym is Continuous Oxygenation and Vital Information Detection Biomed ECIL ESIC Pod.
- It is launched by Union Minister of north eastern region (DoNER) Dr. Jitendra Singh.
- It is jointly developed by ESIC medical college, IIT Hyderabad and Electronics Corporation of India Ltd (ECIL).
- It can measure vital parameters like body temperature, blood oxygen saturation, heart rate, respiratory rate, ECG and blood pressure of patients.

### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

#### AI BASED SYSTEM TO TRACK SOCIAL DISTANCING



**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## Key Features:

- Researchers at IIT Kharagpur have developed a cyber-physical system which is based on Artificial Intelligence which will perform the monitoring and tracking the record of social distancing in public places and which will prove beneficial in containing the spread of COVID-19.
- It is basically a low-cost device which detects the gap between people in public places.
- It is incorporated with proximity sensors and will play a proximity alert sound via audio whenever social distancing norms are violated in public places.
- It captures the image of the field view and computes the distance as per criteria decided by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

## INTERNATIONAL

## SOCIAL

### SOCIAL BUBBLES



**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## Key Features:

- Many countries have started gradually lifting restrictions even as the number of cases of the infection continues to rise.
- One of the ways of effective social distancing strategies to keep the Covid-19 curve flat suggested by experts includes the idea of ‘social bubbles’.
- The idea is based on New Zealand’s model of household “bubbles”, an exclusive social group that is allowed to meet with each other amid the pandemic.
- A bubble is referred to as an individual’s household or the people that one lives with. People may be allowed to extend their bubbles slightly to include caregivers or children who might be in shared care.
- New Zealand followed this approach during the lockdown and allowed the expansion of the bubbles as transmission slowed and restrictions eased.

