

## Circuit Court sitting of CAT to be held in Imphal

IT News  
Imphal, Dec 16:

Circuit Court sitting of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) Guwahati Bench on January 5 and 6 of 2023 at the office of the Manipur Human Rights Commission (MHRC) located at Lamphel Court Complex here in Imphal.

In an official communication to the DIPR, Patient Panmei, Deputy Secretary (Law) Government of Manipur said, "It is hereby placed to the notice of the general public in the state of Manipur that the Central Administrative Tribunal, Guwahati Bench will be holding Circuit Court sitting on 05/01/2023 (Thursday) and 06/01/2023 (Friday) and the venue of the Circuit Court will be at MHRC office building (first floor) at Lamphel Court Complex, Imphal".

## India-China border clash: IAF conducts air exercise in Northeast

Guwahati, Dec 16:

Following the recent clash with China in Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh, the Indian air force (IAF) launched a major air exercise on Thursday covering the entire region of Northeast.

The two-day mega IAF exercise involved almost all its frontline combat aircraft deployed in the Northeast.

The IAF has informed that the last of the 36 Rafale jets joined the force.

"FEET DRY! 'The Pack is Complete'. The last of the 36 IAF Rafales landed in India after a quick enroute sip from a UAE Air Force tanker," the IAF said.

The Rafale aircraft has been inducted by the IAF into its 101 squadron of the eastern air command at the Hasimara air base in West Bengal in July last year.

Sukhoi30-MK1 is the main asset of the IAF in the east other than the Rafale jets.

According to reports, the IAF has detected enhanced Chinese air activity across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Arunachal Pradesh.

Indian and Chinese troops engaged in a face-off on December 9 near Yangtse in the Tawang sector resulting in injuries to soldiers from both sides.

According to sources, Chinese troops crossed the LAC, which was contested by Indian soldiers in a "firm and resolute manner".

There were "minor injuries to a few personnel from both sides" and the two sides "immediately disengaged from the area", the sources said.

## Chief Minister assures memorial site for State's Martyrs from the Defence Forces

IT News  
Imphal, Dec 16:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has assured a memorial park for soldiers of the Indian Armed Forces (Indian Army, Indian Navy, and the Indian Air Force) from the State who have laid down their lives for the nation. The Chief Minister was speaking at the State observance of the Vijay Diwas at 1st Manipur Rifles Banquet Hall, Imphal.

Highlighting sacrifices made for the nation by numerous defence officers and personnel from the State like Major Bob Khathing and Major Laishram Jyotin Singh, who died fighting a suicide bomber during an attack on the Indian Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, the Chief Minister said that funds for the memorial has already been allocated and that it will be constructed at the earliest so that we can pay our respects and tributes to their sacrifices.

N. Biren Singh said Vijay Diwas is celebrated every year on December 16 to remember the bravery and sacrifices of the Indian defence forces during the 1971 Indo-Pakistan War.

It is a historic war of the time, he said, stressing on the Nation's swift response to a planned Pakistan aggression in 1971. The war also resulted in



the creation of Bangladesh following the surrender of Pakistan Army before India, he added.

India has, today, become a strong nation, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and cannot be taken lightly by any other country, he said highlighting India's power including yesterday's test-firing of the country's Agni-V nuclear capable missile.

N. Biren Singh also highlighted the State's achievement of being identified as Most Improved States for three consecutive years, and said Manipur is moving forward in development.

Crediting the government officials including security personnel and general public for the achievement, the Chief Minister also congratulated and appreciated the Ministers,

MLAs, government officials and public for all the support and cooperation.

Let us continue to work further to turn Manipur into a Model State, the Chief Minister said appealing for more support and cooperation from all.

Encouraging unity in the State, the Chief Minister stressed that around 35-36 communities reside together in the State and can never be separated. In an earnest appeal to the people, N. Biren Singh deliberated on the need to shed single community-centered agendas and to instead work for a common good. He deliberated on the need to seek government's assent or approval before taking up any work on government property or land.

N. Biren Singh also offered

his obeisance to the Martyrs who have sacrificed for the nation.

Minister Thongam Biswajit in his presidential speech said that the day is observed every year to remember the sacrifices of the Indian Armed Forces during the India-Pakistan War of 1971.

He said this also laid a strong foundation for mutual respect and relation between India and Bangladesh.

Artiste of the Shri Shri Balmukunda Dev Govt. Music College performed the opening and closing songs of the observation, which was attended by Ministers, Advocate General, MLAs, Chief Secretary Dr. Rajesh Kumar, DGP P Doungel, PCCF, officers of Central Paramilitary Forces, senior government officials, among others.

## Government orders to take down advt. hoardings, signboards etc. from public places

IT News  
Imphal, Dec 16:

Government of Manipur has ordered to take down all statues, advertising hoardings, signboards, banners etc. from public places, including Government Buildings and structures, National Highways, State Highways, Roads, etc without obtaining prior permission from the concern competent authority through the District Magistrate.

The order issued by T. Ranjit Commissioner (Home), Govt. of Manipur in the name

of the Governor of Manipur however said that the order shall not be applicable in case of advertising hoardings, signboards, banners etc., displayed on private properties, subject to appropriateness of the content in such hoardings and displays in terms of the likely implication thereof on law and order and security of the State.

It added that owners of the land/property shall be held responsible for any hoarding or display put up on private property/land, for any action sought to be taken under law in this regard.

It further said that any person or group of persons or society or organisation found violating the order shall be liable legal action deemed fit initiating against them.

Regarding this the government of Manipur has directed all DCs/District Magistrates to remove all such hoardings, structures and displays put up at public places falling under their respective jurisdiction immediately in public Interest without any further delay. All District Magistrates are also directed to remove those hoardings, sign boards, banners etc with the objectionable contents (if any) put up at private places by issue of necessary notices to the owners of the private lands/properties falling under their respective jurisdiction within 15 (fifteen) days as may be applicable under the relevant applicable laws of the land.

