

Editorial

Saturday, February 29, 2019

Sporting spirit and Yaosang Festival

The unmistakable hint of festivity is in the air as the state is gearing up to welcome the Holi or Yaosang festival in right earnest. As always, the state will indulge in revelries and merry-making, play with colours and witness friendly competitions and contests in the "Yaosang Sports" being organized in almost every local clubs. This is also the time for the youngsters to explore possibilities of a romantic relationship through the Thabal Chongba dance. The state will be in an induced state of celebration, cutting across religion, ethnicity, caste or community. This is indeed a very welcome change from the everyday tussles and feelings of distrust that has been permeating the society slowly yet surely. The festival of Yaosang, with the fading custom of collecting any and every edible contributions from every household in the locality to arrange a small feast especially for the young ones on the first day of the festival will surely evoke fond memories of simple pleasures of yesteryears.

The emerging present trend of organizing sports meets across the state by the local clubs during the festival period is an ingenious means of initiating the naturally gifted young individuals to the reality of competitions. It also weans away a lot of the youths from the emerging dangerous trend of speeding and racing along the streets in their ever increasingly sophisticated and faster motorcycles during the festival. From all of these developments, a new possibility emerges - one which can revive the slow degradation and deterioration in the quality and quantity of sporting achievements in the state, and for that to happen, we all need to be prepared for the next big step. It is rightly said that the first step to successful introduction of a young mind to sports is to create an atmosphere of fun and success around it, and what better opportunity is there for us in the State than during the festive occasion of Yaosang. A state-wide competition amongst the outstanding performers from each of the clubs could very well be the perfect boost to propel the enthusiastic athletes towards serious competition and a future in sports. For this to happen, the proactive involvement of the Government is a must.

Encouraging a sportsperson does not only mean monetary rewards and accolades after they have proved their mettle and excelled in their respective events. Encouragement and support should be from the grassroot level, when the aspiring athletes are struggling to find their feet and are at the most vulnerable stage of their sporting endeavour, both financially and psychologically. It is the crucial stage when a lot of aspiring sportspersons with potential and skill gave up for lack of financial and emotional support. A proper planning and integration of all the social clubs and sports associations can make this a reality. However one wishes to celebrate the festival, it must be borne in mind that our celebration should not interfere or restrict other's right to enjoy the same festival. Maintaining the spirit of the occasion will ensure a delightful and memorable time. Imphaltimes wishes its readers a very happy, colourful, fun-filled, safe and responsible Yaosang festival.

WHO raises Novel Coronavirus threat assessment to highest level

Agency
New Delhi Feb 29

The World Health Organization (WHO) has raised its global risk assessment of the novel coronavirus to its highest level at global level after the epidemic spread to sub-Saharan Africa and caused financial markets to plunge. WHO Director General Dr. Tedros said that most cases can still be traced to known contacts or clusters of cases adding that there are no evidence as yet that the virus is spreading freely in communities. He also informed that work is also progressing on vaccines and therapeutics. More than 20 vaccines are in development globally, and several therapeutics are in clinical trials. He expected the first results of these trials in a few weeks. Meanwhile, South Korea has reported on Saturday its biggest surge in new COVID-19 cases with 594 new cases confirmed on Friday. The increase brings the total number of infections in South Korea to 2,931, according to the Korea Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC). Seventeen people have died in the country so far. South Korea has the

highest number of confirmed cases outside China where the outbreak started. Concerns have also grown of a possible epidemic in the United States with the reports of a number of new cases without any known source of infection.

The virus has rapidly spread across the world over the past week, causing stock markets to sink to their lowest levels since the 2008 global financial crisis over fears that the disease could wreak havoc on the world economy. More than 2,900 people have died and over 85,000 have been infected in more than 45 countries since its emergence in December last year.

Meanwhile Bahrain today threatened legal prosecution against travelers who came from Iran and hadn't been tested for the new coronavirus, and also barred public gatherings for two weeks as confirmed cases across the wider Mideast grew to over 520.

Bahrain has been hard-hit with cases and shut down flights to halt the spread of the virus, which causes the illness named COVID-19 by experts. All of Bahrain's cases link back to Iran, whose death toll of 34 killed is the worst outside of China, the epicenter of the virus.

