

## December 4th Week Current Affairs 2019

### AP CM Jagan launches YSR Nethanna Nestham Scheme

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the YSR Nethanna Nestham scheme at Dharmavaram in Anantapur.

Under the scheme, Rs 24,000 will be credited directly into the bank accounts of the weavers having own looms every year. The amount will not be adjusted to the old dues of the beneficiary to the bank.

This scheme will benefit 85,000 handloom weaver families in the State.

#### Recently Ap in News

- Andhra Pradesh is to set up virtual police station (VPS) in the Andhra University.
- AP Assembly passes Disha Bill to award death penalty to rapists within 21 days.
- Andhra Pradesh launches 'Nadu-Nedu' programme.
- AP Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched YSR Vahana Mitra scheme.

### Cuba names Manuel Marrero Cruz as first prime minister

Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel named Tourism Minister Manuel Marrero Cruz as the country's first prime minister since 1976.

The post of prime minister was scrapped in 1976 by the then-revolutionary leader Fidel Castro.

#### Cuba

- President: Miguel Díaz-Canel
- Capital: Havana
- Currency: peso

### Sangita Reddy takes over as FICCI president

Sangita Reddy, Joint Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals Group, has taken over as the President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) for 2019-20.

She succeeds Sandip Somany, Vice-Chairman and Managing Director, HSIL.

Dr Sangita Reddy, a Global Healthcare Influencer, Healthcare Technocrat, a keen watcher of Indian and global economy with deep insights on the new-age businesses, and above all a Social Entrepreneur and Humanitarian, will be FICCI President for 2019-20.

#### FICCI

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Founded: 1927

### Niranjan Hiranandani takes over as ASSOCHAM president

Hiranandani Group Managing Director Niranjan Hiranandani has taken over as the new president of industry body ASSOCHAM. He succeeds Welspun Group Chairman Balkrishan Goenka.

## December 4th Week Current Affairs 2019

### ASSOCHAM

- Founded: 1921
- Headquarters: New Delhi

### **AIIB announces \$210 million loan for irrigation and solar energy projects in India**

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has decided to grant a loan worth of \$210 million for irrigation and solar energy project in India.

\$145 million will be used to improve the irrigation facility and strengthen flood risk management in West Bengal.

\$65 million will be used for 250 MW solar power project in Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

### AIIB

- Headquarters: Beijing, China
- President: Jin Liqun

### **Ecuador declares emergency after Galapagos fuel spill**

Ecuador has declared emergency to contain the environmental impact of a fuel spill in the Galapagos Islands, after a barge carrying 600 gallons of diesel fuel sank.

The Galapagos archipelago, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is home to one of the most fragile ecosystems on the planet.

### Ecuador

- Capital: Quito
- President: Lenin Moreno

### **P R Ravi Mohan new chairman of ESAF Small Finance Bank**

P R Ravi Mohan has been appointed as the new Chairman of ESAF Small Finance Bank. He has replaced R. Prabha, who has completed his tenure as the Chairman.

He also worked as Chief General Manager with the Department of Banking Operations and Development of Reserve Bank of India, where he was involved in regulation of the commercial banking system in the country.

### ESAF Small Finance Bank

- Headquarters: Thrissur
- Founded: March 2017

### **National Consumer Rights Day: 24 December**

National Consumers Right Day is observed on 24 December to raise awareness about the rights of consumers and responsibilities.

Theme: Alternate consumer grievance/dispute redressal

## December 4th Week Current Affairs 2019

### **Pine Labs partners with Kotak Mahindra Bank to facilitate EMI on debit cards.**

Kotak Mahindra Bank has tied up with Pine Labs to enable debit card facility for their debit cardholders across point-of-sale terminals by Pine Labs. customers can avail EMI facility with a minimum purchase of Rs 8,000 and repay over 3 months to 12 months.

#### **Kotak Mahindra Bank**

- HQ: Mumbai
- MD & CEO: Uday Kotak
- Tagline: Let's make money simple

### **Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal launches 'Abhinandan' scheme to benefit students**

The Assam government recently announced a new education loan subsidy scheme Abhinandan to support the permanent residents of the state.

Under this scheme, the Assam government will provide a one-time subsidy of INR 50,000 to students who have availed education loan for higher studies.

