
WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS 1ST TO 7TH JANUARY 2020

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

95th Hastings International Chess Title

- India's **P Magesh Chandran** lifted the title in the **95th edition** of the prestigious Hastings International Chess Congress.
- The 95th Hastings International Chess Congress was held at **Hastings in England**.

NATIONAL NEWS

Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System

- The Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System is launched to enable **applicants to track the status of the applications on a real time basis**.
- Under the tracking system, the applicants, applying for the party registration will be able to **track the progress of applications** and will get the status through **SMS and e-mail**.

'Visit Nepal Year 2020' Campaign

- The ambitious campaign is aimed to **promote tourism in Nepal and attract 2 million tourists during the year 2020**.
- **Nepal's Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Yogesh Bhattarai** said the government has a goal of making tourism one of the key pillars of Nepali economy.

India to Restrict Non-Essential items Import from China

- India import **around Rs 4 Trillion worth non-essential goods from China**, as per the Commerce Ministry estimate.
- A total of 371 items will be restricted from **March 2020** which includes toys, plastic goods, Sport items, furniture especially from China.

World's 2nd Tallest Statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

- The bronze statue is **50 feet tall** with the weight of **70 thousand kilograms** and is unveiled at the **Sardardham campus near Vaishnodevi circle in Ahmedabad**.
- After **the Statue of Unity (SoU)** of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, situated at Kevadiya in Narmada district of Central Gujarat, It has become the second-highest statue of India's first home minister.

Antarrastriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman

- Assessment for Prize was done by a jury consisting 6 members and headed by **Justice C.K. Prasad, Press Council of India.**
- The Prize will comprise a **citation, Plaque and a special trophy.**

BANKING

December GST Revenue Collection

- The impressive **growth of 16% is observed in the GST revenues** during the month of December, 2019 from domestic transactions, as compared to the Dec 18 collection.
- The government has settled **Rs 21,814crore to CGST and Rs 15,366crore to SGST** from IGST as regular settlement.

RBI has Launched a Mobile App, MANI

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched a mobile app named **Mobile Aided Note Identifier (MANI) to help visually challenged people** to identify denomination of currency notes.
- The RBI launched the mobile app considering the reports of problems faced by visually-challenged people in identifying these **new currency notes due to the significant changes in the sizes and designs after the demonetization in November 2016.**

SBI and NPCI recommendations on Rupay Card

- The worry of SBI and other state-run banks who are the main issuers of the RuPay card is that the government decision to scrap the processing charge on transactions with the card **would cause them a revenue loss.**
- NPCI is concerned that the **action would disincentivise banks to issue RuPay cards** and they would instead **prefer international rivals of the home-grown payment gateway.**

UCO Bank Debt Resolution under NCLT

- The recovery would help the bank to reduce its net losses as the bank had reported **net losses for the last 16 quarters.**
- Due to **high bad loan ratios and negative return on assets,** the UCO bank is still being under Reserve Bank of India's **prompt corrective action.**

Govt infused Rs 4,360 crore to IOB

- The bank has received the amount as **contribution of the government in preferential allotment of equity shares during the financial year 2019-20** as government's investment.
- The Finance Ministry had announced capital infusion of Rs 3,800 crore on August 2019, which was later increased by **Rs 5600 crore.**

RBI New Norms for UCBS

- The RBI will continue to **monitor asset quality, profitability and capital/net worth of UCBS under the revised SAF.**

- Depending upon the stress severity, the RBI may ask them to **curtail their lending powers, among other safeguards.**

INDEX AND RANKING

Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index

- Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index is released by the **World Economic Forum.**
- In the year 2019, India's rank in the Index has moved to **34th position from 65th rank in 2013.**

APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Person	Designation
Vinod Kumar Yadav	Chairman of Railway Board
Air Marshal Vibhas Pande VSM	Air Officer-in-Charge Maintenance (AOM) of Indian Air Force
Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton	New Chancellor of Queen's University in Belfast, Ireland

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
4 th January 2020	World Braille Day	To raise awareness of the importance of Braille as a means of communication in the full realization of the human rights for blind and partially sighted people.

MOU'S SIGNED

MoU on Ak-203 Assault Rifles

- The faculty is being set up between **Rosoboron Exports and Kalashnikov on Russian side** with 49.5% equity while **Ordnance Factories Board on Indian side** with 50% shareholding.
- Army has appointed **Major General Sanjeev Senger as the chief Executive Officer** of Indo-Russia Rifles Private Limited to ensure timely delivery of weapons.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ISRO's Missions in 2020

- Gaganyaan** is a fully autonomous spacecraft designed to carry a 3-member crew to orbit at 400 km altitude and safely return to the Earth after a mission duration of up to seven days.

- Also on 31st Dec, the **Union Minister Jitendra Singh** has said that **India will launch Chandrayaan-3 in 2020.**

DGCA's e-Governance Project

- **Secretary of Ministry of Civil Aviation, Pradeep Kharola** has launched the **Phase-1 services of the e-Governance project of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).**
- The eDGCA project is being implemented with **TCS as a Service Provider and PWC as a Project Management Consultant.**

Indian Science Congress

- The ISC is a major focal point for **scientists, researchers and academicians** interested in various aspects of scientific discoveries and technologies and is to be attended by over 15,000 delegates including **Nobel laureates, scientists, academicians, students, farmers** among others.
- The five-day-long event aims to bring together **science fraternity across the world** to discuss scientific innovation and research.

Assam Zoo: 1st to Breed Endangered Hargila

- **The Assam State Zoo cum Botanical Garden and Aaranyak** have jointly attained the successful hatching of a pair of Greater Adjutant chicks (Hargila).
- The Endangered Greater Adjutant stork (*Leptoptilos dubius*) is one of the rarest species of Storks out of **twenty species of Storks in the world.**



5th IHAI National Ice Hockey Championship-2020

- The contest ended in a draw with 4 goals each in the inaugural match in **Under-20 Boys category** between Chandigarh and Haryana.
- Similarly, the second match between **Ladakh Scouts Regiment Centre and Delhi** also ended in a draw with 2 goals each.

Manav Thakkar became World no.1 in Latest ITTF Ranking

- Manav Thakkar has now become the **fourth Indian** to achieve the feat after **Harmeet Desai, G Sathiyam and Soumyajit Ghosh.**
- He was also part of the Indian men's team which won a **bronze medal in the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta.**