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An educated woman is the key to a prosperous India

PIB
By : Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'
HRD Minister

It is my great fortune that I am a member of one of the largest education systems in the world and, since I am a part of that family, I get the opportunity to attend convocation ceremonies of several educational institutions. I see a clear trend where our daughters are delivering the best performances and results in every field. Be it in degrees or the number of gold medalists, our daughters constitute 60 per cent of that list. In many cases, this figure might also go up to 70-75 per cent. I see this as a very positive sign. The developed and advanced countries in the world have reached their heights of glory by giving proper respect to the women in their countries. The whole world is going to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8. Underlining the importance of women in nation-building and development processes, and viewing men and women as equal, Swami Vivekananda had said, "The country that does not respect its women is a country that will never prosper." As per our nation's history, the Vedas have clearly stated that all organisms have the same soul; by that logic, there should not be any discrimination between women and men. I have always believed that the entire life of a man is dependent on, and revolves around, a woman. The success of every man is dependent on a woman.

Anyway, if you look at it, when a baby comes into this world, till its adolescence, it is most connected to its mother and sees her as the first guru. This is the reason why

women's education is extremely important in this country. In order to make our society cultured and traditional it is not just useful, but also mandatory to educate women. For the creation of a decent, advanced and superior society, it is essential for its people to be educated, and women are not just an important cog in the wheel, but also an integral pre-requisite.

The way each and every cell comes together to create the human body, in the same manner, every small unit of each family comes together to build the society. The source of energy for every individual, and the centre-point of every family, is a woman. If a woman is educated, then two families are educated, and when every family is educated, the whole country is educated. This is the very reason why the great philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau had said, "Give me a hundred ideal mothers, and I will give you an ideal nation."

Our Indian culture inspires us to respect women highly. Our traditions teach us 'Matanganyastu poornam anantam devata', which means 'God resides where women are worshipped'. A woman is in her purest form when she is a mother on this Earth. Mother means 'Creator'. A mother has been considered to be superior to even God, and the creator of God has also been a woman. Whether it is Lord Ram, Ganesha or Kartikeya, Lord Krishna, or Guru Nanak Devji, there is always the need to have mothers like Kaushalya, Parvati, Yashodha, and Tripti. Many-a-time I think, when several challenges arise before us in the form of questions, it is important for the new generation to introspect on where they lack traditionally and culturally, that we

have such perversions.

If we are to talk about the Vedic Ages, then students such as Ghoshia, Lopamudra, Sulabha, Maitreyi, and Gargi have made huge mark in spiritual and intellectual excellence. We have taken the utmost care while drafting the new education policy so that girls get proper education. Children are usually most connected to their mothers. A mother's culture, behaviour and education play a huge role in how they affect the children's minds. Only an educated mother can plant the seed of culture and tradition in the gentle and tender minds of children which, going ahead, is very important for society and the nation.

Only an educated and progressive woman can understand the circumstances of a household and every person in the family, based on their requirements, and take care of them in the right way and carry a family forward. The contribution of women is of utmost importance in order to pull the cart of life forward. It is critical for women to be educated in order to participate in an empowered manner. If a woman is not educated, then she will be unsuccessful in driving her life in a fast-paced world. If she is educated, not only will her family life be heavenly, but she could also be a guiding force for the society and the country's path to progress. In Indian society, an educated mother is considered to be superior to even a guru because she can make her children better than the best.

In India, whenever there has been discrimination between women and men, we have had to pay a heavy price for it. In reality, if we look at it seriously, we will realise that one

of the primary reasons behind India's problems has been the lack of education for women. As a result, a country which was, once upon a time, a guide for the rest of the world, is today struggling to reclaim its lost pride and glory. The Indian Government is very determined to ensure the welfare of our daughters. Many schemes have been implemented for women's empowerment, such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Yojana, Women Helpline Scheme, Ujjwala Yojana, Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) Scheme, and one-stop Mahila Shakti Kendra Scheme. By giving representation to women in Panchayati Raj schemes, the government has tried to take a brave step towards the development and empowerment of women. Women's education is the step forward towards our country's success and growth. Women's education is not just important, but also essential for the socio-economic welfare of every family, society, and our country. Women's education is one such capable tool that has the potential to transform the world. To script a new chapter for a 'New India', it is essential that every daughter of this country gets access to education and studies with such gusto that she can compete on the global stage in the best possible way. The Government of India is fully prepared to campaign for our daughters to make them self-reliant, self-confident and successful. There is no doubt that, in the creation of a 'New India', and for its socio-economic development, women's education can play an able catalyst.

