

## **International:**

### **World's largest amphibious aircraft AG600 makes its maiden flight**

China on 24<sup>th</sup> December conducted the maiden flight of its domestically developed AG600, the world's largest amphibious aircraft, from an airport on the shores of the South China Sea. This is the latest step in China's military modernisation programme.

Powered by four turboprop engines, the AG600 can carry 50 people during maritime search-and-rescue missions, and can scoop up 12 metric tonnes of water within 20 seconds for fire-fighting trips, according to Xinhua news agency.

The AG600, codenamed Kunlong, can reach the southernmost edge of China's territorial claims in the area. The state media said the aircraft was the "protector spirit of the sea, islands and reefs"

China has stepped up research on advanced military equipment as it adopts a more muscular approach to territorial disputes in places such as the disputed South China Sea, rattling nerves in the Asia-Pacific region and the United States.

Its potential use in the South China Sea, where China, Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Brunei all have overlapping claims.

The AG600's chief designer, Huang Lingcai, was quoted in the official China Daily earlier this month as saying it can make round trips without refueling from the southern island province of Hainan to James Shoal, claimed by China but which is located close to Sarawak in Malaysian Borneo.

## **National:**

### **Dr Jitendra Singh launches e-HRMS on Good Governance Day**

The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh launched the electronic-Human Resource Management System (e-HRMS), on 25<sup>th</sup> December. He launched it during the observance of Good Governance Day by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

The Minister launched the 25 applications of 5 modules of the system. The e-service book launched for DoPT during March this year will also be integrated into the e-HRMS.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Jitendra Singh said that Good Governance Day is observed to mark the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The Minister further said that this is an initiative by which the technology will be put to the optimum use. The other departments and state governments will also follow this system in due course

Dr Jitendra Singh also spoke on various other initiatives taken by the Government such as launch of PRAGATI, self-attestation, discontinuation of interviews for lower level posts, 'Anubhav' initiative,

digital life certificate (Jeevan Pramaan), abolition of obsolete rules, online RTI portal, etc among others. He said that the Government has been able to expedite various stalled projects, due to the initiatives such as PRAGATI.

The Minister also said that the Government has revolutionised the entire structure of Civil Services Day in the recent years, with more participation and enthusiasm by young district collectors.

He also said that the DARPG is organising regional conferences at different parts of country, which is taking good practices of governance to other parts outside Delhi. He further said that due to the prompt response, the grievances lodged with the Government have also increased.

The Minister also said that Government is adopting a policy of intolerance towards non-performing officers and encouraging the performing officers. All these initiatives are in the direction of citizen-centric approach of the Government, Dr Jitendra Singh said.

The DoPT Secretary, Shri Ajay Mittal said that good governance is not a product, but a continuous process. This is the way by which maximum good can be done to the maximum people. He said that maximum efforts should be made to our capability and improvements should also be the part of the process.

With launch of e-HRMS, employees will be able to not only see all their details w.r.t service book, leave, GPF, Salary etc., but also apply for different kind of claims/reimbursements, loan/advances, leave, leave encashment, LTC advances, Tour etc. on a single platform.

### **Sports:**

#### **India finish as runners-up in SAFF U-15 Women's Championships**

India finished as runners-up in the SAFF Under-15 Women's Championships. India lost to Bangladesh 0-1 in the final at Dhaka on 24<sup>th</sup> December. India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan participated in this South Asian Football Federation tournament