#### **Recently Assam in News**

- The state government of Assam has set up 15 Anti-Depredation Squads of Forest department to deal with human-wildlife conflicts in the state.
- Assam Government has announced to launch 'Arundhati Swarna Yojana' on 1 January 2020.
- Assam government launched Sishu Suraksha App for child rights violations.
- The Assam Cabinet decided that no Government jobs will be provided to persons with more than 2 children after 1 January 2021.

### **BHEL commissions country's first lignite-based 500 MW thermal unit**

Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) has successfully commissioned the first lignite-based 500 MW thermal unit of the 2 x 500 MW Neyveli new thermal power project in Tamil Nadu.

The plant is based on once-through and tower type boiler design which has been adopted for the first time in the country for a lignite-based thermal unit.

It is India's 1st lignite fired 500 MW power plant.

#### **BHEL**

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- CMD: Nalin Shinghal

### **8 West African nations rename common currency to Eco**

Eight West African countries have agreed to change the name of their common currency to Eco and severed their earlier currency CFA Franc's links to former colonial ruler France.

The 8 countries are Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

## December 4th Week Current Affairs 2019

### SEBI Slaps Rs 25 Lakh Fine Each on ICRA, CARE, and India Ratings

SEBI imposed Rs 25 lakh penalty each on ICRA, CARE Ratings and India Ratings & Research pertaining to assigning of rating to various non-convertible debentures (NCDs) of IL&FS.

#### SEBI

- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: 1992
- Chairperson: Ajay Tyagi

### Aayushi Dholakia crowned Miss Teen International 2019

A 16-year old Vadodara based Aayushi Dholakia won the crown Miss Teen International 2019. Aayushi Dholakia become the first Indian after 27 years to win the Miss Teen International 2019.

#### Related Info

- Miss South Africa Zozibini Tunzi crowned 2019 Miss Universe.
- Miss India 2019 winner is Suman Rao from Rajasthan.

### Mandu Festival begins at Mandu Madhya Pradesh

The first edition of Mandu festival has been started in Mandu, Madhya Pradesh.

It is a world-famous picturesque tourist destination located in Dhar district of the state. The festival will witness a celebration of the historic heritage blended with the modern vibrancy of the city culture.

The idea of “Khojne Me Kho Jao”, the Mandu festival, is offering an eclectic mix of performing arts, workshops, nature trails, food, architecture, and music to the visitors.

#### Recently Madhya Pradesh in News

- ADB signed \$490 Million loan agreement with India for PPP to upgrade Madhya Pradesh roads.
- Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated Steel Silo based Avantee Mega Food Park in Dewas, Madhya Pradesh.
- Madhya Pradesh has announced 5% reservation to national and international medallists' sportspersons in state government jobs.
- Madhya Pradesh govt to host Orchha festival in March 2020.
- Madhya Pradesh government offers cows for adoption online.

### Federal bank tied up with Magicbricks

Federal Bank has tied up with Magicbricks for listing and e-auctioning of immovable properties repossessed by it in recovery proceedings.

The partnership is aimed at speedy recovery of impaired assets of the bank.

## December 4th Week Current Affairs 2019

### Federal Bank

- Headquarter: Kochi
- MD & CEO: Shyam Srinivasan
- Tagline: Your Perfect Banking Partner

### Karnataka Bank launches TAB banking service

Karnataka Bank digital initiative launched KBL Xpress SB Accounts a digitized version for opening Savings Bank account through TAB Banking on the spot.

Using the TAB banking account opening process, the Bank can on-board the prospective customer and open the Savings Bank Account.

#### Karnataka Bank

- Headquarters: Mangaluru
- MD & CEO: Mahabaleshwara M S
- Tagline: Your Family Bank Across India

### Andhra Bank gets award for rural employment

Andhra Bank has received a best performing bank award for RSETIs for 2018-19 financial year.

Andhra bank established 14 Rural Self-Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) under Ministry of Rural Development scheme in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha and Kerala.

#### Andhra Bank

- MD & CEO: Shri J Packirisamy
- Tagline: Where India Banks

### Hemant Soren sworn in as 11th CM of Jharkhand

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha leader Hemant Soren took oath as the 11th Chief Minister of Jharkhand on December 29, 2019. Governor of Jharkhand Droupadi Murmu has administered the oath of office and secrecy to Soren.

This is the second time that Soren has taken oath as the chief minister of the tribal state.

Alamgir Alam and Rameshwar Oraon of the Congress and Satyanand Bhogta, the lone RJD legislator, also took oath along with Soren.