The author is Union Minister for Human Resource Development.

PM to launch 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations; also to lay foundation stone for Bundelkhand Expressway

Agency
New Delhi Feb 29

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch 10 thousand Farmer Producer Organizations, FPOs all over the country from Chitrakoot in Uttar Pradesh today.

These FPOs will help in collectivization of small, marginal and landless farmers to give them strength to deal with issues like lack of access to technology, quality seed, fertilizers and pesticides including requisite finances.

Talking to reporters at a function in New Delhi yesterday, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said, these FPOs will make a revolutionary change in the life of farmers.

Mr Tomar said that the Prime Minister will also hand over Kisan Credit Cards to farmers from different states at the event. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also lay the foundation stone for the Bundelkhand Expressway at Chitrakoot. The Uttar Pradesh Government is constructing the Expressway which will pass through the districts of Chitrakoot, Banda, Hamirpur and Jalaun.

It will link the Bundelkhand area to the national capital Delhi through Agra-Lucknow expressway and Yamuna expressway and play a vital role in the development of Bundelkhand region.

India has huge defence equipment requirements spanning from land systems, ships and submarines to



fighter aircraft, helicopters, weapons and sensors. The requirements are worth over 250 billion dollars by 2025. In order to fulfill the requirements, the government had announced setting up of Defence Industrial Corridor in Uttar Pradesh during the Investors Summit on 21st February 2018 at Lucknow.

Agency correspondent reports that the projects which Prime Minister will launch today at Gonda village in Bharatpur area of Chitrakoot district will be a game changer for the Bundelkhand region which is one of the backward areas of state. Atal Bhujal Yojna will be implemented in six districts of Bundelkhand along with Har Ghar

Jal Scheme for better water management in this drought hit region.

The 296-kilometre long Bundelkhand Expressway will pass through the districts of Chitrakoot, Banda, Hamirpur and Jalaun. This Expressway will link the Bundelkhand area to the national capital Delhi through Agra-Lucknow Expressway and Yamuna Expressway as well as play a vital role in the development of Bundelkhand region.

The Expressway will be supplementing the nodes of the UP Defence Industrial Corridor announced by the Prime Minister himself in February 2018 during Investor's summit in Lucknow.

Government is also celebrating one year of implementation of the PM-Kisan scheme in Chitrakoot today and Prime Minister will felicitate the farmers and beneficiaries of various government schemes on this occasion.

India says New Delhi stands with Afghanistan for national unity & territorial integrity

Agency
New Delhi Feb. 29

A day ahead of signing of a landmark peace deal between the US and the Taliban, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla today travelled to Kabul and conveyed to the top Afghan leadership India's

unstinted support to a peaceful and stable Afghanistan. He met President Ashraf Ghani and handed over to him a letter from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Shringla met Afghan Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, Vice President-elect Amrullah Saleh, National Security Adviser Hamdullah Mohib and acting Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Haroon Chakhansuri and apprised them about India's strong commitment for all-round development of Afghanistan.

In a series of tweets, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said, India stands with Afghanistan for strengthening national unity, territorial integrity, democracy, plurality and prosperity in the

country and bringing an end to externally sponsored terrorism. On Shringla's meeting with Ghani, Kumar said the Afghan president appreciated India's consistent support for democracy and constitutional order in Afghanistan.

Kumar said the foreign secretary had a meaningful exchange of views on the developments and peace efforts in Afghanistan with the leadership of the country.

The US and the Taliban are set to sign a peace deal at a ceremony in Doha tomorrow which will provide for the withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan nearly 18 years after their deployment in the country.

RC Book Lost

I have lost my RC Book (Smart Card) of Honda Activa bearing Regd. No. MN01Y 1205 issued by Transport Department, Government of Manipur on the way between my residence to Thoubal Bazar on 17/02/2020. Finders are requested to handover to the undersigned.

Sd/-
T.Momocha Singh
Kairembikhok Mayai Laikai
Thoubal District