

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS 1ST TO 7TH FEBRUARY 2020

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Kala Ghoda Festival

- **The festival began in the year 1999** and thereafter was born as the **biggest street art festival** of India.
- **Kala Ghoda Association organises the festival**, was formed on 30th October 1998 with the object of maintaining and preserving the heritage and art district of South Mumbai.

International Gandhi Awards for Leprosy

- **The International Gandhi Awards for Leprosy** is presented to **Dr N.S. Dharmashaktu and the Leprosy Mission Trust**.
- The award has been instituted by **Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation**, a pioneering organisation established in **1986**.

NATIONAL NEWS

34th Surajkund International Crafts Mela

- The Surajkund Mela showcases the richness and diversity of the handicrafts, handlooms and cultural fabric of India & is **the largest crafts fair in the world**.
- The Mela is organized by the **Surajkund Mela Authority & Haryana Tourism** in collaboration with **Union Ministries of Tourism, Textiles, Culture and External Affairs**.

5 IITs Given Status of Institution of National Importance

- The cabinet chaired by PM Modi has approved the introduction of the **Indian Institutes of Information Technology Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020**.
- The bill will declare the **remaining five IITs** along with the **existing 15 IITs in PPP mode** as Institutions of National Importance with **powers to award degrees**.

31st Veer Savarkar Akhil Bharatiya Samudra Taran Spardha

- The Veer Savarkar Akhil Bharatiya Samudra Taran Spardha also called as **Veer Savarkar All India Sea Swimming Competition** was held in the **Arabian Sea off Gir Somnath coast of Gujarat**.
- **Monika Nagpure and Rutvik Bhajiwala** both belong to Surat, Gujarat.

SC stays HC Order Directing Sale of HDIL Assets

- A bench comprising of **Chief Justice S A Bobe and Justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant** gave stay order, on the appeal of RBI against the Bombay High Court order.
- The Bombay High Court had set up a **three-member committee** for valuating and sale of encumbered assets of HDIL to expeditiously recover dues payable by the firm to PMC Bank.

BANKING

RBI Increased Insurance Cover on Bank Deposits

- The **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India provides the insurance coverage to the depositors.
- The DICGC has raised the limit of insurance cover for depositors in insured banks to **provide a greater measure of protection to depositors in banks** and boost the confidence of people in the banking system.

Union Cabinet Approved Amendment to Bring Co-op Banks under RBI

- The government approved amendments to the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949** to ensure greater **accountability and transparency in the functioning of Cooperative Banks**.
- According to the data released by RBI, Urban cooperative banks (UCBs) reported nearly **1,000 cases of fraud worth more than Rs 220 crore in the last five fiscals**.

RBI: Status Quo on Repo Rate at 5.15%

- RBI has maintained a status quo on the policy rate with **repo rate remains unchanged at 5.15% under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)** and is not expected to cut interest rates before June 2020.
- These decisions are in consonance with the objective of achieving the medium-term target for consumer price index (CPI) **inflation of 4 % within a band of plus or minus 2%**.

APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Person	Designation
M. Ajit Kumar	Chairman of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)
Lieutenant General YK Joshi	General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Northern Command

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Award	Awardee
Implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana	Madhya Pradesh

IMPORTANT DAY

Date	Day	Theme
1 st February 2020	Foundation Day of the Indian Coast Guard	--
4 th February 2020	World Cancer Day	Theme: "I Am and I Will".

MOUS SIGNED

India and Maldives Signed 5 MoUs

- The Addu Tourism zone will be established in **five islands of Addu** atoll at a cost of **2.49 million dollars**.

- The MOUs were signed between the **High Commissioner of India Sunjay Sudhir**, Minister of Foreign Affairs **Abdulla Shahid** and **Addu City Council**.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Portal Santusht

- The **objective of 'Santusht'** is to promote **transparency, accountability, effective delivery of public services** and implementation of policies, schemes of Ministry of Labour and Employment through constant monitoring.
- The **portal 'Santusht'** ensures speedy redressal of worker as well as employer grievances and ensuring effective implementation of labour laws at the grassroots level.

DEFENCE

Exercise SAMPRITI-IX

- The defence cooperation exercise **SAMPRITI 2020** will be the **ninth edition** of the exercise which is **hosted alternately by both countries**.
- During SAMPRITI-IX a **Command Post Exercise (CPX)** and a **Field Training Exercise (FTX)** will be conducted.

11th Edition of DefExpo 2020

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the **biennial mega defence exhibition** which will cover the entire spectrum of the **country's aerospace, defence and security interests**.
- The **theme** of the DefExpo 2020 is **'India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub'**.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

New Natural Gas Field Discovered in UAE

- The gas field contains **80 trillion standard cubic feet of gas** and is situated in the **cross-border area of the Emirates of Abu Dhabi and Dubai**.
- Government of Dubai stated that the **discovery of the Jebel Ali gas field** will contribute to achieving gas **self-sufficiency for the nation**.

SATHI Initiative

- SATHI is a shared, professionally managed, Science and Technology infrastructure facility, which can readily be accessible to **academia, start-ups, manufacturing units, industries and R&D Labs**.
- The **primary objective** of the science and technology infrastructure facility will be to extend help to the academic institutes, industries, manufacturing units etc. **in the neighbouring regions**.

PMI Shot Up Eight Year High

- Manufacturing sector growth in India continued to strengthen in January, with operating conditions improving at a pace **not seen in close to eight years**.
- As per the **HIS Markit, India Services Business Index** rose to 55.5 in January 2020 from 53.3 in December 2019 for **Service sector** making services activity hit seven years high in January.

Christina Koch is Set to Return to Earth

- Christina Koch has shattered the **spaceflight record for female astronauts** by spending almost a year aboard the **International Space Station (ISS)**.
- Koch has spent 328 days on ISS, surpassing the previous record held by fellow **American Peggy Whitson**.

SPORTS

India won 6 Gold at Golden Girl Championship

- The Golden Girl Box Cup is open for **all female boxers, all categories**.
- First time in **2009**, 70 of the best female boxers in **Europe came to fight for the title" GOLDEN GIRL"**.

High Performance Centres

- The High-Performance Centres in seven places will be launched to provide **state-of-the-art facilities to Junior and Sub-Junior players** and also **international exposure**.
- The move is aimed at grooming young talent in view of **2024 and 2028 Olympic Games**.

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

INCCU Meet with UNESCO

- The meet emphasised on measures to promote UNESCO's ideals and objectives in the fields of **education, culture, communication, natural sciences and social and human sciences**.
- In the culture sector, UNESCO's programmes **aim** to promote, preserve and safeguard cultural heritage and spread respect for all cultures.

World Expo-2020: Dubai

- **Expo 2020 Dubai is a World Expo** that's going to be **hosted by Dubai in the United Arab Emirates** and is scheduled to open on **20th October 2020**.
- The **World Expo** provides a platform where people from all over the world come together and connect with each other, share ideas, learn and innovate.

4th EAS Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation

- **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**, Government of India in partnership with **Government of Australia and Indonesia** will organise the 4th EAS Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation from **6-7th Feb 2020 in Chennai**.
- **Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)** and **The National Maritime Foundation (NMF)** are the **knowledge partners** of the conference.

1st India-Africa Defence Ministers Conclave

- The conclave was **co-organised by the Ministry of Defence** and was the **first in the series of Pan Africa events at the Ministerial level**.
- A **Joint Declaration - "Lucknow Declaration"**, was adopted after the conclusion of IADMC 2020.