#### Recently Jharkhand in News

- Jharkhand's Mahuamilan station becomes country's 5500th station to get free wifi facility.
- PM inaugurates Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal at Sahibganj, Jharkhand.

### Lt Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane to take over as new Army chief

Lieutenant General Manoj Mukund Naravane took charge as the 28th Chief of Army Staff.

Army Chief Gen Bipin Rawat is due to retire on December 31 after a three-year stint as the Army chief.

Mukund Naravane is currently serving as vice-chief of the army.

## December 4th Week Current Affairs 2019

Before taking charge as vice-chief of the Army staff in September, Lt Gen Naravane was heading the Eastern Command of the Army which takes care of India's nearly 4,000-km border with China.

### Related Info:

- Chief of the Air Staff: Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria
- Chief of the Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh
- First Chief of Defence Staff: General Bipin Rawat

### Dhanu Jatra begins at Bargarh, Odisha

The famous 11-day Dhanu Jatra celebrated as the largest open-air theatre of the world begins at Bargarh in western Odisha.

The Jatra is based on the mythological story of Lord Krishna and his demon uncle King Kansa.

Dhanu Jatra is the annual drama-based open-air theatrical performance celebrated in and around Bargarh city is considered to be the world's largest open-air theatrical festival that finds a mention in the Guinness Book of World Records.

### Recently Odisha in News

- Odisha Government has decided to set up 45 fast track courts to expedite the trial of cases relating to women and children.
- Chief Minister of Odisha has launched a smart learning phone application 'MadhuApp' for school children.
- National Tribal Craft Mela- 2019 held in Bhubaneswar.
- Odisha tagged with Maharashtra under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

### Madhya Pradesh gets its 1st elephant colony in Bandhavgarh forest

For the first time, Bandhavgarh Reserve forest located in Madhya Pradesh (MP), has a colony of elephants who migrated from Chhattisgarh and has stayed on.

Bandhavgarh is a large reserve forest that has plenty of food and water which is the possible reason for this migration and stay.

### Recently Madhya Pradesh in News

- Madhya Pradesh government offers cows for adoption online.
- Music festival Tansen Samaroh began in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
- ADB signed \$490 Million loan agreement with India for PPP to upgrade Madhya Pradesh roads.

### "R N Kao: Gentleman Spymaster" book authored by Nitin Gokhale

Book titled "R N Kao: Gentleman Spymaster" authored by former journalist Nitin Gokhale was released by Army chief-designate Lieutenant General Manoj Naravane.

### Malayali boy Aditya to receive Bharat Award for bravery

Aditya K. of Ramanattukara, Kozhikode, has become the first child from the State to bag the Bharat Award for bravery.

The Bharat Award has gone to Aditya for rescued 20 people from a bus carrying members of the Calicut University Pensioners' Forum and their families when it caught fire coming down a steep mountain road.

## December 4th Week Current Affairs 2019

*Governor of Kerala: Arif Mohammad Khan.*

### **National Mathematics Day: 22 December**

National Mathematics Day is observed on 22 December every year to mark the birth anniversary of legendary Indian mathematician, Srinivasa Ramanujan and his contributions in the field of mathematics.

The former Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, paid tribute to Srinivasa Ramanujan at a function organized on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of the great mathematician Srinivasa Iyengar Ramanujan in Chennai. National Mathematics Day celebrated across the country for the first time.

The Indian mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan was born on 22 December 1887 and died on 26 April 1920.

### **Rafael Nadal, Ashleigh Barty named 2019 ITF World Champions**

Rafael Nadal and Australian Ashleigh Barty have been named International Tennis Federation's (ITF) World Champions for 2019.

Ashley Barty was ranked number one in the year 2019 and played his first major grand slam role in this year. Barty had also won the WTA Finals title and played his key role in leading Australia to the Fed Cup final for the first.

Rafael Nadal currently the world number one, this year won his 12th French Open and a fourth US Open.

### **Vice President releases the book "Turbulence and Triumph– The Modi Years"**

The Vice President of India Venkaiah Naidu released a book titled 'Turbulence and Triumph: The Modi Years' in New Delhi.

The book has been written by Rahul Agarwal and Bharti S Pradhan and is published by Om Books International.

The book is about the life journey of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi from his days as a young boy in Gujarat till becoming the Prime Minister of India.

