

## CURRENT AFFAIRS= 04-12-2019

### **Vice Prez M Venkaiah Naidu launches Bharatiya POSHAN Anthem**

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu launched the 'Bharatiya Poshan Anthem' in New Delhi. The aims towards taking the message of making India malnutrition free to all corners of the country.

The anthem was conceptualised by Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) and has been penned by noted lyricist Prasoon Joshi and sung by Shankar Mahadevan.

### **International Volunteer Day: 5 December**

The International Volunteer Day (IVD) is observed across the world on 5 December every year. This year theme is "Volunteer for an inclusive future".

This year's theme highlighting Sustainable Development Goal 10 (SDG 10) and the pursuit of equality including inclusion through volunteerism.

### **World Soil Day: 5 December**

World Soil Day is celebrated annually on the 5th of December at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) headquarters in Rome, Italy.

This year, by addressing the increasing challenges of soil management, the FAO campaign "Stop soil erosion, Save our future" aims to raise awareness of the importance of sustaining healthy ecosystems and human well-being.

By encouraging people around the world to engage in proactively improving soil health, the campaign also aims to raise the profile of healthy soil.

### **Indian Navy Day: 4 December**

#### **Navy Day is being celebrated in India on 4th December.**

The day is celebrated in honour of the maritime force's role during the war with Pakistan in 1971 when Indian warships attacked Karachi port and successfully hurt Pakistani operations in the western coast.

The Day is also celebrated to highlight the role the Navy plays in securing the country's marine borders during peacetime and carrying out humanitarian missions.

#### **Exercise HAND-IN-HAND 2019 to commence from 7 December**

Exercise HAND-IN-HAND 2019 is to be conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya.

The 8th India-China joint training is held under the United Nations mandate.

The exercise will be held from 7-20 December 2019.

#### **Theme:**

The aim of the Exercise HAND-IN-HAND 2019 is to practice joint planning and conduct of counter-terrorist operations in semi-urban terrain.

The theme of the 14-day long training exercise is Counter-terrorism.



## Law Ministry launched a drive on fundamental duties

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has launched a programme to create awareness of their fundamental duties among the citizens.

The year-long drive is a part of the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of Constitution Day that was celebrated on 26 November.

ECI to implement “Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System” (PPRTMS)

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched the Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System (PPRTMS).

ECI has reviewed the system and process of registration of political parties. The new guidelines will be effective from 1 January 2020.

The guidelines are available on the ECI’s website <https://eci.gov.in>. PPRTMS will be implemented through an online portal.

## Pritivirajsing Roopun elected as new President of Mauritius by parliament

The National Assembly of Republic of Mauritius has unanimously elected Prithvirajsing Roopun, as new President of the island nation, a largely ceremonial post.

He was former arts and culture minister of the country. In Mauritius, Prime Minister is head of government and holds most political power while the president is head of state but has no executive role and is considered guardian of the constitution.

The Prime Minister of Mauritius: Pravind Kumar Jugnauth.

## Putin and Xi launched Russia-China gas pipeline

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping launched the Siberia pipeline project.

The pipeline will transport natural gas from Siberia to northeast China. The move aims to boost the economic and political ties between Russia and China.

### Siberia pipeline:

The pipeline project shows Russia’s attempts in helping China from the financial sanctions imposed by the US over China’s 2014 annexation of Ukraine’s Crimea.

It is a 3,000-km-long Power of Siberia pipeline.

It will transport gas from the Chayandinskoye and Kovytko fields in eastern Siberia

The project will generate \$400 billion for Russian state coffers.

The project began in October 2012 and it was commissioned on 2 December 2019.

## Sundar Pichai promoted as Alphabet Inc. CEO

Sundar Pichai promoted as Alphabet Inc. CEO after Google co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin have announced that they are stepping down from the leadership role of the parent company Alphabet.

Google CEO Indian-American Sundar Pichai will be assuming the role of Alphabet Inc CEO, making him one of the most powerful corporate leaders of the world.

Alphabet and Google no longer need two CEOs and a President and Sundar Pichai will be the CEO of both Google and Alphabet.

**Google established: 4 September 1998.**

**Headquarters: Mountain View, California, United States.**

### **Lionel Messi wins Ballon d'Or for 6th time**

Barcelona forward Lionel Messi has won the Ballon d'Or award for the world's best player for a record 6th time.

It is the 32-year-old Argentine's first Ballon d'Or since 2015 and comes after he scored 54 times for club and country in 2018-19, in which Barca won La Liga.

Virgil van Dijk was second-one of four Liverpool players in the top seven, including Sadio Mane in fourth.

Juventus and Portugal forward Cristiano Ronaldo, who has won the award five times, was third in the voting.

### **India successfully test-fires indigenously developed nuke-capable Prithvi-II missile**

India successfully test-fired its indigenously developed surface-to-surface nuclear-capable Prithvi-II missile off Odisha coast.

The Strategic Forces Command of the Indian Army conducted the user trial of the 350 km range missile from a mobile launcher from launch complex-3 of the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur.

### **Govt launches 4th round of Regional Connectivity Scheme-UDAN**

The government has launched the 4th round of Regional Connectivity Scheme – UDAN (**Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik**) to further enhance the connectivity to remote and regional areas of the country.

The focus in this round will be North East Region, Hilly States, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Islands.

The scheme was launched in October 2016, which seeks to provide connectivity to un-served and under-served regions through the revival of existing airstrips and airports.

UDAN scheme came under: Ministry of Civil Aviation.

### **35th anniversary of Bhopal Gas Tragedy**

The 35th anniversary of Bhopal Gas Tragedy is being observed across the country.

It is one of the world's worst industrial disaster that claimed thousands of lives on the night of December 2, 1984.

The disaster took place in a pesticide production plant, named the Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL).

The leak of 40 tonnes of deadly methyl isocyanate gas on the intervening night of December 2 and 3, 1984.

### **The 13th South Asian Games began in Kathmandu**

The 13th South Asian Games (SAG) began at the newly constructed Dasharath Stadium in Kathmandu, Nepal on 1 December 2019.

The multi-sport event was inaugurated by the President of Nepal Bidya Devi Bhandari. The games will be held from 1-10 December in three cities namely, Pokhara, Kathmandu, and Janakpur.

### **Participants:**

In 2019 SAG, athletes from Nepal, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Bhutan, Maldives, and Sri Lanka are participating in 26 different sports.



More than 2,000 athletes will compete for 1119 medals.

**South Asian Games (SAG):**



SAG was held for the first time in September 1984 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The games are held once every 2 years.

It is held among the Asian athletes. South Asia Olympic Council (SAOC) is the governing body of SAG.

The 8 members of SAG are India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

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