EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JAN 5, 2020

STATES

➢ **Bihar's Bhagalpur forest – will have the country's first Turtle Rehabilitation Centre to be set up in January 2020**

✓ It will accomodate more than 500 turtles in an area of over half a hectare
✓ The centre will rehabilitate sick and severely injured turtles which are being rescued from smugglers
✓ It will also monitor these turtles after rehabilitation, before releasing them into rivers.
✓ River Ganga flows through Bhagalpur
✓ Hence, there are number of sandbanks in the region that act as ideal breeding ground for the turtles.
✓ As these turtles are quite heavy, they are smuggled to a great extent
✓ They are targeted for their meat as turtle meat boosts energy and keeps diseases away.
✓ According to a study of Traffic India, every year around 11,000 turtles are smuggled from India

➢ **The Andhra Pradesh Government - announced that it will deliver sand at customers' door steps across the state**

✓ The pilot project will help address issues of sand scarcity and sand mafia, besides preventing illegal sand mining.
✓ Under the initiative, the government will collect transportation charges from the customers and deliver sand at door steps of the customers
✓ In order to make the initiative successful, the Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation will stock 15 lakh tons of sand per month for the next five months.
✓ At present, the sand demand in the state is around 80,000 tonnes a day.

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NATIONAL

➤ **The Ministry of Labour - has decided to launch 'Santusht' portal for the speedy redressal of employees and employers' grievances**
✓ Through the portal, employees can submit their complaints which will be attended by a monitoring cell.
✓ This portal will manage all services provided by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) and ESIC.

➤ **The Election Commission - has launched a new 'online' tracking system for the registration of political parties**

✓ The new system called as 'Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System' (PPRTMS) will be applicable to the political parties registering from January 1, 2020.
✓ It will allow these political parties to track their registration applications submitted to the Election Commission on a real-time basis.
✓ The status of the application can also be tracked through the Election Commission's portal - https://pprtms.eci.gov.in
✓ The registration of political parties is governed under the provisions of section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
✓ Under the act, a political party is eligible to get registered as "National Political Party of India" only if it satisfies following criteria -
    ✓ The party should secure at least 6% of votes in 4 or more states at an election to assembly or parliament
    ✓ Also, the party should win at least 4 seats in House of People
✓ A political party is eligible to get registered as "State Political Party" if it satisfies the following criteria
    ✓ The party should win 6% of votes polled in state elections
    ✓ It should win at least 2 seats in legislative assembly of the state.

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➢ **The Income Tax Department – has extended the deadline to link PAN card with Aadhaar till March 2020**.
✓ The earlier deadline was December 31, as announced by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) through order in September 2019.
✓ The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has extended the deadline now for the eighth time.
✓ The earlier deadline to link the PAN card with the Aadhaar card was September 30, 2019.
✓ The Supreme Court had upheld the constitutional validity of the centre's Aadhaar scheme in its judgement on September 26, 2018.
✓ Aadhaar is a 12-digit unique identification number, which is issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to every Indian resident.
✓ PAN is a 10-digit personal account number, allotted to taxpaying public by the IT Department.

➢ **India - celebrated the birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh recently on January 2, 2020.**

✓ Born on January 5, 1666, Guru Gobind Singh is the 10th and last Guru of Sikhs.
✓ He founded Sikh Warrior community called Khalsa in 1699
✓ He introduced five Ks in Sikhism, which is called the "Panj Kakar"
✓ In Sikhism, the holy text 'Dasam Granth' is dedicated to Guru Gobind Singh.
✓ Guru Gobind Singh was the only son of the ninth Sikh Guru, Bahadur, who was beheaded for not following Islam
✓ Guru Nanak founded Sikhism in 1469 and was the first Sikh Guru.
✓ In 1708, the guruship was passed on to the holy sikh scripture Guru Granth Sahib.

➢ **India - will overtake Germany to become the world's fourth largest economy in 2026.**
✓ This is revealed as per the a report released by UK based Centre for Economics and Business Research
✓ The report titled "World Economic League Table" is based on the data from IMF's World Economic Outlook report.