The order has been issued as the display of the statues, advertising hoardings, signboards banners etc on the National Highways, State Highways, other Roads, etc., caused lots of inconvenience and distraction of mind to the general public.

## CrPC 144 imposed at New Temporary market complex of Kwairamband Keithel

IT News  
Imphal, Dec 16:

District administration of Imphal West has imposed prohibition of unlawful assemble, carrying of deadly weapons or objects, or carrying out of rally or protest at the New temporary Market complex at Kwairamband Keithel here in Imphal at Thangal Bazar under section 144 of the CrPC, 1973.

The order read that the prohibition will be imposed for a period of seven days from yesterday (December 15, 2022) from 12 noon to 6 am every day. The order said that assembly of five or more persons, which is likely to turn unlawful, and carrying of sticks, stones, firearms without valid license, weapons or objects of any description, which can be used as offensive weapons have been prohibited. Above this street vendors/individuals have been ordered not to leave any belongings at the temporary market area after the notified period for vending and also restrain passersby/individuals from entering the scheduled area during the restricted

hours. As per source, the district administration had imposed the prohibitory order following feuds among the various organizations of street vendors over the occupation of the vendor stalls. As per the government order, it has been directed to all the street vendors to sell their goods in the temporary market on a rotation basis. However, some of the street vendors' organizations said that justice has not been done to them and only the members of a specific street vendors' organization have been occupying the temporary market sheds without allowing others to enter.

During the past few weeks there has been protests staged by many street vendors' organizations inside the Imphal Municipal Corporation to comply with the government order in providing space for selling goods to the street vendors. There were occasions of confrontations between groups of street vendors following the new market complex following the denial of entry to other groups of street vendors.

## NHIDCL signs MoU with NIT Manipur

PIB  
New Delhi, Dec 16:

National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL), a CPSE under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Govt. of India, is seeking and promoting innovative technologies to find pragmatic solutions to the challenges posed in the construction of highways facing extreme climatic conditions. In that process NHIDCL has signed Memorandum of Understanding with prestigious institutes like, IIT Roorkee, IIT Kanpur, CSIR-CRRI, NSDC, IIT Patna, NIT Srinagar, NIT

Agartala, NIT Silchar, NIT Uttarakhand, NIT Nagaland, NIT Sikkim, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Mandi and NIT Jote, Arunachal Pradesh during the current year 2022-23. NHIDCL has previously signed MoUs with IIT Bombay & IIT Guwahati and is in further discussions with other IITs, NITs for signing of such MoUs.

The latest MoU has been signed with, NIT Manipur through Video Conference on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022. The MoU was signed between Prof.(Dr) Gautam Sutradhar, Director NIT Manipur and Sh. Chanchal Kumar, Managing Director, NHIDCL.

## MMTA in trouble water, senior members allege fund misappropriation and irregularities in administration

IT News  
Imphal, Dec 16:

Manipur Mountaineering and Trekking Association (MMTA) which has been playing stellar role in propagating outdoor education and inculcating the spirit of adventure among the youths of Manipur and North East region of India seems to be in trouble water with some of the senior members alleging foul play and misappropriation of fund by former office bearers of the association which they alleged to be null and void from holding the



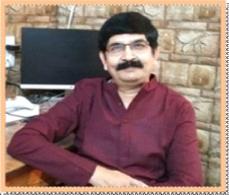
position any more. In a meeting with media persons at Manipur Press Club today afternoon, one senior member of the MMTA identified as Suresh Laishram

said that there are evidences of fund misappropriation by former President of the MMTA Dr. L. Surjit, Secretary Ph. Chandrakumar and treasurer Ng. Pobitra during their tenure and the fund misappropriation appeared to be in collusion with another former President of the MMTA, Bijoy Kakchingtabam. He alleged that Bijoy Kakchingtabam continue to hold the post of President of MMTA even though his term along with the executive committee members ends on April 22, 2021. However, Bijoy

Kakchingtabam along with his executive committee continue to use their position and organized General body meeting on June 19, 2022 without giving any information to the Registrar for Societies.

Suresh Laishram further appealed authority to appoint founder president of the MMTA R.K. Ranendrajit to appoint as the Interim Council President when the investigation over alleged misappropriation of fund and foul play by the former president and office bearers of the MMTA.

# The preservation of freedom, is not the task of soldiers alone; The whole nation has to be strong



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

16 December, is celebrated as the 51st anniversary of the 1971 India-Pakistan war, the first war after World War-II that the Indian Army won conclusively. This day marks a glorious chapter in India's history. The day marks the anniversary of military victory of Indian forces over Pakistan in Indo-Pakistani War of 1971. India's victory over Pakistan in the Indo-Pakistani war of 1971 is celebrated as Vijay Diwas. The war between India and Pakistan started when Pakistan

launched air strikes on 11 Indian air bases. In retaliation to this attack, former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi ordered the Indian army to launch war against Pakistan, which India won after fighting for 13 days, resulting in the birth of Bangladesh. On December 16, 1971, around 93,000 Pakistani soldiers had accepted their defeat by raising white flags before surrendering to the Indian Army.

We won because we had the willpower and faith, which led us to victory. India will never forget the fearlessness with which our courageous soldiers gave a befitting and unforgettable reply to the intruders. The Indo-Pakistani war of 1971 which began on December 3 lasted for 13 days and officially ended on December 16, after which Pakistan surrendered to India. Kudos to all Indians and Bangladeshis on this day and salute all the martyrs of 1971 and all other wars from both sides. The Indian Army changed the course of history with its undeterred courage, dedication and professionalism, bringing glory and honour to the Nation. It was the first major victory for a young Indian democracy and helped strengthen the confidence of the leadership and population. The Indian Army quickly responded to the Pakistan Army's movements in the west and captured around 15,010 kilometres of Pakistan territory.