### **National Farmers Day or Kisan Diwas: 23 December**

National Farmers Day or Kisan Diwas observed every year in India on the 23rd of December to honor the birth anniversary of the fifth Prime Minister of India, Choudhary Charan Singh.

He played a pivotal role in the Agricultural Sector of India by drafting and enacting various bills for farmer's reforms, introduced many policies to improve the lives of Indian farmers.

### **Indian Archaeologist Nagaswamy honoured in Bangladesh**

Renowned Indian archaeologist R. Nagaswamy was honoured at the Silver Jubilee International Conference of Art held in Dhaka by Bangladesh Culture Minister K.M. Khalid.

He was honoured for the contribution of Nagaswamy to art, archaeology, history, and culture.

He served as the founder-director of Tamilnadu Archaeology Department.

### **India constructs Girls' Hostel for Nepal Armed Police Force School**

The Government of India has constructed Girls' Hostel for Nepal Armed Police Force School in Kirtipur, Kathmandu.

## December 4th Week Current Affairs 2019

Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Dr Ajay Kumar inaugurated hostel building. Nepal Armed Police Force (APF) School is an academic institution created under the APF Welfare Service Centre of Nepal Armed Police Force.

### Nepal

Prime Minister: K P Sharma Oli

President: Bidhya Devi Bhandari

### Monisha Ghosh named as first woman CTO at FCC in US

Indian-American Dr Monisha Ghosh has been appointed as the first woman Chief Technology Officer at the US government's powerful Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

She will advise Indian-American Chairman of the FCC Ajit Pai and the agency on technology and engineering issues and work closely with the Office of Engineering and Technology. Ghosh will take charge on January 13 next year.

### Sikkim CM laid the foundation stone two IPU's of Sikkim IFFCO

The Chief Minister Shri. Prem Singh Tamang (Golay) laid the foundation stone of two Integrated Processing Units of Sikkim IFFCO Organics Limited in Rangpo, East Sikkim.

Sikkim IFFCO is a joint venture between the world's biggest fertilizer Cooperative, IFFCO, and Government of Sikkim.

The main purpose to promote and market the organic produce of the country and especially from Sikkim and other north-eastern states of India.

### Harsh Vardhan Shringla appointed as Foreign Secretary

Narendra Modi government approved the appointment of Indian ambassador to the United States Harsh Vardhan Shringla as the next foreign secretary. He replaced Vijay Gokhale.

Harsh Vardhan Shringla served as an ambassador to Bangkok from 2014 to 2016 and later as a High Commissioner to Dhaka for two years and served at UNESCO in France, the UN in New York besides Vietnam, Israel, and South Africa.

### Andhra Pradesh CM Jagan lays foundation stone for Rs 15,000 crore steel plant.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy laid the foundation stone for establishing a high-grade steel plant at Sunnapurallapalli village in his native Kadapa district.

The Rs 15,000-crore plant with a three-million-tonne capacity per annum would provide jobs to about 25,000 people and would be completed in three years.

A total of 3,295 acres of land has to be acquired in Jammalamadugu area of Kadapa district for the plant to be set up with private investment.

### Oxygen Parlour opened at Nashik Railway Station to combat Air Pollution

Oxygen Parlour has been opened at Nashik Railway Station in Maharashtra by Indian Railways in collaboration with Airo Guard to provide an experience of breathing clean air to the commuters and to battle against rising air pollution.



## December 4th Week Current Affairs 2019

The Co-founder of Airo Guard, Amit Amritkar said that the concept of Oxygen Parlour is based on the recommendation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

### **17th India-EU Summit 2020 to be held in Brussels**

The President of European Council Charles Michel invited Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to attend the 17th India-EU summit in 2020.

The summit will focus on areas such as Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement, Europol, counter-terrorism, Euroatom, climate change, etc.

The summit will be held at Brussels, Belgium.

### **President Ram Nath Kovind releases mobile app of Red Cross Society of India**

President Ram Nath Kovind today released the mobile app of the Red Cross Society of India in Hyderabad.

This app developed by the Telangana Centre for Good Governance in less than three months. The mobile app is accessible in all languages. The developers informed that the access to blood bank and Red Cross membership would become easy with the launching of the mobile app.

### **SEBI signs pact with Kazakhstan's AFSA for mutual co-operation, technical assistance**

Markets regulator SEBI has signed a bilateral MoU with Kazakhstan-based Astana Financial Services Authority (AFSA) for mutual co-operation and technical assistance.