- ✓ As per the report, India will overtake Japan and become third largest economy in the world in 2034
- ✓ Today, India is the fifth largest economy in the World after US (20.49 trillion USD), China (13.41 trillion USD), Japan (4.97 trillion USD) and Germany (4 trillion USD).
- ✓ In 2019, India had successfully overtaken France and UK to reach rank 5.
- ✓ India will achieve its $5 trillion target by 2026, as per the report

- ➢ **The Government of India - launched "Central Equipment Identify Register" (CEIR) portal recently to block and trace mobile phones**
- ✓ The web portal will be operated by Department of Telecom.
- ✓ The portal will have a complete database of IMEI numbers of blacklisted handsets.
- ✓ The CEIR has powers to block the usage of the phone by not allowing the wireless carriers to connect to the network
- ✓ IMEI, abbreviation of the International Mobile Equipment Identity, is a unique number that can be found in batteries of phones.
- ✓ Australia was the first country to adopt IMEI

INTERNATIONAL

- ➢ **World Health Organisation (WHO) - selected the year 2020 as the "Year of the Nurse and Midwife"**
- ✓ The year was named in the honor of 200th birthday of Florence Nightingale
- ✓ World Health Organisation will also launch the world's first 'State of the World's Nursing Report' in 2020.
- ✓ This year, WHO has decided to focus on nursing and midwifery in order to achieve 'Universal Health Coverage'
- ✓ Nurses and midwives are the people who devote their lives to caring for children and mothers, looking after senior citizens and giving lifesaving immunizations.
- ✓ Florence Nightingale was an English Social reformer, who organized camps for wounded soldiers during the Crimean War
- ✓ She was called "The Lady with the Lamp" for making rounds on wounded soldiers with a lamp in her hand
- ✓ Every year, the International Nurse Day, is observed on May 1
- ✓ The day is celebrated by the International Council of Nurses

PERSONALITIES

- ➢ **The Catholic Church of Kerala - has decided to declare Archbishop Joseph Attipetty as Servant of God on January 21 at St Francis Assisi Cathedral, Broadway, Ernakulam**
- ✓ It marks the commencement of the cause for his canonization and Sainthood
- ✓ This coincides with the 50th year commemoration of the prelate's death

- ✓ Archbishop Joseph Attipetty was born on June 25, 1894 on the island of Vypeen across Cochin Harbour.
- ✓ He died on January 21, 1970

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ➤ **The Indian Space Research Organization - signed a pact with 'Indian Institute of Astrophysics' to establish an optical telescope under "Project NETRA".**
- ✓ Project NETRA was launched by ISRO in September 2019
- ✓ Under the Project, ISRO plans to set up observational facilities to provide early warnings to satellites about debris and hazards in their orbits
- ✓ The project consists of several radars, telescopes, control centres and data processing units.
- ✓ Currently, India operates 15 communication satellites, 13 remote sensing satellites and 8 navigation satellites.
- ✓ The project aims to shield the Indian satellites from the debris arising from old rocket bodies to defunct space crafts
- ✓ There are more than 7,500 tonnes of space debris that are rotating the earth at present.
- ✓ Apart from Isro, DRDO also operates another 'NETRA', (Network Traffic Analysis) which is a software that monitors internet traffic
- ✓ It is used by Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), Intelligence Bureau (IB) and other intelligence agencies of Government of India.

TAMILNADU RURAL LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS – A UPDATE ON THE RESULTS

SHARE OF THE PIE | With only a few seats left to be declared, let's take a look at how the parties stand so far in the rural local body elections in Tamil Nadu

Pic: File photo

DISTRICT PANCHAYAT COUNCILLOR ELECTION
- 47.18% (243 seats)
- 41.55% (214 seats)
- 2.91% (15 seats)
- 1.36% (7 seats)
- 1.36% (7 seats)
- 0.58% (3 seats)
- 0.39% (2 seats)
- 4.27% (22 seats)
- 0.39% (2 seats)

■ DMK   ■ AIADMK   ■ INC   ■ BJP   ■ CPI
■ DMDK   ■ CPM   ■ Others   ■ Results yet to be declared

PANCHAYAT UNION ELECTION
- 41.10% (2,092 seats)
- 34.64% (1,763 seats)
- 2.57% (131 seats)
- 1.91% (97 seats)
- 1.65% (84 seats)
- 1.22% (62 seats)
- 0.65% (33 seats)
- 15.62% (795 seats)
- 0.65% (3 seats)

Source: State election commission

TOTAL DECLARED
- District panchayat ward members: 513/515
- Panchayat union ward members: 5,087/5,090
- Village panchayat presidents: 9,586/9,624
- Village panchayat ward members: 73,187/76,746

- 18,137 panchayat ward members, 410 panchayat presidents and 23 panchayat union ward members were elected unopposed
- 24,680 booths went to polls in the first phase and 25,008 booths in the second phase
- In all, 77.46% votes were polled in the rural local bodies in 27 districts
- Elections were put off in three wards in K Periappatti panchayat in Manapparai panchayat (Trichy), Kodavasal panchayat (Tiruvarur) and Serukudi panchayat (Tiruvannamalai) due to deaths of candidates
- The SEC stopped counting of votes for 25 posts, after the candidates' names were missing in the supplementary electoral rolls