It was on this day in 1971, that a declaration of ceasefire was brought into force ending the Indo-Pak War and resulting in the birth of the sovereign country of Bangladesh. In this war Indian Army fought as the alliance of Bangladesh's military Mukti Bahini. As the result of this war, East Pakistan emerged as an independent nation with the name Bangladesh. The end of the war also resulted in the unilateral surrender of the Pakistan Army and the subsequent formation of the independent nation of Bangladesh. This historic victory signifies a unique and unparalleled feat wherein our forces fought selflessly for a just and noble cause: the liberation of the people of erstwhile East Pakistan and the creation of an independent Bangladesh. After India's independence, Pakistan was formed in two territories, East and West Pakistan. The Bengalis in the east were highly discriminated and their Bengali language wasn't accepted. There were economic disparities between the two regions, and the power helmed by West Pakistan had created tensions.

There are several reasons for bringing back the victory in the '71 war into public discourse. It is not only because it was a victory and our armed forces need to be celebrated. Let us not forget the lesson that a nation that ignores its army cannot afford peace.

We respect our soldiers. The courage with which all brave hearts fought the 1971 war, is remembered by everyone. Both India and Bangladesh place a high value on Vijay Diwas. It's a day set aside to honour the heroic deeds of those who have given their lives to save ours. It is essential that we salute our heroes. We feel secure in our homes because of our armed forces and this is an occasion to remember their courage and sacrifice. Today, if our country is safe and independent, it is because of their efforts. Let us pay tributes to the martyrs who laid down their lives for the nation. We should never forget the sacrifices they made for us.

## How to Crack NEET 2023 in First Attempt



By: Vijay GarG

Aspirants of NEET UG should prepare a strategy to crack NEET in first attempt in order to give their best shot in the exam. NEET 2023 will be held on 7 May 2023 candidates appearing for the exam make sure that they qualify NEET UG in the first attempt itself. If we go by the previous year trends then one will hardly come across toppers who are not first-timers. The reason being that the NEET UG syllabus is similar with the Class 11 and 12 syllabus of Physics, Chemistry and Biology. How to prepare for NEET 2023 in first attempt helps candidates as they study for the board exam and competitive exams simultaneously. NEET toppers believe in intensifying the preparation in a smart way instead of dodging the exam for the next session.

### Prepare a timetable

When starting to prepare for an exam, the first step should be to prepare a timetable which will help candidates in planning your time topic-wise or subject-wise. It should be ensured by the aspirants that the timetable is followed religiously. The timetable should be prepared in order to cover the topics which can be revised multiple times. This strategy will provide candidates with a clear picture of their schedule in the forthcoming months and will help in cracking NEET 2023 in first attempt.

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Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times'

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# Prospect of Rural Tourism in Manipur

By: Sanjenbam Jugheswor Singh

Tourism is one of the largest and dynamically developing sectors of external economic activities. Tourism's contribution to livelihoods can be enhanced by adjusting decisions on what is developed and how, in ways that reflect people's livelihood priorities. Tourism is an emerging, vibrant and non-pollutant energizing industry which brings structural transformation in a sustainable manner through tourism products. Among all the forms of tourism, rural tourism plays an important role to enhance the potential character of tourism by enriching their tourism products. Rural tourism is a mirror that signifies a cultural heritage in the form of folklores, ethnicity, dance, drama etc. of the region. Manipur has an immense potential for tourist attractions in the rural areas. The only floating lake of the world **Loktak and Keibul Lamjao National Park** are the major tourist attractions of rural areas. With salubrious climate and lush green forests Manipur enjoys a special position with various floras and faunas which can become a centre of attraction for tourists. In this case the focus is tourism in rural areas of Manipur and often on an unusual type of tourism which is managed by communities.

Rural tourism focuses on participating in a rural lifestyle. It is known that approximately 70% of the Indian population still resides in the rural parts of the country and their livelihood is agriculture. Rural tourism allows the creation of an alternative source of income in the non-agricultural sector for rural dwellers. Rural tourism has gained a sudden prominence in India in the last decade and still much more is left to be explored. Hence, Tourism is one of the major earners of foreign exchange for the country. Rural tourism will definitely add more to what we earn in foreign exchange. Rural tourism will move along the process of development and give a chance to the village folks to interact with the outside world and the products of rural artisans will find a ready market. Majority of Manipur resides in village and for the country to know the real spirits of Manipur, it is essential to peep into the rural areas. Rural area of Manipur has a lot to offer to the country. The Government of Manipur, recognizing the importance of rural tourism in the overall growth

of the tourism industry in Manipur, started the process of development and marketing and promotion for rural tourism.

Tourism in India's North east region including Manipur is being promoted at a rapid pace by institutions both at the centre and the states. The Ministry of Development of the North East Region (MDoNER) and the North Eastern Council (NEC), in the year 2008 released the North Eastern Region vision-2020. The vision statement states the purpose of documents as "to return North Eastern Region to the position of national economic eminence and to ensure the role it must play in the vanguard country's act east policy". An important section within the vision 2020 is that tourism, projected as a sector which could lead to the development of the region. Tourism is also one of the sectors which are included in the list of thrust areas by the NEC, MDoNER and North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Limited (NEDFi). The State government is also in the absence of any other industry; tourism is one of the important means of building marker-economy within the region. In Manipur, there have been several moves to bring in more undefined tourist by creating more accommodation in the form of star hotels, increased cultural extravaganza such as **Sangai Festival, adventure programmes and nature tourism such as rock climbing and trekking, international trade fairs, food festivals and so on and so forth**. These anxious activities must be seen within the context of the relating of India's economic growth and look East Policy. Hence it is imperative to look at the kind of tourism which is being promoted and understand how it will be benefit or impact on the people of Manipur.