The MoU was signed by SEBI Chairman Ajay Tyagi and the acting CEO of AFSA Mukhtar Bubeyev.

The objective of the bilateral memorandum of understanding (MoU) is to strengthen cross border co-operation in the area of securities regulation.

### **Prime Minister Modi Launched Atal Bhujal Yojana**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL) and named the Strategic Tunnel under Rohtang Pass after Vajpayee, in an event held in New Delhi.

#### **Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL)**

The main objective of this scheme is to improve ground water management through participatory groundwater management and bringing about behavioural changes at the community level for sustainable groundwater resource management in seven States, viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

The Scheme will benefit nearly 8350 Gram Panchayats in 78 districts of the above mentioned 7 States. Out of the total outlay of Rs. 6000 crores to be implemented over a period of 5 years 50% shall be in the form of World Bank loan and be repaid by the Central Government. The remaining 50% shall be through Central Assistance from regular budgetary support.

### **Tunnel under Rohtang pass to be renamed after Atal Bihari Vajpayee**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved to rename Strategic Tunnel under Rohtang Pass in Himachal Pradesh after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

## December 4th Week Current Affairs 2019

The historic decision to construct a strategic tunnel below the Rohtang Pass was taken by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The 8.8-kilometre long tunnel is the world's longest tunnel above an altitude of 3,000 metres.

### **Kamareddy won UNICEF 2019 Award for Swachh Bharat implementation**

Kamareddy district of Telangana has secured the United Nations International Children's and Education Fund (Unicef) 2019 Award for effective implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission in water sanitation and hygiene sectors.

Kamareddy district on top in the country among other districts in construction of individual sanitary lavatories, swachh darpan wall paintings, Swachh Survekshan, Swachh Sundar Shouchalay and many other activities.

### **Tamil Nadu tops in coverage under micro-irrigation**

The website of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) has released the data on states measuring the coverage of area under 'micro-irrigation' (MI) in 2019. State with the highest area under micro irrigation Tamil Nadu (1.39 lakh hectares, i.e., 38% of the total 3.64 lakh hectares land under micro irrigation across India).

Gujarat is at 2nd, Andhra Pradesh at 3rd, Maharashtra at 4th, and Uttar Pradesh at 5th position in terms of area under Micro-irrigation.

### **Digital Radio to be launched in 2024**

Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar has said that NDA government is bringing Digital Radio in 2024 at an annual Akashvani awards function in New Delhi.

Centre government planning to revamp All India Radio officially known as Akashvani by introducing Digital Radio in India by 2024.

### **India's first Transgender University to come up at Kushinagar district in Uttar Pradesh.**

The country's first university for transgender community will be opened in Uttar Pradesh's Kushinagar district to facilitate its members to study right from class one to PG and even do research and get PhD degree.

The university is being built by Akhil Bhartiya Kinnar Siksha Seva Trust in the Fazilnagar block of the Kushinagar district.

### **Tamil Nadu tops in good governance Index**

Tamil Nadu topped the Good Governance Index launched by the Central Government.

The States and UTs are divided into three groups Big States, North-East and Hill States, and Union Territories.

Tamil Nadu topped in Good Governance Index in the "Big States" category.

Himachal Pradesh was ranked first in the North-East and Hill States.

Puducherry topped in Union Territory.

## December 4th Week Current Affairs 2019

### **National Tribal Dance Festival begins in Raipur**

National Tribal Dance Festival has begun in Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh, today. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi inaugurated the festival. The inaugural function was presided over by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel.

The National Tribal Dance Festival is being organized in Chhattisgarh. Over 1300 participants from 25 states & Union Territories of India are participating in this national event.

### **Virat Kohli named in Wisden cricketers of the decade list**

Virat Kohli has been named in the Cricketers of the decade list alongside four others by the Wisden Cricketers' Almanac.

Apart from Kohli, South Africa's Dale Steyn and AB de Villiers, Australia's Steve Smith and women's all-rounder Ellyse Perry also found a place in the list of five cricketers of the decade.

### **India set to cross 100GW renewable energy capacity mark in 2020**

India set to cross the 100GW renewable energy capacity mark in 2020 and can make rapid strides towards the ambitious 175GW clean energy target by 2022.

India's installed renewable energy generation capacity touched around 86GW by November-end. Which includes solar, wind, small hydro, biomass, waste to energy and others.