Manipur, a little **Shangri-La**, located in North-East India, is Jewel of India. This little corner is a paradise on Earth where Mother Nature has been extra generous in her bounty. Least touched and least discovered, Manipur promises to be the greatest tourist discovery of 21<sup>st</sup> century. An oval shaped valley surrounded by blue green hills, rich in art and tradition has inspired description such as exotic blooms and lakes. The people of Manipur include Meitei, Nagas, Kuki-Chin-Mizo,

Gorkha groups and Muslims and other colourful communities which have lived in complete harmony for centuries. These are the people whose folklore, myths and legends, dances, indigenous games and martial arts, exotic handlooms and handicrafts are invested with the mystique of nature and indefatigable "joie de vivre". The department of Tourism, Government of Manipur came into existence in August, 1972 as publicity wing of the IPR Department. Over the years it has evolved into an independent department, considering the natural beauty and potential of the State, every effort should be taken to make it an efficient and vital department of Tourism in the state. Hotel Imphal, which is under the administration of the Department, was started in the style of Tourist Lodge in 1978. Over the years the Hotel has been upgraded and expanded to the present day status. The infrastructure and manpower management of the Hotel is gradually streamlined to meet the standard of modern day 5-Star Category Hotel in the state and now it is being managed by Classic Groups of Hotel.

Roles of people's participation in the development of rural tourism in Manipur reveals that the tourism industry in the state is at the stage of infancy where expected outcome has not been achieved due to several constraints which dominate in the region. Despite the fact that government has paid attention to develop the tourism industry and formulated strategies to yield good result but no satisfactory result has been obtained due to lack of consideration at implantation level. The situation is even worse in rural areas with immense potential of rural tourism. It is observed that Imphal including both the Imphal-East and Imphal-West districts have maximum tourist's inflow in the state. On the other hand, Bishnupur and Thoubal districts receive no tourists, although high influx of overnight tourists is recorded in area which is categorized as excursionists rather than tourists, excursionists prefer to stay in Imphal due to the reason that Imphal is the capital city of state with good hotels and guest houses as well as other facilities as per requirement of tourists. The analysis also reveals that the participation of rural population in tourism is not

satisfactory, which is due to lack of interest of local people and lack of awareness in regard to positive impacts of rural tourism. Most of the tourist activities are controlled and managed by outsiders like agents and tour operators who do not have concern for the development of tourism in rural areas. Further, it also increases the cost involved in tourism activities because it is channelized through various levels and different agents.

Keeping in view the existing problems of the development of rural tourism following suggestions have been made so that rural tourism can flourish in a sustainable manner:

(i) NGOs should make aware people living in rural areas regarding the potentials of rural tourism, and how it can transform the area in to developed one.

(ii) The sense of security must be prevailed in the area so that people from other parts of India and abroad may not hesitate to visit the state.

(iii) Proper connectivity accessibility of transportation and communication are urgently needed to facilitate tourists to enjoy the scenic beauty of nature and also distinct cultural and ethnic diversities.

(iv) Most of the areas fascinated with pristine beauty and prismatic colours which has magnetic attraction for spiritual and aesthetic satisfaction.

(v) For the sake of better development and enhancing the existing potential of tourist sites the rural participation should be encouraged in different tourism products and they should be trained to guide, supervise the tourists in a very friendly and passionate manner.

(vi) Rural resorts should be constructed at different sites for overnight stay of tourists so that local economic loss in the form of excursion may be reduced.

If all these suggestive measures are taken into consideration in a pragmatic manner with full spirit of health and hygiene, it is hoped that the frequency of tourists will be increased in days to come that will not only bring prosperity and sight of economic relief to the reeling of socio-economic deprivation faced by the people.

(Writer can be reached at: [sjugheswor7@gmail.com](mailto:sjugheswor7@gmail.com))

# Handling Different Types of Interviews

By: Kaustov Kashyap

When it comes to interviews, preparation is utmost thing. In addition to researching the company and preparing answers to likely questions, be sure to ask what form the interview will take. Different formats require you to adopt a different approach. If you are invited to a video, phone, panel or group interview, here's what to expect and how to impress.

### The telephonic interview

**Why use them:** Some employers conduct short telephone interviews to screen candidates, checking them against set criteria, while others will carry out entire interviews by phone.

**Get ready:** Take the call where you won't be disturbed and minimize background noise. Switch off your computer so you are not distracted, and make sure your notes are on hand.

**How to impress:** You will not be visible, so you cannot communicate anything by your appearance, gestures or body language. Your voice has to do all the work, including establishing rapport. Speak with enthusiasm. If you are nervous, take the call standing up and remember to smile - it will help you sound friendly. Most people ramble when they are nervous, so slow down.

To build rapport, it is suggested

to refer to the interviewer by name from time to time and engaging in small talk if invited to at the start or end of the call. Remember, interviewers do not have visual clues to aid them either. If you need time to answer a question, say so. Unexpected prolonged silences can be worrying.

### The video interview

**Why use them:** Skype is so widespread (these days all new laptops come with inbuilt webcams), that many recruiters are using video calls in place of telephonic interviews.

**Get ready:** Take the call somewhere quiet where you won't be disturbed. Make sure your Internet connection is working properly by having a practice call with a friend first. Generally, the background should be simple and well lit. Don't place the light source directly behind you as it can throw your face into shadow. Dress smartly but avoid stripes or busy patterns, and keep in mind that white can be draining.

**How to impress:** Nonverbal clues are important in video interviews, because the recruiter is typically trying to read the candidate's face to ensure he or she is relating to what's being said.

Eye contact is vital. Look at the camera, not the person shown on

the screen. If you forget, stick a Post-it note under the camera as a reminder. Smile, nod your head regularly and use your hands (within reason) as you speak. Sitting upright and leaning slightly forward will show that you are engaged.

### The group interview

**Why use them:** Group interviews are a timesaving way for employers to see candidates' team working and soft skills in action.

**Get ready:** Prepare several answers to common interview questions. That way, if you're the fourth person asked the same question, you will have something new to say.

**How to impress:** If you are asked to complete a group project, recruiting want to see that you can work well with others, so make sure you demonstrate that you can collaborate. Do not talk over others and do not get angry if someone talks over you. That does not mean you should take a back seat or agree if you have reservations. Employers value strong candidates who can express their ideas. Be persuasive but not forceful.

### The panel interview

**Why use them:** Usually reserved for senior roles, panel interviews are a good way for various stakeholders to be involved in the

recruitment process. They also reveal how well you cope with high-pressure situations and if you fit with the company culture.

**Get ready:** Find out who will be present. Then research each person via a professional networking site or the company website. Knowing who will be there will give you an indication of what questions may be asked.

For example-A technical expert may want to test your knowledge and awareness of developments in the sector and will ask different questions to a sales or HR manager.

**How to impress:** Eye contact is vital to build rapport, but facing a row of people can be intimidating. Therefore, it is advisable to reply your answer to the person who asked the question, and then sweeping your gaze across the rest of the panel so that everyone feels included. It also allows you to read their facial expressions and assess how well your answer is received.

Address each individual by name and ask questions. It's a great way to engage the whole panel and turn an interrogation into a conversation.

(The author is a HR & Career Consultant)

# Indo-Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise “Kazind – 2022” begins in Meghalaya

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Dec 16:

The 6th Edition of Indo-Kazakhstan joint training exercise-“Kazind-22”, with Kazakhstan Army, has begun at Umroi Military station in Ri-Bhoi district, 25 km from Shillong in Meghalaya and it will conclude on December 28.

Joint annual training exercise with the Kazakhstan Army was instituted in 2016 as Exercise “Prabal Dostyk”, which was later upgraded to a company level exercise and renamed as “Ex Kazind” in 2018.

Kazakhstan Army soldiers from the South-based Regional Command and Indian Army soldiers from the “11 Gorkha Rifles” are participating in the exercise. Aim of the exercise is to build positive military relations, imbibe each other’s best practices and promote the ability to operate together while undertaking counter terrorist operations in semi urban/jungle scenario, under a UN peace enforcement mandate, an official statement read.

This joint exercise will enable the two armies to train,



Screengrab of “Kazind-22” from video tweeted by the Indian Army.

plan and execute a series of combined tactical drills for neutralising of likely threats that may be encountered in UN peace keeping operations.

As both armies will be participating in various combat games besides joint tactical planning and drills, it is expected that the exercise will improve military relations, imbibe each other’s best practices and promote the ability

to operate together while undertaking counter-terrorist operations in semi-urban or jungle scenarios under a UN peace enforcement mandate.

The scope of this exercise involves a Command Post Exercise (CPX) at the Battalion level and Company level Field Training Exercise (FTX) on sub-conventional operations. During the exercise, participants will engage in variety of

missions ranging from joint planning, joint tactical drills, basics of special arms skills, HADR and raiding a hostile target.

According to the Ministry of Defence, “Exercise KAZIND” will enhance the level of defence cooperation between Indian Army and Kazakhstan Army which will further foster the bilateral relations between the two nations.

# India declares candidature for UN Security Council membership for 2028-29 term: EAM S Jaishankar

Agency  
United Nations, Dec 16:

India looks forward to being back in the UN Security Council, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said here on Thursday as he declared the country’s candidature as non-permanent member for the 2028-29 term.

Jaishankar arrived here on Tuesday to preside over two signature events on counterterrorism and reformed multilateralism held under India’s current Presidency of the UN Security Council, before the curtains come down this month on the country’s two-year tenure as elected member of the 15-nation top organ of the world body.

“I’m glad to inform you that we have declared our candidature for our next tenure at the Council for 2028-29 and we look forward to being back,” he said as India prepares to wrap up its



2021-22 tenure as elected Council member on December 31.

Addressing reporters at the UN Security Council stakeout after chairing the signature event on counterterrorism, Jaishankar said that December is the last month of India’s current membership of the Security Council, the eighth time that India sat at the powerful horse-shoe table.

“During this eighth innings of ours, we have attempted to bring many themes of contemporary relevance like maritime

security, technology in UN peacekeeping, reforms of the UN and counterterrorism to the center of the agenda and of the debate in the UN,” he said.

“We have also sought to be the voice of the global South on many issues of concern. We have tried to not only articulate their interests and anxieties but also tried to see whether we could serve as a bridging role in the Council,” Jaishankar said, as he thanked his fellow members of the Security Council.

“It’s been a pleasure work-

ing with them,” he said.

The previous eight terms that India has been in the Council are 1950-1951, 1967-1968, 1972-1973, 1977-1978, 1984-1985, 1991-1992 and 2011-2012.

On December 1, India assumed the monthly rotating Presidency of the Security Council, the second time after August 2021 that India is presiding over the Council during its two year tenure as elected UNSC member.

India, whose 2021-2022 term on the Council ends December 31, has been at the forefront of efforts calling for urgent reform of the Security Council, which has remained deeply divisive in dealing with current challenges.

India has asserted that the Council, in its current form, does not reflect today’s geo-political realities and its credibility is at risk if nations such as developing powers like India do not have a permanent seat at the horse-shoe table.

# India records 162 new COVID-19 cases, tally of active infections now 3,691

Agency  
New Delhi, Dec 16:

India has recorded a single-day rise of 162 new coronavirus infections and the count of active cases has declined to 3,691, according to Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday.

The country now has 4.46 crore COVID-19 cases and the death toll due to the disease stands at 5,30,663, the data updated at 8 am showed.

Active cases now comprise 0.01 per cent of the total infections, while the national

COVID-19 recovery rate has increased to 98.80 per cent, according to the ministry.