### **Government of India to infuse Rs 8,655 crore to Allahabad Bank, UCO Bank, Indian Overseas Bank**

The government of India approved the release of Rs 8,655 crore as fresh capital to three public sector banks.

Finance Ministry approved capital infusion of Rs 2,153 crore in Allahabad Bank, Rs 2,142 crore in UCO Bank and Rs 4,360 crore in Indian Overseas Bank.

### **Indian Railways launched Him Darshan Express**

The Indian railways started a seven-coach glass-enclosed vista dome train on the heritage Kalka-Shimla route.

This train will have seven coaches and will start from Kalka railway station at 7 am and reach Shimla at 12.55 pm. In return, this train will leave from Shimla at 3.50 pm and reach Kalka railway station at 9.15 pm.

### **Govt to provide free WIFI to all villages connected via Bharat Net till March 2020**

Union Minister for Electronics and IT Ravi Shankar Prasad announced that free WIFI will be provided to all the villages across the country through Bharat Net by March 2020.

The scheme focuses on empowering the entire village community by providing access to education, health or financial services through the digital medium.

Currently, 48,000 villages connected under the Bharat Net project have Wi-Fi access.

## December 4th Week Current Affairs 2019

### **Koneru Humpy wins World Rapid Chess Championships**

India's Koneru Humpy defeated China's Lei Tingjie in a tense Armageddon battle to win the Women's World Rapid Chess Championship in Moscow.

After 12 rounds, Humpy accumulated nine points which left her tied with Tingjie. The duo then played an Armageddon game to break the deadlock.

Norway's Magnus Carlsen claimed the men's title in the World Rapid Chess Championships.

### **UN Declares Malala Yousafzai most famous teenager of decade**

The United Nations has declared Malala Yousafzai to be the 'Most famous teenager of the decade.

In part one of its review series, which takes into account events that happened between 2010 and the end of 2013, the UN highlighted the devastating Haiti earthquake in 2010, the beginning of the ongoing Syrian conflict for 2011 and Malala's work in favour of girls' education for the year 2012.

### **China successfully launches its largest carrier rocket Long March-5**

The Long March-5 rocket, China's largest carrier rocket, was successfully launched from Wenchang Space Launch Center in south China's Hainan Province.

The Chinese rocket carried the Shijian-20 satellite, a communication satellite and placed it into its designated orbit.

It is China's heaviest and most advanced communications satellite in geosynchronous orbit. It is made by China Academy of Space Technology under China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation.

### **Odisha govt launches online platform for issuance of certificates**

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Saturday launched the online platform for the issuance of income certificate, residence certificate, caste certificate and all miscellaneous certificates without any fees and on the basis of self-certification.

Also, the system of asking for the Solvency certificate by the departments has been done away with. No Department shall ask for Solvency certificate. The provisional selection, applicants shall be called upon to produce certificates like Caste, Resident, etc. for scrutiny and final selection.

### ***Odisha Governor: Ganeshi Lal***

#### **Recently Odisha in News**

- Odisha Government has decided to set up 45 fast track courts to expedite the trial of cases relating to women and children.
- Chief Minister of Odisha has launched a smart learning phone application 'MadhuApp' for school children.
- National Tribal Craft Mela- 2019 held in Bhubaneswar.

### **General Bipin Rawat named country's first Chief of Defence Staff**

Indian Army chief General Bipin Rawat has been appointed as India's 1st Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).

## December 4th Week Current Affairs 2019

Chief of Defence Staff will be a 4-star General, the principal military advisor to the defence minister, and will head the new Department of Military Affairs.

The defence ministry had recently amended the army, air force and navy rules by bringing in a new clause that allows the Chief of Defence Staff to serve up to a maximum age of 65 years.

### **Finance Minister launches 'eBkay' online auction platform**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched an online auction platform named "eBkay" in New Delhi in order to increase transparency in auctioning of assets attached by banks.

The eBkay platform enables the online auction of the attached assets transparently and cleanly for the improved realization of value by the Public Sector banks.

### **Russia deploys first Avangard hypersonic missiles**

Russian military deployed its first regiment of hypersonic nuclear-capable missiles officially into service.

The new missile system, called Avangard, is equipped with hypersonic glide vehicle (HGV), placed on top of intercontinental ballistic missile, and can hit almost any point in the world.