A decrease of 76 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours, the data showed.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease in the country has surged to 4,41,41,255, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry’s website, 219.99 crore doses of vaccines have been administered in the country so far under the nation-

wide COVID-19 vaccination drive.

India’s COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5, 50 lakh on September 16, 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and the one-crore mark on December 19, 2020.

The country crossed the grim milestones of two crore cases on May 23, 2021, three crore on June 23, 2021, and four crore on January 25 this year.

# Scindia Inaugurates Mumbai-San Francisco Direct flight of Air India

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai: Dec 16:

Union minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia virtually flagged off the first direct flight from Mumbai to San Francisco during the launch of Air India’s direct flight services, in New Delhi on Thursday.

The non-stop flight will be operated three times a week on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, via a Boeing 777-200LR aircraft. Air India flight AI 179 to San Francisco took off from Mumbai at 2.30 pm (IST) on Thursday. The return flight, AI 180, departed from San Francisco at 9 pm on Thursday. It is expected to arrive in Mumbai at 3.40 am on Saturday.

“Today is a historic day for Maharashtra, India, and Air India,” Scindia said at the event held virtually and also attended by Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde. The government is focused to boost the civil aviation sector, and build many more airports, and help-lands in other parts of Maharashtra, he added.

“The civil aviation sector in India is on the cusp of transformation, and India is the third-largest civil aviation market in the world with a growth of 10.6% compound annual growth rate (CAGR) in the last 10 years. With Air India’s legacy, culture and vision, the

airline will take Indian civil aviation to newer heights”, Scindia said.

Taking to Twitter, Scindia said: “After record domestic passenger traffic, we have hit yet another milestone with the launch of direct flights between Mumbai & San Francisco! Connecting the country’s financial capital with America’s tech hub, the new flight will open new doors of possibilities.”

The Mumbai-San Francisco service is a significant step forward in the journey of the new Air India, said airline’s chief executive officer and managing director Campbell Wilson. “It is a significant milestone in restoring a major Air India long haul hub in the city of Mumbai,” he added. Civil Aviation Secretary Rajiv Bansal was also present at the inaugural event.

Shinde said that the Mumbai-San Francisco direct flight will connect the cities like Mumbai and Pune to San Francisco which will give boost to Information and Technology sector and will eventually lead to industrial growth in Maharashtra.

This is the longest flight. Since the San Francisco is a financial as well as cultural centre, these direct flights will also promote tourism. Over 1.50 lakh travellers travel to different destinations every day from the Mumbai International airport.

Lakhs of people from Maharashtra reside in the US and they have an emotional relation with Air India. The Air India should take lead in connecting Maharashtra with other cities in the US and Europe with direct flights, Shinde added.

Shinde also referred to the ongoing G-20 Summit in Mumbai and said that it will help Maharashtra in branding and upgrading itself. To ensure fast mobility, an attempt will be made to set up a helpaid in every taluka of Maharashtra, he added.

After the Tata group took over the loss-making Air India in January this year, the airline has been working on expanding its services and fleet. The launch of the Mumbai-San Francisco flight comes shortly after the launch of Air India’s thrice weekly flight between Bengaluru and San Francisco on December 02. The addition of the Mumbai-San Francisco flight will take Air India’s flight frequency between India and the United States to 40 non-stop flights per week, according to a press note by the AI.

At present Air India operates non-stop flights commuting passengers from Delhi to New York, Newark, Washington DC, San Francisco, and Chicago; from Mumbai to Newark; and from Bengaluru to San Francisco.

## Contd. from Page 2 How to Crack NEET 2023.....

Set deadlines- Deciding when to complete one topic and the whole syllabus will be beneficial considering there are few months left in the first session of NEET. Candidates should set shorter and larger goals for them at the same time. Shorter goals will help candidates in knowing the topics covered each day while the longer goals will help in understanding how much they need to cover to crack NEET in first attempt.

Study Material- Collect the relevant study material to prepare for NEET UG. There is no dearth of books in the market but for competitive exams like NEET, one should know the study material which is significant. The NCERT textbooks for Class 11 and 12 are recom-

mended as the best books for NEET

Evaluate your performance- Take some time out to revise the topics. Make flashcards if aspirants have a problem in retaining the concepts. Make a note of all the doubts that are coming on the way and take help from the guides and books. This will be helpful in scrutinizing the performance of each day and in this one can be his/her best judge.

Practice Mock Tests Taking mock tests becomes essential to know how to crack NEET in first attempt as mock tests give an exam day experience. This will attract candidates with the pressure of the exam and complete the paper in three hours time. The mock tests should be of the same

time frame as the NEET exam.

Solve previous year papers- Practicing last years’ question papers is essential for candidates aiming to crack NEET UG in the first attempt. NEET question papers will help in understanding the level of the exam and the important topics.

Revise incorrectly attempted question- After each mock test, make a note of wrong answers and start working on the weak areas. Make sure that there are no recurring mistakes. This will increase the candidates’ proficiency in NEET 2023

How to crack NEET UG in first attempt as detailed in above article will assist candidates to plan their preparation strategy.

# 1971 war was triumph of humanity over inhumanity: Rajnath Singh

Agency  
New Delhi, Dec 16:

The 1971 war was the triumph of humanity over inhumanity and justice over injustice, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Friday on the occasion of Vijay Diwas that marks India’s decisive victory over Pakistan which led to the birth of Bangladesh.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also saluted the brave Indian Armed Forces whose valour led to the victory in the war.

“Today, on Vijay Diwas, the Nation salutes the exemplary courage, bravery and sacrifice of India’s Armed Forces. The 1971 war was the triumph of humanity over in-

humanity, virtue over misconduct and justice over injustice. India is proud of its Armed Forces,” Singh tweeted.

Around 93,000 Pakistani troops surrendered before the joint forces of the Indian Army and the “Mukti Bahini” on December 16, 1971, which paved the way for the birth of Bangladesh.

“On Vijay Divas, join the nation in saluting our brave Indian Armed Forces whose valour led to a decisive victory in the 1971 war. We will always be grateful for their service and sacrifices,” Jaishankar tweeted.

Every year, India celebrates December 16 as Vijay Divas to remember its military victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war.

Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande hosted an ‘At Home’ event on Thursday on the eve of the Vijay Divas which was attended by President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi among others.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday paid tributes to armed forces on Vijay Divas, saying the nation will always be indebted to them for their role in keeping the country safe and secure.

Vijay Divas is observed on December 16 to commemorate India’s win over Pakistan in the 1971 war that led to the creation of Bangladesh as a sovereign country.

The prime minister tweeted, “On Vijay Divas, I

pay homage to all those brave armed forces personnel who ensured India attained an exceptional win in the 1971 war.

Our nation will always be indebted to the armed forces for their role in keeping the country safe and secure.

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday said the nation remembers with gratitude the exceptional valour displayed by the country’s armed forces during the 1971 war, and stories of their unparalleled courage and sacrifice continue to inspire every Indian.

Vijay Divas commemorates India’s victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war. Bangladesh, then part of Pakistan, became an independent country after the war.

# Centre supporting weavers and their families: Nirmala Sitharaman



**PIB**  
New Delhi, Dec 16:

The Ministry of Textiles is working towards including GI Tag to weavers and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) which sends a strong message that the Government of India is supporting our weavers and their families, said Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Finance Minister while inaugurating 'VIRAASAT, Celebrating 75 hand-woven saris of India', an exclusive weave-based Handloom Sari Festival "My Sari My Pride" here today.

She said that the Ministry of Textiles has taken unique step by organizing such an event in the Central Delhi which exhibits country's weavers and India's tradition. She further said that the Ministry has sourced 75 handwoven saris which are exhibited in the exhibition here.

Smt. Sitharaman said that the Prime Minister in 2014-

2015 gave the vision of 5 F, from Farm to Fibre to Fabric to Fashion to Foreign. This vision has become a principle objective of the Ministry of Textiles under which this exhibition is organized and weavers are promoted to display their work.

Sitharaman applauded that to provide information about these saris, a touch screen display has been put to impart information about the traditional significance of hand-woven saris and the weavers involved in making these exquisite pieces. She said that while women parliamentarian are present during the inauguration, she invited all men parliamentarian as well to get introduced to the weavers and witness the traditional hand-woven saris of the country terming the exhibition as My Handloom Sari, My Sari, My Pride.

Present on the occasion was Darshana Jardosh, Union Minister of State for Textiles who enumerated the tradi-

tional hand women saris that are displayed in the exhibition.

-----Coinciding with the 75 years of our country's Independence, "Azadika Amrit Mahotsav" there will be an exhibition-cum-sale of Handloom Saris by 75 handloom weavers belonging to 16 States/UTs. The festival is being organized in two phases from 16th to 30th December 2022 and 3rd to 17th January 2023 (11AM to 8 PM) at Handloom Haat, Janpath, New Delhi.

Handloom sector is a symbol of our country's rich and varied cultural heritage, besides being one of the key sectors providing employment to a large number of people, especially women. With a view to showcase the Handloom heritage of India, a Handloom Saree festival is being organized by the Ministry of Textiles.

The handloom sector of India engages more than 35 lakh persons. The art of handloom sari weaving has

traditional values attached to it and each region has exquisite saris varieties. The uniqueness of saris such as Paithani, Kotpad, Kota doria, Tangail, Pochampally, Kancheepuram, Thirubuvanam, Jamdani, Santipuri, Chanderi, Maheshwari, Patola, Moirangphee, Banarasi Brocade, Tanchoi, Bhagalpuri Silk, BawanButi and Pashmina Sari Sari etc. to name a few attracts customers across the globe with exclusive art, weaves, designs and traditional motifs.

Accordingly, a social media campaign under a common hashtag #MySariMyPride is being launched to support our handloom weavers. Also a series of activities are planned for the visiting public such as: Viraasat-Celebrating the heritage: Curated display of handloom saris, Viraasat-Ek Dharohar: Direct retail of saris by weavers, Viraasat Ke Dhage: Live loom demonstration, Viraasat-kal se kaltak: Workshops and talks on sari and sustainability and Viraasat-Nritya Sanskriti: Famous Folk dances of Indian culture.

Government of India has launched schemes for Handloom sector for branding of high-quality products with zero defects and zero effect on the environment to encourage and to give a distinct identity to the products, apart from highlighting the uniqueness of products. It also serves a guarantee for the buyer that the product being purchased is genuine handloom. All the exhibitors at the exhibition have been encouraged to display their products and thus aim to improve the earnings of the handloom community.

# Meeyamgi Numit held at Bishnupur



**IT News**  
Bishnupur, Dec 16:

Meeyamgi Numit for the month of December was organized by District Administration, Bishnupur at Panchayat Resource Centre in Mini Secretariat complex today. Deputy Commissioner Lourebam Bikram accompanied by Addl. SP, SDOs, BDOs and DLOs heard the grievances of the people. H. Bobby Sharma, ADM and Ejaj Hassana, AC to

DC ensured the smooth conduct of the event.

Addressing the gathering, Lourebam Bikram reiterated that the success of any welfare scheme depends on the active participation and support of the people. Stating that every day is a Miyamgi Numit for the District Administration, the DC encouraged the people to register grievances or complaints on any matter and not necessarily confined to enrolment for welfare schemes and benefits.

Around 100 persons including officials participated in today's event providing services related to CMHT related services, Old Age Pension, Widow Pension, Ration Card, Land and Revenue matters and PM Kishan among others.