The direction of this missile can be changed even in the air. It caught the speed of Mach 27, which is equivalent to about 33,000 KMPH, during the test. This is the first of its kind missile in the world.

### **HDFC Life ties up with Paytm to expand its distribution**

HDFC Life Insurance partners with Paytm to expand its distribution to its customers.

The main objective is to enable customers of Paytm to purchase insurance products from HDFC Life. The company increases the insurance penetration in India and to simplify the customer experience right from the purchase to the claim process.

### **NASA astronaut Christina Koch sets record for longest single spaceflight by woman**

NASA Astronaut Christina Koch has created a record for longest single spaceflight by a woman, after surpassing the earlier record of 288 days in space which was previously established by NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson.

Christina Koch still has six weeks to go before returning to Earth from the International Space Station (ISS). When she arrives back on Earth in February 2020, the Expedition 61 Flight Engineer will have spent more than 300 days in space.

### **India may overtake Germany to become 4th largest economy in 2026**

India is expected to become the fourth largest economy by 2026 and the third largest by 2034, according to a report by UK-based Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR).

CEBR stated that India is also set to reach a GDP of \$5 trillion by 2026, 2 years later than the current government target. The report said that Japan, Germany and India will battle for third position over the next 15 years.

### **S Gurumurthy releases book titled Politics of Opportunism**

Noted Economist and Political Analyst S Gurumurthy released a book titled Politics of Opportunism written by R P N Singh in New Delhi.

The book throws light on the subject related to rise of regional parties and Centre-States relation.

## December 4th Week Current Affairs 2019

### H K Joshi appointed as new CMD of Shipping Corporation of India

Smt. H K Joshi has been appointed as the Chairperson & Managing Director (CMD) of Shipping Corporation of India.

#### Shipping Corporation of India

It is a Government of India Public Sector Enterprise that operates and manages vessels that services both national and international lines.

*headquarters: Mumbai*

### BCCI to honour Krish Srikkanth, Anjum Chopra with CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Awards

Former India captains Krishnamachari Srikkanth and Anjum Chopra are set to be given this year's CK Nayudu Lifetime Award given by the BCCI.

Srikkanth, a member of the 1983 World Cup winning team, represented India between 1981 to 1992. The 42-year-old Anjum is one of India's finest batswomen before Mithali Raj. A left-hander, Anjum played 12 Tests scoring 548 runs.

### PAN-Aadhaar linking deadline extended till March 2020

The last date for the mandatory linking of the Permanent Account Number (PAN) with Aadhaar has been extended by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) till March 2020. The earlier deadline was December 31.

The Supreme Court, in September last year, had declared the Centre's flagship Aadhaar scheme as constitutionally valid and held that the biometric ID would remain mandatory for the filing of I-T returns and allotment of the PAN.

Aadhaar is issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to a resident of India.

PAN is a 10-digit alphanumeric number allotted by the I-T department to a person, firm or entity.

### India State of Forest Report 2019

The Ministry for Environment, Forests and Climate Change has released the India State of Forest Report 2019.

This is the 16th edition of India State of Forest Report.

Total tree and forest cover in the country increased by 5,188 square kilometre in the last two years.

According to the report, the top three states where forest area has grown

Karnataka (1025 km)

Andhra Pradesh (990 km)

Kerala (823 km)

The total forest cover of the country is 7,12,249 sq. km (21.67% of the total geographical area)

Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in the country followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra.

In terms of forest cover as percentage of total geographical area, the top state is Mizoram (85.41%)

## December 4th Week Current Affairs 2019

### **Venkaiah Naidu releases book on Arun Jaitley**

Venkaiah Naidu released a book on former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on his birth Anniversary, titled- 'The Renaissance Man-The Many Facets of Arun Jaitley in New Delhi.

### **Indian Railways introduces New Passenger friendly Information System at Anakapalle Station in Vijayawada Division**

Indian Railways introduced a new Passenger Information System at Anakapalle Railway Station of Vijayawada Division in South Central Railway.

The Passenger Information system comprises both "At a Glance Display Board" (which gives a glance of the status of various train timings at the Station) and "Coach Guidance Display Board" (which provides the Coach Composition position of a train).

### **IIT researchers develop material to generate power from water**

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati Researchers have developed materials that can produce energy from water on a small scale to help households support the concept of decentralisation of energy sources.

The researcher's nanoscale phenomenon called electro kinetic streaming potential to harvest energy from flowing water on a small scale like water through household water taps.