Various line departments including Chief Medical Officer, District Social Welfare, CAF & PD, District Industries Centre and UCO Bank set up stalls to facilitate services for the people.

# Petrol price in India one of the lowest, says Union minister, asks non-BJP ruled states to cut VAT

**Agency**  
New Delhi, Dec 16:

Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday said petrol prices in India is the lowest compared to other countries in view of the current global situation and international crude prices. He was replying to questions in question hour in Lok Sabha on Thursday.

The BJP leader also asked six non-BJP ruled states to reduce the Value Added Tax (VAT) on petroleum products. Six non-

BJP-ruled states — West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telengana, Kerala and Jharkhand — have not reduced the VAT on petroleum products, the minister said.

"Some of them are charging VAT at the rate of Rs 17 and other non-BJP states are charging at Rs 32. So, there is a differential. When the member was saying that today the cost of petrol is Rs 100 per litre in some places — in some places which are non-BJP states — and in other states, it is Rs 8-10 cheaper," he was

quoted by PTI as saying.

He asked the MPs from the opposition parties to tell their respective state governments to reduce the VAT. "I suggest MPs from the opposition impress upon their state governments to reduce the VAT so they can then join the mainstream celebration," he said.

Hardeep Puri said the Central Government, in order to maintain the price at the pump at a reasonable level, reduced the excise duty on two occasions, in November, 2021 and May, 2022.

## Sports

# Lionel Messi, Kylian Mbappe, Olivier Giroud & Julian Alvarez: Who will win the 'Golden Boot' in FIFA WC 2022



Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappe sit at the top of the list of goal scorers with five goals each to their name, whereas Olivier Giroud and Julian Alvarez have scored four times.

**Agency**  
Doha, Dec 16:

The 2022 edition of the FIFA World Cup is nearing its end, as now only two matches are left to play, and they will take place this weekend. In Match No. 63 of the FIFA World Cup 2022, the two losing semifinalists, Croatia and Morocco, will line up against each other to secure a place on the podium by finishing third, and then in the grand finale, and then in place at the Lusail Iconic Sta-

dium on Sunday (December 18), defending champions France will face Lionel Messi's Argentina.

France and Argentina have both won the FIFA World Cup titles two times and would look to extend the tally to three by outsmarting each other on Sunday. The match is going to be an epic encounter, as both France and Argentina have many star players in their ranks who can turn the game at any point.

If, on the one hand, Argen-

tina has the likes of Messi, Julian Alvarez, Angel Di Maria, Paulo Dybala, and Lautaro Martinez in its ranks, then on the other, France's attack is laced with the likes of Kylian Mbappe, Olivier Giroud, Antoine Griezman, and Ousmane Dembele.

PSG teammates Messi and Mbappe have scored the most goals (five) in the FIFA World Cup this year, and they are followed by Alvarez and Giroud, who have found the back of the net on four occasions in the six

matches played so far. The four are in a race to win the Golden Boot award this year. Messi, who won the Golden Ball in the 2014 FIFA World Cup and has seven Ballon d'Or awards, has never won the Golden Boot award in the previous four editions, but he has a good chance of doing so this time. Messi has found the back of the net in five of the previous six matches that Argentina has played in Qatar, and if he scores in the final as well, then there are high chances that he will take the Golden Boot home.

His biggest competitor for the Golden Boot in Qatar is his own club teammate and 2018 World Cup winner, Kylian Mbappe. Like Messi, he also has five goals to his name, and if he manages to score more or even the same number of goals as Messi, then he will take the Golden Boot home. And this will happen because he has played fewer minutes than Messi.

Apart from Messi and Mbappe, Alvarez and Giroud are also in the race, as they both have four goals to their name, and they too can take the top individual prize by scoring a brace in the summit clash.

# Morocco file complaint to FIFA over refereeing in Semi-Final match against France

**Agency**  
Doha, Dec 16:

According to several reports, Morocco's football governing body - FRMF - has lodged an official complaint to FIFA over refereeing in their loss to France. Morocco expressed their anger over some of the decisions made by referee, Cesar Ramos during the match.

In particular, the complaint has been made in relation to the incident in first half wherein Theo Hernandez and Moroccan winger Sofiane Boufal collided inside the France penalty area and Boufal was booked by Ramos. However, the Moroccan fans and the governing body suggest that the replays show how Hernandez was the one making contact with Boufal and the Moroccan team must have been awarded with the penalty.

A statement from the Royal Moroccan Football Federation read, "The Royal Moroccan Football Federation (FRMF) strongly protested against the arbitration of the Morocco-France match officiated by Mr. Cesar Arturo Ramos. To this end, the FRMF sent a letter to the competent body in which it re-



turns to the arbitration situation which deprived the Moroccan selection of two indisputable penalties in the opinion of several arbitration specialists.

"The FRMF also expressed its great astonishment that the Video Assistance to Arbitration (VAR) system did not react to these arbitration situations. The FRMF recalls that it will spare no effort to defend and preserve the rights of the National Selections by advocating fairness in arbitration and by denouncing these arbitration decisions taken during this semi-final confrontation of the World Cup, of FIFA Qatar 2022."

According to some reports, referee Ramos denied Morocco two penalties in the first half of the semi-final and that's why the Moroccan governing body took

an action. The Athletic quoted a statement from the FRMF as saying: "The FRMF has filed an official protest to FIFA regarding the grotesque refereeing of the France-Morocco match, especially following the two penalties not whistled for Morocco in the first half."

Theo Hernandez and Randal Kolo Muani brought victory for France as their goals defeated Morocco 2-0 in the second semi-final of the FIFA World Cup 2022 on Wednesday. Despite the loss in semi-finals, they were praised across the globe for their stunning run in the tournament.

Morocco will now face Croatia in the third-place playoff on Saturday. While, France and Argentina will lock horns on Sunday in the World Cup final.